

MPG Field Note
Rosettes, lichens, and new green
February 25, 2015
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Pinnate leaves of Jacob's ladder unfold like an accordion (*Polemonium pulcherrimum*).



Purple tinged leaves sprout from silverleaf phacelia (*Phacelia hastata*).



An empty snail shell rests in mud near Tongue Creek.



Biscuitroot leaves appear. This edible plant tastes of strong celery (*Lomatium cous*).



Ice stays in shaded shallows and creek edges.



This two-inch bitterbrush shows leaves hairier than adults' (*Purshia tridentata*).



A rough, warty surface distinguishes blistered rock tripe (*Umbilicaria hyperborea*).



Rosettes rise through detritus of last year's leaves.



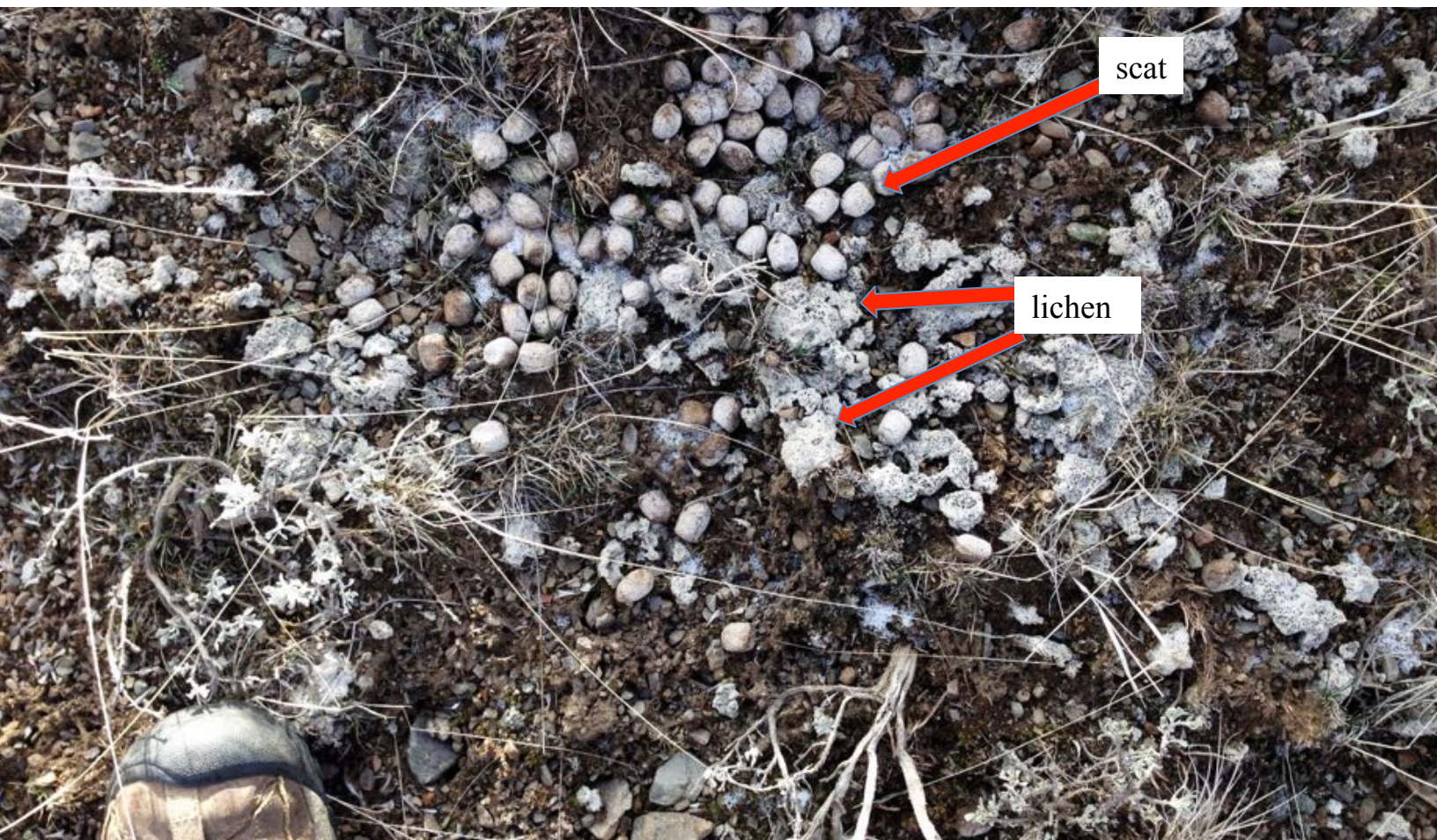
Lichens affix to even the smallest of stones.



Last year's bluebunch culms contrast with a sunrise sky (*Pseudoroegneria spicata*).



On the north-facing slopes above Woodchuck Creek, this lichen makes up a conspicuous portion of the biocrust. Common names for it include cowpie lichen and crater lichen. Below, decayed elk scat intersperses and blends with the crust clumps (*Diploschistes muscorum*).



scat

lichen



Despite warm spells, long shadows near noon still mark the season.



Close inspection of biocrust reveals miniscule snow fleas catapulting from ice needles.



More common on bark or rock, hammered shield lichen also grows on soil (*Parmelia sulcata*).



Stonecrop rosettes provide a succulent spring treat (*Sedum lanceolatum*).



A bitterroot with browsed tips shares space with field dog-lichen (*Lewisia rediviva* and *Peltigera rufescens*).

