

ESTIMATING SHRUB PRODUCTION AND UTILIZATION IN NORTHERN IDAHO

A Thesis

Presented in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the

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By

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Abstract

Proper management of any range site requires managers to evaluate the site to determine the productivity and the level of utilization of the site. Determining the production of the shrubby and herbaceous vegetation is necessary to assure proper stocking level of domestic livestock and wildlife. Evaluating utilization allows managers to determine whether the area has been properly stocked. Many methods are available for estimating the production and utilization of a site; however, these methods have not been evaluated for precision, accuracy, and efficiency. The objective of this research was to evaluate methods of determining the level of utilization for shrubs. Methods were evaluated based on precision, accuracy and efficiency of each method.

Study Site

Field sites were located in the Nez Perce National Forest, in the Clearwater National Forest, at Robinson Park, Located in Latah County, Idaho, and on the University of Idaho Experimental Forest (Figure 1.1). Site selection was based on availability of the species of interest, form and size of species, and low levels of herbivory. The study areas included four different habitat types representing a wide range of ecological conditions.

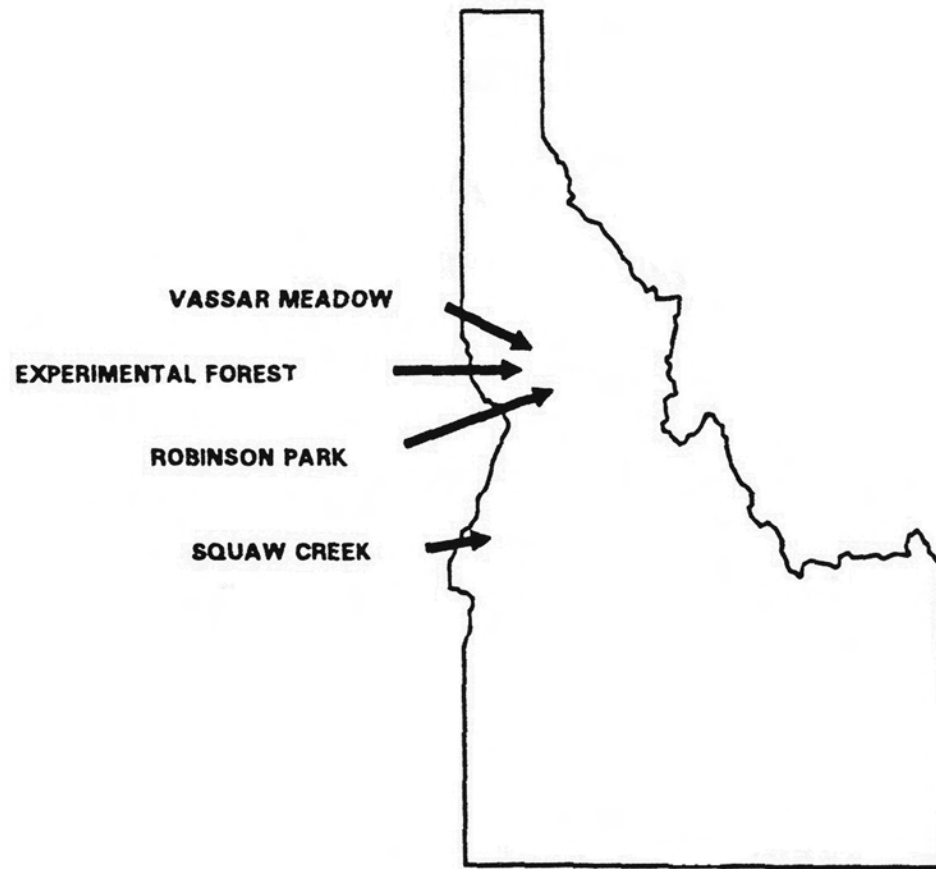


Figure 1.1 Study sites for evaluating shrub production methodologies were located in four different habitat types throughout northern Idaho.



Location of Complete Research:

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