

PREDATOR'S PRIDE



ARIZONA PREDATOR CALLERS

SEPTEMBER 2004

APC • P.O. Box 1172 • MESA, AZ 85211-1172

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THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Dan Solow, APC President

Howdy all APC members,

It's almost that time again, for some it already is, temperatures in the high country are dropping to the 30's. Notice that it gets a little dark earlier, and the mornings are a little cooler. Another four weeks and we will be out of the triple digit heat.

A super **BIG** thank you to our August guest speaker, Don Martin, and Eric. If you missed the elk seminar, you missed a very informative topic. Don and Eric are professional guides, and know most of the things that work in taking your elk. They gave us information on the early and late hunts, also, what to do after you take your elk. Don and Eric could not say enough about glass, glass, glass - that is to take your spotting scope, binoculars, and really glass the area for game, a must for elk hunting.

Also, a thank you to our program director Mike Kannapel, for arranging another fabulous guest speaker.

As mentioned at our August meeting, by the time you read this, the 2004 fall dove season will be under way. Again it will be a split season, Sept 1 to Sept 15, then Nov 19 to Jan 2. Also, the state will be split into two zones, north and south. A little reminder, you must purchase a dove stamp, and also a must, is your firearm must be plugged, that it can not hold more than three shells.

On Saturday, Sept 18th, the Good Gun Foundation is participating in National Public Lands Day.

This event will be a cleanup in the Prescott National Forest. For more information, contact Debbie Backhaus at (928) 776-8056, ext 235, or go to there web site at www.goodgun.org.

I stopped by member Jeff Serdy's shop, A.J.I. Sporting Goods, and Jeff has in stock, a New England Firearms 17m2 rifle. This rifle shoots the new cartridge that is a 22lr necked down to 17cal, and does 2100fps, mach2. Contact Jeff for more information. See his business ad elsewhere in the newsletter.

The APC has started a raffle for 30-06 rifle, only 60 tickets will be sold. Please see Jerry Thorson at our monthly meeting for your tickets.

We have not had an awards banquet in about three years so we are planning one for May 2005 and we need your input. Cost may be around \$60 per couple, what we really need to know, is how many members and non-members would attend. We will discuss more at general meeting.

We have picked dates in October and November for our novice hunts. Please read the hunt co-chairmans article, and mark your calendars.

Remember to visit your local merchants for your hunting needs, they do donate to our club. Also, I hope to see you at our next meeting, and have fun, but be safe out there

Dan

COMING EVENTS

September General Meeting . . . 9 Sept '04
 "Bear Hunting - Ed Murdock"
 September Board Meeting . . . 27 Sept '04
 October General Meeting . . . 14 Oct '04
 October Board Meeting 25 Oct '04
 World Championship Contest2, 3 & 4 Dec '04

Monthly APC meetings are held at the Mesa FOP Hall, 1450 E. Main Street, Mesa, from 7:00 p.m. until ????. Board meetings are held at the Arizona Wildlife Federation office at 7:00 p.m.

TREASURERS REPORT

by Jerry Thorson, APC Treasurer

This Treasurers report details all transactions from August 1, 2004 through August 31, 2004.

CHECKING ACCOUNT

Beginning Balance.....\$5,537.94
 Check #1359 AZ Trappers Convention(100.00)
 Check #1360 Stan Schepers (tail strippers)(39.00)
 Check #1362 Mike Clerc - Newsletter . (74.11)
 Check #1363 Postage.....(100.00)
 Check #1364 AWF - 6 memberships.....(39.00)
 Deposit (memberships & cash) 580.00
Ending Balance 04/30/04 \$5,765.83

PETTY CASH

Petty Cash Beginning Balance . 122.53
 T-Shirt sales.....142.00
 Dues125.00
 Rifle Raffle90.00
 Admission & Raffles162.00
 Deposit to Checking(520.00)
 Petty Cash Ending Balance.....121.53
Total Cash 04/30/04 \$5,887.36

