



Weekender

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August 12, 2010

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Be sure and visit our web site
at
<http://www.surfsideonline.org/>

Weekend of Music

On the Long Beach Peninsula
Aug 13, 14 & 15



Friday Jam Session 7-10pm
Robbie Laws Band
Bouy 10
Special Guests
Tickets \$10.00

Saturday Night 5-10pm
Swing Cats
The Strangetones
Lloyd Jones Struggle
Tickets \$20.00

360.642.3143
bluesandseafood.com

Port of Ilwaco, Wa.

Sunday
10:30am- 5pm
Merlot Tide
Pearl Django
Tickets \$15.00
360.665.4466
watermusicfestival.com

Jazz & Oysters



Oysterville, Wa.

Saturday & Sunday Combo Tickets \$30.00

Bobcat

Found throughout all of Washington, bobcats (*Lynx rufus*) are probably more common than most people realize. Bobcats appear to be using suburban settings more often, although due to their reclusive ways, they are not often seen.

Adult male bobcats weigh 20 to 30 pounds and average 3 feet in length (Fig. 1). Females are considerably smaller and may weigh less than a large house cat. Bobcats can be various shades of buff and brown, with dark brown or black stripes and spots on some parts of the body. The tip of the tail and the backs of the ears are black. They have short ear tufts, and ruffs of hair on the side of the head, giving the appearance of sideburns. Bobcats of eastern Washington tend to be a much lighter buff color than those of western Washington. Both color phases occur along the eastern side of the Cascade Mountains.

Facts about Bobcats

Habitat and Home Range

Rock cliffs, outcroppings, and ledges are important to bobcats for shelter, raising young, and resting sites. Large brush or log piles and hollow trees or logs are used in wooded areas.

Finding bobcats in open fields, meadows and agricultural areas is not uncommon, provided enough brushy or timbered areas for escape cover is nearby.

Bobcats occur less frequently in areas of deep winter snow. Unlike lynx (Fig. 4), bobcats have relatively small feet and snow greatly reduces their mobility and ability to catch prey.

Home range size of bobcats in western Washington varies from 2.5 to six square miles for adult males, about half that for adult females. Home range size in eastern Washington tends to be larger.

Food and Feeding Habits

Bobcats are opportunistic and will prey upon a wide variety of animals.

Food sources include mice, voles, rabbits, gophers, mountain beaver, yellow bellied marmots, fawns; also insects, reptiles, birds, and carrion.

Domestic animals occasionally taken include house cats, poultry, small pigs, and lambs. To prevent conflicts, follow the suggestions under "[Preventing Conflicts](#)."

Bobcats hunt primarily by sight and sound, which means they spend much of their time sitting or crouching, watching, and listening. Once they've located prey, they stalk within range of a quick dash and then pounce.

A bobcat will cover the remains of a large kill with debris such as snow, grass, or leaves. The bobcat will revisit a carcass until most of it is consumed.



Figure 2. Finding bobcats in open areas is not uncommon, provided enough brushy or timbered areas for escape cover is nearby.

Bobcat Cont.



Figure 3. Once they've located prey, they stalk within range of a quick dash and then pounce. (*Photo by Peggy Faranda*)

Reproduction and Family Structure

- Bobcats are solitary animals. Males and females only associate for the brief time required for courtship and mating.
- A litter of about 3 kittens is born between April and July in dens found in caves, rock crevices, or hollow logs or trees. The den is carefully lined with dry leaves, moss, or grass formed into a shallow depression.
- Young bobcats disperse when they are about 8 months old.
- There are records of male bobcats mating with female domestic cats; some of the resultant hybrid offspring showed definite characteristics of the bobcats.

Mortality and Longevity

- Bobcats are known to live up to 12 years in the wild, but the average life expectancy is probably closer to 3-4 years. In captivity, they may live 25 years.
- Few predators other than cougars and humans are able to kill an adult bobcat. Adult bobcats may receive fatal or debilitating injuries from prey animals.
- Young bobcats are killed by eagles, great horned owls, coyotes, foxes, bears, and adult male bobcats.



