

Wildlife Species Diversity on Revegetated Coal Stripmine Lands in Interior Alaska. Charles L. Elliott, Department of Biological Sciences, Eastern Kentucky University, Richmond, Kentucky 40475.

Wildlife utilization of revegetated stripmine spoils on the Usibelli Coal Mine in interior Alaska were studied from 1980 through 1982. Forty-nine species of birds were recorded on the mine site and adjacent undisturbed areas. Revegetated areas exhibited a lower bird species diversity than was found on undisturbed sites. Permanent water bodies appeared to mainly function as resting habitat for migrating waterfowl; while ephemeral water bodies served as feeding areas for sandpipers and related shorebirds. Twenty-six species of terrestrial mammals were observed or trapped on the mine. The greatest number of small mammals observed or captured occurred on the undisturbed shrub tundra. This area also exhibited the greatest diversity of small mammals. Of those sites on which small mammals were observed or captured, the revegetated areas exhibited the lowest species diversity. Only one small mammal species, the tundra vole (Microtus oeconomus), was captured on all reclaimed sites.

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