

DEER FORAGE PREFERENCES

Before the entry of cattle on the Burgess Spring Experimental Range in June, 1936, a special study was made of grazingby deer, primarily the Rocky Mt. Mule.

This ~~deer~~ is the predominant species although the area is so near the range of the Columbian Black-tailed deer that some overlapping occurs and there is apt to bea few of ^{these} ~~this~~ species present.

A sample of the area was taken by observing the plants grazed and the part taken on 11 strips 7 feet wide distributed over 550 acres. The boundary of the 7 foot strip was fixed by eye. While the total number of plants grazed could not be determined by the examination a fairly accurate conception of their food preference at this time of the season was obtained. The difference between deer and rodent grazing was easily distinguished.

The same type of notes were taken on 2 examinations of 836 quadrats on the same area.

The results of the sampling, both by the strip method and the quadrat method indicate that 2 herbs were outstanding in preference. These species were Leptotaenia dissecta and Crepis acuminata. Of all species grazed, the leaf only was taken in the majority of cases as the vegetation was young and stems and flowers were not developed fully or at all.

The summary shows that of the 10 most preferred species 8 were herbs and 2 were shrubs. There has been much argument over the question of whether ^{or not} deer eat much grass ~~or not~~. This examination in-

dicates that at this time of the year very little grass is taken. It seems that the milky-juiced Crepis, the green, juicy Leptotaenia and the other succulent young herbs are relished much more than the new grass at this season.

RR
Pine Ranges
Burgess Spring

Robert W. Gardner
January 4, 1937.

WILDLIFE GRAZING PRIOR TO CATTLE ENTRY

7' Strip Cruise June 8-12, 1936.

Species	Total *	L	S	F	FL	SF	SL	SLF
<i>Crepis acuminata</i>	79	41				4	2	32
<i>Leptotaenia dissecta</i>	70	67	1			1		1
<i>Potentilla</i>	23	23						
<i>Lomatium</i>	23	23						
<i>Symphoricarpos</i>	22	21						1
<i>Castilleja</i>	15					2		13
<i>Wyethia mollis</i>	14	12				1		1
<i>Amelanchier alnifolia</i>	13	13						
<i>Senecio</i>	12	1	1			10		
<i>Eriogonum nudum</i>	10		1	3		5		1
<i>Geranium</i>	7	5				1	1	
<i>Balsamorhiza sagitata</i>	6	5		1				
<i>Phacelia</i>	6					3		3
<i>Lupinus</i>	5	1		2		1		1
<i>Delphinium</i>	5			1		2		2
<i>Agoseris</i>	3			3				
<i>Montia perfoliata</i>	2					2		
<i>Ranunculus</i>	2					1		1
<i>Umbelliferae</i>	2			1		1		
<i>Hydrophyllum</i>	1	1						
<i>Eriogonum umbellatum</i>	1					1		
No. 2 (Stipa?)	1							1
No. 3	1						1	
<i>Collinsia parviflora</i>	1							1
<i>Bromus marginatus</i>	1	1						
<i>Kellogia galioides</i>	1						1	
No. 29	1					1		
No. 27	1							1
<i>Achillea</i>	1					1		
PO - 324	1					1		
<i>Scorzonella</i>	1							1
<i>Bromus</i>	1	1						

L -- leaf
S -- stem
F -- flower

* No. of plants grazed

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Burgess Spring

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January 4, 1938.

WILDLIFE GRAZING PRIOR TO CATTLE ENTRY

Exam. I H36 quadrats May 19 - June 2, 1936

Species	Total*	L	S	F	FL	SF	SL	SLF
Leptotaenia dissecta	29	29						
Crepis acuminata	27	27						
Crepis occidentalis	17	11		1	3			2
Lomatium	11	9						2
Senecio	7					1	6	
Collinsia parviflora	7							7
Astragalus	5						5	
Fritillaria	3		1			1	1	
Wyethia mollis	3	3						
Hydrophyllum	2	2						
Balsamorhiza sagitata	2							2
Ranunculus occidentalis	2					2		
Viola nutalli	1							1
Geranium	1	1						
No. L	1							1
Lupinus	1	1						
Agoseris	1	1						
Eriogonum	1						1	
Sitanion hystrix	1	1						

L -- leaf
S -- stem
F -- flower

* No. of plants grazed

WILDLIFE GRAZING PRIOR TO CATTLE ENTRY

Exam. II 836 quadrats June 15 - 18, 1936

Species	Total *	L	S	F	FL	SF	SL	SLF
<i>Crepis acuminata</i>	28	25					1	3
<i>Leptotaenia dissecta</i>	15	14					1	
<i>Lomatium</i>	8	1					1	6
<i>Bromus marginatus</i>	7	7						
<i>Collinsia parviflora</i>	7							7
<i>Senecio</i>	6	5				1		
<i>Crepis occidentalis</i>	3	3						
<i>Hydrophyllum</i>	2					2		
<i>Astragalus</i>	2						2	
<i>Balsamorhiza sagitata</i>	2							2
<i>Ranunculus</i>	2					2		
<i>Scorzonella nutans</i>	1	1						
<i>Viola nutalli</i>	1	1						
Onagraceae	1						1	
<i>Geranium</i>	1	1						
No. 8	1	1						
<i>Agoseris</i>	1				1			
<i>Lupinus</i>	1	1						
<i>Stipa occidentalis</i>	1							

L -- leaf
S -- stem
F -- flower

* No. of plants grazed