

Field Note

October 24th – 28th



By Jeff Clarke



On Tuesday we saw a moose near Baldy Saddle. When I see a large critter like this my first thought is, "where's my camera!" I fumble through my day pack to find my camera and start snapping shots as fast as possible. Sometimes my subject does not want to stay still for long and I quickly take photos, like this one, to capture my subject.



Sergio

We continue to collect forest fire fuels data in the Boondocks. This is a typical 25 meter transect. The Boondocks are gnarly to hike through: the vegetation is thick, the slopes are steep, and the downed woody material is dense.



A 50 cm White Bark Pine grows on a NE aspect at 5000 ft in the Boondocks. A Clark's Nutcracker may have planted it several years ago. We will look for more of its kind.



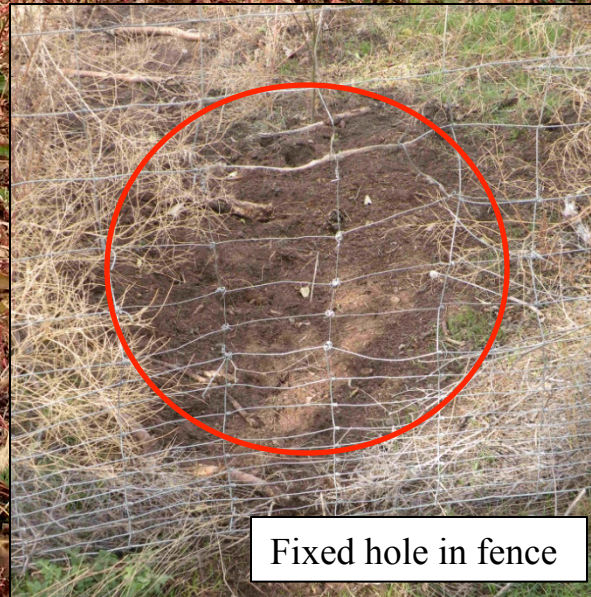
This goliath Ponderosa Pine stands atop Mount Baldy. It still produces needles and cones even though a lightning strike splintered its top and shredded its bark.



Browsed berries



Possible rabbit entrance hole



Fixed hole in fence

Mark placed a camera near the orchard to see what was passing through the hole in the fence. The footage found several Mule Deer using the passageway at night. I thought they were consuming fallen apples, but discovered they were also browsing the strawberry and raspberry plants. So, I fixed the hole. On my way out of the orchard I noticed a small area under the fence that looks like an access for rabbits. We will put another camera on this hole to investigate.

From my observations, Elk typically rub their antlers on saplings to mark their territory. Yesterday, we stumbled into a forest of mature Lodge Pole and found at least 20 rubs within a 25 meter radius. Most of the rubbed trees were nearly 10 inches in diameter. I have not seen this before.





A hard frost on Wednesday sent many of the deciduous leaves floating to the ground.



The Field Crew's tasks this week were:

- Pulled Hound's Tongue;
- Deconstructed the old shooting range booths;
- Salvaged logs from floodplain pond project;
- Elk pellet counts and veg. surveys;
- Fuel load surveys in the Boondocks; and,
- Constructed pots for Ylva's study.