Identifying Landscape Elements in Relation to Elk Kill Sites in Western Montana [TWS]

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The landscape elements that influence elk (*Cervus elaphus*) vulnerability during the hunting season were studied in the Chamberlain Creek area of western Montana. Locations of 84 hunter killed elk sites were compared to live elk locations and random points using discriminant function analysis. Elk kill sites could not be differentiated from random points, but locations of live elk were readily differentiated from both elk kill sites and random points. Elk selected elements of the landscape that 1) were not in close proximity to open roads, 2) had low road densities, and 3) contained forested cover in large patches that had not sustained timber harvest treatment within the past 10 years and provided substantial hiding cover.