

## Summative Wildlife Observation Report-February 2013

Mariah Tree Farm Masonville, CO

Polaris Expeditionary Learning School

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The first wildlife sighting that was observed during the month of February was a small Red Fox (*Vulpes vulpes*) that was observed again passing through the ridge camera. Two Mule Deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*) were also seen at this camera. Several Mule deer were also spotted in the Valley View Cameras below. It is possible that these are the same deer that were passing through as the time sequence is similar with dates and times. Finally, the only wildlife spotted using the guzzler was a Raven (*Corvus Corax*) that appeared to be bathing in the water. Much of the footage this month involved false triggers due to frequent and wind snowstorms.

Camera	Species Observed	Number of Individual Species Observed
Camera 1: Wildlife Guzzler	Raven ( <i>Corvus Corax</i> )	1
Camera 2: Valley View	Mule Deer ( <i>Odocoileus hemionus</i> )	2
Camera 3: Ridge Top	Red Fox ( <i>Vulpes vulpes</i> )	1
	Mule Deer ( <i>Odocoileus hemionus</i> )	3
<b>TOTALS</b>	3	7

All three of the cameras showed evidence of moderate to heavy snowfall as well as wind. Approximately 2 feet of snow was present near the Valley View Camera when checked on February 28<sup>th</sup> with approximately one foot of snow elsewhere on the property.. Weather in February had an average high of 48 and an average low of 20.

All cameras appeared to be functioning properly with complete footage on all of the cameras. However, because of numerous false triggers due to snow and wind it is suggested to reduce sensitivity sensors on all cameras, particularly at the guzzler.

Because of the snow pack at the sight there was little or no vegetation that could be observed during the month of February. It seems as though most visits to the camera sites occurred on warmer and drier days during the month. As days get longer, weather gets warmer, and snow melt continues, it is expected to see an increase in wildlife activity as well as vegetation growth in at the site.