

TRUE WILD JULY 2025 NEWSLETTER

Oh, These Beautiful Cats!



SUMMER NEWS FOR TRUE WILD



Zambia - Safari action with leopard hunts and more... (Photo: Quinton Martins).

Greetings from Africa! We are writing this Newsletter to you from the southern tip of the African continent - it is our summer safari season (winter in Southern Africa). What an exciting year it has been with so much to share. We will start this Newsletter off with an update on the North Bay mountain lions, followed by news on our conservation efforts, ending with safari anecdotes and updates.

MOUNTAIN LION NEWS!

We have encouraging news for all our tracked mountain lions - male, P48, as well as the female's P33, P39, and P49. The west county male P48 is still alive and appears to be doing well, expanding his range somewhat over the past 4 months and settling into adulthood.

Great news is that all three females we have been tracking still have surviving cubs. P33's single cub born in June 2024 is still alive. Her young female offspring, P50, was captured and tagged in April this year, a milestone with 50 individually identified/tagged mountain lions for the project. We recently got confirmation of P50's well-being when P33 caught a deer on Taylor Mountain in Bennett Valley and Quinton was able to swim through the poison oak to set up cameras to document both mother and daughter feeding.



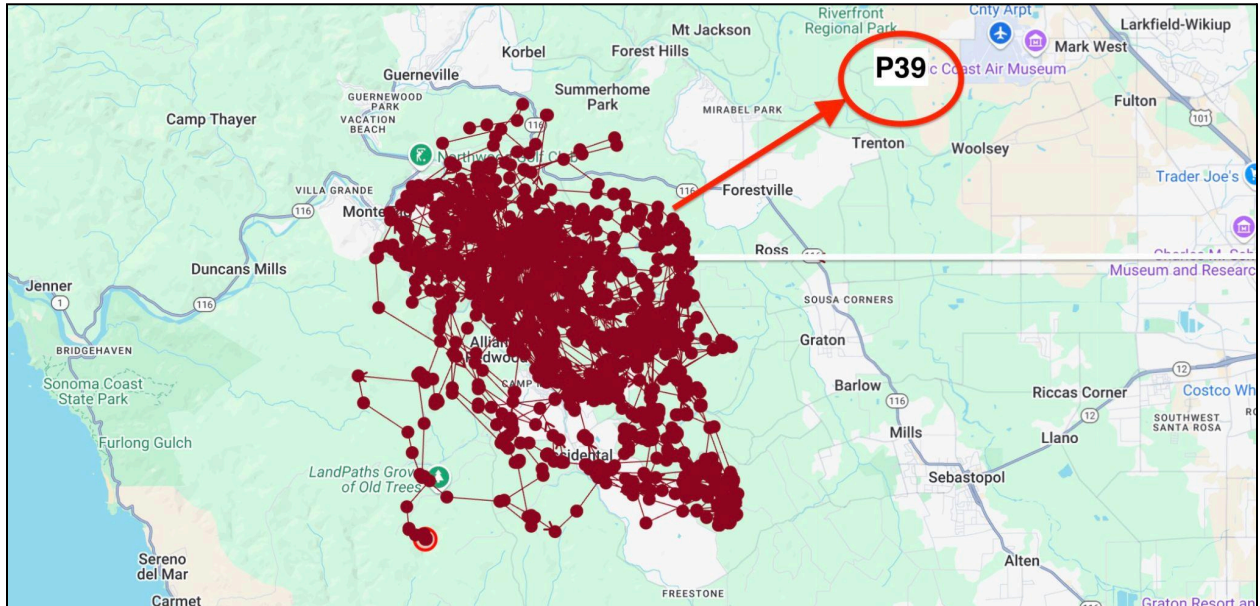
*P33 checking out the trail camera! The deer she was feeding on is lying in the background.
(Photo: Quinton Martins/True Wild/Audubon Canyon Ranch).*



P50 - Project milestone reaching 50 mountain lions - P33's daughter was born on the 17th June 2024 and was still doing well in June 2025. (Photo: Quinton Martins/True Wild/Audubon Canyon Ranch).

