

Balancing Peoples' Expectations with the Needs of Wildlife



Marc Kenyon

Black Bear, Mountain Lion & Wild Pig Programs Coordinator
California Department of Fish and Game
mkenyon@dfg.ca.gov



2 3'09



2 3:09



2 3'09

Legal Status of California Mountain Lions

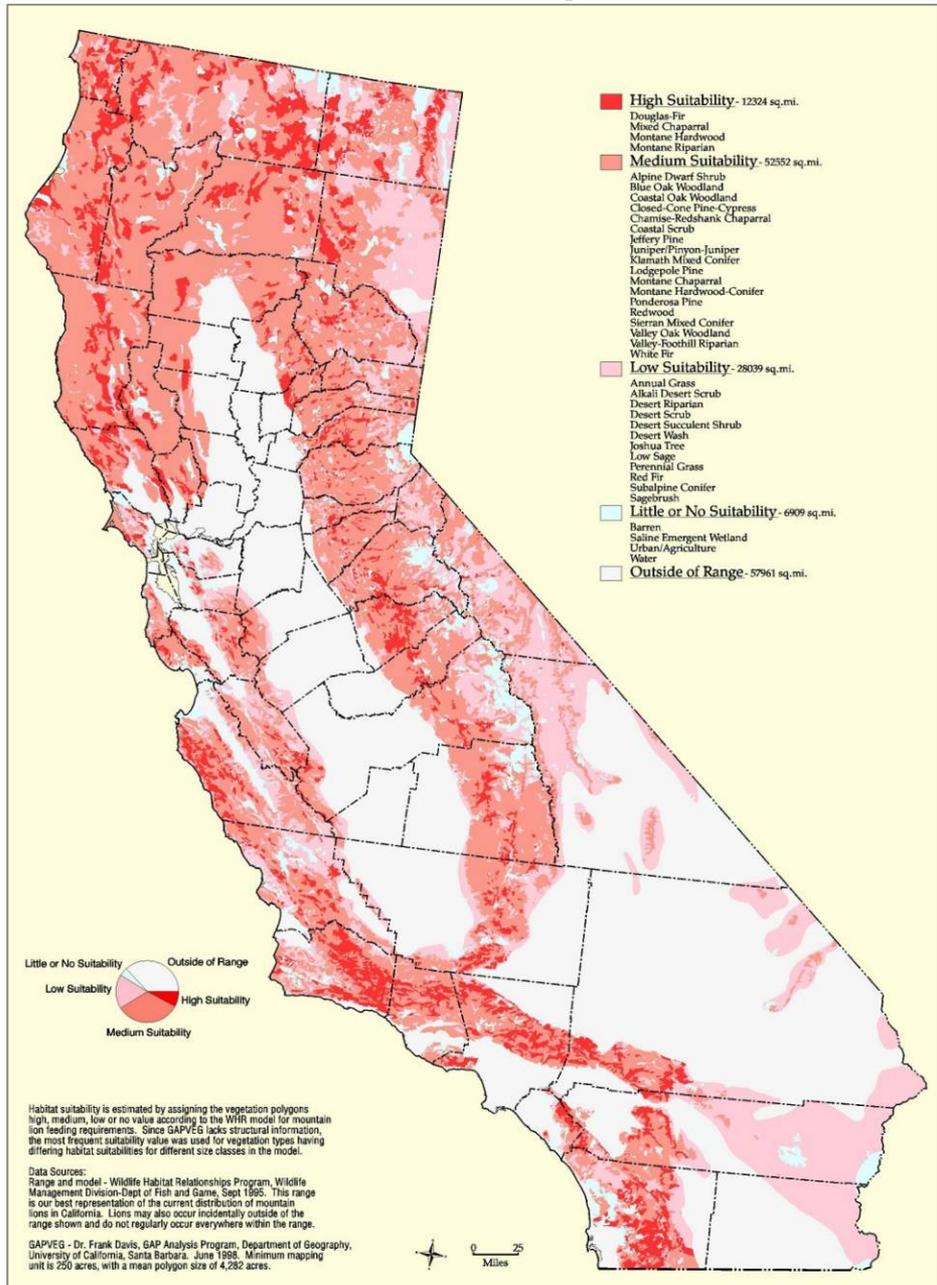
- 1907-1963 Bountied Predator
- 1963-1969 Nongame Mammal
- 1969-1972 Game Mammal
- 1972-1986 Protected Mammal
- 1986-1990 Game Mammal (no hunting)
- 1990-Now Specially Protected Mammal





