



Mountain Lion (Felis Concolor)

SIZE: Weight 75—200 lbs. Females average 100 lbs., males 150 lbs. Length ranges from 6 ½ feet for females up to 8 feet for males (not including tail.) Tail length ranges from 21-36 inches.

DESCRIPTION: Body is tawny or golden brown with dark stripes around muzzle. Back of ears and tip of tail are blackish brown. Belly is a buff color. Chest and throat are white. Kittens are spotted with dark rings on tail that vanish by six months of age. Long, thick tail that provides balance during leaps and climbs.

LOCOMOTION: Good climbers and excellent jumpers. Can leap 12 feet in the air and jump safely from a height of 60 feet. Can outrun a deer, but only for short distances. Swims only when necessary.

HABITS: Generally found in mountainous areas, but can range from open woodlands to dense forests. Solitary animal, that pairs only for 2 weeks during breeding season. Uses "scrapes" to mark territory, which consist of mounds of dirt, leaves, and other debris piled into a heap and soaked with urine and/or scat.

DIET: Varies according to season, availability, appetite and hunting skill. Feeds primarily on large mammals such as deer, but also eats rabbits, rodents, porcupines, beavers, peccaries and birds.

RANGE: Formerly present in almost all parts of the United States. Now confined to mountains of the West, parts of Texas, Louisiana, Alabama and Florida.

FAMILY LIFE: Males are polygamous, mating with more than one female. There is no fixed mating season, although births occur most often in midsummer. 1 to 6 kittens are born after a gestation period of about 96 days. A newborn kitten weighs less than a pound at birth and is buff colored with black spots. The male does not participate in raising the young. At 6-8 weeks of age, the kittens may go on their first kill as observers. The young stay with the mother until they are 1-2 years old.

NESTING: Protected niches on rocky cliffs, caves, thickets, and under fallen logs.

DID YOU KNOW THAT...?

- Mountain lion, cougar, puma, panther and catamount are all different names for the same animal.
- After a kill, what the mountain lion does not eat right away, it will partially bury with sticks, dirt or snow so it may return to feed for several days.
- Mountain lions usually begin feeding by opening the abdominal cavity of the prey and eating the organs first, the liver, heart and lungs. In contrast, a wolf or coyote normally begins by entering under the carcass' tail. This may help to distinguish a mountain lion kill from that of a coyote or wolf
- Legal hunting is the number one cause of mountain lion deaths.
- The life expectancy of a mountain lion in the wild is 11 + years.

Track

Front Foot is larger and more asymmetrical than the Rear Foot.

Length 3 inches,
width 3 1/2 inches.

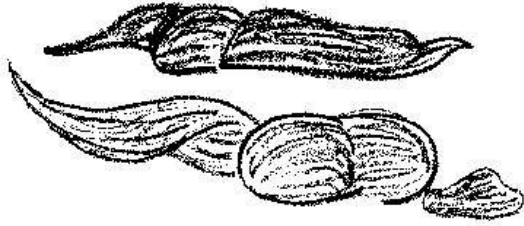
Tracks rarely show claws.



Front



Rear



Scat

Scat tends to be segmented



Range

Most of Arizona, south of the Colorado River on the north and east of Mohave and Yuma counties.