



Redwood



National and State Parks

Lion and Bear Country

Mountain lions are large, seldom seen inhabitants of these parks. Like any wild animal, they can be dangerous. No attacks on humans have occurred within the parks, but mountain lion sightings have increased over recent years. If you should be among the few people to see a lion, the following suggestions can help ensure a safe experience:

Prevent an encounter:

- Hike in groups.
- Keep children in sight; do not let them run ahead of you on the trail.
- Keep a clean camp.
- Be alert to your surroundings.
- Make noise while hiking.

If you meet a mountain lion:

- Do not run!
- Do not crouch or bend over.
- Remain calm, give the animal a chance to leave the area.
- Be aware of the animal's location and slowly back away.
- Stay together and pick up children immediately.
- If the animal approaches, yell loudly, wave arms, and throw objects.
- If the animal attacks, fight back aggressively.

Bears, like all park animals, are wild. Inviting them into your picnic or camp—on purpose or accidentally—can result in damage to your equipment, you, or the bear. Bears are memory retentive and quickly grow accustomed to human foods. Wildlife managers may have to destroy bears that repeatedly visit areas where they encounter people. Please follow these precautions to save a bear:

- Keep a clean camp. A bear uses its nose to read your menu. Food odors will invite a bear to pay you a surprise visit.
- Store food in airtight containers or wrap it carefully. Use bear-proof lockers; when they are not available, lock food in the trunk of your vehicle—out of sight.
- Dispose of all garbage in bear-proof trash cans or pack it out.

Report all bear and lion sightings to a ranger immediately. Call (707) 464-6101 or stop by any park visitor center. A description of the animal, the location, date, time of day, behavior, and duration of sighting helps park managers protect visitors and wildlife.



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Feed a Jay, Kill a Murrelet

Marbled Murrelets: The resident population of marbled murrelets lives mainly at sea, yet travels inland to nest. Like small torpedoes, the nesting pair flies 60 miles per hour into the ancient coast redwood forest to find a large moss-covered branch. The moss provides a ready-made nest and the immense limb keeps all ages of murrelets from falling out of the tree at the slightest breeze. One robin-size adult flies to the ocean at dawn and dusk for food, actually flying through the watery depths in search of smelt and anchovies.

Corvids: You can hear the yackety-yak of the American crow, Steller's jay, or common raven as they fly overhead. Opportunists, they are always looking for an easy meal. e.g. trash, scraps, livestock feed, and bird feeder food. Corvid memory is even better than a bear's. Once one of these birds has received a food reward, it will return many times, circling the site over and over.

What's the connection? While the jay, raven, or crow is repeatedly flying over a previous food site, the bird may spy a murrelet nest, high in the redwood forest canopy. The adult murrelets are camouflaged, resembling a redwood branch, but any movement of them or their babies and the corvid will zero in, making a meal of chicks and eggs.

We need your help! Corvid numbers are on the rise while the marbled murrelets are on the decline. Most of the murrelet population in California nests within Redwood National and State Parks. Federally-listed as threatened, the murrelets need your help now! Please follow these guidelines while backpacking, camping, and picnicking.

Help prevent the death of murrelet chicks and eggs:

- Keep a clean camp.
- Carry plastic bags for trash.
- Pack out unburnable trash.
- Do not throw garbage into pit toilets or cat holes.
- Leave no food residue in the fire pit.
- Strain food particles from waste water
- Scatter waste water.
- Don't share your lunch with any birds!

Corvids are just as important to the park's ecosystem as murrelets and predation by corvids is a natural process. However, feeding patterns that change because humans alter the environment are not natural. Thanks for your help.