INVENTORY

Crit'r Call Magnum 3...@\$10.00
 Crit'r Call Standard..... 23...@\$9.00
 Crit'r Call PeeWee..... 15...@\$9.00
 Crit'r Call Reeds..... 16...@\$1.50
 Crit'r Call Song Dog 5...@\$18.00
 Tally-Ho 52...@\$8.00
 Tally-Ho Reeds..... 122...@\$1.50
 Tally-Ho Inserts 248...@\$0.25
 T-Shirts..... 24...@\$12.00
 WCCC T-Shirts..... 25...@\$12.00
 APC Caps 10...@\$15.00
 WCCC Caps..... 16...@\$20.00
 Decals..... 900...@\$1.00
Total Inventory.....\$3,060.00
Total Assets.....\$8,947.36
Total Liabilities.....(\$0.00)
Net Worth.....\$8,947.36



APC VIDEO LIBRARY

The following individuals have videos checked out:

3/11/04..William Klientz Callers of the Wild
 9/11/03 .Ed Volk Calling All Coyotes
 8/12/04 .John Frabota Turkey Magnificent Merriams
 5/13/04 .Jud Heinze Reloading II
 5/13/04 .Larry Scribner.. Power Howling Coyotes
 4/10/03 .Clyde Turkeys - Antley
 4/10/03 .Clyde Turkeys - Fears
 5/13/04 .Ken McKenna..... Whitetails II
 8/12/04 .Scott Koch.. Power Howling Coyotes
 8/12/04 .Scott Koch Black Bear

Jerry

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

by Mike Clerc, APC Membership

I would like to welcome new member Scott Koch and LE Pulvermacher.

The following memberships have expired:

| Name | Expires |
|----------------|-----------|
| Robert Barraza | 01-Sep-04 |
| David DeRoia | 01-Sep-04 |
| Jose Valencia | 01-Sep-04 |

The following members will expire soon:

| Name | Expires |
|----------------|-----------|
| Susan Frabota | 01-Oct-04 |
| Jeff Heinze | 01-Oct-04 |
| Fred Kolar | 01-Oct-04 |
| Peter Goula | 01-Nov-04 |
| Bruce Painter | 01-Nov-04 |
| Joe Penny | 01-Nov-04 |
| Dan Solow | 01-Nov-04 |
| Fred Johnson | 1-Dec-04 |
| John Koleszar | 1-Dec-04 |
| Larry Scribner | 1-Dec-04 |
| Tom Thornhill | 1-Dec-04 |
| Dave Warren | 1-Dec-04 |

If you've let your membership with our club expire, please contact us, we would love to have you back! If you have any questions regarding your existing membership, please give me a call at (480) 890-7801 or you can e-mail me at membership@azpredatorcallers.com anytime.

Mike

PROGRAM REPORT

by Mike Kannapel, Program Director

The ARIZONA PREDATOR CALLERS are hosting an bear hunting seminar on Thursday, September 9, 2004 at 7:00pm. The meeting features a bear hunting presentation by Ed Murdoch, an avid bear hunter, who will talk about utilizing predator calls for bear hunting. Also on hand will be Arizona Game and Fish Department Deputy Director, Steve Farrell who will discuss the new predator policy, non-resident hunting tags, and the mountain lion workshop.

The meeting will be held in the Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #9 at 1450 E Main Street. The FOP Lodge is on the North side of Main Street between Stapley and Gilbert road in Mesa. The meeting is free to APC members and students under 18, and \$5 for non-members. Refreshments and door prizes are included in the admission price.

On October 9 & 10, all experienced predator callers are invited to attend the Arizona Game and Fish Hunter Safety course instructor workshop in Dugas, AZ, under the guidance of AG&F Chief Instructor Mark Quigley, they will be introducing their instructors to predator calling. They would like as many of our members to be there to take thier instructors out on Sunday, October 10th and teach them how to call so they inturn can teach other hunters taking the course how to call. For details, please call Mark @ (602) 498-3000.

