

"Rite in the Rain"®

ALL-WEATHER WRITING PAPER



HORIZONTAL LINE

All-Weather Spiral

No. 393

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WINTER - SPRING 2002

4 5/8" x 7" - 64 Pages

~ 11/25-26/2001

Rode to Acorn w/ Jim, Dale, Cheryl
and put up the camp. Ray had
flown 2 plane loads (1300 lbs) of
gear + cubes + firewood to Acorn
the week before.

~ 12/16-17/2001

Bobcat trx at TR

Jim & I checked on Acorn Camp,
Tent was fine with center support
despite 12" of snow load on roof.
195 (12E, 7L) yellow ear tag & white collar

Elk at Acorn - high ridges

Elk at Coxey W side ridges

Elk at Acorn airstrip

Cougar tracks

Signal on C-5 up Cabin Creek
(distance signal picked up at main
trail ford.)

12/8

Air Telemetry

Wheat Thin at Stove Camp draw,
high near camp on^w Pioneer Ridge

C-5 Cliff Cr above lamb cliffs
@ rocky bluff at upper forks.

Sheep: 2 on lower Rush Cr
1 at Cliff Cr

12/30/01

Air Telemetry

"Noel" rehab coug ♀ mortality signal
in lower Profile Cr.

C-5 at Cave Cr forks, w side

No wolves or other cougars
Yellowpine
→ Big Cr → Acorn → Soldier Bar

1/3/02

Cougar capture: no fresh tracks
TR → Gooseneck. None

Others: None @ Cliff, Cougar, Goat.
* Track survey: -TR → Gooseneck

Weather: heavy snow (3") in Am.
1:30 - 5:30 Hike to Gooseneck in
search of fresh cougar tracks.
Old cougar tracks under fresh
snow @ Mule Basin & Lobauer,
Fresh (4 hr) bobcat trx at Mule
Basin; came down off W cliff, thru
riparian to E then crossed Big Cr.

4 bighorns (2E, 2I) high in Lobauer
feeding where sun has melted
most snow (8" along trail).

Juncos & song sparrows feed in
mixed flock, ~ 25, eating tiny
seeds from Lamb's Quarter in
burned riparian.

1/4/02

- * Track survey 24 hr after snow
- TR → Lobauer
- Search for cougar trx for capture - none

Weather: overcast, no snow 25°

Taylor → Lobauer:

- Bobcat trx on trail x from airstrip came from Rush Cr across Big Cr.
- Bobcat trx @ Mule Basin travel downstream from yesterday's.
- 2 Coyotes ♀, ♂ at Mule Basin and ♂ only in Lobauer. Travel on snow/ice on Big Creek or on trail. Marked & kicked Mica's markings.
- Bighorns @ Lobauer again, further up at edge of grass & burned forest @ Horse Mtn.
- 1 Bighorn trx cross Big Cr on ice above Rush Cr (Mica & I crossed there too)
- Coyote trx @ mouth Rush Cr and on Rush Cr ice.

1/5/02

Search for Cougar Trx Taylor → Cabin Cr. none < 1 day old

No C-5 signal @ Cabin Cr
Set up Cabin Creek Camp

weather: overcast, ~15°

Rode to Browns Basin w/ Jim & Josh. Jay & Chris turned hounds out on a tom track they thought could be ♀. All day cold trailing. Jay & Chris returned to Taylor without hounds (on Horse Mtn). Wolf presence in Gooseneck.

After waiting for the chase for a few hours we left Browns to Cabin Creek to set up the camp & put up backcountry radio antenna. Jim took stock & returned to Taylor. I checked Cabin Cr & Josh Cow Cr for cougar trx. No C-5 signal.

* Cougar tracks 1 day old (♀? 3.25" x 35")
going up Cabin Cr trail @ stream crossings - mostly covered by elk trx
66 Elk (53 cows, 11 calves, 2 sp, 1 raghorn)
low, along riparian Sof Travis' camp,
(counting 2 sp & 2 cows)

3 Deer Sof elk in riparian

1/6/02

with Josh

Cave Cr track survey.

C-5 location for possible capture - we hiked over Vinegar Hill to Forks Cave Cr - signal up E FK Cave at or above Cliff. Many elk camped

Weather: overcast, 25°, no snow & no wind
To Vinegar Hill from Cabin Cr then ridgetline to forks of Cave Cr to C-5 signal

6E (6C) from E of Cabin to airstrip & up Cabin many elk E of Airstrip 2/3 up Vinegar Hill

8+E (7C, 1 sp, + others) - same as yesterday

11 E (11C) Vinegar/Cave Cr main cliff area - near ridgetop in broken terrain,

8 E (8C) bedded midslope in snow/shrub Cave Cr

18 E (18C) Vinegar Hill/Cabin Cr side near forested top,

2 D (2 3-4 pts) with many elk on Cabin side - high near top,

3E (3C) + 2E (2C) + 23E (21C, 2Cf) cabin draw of Cave Cr - high in grass shrub w/nearby forest & outcrops

C-5 signal 3.8 gain & 18 channels off from W of Cave Cr forks to N at/past E FK cliff, caught trax uphill to E from Forks = 3 days old,

22E (19C, 2Cf, 1 SP) lower Cave Cr; low slope

CAVE CR fresh tracks < 3 days old ^(last snow)

1) Cougar at forks ^{to} uphill E

2) Deer (1)

3) Cougar above Cabin site to Cave Cr (W)

4) Bobcat at lower Cave, burned.

