

The Skookum Cast

In September 2000, Thom Powell, Richard Noll, Dr. Leroy Fish, Derek Randles, and others with the Bigfoot Field Researchers Organization (BFRO) were conducting research in the Skookum Meadows area of Gifford Pinchot National Forest, Washington. Upon a suggestion by Powell, they placed fruit on the ground in an area where there was soft earth and light mud, in hopes of attracting a bigfoot and obtaining good footprints. When they returned to the area later, some of the fruit was gone and a number of known animal footprints and other impressions appeared in the ground. The other impressions indicated that a large animal of some sort had partially lain down in the area and repositioned itself a few times. What could logically be seen as buttocks, a thigh, forearm, heel, and hand were observed.

Noll reasoned that the impressions could have been made by a bigfoot, and the other researchers agreed with this possibility. The group thereupon made a large plaster cast of the impressions. The photograph seen above shows Dr. Jeff Meldrum with the cast.

The cast was examined by the late Dr. Grover Krantz, John Green, and Dr. John Bindernagel, who concluded that the imprints cannot be attributed to any known animal species. A subsequent examination by Dr. Jeff Meldrum, Dr. George Schaller, Dr. Esteban Sarmiento, and the late Dr. Daris Swindler, further confirmed this conclusion.



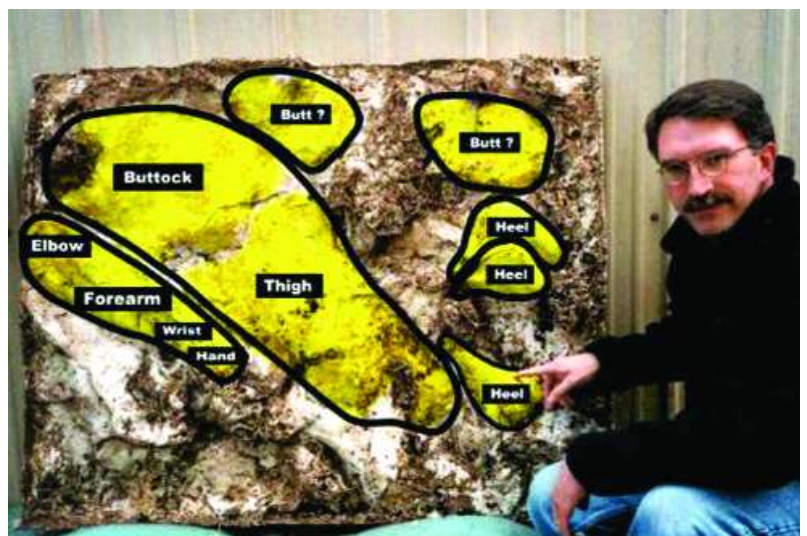
Dr. Jeff Meldrum with the Skookum cast.



(Left to right) Dr. Grover Krantz, John Green, and Dr. John Bindernagel examining the Skookum cast.



Drawing by Peter Travers showing the assumed semi-reclining position of the creature as it reached for the fruit.



Impressions of various body parts were created as the animal reclined and repositioned itself.

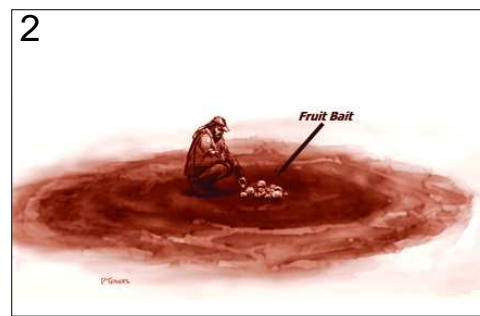
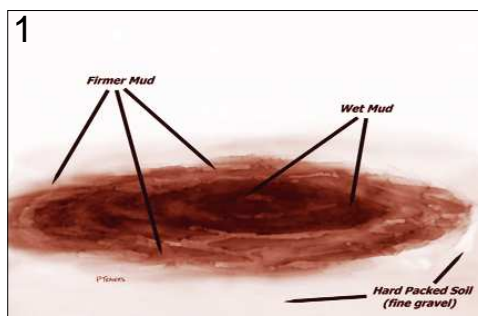
Skookum Cast



The following sequence, created by Peter Travers, shows the layout, preparation, and subsequent events that are believed to have resulted in the body prints made by the Skookum sasquatch. The original idea was that the fruit would attract a bigfoot and it would walk into the light muddy area and leave good foot impressions. However, the

creature that came along chose to stay out of the mud. It lay down in the position shown in the soft earth surrounding the mud and reached in to take the fruit.

