ECOLOGIST

Description of work to date pertaining to ELK EXCLOSURES on ALE.

25

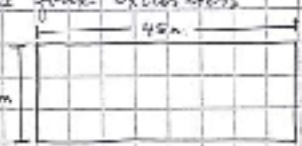
July 1997.

Due to growing elk populations on ALE the need to assess their impact on vegetation became apparent. Kent Johnson (PALS) and Jim Morse (AWM/SERS) (1) went to ALE to look for potential sites for elk exclosures. Also they located fenceposts left from pold fences on the reserve. Criteria for sites included accessibility, tourcoads, evidence of elk presence (including trails), different vegetation types, and likelihood of continued elk presence.

Four sites were chosen: near Rattlesnake Springs, near the power lines at gate 120, (2) at upper Snively canyon, and the last part Rattlesnake Springs off a road which is a right turn from the main road of Gate 118 (Sorry that I don't know the Road name

August 1997.

Larry Cadwell, Bob Feldpausch, Kent Johnson, WA Dept of Fish & Wildlife Wildlife Service, and I (J Morse) built the four exclosures



(3)

A railroad tie, about 5 ft in ground and ~7 ft above ground, was placed at each corner. Supporting posts/braces were also put in place at each corner post.

Metal fence posts were placed along the perimeter of the rectangle and driven into the ground. About 4 or 5 rows of barbed wire were strung around the perimeter as well. The structures seem very sturdy and durable.

October 1997

I went to each elk exclosure and set up 3 10m x 10m plots within the exclosure, and two sets of 3 10x10 plots outside the exclosure. These control plots are in place so that vegetation inside + outside can be sampled and compared, thus (4) evaluating the impact elk are having on ALE. The control plots were sited with attention to elk trails (tried to include part of at least one in a control plot + maintaining similar vegetation types + distribution, similar topography and slope. Also the control plots were located at about 15-25 m from the structures. White fiberglass poles mark the corners of each 10x10m control plot. The vegetation in the control plots has not been sampled to date.

Project No. _____ Date of Work [illegible]

Entered By Jennifer Morse Date 11/9/97

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