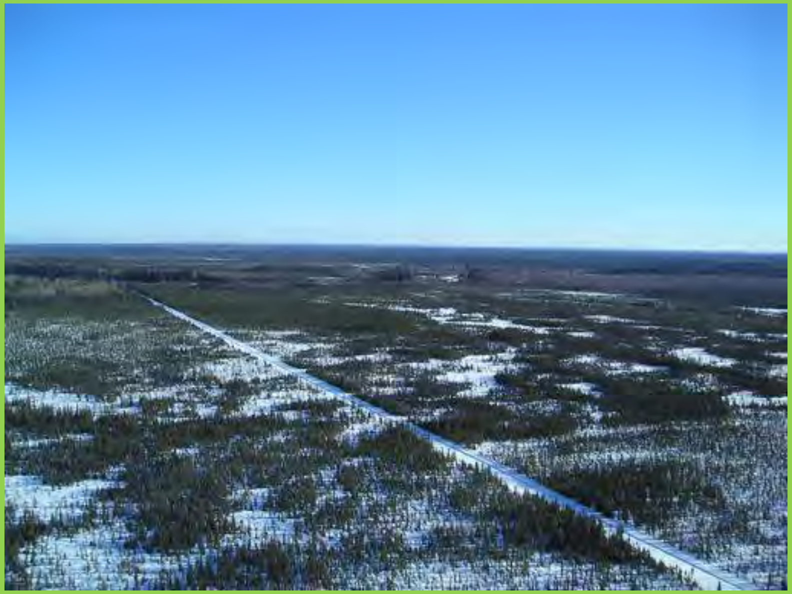
ABMI Mammal Snow Tracking

Why Stare at Tracks in the Snow?

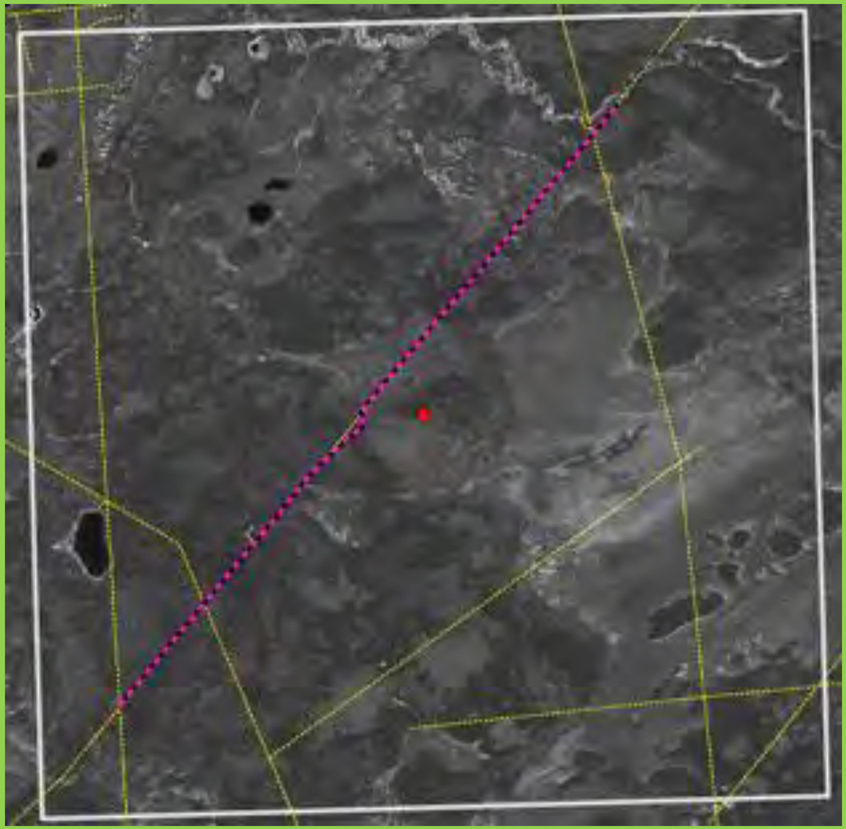
- Objective:
  - To detect the presence of mammals active in the winter
  - Can catch more elusive or cryptic species
- Method:
  - 10 km transects by foot or snowmobile.

