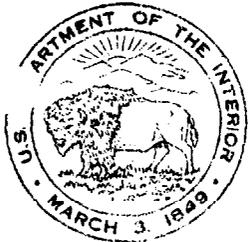


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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Release OCTOBER 16, 1956

FWS FILM, HUNTING THE PUMA, WINS INTERNATIONAL AWARD

Hunting the Puma, a fifteen minute sound-color documentary film produced by the Fish and Wildlife Service, has been awarded the Silver Medal at the Twelfth International Sports Film Festival held annually at Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy, Secretary of the Interior Fred A. Seaton said today.

The Cortina Film Festival is an annual event sponsored by the Italian government to demonstrate the value of motion pictures in the field of sports and to prove the worth of motion pictures in teaching, documentation, and in the dissemination of information.

Hunting the Puma tells the story of the biggest of American cats, called variously the puma, panther, cougar, mountain lion, and catamount. It shows the sport of the chase as well as the protection of property against one of the Nation's largest predacious wild animals. After showing views of the puma's habitat in the western mountains and in subtropical forests of Florida, it shows good scenes of livestock, deer, elk, wild burros and bighorn sheep, all potential victims of the puma. Most of the picture is given over to the actual hunt, the long trail which ends when the dogs finally get their quarry in a tree from which there is no escape. Pictures of other predators such as the grizzly bear, coyote and wildcat add to the film.

The film was produced in cooperation with Sports Afield, monthly outdoor magazine, which supplied funds for the distribution of 25 copies of the picture. It is available to schools, clubs and other groups free of charge except for return postage, at the Fish and Wildlife Service, Section of Visual Information, Box 128, College Park, Maryland.

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