

MAMMALS, TRACKS and SIGNS



by Bill Deters

What is a Mammal?

- Four legged, fur-bearing animals that suckle their young
- Warm-blooded; highly developed nervous systems
- Generally acute senses of smell, hearing, vision and touch

148 Mammal species identified in Washington State, about 75 in our mountains

- **Widespread** (Mule Deer, Black Bear, Coyote, Mountain Lion)
- **North** (Wolverine, Fisher, Lemming)
- **South** (Western Gray Squirrel, Western Jumping Mouse)
- **East** (yellow-bellied Marmot, Least Chipmunk, Badger)
- **West** (Mountain Beaver, Hoary Marmot, Townsend's Chipmunk)

Eight Orders:

- **Opossums** (DIDELPHIMORPHIA or MARSUPIALIA)
- **Shrews and Moles** (*SORICOMORPHA*)
- **Bats** (*CHIROPTERA*)
- **Porpoises, Dolphins, and Whales** (*CETACEA*)
- **Carnivores** (CARNIVORA)
- **Split-hooved mammals** (ARTIODACTYLA)
- **Rodents** (RODENTIA)
- **Hares, Rabbits, and Pikas** (LAGOMORPHA)

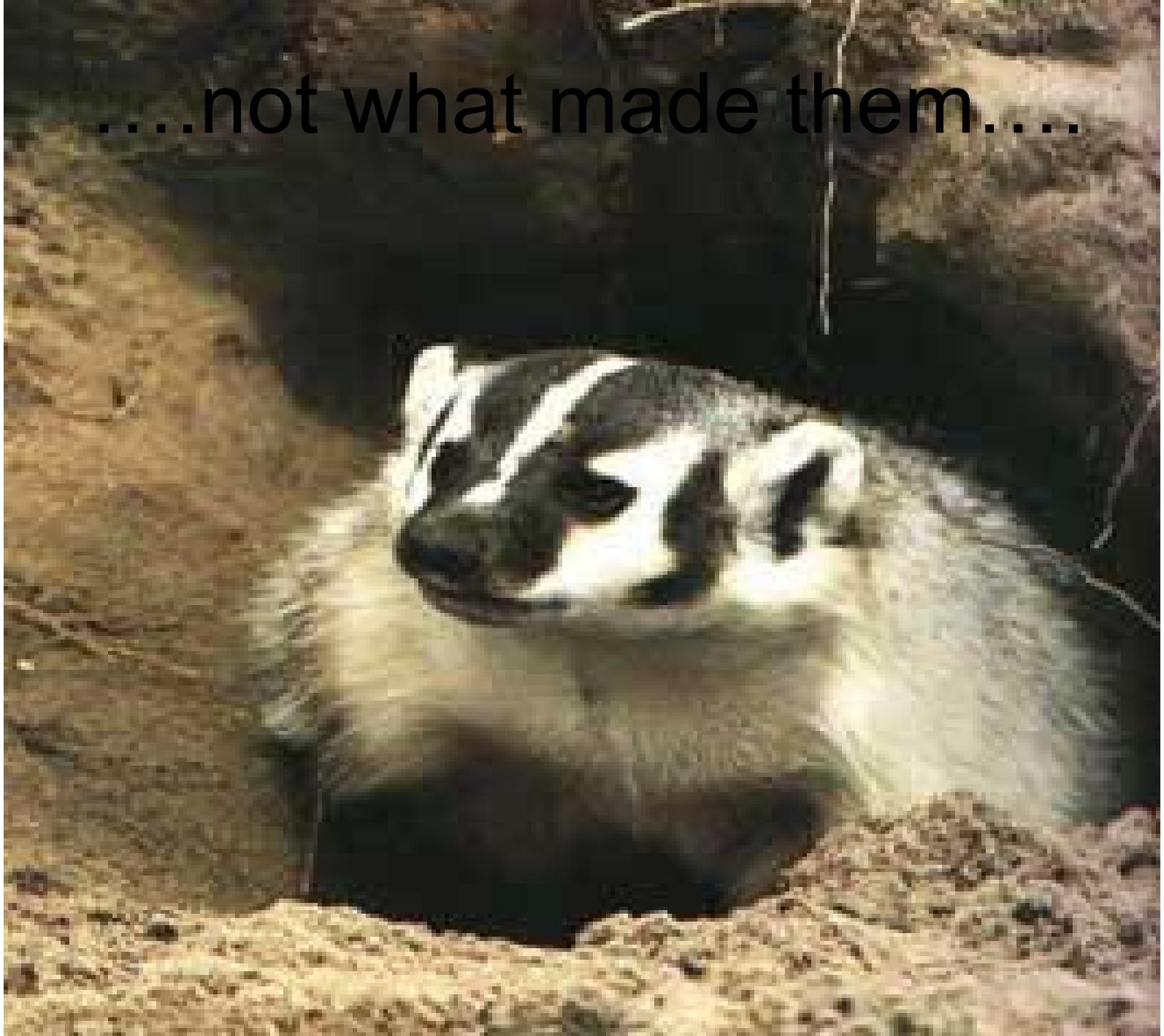




Often you only see signs or tracks...