Transects Follow Linear Features



… If no linear features transects laid out NW to SE

Transect Layout



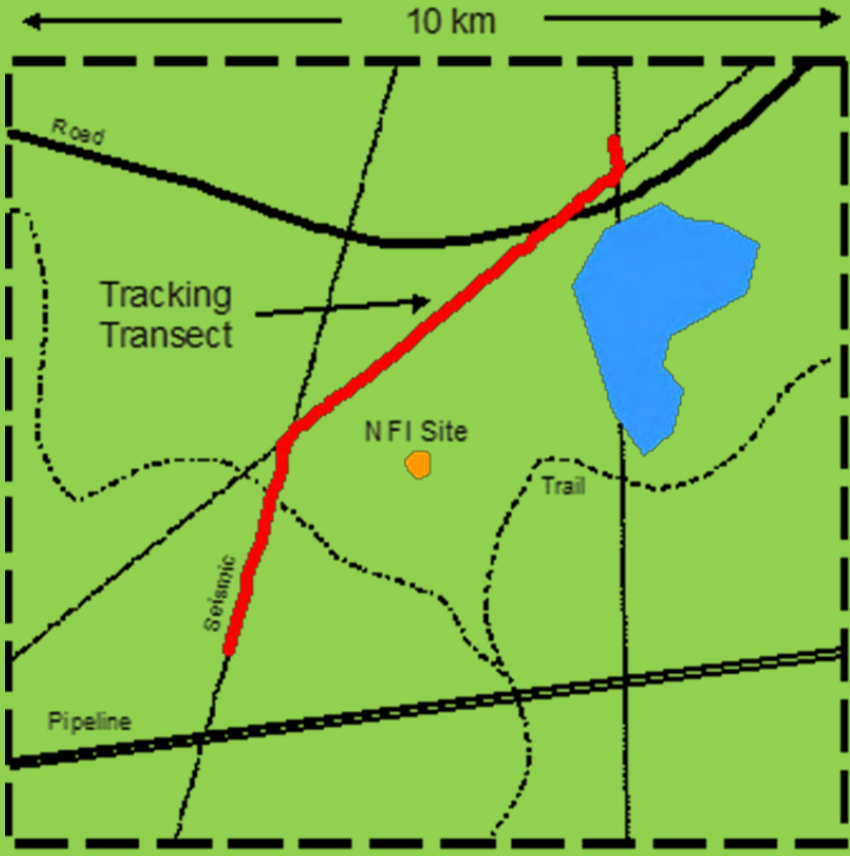
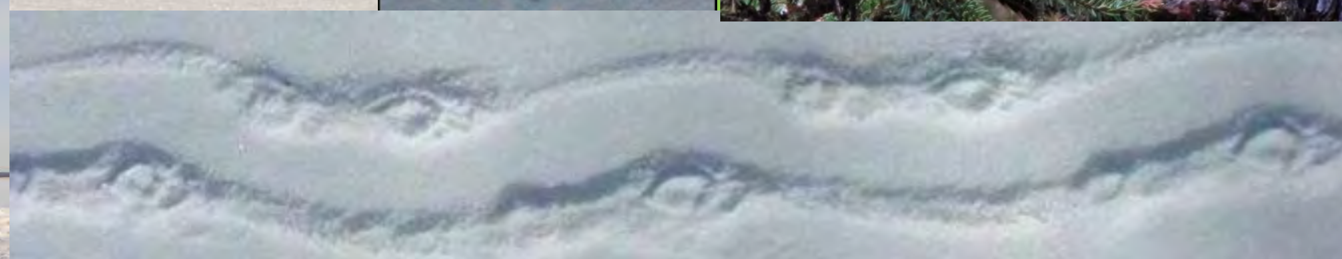


