

(46) AN EVALUATION OF USING VAGINAL IMPLANT TRANSMITTERS IN MOOSE

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Abstract: Birth rates and calf survival typically drive population dynamics in moose. Because early mortality is often high, detecting parturition and monitoring calves soon after birth is critical for accurately determining productivity and early survival. However, aerial determination of parturition, twinning, and early calf survival are often difficult in forested habitats. While vaginal implant transmitters (VITs) have been commonly used in many domestic and wild ungulates, an evaluation of VITs in moose has not been extensively reported. From 2006 to 2013, we put >300 VITs in moose from different locations across Alaska during mid-gestation (typically February–March). Retention rates were high and there was no evidence of significant tissue damage or negative effects with future pregnancies. VITs greatly improved productivity surveys by reducing aerial search times and facilitated captures of neonates.



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