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RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN HABITATS, FORAGES AND CARRYING CAPACITY OF MOOSE RANGE IN NORTHERN ALBERTA

PART I: MOOSE PREFERENCES FOR HABITAT AND STRATA AND FORAGES

by

R.A. Nowlin ALBERTA RECREATION, PARKS AND WILDLIFE FISH AND WILDLIFE DIVISION

for

ALBERTA OIL SANDS ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH PROGRAM

> Project TF 1.2 July 1978

The Hon. D.J. Russell Minister of the Environment Legislative Building Edmonton, Alberta

and

The Hon. L. Marchand Minister of State for the Environment Fisheries and Environment Canada Ottawa, Ontario

Sirs:

Enclosed is the report "Relationships Between Habitats, Forages, and Carrying Capacity of Moose Range in Northern Alberta. Part I: Moose Preferences for Habitat Strata and Forages."

This report was prepared for the Alberta Oil Sands Environmental Research Program, through its Terrestrial Fauna Technical Research Committee (now part of the Land System) under the Canada-Alberta Agreement of February 1975 (amended September 1977).

Respectfully,

W. Solodzuk, P, Eng.

W. Solodzuk, Ping. Chairman, Steering Committee, AOSERP Deputy Minister, Alberta Environment

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RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN HABITATS, FORAGES, AND CARRYING CAPACITY OF MOOSE RANGE IN NORTHERN ALBERTA. PART I: MOOSE PREFERENCES FOR HABITAT STRATA AND FORAGES

DESCRIPTIVE SUMMARY

ABSTRACT

Relationships between moose (Alces alces andersoni) and the habitat strata and forages available to them in northern Alberta were studied within the Alberta Oil Sands Environmental Research Program (AOSERP) study area during fall (September through November 1976) and winter (December 1976 through March 1977). Radio telemetry was employed to delineate seasonal use, and preference and avoidance of both habitat strata and forages. Specific categories of use of habitats were also identified and evaluated. These included feeding, bedding, non-feeding-bedding, and "presence only". In addition, environmental variables affecting habitat use were variously identified and measured. Both physical and vegetation variables were considered. The habitat use data indictated that upland habitat strata were most heavily utilized and were preferred (p<0.01), while lowlands were least utilized and were avoided (p<0.01), during both fall and winter, for all categories of habitat use except non-feeding-bedding. Individual upland and lowland habitats were variously important. During the fall, the aspen (Populus tremuloides) habitat stratum and aspen mixed with either white spruce (Picea glauca) or jack pine (Pinus banksiana) were heavily utilized for all categories of use. Only the mixedwood habitats were variously preferred. And, in the "presence only" category of use, black spruce (Picea mariana) and black sprucetamarack (Larix laricina) were lightly used and were avoided (p<0.01). During the winter, aspen and aspen-white spruce were heavily utilized and were preferred (p<0.01) for all categories of use except non-feeding-bedding. Only aspen-white spruce was preferred (p<0.10) for this latter category. During

both fall and winter, saskatoon (Amelanchier alnifolia) was clearly the most heavily utilized species of browse, and it appeared to be the only species that was preferred. Recommendations relevant to impact assessment and rehabilitiation within the AOSERP study area were made. Both the discussion of results and the recommendations were qualified because of inadequate sample sizes overall, and unusually mild weather conditions during the winter.

BACKGROUND AND PERSPECTIVE

This project was commissioned on behalf of the Alberta Oil Sands Environmental Research Program through the former Terrestrial Fauna Technical Research Committee (now part of the Land System). The study commenced in November 1975 with the general objectives of delineating seasonal food habitats of moose and relating utilization of habitat strata and forage species to their availability. The project is part of a broad investigation of moose ecology intended to gain a thorough understanding of the existing status of the species and of the moose-vegetation-landform interactions in the area. This knowledge will be useful in the assessment of the impact of oil sands development on moose, and in planning reclamation of mined areas.

ASSESSMENT

The Alberta Oil Sands Environmental Research Program has reviewed and accepted the report on "Relationships Between Habitats, Forages, and Carrying Capacity of Moose Range in the AOSERP Study Area" which was prepared by R.A. Nowlin.

The final report contains a large amount of data and has drawn some preliminary conclusions on the relationships of moose to habitat and forages. In association with reports on moose population dynamics from TF 1.1 (LS 21.1) it helps present a picture of the baseline status of moose in the AOSERP study area.

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The content of this report does not necessarily reflect the views of Alberta Environment, Fisheries and Environment Canada, or the Oil Sands Environmental Study Group. The mention of trade names for commercial products does not constitute an endorsement or recommendation for use.

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RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN HABITATS, FORAGES AND CARRYING CAPACITY OF MOOSE RANGE IN NORTHERN ALBERTA

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> Project TF 1.2 July 1978

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ABSTRACT

Relationships between moose (Alces alces andersoni) and the habitat strata and forages available to them in northern Alberta were studied within the Alberta Oil Sands Environmental Research Program (AOSERP) study area during fall (September through November 1976) and winter (December 1976 through March 1977). Radio telemetry was employed to delineate seasonal use, and preference and avoidance of both habitat strata and forages. Specific categories of use of the habitats were also identified and evaluated. These included feeding, bedding, non-feeding-bedding, and "presence only". In addition, environmental variables affecting habitat use were variously identified and measured. Both physical and vegetative variables were considered. The habitat use data indicated that upland habitat strata were most heavily utilized and were preferred (p<0.01), while lowlands were least utilized and were avoided (p<0.01), during both fall and winter, for all categories of habitat use except non-feeding-bedding. Individual upland and lowland habitats were variously important. During the fall, the aspen (Populus tremuloides) habitat stratum and aspen mixed with either white spruce (Picea glauca) or jack pine (Pinus banksiana) were heavily utilized for all categories of use. Only the mixedwood habitats were variously preferred. And, in the "presence only" category of use, black spruce (Picea mariana) and black spruce-tamarack (Larix laricina) were lightly used and were avoided (p<0.01). During the winter, aspen and aspen-white spruce were heavily utilized and were preferred (p<0.01) for all categories of use except non-feeding-bedding. Only aspen-white spruce was preferred (p<0.10) for this latter category. During both fall and winter, saskatoon (Amelanchier alnifolia) was clearly the most heavily utilized species of browse, and it appeared to be the only species that was preferred. Recommendations relevant to impact assessment and rehabilitation within the AOSERP study area were made. Both the discussion of results and the recommendations were qualified because of inadequate sample sizes overall, and unusually mild weather conditions during the winter.

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INTRODUCTION

1.

The Alberta Oil Sands Environmental Research Program (AOSERP) is committed to determining methods of ensuring an acceptable environment for terrestrial fauna during and after mining of the Athabasca Oil Sands. To satisfy this commitment for moose (Alces alces andersoni), detailed, year-round information about the habitat requirements of this ungulate is essential.

Some information is available from Alberta. Allison (1972), Carins (1976), Nowlin (1976), Penner (1971, 1976), and Holsworth (1958) variously considered habitat utilization and/or food habits using radio telemetry, pellet counts, observations, and browse transects. Barrett (1972) described food habits in the Cypress Hills by analysis of rumen samples. However, none of these studies provided the detail required by AOSERP.

Data collected for this project was begun in September 1976. At least two years of field work were planned to achieve the following objectives:

- 1. Delineate seasonal use of habitat strata;
- Identify environmental variables affecting habitat use and evaluate the importance of each;
- 3. Delineate seasonal use of forages; and
- Relate utilization of habitats and forages to their availability in order to quantify preference and avoidance.

Unfortunately, it was impossible to achieve the objectives because funding was not available to continue this research beyond one year. However, significant progress was made and those results are presented in this report.

PROJECT STUDY AREA

2.

The project study area encompassed approximately 220 ${\rm km}^2$ within the AOSERP study area (Figures 1 and 2). It was bounded roughly by the Athabasca River on the west, the Muskeg River on the east and south, and the 25th baseline on the north.

Density of moose in the area was low. A helicopter census in 1976 by Jacobson (1978) estimated 0.22 moose per square kilometre.

The study area lies within the mixedwood section of the boreal forest region of Canada (Rowe 1972).



Figure 1. Location of the AOSERP and project study areas.



project study area.

3. METHODS

3.1 HABITAT STRATIFICATION

Habitat strata were subjectively identified using Stringer's (1976) report as a basis. They were also subjectively grouped into lowland and upland categories based upon relative soil moisture. Uplands were well-drained, and lowlands were poorly-drained.

All forested habitats were classified according to dominant overstory species. In pure stands of one tree species, that species composed at least 90 percent of the overstory. In mixed stands, no single tree species composed more than 89 percent of the overstory, and the stand was identified by the two most dominant species of trees that were present.

A systematic survey was conducted to determine the availability of each habitat (Figure 2). The habitat stratum at 231 sampling points along seismograph lines was identified, and percent occurrence was calculated.

3.2 MOOSE RELOCATIONS

Radiotelemetry was used to relocate the moose. The animals were collared with radio transmitters by the Moose, Caribou, Wolf Ecology (TF 1.1) researchers (Hauge and Keith in prep.). Tracking was begun on 1 September 1976, and continued through 4 March 1977.

Relocations of instrumented animals were determined on an opportunistic basis by ground triangulation of radio signals from known points. Once a relocation was determined, additional fixes were attempted at hourly intervals during daylight for a period of not more than three days.

The geographical position of each relocation was recorded as X-Y co-ordinates read from grids overlaying aerial photos in a manner similar to that described by Phillips et al. (1973). The position was also marked with nylon flagging and/or timber marking paint.

Results were grouped into two time periods, fall (September through November) and winter (December through March).

3.3 HABITAT UTILIZATION

Most observations of use of habitat strata were determined by recording the habitat(s) utilized within a macroplot of approximately 30 m radius, whose centre was defined by the radio relocation of a moose (Figure 3). Use was defined as the presence of fresh tracks within the macroplot.

Sometimes, no fresh tracks were found at the radio relocation. In this event, the point closest to the relocation, within a circle of 60 m radius, where fresh tracks were found was used to define the centre of the macroplot. If there was a total absence of tracks, the relocation was discarded.

If more than one habitat was utilized within the macroplot, then two types of observations were recorded (Figure 3). Use of the habitat in which the relocation fell was designated as a primary observation. Use of any other habitat(s) was designated as a secondary observation(s). For present purposes, these two types of observations have been combined.

Radio relocations occurred several times at the same geographical position when the animals did not move from hour to hour. In this case, data collected at the primary observation point were duplicated according to the number of relocations. Data collected at secondary observation points were not duplicated.

Specific categories of use of each habitat were also recorded, depending upon the evidence found within the macroplot. Discernible categories were feeding, bedding, rutting, non-feedingbedding, and "presence only". The first three categories were not mutually exclusive. Non-feeding-bedding was simply the absence of feeding or bedding. "Presence only" was presence in a given habitat regardless of, and not mutually exclusive of, the other categories.

Some radio relocations were not visited for verification and categorization of habitat use, and, occasionally, moose without collars were sighted. These observations were included in the "presence only" category.





3.4 ENVIRONMENTAL VARIABLES

One of the original objectives of this project was to identify environmental variables affecting habitat use and evaluate the importance of each. In order to accomplish this objective, two sets of data were to be developed and compared, statistically. One data set was to consist of variables measured within the macroplots, and the other was to consist of these same variables measured systematically over the entire study area. Both physical and vegetative environmental variables were to be considered.

Measurements of the variables within macroplots was done only during December through February. The measurements were not fully initiated prior to December because manpower was not available. They were terminated in February because of the impending termination of the project.

Environmental measurements within macroplots were completed within circular microplots with a radius of 7 m (Figure 3). The primary and secondary observation(s) of habitat use defined the centres of the microplots.

Measurements of the variables systematically over the study area were not fully initiated. Depth and density of snow were the only ones considered.

Because of the small amount of data collected, only selected results are presented in the body of this report. The bulk of the data is tabularized in the Appendix. The methods of data collection are explained below.

3.4.1 Physical Variables Measured as Microplots

Slope, aspect, position on a slope, minor topographic undulations, and snow depth were the physical variables measured at each microplot.

Slope was measured in percent with a Suunto clinometer (PM-5/360 PC).

Aspect was measured in degrees using a Silva Ranger compass.

Position on a slope was subjectively assessed to be within one of the following categories: top of a ridge, upper one-third of a slope, middle one-third of a slope, lower one-third of a slope, or bottom of a valley.

Minor topographic undulations were subjectively rated according to the amount of relief. The assigned categories were: $\frac{1}{2}$ 0.00 to 0.50 m, $\frac{1}{2}$ 0.51 to 1.50 m, and $\frac{1}{2}$ 1.51 to 3.00 m.

Snow depth was measured (to the nearest centimetre) at the centre of the microplot with a hand-held tape measure.

3.4.2 Vegetation Variables Measured at Microplots

Canopy closure, heights and densities of trees, and browse species were the vegetation variables measured.

Canopy closure was measured as a percent using a spherical densiometer (Lemmon 1957).

Heights of trees and browse were measured to the nearest foot with a Suunto clinometer or tape measure. Final results were converted to metres.

Densities of trees and browse were determined using the corrected-point-distance method of Laycock and Batcheler (1975), with the following modifications for browse.

Density of clumps of browse, regardless of species, was first determined. This was accomplished by measuring two distances at each microplot: from the centre of the microplot to the nearest clump of browse, and from that clump to its nearest neighbour. A clump is defined as one stem growing from one base, or several stems growing from a common base. During the measurements, the number of stems per clump of each species of browse was noted.

Next, densities of clumps of individual species of browse were determined. This was accomplished by multiplying the density of clumps of browse, regardless of species, by the percent occurrence of individual species in the distance measurements.

Finally, densities of stems of individual species were determined by multiplying the densities of clumps of individual species by their mean clump size. Only browse plants greater than 0.61 m high and less than 3.8 cm in diameter at breast height were measured for densities.

3.4.3 Snow Depths Measured Systematically Over the Study Area

A snow course was established systematically over the study area (Figure 2), with 68 measurement points marked at approximately 0.211 km intervals. Habitat strata was recorded at each point.

During January and February 1977, snow depth was measured twice per month, and density was measured once per month. A Mount Rose snow sampler was used.

Results were summarized as means for each habitat stratum for the winter.

3.5 FORAGE UTILIZATION

Feeding sites were examined within the macroplots in order to determine forage use. If feeding was found in more than one habitat type within any one macroplot, then separate feeding sites were examined in each type.

