

(59P) EFFECTS OF SUMMER WEATHER VARIABLES ON LEAVES OF *SALIX PULCHRA* AS FORAGE FOR CARIBOU. David R. Klein<sup>1</sup> and Patrick Valkenburg<sup>2</sup>. <sup>1</sup>National Biological Service, Alaska Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, Univ. of Alaska Fairbanks, Fairbanks, AK 99775-7020, USA. <sup>2</sup>Alaska Department of Fish and Game, 1300 College Road, Fairbanks, AK 99701, USA.

Experimental treatment of the willow, *Salix pulchra*, in the summer range of the Delta Caribou Herd simulated cloudy conditions through use of 55% shade tarps. Protein levels of leaves were higher from shaded willows than unshaded control plants, whereas tannin levels were lower. Differences in *in vitro* digestibility of leaves from the two treatments were not statistically significant. These results are supportive of the hypothesis that sunny summers may reduce forage quality on caribou ranges by increasing the ratio of carbon to nitrogen components of above ground tissues of plants.



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## Abstracts

Abstracts are listed by number

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