



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Soil
Conservation
Service

517 Gold Ave., SW
Room 3301
Albuquerque, NM 87102

April 3, 1989

BIOLOGY TECHNICAL NOTE NO. NM-36
190

SUBJECT: ECS - BIOLOGY - WILDLIFE FOOD HABITS

Purpose. To distribute information about the feeding preferences for several species of wildlife. This information is useful in planning of food plots and wildlife plantings, as well as for inventorying native plant communities.

As developed, supplemental species information will be provided.

Effective Date. When received.

Filing Instructions. File in Biology Technical Note binder.

Bob McQueen

Bob G. McQueen
State Resource Conservationist

Enclosure

DIST:

J - 1
DC - 1



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is an agency of the
Department of Agriculture

ELK FOOD HABITS

The year-long, averaged diets for elk in New Mexico is 15-25% browse, 10-20% forbs, and 55-75% grass and grasslike plants.

Primary Plants Used

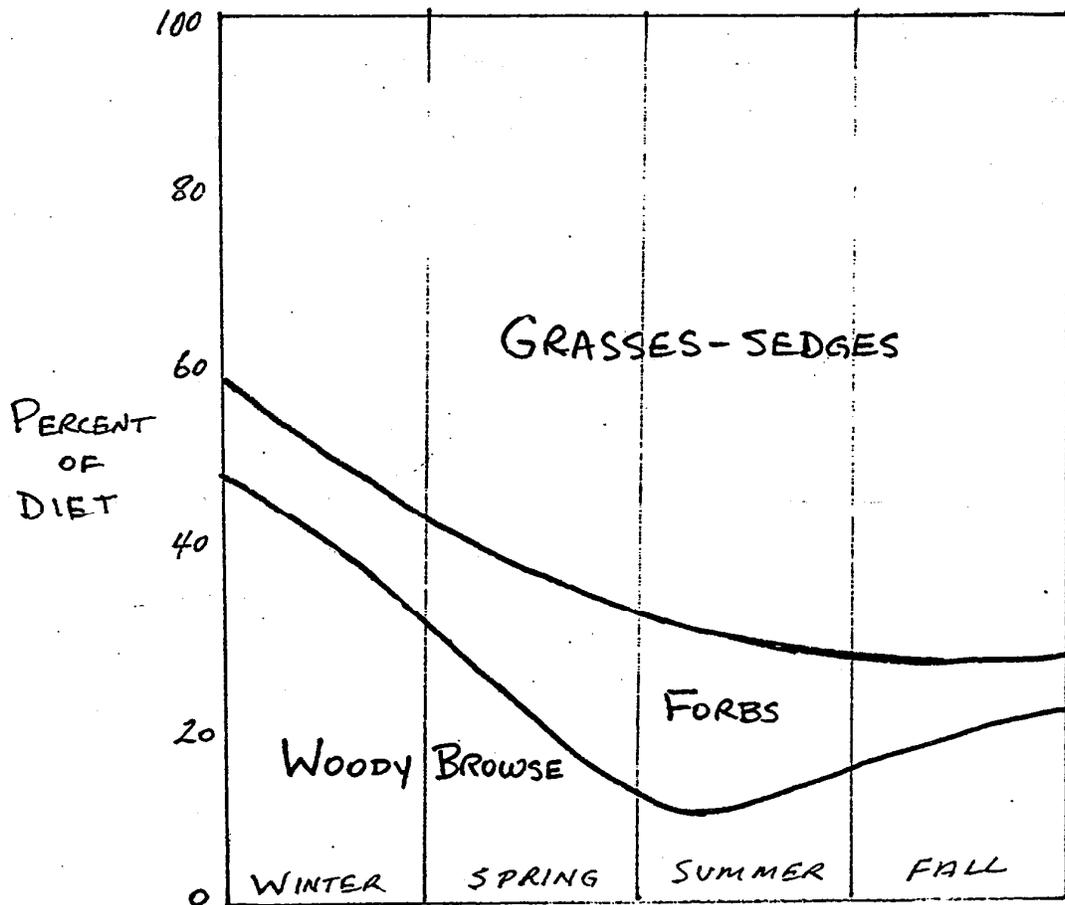
aspen
willow
wheatgrasses
brome-grasses
fescue
orchardgrass
burnet
needlegrass
bottlebrush squirreltail
sedges
rushes
dandelion
clover
marigold

Secondary Plants Used

dropseeds
muhly grasses
grama grasses
bluegrass
fringed sage
winterfat
geranium
aster
penstemon
rabbitbrush
sagebrush
shrubby cinquefoil
bitterbrush
oak
cherry
mountain mahogany
serviceberry

During winter, shrubs may make up 80% of the diet.

SEASONAL USE OF MAJOR FORAGE TYPES
BY
ELK



MULE DEER FOOD HABITS

The year-long, averaged diets for mule deer in New Mexico is 50-60% browse, 30-40% forbs, and up to 10% grass and grasslike plants.

