

I.D. SHEET

COMMON NAME (S): Red Fox
SCIENTIFIC NAME (S): *Vulpes vulpes*
CLASSIFICATION: **Phylum:** Chordata
 Class: Mammalia
 Order: Carnivora
 Family: Canidae



DESCRIPTION: **Length:** 22-25 in (.83-1.1m)
 Height: 18 to 35 in (45 to 90 cm)
 Weight: 10-15 lbs. (3-7 kg)

General: Red foxes have the appearance of a small dog. Their coats are normally reddish yellow flecked with black, being the darkest on their backs. Their bushy tails are usually white tipped and their lower legs and feet are black. Red fox can vary greatly in color. Other than the most common color of red, red fox can be black (as seen around Paradise, Mt. Rainier), silver or a cross between red and silver, known as "cross fox".

RANGE: Northern hemisphere from Arctic Circle to North Africa including the majority of N. America, Europe, Asia. Red Foxes have the widest geographical range of any animal in the Order Carnivora. The local subspecies here in Washington is known as *Vulpes vulpes canadensis*.

HABITAT: Mixture of forest and open country.

STATUS: **General:** Secure
 WA State: State Candidate

FOOD HABITS: Prey ranges from insects to small mammals, but will also eat berries and other plant matter.

LIFESPAN: Ranges to about 6 years.

REPRODUCTION: Foxes breed once a year. The gestation period can last up to 63 days and the pups are born around March or April. Pups are usually born in burrows or rock dens and remain for about a month before they exit to feed and play.

FACTUAL FOCUS: Foxes generally hunt alone for small prey. Like other canids, foxes communicate through sounds as well as scent-markings. Red fox vocalizations are quite varied. They can range from aggressive yapping and resonant howls by the young males during the mating season to soft whimpers and barks used mainly by vixens and pups.

SOURCES: Moskowitz, David. Wildlife in the Pacific Northwest. 2010.

A Field Guide to the Mammals-W. Burt & R. Grossenheider

 Burnie D and Wilson DE (Eds.), *Animal: The Definitive Visual Guide to the World's Wildlife*. DK Adult (2005).

Approval Date: Feb 2002

Revision Date: June 2012