



Panthera and The Center for the Arts present:

Mountain Lions of Jackson Hole:

Out of the shadows and
into the spotlight

July 27th 5:30-9:00 PM

Join us for an evening to celebrate 18 years of research on Jackson's most elusive predator.

FREE and open to the public!

- Meet the Team
- Watch rarely-seen videos
- Hear stories from the field
- Learn what we learned



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KLEIN DYTHAM ARCHITECTURE

PRESENTERS:

- Panthera's Dr. Mark Elbroch, Dr. Howard Quigley, Dr. Patrick Lendrum, Michelle Peziol, Connor O'Malley, Anna Kusler, Josh Barry, Jen Feltner
- Boone Smith of NatGeo Wild's Big Cat Week
- Jeff Hogan, Award winning cinematographer
- Drew Rush, National Geographic photographer
- Dr. Dan Thompson of WGFD, Pete Alexander of Craighead Beringia South

Doors open at 5 ✦ Light fare provided ✦ Cash bar

THE SECRET LIVES OF MOUNTAIN LION KITTENS

Mark Elbroch, melbroch@panthera.org

Panthera's Teton Cougar Project

<https://www.facebook.com/TetonCougarProject>



Panthera's mission: to ensure wild cats and the vast landscapes they depend.





Panthera's TETON COUGAR PROJECT



Puma Program

Panthera, <http://www.panthera.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/TetonCougarProject>

Primary study area



Jedediah Smith Wil



0 2 4 6 8 Kilometers

MEET THE TEAM

Michelle Peziol, Project Manager
now Graduate researcher

Connor O'Malley, Technician

Anna Kusler, Graduate researcher

Jen Feltner, Graduate researcher

Josh Barry, Graduate researcher

Boone and Sam Smith, Houndsmen

Cristina Tranter, Business
Development

Howard Quigley, Co-Founder and
Executive Director, Jaguar Program

Fred Launay, CEO



PORTRAIT OF A PREDATOR



Panthera Puma Program 2015

Modern Tools



1.2 lbs
= 1.3% female body weight



5.8 lbs
= 3.1% my body weight

THE LITTLE KNOWN SECRET LIVES OF KITTENS



- Courtship
- Gestation
- In the den
- Mobile nursery
- Time of peace
- A pride of lions
- What can we do for kittens?

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- **Courtship**
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**FEMALES ARE IN ESTROUS
FOR 7-12 DAYS...**



**THEY CALL AND
CALL AND CALL...**



2014-01-14 08:47:28

THE LITTLE KNOWN SECRET LIVES OF KITTENS



- **Gestation**
 - Old kittens
 - Selecting a den
- In the den
- Mobile nursery
- Time of peace
- A pride of lions
- What can we do for kittens?

TIME OF GESTATION: 3 MONTHS



- ✓ Kick out last litter
- ✓ Get some exercise
- ✓ Eat something
- ✓ Find suitable den site

EXPLORING A COUGAR'S DEN



Elbroch et al. 2015. *Mammal Research*

THE LITTLE KNOWN SECRET LIVES OF KITTENS



- **In the den**
 - Keeping clean
 - Left alone
- **Mobile nursery**
- **Time of peace**
- **A pride of lions**
- **What can we do for kittens?**

