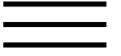


Bison and deer bone mineral densities: comparisons and implications for the interpretation of archaeological faunas.

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Abstract

Volume bone mineral densities are derived for modern bison skeletal parts using dual energy X-ray densitometry. These density measurements are compared to those published by Lyman (1984) *Journal of Anthropological Archaeology* **3**, 259–299, for small cervids; differences that exist can be explained in terms of body size and patterns of locomotion. Density data then are compared to skeletal part frequencies from two Great Plains bison assemblages. Bison bone mineral densities provide a more appropriate model than do cervid densities for examining variability in large bovid bone assemblages, and point to the need for constructing similar data bases for other taxa.



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Keywords

Bison; Deer; Taphonomy; Bone Mineral Density; Dual Energy X-Ray Densitometry

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