Mountain Lion Habitat Suitability

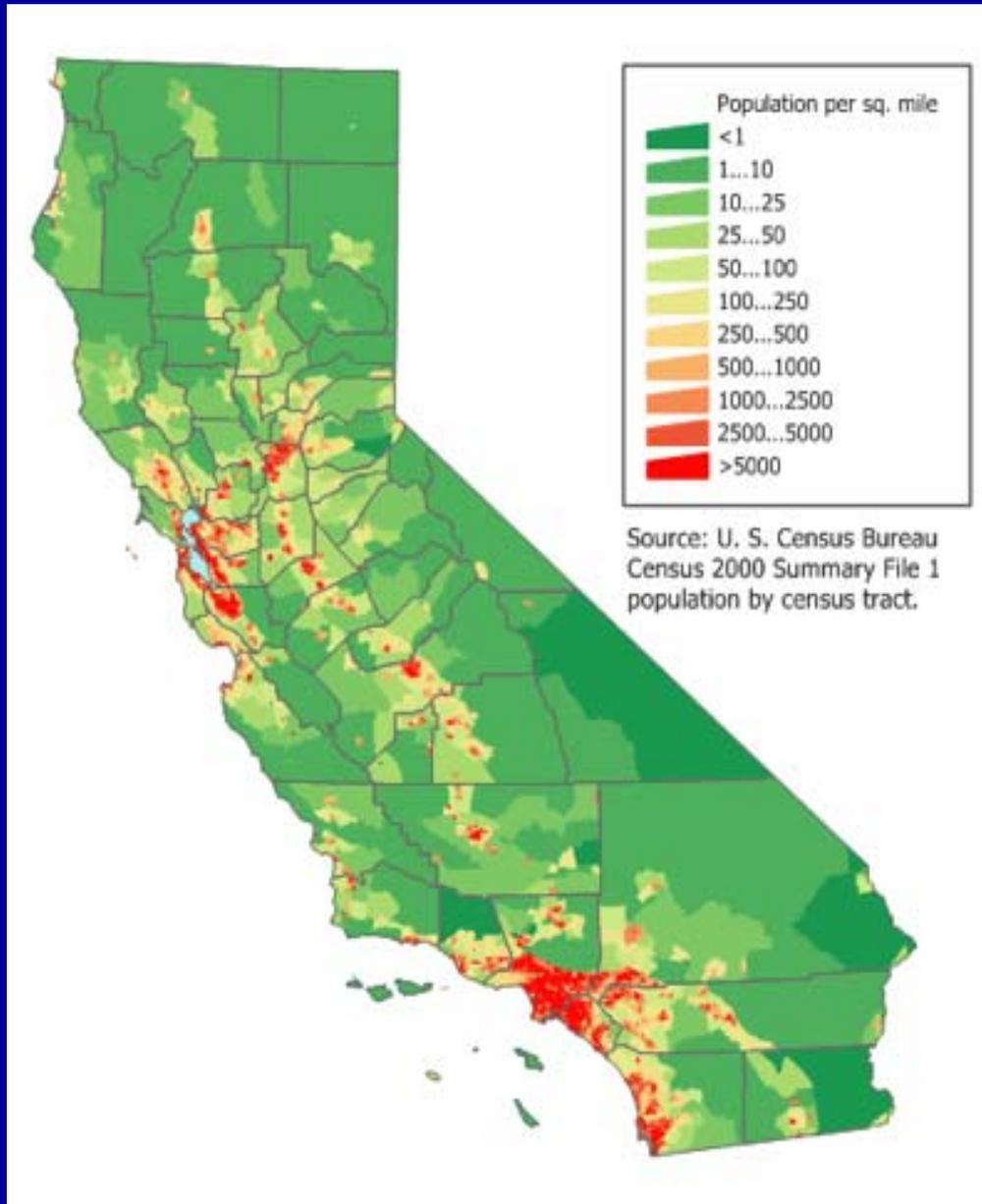
Derived From GAP Land Cover Map and WHR Model



