

# Support the Initiative to Protect Arizona's Wild Cats



## Say YES to Protecting Arizona's Wild Cats from Trophy Hunting and Trapping

The Arizona Game and Fish Department currently allows trophy hunters and trappers to needlessly kill thousands of mountain lions and bobcats every year.

During these state-sanctioned hunting and trapping seasons, trophy hunters and trappers could also jeopardize federally-protected wild cats, too, like lynx, jaguars and ocelots. These cats or their kittens could be accidentally trapped or killed by hounds.

**Cruel trophy hunting - where the primary motivation is to kill an animal in order to display its body, whole or in part, or for bragging rights - and trapping of wild cats must be stopped, and these species should be protected.**

## Arizonans Value Wild Cats, Not Cruelty

- Nearly 2/3 of Arizona voters support a prohibition on trophy hunting and trapping of mountain lions, bobcats, lynx, jaguars, and ocelots in Arizona. In fact, 65% of Arizonans believe this practice is already illegal.<sup>i</sup>
- The overwhelming majority of Arizona voters do not support indiscriminate cruelty, such as using steel-jaw leghold traps on bobcats or packs of trailing hounds used to chase and corner mountain lions.



### Trapping is barbaric

Bobcats are trapped with painful steel-jawed leghold traps on private land and cage traps on public land. Traps are only required to be checked once a day, or in some cases just once every 3 days so animals are left suffering in excruciating pain for *hours*. The trapped animal may die slowly from exposure, or injure itself trying to escape.



Photo: Born Free USA

### Kittens are killed

If a trophy hunter kills a mother cat, it will orphan her young kittens who are dependent on her on average for up to one year. This subjects the kittens to certain death from starvation, dehydration or exposure.



### Hounding wild cats is cruel and inhumane

Mountain lions are chased through canyons by packs of radio-collared hounds until they are scared up a tree or rocky outcrop and the houndsman uses his remote technology to find the treed animal and shoot it at close range. Hounding puts the dogs and wild cats and kittens at risk of being mauled.<sup>ii</sup> Hounds are treated like disposable equipment and readily dumped into shelters if they fail to perform adequately.

## Science Supports Wild Cat Protection

Wild cats are fast disappearing from Arizona's wild spaces and beyond, and suffer from habitat loss and trophy hunting.<sup>iii, iv</sup>

Wild cat numbers are low, and these animals go out of their way to avoid human contact, so conflicts are rare.<sup>v</sup> Contrary to popular myths, trophy hunting mountain lions and trapping bobcats does *not* keep people safe. In fact, it can have the opposite effect by increasing the risk of animal-human conflicts by disrupting the animals' family groups.<sup>vi</sup>

Mountain lions help Arizona's ecosystems and other wildlife. When mountain lions are present, desert streams have greater numbers of species—both plants and animals.<sup>vii</sup> Mountain lions can limit vehicle collisions between motorists and deer or elk.<sup>viii</sup> Mountain lions leave carrion behind for California condors, eagles and black bears.<sup>ix</sup> We need to protect Arizona's mountain lions so that they can balance nature's systems and indirectly protect motorists.

**We can help them by ending cruel trophy hunting and trapping in Arizona.**

## Bobcats



The Arizona Game and Fish Department does not know how many bobcats currently live in Arizona, yet it

liberally permits trophy hunters and trappers to kill as many of them as they can find. Thousands of bobcats are killed annually.

Between 2011 and 2015, trophy hunters and trappers killed almost 20,000 bobcats.<sup>x</sup>

Bobcats are killed by trapping or other means, including shooting by trophy hunters who are permitted to use hounds to track and bay bobcats. Trappers are also permitted to use bait to lure in bobcats for an easy kill.<sup>xi</sup> These methods are unsporting and provide an unfair advantage to trophy hunters. Like traps, these methods jeopardize other wildlife, including threatened and endangered species.<sup>xii</sup>

## Mountain Lions



Mountain lions continue to be needlessly killed throughout Arizona. Arizona ranks sixth

highest in the U.S. for the number of mountain lions killed by trophy hunters.<sup>xiii</sup>

The Arizona Game and Fish Department relies on a rough population estimate of only 2,500 to 3,000 mountain lions of all ages,<sup>xiv</sup> or approximately 1,500 to 1,800 adult lions statewide.<sup>xv</sup> Even so, trophy hunters kill on average more than 10% of the population of mountain lions each year, and between 2011 and 2015, nearly 1,400 mountain lions have been killed.

