

Wildlife Information

Cougars



Cougar tracks are about 3"-3 1/2" in width and 3" in length



Info: Washington is home to an estimated 2,500 cougars. Native to the Evergreen state, the cougar is the largest cat in Washington. Sleek and graceful, the cougar is a solitary animal rarely seen in the wild.

Cougar attacks on humans are extremely rare, but keep in mind that cougars are a potentially dangerous animal. Although few people will ever see a cougar, the following suggestions can help ensure a safe experience for you and the cougars:

Preventing An Encounter

- ◆ Don't hike alone
- ◆ Keep children within sight
- ◆ Avoid dead animals
- ◆ Keep clean camp
- ◆ Leave pets at home

During An Encounter

- ◆ Don't run
- ◆ Stand and face it
- ◆ Pick up children
- ◆ Appear large, wave arms or jacket
- ◆ Back away slowly

If Cougar Becomes Aggressive

- ◆ Don't turn your back
- ◆ Don't take your eyes off of it
- ◆ Throw things at it
- ◆ Shout loudly
- ◆ Fight back aggressively



Black Bears



Black bear front tracks are 3 1/2" to 5" wide and 4 1/2" in length, while the rear tracks are 3 1/2" to 4 3/4" in width and 7" to 8" in length



Info: Black bears are the most common and widely distributed bear in North America. The Olympic Peninsula is among the few places in Washington that possess the ideal habitat for black bears.

Black bears have an innate sense of curiosity when it comes to food. They are notorious for rummaging through garbage cans, and sometimes raiding camps. Black bears are not normally aggressive, and attacks on humans are rare. The following suggestions will help ensure that black bears do not bother you—and that you won't bother black bears:

Preventing An Encounter

- ◆ Keep a clean camp
- ◆ Put garbage in bear-proof container
- ◆ Sleep at least 100 yards from your cooking area
- ◆ Don't sleep in your cooking clothes.

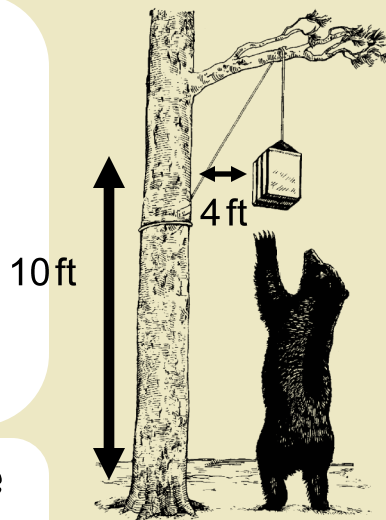
Please report all cougar and bear sightings to the Hood Canal Ranger Station: 360-765-2200

During an Encounter

- ◆ Do not approach it
- ◆ Do not run
- ◆ Avoid eye contact
- ◆ Leave the bear an escape route

If Bear Becomes Aggressive

- ◆ Make noise; yell or clap your hands
- ◆ Do not climb a tree
- ◆ Fight back aggressively
- ◆ Play dead as a last resort



If you don't have a bear-proof container, hang your food at least 10 feet from ground and 4 feet from the stump