

RED DEER HABITAT PREFERENCES BASED ON FORESTRY MAP DATABASE AND OPTICAL SATELLITE IMAGERY

P. Toth*, D. Kristof**, L. Szemethy*

* Department of Wildlife Biology and Game Management

** Institute of Environmental Management

Szent Istvan University, Godollo, Hungary

ABSTRACT

Red deer (*Cervus elaphus*) is one of the most important species in the Hungarian game management. 33 individuals were radiocollared and tracked since 1993 in Southern Hungary. The study aims to examine the relationship between the deer movement patterns and the habitat parameters in planted forests. The most preferred habitat fragments were defined on the basis of 4474 localisations. Habitat preference indices were calculated using the digital forestry map database, and will be calculated on an updated vegetation map database of the area. To obtain objective data about the actual land cover, multiple optical remote sensing images and image processing techniques were used, hence a highly accurate vegetation map at the level of species and/or different types of forest vegetation can be obtained. The preliminary results show that the stags and the hinds have different woodland using strategies.