

Avoiding Mountain Lions



Nature
HISTORY
Discovery

Mountain Lions

- Avoid hiking alone, especially between dusk and dawn when lions normally do their hunting.
- Make plenty of noise while you hike to reduce the chances of surprising a lion.
- Always keep children in sight while hiking, and within arm's reach in areas that can conceal a lion. Mountain lions seem to be drawn to children.
- Hike with a good walking stick; this can be useful in warding off a lion.

**KEEP WILDLIFE WILD.
PLEASE DON'T FEED ANY WILDLIFE.**

*Cover photo courtesy of U.S. Department of the Interior,
Bureau of Reclamation.*

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Printed on recycled paper.

This publication is available in alternative formats upon request. Write to: OPRD, 725 Summer St. NE, Suite C, Salem, OR 97301. You may also call 503-986-0707 or 1-800-735-2900 (Oregon Relay for the hearing impaired)

63400-8043 (8/07)



Mountain Lion Encounters

About Mountain Lions



Mountain lions, also known as cougars, panthers, or pumas, are important members of the natural community and may be found in this area. Normally, lions are very elusive and people rarely get more than a brief glimpse of

one in the wild. They are, however, dangerous, unpredictable and have been known to attack people.

The predatory behavior of a mountain lion is very similar to that of the domestic cat. The lion will attempt to conceal itself for a surprise attack while stalking its prey. The lion will assume a crouched position, with its tail twitching and ears upright. An agitated lion may snarl and lay its ears back.

The mountain lion is tawny-colored with black-tipped ears and tail. Adult males grow to more than eight feet long from nose to end of its long tail, and weigh between 130 and 150 pounds. Adult females grow up to seven feet long and weigh between 65 and 90 pounds.

Mountain lions live in many different types of Oregon habitat, from deserts to humid coastal forests, and anywhere from sea level to 10,000 foot elevations.

If you encounter a mountain lion:

Stop

Never approach a lion, especially if it is feeding or with its young. Most lions will avoid confrontation. Give them a way to escape.

Stay Calm

Stay calm and face the lion. Do not run, because this may trigger the lion's instinct to attack.

Appear Large

Try to appear larger by raising your hands. Pick up small children so they don't panic and run. This will also make you appear larger. Avoid bending over or crouching.

Please report any mountain lion sightings to park rangers.

Fight Back

Fight back if attacked. Throw rocks, branches, or whatever you can get your hands on without turning your

back or bending over. Since a mountain lion usually tries to bite the head or neck, try to remain standing and face the attacking animal.

Report

Report all mountain lion sightings to a park ranger as soon as possible.