



Living with Lions
a community conservation project



Mountain lions in the North Bay live a fragile existence

Audubon Canyon Ranch is studying our region's mountain lions to identify priority habitats and key wildlife corridors and to promote ecosystem conservation throughout our region.

Rigorous science – humanely conducted

Led by Audubon Canyon Ranch Wildlife Ecologist and large cat expert, Dr. Quinton Martins, Living with Lions humanely captures and equips lions with GPS collars. Biological measurements and samples are taken to determine their age and health, as well as to map the genetic makeup of the region and state's lion populations.

Reducing wildlife-livestock conflict

Living with Lions partners with domestic pet owners to implement the best methods to deter mountain lions from preying on unsecured animals, behavior that can result in a 'kill permit' for the lion. If you own pets or backyard livestock, safeguard them in a secure enclosure at night.

Our Wild Neighbors

ACR's scientists and educators teach more than 11,000 children and adults each year about the importance of mountain lions in our ecosystem. Through ACR's Our Wild Neighbors program, children are introduced to the captivating world of mountain lions and other wild creatures roaming outside our doors.

Are you a landowner in the Mayacamas? Contact us!

If you are a landowner or range manager in the Mayacamas range study area, please email mountainlion@egret.org to find out how you can help with this important research.

Your support has an immediate and enduring impact

ACR's Living with Lions project relies on contributions to maintain and advance its research. We invite you to become a member, make a donation, or call us to learn more.

Project partners include:

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

California State Parks

University of California, Berkeley

Sonoma County Regional Parks

Sonoma County Ag + Open Space

Sonoma Land Trust

Sonoma County Wildlife Rescue

photos: Jim Codrington, Quinton Martins



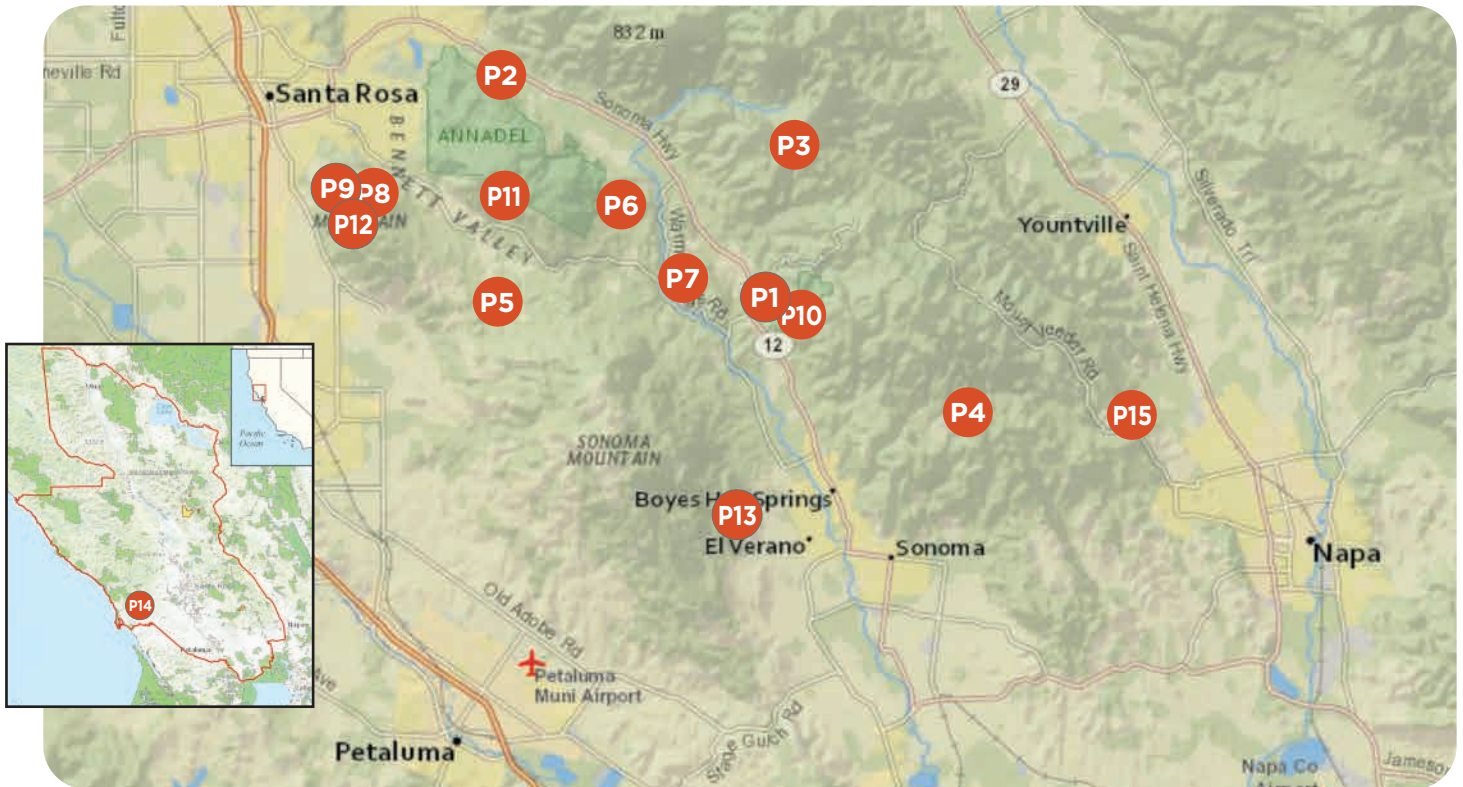
learn: egret.org/living-with-lions • call: 707.938.4554 ext 308 • email: mountainlion@egret.org

