

# The Palmisciano Method for Differentiating Black & Grizzly Bear Tracks

## Black Bear

### Left Front Foot Track

- Claws shorter
- Toes more separated and more curved



- Heel pad of front foot often does not show for either species

### Left Back Foot Track



**1** Lowest point of outside (largest) toe

**2** Highest point on front edge of palm pad.

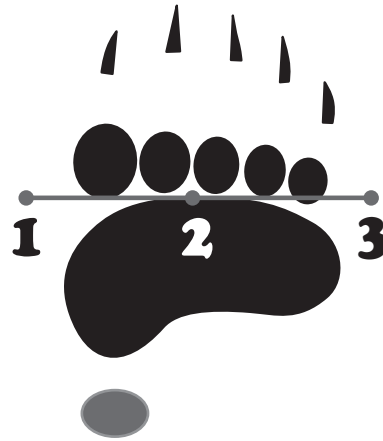
**3** Connect points 1 and 2; extend this line to the inside of the track.

- If more than 50% of the inside (smallest) toe is above the line, the track is from a grizzly bear.
- If more than 50% of the inside (smallest) toe is below the line, the track is from a black bear.
- If the line bisects the inside toe, claw marks, shape of the palm pad, spacing between toes, other signs must be used in species identification.

## Grizzly Bear

### Left Front Foot Track

- Claws longer
- Toes closer together and less curved



### Left Back Foot Track



- Tracks of big grizzlies are larger