



# Animal Tracking

## JOURNAL

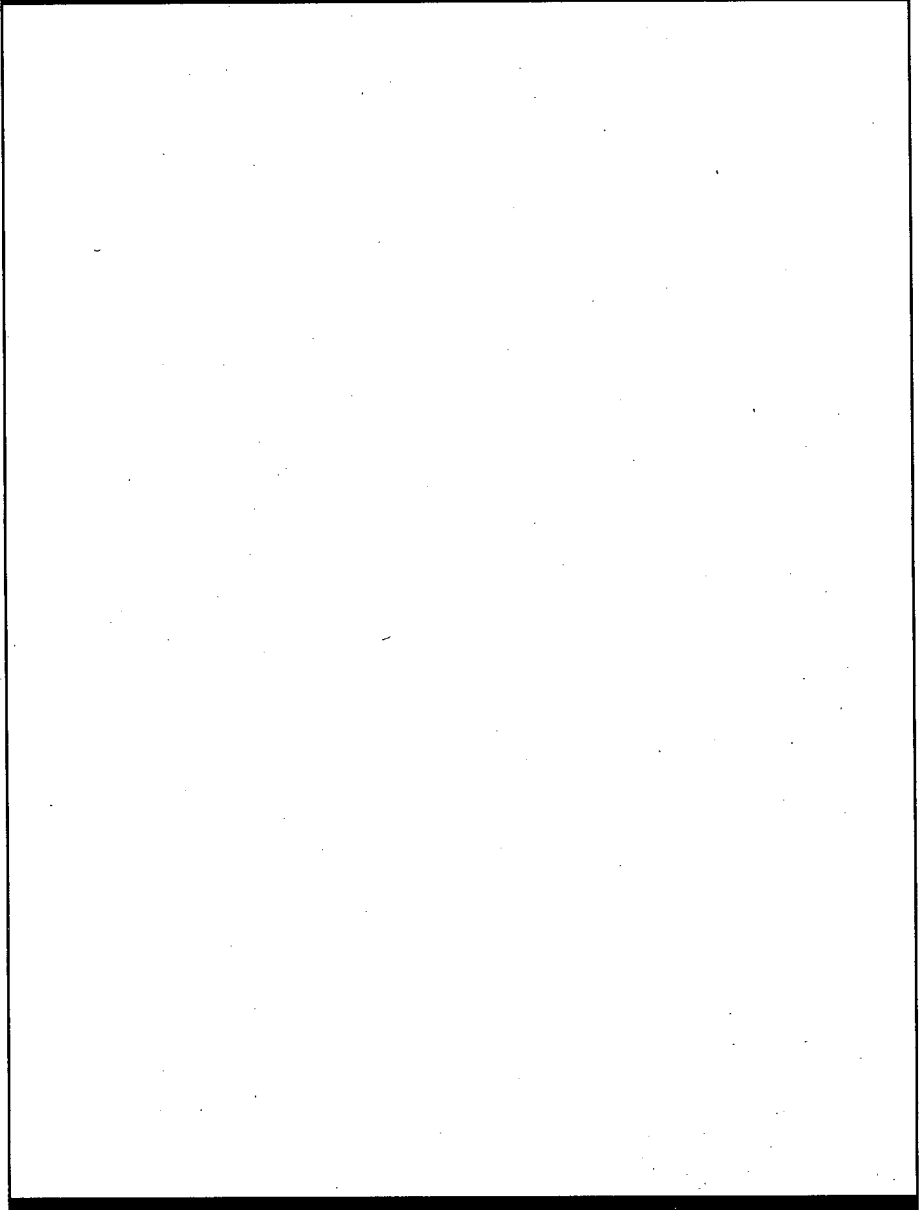
Buffalo Soldiers  
Heritage and Outreach Program



