



Cougar Wildlife Observation Database Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. What is the Wildlife Observation Database?

The Clayoquot Biosphere Trust has initiated the Wildlife Observation Database. The Wildlife Observation Database is part of a web-based mapping system designed to collect wildlife sightings in the Clayoquot Biosphere Region from local people.

The purpose of the wildlife observation database is to create a long-term information base of wildlife sightings throughout the region by engaging local people to contribute sighting information. This information base will enhance our understanding of the distribution of wildlife in the region. It is hoped that this information can support mitigating human-wildlife interactions, planning and other research.

The initial focus of the Wildlife Observation Database is on cougars. Cougars have been selected to support graduate research for a masters student from the University of Victoria, who is conducting research as part of the *WildCoast Project, exploring the links between predators, prey and people*, a collaborative initiative between the Pacific Rim National Park Reserve and the Clayoquot Biosphere Trust. Future plans are to expand the list of species.

Anyone wishing more information regarding the Wildlife Sightings Database can contact Rebecca Vines, CBT Research Coordinator at 250.726.2086 or by email at rebecca.vines@clayoquotbiosphere.org.

2. Who is managing this database?

The Clayoquot Biosphere Trust is managing the Wildlife Observation Database. The mission of the CBT is to support and promote research, education and training around sustainability. The Clayoquot Biosphere Trust is working collaboratively with the Pacific Rim National Park Reserve.

The Wildlife Observation Database has been developed as part of the West Coast Vancouver Island (WCVI) Information System. The WCVI Information System is a collaborative project of the Clayoquot Biosphere Trust, the West Coast Vancouver



Island Aquatic Management Board and Uu-a-thluk (formerly the Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council Fisheries Department). The database can be accessed via the web atlas, which is hosted by the BC Community Mapping Network.

3. How does this wildlife sightings database relate to the one kept by the Pacific Rim National Park Reserve?

The Pacific Rim National Park Reserve is involved in the cougar wildlife sightings database, and data will be shared with them.

4. What will be done with the data I enter in the database?

The purpose of the Wildlife Sightings Database is to collect long term sighting information of wildlife throughout the Clayoquot Biosphere Region. The data you and others enter will be managed over the long-term and used to assist with monitoring the distribution and abundance of wildlife in the region.

5. Can other people see my data and can I see other peoples' data?

Each time you enter data into the wildlife observation database you must login with your individual login and password. You will be able to view your data but not others. And conversely, others are not able to view your data. The individual sightings you entered will not be shown publicly, although they may be given to a researcher and/or PRNPR staff. Your personal information will not be given away.

Periodically, the CBT will analyze and provide a report or map of the sightings in a generalized way.

6. Will my personal information remain confidential?

Yes. Your personal information allows us to keep track of who is using the database and contributing sightings. Your personal information will not be given out to anyone unless you grant permission.

7. Where can I get help?

Instructions on how to enter cougar wildlife sightings are available on-line, once you login into your account. Click on the 'Questions?' link.

If you have questions about cougar sightings, contact sightings@clayoquotbiosphere.org.

If you have technical questions or problems, or questions about the WCVI Information System in general, email infosys@westcoastaquatic.ca.

