

Shiretoko World Natural Heritage Site Conservation Project (January to March 2017)

(1) Project to Restore the Rich Diversity of Shiretoko's Forests

Patrols were carried out about once a week in the 100-m² Movement Trust Area. Because there were no particularly big snowstorms this past winter, there was no damage to the deer fences.

In the area where Sakhalin spruce (*Picea glehnii*) had been planted, workers prepared for the next stage of the project by carrying out surveying and removing branches that were in the way. This work proceeded with the help of many volunteers.



January: This deer fence along the Iwaobetsu River was reinforced in autumn 2016



March: The same area after snow melt had begun



February: Removing branches that were in the way in a forest planted with Sakhalin spruce



February: Volunteers who took part in the work

(2) Project to Protect and Pass on Shiretoko's Value as a World Heritage Site

1. Pass on Shiretoko's forests to the next generation

Field studies for February were arranged for students of Surugadai University. The eight participating students got an overview of the 100-m² Movement Trust Area and wrapped protective nets around the barks of trees.

In March, members of the Shiretoko Nature Appreciation Youth Club did field studies inside the 100-m² Movement Trust Area. A hut used as a horse stable back when the trust area was being developed was repaired in 1997 and stands today with the name “Pioneer Hut.” The children lived for two days and one night in the hut, which, like when it was first built, has no electricity.

The Shiretoko National Park Nature Center continued to hold lectures for visitors on Shiretoko’s nature and history, as well as the 100-m² Movement.



February: As part of their school practicum, Surugadai University students put protective nets over the barks of trees.



March: Members of the Shiretoko Nature Appreciation Youth Club wear snowshoes on their way to Pioneer Hut



March: They brought their own camping gear with them



The snowshoes had the Daikin logo



March: Students try a slack line suspended over the snow. Hopefully, the snow makes for a soft landing when they fall



March: The youngsters spent a night at Pioneer Hut

Snowshoes for 40 children and 10 adults (leaders) were purchased so that the local children could enjoy playing in nature to the fullest. This past winter, these snowshoes were used by Shiretoko Kids, a nature and country living learning group in Rausu, and the above-mentioned Shiretoko Nature Appreciation Youth Club, which is based in Shari.

2. Supporting activities so bears and humans can coexist

Last year, electric fences were removed to prevent damage from accumulated snow up until December. But this year there was less snow, which will likely cause the bears to come out of hibernation earlier than in a regular year. Although the electric fence is exposed on some of the slopes that directly face to the sun, the majority of the fence is still buried under the snow.

No bear activity has been spotted as of yet, and currently workers are inspecting their tools and finding the necessary spare parts in stock so that they will be ready to begin re-installing the fences once the snow melts.



March: An electric fence is barely visible above the snow. It will soon be exposed and working

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