Viewing Bobcats

Figure 5. Bobcat tracks are similar to cougar tracks, but only about 2 inches in diameter, which is about twice the size of house-cat tracks. Note the lack of claw marks, which are visible in tracks left by members of the dog family. (From <http://dirttime.ws/DirtTime.htm>)

Bobcat Cont.

Because of their elusive nature and caution around humans, bobcats are seldom seen. In areas occupied by humans, these cats typically limit their activity to night hours. (In dim light, bobcats see up to six times better than humans.) In undisturbed areas, they can be active at dawn or dusk if prey is active at that time. However, bobcats may be active during any time of day.

Bobcats travel in predictable patterns along logging roads, railways, and trails made by other animals to move between resting areas, food sources, or hunting areas. Evidence of a bobcat's presence may include tracks in snow or mud, droppings, feeding areas, and claw marks on tree trunks.

Tracks

The bobcat track is easily distinguished with a round shape, four toes and no claws evident (Fig. 5). It is generally twice the size of a domestic cat's print and loosely resembles that of a coyote or dog but is more rounded. At greater speeds the toes of the front foot spread easier than that of the hind one which has a smaller ball pad. Fine muddy silt leaves the clearest tracks.

Droppings

Bobcats generally cover their droppings with loose soil, snow, leaves or other material (Fig. 6). When visible, their droppings typically resemble those of most species in the dog and cat families.

Feeding areas (caches)

A bobcat will eat the carcass of a large mammal. Like a cougar, it will cover the carcass remains and frequently return to feed on it. Being smaller than a cougar, a bobcat only reaches out 15 inches to rake up debris to cover the food cache. These marks, and the bobcat's much smaller tracks, help distinguish between bobcat and cougar caches.

Scratching posts

Like house cats scratching furniture, bobcats mark their territory boundaries by leaving claw marks on trees, stumps, and occasionally fence posts (Fig. 7). Bobcat claw marks are normally 2 to 3 feet above the ground; domestic cat scratching occurs at a height of about 1-1/2 to 2 feet.

Calls

Bobcats rarely vocalize, although they often yowl and hiss during the mating season, especially when competing males have intentions toward the same receptive female. Such wails have been likened to a child crying, a woman's scream, and the screeching of someone in terrible pain.

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Figure 6. When visible, bobcat droppings typically resemble those of most species in the dog and cat families. Note the constricted segments and blunt ends. (Photo by Russell Link)



Figure 7. Bobcats often use trees as scratching posts, much as a house cat. (From <http://dirttime.ws/DirtTime.htm>)

Bobcat Cont.

Preventing Conflicts

Bobcats are not often responsible for killing domestic animals, but occasionally are responsible for losses of poultry, lambs, small goats, pigs, and house cats. Mostly, bobcats tend to use wild animals as prey items. Once a bobcat causes damage for the first time, it gets easier for the animal to do it again.

Where bobcats are deemed a problem, use the following management strategies around your property to prevent conflicts:

Don't feed wildlife. This includes deer, feral cats (domestic cats gone wild), and other small mammals. Remember predators follow prey.

Prevent the buildup of feeder foods under bird feeders. Bobcats are attracted to the many birds and rodents that come to feeders.

Feed dogs and cats indoors and clean up after them. If you must feed outside, do so in the morning or midday, and pick up food and water bowls, as well as leftovers and spilled food as soon as pets have finished eating. Water, pet food and droppings attract small mammals that, in turn, attract bobcats.

Keep dogs and cats indoors, especially from dusk to dawn. Left outside at night, small dogs and cats may become prey for bobcats (which have attacked cocker-spaniel-size dogs).

Enclose poultry (chickens, ducks, and turkeys) in a secure outdoor pen and house. Bobcats will eat poultry if they can get to them. **Note:** Other killers of poultry include coyotes, foxes, skunks, raccoons, feral cats, dogs, opossums, weasels, hawks, and large owls.

If a dead bird is found with no apparent injuries, skinning it may determine what killed it. If the carcass is patterned by red spots where pointed teeth have bruised the flesh but not broken the skin, the bird was probably "played with" by one or more dogs until it died.

