

## 5. 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 practice 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 questions 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 skills to have when management rangelands.

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME
<b>Mammals</b>	
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>
<b>Birds</b>	
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>Numenius 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>
<b>Reptiles, Amphibians, and Invertebrates</b>	
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>
<b>Fish</b>	
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>

### Words to Explore\*:

**Carnivore:** means “meat eater”, is an organism that derives its energy and nutrient requirements from a diet mainly or exclusively of animal tissue (i.e., meat).

**Habitat:** the natural abode of a plant or animal, including all biotic, climatic, and edaphic factors affecting life.

**Herbivore:** An animal that subsists principally or entirely on plants or plant material.

**Limiting Factors:** influences that prevent an animal population from reaching biotic (reproductive) potential. Examples of limiting factors are: food, water, shelter, space, disease, predation, climatic conditions, pollution, hunting, poaching, habitat destruction and accidents.

**Omnivore:** is an animal that has the ability to eat and survive (obtain energy and nutrients) on both plant and animal tissue.

**Renewable Resources:** A resource that is replaced by natural processes faster than their consumption.

**Ruminant:** Even-toed, hooved mammals that chew the cud and have a 4-chamber stomach. Ruminants are herbivores.

### Additional Resources

Visit the <https://idrange.org/education-2/i-roam-curriculum/> for each topic to see videos and other additional educational links and materials.

