



Ecological Studies of Wolves on Isle Royale MTU-022

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English

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Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country
Historical Collections

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Summary Information

Repository:	Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections
Title:	Ecological Studies of Wolves on Isle Royale Collection
ID:	MTU-022
Date [inclusive]:	1830, 1850, 1905-2022
Date [bulk]:	1957-1999
Physical Description:	23.18 cubic feet 78 boxes, 2 oversize folders
Language of the Material:	English
Mixed Materials [folder]:	67 I-J
Mixed Materials [box]:	1-78
Abstract:	This collection documents much of the administrative and research aspects of the Ecological Studies of Wolves on Isle Royale (also referred to as the wolf-moose project) while under the direction of the research project's first and second primary investigators, Durward L. Allen and Rolf O. Peterson. Few materials are from John A. Vucetich, who began co-directing the project with Peterson in 2003. Research topics focus on wolves and moose, but include topics such as vegetation, birds, and small mammals. While most materials relate to Isle Royale, associated research in other geographical locations is also included. The collection includes correspondence, administrative and financial records, and substantial data files, field notes, reports, manuscripts, and publications created and written by Allen, Peterson, and research assistants and field technicians on the project. Also included are a complete run of published annual reports (1958-2010).

Preferred Citation

MTU-022, Ecological Studies of Wolves on Isle Royale Collection, Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections, Houghton, Michigan.

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Biography

Founded in 1958 by Dr. Durward L. Allen of Purdue University, Ecological Studies of Wolves on Isle Royale is the longest running continuous predator-prey study. The study focuses on the relationship between moose and wolves on Isle Royale and the various dynamic conditions affecting herd and pack population including climate and ecological factors. The seclusion of Isle Royale provides a unique opportunity for studying the wolf-moose relationship as it is a single predator-prey system. While officially titled Ecological Studies of Wolves on Isle Royale, the ongoing study is commonly referred to as the wolf-moose project. Before being established as an ongoing study, it was known under several names. These names include Isle Royale Wolf Project (1958-1960), Ecological Studies of the Beaver, Moose, and Wolf in Isle Royale National Park (1961-1963), Ecology and Coactions of the Moose on Isle Royale (1963-1964), Studies of the Moose and Wolves on Isle Royale (1964-1966), and Community Relationships and Population Dynamics of Terrestrial Mammals on Isle Royale, Lake Superior (1966-1970).

Rolf O. Peterson joined the project in the early 1970s. In 1975, Peterson took the lead on the project and the study was moved to Michigan Technological University. John A. Vucetich started as a field technician in the early 1990s and began co-directing the project's fieldwork with Peterson in the summer of 2003. Peterson retired from his faculty position at Michigan Tech in 2006 and has, as of 2012, continued to co-direct the project along with Vucetich.

Durward L. Allen was born October 11, 1910 in Uniondale, Indiana and died at the age of 87 on October 17, 1997. Allen received a Ph.D. in vertebrate ecology at Michigan State College (now Michigan State University) in 1937 and began work at Purdue University as professor of wildlife ecology in 1954. He initiated the wolf-moose project in 1958, culminating in the publication of his acclaimed book, *Wolves of Minong* (1979). Allen retired from Purdue in the mid-1970s, but continued on the faculty as professor emeritus and continued directing the wolf-moose project until 1975.

Rolf O. Peterson received his B.S. in zoology in 1970 from the University of Minnesota, Duluth. In 1974 he completed his Ph.D. in wildlife ecology from Purdue University. While at Purdue, Peterson began working with Allen on the wolf-moose project, and then joined the Michigan Tech faculty in 1975 when he took the lead on the project. Peterson's wife, Carolyn Peterson, has also assisted in fieldwork and their two sons, Trevor and Jeremy, have spent many of their summers on Isle Royale.

