

Diagram 4: branching pattern of unknown poplar tree showing a mainly alternating pattern with no buds found of the tree.

Observation: Many trees (poplar) trees in the area showed this branching pattern and black exposed bark sections.

From these findings I can guess this would be a small section of Trembling Aspens (*Populus tremuloides*) as they frequently show frost cankers (the exposed bark) and show this branching pattern. They also typically tend to grow in clumps.



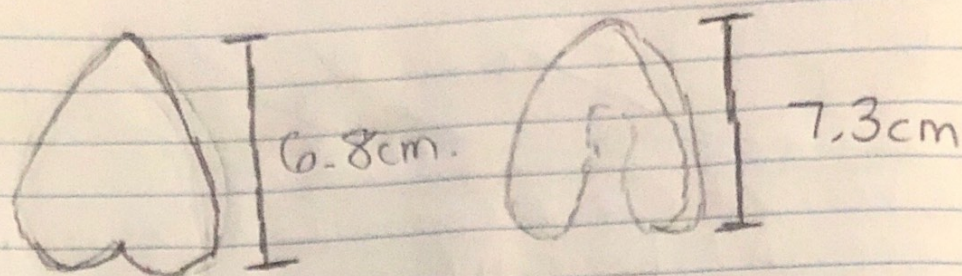


Diagram 5: Prints found in snow near proposed research area that show a similar pattern.

Due to the heart shape of the print and the extra two compact dots found behind I can conclude the was a white tailed deer. the first track may have just been damaged. (*Odocoileus virginianus*)

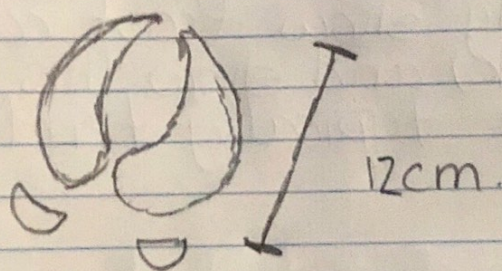


Diagram 6: Prints found near the potential study area.

Due to the circular shape and semi-circles flanking the print it would be an elk (*Cervus canadensis*)

There are many dog like prints in this area as well but as it is accessible from a walking trail it is tough to distinguish between domestic dog/coyote/cougar prints.