

Wildlife Safety

Wildlife Scat of Grand Teton and Yellowstone

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PO Box 448 Wilson, WY 83014
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Wildlife Tracks of Grand Teton and Yellowstone

Species	Length	Width	Toes
Red Squirrel	1.5"	0.5"	4 or 5
Marmot	2.5"	1.5"	4 or 5
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	2.5-3.5"	1.5-2"	4 or 5
Badger	13-27"	4-8"	4
Wolverine	13-30"	7-8"	4
Coyote	4.5-5.5"	3-4"	4
Gray Wolf	29-30"	7-8"	4
Red Fox	17-18"	4.5-5"	4
Bobcat	17-18"	4.5-5"	4
Mountain Lion	28-32"	7-8"	4
Lynx	18-22"	6-7"	4
Snowshoe Hare	4-13"	10"	4
Beaver	2.5-3.5"	1.5-2"	5
Porcupine	2.5-3.5"	1.5-2"	5
Mink	2.5"	1.5"	5
Moose	41-50"	8-11"	2
Elk	40-50"	8-11"	2
Mule Deer	30-40"	6-8"	2
Bighorn Sheep	40-70"	6-8"	2
Righorn Sheep	40-70"	6-8"	2
Bison	30-40"	8-11"	2

Tracking Terms

Before starting the session, please check <https://warp.wildsafebc.com> to know if there are any wild animal reports around the area.

Wildlife Guidelines:

- Secure your food and garbage at your “base” or during the forest outing to avoid any human-wildlife conflicts.
- Animals are most active at dawn/dusk and at night; try to plan your outing after breakfast and before dinner.
- Travel in groups and keep kids close to minimize dangerous encounters with wildlife.
- Keep pets on a leash and avoid bringing pets into sensitive wildlife habitats.
- Follow signs and park rules. Stay on trails to avoid trampling and damaging vegetation.

~ Contact the Conservation Officer Service: 1-877-952-7277 (RAPP) or #7277 on the TELUS Mobility Network, to report wildlife-human interactions where public safety may be at risk.

Wildlife Safety:

Bear Safety:

Before you go outside:

- ✦ Pack bear spray, and learn how to use it
- ✦ Check the park web page for any specific information about bears in the area
- ✦ Look for notices about bears in the area when you arrive at a campground or trailhead

When on a trail:

- ✦ Make noise. Don't surprise a bear. Call, sing, talk loudly especially near streams and in areas of low visibility.
- ✦ Be alert. Watch for bears or their scat and tracks, any strange smells or disturbed vegetation. Be aware of wind direction and speed. Extra caution is warranted when the wind is facing you.
- ✦ Stay together. Hike and bike in groups and don't let children wander. Larger groups (4 or more) are less likely to have a negative bear encounter.
- ✦ Watch your pets. Keep your dog on a leash at all times. Dogs can provoke defensive bear behaviour.
- ✦ Use officially marked trails. Travel during daylight hours. Bears are most active at dawn and dusk.
- ✦ Carry bear spray and know how to use it.

If you encounter a bear:

- ✦ Stay calm - If the bear sees you, talk in a low, calm voice and then regardless if it has seen you or not.
- ✦ Back up slowly - Never turn your back on a bear, or run. Running could trigger an attack.
- ✦ Do not stare - The bear will see a direct stare as a challenge.
- ✦ Give it space - Make sure it has a way to get away, and that you are not blocking access to a bear's cubs or its food.

If a bear approaches you or charges:

1. Do not run!
2. Use your bear spray as it approaches
3. Play dead or fight back:
 - ✦ *Defensive attack* - Usually, bears charge or attack because they are feeling threatened. Use your bear spray. If you don't have bear spray and the bear makes contact with you – roll on your stomach, cover the back of your neck, remain still and play dead, they will lose interest and leave. Do NOT run!
 - ✦ *Predatory attack* - In rare cases, a bear may see a human as prey and stalk you along a trail. In these cases, try to escape into a building, car or up a tree. If you cannot escape and the bear charges, use your bear spray, lacking that, use anything at your disposal to fight off the bear (rocks, sticks, hiking poles).