The methods of Cole (1956) and Knowlton (1960) were used to record instances of use of individual plants. An instance of use was each browsed twig, or twig from which leaves had been stripped. Approximately 200 instances of use was the upper limit at each site. Percentage of use for each species was calculated using the average aggregate percent method of Martin et al. (1946).

Willows were identified according to Raup (1959), and other plants according to Moss (1959).

A key to identification of willow twigs during winter was developed. This was accomplished by tagging individuals of each species during the growing season. Following leaf abscission, twig collections were made from the marked individuals and a key was developed, based on vegetative characteristics.

3.6 PREFERENCE AND AVOIDANCE OF HABITATS AND FORAGES

The methods of Neu et al. (1974) were employed to determine preference and avoidance of habitat strata. This involved testing the hypothesis that each habitat was utilized in proportion to its availability. If this hypothesis was accepted, the habitat was neither preferred nor avoided. If the hypothesis was rejected, then a habitat used in greater proportion than it was available was preferred, and a habitat used proportionately less than it was available was avoided.

The relatively few feeding sites that were examined and heavy use of only two or three forages precluded an analysis of preference and avoidance of forages. However, some trends were evident upon visual examination of the data.

4. RESULTS

4.1 HABITAT STRATIFICATION

The percent availability of each habitat stratum determined by the systematic survey is presented in Table 1.

4.1.1 Lowland Habitats

Lowland habitats accounted for 49.1 percent of all habitats available. The following individual lowland strata were identified.

4.1.1.1 <u>Fen</u>. Fens were scarce (less than one percent of all habitats available), and were found in very moist or shallow water areas bordering lakes or drainage channels. Sedges (*Carex* spp.) were the dominant plant species.

4.1.1.2 <u>Tall willow</u>. The tall willow habitat was also relatively scarce (5.2%). Found along drainage channels and in other wet areas, this habitat was composed of willows (*Salix* spp.) that were mostly over 3 m tall. The dominant species were pussy willow (*Salix discolor*), *S. maccalliana*, *S. myrtillifolia*, *S. planifolia*, autumn willow (*S. serrissima*), and sandbar willow (*S. interior*).

4.1.1.3 <u>Black spruce</u>. This habitat was common (15.2%), and was characterized by dense stands of black spruce (*Picea mariana*). It developed on thick deposits of sphagnum moss (*Sphagnum* spp.), and the understory was dominated by Labrador tea (*Ledum groenlandicum*).

4.1.1.4 <u>Tamarack</u>. This habitat consisted of lightly forested stands of tamarack (*Larix laricina*) and represented 9.5 percent of the habitats that were available. Dominant shrub in the understory were *S. planifolia*, dwarf birch (*Betula glandulosa*) and Labrador tea.

| Habitat Strata | Percent of Total Habitats Available |
|--|--|
| Lowland | |
| Fen | Tr ^a |
| Tall Willow | 5.2 |
| Black Spruce | 15.2 |
| Tamarack | 9.5 |
| Black Spruce-Tamarack | 15.2 |
| Other Mixedwood and Deciduous ^b | 4.0 |
| Lowland Total | 49.1 |
| Upland | |
| Aspen | 17.6 |
| Jack Pine | 9.5 |
| Aspen-White Spruce | 10.4 |
| Aspen-Jack Pine | 7.4 |
| Upland Shrub | 1.3 |
| Other Mixedwood, Deciduous and Coniferous | c 4.7 |
| Upland Total | 50.9 |

Table 1. Habitat strata present on the study area and their percent of total habitats available.

^aTrace. Less than one percent.

^bIncludes Balsam Poplar (Tr), Aspen-Black Spruce (1.7), and Balsam Poplar-Black Spruce (1.7).

^CIncludes Aspen-Balsam Poplar (Tr), Aspen-Paper Birch (1.3), Paper Birch-Jack Pine (Tr), White Spruce (Tr), and White Spruce-Jack Pine (Tr). 4.1.1.5 <u>Black spruce-tamarack</u>. Semi-open, mixed stands of black spruce and tamarack characterized this common habitat (15.2%). Labrador tea, *S. planifolia*, and swamp birch (*Betula pumila*) were often found in the understory.

4.1.1.6 <u>Other mixedwood and deciduous</u>. Other lowland habitats present in minor amounts were balsam poplar (*Populus balsamifera*), aspen (*Populus tremuloides*)-black spruce and balsam poplar-black spruce. The balsam poplar habitat was most common in the flood plains of major rivers.

4.1.2 Upland Habitats

Upland habitats accounted for 50.9 percent of all habitats. The following individual strata were identified.

4.1.2.1 <u>Aspen</u>. The aspen habitat was common (17.6%), and was characterized by pure stands of aspen. Shrubs commonly present in the understory included beaked willow (*Salix bebbiana*), saskatoon (*Amelanchier alnifolia*), prickly rose (*Rosa acicularis*), wild rose (*Rosa woodsii*), and buffalo-berry (*Shepherdia canadensis*).

4.1.2.2 <u>Jack pine</u>. This habitat was found on the very dry, sandy, uplands and represented 9.5 percent of the total habitats that were available. It was characterized by pure stands of jack pine (*Pinus banksiana*), with blueberry (*Vaccinium myrtilloides*) as the dominant understory.

4.1.2.3 <u>Aspen-white spruce</u>. The aspen-white spruce (*Picea glauca*) habitat was characterized by mixed stands of these species of trees and composed 10.4 percent of the available habitats. Shrubs commonly present included current (*Ribes triste*), prickly rose, low bush cranberry (*Viburnum edule*), and saskatoon.

4.1.2.4 <u>Aspen-jack pine</u>. This habitat, characterized by mixed stands of aspen and jack pine, composed 7.4 percent of all habitats. Common shrubs were river alder (*Alnus tenuifolia*), prickly rose, wild rose, and saskatoon.

4.1.2.5 <u>Upland shrub</u>. The upland shrub habitat was scarce (1.3%) and was found on recently disturbed areas, other than seismograph lines, where the forest overstory had been removed. Saplings in this habitat had a diameter at breast height of less than 3.8 cm. Shrubs commonly present included prickly rose, wild rose, and saskatoon.

4.1.2.6 <u>Other deciduous, mixedwood, and coniferous</u>. Other upland habitats present in minor amounts were aspen-balsam poplar, aspen-paper birch (*Betula papyrifera*), paper birch-jack pine, white spruce, and white spruce-jack pine.

4.2 MOOSE RELOCATIONS

During the fall, six mature moose (four females and two males) were relocated 95 times (Table 2). At these relocations, 117 observations of habitat use were recorded, of which 108 were verified by the presence of fresh tracks, and nine were not verified. Also, three visual observations of uncollared animals were made.

During the winter, 10 mature moose (seven females and three males) were relocated a total of 116 times. At these relocations, 140 observations of habitat use were recorded, four of which were not verified.

4.3 HABITAT UTILIZATION

4.3.1 Habitat Utilization During Fall

Observations of habitat use during the fall are presented in Table 3. The number of observations of feeding, bedding, nonfeeding-bedding, and "presence only" were 35, 46, 58, and 120, respectively.

| | Moose | · · · · · · · | Numbe | er of R | elocations |
|-------|-------|------------------|-------|---------|------------|
| No. | Sex | Age ^a | Fall | | Winter |
| 17 | M | _b | 0 | s | 12 |
| 40 | Μ | - | 0 | | 12 |
| 47 | F | · · · | 0 | | 7 |
| 75 | М | 5.5 | 11 | | 0 |
| 79 | F | 3.5 | 0 | | 1 |
| 81 | F | 9.5 | 0 | | 27 |
| 83 | М | 5.5 | 0 | | 22 |
| 85 | F S | 8.5 | 12 | | 5 |
| 87 | F | 6.5 | 26 | | 10 |
| 88 | F | 3.5 | 0 | | 15 |
| 89 | M L | 10.5 | 14 | | 0 |
| 90 | F | 6.5 | 11 | | 0. |
| 96 | F | 8.5 | 21 | | 5 |
| TOTAL | | | 95 | | 116 |

Table 2. Sex, age, and number of relocations of telemetered moose.

^aSupplied by the Ungulate Ecology project of AOSERP (TF 1.1).

^bNot presently available.

| | | | | Catego | ory of Use | | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|--------|--------------|-----------------------------|----------------|---------|----------|--------|
| | Fee | d i ng | Bedding | | Nor Feeding | Prese | nce Only | |
| Habitat Stratum | Fall | Winter | Fall | Winter | Fall | Winter | Fall | Winter |
| Lowland | 2 ¹ . | | | | | | · · · | |
| Fen | - | | - | – | 6.9 | - | 4.2 | - |
| Tall willow | 2.9 | 6.0 | . – | 2.3 | _ | 2.2 | Tra | 4.3 |
| Black spruce | 2.9 | 3.6 | | 2.3 | 6.9 | 17.4 | 5.8 | 9.3 |
| Tama r ack | _ | _ | 10.9 | - | 12.1 | - | 8.3 | - |
| Black spruce-tamarack | 2.9 | 10.7 | - | 9.3 | 3.4 | 21.2 | 2.5 | 15.0 |
| Balsam poplar | - | _ | _ | _ | , – , " | 2.2 | - | Tr |
| Aspen-black spruce | . - ¹ | | . | _ | ` _ | 8.7 | - , | 2.9 |
| Paper birch-black spruce | ×. – | | | - | - | 2.2 | - | Tr |
| Lowland Total | 8.7 | 20.3 | 10.9 | 13.9 | 29.3 | 53.9 | 20.8 | 31.5 |
| Upland | | | | | | | | |
| Aspen | 31.4 | 46.4 | 32.6 | 25.5 | 20.7 | 8.7 | 24.2 | 30.7 |
| Jack pine | _ | _ | 2.2 | | 15.5 | - | 9.2 | _ |
| Aspen-balsam poplar | - | 4.8 | | 13.9 | - | · · - · | - | 3.6 |
| Aspen-paper birch | - | _ | _ | _ | | | Tr | - |
| Aspen-white spruce | 28.6 | 26.2 | 28.3 | 46.5 | 12.1 | 27.6 | 16.7 | 27.1 |
| Aspen-jack pine | 22.9 | 2.4 | 22.7 | | 20.7 | 2.2 | 23.3 | 2.1 |
| Paper birch-jack pine | 5.7 | - | · · <u>-</u> | | 3.4 | - | 2.5 | - |
| White spruce-jack pine | · · · · | - | | - , ^{, , ,} | · – | 8.7 | - | 2.9 |
| Upland shrub | 2.9 | - | 4.3 | | * 🗕 | - | 1.7 | Tr |
| Upland Total | 91.5 | 79.8 | 90.1 | 85.9 | 72.4 | 47.2 | 77.6 | 66.4 |
| Sample Size | 35 | 84 | 46 | 43 | 58 | 47 | 120 | 140 |

Table 3. Percent habitat utilization according to categories of use during fall and winter.

^aTrace; less than one percent.

Uplands were much more heavily utilized for all categories of habitat use than were lowlands. This difference was greatest for the feeding and bedding categories.

For feeding, uplands accounted for 91.5 percent of the observations, while lowlands accounted for 8.7 percent. For bedding, use of uplands was 90.1 percent, with lowlands being 10.9 percent. For non-feeding-bedding, uplands were 72.4 percent, while lowlands were 29.3 percent. When use was categorized as "presence only", uplands were 77.6 percent and lowlands were 20.8 percent.

Utilization of individual habitat strata was variable.

The aspen habitat was most heavily used for feeding, accounting for 31.4 percent of the observations. It was followed by aspen-white spruce (28.6%) and aspen-jack pine (22.9%). Also lightly used were the paper birch-jack pine habitat with 5.7 percent, and tall willow, black spruce, black spruce-tamarack, and upland shrub habitats with 2.9 percent each.

Aspen was also most heavily utilized for bedding, with 32.6 percent of the observations. Aspen-white spruce and aspenjack pine were next with 28.3 and 22.7 percent, respectively. They were followed by tamarack (10.9%), upland shrub (4.3%), and jack pine (2.2%).

For non-feeding-bedding, the aspen and aspen-jack pine were most important, both with 20.7 percent of the observations. Also used were jack pine (15.5%), tamarack (12.1%), aspen-white spruce (12.1%), black spruce (6.9%), fen (6.9%), and paper birchjack pine (3.4%).

When utilization was defined as "presence only", aspen was most important, with 24.2 percent. It was closely followed by aspen-jack pine, 23.3 percent. Also used were aspen-white spruce (16.7%), jack pine (9.2%), tamarack (8.3%), black spruce (5.8%), fen (4.2%), black spruce-tamarack (2.5%), paper birch-jack pine (2.5%), upland shrub (1.7%), tall willow (<1%), and aspen-paper birch (<1%).

Observations of rutting behavior are not presented in Table 3 because only 11 observations were recorded. Of these, nine were in aspen, and one each were in black spruce and aspen-jack pine.

4.3.2 Habitat Utilization During Winter

The number of observations of habitat use during the winter for feeding, bedding, non-feeding-bedding, and "presence only" were 84, 43, 47, and 140, respectively (Table 3).

Uplands were more heavily utilized than lowlands for all categories of use except non-feeding-bedding. In this category lowlands were used slightly more than uplands.

For feeding, uplands accounted for 79.8 percent of the observations, while lowlands accounted for 20.3 percent. For bedding, use of uplands was 85.9 percent, with lowlands being 13.9 percent. For non-feeding-bedding, uplands were 47.2 percent, while lowlands were 53.9 percent. For "presence only", uplands were 66.4 percent and lowlands were 31.5 percent.

Observations of use of individual habitats were variable.

Aspen was the most important habitat for feeding with 46.4 percent. It was followed by aspen-white spruce (26.2%), black spruce-tamarack (10.7%), tall willow (6.0%), aspen-balsam poplar (4.8%), black spruce (3.6%), and aspen-jack pine (2.4%).

Aspen-white spruce was most heavily utilized for bedding, accounting for 46.5 percent of the observations. Aspen, with 25.5 percent, was second, and was followed by aspen-balsam poplar (13.9%), black spruce-tamarack (9.3%), tall willow (2.3%), and black spruce (2.3%).

For non-feeding-bedding, aspen-white spruce was most important, with 27.6 percent. It was followed by black spruce-tamarack (21.2%), and black spruce (17.4%). Next were aspen-black spruce, aspen, and white spruce-jack pine, all with 8.7 percent. Least important were tall willow, balsam poplar, paper birch-black spruce, and aspen-jack pine, all with 2.2 percent. For the "presence only" category of use, aspen with 30.7 percent, was the most important habitat. Aspen-white spruce (27.1%) was a close second. These were followed by black-spruce tamarack (15.0%), black spruce (9.3%), tall willow (4.3%), aspen-balsam poplar (3.6%), white spruce-jack pine (2.9%), aspen-black spruce (2.9%), and aspen-jack pine (2.1%). Least important were balsam poplar, paper birch-black spruce, and upland shrub, all used less than one percent.