The October general meeting will be our Predator Calling Seminar, everything you ever wanted to know about predator calling, including camo, electronic calls, mouth calls, stand setup, how long to call and when to call. This will be put on by club members to usher in our Novice Hunts in October and November.

World Championship Calling Contest. This event was moved to Elko, Nevada for 2004. I reported last month that the dates were November 11, 12 & 13. . . I was wrong, the dates for the hunt are December 2, 3 & 4, 2004. Any interested parties that did not participate in the event the last two years in Arizona can call Walt Gardner at (775) 779-2201 for an application. If you participated last year or the year before you will automatically be sent an application next week.

Mike

THE HUNT REPORT

by Dusty Mosier, Hunts Co-Chair

Hello Everyone,

Well, here we are again the start of the season. Stan and I along with a bunch of other guys went on our annual bear hunt to unit 27 this past weekend. As usual more beer than bear where killed, but a great time was had by all. We drove, walked and called all over the White Mountains but no predators where seen. However, the mountains where beautiful, the company was great and nobody got hurt so the trip was a success.

We are planning our novice hunts for this fall, the dates are October 16 and November 20. If you would like to go out calling with an experienced club member, please see me or Stan ASAP so we can pair you up. After the hunt we will meet and share stories, eat and hopefully skin some animals. We will need some experienced callers to help out too.

I want to remind you to keep a journal of your hunts and keep track of your kills for caller of the year points. This will help us at the end of the season total up how well we did as a club removing predators. Stan and I have E-Z forms available to help you.

Get out there and vote for those people who support hunting.
Be Safe, Have Fun, Shoot to Kill!!!!

Dusty

APC CLASSIFIEDS

Individual classified ads are listed free in the Varmints Voice to all APC members. For commercial ads, please contact the newsletter editor.

For Sale: Suzuki 250 Quad Runner, 4x4 ATV, 2wd/4wd, high, low and ultra low ranges w/ locking differentials, 507 actual miles \$1500.00. Mike Kannapel (480) 962-1976.

For Sale: *** NEW *** Winchester Model 70 Super Shadow .300 WSM (Winchester Short Magnum), matte finish 24" barrel, synthetic stock - \$400 *** AS NEW *** Remington XP-100R (rear grip) .260 Reming-

ton, 16" barrel, Timney trigger, BlackStar Cryo'd and Polished - \$450. Scott (623) 319-0573

For Sale: Lohman cassette player \$80.00, remote for Dennis Kirk caller (screw in back) for NL5000 & NL6000 units. - \$50.00 contact Stan at (602) 499-0505

For Sale: 2004 Rancher 350 Quad w/electric shift. - \$4,000.00 obo contact Ken at (602) 818-1887

For Sale: Marlin model 783 .22mag bolt action rifle, with sling \$125. Ruger 10/22, 22lr, this has a 22" stainless steel barrel, longer than standard blue model, w/o 3x9 scope \$185, w/scope \$225, all 100% with boxes & papers Contact Dan @ (480) 883-7148..

