

How to Identify a Wolverine



Wolverines are rare, solitary carnivores that inhabit high-altitude backcountry areas. Wolverines are generally scared of humans, and there are no documented wolverine attacks on people. Please document, photograph, and report your sightings and tracks to expand our much-needed knowledge of this remarkable species.

What to do if you encounter a wolverine:

- Stay calm, do not run or turn away
- Do not shout or make loud noise
- Slowly back away with eye contact
- Report your sighting with as much information as possible to your state wildlife agency



Designed by Defenders of Wildlife

Rockies and Plains Program

For more information visit: www.defenders.org

Size and Characteristics of Wolverines

Identifying Features

- Short rounded ears
- Short legs and wide feet
- Broad head with small eyes
- Dark brown fur with lighter color on the face, neck and/or chest and a yellowish side stripe from shoulder to rump



Behavior and Habitat

- Live alone in snowy, high-elevation home ranges
- Opportunistic feeders that are well-adapted to scavenge
- Females give birth to and raise their young in snowy dens between January and May that are sensitive to disturbance

Prints and Tracks

- V-shaped foot pad
- Five toes (fifth toe not always present)
- Claw marks and foot drag marks are usually visible
- Wolverines usually travel in a straight or efficient route

Front Tracks



	Wolverine	Black Bear	Gray Wolf	Badger
Height to shoulder	14-16 in	24-36 in	25-32 in	9-12 in
Length tip to tip	31-44 in	46-80 in	50-72 in	22-30 in
Weight	15-50 lbs	100-450 lbs	55-130 lb	11-22 lbs