Cougar/Mountain Lion/Puma/Panther Safety:

Following general guidelines will reduce the risk of conflict with a mountain lion:

- ✦ Hike in groups and make enough noise to avoid surprising a cat
- ✦ Carry a strong walking stick
- ✦ Keep children close
- ✦ Always take a bear spray along and carry it on your belt
- ✦ Be extremely careful when biking in cougar country
- ✦ Watch for tracks and signs
- ✦ Check with the local park office about sightings before your trip
- ✦ If you stumble upon kittens, leave the area immediately as the female will be close and defend her young



If you experience an Encounter:

1. Remain calm, you will survive!
2. Do NOT RUN!
3. Face the cougar and back away slowly. Sudden movement or flight may trigger an instinctive attack.
4. Try to make yourself look as big as possible. Hold a coat, your hiking stick or any other object over your head and wave it around.
5. Yell, speak loudly and firmly, and throw rocks. Convince the animal that you are a threat, not easy to pray
6. Give him an avenue of escape
7. If the cat attacks fight back. Many people have survived cougar attacks by fighting back with anything they had, including rocks, sticks, fists etc.
8. Seeing cougars should be an exciting and rewarding experience, with both you and the cougar coming away unharmed. Prevention is always better than confrontation, so prepare yourself before venturing into their habitat.

Wolf Safety:

Avoiding Encounters with Wolves:

It is extremely important to discourage wolves from approaching. Taking these proactive steps will prevent wolves and people from interacting.

- ✦ Keep a clean and orderly camp. Cook and store food away from sleeping areas. Suspend food, toiletries, garbage and other loose objects on a rope between trees, out of reach of wildlife. Securing food and kitchen items is important when the camp is unoccupied, even during the day. Wolves have been reported removing personal and other non-food items from campsites.
- ✦ Do not bury garbage. If you pack it in – pack it out!
- ✦ Always keep children nearby and in sight.
- ✦ Keep pets leashed and under control. If possible, keep pets at home.
- ✦ Choose a camp near toilet facilities.
- ✦ Do not camp anywhere near a carcass. Wolves are likely to scavenge on and protect this natural food source.
- ✦ Wash dishes in a container and dispose of grey water deep in a water body away from camp.
- ✦ Do not approach wolves ever. This practice gets wolves used to humans and their scents which results in human habituation.
- ✦ Remember, you are a guest in this environment. This is home to the animals that live here.

What to do if a wolf approaches:

The greater the space between people and wolves, the safer it is for both of them. If a wolf appears and acts unafraid or aggressive, take the following action as soon as you notice the animal:

- ✦ Begin scare tactic immediately, well before the wolf is within 100 meters. Do not allow the wolf to approach any closer than 100 meters.
- ✦ Raise your arms and wave them in the air to make yourself appear larger. Use noisemakers (i.e. air horns), and throw sticks, rocks and sand at the wolf, to scare wolves away.
- ✦ When in a group, act in unison to send a clear message to the wolves they are not welcome.
- ✦ If the wolf displays aggressive behaviours, back away slowly, do not turn your back on the wolf.
- ✦ Use pepper spray if you have it and the skills to use it safely. Be aware of the range and operating conditions of the product you are using.



Coyote Safety:

What to do in a coyote encounter:

- ✦ If you encounter a coyote, make the experience unpleasant for the animal. Make it feel unwelcome in your neighbourhood. Even if you are not concerned about problems with coyotes, they should not feel comfortable around us or our homes.
- ✦ Respond to their presence aggressively by making yourself appear larger. Wave your arms overhead, or thrust long objects like a walking stick toward the coyote.
- ✦ Throw rocks, sticks or other objects toward the animal.
- ✦ Shout in a deep voice and maintain eye contact.
- ✦ If the coyote continues to approach, back away slowly and move toward buildings or human activity if the coyote continues to approach.
- ✦ Do not turn away or run. This will encourage the coyote to chase you.
- ✦ For situations involving aggressive encounters, phone the Report-A-Poacher number at 1-800-642-3800 and report the details.



Coyotes and children:

- ✦ What to teach a child about coyotes:
 - If you see a coyote, never run, even if you are scared.
 - Yell at the coyote in an angry voice and make yourself look bigger by putting your arms in the air.
 - Never approach coyotes or any other wildlife.
 - Do not leave food for the coyotes.
 - Never litter. Keep your home yard, school yards and parks clean.
 - When walking the dog, always keep it on a leash. Pick up the dog feces to throw away in a garbage can.
 - Make sure that you do not let the cat out.

If wild Animal will approach FFNS (Yard/ "Base")

1. Educators must immediately perform safety tips while encountering the animal
2. Gather all the children
3. Go inside the Daycare space or even in Director's House (3827 Charlton Drive)
4. Inform Animal Control
5. Inform Director and/or Manager
6. Director or Manager or Leader Educator - If the animal doesn't leave in 15 minutes - Inform the Parents

If the animal is still on the premises of Nature School. Children will be staying inside. Parents must remain inside the cars until the animal will leave the FFNS site and it is safe.