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HUNTER EDUCATION

by Mike Zaccardi, Member

Press release for September 2004 Hunter Education Class in Mesa, AZ

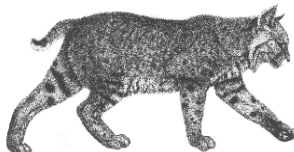
Basic and Combo Hunter Education classes will be held at the Poston Jr. High auditorium (located at 2433 E. Adobe in Mesa) starting September 7, 2004 and continuing through October 7. Classes will be held on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6:45 to 9:00. There is a 4 hour required field day on Saturday, September 25 at the Rio Salado Sportsman Club on Utery Pass Road. In person registration for both classes will be held at the first class session (September 7) from 6:30 to 7:00pm. Pre-registration for the Combo Class is required and can be done by calling (480) 834-1791 and leaving your name, phone number and the number of students in your group for the Combo class. Total cost for either class is \$8.00. Checks should be made out to MHEIA. Please bring your Social Security Number or Hunt ID number to registration. Maximum basic class size is 250 persons and 25 persons for the Combo class. These classes are for all ages. Parents are encouraged to attend with their children. This class is required for all persons 10 - 14 years old to hunt big game in Arizona. It also qualifies the graduate for a permanent bonus point. For further information contact Mike at (480) 834-1791. Please do not call Poston Jr. High for details. See Arizona Game and Fish Hunter Education class schedule at: <http://www.azgfd.com>



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| FAX: 505.262.1998 | |
| EMAIL: chag@msa.com | |
| CELL: 520.270.7795 | |



NEW TERRORISM

submitted by Cindy Seff

National Review Online

August 11, 2004

New Terrorists on the Block Animal-rights activists turn to violence.

by Wesley J. Smith

If you want to see the future of animal-rights/liberation (ARL) advocacy in America, you need only look across the pond to the United Kingdom. It isn't a pretty picture.

Increasingly, radical animal liberationists are resorting to violence, threats, and intimidation to prevent people and businesses from engaging in the proper and humane use of animals. Here is just a sampling of the violent seeds these extremists have recently sown: -- Jerry Vlasak, an American trauma surgeon who advises British animal liberationists, reportedly said that assassinating scientists could save the lives of laboratory animals. "I don't think you'd have to kill too many [medical researchers]," Vlasak told the Observer. "I think for five lives, 10 lives, 15 human lives, we could save a million, 2 million, 10 million non-human lives." (In a subsequent statement, Vlasak denied advocating murder in the cause of animal liberation, adding the caveat, "If by chance violence is used ...even if there are casualties, it must be looked at in perspective and in a historical context.") -- The Independent reported that ARL "activists from around the world" are headed to the U.K. to prepare for what they call "an animal liberation war." They don't mean the term figuratively. And the "war," if it comes, will not long be contained by Britain's shores. -- Intimidation against legitimate animal-related activities is working. Building contractors of a new medical laboratory at Oxford University, for example, walked off the job after ARLists terrified employees with threats of physical harm. -- Cambridge University, under pressure from animal liberationists, dropped a proposed multimillion-pound research project that would have, in part, conducted experiments on monkeys in the urgent search for the causes of and cures for devastating neurological diseases. The university cited "financial risks" in justifying its decision. But, of course, the real

reason was fear - fear of the potentially violent reaction of animal liberationists who hold the lives of monkeys far more dearly than the alleviation of suffering in people. England has long been a spawning ground for international ARL radicalism. Indeed, one of the world's most extreme ARList terrorist groups, Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty (SHAC) - which is dedicated to shutting down Huntingdon Life Sciences because they use animals in research - originated in the U.K. There, SHAC activists engaged in harsh violence. For example, one executive was beaten with a baseball bat and another had a caustic substance thrown in his face. But SHAC was not content to merely go after Huntingdon employees. In a disturbing innovation, it began a campaign of intimidation against banks, insurance companies, accounting firms, and other companies that merely did business with Huntingdon. As a consequence, many businesses cut off all ties. This ancillary intimidation became so extreme that the Bank of England agreed to allow the company to open the bank's only commercial account so it could remain in business. Seeking respite, Huntingdon moved much of its activities to the United States. But the ARL terrorist network is international and a mere move across the Atlantic Ocean offered no protection. Soon, Huntingdon and American businesses doing business with the company were being targeted in the same manner as occurs in England. SHAC's campaign against Huntingdon is a test case for radical ARLists -and for society. If these fanatics succeed in driving Huntingdon out of business, no company that makes legitimate uses of animals as part of its operations will be safe - not restaurant chains, university research labs, fishing fleets, circuses, cattle ranchers, or leather-clothing outlets. In this sense, ARList radicals pose a substantial threat to human welfare and economic vitality. What to do? We have to understand that ARLists do not share a common frame of moral reference with the rest of society. Whereas most of us believe that humans have the highest moral value, it is an article of faith among ARLists that no moral distinction exists between humans and animals; "a rat, is a dog, is a boy," in one animal liberationist's infamous assertion. Thus, while most of us

