

PARCO NATURALE ALPI MARITTIME

# ***WOLF PROJECT***

## **STUDY OF THE WOLF POPULATION IN THE PARK AREA**

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14° Trofeo Danilo Re

12- 15 March 2009

Mittersill



# Parco Naturale Alpi Marittime







Parco Naturale  
**Alpi Marittime**



Survey Valli Gesso - Vermentina

Robilante

Valderi

Entraque

Vermentina

Terme Valdieri

S. Giacomo

12 numbered survey routes are marked on the map.



Survey Valli Gesso - Vermenagna

Seite 4

Robilante

Valdieri

Entraque

## Vermonte

Terme Validien

S. Giacomo

12

11

10

5

12



# STUDY OF THE WOLF POPULATION IN THE PARK AND SURROUNDING AREA

## MAIN AIMS

- ◆ Distribution and numbers
- ◆ Genetic identity of the resident wolves
- ◆ Feeding ecology



# FIELD WORK

- ◆ Summer transects
- ◆ Winter transects
- ◆ Snow tracking
- ◆ Collecting and registering wolf scats
- ◆ Collecting and registering carcasses
- ◆ Search for rest points
- ◆ Uploading information to the database





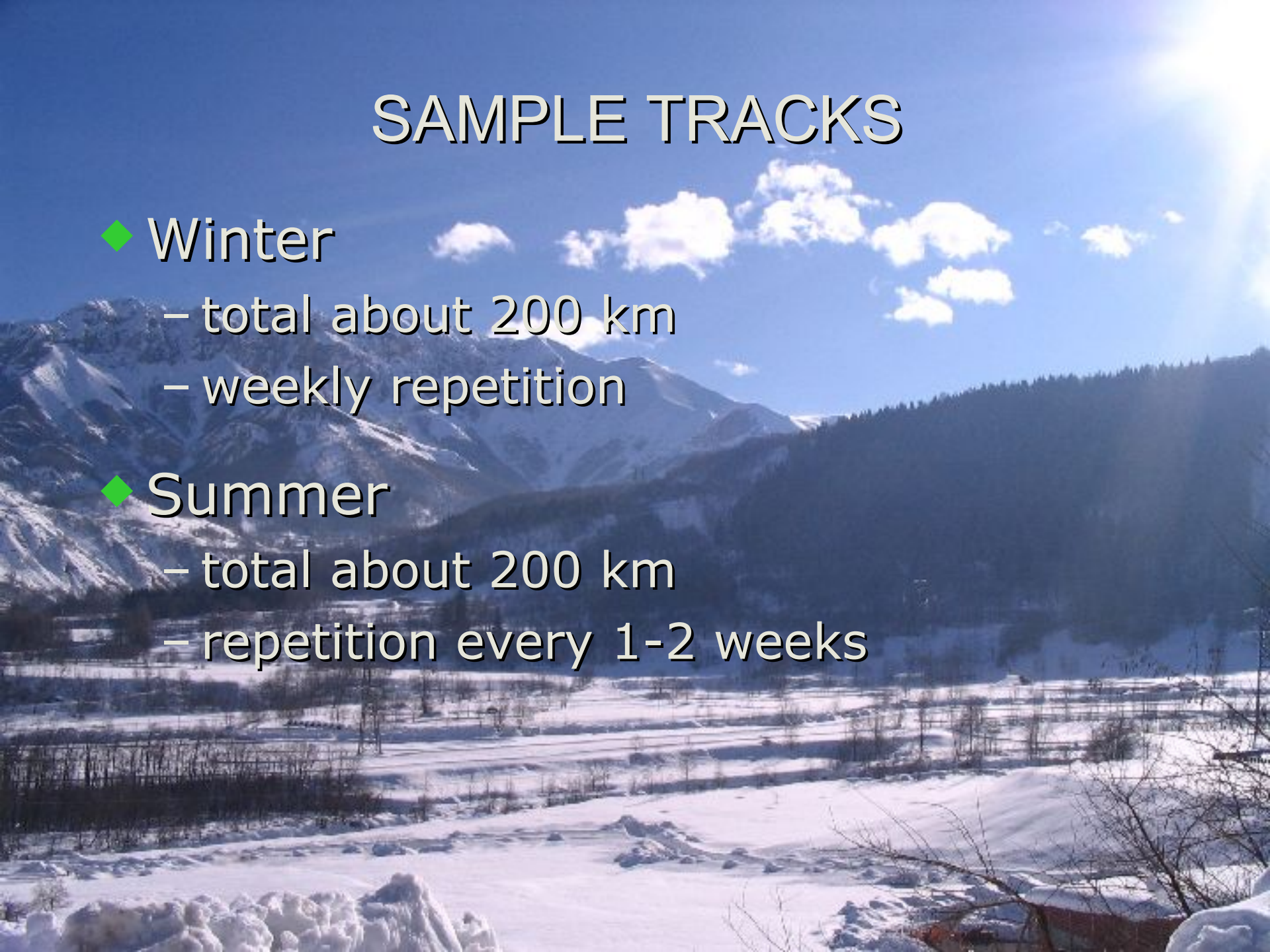
# SAMPLE TRACKS

## ◆ Winter

- total about 200 km
- weekly repetition

