

# Hope

FOR ANIMALS SUMMIT



## MOUNTAIN LION FOUNDATION

The Mountain Lion Foundation is a national nonprofit organization protecting mountain lions and their habitat, and emphasizes responsible citizen advocacy in the effort to increase people's awareness and understanding of the magnificent and essential mountain lion.

## WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

The Mountain Lion Foundation will be fighting for mountain lions coast to coast: writing new laws, challenging dangerous hunting policies, and offering better ways to protect people, pets and livestock, so that lions can survive the inevitable conflicts. It's time to do more for the American lion.

You can be a significant part of the effort! To find out more and ways to help, please visit: [www.mountainlion.org](http://www.mountainlion.org)

## RESOURCES

Protecting People, Pets and Livestock: 4 Simple Steps:  
<http://www.mountainlion.org/portalprotect.asp>

Hiking and Biking Checklist:  
[www.mountainlion.org/portalprotectstaysafe.asp#RecreationChecklist](http://www.mountainlion.org/portalprotectstaysafe.asp#RecreationChecklist)

Signs of a Lion's Presence:  
<http://www.mountainlion.org/featurearticlesign.asp>

Safeguarding Livestock:  
<http://www.mountainlion.org/portalprotectsecureenclosures.asp>

Low Cost Pen Build Plans are attached to this kit.

Sign up for our email action alerts: <http://mountainlion.org/contributeupdates.asp>





# MOUNTAIN LION FOUNDATION

## BACKGROUND & CURRENT PROGRAMS

DRAFT: 2017-02-14

### ORGANIZATION:

The Mountain Lion Foundation is a national nonprofit organization protecting mountain lions and their habitat, and emphasizes responsible citizen advocacy in the effort to increase people's awareness and understanding of the magnificent and essential mountain lion.

### PURPOSE

The Foundation focuses exclusively on conservation of mountain lions in the United States, with an emphasis on improving safety for people, pets and livestock and reducing threats to mountain lions. These threats include trophy hunting, habitat loss, poisoning, trapping, road kill, poaching and depredation kills of more than 4000 mountain lions every year in the United States.

### HISTORY

The Mountain Lion Foundation celebrated its 30th anniversary in November 2016. The Foundation was responsible for California Proposition 117 which bans mountain lion hunting and created a \$30 million-per-year Habitat Conservation Fund. Since 2000, the Foundation has expanded to oppose trophy hunting throughout the West.

Since 1986, the Mountain Lion Foundation has inspired citizens across the nation to act on behalf of lions and their habitat by presenting practical solutions to complex problems, providing unbiased information to media, aiding local activists, promoting lion research, influencing regulation and changing laws.

### CURRENT ACTIVITY

#### Nationwide

**Research Library and Bibliography:** The Mountain Lion Foundation has begun to establish an online centralized database, bibliography and library of publications about mountain lions in 15 Western states and Florida. The bibliography is comprehensive and available for all prospective and current researchers, policy makers, agencies, students and the public. To date, the project has compiled more than 1,400 articles and books about behavior, biology, habitat, connectivity, genetics and research methods related to mountain lions.

**State by State Web Project:** The Mountain Lion Foundation is currently completing a web project that will provide a nationwide portal that gives an overview of the status of mountain lions in the United States, as well as a comprehensive set of pages for every state that will provide a information about the status, law, history, habitat, science and active threats to mountain lions. When completed, this project will be valuable at-a-glance resource for researchers, students, agencies and the public

**13<sup>th</sup> Annual Mountain Lion Workshop:** The Mountain Lion Foundation will be participating in the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Mountain Lion Workshop in Estes Park, CO on May 15-18, 2017.

#### California

**Depredation Legislation:** The Mountain Lion Foundation is working with Assemblymember Bloom, biologists from the National Park Service and others on Assembly Bill 8, legislation that proposes to change California mountain lion law to allow the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) greater discretion in issuing depredation permits. Text: [https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=201720180AB8](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201720180AB8)

**San Diego Mountain Lion Perceptions Study:** Working with Dr. Winston Vickers and several Grad students, the Mountain Lion Foundation is developing a mountain lion perceptions study to be administered in Julian, CA and the surrounding region.. People are actively living with lions in this area and the purpose of the study is to determine what people's perceptions of lions are, how they see themselves living with lions and

**Julian Mountain Lion Project:** The Mountain Lion Foundation, working with some dedicated and amazing volunteers, has expanded a community project in Julian, California to include continued outreach, education and non-lethal depredation deterrents in order to increase awareness, understanding and tolerance for mountain lions in the region, and to create a model for lowering depredation in other towns and cities. 14 mountain lions were killed on depredation permits over a two year period in the small community.

