



Cougar Safety

SAFETY IN COUGAR COUNTRY

Preventative Actions

- Be aware of your surroundings and recreate responsibly. Consider hiking, biking and running with others. Avoid recreating at dawn and dusk. Never wear headphones.
- Supervise children and do not leave them unattended. Keep them close to adults at all times, even when in a large group.
- Keep all garbage, pet food or food scraps indoors to avoid attracting prey.
- Keep pets and livestock in a secure area, especially at night. Livestock guardian dogs or electric fences can help protect domestic animals.
- Install outdoor lighting where you walk after dark or install motion activated lighting.
- Seal off crawl spaces under deck areas to discourage cougars or other animals from bedding down under your home.
- Do not feed wildlife. Predators follow Prey! Even poorly hung birdfeeders will attract animals that cougars eat.
- Minimize vegetation in your yard – dense brush can create a hiding or resting place for a cougar. Avoid landscaping with plants that attract prey.
- Never approach a cougar!



Front Left Foot
measures 4"

Encountering a Cougar

- Stay calm and back away slowly. Do not turn your back, run or bend over. Bring children very close to you.
- Avoid looking like prey. Try to make yourself appear as big as possible, make eye contact, spread your jacket like wings, and raise your arms. Talk or sing to distinguish yourself as non-prey species.
- If a lion is aggressive, throw rocks and sticks, yell as loud as you can. Use any large items you have with you (such as a bike) as a shield. Always fight back and do not play dead.
- While there have been few official studies, anecdotal reports indicate that bear spray can be an effective deterrent in cougar encounters.



THE COUGAR FUND
Protecting America's Greatest Cat

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 www.facebook.com/thecougarfund

Photography by: **Thomas D. Mangelsen**
Tom's devotion towards the cougar has taken him from the tip of North America to South America documenting their behavior to discover how to coexist.