



## Cougar Conservancy

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### **Cougar rescued after being injured from wildfire near Los Angeles**

LOS ANGELES, *Calif.*— The Cougar Conservancy’s Conflict Task Force received communication from a resident living in the San Gabriel Mountains about a cougar on their property that had possibly been injured in the Bobcat fire.

After receiving a phone call from the concerned resident about the cougar, the Conflict Task Force responded quickly with a follow-up visit to assess the situation. Upon investigation of the property, the Cougar Conservancy team confirmed the presence of a young cougar on-site with injuries.

[An estimated 115,000 acres](#) have burned due to the Bobcat fire that has made its way through the Angeles National Forest as of late September and into early October. Officials have informed communities in California that wildlife may end up in unusual places - like your backyard - to escape from the wildfires.

“When a wildfire this large sweeps across the landscape, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) has their hands full assessing and responding to reports on wildlife. The Cougar Conservancy is an additional resource for wildlife and human communities— we investigate reports that we receive and ensure that situations of high concern are dealt with care and immediacy.” says Korinna Domingo, Founder and Director of the Cougar Conservancy.

With CDFW Biologist Amelia Viera and local Wildlife Officers, the two teams sprang into action to chemically immobilize and capture the cougar. Upon closer inspection during the work-up, all four of the cougar’s paws were burned and bleeding.

“So many of us feel powerless to help wildlife and that makes the stress of wildfires even worse. Having a nonprofit in the area to call for advice and assistance was such a relief for me and the homeowner.” says the Cougar Conservancy’s Advisory Committee member Johanna Turner.

The injured cougar was immediately taken to a local veterinarian for assessment. Soon after, the cougar was transferred to CDFW’s [Wildlife Investigations Lab](#) in Sacramento, where wildlife veterinarians say she is responding positively to treatment.

“The injured cougar is now in the best hands.” says Domingo. “CDFW’s Wildlife Investigations Lab has been treating animals who’ve been injured due to wildfires for years, [using tilapia skins](#) to soothe and treat burned paws. All of us are rooting for her swift recovery, and look forward to the day she is released back into the wild.”

“Several years of combined experience came together for us to relieve the cougar’s pain, give her a chance to have a life back in the wild, and help preserve the locally threatened population. It’s a pretty amazing feeling.” says Turner.

As of April of 2020, cougars living in the San Gabriel Mountains are a candidate species under the [California Endangered Species Act](#).

“We look forward to the continued collaboration with Department staff and local Wildlife Officers, who showed this cougar dignity, respect, and gentleness during the entire capture process.” says Domingo.

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*The Cougar Conservancy is dedicated to reducing human-cougar conflicts  
and promoting education and learning of Puma concolor.*