believe that we have a positive moral duty to treat animals humanely and support punishing people that abuse them, ARL movement devotees believe - not metaphorically, but literally - that we have no right to use animals for any purpose, not even as seeing-eye dogs. In this surreal moral prism, real evil is reduced to banality as advocates equate cattle ranching with human slavery,

Mengele's notorious twin experiments with testing the safety of stem cells in rats, and the sending of Jews to the gas showers at Auschwitz with eating a steak. Lest you think I exaggerate, in its pro-vegetarian "Holo-caust on Your Plate Campaign," People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) asserted, "The leather sofa and handbag are the moral equivalent of the lampshades made from the skins of people killed in the death camps." What's worse: They meant every word. The ideological struggle must be joined. ARList ideology is a frontal attack on human exceptionalism (and not the only one we face). In this sense, it is profoundly anti-human, both in its first principles and in consequential effects. This is undeniably subversive to the moral order.

Believing that humans are unique and special is essential to promoting the ideal of universal human rights. After all, if we are just another species of animal in the forest, that is precisely how we will act. Call upon prominent animal-rights/liberation leaders to condemn violence and intimidation unequivocally. Too often, prominent leaders of the ARL movement who do not engage personally in lawlessness, praise animal-rights terrorism with faint damnation, or none at all. With the threat that someone may be killed as a result of animal-rights terrorism growing, such shrugs of the shoulder are unacceptable. If animal-rights/liberation leaders expect to be deemed legitimate participants in the public square, they have a duty to use their influence to dissuade their more extremist colleagues from engaging in violence and threats. Failing to do so will reveal where their true sympathies lie.

Government must do more to protect companies that use animals and their business associates. Government is beginning to respond to the threat posed by groups such as SHAC and the Animal Liberation Front (ALF). We must move faster

and with a greater sense of urgency. Federal and state laws need to protect businesses of those threatened by ARL extremism, and the homes of their employees. This should include using anti-stalking laws to protect identified categories of victims as well as individuals. Any non-profit organization that is proved to be a front for, or funder of, animal-rights terrorist activities, should lose its tax-exempt status, and have their assets frozen - just as the government does Islamist terrorist front groups. Businesses must take the threat seriously. Too often, corporations threatened by ARL intimidation campaigns adopt a hide-under-the-desk-and-hope-they-go-away strategy. Such appeasement won't work. ARLists are bullies and ideological true believers, and perceived weakness in their victims only encourages them. Understanding this is the first step toward building an overarching corporate strategy to meet the threat. Among other agenda items, companies need to ensure that their use of animals and that of their sub contractors meets or exceeds legal standards; budgets must set aside funds to pay for security to protect threatened employees; and resources must be committed to the ideological struggle that lies ahead. It is also essential to quantify the tremendous good people receive from the proper and humane use of animals, an issue so seemingly self-evident that too many of us take it for granted. Protecting animal welfare is a noble cause. But animal-rights/liberation is not merely animal welfare with a high metabolism. The former seeks to make the human use of animals increasingly more humane, while the latter seeks to end it altogether. This advocacy is perfectly legal, of course. But we dare not tolerate violence, threats, or intimidation - overt or implied - against those who make proper use of animals. Nor should we grant any legitimacy to movement leaders who do.

- Wesley J. Smith is a senior fellow at the Discovery Institute and a special consultant to the Center for Bioethics and Culture. His next book, to be published in the fall, is *Consumer's Guide to a Brave New World*.



