

HABITAT RELATIONSHIPS OF SYMPATRIC MOOSE AND ELK IN THE GARNET MOUNTAINS OF WESTERN MONTANA^{TWS}

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A low-density moose population in the Garnet Mountains of western Montana is being studied to evaluate the effects of managing forest habitats for elk. From 1993-1996, over 2800 locations from 69 elk were collected and analyzed to evaluate the long-term effects of timber harvest on habitat use, home ranges, and distribution

of elk as part of the Chamberlain Creek Elk Studies. This has provided an opportunity to evaluate a sympatric moose population, of interest to local land managers. Since January 1998, > 700 locations of 18 radio-collared moose have been obtained to evaluate moose habitat preferences as well as habitat use overlap with elk, and the potential influence of implementing elk management guidelines on this moose population. Additionally, in early January 2000 we counted 44 moose during a helicopter census of moose in the study area. Preliminary results at the end of 2 years of field work were described.