**Santa Monica Mountains Depredation Prevention:** Immediate needs for protection of genetically significant individual lions in this mountain range has spurred the National Park Service and Los Angeles County to call on the Mountain Lion Foundation to implement depredation prevention measures in these mountains. MLF has rapidly developed a cadre of skilled volunteers and implemented programs to benefit targeted neighborhoods.

**Temecula Wildlife Crossing:** Mountain Lion Foundation is taking a leading role in protecting a key wildlife crossing, by opposing two developments that will close the access to mountain lions. This is the last natural crossing under Interstate 15 that links the Santa Ana Mountains with lion populations to the south and east, and is critical to the survival of highly threatened and genetically compromised populations of *Puma concolor*.

**4-H Nationwide Curriculum on Predators:** The Foundation's 15 year history of community efforts to limit depredation by lions on small livestock operations has inspired the development of a nationwide curriculum about predators such as lions and coyotes. It is an experiential learning design that is being directed through the University of California, Davis, with Mountain Lion Foundation serving as advisor.

**Predator Policy Working Group:** The Mountain Lion Foundation is participating in a working group appointed by the California Fish and Game Commission to revise predator policy in California. The Foundation coordinates a review group of 12 individuals including representatives of wildlife protection groups as well as individual wildlife advocates, participates with the group to provide written comment and review of proposed policy changes and attends Predator Policy Working Group meetings to influence policy development. This process is scheduled to conclude in May 2017.

## Nevada

**Know Your Nevada Neighbors Campaign:** A public outreach campaign that will take place in the state of Nevada. The Mountain Lion Foundation will address the challenges that four native predators – mountain lions, bobcats, coyotes and bears – face in that state. These species are relentlessly hunted, trapped, snared and poisoned in unsustainable numbers and with minimal oversight and enforcement. Social and free media will be used to inform Nevadans about the value of wildlife and the possibility of coexistence and to motivate people to learn more about these four big predators and the plight they face.

**Nevada Legislation, Assembly Bill 101:** Mountain Lion Foundation is supporting legislation to end the expenditure of a \$3 hunting fee to kill predators in Nevada. More than \$375,000 will be available this year to kill mountain lions, in addition to those lions killed for depredating on livestock, and in addition to the 245 lions allowed to be killed during the trophy hunt.

## Washington

**Broadcast Media Outreach:** The efforts of Board Member Bob McCoy recently resulted in a nationwide telecast of the over-harvest associated with the mountain lion trophy hunt in Washington State. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife is currently scrambling to respond to the devastating charges of overkill.

**All Species, All Constituencies:** The Mountain Lion Foundation is participating in this coalition to broaden not only the funding base for wildlife in Washington, but the range of voices at the table.

## Oregon

**Fighting 2017 Cougar Trophy Hunting Hounding Legislation:** The Mountain Lion Foundation, along with the Humane Society of the United States, Center for Biological Diversity, WildEarth Guardians, Predator Defense and other wildlife protection groups, has formed a coalition to oppose four deadly bills which would reintroduce hounding for trophy hunting of the big cats. So far, the Mountain Lion Foundation has collected 1400 letters in opposition to the bills and is participating in the nationwide opposition outreach.

**2017 Oregon Mountain Lion Management Plan:** The Mountain Lion Foundation is commenting on this plan that has wreaked havoc with Oregon's lions. **2017 Cougar Management Plan Revision:** The plan will be approved at the Commission's October 2017 meeting. The plan is updated as agency policies, new biological data and human or cougar populations change.

## New Mexico

**Santa Fe County Trapping Ban:** Mountain Lion Foundation has developed a model trapping resolution and pilot template for counties to reduce or ban trapping on public lands at the local level. In 2015, the Mountain Lion Foundation established a coalition of local wildlife and conservation advocates in New Mexico who are working on developing a model trapping ban resolution and template in Santa Fe County which could then be implemented by counties nationwide. The goal is to ban trapping within the County in spite of state laws that allow the practice. The coalition has achieved a trapping ban on all County Lands, passed by the County Commission. The coalition is currently working on getting a City resolution passed by the Mayor and Council members of Santa Fe, and to influence the Santa Fe National Forest plan revision that would include trapping bans on public trails and in wilderness areas.