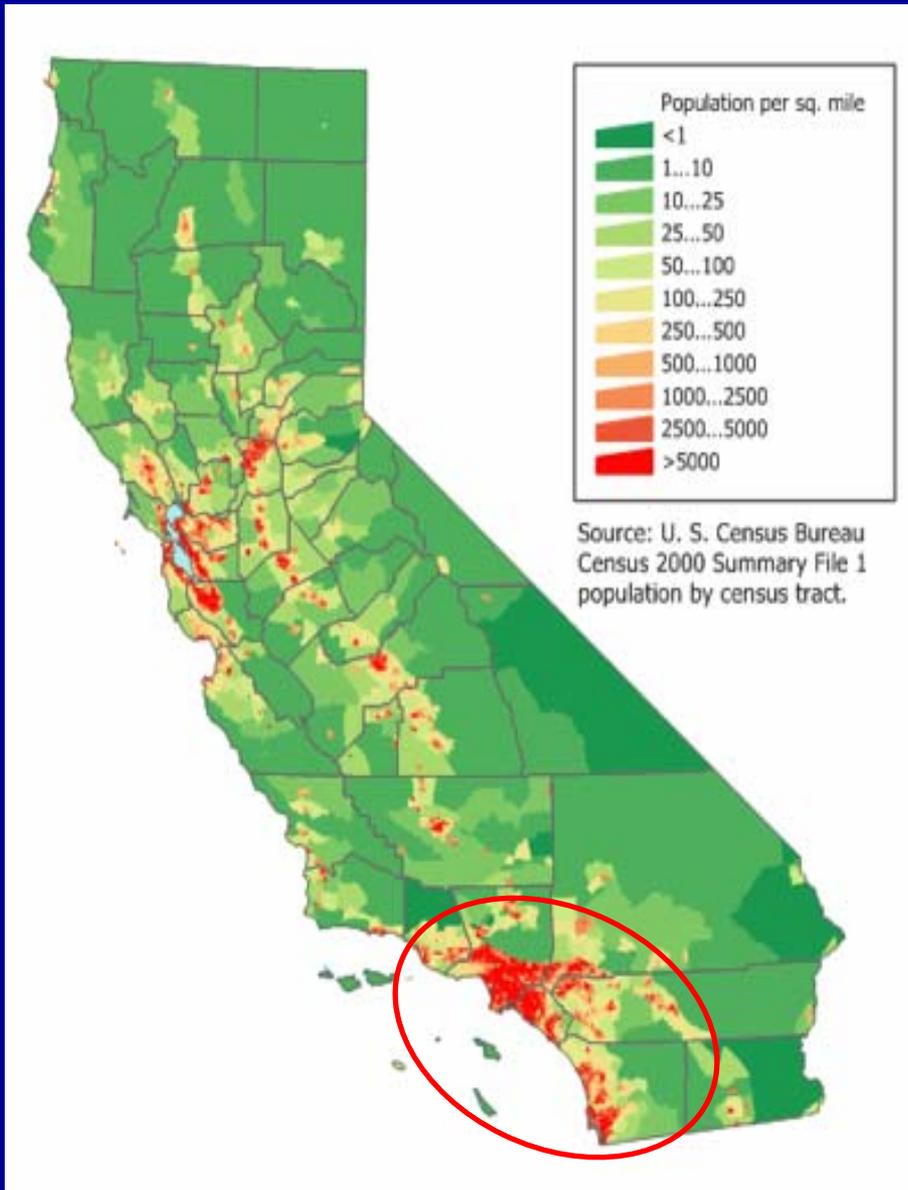
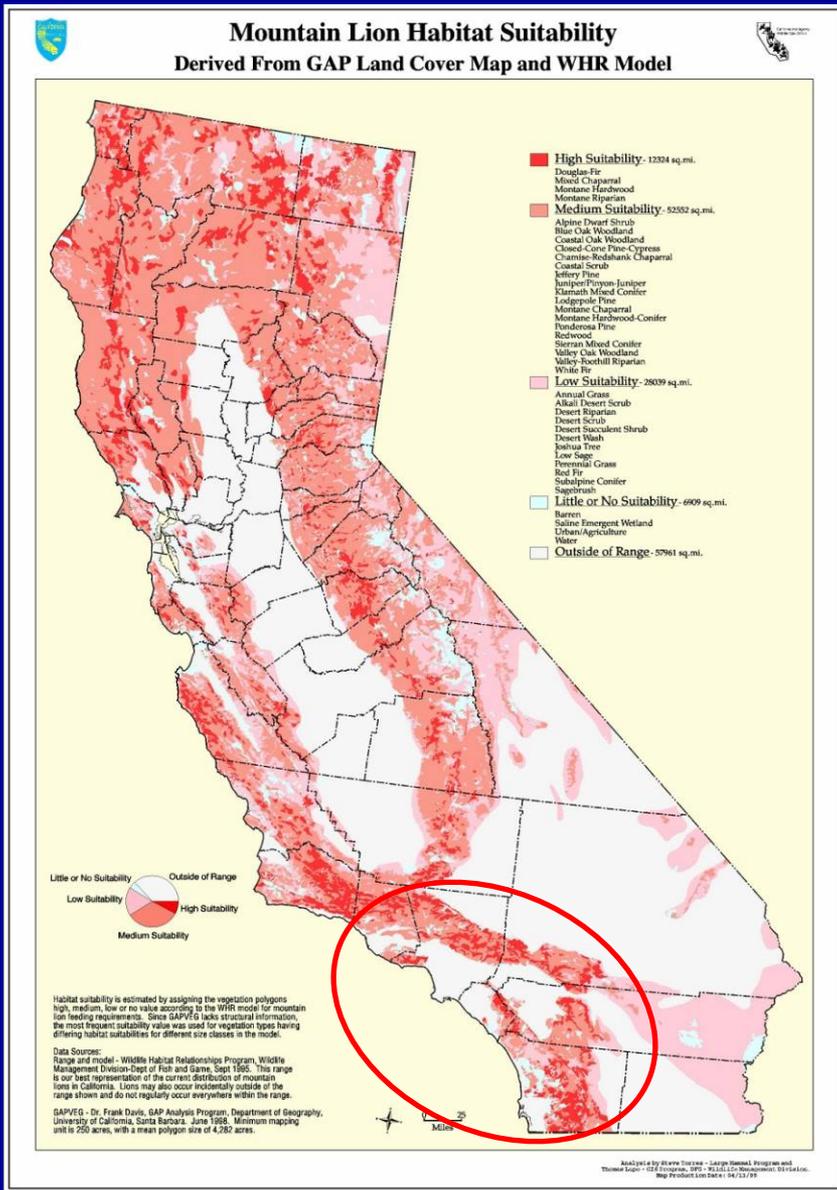
4,000 – 6,000 lions in California