4.4 ENVIRONMENTAL VARIABLES

Results of snow depth measurements are presented in Table 4. Only those habitats in which at least five measurements were taken are listed.

Examination of microplot data reveals very little difference between habitats. Snow depth was greatest in the tall willow habitat (23 cm) and least in the aspen-white spruce (17 cm).

The snow course measurements that were taken over the entire study area also exhibit little difference between habitats, for either depth or density (Table 4). Depth was greatest in the tamarack (25 cm) and least in the aspen-black spruce habitat (15 cm). Density was greatest in the tall willow (0.21) and least in the jack pine habitat (0.15).

Comparisons between snow depths at microplots and at sampling points on the snow course for individual habitats also reveals little difference.

No detailed analysis was done on snow measurements because of the small differences noted above, and because it is very doubtful that the shallow depths could influence moose movements. Coady (1974) reviewed the influence of snow on behavior of moose and concluded that movements of moose were not hindered until depths reached 40 to 70 cm. However, even at these depths, movement was only slightly restricted.

| | · . | | | | | | · . · | Sn | iow Cour | se | | | |
|-------------------------------|-----|----|----------|------------|------|-----|---------|-----|----------|------|-------|----|--|
| | | | Depth (c | c n) | | De | epth (c | :m) | | De | nsity | | |
| Habitat Stratum | | X | | N | | X | | N | • | x | | N | |
| Lowland | | | | . с. | | F . | | | | | | | |
| Tall willow | | 3 | | 5 | | 4 | | 20 | | 0.21 | | 10 | |
| Black spruce | | 19 | | 11 | | 19 | | 29 | | 0.20 | | 13 | |
| Tamarack | | _a | | - | | 25 | | 20 | | 0.17 | | 10 | |
| Black spruce-tamara ck | | 21 | | 20 | | 21 | | 20 | | 0.19 | | 10 | |
| Aspen-black spruce | | -, | | - <u>-</u> | | 15 | | 14 | | 0.17 | | 6 | |
| Upland | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Aspen | | 9 | | 37 | | 20 | | 55 | | 0.20 | | 25 | |
| Jack pine | | - | | - | | 18 | | 26 | | 0.15 | | 13 | |
| White spruce | | _ | | - | | 17 | | 20 | | 0.17 | | 10 | |
| Aspen-white spruce | | 17 | | 37 | | 18 | | 26 | | 0.20 | | 13 | |
| Aspen-jack pine | | _ | | - | | 21 | | 23 | | 0.18 | | 11 | |
| Upland Shrub | | - | | | y sh | 21 | | 6 | | · -, | · . | - | |

Table 4. Mean depth of snow at microplots, and mean depth and density of snow at sampling points on the snow course for each habitat stratum.

^aInsufficient data.

Additional environmental information was obtained from Environment Canada, Atmospheric Environment Service, at the Fort McMurray airport (Table 5).

These data reveal that the winter of 1976-77 was extremely mild compared to long term conditions. Temperatures were well above normal for January, February, and March; snow depths were considerably below normal for December through March.

4.5 FORAGE UTILIZATION

During the fall season, 31 feeding sites were examined and 3,321 instances of browse use were recorded (Table 6).

Saskatoon was the most heavily utilized browse species, accounting for 46 percent of the observations. Second in importance was beaked willow with 20 percent. All other species were utilized less than 8 percent each.

During the winter, 46 feeding sites were examined and 5,734 instances of use recorded (Table 6).

Saskatoon was again the most heavily utilized species, with 57 percent of the observations. It was followed by small leaf willow, with 15 percent, and beaked willow with 10 percent. All other species were utilized less than 3 percent each.

4.6 PREFERENCE AND AVOIDANCE OF HABITAT STRATA

Results of the statistical analysis to determine preference and avoidance of habitat strata are presented in Tables 7, 8, and 9.

For the analysis of individual habitat strata, it was sometimes necessary to group certain strata together in order to achieve adequate sample sizes for each. This was required only when the strata were used in small amounts (usually less than 6 percent). Two approaches were employed: lightly used strata were combined with heavily used strata, if similar; or, lightly used strata were combined into an "other" classification, if all were dissimilar.

| | · . | | Dec. | Jan. | Feb. | Mar. |
|----------------------|---|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1944-70 | | | · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · | · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · | | |
| Mean Mean Mean | Temp. (^O C) Max. Temp. Min. Temp. | (°C) (°C) | -16.9 -12.1 -21.8 | -21.5 -16.0 -27.0 | -16.6 -10.3 -23.0 | - 9.3 - 2.4 -16.5 |
| 1976-77 | | | | | | |
| Mean Mean Mean | Temp. (^O C) Max. Temp. Min. Temp. | (°C) (°C) | -16.8 -12.7 -21.4 | -18.7 -13.2 -24.1 | - 3.3 3.6 -10.2 | - 5.1 1.3 -11.5 |
| 1946-72 | | | | | | |
| Mean Max. | Snow Depth Snow Depth | (cm) ^a (cm) | 28 58 | 36 66 | 38 64 | 28 53 |
| 1977 | | | | | | |
| Snow | Depth (cm) | a | 3 | 18 | 12 | 20 |

Table 5. Long-term and 1976-77 meteorological summaries from the Fort McMurray airport for December through March (provided by Environment Canada, Atmospheric Environment Service).

^aMeasured in centimetres on the last day of each month.

| | Percent of | | Per | cent of | Diet ^b |
|-----------------------------|----------------|------|------|---------|-------------------|
| Species | Available Brow | vsed | Fall | | Winter |
| Alnus crispa | ND | | Tr | | 2 |
| Amelanchier alnifolia | 9 | | 46 | | 57 |
| Betula papyrifera | * | | 6 | | 0 |
| Betula spp. ^C | 10 | | 0 | | 3 |
| Cornus stolonifera | Tr | 2 | Tr | | 0 |
| Corylus cornuta | * | | 3 | | 1 |
| Populu s balsamifera | Tr | | 0 | | 1 |
| Populus tremuloides | 2 | | 7 | | 2 |
| Prunus pensylvanica | * | | 7 | | 0 |
| Prunus virginiana | * | | 0 | | Tr |
| Rosa woodsii | 2 | | Tr | | 0 |
| Rubus spp. | ND | | 2 | | Tr |
| Salix bebbiana | 19 | | 20 | | 10 |
| Salix discolor | * | | 3 | | 1 |
| Salix pla ni folia | 30 | | 3 | | 15 |
| Salix maccalliana | Tr | ÷ | 0 | | 1 |
| Salix mackenzieana | * | | 2 | | 0 |
| Salix myrtillifolia | * | | 0 | | 3 |
| Salix serissima | Tr | | Tr | | Ø |
| Salix spp. | ND | | 0 | | Tr |
| Shepherdia canadensis | 21 | | 0 | | · 1 |
| Viburnum edule | 3 | | Tr | | 3 |
| Number of feeding sites | examined | | 31 | | 46 |
| Total instances of use | | 3 | ,321 | | 5,734 |

Table 6. Utilization of browse species during fall and winter, and availability of browse during winter.

^aSymbols: Tr = trace; ND = no data (not measured); * = not encountered. ^b Average aggregate percent (Martin et al. 1946).

^CIncludes Betula glandulosa and B. pumila.
| Category | Habitat Stratum ^c | Proportion of total habitat (pi _o) | Number of observations | Expected ^a number of observations | Proportions observed in each habitat (pi) | Confidence interval on proportions observed (pi) ^b |
|----------------------|---------------------------------|--|---|--|---|---|
| Feeding Fall | | | | | | |
| • | Lowland Upland | 0. 491 0.509 | 3 <u>32</u> | 17 18 | 0. 0 87 0.915 | _a - |
| Winter | Lowland Upland | 0.491 0.509 | N=35 17 <u>67</u> N= 97 | 41 43 | 0.203 0.798 | $\begin{array}{c} 0.080 \leq p_1 \leq 0.326 \\ 0.675 \leq p_2 \leq 0.921 \end{array}$ |
| Bedding Fall | | | N=04 | | | |
| Wintor | Lowlan d Upland | 0.491 0.509 | 5 42 | 23 23 | 0.109 0.901 | $\begin{array}{c} 0.000 \leq p_1 \leq 0.238 \\ 0.777 \leq p_2 \leq 1.000 \end{array}$ |
| writer | Lowland Upland | 0.491 0.509 | N=47 6 <u>37</u> N=42 | 21 22 | 0.139 0.859 | $\begin{array}{c} 0.000 \leq p_{1} \leq 0.287 \\ 0.710 \leq p_{2} \leq 1.000 \end{array}$ |
| Non-Feeding- Fall | Bedding | | N=45 | | | |
| | Lowlan d Upland | 0.491 0.509 | 17 <u>41</u> N-58 | 28 30 | 0.293 0.724 | $\begin{array}{c} 0.125 \leq p_1 \leq 0.461 \\ 0.559 \leq p_2 \leq 0.890 \end{array}$ |
| "Presence On Fall | 1y'' | | N-30 | | | |
| | Lowland Upland | 0.491 0.509 | 26 <u>94</u> | 59 61 | 0.208 0.776 | $0.104 \le p_1 \le 0.312$ $0.669 \le p_2 \le 0.883$ |
| Winter | Lowland Upland- | 0.491 0.509 | N=120 46 <u>94</u> N=1 40 | 69 71 | 0.315 0.664 | $\begin{array}{r} 0.229 \leq p_1 \leq 0.401 \\ 0.552 \leq p_2 \leq 0.776 \end{array}$ |

| Table 7. | Preference and avoidance of | f upland an | d lowland | habitats | for | different | categories | of habitat | use |
|----------|-----------------------------|-------------|-----------|----------|-----|-----------|------------|------------|-----|
| | during fall and winter. | | | | | | | | |

^aCalculated by: pi_o x N. ^bCompared to corresponding pi_o to determine if hypothesis of proportional use is accepted or rejected (99% family confidence coefficient).

^CAll hypothesis of proportional use were rejected at the one percent level, except for feeding during the fall.

 $^{\rm d}{\rm Sample}$ sizes were inadequate for test of hypothesis.

| Category | Habitat Stratum | Proportion of total habitat (pi _Q) | Number of Observations | Expected ^a number of observations | Proportions observed in each <u>ha</u> bitat (p1) | Confidence interval on proportions observed (pi) ^b |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------|---|---------------------------|--|--|--|
| Feeding | Aspen | 0,176 | 11 | 6 | 0.314 | 0.138 < P. <0.490 ^c |
| U | Aspen-white spruce [‡] | 0.104 | 10 | 4 | 0.286 | $0.115 < P_0 < 0.457$ |
| | Aspen-jack pine | 0.074 | 8 | 2 | 0.229 | $0.070 < P_2 < 0.388$ |
| | Other ^{g, t} | 0.646 | 6 | 23 | 0.173 | $0.000 < p_{1} < 0.365^{e}$ |
| | | | N=35 | | | <u> </u> |
| Bedding | Aspen | 0.176 | 15 | 8 | 0.326 | $0.171 < p_1 < 0.481$ |
| | Aspen-white spruce | 0.104 | 13 | 5 | 0.283 | $0.117 \leq P_{2} \leq 0.449^{d}$ |
| | Aspen-jack pine ^I | 0.074 | 10 | 3 | 0.227 | $0.089 \leq P_2 \leq 0.365$ |
| | Other | 0.646 | 8 | 30 | 0.174 | $0.006 \leq P_{1} \leq 0.342^{e}$ |
| | | | N=46 | | | - 4 - |
| Non-Feeding- | Tamarack | 0.095 | . 7 | 5 | 0.121 _h | 0.016 ≤ P ₁ ≤0.226 |
| Non-Feeding- Bedding | Black spruce-tamarack | 0.152 | 6 | 9 | 0.103 | $0.005 \leq p_2^{\perp} \leq 0.201$ |
| | Aspen | 0.176 | 12 | 10) | 0.207 | $0.077 \leq p_2^2 \leq 0.337$ |
| | Jack pine | 0.095 | 9 | 5 | 0.155 | $0.038 \leq p_{1} \leq 0.271$ |
| | Aspen-white spruce | 0.104 | 7 | 6 | 0.121 | $0.016 \leq p_5^4 \leq 0.226$ |
| | Aspen-jack pine ¹ | 0.074 | 12 | 4 | 0.207 | $0.077 \leq p_{c} \leq 0.337$ |
| | Other | 0.304 | 5 | 1.8 | 0.086 | $0.032 \leq p_7 \leq 0.204^{\circ}$ |
| | F | | N=58 | | | · · · · · |
| "Presence | Black spruce | 0.152 | 7 | 18 | 0.058 | $0.000 \leq P_1 \leq 0.127^{e}$ |
| Only" | Tamarack f | 0.095 | 10 | 11 | 0.083 _b | $0.020 \le p_2^{\perp} \le 0.146$ |
| | Black spruce-tamarack | 0.152 | 8 | 18 | 0.067 | $0.000 \le p_3^2 \le 0.141^{\circ}$ |
| | Aspen | 0.176 | 29 | 21 | 0.242 | $0.144 \leq p_{1}^{3} \leq 0.340$ |
| | Jack pine | 0.094 | 11 | 11 | 0.092 | 0.026 <u><</u> p ₅ <u><</u> 0.158 |
| | Aspen-white spruce | 0.104 | 20 | 12 | 0.167 | $0.091 \leq p_6 \leq 0.243$ |
| | Aspen-jack pine [‡] | 0.074 | 28 | 9 | 0.233 | $0.108 \leq p_7 \leq 0.358$ |
| | Other ¹ | 0.153 | | 18 | 0.058 | $0.011 \neq p'_{g} \leq 0.127^{e}$ |
| | | | N=120 | | | 0 |

Table 8. Preference and avoidance of habitat strata for different categories of habitat use during fall.

a Galculated by: pi x N. Compared to corresponding pi to determine if hypothesis of proportional use is accepted or rejected. 90% family confidence coefficient, unless otherwise indicated. 95% family confidence coefficient. 99% family confidence coefficient. fHypothesis of proportional use rejected at the confidence level indicated. 80bservations of use of individual habitats are listed in Table 3.