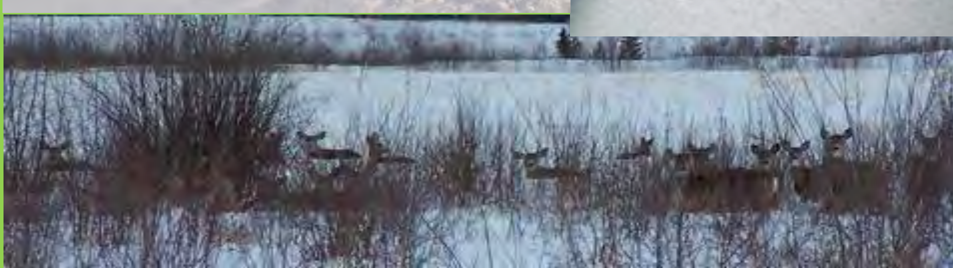
Figure 14









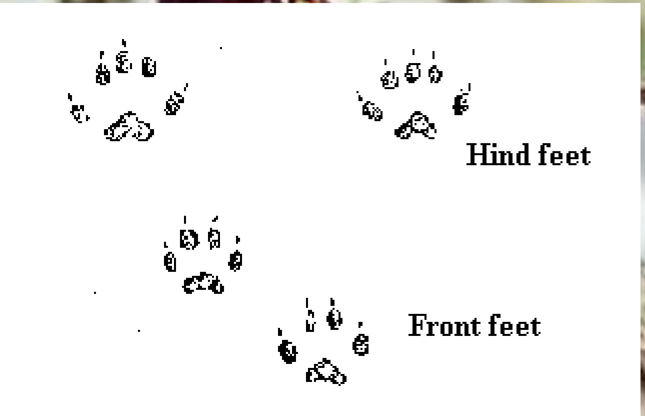
Winter Tracking Forensics

Basics:

- Print
  - Individual impression
  - Length, width, shape
  - Rarely get a perfect one
- Track
  - Series of prints left by a single animal
  - Stride, straddle, gait
  - Also look at habitat and behaviour
- So who are the usual suspects?
  - Rodents/Lagomorphs
  - Mustelids
  - Cervids
  - Canids/Felids

