

Site Visit Report

Newport Forest Thursday January 22 2009 3:10 - 5:10 pm

weather: prec. 57 mm; RH n/a; BP 98.4 kPa; ovcast; calm; T -3° C
purpose: to check property
participants: Kee

The snowplow had piled snow against the gate, making it impossible to open. The snow depth on the property (av. approx 27 cm in LM, higher in the UM) precluded driving down to the trailer, in any case. The walk down, carrying my supplies, was exhausting. I had to stop once or twice just to catch my breath. I reflected as I went that it would be equally energy-consuming for deer to roam about the landscape. I crossed two deer trails on my way down.

There were few birds about, but a couple of sharp whistles brought in the Redbellies and Downies, then the Chickadees, etc. There were few birds about, in any case. I cleaned off the trailer deck and took the snow pail in to heat up and measure water content. I repositioned Trail Cam #3 in the Nook, changed the batteries and noted that it had taken over 800 pictures -- probably the result of having it face the afternoon sun. I changed batteries and cards in both cams and proceeded into the BCF where the gigantic ice-cakes were still there, but this time covered with a foot of snow. The deer tracks in the vicinity were amusing. You could see them thread around the various cakes, taking twice the walking to get from A to B. I took a few pictures of the jumbles. Both the creek and the river are frozen over.

Back in the trailer I wondered if I would have enough energy to get back up to the road. I imagined being trapped there until May, living on raccoons and squirrels the while. Trudging back out, I spotted a deer (about 300 m away) trying to bound through the snow on the side of the creek bluffs below the road. Its legs looked so short, it resembled a cougar.

birds: (5)

Black-capped Chickadee (Tr); Dark-eyed Junco (Tr); Downy Woodpecker (Tr); Red-bellied Woodpecker (Tr); White-breasted Nuthatch (Tr)

IMAGES:

(click on image to enlarge)



depth of snow on access road to site on the way in is a problem for the grocery getter.

(click on image to enlarge)



One of many gigantic ice-cakes in the Blind Creek Forest. Other cakes are visible in the background. (Eva Newport says the recent flood is the highest for the last two decades or so)

(click on image to enlarge)



Edgar's Trail beside the first 3 vernal ponds to the right (i.e., Blind Creek) Typical deep-snow deer tracks follow trail