Habitat loss and fragmentation from housing development limit populations

California Human Distribution



Potential for Conflicts?

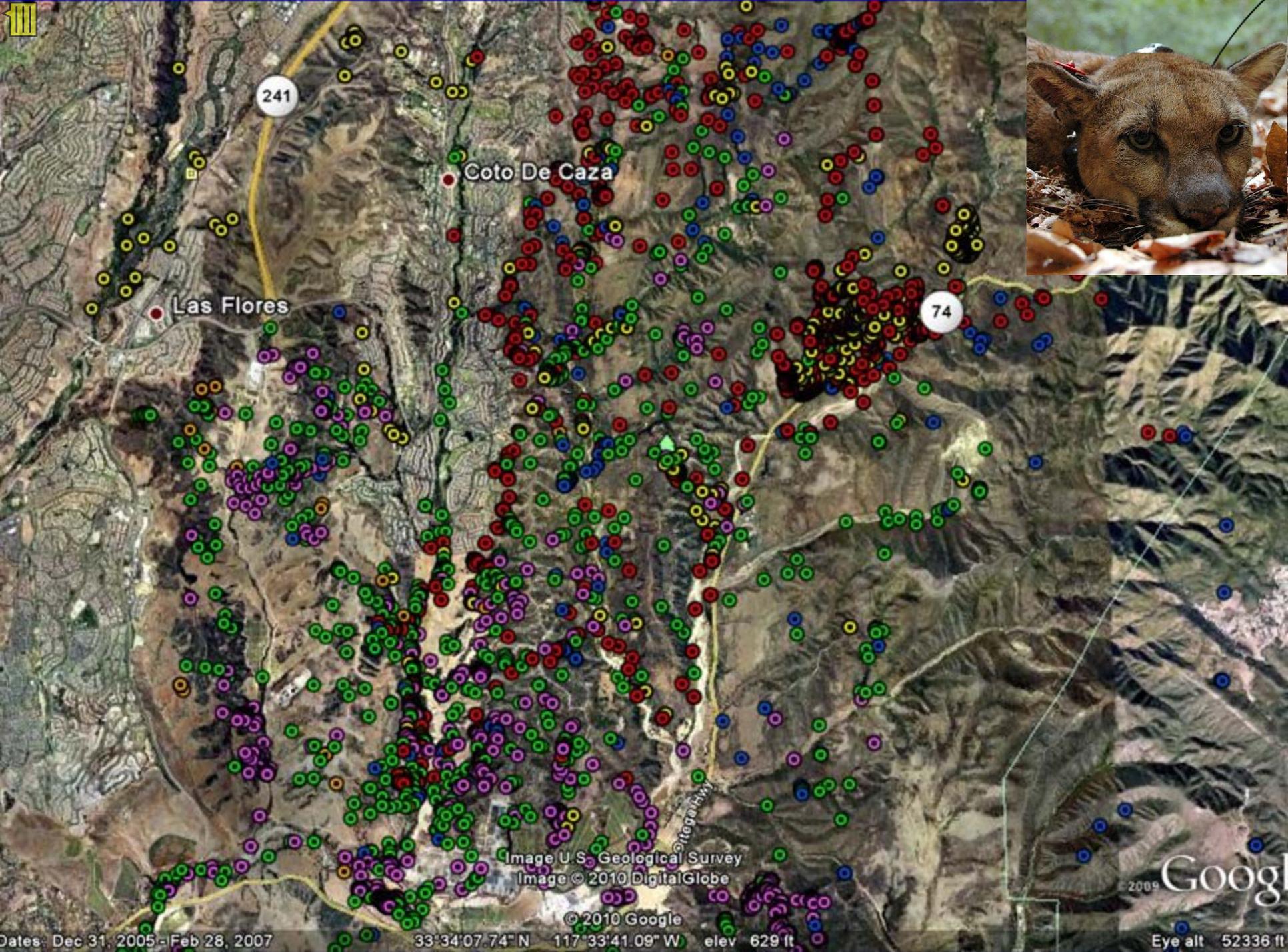


Lions & humans live closer than one might think

Dove Canyon Development and golf course



Bell Canyon



241

Coto De Caza

Las Flores

74

Sritega Hwy

Image U.S. Geological Survey
Image © 2010 DigitalGlobe

© 2010 Google

Dates: Dec 31, 2005 - Feb 28, 2007

33°34'07.74" N 117°33'41.09" W elev 629 ft

2009 Google

Eye alt 52336 ft



General Thomas F Riley Wilderenss Park, Coto De Caza, CA 92679

Greenbelts, parkways and trails provide a means for puma to move about subdivisions