While trophy hunting of kittens is not permitted in Arizona, if a hunter kills a mother up to 3 young kittens will die from starvation, dehydration, predation or exposure.

The majority of mountain lions are killed by trophy hunters using paid outfitters' hounds to track and bay the cats. Hounding mountain lions, even during a pursuit-only chase, is an unsporting and inhumane practice. Hounds often chase non-target animals and trespass onto private lands. They also cause great stress to mountain lions and force them to exert significant energy trying to escape.<sup>xvi</sup> This is especially concerning during peak birthing season as mother lions seek to care for their newborn kittens.

## Lynx, Ocelots and Jaguars

Arizona must protect rare lynx, ocelots and jaguars from incidental killing by trophy hunters and trappers.

Lynx are listed as *threatened* under the U.S. Endangered Species Act (ESA). The



species no longer exists in most of its historic range, largely because of intense hunting.

Jaguars are listed as *endangered* under the ESA. The species still roams the desert Southwest with at least seven individual



jaguars having been observed in southern Arizona and New Mexico over the past 20 years.<sup>xvii</sup>

Three jaguars have been documented in Arizona since 2011.

The ocelot is listed as *endangered* under the ESA and is also listed on Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). Fewer than 100 ocelots still exist in the U.S.



<sup>i</sup> Remington Research Group. 2016. Arizona Public Opinion.

<sup>ii</sup> Lindzey, F. G., W. D. Vansickle, S. P. Laing, and C. S. Mecham. 1992. Cougar Population Response to Manipulation in Southern Utah. *Wildlife Society Bulletin* 20:224-227; Logan, K. A., and L. L. Sweanor. 2001. Desert puma: evolutionary ecology and conservation of an enduring carnivore. Island Press, Washington, DC.; Elbroch, L. M., B. D. Jansen, M. M. Grigione, R. J. Sarno, and H. U. Wittmer. 2013a. Trailing hounds vs foot snares: comparing injuries to pumas *Puma concolor* captured in Chilean Patagonia. *Wildlife Biology* 19:210-216.

<sup>iii</sup> Estes, J. A., et al. 2011. Trophic Downgrading of Planet Earth. *Science* 333:301-306; Darimont, C. T., et al. 2015. The unique ecology of human predators. *Science* 349:858-860; Ripple, W. J., et al. 2014. Status and Ecological Effects of the World's Largest Carnivores. *Science* 343:151-+.

<sup>iv</sup> Cougar Management Guidelines; Wolfe, M. L., et al. 2015. Is Anthropogenic Cougar Mortality Compensated by Changes in Natural Mortality in Utah? Insight from Long-Term Studies. *Biological Conservation* 182, (2015).

<sup>v</sup> Sweanor, L.S., et al. 2008. Puma and Human Spatial and Temporal Use of a Popular California State Park," *Journal of Wildlife Management* 72: 1076-1084; Mattson, D. J., K. A. Logan, and L. L. Sweanor. 2011. Factors governing risk of cougar attacks on humans. *Human-Wildlife Interactions* 5:135-158; Allredge, M. W. 2015. Cougar Demographics and Human Interactions Along the Urban-Exurban Front Range of Colorado. in M. R. Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife, *Predatory Mammals Conservation*, editor., Colorado.

