

SPATIAL CHANGES IN HABITAT USE BY ELK IN WESTERN MONTANA ^{TWS}

Milo Burcham and C. Les Marcum

School of Forestry, University of Montana - Missoula 59812

Comparing radio locations of cow elk (*Cervus elaphus*) taken from 1977-1983 and 1993-1996 revealed changes in landscape use. Yearlong, calving season, summer, rut, and hunting season patterns of use for two adjacent elk herds were examined by comparing the relative use of grid cells overlaid upon the study area. These changes span the time frame from before logging was initiated in the upper Chamberlain Creek drainage, in westcentral Montana, through 15 years of logging activity to the present. This presentation represents only a portion of the Chamberlain Creek Elk Study, which is investigating the long-term effects of habitat fragmentation on elk habitat use and home ranges.