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forever west.

Featuring: Dubois Winterfest: Events during the weekend of Feb. 3-5 will include a hootenanny, soup and bread contest, children's crafts and dog sled races. For more information, call 1-800-645-6233 or visit www.wind-river.org.

Additional Weekend Events Include: "Artists for Animals" art exhibit, **Lander**; Jazz Night II, **Riverton**; Cox Productions Team Roping, **Gillette**; Chili Cook Off, **Lander**; Sportsman for Fish and Wildlife Banquet, **Gillette**.

wyomingtourism.org 230960

Kitten outmaneuvers state capture efforts

Conservation group calls for a crackdown on illegal wildlife feeding.

By Cory Hatch

A cougar kitten that has eluded wildlife managers since its mother was captured Jan. 23 is still on the run in the Cache Creek drainage, Wyoming Game and Fish officials said Tuesday.

"We didn't capture that subadult cat today," Game and Fish spokesman Mark Gocke said. "The subadult cat had revisited the area ... last night. We found some tracks and some scat, which is a good sign. It means it's eating."

Wildlife managers attempted to use dogs to pursue the cat up the side of the drainage Tuesday after fresh tracks were found, but the dogs had a hard time moving quickly in deep snow.

"The mountain lion's paws are pretty large, and they're staying on top of the snow better than the dogs," Gocke said.

Wildlife managers captured the kitten's sibling, a female, on Sunday. That cat and her mother are in an enclosure at the Tom Thorne/Beth Williams Wildlife Research Center north of Laramie.

"The other cat we captured was in really good shape, so we assume this one is too," Gocke said. "It's common for an adult female to leave her kittens for more than a day at a time at this age when she's out hunting."

The kittens are likely about 7 months old, officials say.

"Our goals haven't changed," Gocke said. "We want to reunite this family group and relocate them to a wild setting as soon as we can."

Officials have said they will attempt

to relocate the family to a sparsely developed area near Lander.

"We're going to try everything we know to try to capture this subadult cat and get it back with the family group," Gocke said.

The news comes as the Jackson Hole Conservation Alliance called on Game and Fish to step up efforts to dissuade residents from illegally feeding wildlife.

Officials believe the cougar family was likely lured into residential areas near Cache Creek by deer that return year after year to food left out by east Jackson residents.

"The alliance recognizes the difficult position that the Wyoming Game and Fish Department has with regard to individuals feeding wildlife within Teton County," alliance public lands director Louise Lasley wrote in a Jan. 30 letter to Game and Fish Jackson district supervisor Tim Fuchs. "In neither the town nor the county does [Game and Fish] have authority to enforce the regulations against feeding. We would urge [the department] to take this opportunity to inform and educate the public about the extreme negative impacts when feeding occurs."

Gocke said the department has issued press releases about feeding wildlife and even visited with individual residents. He said he told them, "You're drawing wild animals into a conflict situation."

Further, some animals can't digest the food people leave out for them.

"Last year, there was a moose in East Jackson that died with a full belly of corn," Gocke said. "If there's anything good that can come from all this it would be for those people in the community who are still feeding wildlife to realize it's time to stop."

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Village road group seeks to join housing lawsuit

By Kevin Huelsmann

A group of residents who live along Highway 390 are trying to join a lawsuit against the Teton County Housing Authority that seeks to force the agency to sell property it bought several years ago with tax money.

Attorney Phelps Swift, who lives along the road, filed a motion last week on behalf of the Village Road Coalition, a newly formed nonprofit. In court documents filed Thursday, he says the decision made by housing authority officials to purchase the Rains property and land along Cheney Lane has left residents who live near the parcels in limbo.

"The properties near the Rains property and Cheney Lane property have suffered a diminution in value caused by this real threat and uncertainty," Swift said in court documents. "The only available remedy to remove this cloud of uncertainty is to order the divestment of these properties and restore our neighborhoods to their status prior to these

illegal investments."

Sheridan-based attorney Kim Cannon, representing the authority, could not be reached by press time. Housing authority executive director Christine Walker also could not be reached.

Ninth Judicial District Judge Timothy Day is reviewing the case to determine whether the group of landowners who filed the original complaint against the authority has the legal standing necessary to continue their lawsuit.


In court documents and hearings, Cannon has said the property owners challenging the land purchase failed to link the housing authority's actions to any direct harm to themselves. He also has said the landowners are improperly trying to challenge a land-use decision by way of a lawsuit, and that there are other venues to take up their issues.

Attorney Peter Moyer, representing the first group of plaintiffs, has argued the residents are taxpayers and should have a say in how their money is spent by public agencies.

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Dr. Berlin received his MD and subsequent residency training in diagnostic radiology at SUNY Upstate Medical Center in Syracuse, NY. He is the Medical Director of the Department of Radiology at St. John's Medical Center and has lectured extensively on CT and CT angiography.

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