

# TRACKS & SIGNS

## WHITE-TAILED DEER

### PRINT DESCRIPTION

**Size: Adults 2" to 3" in length**

The hoofed toes of deer come to a point at the front of their print, pointing in the direction of travel and forming an inverted heart. To discover whether the deer was walking, trotting or galloping, look at the pattern of the tracks. Start by trying to identify the tracks corresponding to each of the deer's four feet. A great way to identify the left and right is by visualizing a straight line, separating them down the middle. Then, find the front and hind tracks. The front tracks are usually a little bit bigger than the hind ones, but the difference can be very subtle. Now, you can measure the distance between the tracks left by the same foot. If it's about 18 inches, the deer was walking. If it's more, the deer was trotting. If you can see an open space separating the four tracks, this means that the deer was galloping!



### PATTERN OF TRACKS

**Walkers (also called perfect steppers):** Animals that use this pattern walk very carefully, for a matter of energy efficiency, by placing their hind foot in the same spot (or slightly behind) where the front landed. Other animals that move using this pattern include moose, coyotes, foxes, and cats.

### OTHER SIGNS

- Deer scat looks like a cluster of small pellets with little dimples and a pointed tip.
- You can also find signs of feeding, such as chomped tips or chewed bark.