

HIGH DESERT MUSEUM

W I L D L I F E *and* L I V I N G H I S T O R Y

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ANIMAL SCAT AND TRACKS ON EXHIBIT AT THE HIGH DESERT MUSEUM

Exhibit explores the world of wildlife tracking from ancient times to modern day

Bend, OR ~ As animals move through the region, they leave sign of their activity. Learning to recognize and understand these signs is a way to enrich any outdoor experience, whether it's in a backyard or on a remote wilderness trail. Discover the exciting world of animal communication and wildlife tracking in the High Desert Museum's *Scat & Tracks* exhibition, which opens Saturday, May 6.

"We strive to bring natural history components closer to our visitors, so when they are out enjoying our scenic region, they will know more about what they might encounter," said the Museum's Executive Director Dana Whitelaw, Ph.D. "*Scat and Tracks* is another way for us to bring some elusive animals closer to us."



The exhibition features interactive stations for visitors to make paw prints, create track rubbings and test their knowledge matching animals with the appropriate scat. All ages can use what they learn to discover more while they are outdoors.

The art of tracking wildlife evolved over thousands of years, from early humans hunting game to modern-day biologists following wild animals through the use of radio collars and satellite telemetry. Scientists are also able to collect and analyze animal scat to determine an individual animal's health. *Scat & Tracks* tells a more

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complete story about the messages animals leave in the wild and how biologists can use this data to characterize and monitor behavior, habitat use and population dynamics.

For more information about this exhibition, visit the Museum's website: highdesertmuseum.org. or call 541-382-4754 ext. 241. *Scat & Tracks* is made possible by Selco Community Credit Union and with support from the James F. and Marion L. Miller Foundation.

THE HIGH DESERT MUSEUM opened in 1982 and brings regional wildlife, culture, art and natural resources together to promote an understanding of the natural and cultural heritage of North America's high desert country. The Museum uses indoor and outdoor exhibits, wildlife in natural habitats, and living history demonstrations to help people discover and appreciate the high desert environment. The Museum is a 501(c) 3 nonprofit organization accredited by the American Alliance of Museums and is a Smithsonian Affiliate.

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