

## **Mountain Lion Talking Points**

*(Updated 8/14/2018)*

**Mountain Lion:** Also known as Puma, Cougar, Catamount, and Panther. Native to the Americas and found from the Arctic in the US and Canada to the Andes in South America.

<https://g.co/kgs/9XXotc> <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cougar>

**Height:** 2 – 3 ft. (Adult, At Shoulder)

**Speed:** 40 – 50 mph (Running)

**Conservation status:** Least Concern (Population decreasing) Encyclopedia of Life

**Lifespan:** 8 – 13 years (In the wild)

**Scientific name:** Puma concolor

**Mass:** Male: 120 – 220 lbs (Adult), Female: 64 – 140 lbs (Adult)

**Did you know:** Pumas have been chased away by using rocks, sticks, garden tools and bare hands. [wikibooks.org](http://wikibooks.org)

### **Are Mountain Lions Scarce in Arizona?**

Mountain lions are not endangered or scarce in Arizona. Biologists estimate the current statewide mountain lion population to be between 2,500 to 3,000 animals and consider it stable to growing. The Mountain Lion is a large felid of the subfamily Felinae native to the Americas. Its range, from the Canadian Yukon to the southern Andes of South America, is the widest of any large wild terrestrial mammal in the Western Hemisphere. With the exception of humans, the mountain lion has the largest range of any mammal in the Western Hemisphere. They are found from Canada to Argentina. In North America, they can be found from British Columbia and southern Alberta to California and Texas. Smaller populations can be found east of the Mississippi River. There is currently a 'robust' population of mountain lion within the Santa Catalina Mountains and at least two have been documented within the Sabino Canyon Recreation area alone in 2018.

### **Mountain Lion Concerns:**

- If hiking or walking within the Sabino Canyon Recreation areas, please do not allow young children to run ahead. Keep them relatively close. This is a good practice regardless of where you are hiking.
- Mountain Lions are stalkers and tend to like higher areas above locations where they can pounce. Be aware of areas above as you hike throughout the Santa Catalina Mountain range. Human encounters with **mountain lions** are rare and the risk of an attack is infinitely small. You are more likely to drown in your bathtub, be killed by a pet dog, or hit by lightning. If

**lions** had any natural urge to hunt people, there would be attacks every single day. Instead, they avoid us.

- Mountain Lions are **carnivores**. Their diet can consist of deer, elk, moose, and big horn sheep though they also eat smaller animals such as coyotes, dogs, raccoons, rabbits, squirrels, mice and rats.
- It's still always a good idea to hike with a buddy or in a group.
- If you see a mountain lion: Remember, they don't like confrontation...
  1. Stay calm. Remove any sunglasses to make eye-to-eye contact!
  2. Make yourself appear bigger by holding up your arms, hiking-sticks etc.
  3. Hold your ground or back away slowly. ...
  4. Do not approach a lion. Never approach a mountain lion especially one that is feeding or with kittens. ...
  5. Do not run from a lion. Running may stimulate a mountain lion's instinct to chase. ...
  6. Do not crouch down or bend over.
  7. Report the incident directly (personally) to Arizona Game and Fish 520-236-7201. AND if you are in the area of the Sabino Canyon Visitor's Center, make the report to them as well.

Remember, the Mountain Lion is an important member of the natural ecosystem and should be considered necessary and vital to the balance and harmony of the Santa Catalina Mountains.