To prevent bobcats from accessing birds in their night roosts, equip poultry houses with well-fitted doors.

To prevent bobcats from accessing poultry during the day, completely enclose outdoor pens with 1-inch chicken wire placed over a sturdy wooden framework. Overlap and securely wire all seams on top to prevent bobcats from forcing their way in by using their weight and claws.

Bobcats can climb, so wooden fence posts or structures that give the bobcat footing and access to an otherwise

unprotected pen will not be effective. Bobcats also have the ability to jump fences 6 feet or more in height. Use woven wire or a hot wire overhead if necessary (Fig. 8).

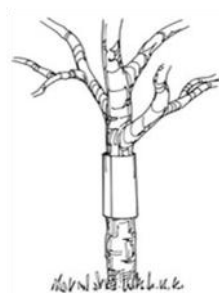
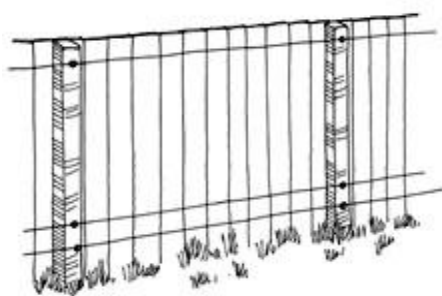


Figure 8. Install two electrified wires, 12 and 18 inches above ground and onto existing fence posts, poultry pen supports, and other structures using the proper insulators. A single strand of wire may be sufficient, but two wires will provide added insurance against the animal making the climb. Run one or two electrified wires towards the top of the fence to prevent bobcats from jumping the lower hot wires and making the climb.

Figure 9. Install a predator guard in areas where bobcats can climb a tree to gain access to poultry or other animals. Make sure the guard is at least 6 feet height. (*Drawings by Jenifer Rees.*)

Bobcat Cont.

Keep livestock and small animals that live outdoors confined in secure pens during periods of vulnerability.

All animals should be confined from dusk to dawn. (Temporary or portable fencing keeps livestock together so that they can be guarded more effectively.) During birthing season, keep young and vulnerable animals confined at all times. Do not use remote pastures or holding areas, especially when there has been a recent bobcat attack. Remove any sick and injured animals immediately. Ensure that young animals have a healthy diet so that they are strong and less vulnerable to predators.

Livestock producers have discovered that scare devices, such as bright lights, motion detectors connected to recordings of barking dogs or radios will deter bobcats--until they realize that they aren't life-threatening.

For a large property with livestock, consider using a guard animal. There are specialty breeds of dogs that can defend livestock. Donkeys and llamas have also successfully been used as guard animals. As with any guard animal, pros and cons exist. Purchase a guard animal from a reputable breeder who knows the animal he or she sells. Some breeders offer various guarantees on their guard animals, including a replacement if an animal fails to perform as expected.

Repellents, Fumigants, and Toxicants

No chemical repellents, fumigants, or toxicants are currently registered for bobcats.

Trapping

Trapping and relocating a bobcat several miles away seems an appealing method of resolving people/wildlife conflicts because it is perceived as giving the "problem animal" a second chance in a new home. Unfortunately, the reality of the situation is quite different. Bobcats typically try to return to their original territories, often getting hit by a car or killed by a predator in the process. If they remain in the new area, they may get into fights (oftentimes to the death) with resident bobcats.

In many cases, moving bobcats will not solve the original problem because other bobcats will replace them and cause similar conflicts. Hence, it is often more effective to use the above recommendations for making the site less attractive to bobcats than it is to constantly trap them.

Trapping also may not be legal in some cities; check with local authorities. Transporting animals without the proper permit is also unlawful in most cases (see "[Legal Status](#)"). See "[Trapping Wildlife](#)" for information on trapping bobcats.

Professional Assistance

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) offices receive hundreds of reports of bobcat sightings each year. Due to time constraints, officers will only respond when there is a threat to public safety.