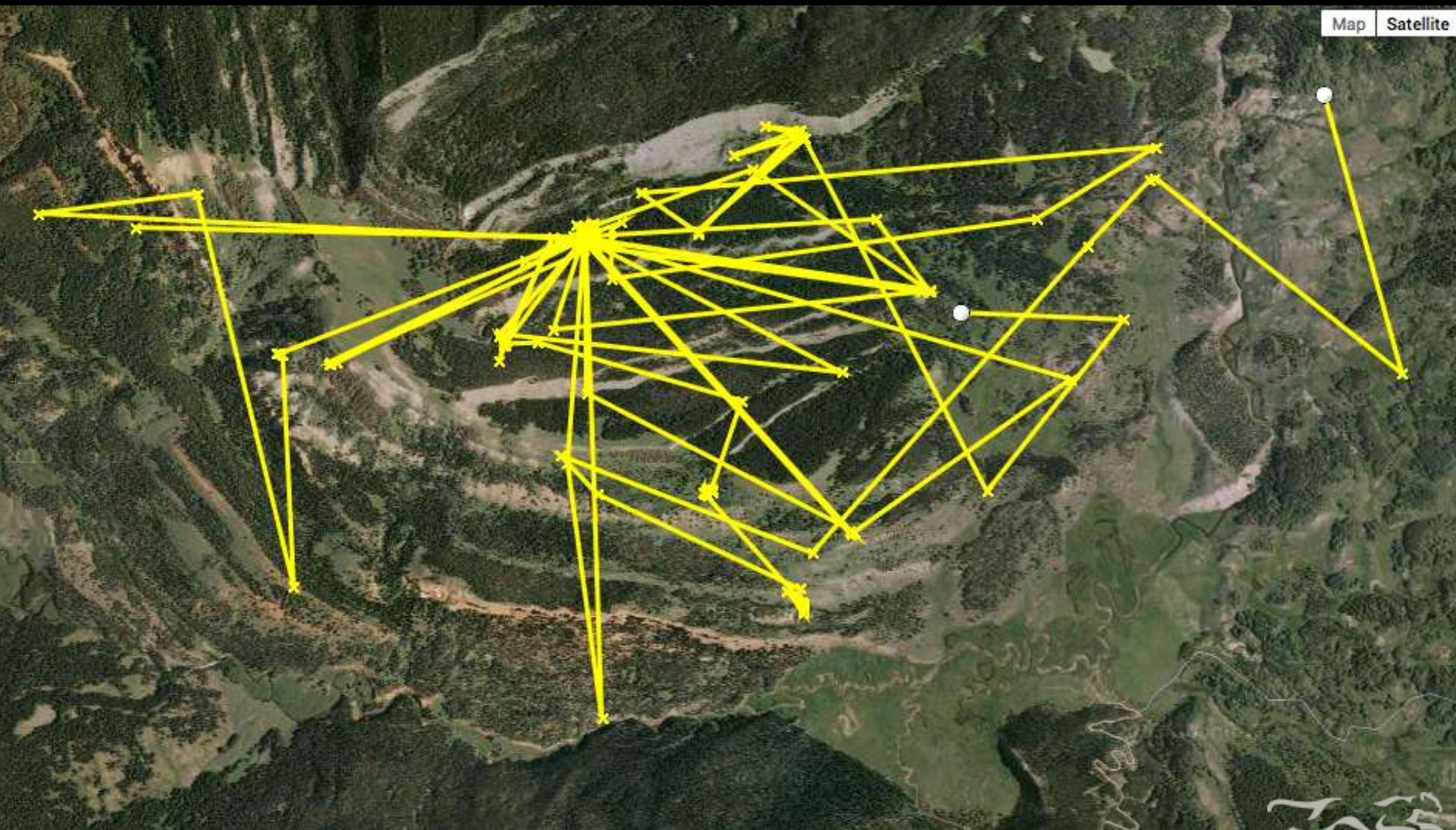
EYES OPEN BY 1 WEEK AND KEEP IT CLEAN



Teton Cougar Project 2014



46 DAYS IN ON AVERAGE 4 DENS



**KITTENS LEFT FOR UP
TO 48 HRS AT A TIME**



FEMALES SPEND 49% OF THEIR TIME AT THE DEN



This leaves the kittens vulnerable to orphaning if their mother is killed...

THE LITTLE KNOWN SECRET LIVES OF KITTENS



- **Mobile nursery**
 - **Table manners**
 - **Wolves and bears**
- **Time of peace**
- **A pride of lions**
- **What can we do for kittens?**

THE MOBILE NURSERY



FIRST DANGERS: LATE DENS...



THE ELEMENTS AS ENEMY



DANGERS LURKING: WOLVES, BEARS, OTHER LIONS



HIERARCHIES



TABLE MANNERS



SKILLS THAT LAST A LIFE TIME: SHARING WITH OTHERS



PLAY, PLAY, PLAY



THE LITTLE KNOWN SECRET LIVES OF KITTENS



- **Time of peace**
 - Playing with their food
 - Other cats and human hunters
- A pride of lions
- What can we do for kittens?

A TIME OF PEACE AND BONDING: 6 MONTHS



PLAYING CONTINUES...



