

CALVING GROUND FIDELITY AND HERD IDENTITY OF THE DELTA AND YANERT CARIBOU HERDS, ALASKA. J. L. Davis, P. Valkenburg, and R. D. Boertje, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, 1300 College Road, Fairbanks, Alaska 99701.

A single traditional calving area was delineated for the Delta Herd based on results of aerial surveys conducted from the 1950's through 1983 and radio telemetry studies from 1979 through 1983. Relocations of radio-collared caribou from both the Delta and Yanert Herds, from 1979 through 1983, indicated that these 2 herds maintained discrete calving areas, even though significant intermixing occurred during other seasons. However, during calving in 1984, 5 of 25 radio-collared Delta cows >3 years old and 5 of 24 radio-collared Delta cows <3 years old were located in the calving area of the adjacent Yanert Caribou Herd 72 km west-southwest of the traditional Delta calving area. The cow-calf segments of both herds were totally intermixed during the postcalving period in 1984. Implications of these observations are discussed in relation to: (1) the conventional model of herd identity proposed by Skoog, and (2) Bergerud's concept of optimal and dynamic use of space.

ABSTRACTS OF PAPERS AND POSTERS

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