



## COUGAR COUNTRY

**Cougars are large, seldom seen inhabitants of the** Olympic wilderness. Like any wild animal, they can be dangerous. Attacks on humans are rare, but can occur. To most visitors, glimpsing a cougar in the wild is thrilling. Though few people will ever see a cougar, if you do see one, the following suggestions can increase your chances of a safe encounter.

Preventing An Encounter—Don't hike or jog alone • Keep children within sight & close to you • Avoid dead animals • Keep a clean camp • Leave pets at home • Be alert to your surroundings • Use a walking stick

IF YOU MEET A COUGAR—Don't run, it may trigger a cougar's attack instinct • Stand and face it • Pick up children • Appear large, wave arms or jacket over your head • Do not approach, back away slowly • Keep eye contact

IF THE COUGAR IS AGGRESSIVE—Don't turn your back or take your eyes off it • Remain standing • Throw things • Shout loudly • Fight back.

IDENTIFYING A COUGAR—The cougar, also called mountain lion, puma or panther once ranged across North America and from Canada to the tip of South America. Its scientific name, *Felis concolor*, means "cat of one color" which is usually tawny gray or reddish-brown with black markings on the face, ears and tip of tail. Young kittens have black spots on the body. Adult males can be over eight feet long (including nearly three feet of tail) and can weigh over 150 pounds; females weigh from 90 to 110 pounds. An adult cougar's front paw track is about 3 1/2 inches across, with rear paw tracks slightly smaller.

NATURAL HISTORY—Cougars usually hunt at night for their primary prey—deer or elk. They typically cover the carcass with leaves or branches and may return to feed for several days. Though they are most active at dusk and dawn, they can be seen any time of day. Cougars are solitary except during mating. Cubs and mothers can stay together for two years. In the wild their life span is about 12 years.

REPORTING OBSERVATIONS—Please report all cougar sightings to the nearest ranger station, or park headquarters (600 E. Park Ave., Port Angeles, WA 98362; phone 360/565-3000) or call 911 if it's an emergency. A description of the animal, the location, date and time of day, the cat's behavior and distance, duration of the encounter and your name and telephone number can help park managers protect visitors and cougars.

## 1200 YEAR OLD CEDAR

Washington State's largest tree is at Lake Quinault on the Olympic Peninsula. The world co-champion for largest western red cedar can be reached by walking a brand new trail that is reopened after 30 years. In Amanda Park, take the North Shore Road to the trail head directly across from Lake Quinault Resort. It is an easy walk and a great photo opportunity. For more details and history inquire at the resort.



## RECORD TREES ON OLYMPIC PENINSULA

The record-size trees of the following species have been found in Olympic National Park. The trees are recognized by American Forests as the largest living specimens of the species in their list of 825 National Champions.

### Alaska Cedar (*Chamaecyparis nootkatensis*):

Circumference 451 inches

Height 124 feet

Spread 27 feet

Total Point 582

Location: Quinault, along Big Creek Trail. About 1 mi. east of Three Lakes.

### Pacific Silver Fir (*Abies amabilis*)

Circumference 260 inches

Height 218 feet

Spread 37 feet

Total Points 487

Location: Bogachiel Valley.

### Engelmann Spruce (*Picea engelmannii*)

Circumference 283 inches

Height 179 feet

Spread 27 feet

Total Points 469

Location: upper Cameron Creek.

### Western Red Cedar (*Thuja plicata*)

Co-Champ with tree in Forks.

Circumference 761 inches

Height 159 feet

Spread 45 feet

Total Points 931

Location: Quinault Big Cedar Trail, 2 mi. up North Shore Rd.

### Coast Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii* var. *menziesii*):

Largest in Olympic National Park, not a record tree

Circumference 505 inches

Height 281 feet

Spread 71 feet

Total Points 804

Location: Quinault (Olympic National Forest)

### Coast Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii* var. *menziesii*):

Circumference 533.5 inches

Height 212 feet

Spread 47.5 feet

Total Points 757

Location: 2.5 mi. up Queets Trail then 0.2 mi. up side trail to left at

Coal Creek.

### Grand Fir (*Abies grandis*)

Largest in Olympic National Park, not a record tree.

Circumference 229 inches

Height 251 feet

Spread 43 feet

Total Points 491

Location: Along the SE side of Duckabush Trail. 1 1/2 mi. inside park, 100 yds past 2nd stream crossing.

### Western Hemlock (*Tsuga heterophylla*)

Co-Champion tree, worlds largest

Circumference 341 inches

Height 174 feet

Spread 65 feet

Total Points 531

Location: 2 mi. E of Enchanted Valley Chalet, below trail.

### Sitka Spruce (*Picea sitchensis*)

Co-Champ tree, not located in Olympic National Park

Circumference 707 inches

Height 191 feet

Spread 96 feet

Total Points 922

Location: Quinault in Olympic National Forest.

### Subalpine Fir (*Abies lasiocarpa* var. *lasiocarpa*)

Circumference 252 inches

Height 125 feet

Spread 26 feet

Total Points 384

Location: About 300 feet east/southeast of Cream Lake, located at the head of the Hoh River drainage. There is no maintained trail into area.

### Mountain Hemlock

Co-Champion

Circumference 234 inches

Height 152 feet

Spread 41 feet

Total Points 396

Location: East Fork Quinault, on O'neil Pass Trail.