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Collection Scope and Content Summary

The materials in this collection date from 1830-2010, with the bulk of material from 1957-1999. The few items that date to earlier than the mid-1950s are largely related to Isle Royale, and were likely collected as background research before this ecological study began. This collection documents much of the administrative and research aspects of the Ecological Studies of Wolves on Isle Royale (also referred to as the wolf-moose project) while under the direction of both Durward L. Allen and Rolf O. Peterson, covering the full time periods for each of their durations as head of the project. Few materials are from John A. Vucetich, who began co-directing the project with Peterson in 2003. Research topics focus on wolves and moose, but include topics such as vegetation, birds, and small mammals. While most materials relate to Isle Royale, associated research in other geographical locations is also included.

The collection consists of materials largely created, collected and used by Allen and Peterson, but also contains substantial data files, field notes, reports, and manuscripts created and written by students, research assistants and field technicians on the project. These include Ronald L. Bell, Thomas Bradner, John A. Coble, James M. Dietz, Peter A. Jordan, John C. Keeler, L. David Mech, Kenneth Risenhoover, Larry J. Roop, Joseph M. Scheidler, Philip C. Shelton, Philip W. Stephens, John D. Vanada, and Michael L. Wolfe among others. Other members of the project are also included, like filmmaker George Desort and pilot Don Murray. This collection is comprised of a variety of formats: correspondence, financial documents, dissertations, manuscripts, annual reports, data collection files, field notes, books, magazines, newspaper articles, journal articles, brochures, press releases, newsletters, field guides, photographic prints, negatives, and slides, microfiche, maps, transparencies, and various magnetic and optical media (18 VHS, 2 videocassettes, 4 DVDs, 6 DVD-Rs, 1 3 ½" and 1 5 ½" floppy disk).

Administrative aspects are documented mainly through the correspondence of Allen and Peterson and through grant proposals and applications, as well as through expense reports, supply orders, travel records, personnel documents, and subject files concerning Isle Royale. These materials give significant insight into the funding of this study over half a century and the logistics of carrying out research in a remote location.

Research aspects of the project are documented through background resources, data collection files, field notes, digital files on floppy disks, hand-drawn and computer-rendered maps, charts, and graphs, as well as published maps and visual documentation in the form of photographic prints, negatives, slides, and video footage. The field notes comprise a significant portion of these files, with 169 notebooks from 25 different researchers, dating from 1960-2009.

The project's research is further documented through both published and unpublished forms of research output including manuscripts, theses and dissertations, presentation materials, reports and publications. Publication formats include books, newspaper articles, journal articles, magazines, press releases, newsletters, brochures, field guides, and produced videos and DVDs. These publications are generally written by a researcher on the project or are about or related to the wolf-moose project. Annual reports are extant from 1958-2010, including some original

copies and preparation files, providing a summary of each year's research findings as well as information on personnel and funding for the year.

Other materials in the collection document a more personal side of the project, largely through Peterson's personal correspondence, correspondence between Allen and Peterson, a file of fan letters to Allen for the film Wolf-Men, a file on Allen's memorial service, photos of people, and publications about those working on the wolf-moose project.

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Arrangement

The collection is arranged into 4 series, some with subseries, and then arranged chronologically. The exceptions are Series 4, Research output, which further divides the Reports subseries into Annual and seasonal reports and Subject reports, and the subseries Publications which is first arranged alphabetically by format, then chronologically.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections

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Houghton 49931

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Conditions Governing Use

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Access

Available for use in the Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections.

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Related Materials

Related Archival Materials

Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections:
Copper Country Vertical Files: Isle Royale National Park—Wolf & Moose Study Mammals—
Moose Mammals—Wolves

Biographical Files: Allen, (surname) Peterson, Rolf, Carolyn, Jeremy, Trevor

Ecological studies of beavers, wolves, and moose in Isle Royale National Park, Michigan /
by Philip Clarence Shelton. Thesis(Ph.D.)—Purdue University, 1966. F572.I8 S45 ARCH

Wolf ecology and prey relationships on Isle Royale / Rolf Olin Peterson. Washington :
National Park Service, Dept. of the Interior : for sale by the Supt. of Docs., U.S. Govt. Print.
Off., 1977 i.e. 1978. QL737.C22 P47 1977