Life's better outside.®



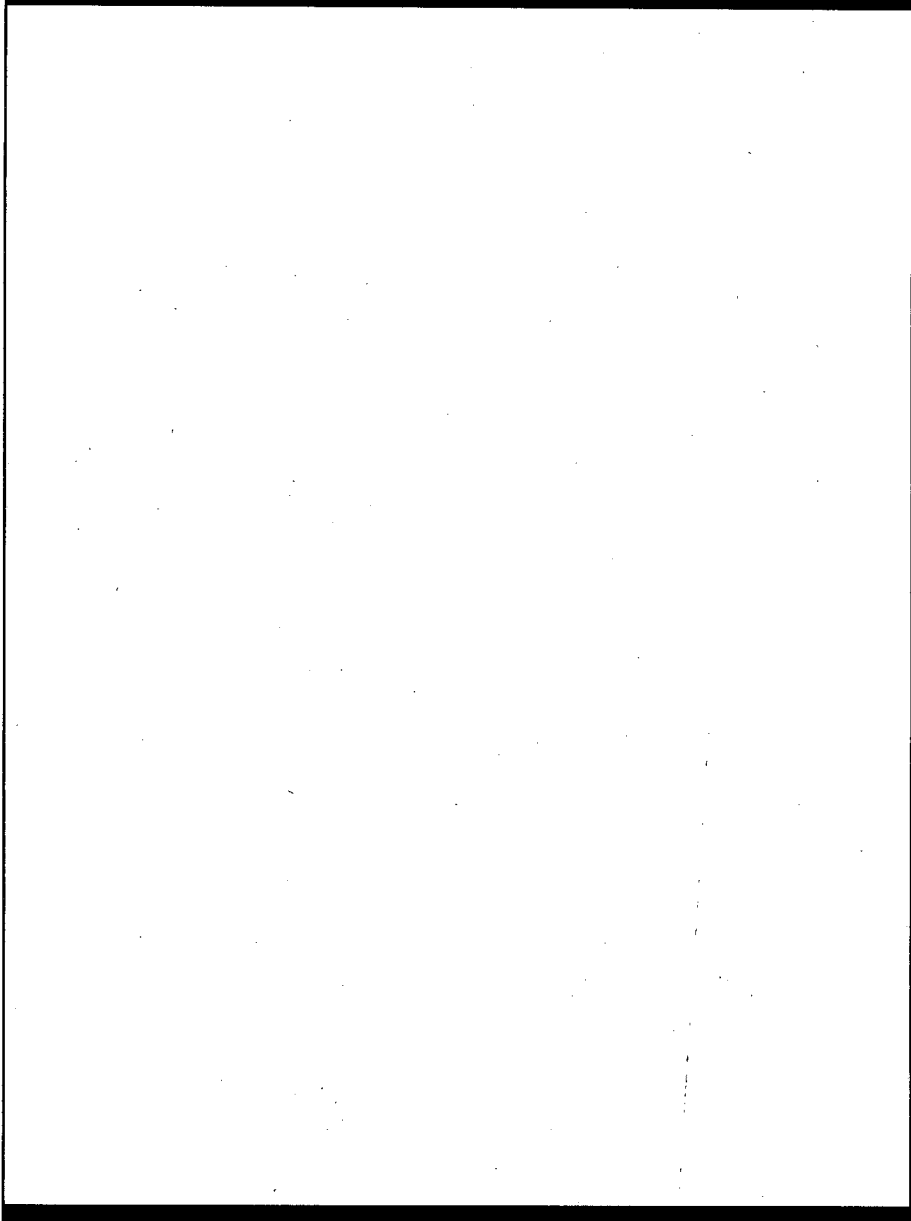
# Animal Track Stamps



This animal track belongs to a:

