



NEWS RELEASE

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Rocky Mountain Cat Conservancy to Host Community Wildlife Event and Photo Exhibit

BELLVUE, CO, Sept. 17, 2011—The Rocky Mountain Cat Conservancy (RMCC) will host a free community event, Wild Shots 2011 Exhibit—photographs of local wildlife by local wildlife. The event will highlight the results of a citizen-science program designed to conserve wildlife.

Wild Shots Exhibit 2011 is scheduled from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., on September 17 at the Bellvue Bean Coffee Shop/Gallery, 5032 Rist Canyon Rd./52E in Bellvue, Colorado. For directions, log on to www.BellvueBean.com

“This event is intended to highlight the benefits of using remote cameras to ‘capture’ and study wildlife in our nearby forests,” said Dr. Don Hunter, big cat biologist with the RMCC. “We are pretty excited; from thousands of images we chose, we will feature the best-of-the-best for the public to enjoy.”

The wildlife photography exhibit will include shots of a wide array of wildlife species, in action in their natural habitats, including mountain lions, bears, coyote, and fox. These images can reveal important clues about these animals, said Hunter. The public will also have the opportunity to tour interactive wildlife booths by outdoor sports and wildlife sponsors. Food and coffee will be available to purchase at the Bellvue Bean, sponsor of the event.

Hunter and other RMCC partners will be on hand to discuss their efforts to engage the community in mountain lion research through citizen-based science and Communities, Cameras, and Conservation (CCC), a program for students and volunteers of all ages. During the event RMCC will feature a video presentation on the nonprofit’s mountain lion field seminars. Participants go into the field to learn about mountain lion ecology and RMCC’s research efforts designed to study mountain lion behavior, and how we as humans can better coexist with this keystone predator as well as other wildlife.

RMCC biologists have partnered with local parks, high schools, volunteer organizations, Front Range Community College, and the City of Fort Collins for the CCC program. “This is a great collaborative effort that involves students and community volunteers in our camera research work,” said Caroline Krumm, cat researcher and co-founded of RMCC.

Experts install camera traps on selected trees in key wildlife habitats. These cameras have heat and motion detectors that are then triggered to take a photo when an animal moves near the camera. For

example, a CCC project in Estes Park, as part of middle and high school science classes, involves students checking the cameras along the perimeter of Rocky Mountain National Park and downloading the photos onto laptops for a photo database developed for that area. They also record other data that they observe in the field. In Fort Collins, hundreds of high school and college students have also incorporated this research into their studies and have assisted with the camera research conducted by RMCC at Bobcat Ridge Natural Area, Horsetooth Mountain Park, and Lory State Park.

“These photos provide us with some valuable information on mountain lions, their territories, and other elusive wildlife,” Krumm said. “The Wild Shots Exhibit 2011 is a great way for the public to get involved in this community effort, and to check out the photos of our resident wildlife that we have collected through our camera work in the last several years and by our experts in the field.”

For additional information on the Rocky Mountain Cat Conservancy, log on to www.catconservancy.org

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