

"Rite in the Rain"®

ALL-WEATHER WRITING PAPER



## HORIZONTAL LINE

All-Weather Spiral  
No. 393

BIG CREEK

WOLF-COUGAR

winter 1999-2000

Book 1 of 2

4 5/8" x 7" - 64 Pages

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HORIZONTAL LINE



Faint red markings at the top of the page, possibly bleed-through from the reverse side, including the number "208-382-4336". The rest of the page is blank with horizontal blue lines.

1/3/2000 with Renan Bigley

Chamberlain pack <sup>VISUAL</sup>DTM:

Start predation sequence: wolves & G-5

Chamberlain Pack @ Horse Mtn Cabin Cr (5)

Air Telemetry by Jim

Cougar #5 Cabin Cr ♀ on Vinegar Hill, no good ground location

To Cabin Cr Camp to start predation

sequence. Arrive ~ 3pm w/ Cricket & Penny.

Ice went out 1/4 in pm from Goose-neck-ice

chunks on trail. (snow 2 day old)

Taylor → Cabin Cr Tracks: M. Deer ~ 4 @ haystack;

Bobcat crossed Big Cr-TR bridge to N; Coyote

@ ; Bighorn ♀ + ♂ @ Browns; coyote

in 3 places. @ Cabin Cr ♂ at elk kill last yr on E

side flat at spring. ② road trail S of Cabin Cr

crossing ③ S of Cabins; wolf tracks (several

animals) N of Cabins crossing to E and on to

airstrip. Squirrel & cottontail tracks common.

Taylor → Cabin Cr Animal Sightings: NONE!

2 coveys (16 total) of hungarian partridge at

E side Cabin Cr flat; 3 magpies @ Mule B.

Air telemetry - Jim flew & radioed locations

wolves on Horse Mtn (5) 1 mi from cabin;

Cabin ♀ #5 on Vinegar Hill 1 mi from cabin;

Cliff ♀ #2 at Towhead Basin.

3:30 Wolves howling - heard from cabin.

Visual on wolves from vantage pt 50M

N of cabin. Wolves are on ridgeline

near peak @ <sup>az to E =</sup> grassy

slope w/ occasional rock, ~ 4" snow.

Wolves stand on 2 outcrops & nearby; then

move down ridge to S. We see 5 sitting

in snow; possibly <sup>(YES)</sup> 2 heads at outcrops;

possibly 3 heads to right of outcrops. <sup>(NO)</sup>

Color phases: 3 light colored (yellowish);

1 med gray, 1 with pattern we saw at

Lower Pasture / 1st Bench last year: <sup>3:30</sup>

Signals: ① All 3 collared Chamberlain

Wolves - <sup>med</sup> weak all-over signal. ② Cabin

Cr ♀ - weak Vinegar Hill to N.

We rode up Cabin Cr to find draw

up to Cabin Cr ♀ (#5). Signal went from

week to none <sup>at 4:30 pm</sup> when we were 1-1/2 mi up.

At 9 pm; No signal from Cabin Cr ♀

- she must have crossed Vinegar Hill to

Cave Cr. Wolf signals same as before.

Intermittant howling 7pm & later.

We saw wolves on skyline at 6pm near

their 3:30 pm location.

Temp cdd ? Clear w/ breeze.

No ungulates or fresh tracks!

1/4/2000

w/ RB

Pred. Seq. on C-5. No close location; she is moving from Vinegar Hill toward Cabin Cr forks. Track UTM:

Weather: Light snow & overcast ~30° in Am. <sup>snowed all day</sup>  
Signals 8AM: wolves same as yesterday direct signal from outhouse. C-5 similar direction as yesterday.

2:00 AM last night: wolf howling loud, but signal same as yesterday (m-weak all directions)

Pred. sequence on C-5: We attempt to get within 100M & get a UTM - She's moving we do not get close.

TRAVEL ROUTE for us: Up Vinegar Hill then N on ridgeline & across ~7 draws to N. Signal m-weak & N nondirectional - never improved much. Is she on hillside (E asp) across from Cabin Cr forks? We cut down <sup>thru</sup> the draw with cliff face at base (~1/2 mi below forks of Cabin Cr).

We tracked this cougar from flat saddle N of Vinegar Hill for ~1/2 mile to NNE, sidehill down. Prob. tracks from this AM

-there was 1-2" of snow in tracks, but Mica followed the track scent easily.

We heard signal from cabin this AM, but Jim did not get a signal from there in PM

Animal sightings on Vinegar Hill:

- 2E (1C, 1cf) Elk tracks all over
- 5E (5C) the top of Vinegar Hill.
- 7E (6C, 1 spike) Rabbit brush & willow?,
- 5D (4D, 1F) feeding. There is CELE
- 1D (1 forky) & PUTR too. Snow 2-16

Jim & Mike saw 5 wolves at the same location as yesterday.

1/5/2000

w/RB

C-5 estim. UTM:

Predation sequence on C-5: Followed her tracks & signal up N-Fk Cabin Cr. She's still moving. No close locations

8AM C-5 signal weak from Cabin Cr cabin - up Cabin Cr. 3 Chamberlain wolves signals weak - multidirectional from airstrip.

9:30 Renan & I rode mules up Cabin Creek in search of C-5.

Found cougar tracks from yesterday (snowed in, but Mica can smell scent) walking along trail. Tracks came off the ridge past the draw we went down yesterday. Then tracks went up the N Fk Cabin Cr to the switchbacks to West - into open forested S aspect w/ PUTR, ARTR, CRNA. Tracks last obs. climbing into draw with trail to the top in 18" snow.

This cat. knew the trail well - cut corners on all switchbacks.

Signal came from S aspect slope described above. Snow was 10-18", crust w/ 4" powder in sun - all powder in shade. Med-hi elk use > 24hr old. No elk or deer seen.

Signal gone after good signal incl. pencil ant gain = 4.5. Cougar is still moving. No kill.

1/6/2000

w/RB

Wolf Visual UTM:

C-5 signal distant, same vic. as yesterday.

Wolves on same outcrop as 2 & 3 days ago

Carcass #1. Wolf killed cow elk at Cabin Cr airstrip

Lots of howling.

Weather - cold last night, clear-hazy in am, sunny pm

Howling: 12:30 midnight, 3:30 AM, 7:30 AM, 10:30 AM, 2:30 pm

8-9 AM Wolf signals on same ridge as last few days - directly above (~ E of) airstrip. No C-5 signal.

10:00 Renan & Holly to Vinegar Hill.

Obs. 6 wolves at their usual rock outcrop travel then bed. One has a bad limp - tight rear?

Mike & Jim find an elk cow killed by the airstrip: Carcass #1. just below wolf bed site

TElk (5C, 1cf, 1unk) on grass slopes S of Spring Cr.

No elk obs in Cave Cr drainage, altho there were many tracks on Vinegar Hill and Cabin & Cave sides.

Collected 3 elk pellet samples

Got C-5 signal up N-Fk Cabin Cr - only got signal from Vinegar Hill. No C-2.

Saw 7 wolves total: 3 lightish, 4 darker.

Collected femur (end cheused) from Carcass #1

1/7/00

w/RB

C-5 signal in same direction - up N Fk Cabin Cr in cliffs,  
Chamberlain wolves moved last night; saw them  
howling @ Conyer Cr - w. ridge. VTM;  
Check bed sites/tracks of 1/3-1/6: 6 bed sites, trail to Carcass 1  
no evidence of other carcass. Collected wolf scats (7)

Weather: Broken clouds w/sun  
Wolves howled at 11:30 pm last night as  
they travelled past the cabin down  
Cabin Cr. We heard them close on the W  
side of Cabin Cr across from the mules.  
8 AM signals: wolves across Big Cr; C-5  
weak up Cabin Cr.