bouvierie preserve

13935 Sonoma Highway 12, Glen Ellen CA 95442

Martin Griffin Preserve Bouvierie Preserve Cypress Grove Research Center Modini Mayacamas Preserves

Mountain lions captured or collared in the Sonoma/Napa region



Why collar mountain lions? (and other FAQs)

Are mountain lions dangerous to people?

Statistically, mountain lions pose an insignificant threat to people. For context, in 2017 39 people were killed by dogs in the USA while 20 people were killed by mountain lions during the past 100 years in the whole of North America. Despite mountain lions being an unlikely threat to people, they are large carnivores who can be dangerous. Keen awareness when outdoors and respect for a lion's space when sighted will minimize chances of a confrontation. If for any reason you end up too close to a lion, shout at it, try to look big by waving your arms and, most importantly, *never run!*

How can I protect my backyard livestock and pets?

The best way to protect small numbers of livestock or pets is to house them in a 100% predator-proof enclosure at night. Livestock guardian dogs, llamas, donkeys, electronic deterrents, flaggers and electrified fences can also prove useful. The killing or removal of solitary predators like mountain lions is not a solution. Instead, such action has been shown to have the opposite and a negative impact in the affected area.

Why is Audubon Canyon Ranch (ACR) putting GPS collars on these mountain lions?

The use of tracking collars is one of the most widely-used methods of remotely monitoring wildlife species around the world. Mountain lions are very elusive and wide-ranging making it nearly impossible to study their movements and behavior without this technology. The GPS collars ACR uses provide accurate, real-time location data for individual mountain lions via satellite. These data will help us understand the habitat needs and population dynamics of mountain lions in our study area, and will

help inform important conservation decisions made by state and local agencies and conservation organizations in years to come.

Why not just leave the lions alone?

Mountain lions and other animals in our area face increasing threats to their long-term survival, including loss and fragmentation of habitat, poisoning by rodenticide, vehicle collisions, and even climate change. ACR and our partner organizations feel strongly that the benefits of this research far outweigh any negatives. Mountain lions are not adversely affected by the GPS collars, which are designed to automatically drop off after 8-14 months.

Some early results of our study

Territory size: Mountain lions are constantly moving over private land and open space. A resident male (P5) we collared has a range of about 250 square miles —covering 17,000 private land parcels. Female ranges are smaller and have been recorded being around 40–50 square miles. Because lions are solitary, individuals of the same sex restrict overlap with their neighbors. Males defend their territories from other males and try to have as many females in their range as they can manage.

Diet: We investigate lion feeding sites using the dense clustering of GPS points as a cue to the presence of a kill. The results from over 300 feeding sites show that deer form over 75% of lion diet, cats (house and/or feral) 8-10%, backyard livestock 8-10%, raccoons, foxes, birds and small mammals form the rest.

Preferred habitat: Our collared lions appear to prefer areas with cover, such as oak woodland or chaparral, rather than open grassland.

Get to know the big cats in your backyard
at egret.org/living-with-lions

Are you experiencing a mountain lion/livestock conflict the North Bay?
Contact our team by phone: 707-721-6560 or mountainlion@egret.org



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