

WILDLIFE POSITION DESCRIPTIONS

Wildlife manager: Must make decisions regarding the management of the wildlife in his or her assigned area. Is conducting a public hearing on a particular species of wild cat.

Farmers: Big cats occasionally eat farm animals or livestock. Farmers sometimes shoot and kill wild cats to protect their animals. Farmers need land for crops which may also be wild cat habitat. Crops often require the use of pesticides.

Fur traders: A bobcat pelt can sell for up to \$150. A tiger pelt is worth thousands. A full fur coat may require a dozen pelts. A fur trader may need to hunt the cats to help feed his family.

Wildlife conservationist: Natural resources must be preserved for future generations. Humans should restore the land and animals they have destroyed or harmed and prevent further destruction of the land.

Naturalist: This group includes campers, hikers, and all the people who enjoy the outdoors. Naturalists believe there is a need to preserve and maintain the environment. They often believe national governments and agencies should be accountable and responsible for the maintenance of the environment by providing funding and establishing wildlife preserves and national parks.

Land developers: Cats live in and near trees needed for timber and farm land. In growing urban areas, they also live in the hills which are perfect for housing developments. Housing requires both land and lumber, and as human communities expand, residential areas encroach on wildlife. Roads built for tree farming allow poachers and hunters easier access to the areas where wild cats live. Developers often believe that wildlife will find other places to live or will adapt to how humans change the environment.

Concerned citizen #1: Cats live too close to humans. They might attack our children and our pets. If we see wild cats near our homes, we will shoot them to protect our home and families.

Concerned citizen #2: The people who choose to purchase land and homes near wildlife should know that they will eventually encounter wildlife. Humans are infringing on the wild cats' natural territory. Humans should either stay in the city or learn to live with the natural environment without destroying it.