LEARNING TO HUNT



...AND HOW TO KILL



CHEETAHS FOR COMPARISON

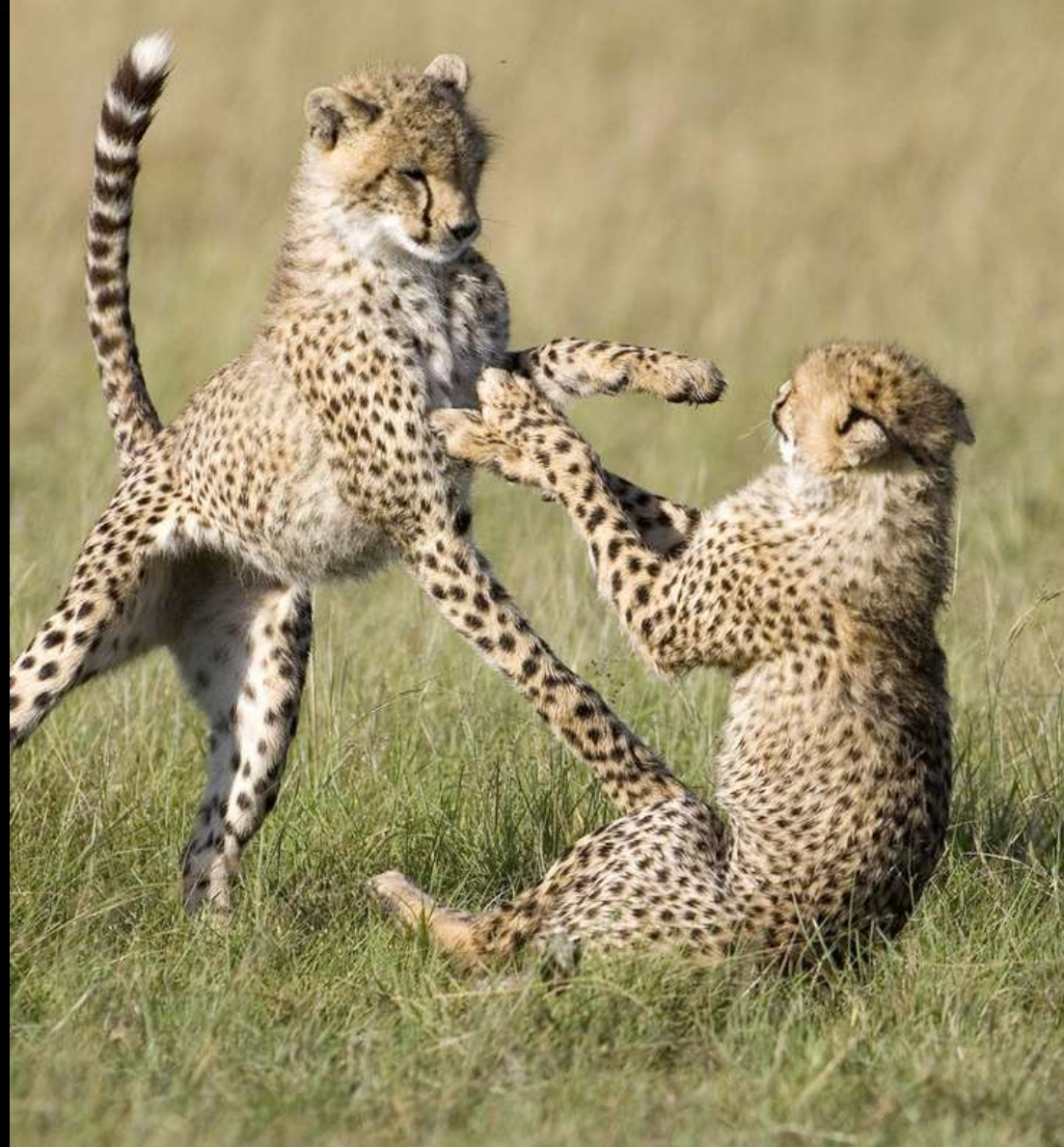


At 5-7 months old, adult females catch and release 33% of their prey for cubs to kill

At 10.5 months, cubs are inefficiently attacking and killing 50% of prey captured by mother.

At 12.5 months, mothers are releasing 70% of prey for their cubs to kill.

(Caro 1987, Caro 1994)



THE LITTLE KNOWN SECRET LIVES OF KITTENS



- **A pride of lions**
 - **Cuddle puddles**
 - **Dispersal cues**
- **What can we do for kittens?**

A PRIDE OF LIONS: 12-18 MONTHS



STILL PLAYING...



