

TOP PREDATORS OF VANCOUVER ISLAND

Healthy ecosystems require a balance of species, including top predators. They keep numbers in check lower on the food-chain, preventing ecosystem degradation and species extinction.

However, Vancouver Island's top predators are under major threat from habitat encroachment, hunting, and the creation of nuisance animals through human interaction. While we may fear them, serious encounters are very rare. Coexisting with these charismatic animals begins with the prevention of human-wildlife conflict, and replacing fear with respect through education.

NATURAL DIET

PREDATOR FACTS

HUMAN-PREDATOR INCIDENTS

THREATS TO PREDATORS

PREVENT PREDATOR INTERACTIONS



COUGAR

Puma concolor cougar



RANGE:
Most of Vancouver Island
V.I. POPULATION:
approx 875

Mainly black-tailed deer. When unavailable, rabbit, squirrel, sheep (from farms), small rodents, and even insects.



VANCOUVER ISLAND HAS THE HIGHEST CONCENTRATION OF COUGARS IN THE WORLD.



0 DEATHS ON VANCOUVER ISLAND SINCE 2000

3 ATTACKS ON VANCOUVER ISLAND SINCE 2000

HABITAT DESTRUCTION is the major risk to this species. Cougars will avoid territory divided by roads and will be forced into another cougar's territory, resulting in stressful conflict.



As a last resort to find food, cougars may kill farm animals or pets. When this happens, typically **THE COUGAR IS KILLED.**



★ Place domestic livestock in an enclosed shed or barn at night.

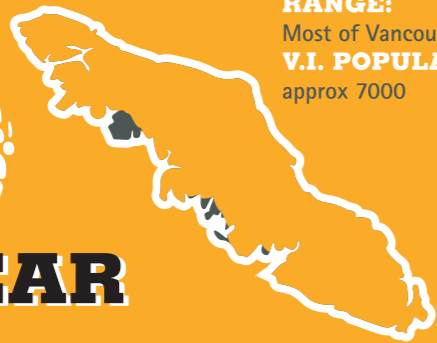


★ Avoid animal carcasses that may be unfinished meals.



VANCOUVER ISLAND BLACK BEAR

Ursus americanus vancouveri



RANGE:
Most of Vancouver Island
V.I. POPULATION:
approx 7000

Black bears are omnivorous, eating the best of what is available in season; roots, shoots, berries, insects, shellfish, and salmon.



They are a larger, blacker bear than their mainland cousins



Black bears carry salmon nutrients away from the streams and into the forest, providing essential nutrients to the trees, insects, and songbirds.

0 DEATHS ON VANCOUVER ISLAND SINCE 2000

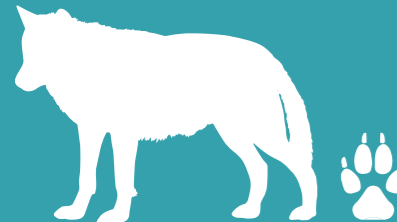
2 ATTACKS ON VANCOUVER ISLAND SINCE 2000

The largest current threat facing the bear is **HUNTING BY HUMANS**. Annual takes top 700 animals, which may represent more than ten percent of the total population a year; most ecologists believe a number too high for the long term protection of the species.



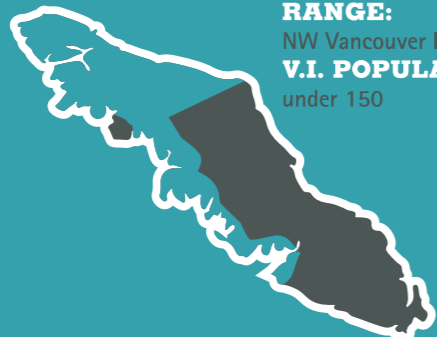
★ Secure food and garbage at home and while camping. Bears that scavenge human food begin to associate food with humans. These bears lose their natural fear and become a threat.

There is little chance of correcting a food-conditioned bear and they will be destroyed when they become aggressive towards people.



VANCOUVER ISLAND WOLF

Canis lupus crassodon



RANGE:
NW Vancouver Island
V.I. POPULATION:
under 150

Mainly black-tailed deer and Roosevelt elk, only taking smaller game, such as squirrels, rodents, and beaver, when larger prey are scarce



A subspecies of the mainland grey wolf, this animal is endemic to Vancouver Island, and is considered an

ENDANGERED SPECIES.

0 DEATHS ON VANCOUVER ISLAND SINCE 2000

1 ATTACKS ON VANCOUVER ISLAND SINCE 2000

HABITAT DESTRUCTION is the primary threat and their native range has been greatly reduced by human incursion. These animals are at **SERIOUS RISK OF EXTINCTION.**



★ Keep pets leashed and under control. If possible, keep pets at home.



★ When in wilderness areas, always keep children nearby and in sight.