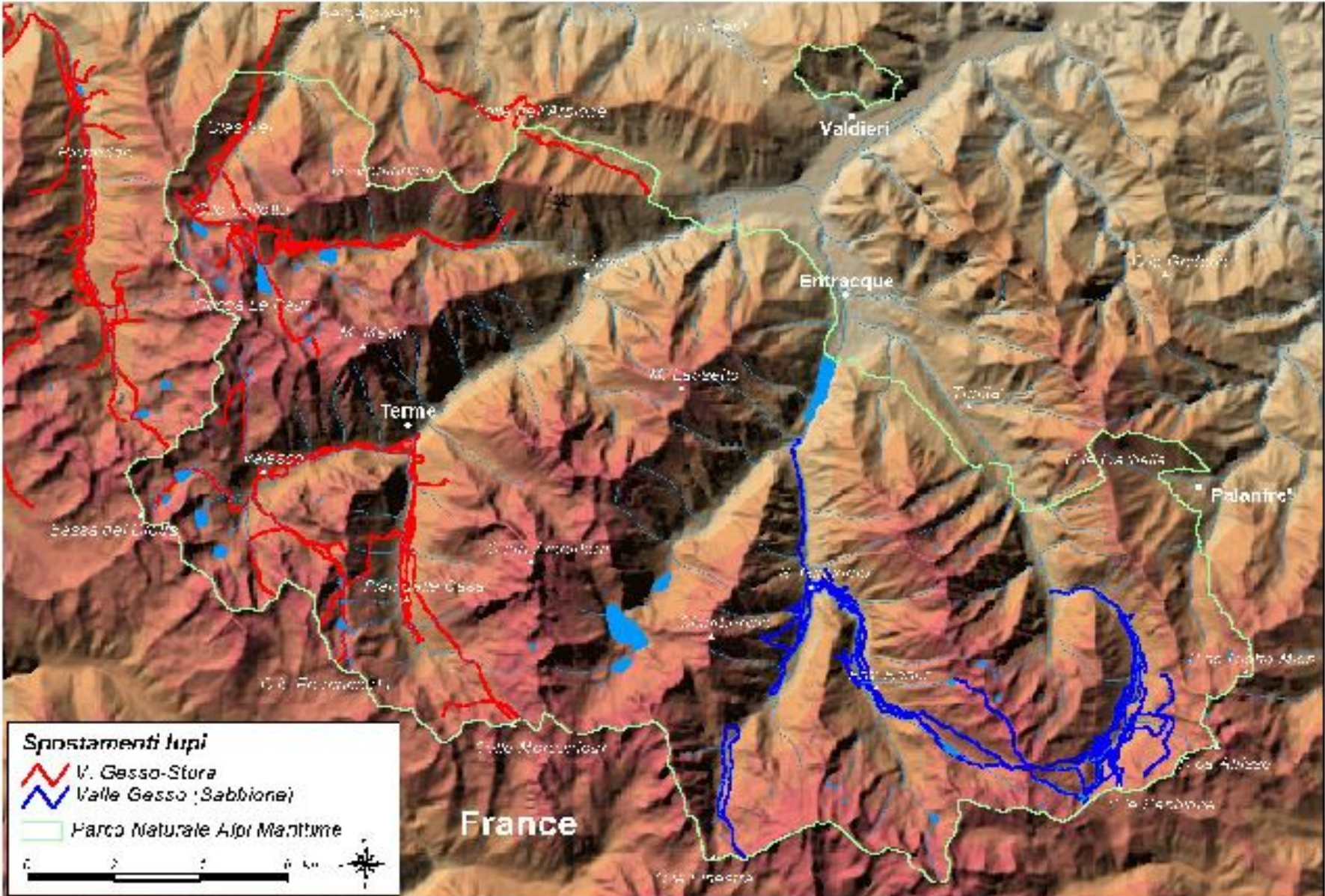
## ◆ Summer

- total about 200 km
- repetition every 1-2 weeks



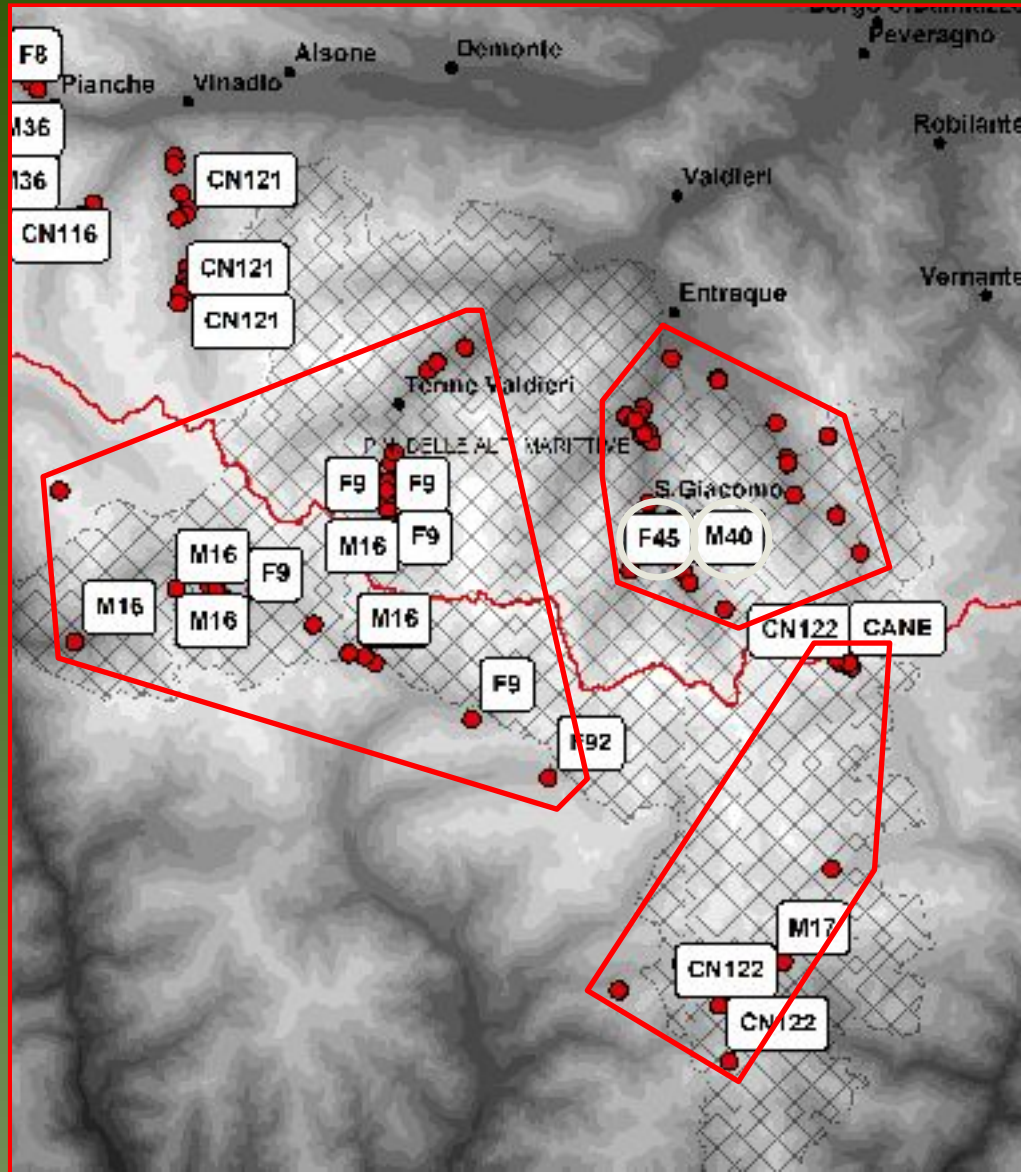


# Pack tracks 2006-2007



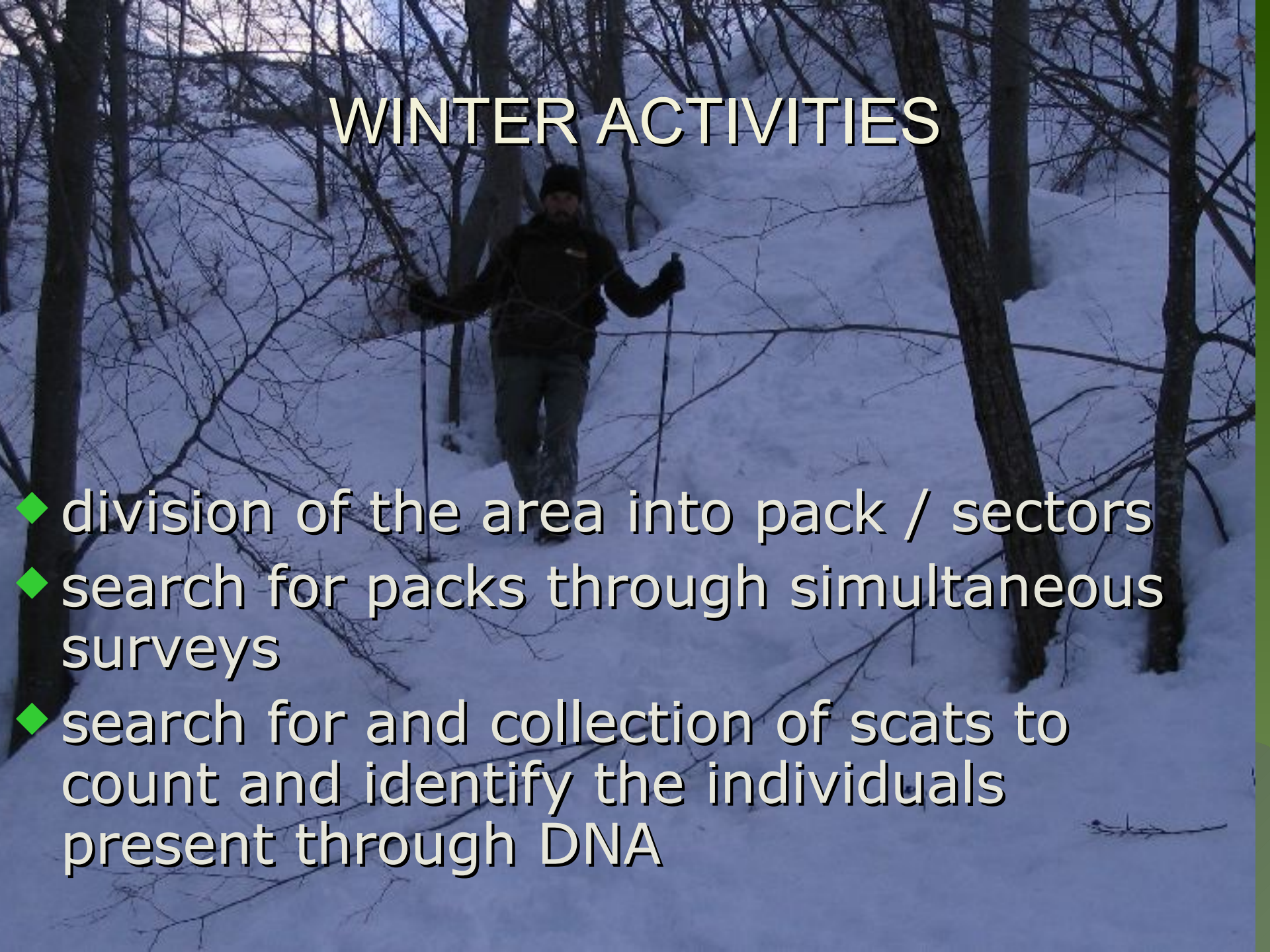


# Pack home ranges in Alpi Marittime



winter  
2007-2008

# WINTER ACTIVITIES

- 
- A person is cross-country skiing through a snowy forest. The skier is wearing dark clothing and a hat, and is using ski poles. The forest is filled with snow-covered trees and branches.
- ◆ division of the area into pack / sectors
  - ◆ search for packs through simultaneous surveys
  - ◆ search for and collection of scats to count and identify the individuals present through DNA



# SNOW TRACKING





# USE OF GPS





# BREAKDOWN OF GENERAL ACTIVITIES THROUGH 2008

MONTH	N° transects covered	N° signs of presence	N° scats found	N° tracks digitalized
JANUARY	131	23	8	9
FEBRUARY	116	53	31	26
MARCH	86	29	9	12
APRIL	52	26	45	7
MAY	22	3	3	0
JUNE	25	3	4	0
JULY	53	6	8	0
AUGUST	24	1	0	0
SEPTEMBER	27	6	4	0
OCTOBER	82	9	3	0
NOVEMBER	37	9	13	8
DECEMBER	51	6	6	6
TOTAL	706	174	134	68