CONTINUED INTIMACY AMONG THE FAMILY



DISPERSAL



And then they launch...

THE LITTLE KNOWN SECRET LIVES OF KITTENS



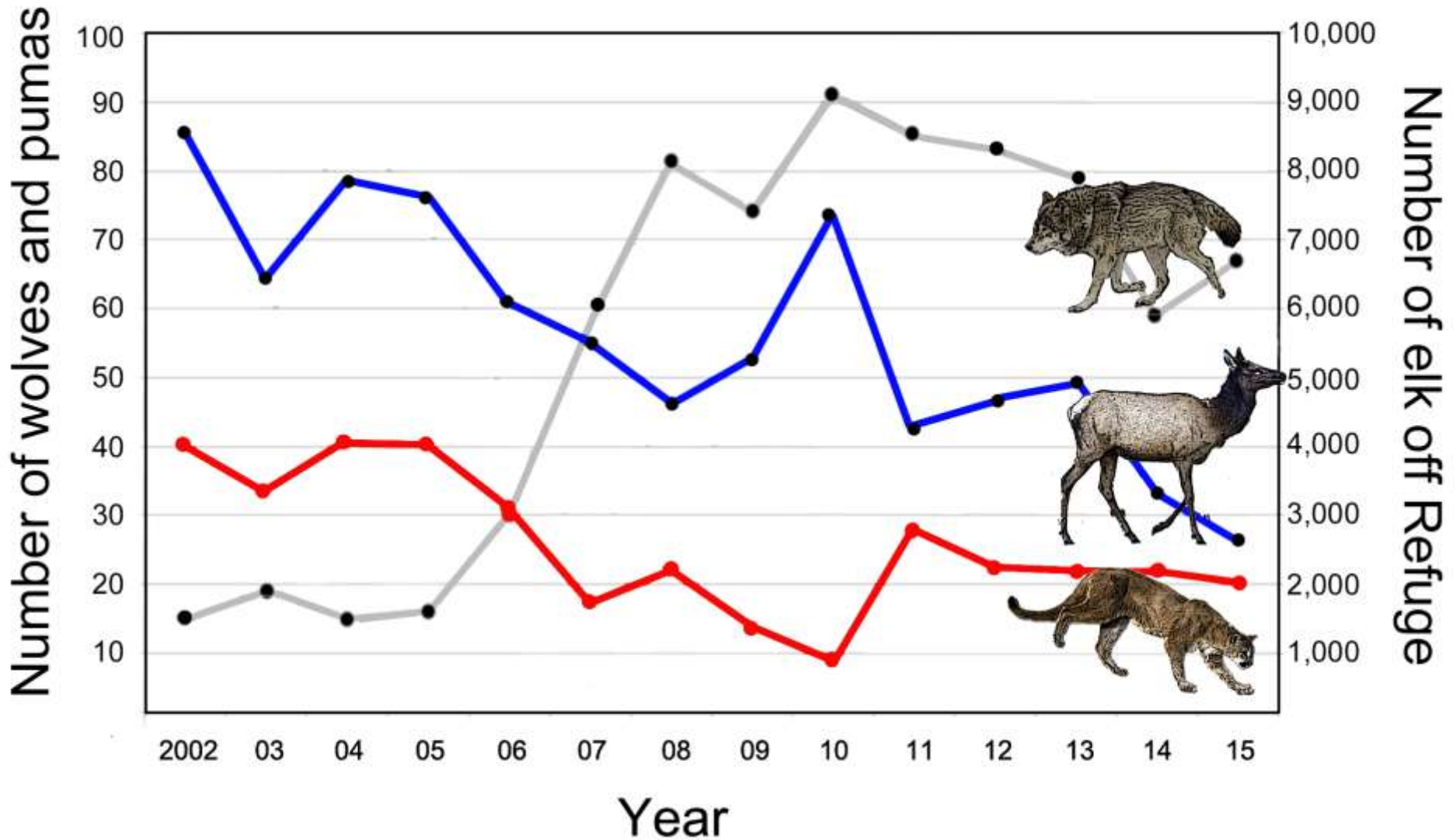
- What can we do for kittens?

