

This P.M. made trip on trails as indicated. Day has been cool, ^{42°F} broken sky and occasional blue sky. Left to E on old railroad grade to fence and then 2/10 mi beyond and returned and descended by Big Buck Trail to base of Beaver Pond Loop Trail. In hollow at edge of Agate Creek noted a single winter wren. River high almost to banks. Beaver activity of cleaned stems and branches. Trails inundated along river trail. Beaver eating mostly alder. 2 ruffed grouse. Beaver dams across stream all gone and using bank houses. River can be soundless as it flows by or noisy at log jams where water cascades. One fresh deer track measured 77 mm. more deer here than higher on slopes. 2:35 where Beaver Pond Trail returns to river a log jam collected 3-4 sq yards of twigs & limbs cleaned by beaver. no human trash. Some cuttings of Salol and segments of bracken fern in trail. The farther down stream the greater the beaver activity. This visit shows about 10x more beaver activity than on previous trips here. of former years. Some cutting 100' from river. Temporary dams constructed in ^{shallow} side drainage (2'-3' wide) to facilitate removal of limbs to river. now at junction of Chipmunk junction. at 2:45 P.M. Rufous-sided towhee here. Trails all in standing water, some knee deep. Continued w to point where river flooded trail and formed lake beyond. Could not ford this section of the trail so returned and took trail that converges with Chipmunk trail. This trail was traversed this A.M. and at exactly the same spot flushed 2 ruffed grouse. Continued w on R.R. grade for 1/2 mile and returned. At one point an alder arched across trail 4' high. a red tag marker was fastened on the arch. The mule deer walked out around the arched limb beyond the trail and then returned to R.R. grade. as if intentionally eroding the colored marker. Back to camp at 3:45 P.M.

Chahalis Thousand Trail Preserve, Lewis Co., Washington.
Dec. 8, 1985

Left 9:00 A.M. at 53876.0. Partly blue sky, temp 38 at 6:00 A.M., 32°F at 9:00 A.M. Only snow on ground is remnants from snow cleared from road. Forests clear of snow. Clear here but fog in valley below. Just outside camp, yellow-shafted flicker at 878.5. 60% of fields