The wolves of Isle Royale : a broken balance / by Rolf O. Peterson. Minocqua, Wisc. :
Willow Creek Press, 1995. QL737.C22 P475 1995 ARCH

The wolves of Isle Royale : a broken balance / Rolf O. Peterson. Ann Arbor : University of
Michigan Press, 2007. QL737.C22 P475 2007

A view from the wolf's eye / by Carolyn C. Peterson ; with illustrations by Trevor S.
Peterson. Houghton, Mich. : Isle Royale Natural History Association, c2008. F572.I8 P48
2008 ARCH

Fortunate wilderness : the wolf and moose study of Isle Royale / a film by George Desort.
[United States : s.n., 2009?] DVD QL737.C22 F68 2009

Michigan Technological University, J. R. Van Pelt Library and John and Ruanne Opie
Library:

Wolf ecology and prey relationships on Isle Royale. Thesis (Ph.D.)—Purdue University,
1974. QL737.C22 P47

Wolves of Minong : their vital role in a wild community / Durward L. Allen. Boston : Houghton Mifflin, 1979. QL737.C22 A44

Wolves : behavior, ecology, and conservation / edited by L. David Mech and Luigi Boitani. Chicago, Ill. : University of Chicago Press ; Bristol : University Presses Marketing [distributor], 2006. QL737.C22 W6477 2006

Other sources:

Current project information and annual reports (1995-) are available at: <http://www.isleroyalewolf.org>

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Controlled Access Headings

- Press releases
- Slides (photographs)
- Transparencies
- Videocassettes
- Birds -- Michigan -- Isle Royale
- Ecology -- Michigan -- Isle Royale National Park
- Mammals -- Michigan -- Isle Royale National Park
- Animal communities -- Michigan -- Isle Royale National Park
- Annual reports
- DVDs
- Predation (Biology) -- Michigan -- Isle Royale National Park
- Digital photographs
- Moose -- Michigan -- Isle Royale National Park
- Field recordings
- Field notes
- Field guides
- Isle Royale National Park (Mich.)
- Floppy disks
- Financial records
- Gray wolf -- Michigan -- Isle Royale National Park
- Graphs
- Isle Royale (Mich.)
- Wolves -- Michigan -- Isle Royale
- Wilderness areas -- Michigan -- Isle Royale National Park -- Management
- Keweenaw County (Mich.)
- 3/4-inch (videotape)
- CDRs (Recordable compact discs)

- Clippings (Information artifacts)
- Correspondence
- Photographic prints
- Newsletters
- Negatives (Photographic)
- Microfiche
- Maps (Documents)
- Manuscripts (Document genre)
- Magazines (periodicals)
- Journals (periodicals)
- Michigan Technological University

Researchers, authors, project members, producers, and correspondents

- Ackerman, Timothy N.
- Allen, Durward L.
- Bell, Ronald L.
- Beyer, Jr., Dean E..
- Bradner, Thomas
- Brooks, John W.
- Cain, Stanley A.
- Coble, John A.
- Cochrane, Jean Fitts
- Cole, James E.
- Cramer, Mark S.
- Desort, George
- Dietz, James M.
- Dixon, Kenneth R.
- Doyle, Jane P.
- Haber, Gordon C.
- Hanson, Noel
- Hawver, Blyden
- Irmiger, Robert A.
- Janke, Robert
- Jensen, Gendron
- Jordan, Peter A.
- Keeler, John C.
- Knauer, William W. II
- Krefting, Lauritis W.
- Krumenaker, Bob
- Laske, Timothy G.
- Long, Mike
- Lonsway, Donald H.