Carcass #1 quick look: bird droppings on  
rocks under snow from 1/4, on snow of  
< 1/3. Kill dated to between 12/31 (Cold Mtn  
telemetry on 12/30) and 1/3. Also wolf beds near  
kill are in the crusted underlayer. Found  
2 front & 1 hind leg (humerus broken, rest intact)  
\* Coyote tracks fresh last night at kill area  
& following wolf tracks uphill to bed sites.  
The bed site near this carcass was ~100m  
away uphill across the airstrip - 5 beds  
melted into the snow. Fresh wolf  
tracks around lower bed sites & kill since  
snow of 1/4.

Renan & I hiked up to the wolf bed site on  
the ridge that they have used for 5 days now.  
They had a major trail up & down between  
ridge & airstrip carcass. Multiple bed  
sites on the upper trail & all over  
the flat of the bed site. Photos taken  
of beds, etc. One major trail <sup>sidehill</sup> down  
into Cow Cr. from ridge beds to up (NE)  
Cow Cr. No wolf tracks on Cow Cr edge  
until the bed site. One wolf pup  
track in a bed - it's the size of Mica's  
foot. Renan saw slight drag marks  
from injured wolf's tracks. They all  
drag feet in deep snow, unlike the  
cougar tracks in similar snow depths.  
Wolves howled: 12:10, 12:50, 1:50, 2:50

Visual on wolves! They are on the ridge  
west of Conyer Cr. bed, howl, move around  
Collected scats at bed sites from last few days  
Cougar - #5 telemetry from the ridge -  
weak signal - she still seems to be  
up the N Fk Cabin Cr.  
8 Elk bedded on ridge swale of Cow x  
Cabin Cr ridge where wolves & Mike  
had been a few days ago.

Elk tracks we have seen all over Cabin Cr  
& Cave in the last few days look like  
elk are primarily feeding on shrubs  
(PUTR esp.) Tracks converge on individual  
shrubs on snowy slopes; few tracks  
on semi open grass slopes. All elk seen  
on snow slopes altho ~20% of slopes are bare.  
No greenup of POSA, BETE, AGSP.

We found several more wolf bed sites -  
around the main bed site and on low  
ridge by the Carcass #1. These locations  
are recorded on the quad map.

We searched for obvious tracks/trails  
leading from the bedsite to a second  
kill, listened for ravens & magpies, and  
glassed the rough outcrop-shrub-grass-  
snow free/low snow area E of bedsites:

WE FOUND NO EVIDENCE THE WOLVES  
HAD KILLED A SECOND ANIMAL.

Elk feeding & tracks abundant on ridge  
above wolves, but no wolf tracks.

There were elk beds (15+) on same ridge  
as wolves (200m below) that were  
used by elk on 1/5 when wolves were on  
ridge between Cow & Cabin Cr & elk fed below  
the wolf bed site. Some elk tracks in  
wolf beds.

1/8/00

W/RB

UTM  
Carcass #1 data form: wolf killed cow elk  
Coyotes @ Cabin Cr - 1 large track

Started snowing 7 AM <sup>some</sup> all day, ~2-3" new  
Cougar #5 signal faint to N, as before.  
No wolf signals @ Cabin or W end of  
Cabin Cr flat.

Wrote up predation form for Carcass #1  
wolf killed elk. Found all bones, but jaw  
& 1 femur.

UTM 662,920E 5,000,900N elev 4250

Checked Cabin Cr flat for bird activity  
possible kill. Magpies common at Cabin Cr  
N side of flat. Watched a coyote on  
S side of Big Cr - hunting? in deciduous  
trees. It crossed an ice bridge on  
Big Cr just W of Cabin Cr then travelled  
NW toward magpie activity. We bumped  
coyote to check the area. We saw  
tracks of 2nd animal - some tracks looked  
like wolf pup size from yesterday (2 3/4") an  
round compared to small elongated 1 3/4"  
width of our coyote. Coyote marked sites  
by other (coyote?). All tracks < 2 hr old.  
Lots of coyote tracks on Flat from last few days.

1/9/00

w/ Mike Schlegel,  
Pete Armichandy, RB

Carcass #2 Bobcat killed mule deer fawn  
below TRanch UTM

Mike & Pete locate C-4's mule deer kill

Snowy day. We are all back at Taylor Ranch

Hiked to knob E of Taylor Ranch then  
E twd Big Cr - photographed, watched,  
& Mike videoed the bobcat around  
its kill. It paced back & forth looking  
N & up on trail. Bedded near carcass.  
We walked over to the kill on the  
E side of Big Cr. below the lower  
pasture. Found coyote tracks from  
this Am at kill. Bobcat had  
covered the carcass with 6" x 1 1/2"  
plates of ice from the ice jammed  
up on the shore next to the carcass.  
60% of hind quarters have been eaten  
since yesterday. The site is perfect  
for ambush; 3' high shore ice-jumble  
next to a very steep slope & outcrop with  
shrub cover along the interface.  
The ♀ fawn had been walking on the  
shore ice to N (maybe bedded before  
ambush, since no sign of struggle).

Bobcat had approached along shore ice  
from N.

Necropsy revealed bites to <sup>eye &</sup> top of skull,  
puncture to throat, bites to underside  
of neck & claw rake on shoulder.  
No injuries, altho rumen attached to body  
wall & spleen attached to rumen-abnormal.  
Ear ticks & sheep keds. No body fat  
on subQ, omentum, kidney, heart.  
Collected femur.

UTMs 669, 660E 4,996, 320N  
elev 3790. aspect W



1/11 & 1/12

w/Mike

1/13

w/MS

1/11: Wolves up Cave Cr to Vinegar Hill.

1/12 Wolves gone

1/12 C-5 on E side Cabin Cr - mid slope?

Renan & Pete 1/12: Wolves (8) on Coyote trail - encounter.

1/11 At Taylor Rch Sent justification/explanation of coop agreement to Dick Bottger on email. In PM Renan & I rode & walked to Cabin Cr. Pete & Mike had wolf <sup>tracks</sup> signals up Cave Cr then <sup>signal</sup> Vinegar Hill. C-5 cougar further up ridge from Vinegar Hill. Travis over to visit camp. SNOWED LAST NIGHT 10".

1/12 Hiked up Cabin Cr to find C-5. Went to forks - no cougar tracks, signal weak, but mid drainage on W side. We hiked sidehill on W side: signal strongest on E side between signal check sites used by MS & PA on 1/11. Signal med. strength and localized; mid elevation. Despite no tracks we will hike up there tomorrow. Elk active <sup>low</sup> mid elev 1-2 mi up Cabin Cr from airstrip. Browse CELE and PUTR, graze CAGE and FEID. Saw ~50 elk, 2 deer. Mike found big mossy 6pt antler.

Travis' hunters flew in. Wheel 206 plane got stuck in snow. They shovelled it out after 3 hours.

Carcass #4 cow elk killed by C-5 during predation sequence.

UTM: 663,120 E 5,002,980 N Elev 5220

Hiked to draw pinpointed yesterday. We went up one ridge, across draw above signal, and down other ridge then cut into draw to find cat; see if there is a kill. (We decided to risk bumping the cat off a kill, because we needed to know the age of the kill, if there was one, so it could be used in this predation sequence.) Signal never indicated we were very close (<200m) altho I could get the signal on 5dot with my pencil as antenna when we were ~300m away.

Found kill near a steep draw. Kill was only 400m above the trail, but rocky outcrops & bounce <sup>had</sup> made signal <sup>there</sup> not as strong as the one across the canyon yesterday.