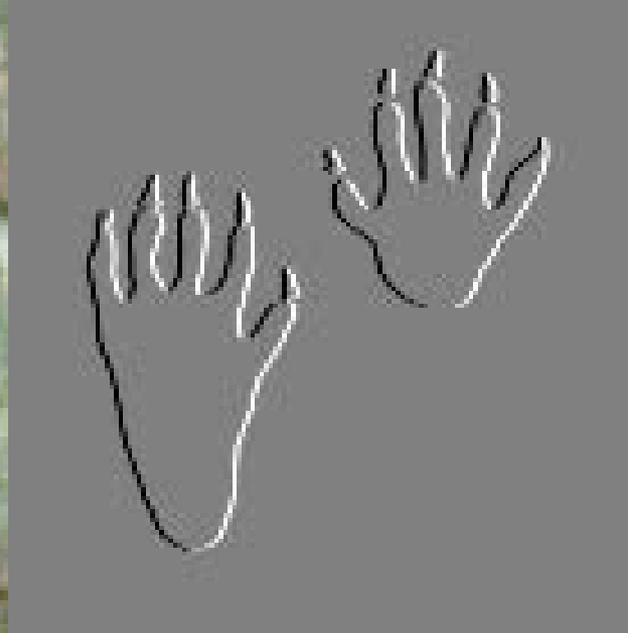


....not what made them....









Canines (Coyote, Fox, Wolf)







Felines (Bobcat, Cougar, Lynx)





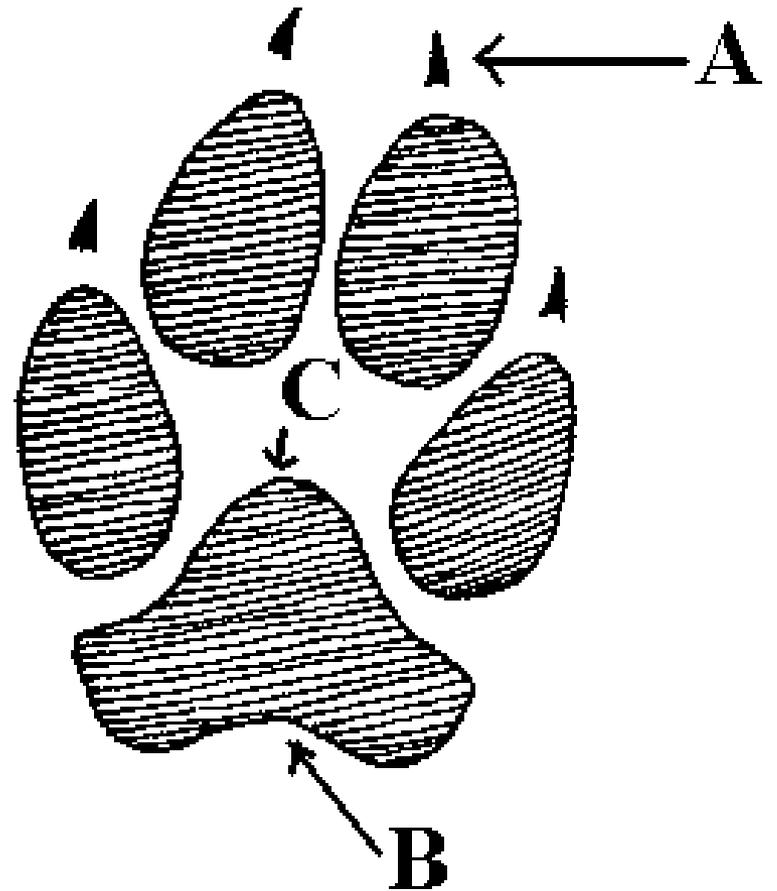
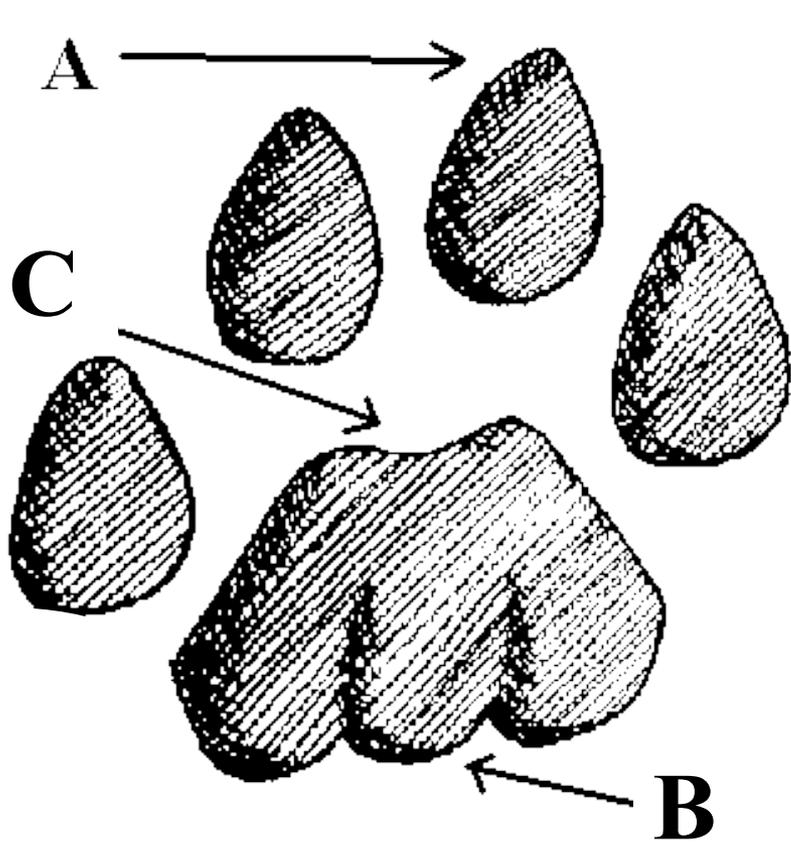




