

# Resident recounts scary Sisters deer encounter

By Jim Cornelius  
Editor in Chief

Folks in Sisters delight in the sight of deer in town, crossing in a crosswalk or lounging on a green lawn. But those cute critters can be highly aggressive — especially a doe protecting a new fawn — and downright terrifying.

Ask Amy Abramson. Last Friday at about 10:45 a.m., the proprietor of Blue Burro Imports on Elm Street was walking with her dog before work in the woods where Pine Street and Forest Road 100 meet at the north end of town. She and her Corgi/Aussie mix Mango walk there maybe four or five times a week. On this day, they were confronted by a doe.

“A mama deer was in probably, I don’t know, about 10 feet of us,” Abramson recalled. “The mama deer squared off with Mango and pretty much just chased her in circles.”

The doe hit Mango at least three times, tumbling the small dog along the ground and trampling her. Amy lost sight of the dog in the sagebrush.

“All of a sudden, everything stopped and then the mama deer came after me,” she said.

For 15 minutes, the deer relentlessly came at Abramson, who became disoriented and couldn’t pinpoint where she’d parked her

car.

“I was throwing rocks and sticks — anything I could grab I was throwing at her, and yelling at her,” she recalled.

Amy caught sight of her car.

“I bee-lined it for my car and she chased me to my car,” she said.

For another 20 minutes, the deer stalked the area.

“I couldn’t go back into the woods to see if Mango was OK,” she said.

It turned out that Mango had taken off and headed to Amy’s shop. A neighboring businessperson called to tell her that Mango was at Blue Burro, and was, somehow, unharmed.

Once she knew that Mango wasn’t hurt or killed, Abramson was able to drive off and head to work.

Abramson couldn’t definitively explain the deer’s extremely aggressive behavior, but she believes there might have been a fawn bedded down in the area — though she did not see one.

She wanted to let people know about the experience, because many people walk in areas that deer frequent in Sisters. Female deer have sharp hooves that can do a lot of damage.

“I was terrified,” she said. “I was worried about my dog and I was worried about myself — I was worried about my safety and not getting hurt. She wouldn’t leave me alone.”

## HIKE: Close-in hike offers a lot to see along creek

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the stream is quite apparent on this segment of the trail. Many streamside rocks are beautifully sculpted by the rock-and-silt-laden high water flows that occur with regularity.

Multiple falls and rapids roar through narrowly carved cuts in the rock, or pass beneath log and debris jams that bear witness to the force and volume of more dramatic seasonal stream flows.

As the trail continues south, it passes ground zero of the 2010 Rooster Rock Fire, which is believed to have been human-caused. Arrowleaf balsamroot, penstemons, and other wildflowers can be seen; although wildflowers are not an abundant highlight of this hike.

The last stretch of trail

terminates at the stream crossing for the Metolius-Windigo Trail, near a couple of dispersed camping sites that can be reached by a quarter-mile trail from the end of Road 880. This access point also creates the possibility of a car drop for a shuttle return, if a three-mile hike is all you are looking for.

The trail offers dozens of great stopping places along the stream for lunch or contemplation. There are rock perches where long stretches of the creek can be seen tumbling down from the mountains. From a few spots, the mountains themselves are visible; and there are many, many views of falls, rapids, and pools.

The return hike is a different view of the same country, but there are new sights every step of the way for a total hike of about six miles. It’s great to have such a nice hike

so close to town. This trail is designated for foot traffic only: no horses or bikes. Another favorable attribute of this hike is that it is pretty close to being an all-season trail.

To reach the northern trailhead, turn south off Highway 20 (Cascade Avenue) onto Elm Street, which becomes Three Creek Lake Road (also Forest Road 16) and continue south for 4.2 miles to a small gravel parking lot on the right. The trailhead is just behind a locked gate.

To reach the southern trailhead for a car shuttle and a three-mile hike, stay on Road 16 for a total of 7.3 miles and turn right at the Whychus Creek sign onto Road 1514 (good gravel), then 1.8 miles and right onto Road 880 (dirt) for two miles. There is a significant segment of burned-over forest along the 880 road.

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