

## *Sign*

Lynx tracks in snow are generally less distinct than bobcat tracks and often display a powder-puff appearance as a result of abundant foot hair. In wet or compacted snow, lynx tracks sometimes display smaller toe pads than are evident in bobcat tracks. Back feet often follow in the front foot tracks of both species. When walking, the stride (distance between footprints of the same foot) is 5–16 inches for bobcats and 12–28 inches for lynx. Both bobcat and lynx track trails tend to “wander” compared with the more straight-line patterns of wild canids (foxes, coyotes,



**H. Golden, ADF&G**

*A set of lynx tracks in snow.*



**B. Giddings, Montana FWP**

*A set of bobcat tracks in snow.*

and wolves). Lynx and bobcats travel and hunt with a deliberate and methodical walking pattern, rarely bounding unless chasing prey.

Lynx tracks are approximately 3–3¾ inches long and 3½–4½ inches wide in dirt and up to 4½ inches long and 5 inches wide in snow. Bobcat tracks are approximately 1¾–2½ inches long and 1¾–2½ inches wide in dirt and up to 2½ inches long and 2¾ inches wide in snow. Both bobcats and lynx have 4 toe pads on the front and hind feet. Claw marks typically do not show as they do with canids. Because lynx have more hair on their feet, their toe pads are usually less distinct than the toe pads of bobcats.



**Montana FWP**  
*Tracks are shown with shaded area representing impression of hair in the snow.*