5) Elk many at lower 1/4 mi

6) Bobcat fresh lower 1/4 mi

7) Wolf (1) came down Big Cr

trail, avoided Cave Cr bridge x 30M above bridge then travel down Big Cr trail (later trax seen in Cabin Flat & @ Browns)

Pat Dorris called T.R. and reported that B-80 was at the mouth of Rush Cr when he flew! She was last known on Big Creek ~ Dec 29, 2000. ^{we} Thought she established a territory N of salmon River last year & had pups.

1/7

C-7

2yr old ♀

C-7 cougar captured & collared
near Vines Ranch.

Weather: overcast, mild ~28°

Rode/hiked to Cave Cr to capture C-5,
but fresh subadult ♀ cougar tracks
on our yesterday tracks at mouth of
Cave Cr → Big Cr trail upstream.

Turned dogs out & treed cat just
W of Vines / Garden Cr at the
"Canopener" "Turtle" rock.

C-7 is a young ~24 month old cat in
poor condition and no food in stomach/
intestines; ~58 lbs. She fell out of
the tree 3 minutes ^{after} darting. (350 mg Ketamine)

Darted 10:20 Heart 60 Resp 21

Heart 72 Resp 18

Collar 219,577

Left cougar @ 12:40. She still does not
stand well and partial tracking with
eyes. She has scrape over rt eye from
fall, but likely superficial injuries.

Returned to Taylor Ranch. Chris ^{caught pup}
at Gooseneck.

2/11 TAYLOR → CABIN

w/AB

Cheek Carcass #7 bobcat killed deer
A white elk at Lobauer Basin
Elk comp.

Weather: clear, mild (~40°?); snow crusted
Taylor → Cabin Cr - crusty snow
no fresh tracks.

5S (1E, 1I, 3II) Mule Basin East
18E (not good comp only 1 calf confirmed)
feed bed W Side Lobauer on gentle
slope (mid-hi elev). One "elk" is
white - gray colored (mane darker)
yearling cow size, thin in rump.

Maggies (2) E of Mule Basin; E draw
Cabin Cr Flat (2-3); golden eagle
circle Gooseneck.

1E (1C) Cabin Cr, W of Cabin <sup>Came off
grassy hill</sup>
Wolf Trx (2-5 day old) - 1 lg / pup
Cabin Cr Flat Trail - E side. ^{Trx 1/4"}
<sup>deep over
snow crust</sup>

Regurgitation (brown w/ lg (1"x2") clump
of grass) @ Browns - wolf?
cougar? lg coyote?

No G-S signal @ Cabin Cr.

To bobcat kill of deer (Carcass # 7) ^{at} Cow Cr.

Ambush site 300' elevation and 270 m
upslope of carcass! A record distance
for riding a deer. Jaw collected.

Comp Counts @ Cabin Cr area:

1E (1C) Vinegar Hill

7E (no comp) Vinegar Hill + 2D

25E (19C, 6cf) Cow Cr (N side X
from Calf Cr mouth)

2D (2D) Cow Cr N side

10E (9C, 1cf) above airstrip on E

1 coyote on ridgeline (backbone/wolf spot)
E of 10E

All animals on bare (no snow) slopes
except 10E & coyote. The 10E feed in
matted spots, otherwise snow ~ 5" deep.

Greenup is minimal / not usable where
I am above 10E (decadent AGSP, no
POSA or BRTE or FEID, a few dicot leaves)

The "elk" look healthy - chunky.

Andrea comped another 7E (4C, 3cf)
below the 10E (K).

2/12 Cabin Cr → Acorn Camp

To Acorn

No new kills. Elk out in snowfree sites, but poor greenup.

Weather: cold clear night → warm ~40° clear day

2 Moose (1 cow, 1 ♂ calf) @ Vines airstrip, bed.

27 ELK (21C, 4cf, 1 sp, 1 5pt) W of Vines. Feeding on bare ground just above snow line from shade.

Much elk track / bed / feeding sign in riparian from E of Doe Cr. to here ^(both sides Big Cr) - eating dead grass, horsetail, leaves? Cheatgrass just starting to greenup in select locations, but mostly no greenup available to elk. They have browsed the Mt mahogany along the trail.

Coxey Creek - rode beyond forks, up W FK: old melted elk sign (not a lot) - feeding in pawed craters in riparian; 100% browsed deciduous shrubs (dogwood, maple, ?) that have sprouted since the fire. Old coyote tracks common, some fresher, < 2 days old. All of Coxey bottom was burned. Snow 8-16" in trail, some

bare ground at forks ridge.

Otter @ Lime Cr. Moose cow E of Lime Cr on S, Side of Big Creek feeding on tall riparian shrubs (alder?).

4E (3C, 1 cf) (Andrea saw 4C, 2cf) E of Acorn Cr in outcrop-talus-CELE.

4E E of ridge of Acorn Cr above airstrip Acorn bottom $\frac{2}{3}$ hillsides mostly snow covered still - except rough rocky area E of Acorn within 1000' of bottom and > 200' from bottom. Greenup NOT active - except a few clumps of cheatgrass @ Acorn.