The cow elk had been killed prior to the 10" snow on 1/10 eve. No tracks left the area >30M (One old track + today's did go thru dense N asp. DF saplings - we didn't follow them out). Mike & I

encircled the area today and Mike & Pete did the same 2 days ago 1/11 during triangulation and did not encounter any cougar tracks. The cougar had bedded under a large snag top DF ~10 M from the kill - stepping in each footprint each time. No snow under tree, 16" at kill now.

The kill was in the lower slope of an open PIFO/DF grass + CELE/PVTR S aspect. Ambush tracks covered by 10" new snow. Carcass was in a 2M wide & 1M deep chute - at the bottom of it - piled up. Probably was slid down it. Chute provided topographic screening for cougar on kill. It was just above (2M) shrub cover of the draw and close to dense N asp DF sapling stand. Excellent "cover".

The carcass was buried with snow. Took photos of cat paw marks collecting snow w/in 1/2 M of carcass. Exposed bone & meat was frozen, but we unburied head & none was frozen. Both front legs had been eaten on earlier. Left hind was recently eaten on from knee into meat. Hide <sup>intact</sup> around bones still. Feet/legs = no injury observed.

Scavenged by skunk (smell & tracks noted!)

HEAD/NECK: Elk was killed by smashed skull (brain cavity was crushed), plus her nose was broken 6" from tip, maxilla & palate broken up. Hide torn/shredded at top of skull, plus canine/claw holes around eye & ear. No holes/blood noted on jaw & throat. Neck <sup>hide</sup> looked at quickly - no holes noted. Didn't check neck for break. Otobius ticks in ears + debris. Aspirated blood + bloody tongue & eyeball hemorrhage (Mike). Recovered carcass w/ snow & left bed & scrape intact. Signal indicated cougar moved off 1 ridge + to S. We saw ~30 elk feeding near this hillside yesterday, and snow trails indicate heavy elk use (feed & bed) + a few deer on ridge & hillside to S. Collected ~5 elk droppings for preg. testing.

No bones or scats (cougar) collected yet. Telemetry (R-1000 Receiver) Lessons Learned

- 1) Believe bearings (Mike & Pete's bearings crossed ~ here on 1/11 but they believed cougar was on other side of Cabin Cr.
- 2) Don't turn gain too low - sensitivity decreases and close signals are not detected.

Renan & Pete "ran" w/ "the wolves" (8) on the trail by Covey Camp!

1/14

w/RB

C-5 aerial & ground location. She is not at Carcass #4. UTM

Wolves @ Big Ramey

Weather: Drizzle & fog in am, overcast PM  
AM Hiked up Cabin Cr & looked at Carcass #4 from west side. No cougar or signal up Cabin Cr. 5 magpies at carcass.

Hiked back downstream on W side: a series of gentle benches & PIP0 with many elk tracks and good view of E side. No cougar signal from airstrip up Cow Cr or from Cabin.

1:30 Jim flew telemetry with R. Arnold.

C-5: Cow Cr past Calf Cr fork in 1st draw on N, low.

C-2: Calf Cr. <sup>(Every day)</sup> we have checked for her several times a day & never a signal - last signal 1/3 Towhead Basin

Wolves: Big Ramey, mouth

C-4: no signal

PM: Hiked up Cow Cr, & got ground telemetry location at a CELE outcrop in the draw indicated by Jim, low.

UTM:

13 elk (9C, 4f) lower Vinegar Hill; 12 elk (12C) airstrip

Travis found his 3 legged hound, killed by bobcat or  $\rightarrow$  sm cougar & wolves.

1/15

w/RB

C-5 same location as yesterday  
Carcass #5; cow elk kill from Fall

C-5 Predation sequence (day 13): we hiked up Cow Cr. Signal similar, but higher elev. compared to yesterday. We encircled signal - up the draw to NE to Cabin/Cow Saddle down ridgeline on SW. She is in top of CELE outcrop or adjacent draw (to SW).

UTM:

We never saw her tracks during the circle, so despite 2 nights of snow since she left carcass #4, it doesn't look like she is returning to it to feed.

Many elk trails above & both sides from cougar - elk were in 16" + snow on open PIP0 slopes with PUTR, CRNH, CELE, mullen. Deer tracks on top & S aspect slope w/less snow.

Snow ~24" on ridgetop & unstable  
Saw 2 deer travel down N to Cow Cr.  
12 elk (12 cows) above airstrip.

No signals from C-1 or other cougars

Weather: rained last night, above freezing & fog in daytime

Carcass #5: Renan spotted bones 25M below the trail, 1 draw upstream from from C-5 cougar. At first it looked like this, <sup>older aged</sup> cow elk got her legs stuck under a log on a steep slope/ravine. We determined it was cougar predation:

- 1) bites through nose & lacrymal gland; orbits & tip of palate chewed off.
  - 2) claw marks on tree at carcass from climbing
  - 3) fine light colored hair embedded in sap on tree bark near claw marks.
- We estimated kill date ~ 70 days ago (maybe the source of all of the cougar sightings on CowCr during hunting season). Lower legs furred; hair & gut pile under bones; all bones articulated or together except head + 1<sup>st</sup> vertebra (broken neck?)

No broken bones, but leg bones had hairline cracks - prob. post mortem. Pelvis + humerus end chewed; ribs? - didn't see. Perfect cougar ambush site: steep grass shrub draws above trail, rocky timbered (DF, PP)

PHMA outcrop ravine below trail with good visibility cover from rocks, shrubs, terrain.

Carcass #6 Cougar (C-5) killed calf elk in CowCr  
Carcass #4 (C-5) revisited - no new use.

Weather: raining most of day, some fog. Rode up CowCr to C-5 draw: No signal - weak signal. We walked up draw to suspected kill - birds active. Locate

Carcass #6: A ♂ calf elk killed by C-5 cougar probably on 1-14 when she was 1<sup>st</sup> located here. Bite to throat at jaw on left side was only subQ hemorrhaging noted when head & neck skinned. Only 1 scuff on jaw seen externally. Body cavity opened at ribs - paunch - flank. Ribs + rib meat and 30% of L hind qtr eaten. Hair plucked on shoulder. Some snow scraped onto carcass. Magpies & ravens active at kill. Calf had probably been ambushed near saddle above then slid in snow 70m to kill site in draw under CELE. Open <sup>PP</sup>DF forest above & CELE/outcrop & cliff below.

C-5 is possibly on ridge line N of kill - no bounce, but occasional weak signal (> 400M away). Jim got her signal on ridge line - above saddle.

Our visit to site was <15 minutes - don't expect it will cause her to abandon kill.  
Found old cougar scrape + scat and old bear scat under lg PIP0 50M down draw from kill.

CARCASS #6 UTM's: 664,000E, 5,001,790N  
Elev 5100

Carcass #4. Revisit. Cow elk killed by C-5

1/21

w/ Matt O'Connor

Rush Cr ♀ signal at mouth of Lewis Fk,  
No kill found UTM  
Elk count Cave UTM

Clear & cold weather

We hiked the bottom of Rush Cr on W side to Lewis Fk of Rush Cr. Crusty snow, brushy riparian, outcrops and marginal ice bridges made travel slow. (10 hr trip)

19 ELK (11 cows, 5 calves, 3 spikes) above sagebrush Flat feeding on CE

3+ ELK (3 cows) in Rush Cr riparian, feeding. Lots of tracks in lower Rush Cr riparian. Some deer tracks. 6 mule deer in SE aspect grass shrub above Rush Cr.

Cougar tracks - everywhere but old (corn snow over tracks 2" into snow when temps were warm).