WDFW calls on the help of private citizens who have skills and training in the capture and handling of wildlife species, including bobcats. Typically these individuals are referred to as "NWCs" (nuisance wildlife control operators) or simply "trappers." There are approximately 180 NWCs throughout the state. Although they must be licensed through WDFW, and conform to its regulations, they are not state employees. They operate as private enterprises and set their own fees.

Bobcat Cont.

To find a wildlife control operator, contact your [WDFW Regional Office](#) for names of companies or individuals that specialize in wildlife control work in your area. Some companies may also be listed under "Pest Control" in your local phone directory. Be aware of some pest control companies that advertise that they offer nuisance wildlife control work. Inquire whether or not the company has a nuisance wildlife control permit.

Legal Status

Washington: Bobcats are classified as game animals and an open season and a hunting license are required to hunt them ([WAC 232-12-007](#)). A property owner or the owner's immediate family, employee, or tenant may kill a bobcat on that property if it is damaging domestic animals ([RCW 77.36.030](#)). No permit is required.

The killing of a bobcat in self-defense, or defense of another, should be reasonable and justified. A person taking such action must have reasonable belief that the bobcat poses a threat of serious physical harm, that this harm is imminent, and the action is the only reasonable available means to prevent that harm.

The body of any bobcat, whether taken under the direct authority of [RCW 77.36.030](#), or for the protection of a person, remains the property of the state and must be turned over to the Department of Fish and Wildlife immediately.

See "[Lynx](#)" for legal status.



Figure 10. The late wildlife biologist Rocky Spencer with a tranquilized bobcat. Rocky studied black bear, cougar and bobcat movement in urban areas of King County. (*Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife*)

CONCERT AT THE CABANA

The Surfside Homeowners Association is pleased to announce that our own Judy Eron will be performing with her group 'Double J and The Boys' at the Twin Lakes Cabana on Saturday, August 21, at 2:00 p.m. What a great sound they create, as y'all know if you've heard them play their various gigs on the Peninsula this summer!

All are invited to attend; admission is free, but we will be collecting new or gently-used socks & sweatpants for Ocean Park Elementary School.

Plan to be there, and plan to bring a cushion or camp chair... seating is at a premium in the park

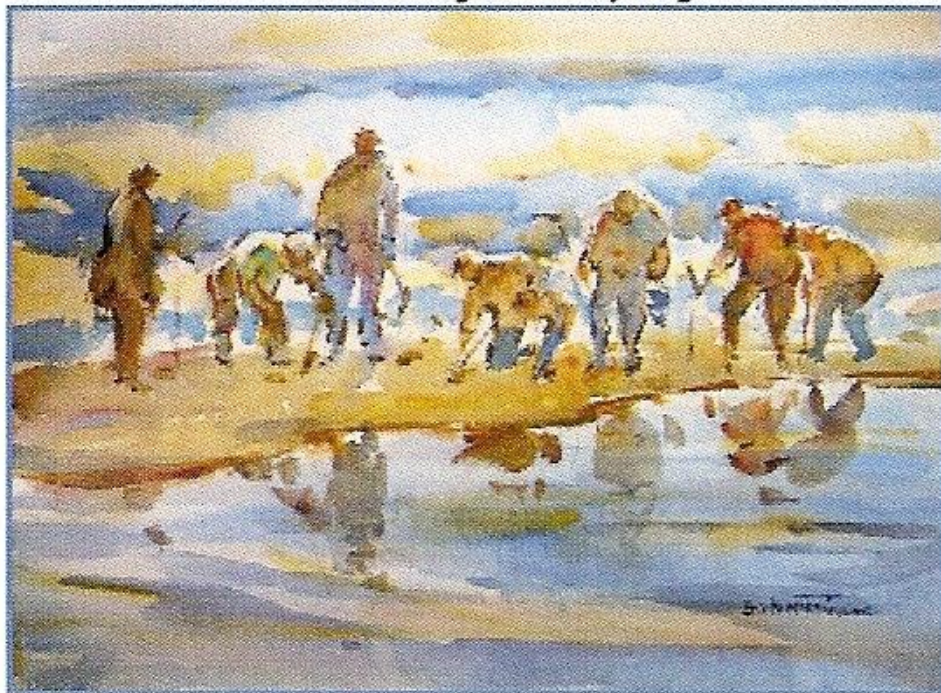


WIEGARDT STUDIO 25TH ANNIVERSARY



Celebrating
25 Years of Wiegardt Studio Gallery
August 21st, 12pm-6pm
Join us for an Oyster BBQ and other good eats.