Left front tracks:

Feline (Cougar)

Canine (Wolf)



Hares, Rabbits, and Pikas (LAGOMORPHA)





Weasels (Mustelidae)







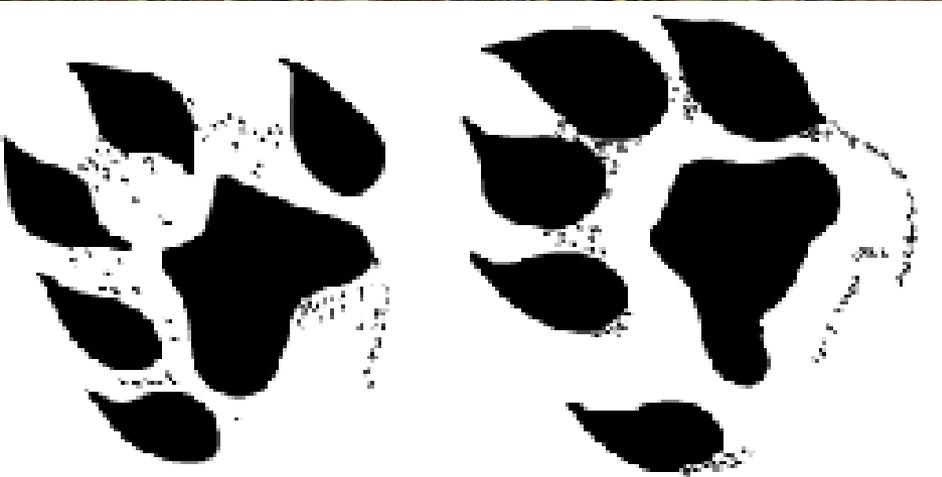








(C) Brett Cole



Bears (Ursidae)





Rodents (RODENTIA)



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FRONT

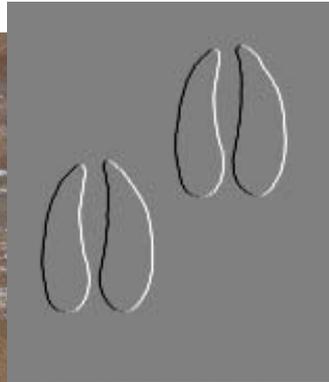


HIND





Split-hooved mammals (**ARTIODACTYLA**)









Selected References

- Moscowitz, David, “*Wildlife of the Pacific Northwest*” 2010
 - *Tracking and Identifying Mammals, Birds, Reptiles, Amphibians, and Invertebrates*