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**Fire-injured cougar spotted safe in the wild after treatment**

Arroyos & Foothills Conservancy (AFC) Advisor and wildlife photographer Denis Callet has captured footage of "Monrovia"— the first cougar ever to be rescued, rehabilitated, and released in the state of California.

The female cougar was found with paws burned so badly that she could barely walk. Her burns were likely sustained during the Bobcat Fire. Discovered in Monrovia on September 21<sup>st</sup> by a local resident, the Cougar Conservancy responded and worked with the California Department of Fish & Wildlife to safely capture her for veterinary treatment. With her paws healed through a variety of burn treatments, she was cured of infections and eighteen pounds heavier when released in a remote area of the Angeles National Forest on October 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Two weeks later Callet was at the Rosemont Preserve in La Crescenta checking one of his remotely located cameras when he was startled to see a mountain lion with a tracking collar among his images. While Callet has captured four other cougars there since 2015, this was the first with a collar. He quickly realized it was likely the injured one from Monrovia.

"Every image of wildlife that we capture on our trail cameras is thrilling, but this one gave me goose bumps," Callet said. "She is a survivor, for sure. She is now healthy and back in the wilderness where she belongs. We hope to see her again from time to time visiting AFC Nature Preserves in the foothills above the San Gabriel Valley."

AFC has four nature preserves in the area. The Rosemont Preserve is snug up against residential development in La Crescenta, about 8 air miles from where Monrovia was released.

"I am pleased to see that she has shown up at the Rosemont preserve, where the land is protected for wildlife and there is known deer activity," says Korinna Domingo, Founder and Director of the Cougar Conservancy. "The video appears to show that she is walking well on her paws after her treatment. We admire her courage and resolve and look forward to following the cougar's journey as best we can."

Callet maintains 27 cameras along the San Gabriel and Verdugo Mountain foothills, and AFC has about 40 in the region. A volunteer team of 23 community scientists gathers and analyzes data from AFC's cameras.

"Remote trail cameras are critical tools for conservation" said John Howell, CEO of Arroyos & Foothills Conservancy. "They help identify areas of habitat wildlife might use to get through the hazardous maze of development between fragmented islands of open space. They must be able to move in and out to find mates or to escape from wildfires."

In April of this year, cougars in isolated ranges of natural habitat in Southern California and along the Central Coast became a species candidate for listing as either endangered or threatened pursuant to the California Endangered Species Act.

AFC has 20 years of conservation experience in the region, helping to protect and steward 229 acres of natural open space to date.

To learn more about Monrovia's journey, visit [www.cougarconservancy.org](http://www.cougarconservancy.org). To learn about AFC's work to preserve and protect open space, visit [www.arroyosfoothills.org](http://www.arroyosfoothills.org).



The Monrovia cougar spotted safe at the Rosemont Preserve. Photo by Denis Callet/ Arroyos & Foothills Conservancy. **Image and additional video is available for media use.**

### **#MonroviaCougar**

*Arroyos & Foothills Conservancy conserves, protects and stewards natural open space to combat climate change and support the wildlife habitats.*

*The Cougar Conservancy's mission is to reduce human-wildlife conflict and conserve cougar populations through science-based management and conservation.*