# INTENSIVE MONITORING OF THE “VALLE GESSO” PACK – JANUARY 2009

- ◆ continual monitoring of the pack for 12 days
- ◆ daily tracking of the pack's movements with GPS
- ◆ survey of the carcasses used in this period
- ◆ data elaboration and digitalization of pack movements with GIS





- ◆ 9 carcasses used
- ◆ 6 predations
- ◆ 3 scavenging(keratoconjunctivitis)
- ◆ food caching
- ◆ ungulates used
- ◆ ungulates chosen





# Carcass use

- ◆ Degree of consumption of carcasses
- ◆ Roe deer
- ◆ Chamois
- ◆ Ibex
- ◆ Surplus Killing

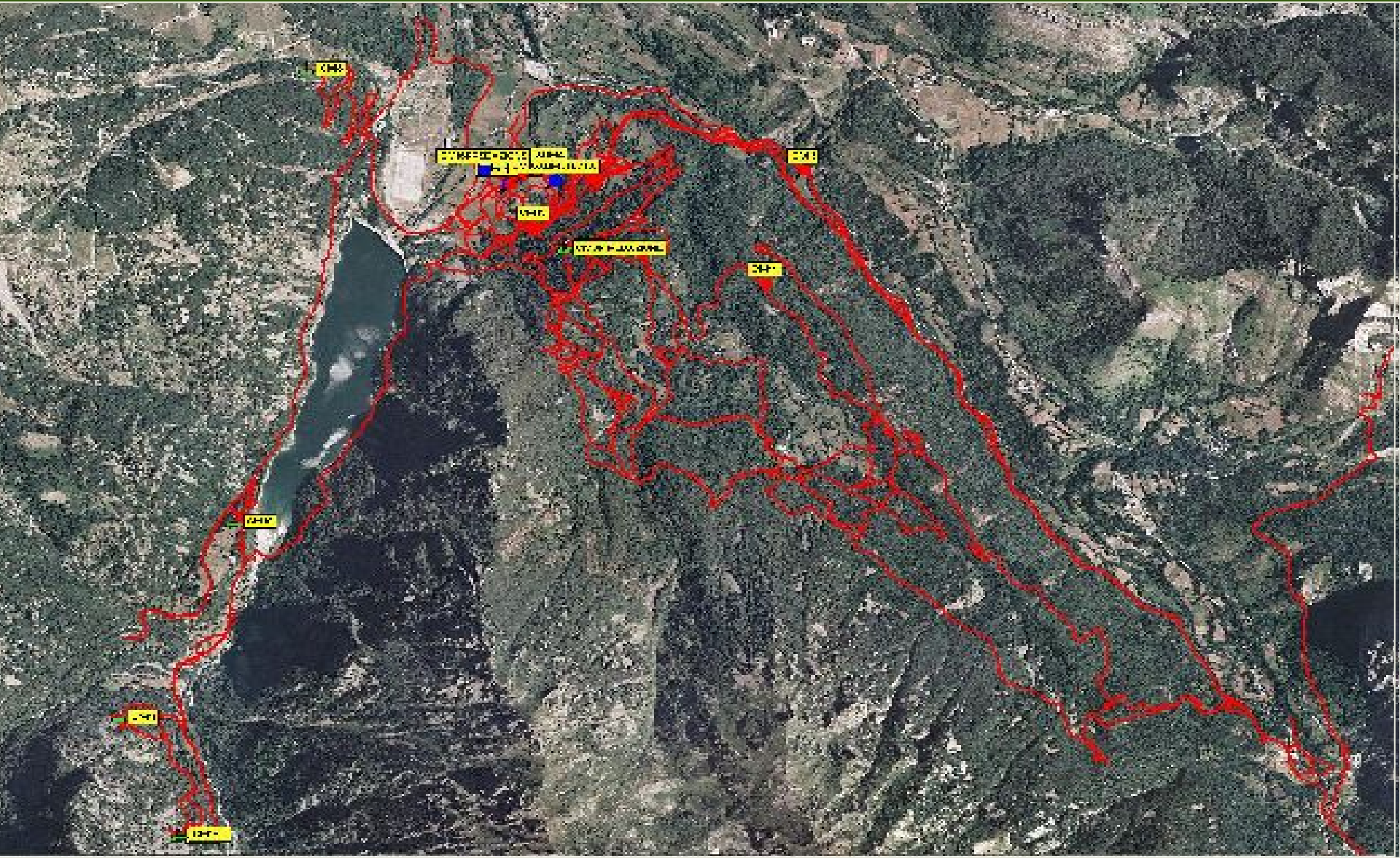




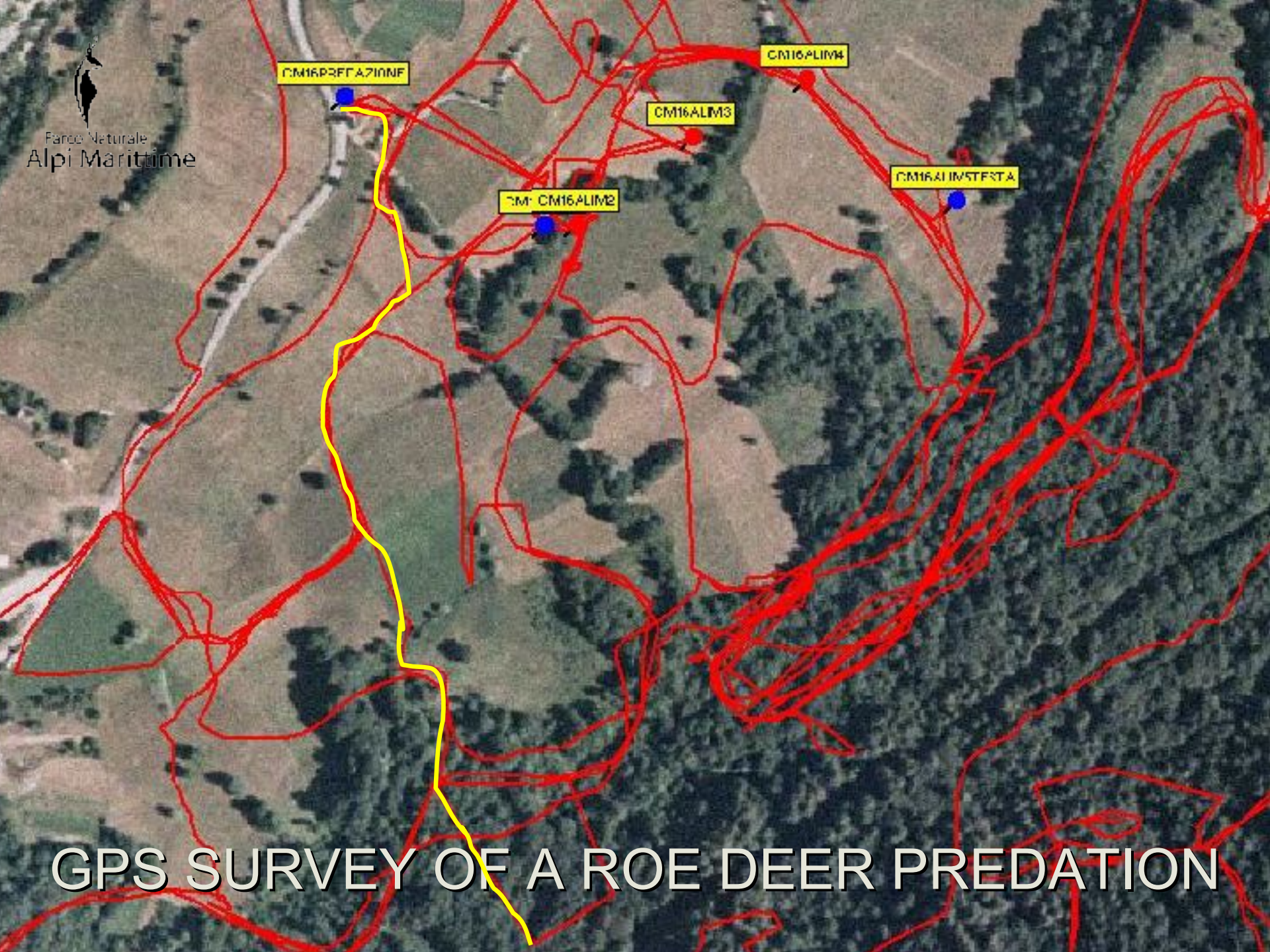
# DATA TABLE

Date	Track	Kilometres	N°scats	Code
14-01	M11/1	10.59 KM	2	M451 M452
15-01	M11/2		2	M453 M454
16-01	M11/3	5.25 KM	2	M455 M456
17-01	M11/4	1.02 KM	2	M457 M458
18-01	M11/5	2.63 KM		
19-01	M11/6	27.65 KM	4	M459 M460 M461 M462
20-01	snowing	Track coming from ski slopes covered to carcasse CM13		
21-01	M13/1	13.91 KM	4	M463 M464 M465 M466
22-01	M13/2	18.25KM	4	M467 M468 M469 M470
23-01	M13/3	13.23 KM	2	M471 M472
24-01	M13/4	25.68 KM	3	M473 M474 M475
25-01	M13/5	3.32 KM		