In a surprising turn of events we recently got a series of photographs of P39 with 2 surviving cubs in tow. The last photographs we'd had of her were in early May documenting her far to the north-east of her usual range so we were wondering what had happened to them and how they would survive if she had lost her territory to someone else. However, in July we received photos near Occidental, which is back within her historical range. Perhaps she had just been showing them around?

Unfortunately, her collar is not transmitting GPS data and we have been trying to re-capture her to change her collar out. It appears one of her 3 cubs may have died as there was no evidence of a third cub in any of the photos.



P39's range and the location captured on camera with the two cubs circled in red.

P49 has also been documented as having both her cubs with her - these are getting close to being one year old, which is encouraging to see. It has been interesting to see how her range straddles both sides of the Russian River near Guerneville. We would usually expect large natural edges like rivers to be territory boundaries. Yet she has crossed this wide river multiple times with two cubs in tow.

WILDLIFE CONFERENCE

Quinton attended the 14th Mountain Lion Workshop hosted between the 17-20 March by the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies in Albuquerque, New Mexico. This workshop has a strong agency focus and as a result, statewide updates across mountain lion ranges in North America played a big role. Two talks included True Wild/Audubon Canyon Ranch as contributors. Quinton had the following to say about his experience: "Despite some difficulties we experience working with mountain lions in California, things are so much better here as it was an eye-opener to see how other states in the US manage these iconic carnivores. Texas has always been one state where mountain lions are afforded no protection, and there is no limit to the number of lions that can be killed. No reporting is required if a lion is killed either. Utah has now followed by dropping mountain lion harvest quotas - you can kill as many as you like whenever you like. Reporting is required though. There were some hunters who killed as many as 5 lions in one year. It was astounding to learn that these new regulations

were implemented despite population modelling in the state showing a clear decreasing population trend. Colorado issues 2,500 mountain lion permits a year - approximately 500 lions are killed. A permit to hunt a mountain lion costs a mere \$61 for a resident in Colorado. Whether you like hunting or not, this apparent lack of value attributed to wildlife still astounds me. Not to digress but you can shoot a bear in California for the price of a couple of burgers and cokes.

COMMUNITY CONSERVATION

True Wild's work includes using safaris as a key way of supporting conservation initiatives in California, as well as contributing to conservation projects in Africa. One such project, Chipembele, based on the border of South Luangwa National Park in Zambia, is doing incredible work towards wildlife conservation and benefiting communities. True Wild, together with a few wonderful True Wild safari participants, were recently able to contribute \$20,000 towards a four-year university scholarship for a dedicated young Zambian man, Philemon Njobvu. Philemon has a love for studying and conserving hyenas, and we were thrilled to be able to contribute to his career by offering this scholarship at the University of Zambia. We are receiving regular updates from Philemon and look forward to seeing him excel in his field.



Philemon Njobvu (aka - The Hyena Man) - 4 year university scholarship through Chipembele

HUMAN-WILDLIFE INTERACTIONS

It is fantastic to finally be able to have some robust evidence of opaque barrier material deterring mountain lions from jumping into livestock corrals. A landowner who had multiple livestock losses improved his livestock security by building full enclosures for some of his animals and surrounding the others with opaque material wrapped around the corrals. He also installed cellular cameras to monitor the pens. On the 8th May, P48 visited his property but did not enter the corrals. P48 has killed livestock previously and, we believe that if it were not for this barrier material, more losses would have been experienced that night. P48 was seen hanging around the one enclosure for several minutes in front of the camera. GPS data also show he stayed on the property for over 12 hours - giving him ample time to cause trouble. Although not 100% effective, we believe this method of protecting livestock is a good option where a roofed enclosure is not possible. We will continue testing this method of livestock protection.



P48 taking interest in the corral, but not attempting to jump into it. (Photo: M.Krivoruchko)