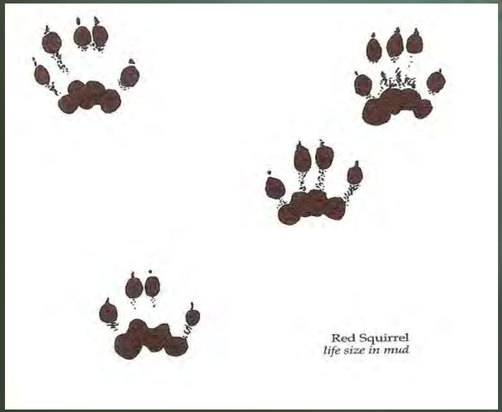
Mouse

- Print: ~ 1 cm L
  ~ 1 cm W
- Stride: 10-50 cm
- Gait: bound



Red Squirrel

- Print: ~3.5 cm L
  ~3.0 cm W
- Stride: 10-63 cm
- Gait: bound



Porcupine

- Print: ~8.5 cm L
  ~4 cm W
- Stride: 15-27 cm
- Gait: walk

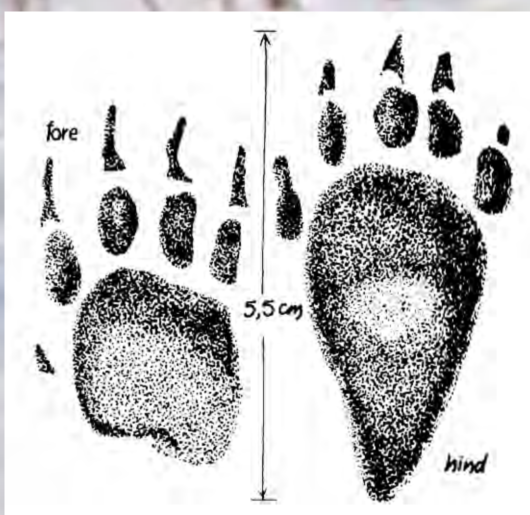


Photo: Mickey Watkins

Hare

- Print: 5-17 cm L
  3-13 cm W
- Stride: ~ 1-2 m
- Gait: bound

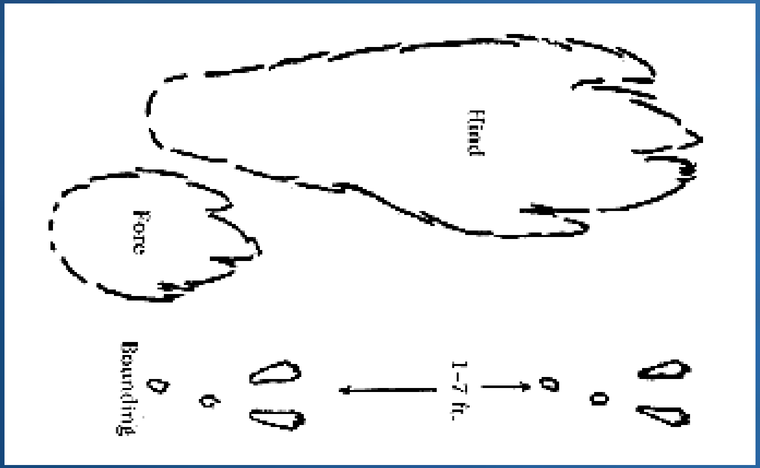
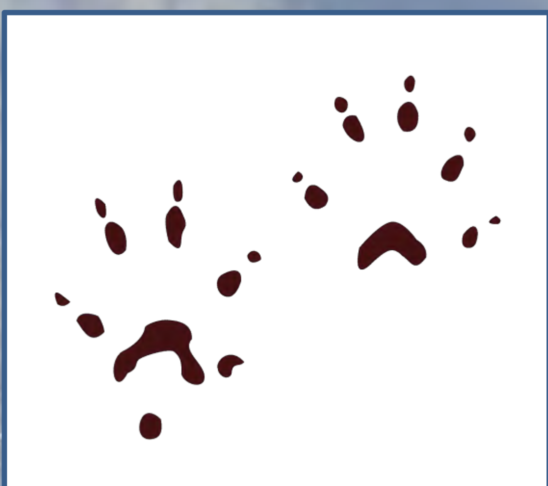


Photo: Mickey Watkins

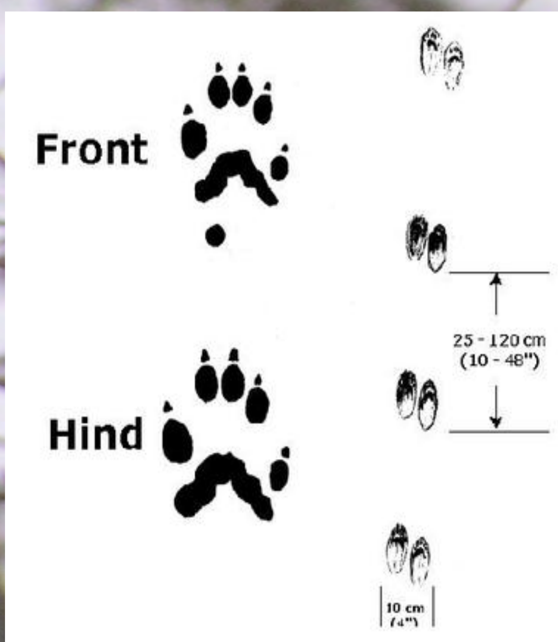
Weasel

- Print: ~ 1.5 cm L
  ~ 1.5 cm W
- Stride: 10-100 cm
- Gait: 2x2 lope



Marten

- Print: ~ 5.5 cm L
  ~ 5.5 cm W
- Stride: 25-85 cm
- Gait: 2x2 lope



http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/45531.html