

Helicopter Survey of Mule Deer

Stratified Random Sampling Very Widely Used in Wildlife Research

Mule Deer Helicopter Example from Kufeld et al (1980) Journal of Wildlife Management, 44, 632-639.

8 strata of different sizes based on different regions in different habitats.

Sampling Unit is a plot where a complete count of mule deer is made or at least attempted (see later comment).

- Very good example of use of the standard stratified sampling methodology. Individual stratum total estimates and then overall population estimates (sum of the stratum estimates).

Example based on Helicopter Survey : Detection Probability Issues

- Reasonable precision of estimates
 - There is no adjustment for detectability. Assumes all animals seen in each plot. This is likely untrue!
 - There is likely a negative bias on the population estimates
 - This is a subject of another class ST 506
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