^hIncludes observations of use of fens.

| Category | Habitat Stratum | Proportion of total habitat (pi ₀) | Number of Observations | Expected ^a number of observations | Proportions observed in each habitat (pi) | Confidence interval on proportions observed (pi) ^b |
|--------------|---|---|---------------------------|--|--|---|
| Feeding | Tall Willow Black Spruce-Tamarack f b | 0. 0 52 0.152 | 5 9 | 4 13 | 0. 0 60 0.107 | $\begin{array}{c} 0.000 \leq p_{1} \leq 0.120^{c} \\ 0.028 \leq p_{2} \leq 0.185 \end{array}$ |
| | Aspen-White Spruce h | 0.176 0.104 | 43 22 | 15 9 | 0.512 0.262 | $\begin{array}{c} 0.343 \leq p_{3} \leq 0.681^{e} \\ 0.113 \leq p_{4} \leq 0.412^{e} \end{array}$ |
| | Other ^{8,"} | 0.516 | <u>5</u> N=84 | 24 | 0.059 | $0.000 \leq p_5 \leq 0.139^{e}$ |
| Bedding | Black Spruce-Tamarack | 0.152 | 4 | 6 | 0.093 | $0.000 \leq p_1 \leq 0.192$ |
| | Aspen ⁻ , h | 0.176 | 17 | 8 | 0.395 | $0.209 < p_a < 0.581^e$ |
| | Aspen-White Spruce | 0.104 | 20 | 5 | 0.465 | $0.237 \le p_a^2 \le 0.693^e$ |
| | Other | 0.568 | $\frac{2}{N=43}$ | 24 | 0.047 | $0.000 \le p_4^3 \le 0.144^e$ |
| Non-Feeding- | Black Spruce | 0.152 | 8 | 7 | 0.174 | 0.053 < p <0.295 |
| Bedding | Black Spruce-Tamarack f | 0.152 | 10 | 7 | 0.212 | $0.069 \le p_2^1 \le 0.355$ |
| | Aspen h | 0.176 | 5 | 8 | 0.106 | $0.000 \le p_2 \le 0.214$ |
| | Aspen-White Spruce | 0.104 | 13 | 5 | 0.276 | $0.119 < p_{1}^{3} < 0.432$ |
| | Aspen-Black Spruce | 0.017 | 5 | 1 | 0.106 | $0.000 < p_{-}^{4} < 0.214$ |
| | Other | 0.399 | $N=\frac{6}{47}$ | 19 | 0.127 | $0.000 \leq p_6 \leq 0.280^e$ |
| "Presence | Tall Willow | 0.052 | 6 | 7 | 0.043 | 0.002 < p. <0.084 |
| Only" | Black Spruce | 0.152 | 13 | 21 | 0.093 | $0.034 \le p^1 \le 0.152$ |
| | Black Spruce-Tamarack | 0.152 | 21 | 21 | 0.150 | $0.078 \leq p_3^2 \leq 0.222$ |
| | Aspen ," | 0.176 | 44 | 25 | 0.314 | 0.191 e |
| | Aspen-White Spruce | 0.104 | 38 | 15 | 0.271 | $0.153 < p^4 < 0.389^e$ |
| | Other ⁴ | 0.364 | $N=\frac{13}{140}$ | 51 | 0.093 | $0.016 \leq p_6^5 \leq 0.170^e$ |

Table 9. Preference and avoidance of habitat strata for different categories of habitat use during winter.

^aCalculated by: pio x N.

^bCompared to corresponding pio to determine if hypothesis of proportional use is accepted or rejected.

C90% family confidence coefficient, unless otherwise indicated. d95% family confidence coefficient.

e99% family confidence coefficient.

^fIncludes observations of use of Aspen-Balsam Poplar and Balsam Poplar.

^gObservations of use of individual habitats are listed in Table 3.

^hHypothesis of proportional use rejected at the confidence level indicated.

All habitats grouped into the "other" classification of habitat strata were avoided (P<0.01) during both fall and winter for all categories of habitat use. However, this means little because it is impossible to assess the importance of individual habitats grouped within the "other" classification. Therefore, this avoidance will not be further discussed.

In the following results, preference or avoidance of habitats was significant at the one percent level unless otherwise specified.

4.6.1 Preference and Avoidance During Fall

During the fall, uplands were preferred and lowlands were avoided for all categories of habitat use, except feeding (Table 7). The test for the feeding category was not conducted because of inadequate sample sizes. However, by examination, it appears probable that uplands were preferred and kowlands avoided.

Preference and avoidance of individual habitat strata were variable.

The aspen-white spruce habitat appeared to be preferred for feeding, while aspen and aspen-jack pine were probably used in proportion to their availability (Table 8).

The results presented above for feeding were qualified because a portion of the constraints for sample size was not met for the statistical tests.

For bedding, both aspen-white spruce (P<0.05) and aspenjack pine (P<0.10) were preferred. Aspen was used in proportion to its availability.

Aspen-jack pine (P<0.10) was preferred for non-feedingbedding. Tamarack, black spruce-tamarack, aspen, jack pine, and aspen-white spruce were all used in proportion to their availability.

When habitat use was categorized according to "presence only", aspen-jack pine was the only stratum that was preferred. Tamarack, aspen, jack pine, and aspen-white spruce were used in proportion to their availability while black spruce and black spruce-tamarack were avoided.

4.6.2 Preference and Avoidance During Winter

During the winter upland habitats were preferred, and lowlands were avoided for feeding, bedding, and "presence only" classifications.

Preference and avoidance of individual habitats was again variable.

Both the aspen and the aspen-white spruce habitats were preferred for feeding (Table 9). Tall willow and black sprucetamarack were used in proportion to their availability.

For bedding, aspen and aspen-white spruce were probably preferred while black spruce-tamarack appeared to be used in proportion to its availability.

The results presented above for bedding were qualified because constraints for sample sizes were not entirely satisfied.

Aspen-white spruce (P<0.10) was the only habitat preferred for non-feeding-bedding. Black spruce, black spruce-tamarack, aspen, and aspen-black spruce were used in proportion to their availability.

When use was defined as "presence only", aspen and aspenwhite spruce were preferred. Tall willow, black spruce, and black spruce-tamarack were used in proportion to their availability.

4.7 PREFERENCE AND AVOIDANCE OF FORAGES

Saskatoon was probably preferred during both fall and winter. It was the most heavily utilized of all the forage species and was scarce (Table 6). Beaked willow was used in proportion to its availability during the fall as it was abundant and heavily utilized. During the winter, both beaked willow and *S. planifolia* were probably avoided. They received relatively heavy utilization, but they were also present in proportionately greater amounts than they were utilized.

DISCUSSION

5.

The data obtained allow only preliminary conclusions because constraints on sample sizes were not satisfied for all statistical tests and overall sample sizes were relatively small.

The majority of studies reporting use of habitats by moose are based upon "presence only" in a particular habitat, as are all the studies cited in the following discussion.

The upland habitats were most heavily used and were preferred during both fall and winter for all categories of habitat use except non-feeding-bedding. For the same period and categories of use, the lowlands were utilized least and were avoided.

In the non-feeding-bedding category, uplands were most heavily used and were preferred during the fall. Lowlands were least utilized and avoided. During the winter, both lowlands and uplands were used in proportion to their availability. This was the only major shift in use of uplands versus lowlands between fall and winter.

Hauge and Keith (in prep.) also found use of uplands to be greater than use of lowlands in the AOSERP study area in the fall. This was also the case for the winter months, with the exception of December, during which most observations were in lowlands.

Contrary results for the fall season were found by Keith and Frojker (in prep.). They reported that 50 percent of observations of radio-collared moose at Rochester, Alberta were in lowland muskegs during October and November. However, they also reported that 86 percent of their observations were in uplands during December through March.

Within the upland habitat strata, the aspen and aspen mixed with either white spruce or jack pine were heavily utilized for all categories of use during the fall. However, only the mixedwood stands were variously preferred. This trend is most noticeable in the feeding and bedding categories.

In the "presence only" category of habitat use, the black spruce and black spruce-tamarack habitats were used in small amounts and were also avoided.

Hauge and Keith (in prep.) reported a similar magnitude of use of aspen, aspen-white spruce, and aspen-jack pine, during the fall. However, their observations of use of the black spruce and black spruce-tamarack habitats were two to three times greater.

Contrary results were reported by Allison (1972) for the Peace-Athabasca Delta. She found that moose were primarily sighted in tall willow and tall willow-meadow habitats during the fall.

During the winter, aspen and aspen-white spruce were heavily utilized and preferred for all categories of use except non-feeding-bedding. For this category, aspen-white spruce was most heavily utilized and was preferred. Black spruce and black spruce-tamarack were also heavily utilized for this category, but they were not preferred.

Hauge and Keith (in prep.) reported the same pattern of use during February and March. However, during December they found less use of aspen and aspen-white spruce, and greater use of black spruce and willow.

Other Alberta studies of habitat use during the winter have reported heavy use of deciduous habitats, primarily aspen and balsam poplar, with little or no use of coniferous or mixed deciduous-coniferous habitats (Nowlin in prep.; Penner 1971). However, conifers were very scarce in the areas where these studies were conducted.

The most heavily used browse species during both fall and winter was saskatoon. In the fall, beaked willow was second in importance, while in winter *S. planifolia* was second and beaked willow was third. All other species were utilized in minor amounts during both fall and winter. Comparison of browse utilization with availability suggests that, of the three important species, only saskatoon was preferred.

The heavy use of saskatoon during winter appears to be an Alberta anomaly. Barrett (1972) also documented unusually high use of this species in southern Alberta. He found that it composed 56 percent of the total diet, and he believed it to be preferred. Moreover, Peek (1974), after reviewing food habits of moose in North America, stated that Barrett's level of utilization of saskatoon was the highest that had been reported.

Other studies in Alberta have discovered similar patterns of forage utilization during winter, with some additions. Nowlin (in prep.), working in central Alberta, also reported heavy use of saskatoon and believed it was preferred. Other important species were pussy willow, beaked hazelnut, and red osier dogwood. Allison (1972) reported that moose in the Peace-Athabasca Delta fed primarily on willow, red osier dogwood, paper birch, and balsam poplar. Saskatoon was uncommon on her study area, but heavily utilized where it occurred.

Food habits studies from outside of Alberta have reported some dissimilar results. In Minnesota, Peek et al. (1976) found that willows were the most important species throughout the year. However, they were most heavily used in September through December. Of the willows, pussy and beaked willow were preferred. During both fall and winter, red osier dogwood and beaked hazlenut were also heavily used. Peek (1974), in his review of food habits, also reported that balsam fir, trembling aspen, and paper birch were important for Canadian moose.

It appears that habitat use and selection during both fall and winter could be correlated to preference for saskatoon. The most important habitats were also the only habitats in which the preferred browse species was commonly found. Relationships between habitat utilization, or selection, and forage supplies have also been variously reported by Bassard et al. (1974), Kearney and Gilbert (1976), Peek et al. (1976), and Telfer (1967).

It is necessary to emphasize that this discussion of habitats and forages has been based upon data collected during a very mild winter. A winter with deeper snow and lower temperatures might influence habitat utilization and selection by forcing moose to seek shelter in dense habitats often dominated by conifers. This has been documented in other areas by Coady (1974), Krefting (1974), Peek et al. (1976), and Van Ballenberghe and Peek (1971). Moreover, the latter two papers also reported a shift in food habits corresponding to the change in habitat use.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations are preliminary because of the problems with the data base that were pointed out in the discussion.

In terms of fall and winter habitat, it appears that the greatest potential impact on moose populations in the Athabasca Oil Sands would result from destruction or alteration of upland habitat strata. Moreover, within the uplands, aspen, aspen-white spruce, and aspen-jack pine are most critical during the fall, while aspen and aspen-white spruce are most important during the winter. Disturbance of these habitats would adversely affect both the supply of essential browse and the availability of suitable sites for bedding and non-feeding-bedding.

Rehabilitation of fall and winter habitat after mining should be planned to produce habitat strata which are as similar as possible to the the three mentioned above. Moreover, use of the browse species listed in Table 6 which occur in these habitats should be given priority, particularly saskatoon and beaked willow.

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8. <u>APPENDIX</u>

This appendix includes Tables 10 to 15 which present the field data collected for this project.

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| Category | | Numerical code | |
|--------------------------------------|--|----------------|----------------|
| Habitat Stratum | | 1 | |
| Tall Willow | | 2 | |
| Black Spruce | | 2 | |
| Black Spruce | a ser an | 5 | |
| Tamaraak | | 5 | |
| Tamarack | | . | |
| Balsam Poplar | | 6 | |
| Aspen | | 7 | |
| Balsam Poplar-Aspen | | 8 | |
| White Spruce | | 9 | |
| Aspen-White Spruce | | 10 | |
| | | | |
| Jack Pine | | 11 | |
| Aspen-Jack Pine | | 12 | |
| Upland Shrub | | 13 | |
| Aspen-Paper Birch | | 14 | |
| Paper Birch-Jack Pine | | 15 | |
| | | | |
| White Spruce-Jack Pine | | 16 | |
| Aspen-Black Spruce | | 17 | |
| Paper Birch-Black Spruce | | 18 | |
| | | | |
| Category of Habitat Use | | | |
| Feeding | | 1 | |
| Bedding | | 2 | |
| Presence Only | | 3 | |
| Rutting | | 5 | |
| Kutting | | | |
| Position on Slope | | | |
| | | | |
| lop of Kidge | · · · | | |
| Upper 1/3 of slope | | 2 | |
| Middle 1/3 of slope | | 3 | |
| Lower 1/3 of slope | | 4 | |
| Bottom of Valley | | 5 | |
| T op ographic Undulations (m) | | | |
| | | 6 | 2 ⁵ |
| + 0.00 to 0.50 | | 0 | |
| \pm 0.51 to 1.50 | | / | |
| \pm 1.51 to 3.00 | | ð | |
| | | | |

Table 10. Numerical codes for interpretation of Table 2 for habitat strata, categories of habitat use, position on slope, and topographic undulations.

