

# 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