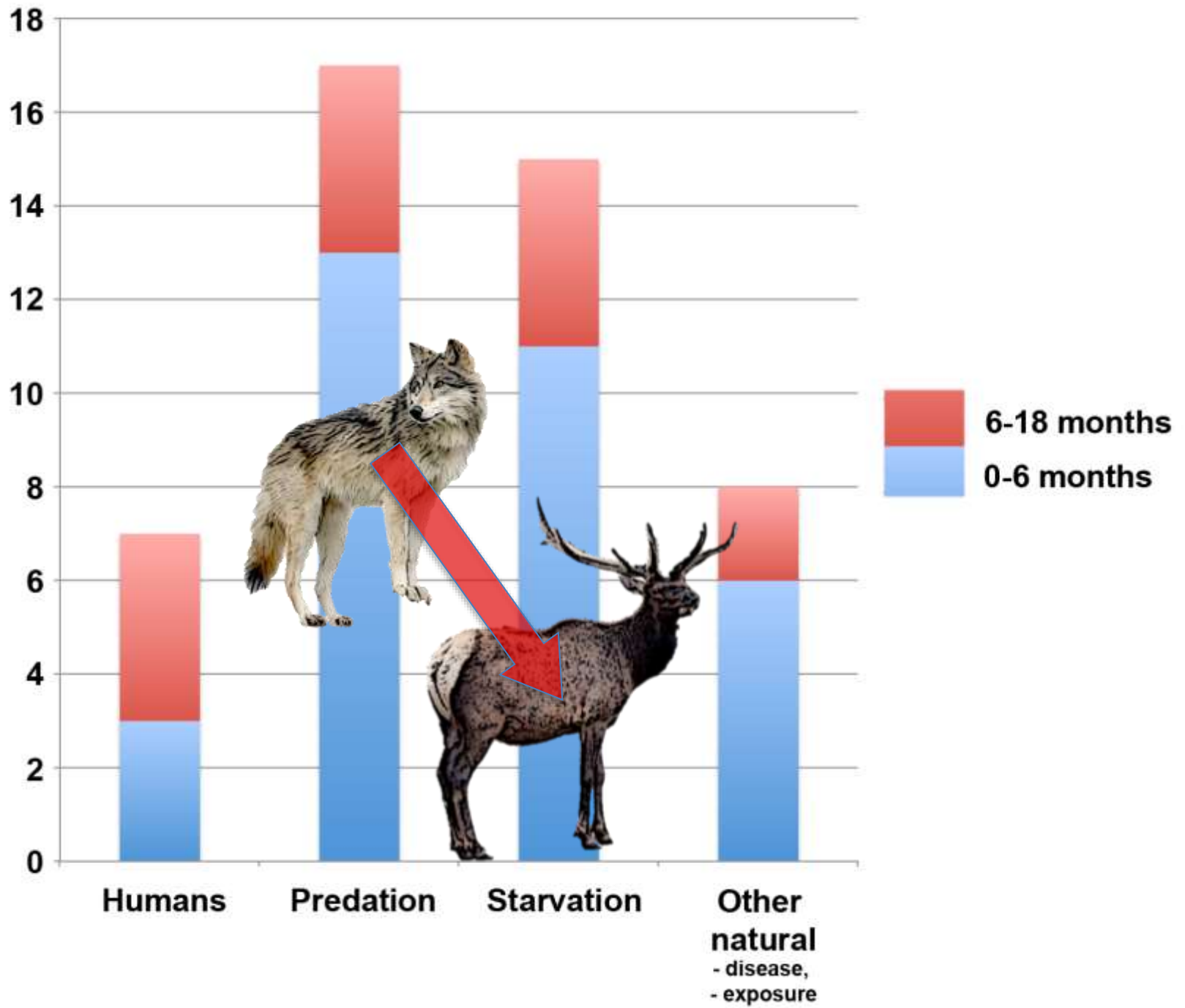
WHAT DO WE KNOW?



- On average, females give birth every 26.5 months in our study area
- 51% of kittens survive until they are 6 months old.
- 32 out of a 100 survive until 18 months.
- In our study, wolves and elk decreased kitten survival over time

WHAT DO WE KNOW?