Table 11. Animal number, date, time, location, habitat stratum utilized, verification, location type, category of habitat use, canopy closure, and physical factors for each microplot.

| | | | | | Aeri | al Photo | : | | | | × . | | | | | | ······· | | |
|----------------------------|------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|--|---|----------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------|----------------------------|
| An. No. | a Men. | Day_ | Time ^b | Pho Ln. ^d | to ^e No, | <u>Grid</u> X | No.f Y | Hab. Str. | g Ver. ^h | Loc. Ty. | i Hab. ^j Use | Can. ^k Cl. | 51p.1 | Topo Asp. ^{'m} | graphy Pos. ⁿ | Und. ⁰ | Sn. ^P Dep. | Comm. | ID. ^t No. |
| 85 85 85 85 | 9 9 9 9 | 1 1 1 1 | 1220 1400 1500 1625 1720 | 24 24 24 24 24 | 224 224 224 224 224 224 | 55.50, 54.50, 54.50, 54.50, 54.50, | 58.75 60.00 60.00 60.00 60.00 | 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 | 1 1 1 1 | 1 1 1 1 | 3 3 3 3 3 | - 70 70 70 70 | 0 0 0 0 0 | 0 0 0 0 0 | 0 0 0 0 0 | _q - - - - | - - - - | | 1 2 3 4 5 |
| 96 96 96 96 96 | 9 9 9 9 | 12 12 12 12 13 | 1235 1300 1525 1650 0830 | 23 23 23 23 23 23 | 189 189 189 189 189 | 46.50, 46.50, 46.50, 46.50, 69.00, | 61.50 61.50 61.50 61.50 61.00 | 12 12 12 12 12 | 1 1 1 1 | 1 1 1 1 | 3 3 3 1,2,3 | - | 0 - - - | 0 - - - | 0 - - - | - - - | | | 6 7 8 9 10 |
| 85 85 85 85 85 | 9 9 9 9 | 14 14 14 14 15 | 1145 1530 1615 1715 0950 | 24 24 24 24 24 | 223 223 223 223 223 225 | 75.75, 75.00, 75.00, 76.00, 64.75, | 67.00 81.00 78.50 79.00 60.25 | 13 10 10 10 10 11 | 1 1 1 1 | 1 1 1 1 | 2,3 2,3 3 3 3 | - 14 34 5 9 | - 0 0 0 | - 0 0 0 | 0 0 0 | - - - | | 2 beds | 11 12 13 14 15 |
| 85 87 87 87 87 | 9 9 9 9 | 15 24 24 24 24 | 1045 0850 1335 1500 1620 | 24 24 24 24 24 | 225 219 219 219 219 219 | 64.75, 42.00, 50.00, 51.00, 49.00, | 60.25 73.50 75.50 74.00 76.00 | 11 3 7 7 7 7 | 1 1 1 1 | 1 1 1 1 1 | 3 3 1,3 3 1,2,3 | 9 25 78 90 87 | 0 0 0 0 0 | 0 0 0 0 | 0 0 0 0 | - | | | 16 17 18 19 20 |
| 87 87 87 87 87 | 9 9 9 9 | 24 24 24 25 25 | 1620 1620 1712 0710 0750 | 24 24 24 24 24 | 219 219 219 219 219 219 | 49.75, 49.00, 49.50, 41.50, 49.00, | 77,00 77.25 73.25 75.75 76,00 | 11 12 7 3 7 | 1 1 1 2 1 | 2 2 1 1 1 | 2,3 3 2,3 1,2,3 | 77 88 85 - 87 | 0 0 - | 0 0 - 0 | 0 0 0 - | | | | 21 22 23 24 25 |
| 87 87 87 87 90 | 9 9 9 9 | 25 25 25 21 22 | 0950 1100 1155 1200 1450 | 24 24 24 24 23 | 219 219 219 219 219 189 | 47.25, 45.75, 46.00, 57.00, 15.00, | 75.25 76.00 76.76 48.00 49.50 | 7 7 12 5 11 | 1 1 1 1 | 1 1 1 1 | 3,5 1,3 2,3 3 3 | 90 84 18 0 30 | 0 0 0 0 | 0 0 0 0 | 0 0 0 0 0 | · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · | - - - - - | 4 beds | 26 27 28 29 30 |

Table 11. Continued.

| | | | ۰. | | Aer | ial Photo ^C | | | · · · | π | | | · | | | к. С | |
|---|-----------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|--|--|-----|--|----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------|--|----------------------------|
| An. ^a | | | | Pho | to ^e | Grid No. | - Hab. ^g | . L | .oc. Hab. | j Can. ^k | | Торо | graphy | | Sn. ^P | | ID. ^t |
| NO. | Men. | Day | Time | Ln.ª | No, | Y X | Str. Ver. | n | Ty. Use | C1, | Slp. | Asp. ^m | Pos. ⁿ | Und. ⁰ | Dep. | Comm. | No. |
| 90 90 90 90 89 | 9 9 9 9 9 | 22 23 23 23 23 23 | 1700 0850 0850 0850 0850 | 23 23 23 23 23 23 | 189 189 189 189 189 | 11.00, 44.00 15.75, 36.75 14.25, 36.75 14.25, 36.75 14.25, 36.75 17.00, 40.50 | 11 1 12 1 11 1 11 1 12 2 | | 3 3 2 3 2 3 | 39 43 84 46 | 0 - - - - | 0 - - - | 0 - - - - | | - | | 31 32 33 34 35 |
| 89 89 90 89 89 | 9 9 9 9 | 21 21 21 27 27 | 1000 1000 1300 1133 1350 | 25 25 23 22 22 | 261 261 188 153 153 | 22.25, 47.00 22.25, 47.25 38.00, 57.00 42.00, 36.25 42.00, 36.25 | 3 1 5 1 11 1 7 1 7 1 | | 1,3 2 3 1 3 1 2,3,5 1 2,3,5 | 22 0 - 32 32 | 0 0 0 0 0 | 0 0 0 0 | 0 0 0 0 | - - - - - | | 2 beds 2 beds | 36 37 38 39 40 |
| 89 89 89 89 90 | 9 9 9 9 | 27 27 27 27 27 27 | 1440 1550 1650 1750 1540 | 22 22 22 22 22 22 | 153 153 153 153 153 | 42.00, 36.25 42.00, 36.25 42.00, 36.25 44.25, 37.25 33.00, 30.50 | 7 1 7 1 7 1 7 1 7 1 4 1 | 1 | 2,3,5 2,3,5 2,3,5 2,3,5 3 3 | 32 32 32 51 24 | 0 0 0 0 0 | 0 0 0 0 | 0 0 0 0 0 | - | | 2 beds 2 beds 2 beds 2 beds 2 beds | 41 42 43 44 45 |
| 89 89 89 89 89 | 9 9 9 9 9 | 28 28 28 28 28 28 | 0950 1125 1335 1500 1705 | 22 22 22 22 22 22 | 152 152 152 152 152 | 68.00, 38.25 68.00, 38.25 68.00, 35.24 69.75, 37.75 69.75, 37.75 | 5 1 5 1 4 1 10 1 10 1 | | 1 2,3 1 2,3 1 3 1 2,3 1 2,3 1 2,3 | 1 1 49 74 74 | 0 0 0 0 0 | 0 0 0 0 | 0 0 0 0 | - | - | 2 beds | 46 47 48 49 50 |
| 0bs. ^r 89 90 90 90 | 9 9 9 9 | 28 28 28 28 28 28 | 1350 1815 0950 1125 1345 | 22 22 22 22 22 22 | 152 152 152 152 152 | 70.00, 43.75 68.00, 38.25 69.75, 37.75 76.25, 34.25 79.50, 35.50 | 7 1 5 1 10 1 7 1 7 1 | | 1 3 1 2,3 1 2,3 1 3 1 3 | 91 1 74 92 91 | 0 0 0 0 0 | 0 0 0 0 | 0 0 0 0 | - | | 2 beds | 51 52 53 54 55 |
| 90 90 89 89 0bs. ^s | 9 9 9 9 | 28 28 28 28 28 28 | 1540 1705 1705 1705 | 22 22 22 22 22 22 | 152 152 152 152 152 152 | 80.25, 38.75 80.25, 38.75 69.25, 37.25 69.25, 37.75 71.50, 43.75 | 7 1 7 1 3 1 3 1 7 1 | | 1 3 1 3 2 3,5 2 3 1 3,5 | 21 21 - 30 46 | 0 0 0 0 | 0 0 0 0 0 | 0 0 0 0 0 | - - - - - | | 2 rut. wal. | 56 57 58 59 60 |

| Tabl | е | 11. | Continued. |
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| š., | | | | | Aer | ial Photo ^C | ; | | | | ж т | | , | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|---|--------------------------------------|--|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|--------|----------------------------|
| An. | Mon | Nav | Time | Pho In d | to ^e | Grid X | No.f | Hab. ^g Str Var | h Lo | oc. ⁱ Hab. ^j | Can. ^k | 510 | Торо | graphy Pos ⁿ | lind 0 | Sn. ^p | Comm | ID. ^t |
| 96 96 96 96 96 96 | 10 10 10 10 10 10 | 10 10 10 10 10 10 | 1030 1340 1535 1625 1625 | 23 23 23 23 23 23 | 188 188 188 188 188 188 | 70.75, 61 65.50, 63 66.50, 66 66.50, 66 66.75, 66 | 1.75 3.75 5.50 5.50 5.50 | 11 2 12 1 12 1 12 1 12 1 7 1 | 1 1 1 1 2 | 1,3 3 1,3 1,3 | - 83 87 87 87 86 | - 0 0 0 0 0 | - 0 0 0 0 | - 0 0 0 0 | - | - - - - - | 2 | 61 62 63 64 65 |
| 75 75 75 75 75 | 10 10 10 10 10 | 10 10 10 10 20 | 1340 1535 1625 1340 1035 | 23 23 23 23 23 23 | 189 189 189 189 189 188 | 28.75, 61 29.00, 63 29.00, 63 28.50, 62 73.00, 69 | 1.75 3.50 3.50 2.25 9.00 | 12 1 12 1 12 1 7 1 11 1 | 1 1 2 1 | 1,3,5 1,2,3 1,2,3 1,3,5 3 | 20 84 84 13 71 | 0 0 0 0 | 0 0 0 0 | 0 0 0 0 | | , - - - - | | 66 67 68 69 70 |
| 75 75 75 75 75 75 | 10 10 10 10 10 | 20 20 20 20 20 | 1330 1440 1540 1635 1700 | 23 23 23 23 23 23 | 188 188 188 188 188 | 81.00, 74 83.00, 77 83.00, 77 83.00, 77 82.00, 74 | 4.75 7.75 7.75 7.75 4.75 | 4 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 2 1 | 1 1 1 1 | 1,3 3 3 1,3 | 0 0 0 0 31 | 0 0 0 0 0 | 0 0 0 0 | 0 0 0 0 | - - - 7 | - - - - - | | 71 72 73 74 75 |
| 75 75 75 75 96 | 10 10 10 10 10 | 20 20 20 20 24 | 1700 1330 1330 1330 0945 | 23 23 23 23 23 23 | 188 188 188 188 188 | 82.00, 75 80.75, 74 80.75, 74 81.00, 75 84.00, 50 | 5.50 4.50 4.25 5.00 0.00 | 1 1 3 1 14 1 1 1 12 2 | 2 2 2 1 | 3 3 3 - | 0 30 75 0 - | 0 0 0 - | 0 0 0 - | 0 0 0 - | 0 0 7 0 - | | | 76 77 78 79 80 |
| 96 96 96 96 75 | 10 10 10 10 10 | 24 24 24 24 24 | 1220 1220 1445 1530 1025 | 23 23 23 23 23 23 | 188 188 188 188 188 | 79.75, 53 80.00, 54 84.75, 53 82.00, 52 81.00, 48 | 3.75 4.00 3.50 2.00 8.75 | 12 1 12 1 12 1 12 1 12 1 12 2 | 1 2 1 1 1 | 1,3 1,3 1,2,3 1,3 | 90 56 21 76 | 0 85 0 - | 0 16 0 - | 0 0 0 0 | 0 0 0 - | - - - - | | 81 82 83 84 85 |
| 75 Obs. 87 87 87 | 10 10 10 10 10 | 24 24 27 27 27 | 1220 1615 1025 1300 1350 | 23 23 24 24 24 | 188 188 218 218 218 218 | 81.00, 48 80.00, 50 78.00, 36 79.00, 38 79.00, 38 | B.75 0.00 6.50 B.50 B.50 | 12 2 12 1 3 2 7 1 7 1 | 1 1 1 1 | 2,3 - 3 3 | - 85 - 90 90 | - - 0 0 | - - 0 0 | - - 0 0 | - - 0 0 | | 2 beds | 86 87 88 89 90 |

Table 11. Continued.

| Aerial Photo ^C | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|----------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| An ^a | | | | Photo | Grid No. | Hab. ^g | loc, ⁱ Hab, ^j | Can. k | Торс | ography | Sn. ^p | ID. ^t |
| No. | Men. | Day | Time ^b | Ln. ^d No. | Y X | Str. Ver. ^h | Ty. Use | C1. | Slp. Asp. ^m | Pos. ⁿ Und. ⁰ | Dep. Comm. | No. |
| 87 87 87 87 87 | 10 10 10 10 10 | 28 28 28 28 28 28 | 0850 0930 0850 1020 1125 | 24 21 24 21 24 21 24 21 24 21 24 21 | 56.50, 18.75 56.50, 18.75 56.50, 18.50 55.50, 18.50 55.50, 19.50 55.50, 19.50 | 10 1 10 1 7 1 10 1 10 1 | 1 1,3 1 1,3 2 1,3 1 1,3 1 1,3 1 1,3 | 77 77 82 82 82 82 | 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 | 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 | | 91 92 93 94 95 |
| 96 96 96 96 96 | 11 11 11 11 11 | 21 21 21 21 21 22 | 1330 1330 1435 1515 1007 | 23 18 23 18 23 18 23 18 23 18 23 19 | 80.50, 42.25 79.50, 42.50 81.50, 42.75 81.50, 42.75 81.50, 42.75 21.25, 44.50 | 15 1 12 1 15 1 15 1 15 1 12 1 | 1 1,3 2 1,3 1 1,3 1 1,3 1 1,3 1 3 | 76 73 87 87 38 | 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 | 0 0 0 0 0 6 0 6 0 0 | - , - , - , - , - , | 96 97 98 99 100 |
| 96 96 96 96 96 | 11 11 11 11 11 | 22 22 22 22 22 22 | 1007 1145 1315 1315 1315 1430 | 23 19 23 19 23 19 23 19 23 19 23 19 | 21.75, 44.25 21.25, 44.50 22.75, 44.25 22.50, 45.00 23.75, 45.00 | 7 1 12 1 12 1 7 1 7 1 7 1 | 2 1,3 1 4 1 1,3 2 1,3 1 1,2,4 | 24 38 54 11 67 | 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 | 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 1 0 | - - - - - - | 101 102 103 104 105 |
| 96 96 90 85 85 | 11 11 11 11 11 | 22 22 4 19 19 | 1530 1530 1205 1630 1630 | 23 19 23 19 24 22 24 22 24 22 24 22 | 23.75, 45.00 23.50, 45.00 27.75, 45.75 65.25, 59.25 65.25, 69.00 | 7 1 13 1 7 1 12 1 11 1 | 1 1,2,3 2 1,2,3 1 1,3 1 3 2 3 | 67 0 - 81 84 | 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 | 1 0 0 0 1 0 0 6 0 6 | - - - | 106 107 108 109 110 |
| 87 87 87 87 87 87 | 11 11 11 11 11 | 24 24 24 24 25 | 1300 1330 1350 1350 1350 1040 | 24 21 24 21 24 21 24 21 24 21 24 21 | 3 59.50, 38.00 3 55.25, 36.00 3 55.25, 36.00 3 54.75, 36.00 3 54.75, 36.00 3 54.70, 36.00 3 54.00, 40.00 | 10 1 10 1 10 1 10 1 10 1 10 1 | 1 1,2,3 1 1,3 1 1,3 2 3 1 1,2,3 | 73 80 80 69 75 | 0 0 20 255 20 255 0 0 0 0 | 0 0 4 0 4 0 0 0 0 0 | - 3 beds - - - 3 beds | 111 112 113 114 115 |
| 87 87 87 87 87 | 11 11 11 11 11 | 25 25 25 25 25 | 1040 1120 1315 1415 1510 | 24 21 24 21 24 21 24 21 24 21 24 21 | 28.25, 40.00 29.00, 41.75 27.75, 40.25 27.75, 40.25 27.75, 40.25 27.75, 40.25 | 10 1 10 1 10 1 10 1 10 1 10 1 | 2 3 1 1,2,3 1 1,3 1 1,3 1 1,3 1 1,3 | 80 85 87 87 87 | 0 0 20 287 30 240 30 240 30 240 30 240 | 5 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 | - 2 beds - - - | 116 117 118 119 120 |