- Mech, L. David
- Meier, Richard L.
- Miquelle, Dale George
- Mott, Angelique
- Murray, Don
- Neher, George
- Ogle, Thomas F.
- Page, Rich
- Peterson, Rolf O.
- Phillips, Mike
- Post, Eric
- Raisanen, Kristin
- Risenhoover, Kenneth
- Roell, Brian J.
- Roop, Larry J.
- Ruckel, Steven W.
- Salisbury, Mike
- Scheidler, Joe (Joseph) M.
- Seitz, William K.
- Shelton, Philip C.
- Smith, Douglas W.
- Stauber, Erik
- Stephens, Philip W.
- Stephens, Susan M.
- Stormer, F.
- Turner, Brian
- Vanada, John D.
- Vucetich, John A.
- Watt, James G.
- Wilcox, Jackie
- Wolfe, Michael L. Jr.
- Woolington, James D.

Collection Inventory

Correspondence, 1830-1999		
Title/Description	Instances	
Correspondence, 1931, 1944-1947	box 31	folder 1
Notes and early correspondence, 1944-1953	box 31	folder 2
Correspondence, 1952, 1956-1957, bulk 1957	box 31	folder 3
Correspondence, 1957-1958, undated, bulk 1958	box 31	folder 4

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Correspondence, 1957-1958, undated, bulk 1958	box 31	folder 5
Correspondence, 1959, undated	box 31	folder 6
Correspondence, 1959, undated	box 31	folder 7
Correspondence, 1959, undated	box 31	folder 8
Correspondence, 1959-1960, bulk 1960	box 31	folder 9
Correspondence, 1959-1960, bulk 1960	box 31	folder 10
Correspondence, 1960-1962, bulk 1961	box 32	folder 1
Correspondence, 1960-1962, bulk 1961	box 32	folder 2
Correspondence, 1962, undated	box 32	folder 3
Correspondence, 1963, undated	box 32	folder 4
Correspondence, 1963, undated	box 32	folder 5
Correspondence, 1963-1964, bulk 1964	box 32	folder 6
Correspondence, 1963-1964, bulk 1964	box 32	folder 7
Correspondence, 1964-1966, bulk 1965	box 32	folder 8
Correspondence, 1964-1966, bulk 1965	box 32	folder 9
Correspondence, 1966-1967, bulk 1966	box 33	folder 1
Correspondence, 1966-1967, bulk 1967	box 33	folder 2
Correspondence, 1968	box 33	folder 3
Correspondence, 1937, 1969, bulk 1969	box 33	folder 4
Wolf Men correspondence, 1969-1970, undated, bulk 1969	box 33	folder 5
Correspondence, 1969-1970, bulk 1970	box 33	folder 6
Correspondence, 1971	box 33	folder 7
Correspondence, 1972	box 33	folder 8
Correspondence, 1972-1976, bulk 1973	box 33	folder 9
Correspondence, 1973-1974, undated, bulk 1974	box 33	folder 10
Correspondence, 1940-1976, bulk 1975	box 33	folder 11
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Correspondence, 1940-1976, bulk 1975	box 33	folder 13
Correspondence, 1976, undated	box 34	folder 1
Correspondence, 1976, undated	box 34	folder 2
Correspondence, 1976, undated	box 34	folder 3
Correspondence, 1976, undated	box 34	folder 4

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Correspondence, 1976-1978, undated, bulk 1977	box 34	folder 5
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Correspondence, 1967, 1978-1980, bulk 1979	box 35	folder 1
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Correspondence, 1830, 1850, 1982-1983, undated, bulk 1982	box 35	folder 4
Correspondence, 1966, 1982-1984, bulk 1983	box 35	folder 5
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Correspondence, 1987-1990, bulk 1990	box 35	folder 12
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Correspondence, 1979-1980, 1993, bulk 1993	box 35	folder 15
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Correspondence, 1977, 1995, bulk 1995	box 36	folder 1
Correspondence, 1996	box 36	folder 2
Correspondence, 1997	box 36	folder 3
Correspondence, 1998-1999, undated	box 36	folder 4
Durward L. Allen memorial correspondence, 1984-1985, 1990-1999	box 36	folder 5
Book correspondence [The Wolves of Isle Royale: A broken balance], 1995, undated	box 36	folder 6
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Administrative records, 1957-1999

