

Methow Mammal Tracks

Methow Naturalist/ POB 175 Winthrop WA 98862/ dana@methownet.com/ See bottom of pg 4 for explanatory notes, credits & references (version 11.17.11)

Species/Wt Track Type	Print Size: LxW Front/Hind	Straddle & Stride	Notes	Prints		Stride Pattern
				Front	Hind	
Deer Mouse <i>Peromyscus maniculatus</i> 1.25oz (all wts are maximum) Bounding (108)	F: 8 x 8 mm (.3 x .3 in) H: 15 x 10 mm (.6 x .4 in)	35-45 mm (1.4-1.8 in) 5-20 cm (2-8 in)	4 toes show in front, 5 toes back; hind foot lands in front of fore print. Will leave a tail track in snow. The most widespread & abundant mammal in WA.			
Meadow Vole <i>Microtus pennsylvanicus</i> 2.25 oz Bounding (106)	F: 13 x 13 mm (.5 x .5 in) H: 15 x 18 mm (.6 x .7 in)	33-50 mm (1.3-2 in) 50-150 cm 2-6 in	4 toes in front, 5 in back; inhabits grass-land. Difficult to separate from montane vole except by examining molars. Makes runways through grass, chews bark of shrubs in winter.			
Yellowpine Chipmunk <i>Tamias amoenus</i> 2.5 oz Bounding (104)	F: 20-25 x 10-20 mm (.8-1 x .4-.8 in) H: 18-33 x 13-23 mm (.7-1.3 x .5-.9 in)	50-80 mm (2-3.2 in) 10-40 cm (4-16 in)	4 toes in front, 5 toes in back; hind feet often register ahead of front feet. Will climb trees. Occupies many habitats. hibernates in winter but awakens periodically to eat.			
Northern Flying Squirrel <i>Glaucomys sabrinus</i> 6.5 oz. Bounding (100)	F: 13-20 x 13 mm (.5-.8 x .5 in) H: 33-46 x 20 mm (1.3-1.8 x .8 in)	75-100 mm (3-3.8 in) 25-75 cm 10-29 in)	4 toes in front, 5 toes back; hind foot lands in front of fore print. Feet are heavily furred and leave indistinct prints; animal is rarely on the ground.			
Northern Pocket Gopher <i>Thomomys talpoides</i> 7.5 oz. Walking (98)	F: 24 x 12 mm (1-.5 in) H: 18 x 10 mm (.8 x .4 in)	40-50 mm (1.5-2 in) 3-5 cm (1.2-2 in)	5 toes in front and 5 in back; claws much longer on front feet than on back. Dirt "tunnels" on ground in spring are actually solid inside; they are the result of dirt pushed into snow tunnels in late winter.			
Red Squirrel <i>Tamiasciurus hudsonicus</i> 9 oz. Bounding (102)	F: 20-38 x 13-25 mm (.8-1.5 x .5-1 in) H: 38-58 x 20-33 mm (1.5-2.3 x 3.8-5.8 in)	75-110 mm (3-4 in) 20-100 cm (8-40 in)	4 toes in front, 5 in back, with the hind feet registering ahead of front. Cones are shredded repeatedly in one spot for years, accumulating into a humus-rich mound or midden.			
Golden-mantled G. Squirrel <i>Spermophilus saturatus</i> 10 oz. Bounding (92)	F: 25-33 x 13-25 mm (1-1.3 x .5-1 in) H: 28-38 x 20-33 mm (1.1-1.5 x .8-1.3 in)	5.8-10 cm (2.3-4 in) 18-50 cm (7-20 in)	4 toes front, 5 in back. Generally in rocky areas at mid-elevations. Hibernates in winter.			
Bushy-tailed Woodrat <i>Neotoma cinerea</i> 20 oz. Bounding (94)	F: 15-20 x 10-13 mm (.6-.8 x .4-.5 in) H: 25-38 x 15-20 mm (1-1.5 x .6-.8 in)	58-70 mm (2.3-2.7 in) 13-20 cm (5-8 in)	4 toes in front, 5 in back. Black, tar-like accumulations of excrement mark territory, also stain rocks white with urine, the stain often horizontal across rock rather than vertical (the latter typical of birds).			
Muskrat <i>Ondatra zibethicus</i> 4 lbs. Walking (86)	F: 28-38 x 28-38 mm (1.1-1.5 x 1.1-1.5 in) H: 41-81 x 15-21 mm (1.6-3.2 x 1.5-2.1 in)	76-130 mm (3-5 in) 76-130 mm (3-5 in)	5 toes in front but inner rarely register, 5 toes in back. Make small stick lodges in water, beds of vegetation and burrows in banks.			
Yellow-bellied Marmot <i>Marmota flaviventris</i> 10 lbs. Bounding (90)	F: 38-64 x 25-38 mm (1.5-2.5 x 1-1.5 in) H: 38-64 x 25-38 mm (1.5-2.5 x 1-1.5 in)	76-130 mm (3-5 in) 100-300 cm (40-120 in)	4 toes front, 5 toes back; in walking gait hind foot often registers in front (true of many mammals). Typically hibernates from mid-August to March 1.			

