

Winter Habitat Use by Moose, *Alces alces*, in Central Interior British Columbia

GILBERT PROULX¹ and RHONDA M. KARIZ²

¹Alpha Wildlife Research & Management Ltd., 229 Lilac Terrace, Sherwood Park, Alberta T8H 1W3 Canada

²Driftwood Forestry Consulting, 16880 Schefer Drive, Prince George, British Columbia V2K 5L4 Canada

Proulx, Gilbert, and Rhonda M. Kariz. 2005. Winter habitat use by Moose, *Alces alces*, in central interior British Columbia. *Canadian Field-Naturalist* 119(2): 186-191.

In central British Columbia, recent epidemics of Mountain Pine Beetle (*Dendroctonus ponderosae*) have resulted in the use of expansive clearcut areas to remove infested mature and old Lodgepole Pine (*Pinus contorta*) stands. This study aimed to determine if Moose (*Alces alces*) use late-successional Lodgepole Pine stands in mid- to late-winter. Moose activity and habitat use was determined during February-March track surveys in 2000 (60 km) and 2001 (55.7 km). In 2000 (69 tracks) and 2001 (313 tracks), Moose track distribution differed significantly ($P < 0.05$) from random. They were significantly more abundant than predicted in young stands (dominated by *Picea* spp.), or early seral stages; they were less abundant than predicted in mature and old Lodgepole Pine stands. It is unlikely that harvesting late-successional Lodgepole Pine stands would affect Moose winter habitat supply.

Key Words: *Alces alces*, Moose, snowtracking, Lodgepole Pine, *Pinus contorta*, British Columbia.