Table 11. Continued.

| | | | | | Aer | ial Photo ^C | • | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|---------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|--|----------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|------------------|---------------------------------|
| An ^a | 1 | | | Pho | oto ^e | Grid No. | f Hab ^g | | | i _{Hab} j | Can k | | Торос | raphy | | sn P | | in t |
| _No. | Men. | Day | Timeb | Ln.d | No, | y x x | Str, V | ler.h | Ļ, | ly. Use | ¢1. | \$1p.1 | Asp. ^m | Pos. ⁿ | Und. ⁰ | Dep. | Comm. | No. |
| 87 85 85 85 85 | 11 12 12 12 12 | 25 15 15 15 15 | 1510 1215 1355 1535 1220 | 24 22 22 22 22 | 219 154 154 154 154 | 28.25, 40.00 46.25, 53.00 44.00, 57.00 41.00, 57.00 28.00, 59.50 | 10 3 4 3 13 | 1 2 2 2 2 | 2 1 1 1 | 3 - - - | 80 - - - | 0 - - - | 0 - - - | 5 - - - - | 0 - - - - | | | 121 122 123 124 125 |
| 85 79 79 79 96 | 12 12 12 12 12 12 | 16 11 11 11 18 | 1500 1245 1245 1245 1155 | 22 24 24 24 22 | 154 218 218 218 155 | 36.00, 52.00 20.25, 29.50 19.50, 19.00 20.75, 29.75 42.00, 45.50 | 10 2 3 1 10 | 1 1 1 1 1 | 1 1 2 2 1 | 1,3 1,3 3 1,2,3 | 54 27 24 - 84 | 0 0 0 0 0 | 0 0 0 0 | 0 0 0 0 | 0 0 0 6 | 20 - - 19 | | 126 127 128 129 130 |
| 96 96 96 96 81 | 12 12 12 12 12 1 | 18 18 18 18 13 | 1330 1510 1545 1630 1430 | 22 22 22 22 22 | 155 155 155 155 91 | 42.00, 45.50 43.00, 45.50 43.00, 45.50 43.00, 47.00 31.00, 54.75 | 10 10 10 10 7 | 1 1 1 1 | 1 1 1 1 | 1,2,3 1,2,3 1,2,3 1,2,3 1,2,3 1,3 | 84 64 64 53 77 | 0 0 0 0 0 | 0 0 0 0 0 | 0 0 0 0 0 | 6 6 6 0 | 19 18 18 21 18 | 2 beds | 131 132 133 134 135 |
| 81 81 81 81 81 | 1 1 1 1 | 13 13 14 14 14 | 1510 1610 1350 1440 1400 | 20 20 20 20 20 | 91 91 91 91 91 91 | 31.00, 53.75 31.00, 53.75 51.00, 64.00 50.00, 64.75 50.00, 64.75 | 7 7 7 7 7 | 1 1 1 1 | 1 1 1 1 | 1,3 1,3 1,2,3 1,2,3 1,2,3 1,2,3 | 77 77 84 33 86 | 0 0 0 0 0 | 0 0 0 0 | 0 0 0 0 0 | 0 0 0 8 0 | 19 19 18 20 18 | | 136 137 138 139 140 |
| 81 81 83 83 83 | 1 1 1 1 1 | 14 14 19 19 19 | 1510 1440 1500 1605 1200 | 20 20 22 22 22 22 | 91 91 153 153 153 | 51.00, 64.00 50.75, 64.75 42.50, 33.00 33.50, 44.75 33.50, 44.75 | 4 4 7 10 10 | 1 1 1 1 | 1 2 1 1 1 | 1,2,3 1,3 1,3 2,3 2,3 | 7 9 90 84 84 | 0 0 10 0 | 0 0 190 0 0 | 0 0 3 0 | 0 0 7 7 | 26 21 18 21 21 | 2 beds 2 beds | 141 142 143 144 145 |
| 83 83 83 83 83 83 | 1 1 1 1 | 19 20 20 20 20 | 1500 1335 1435 1530 1610 | 22 22 22 22 22 22 | 153 153 153 153 153 | 33.75, 44.50 29.50, 67.25 29.50, 67.25 29.50, 67.25 29.50, 67.25 29.50, 67.25 | 16 7 7 7 7 | 1 1 1 1 | 2 1 1 1 | 3 1,3 1,3 1,3 1,3 1,3 | 79 - - - - | 0 0 0 0 | 0 0 0 0 | 0 0 0 0 | 0 7 7 7 7 | 17 - - - | | 146 147 148 149 150 |

Table 11. Continued.

| | | | | A | erial Photo ^C | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--|-------------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|--|--|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| م ^ع | | | | Photo | Grid No. | F Hab 9 | | Can k | Topograp | hy | s. P | in t |
| NO. | Men. | Day | Time ^b | Ln. ^d No | , х ү | Str. Ver. ^h | Ty. Use | Cl. | Slp. ¹ Asp. ^m Po | s. ⁿ Und. ^O | Dep. Comm. | No. |
| 17 17 17 17 17 | 1 1 1 1 | 18 20 20 20 20 | 1645 1310 1430 1610 1700 | 24 22 24 22 24 22 24 22 24 22 24 22 | 2 35.25, 54.50 2 28.25, 59.25 2 28.25, 59.25 2 28.25, 59.25 2 28.25, 59.25 2 28.25, 59.25 | 8 1 10 1 10 1 10 1 10 1 | 1 1,2,3 1 3 1 3 1 3 1 3 1 3 | 90 83 83 83 83 83 | 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 | 0 6 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 | 17 3 beds 17 17 17 17 | 151 152 153 154 155 |
| 17 17 17 17 17 | 1 1 1 1 | 21 21 21 22 22 | 1040 1040 1150 1030 1200 | 24 22 24 22 24 22 24 22 24 22 24 22 | 2 34.50, 58.00 2 34.00, 57.50 2 32.25, 59.50 2 27.50, 58.50 2 27.50, 58.50 | 7 1 18 1 10 1 10 1 10 1 | 1 1,2,3 2 3 1 1,2,3 1 3 1 3 | 91 91 22 89 89 | 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 | 0 7 0 0 0 6 0 0 0 0 | 15 15 18 13 13 | 156 157 158 159 160 |
| 17 17 17 87 87 | 1 1 1 1 | 22 22 22 24 24 | 1245 1420 1520 1245 1525 | 24 22 24 22 24 22 21 12 21 12 | 2 27.50, 58.50 2 27.50, 58.50 2 27.50, 58.50 2 32.75, 77.00 2 35.75, 33.25 | 10 1 10 1 10 1 17 1 4 1 | 1 3 1 3 1 3 1 3 1 3 1 3 | 89 89 89 85 23 | 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 | 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 | 13 13 13 24 20 | 161 162 163 164 165 |
| 87 87 87 87 87 | 1 1 1 1 | 24 24 25 25 25 | 1615 1650 1055 1200 1305 | 21 12 21 12 21 12 21 12 21 12 21 12 | 2 35.75, 33.25 2 38.00, 33.00 2 35.75, 33.25 2 35.75, 33.25 2 35.75, 33.25 2 35.75, 33.25 | 4 1 3 1 4 1 4 1 4 1 | 1 3 1 3 1 3 1 3 1 3 | 23 7 23 23 23 23 | 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 | 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 | 20 27 20 20 20 | 166 167 168 169 170 |
| 87 87 87 83 83 | 1 1 1 1 | 25 25 25 25 25 | 1350 1515 1625 1345 1500 | 21 12 21 12 21 12 21 12 22 15 22 15 | 2 36.50, 31.00 2 36.50, 31.00 2 36.50, 31.00 3 56.75, 67.50 3 56.75, 67.50 | 4 1 4 1 16 1 16 1 | 1 3 1 3 1 3 1 3 1 3 | 0 0 36 36 | 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 | 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 | 22 22 22 19 19 | 171 172 173 174 175 |
| 83 83 47 47 47 | 1 -2 2 2 | 25 25 11 11 11 | 1640 1640 1300 1420 1420 | 22 19 22 19 21 12 21 12 21 12 21 12 | 3 56.75, 67.50 3 57.50, 67.25 0 54.00, 60.00 0 52.75, 61.00 0 53.25, 60.00 | 16 1 12 1 7 1 10 1 7 1 | 1 3 1 3 1 1,3 1 1,3 1 1,2,3 | 36 10 - 81 68 | 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 | 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 | 19 23 | 176 177 178 179 180 |

Table 11. Continued.

| | | | | | Aer | ial Pho | oto ^C | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|--|-------------------------|-----------------------|------------------|--|----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| An. ⁶ | 1 | | | Pho | toe | G | Id No. | - Hab | g | Loc | i _{Hab} , j | Can. ^k | | Торо | graphy | | Sn. ^p | ID. ^t |
| No. | Men. | Day | Time | Ln.ª | No, | X | Y | Str. | Ver. ⁿ | Тү | . Use | ¢1. | \$1p.' | Asp. ^m | Pos. ⁿ | Und. ⁰ | Dep. Comm. | No. |
| 47 47 47 88 88 | 2 2 2 2 2 2 | 11 11 11 13 13 | 1520 1520 1625 1010 1130 | 21 21 21 20 20 | 120 120 120 90 90 | 51.00 51.00 52.50 82.50 | 59.50 58.75 58.75 18.75 18.75 | 8 10 8 7 7 | 1 1 1 1 | 1 2 1 1 | 1,2,3 1,2,3 1,3 1,3 1,3 1,3 | 73 83 69 87 87 | 0 0 0 0 0 | 0 0 0 0 | 0 0 0 0 | 0 0 0 0 | 22 21 20 20 20 | 181 182 183 184 185 |
| 88 88 88 88 88 | 2 2 2 2 2 | 13 12 12 12 12 | 1315 1215 1340 1600 1040 | 20 20 20 20 20 | 90 90 90 90 92 | 82.50 74.25 74.25 74.25 42.75 | 18.75 18.75 18.75 18.75 18.75 65.00 | 7 7 7 7 7 | 1 1 1 1 1 | 1 1 1 1 | 1,3 1,3 1,3 1,3 1,3 | 87 83 83 83 90 | 0 0 0 0 0 | 0 0 0 0 | 0 0 0 0 | 0 6 6 7 | 20 21 21 21 21 15 | 186 187 188 189 190 |
| 81 81 81 81 81 | 2 2 2 2 2 | 15 15 15 15 15 | 1200 1315 1440 1605 1040 | 20 20 20 20 20 | 92 92 92 92 92 | 42.75 42.75 42.75 42.75 42.75 43.25 | 65.00 65.00 65.00 65.00 65.00 | 7 7 7 7 17 | 1 1 1 1 1 | 1 1 1 2 | 1,3 1,3 1,3 1,3 3 | 90 90 90 90 89 | 0 0 0 0 0 | 0 0 0 0 | 0 0 0 0 | 7 7 7 7 6 | 15 15 15 15 18 | 191 192 193 194 195 |
| 81 81 81 81 81 | 2 2 2 2 2 | 15 16 16 16 16 | 1040 0945 1130 1130 1245 | 20 20 20 20 20 | 92 92 92 92 92 | 43.50 43.50 43.50 42.75 42.00 | 65.00 70.50 70.70 70.25 69.75 | 3 10 10 3 3 | 1 1 1 1 1 | 2 1 1 1 | 3 3 3 3 3 | 49 85 85 53 22 | 0 0 0 0 | 0 0 0 0 | 0 0 0 0 | 0 7 7 0 0 | 18 19 19 18 14 | 196 197 198 199 200 |
| 81 81 40 40 88 | 2 2 2 2 2 | 20 20 20 20 22 | 1015 1115 1105 1115 1330 | 20 20 20 20 19 | 92 92 92 92 56 | 45.75 45.50 46.00 46.00 51.00 | 85.75 83.50 86.25 82.00 48.75 | 2 4 2 2 10 | 1 1 1 1 | 1 1 1 1 | 1,3 3 1,3 3 1,3 | 0 0 0 8 | 0 0 0 0 | 0 0 0 0 | 0 0 0 0 | 0 0 0 0 6 | 22 20 23 26 22 | 201 202 203 204 205 |
| 88 88 88 88 88 | 2 2 2 2 2 | 22 22 22 22 22 23 | 1330 1430 1640 1715 1015 | 19 19 19 19 19 19 | 56 56 56 56 56 | 51.50 52.50 52.25 52.25 52.25 57.25 | 48.75 48.75 51.25 51.25 53.25 | 17 4 4 4 7 | 1 1 1 1 1 | 2 1 1 1 | 3 1,2,3 1,3 1,3 1,2,3 | 72 2 36 36 18 | 0 0 0 0 0 | 0 0 0 0 0 | 0 0 0 0 | 0 0 0 8 | 22 25 26 26 25 | 206 207 208 209 210 |