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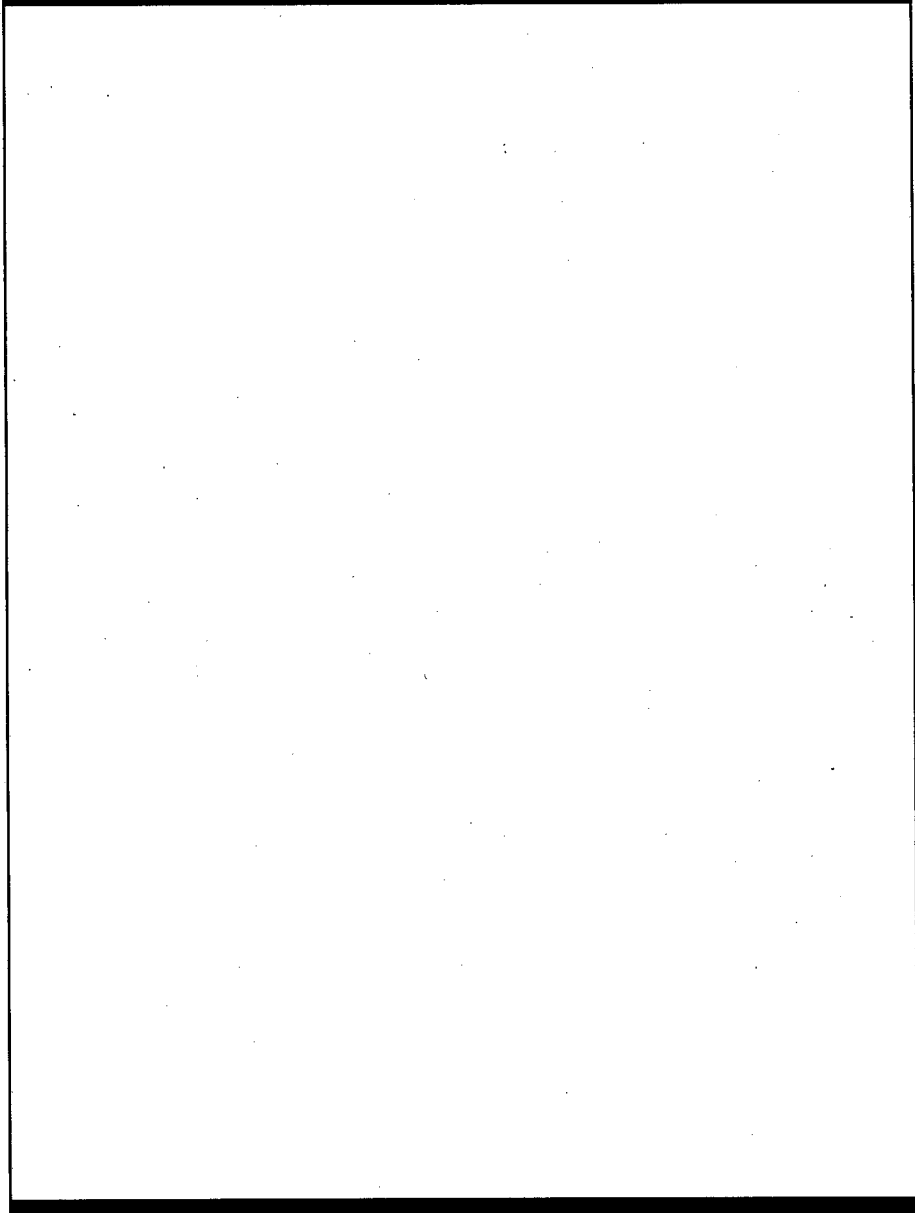
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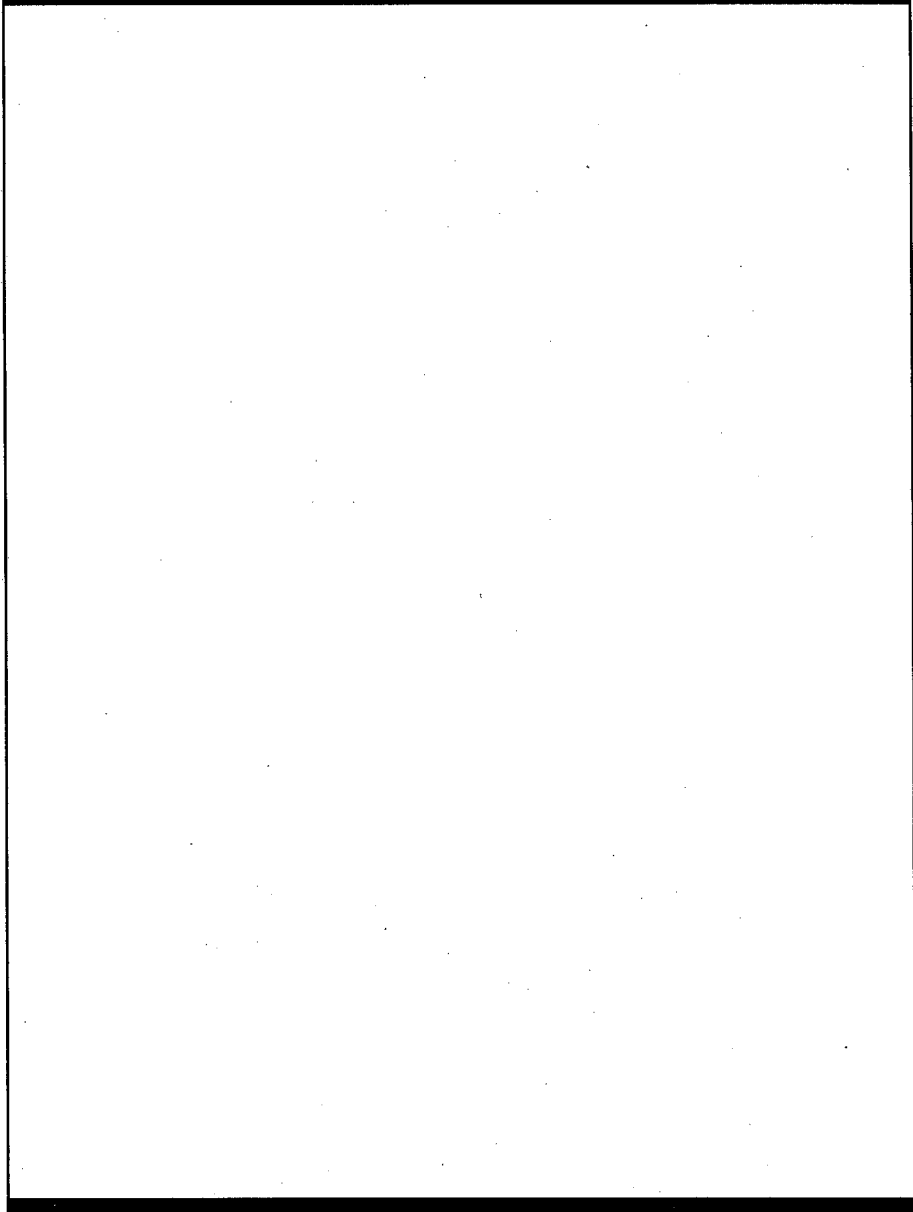
