



CITIZENS FOR
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Uncollared Mountain Lion Photographed in Laurel Canyon by CLAW Wildlife Camera
Photo Validates Importance of "Let's Buy A Mountain" Nature Preserve Fund-Raising Project

Los Angeles, CA - October 31 - Citizens for Los Angeles Wildlife (CLAW), environmental non-profit organization revealed a photograph of a mountain lion that passed by their [wildlife camera](#) in the "[Let's Buy A Mountain](#)" nature preserve in Laurel Canyon of the Hollywood Hills just after midnight on October 26th.

The photograph shows a very healthy mountain lion although it does not reveal whether it is a male or a female. If it is a female, it could be a potential mate for the famous male P-22 mountain lion that lives approximately 7 miles away in and around Griffith Park. "We knew this land was special and we knew that it was one of the largest remaining unmolested habitats in the eastern Santa Monica Mountains so we put this camera up here to document the real inhabitants not the homes surrounding it," said Tony Tucci, CLAW Chairperson and co-founder.

This is why Citizens for Los Angeles Wildlife and the Laurel Canyon Association took on the \$1.6 million "Let's Buy A Mountain" project in 2015 where the mountain lion was photographed this week. This 17-acre pristine open space now shows critical proof of why this land needed to be protected in perpetuity. CLAW and the Laurel Canyon Association have raised about \$1.6 million to save this pristine land and they are nearing the finish line to cover closing costs and administrative fees since CLAW has given 100% of donations for the mountain to buy the mountain. Major donors include the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, the David Schwartz Foundation, County Supervisor Sheila Kuehl, Councilmembers David Ryu and Paul Koretz, and Senator Anthony Portantino among scores of individual donors near and abroad. They are nearing a closing and seeking a final \$15-20,000 to cover closing costs and administrative fees.

The image of the uncollared cougar in the eastern Santa Monica mountains is proof of why wildlife corridors are so important to the CLAW organization who have been working closely with Councilmembers Koretz and David Ryu over the years to establish land protections in the Santa Monica Mountain range that include the second largest city in the United States. Tucci points out that the linkages of the eastern Santa Monicas need to remain connected so that the wildlife doesn't get cut off (or corralled.) LA City Planning Department has been working on it ever since the LA City Council voted unanimously to pass a Wildlife Corridor ordinance thereby establishing a wildlife habitat linkage zone between the 405 freeway and Griffith Park. "However, it might be another two years before the City can actually start implementing these protections as the pace of building in the hillsides increase and animals like this mountain lion really can't wait much longer."

The directors of the CLAW organization had been hearing rumors of sightings of a cougar in the area for several years, but this is the first official photograph of the puma. Known by cougar or puma, mountain lions are also sometimes called "ghost cats" due to their elusive nature. Many other animals have been photographed here high above the Sunset Strip. The camera even recorded a collared grey fox that the organization reported to the National Park Service and verified as collared somewhere near the Skirball Center some 14 miles away. Tucci pointed out, "October has been an incredible month for this camera - a bevy of quail, exquisite deer kicking up their feet in a happy dance... then a bob cat blessed our camera with the most gorgeous sunset over the City of LA. And then just after midnight on the 26th. . . THIS mountain lion appeared. We don't know if its female, but we certainly hope so. A mate for P-22 would be terrific news."

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CLAW is a public benefit non-profit 501(c)(3) environmental organization that works to protect and restore the environments of wildlife of Los Angeles and California from dwindling open spaces. Our mission is to promote, educate and protect the fundamental importance of wildlife, wildlife habitats and wildlife corridors everywhere.