Golden Eagle @ Cave Cr

Travis' hunters in today. We did not get to check the head of cougar killed by wolves for hair in mouth - Trav flew it out just as we were riding to his camp.

HEAVY ELK USE OF RIPARIAN VEG in the last few weeks.

2/13 Acorn → Crooked + Mile Flat

w Andrea

Carcass #11 Cougar killed cow elk
at Mile Flat draw

Wolf trax; elk in mid-low no snow slopes

Weather: cold & clear am, mostly clear mild pm

Acorn → Crooked

5E (3C, 1 cf, 1 unk) W of Acorn - low in
mahog-bluff - spotty snow.

12E (unclassified cows) W of Acorn in
mahog-bluff - low snow %.

1E (1C) same habitat/snow as above
Checked Kill # 9 wolf killed cow elk.

Age not as old as they thought - no wear
on M4 but PMI worn most - mid
aged. No jaw still. Bone marrow

waxy pink. No slide trail thru
snow from above; no ambush found.

One (2) wolf tracks 1-2 days old
from Mile Flat → Crooked, (both directions)

Bobcat trax - 1 mi E of & to Crooked Cr
fresh this Am.

Old elk trax (mostly > 1 week) in
trail. Some localized feeding on
ice at Big Creek riparian

Cow moose bedded @ Monumental Bar.

Hiked up E side of grassy basin
above Mile Flat. Snow was
perfect for walking on crust
with 1/2 melted for traction.

Old elk tracks 500' from bottom
- shallowest snow, w/draws & outcrops

1 CELE heavily browsed. Hiked
down into basin & found

CARCAS #11. Cougar tree scratch-
ing on 2 lg dbh DF and 1
scrape w/scat. Coyote tracks

(scavenging) at carcass. No good
ambush site & slide in snow

due to melting & age of carcass
(> 2 weeks), but elk hair & broken

branches up to 18 m. above
carcass. It's old aged cow, mostly

consumed except 1 buried front
leg. Guts in place, hide on

underside, but much hair at
site - likely plucked by cougar.

Elk health good - creamy pink
marrow, no leg injuries, no arthritis

noted. Collected femur, metatarsus,
jaw.

Acorn → Cabin Cr

10 wolves at Cabin Creek

Carcass #12 Calf Elk below Acorn

Remains of 2 other carcasses, 2

Calf Elk @ Cabin Cr

Weather - clear & cool am, clear & mild pm

Planned to go Acorn to Taylor, but stayed at Cabin Cr due to wolf activity.

Carcass #12 was calf elk; hair & hide chunks & chewed humerus, femur, pelvis on Big Creek ice; ~ 1 month old? 9

sets of wolf tracks on ice from upstream to carcass to downstream THIS MORNING. Likely a wolf kill, but little direct evidence (mainly old ^{and} scattering of carcass) and lack of cougar evidence (tracks, carcass slide, scats/scrapes).

Wolves travelled on the ice of Big Creek mostly. We saw tracks to Garden Creek then again W of Cabin Creek flat.

10 wolves bedded in West Cabin Flat

jumped up and ran across flat then ^{walked} uphill ^{west} over the top to Cave Creek. There are 2 white, very wooly large wolves - I think both are collared

and are the alpha pair. The α male led the group and α female at rear with tail high. A small pup was with α ♂ followed by a large (♂?) gray wolf with a black back.

One wolf had red-brown ears, the others were grey with black backs. Maybe 4 pups, including the small one. One young wolf laid down as they travelled uphill - a second young wolf interacted with it and they had a short snarling fight (we could hear). I was surprised the pack left so far, so fast from our disturbance. We had barely rode into sight of Cabin Flat and >300m away when they spooked.

We investigated the Cabin Cr flat area where they had been - tracks everywhere - mostly on top of snow sinking 1/4". Found another carcass the wolves had scavenged today: a calf elk skull, pelvis, hair at W side Cabin Flat near aspen patch. Maybe 1 week old? - 4/12: Did they kill & eat calf this morning?

2/15

Cabin → Taylor

Other wolf observations: alpha female wolf is in heat: blood in snow along trail and blood smear in her bed. Urine scent marks along trail and one site in flat scratched snow 4 times (mica marks over all!). Wolves moved pelvis from unknown carcass that we saw on the trail several days earlier.

Other observations: the female moose of 2/12 had moved downstream, but hid & bedded when we rode by. Wolves must have walked past her.

Dippers & Canyon Wrens singing.

C-5 at head of Gooseneck.
UTM:

Telemetry signal on C-5, high to N between Brown's Basin and Gooseneck.

Check billed
Telem flights
for more data
Add 2/15 C-5 UTM
location

2/18

Air Telem. C-5 head Gooseneck

No loc. C-5 on 2/27

UTM 665,070E 4,998,600N 6150'

3/4

To Lobauer (Horse Mtn)

No white elk, no kills

28 elk 26 mule deer, 4 bighorns

2/18

Aerial telemetry for C-5:

She is at the top of the draw
E of Gooseneck - near Horse Mtn.

This is a movement outside
her normal homerange. See

3/13

2/27 IDF&G Helicopter crew
tried to locate C-5 from
aerial telemetry in Cabin &
Cave Creek - NO LOCATION

See 3/8 Air Location: C-5
is in Upper Duncce Creek!

