

Understory Forage on Seismic Lines

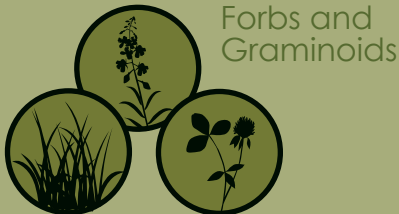
Seismic lines ease predator movement, increasing encounters with caribou. We checked for another link between caribou predators and seismic lines: forage for wolf prey and for bears.



Q: How is understory forage on seismic lines and adjacent forest different, and why do seismic lines differ from each other?

A: Seismic lines and seismic line edges had more forage.

More abundant on seismic lines:



Forbs and Graminoids

More abundant on seismic lines and seismic line edges:

Betula spp.

Alnus spp.

Salix spp.

More abundant along seismic line edges:

Vaccinium vitis-idaea

Rhododendron spp.

A: Seismic line features, even regeneration, didn't change forage availability.

Implications:

Restoration is required to re-establish natural succession on seismic lines and to reduce forage that may be attracting caribou predators.

Finnegan, L., MacNearney, D., & Pigeon, K.E. 2018. Divergent patterns of understory forage growth after seismic line exploration: Implications for caribou habitat restoration. *Forest Ecology and Management*, 409: 634-652.