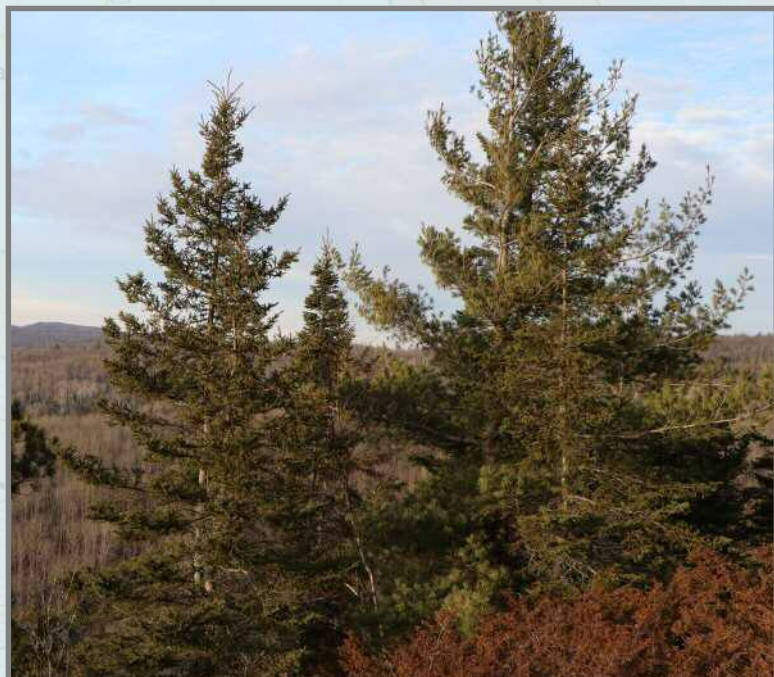


What's With Winter This Year

There is a cluster of spruce trees on Bear Mountain that the SLBM Trails maintenance crew monitor to fathom what they foretell of the coming winter.



Indigenous lore speaks of the amount of cones these trees are bearing in a season as a marker to foretell what to expect for the coming winter conditions. A heavy bearing of cones is indicative of prolonged cold temperatures and lots of snow accumulated on the ground. A light bearing of cones is an indication of mild temperatures and less snow accumulation (i.e., freeze-thaw-freeze cycle).

In the fall of 2019, 2020 and 2021 these trees were laden down with cones. Low and behold the winter that followed had early snowfall, consistent cold temperatures (absent a January thaw) and snow accumulation on ground by end of February of over half a metre (20 in.) on the SLBM Trails.



For fall 2022 (observation taken on 5 December) the Bear Mountain spruce trees had few cones on them (photos). Hence, we are anticipating relatively mild temperatures and not much in way of snow accumulation on the ground this winter.

2 January 2023



