



UNIVERSITY OF
CALGARY

Welcome to the University of Calgary Kananaskis Centre

Working Safely in the Mountains

Communication is Key: Let others know where you are going (work or recreation) and use the Sign-out book located in the entrance of the Science Lab Building. When electronic devices are not feasible (cell phones), an effective contact system must be established (i.e. check-in procedures, periodic site visits, length of time a worker may be out of contact with a supervisor/PI/group leader). Researchers should always have contact person who knows their location, expected return times and be in daily communication.

Safety in Numbers: Go with at least one other person- the larger the group, the less likely the chance of a wildlife encounter. Chances are if wildlife hear you coming, they will avoid the noise.

Stay Informed: Check trail and area closures before planning your route-
<https://www.albertaparks.ca/parks/kananaskis/kananaskis-country/advisories-and-public-safety/trail-reports/>

Be prepared: Take bear spray, air horn, extra water/food, and clothing for all weather types.

Researchers must follow field policies in place by their established University/Organization

Wildlife Encounters

Bear Safety

Food & Garbage

- Bears are common in this area but are usually not a nuisance unless attracted by food.
- Keep lunches in vehicles when possible, or securely in your pack.
- Do **not** leave garbage in the field—bring everything back to the Field Station for disposal.
- At the Field Station, do not leave bottles, dishes, mugs, or garbage outside. Both **black bears** and **grizzlies** frequent the area.

If You Encounter a Bear

- **Do not run**—you cannot outrun a bear.
- If the bear is at a distance, speak calmly so it recognizes you as human.
- If surprised, remain calm and give the bear an **escape route**.
- If you encounter a **mother with cubs**, avoid getting between them and slowly back away.
- **Do not climb trees** to escape a bear.

If a Bear Acts Aggressively

- Make yourself look **large**: raise your arms, wave, and shout.
- **Grizzly bears** may bluff charge if threatened (e.g., protecting cubs or food). Often they will leave once they determine you are not a threat.
- If a grizzly attack occurs, **play dead** as a last resort.
- If attacked by a **black bear**, **fight back**.

Bear Deterrents

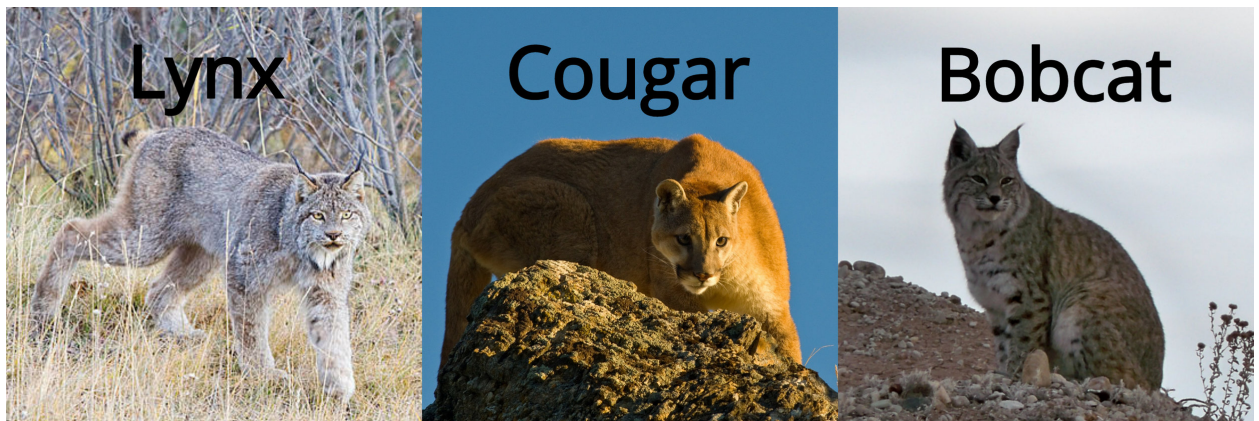
- Carry **bear spray** and use it if a bear becomes aggressive.
- Bear horns or bangers may also be used if time and conditions allow.



Image courtesy of Alberta Parks website

Cougar Awareness

- Cougar sightings are extremely rare.
- If you encounter a cougar, **do not approach**. Slowly back away and avoid direct eye contact.
- **Do not run**. Running may trigger a chase response.
- If a cougar attacks, **do not play dead**. Fight back using any available objects.
- There is safety in numbers—travel in groups when possible.
- Make noise while moving through the area to alert wildlife to your presence.
- Do not leave food or garbage outside, as it may attract wildlife.
- **Never feed wildlife.**



Photos by Gerald Romanchuk, Corinna Stoeffl, and Teri Stoia