- 1) Along W side of trail above airstrip (to W?)
- 2) At Rush Cr crossing & on crossing log (to N, downstream) - same time as when Mike S saw tracks at Rush Cr gate?

3) All along Rush Cr game trails and stream crossings to Mouth of Lewis Fk (travelling upstream). Mica found part of a scat near last's year's kill by crossing log and she marked several sites where the cougar had been. Found 1 Scrape 2mi up Rush (same age as tracks?)

Great Cave: UTM: along Rush Cr 1/2 mi downstream of Lewis Fk - looks good for a den. No tracks to it, but tracks on game trail below.

No cougar signal until 1/4 mi from Lewis Fk. Strong directional signal at Lewis Fk mouth + signal with pencil as antenna. Mica could smell the cougar. We walked into locate a kill (5+ days here). Cougar moved uphill to saddle on W then into Rush Cr. We searched lower 300M of Lewis Fk. Found remains of a cottontail (bird droppings, no cougar tracks but snow crusted) feet + fur + pelvis.

No cougar tracks at all due to snow crust. Last signal when cougar went up a draw @ Rush Cr.

Cabin Cr ♀ located @ forks of Cave Cr UTM ~50 elk classified @ Cave Cr (Jim's notes)

Jim et al heard wolves howl & signal at Vinegar Hill on 1/22 night. They were gone by 1/23. Both cougars moved on/by 1/23: Cabin ♀ no signal; Cliff Cr near forks Cabin Cr.)

I hiked up to Cabin Creek & met up with JA, RB, MO. We rode mules to Cave Cr in search of Cabin Cr ♀. Located her ~200 m up W Fk Cave Cr in riparian by triangulation. Pencil as antenna at knee.

Saw one cow elk w/ broken front leg (L?) Saw blood in snow on BCr trail @ Cave Cr from <sup>1 injured</sup> cow elk J&P had track from ~ Coxy.

Major blood smears at Brown's Basin where bobcat had eviscerated the deer that disappeared into Big Creek. from 1/22

No wolf signals. I counted 10-11 sets of wolf tracks on flat at Big Cr <sup>tr</sup> x Cabin Cr trails intersection

1/25

w/ RB

Located Cabin Cr ♀ on Vinegar Hill  
UTM:

Broken overcast → snowing  
Cabin Cr ♀ signal to S. We  
rode to Cave Cr & followed it  
up Cave Cr to the cliffy draw  
directly W of Vinegar Hill. She  
must be high at/near top.  
JA & MO picked up the signal at  
Cabin Cr in pm.

We rode to Cave Cr forks &  
checked on yesterday's location.  
Couldnt find tracks crossing  
trail, nor tracks or beds  
of cougar at mouth of 1st draw on  
L (S), up W.Fk Cave Cr. Mica  
never indicated scent like she  
did yesterday.

No elk obs. in Cave Cr today.  
Elk use M-Hi in W.Fk Cave  
despite 12" snow depth. Grass + shrubs

Coyote at W edge of Cabin Cr flat.

1/27

w/MO

Coyotes travel activity heavy @ Cabin Flat  
Wolf tracks (1) fresh @ Cabin Flat - came  
from Cabin Creek above airstrip  
Ok carcass #4 again - ambush site  
Jim flew telemetry: Cabin ♀ Cal Cr, Cliff ♀ Cover

3 Elk (1c, 1yc, 1cf) Lebar - bed in sun in snow/low  
2 Elk (1 spt, 1 6pt) Browns - last outercrops before  
Cabin Cr - in CELE / outcrop.  
No tracks TR → Cabin Cr since yesterday snow  
except 3 elk.

Cabin Cr Flat - fresh coyote tracks all over,  
all directions. 2 magpies call in draw above  
E. Spring. Tracks up trail to above trail  
intersection.

Lone wolf track crossed Cabin Cr @ Spring Cr  
then on trail along Cabin Cr Flat toward E  
Spring. Collected 1 wolf scat. Wolf  
investigated coyote tracks several  
times. Track on Cabin Cr trail below Corc. #4 → Cow Cr.

No signals (cougars, Chamb, TM wolves)  
at Cabin Cr Flat → cabin.

18 Elk (15 cows, 2 calves) Vinegar Hill <sup>mid slope</sup>  
side x airstrip - 3 ridges - in snow & grass.

7 Elk (7 cows) Vinegar Hill side X from  
Carcass #4, midslope in open DF.

More coyote tracks (4 x) above airstrip - wolf checked them too.  
Revisit Carcass #4:

Meat remaining: 20% front right,  
5% rear right, 15% thoracic vert.  
No scavenger sign (mammal) except  
skunk smell. 6 ravens on carcass.

Skull disarticulated - new break noticed  
down bridge of nose longitudinal.

Followed the ambush & drag trail:

Elk hair on rocks & grass & tree  
(rump hair 2' up) for 200M in  
draw/dip immediately above  
carcass. Ambush was w/in 20M  
of ridgetop. Several clumps of  
whitish cougar hair near  
highest clumps of elk hair.

The elk's broken skull appears to  
be from smashing on small (6-12")  
rocks when she rolled/slid/fell  
down the chute.

Cougar may have been injured by elk  
or knocked to the ground at the  
top of the hill - hair was embedded  
in mud, unlike elk hair which was  
on the surface.

Jim's AERIAL TELEMETRY: Cabin Cr ♀ mouth  
of Calf Cr; Cliff Cr ♀ W side Cave Cr X from  
Vinegar Hill cliff draw. Wolves - not in lower Big Cr?

1/28

w/ Mo

C-5 in Calf Creek UTM;

C-5 returned to carcass #6

Carcass #8 Mule Deer @ Cow Cr, unkn death

Elk counts = 27 ELK (19C, 7cf, 1sp)

Elk lower cow Cr 8E (4C, 3cf, 1sp.)

Signal on Calf X Cow ridge at tracks: min:

No pencil, gain 4 ant. element, gain 3.7 ant.

10 Mule Deer (7D, 3F)

Cougar tracks going down Cow Cr trail  
Carcass #6 toward mouth Calf Cr.

Cougar tracks on Cow-Calf ridge uphill  
from Calf Mahog outcrops → 1/4 mi  
below trail saddle.

No signals except Cabin Cr ♀ in Calf Cr.

Signal triangulation from saddle is upstream  
of knob (unless she's on Calf Cr side of knob.

Pencil = 4.8, element = 4 gain min audible

② from rocky pt SW of saddle: pencil = 3.8

gain, antenna = ? 3.5 twd. close draw W of  
knob or confluence w/ Calf (knob cliff's)

① Later saddle signal on Lor Rt of knob in  
bottom of Calf Cr. I think she is  
on S side of knob near Calf Cr.



Hiked down from trail saddle on Cow Cr trail:

Deer Kill (Carcaass # 8) 20 m below trail just upstream of the crossing below switchbacks. Dated pre 10" snow, but snow was on ground ~ Jan 1-10. Hide intact in snow with NO bones. Ribcage minus head & legs 15 m below hide. Fresh coyote visitation. No rib chewing, but no flesh or ribs & vertebrae. Unknown cause of death. We'll revisit after snow melt. Some hair plucking possibly - maybe not.

Carcaass #6 Revisit: Meat remaining: 10% on (lower) front leg, 2% rear leg. C-5 (?) tracks since snow of 1/6 - she had visited carcaass then walked to trail (where we saw her tracks this AM) downstream to Calf Cr. Fresh coyote tracks all around carcaass + bird use (none present). Neck severed from head between vertebrae # 2 & #3.

3 ELK (3 cows) in draw N of Carc. #6.  
16 ELK (12C, 4cf) in sagebrush above airstrip.  
Coyote tracks on airstrip → Cabin (4x) and on Cow Cr switchbacks.

