



In the Pacific Northwest, we live, work and play in carnivore country. Our carnivore neighbors include cougars, bears, coyotes and wolves. Although these animals were once widely perceived as threats to human lives and livelihood, researchers have long since shown that carnivores are a vital and necessary component of healthy, balanced ecosystems.

As the Pacific Northwest continues to grow, human activity will increase in habitats that have long been carnivore territories. Interactions between carnivores and humans will also increase. Carnivores are adjusting to a growing human presence, but many wildlife managers believe that to understand these animals and co-exist with them, the public must be better informed.

Wildlife management agencies receive hundreds of calls about "nuisance" animals such as bears raiding garbage cans or coyotes running through neighborhoods. Many of these incidents can be prevented with proper education about carnivore behavior and human interactions with them. The Living with Carnivores program is addressing the need for education through workshops to provide information to the public so that safe and responsible decisions can be made.

ERIN KOCHANIEWICZ



Living with Carnivores



Living with Carnivores is a collaborative effort of many agencies, organizations and businesses. The program promotes awareness of bears, cougars, wolves and coyotes in the Pacific Northwest and the knowledge necessary to live safely and responsibly among them.

Some partners include:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, www.fws.gov
 Defenders of Wildlife, www.defenders.org
 U.S. Department of Agriculture APHIS-Wildlife Services, www.aphis.usda.gov/ws/
 U.S. Forest Service, www.fs.fed.us
 National Park Service, www.nps.gov/ccso/index.html
 Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, www.wa.gov/wdfw
 Wolf Haven International, www.wolfhaven.org
 Center for Wildlife Information, www.bebearaware.org
 Hornocker Wildlife Institute, www.hwi.org
 Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center, www.kswild.org
 Northwest Ecosystem Alliance, www.ecosystem.org
 Wolf Education and Research Center, www.wolfcenter.org
 Counter Assault Bear Spray, www.counterassault.com
 Insight Wildlife Management, <http://home.earthlink.net/~insightcpm>

Other wildlife information sites:

Cougars:

www.wa.gov/wdfw/wlm/game/cougar/cougar.htm

Bears:

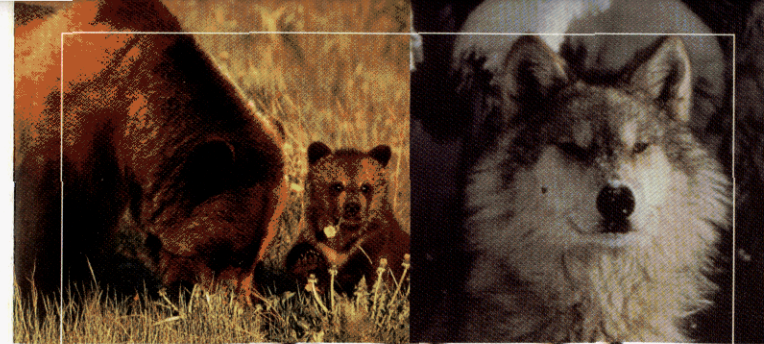
www.wa.gov/wdfw/wlm/game/blkbear/blkbear.htm
www.fs.fed.us/r1/wildlife/igbc
www.bearbiology.com

Coyotes:

www.wa.gov/wdfw/wlm/diversty/living/coyotes.htm

Wolves:

www.nezperce.org
www.npwrc.usgs.gov/index.htm
www.mountain-prairie.fws.gov/wolf



LIVING WITH Carnivores

Washington • Oregon • Idaho





WAYNE KASWORM

The Living with Carnivores Program

Recognizing that education can prevent nuisance animal incidents and other conflicts, a number of federal and state agencies, nonprofit conservation organizations and private businesses came together to develop the *Living with Carnivores* program. This collaborative non-advocacy program seeks to counter misinformation and promote peaceful co-existence between humans and carnivores, primarily through free public workshops held in communities in Washington, Oregon and Idaho where interactions with these animals are likely to occur.

The workshops include slide presentations by wildlife experts and cover topics such as the behavior and biology of Pacific Northwest carnivores, how to distinguish between similar species such as wolves and coyotes or black bears and grizzlies, how to identify tracks and other signs of carnivores in your area and how to minimize conflicts and live safely with these carnivores. The *Living with Carnivores* partners provide funding, workshop and program development assistance, materials and other in-kind services that make the workshops possible.

To arrange a workshop in your community or to learn more about the *Living with Carnivores* partnership and programs, call:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service — Lacey, Washington: (360) 753-9440, Portland, Oregon: (503) 231-6179, Boise, Idaho: (208) 378-5243

Tips for behaving safely and responsibly in carnivore country

Avoid attracting carnivores to residential areas.

- Keep food, garbage and pet food in closed, animal-proof containers or enclosures, or store them indoors in a secured area. Feeding bears and other animals, whether intentionally or inadvertently, is the leading cause of problem behavior.
- Don't feed birds, deer and other wildlife. Bird feeders, for example, can attract bears, and possibly small mammals which in turn can attract other carnivores.
- Keep your property free of brush and heavy vegetation where carnivores might hide.

Avoid confrontations by following these guidelines for safe hiking, camping and wildlife watching.

Hiking

- Don't hike alone.
- Be aware of your surroundings.
- Carry a stout walking stick and a bear-deterrent spray.
- Make noise to alert wildlife of your presence so they can avoid you.
- Stay away from any animal carcass you encounter — it may have been claimed by a carnivore.

Camping

- Don't store scented items, food or anything smelling of food in your tent. This includes everything from toothpaste and deodorant to clothes worn while cooking. Store these things in the trunk of your locked vehicle if you're car camping or in a bear-proof locker when available at your campsite. In backcountry situations, store them in a bag and use a 25 to 30-foot length of rope to suspend it from a tree limb at least 10 to 15 feet from the ground and four feet from the tree trunk.
- Set up a cooking and cleaning area away from your tent (100 yards and downwind if possible). Keep it clean and secure.
- Keep pets and children in sight and under control.

Wildlife Watching

- Never approach wildlife. Wildlife experts recommend staying at least 100 yards away from bears and other large mammals, whenever possible. If an animal approaches you, back away to a safe distance. Ask area wildlife managers for specific guidelines.

- Stick to established observation areas and trails.
- Use binoculars, spotting scopes and telephoto lenses to view and photograph wild animals to avoid stressing them by approaching too closely.
- Remain alert to potential danger while viewing or taking pictures.
- Avoid direct eye contact with bears, even through a lens — it may be interpreted as a challenge or threat.
- Stay away from newborn or young animals, nests, dens, dead animals and animals that appear to be sick.
- Never surround, crowd, chase or follow an animal. It may respond by charging.
- Never try to pose or get an animal to move to a different location.
- Don't startle wildlife by making sudden movements or noises.
- Watch out for inappropriate behavior by other people that may endanger you, others or wildlife.

In case of emergency

Unless carnivores are protecting young, have been fed by humans, or are sick, they will rarely approach or attack people. Should an encounter with a carnivore turn out to be too close for comfort, however, follow these safety tips:

- Don't run.
- Stand tall to make yourself look as large as possible.
- Slowly back away, making sure to leave an escape route for the animal.
- Make noise and throw rocks or sticks to demonstrate that you're a threat, not a food source. For grizzly bear encounters, however, DO NOT make eye contact or throw objects.
- Use a spray deterrent if you have it.
- If attacked by any animal other than a grizzly bear, fight back. Carnivores can and have been driven off by aggressive fighting. For grizzly bear encounters, DO NOT fight back as this may increase the intensity of the attack.
- Report the incident immediately to the appropriate state or federal wildlife authority.