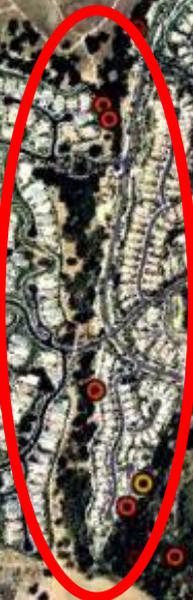


Image U.S. Geological Survey
© 2009 Europa Technologies

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33°34'12.44" N 117°35'24.49" W elev 548 ft

Imagery Date: Feb 28, 2007

© 2009 G
Eye al



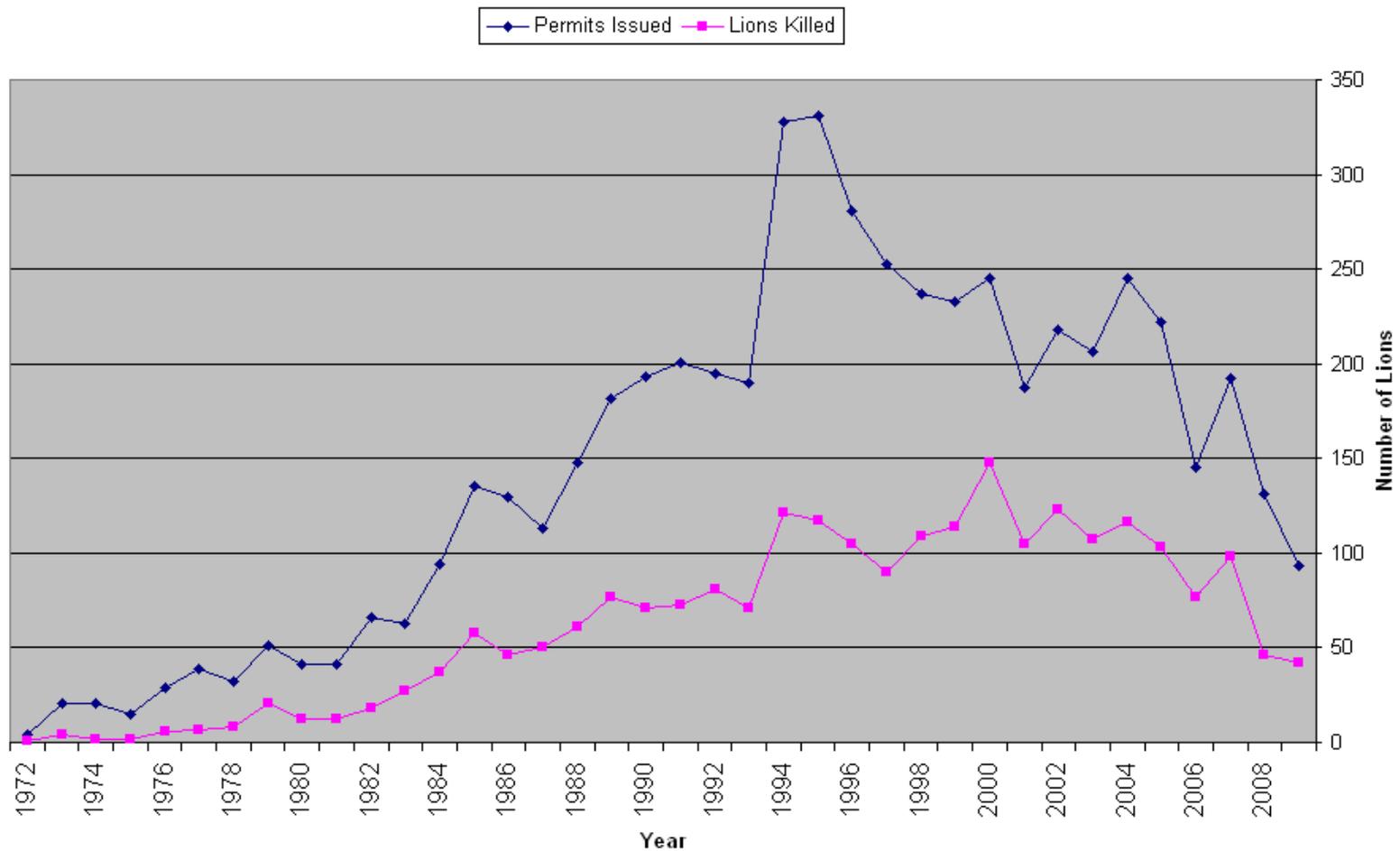
**WARNING
MOUNTAIN LION
COUNTRY
A RISK**

**MOUNTAIN LIONS MAY BE
PRESENT AND ARE UNPREDICTABLE.
BE CAUTIOUS. THEY HAVE BEEN
KNOWN TO ATTACK WITHOUT
WARNING. YOUR SAFETY CANNOT
BE GUARANTEED. YOU ARE ADVISED
TO STAY ALERT TO POTENTIAL
DANGERS.**

