



# ...PRESENTS: **YIWEI WANG**

## WHS SCIENTIST IN RESIDENCE, 2011-2012



Here I am at my first mountain lion capture, just as this guy was about to wake up.

### Some stuff about me:

- 📍 **Age:** 29
- 📍 **Where I grew up:** Santa Clara, CA
- 📍 **High School:** Cupertino High School
- 📍 **Favorite Subject in high school:** English
- 📍 **College (undergraduate):** Cornell University
- 📍 **Some of my favorite things:** Animals, traveling, reading
- 📍 **Something weird about me:** I'm a vegetarian, but I don't like eating salad.
- 📍 **What I think or do when I get frustrated:** I talk it through with my friends and family, and I pet my cats.

14F was an adorable kitten we caught outside of Los Gatos (a city named for pumas!)



Photo: Franz Lanting

Here is 4m walking by a motion-detecting camera in the redwoods at night. Mountain lions are nocturnal animals, which means they generally travel through the night to find food.

### What I study

I am a conservation biologist, which means I study species to figure out how to make sure they don't disappear. As a PhD student, I study mountain lions in the Santa Cruz Mountains to determine how they can keep living in this area as the number of people increases.

Mountain lions (*Puma concolor*) are predators, which means they eat other animals. They play an extremely important role in our ecosystem because they prevent animals like deer from overpopulating and eating too many plants. However, because they need large areas to find prey, mountain lions are often the first animals to disappear as people build more roads and houses and break up their habitat. I hope my research will help demonstrate that there can be room in the mountains for both people and mountain lions.

When I was going to high school in Cupertino, I didn't really know anything about nature, and I wish someone had told me how many awesome animals, plants, and hiking trails were just a few miles away from me. Through SCWIBLES, I hope to work with high school students to help them discover and learn to love the natural world at a young age through interactive activities and field trips.

