

Winter Carnivore Tracking & Bait Station FIELD GEAR CHECKLIST

Personal Gear—always have	Track Surveys:	Bait Stations (Set up):
Helmet	Field maps	Bait station set up Data Sheets
Beacon	Track survey Data Sheet	Hand saw
Probe	Backtrack Data Sheet	Hammer
Shovel	Field guide to tracks & scats	Tie wire/baling wire
Earplugs	Vials with desiccant (~10)	Lag bolts w/ washers (1 per station; 5-6" works for front quarters, 8 or 10" needed for hind quarters)
Cell Phone, Radio, SPOT Tracker	Paper bags (for scat)	Nails (high quality 2-3" nails with large heads for securing lugs to tree; alternative is to use fencing staples instead of lugs and nails; if you do that you'll still need nails if you're using lynx pads) (~25 per station)
GPS, Compass, Maps (FS district maps plus any necessary field maps)	Digital camera	
Lighter, fire starter, extra food	Measuring Tape	Mechanical lugs or fencing staples (12-20 per station)
Headlamp	Tweezers	Gun brushes (12-20 per station)
Snowshoes	Sticky notes	Lynx pads (2 per station)
First Aid Kit		Dangles (1-2 per station)
Leatherman or multi-tool	Fisher Trap Checking:	Fishing line
Latex gloves	Comm. Spec. Receiver	Bait
Ziplock bags	Antenna & cable	Sponge or carpet pad for lure
Sharpies, pens/pencils	Trap list	Lure (Caven's Gusto or other high quality lure)
Extra batteries (radio, GPS, headlamp, camera, beacon, etc)	Trap check datasheets	Flagging
Clipboard/tatum	Capture kit	Game camera & gear to attach it
	GPS and ARGOS collars	Camera Batteries
On Snowmobile:	Steel combs	Camera lock
Spare spark plugs		Plastic garbage bags for bait
Tool kit	Technicians/volunteers must provide their own personal clothing, including non-cotton long underwear, fleece or wool mid-layers, and water/snow/wind-resistant jacket and snow pants or bibs. Must also have waterproof winter boots (rated 0 degrees or colder), gloves, hats, and socks, as well as a 1st aid kit, cell phone, and leatherman/multi-tool.	Criminal tape (6' rope with reflective tape at 1' intervals)
Webbing or tow rope		Wood or hard plastic scraps for station name plates
Come-along		
Extra gas can?		Bait Stations (Pick up):
Extra belt		Bait Station pick up Data Sheets
Electrical tape		Hammer
Bungee cords		Vials with desiccant (12-20/station)
Spare headlight bulb		Paper bags (for lynx pads, scat)
		Lighter (for burning brushes)
		Plastic ziplock (for trash)
Extra Backcountry Gear:		Camera lock key
Tent fly or wiki-up for shelter		
Down jacket, extra layers		
Sleeping bag (0 degree or lower)		
Jet boil or compact stove		
Cross-country skis (optional)		
Therma-rest, p-cord		
Hand warmers, extra food		

WHERE TO GET ALL THE STUFF YOU NEED FOR BAIT STATIONS AND TRACK SURVEYS

MECHANICAL LUGS:

These can be nailed or screwed into the tree, and then they hold the gun brushes in place. Pros: make putting in and taking out brushes easy, especially if you're going to re-use the same tree multiple times. Cons: they're expensive (in 2012 a box of 100 was \$39.00; you need 12-20 per bait station, so that adds up quickly if you're doing a lot of stations)

Order from Consolidated Electrical Distributors. They have offices all over the Northwest. See website:

http://www.cednw.com/mt_missoula.htm. Part # is Morris 90714. Contact in Missoula is Dwayne, and his phone number is: (406) 721-4720.



An alternative to the mechanical lugs is to use fencing staples. These are available at farm & ranch supply stores for much cheaper than the mechanical lugs. Make sure you get higher quality ones, not the soft ones, since trees are extra hard in the winter and will bend soft metal staples. You can put these in with a regular hammer but will want a set of fencing pliers for easier removal.



GUN BRUSHES:

These are the crucial element needed for collecting hair from either the bait stations or fisher hair snares. For a while we were able to order them directly from the manufacturer, but the last time I tried that, we weren't able to do it. So the best price I found on them was to buy them from Brownell's thru GSA. You need .30 caliber brass brushes in packs of 12. Last I checked they were about \$12/pack.

https://www.gsaadvantage.gov/advantage/catalog/product_detail.do?gsin=11000005165454



** You can also re-use gun brushes after the lab is done with them. I pick mine up after the samples have been run and burn them to remove any remnant hair. This saves considerable money and resources. Use a propane torch to burn them, and hold the brush with pliers!

VIALS:

50ml vials (for collecting hairs from fisher snares, bait stations, and on backtracks; you'll put desiccant in these, and then can place the whole gun brush in them; or if you're collecting hairs from a backtrack, you can wrap the hairs in a sticky note and put it in the vial)

These can be ordered from Fisher Scientific (1-800-766-7000), part number **05-537-7**. As of July 2013 a case of 500 is ~\$235. <http://www.fishersci.com/ecom/servlet/itemdetail?storeId=10652&langId=-1&catalogId=29104&productId=2923586&distype=0&highlightProductsItemsFlag=Y&fromSearch=1&searchType=PROD>

DESICCANT:

You'll put a Tbs or so of this in each vial.

Order it from eCompressedair (1-866-650-1937), the stuff's called Sorbead Orange (lab recommends this kind because it doesn't contain heavy metals like other kinds do)

25 lb pail is \$254.50

[http://www.ecompressedair.com/desiccant/silica-gel/orange-to-white-color-change-silica-gel-\(25-lb-pail\).aspx](http://www.ecompressedair.com/desiccant/silica-gel/orange-to-white-color-change-silica-gel-(25-lb-pail).aspx)

CARPET PADS (aka LYNX HAIR PADS):

There are boxes and boxes of these in the basement of the RO. Ask Kristi Swisher for help.

LURE:

You want one that's targeted towards fisher and/or wolverines. Popular kinds are Gusto, or Hawbaker's Fisher Lure. Some folks prefer to use 100% pure skunk essence (MN Trapline sells it). It's super caustic and must be kept in glass or Teflon bottles. I don't recommend it unless you have to have it for a specific purpose.

Order Gusto here: http://www.minntraprod.com/catalog/index.php?cPath=507_207_70_1227