TR → Lobauer track since 3/1 snow:

Bobcat TR ↔ Ram Canyon; bighorns

@ Rush Crossing; ram track Rush →

Mule Basin; 2nd coyotes ^{betu.com} Ram Canyon

& Mule Basin (2 way); bobcat @ Mule

Basin. Otter trx @ Mule & Lobauer at Big

23 ELK (not comped - only saw 1 calf

mid slope Lobauer - travelled uphill

to ridge line - surprisingly spooky

from mules on trail. No white

elk in group

14 deer (no comp) near elk. ^{Upper Lobauer} They

moved uphill w/ elk too.

4 Deer (3D, 1F) upper Lobauer - grass outc

4D (3D, 1F) W Upper Lobauer - grass - talus

4S (3E, 1unk) bed in pink talus

in Gooseneck draw - high

4E (4C) bed on outcrop ridge

mid slope between Gooseneck & Gneck Dra

1E (1C) bed in burned forest & snow

of Horse Mtn above basins. Ravens

& eagles fly this elevation.

Talked to Andrea & Josh (at AcornXLine) w/ 2 way radio

The elk (24) had climbed up thru snow into burned DF on Horse Mtn (500' below ridgeline) and are bedded on a flatish spot overlooking the Gooseneck Draw. Found elk hair patches -

but no lice or mites (there was a grub type larva and part of an antlike insect (sheep ked?) - don't know if they originated in hair.).

FEID abundant at burned DF x Grassland edge. It has been heavily grazed in the last week - even where snow has just melted out.

1D (1B) and 3D (2D, 1F) high on E side Lobauer in burned DF outcrop w/ some snow. Lobauer Basin and other S aspect basins are completely snow free. Greenup is sparse.

AGSP clumps were burned out in the fire and roots are dead. BRTE has likely increased in Lobauer post fire. BRTE is essentially the only grass in much of Mule Basin! Why?

Not much evidence of prefire AGSP.

Located the kill S of Lobauer where the helicopter crew saw birds - will try to climb to the steep draw tomorrow

3/9 Dunce Cr w/ Jim
3/8 Air Telemetry: C-5 @ Dunce Cr
Sheep 2 \$5 @ Cliff Creek ↓
674,870E, 4,999,170N 5560'

Cold, mostly clear, 4" snow yesterday

3/8 Air Telemetry to search for C-5. She was located in Upper Dunce Creek - W Fork! This location is 9 miles from her winter home range of the last 4 years! Why is she there? Wolf & bound disturbance from last 4 weeks? In heat searching for a male (Travis killed one at Cave Cr, other ^{tom} killed by cougar or wolf @ Coxey)? Dumping kittens we were unaware of for last 2 winters?? Is this a short term movement or long term home range change?

3/9 To Dunces Cr w/Jim

C-5 still up WFK Dunces Deer (27+) wintering on deciduous shrubs & Ceanothus
674,410E, 4,999,490N 6700'

Cool AM → above freezing, overcast
Taylor → Dunces track survey:

(see Jim's notes - 2 coyotes
Sheep 2 & 5 Cliff Cr area.

Elk on 1st bench
9 bighorns (6E, 3L) W of Gorge
in mahogany outcrop.

Winter wrens; pileated pair @ Cougar Cr.

C-5 signal heard toward Dunces
Creek from Salt Lick flat
& all along Big Creek. We hiked
up Dunces into the WFK, but
signal seemed high & on W side.
No close signal location.

27+ deer (16D, 7F, 4B) in 2
groups in burned hillside W of
Dunces Forks. Beds, trx, blood spatters,
shrub feeding (willow, ceanothus,
prunus, sambucus) in riparian
Looked at several trees where Indians
has peeled cambian layer for food.
Deer claw marks on 5 large P. Pines.

3/11 To Rush Ridge → Lobanok w/Jim

C-5 signal toward upper Browns!
Examined carcass #22 Cow elk
killed by cougar.

Elk & Deer Comp - Rush Cr

Weather: mild ~40°

See Jim's notes for the rest of comp data

Sage flat - bobcat trx
Above sage flat 17+D, 5+Elk

30D (18D (+B), 11F, 1B) } 61 Deer
43 ad, 18F

31D (23D (+B), 7F, 1B) }
The 61 deer on Rush side above
switchbacks into next draw. Also

17+ elk (8C, 1cf, 1sp ... ?)

No cougar/bobcat/coyote trx up Rush trail
FEED heavily grazed by deer; BRTE
seems underutilized relative to
availability.

(Crossed Big Cr on ice to go home).

Carcass #22 Cow elk in a steep N
aspect. 1st located by bird activity
seen from elk count helicopter. Mostly
consumed by birds. Old cougar trx
in vicinity, also bobcat & coyote. Hair
partly plucked (sheared). Neck broken.
Intact carcass w/ head (stuck?) under log
& legs up. Marrow good. No pursuit but snow on

3/14 To Cabin Creek

C-5 signal mid Cabin Cr W side.
Elk & deer out - some comp + sheep

662, 620E 5,003, 840N 5900'

Track survey TR → Cabin Cr (snow last night)

2 coyote go E @ Ram C → Push gate, 1 bobcat

go E 1 mi @ Ram Canyon; 2 coyote @ Browns

205 (8E, 5L, 7II) Mule Basin otter trap @ mule basin

3♀ 2♂ mule B.

