

Site Visit Report

NeNewport Forest Wednesday February 18 2009 2:45 - 4:30 pm

weather: prec 3 mm; RH 76%; BP 96.2 kPa; calm; ovcast; T 3° C
purpose: to clear deadfall & inspect flood damage
participants: Kee, Brian

Although the property is now snow free, the woods are still full of hanging and drape ice. We put out bird and mammal food while a light, intermittent rain fell. Brian cleared most of the deadfall from the trail down to the creek. We then set out for ET, bowsaw in hand. It took us about half an hour to cut through the old willow trunk (32 cm d) and move the massive trunks off-trail. We proceeded on to the the river, noting a young tree (8 cm dbh) that had been crushed down over the trail when the ice descended, it's base horribly bent, but not broken. Next visit, we will block & tackle it back into position and secure it with a one-year rope tieback.

The (upper) river landing, judging from the swatches of flotsam up in trees (see photo), would have been well over our heads had we been standing there at the flood crest. The river is now back to about 1-1.5 m above normal - covering Mussel Beach (MB). The creek is high, but back below its banks.

I changed the cam cards & batteries and took a sample of the greenish water from VP-C (vernal pond C). (the sample will have to be centrifuged before I can inspect the algae)

flotsam: tons of cornstalks, leaves, ears, etc.

jetsam: (so far) half a purple plastic pail, a pill bottle, pop bottle, one tire casing

birds: (few out)

Black-capped Chickadee (GF); Great Blue Heron (EW); Hairy Woodpecker (GF); Red-bellied Woodpecker (GF); White-breasted Nuthatch (Tr)

phenology: property snow-free, but flood-ice in woods; first GBH of year

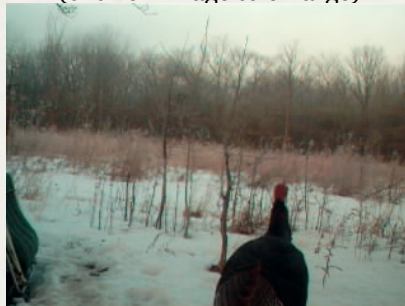
IMAGES:

(click on image to enlarge)



cam 3 catches a turkey . . .

(click on image to enlarge)



. . . and so does cam 1 (tom & hen)

(click on image to enlarge)



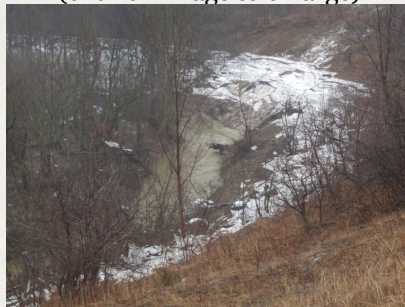
Brian finishes off the willow trunk

(click on image to enlarge)



I have never seen even half this much riverdrift on the landing after a flood: that stuff up in the trees was put there by the river ! (in background)

(click on image to enlarge)



a beautifully graphic illustration of the flood crest (hanging ice residue) in the Fleming Creek valley