

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** April 14, 2026

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**DESERT MUSEUM WELCOMES RESCUED MOUNTAIN LION CUBS; NAMING OPPORTUNITY AVAILABLE**

TUCSON, AZ—The Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum is now caring for two mountain lion cubs orphaned in the Pacific Northwest, offering a rare opportunity for the public to play a lasting role in their story.

The cubs, believed to be approximately five-month-old male siblings, were found alone near the Washington-Idaho border and their mother could not be located. Too young to survive independently, they were deemed non-releasable and placed under professional care. Since arriving at the Desert Museum on March 21, the cubs have been adjusting well behind the scenes and are reported to be healthy and thriving.

**A Once-in-a-Lifetime Opportunity: Naming the Cubs**

As part of the Museum's 33rd annual Desert Gala on April 26, guests and supporters will have the rare opportunity to bid for the naming rights to these two mountain lion cubs during the live auction.

The winning bidder will be able to select names that will remain with the animals throughout their lives at the Museum, creating a lasting personal and philanthropic legacy.

"This is a meaningful way for our community to connect with wildlife and support conservation," said Lynnae Wenker, Director of Philanthropy for the Museum. "These cubs represent both a second chance and an opportunity to inspire others to care about the natural world."

The naming opportunity allows supporters to honor a loved one, celebrate a meaningful place or memory, or recognize something personally significant.

Participation in the auction is not limited to those attending the Gala in person. More information is available at: [https://desertmuseum.org/support/events/gala\\_2026/](https://desertmuseum.org/support/events/gala_2026/)

**Behind the Scenes-for Now**

The cubs are currently being cared for behind the scenes as they continue to acclimate to their new environment. At this stage, their care focuses on building comfort with their surroundings, developing important behaviors, and introducing new experiences, including gradual exposure to people.

This process takes time and is guided by the animals' individual needs and wellbeing. While no exact timeline has been set, the Museum anticipates introducing the cubs to a public habitat in the coming weeks, once they are ready. Their health, comfort, and long-term success remain the top priority.

### **From Rescue to Ambassador**

Mountain lions are native to Arizona and throughout much of the Americas, playing a vital role as apex predators in maintaining ecological balance. Despite their wide range, they face ongoing challenges including habitat loss and human-wildlife conflict.

Animals like these cubs, who cannot be returned to the wild, play an important role in helping people better understand and appreciate the species. Through their eventual public presence, they will serve as ambassadors for mountain lions and other wild animals and the wild places they represent.

### **Supporting Conservation Through Community**

The Desert Gala is the Museum's signature annual fundraising event, featuring fine dining, live and silent auctions, entertainment, and animal experiences, all in support of the Museum's work in animal care, conservation, education, and science.

Proceeds from the event (including this exclusive naming opportunity) directly support the nonprofit Desert Museum's mission and help ensure the continued care of plants, animals, and the Sonoran Desert.

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### **About the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum**

Founded in 1952, the Desert Museum is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization widely recognized as a model institution for immersive and innovative interpretation of native plants and animals in their natural habitat. The 98-acre Desert Museum in Tucson, AZ is regularly recognized as a top-tier facility due to its pioneering approach to interpreting the complete natural history of a single region. It is a zoo, botanical garden, art gallery and natural history museum, all rolled into one. The mission of the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum is to inspire people to live in harmony with the natural world by fostering love, appreciation, and understanding of the Sonoran Desert. To learn more, visit [www.desertmuseum.org](http://www.desertmuseum.org) and follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).