These class II rams are 5 Yearlings
(1.8 yr olds) and 2 2yr olds

(2.8 yr olds). Excellent growth on
both age classes last year. The lambs

are also very large with long
horn growth - look like yearlings

from the 1980's. Radiocollared ewe

w/ stretchy deer collar & long flap;

red ear tag in rt ear; no signal

(she is #1, 3, or 4)

13E (11C, 2cf) W side Lobauer, mid
slope. No gray elk.

7 deer below elk.

28E (23C, 4cf, 1sp) @ Browns Basin, low

12D (7D, 3F, 2unk) near elk @ Browns Basin

Snow squalls then partly cloudy, mix.

Cabin Creek @ Spring Cr:

50 Elk in riparian + 10 Elk on W
hillside + 20+ Elk on E up north
Spring Cr.

C-5 signal up Cabin Creek -

she is mid slope ^{W side} in narrow draw
that has the big cliff on N side.

Didn't get close according to
signal, but ruled out bounces.

Mica, Daisy & Cricket all alert
& looking West in this vicinity.

Hiked up ~ 1000' elevation - no
elk/deer tracks or use on FEID.

Lone wolf track from ~ Travis'
camp along trail to just before

cougar draw it cut up & West
(smelled cougar + kill?). Small

(subadult) size track in snow
from last night. 2 older wolf

trx @ trail S of Travis' camp.

~10 Elk above "Hogback" E of airstrip,

~40

geese circle & land @ Cabin
Creek. flat during squall

3/15

No C-5 signal up Cabin Creek - she moved
Carcass # 24 Young mule deer buck
fell thru ice in Cabin Cr - cougar kill, ^{broken} neck

Cold, mostly clear

~ 8 Elk, 15 deer on ridge E of
airstrip.

2E (2 ragnorns) bed on Vinegar Hill
SW of airstrip.

Fresh coyote tracks up Cabin Creek.
No C-5 signal.

Carcass # 24 IN Cabin Cr. 1/4 mile
above trail crossing mid drainage.
(Near draw I went up yesterday.
Birds (ravens, magpies present),
+ fresh coyote trx last night (feed
on scapula) + wolf trx the night
before.

Chase scene 80m - 160m (top of
ridge - other side is open face
where C-5 has killed 2 elk in
past 2 yrs) - hair ^{deer blood} on shrubs, cougar trx.
Deer on its feet just above Cabin Cr - 40m
bounding

3/21

27

Carcass # ~~26~~ Mule deer fawn - predisposed
- killed by coyotes? Not consumed much
(no femur fat, lung abscess, ticks) Cliff Cr.

Spotted circling golden eagle fly down into
Cliff Cr. riparian - while I was balancing
the checkbook at our cabin! Jay Mize
went over to look for a kill w/ his
hounds - they found a recently killed
♂ fawn IN Cliff Creek. No cougar
or bobcat scent for hounds. Rib
entry - only organs & L.H leg eaten.
40 elk, 10+ deer, 10+ sheep in this
area this morning - not spooky.

3/22 To Cabin Cr w/JA, JM, AB, JH, CM

Locate C-5, no hound capture
UTM 662,880E 5,003,830N 5040' E_{asp.}

Weather - sunny, warm 60°
Tried to tree C-5 up Cabin Cr.
We pinpointed her in a cliffy
"basin" just above Cabin Cr
and below the forks. Cirched
around the spot w/hounds.
She slipped out to S then
went up to Vinegar Hill.
One small segment of tracks
1/2 mi from original site.
Hounds never got scent.

Too late to put them on tracks.
This cliffy site had recent elk
& deer use - graze FEID,
browse CELE, bed on outcrop
6 pt bull antler - old, Freq Δ to ^{219.}₇₁₆
Receivers not directional, much bounce.

Taylor → Cabin Cr. wildlife:
Rush switchbacks 25+ elk,
Mule Basin 4 deer; Ram
Canyon 4 deer.
Cabin Cr: 40 deer ^{ridge} E of airstrip,
12 elk E of Cabin, 4 E w of cabin

3/23 CAVE Cr - C-5 w/JA, JM, JH, AB, CM

Capture & recollar C-5
signal 219.518
No evidence of previous preg

Weather: mild, overcast, heavy rain in PM
No C-5 signal in Cabin Cr.
Head to Cave Cr (Josh went over
the top). Signal directions
differed from 2 receivers, but
finally localized in a cliff on W
side Cave Cr just below forks.
Hounds picked up scent in cliffs
- we never saw her tracks
cross the trail & hounds didn't
smell. She treed within 600m.

→ UTM: 659,760E 5,003,540N 5000
C-5 capture - replace collar w/219.51
Ketamine immobilization; fell into
tarp; vital signs fine; body
condition average. Pregnancy/
lactation info (Jim's evaluation)
never pregnant, never lactating,
vulva open (no hair stained or
missing around nipples, no mammary
tissue evident, tight belly; skin &

abdominal muscles, teats
med-small (largest ones $10\text{mm} \times$
 9mm^{W} and $8\text{mm} \times 8\text{mm}^{\text{W}}$) firm and
flattened, vulva cone shaped).

We ^{had} suspected she may have just
come out of heat - looking for
a male when she went to Dunc
Cr. Does that explain hard
teats and "open" vulva?

Jay saw a male cougar track
at the same cliff. Good
recovery from immobilization
- she was walking, but still
wobbly when we left her.