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Porcupine <i>Erethizon dorsatum</i> 28 lbs. Walking (82)	F: 58-84 x 33-48 mm (2.3-3.3 x 1.3-2 in) H: 70-100 x 38-50 mm (2.8-4 x 1.5-2 in)	14-23 cm (5.5-9 in) 13-25 cm (5-10 in)	4 toes show in front, 5 toes in back; commonly leaves whiskbroom-like tail marks. Mostly nocturnal; does not hibernate; dens in caves, under overhanging rocks, in hollow trees.		
Beaver <i>Castor canadensis</i> 75 lbs. Walking (84)	F: 6.4-10 x 5.1-9 cm (2.5-4 x 2-3.5 in) H: 13-18 x 8.4-13 cm (5-7 x 3.3-5.3 in)	15-28 cm (6-11 in) 7.6-17 cm (3-6.5 in)	5 toes in front, 5 toes in back; tracks are often obscured by its thick, heavy tail or branches it is dragging.		
Pika <i>Ochotona princeps</i> 6 oz. Bounding (80)	F: 20 x 15 mm (.8 x .6 in) H: 25-30 x 15-20 mm (1-1.2 x 2.5-3.5 in)	64-90 mm (2.5-3.5 in) 10-25 cm (6.5-8.5 in)	5 toes in front, 4 in back; tracks are easiest to find in the snow; the piles of plants cut to dry for winter are easier to find.		
Snowshoe Hare <i>Lepus americanus</i> 4 lbs. Bounding (76)	F: 50-75 x 38-50 mm (2-3 x 1.5-2 in) H: 10-15 x 5-9 cm (4-6 x 2-3.5 in)	15-20 cm (6-8 in) 25-128 cm 10 in-4.2 ft)	4 toes in front, 4 toes in back; feet are very hairy and obscure toes and pads.		
Bighorn Sheep <i>Ovis canadensis</i> 275 lbs Walking (22)	F: 64-90 x 46-64 mm (2.5-3.5 x 1.8-2.5 in) H: 64-90 x 46-64 mm (2.5-3.5 x 1.8-2.5 in)	15-30 cm (6-12 in) 36-61 cm (14-24 in)	Walking tracks are double register of rear tracks in or hitting front; toes are parallel (not spreading as in the mountain goat)..		
Mountain Goat <i>Oreamnos americanus</i> 300 lbs. Walking (20)	F: 64-89 x 51-84 mm (2.5-3.5 x 2-3.3 in) H: 64-89 x 51-84 mm (2.5-3.5 x 2-3.3 in)	17-30 cm (6.5-12 in) 25-48 cm (10-19 in)	Walking gait is double register, hind over front; toes are widely spreading; generally alpine in summer.		
Whitetail Deer <i>Odocoileus virginianus</i> 350 lbs Walking (26)	F: 51-89 x 41-64 mm (2-3.5 x 1.6-2.5 in) H: 51-89 x 41-64 mm (2-3.5 x 1.6-2.5 in)	13-25 cm (5-10 in) 25-51 cm (10-20 in)	Double register when walking, hind print landing on the front print; very similar to mule deer; when running all 4 prints are in a narrow line (does not stot).		
Mule Deer <i>Odocoileus hemionus</i> 450 lbs Walking (24)	F: 51-84 x 41-64 mm (2-3.3 x 1.6-2.5 in) H: 51-84 x 41-64 mm (2-3.3 x 1.6-2.5 in)	13-25 cm (5-10 in) 25-61 cm (10-24 in)	Double register when walking, hind print landing on the front print; "stots" when running, jumping high and landing evenly on all 4 feet at once, with toes spreading.		
Elk <i>Cervus elaphus</i> 1000 lbs Walking (28)	F: 81-130 x 64-110 mm (3.2-5 x 2.5-4.5 in) H: 81-130 x 64-110 mm (3.2-5 x 2.5-4.5 in)	18-30 cm (7-12 in) 41-86 cm (16-34 in)	Double register when walking, hind print landing on or near front; track similar to deer but larger.		
Moose <i>Alces alces</i> 1200 lbs Walking	F: 12-17 x 10-16 cm (4.7-6.7 x 4-6.5 in) H: 12-17 x 10-16 cm (4.7-6.7 x 4-6.5 in)	21-38 cm (8.5-16 in) 51-127 cm (20-50 in)	Often double register; similar to elk tracks but prints are larger and more pointed.		

