NOCTURNAL BEHAVIOR OF WHITE-TAILED DEER IN THE HATTER CREEK ENCLOSURE

A Thesis

Presented in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the

DEGREE MASTER OF SCIENCE

Major in Wildlife Management

In the

UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO GRADUATE SCHOOL

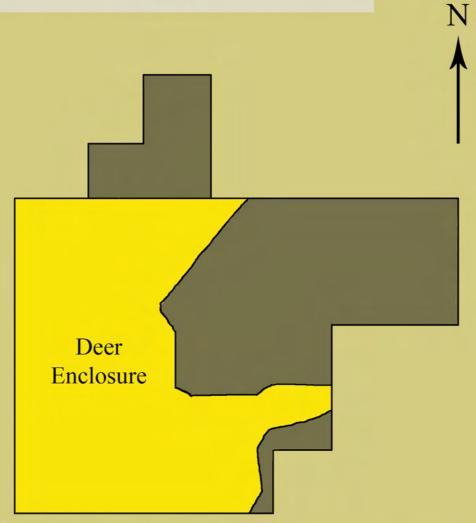
By

Harold Lee Gladfelter

Abstract

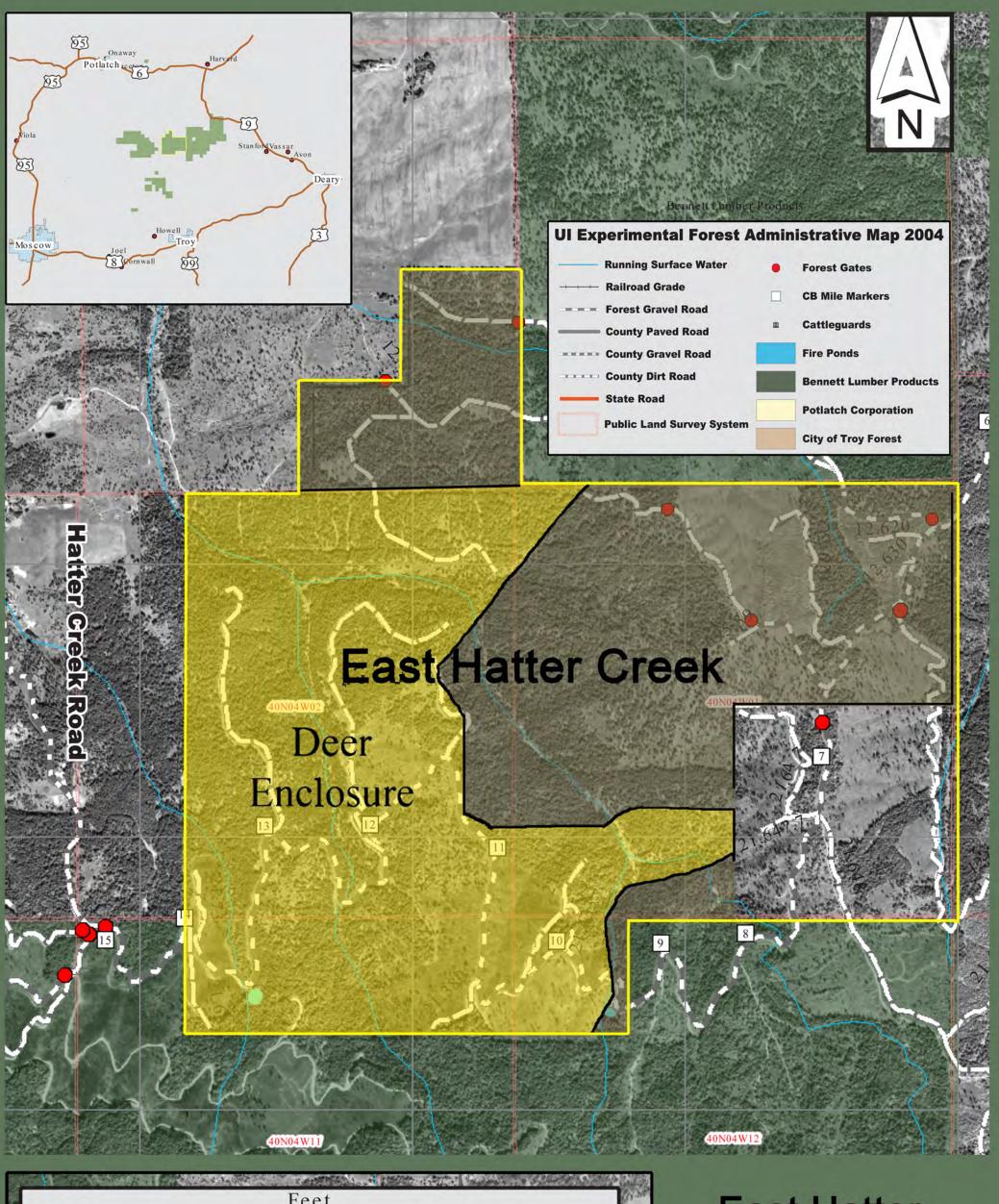
The nocturnal behavior of white-tailed deer was studied in the 800-acre Hatter Creek deer enclosure in northern Idaho. Techniques used for locating and observing the deer at night were small neon blinkers and sheep bells which had been attached to collars on captured deer, an infrared sniperscope, electronic counting devices used for movement studies, and observation perches used for direct observation of behavior. The nocturnal movement of deer was greater in the evening than in the morning and was related to change in light intensity after sunset and before sunrise. The length of the nocturnal activity periods was related to decreases in temperature and increases in humidity. Nocturnal feeding activity decreased from summer to winter and was accompanied by decreasing monthly mean temperatures. The bedding activity increased from summer to winter with bedding activity in the winter occurring the greater part of the night. However, bedding periods were interrupted with short feeding periods.

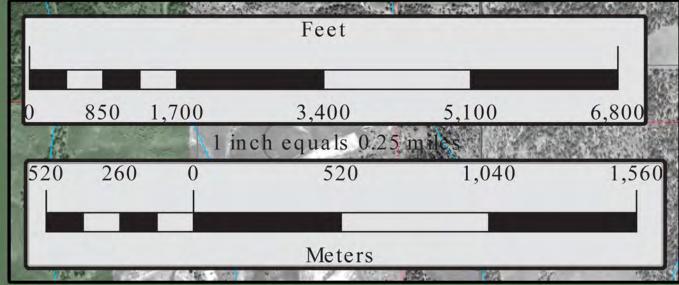
East Hatter Creek Unit Map 1987



University of Idaho Experimental Forest

Scale: 1:24,000





East Hatter Creek

