

SNOW DEPTH MEASUREMENT PROTOCOL

Snow depths should be measured near the vegetation and berry monitoring sites and at sites that community members believe are: a) representative of the area; and/or b) areas that have experienced changes in snow depth and deposition over the past few years. It is also desirable to have information on the spatial variability of snow depth. The snow depth should be measured along transects (lines) that pass through the sites. The number of measurements points will depend on the size of the site, but there should be at least 10 points in each site.

- In the autumn before the ground has started to freeze, establish graduated posts in the ground in the area to be monitored. One easy way to do this is to attach a graduated board (e.g. 1" x 2" x ca. 1.5 – 2 m) to a stake that has been pounded into the ground. The graduation marks should be every 5 cm (0 cm at the ground level) and should be easily seen from a slight distance. If necessary, straighten all posts before the ground freezes.
- Snow measurement should be taken as regularly as possible (at least every month) and after every major snow event. Make the measurement by observing the depth on each of the graduated posts as horizontal as possible. If a snow level reading falls between two marks (5 cm marks), chose the nearest mark as the snow depth. Record observations in a field book. Observations include date, snow depth (cm) and weather.
- At each post, two digital photographs should be taken, one with a general view and a second near enough to see the snow level and the post. Record the number of the photo down the photographs numbers corresponding to each post, for each visit.
- Transfer the data to an Excel spreadsheet file and send it by email, with the photographs attached (low definition). Keep high definition photographs on a CD Rom or DVD that can be sent at the end of the season.
- During visits and readings, avoid walking too close to the posts.

For information, please contact:

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Thank you for your participation!