KNOW YOUR CANDIDATE

submitted by Cindy Seff

John Kerry's Anti-Gun Record

Two decades of opposing gun owners' rights in the U.S. Senate make John Kerry the most anti-gun presidential nominee in U.S. history!

FACT: Kerry has voted nine times in favor of banning semi-auto firearms.

FACT: Kerry has voted for a Ted Kennedy amendment to ban most rifle ammunition, including the most common rounds used by hunters and target shooters.

FACT: Kerry has voted to close off hundreds of thousands of acres to hunting in the California Mojave Desert.

FACT: Kerry has voted to hold America's firearms makers — not violent criminals — responsible for crimes committed with firearms.

FACT: Kerry was one of only 18 Senators who opposed the Firearms Owners' Protection Act, which ended alarming abuses being committed under the 1968 Gun Control Act.

FACT: Kerry has voted to allow unlimited warrant-less inspections of FFL holders.

FACT: Kerry has voted to criminalize legal sales between private citizens at gun shows.

FACT: Kerry has voted against increasing mandatory minimum and maximum penalties for the illegal transfer or use of a firearm. But he voted to impose penalties of a year in prison and a \$10,000 fine on an adult if a juvenile steals a gun from him and then displays it in a public place.

FACT: Kerry has voted to force many small firearms dealers out of business, which would have impacted both the availability and price of guns, particularly in rural areas.

FACT: Kerry has voted 11 times to force law-abiding citizens to wait to exercise their Second Amendment rights. He voted to keep the federal waiting period after the National Instant Check System was in place.

FACT: Kerry voted twice to eliminate the Civilian Marksmanship Program.

FACT: Kerry commended commended an anti-gun group's demonstration in Washington that called for gun owner licensing, gun registration and other restrictions on law-abiding gun owners.

FACT: If elected president, Kerry will pack the U.S. Supreme Court with Feinstein/Schumer/ Kennedy-selected anti-gun activists who believe you have no right to own any firearm.

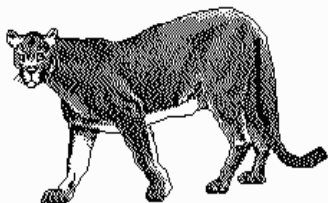
For More Information on John Kerry please visit www.nrapvf.org

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Please write, phone, fax, or email your U.S. Representatives and Senators and let them know how you as a gun Related Business or Gun owner feels about these two bills below. You can get contact information at www.congress.org.

You can look at the Bills House HR.3831 and Senate S.2498 and see who wrote and cosponsored them at www.thomas.loc.gov. I would bet you that the Anti-Gun Congressman will be trying to add Anti-Gun Amendments as they did on Senate Bill S.1805 "Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act" some time back. The NRA Stepped in and the original Senators that started the bill helped vote it down.

Have you registered to vote yet? It's easy to at www.conservativealerts.com/vote.htm. When you get to the web-site pick on the box "I want to Register to vote" and fill in your information on form and then print it out, mail it in. Your done! We as gun owners and Gun related businesses need to stand up and be heard this year. We need to fight back to keep our Second Amendment rights. There is a group of Senators and Representatives out there that would like nothing better than to take away all our guns. If you are interested in which party stands up in most part for our gun owning rights, you need only to look at their voting record on Senate Bill S.1805 and you will see what I'm talking about. Go to the web-site www.thomas.loc.gov and type in the first box S.659 and work your way up through the Bills and Amendments to Bill S.1805 and you will know.



COYOTE NEWS

submitted by Cindy Seff

Biologists say coyotes losing fear of humans

By: PAUL SISSON
- Staff Writer

While the debate over killing coyotes continues to swirl throughout North County, biologists say the evidence is clear that the predators are growing less afraid of humans every year.