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Title/Description	Instances	
Park Service Agreement, 1957-1958, undated	box 37	folder 1
[Isle Royale National Park, general records], 1958-1962, undated	box 37	folder 2
Isle Royale [Natural Sciences] Research Plan, [National Park Service], March 1966	box 37	folder 3
Isle Royale Wilderness Hearings, 1967, undated	box 37	folder 4
Isle Royale Wilderness Plan, 1970-1971	box 37	folder 5
Isle Royale Management Implications 1976, 1971-1977	box 37	folder 6
Isle Royale Fire Policy, 1978	box 37	folder 7
[John M.] Morehead, [National Park Service], Statement for Management [and wolf research permits], 1977-1978	box 37	folder 8
[Isle Royale management, National Park Service], 1978-1980	box 37	folder 9
Natural and Cultural Resources Management Plan and Environmental Assessment, [National Park Service], August 1981	box 37	folder 10

Financial records, 1957-1999

Title/Description	Instances	
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Grant fiscal reports, 1958-1960	box 37	folder 13
[Budget proposals], 1958-1961	box 38	folder 1
Purchases pending, 1960-1966	box 38	folder 2
[Travel and other expenses], 1973-1977	box 38	folder 3
Cumulative, [funding and budget], 1975-1992	box 38	folder 4
Funding and budget, summer, 1987	box 38	folder 5
Mill Pond Press gift and Michigan Tech University fund, 1989-1990	box 38	folder 6
[Notebook on grants and foundations], circa 1990-1999	box 38	folder 7
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Travel records, 1958-1965

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Travel, Isle Royale, June 26-July 7, 1958, June 12-July 7, 1958	box 38	folder 10
Travel, Isle Royale, August 17-27, 1958, August 15-27, 1958	box 38	folder 11
Travel, Lost Lake at Isle Royale, June-July 1960	box 38	folder 12
Travel, Isle Royale, September 16-23, 1960, September 9-29, 1960	box 38	folder 13
Travel, Isle Royale, February 1961, January-March 1961	box 38	folder 14
Travel, Isle Royale, August 2-10, 1961, July-August 1961	box 38	folder 15
Travel, St. Joseph County Conservation Club, April 3, 1962	box 38	folder 16
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Travel, Philadelphia, PA and New Brunswick, NJ, April 25-29, 1963, April-August 1963	box 38	folder 22
Travel, North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference, Detroit, March 2-6, 1963, January-March 1963	box 38	folder 23
Travel, summer 1963, July-August 1963	box 38	folder 24
Travel, ACRES [Land Trust], October 4, 1963	box 38	folder 25
Travel, Yale and Washington, D.C., November 5-10, 1963, October-November 1963	box 38	folder 26
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Travel, Ames, Iowa, April 24-25, 1964, April 13-25, 1964	box 38	folder 29
Travel, Morehead, Kentucky, July 5-9, 1964, July 2-9, 1964	box 38	folder 30
Travel, Isle Royale, July 17-August 1, 1964, July 7-August 2, 1964	box 38	folder 31

Travel, 26th Midwest Wildlife Conference, Bloomington, IN, December 7-9, 1964, October-December 1964	box 38	folder 32
Travel, Isle Royale, February 1965, 1964-1965	box 38	folder 33
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Travel, Jackson, Wyoming, September 4-8, 1965, September 4-14, 1965	box 38	folder 35
Travel, Detroit Lakes, Minnesota, September 17-19, 1965	box 38	folder 36

