

Cougar Information

Cougar Facts:

Cougar sightings have become increasingly common in local natural areas, especially on the trails and roads near creeks and ridges. As cougar habitat shrinks, the number of encounters with people have increased. Cougars have proven to be very adaptable and may live in close proximity to people. A cougar is identified by its large size, cat-like appearance, consistent tan or tawny body color, and long tail.



Hiking Tips

- Be cautious. Cougars are most active from an hour before sunset to an hour after sunrise.
- **MAKE NOISE** while hiking to reduce the chance of surprising a cougar.
- Avoid walking alone.
- Dogs can attract cougars. Keep your dogs close and consider keeping them on-leash.
- If you see a kitten, try to move away from it. The mother is most likely near by.

Encounter Tips

- Cougars will often retreat if given the opportunity. Leave the animal a way to escape.
- **STAY CALM** and stand your ground. Maintain direct eye contact. Raise your voice and speak firmly. Back away slowly.
- Pick up children, but do so without bending down or turning your back on the cougar.
- **DO NOT RUN.** Running triggers a chase response in cougars, which could lead to an attack.
- If the cougar seems aggressive, raise your arms to make yourself look larger and clap your hands.
- If in the very unusual event that a cougar attacks you, fight back with rocks, sticks, tools or any items available.

Report any cougar sighting or encounter to a local **Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW)** or **Land Manager**.

ODFW: (541) 757-4186

Most cougar sightings are only recorded and signed, other actions are only taken if animal shows aggressive behavior.

Source: Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife "Guidelines for Living with Cougars" brochure series