Robert Timm, a biologist with the Hopland Research and Extension Center in Hopland, recently presented a paper to the North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference in Spokane, Wash. The paper, titled "Coyote attacks: an increasing suburban problem," concludes that coyotes have, indeed, become much less afraid of humans.

"In the absence of harassment by residents, coyotes can lose their fear of people and come to associate humans with this safe, resource-rich environment," the report states.

This latest concern over coyotes started when a small senior community in southeast Oceanside declared last month that it would hire a private exterminator to capture and kill coyotes that residents said were attacking family pets. After conducting 19 interviews in the Ocean Hills community, investigators found that coyotes had killed small three dogs in recent months and that they did so in close proximity to their owners, making them a threat to public safety.

The controversy escalated when the state Department of Fish and Game got involved, declaring the coyotes a public safety hazard and calling in federal trappers, who killed four of the animals July 22.

The news seemed to polarize the populace. From call-in radio shows to TV broadcasts and letters to the editors of local newspapers, public opinion seems to have fallen into two camps: Some favor killing coyotes when they get too close to humans and their pets, and others see killing coyotes as simply unconscionable.

Those who favor trapping and killing coyotes generally argue that nothing else will put the fear of man back into coyotes that have grown accustomed to the presence of humans. Those who favor leaving

the coyotes alone say humans haven't done enough to help keep the coyotes wild, providing easy food for hungry predators who have been in the area much longer than the latest crop of suburbanites.

Biologists seem to fall somewhere in the middle.

Timm and co-authors from Cal Poly Pomona and the U.S. Department of Agriculture wanted to quantify the coyote-human conflict taking place in Southern California's suburban neighborhoods. So they scoured records in Los Angeles, Orange, San Diego, San Bernardino and Riverside counties, looking for instances where coyotes had either attacked a human directly or had attacked a pet while it was in close proximity to its owner.

They found that since 1978 there have been at least 89 such attacks, including seven in North County. None of those seven include the recent attacks reported in Oceanside's Ocean Hills community.

For example, in 1988 the report lists three coyote attacks in Oceanside, including an incident in which a 3-year-old girl was bitten on the leg and face by a coyote. In July 2002, a Carlsbad woman walking a Labrador retriever was accosted by a pack of eight to 10 coyotes that bit at her legs and pants until her dog was able to fight the predators off.

There are still more stories of more serious attacks. In 1981, a 3-year-old girl from Glendale was attacked and killed by a coyote.

Over the years, coyote attacks, while still rare in Southern California, have increased in frequency, with a record 16 recorded in 2002.

"The overall picture is that this is a problem that is continuing to increase," Timm said.

Timm said that when he and his fellow researchers investigated coyote attacks, they usually found evidence that residents near where the attacks occurred had been feeding the coyotes, making them less afraid of humans.

Randy Bota, an assistant wildlife biologist for the state Department of Fish and Game, said he has not seen any credible literature or evidence that coyotes will regain their fear of humans once they have become accustomed to eating food people provide either through unsecured trash cans or pet food left outdoors. He said some pet owners also allow their small domestic dogs and cats to roam the outdoors,

where they're easy prey.

Bota and Timm said killing aggressive coyotes is the only reasonable way to keep them out of back yards.

Bota said that coyotes that live close to housing developments often adopt different social structures than those observed in the wild back-country. He said that large numbers may follow a dominant "leader" who has proven effective in snagging easy food from housing developments.

"Typically, if you can remove these lead animals, usually the others become less brazen," he said.

'Backyard' dilemma

Fish and Game does not trap and relocate coyotes despite constant requests from homeowners who would rather not see the animals killed.

Steve Edinger, assistant chief at the San Diego office of the state Department of Fish and Game, said relocating coyotes would only push the problem into someone else's back yard. He noted relocation also usually means a slower death for wild animals because they are plunked down into a competing animal's territory and must fight for dominance in unfamiliar surroundings.

"That's why we just don't relocate (trapped coyotes)," Edinger said.

