

Skills Challenge: Animal Identification

Identifying animals is an important job in rangeland management. We need to know all the components of the habitat for each species so we can manage healthy populations.

Identifying animals can be a challenge, but with practices it can also be fun! Identification starts with observing animal characteristics—by sight, pelts/feathers, skulls, scat, tracks, and calls—and then distinguishing differences between different animals. Every animal is unique, the question is, can you find how they are unique?

Do:

Study the animals from the animal list. Learning to identify animals by sight is an excellent skill to have when managing rangelands.

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME
Mammals	
1. American Badger	<i>Taxidea taxus</i>
2. American Pine Marten	<i>Martes americana</i>
3. Bighorn Sheep	<i>Ovis canadensis</i>
4. Black Bear (American)	<i>Ursus americanus</i>
5. Bobcat	<i>Lynx rufus</i>
6. Canada Lynx	<i>Lynx canadensis</i>
7. Coyote	<i>Canis latrans</i>
8. Elk	<i>Cervus canadensis</i>
9. Grizzly Bear	<i>Ursus arctos</i>
10. Ground Squirrel	
11. Moose	<i>Alces americanus</i>
12. Mountain Lion (cougar or puma)	<i>Puma concolor</i>
13. Mule Deer	<i>Odocoileus hemionus</i>
14. Pronghorn Antelope	<i>Antilocapra americana</i>
15. Pygmy Rabbit	<i>Brachylagus idahoensis</i>
16. Red Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>
17. White-tailed Jackrabbit	<i>Lepus townsendii</i>
18. Gray Wolf	<i>Canis lupus</i>
19. Wolverine	<i>Gulo gulo</i>
Birds	
20. Burrowing Owl	<i>Athene cunicularia</i>
21. Chukar	<i>Alcetoris chukar</i>
22. Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>
23. Great Gray Owl	<i>Strix nebulosa</i>
24. Greater Sage-grouse	<i>Centrocercus urophasianus</i>
25. Long-bill Curlew	<i>Numerius americanus</i>
26. Prairie Falcon	<i>Falco mexicanus</i>
27. Ring-necked Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>
28. Ruffed Grouse	<i>Bonasa umbellus</i>
29. Sharp-tailed Grouse	<i>Tympanuchus phasianellus</i>
Reptiles, Amphibians, and Invertebrates	
30. Common Gartersnake	<i>Thamnophis sirtalis</i>
31. Long-nosed Leopard Lizard	<i>Gambelia wislizenii</i>
32. Western Rattlesnake	<i>Crotalus oreganus</i>
33. Western Skink	<i>Plestiodon skiltonianus</i>
34. Columbia Spotted Frog	<i>Rana luteiventris</i>
35. Idaho Giant Salamander	<i>Dicamptodon aterrimus</i>
36. Northern Leopard Frog	<i>Lithobates pipiens</i>
37. Western Tiger Salamander	<i>Ambystoma mavortium</i>
38. Western Toad	<i>Anaxyrus boreas</i>
39. Burrowing Scorpion	<i>Anuroctonus phaiodactylus</i>
40. Giant Palouse Earthworm	<i>Driloleirus americanus</i>
41. Western Harvester Ant	<i>Pogonomyrmex occidentalis</i>
Fish	
42. Bull Trout	<i>Salvelinus confluentus</i>
43. Chinook Salmon	<i>Oncorhynchus tshawytscha</i>
44. Coho Salmon	<i>Oncorhynchus kisutch</i>
45. Sockeye Salmon	<i>Oncorhynchus nerka</i>
46. Steelhead (or rainbow trout)	<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i>