Weather: clear/sunny & cold (10° at TRch last night). Warmed up to > freezing.

1/29

W/MO

No collars in Cabin Cr area; C-5 has gone. (Maybe still in upper Calf Cr.)

Cold: 4°, clear → sunny  
No signal on C-5 today (or any other cougar or wolf). We followed C-5 tracks of 1/27 up the nose of Cow-Calf ridge on Calf Cr side toward the tracks we saw yesterday. No signal up Calf or Cow. We hiked up Cabin Cr next to the trail crossing the stream (above Carc. #4). No signal & no tracks.

Returned to Taylor Ranch.  
20 ELK (17 cows, 3 cfs) travel E on trail @ Gooseneck  
6 Bighorns @ Lobauer  
1 Coyote near mouth Cabin Cr.  
2 ELK (2 cows) Brown's B.

Aerial telemetry on 1/30: C-5 is at mouth of Calf Cr! Could she have been on the SE side of the knob today - similar to yesterday.

2/1

w/Mica

C-5 location Cabin Cr Forks

UTM

Carcass #11 deer @ Ram Canyon with  
cougar kitten present UTM

To Cabin Creek. Solid overcast ~30°

7 bighorns @ Taylor Ranch above trail airstrip

20 elk (18C, 2cf) Lobauer riparian

7 m. deer (5D, 2F) across from Lobauer

in riparian → changed to #11

Carcass #10: Mule deer hide, rumen, intestine contents, & blood on ice over Big Cr. at Ram Canyon - where trail talus is reinforced w/gabions. 2 ravens flew off, 2 eagles (1 imm bald, 1 golden) circled & locked talons overhead, 1 magpie heard. SAW a ~35 lb cougar kitten (no spots) leave the kill area, cross the trail 40M from me, and <sup>slowly</sup> slip thru talus & shrub to outcrop & shrub 30M above (didn't spot me & Mica). It later walked 15M+ uphill out of view when we walked below. Quick look at ambush: deer was slid down talus >20M (I didn't investigate), dragged across trail & onto Big Cr ice. There is only 1 8" piece of leg or shoulder.

No carcass!?! Did it fall through the ice yesterday when temps were >30°? Coyote tracks under last night's snow - Brown's Basin to Ram Canyon, + 4 scats (not collected). Date of death 1/30 or 1/31 (we went by here on 1/29).

\* CARCASS PRESENT SEE 2/4 &amp; 2/5

CABIN CREEK: NO signals in Flat or @ Cabin.

C-5 signal direction up Cabin Creek - picked up sporadically below cabin, on airstrip then constant weak <sup>toward</sup> upstream.

Followed C-5 signal to Cabin Cr forks,

She is on W side Cabin Cr ~200M below (S of) forks and ~300M uphill.

Mica could smell her. We never saw/fresh or snowed in cougar tracks.

Best signals (gain): antenna 3.5, ant. elem. ent. 3.8, pencil 4.2, no antenna - no signal.

Tuned receiver from 9.7785 to 9.7775

(higher pitched) for better directionality,

Channels off = 5 (3 at forks). Forested outcrop habitat, 2 fresh elk tracks,

old elk use in riparian. Fresh squirrel fix.

Bobcat tracks cross trail 5 times between spring fed marsh & Travis' camp, 1<sup>st</sup> time seen here.

C-5 NO signal  
Cave bed found - used by C-5 on 1/28

Overcast am. → mostly clear pm; >30° in am.  
To Calf Cr via trail to search for a kill  
from C-5 or C-2.

C-5 bed + tracks around knob below Calf  
Cr trail saddle. Track on tip of knob  
(S point). Bed is below knob, low, 5600',  
SW aspect. Tracks + cougar hair <sup>on rock ceiling</sup>  
of bed - likely in use 1/28 when we  
got her signal here (my original location  
was 100m w of here, but I changed it  
to this den for 1/28). Bedsite is  
under an outcrop overhang. This "cave"  
has a sandy bottom, is 6-20' high &  
8' wide. Vegetation PSME, CELE, PHMA,  
AGSP, FEID, PUTR. Slope 60°, canopy cl.  
30%. Site is lower end of outcrop/  
cliff knob; 90M above Calf Cr.  
Elk use of area in last 2 weeks =  
abundant - (1) pawing craters for FEID  
& other grasses (no AGSP greenup but some  
dead stems eaten) on upper <sup>OPEN</sup> slopes & open  
forest (2) feeding on CELE below & in

outcrop knob. Snow 20-30 cm, soft  
today.

9 ELK (8C, 1cf) feed W of outcrop 200M.  
in open slope

No kill or cougar tracks seen when hiking  
sidehill then bottom of calf Cr. Some  
old elk & deer use. Cottontail tracks  
on Calf Cr.

Collected 1 scat at scrape 150M W of  
cave under large DF.

Bobcat tracks in lower Cow Cr. - 2 pre  
snow 1/31, 1 post snow trail crossing -  
probably the one that left fresh tracks  
noted yesterday near Travis' Camp.

General Thoughts on Use of Calf Cr  
by C-5 in last 2 weeks:

- Lower Calf-Cow ridge is a bed site  
with access to carcass #6 in Cow Cr
- Upper Calf Cr. outcrop knob = bed/  
(security?)
- No kill in Calf Cr. - no birds, cat local-  
ization or tracks, sign of chase.
- Only tracks seen were on C-C ridge  
line, nose of ridge, knob in upper  
drainage.

2/4 & 2/5

Carcass # 11 again.

Hiked as far as Brown's Basin with Jim, Ron, Mike, & Renan + hounds. No fresh cougar tracks. Hound boxes on Cricket's packsaddle worked well. They headed to Cabin Cr. for the night. I returned to Taylor Ranch. Mica scented the cougars at the Ram Canyon kill area, but I did not find any fresh tracks in the crusty snow. I did find an outcrop/cave 30M above the kill and collected a scat there. There was also a fawn leg there. The rest of the skeleton is on the uphill side of trail - 0% meat. The deer was ambushed 15M above the trail and quickly knocked down. It was dragged 25M onto Big Cr ice, then remains dragged back to above trail.

2/5 Hiked to Lobauer to give Pete the CB radio.

3/1

W/RB

Wolf UTM

Carcass # 17 Mule deer killed by Cougar Ram Canyon

Wolves moved from Whimstick to Lobauer in 24 hrs.

C-4 moved from Lobar to Cabin Cr (UTM)

Air-telemetry from 2/29

Weather: Clouds → sunshine, soft snow; a rare nice day.

Renan & I rode to Coxeys Camp. We are on our way to Crooked Cr where C-3 Cave ♂ cougar was located by air yesterday with a mortality signal. We suspect C-1 Cabin ♂ cougar as cause of death since he was located at Dewey Moore's yesterday - the 1<sup>st</sup> location since last spring on Big Creek - he had been wintering near Yellowpine (Tamarack - Sugar - Profile Cr.).

Rush ♀ cougar was near lamb cliffs E of Gooseneck. - Aerial.

Cabin Cr ♀ cougar at Cabin Cr - Aerial.

Cliff Cr ♀ cougar at Camp Cr (near SnowSlide)

Wolves all at Whimstick Cr near Cold Meadows

& 4 way trail intersection to S. - Aerial

Carcass #17 Old aged mule deer doe killed by a cougar. 1 minute look; legs intact, no ribcage, no meat. Large buried pile near legs with

3 meat scats on top. Some gut remains & hair 10' away. Mules had been here in the last few days! Why run off to a kill?

