



Executive Summary

2008 Quality Assurance – Quality Control Report For Data Collected in the STS Program Area



The STS project completed the 2008 trapping season with overall project compliance to the protocols established in 1999 and agreed upon by the cooperating agencies of the project. In summary, the database generated 78,175 trap sites within the STS project area for the 2008 season and traps were deployed at more than 95% of the planned sites (75,145 traps were placed).

The trapping protocols are designed to insure a high degree of data integrity, which is necessary because the data dictates all decisions made within the project. This year the project met or exceeded the standards on all but one of the measures. The measure for trap location was missed by less than 0.5%. The protocol for trap location is that 90% of the traps will be placed within a defined distance of the grid node. This measure is intended maintain the spatial integrity of the trapping grids and the acceptable area for trap placement surrounding the grid node is known as the target circle. Although the project did not meet the target of 90% of the traps within the target circle, we were very close at 89.7%. In most cases the reason cited for placing a trap outside the target circle was inaccessible terrain or unsuitable host type in the vicinity of the grid node. In these cases, a choice must be made between omitting a site and placing the trap outside the target circle must be made. It is always better to have a trap, even one placed further from the grid node than desired, than no trap at all.

Standard / Protocol	Measure	Target	2008
Spatial integrity of the trapping grids	100% of the grid nodes are accounted for in the database as deleted, omitted or placed	100%	100%
	% of the nodes with placed traps	>95%	95.8%
Trap location	% of the traps placed within a defined distance of the grid node	> 90%	89.7%
Field inspections	% of the trap sites checked	> 10%	13.5%
	% of the checked sites that passed	NA	98.9%
Trap placement and removal dates	Evaluated against model prediction's based on current year weather data	NA	NA
Compliance with decision algorithm recommendations	DA recommends treatments	NA	88% treated; 12% ignored due to lack of funding
	DA recommends delimits	NA	79% delimited; 13% treated and 8% ignored due to funding

Cooperators continue to improve each year in meeting the standards associated with the STS project. With the implementation of newer GPS technology and the goal of implementing the “trapper gadget” project wide in the future, the trapping data is becoming less of an issue each trapping season. The numbers in this report indicate that there is essentially no risk that faulty decisions will be made based upon the quality of data. This is particularly gratifying in a project that includes multiple government agencies covering a broad geographic range, and is the result of excellent cooperation among all parties involved.