

(45) EFFECTS OF CLIMATE AND GROWING CONDITIONS ON BROWSE QUALITY

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Abstract: In previous work, we have observed high variation in the nutritional quality of important moose browses across the state of Alaska. To decipher the factors that might affect these differences in browse quality, we are conducting a "common garden" experiment on clones of *Salix alaxensis* and *S. pulchra* at the Matanuska Experimental Farm in Palmer, Alaska. We have treated these species to varying levels of soil moisture, soil fertility, soil temperature, solar radiation, and utilization to determine the effects on leaf nitrogen and tannins. Here, we describe our methods and hypotheses.



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