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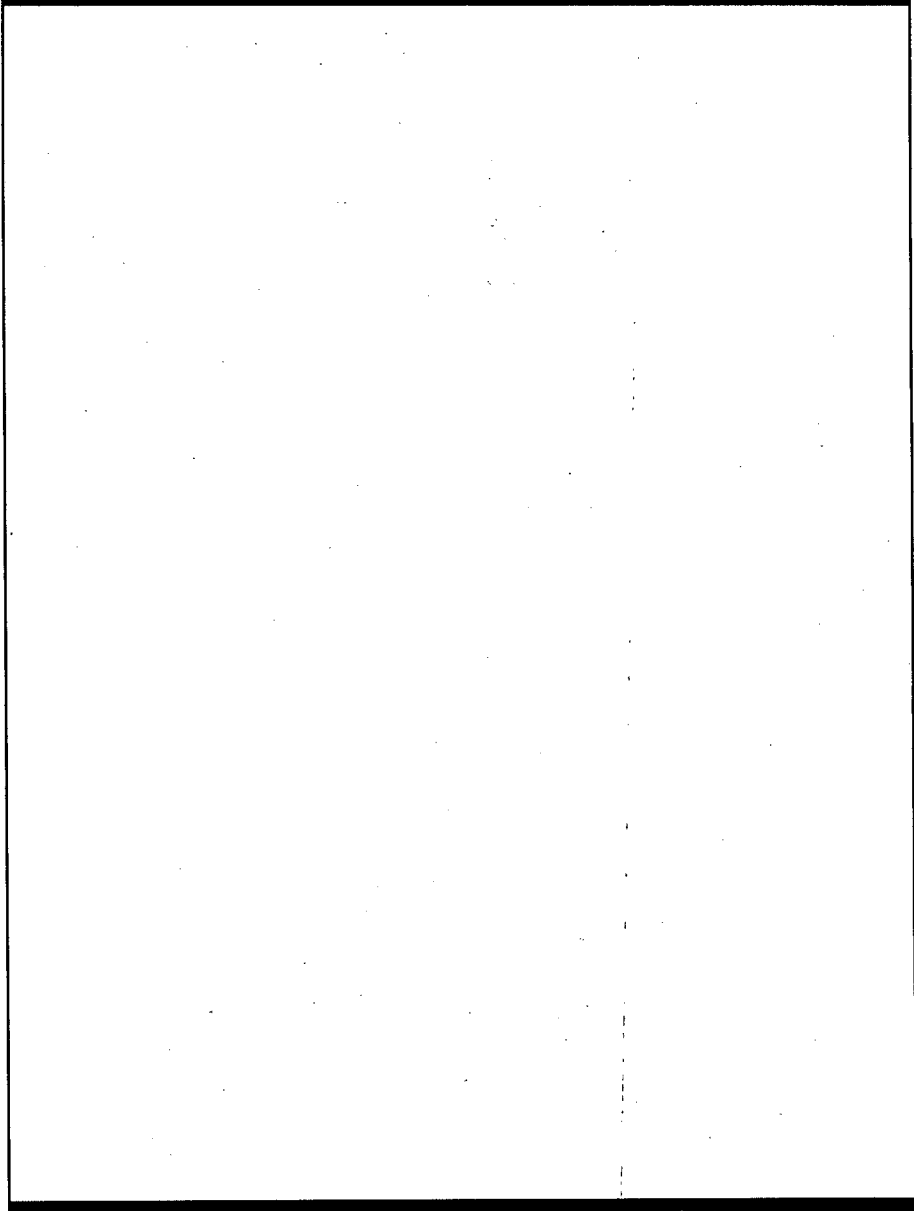
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# Animal Sign Observation Guide

