

Cougar spotted again

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of a violent unknown predator, possibly a cougar.

"Our manager informed us and I thought the public should be aware," resident Jennifer Paluch said last week.

"A couple of the tenants were out this weekend and actually witnessed a cougar grab a cat," added Paluch, a mother of a 2-year-old and owner of two large dogs.

Paluch was told the animal had been spotted and "snagged a few pets from the complex," she said.

Creekside Village Apartments manager Joelle Breazier said she reported the incidents to Fish and Wildlife and state police.

"We've had several animals go missing in the last several months," Breazier said.

Costa Kenenounis, who lives at an end unit bordering the woods, said other pet owners had come by recently searching for missing pets.

He was called Monday by a neighbor sitting outside who witnessed a fight between her cat and a large animal.

"She thought it was a bobcat, but described it as a light-tan, knee-high cat attacking a neighbor cat and dragging it off in the woods," Kenenounis said.

Kenenounis joined the search. "I was kind of skeptical, but I found where it happened," he said.

He found signs of an animal struggle and remnants of the cat's fur, he said. As a hunter, he recognized what he described as cougar tracks, "like a big dog print, but a cat print."

Naturalist Neal Maine said the reports were "credible," but coyotes were more likely to snatch house cats than cougars.

An estimated 6,493 cougars lived in Oregon in 2015, a healthy population, according to the state. This summer, people reported multiple cougar sightings near downtown Tigard, a city of more than 48,000 outside of Portland. The Daily Astorian reported last week.

2007 sightings prompted cougar alert

Sightings from Page 1A

Cougars are part of our natural environment, Roley added. "We respond to their presence as is appropriate whether it is a cougar or a herd of elk roaming the high school track."

In 2007, cougar sightings in the same area prompted warnings from officials and consultation with Fish and Wildlife. Representatives of the department came to Seaside Heights Elementary School to meet with officials after reports of cougars in the area. "Seaside neighborhood put on cougar alert," a headline read at the time.

A Seaside resident said she had been awakened by her two dogs and come upon a cougar outside her window eating breadcrumbs.

After families were notified in the school letter, precautions were taken to bring activities inside, a response similar to one taken last week in Seaside after neighbors feared a cougar had snatched missing pets.

In May 2012, Warrenton Police and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife received reports from citizens of sightings of a cougar near the 300 block of First Street.

Warrenton Police Chief Mathew Workman said at the time there had been "three or four" sightings in the downtown area.

An Oregon State Police sergeant in Astoria said at the time cougars had been seen at times near Fort Stevens, but sightings in town were rare.

Maine recommended a network of trail cameras to monitor wildlife.

"Even at night, they do a great job," he said. "With infrared, it's enough to ID stuff, so if people see things, it provides a slick way to test the theory."

Bear sighting

The owner of a Maltese dog, Kenenounis said he used to let his dog walk ahead of him off leash.

"Now I don't do it," he said. "There's no way I could keep up with any animal



'SEASIDE NEIGHBORHOOD PUT ON COUGAR ALERT'

Seaside Signal headline from 2007

Clatsop County Sheriff Tom Bergin said at the time one of his staff spotted a cougar in her backyard.

Department of Fish and Wildlife biologist Herman Biederbeck confirmed the reports of sightings, suggesting the cougar could have been a female with a cub.

Three months later, police received reports of what appeared to be a cougar at Sixth Street and Irving Avenue in Astoria.

Police were unable to verify the sighting.

Victoria Hayteas, who lives at Juniper Ridge in Warrenton, said Friday neighbors have seen cougars. The animals have been spotted "drinking from the pond behind the Main Street Market," she said.

"I know there are cougars here," Hayteas said. "I wonder — do cougars whistle? What I've been woken up to is a whistle. ... I know it's not a bird. Do these crazy things whistle?"

that would snatch him and run."

Paluch is "a little frightful" that there might be a cougar nearby, she said.

This week, Paluch reported a new incident occurred at the Creekside Village Apartments, in which a cat was snatched by a cougar.

On Tuesday, Oct. 31, Seaside police received a report of a bear sighting in the same area, near Cooper Drive and Alder Drive.

While the bear was not witnessed by police, officers told residents they would increase patrols.

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