Grants, 1958-1999

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National Science Foundation application and grant, beaver NSF G-13236, 1960-1964	box 39	folder 2
Moose, National Science Foundation G-23558, 1961-1966	box 39	folder 3
Isle Royale moose funds, 1962-1965	box 39	folder 4
Purdue Research Foundation, application for faculty research grant, 1963-1964	box 39	folder 5
Moose, AES [Agricultural Experiment Station] #1091, [U.S. Department of Agriculture], 1963-1965	box 39	folder 6
Application to National Geographic Society, 1964-1967	box 39	folder 7
[Research proposal, analysis of the Isle Royale ecosystem], circa 1970-1979	box 39	folder 8
Isle Royale, National Park Service proposals, 1978-1979	box 39	folder 9
National Park Service, Isle Royale and Voyageurs National Parks: proposals, correspondence, budgets, 1973-1977	box 39	folder 10
National Park Service, Isle Royale and Voyageurs National Parks: proposals, correspondence, budgets, 1973-1977	box 39	folder 11
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Long-Term Ecological Research proposal, Isle Royale preparation, January 1980, 1979-1980	box 40	folder 1
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National Science Foundation preparation, Isle Royale wolf-moose, 1974-1985	box 40	folder 4
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National Science Foundation REU [Research Experience for Undergraduates] proposal 1995, 1993-1998	box 42	folder 5
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Winter food lists, 1974-1977, undated	box 43	folder 1
Take to winter study, 1975-1976	box 43	folder 2
[Affidavit, Durward L. Allen], February 1976	box 43	folder 3
Isle Royale monograph mailing list, 1976-1981	box 43	folder 4
[Wolf population viability], 1981, 1989	box 43	folder 5
Isle Royale summer, 1982	box 43	folder 6
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Canine parvovirus, wolf handling issue, 1987-1989	box 43	folder 9

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[Michigan State] Senate Hearings, Game and Fish, Biennial Reports, 1915-1920, 1975	box 44	folder 2
[Durward L. Allen], old references and notes used in Wolves of Minong, 1921-1975	box 44	folder 3
[Michigan State Department of Conservation, moose trapping and transfer, Isle Royale], 1935-1937, 1975	box 44	folder 4
[Michigan State] Senate Hearings, Department of Conservation, Biennial Reports and Proceedings, 1921-1937	box 44	folder 5
[Early Isle Royale reports], 1931-1950	box 44	folder 6
Lester J. McCann, Time to cry wolf!, 1972	box 44	folder 7
[Isle Royale, Geological Survey Professional Paper 754-A, 754-B, 754-C, National Park Service, N. King Huber], 1973	box 44	folder 8

[Isle Royale information and publication lists, bibliography notes], 1905-1983	box 44	folder 9
Data collection, 1958-1999		
Title/Description	Instances	
L. David Mech, interviews, island history and observations, 1958-1961	box 75	folder 8
L. David Mech, moose necropsies, 1959-1961	box 75	folder 9
L. David Mech, moose observations, ground and aerial, 1958-1961	box 76	folder 1
L. David Mech, wolf behavior and observations, Summer/Winter 1958-1961	box 76	folder 2
Data collected, 1958-1968, undated	box 44	folder 10
Bone marrow and malnutrition, Isle Royale, 1958-1974	box 44	folder 11
Transparencies, Isle Royale, 1958-1976	box 44	folder 12
[Wolf-killed moose] summaries, 1958-1978	box 44	folder 13
Composite of wolf kills by year, 1959-1974	box 44	folder 14
Composition counts, moose, 1963-1975, undated	box 44	folder 15
[Peter A.] Jordan, moose autopsies, 1964-1965	box 44	folder 16
Elevation and vegetation, 1967-1972	box 44	folder 17
James M. Dietz, lipid content in moose bone marrow, 1969-1971	box 45	folder 1
Computer coding for Isle Royale moose necropsy data, 1969-1974	box 45	folder 2
Deer mouse testes report, 1966-1972, bulk 1971-1972	box 45	folder 3
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Wolf howling recordings, 1973	box 45	folder 5
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Autopsy card changes, 1973, undated	box 45	folder 7
[Rolf O.] Peterson and [Durward L.] Allen 1974, raw data, summaries, moose feet movements, 1959-1972, undated	box 45	folder 8
Moose lists, summaries and observations, Isle Royale, 1960-1975, undated	box 45	folder 9
George Neher, moose arthritis, 1972-1974	box 45	folder 10

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