**New Mexico Legislation:** In the wake of the state allowing mountain lion trapping in 2015, the Mountain Lion Foundation is supporting SB 286, the New Mexico Wildlife Protection and Public Safety Act which would ban the use of lethal body-gripping traps and poisons on public lands. In addition, MLF will support SB 266, which requires the New Mexico Department of Game & Fish to become a "public trust resource" rather than focusing on trapping and hunting, and SB 268, which would prohibit wildlife killing contests. An MLF Action Alert is published.

## Colorado

**End the Killing Studies:** Colorado Parks and Wildlife has proposed two more state-run killing studies that will eliminate mountain lions and bears in a misguided attempt to research whether predator reduction will increase deer populations. Mountain Lion Foundation is participating in a strong coalition of organizations to oppose the studies.

## Montana

**Urging Relocation:** Mountain Lion Foundation has responded to the frequent killing of families of lions that wander into towns this winter by calling for the state to reconsider relocation of these lions. Deer wandering into lower elevations and fed or salted by residents cause lions to follow. Pointing at Idaho as an example of successful relocation efforts, the late winter social media campaign has engaged more than 50,000 people.

## Idaho

**Social Media Applause for Lion Relocation:** Hundreds of citizens sent letters and messages of gratitude to Idaho Fish and Game after the agency relocated a mother lion and her three kittens in three separate captures and relocations.

**Idaho Trophy Hunt Expansion:** With little evidence that a doubling of lion kills is warranted, Idaho has increased the trophy hunt from 2007 when 60 mountain lions were killed, to a total of 134 in 2015. MLF will challenge the increase and ask for a reduction in the hunt through comment letters to the commission in March of this year.

### Nebraska

**Nebraska Legislation:** Nebraska Senator Ernie Chambers has introduced Legislative Bill 448, a bill to end trophy hunting of mountain lions in the state. The bill is scheduled for a hearing on February 23rd in the Natural Resources Committee. Mountain Lion Foundation has joined a group letter urging the committee to pass the bill, and will publish an action alert.

### South Dakota

**2017 Cougar Management Plan Revision:** The Mountain Lion Foundation is commenting on this plan, considered every two years, that has so devastated Black Hills mountain lions.

## Tools Required

- Rake
- Shovel
- Pliers to Bend Wire (one per person)
- Socket Wrench Set (1/2 inch bolts)
- T-Post Driver or Sledge Hammer (if secured with T-Posts)
- A-frame Ladder (to reach the top during assembly)
- Channel Lock Pliers (large size for pulling panels tight)
- Bolt Cutters (large to cut horse panel which is 6 gauge wire)
- Fat Tip Marking Pen (large to mark end panel cuts)
- Gloves (sharp wire)
- Optional - Zip Ties (Heavy zip ties can be used for temporary installations or positioning)

## Materials (Parts purchased from Tractor Supply)

Quantity	Price per unit	Description	Image
1	\$ 299.99	Stephens Pipe & Steel Dog Kennel, 10 ft. W x 10 ft. L x 6 ft. H SKU #360651299	
3	\$ 79.99	Horse Fence Panel, 5 ft. x 16 ft. SKU #361037599	
4	\$ 4.99	Studded T Post, 6 ft., 1.33 lb. per foot SKU #360436699	
1	\$ 13.99	E-Shock Steel Wire, 14 Gauge, 200 ft SKU #361584699	
1	\$ 27.99	JobSmart Medium Duty Tarp, 12 ft. x 16 ft. SKU #350295499	
Total w/o tax		\$ 601.90	



**MOUNTAIN LION FOUNDATION**  
 PO BOX 1896, SACRAMENTO CA 95812 – 916-442-2666 – INFO@MOUNTAINLION.ORG  
[www.mountainlion.org/pen](http://www.mountainlion.org/pen)

## Building a Pen to Protect Small Livestock from Mountain Lions Using a Dog Kennel and Horse Panels

Our least expensive pen is made from one standard dog kennel kit consisting of four pre-assembled chain link fence panels and three horse panels. You can find other plans and lots of additional information for deterring mountain lions from your home or ranch at [www.mountainlion.org](http://www.mountainlion.org), or contact us. Please send us a photo and story about your pen!

