

WHAT ARE SOME TIPS FOR LIVING IN MOUNTAIN LION COUNTRY?

- 🐾 Hike or walk in groups.
- 🐾 Make noise when you're outside.
- 🐾 Closely supervise children: watch children whenever they play outdoors. Make sure children are inside before dusk and not outside before dawn. Talk with children about mountain lions and teach them what to do if they encounter one.
- 🐾 Keep pets indoors or on a leash: roaming pets are easy prey for hungry mountain lions and coyotes. Either bring pets inside or keep them in a kennel with a secure top. Do not feed pets outside; the food can attract javelina and other mountain lion prey.
- 🐾 Don't feed wildlife: by feeding deer, javelina or other wildlife in your yard, you may inadvertently attract mountain lions, which prey upon them.
- 🐾 Trim landscaping around your home: remove dense and low-lying vegetation that can provide good hiding places for mountain lions and coyotes, especially around children's play areas.
- 🐾 Install outdoor lighting: keep the house perimeter well lit at night – especially along walkways – to keep any approaching mountain lions visible.



HOW DOES THE ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT MANAGE MOUNTAIN LIONS IN THIS STATE?

Mountain lions in Arizona are classified as a big game species, and the department manages them as a renewable natural resource. The state's current mountain lion population is estimated at 2,500 to 3,000. Since 1999, the department has distributed an average of 6,900 hunting permits per year with an annual harvest of 335 lions. The department's mandatory checkout process for successful hunters allows biologists to gather and analyze information on lions, including age and gender. The department is also committed to public education to help people learn how to behave responsibly and live safely in proximity to these predators.

HOW DO I REPORT A MOUNTAIN LION SIGHTING?

To report a mountain lion sighting, encounter or attack, please call the Arizona Game and Fish Department at (602) 942-3000 during business hours. In an emergency, dial 911.



The Arizona Game and Fish Department prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex, national origin, age, or disability in its programs and activities. If anyone believes that they have been discriminated against in any of the AGFD's programs or activities, including employment practices, they may file a complaint with the Deputy Director, 2221 W. Greenway Rd. Phoenix, AZ 85023, (602) 942-3000, or with the Fish and Wildlife Service, 4040 N. Fairfax Dr. Ste. 130, Arlington, VA 22203. Persons with a disability may request a reasonable accommodation or this document in an alternative format by contacting the Deputy Director as listed above.



ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT
(602) 942-3000 | azgfd.gov

LION COUNTRY TIPS



LION COUNTRY





WHAT ARE MOUNTAIN LIONS?

Mountain lions - also known as cougars and pumas - are powerful predators. Males can grow to more than 8 feet long and weigh as much as 150 pounds. Females can grow to 7 feet long and weigh up to 90 pounds.

WHERE DO MOUNTAIN LIONS LIVE?

Mountain lions live only in the Western Hemisphere, ranging from Canada to South America. They inhabit all portions of Arizona except the extreme southwest corner of the state.

DID YOU KNOW?

Between 2,500 and 3,000 mountain lions live in Arizona.

WHAT DO MOUNTAIN LIONS EAT?

Deer, both whitetail and mule, are the principal mountain lion prey species in Arizona. In some areas javelina, elk and even smaller species like rabbits can also be components of mountain lion diet.

DID YOU KNOW?

A mountain lion can consume an entire deer in two nights.

HOW LONG IS A MOUNTAIN LION'S LIFESPAN?

The average lifetime of a mountain lion is 12 to 13 years.

ARE MOUNTAIN LIONS DANGEROUS?

Mountain lions and humans have been interacting throughout Arizona's history, generally without serious injuries to humans. For the most part, lions are quiet and elusive - in fact, people rarely get more than a glimpse of a mountain lion in the wild because lions usually prefer to avoid people. However, it is important to remember that mountain lions are top-level predators capable of killing or seriously injuring humans. The Arizona Game and Fish Department, in addition to carrying out its mission to conserve wildlife, has a public safety responsibility; occasionally, when necessary, the department will kill individual lions that pose a threat to public safety.

DID YOU KNOW?

Although the chance of encountering a mountain lion is small, it is possible, especially if you are out between dusk and dawn

HOW CAN I SPOT MOUNTAIN LION TRACKS?

Mountain lions have four toes with three distinct lobes at the base of the pad, resulting in distinctive M-shaped prints. Dog or coyote tracks may be similar in size, but will usually have obvious claw marks. Generally, mountain lion claw marks are not visible.

DID YOU KNOW?

In an unhurried walk, lions usually place the hind paw in the imprint made by the front paw.



WHAT SHOULD YOU DO IF YOU ENCOUNTER A MOUNTAIN LION?

- 🐾 Do not approach a mountain lion: most mountain lions will try to avoid a confrontation. Give them a way to escape.
- 🐾 Stay calm and speak loudly and firmly.
- 🐾 Do not run from a mountain lion: running may stimulate a mountain lion's instinct to chase. Stand and face the animal. Make eye contact.
- 🐾 Appear larger: raise your arms. Open your jacket if you are wearing one. Throw stones, branches, or whatever you can reach without crouching or turning your back. Wave your arms slowly. The idea is to convince the mountain lion that you are not prey and that you may be a danger to it.
- 🐾 Slowly back away from the area.
- 🐾 Protect small children so they won't panic and run.
- 🐾 Fight back if attacked: many potential victims have fought back successfully with rocks, sticks, caps, jackets, garden tools and their bare hands. Since a mountain lion usually tries to bite the head or neck, try to remain standing and face the animal.