
(13) NELCHINA HABITAT, MOOSE, AND PREDATORS: CURRENT KNOWLEDGE AND FUTURE RESEARCH

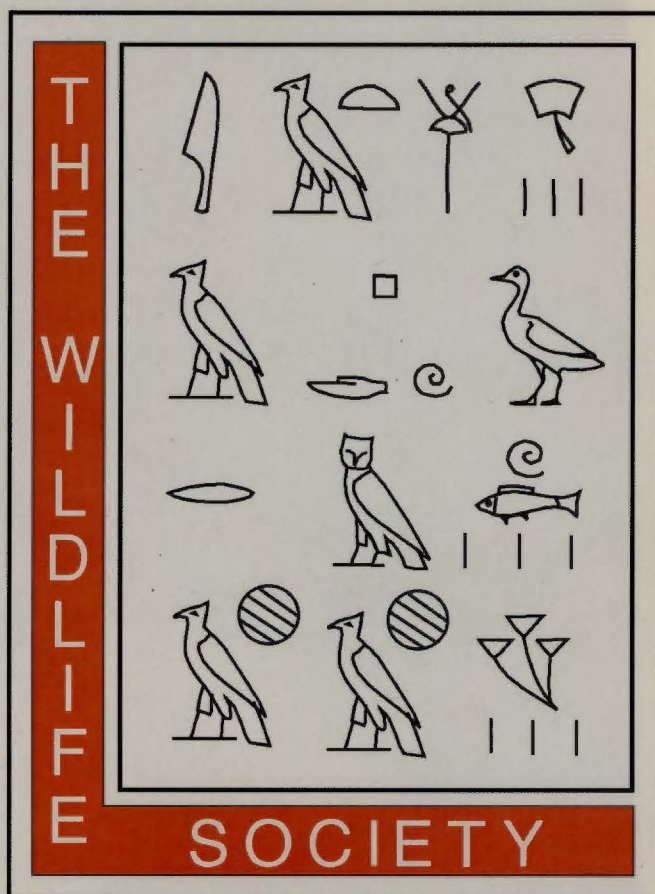
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Abstract: We discuss current knowledge of moose, bears, wolves, and habitat in the Nelchina Basin, Alaska. In general, the moose population appears to have declined over the past decade. Over the same time period, wolf density estimates have declined and harvest numbers have increased. The trend in brown bear numbers is unknown while harvest has generally increased over the past three decades. Predation is one major factor effecting moose survival. Similarly, moose productivity appears to be low and some preliminary habitat analyses indicate adequate biomass but potential deficiencies in nutritional quality, particularly low levels of available nitrogen. We outline future collaborative research directions that will focus on multiple levels of ecosystem function addressing moose, predators, habitat, and nutrient flow and availability with the goal of developing an understanding of important factors at the level of the population, species interaction, and ecosystem.



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