He added that the best way for humans to make trapping and killing less common is to follow the simple philosophy of keeping wild animals wild by minimizing their dependence on humans as a source of easy food. He noted that one thing is certain: Coyotes are not going anywhere.

"They are one of the most adaptable species on the planet," he said. "Historically, the range for the coyote was the Great Plains, and now you find them in 49 states," he said.

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COUGAR NEWS

submitted by Cindy Seff

San Francisco Chronicle

Managing Nature - The cougar problem is more manageable than we think

Charles F. McCullough
Monday, July 5, 2004

The mountain lion attack on a woman hiking in Sequoia National Forest last week makes it clear that California wildlife policy must change: What we need, to solve the cougar problem, is predator managers (i.e., hunters or trappers) to achieve a balance between predator and natural prey -- not human prey.

Many environmentalists acknowledge that California is losing its mule deer. The fact is we are losing all deer, mule and blacktail, as well as bighorn sheep, kit foxes and wild turkeys. The reason for these losses is no predator management -- not people, as most biologists want you to believe, encroaching on habitat.

In the 1950s and 1960s, after many years of predator management and trapping for furs, these species were in abundance. Predator management and fur trapping gave us the largest deer herd (about 2 million) the state Department of Fish and Game has ever recorded and no encounters between humans and lions in 77 years.

There needs to be a complete change in the thinking and attitudes of the state's fish and game biologists. I spent three years in the late 1980s as a wildlife adviser for the U.S. Bureau of Land Management in the Bakersfield District (involving 35 counties). I attended several meetings with state of California Department of Fish and Game personnel, as well as biologists, sportsmen and ranchers. The most vocally angry of the standing-room only meetings were in Mariposa, Los Banos and Fresno, where participants pleaded with the Department of Fish and Game officials to do something to control the predators, especially the mountain lion.

Their calls fell on deaf ears. Biologists said they believed the deer decline was due to a disease called "blue tongue." San Benito County sportsmen -- not state biologists -- collected 10 blood samples from

San Benito County deer herds and proved "blue tongue" was not the reason for their decline, measured at more than 90 percent of the population within the county. As far as hunters and ranchers were concerned, predators were still the leading suspects.

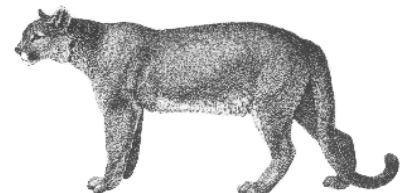
California Fish and Game biologists still balk at naming the mountain lion as the biggest factor in the deer herd decline, despite their own ongoing study, started in 1993, called the "Round Valley study," and the 18-year northern Kings County deer herd study headed by biologist Don Neal. Both studies show the mountain lion as the major factor in the decline of the deer herd.

Yet, Californians -- prompted by the Mountain Lion Foundation and environmentalists who saw a financial windfall -- voted in 1990 in favor of Proposition 117. The so-called mountain-lion initiative earmarked \$900 million (\$30 million annually for 30 years) to purchase and protect wildlands critical to cougar survival. The result: an increase in the mountain lion population from 2,000 in the 1970s to an estimated 4,000 to 6,000 today, according to the California Department of Fish and Game. Bob Turner, a warden for 30 years with the department, has said it is unclear what the lion population numbers might be, but it is clear that California is saturated.

Another irony: Millions in federal tax dollars are now committed to maintaining the bighorn sheep population in the Sierra Nevada. Most of the money will be used to reduce and manage the mountain lion population. In effect, we are now taxed by the state to save the mountain lion and taxed by the federal government to kill it.

The mountain lion is a beautiful animal. But I believe the lion population should be controlled by science, not public emotion. What we need are biologists with common sense, who will understand the importance of achieving a balance between predator and prey.

Charles F. McCullough spent 25 years as a member of the San Benito County Fish and Game Commission.



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