## WHAT TO LOOK FOR AND RECORD

### 1. TRACK PATTERNS

**Diagonal:** Front and opposite back foot move together. Deer, cats and dogs make these types.

**Bounder:** Push off with their front feet and the back feet land close to where the front feet were. Weasels make these tracks.

**Gallopers:** Push off with their back feet and land with their front feet. Rabbits move like this.

**Ambler:** Move both the front and back feet together. Bears and beavers move like this.

### 2. TRACK CHARACTERISTICS

Are they round pads or hooves? Are there claw marks?

Are they small or large? Are they shallow or deep?  
Remember the size and depth are good indicators of the size of the animal!

### 3. SCAT PATTERNS

**Round, pellet-like or "pie-like":** Usually result from diets high in plants. These animals are called herbivores. Animals like deer, rabbits and squirrels make these scats.

**Long and twisted:** Usually the result of diets high in animal protein. These animals are called carnivores. Wolves, coyotes, bears and bobcats make these. BEWARE if danger!

### 4. OTHER SIGNS

**Signs of chewing or piles of food**

**Nesting** – Do not ever disturb!

**Sights, sounds, smells**

# Animal Observation Rules

## BE SMART AND RESPONSIBLE

1. Watch, write, draw, have fun!
2. Always let park rangers know you are hiking.  
Be sure to go on a guided tour as well.
3. Never disturb or pet any animal in the wild.  
They are wild animals and react to fear.
4. Never disturb any nest or food piles.  
Animals are very defensive about these places.
5. Never take any plant or scat material from the park.  
Animal scat can also carry disease.
6. Take pictures to help record your findings.  
Don't use flash photography as this might disturb  
and frighten many animals.



leave no trace  
CENTER FOR OUTDOOR ETHICS





# Animal Observation Journal

Blank journal page with a vertical dashed line down the center.



# Animal Observation Journal





# Animal Observation Journal

A large, empty rectangular area with a thin black border, intended for handwritten notes and observations.



For more information about State Parks  
or observing animals in nature, visit  
**[www.texasstateparks.org](http://www.texasstateparks.org)**

State Parks are a great place to learn  
about animals and their habitats.



**Life's better outside.®**

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