

“ As the population of California grows and development expands into mountain lion habitat, conflicts are bound to occur. Detailed knowledge of potential conflict points is essential to avoiding tragedies for humans, livestock, pets and wildlife.”

*Dr. Winston Vickers, Principal Investigator
University of California Wildlife Health Center
Southern California Puma Project*

Research suggests that the Southern California mountain lion population may be declining. In the mountains of San Diego, lions die most frequently when they prey on unprotected domestic animals and are subsequently killed on state-issued depredation permits. While there were only 5 such deaths in San Diego County between 2004 and 2013, there have been 14 lion deaths due to depredation permits in the past two years. We need to find out why. It isn't a reflection of a healthy or numerous lion population. Far from being numerous – as might be expected from the community's experience – years of research show that San Diego lions are few in number and genetically isolated.

Lions in the Santa Ana Mountains are in even more trouble, numbering fewer than 30. Those lions are showing severe genetic restriction and isolation. The majority die young when hit by cars. The only natural way to improve the genetic health of both populations is to allow the populations to mix. Young males need to make their way across the I-15, find a mate, and father kittens. Unfortunately, the very lions that are being killed in Julian are the young dispersing males.

The five year Julian Mountain Lion Project began in earnest with an effort to learn from those families who have already experienced mountain lion problems in livestock situations. The collaboration is intended to generate ideas to reduce the number of avoidable livestock and mountain lion deaths in the area.

On Saturday, June 11, mountain lion conservationists joined the Santa Ysabel and Julian 4-H Club to build a lightweight chain link pen designed to protect goats, sheep, pigs and other domestic animals from mountain lions. The best protection is to keep livestock enclosed in a safe barn or pen from dusk to dawn. The model pen was constructed on a property where lions have killed domestic animals twice this year. The two lions were killed as a result. While habitat conservation and corridor protection are critical to mountain lion survival, protecting people and domestic animals is also essential to ensure long-term mountain lion survival.

To let the whole town know how safety is a win for both livestock and lions, the 4-H Club showed off a “mini-pen” in Julian's gala 4th of July Parade. We hope you support our continuing efforts! **Find out more about the Julian Mountain Lion Project**

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We provide free home visits to help solve lion problems before they happen. Call to schedule an appointment.

Please become a part of our ongoing community process.
Join the Mountain Lion Foundation and ask to be added to the Julian Mountain Lion Contact List.



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MOUNTAIN LION FOUNDATION

An Evening with
Rodney Jackson
Snow Leopard Conservancy

6:30 PM
Friday
July 15

Julian Town Hall
2129 Main Street
Julian, California

free admission

(760) 230-3301
Julian Mountain
Lion Project

Are the
Cuyamacas
like the
Himalayas?

more information at mountainlion.org/events

Photo by Ecology

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