

First mountain lion captured as research program expands to Marin County
*Living with Lions program provides residents and visitors with resources
to safely coexist with mountain lions*

For immediate release:



Wendy Coy
Director of Communications
Cell: 707-829-9582
wcoy@allhandsecology.org



Quinton Martins
True Wild Conservation
Cell: 707-721-6560
quinton@truewild.org

STINSON BEACH, March 26, 2026 — Living with Lions, a research, conservation, and education program that has been humanely capturing and tracking mountain lions in Sonoma County for the past decade, has expanded into Marin County. On March 18, Dr. Quinton Martins, lead investigator for the program, made the first capture since the program expansion. Under a permit issued by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), Martins captured an 8-yr-old, 140-pound male lion in the Lagunitas area. P60, dubbed “Pangui” by the landowners where the puma was captured, was fitted with a GPS tracking collar to study his movements.

Martins, who has captured and tracked 40 lions in Sonoma County since the start of the program, is eager to collar additional lions in Marin. “We really rely on word-of-mouth from people living in the area,” he says. Residents who spot a lion on their security or wildlife camera, lose livestock to a mountain lion, or find a freshly killed deer are encouraged to contact Martins by email, quinton@truewild.org or phone, 707-721-6560 or Marin County resident and UC Cooperative Extension’s Human-Wildlife Interactions Advisor Dr. Carolyn Whitesell, by email, cawhitesell@ucanr.edu, or phone, 650-224-4679.

Living with Lions is a collaboration between All Hands Ecology (formerly Audubon Canyon Ranch) and True Wild Conservation and includes monitoring the movements of mountain lions via GPS collars and a network of trail cameras, scientific analysis, classroom presentations, and community-based outreach and training around risk reduction for pets and farm animals. The goal of the program is to better understand how mountain lions are faring in the North Bay and provide residents and visitors with resources to safely co-exist with them.

The program is funded by donations and grants from individuals, foundations, businesses, and government agencies. All Hands Ecology is actively seeking funding to support the program expansion into Marin County.

“This will be a new opportunity to discover how California's top carnivores are faring in the southernmost part of this region,” says Tom Gardali, CEO of All Hands Ecology. In early 2026, Central Coast and Southern California mountain lions were listed as threatened under the California Endangered Species Act. “It’s a lot easier to maintain a healthy population than to recover one after they are gone.”

“Marin County is an important place to study mountain lions living and moving between California's North Coast and beyond,” adds Martins. “We anticipate that there is sufficient suitable habitat and primary prey, namely deer, for a small resident population to persist

among Marin’s public and privately held lands,” he explains, noting that there are also large areas unsuitable for mountain lions, separating Marin from Sonoma. “Further, Marin acts as veritable “end-of-the-road” for mountain lions dispersing from the north, reaching the Bay.”

Human-built infrastructure, like highways and road crossings, often prove deadly to wildlife. The tracking data will reveal road crossings and identify potential ‘hot-spots’ — and where public awareness may help reduce lion fatalities.

Mountain lions captured are assessed for sex, age, weight, and overall health before they are released back into the wild. Blood samples are collected for genetic and disease monitoring purposes. Findings are shared with the public, researchers, and policy makers to aid in the conservation of California's mountain lion population, currently estimated to number about 4,200.

“Beyond conservation recommendations, we’re eager to bring understanding of the lives of these charismatic animals more into view for people who live, work, and visit Marin County,” adds Gardali.

About All Hands Ecology

All Hands Ecology is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit land-based conservation organization founded in 1962. We believe that strong ecosystems begin with empowered communities. We connect people to the land — and each other — in ways that build environmental and economic strength through field training, education programs, conservation science, and local conservation jobs.

All Hands Ecology programs are made possible thanks to the contribution of thousands of hours of volunteer service, and donations from individuals, foundations, businesses, and government agencies. Learn more at allhandsecology.org

About True Wild Conservation

True Wild Conservation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit conservation organization that conducts predator research that will have tangible conservation benefits, providing practical solutions to prevent human wildlife conflict and promoting coexistence with wildlife while ensuring the safety of farm animals. The Living with Lions study of North Bay mountain lions is uncovering broader issues across the landscape, offering us a chance to collaborate in restoring the habitat’s resilience and integrity. Learn more at truewild.org

###

READER RESOURCE: [Coexisting with mountain lions: A guide for pet and livestock owners](#)