

Title

THE USE OF PRE-COMMERCIALY THINNED STANDS BY SNOWSHOE HARE IN THE WESTERN NEWFOUNDLAND MODEL FOREST

Model Forest

Western Newfoundland Model Forest

From

July 1993

To

January 1995

Keywords

Pre-commercial Thinning, Snowshoe Hare, Habitat

Objective

To monitor the use of pre-commercially thinned stands by snowshoe hare in the Western Newfoundland Model Forest.

Description

Many researchers have studied the relationship between snowshoe hare and their habitat requirements. The findings are consistent in reporting that there is an association between certain habitat characteristics and hare abundance and activity. Forest management operations such as pre-commercial thinning may be altering the composition and density of regenerating forest stands, which may possibly have an impact on hare populations.

This research was initiated to investigate the use of pre-commercially thinned regenerating stands by snowshoe hare in comparison with unthinned stands of a similar age. The specific objectives of this research were to (i) monitor the use of 5 and 10 year post thinned balsam fir stands by snowshoe hare, in comparison with unthinned control stands, (ii) establish a vegetation profile of both the 5 and 10 year post-thinned balsam fir and unthinned stands, and (iii) estimate the survival rate and cause of mortality of snowshoe hare in 10 year post-thinned balsam fir stands compared to the unthinned stands.

Reports and Products

Annual Report: Use of Pre-Commercially Thinned Stands by Snowshoe Hares. Skinner, W. 1994. Newfoundland and Labrador Wildlife Division, St. John's, Newfoundland. WNMF: 2-206-001, 6p.

The Use of Pre-Commercially Thinned Stands by Snowshoe Hares in the Western Newfoundland Model Forest. Skinner, W. 1995. Newfoundland and Labrador Wildlife Division, St. John's, Newfoundland. WNMF: 2-206-002, 24p.