



# Step Outdoors

If the chew mark is angular it means an animal with incisors, (rodents) made them. If the chew mark is squarish and frayed it is from a member of the deer family.

- **Rubs** can be found where animals have used a scratching post either to remove unwanted hair or fur or where they intentionally leave a marker to signal other animals. Bears have trees that they claw from time to time marking their territory. Deer rub bushes and small trees to remove velvet from their antlers and to mark their travel ways.
- **Scrapes and Wallows** are circular areas where animals remove vegetation from the ground by pawing or using their antlers.



*Deer Rub*



These areas are scent marked indicating their presence and their willingness to mate or breed.

- **Hair and feathers** are commonly deposited by animals as they move under obstructions or cross barbed wire fences.
- **Scat** or animal droppings can tell how recently animals have been using an area. The size and quantity often helps determine the sex of animal as well as what the animal has been eating. Parasites are often found in scat and as a safety precaution scat shouldn't be dissected.



*Rabbit Scat*

## ACTIVITY

### Scavenger Hunt:

Have the participants share a bag or small backpack to temporarily carry samples of the animal signs they may find. Create a checklist of possible signs to take on the hunt. Travel to a nearby forest or field to see how many different signs they can find. A notebook can be used to sketch or to secure items found with scotch tape.



*Deer Antler*

Small baggies and rubber gloves can be used to collect samples. After identifying the samples, encourage the group to return the items they find, as many animals require them for food or creating shelter etc. Review with the group all of the various animal signs found on the scavenger hunt.



*Snow print of a Raven*