<sup>vi</sup> Peebles, Kaylie A., Robert B. Wielgus, Benjamin T. Maletzke, and Mark E. Swanson. "Effects of Remedial Sport Hunting on Cougar Complaints and Livestock Depredations." *PLOS One* 8, no. 11 (Nov 19 2013)

<sup>vii</sup> Ripple, W. J., and R. L. Beschta. 2006. Linking a cougar decline, trophic cascade, and catastrophic regime shift in Zion National Park. *Biological Conservation* 133:397-408; Elbroch, L. M., and H. U. Wittmer. 2012. Table scraps: inter-trophic food provisioning by pumas. *Biology letters* 8:776-779; Soule, M. E., J. A. Estes, J. Berger, and C. M. Del Rio. 2003. Ecological effectiveness: Conservation goals for interactive species. *Conservation Biology* 17:1238-1250.

<sup>viii</sup> Gilbert, S. L., K. J. Sivy, C. B. Pozzanghera, A. DuBour, K. Overduijn, M. M. Smith, J. Zhou, J. M. Little, and L. R. Prugh. 2016. Socioeconomic benefits of large carnivore recolonization through reduced wildlife-vehicle collisions. *Conservation Letters*.

<sup>ix</sup> Elbroch, L. M., and H. U. Wittmer. 2012. Table scraps: inter-trophic food provisioning by pumas. *Biology letters* 8:776-779; Elbroch, L. M., C. O'Malley, M. Peziol, and H. B. Quigley. In press. Vertebrate diversity benefiting from carrion provided by pumas and other subordinate apex felids. *Panthera*.

<sup>x</sup> Arizona Game and Fish Department. 2017. Hunt Arizona, 2017 Edition: Survey, Harvest and Hunt Data for Big and Small Game. Phoenix, AZ. Retrieved from <https://s3.amazonaws.com/azgfd-portal-wordpress/azgfd/wp/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/05110644/HuntAZ2017.pdf>.

<sup>xi</sup> Arizona Game and Fish Department, 2017-2018 Arizona Hunting Regulations. Accessed at: <https://s3.amazonaws.com/azgfd-portal-wordpress/azgfd/wp/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/28135605/mainregs.pdf>

<sup>xii</sup> Grignolio, Stefano, Enrico Merli, Paolo Bongli, Simone Ciuti, and Marco Apollonio. "Effects of Hunting with Hounds on a Non-Target Species Living on the Edge of a Protected Area." *Biological Conservation* 144, no. 1 (2011/01/01/ 2011): 641-49; Mori, Emiliano. "Porcupines in the Landscape of Fear: Effect of Hunting with Dogs on the Behaviour of a Non-Target Species." *Mammal Research* 62, no. 3 (July 01 2017): 251-58.

<sup>xiii</sup> The Humane Society of the United States. 2017.

<sup>xiv</sup> Arizona Game & Fish. 2016. Living with Mountain Lions. Accessed July 20, 2016. Retrieved from <https://www.azgfd.com/wildlife/livingwith/mountainlions/>.

<sup>xv</sup> The Humane Society of the United States. 2017.

<sup>xvi</sup> Harlow, H. J., et al., "Stress Response of Cougars to Nonlethal Pursuit by Hunters," *Canadian Journal of Zoology* 70, no. 1 (1992/01/01 1992), accessed 2017/08/30, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1139/z92-020>; Bonier, F., H. Quigley, and S. N. Austad, "A Technique for Non-Invasively Detecting Stress Response in Cougars," *Wildlife Society Bulletin* 32, no. 3 (Fal 2004), [http://dx.doi.org/10.2193/0091-7648\(2004\)032\[0711:atfnds\]2.0.co;2](http://dx.doi.org/10.2193/0091-7648(2004)032[0711:atfnds]2.0.co;2).

<sup>xvii</sup> Davis, Tony. New jaguar photographed in Southern Arizona; third seen here since '11. *Arizona Daily Star*. Retrieved from [http://tucson.com/news/local/new-jaguar-photographed-in-southern-arizona-third-seen-here-since/article\\_53e1460c-ff6d-11e6-9c8a-b3ad3d2f7be1.html](http://tucson.com/news/local/new-jaguar-photographed-in-southern-arizona-third-seen-here-since/article_53e1460c-ff6d-11e6-9c8a-b3ad3d2f7be1.html).