

Summary of activities-vertebrate herbivore dynamics LTER
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We completed our fourth field season of data collection on snowshoe hare dynamics in BCEF and three other study sites in the Tanana Valley. Hare populations continue to be depressed in all study sites in 2002; however populations were larger in the western study sites (BCEF and Clear Air Station) than in the eastern region (Delta and Tok). Even the eastern region saw a slight increase in the number of hares occupying those areas when compared to abundances recorded in 2001.

A masters candidate, Bjorn Flora, successfully defended his thesis in fall 2002. This thesis consisted of a chapter synthesizing demographic patterns in snowshoe hare populations in the Tanana Valley over the past four years, and a second chapter describing the inability of fecal pellet indexes to track changes in snowshoe hare abundance. These chapters are intended for submission in fall 2002.