Primary Plants Used

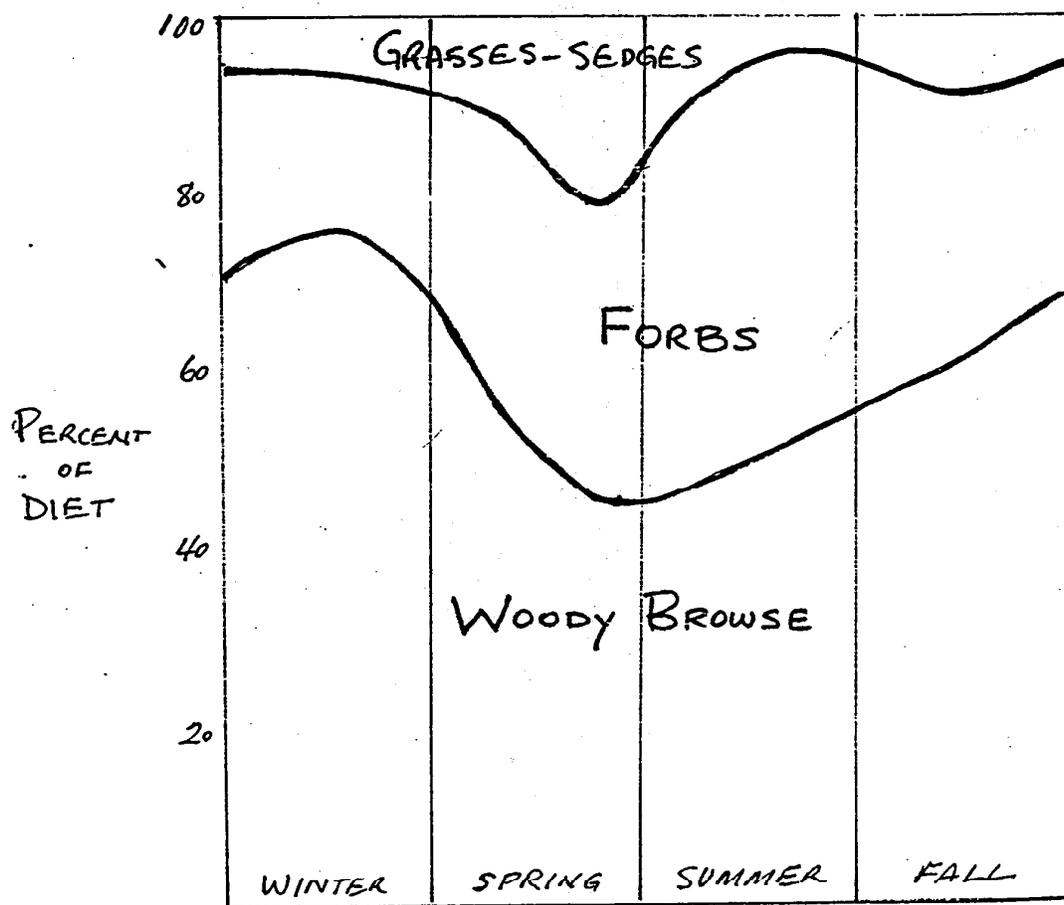
serviceberry
birch
desert and deerbrush ceanothus
mountain mahogany
cliffrose
winterfat
fendler bush
Wright silktassel
hopsage
desert hibiscus
mendora
mockorange
aspen
American plum
chokecherry
bitterbrush
buckthorn
elderberry
myrtle pachystima
buckwheat
fleabane
larkspur
dalea
bundleflower
globemallow
mistletoe
astragalus
sweet clover
lupine
penstemon
paintbrush
dandelion
geranium
fringed sage
aster
balsamroot
thistle
sunflower
blackmedic
phlox
dock
salsify
clover

Secondary Plants Used

maple
sagebrush
fourwing saltbush
false mesquite
fendler ceanothus
dwarf rabbitbush
dogwood
indigobush
Mormon tea
Apache plume
New Mexico olive
juniper
range ratany
honeysuckle
ninebark
pinyon
shrubby cinquefoil
oak
littleleaf & skunkbush sumac
rose
willow
mahonia
euphorbia

raspberry
buffaloberry
New Mexico locust
small soapweed
common yarrow
pussytoes
longleaf sage
hairy goldaster
clematis
common toadflax
cowparsnip
peavine
biscuitroot
bluebells
potentilla
Russian thistle
nightshade
groundsel
vetch
mulesears

SEASONAL USE OF MAJOR FORAGE TYPES
BY
MULE DEER



PRONGHORN ANTELOPE FOOD HABITS

The year-long averaged diets for pronghorn in New Mexico is 25-35% browse, 60-70% forbs, and 5% grasses.

Primary Plants Used

buckwheat
sunflower
kochia
globemallow
sweet clover
ragweed
scurfpea
verbena
aster
gaura
sundrop
bladderpod
croton
ratany
sagewort
spurge
penstemon
winterfat
sagebrush species
rabbitbrush
prickly pear cactus
skunkbush sumac

Secondary Plants Used

Mormon tea
bitterbrush
fourwing saltbush
shadscale
snakeweed
serviceberry
snowberry
salsify
astragalus species
Russian thistle
alfalfa
wheat
grama species
bluegrass species
brome species
stipa species
wheatgrass species
dropseed species

In MLRA-51, the HV sagebrush country in Taos County; fecal analysis identified that 56% of year long pronghorn diet was provided by four species of forbs - buckwheat, sunflower, kochia, and globemallow.

Greatest competition with cattle and sheep occurred in the spring on forbs, and during the winter on winterfat.

SEASONAL USE OF MAJOR FORAGE TYPES
BY
PRONGHORN ANTELOPE

