



Monthly Newsletter

July 2024

Please take our member survey

As you know, WDDNA is 100% managed by a board of 10 directors. All of us are paying members of the association who volunteer our time to oversee and operate all the various components of our nonprofit operation.

Over the years, WDDNA has grown and evolved. Our membership now stands at more than 1,000 households. Besides managing 9 weekly shifts by off-duty deputies, our board handles all the marketing to maintain and grow our membership. We produce twice monthly patrol reports and monthly newsletters. We meet with local officials to discuss neighborhood safety issues. And we manage our association finances, including invoicing, recordkeeping and budgeting.

As volunteers, we make a lot of operational decisions. It is important to us that those decisions reflect the wishes of WDDNA members as much as possible.

You can help us. We invite you to take our member survey. It is just eight questions long, plus a comment section and should only take a few minutes to complete. Your feedback will help us make critical operational decisions for the coming year.

To take the survey, just click on the button below. And thank you for supporting our association.

[Click Here to Take Survey](#)

About mountain lions

Some weeks ago, the Sheriff's Department received a report that a mountain lion was seen in or near the American River Parkway in the vicinity of the Estates Drive river access point.

While no other sightings have been reported, as a follow-up, we contacted the Mountain Lion Foundation, which is headquartered in Sacramento, to learn more about mountain lions and their prevalence in our area.

"Where ever there are wild spaces in the

American West, there is always a chance that wild animals will be in those spaces,” explained Brent Lyles, executive director of the [Mountain Lion Foundation](#). “It is not surprising that a mountain lion would pass through an area like the American River Parkway. But a mountain lion passing through does not necessarily mean that it is a permanent resident.”

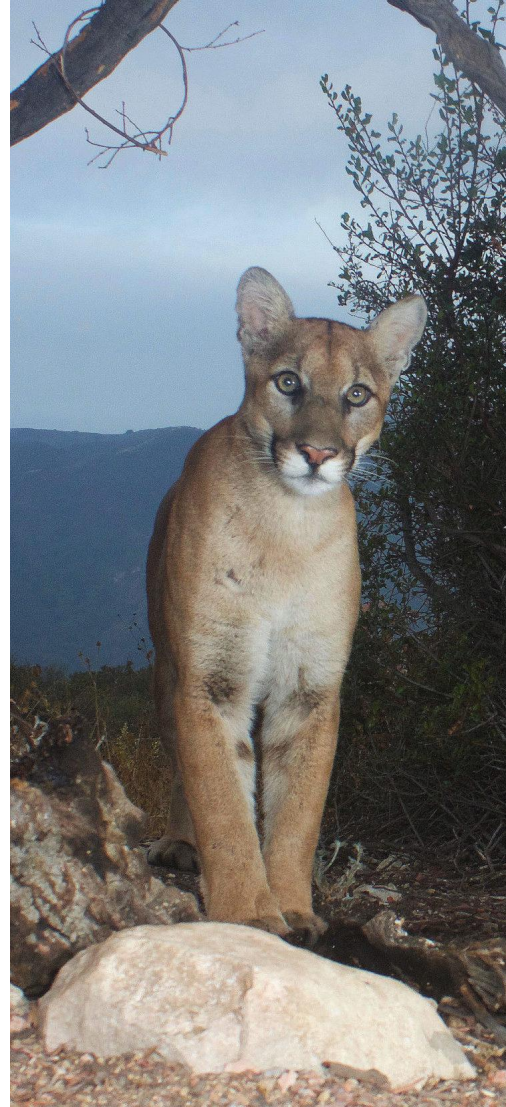
They hunt deer, not people

Lyles said the amount of human activity along the American Parkway makes it unlikely that a mountain lion would find the parkway a hospitable habitat in which to linger.

“We know from decades of scientific research that mountain lions tend to avoid people,” he explained. “So, if a mountain lion is spotted in a place where they have not been seen before, it is entirely possible that it is just a young lion passing through. And if they don’t find a place that makes them happy, they’ll keep on moving. That relates to food and water and mates, but it is also related to disturbance and incursion by people.”

According to the Mountain Lion Foundation website, mountain lions are solitary and their preferred prey is deer. Human encounters are rare and the risk of an attack is small.

“If lions had any natural urge to hunt people, there would be attacks every single day. Instead, they avoid us,” the website noted.



That said, there was a tragic incident in El Dorado County in March in which a young male lion attacked two brothers who were hiking in the woods, killing one of them and seriously injuring another. Should we be concerned about being attacked by a lion on the parkway?

“This was horrific and must be taken seriously,” said Lyles. “But they were deep in the woods and that is very different from the environment on the parkway. It was a terrible tragedy, but I can say that only 29 recorded human deaths from mountain lion attacks have been recorded in the past 150 years.

“I don’t mean to downplay any sighting. These are wild animals and they are large animals with teeth and claws. It is always important to be safe.”

Lyles suggested that a small, portable air horn is an excellent safety device to carry when walking in an area where you might be likely to encounter predatory wildlife of any kind.