The final pen is ten feet by ten feet square, six feet high at the outside and approximately 9 feet high in the center. The four corners of the pen are anchored with T-Post fence posts for stability.

The materials and tools required for the pen are listed at the end of this document. The retail price for the materials was \$601.90 before tax at the end of September 2016.

The materials can be ordered online from a number of vendors. For this build we chose Tractor Supply, paid online and picked up the materials with a small truck. Due to the size of the materials, two trips were required with the small truck.



### Before You Start

Select your site - Be sure to find a site that is level, has good drainage, is convenient and is where you want it to be for the foreseeable future - the pen can be moved, but it is heavy! Measure the 10x10 area where the pen will go. If the soil is very dry you may wish to water the corners for a day or so before installation in order to soften the soil and make driving the T-Posts easier. Invite several friends - the work will go quickly, but you will need at least two or three people to handle the materials which are light enough to move easily but large.

## ASSEMBLY INSTRUCTIONS



Pick a corner to start at and drive the "T-Post" into position where the two panels come together at the corner. You can wiggle the post to vertical if you are a little off (see photo below).

Tilt the two panels upright and in place to confirm everything is looking good.

Attach the panels together using the provided clamps (see photo below), and repeat the process for the other three corners.



**Marking the Curve** Tilt up a second horse panel so that the long side is on the ground and it rests on top of the panel on the ground. Center the second panel so that it overlaps both ends of the pen wall equally.

This step can use several people! Arch the panel on its side so that the ends overlap the walls equally on both sides by about 2 feet. The idea is to adjust the arch low enough to be able to cut two full end panels out of the single 5x16 panel that is on the ground (see one side in the image below).



**Walls** The walls are made from a standard dog kennel kit consisting of four pre-assembled chain link fence panels.

Lay out your panels outside of the footprint of the final pen so that they can be tilted up and into position (see photo below). Be sure to place the panel with the door in the appropriate place.



**Preparing the Roof** The roof top is made from two arched 5x16 foot heavy gauge welded wire panels (sold as "horse panels"). The gap between the top of the chain-link wall and the arched roof is covered with two smaller pieces cut from the third horse panel.

As it is easier to cut the end panel on the ground, the roof arch is first determined by arching one of the horse panels parallel to the ground before installing.

Place one panel flat on the ground with the long end parallel to and touching one of the walls. Align the panel so that one of the short edge of the panel ends at the corner of the pen wall.



Use the heavy marker to mark the outline of the arch on the panel on the ground (in red in this photo).

Release the second arched panel and set aside.

Cut the panel on the ground with the bolt cutters leaving a full square to the outside of the cut marks. You can always trim later if you want a closer cut, but for now err on the side of leaving a wide margin. This is your first end panel.

Use the first end panel as a template to cut the second panel by placing it on top the remainder of the panel, marking and cutting.

Set the two end panels aside and remove the cuttings from the work area.

**Setting the Roof** Place one of the two full length panels into place as the roof, and lay the panel over the top. Get it into position equally on both sides, the ends will hang over the chain link fencing on either side (as shown at right).

Line up the long end with the middle support of the fencing panel to center it. Have somebody push up the roof panel from inside to start the arch.

On each of the sides where the roof panel will be mounted directly to the chain link, push the overhanging ends in tight against the chain link panels (see image below).



**Wire it Up** Wire the roof panel to the fence frame. Initially wire it in place for position and to hold for the rest of the assembly, you will tighten up and add more wire later.

Follow the same procedure above to install the second roof panel, adjust so that the connection between the two panels is centered over the vertical support of the wall panel.

Tighten up the connections of the roof to the wall panels with more wire. Large channel lock pliers help to pull the panels into position while tightening the wire.

### Install End Panels and You're Done!

Next install the end panels you set aside. Just lift into place and wire the away!

Install tarp over the roof for rain and sun protection. This pen has been built to protect goats and has had a heavy rubber floor mat installed which will keep predators such as coyotes from digging in. For other livestock it may be appropriate to add a poultry wire layer and apron around the outside or extend the poultry wire underground to prevent predators from digging under the wall or reaching through the wall for smaller livestock.

