

2013 Winter Public Ungulate Count

Objectives:

- 1) Estimate population distributions (presence/absence)
- 2) Monitor trends in abundance and composition of populations over cumulative years
- 3) Increase public involvement in wildlife management

Effort

Record the amount of time (to the nearest 10 minutes) you spend searching in each block, and the method of searching. Methods include 1) driving public or private roads or off road (ex. in the tractor or on a snowmobile), and 2) walking. This information is critical for determining an index of abundance.

Species

Given the range of experience and skill level of observers we are limiting the data on individual animals to species. At this time of the year it is likely that many males of some species may have already lost their antlers. Differentiating between females and young born in the spring can also be very difficult at this time of the year.

Other Species

Predators occur at far lower densities than ungulates, but recording observations of these species can help add to a long term monitoring effort. Sharp-tailed grouse are the focus of a current research project and understanding more about their distribution during the winter could be very useful for future management.

Comments

If you see something of interest, such as animals that are obviously unhealthy or diseased, please make note of it.

Returning the Observation Sheets

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Mail:

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They can also be dropped off at the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations office in Fort St John (#400, 10003-110th Ave)