

# Deer Decomposition

## CuddyBack



Have you ever wondered what happens to a deer after it dies in the woods? Or what goes on around the deer while the decomposing process happens? The deer will start to rot, its body parts will break down into smaller compounds and start turning into nutrients for plants. However the natural decaying process is not the only way of decomposing a deer, animals also play a role.

On October 24 Jake Restad and I came up with a project to study a deer that was hit near Beaver Creek Reserve. We wanted to see what happens to it while it goes through its decaying process. The best way to watch a dead deer at all times is to use a Cuddyback Camera. For all of you that do not know what a Cuddeback is, it is a camera that mounts to a tree by a screw and cable. It then takes pictures with a motion sensor.

## Whitetail Deer



## Red Tail Hawk



We moved the deer from across the road and down a south sloping hill where we came to a clearing. This is where we set the camera up and put the deer. A week after we started this project Jake and I went and got the memory card from the camera to check the pictures that were taken. We did this for four weeks. During this time the camera took many pictures of different animals. We have picture of crows eating from the deer, pictures of a hawk that hung around for a while and three different Bald Eagle. A Gray Fox came back night after night throughout the whole study. There were also a few deer that just happen to walk by and got their picture taken.

## Bald Eagles



## Crows



I gathered the pictures and sorted them into piles by date, time and by the number of animals that were in each picture. Then I calculated the percentages of each animal type that helped dispose of the deer. The crow was seen at the deer 60 percent of the time. Bald Eagles came in at second with 15 percent, 11 percent goes to the foxes, hawks ended up with 5 percent and unsuspecting deer with 9 percent. After I gathered this information Mr. Tweed and I turned it into three different graphs. The graphs are displayed below.

## Road kill Deer



We did this project to discover who the real garbage men of the world are. Now that Jake and I are finished we have to say the garbage men of the animal world are the crows.

## Gray Fox



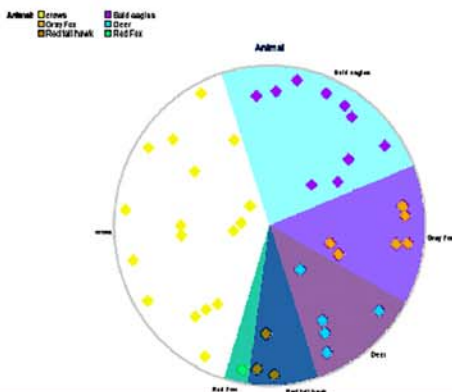
## Red Fox



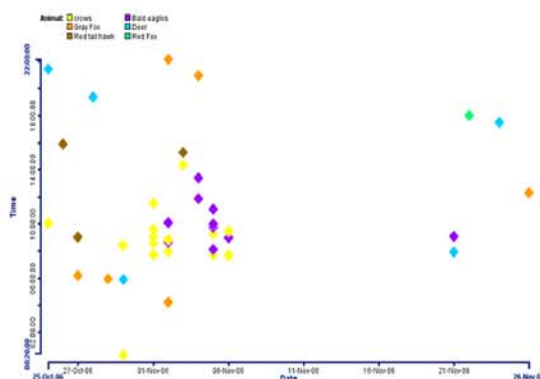
## Bald Eagles



Percentage of Animals visits deer



Time And Date



Animal Visits by Daylight vs Darkness