2 ravens, 4 magpies. Site at Ram Canyon mahogany flat at edge of talus; 50m from trail. 5 days old? Is this kill from the female with kitten? Was the bighorn kill #16 by Taylor Ranch her kill too? That would be 3 kills for her in a month along the trail if they are all her kills. No cougar or wolf signals.

Chamberlain Wolf Pack - all 3 signals W of Lobauer Basin & E of Lamb Cliff! That is > 20 miles from their location yesterday! Booming signal (gain on R-1000 down to 3.5) = < 400m away. No signal in Gooseneck except up draw on E (wolves signals moved uphill & distant while we walked trail to Gooseneck then returned to mules). Penny had refused to be in the lead since we left the carcass - she had been smelling the wolves on

the downcanyon wind for 2.5 miles.  
No wolf visual. We saw wolf tracks  
on the trail headed downstream -  
not long after getting the signals.

The wolf tracks originated on the  
W side of Cave Cr & were on the trail  
& Cabin Cr flat most of the way down.  
We suspect the wolves heard or saw  
us & moved off the trail above us.

I just happened to get the signal as  
I was dialing to a bighorn frequency.  
I'm checking signals every 1/2 mi or less.

C-4 Rush Cr ♀ located at Cabin Cr -  
E side. She's probably in the grassland  
draw SE of Spring Cr. (no signal when  
we first entered Cabin Cr, only heard to E  
from W side Cabin Flat). This is 1st  
time she has been <sup>documented</sup> in Cabin Cr area.

4 mule deer at Lobar. No other ungulates all day!  
Wolf tracks melted out from Vines

Ranch to W; several wolves then  
1 track travelling W.

Subadult ♀ cougar tracks travel E  
below cliffs W of Doe Creek Spring.  
2 days old?

3-2-00

w/RB

5 carcasses between Dewey Moore's  
and Mile Flat

C-1 ♂ E of Acorn Cr UTM:

C-3 ♂ most heard in Crooked Cr.

Sunny & warm

We rode from Coxey Camp toward  
Monumental confluence to put up a  
camp and retrieve the collar on C-3.  
A snowslide made the trail impassable  
for the mules, so we backtracked  
toward Mile Flat for a camp

We saw 5 carcasses along the trail  
between Dewey Moores and Mile Flat.  
All carcasses were in deep snow on (2)  
or below (3) the trail and had snow  
free slopes above (<100M).

We hiked then snowshoed up Big Cr and  
1 1/2 mi up Crooked Cr. Saw many melted  
out wolf tracks near Monumental, 1/2 mi  
up Crooked Creek and down Big Cr  
below Coxey. No wolf or cougar tracks  
visible on Monumental Bridge.

Turned back without C-3. Postholing thru  
snow with & without snowshoes was exhaust-  
ing.  
Unsaddled mules, chopped out water  
access, put up tent, no time for dinner. 10:30 P

Investigated C-3 Cave Cougar's death -  
a Cougar fight then eaten by cougars.

We hiked up Big Cr & Crooked Cr again.  
Faster going in am cold temps, but  
it was warm, sunny, and snow soft  
by pm. Found C-3 after 3 hours of  
snowshoeing. His carcass was  
3m off the trail. It had been  
almost totally consumed except  
head, paws, tail tip, lungs, liver, &  
stomach/intestines. Face had many  
lacerations & canine punctures; one  
canine through the top of skull. Claws  
& mouth had Cougar hairs in them.  
Stomach contents only deer hide,  
upper intestines nothing, lower intestines  
full. 2 front claws broken, back foot  
pads had old (snow) cuts. Partly <sup>buried</sup> with sticks  
Most tracks melted out or not visible  
near carcass except cougar kitten  
tracks went to 2m of carcass then  
crossed road trail. We had seen  
a <sup>melted out</sup> smaller cougar track (♀ or subad)

cross Crooked Cr 4 times within  
a mile of the carcass. We found  
3 beds, 5+ scats, 1 cougar "toilet",  
1 scrape near the carcass.  
Snow was soft & 24" deep when  
we were there, but melted tracks  
difficult to ID. There were adult  
& kitten tracks together near 2  
bedsites. The ♀ cougar & kitten  
ate the C-3 tom. Did they  
kill it or was there a fight  
between C-3 and C-1. C-1 had  
been near Yellowpine all winter  
until located near Dewey Moores  
(Acorn Cr) on 2/29, when C-3 <sup>collared</sup>  
was on mortality. C-3 had last  
been located in lower Monumental  
Competition from 2 toms for breeding  
female with an older kitten? Doesn't  
appear that wolves were involved.  
Habitat around carcass = riparian  
shrub to open PSME and/or CELE-  
PUTR-AGSP outcrops.  
Stomach & guts suggest C-3 had not  
killed recently - was the fight on  
Big Cr or Crooked Cr. Were wounds older

There was aspirated blood on nose & face. Blood in lungs. Feet had puncture injuries (bites) with subQ haemorrhaging - right front paw and 1 rear foot. Did part of fight occur in a tree? We didn't look for tree evidence.

Potential for interaction between C-1 Cabin Cr ♂ tom and C-3 Cave Cr ♂ tom: Last winter both cats had recent battle scars suggesting they had been in a fight together (captured within 1/2 miles of each other, 10 days apart), C-1 wintered at Cougar Creek & C-3 wintered at the W Fork of Rush Cr in 1998-1999. By Summer 1999 C-1 moved up Big Creek to West Fk Monumental to high elev Missouri Ridge  $\frac{1}{2}$  Tamarack Cr. (near Yellowpine). C-3 summer movements not well documented but near Rainbow Peak - Lake Roosevelt in Aug (2 times) then head of Marble Cr to 2 point Cr in Sept. C-1 stayed in the Yellowpine vicinity until Feb 2000. C-3 no locations for Oct, then at Snowslide mouth Nov 19.

Winter 1999-2000 locations of C-1 & C-3:

Date	C-1	C-3
11/17	Tamarack Cr	Snowslide Cr
11/19	Sugar Cr (head)	
12/1	—	Telephone Cr
12/3	Tamarack Cr (lower)	Marble Cr <sup>m.k. &amp; Tim</sup>
12/21	Tamarack Cr	Snowslide, head
12/23	Profile Cr, mouth	Simonds air str.
12/30	—	Monum/Snowsl
1/14/00	Sugar Cr.	
1/27	—	Monum/Snowsl
1/30	—	Monum/Snowsl
2/3	—	—
2/16	—	—
#2 @ Snowsl. Wolves		
2/17	X Dewey Moore	Big Creek <sup>below mouth</sup> Crooked
2/23	#2 @ Snowsl.	Mouth Monument
2/29	#2 @ Snowsl.	Acorn Cr. Crooked Cr. <sup>1/2 mi</sup> MORET

There is a good likelihood that these 2 toms encountered each other around Feb 23. Did one of these toms breed the C-2 female at the mouth of Snowslide? Both toms were older males (6-8 yrs). Interesting changes in winter ranges in both years for both cats. Why? Past fights?



3/4, 3/5, 3/7

w/RB.

- Carcass #19 Small elk W of Acorn possible wolf
- Carcass #20 Elk Cow E of Mile Flat wolf
- Carcass #21 Deer at Mile Flat wolf or cougar
- Carcass #22 Bull moose at Mile Flat (old) wolf
- Carcass #23 Deer fawn/yrl. Acorn Cr pos. wolf

Packed camp & rode from Mile Flat camp to Coxey Camp. Wrote up predation forms for 5 older kills & investigated sites. All kills were in deep (16"+) snow with open steep slopes above which could have been start of ambush into deep snow. No signals heard.

\*Note: Pete & Mike located Chamb. wolves on 3/2 where C-4 had been on 3/1 & I located wolves on 3/1 where C-4 had been on 2/29: DID WOLVES FOLLOW C-4?