In appreciation
10% off all of August on everything



"Clamdiggers" is just one of three beautiful new prints released along with their original paintings.

2607 Bay Avenue, Ocean Park, WA 98640 – 360-665-5976.

To see all of Eric's collection visit www.ericwiegardt.com;

Summer Hours: 11:00am to 4:00pm Monday through Friday
11:00am to 5:00pm on Saturday.

JULY 2010
SURFSIDE SHERIFF'S PATROL REPORT
DEPUTY P. JACOBSON

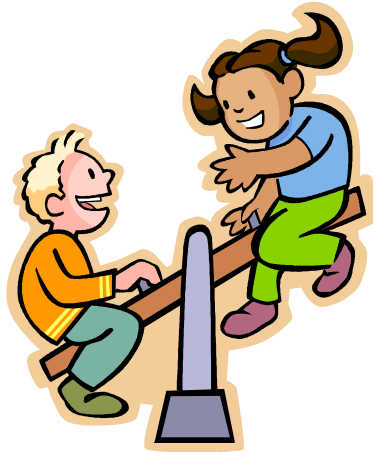
Surfside had a very busy month. July 4th and the associated issues, a suicide, vehicle prowls, a burglary to a storage unit, multiple illegal dumping, and bear complaints topped the list. I will remind citizen to please be vigilant in locking their vehicles at night. You will notice my traffic citations are down a bit resulting from an increase in other types of calls. As I type this I have already received my first speeding complaint of the month, and will make every attempt to address this on going issue. Also you will notice my agency assist calls are up a bit. I do leave Surfside, when asked, to back other deputies on calls where officer safety is a primary concern. This help is returned to me many times over by those same deputies covering our community when I am off, and backing me on the same types of calls. Following are the calls I handled for the month of July 2010.

Traffic Complaint	5
Traffic Warnings	7
Traffic Citations	6
Citizen Assist	10
Fire Works	6
Illegal Dumping	3
Agency Assist	8
Suspicious Circumstances	8
Malicious Mischief	1
New House Check	15
Vehicle Prowls	9 (7 for gas)
Felony Warrant Arrest	1
Alarm	2
Animal Complaint	1
Suicide	1
Burglary	1
Theft	2
Welfare Checks	2
Fraud	1

REQUEST FOR DONATIONS FOR STUDENTS AT OCEAN PARK ELEMENTARY

The Community Relations Committee is sponsoring an Outreach Program for the students at Ocean Park Elementary. We are asking Surfsiders to donate new or gently-used clean sweats, socks and/or underclothes for students to change into after playing outdoors on the wet playground. Anything in a size range of Kindergarten through 6th Grade will be welcomed! A bin will be available for your donations at the Surfside Office. You may also drop off your donations at the compactor site. Thank you for your generosity (the teachers & children thank you, too!).

Sheila W.



August 2010

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3 Architectural Meeting 9:00 A.M.	4	5 Lands and Buildings Meeting 1:00 P.M., Water and Field Services Meeting 2:00 P.M.	6	7
8	9	10 Architectural Meeting 9:00 A.M. Community Relation Comm. Meeting 1:00 P.M. Bunco 6:30 P.M.	11 RV Committee Meeting 9:00am Canceled	12	13	14
15	16	17 Architectural Meeting 9:00 A.M.	18	19	20	21 Board Meeting 9:00 A.M. Cabana Concert 2:00 P.M.,
22	23	24 Architectural Meeting 9:00 A.M.	25	26 Nancy Cheney 	27	28
29	30	31 Architectural Meeting 9:00 A.M.				