What to do if you see a mountain lion

In the unlikely event that you do encounter a mountain lion, the foundation’s website offers the following advice:

“Never approach or corner a mountain lion (or any wild animal). If you do encounter a mountain lion, STOP. DO NOT RUN. Unlike safety advice for encountering bears, do not act timid or play dead in front of a cat.

“Instead: Maintain eye contact. Stand tall. Look bigger by opening your coat or raising your arms. Slowly wave your arms and speak firmly. Throw items at the lion if necessary. Give the cat room and time to move on.

“In the rare event of an attack, fight back. Most people succeed in driving the mountain lion away.”

To illustrate the effectiveness of fighting back, Lyles shared details of an incident experienced by a member of the foundation staff.

“Gowan Batist is our coexistence program manager. She is a sheep rancher in Mendocino County. She loves to tell the story of the day that her auntie looked out into the pasture and saw a mountain lion attacking one of the sheep.

“The auntie looked around and the only thing she had with her to defend the sheep was her purse. She ran into the pasture and beat on that mountain lion with her purse. The surprised mountain lion ran away and the sheep survived.

“That mountain lion was not in any danger at all from that purse, but what this illustrates is a key fact: Although there are a great many times when humans report encountering mountain lions, almost every single time, they end with the mountain lion running away.”

For more information about mountain lions, you may visit the foundation website at <https://mountainlion.org/>.

Public forum set on American River salmon project

A virtual public event will be held at 6 p.m. on July 24 about a project in the River Bend area of the American River designed to enhance crucial habitat for native fall-run Chinook salmon and steelhead trout.

The event will allow the public to learn and ask questions about the project.

River Bend is near River Bend Park in Rancho Cordova and William B. Pond Recreation Area in Carmichael. The event is being held by the [Water Forum](#), a regional group focused on the health of the American River. The discussion will include information about what William Pond visitors can expect during construction.

According to the Water Forum, the River Bend area is important to the survival of salmon and steelhead trout. Previous enhancement efforts in 2013 reportedly yielded a noticeable surge in nests created by salmon to lay their eggs. The 2024 project is designed to expand on that effort.

The Water Forum was created in 2000 to bring together 40 agencies and businesses with the goal of establishing a long-term plan to provide a reliable and safe water supply for the region and to preserve the fishery, wildlife, recreational and aesthetic values of the lower American River.

For information about the River Bend project and to sign up to participate in the public forum, go to <https://waterforum.org/habitat2024/>.

Protect your pet from rattlesnakes

A member recently reported that their dog was bitten by a rattlesnake in their back yard. According to UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine, approximately 150,000 dogs and cats are bitten each year by rattlesnakes. Particularly in our area adjacent to the American River

Parkway, rattlesnakes are a fact of life. So, what is a pet owner to do?

How can you protect your pet from being bitten?

Whenever you are in the American River Parkway or in any wild area, your first line of defense is to keep your dog on a leash and keep an eye on where he is sniffing.

Make your yard unfriendly to snakes by removing low branches under shrubbery, clearing tall grass, keeping landscaping trimmed and blocking gaps under decks to limit snake hiding places. Clear away anything that may attract the rodents that snakes hunt. Remove bird feeders, pick up ripe fruit that falls from trees, enclose compost piles and keep yard clear of debris that rodents might find attractive for nesting.



What about rattlesnake vaccine?

There is a vaccine for dogs against rattlesnake venom. According to authorities, the vaccine stimulates the dog's immune system to make antibodies against the venom so that, if bitten, the dog will have a less severe reaction. The vaccine is not made specifically for our type of rattlesnake – the Northern Pacific Rattlesnake – but it is still thought to provide some protection. The vaccine is offered at VCA Country Oaks Animal Hospital, 4636 Fair Oaks Boulevard, near Jesuit High School.

What if, despite your best efforts, your dog is bitten?

Even if your dog has been given the vaccine, a snake bite can be serious. As soon as you suspect a bite, get your dog or cat to a vet immediately.

Snakebites in dogs, cats and horses usually occur on the face or limbs, note UC Davis experts. One or more puncture marks, swelling and bleeding indicate a rattlesnake bite. These signs may be accompanied by pain, agitation or depression in the animal.

Wounds vary widely in severity. The amount and type of venom differs with each situation, and some rattlesnake bites – up to 25% — contain no venom at all. But even these bites can cause harm to your pet. You still should consult a veterinarian.

If your pet is bitten, you must take it to one of the following emergency facilities:

VCA Sacramento Veterinary Referral Center

9801 Old Winery Place
Sacramento, CA 95827
Main: (916) 362-3111

MarQueen Pet Emergency & Specialty Hospital

9205 Sierra College Blvd. #120
Roseville
(916) 757-6600

Atlantic Street Pet Emergency Center

1100 Atlantic St, Roseville
(916) 783-4655

Secure your online accounts with 2-factor authentication

From the Federal Trade Commission

Your online accounts can store a lot of personal and financial information. That's why you protect them with a password. Unfortunately, passwords are vulnerable to cyber-attacks. But, according to the [Federal Trade Commission](#), there's a simple way to make your accounts more secure: turn on two-factor authentication.