3/5 w/RB  
Returned to Taylor Ranch. Checked a few sites for kills. None found. No signals.

3/7 Air Telemetry Pat Dorris

- C-1 Draw W of Coxey
- C-2 Monumental
- C-4 Across Big Creek from Cougar Cr
- C-5 Up Cabin Cr W side toward Forks
- Chamb. Pack Coxey Cr on E side → miletti

3/11 & 3/13

w/PA

Air Telemetry 3/11 and 3/13  
Search for C-5's kill from last week  
Carcass #27 Cow elk - old kill, bear scat  
Cave with 2 cougar scats

Air telemetry with Ray Arnold on 3/11;  
C-1 still at draw W of Coxey - no snow  
C-2 Copper Cr sagebrush on Monumental, no snow  
C-4 Still across Big Cr from Cougar Cr, 6" snow  
C-5 Moved to upper grassland ridge between Spring Cr & Browns Basin  
Chamberlain Pack along Monumental Cr  
1/2 mi above Wilbur's cabin.

Air Telemetry Pat Dorris & J.A. 3/13:

- C-1 Acorn Cr
- C-2 Monumental Cr
- C-4 Lewis Fork Rush Creek
- C-5 Still grassland ridge betw. Spring & Browns
- Chamb. Wolves Monumental across from Snowslide

We searched the 2 draws where C-5 had been located on 3/2-3/7 for a kill. No focused bird activity detected, tracks (3) of cougar side hilled thru snow in S draw at 5800'. 2 scats collected (cougar)

at a cave at 5300' due W of 3/3 & 3/4 locations (300M uphill). The cave(s) was at the base of a cliff; much woodrat droppings. Mica marked 2 spots. Scat was mostly hair but looked fairly recent - some odor. No cougar tracks in draw to N; altho some elk use. Both draws bare on S aspect and 2" - 20" snow on N aspect. Outcrop low in N draw below forks - no cave, scats, tracks.

Carcass #27 Cow elk (older age) in the draw bottom below the outcrop and ~ 100M above the Cabin Cr trail. 3 bear scats in vicinity of carcass. We aged carcass at 90 days ago, but maybe was older. Maggot larvae between joints. Bones disarticulated, no ribs, pelvis & vertebrae chewed on. Could not verify predation nor cause of death. Location (outcrop + draw bottom) points to cougar.

3/14

97.55

W/P.A.

81 Elk camped on Cabin Cr grasslands  
C-5 localized same as yesterday.  
Carcass #28 Cougar (C-4?) killed deer.

Weather: Blustery, strong W wind, some snow.  
(15E (13C, 2cf) joined larger group  
2E (26pts) on Browns ridge joined group  
81 Elk (61 cow, 13cf, 1sp, 3ragh, 15pt, 26pt)  
on grassy hillside S of Spring Cr.  
Elk are bedded at knob/swale on  
E side just out of the wind. Mostly  
bare ground, little greenup. Bedded  
most of day. Elk had travelled from  
Spring Cr & above their location  
thru snow.

Found patch of elk hair on <sup>the</sup> grassy  
slope that had 2 dead lice.  
Some of calves had ragged looking  
hair coats.

C-5 Cabin Creek Cougar triangulation  
She is in same forested draw  
as air telemetry location yesterday  
(and near 3/11 location). This is the  
uppermost forested section of the  
Browns - Spring Cr grassland draw  
that ends at Cabin Creek Flat.

No bird activity, but we suspect a kill. The 8<sup>th</sup> elk are 300M away (upwind of her). We made a wide circle around the draw to triangulate ( $\approx 300M$ ) to avoid disturbance. Wind was strong & mostly from west (favorable).

Carcass #28: Yearling doe killed by cougar (probably C-4 RushCr). Found this kill in mid section of same draw C-5 in in today. Located kill by hair trail. C-4 located here on 3/11. Ambush site from grasslands (35m to an outcrop); hair trail 135m to "carcass" site in bottom of draw. No bones at guts + hair pile (likely plucked). Found 1/2 skull, jaws, 1 scapula, pelvis + femur, 1 front leg in brush 5-20m below hair pile. Femur fat solid white-pink. 2 cougar "toilets" and 2 other scrapes with scats. 9 <sup>cougar</sup> scats found - 7 collected. 5 trees with claw marks on them, 1 small cave 10M from carcass - bed + toilet site. Bobcat or coyote tracks besides cougar tracks. 1 possible wolf track

Jim flew telemetry

Found 3 old carcasses (2 deer, 1 elk) in CaveCr  
C-5 appears to be in yesterday's location.  
Elk near yesterday's site too.

Collected 2 wolf scats from ~ 3/1 on CaveTrail To Cave Creek to check for old kills:

- 1) Mule deer buck <sup>2x3</sup> skull + 1 vertebra, NO hair or other bones, <sup>Last year or</sup> Early winter death. Skull chewed on (orbits & nasal). 3 cougar scrapes under large DF 40M away. Possible cougar kill. <sup>UNKNOWN</sup> No outcrop near. The site is below trail on gentle bench above CaveCr downstream of cabin 1/2 mi.
- 2) Mule deer <sup>3</sup>-hair piles + hair trail off the hillside. Site is at base of outcrop draw, 300M below cabin. On flat bench. No bones found. Good cougar ambush site, but lack of bones & carcass (hair) in open suggests wolf. Unknown cause of death.
- 3) Elk hair + gut pile remains. Bones present look old & weathered (>6mo) but hair & stomach contents look ~ early winter. No skull. Looks like young elk. 1 cougar scat <sup>piece</sup> buried in litter (no scrape), 2 pieces old (wolves were located here on 3/2) <sup>scat</sup> No cause death

(2/19-3/21) 3/21

w RB

1 Bighorn, 84 elk, 36 mule deer  
3 Telemetry flights

Aerial Telemetry on 3/19, 3/20, 3/21:  
Wolves at Lodgepole Cr.  
C-4 moved from Rush Pt to Lewis Fk  
C-5 stayed in Cow Cr.  
C-1 was at C-3 kill site  
C-2 still at Deer Cr - Copper Cr (Simonds)

3/21

Renan & I rode upstream in pm  
after working with femurs, bones, time.  
15 (1 ewe) Ram Canyon  
11 D (6 D, 3 F, 1 B young, 1 unk) Lobauer, scattered  
15+ E across from Lobauer  
22 E (18 cows, 4 calves (1 is bull)) Browns  
15 D (10 does, 4 fawn, 1 buck) Cabin Cr  
flat, lick soil & feed.  
47 E (1 was spike) Cabin Cr lower  
benches. Elk twirl & play fight.  
10 D Lower Vinegar Hill by cabin  
We collected elk droppings from 22 elk.  
No elk or deer were very spooky,  
All were on lower 1/3 slope.

3/22

w RB

Jaw/teeth collected from 3 elk carcasses  
C-5 similar location

Collected jaw & teeth from cow elk dead last yr mouth spring Cr

Collected <sup>teeth</sup> jaw from Jan 99 cougar (bobcat) killed elk,

Carcass from fall 1999 (leaves <sup>also coyote jaw</sup> & grass on

leg. bones). Cow elk, older (tooth collected)

Carcass mostly intact or legs w/in 10M.

Some chewing of ribs, slight on leg

joints, pelvis, head. Looks like probably

was cougar kill (or non pred.) Under

shrubs, in riparian at base of hillside

Hair under carcass. Located at upper

forks of cow Cr below switchbacks

to Calf Cr. Cabin Cr ♀ cougar is

near here today. COST browsed

heavily in riparian - elk or moose

-last year.