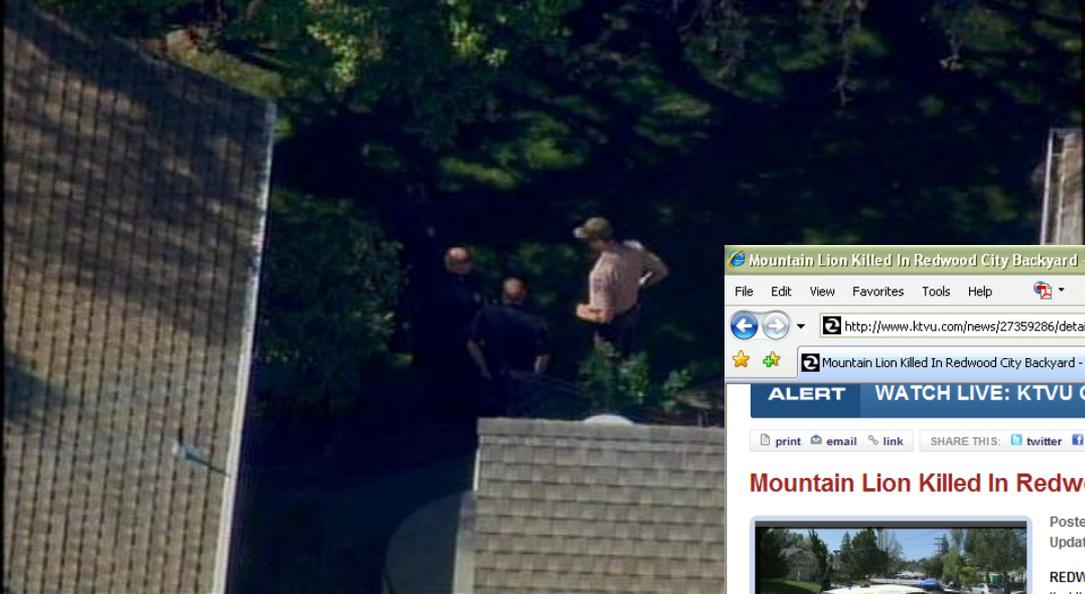
**REPORT ALL MOUNTAIN LION
SIGHTINGS TO THE PARK OFFICE.**

Mountain Lion Depredation

Mountain Lion Permits Issued and Lions Killed



Redwood City Lion



Mountain Lion Killed In Redwood City Backyard - News Story - KTVU San Francisco - Windows Internet Explorer

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http://www.ktvu.com/news/27359286/detail.html

Mountain Lion Killed In Redwood City Backyard - News...

ALERT WATCH LIVE: KTVU Channel 2 News At Noon more

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Mountain Lion Killed In Redwood City Backyard

Posted: 11:05 am PDT March 29, 2011
Updated: 5:51 pm PDT March 29, 2011

REDWOOD CITY, Calif. -- Authorities shot and killed a mountain lion that they cornered in a backyard Tuesday morning after it wandered into a Redwood City neighborhood.

The cat was first spotted at about 8:15 a.m. near Alameda de las Pulgas and Whipple Avenue.

Police set up a perimeter and trapped the animal in the backyard of a home near Whipple and Woodsworth avenues, about a block from Sequoia Hospital.



REDWOOD CITY: Mountain Lion Cornered And Killed In Backyard

The mountain lion was shot by California Department of Fish and Game wardens at about 11:30 a.m.

Department spokesman Kyle Orr said the cat, a roughly 120-pound female, was hissing at the wardens, and that they didn't want to risk having it escape and run loose through the neighborhood.

Additionally, the animal's position would have made it difficult to hit with tranquilizers, he said.

"They couldn't get a clear shot to dart the cougar because it was essentially between two fences," Orr said.

Cherie and Wally Oliver, who live where the cat was trapped, said the animal was in a tree in their backyard at one point. Cherie Oliver said there is a hot tub about 20 feet from the tree.

"I'll think twice in the hot tub at night when I hear rustling in the leaves," she said.

