

34. ECOLOGICAL STUDIES OF PREDATOR - PREY RELATIONSHIPS IN THE NELCHINA BASIN, 1975-1980

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Since 1975 up to 22 individual wolf packs in the Nelchina Basin have been studied in an effort to not only determine the impact of wolves on moose, but also to determine wolf population dynamics, food habits, and general ecology. Portions of the wolf study involved experimentally lowering wolf densities in one area and determining its effect on moose calf survival. Lack of significant increases in moose calf survival and periodic observations of bear-wolf conflicts at moose kills prompted initiation of bear food habits and moose calf mortality studies. Predation by brown bears was confirmed as a major source of calf mortality. Rates of predation and population status of wolves and bears will be presented and potential impacts on moose will be discussed.

ABSTRACTS
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