Table 11. Continued.

| | , | | | | Aer | ial Ph | oto ^C | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|---|-------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|--|----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|-------|---------------------------------|
| An. | a , | 1 | · | Pho | oto ^e | G | rid No. | f - Ha | ь. ^д . | | oc. ⁱ Hab. ^j | Can. ^k | | Торо | raphy | | Sn. ^P | | ID. ^t |
| No. | Mcn. | Day | Time | Ln.ª | No, | X | Y | Şt | r, Ver. ⁿ | | Ty. Use | C1. | Slp. | Asp. ^m | Pos. ⁿ | Und. ⁰ | Dep. | Comm. | No. |
| 88 88 88 88 88 | 2 2 2 2 2 | 23 23 23 23 23 23 | 1015 1055 1055 1255 1340 | 19 19 19 19 19 19 | 56 56 56 56 56 | 56.75 58.75 59.00 58.50 58.50 | 52.75 55.25 54.75 53.50 53.50 | 3 2 3 7 7 | 1 1 1 1 | 2 1 2 1 1 | 1,2,3 1,2,3 1,3 3 3 | 29 0 64 81 81 | 0 0 0 0 | 0 0 0 0 | 0 0 0 0 | 0 0 0 7 7 | 23 25 23 20 20 | | 211 212 213 214 215 |
| 88 81 81 81 81 | 2 2 2 2 2 | 23 22 22 22 22 22 | 1340 0950 0950 1045 1045 | 19 20 20 20 20 | 56 93 93 93 93 | 58.25, 30.75, 31.25, 27.00, 27.00, | 54.00 78.00 78.00 75.75 76.00 | 3 7 3 17 4 | 1 1 1 1 | 2 1 2 2 1 | 3 3 3 1,3 | 17 57 26 80 0 | 0 0 0 0 0 | 0 0 0 0 0 | 0 0 0 0 0 | 0 7 0 6 0 | 17 21 23 17 12 | | 216 217 218 219 220 |
| 81 81 81 81 81 | 2 2 2 2 2 | 22 23 23 23 23 23 | 1045 0955 0955 0955 1200 | 20 20 20 20 20 20 | 93 93 93 93 93 | 27.25, 22.50, 22.00, 21.75, 24.25, | 75.75 82.00 82.00 82.00 82.25 | 12 6 10 7 8 | | 2 1 2 2 1 | 1,3 3 3 1,2,3 | 74 73 85 84 64 | 0 0 0 0 0 | 0 0 0 0 | 1 0 0 0 0 | 0 0 0 7 0 | 23 22 10 21 22 | | 221 222 223 224 225 |
| 81 81 81 81 81 81 | 2 2 2 2 2 | 23 25 25 26 26 | 1200 1015 1100 0955 1115 | 20 20 20 20 20 20 | 93 93 93 93 93 93 | 23.75, 22.50, 22.50, 33.25, 33.25, | 82.00 77.25 77.25 84.50 84.50 | 2 4 7 7 | 1 1 1 1 | 2 1 1 1 | 1,3 1,2,3 1,2,3 1,3 1,3 1,3 | 51 12 12 71 71 | 0 0 0 0 | 0 0 0 0 | 0 0 1 1 | 0 0 0 0 | 19 21 21 20 20 | | 226 227 228 229 230 |
| 81 81 40 40 40 | 2 2 2 2 2 | 26 26 22 22 22 | 1210 1310 0950 1106 1106 | 20 20 20 20 20 20 | 93 93 93 93 93 93 | 33.25, 33.25, 30.25, 27.50, 27.25, | 84.50 84.50 76.50 77.50 77.00 | 7 7 3 7 8 | 1 1 1 1 | 1 1 1 1 1 | 1,3 1,3 1,3 1,3 2,3 | 71 71 4 22 14 | 0 0 0 0 0 | 0 0 0 0 0 | 1 1 0 0 | 0 0 0 7 0 | 20 20 21 16 21 | | 231 232 233 234 235 |
| 40 40 40 40 40 | 2 2 2 2 2 | 23 23 23 23 23 25 | 0955 0955 1150 1150 1015 | 20 20 20 20 20 20 | 93 93 93 93 93 93 | 21.00, 21.25, 24.25, 24.50, 24.00, | 86.50 86.50 87.75 87.75 77.50 | 4 3 3 10 7 |]]]] | 1 2 1 2 1 | 3 3 3 1,2,3 | 20 75 26 73 66 | 0 0 0 0 0 | 0 0 0 0 0 | 0 0 0 0 0 | 0 0 0 0 7 | 26 8 21 21 15 | | 236 237 238 239 240 |

Table 11. Continued.

| | | | | | Aer | ial Photo ^C | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|--|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|---|----------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|--------|---------------------------------|
| ۸n. No. | Men. | Dav | Time ^b | PH | noto ^e No. | <u>Grid No.</u> X Y | - Hal | b. ^g r. Ver.h | Lo | c. ⁱ Hab. ^j v. Use | Can. ^K | Sin. ¹ | Topo Asn. ^m | Pos. ⁿ | Und. ⁰ | Sn. ^p Dep. | Comm. | ID. ^t No. |
| 40 40 40 40 40 | 2 2 2 2 2 2 | 25 26 26 26 26 26 | 1100 0955 1115 1210 1310 | 20 20 20 20 20 20 | 93 93 93 93 93 93 | 24.00, 77.50 33.25, 84.50 33.25, 84.50 33.25, 84.50 33.25, 84.50 33.25, 84.50 | 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 | 1 1 1 1 1 | 1 1 1 | 1,2,3 1,3 1,3 1,3 1,3 1,3 | 66 71 71 71 71 71 | 0 0 0 0 0 | 0 0 0 0 0 0 | 0 1 1 1 1 | 7 0 0 0 0 | 15 20 20 20 20 20 | | 241 242 243 244 245 |
| 83 83 83 83 83 | 3 3 3 3 3 | 1 1 2 4 | 1135 1300 1405 1205 1445 | 22 22 22 22 22 22 | 152 152 152 152 152 | 61.00, 72.75 61.00, 72.75 61.00, 72.75 59.50, 73.73 62.25, 71.00 | 10 10 10 10 7 | | 1 1 1 1 | 1,3 1,3 1,3 1,2,3 1,2,3 | 84 84 82 15 | 0 0 15 10 | 0 0 270 265 | 1 1 1 2 4 | 0 0 0 0 | 13 13 13 17 20 | | 246 247 248 249 250 |
| 83 83 83 83 83 | 3 3 3 3 3 | 4 4 4 4 | 1015 1145 1220 1340 1415 | 22 22 22 22 22 22 | 152 152 152 152 152 | 61.00, 72.75 61.00, 72.75 61.00, 72.75 59.50, 73.75 59.50, 73.75 | 10 10 10 10 10 | 1 1 1 1 | 1 1 1 1 | 1,3 1,3 1,3 1,2,3 1,2,3 | 84 84 82 82 | 0 0 15 15 | 0 0 270 270 | 1 1 2 2 | 0 0 0 0 | 13 13 13 17 17 | | 251 252 253 254 255 |
| 83 47 47 47 47 47 | 3 3 3 3 3 | 4 2 2 4 4 | 1535 1100 1100 1210 1000 | 22 22 22 22 22 22 | 152 152 152 152 152 152 | 59.50, 73.75 74.25, 58.25 73.75, 58.50 69.00, 54.00 67.50, 55.25 | 10 7 12 10 10 | 1 1 1 1 | 1 1 2 1 1 | 1,2,3 1,3 1,3 1,2,3 1,2,3 | 82 78 74 78 78 | 15 0 0 0 | 270 0 0 0 0 | 2 0 0 0 0 | 0 7 0 7 7 | 17 20 15 21 21 | 2 beds | 256 257 258 259 260 |

^aAnimal number. ^bMountain standard time. ^CGeographical location on aerial photo (photos used were black and white and were taken on 22 August 1972, with a scale of 1:21,120).

continued

Table 11. Concluded.

d Aerial photo flight line number.

e Aerial photo number.

f X,Y coordinates read from grids overlaying aerial photos for each microplot.

49

g Habitat stratum utilized (see Table 10 for numerical codes).

h Whether or not the radio relocation was verified: 1=yes, 2=no.

i Location type: 1=primary observation, 2=secondary observation.

j Category of habitat use (see Table 10 for numerical codes).

k Canopy closure in percent.

1 Slope in percent.

m Aspect in compass degrees.

n Position on slope (see Table 10 for numerical codes).

• Rating of topographic undulations (see Table 10 for numerical codes).

p Snow depth in centimetres.

q Not obtained.

r Observation of an uncollared bull (probably two years old).

s Observation of an uncollared bull.

t Identification number for each microplot.

Table 12. Abbreviations for browse species.

| Browse Species | | Abbreviation |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------|
| Alnus crispa | · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · | ALCR |
| Amelanchier alnifolia | | AMAL |
| Betula papyrifera | | BEPA |
| Betula spp. ^a | | BE spp |
| Cornus stolonifera | | COST |
| Populus balsamifera | | POBA |
| Populus tremuloides | | POTR |
| Prunus pensylvanica | | PRPE |
| Prunus virginiana | | PRVI |
| Rosa woodsii | | ROWO |
| Rubus spp. | | RUspp. |
| Salix bebbiana | | SABE |
| Salix discolor | | SADI |
| Salix planifolia | | SAPL |
| Salix Maccalliana | | SAMA |
| Salix mackenzieana | | SAMC |
| Salix myrtillifolia | | SAMY |
| Salix serrissima | | SASE |
| <i>Salix</i> spp. | | SAspp. |
| Shepherdia canadensis | | SHCA |
| Viburnum edule | | VIED |

^aIncludes Betula glandulosa and B. pumila.

| | Nearest Clump ^b | | | Nearest Neighbor ^C | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|--|-------------------------------|-------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|
| ID. ^a No. | Spectes | Dist ^e | No. of Stems | Species | Dist. | No. of Stems | | | | | |
| 132 133 130 131 134 | POTR ^f POTR AMAL AMAL POTR | 15 15 19 19 87 | 1 1 1 1 | AMAL AMAL AMAL AMAL AMAL | 87 87 30 30 82 | 1 1 1 1 1 | | | | | |
| 136 137 139 140 142 | ROWO ROWO ROWO ROWO SASE | 28 28 25 25 65 | 1 1 1 1 | AMAL AMAL ROWO ROWO SASE | 16 16 40 40 65 | | | | | | |
| 138 141 143 144 145 | SAPL SAPL AMAL AMAL AMAL | 70 70 8 21 21 | 1 1 1 1 | SAPL SAPL AMAL AMAL AMAL | 60 60 50 22 22 | 22 22 1 1 1 | | | | | |
| 146 159 160 161 162 | SABE VIED VIED VIED VIED | 220 35 35 35 35 35 | 1 1 1 1 | SABE ROWO ROWO ROWO ROWO | 100 55 55 55 55 | 1 1 1 1 1 | | | | | |
| 163 152 153 154 155 | VIED VIED VIED VIED VIED | 35 120 120 120 120 120 | 1 1 1 1 | R0W0 C0C0 C0C0 C0C0 C0C0 | 55 40 40 40 40 | 1 1 1 1 1 | | | | | |
| 151 156 157 158 164 | COCO VIED SABE ROWO SHCA | 22 45 25 334 42 | 1 1 1 1 6 | VIED VIED SABE POTR SHCA | 8 28 200 150 60 | 1 1 1 2 | | | | | |
| 172 173 165 166 168 | SAPL SAPL SAPL SAPL SAPL SAPL | 250 250 25 25 25 | 24 24 1 1 1 | SAPL SAPL SAPL SAPL SAPL SAPL | 80 80 155 155 155 | 4 5 5 5 | | | | | |

Table 13. Measurements taken at microplots to determine densities of browse species.

Table 13. Continued.

| | Near | est Clump | b | Neare | st Neighbo | or |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------|
| ID. ^a No. | Species | Dist | No. of Stems ^d | Species | Disţ. | No. of Stems |
| 169 | SAPL | 25 | 1 | SAPL | 155 | 5 |
| 170 | SAPL | 25 | 1 | SAPL | 155 | 5 |
| 167 | SABE | 142 | 27 | SAPL | 150 | 23 |
| 174 | SHCA | 275 | 10 | SHCA | 300 | 10 |
| 175 | SHCA | 275 | 10 | SHCA | 300 | 10 |
| 176 | SHCA | 275 | 10 | SHCA | 300 | 10 |
| 177 | POTR | 40 | 1 | POTR | 250 | 1 |
| 178 | AMAL | 35 | 3 | AMAL | 10 | 1 |
| 179 | ROWO | 37 | 1 | AMAL | 60 | 1 |
| 180 | AMAL | 20 | 1 | AMAL | 76 | 1 |
| 181 | POTR | 15 | 1 | SABE | 45 | 8 |
| 182 | AMAL | 20 | 1 | AMAL | 20 | 1 |
| 183 | AMAL | 34 | 1 | AMAL | 14 | 1 |
| 184 | AMAL | 70 | 1, | AMAL | 22 | 1 |
| 185 | AMAL | 70 | 1, | AMAL | 22 | 1 |
| 186 187 188 189 190 | AMAL AMAL AMAL AMAL VIED | 70 43 43 43 20 | 1 1 1 1 1 | AMAL AMAL AMAL AMAL VIED | 22 10 10 10 10 15 | |
| 191 | VIED | 20 | 1 | VIED | 15 | |
| 192 | VIED | 20 | 1 | VIED | 15 | |
| 193 | VIED | 20 | 1 | VIED | 15 | |
| 194 | VIED | 20 | 1 | VIED | 15 | |
| 195 | SHCA | 25 | 1 | SHCA | 25 | |
| 196 197 198 199 200 | SHCA ROWO ROWO - g - | 25 48 48 - | 1 1 - | SHCA ROWO ROWO - - | 25 106 106 - - | 1 1 1 - |
| 201 | BEspp. | 30 | 1 | BEspp. | 60 | 7 |
| 202 | BEspp. | 13 | 1 | BEspp. | 13 | 1 |
| 203 | BEspp. | 45 | 1 | BEspp. | 20 | 1 |
| 204 | BEspp. | 20 | 1 | BEspp. | 15 | 1 |
| 205 | POTR | 43 | 1 | POTR | 5 | 1 |

Continued . . .