Oliver, who was home sick from work Tuesday, said she agreed with decision to shoot the mountain lion

Done

Internet 100%

start

12:15 PM

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- Mid-Air Collision With Birds Rips Roof Off Small Plane
- Woman Dies Days After Pressure Cooker Explosion Severs Leg
- Defendant Says She Killed 91-Year-Old Woman In Self-Defense

Preservationist Viewpoint

Dear Sirs,

I write with respect to the recent killing of a cougar in Redwood City, CA. Last year one was killed in Berkeley. For the incident in Redwood City, I learned that the Fish and Game Department; 'animal experts' decided the animal was a threat, and ordered the Redwood City Police Department to kill it. It took two shots.

First sir, let me say I am not an animal expert, but I know enough about them to state that any wild animal cornered with lights, commotion, and variety of distractions from all directions, is going to feel threatened, thus snarl, or hiss.

There should be a perimeter, impenetrable to large predators, surrounding any community of residences. This must be the reason that animals are caged at the zoo. How else, can the different species be separated? Implementation of the suggested measures will not cost much, and in comparison to what is lost by the practices of the present policy, the consequences are exponentially disastrous.

Sincerely,

Sarkis Khanzadian

From: Mary McDevitt <mary.mcdevitt@stanford.edu>
To: <director@dfg.ca.gov>
Date: 4/8/2011 1:40 PM
Subject: Mountain Lion shooting in Redwood City

Hello:

I wrote recently to express my anger about the shooting of the Mountain Lion by the DFG in Redwood City, of which I am a resident. I received no response from the DFG. I would like to know what the DFG is doing to establish a protocol that does not involve shooting these animals. Is the DFG working with Police and Sheriff Departments?

I hope that some sort of humane way of dealing with these important animals can be established that does not involve killing them--right now, that seems to be the only response.

Mary McDevitt

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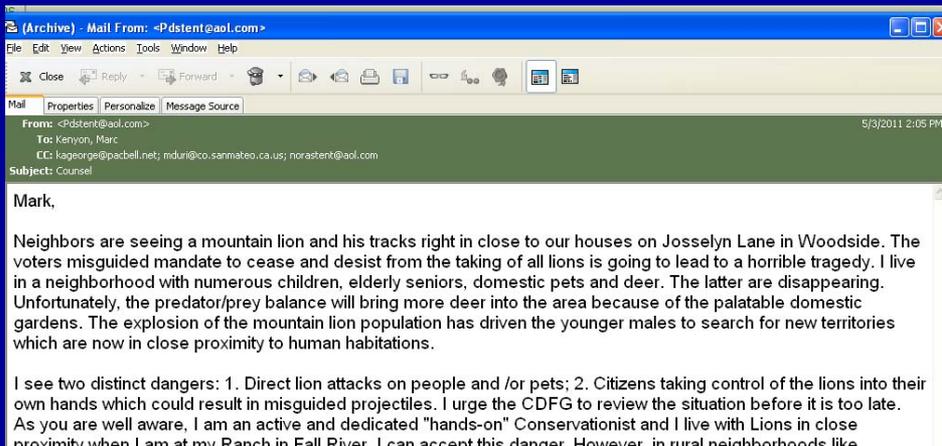
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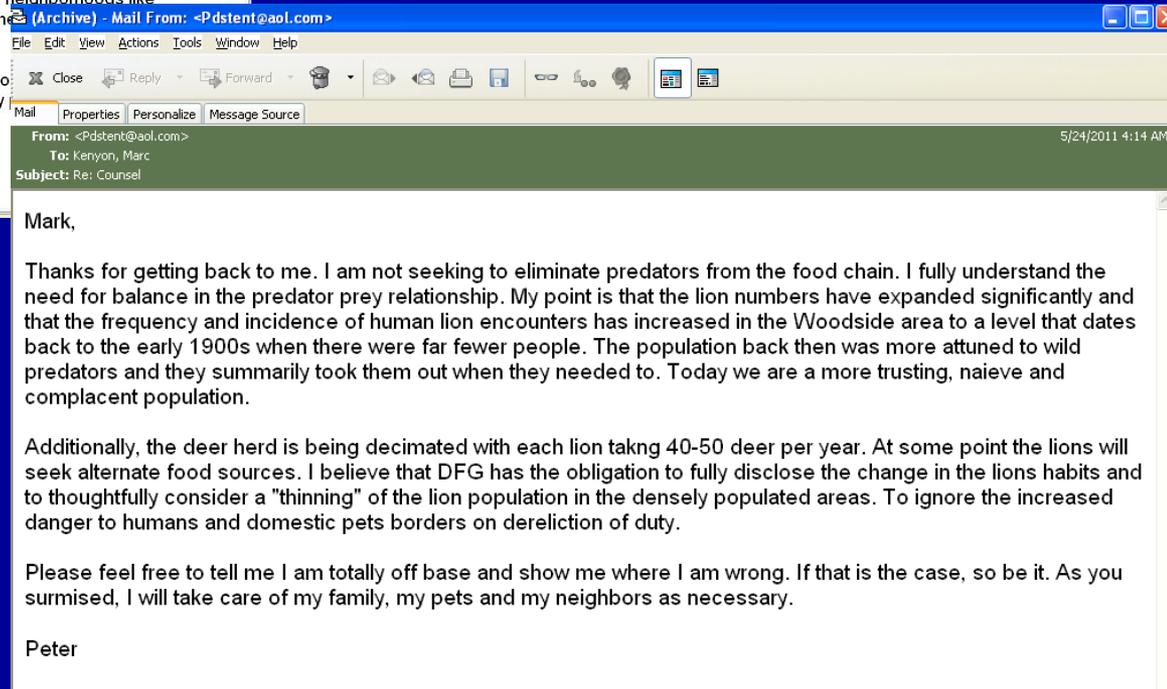
Mary McDevitt