# DISTRIBUTION OF CARCASSES OVER THE STUDY AREA







GPS SURVEY OF A ROE DEER PREDATION

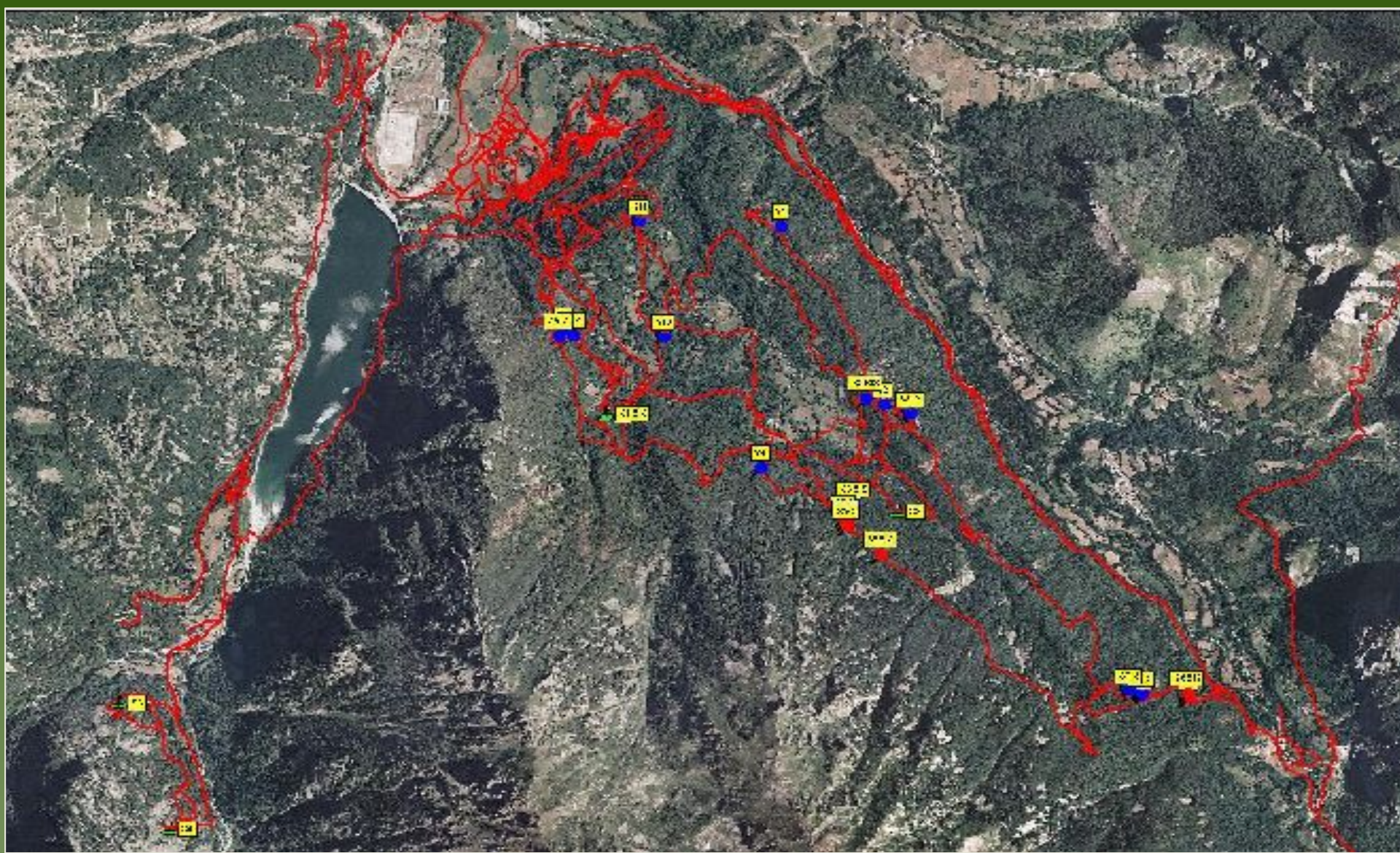


# REST POINTS

- ◆ Wood
- ◆ Roe deer
- ◆ Place with good all-round visibility
- ◆ Relatively low altitude