Capture site UTM:

659,477E 5,003,735N 5280'

Pre capture UTM:

659,760E 5,003,540N

5000' elev. E aspect

3/26

w/JA, AB, JH

Found Wheat Thin's Den - Stove Camp Draw
UTMs: 668,004E 4,994,148N

Carcass #29 Mule Deer buck in poor
condition died of pneumonia @ Pioneer Cr

Josh & I hiked up West Pioneer
Ridge to Wheat Thin's den site,
Aerial locations put it in Stove
Camp Spring draw. Jim & Andrea
hiked up Pioneer to Stove Camp
& draw.

~8 elk on Sagebrush Flat and
17 elk on upper switchbacks Rush.
No snow on 1st half trip then
2-3' on ridgeline & Stove camp
draw.

Difficult location to pinpoint. He
is under a boulder in a cave/
overhang surrounded by 2+ feet
of snow. Can barely see entrance.
Site is below spring and 200
m up (E) the 1st draw, below
Spring on E side. Mostly burned
DF hillside. We took photos/
camcorder & partially dug out
snow @ entrance. He growled, swatted
but did not come out of den. We left.

3/29 Backpack To Rush Pt Camp w/JH

3/30 Ret. from Rush camp w/JH

Sym
Comp on Elk: 86E (70C, 12cf, 3sp, 15pt)

Nothing new on Rush Ridge - deep snow up high; elk & deer lower.

Deer: 80D (44D 26F 10B)
Wolf tracks (2) at Zettel Camp

Overcast sky turned to sunny pm. Found another deer hide and jaw (young) at the outfitter camp. Bird white wash on log nearby. Probably just another hunter hide scavenged by birds & 2 wolves. Collected incisor

Weather: mostly overcast, windy & cool
31E (27C, 3cf, 1sp) lower Rush at lower switchbacks

The big group of elk returned to Hornocker canyon feeding area. No elk seen on lower elev. open slopes further up Rush Creek.

6D (2D, 1F, 3B) upper switchbacks
4D (3D, 1F) " "

We hiked back down Big Creek Ridge looking for kills. Watched a few magpies & golden eagles, but no kills seen from ridge. One white (possibly hair) patch in Rush Creek riparian. Saw 16 deer from yesterday & 4D (3D, 1F) and 2D (1D, 1F) and 3D (3D) on slopes near mouth of Rush Cr. Many chukars, a few bluebirds, flickers.

Took photos of bucks (1 older, 2 younger)
3D (2D, 1F) 1st basin S of switchbacks
19D (12D, 6F, 1B) " "

Snow by our camp & outfitter camp 2-3' deep - we had to follow elk tracks to get around.

2D (1D, 1F) " "
5D (2D, 2F, 1B) " = 2 sp. "

44+ Elk (~33C, ~8cf, 1 sp 1 rag 15pt)
2nd basin S of switchbacks

18 D (10+D 5F, 3B) " "
7 D (4D, 3F) " "

4D (1D, 2F, 1B) " "
5D (3D, 2F) " "

+ 6 more deer
7D (4D, 2F, 1B) 3rd basin S of switchback (last one before Zettels camp,

2 wolf tracks + deer hair spots @ Outfitter Spring. No kill found. Snow is 2-3' deep. Elk we spooked still headed SW past Zettels.

1 E (10C, 1cf) by camp

4/1 To Rush Creek bottom

Carcass #30 Bighorn Ewe - disease?
Minshall photo points

Weather: Sunny, windy, mild
Minshall Photo Points

Big Cr @ tack shed # 1, 2, 3-5 mirror stuck

Big Cr @ gobians / gate #6

Rush Cr at log trail crossing #7, #8

Big Creek & Rush cr up slightly & off-color due to warm temps in last 2 days.

25 mule deer around sagebrush flat

CARCASS #30 Bighorn Ewe - old aged w/teeth missing & worn; horn sheaths with abnormal (disease?) ring ~ 8mm from horn base. Most of carcass gone except big chunks of hide - good hair coat, no hemorrhaging subQ; bone marrow very shrunken. Dead 60 days +. Slid 10-M down steep talus to under a burned birch log at toe slope. Gut pile there, hair & hide scattered in open sites. No cougar indications. 4 hairs, probably coyote; coyote size bite to scapula. Probable disease/malnutrition death w/ coyote scavenging.

No birds whatsoever

4/2 To Cave Cr. Camp

2 Mt Goats @ E FK Cliff

Carcass #31: Cow elk, early winter death, Cave Cr UTM 66Q779E 4,999,850N ⁴¹⁰⁰3973

Carcass #32: Adult deer (doe), early-mid winter death, Cave Cr 66Q989 ^{45,000}344 ⁴⁰⁷⁰4180

C-5 cougar at E FK Cave Cliffs
UTM: see UTM for 4/3 at outcrop

Weather: clear, mild, breezy

4 deer @ Ram Canyon, low

23 bighorns (10E, 4L, 5I, 4II) ^{low in} Mule Basin

10 elk w side Lobauer, mid slope

6D (4D, 2F) + more at E corner Cabin Cr Flat low on slope above trail

20+ elk up Spring Cr, S side, mid slope grad

Carcass #31 Cow elk in lower Cave Cr in riparian, across stream from deer hair pile. Large canine holes in skull; no hair trail, rib bones chewed; dead since leaf fall; no marrow in bones; unknown cause of death; mid aged cow; collected I₁ tooth and metatarsus.