The most common methods of authentication

More and more sites and apps are offering two-factor authentication. Some let you choose which authentication method to use. Others only give you one option. These are some of the most common authentication methods out there.

1. One-time passcode via text message or email

With this type of authentication, you get a verification passcode by text message or email. It's typically six digits long but can be longer. It's only good for one log in and expires automatically.

Getting a passcode by text message is a common and simple method of authentication that only requires a phone that can get text messages. But it has its drawbacks. Hackers can take over your phone number through a SIM card swap attack and get text messages sent to your number, including those with a verification code, before you realize someone stole your number.

Image

If you get a verification passcode by email, use a strong password and two-factor authentication on your email account. That'll make it harder for someone to hack into your email and steal your one-time passcode.

Scammers try to trick you into giving them your verification passcode. No matter what the story is, don't share your verification code with someone if you didn't contact them first.

If getting a verification passcode by text message or email is the only option the account offers, it's better than nothing. But it's safer to use an authenticator app or security key, if they're an option.

2. An authenticator app

Some accounts let you use an authenticator app on your phone or tablet to verify it's you trying to log in. There are several authenticator apps out there, including Google Authenticator, Microsoft Authenticator and Duo.

Authenticator apps typically generate a verification passcode, like one you might get by text message or email. But using an app is safer because the passcode isn't susceptible to a SIM card swap attack or to someone hacking your email.

An authenticator app may also give you the option to get a push notification on your phone or tablet every time someone tries to log in to your account. The notification might give you some details about the login attempt, like the account someone is trying to log in to, their physical location, the type of device they're using and the date and time of the login attempt. You can approve or deny the request with a tap.

3. A security key

Security keys are physical devices that you use as your second authentication factor. They come in different shapes and sizes. You can buy one for personal use or you might get one from your employer.

Security keys use encryption to confirm that the key is associated with your account. Some plug into a USB port. Others use near-field communication (NFC) to connect to your device when you hold it close. Security keys are the strongest method of two-factor authentication because they don't use credentials that hackers can steal.

Turning on two-factor authentication

More and more sites and apps are offering two-factor authentication, but it's not usually on by default. To turn it on, go to your account settings, look for two-factor authentication, two-step verification or multi-factor authentication and follow the steps.

Start with your most sensitive accounts, like your bank, credit cards, email, social media,

tax filing website and payment apps. Then add it to other accounts, like sites you shop on.

After you set up two-factor authentication, you may have the option to remember the device you're using to log in. If you do, instead of having to give the second credential every time you log in, you may only need to do so in certain situations, like when you log in from another device. Only have the account remember your own devices. Don't have it remember the device if you're logging in from a public computer, like at a library.

Two-factor authentication can add an extra layer of security that protects you from hackers. And spending a few minutes to turn it on now can save you the hassle it'll take to recover a hacked account or deal with identity theft.

Member Q&A

Q: Yesterday afternoon a guy came to my door and claimed to be from a pest control company. He said he was spraying all the neighbors houses and wanted me to sign up for his services. He didn't have an ID or business card on him or any equipment. Should I be concerned?

A: Yes, we are aware of a man who goes door-to-door in our area to sign people up for pest treatments. You are wise not to respond to that type of solicitation. This fellow always makes it sound like all your neighbors use him and you should, too. He uses very aggressive sales tactics. Our advice is that you tell him to go away or you will report him to the Sheriff's Department. Then just close the door in his face. You should never respond to characters like him. We have had others complain about him and we have let our deputies know he

HOW TO CALL FOR HELP

IN AN EMERGENCY

If you have an immediate emergency - if your life or property is in immediate danger, if you feel threatened by someone on or near your property, if you have just become the victim of a crime or if you are witnessing a crime in progress:

- CALL 911 from a land line.
- Or, if calling from a cell phone within Sacramento County, call (916) 874-5111.

TO REPORT A CRIME

There are two ways to report a crime to the Sacramento County Sheriff's Department:

1. Call the Sheriff's Department NON-EMERGENCY LINE at (916) 874-5115. To bypass the recorded messaging when you call, dial 0 after the line is answered.
2. File a report online through the Sheriff's Department website. Click on this link to begin the process: https://www.sacsheriff.com/pages/crime_report.php

SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY (Not an emergency)

If you see someone engaged in suspicious activity but it is not an emergency, call 916-874-5115 (Sheriff's Department non-emergency line).

GENERAL CONCERNS, REPORTS OR QUESTIONS

If you have an issue that can be addressed later, you may contact our neighborhood patrol officers about it. The best way is via [EMAIL at wilhaggin4@sacsheriff.com](mailto:wilhaggin4@sacsheriff.com).

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