Table 13. Continued.

| | | Nearest C | lump ^b | Neare | st Neighbo | r ^C |
|---------------------------------|--|-----------------------------|------------------------------|--|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| ID. ^a No. | Species | Dist. ^e | No. of Stems ^d | Species | Dist. | No. of Stems |
| 206 207 208 209 210 | SABE SAPL SAPL SAPL POTR | 50 33 11 11 43 | 3 1 1 1 1 1 | SABE SAPL SAPL SAPL SHCA | 60 35 10 10 80 | 4 1 1 1 1 |
| 211 | BEspp. | 30 | 1 | BEspp. | 15 | 1 |
| 212 | SASE | 55 | 2 | SASE | 40 | 2 |
| 213 | SAMA | 37 | 9 | SAMA | 35 | 1 |
| 214 | VIED | 110 | 1 | SHCA | 90 | 3 |
| 215 | VIED | 110 | 1 | SHCA | 90 | 3 |
| 216 217 218 219 220 | POTR POTR POBA SABE BEspp. | 100 25 90 20 10 |]]]] | BEspp. POTR BEspp. SABE BEspp. | 89 110 89 25 8 | 14 1 1 |
| 221 | SHCA | 15 | 2 | SHCA | 45 | 3 |
| 222 | BEspp. | 30 | 3 | BEspp. | 25 | 1 |
| 223 | SABE | 22 | 4 | SABE | 20 | 1 |
| 224 | VIED | 10 | 1 | AMAL | 19 | 1 |
| 225 | ROWO | 45 | 1 | ROWO | 35 | 1 |
| 226 | SAPL | 50 | 6 | SAPL | 40 | 7 |
| 227 | SAPL | 25 | 10 | SAPL | 45 | 18 |
| 228 | SAPL | 25 | 10 | SAPL | 45 | 18 |
| 229 | SABE | 65 | 10 | SHCA | 55 | 6 |
| 230 | SABE | 65 | 10 | SHCA | 55 | 6 |
| 231 | SABE | 65 | 10 | SHCA | 55 | 6 |
| 232 | SABE | 65 | 10 | SHCA | 55 | 6 |
| 233 | SHCA | 105 | 9 | SHCA | 75 | 15 |
| 234 | SHCA | 42 | 5 | SHCA | 25 | 1 |
| 235 | POBA | 42 | 1 | POBA | 21 | 1 |
| 236 | BEspp. | 45 | 19 | BEspp. | 130 | 9 |
| 237 | SABE | 270 | 1 | - | - | - |
| 238 | BEspp. | 70 | 7 | BEspp. | 130 | 20 |
| 239 | SABE | 43 | 3 | SABE | 47 | 3 |
| 240 | AMAL | 24 | 1 | AMAL | 41 | 3 |

Continued . . .

| | | Nearest C | lump ^b | Neares | t Neighbo | r |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|--|----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| ı _{D.} a No. | Species | Dist. ^e | No. of d Stems | Species | Dist. | No. of Stems |
| 241 242 243 244 245 | AMAL SABE SABE SABE SABE | 24 65 65 65 65 | 1 10 10 10 10 | AMAL SHCA SHCA SHCA SHCA SHCA | 41 55 55 55 55 | 3 6 6 6 6 |
| 246 247 248 250 251 | AMAL AMAL AMAL AMAL AMAL | 20 20 20 20 20 | | AMAL AMAL AMAL AMAL AMAL | 25 25 25 25 25 | 1 1 1 1 1 |
| 252 253 254 255 256 | AMAL AMAL AMAL AMAL AMAL | 20 20 28 28 28 | | AMAL AMAL AMAL AMAL AMAL | 25 25 22 22 22 22 | 1 1 1 1 |
| 257 258 259 260 | AMAL POTR AMAL SABE | 25 113 12 47 |]]] 5 | SHCA AMAL AMAL SABE | 5 35 11 48 | 1 1 1 4 |

| Tab | le 1 | 3. (| Concl | uded. |
|-----|------|------|-------|-------|
| | | - | | |

^a Identification number of microplot where measurements were taken (see Table 11).

^bNearest clump to microplo**t** centre. ^cNearest neighboring clump to nearest clump. ^dNumber of stems in each clump.

^eDistance in centimetres.

^fAbbreviation for browse species (see Table 12). ^gNo clump of browse encountered.

| ID. ^a No. | Species | Use ^b | Species | Use | Species | Use | Species | Use | Species | Use |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|--------------|--------------|----------|---------|-----------|
| 10 | PRPEC | 69 | POTR | 12 | | | | | | . <u></u> |
| 20 27 66 | SABE SABE AMAL AMAL | 40 77 30 16 | AMAL SABE RVspp | 158 16 28 | COST | 5 | ROWO | 2 | | |
| 69 67 | SABE SABE | 33 66 | POTR | 4 | | | | | | |
| 65 63 62 | PRPE AMAL SABE | 15 3 46 | AMAL AMAL | 4 29 | | | | | | |
| 75 71 81 82 | SADI SAMC AMAL SABE | 50 7 13 | SASE SASE POTR SADI | 2 10 4 | SAMC SADI PRPE | 57 8 3 | SABE SAPL | 6 112 | | |
| 83 | SABE | 66 | AMAL | 3 | PRPE | 5 | SADI | 42 | | |
| 84 91 93 94 108 | AMAL AMAL AMAL AMAL AMAL | 5 196 136 94 231 | ROWO SABE ROWO PRPE | 13 18 4 12 | SABE | 9 | | | | |
| 96 97 98 104 | BEPA AMAL BEPA AMAI | 12 9 34 10 | POTR POTR POTR | 6 52 42 | | | | | | |
| 101 | AMAL | 73 | POTR | 6 | 0000 | 141 | PRPE | 1 | | |

Table 14. Instances of use of each browse species within macroplots.

| ID. ^a No. | Species | Use ^b | Species | Use | Species | Use | Species | Use | Species | Use |
|---------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|--------------|---------|-----|
| 105 107 117 118 111 | AMAL AMAL AMAL AMAL AMAL AMAL | 159 164 128 246 223 | PRPE ALCR ROWO VIED SABE | 2 20 8 6 12 | ALCR POTR SABE | 6 10 17 | POTR PRPE VIED | 5 35 3 | COCO | 49 |
| 112 127 126 132 130 | AMAL BEspp. AMAL AMAL AMAL | 7 49 35 110 105 | VIED SADI SABE SABE | 1 17 6 62 | SABE SASE SHCA | 8 4 3 | BEPA POTR | 9 | VIED | 3 |
| 134 138 139 140 141 | AMAL AMAL AMAL SAPL SAPL | 43 177 7 69 142 | SABE ROWO SASE SAMA | 43 6 17 4 | VIED POTR SAspp. SASE | 1 1 2 27 | POTR SAspp. | 1 | | - |
| 145 143 151 156 184 | AMAL AMAL VIED SABE AMAL | 160 118 115 38 156 | POTR SABE COCO VIED | 4 5 111 24 | PRVI AMAL BEPA | 3 24 17 | ROWO | 1 | | |
| 187 179 180 178 181 | AMAL AMAL AMAL AMAL AMAL | 150 95 88 167 23 | SABE SABE SABE SABE | 49 25 5 2 | ROWO | 1 | | | | |

Table 14. Continued.

Continued . . .

| Table 14. | Continue d . |
|-----------|---------------------|
|-----------|---------------------|

| ID. ^a No. | Species | Use ^b | Species | Use | Species | Use | Species | Use | Species | Use |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|--------------|---------|-----|---------|-----|
| 183 182 190 201 | AMAL AMAL AMAL SAMY | 149 118 82 53 | SABE SABE VIED SASE | 21 4 10 28 | POTR BEspp. | 1 33 | | | | |
| 205 | ALCR | 37 | SABE | 9 | POTR | 6 | | | | |
| 207 208 210 211 212 | SABE SAPL AMAL SAPL SAPL | 13 163 178 50 93 | SAPL SASE ALCR SAMY | 31 10 21 80 | SASE SAMA POTR | 26 3 2 | | | | |
| 213 229 225 226 | SAMA AMAL VIED | 3 120 30 | SAPL AMAL | 19 18 | SABE SABE | 11 13 | | | | |
| 227 | BEspp. | 36 | SAPL | 41 | SASE | 27 | SAMY | 54 | SAMA | 9 |
| 240 221 220 | AMAL AMAL SAPL | 106 72 43 | SABE POTR | 32 4 | VIED | 1 | SADI | 18 | POTR | 36 |
| 234 233 | AMAL SABE | 140 84 | SABE SAMA | 19 5 | POTR | 6 | POBA | 3 | SADI | 3 |
| 250 246 | AMAL AMAL | 132 203 | POTR | 14 | | | | | | |
| 249 257 258 | AMAL AMAL AMAL | 141 151 130 | POTR POTR POTP | 4 2 22 | | | | | | |

| | | | | 1 | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|--------------|------------------|--------------|--------|---------|-----|---------|-----|---------|---|
| ID. ^a No. | Species | Use ^b | Species | Use | Species | Use | Species | Use | Species | Use |
| 259 260 | AMAL AMAL | 201 194 | POTR SABE | 6 5 | | | | | | - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - |
| | | | 1 | | | | | | | |

a bIdentification number of microplot at feeding site (see Table 11). cNumber of instances of use of each browse species. Abbreviations for browse species (see Table 12).

| | | Dep | De | Density | | |
|-----------------|-------|-------|-------|---------|------|------|
| | Jan. | Jan. | Feb. | Feb. | Jan. | Feb. |
| Habitat Stratum | 8 | 23 | 10 | 2/ | 8 | 10 |
| Tall Willow | 16.00 | 7.00 | 9.50 | 8.00 | 0.13 | 0.32 |
| | 7.75 | 8.00 | 9.00 | 6.50 | 0.26 | 0.22 |
| | 11.50 | 8.50 | 11.00 | 8.75 | 0.17 | 0.23 |
| | 11.50 | 7.00 | 11.00 | 6.50 | 0.19 | 0.18 |
| | 10.00 | 7.50 | 10.00 | 13.00 | 0.18 | 0.20 |
| Black Spruce | 9.25 | 7.00 | 10.00 | 9.00 | 0.16 | 0.20 |
| | 8.25 | 6.50 | 10.00 | 7.50 | 0.18 | 0.25 |
| | 7.50 | 8.00 | 11.00 | 7.50 | 0.13 | 0.27 |
| | 9.00 | 6.00 | 7.50 | 7.00 | 0.17 | 0.13 |
| | 3.50 | 5.50 | 6.50 | 4.00 | 0.29 | 0.23 |
| | | 14.00 | 11.50 | 9.50 | | 0.32 |
| | | 3.50 | 3.50 | 2.50 | | 0.14 |
| | | 7.50 | 11.00 | 8.00 | | 0.18 |
| Tamarack | 11.00 | 8.25 | 9.00 | 9.00 | 0.18 | 0.22 |
| | 7.50 | 10.00 | 13.00 | 7.00 | 0.13 | 0.23 |
| | 16.50 | 9.50 | 11.50 | 7.00 | 0.11 | 0.22 |
| | 11.00 | 8.50 | 10.00 | 9.50 | 0.14 | 0.15 |
| | 11.00 | 8.00 | 12.00 | 9.00 | 0.18 | 0.17 |
| Black Spruce- | 10.00 | 8.00 | 8.50 | 8.50 | 0.13 | 0.18 |
| Tamarack | 8.75 | 6.25 | 9.00 | 9.00 | 0.23 | 0.22 |
| | 10.50 | 8.00 | 9.50 | 9.00 | 0.17 | 0.21 |
| | 5.50 | 7.25 | 7.50 | 6.50 | 0.18 | 0.13 |
| | 10.00 | 7.00 | 11.00 | 8.50 | 0.23 | 0.23 |
| Apsen-Black | 9.00 | 7.00 | 10.00 | 9.00 | 0.17 | 0.20 |
| Spruce | 2.50 | 4.50 | 7.00 | 4.50 | 0.20 | 0.14 |
| | - | 6.50 | 8.50 | 5.50 | | 0.18 |
| | | 3.00 | 7.00 | 5.00 | | 0.14 |

Table 15. Depth and density of snow measured at sampling points on the snow course during January and February.

continued ...

9. AOSERP RESEARCH REPORTS

| 1. | | AOSERP First Annual Report, 1975 |
|-----|----------|---|
| 2. | AF 4.1.1 | Walleye and Goldeye Fisheries Investigations in the Peace-Athabasca Delta1975 |
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| | | Area |
| 11. | AF 2.2.1 | Life Cycles of Some Common Aquatic Insects of the |
| 12. | ME 1.7 | Very High Resolution Meteorological Satellite Study |
| 13. | ME 2.3.1 | Plume Dispersion Measurements from an Oil Sands Extraction Plant March 1976 |
| 14. | HE 2.4 | Athabasca Oil Sands Historical Research Design (3 Volumes) |
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| 18 | | Aquatic Biota of the AOSERP Study Area |
| 10. | | 1976 for the Alberta Oil Sands Environmental Research Program |
| 19. | ME 4.1 | Calculations of Annual Averaged Sulphur Dioxide Concentrations at Ground Level in the AOSERP Study Area |
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| 21. | | AOSERP Second Annual Report, 1976-77 |
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| | - | of Area Manpower |
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| | | Trout Perch and Rainbow Trout |
| 24. | ME 4.2.1 | Review of Dispersion Models and Possible Applications |
| | | in the Alberta Oil Sands Area |
| 25. | ME 3.5.1 | Review of Pollutant Transformation Processes Relevant |
| -). | | to the Alberta Oil Sands Area |
| | | |
| 26. | AF 4.5.1 | Interim Report on an Intensive Study of the Fish |
| | | Fauna of the Muskeg River Watershed of Northeastern |
| | | Alberta |
| 27. | ME 1.5.1 | Meteorology and Air Quality Winter Field Study in |
| | | the AOSERP Study Area. March 1976 |
| 28. | VE 2.1 | Interim Report on a Soils Inventory in the Athabasca |
| | | Oil Sands Area |
| 29. | ME 2.2 | An Inventory System for Atmospheric Emissions in the |
| | i e e la contra de l | AOSERP Study Area |
| 30. | ME 2.1 | Ambient Air Quality in the AOSERP Study Area, 1977 |
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| 31. | VE 2.3 | Ecological Habitat Mapping of the AOSERP Study Area: |
| | - | Phase I |
| 32. | | AOSERP Third Annual Report, 1977-78 |
| 33. | TF 1.2 | Relationships Between Habitats, Forages, and Carrying |
| | | Capacity of Moose Range in northern Alberta. Part I: |
| | | Moose Preferences for Habitat Strata and Forages. |
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