Carcass #32 Mule deer adult (prob. doe from pelvis shape); in Cave Cr riparian ~ 1/2 mi above Carc #31; no hair trail; dead since midwinter; marrow waxy; unknown cause of death.

4/3 CAVE CAMP - FORKS

Cougar scent station?

Carcass #33 Elk calf

C-5 gone - to Cabin Cr? (J&A: Cabin Cr
Divider Ridge)

2 Mountain Goats - photos

Weather: clear, mild.

NO C-5 signal from camp or
divider ridge. She must have
crossed over to Cabin Creek
last night.

Nice trail up divider ridge. No elk
or deer seen on grass slopes up the
West Fk Cave. One deer track thru
scattered snow to E Fk Cliff top;
but older elk sign and several
year old moose droppings.

A spring on W side of E Fk Cliff face
UTM 660179E, 5,004,919 N Elev 5508'
5600'
(way pt 113) (Elev 5380 on altimeter)

Carcass #33 Calf Elk

→ UTM 660,475E 5,005,050N (Elev 5120)

↓ Possible cougar kill - died early winter.

Bone marrow looks good. Bones chewed on
& some long bones broken; coyote scat.

Hair trail 150m to bottom (almost from
cliff base). Guts on rocks 30M from
top of hair then avalanche path.

660532
5005, 5290

2 Mountain goats on top of E Fk Cliff
- similar to yesterday. I photographed
& videotaped them at 50 meters away
Old carcass in riparian N of E Fk Cliff:
moose, 6 pt. bull.

* Small overhang rock on draw @ ^{base of} E Fk Cliff
UTM 660199 E 5004624N
5080' elev

This has 3 cougar (probable) scats
in it - all less than a few
weeks old; one scat 1-2 days old
I will use this site as a C-5
location (I guess for 4/2 altho
she may have been further upstream
yesterday). 1 lg cougar track in snow ³⁰⁰_{m. away}

Bighorn ram skull - old full quarter
660,246 E 5,004,326 N 4810'
Bottom of E Fk Cave in riparian
near forks

Or avalanche
disembowling.

4/4 Up WFK Cave Cr then to Cabin Cr

C-5 general signal location on NFK Cabin Cr side of divider ridge. 663,500 E 5,005,500 N elev. 6400'

Weather: clear, mild.

Rode up Cave Cr, WFK 1.5 miles. No kills, but wolf tracks < 1 week old in both directions and 1 fresh wolf scat.

Checked on Carc #31 & 32 again & got UTM's.

UTM #119 = Cabin flat elk calf carcass #13
661,986 E 4,999,168 N
elev 3903

There are 2 hair piles evident now by Big Creek.

Many wolf tracks along frog pond.

Mergansers, killdeer, flickers, crows, robins, a meadowlark, mtn blue birds @ Cabin Cr.

Up North FK Cabin Creek w/ Josh & Mules 1 mile
Best C-5 signal uphill of UTM 663,112 E 5,005,366 N
- on Divider ridge. UTM:

Moose tracks, 1 elk track, 1 cougar or wolf tracks @ NFK. 6" + snow before NFK forks.

4/5 Cabin Creek to Taylor

C-5 ^{very} general location up NFK Cabin Cr.
Carcass #36 Bobcat @ Lubauer, E edge
Carcass #37 Bobcat @ TR gate

Weather: Another blue sky day, warm, rain predicted tonight.

C-5 - no signal from Cabin (like we got yesterday). We rode up the airstrip and did get a weak directional signal up the West/Trail fork of the North FK of Cabin Creek. No UTM for general location.

Checked lower Canyon Cr. and flats to west along Big Cr.

- no wolf tracks or kills found.

Photos of wolf tracks at frog pond

Carcass #36 Bobcat, subad. ♂, starved to death with broken femur a few weeks ago. Marrow fat = \emptyset , no food in stomach or small intestines. Worm (round) in stomach.

^{deaths 12 days}
Carcass #37 Bobcat, lg adult ♂, starved to death with fractured skull & canines & incisors missing/broken. Marrow fat = \emptyset ; no food in stomach/intestines. 2 sp. worms in stomach.

~ 4/7 - 4/11

Carcass 29 - no meat left. Mostly scavenged by birds. Entire ribcage + skeleton intact - no ribs chewed.

Cooked more bone marrows.

Organized & edited carcass data & UTM locations of C-5. Andrea had entered much of data.

Boiled skulls (C-7 cougar, 2 bobcats, coyote, skunk) and bones (broken bobcat femur, healed buck broken leg).

Most interesting the COYOTE SKULL - this coyote was killed by wolves (possibly coyotes), BUT it had old (healed) skull injuries from previous attack by wolf or cougar: Large canine size indentation in skull @ ^{top}Back of brain cavity - looks like hole healed closed, but sagittal crest still deformed; zygomatic arch break healed

with bone spur on inside; auditory bulla smashed in, but healed smooth; ear canal opening constricted; another gristle filled hole in skull - other side, behind orbit / z-arch. Red color to auditory bulla and z arch break. One back molar missing. Smaller ~ 1" fresh canine holes in skull - coyote - pre or post mort? This is a young adult coyote. Amazing to have lived thru a wolf or cougar attack - skull bite.