(Note: For clarification, the creature actually approached from the other side of the mud.)





(Left) Shown here is a cast made from the creature's heel impression in the Skookum cast. The heel is much larger than a human heel but definitely appears to be that of a primate. (Note: This cast was made from a mold of the heel.)



It is reasoned that the creature dug its right foot into the soft soil as illustrated here with a human foot in sand. The angle was such that the impression extended some distance up the back of the leg.



This detail from the Skookum cast shows the actual heel as it appears on the cast.

The relative size of the Skookum cast heel is evident here in this comparison with the cast of a human heel.

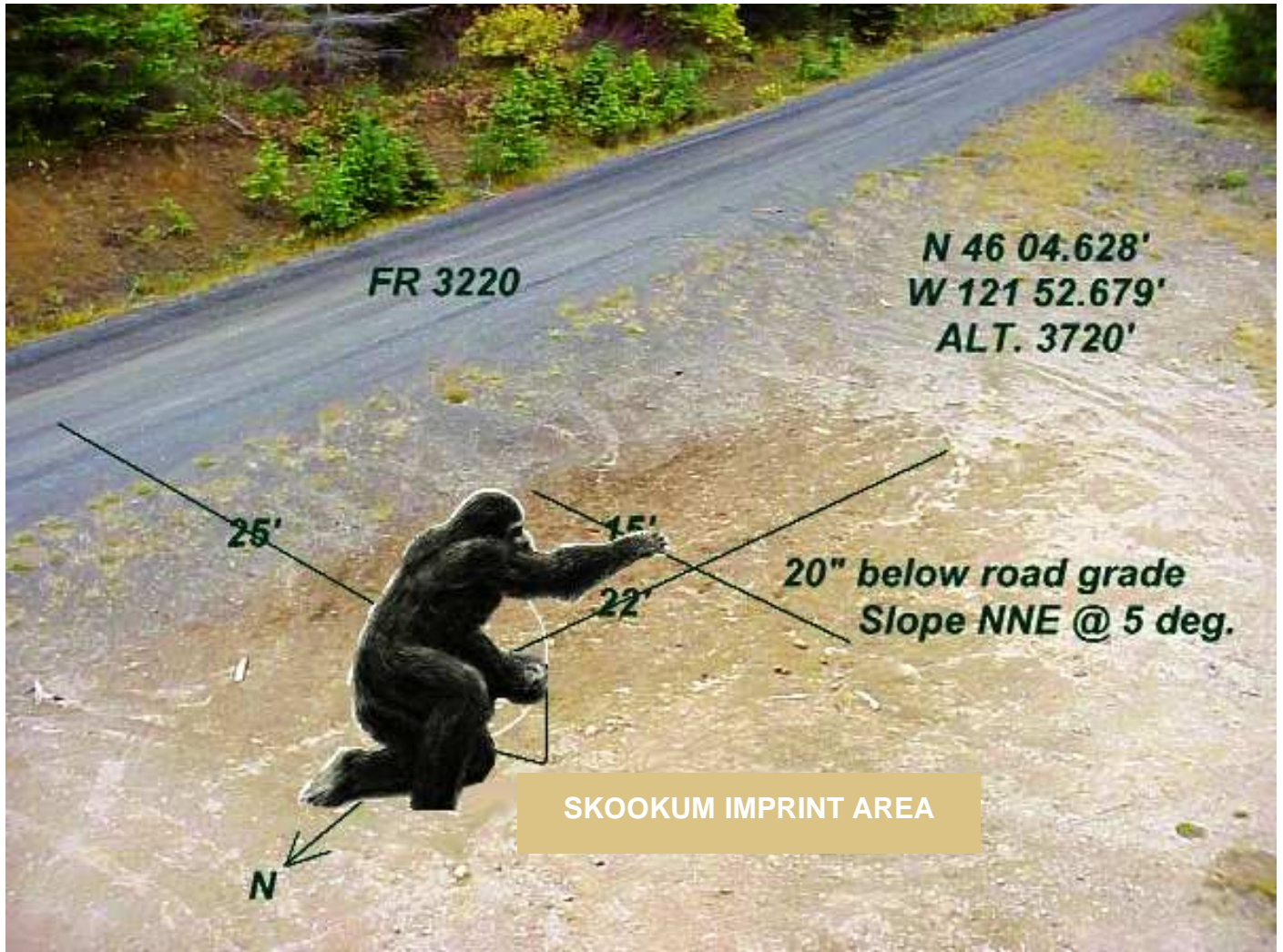
Skookum Heel

Human Heel



Metric Equivalents for the following illustration

- 25 feet = 7.62 meters
- 22 feet = 6.71 meters
- 20 feet = 6.10 meters
- 15 feet = 4.57 meters
- 20 inches = 50.8 centimeters

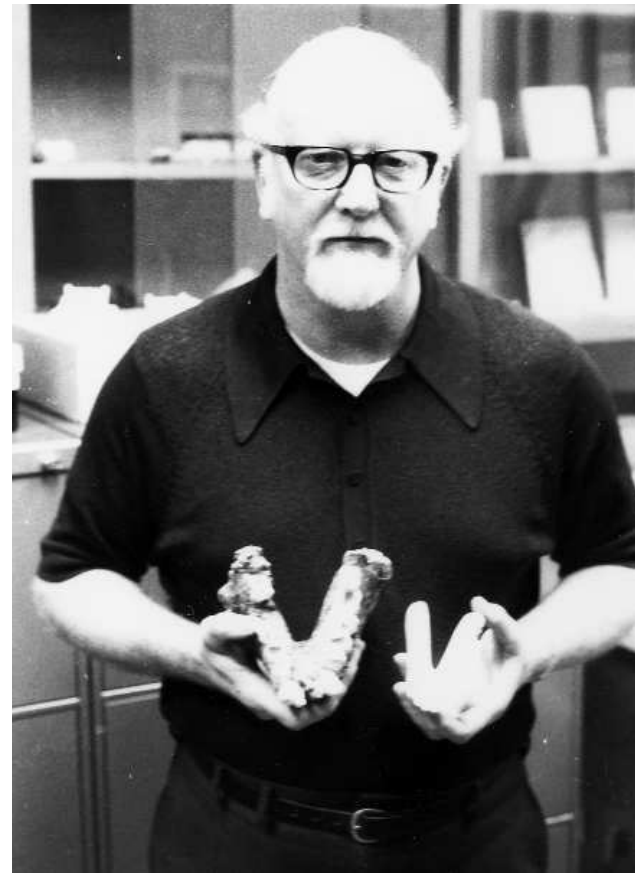


The exact Gifford Pinchot National Forest location of the Skookum imprint area.

The Skookum cast under intense examination by (left to right) Dr. Jeffrey Meldrum, Dr. Esteban Sarmiento, and the late Dr. Daris Swindler.



(Right) Dr. Daris Swindler (d. 2007) is seen here in the 1970s holding casts of Gigantopithecus blacki (left) and gorilla mandibles. Dr. Swindler was professor emeritus of physical anthropology at the University of Washington. He was author of the standard text on comparative anatomy of humans and chimpanzees, and took an interest in the sasquatch for more than 30 years. He even traveled to Fort Langley to question Albert Ostman in detail about the four creatures he claimed to have seen after one of them carried him off in his sleeping bag. Dr. Swindler remained a skeptic, however, even appearing in documentaries in that role, until he had the opportunity to make a thorough examination of a heel print from the Skookum cast. He then stated on camera, without equivocation, that the cast shows the heel of a giant unknown primate.



(Left) Rick Noll, seen here with an assortment of footprint casts, is a primary sasquatch investigator. He played a major role in the Skookum Meadows project and is the custodian of the remarkable Skookum cast. Rick is a man of few words but plenty of action. He is equally at home doing research in the field and sitting at a computer. His contributions to the field of sasquatch studies have been, and continue to be, highly significant.