

11. Effects of reindeer grazing on pastures – a necessary basis for sustainable reindeer herding

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Literature review

We compiled 28 papers containing 36 independent studies concerning effects of reindeer grazing on pasture. The enclosures in the studies were either the fences constructed for the study or the fences which limit reindeer access to pastures of the neighbour Sami village or co-operative herding district. About half of the studies were published in journals with a peer review, whereas the rest were published in an institutional report series in a local language (Finnish, Swedish or Norwegian). To standardize the observed responses we first calculated the difference between the ungrazed (control) and the grazed sites and then we calculated how many percentages the difference was of the control value.

We focused on seven different components of pasture vegetation: soil, lichen, birch foliage, birch stem height, birch seedling number, dwarf shrubs and sedges and grasses. The other components, such as perennials, were excluded, since they did not account for a considerable biomass or coverage (cf. Bråthen 1998; Bråthen and Oksanen 2001).

List of papers considering relationships between reindeer and its pasture in Nordic countries

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