

WHAT IS A PRIMARY RESEARCH ARTICLE?

Primary Research Articles are the first-published reports of original research. Primary articles are published in scholarly journals (which are also called **Research Journals, Peer-Reviewed Journals, or Refereed Journals**). **BUT BEWARE:** not every article in a scholarly journal is a primary article! Here are the distinguishing characteristics of **primary articles in scholarly journals**:

MOOSE HABITAT PREFERENCES IN RESPONSE TO CHANGING AVAILABILITY

Articles are **written** by scholars, and the credentials are provided.

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Articles will likely start with an abstract, or a summary, of the research. The abstract is a good place to acquire keywords!

Abstract: Application of Habitat Suitability Index (HSI) models without testing in areas other than where they were generated, and claims that habitat preferences have been proven, indicate that managers and scientists believe that habitat preferences of wildlife are fixed. We tested this hypothesis by comparing habitat preferences of 2 groups of moose (*Alces alces*) in northeastern Alberta, Canada, to which the same habitat classes were available but differed in relative abundance. We estimated habitat availability for each of 22 radiomarked, adult female moose and divided the animals into 2 groups based on the similarity of relative habitat class abundances. We measured habitat preference for individual moose from each group during 2 seasons in each of 2 years using a simple resource selection function (RSF). We used analysis of variance (ANOVA) to compare differences between groups. Preference of several habitat classes differed between groups, indicating that habitat preferences of moose are not fixed and change as the relative abundance of available habitat changes. Managers must recognize and account for this concept in the application of habitat prescriptions or management plans.

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Key words: Alberta, *Alces alces*, functions, habitat, models, moose, preference, selection, suitability, variability.

Looked for a section labeled “Methods,” “Materials,” or “Experimental Procedures.”

BONUS!

METHODS

Study Animals and Telemetry

We captured 31 adult female moose and fitted them with VHF radiotransmitters between June and December of 1994 using the helicopter net-gun technique (Carpenter and Innes 1995). We relocated the moose via aerial telemetry at intervals of 2–3 weeks after initial capture, and we recorded animal locations with a Global Position-

Articles use the **language** of the discipline covered. The main audience is other scholars.

RESULTS

The cluster analysis confirmed our assignment of moose to the 2 groups, so we made no adjust-

The **Results** section will provide the data in tables, charts, graphs, etc.

Habitat class	Home-range data ^a
Conifer Uplands	0.0476 A
Wetland Meadows	0.0703 A
Disturbance	0.0851 B
Water	0.1012 C
Shrublands	0.1365 CD
Deciduous Uplands	0.1289 CD

Scholars always **cite** their sources. Look for “Literature Cited,” “Bibliography,” “Sources,” “Notes,” etc.

LITERATURE CITED

AEBISCHER, N. J., P. A. ROBERTSON, AND R. E. KENWARD. 1993. Compositional analysis of habitat use from radio tracking data. *Ecology* 74:1313–1325.
ALBERTA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION. 1994. Natural regions of Alberta. Publication I/531.
ALLEN, W. A., P. A. JORDAN, AND J. A. TERRELL. 1987. Habitat suitability index models: moose, Lake Superior region. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Biological Report 82 (10.155).