

## Do cougar hunts reduce attacks?

Does sport hunting mountain lions reduce attacks on people and livestock?

State wildlife agencies across the American West must re-examine their mountain lion management strategies, following a study released August 7, by the Mountain Lion Foundation.

Although wildlife agencies often argue that sport hunting is necessary to reduce mountain lion attacks, the study found no evidence to support this belief.

The study compared the relative numbers of mountain lion attacks on people and livestock in states with mountain lion sport hunting to the number of attacks in California – a state without mountain lion sport hunting.

“If sport hunting actually reduced attacks,” said Christopher Papouchis, conservation biologist and author of the study, “then states with sport hunting should have had relatively fewer attacks than California. That was not the case.”

The study found there were fewer attacks on people and livestock in California than in many states where lions are sport hunted, relative to number of people, livestock and square miles of mountain lion habitat.

Further, the study found California kills the fewest mountain lions of all states with viable mountain lion populations.

California’s hunting ban provided an excellent case-study, under real-life situations over a period of 34 years, to examine the relationship of sport hunting to attacks on humans and livestock, according to the study’s author.

While the study’s author and mountain lion conservation advocates acknowledge this study cannot absolutely “prove” that sport hunting is not an effective conflict-reduction strategy, they argue the evidence certainly forces wildlife agencies to look for proven strategies.

“From this point forward,” says Lynn Sadler, president of the Mountain Lion Foundation, “any state agency that claims sport hunting is anything more than the random shooting of mountain lions for fun will have to prove it.”

The full study can be found

at [www.pumaconservation.org](http://www.pumaconservation.org). The Mountain Lion Foundation is a national non-profit wildlife conservation and education organization, dedicated since 1986 to Saving America’s Lion™. The Mountain Lion Foundation is a leading authority on the conservation of mountain lions and their habitat.

## Be prepared

From page 7

paredness Month events on the Citizen Corps site, at [www.citizencorps.gov](http://www.citizencorps.gov).”

The “Are You Ready” guide is also available from FEMA’s publications warehouse by calling 800-480-2520.

FEMA manages federal response and recovery efforts following national incidents. FEMA also initiates mitigation activities, works with state and local emergency managers, and manages the National Flood Insurance Program. FEMA became part of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security on March 1, 2003.

National Preparedness Month 2006 is a nationwide effort sponsored by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to encourage Americans to take simple steps to prepare for emergencies in their homes, businesses and schools. National Preparedness Month events and activities are voluntary. DHS is not financially obligated to any National Preparedness Month Coalition Member.

## Did You Know . . .

By Chief Mathew Workman  
Vernonia Police Department



I want to thank everyone who came out to support the Police, Fire, and

EMS during the Silent Parade on 9/11. The support means so much to all of us and the fact that we are not the only ones who will never forget that fateful day in our history. I would encourage everybody to be mindful of the sacrifices so many people have made to keep our country free and safe.

The first topic I want to address is that of service dogs. A recent question was raised that I did not have a complete answer to, but I was fortunate enough to get a complete answer from a local resident. Some important points about service dogs to remember are: they are allowed in all businesses and public places, the handler is liable for the animal’s behavior, not all service dogs are the same and are used for a variety of disabilities or services, the type of leash or vest will vary from program to program, not all programs certify or provide certificates, businesses are not allowed to ask for credentials or to ask about handler disabilities.

Service dogs are quite common in the larger cities but can and will be seen in the rural

cities like Vernonia. If you see a service dog do not try to pet or talk to it. Service dogs are “always” working. A service dog may be watching or sensing their handlers for seizures or other signs. Any distraction will inhibit their abilities. Make sure your children understand what a service animal is and why they should not distract them. For more information you can visit the link on the VPD website under “Service Dog Information.”

The last item I want to address is the topic of lottery letter scams. A Vernonia resident recently received two lottery scam letters. The letters were from the “British” and “Swiss Random Lotto’s” and included a check written to the citizen.

The letter advised the check was to help the citizen with paying “clearance fees” in order to later receive \$75,000. The winners need only to deposit the check into their bank account then send the clearance fees to the lottery office. The office would then send the \$75,000. The checks looked real enough but US Bank advised they were not real and were not valid account numbers. In the end, the citizen would be out the clearance fee, out the deposited check, and the scammers would have all of the bank account information! Remember there is rarely “easy money” and never through mail lotteries that require money to be sent in by the winner. Be smart and use common sense.

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