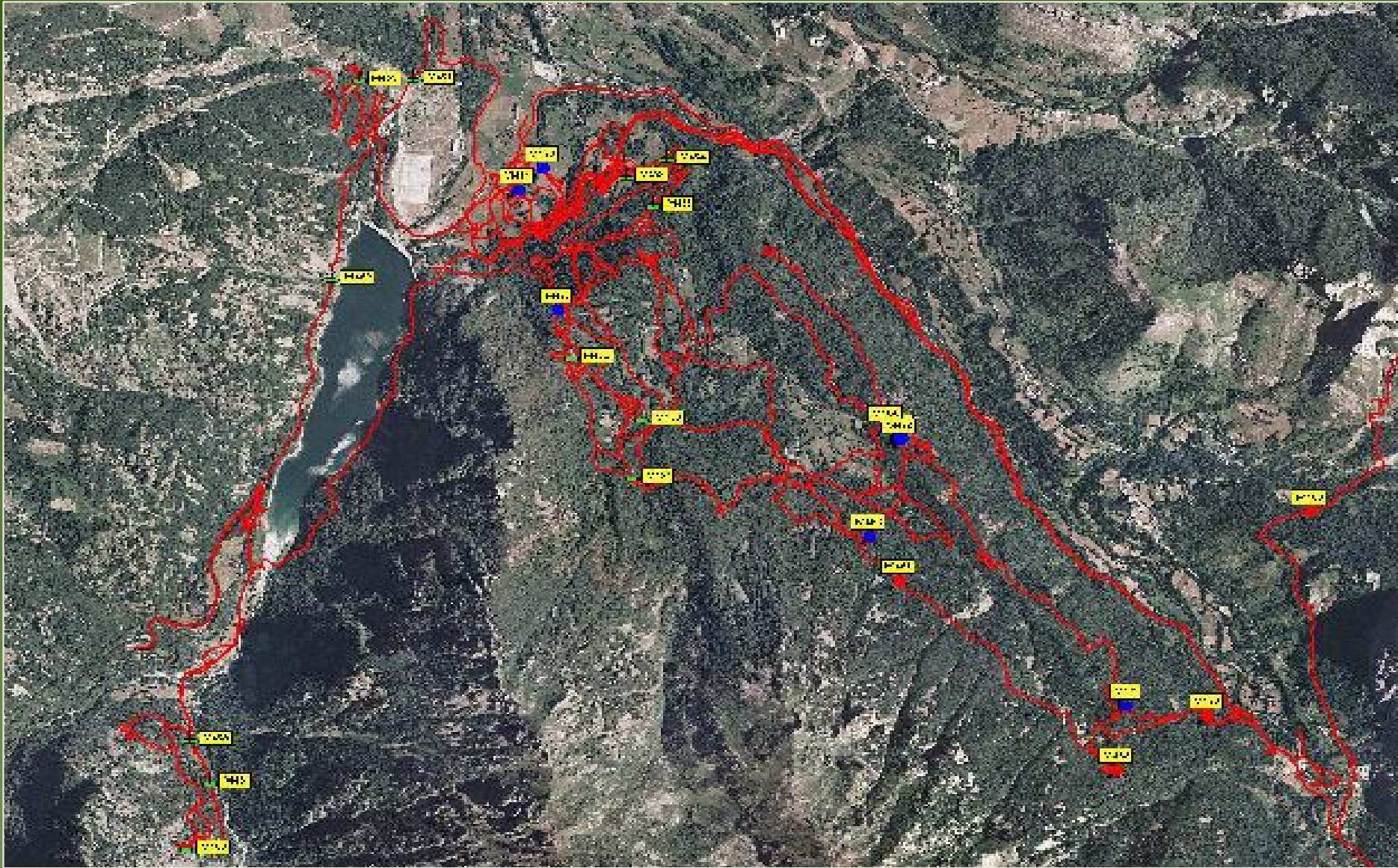


# VIEW OF REST POINTS IN THE STUDY AREA





# DISTRIBUTION OF THE 25 SCATS FOUND IN THE STUDY AREA





# Choice of habitat



Wolf activity was concentrated at low altitude, near the village and the cross-country ski tracks.

- ◆ this valley floor area seems best for
  - hunting
  - resting
- ◆ surveyed 123,76 km of tracks





- ◆ good availability near the home range, of carcasses of chamois (various causes of death, weather/disease) **but**:
- ◆ wolves seem to prefer areas with higher densities of roe deer.

# CONCLUSIONS OF THE INTENSIVE MONITORING:

- ◆ 3-4 wolves present in the “Valle Gesso” pack
- ◆ n° of carcasses used
- ◆ Preferred habitat
- ◆ Preferred prey
- ◆ Position of rest points





Parco Naturale  
**Alpi Marittime**



**Thank you for your attention**