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Short-tailed Weasel <i>Mustela ermina</i> 6 oz Bounding (60)	F: 2-3.3 x 1.3-1.5 cm (.8-1.3 x .5-.6 in) H: same	2.5-5.3 cm (1-2.1 in) 23-89 cm (9-35 in)	5 toes front and back; hairy feet; trail often erratic. Habitat typically forest and streamside, also alpine tundra. Creamy white below.		
Long-tailed Weasel <i>Mustela frenata</i> 14 oz Bounding (62)	F: 2.8-4.6 x 2-2.5 cm (1.1-1.8 x .8-1) H: same	4.6-7 cm (1.8-2.8 in) 24-109 cm (9.5-43 in)	5 toes front and back; hairy feet; trail often erratic. Habitat typically open country, ag fields, meadows, also alpine tundra. Buffy to orange below.		
American Marten <i>Martes americana</i> 3 lbs Bounding (58)	F: 4.6-6.4 x 3.8-7.1 cm (1.8-2.5 x 1.5-2.8 in) H: same	6.4-10 cm (2.5-4 in) 23-117 cm (9-46 in)	5 toes front and back; often only shows 4 toes. Hair can obscure details. Habitat is montane coniferous forests. Frequently climbs trees.		
American Mink <i>Mustela vison</i> 3 lbs Bounding	F: 2.9-4.5 x 2.2-4.4 cm (1.2-2 x .8-1.7 in) H: same	50-85 cm (2-3.3 in) 30-66 cm (12-26 in)	5 toes front and back; typically found in wetlands, is a good swimmer; will dive down into the snow.		
Fisher <i>Martes pennanti</i> 12 lbs Bounding (56)	F: 5.3-10 x 2-3.3 cm (2-4 x 2-3.3 in) H: 5-7.6 x 5-7.6 cm (2-3 x 2-3 in)	7.6-18 cm (3-7 in) 30-128 cm (1-4.2 ft)	5 toes front and back; inner toe frequently doesn't register. A denizen of conifer and hardwood forests. Extirpated from WA except reintroduced in the Olympics in 2008.		
Striped Skunk <i>Mephitis mephitis</i> 14 lbs Walking (68)	F: 3.8-5.6 x 2.5-3.8 cm (1.5-2.2 x 1-1.5 in) H: 3.8-6.4 x 2.5-3.8 cm (1.5-2.5 x 1-1.5 in)	7-11 cm (2.8-4.5 in) 6.4-20 cm (2.5-8 in)	5 toes front and back; long claws on front feet often register. Habitat is streamside woodlands and our open bunchgrass hills.		
American Badger <i>Taxidea taxus</i> 25 lbs Walking (66)	F: 6.4-7.6 x 5.8-7.1 cm (2.5-3 x 2.3-2.8 in) H: same	10-18 cm (4-7 in) 15-30 cm (6-12 in)	5 toes front and back, often with claws showing. Habitat is open grasslands and open alpine slopes. May be about in winter. Rare but increasing in the Methow.		
Northern River Otter <i>Lutra canadensis</i> 25 lbs Walking (54)	F: 6.4-9 x 5-7.6 cm (2.5-3.5 x 2.3-3.3 in) H: 7.6-10 x 5.8-8.4 cm (3-4 x 2.3-3.3 in)	10-23 cm (4-9 in) 15-58 cm (6-23 in)	5 toes front and back. Hind feet are webbed, which shows in mud. This species is mostly aquatic in rivers and ponds.		
Wolverine <i>Gulo gulo</i> 47 lbs Running (64)	F: 10-19 x 10-13 cm (4-7.5 x 4-5 in) H: 9-10 x 10-13 cm (3.5-4 x 4-5 in)	18-23 cm (7-9 in) 25-102 cm (10-40 in)	5 toes front and back; claws typically show but inner toe may not register. Rare in the Methow, only encountered in the high mountains.		
Raccoon <i>Procyon lotor</i> 35 lbs Walking/Running (52)	F: 5-7.6 x 4.6-6.4 cm (2-3 x 1.8-2.5 in) H: 6-9.7 x 5-6.4 cm (2-3 x 2-2.5 in)	8.4-15 cm (3.3-6 in) 18-51 cm (7-20 in)	5 toes front and back, the prints looking almost human. Claw marks appear as small dots. Found near lakes and streams, and near human habitation.		