Alarmist Viewpoint



What can we do short of walking around armed in our own back yards? I have hesitated to be compelled to alert you to this situation. There is a clear and present danger and I formally request you to do this e-mail.

Peter Stent



Alarmist Viewpoint



I urge the CDFG to review the situation before it is too late.

Neighbors are seeing a mountain lion and his tracks right in close to our houses on Jesselyn Lane in Woodside. The voters misguided mandate to cease and desist from the taking of all lions is going to lead to a horrible tragedy. I live in a neighborhood with numerous children, elderly seniors, domestic pets and deer. The latter are disappearing. Unfortunately, the predator/prey balance will bring more deer into the area because of the palatable domestic gardens. The explosion of the mountain lion population has driven the younger males to search for new territories

There is a clear and present danger and I formally put the CDFG on notice

As you are well aware, I am an active and dedicated "hands-on" Conservationist and I live with Lions in close proximity when I am at my Ranch in Fall River. I can accept this danger. However, in rural neighborhoods like Woodside, the risks are now far outweighing the benefits. People are now fearful when they are near their homes or in the neighborhood.



the frequency and incidence of human lion encounters has increased in the Woodside area

What can we do short of walking around armed in our own back yards? I have hesitated to do so because of the risk of being shot. There is a clear and present danger and I formally put the CDFG on notice.

Subject: Re: Counsel
Mark,

consider a "thinning" of the lion population in the densely populated areas.

that the frequency and incidence of human lion encounters has increased in the Woodside area to a level that dates back to the early 1900s when there were far fewer people. The population back then was more attuned to wild predators and they summarily took them out when they needed to. Today we are a more trusting, naive and complacent population.

borders on dereliction of duty.

40-50 deer per year. At some point the lions will seek alternate food sources. I believe that DFG has the obligation to fully disclose the change in the lions habits and to thoughtfully consider a "thinning" of the lion population in the densely populated areas. To ignore the increased danger to humans and domestic pets borders on dereliction of duty.

Please feel free to tell me I am totally off base and show me where I am wrong. If that is the case, so be it. As you surmised, I will take care of my family, my pets and my neighbors as necessary.
Peter



Oxnard Bear





Oxnard Bear

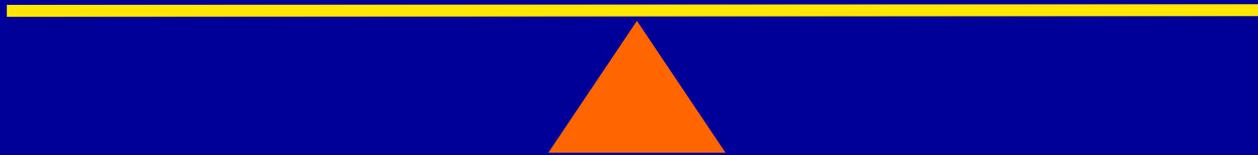




If All Goes Well

Biological

Socio-political





If All Goes Poorly

Biological



Socio-political



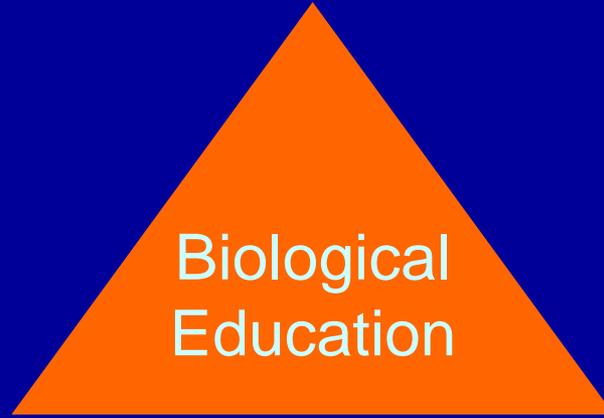
Education



Ideal Situation?

Politics

Biological
Education



How do we get there?

- Regionalized policies?
 - Localized nuisance issues
 - Regional political pressures
 - Clear population objectives
 - BCC & SCC
 - Community participation / education
- Develop trust
 - Immediate Response
 - Consistency



**Balancing
people's
expectations and
wildlife needs**



Questions?

