

# Field Note

December 5<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup>



By Jeff Clarke





An evening snowstorm allows the critters to write upon a blank slate; for every new track is a stroke of nature's paintbrush.



Evening elk pinch wheat from unused bails, shave minerals from an old barn site, wallow in the corn, and return to Indian Ridge to re-chew their feast.





Birds bounce across a few extra inches of white and pluck the newly available grass seeds.





A discarded elk carcass lures enough magpies to pack the fresh snow. They will continue to pick at the carcass until they've consumed every last savory morsel.





A coyote makes many decisions in life. This series of tracks shows the right, risky, and wrong decision when encountering a semi-frozen pond.







Rabbit tracks encompass the new brush piles near the Rock Pile. This may explain why a rough-legged hawk regularly perches on the piles.





Fat rainbow trout lurk in the shallow, spring fed inlet on the North End. They probably hunt the large schools of shiners that find refuge in these relatively stagnant waters.



The thorny invader is dead. Its berries were removed and its branches piled for the rabbits.





Clark's nutcrackers throw empty ponderosa seed husks from the sky. They missed this nut; I bet a passing red squirrel or meadow mouse will appreciate the bird's blunder.





### This Week's Field Work

- Remove barbed wire fence
- Erosion control