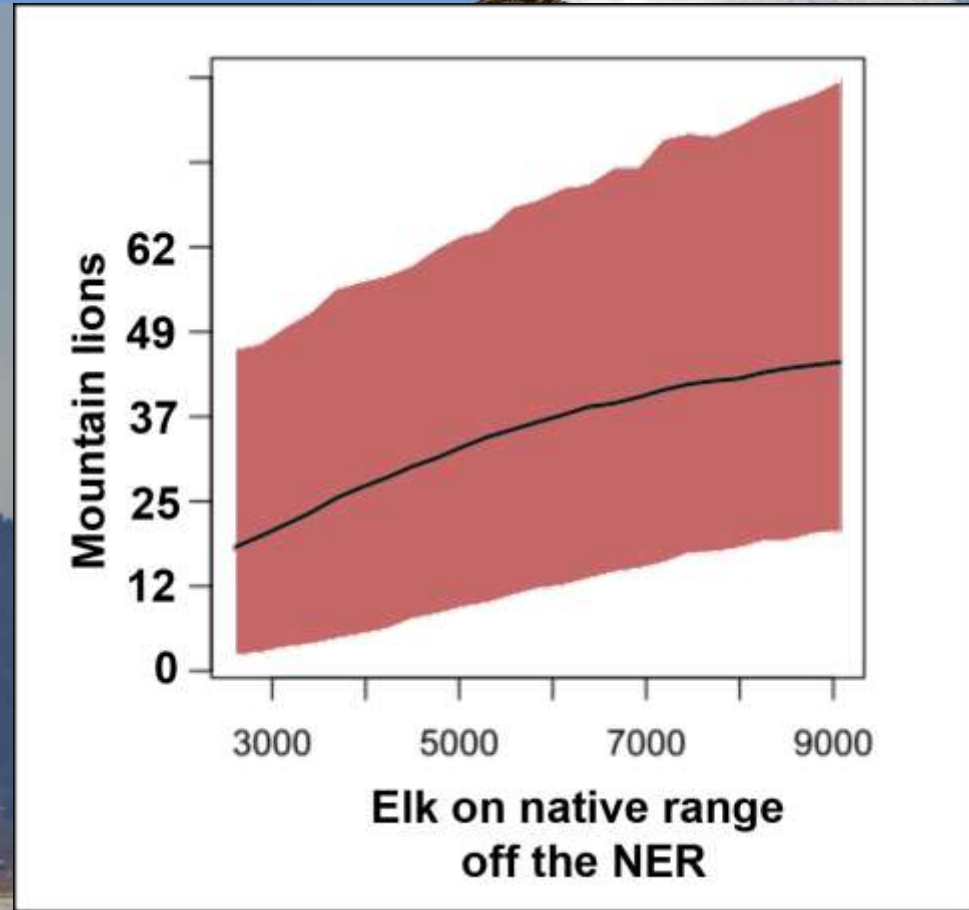




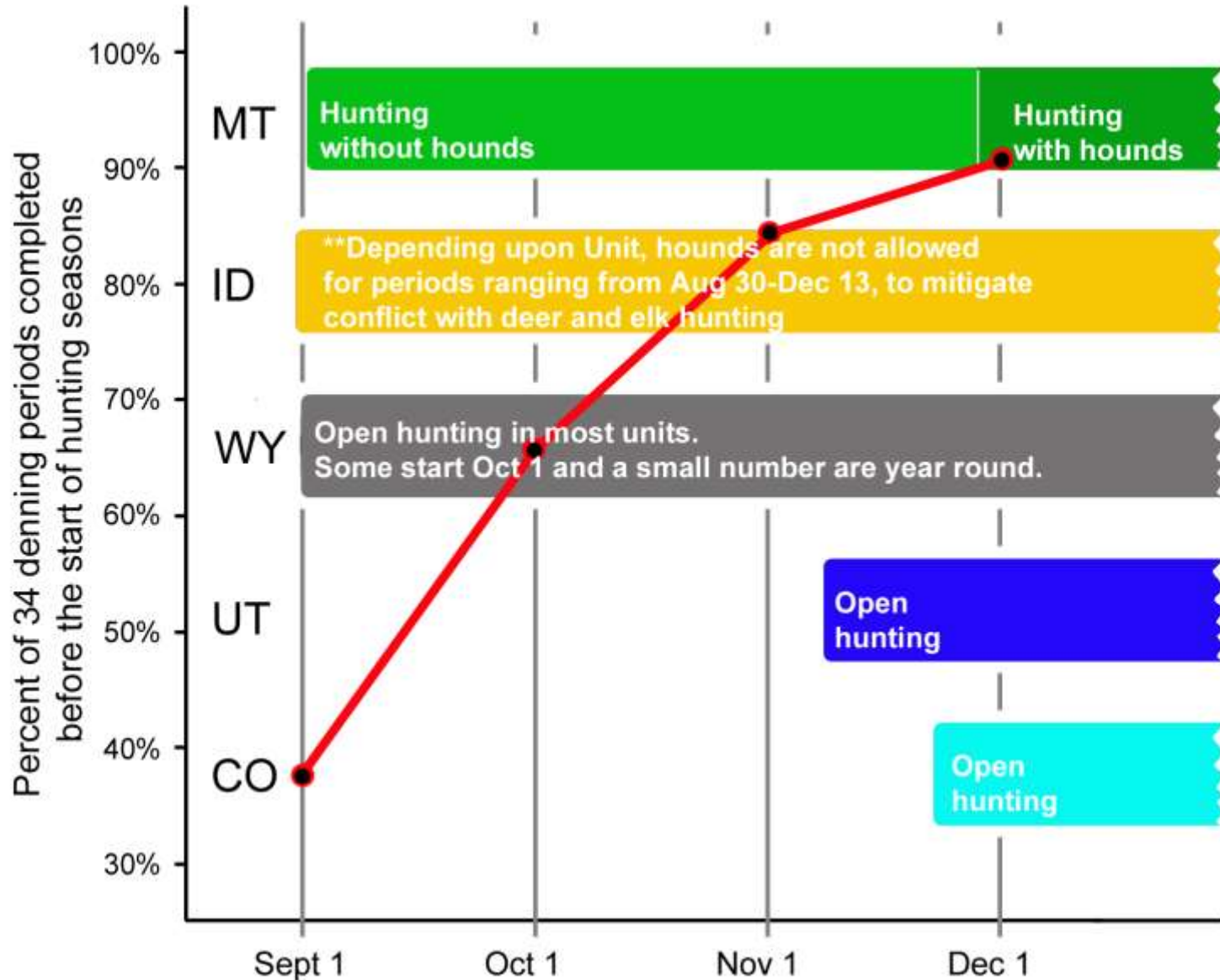
ELK DISTRIBUTIONS AND ABUNDANCE



Town of Jackson



COMMON SENSE CONSERVATION



26.5 MONTHS AFTER THE LAST LITTER...



Teton Cougar Project 2014



SUPPORTERS



Wyoming Game and Fish Department

- Tim Fuchs, Dan Thompson

Bridger-Teton National Forest

- Kerry Murphy, Dale Deiter

Grand Teton National Park

- Steve Cain, Sarah Dewey, John Stevenson

National Elk Refuge

- Eric Cole

Craighead Beringia South

- Derek Craighead



THANK YOU TO FINANCIAL SUPPORTS!



Summerlee Foundation, The Richard King Mellon Foundation, The Charles Engelhard Foundation, The Laura Moore Cunningham Foundation, Tim and Karen Hixon Foundation, National Geographic Society, The Norcross Wildlife Foundation, Inc., Earth Friends Conservation Fund, The Cougar Fund, The Bay Foundation, Michael Cline Foundation, Eugene V. & Clare E. Thaw Charitable Trust, Connemara Fund, Hogan Films, Community Foundation of Jackson Hole, The Oregon Zoo Foundation, the Global Felid Genetics Program of the Sackler Institute for Comparative Genomics at the American Museum of Natural History, Mr. and Mrs. G. Ordway, Mr. and Mrs. M. Manship, Mr. and Mrs. N. Jannotta, Mr. L. Westbrook, Mr. and Mrs. S. Robertson, and several anonymous donors.

A large, dark silhouette of a cougar is shown in a leaping or walking pose on a rocky outcrop. Below it, a smaller, light gray silhouette of a cougar cub is shown in a similar walking pose.

THANK YOU FOR JOINING! **COUGAR**
CHANNEL

STAY IN TOUCH:

[facebook.com/tetoncougarproject](https://www.facebook.com/tetoncougarproject)

<http://voices.nationalgeographic.com/author/melbroch/>

<http://cougarchannel.org/>



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