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Lynx <i>Lynx canadensis</i> 30 lbs. Walking (46)	F: 9-11 x 9-12 cm (3.5-4.5 x 3.5-4.8 in) H: slightly smaller	15-23 cm (6-9 in) 30-71 cm (12-28 in)	4 toes show front and hind (5th toe is reduced and raised on cats), with thick fur on the foot usually obscuring any details. A denizen of high coniferous forests.		
Bobcat <i>Lynx rufus</i> 35 lbs. Walking (44)	4.6-6.4 x 4.6-6.6 cm (1.8-2.5 x 1.8-2.6 in) H: slightly smaller	10-18 cm (4-7 in) 20-41 cm (8-16 in)	4 toes show front and hind, without the thick hair on the foot that lynx have. Inhabits low mountains and brushland; fond of willow stands.		
Cougar <i>Felis concolor</i> 200 lbs Walking (48)	F: 7.6-11 x 8.4-12 cm (3-4.3 x 3.3-4.8 in) H: slightly smaller	20-30 cm (2-12 in) To 3.7 m (to 12 ft)	4 toes show front and hind, claws rarely register on cats. Thick fur on foot in winter may obscure details. Scratches on trees up to 4.5" could be cougar, wider would be black bear.		
Red Fox <i>Vulpes vulpes</i> 15 lbs Walking (42)	F: 5.3-7.6 x 4.1-5.8 cm (2.1-3 x 1.6-2.3 in) H: slightly smaller	5-9 cm (2-3.5 in) 30-46 cm (12-18 in)	4 toes show front and hind (5th toe on front foot is reduced and raised on canids, and absent on hind foot); hair obscures details. Rare but increasing in the Methow in varied habitats.		
Coyote <i>Canis latrans</i> 50 lbs Walking (38)	F: 6-8 x 4-6.1 cm (2.4-3.1 x 1.6-2.4 in) H: slightly smaller	10-18 cm (4-7 in) 20-41 cm 8-16 in)	4 toes show front and hind; often runs with tail between legs (unlike a wolf). Note that in canids an X can be drawn between toes that will not hit lower metacarpal pad; this is not so with cats.		
Wolf <i>Canis lupus</i> 120 lbs Walking (36)	F: 10-14 x 6.4-13 cm (4-5.5 x 2.5-5 in) H: slightly smaller	7.6-18 cm (3-7 in) 38-81 cm (15-32 in)	4 toes show front and hind; runs with tail outstretched behind. 4 claws typically show in track; for coyotes only the 2 middle claws typically show. Wolves are rare/absent in the Methow.		
Dog <i>Canis lupus familiaris</i> 150 lbs Walking	Highly variable Similar to the 3 canids listed above	Variable	Can be difficult to distinguish from coyotes. Coyotes tend to show just The 2 center claws, and toes are narrow; dogs often show all 4 claws and toes are often splayed.		
Black Bear <i>Ursus americanus</i> 600 lbs Walking (32)	F: 10-16 x 9.7-14 cm (4-6.3 x 3.8-5.5 in) H: 15-18 x 3.5-5.5 cm (6-7 x 3.5-5.5 in)	23-37 cm (9-14.5 in) 43-58 cm (17-23 in)	5 toes front and hind. The print is close to the size of a humans, but wider and with claws. Will readily climb trees. Often leaves claw marks on aspens, 3.75-5.5" wide, mark often curved.		
Grizzly Bear <i>Ursus arctos</i> 850 lbs Walking (34)	F: 13-18 x 10-15 cm (5-7 x 4-6 in) H: 23-30 x 13-18 cm (9-12 x 5-7 in)	25-51 cm (10-20 in) 61-104 cm (24-41 in)	5 toes front and hind; adult print much larger than human's or black bear. Length of claws is not a reliable differentiation from black bears. Grizzlies are currently absent from the Methow.		

Stride measurements are from the center of the lead print forward to the center of trailing print in the next set; see arrow showing this in the first stride pattern on page 1, for a deer mouse. The type of gait depicted as 'Stride Pattern' is listed under the specie's name, e.g. "walking," "bounding," etc. The number in parentheses following stride type (in the species column) is the page number for the species in *Animal Tracks of Washington and Oregon*, by Ian Sheldon, a Lone Pine publication (\$8). The track drawings used in this worksheet are from that small field book. Also recommended is *Mammal Tracks & Sign: A Guide to North American Species* by Mark Elbroch (a tome, \$45). The old standard in the art of tracking, *A Field Guide to Animal Tracks* by Olaus Murie (1954) is still available and contains valuable insights and information.