

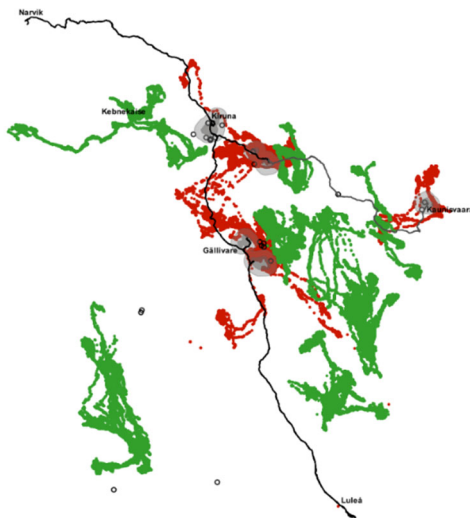
MSc thesis / Examensarbete

Impacts of resource extraction on moose behaviour

Background

Northern latitudes are experiencing the combined effects of land conversion and global heating at an accelerated rate. A major land use factor in northern Sweden is mining, which is affecting wildlife both directly (habitat loss, human activity) and indirectly (pollution). Scandinavian moose is a widely distributed and highly mobile ungulate at these latitudes and therefore a suitable candidate species to investigate potential disturbance effects regarding their movement in relation to mega-infrastructure, such as mining.

This MSc project is connected to research task 2 within REXSAC (rexsac.org), which aims to investigate cumulative impacts of land use and climate change on Arctic ecosystems and societies. Based on GPS-data of moose in Norrbotten county, the aim of this thesis project is to determine if and at what threshold the exposure to mines induces behavioural changes. The student should therefore compare movement characteristics of collared animals that are exposed to those that are not exposed to mining infrastructure. Based on interest and progress, there is potential to link movement characteristics to underlying physiological consequences and diet.



GPS-data of moose exposed (red) and not exposed (green) to active mines in Northern Sweden.

Keywords: cumulative effects, moose, movement ecology, resource extraction

Requirements

We are looking for an enthusiastic candidate with good writing skills in the English language. Experience with GIS and R is recommended.

Extent: 30 credits

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