The big tom bobcat top incisor root holes were totally filled in with bone - a very old break - could see the crack (healed) on maxillary bone and palate.

4/11

w/ Josh

Set up remote camera for wolves at Cabin Cr calf kill on bank of Big Cr.

Air Telemetry - C-5 is in lower Calf Creek

Josh called from Cabin Cr - he found a 1/2 eaten wolf killed calf elk. Its on Big Creek cutbank just upstream of the Cabin Cr marsh/beaver slough. I flew up on the mail plane with the remote camera. We ran the ravens, magpies, and a coyote off at 6 pm and set the camera up. -turned on at 8:30pm to avoid bird pictures. Many wolf tracks: carcass to frog pond. Josh found intact stomach & contents in an eddy of Big Creek below carcass. Marrow fat soft. Left fibula broken in 2 pieces (pre or post mort?). One ^{hind} leg missing. Pieces of gut material on the grass flat near carcass - disemboweled?

We searched meadow for missing leg. No find. I did collect 2 legs from the calf elk ^{oops they are from cow} killed on the flat (prob. by wolves earlier this winter - need a marrow sample - its soft and 30% dessicated. ^{4/11/14} No legs are from ^{Carc #35}

Elk everywhere and unafraid - surprising - ~38 elk W of airstrip; 70 elk E of airstrip; ~20 elk low on E hillsides & Cabin Flat; 10 elk on ridge NW of Cabin Flat; 15+ deer W of Cabin.

C-5 is in Calf Creek on N aspect mid high? but toward mouth

Wolf howls faint from Cabin twd mouth Cave Cr.

4/13 Cabin Cr → TR → w/JH

4/16 see below TR → Cabin → TR - pull camp

Carcass # 43 Cow elk - cougar
kill @ Cow Cr.

Remote Camera

^{older}
Carcass 43 Cow elk killed ~
3 weeks ago. Intact, broken
neck & face. Some bird
scavenging. Ambush likely
on AGSP/FEID ridgetop 380
m. from carcass. Carc on
sleep N aspect - rocky, talus,
underburned. Wolf track
1-2 weeks old on trail - not at
carcass

Checked remote camera. No
photos. 5 ravens & 2 eagles
nearby. Reset. Collected
Femur - Carc. 42,
WTM 662, 198E
4,999, 085N
elev reading 4056'

4/16 Pulled Cabin Cr camp & cleaned
cabin & site. 160 elk around cabin
then 130 elk moved to Cabin Cr flat to
graze in evening!

4/26

w/Gloria Bate

Blooming Plants
Wolves @ Acorn

Rode to Acorn Camp to take it down.

Blooming vegetation includes:
buttercup, yellowbells, balsamroot,
tomatum, oregon grape, ribes w/spine
serviceberry, Collinsia parviflora &
C. macroflora, delphinium, purple
Clematis, willows, water birch,
dandelion, lithophragma, Disporum.
Picked 10" rhubarb @ Acorn. Revisit

Checked Carcass # 39 ↑ Cow elk
at Vines that was found at trail
No whitewash to indicate heavy
scavenging (bone marrow was
poor and why was carcass not
seen earlier?). Couldn't find
leg bones, so do not have a
metatarsus for ^{nutritional} analysis. Large
wolf size canine, hole in face,
also coyote size & spacing canine
holes on other side of face.
Acetabulum wear not obvious like
on femur ball. Scapula cartilage

had turned to bone.

White cow elk with ~25 elk across Big Creek from Lobauer Spring. She looks lighter this time - even mane is white - light gray. Nose & eyes cant see well but did not look pink like albino.

^{single} Mourning doves at Ram Canyon & Mule Basin, Flicker in Cabin Creek cabin, 7 deer @ Cabin Cr, but no elk, robins, towhees, canyon wren ~ W of Coxeey?. Merganser's (2♂, 1♀) at mouth Rush Cr, 2 ♂ merg fly upstream @ Mule B, Mallard pair @ Lobauer, 2 GW Teal @ Doe Cr, 6 GW Teal @ Fawn.

Wolf howling (2 wolves) at Acorn Camp at 2:30 - 3:00 AM from meadow and W slope behind tent. No tracks in AM. Doe bleating at 5:00 AM - no kill found in AM, N of camp.

4/27 Return to TR - no wolf Trx on trail. 4 Meat scats E of Vines, but look

fresher (1 week old?) than Carcass #39.

1/19/2003

C-5 Cabin Creek Cat Mortality

Travis Bullock had his hunter shoot C-5 on ~1/15/03. She was in Cow Creek ~200 m above Calf Creek. UTM 664300 5001840. (~4880 ± 20ft reading) Carcass form was filled out (Carcass #1 for 2003). I came here to the carcass on the slim chance the reproductive tract was still intact. We desperately needed to look at placental scars to understand her reproductive history - did she ever have kitten? Was she ever pregnant? Nothing left of carcass but bones - bird scavenging. I did collect piece of meat for DNA banking, plus bone marrow for % fat analysis (looks med-good ^{dark} pink, flaky)

PREY CARCASSES 2002

#	^{Form} Date	Species	^{Age} Sex	Predator	^{Scavenge} /Injury	Location
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01
02
03
04
05

PREY CARCASSES 2002

#	^{Form} Date	Species	^{Age} Sex	Predator	^{Scavenge} or Injury	Location
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