C-5 ♀ Cougar located by triangulation in  
forks of Cow Cr. (bottom). Signal 4.0 gain

with pencil (250M) and 3.2 antenna.

Renan saw cougar in bottom. Saw <sup>cougar tracks</sup>

ravens, heard magpies, suspect a kill.

Talked to Doug - , Dusty the cougar

hunter's brother. They flew in, will hunt up

Big Cr.

We collected 8 cow elk

37 ELK (34 C, 3 cf) Cabin Cr Benches

1 ELK (9 C, 1 cf, 1 spike) Cabin Cr Benches  
7 ELK Vinegar side  
droppings for pregnancy test.

3-23

w/RB

C-5 in same location day 24 of predation sequence  
Carcass #29 Mule deer doe - Cow Cr.

Located C-5 in same site as yesterday  
3.2 gain w/antenna, 3.8 gain w/pencil = 180M to visual site of yesterday.

Raining early AM, turned to heavy snow til 11:00AM, then clearing.

Carcass #29 Mule Deer doe on N side,

lower 1/3 slope above Cow Cr trail crossing to switchbacks. Carcass

slightly disarticulated, most bones present, few chewed (nasal area, rib tips). Older aged doe. Killed ~20

days ago (moist tissue & flexible joints in furred lower legs, some odor). Hide in 1<sup>2</sup> ft sections.

Large bear scat on gut pile - looks like it contains rumen material. No sign of cougars

(beds, scats, plucking, covering, hair), but looks eaten like a cougar. Did

bear just feed on gut pile? Horse hairs on 3 trees nearby. No broken neck.

Collected jaw & femur.

Rode to Cabin Cr forks - No recent use of riparian by elk/deer  
Only saw 3D (20/11/17). Old cow moose skull collected.

3/24

w/RB

C-5 in same location, day 25 of sequence

Rode up Cow Creek to the telemetry point where upper Cow Cr. can be viewed. Got her signal here, same as yesterday. Went back to Cabin Creek to pack up gear & return to Taylor Ranch.

No deer or elk seen on the trip down. Bobcat tracks at Goose-neck. 2 groups of Bighorns at Cliff Cr.

## GENERAL IDEAS THOUGHTS PLANS

Next year: plan to have aerial support for 2nd & 3rd day after wolves show up near a collared cat so we can document these long distance moves the cougars make after wolf exposure, (can't keep track on the ground, especially if there are several cougars (Cabin Cr area) See 3/1-3/7 for C-4 and 3/30-3/31 for C-5 for post wolf movements.

Ideas: Spike out w/mules to find C-5 kill  
Get Peak in to check out elk & range cond.  
3/22 C-5 cougar killed something at forks of Cow Cr - some 12" snow (80%) in bottom only. No elk or deer sign there but 80+ elk and 30+ mule deer on grassy slopes of Cabin Cr. Why does cougar hunt forested low density prey areas? Prey more susceptible? Why do elk/deer stay in trees as slopes green up?

March: Generalizations;

- It seems wolves have worked upper edges of Big Cr Winter Range this year & avoided central area. Also snow is less this year? & elk more dispersed? Do wolves prefer deep snow crust? Do wolves take more moose & bulls-elk in the fringe area? We did not see much elk/deer sign near mouth Crooked Cr. Why not hunt higher prey density areas? Is # of <sup>prey</sup> group encounters more imp't than # of prey? Do cougars affect wolf distribution? Are wolves more adaptable to annual <sup>winter</sup> climate variations than cougars? - prey locations, ability to kill/feed.

## PREY CARCASSES 2000

#	form date	Species	Age/sex	Predator	Scav. Inj.	Location
01	1/6	EIK	cow	wolf (coyote)		Cabin Cr
02	1/9	Deer	fawn ♀	bobcat coyote		Tay Reh
03	1/9	Deer	yearl ♂	cougar #4		Pioneer Cr
04	1/13	EIK	cow	cougar #5	skunk	Cabin Cr
05	1/15	EIK	cow	cougar (oldkill)		Cow Cr.
06	1/16	EIK	calf	cougar #5		Cow Cr.
07	1/18	Deer	fawn	bobcat		Browns Basin
08	1/28	Deer	unk	unk		Cow Cr.
09	1/28	EIK	calf?	cougar	x from Doe Cr	
11	2/1	Deer	fawn	cougar w/kitn		Ram Canyon
10		Deer	? young?	cougar?		Goat Cr <sup>mount</sup>
12	2/4	EIK	calf	cougar #5		Cabin Cr
13		EIK	cow	cougar	bobcat coyote	Garden
14		EIK	cow	cougar		Coxey Lime Cr
15		EIK	cow	cougar		Coxey Bar
17	3/1	Deer	doe?	cougar	very old	Ram Canyon Taylor Ranch
16		Bighorn	ewe	cougar		N slope
18	3/1	EIK	cow	cougar		Cabin Cr
19	3/4	EIK	calf?	wolf?		Acorn Cr.
20	3/4	EIK	cow	wolf		Mile Flat
21	3/4	Deer	?	lion/wolf?		Mile Flat
22	3/4	moose	Bull	wolf		Mile Flat
23	3/4	Deer	?	wolf		Acorn Cr.
24	3/3	Cougar	#30	cougar		Crooked Cr.

## PREY CARCASSES 2000

#	form date	Species	Age/sex	Predator	Scav. Inj.	Location
25		EIK		wolf		Coxey Cr
26		EIK	bull calf	cougar (c-4)		Soldier Bar
27		EIK	cow	unk		Cabin Cr
28		Mule Deer		cougar (c-4?)		Cabin Cr
29	3/7	Mule deer	doe	cougar (c-5)		Cabin Cr
30	3/23	Mule deer	doe	unk		Cow Cr
31	3/27	Mule deer	doe	cougar (c-5)		Cow Cr
32	4/1	EIK	cow	wolf		Cabin Cr
33	3/30	EIK	calf	wolf		Big Cr @ <sup>Crooked</sup> <sub>ed</sub>
34	3/31	EIK	cow	wolf		Crooked Cr
35	3/30	Mule deer	buck	wolf	possible	Big Cr @ Crooked
36	4/4	Mule deer		cougar		Rush Cr
37						Rush Cr
38						
39						
40						
41						Cabin Cr
42						Cabin Cr
43		Mule Deer	doe	cougar + kitn		Taylor R

SAMPLES COLLECTED

Femurs/humerus: #1 (end chewed), #2, #3?, #4, #6

Jaws/teeth: #1 skull, #5, #4

Metatarsus: #3,

Marrow examined (color): #1 white/pink

Arthritis (where):

PHOTOS

Roll Date Subject



C-1 Cabin ♂ 9.867-865 yellow/brown  
C-2 Cliff ♀ 9.820-818 green  
C-3 Care ♂ 9.254 green/yellow  
C-4 Rush ♀ 9.565 dark blue  
C-5 Cabin ♀ 9.778 brown/purple

B-9 Chamb ♂ white 8.1045-103  
B-16 Chamb ♀ white 8.045  
B-50 Chamb sub ♀ white 8.860  
B-88 Chamb new sub ♀ <sup>grey</sup> 8.377  
B-22 TM ♀ grey 8.710  
B-57 TM grey ♂ 8.864-866  
B-58 TM grey ♂ 8.810  
B-59 TM grey ♂ 9.652  
B-71 TM black ♂ 8.995-999  
B-72 TM black ♀ 8.975-977  
B-80 Selway ♀ pup 8.313(315) black  
B-38 Stankey sub ♀ <sup>grey</sup> disperse 8.770

UTM Cabin Cr. Cabin 662,800E 5,600,340N



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