

Similar features to a Mineral Lick

Wallow - how to distinguish:

- Wallows are typically larger, have a greater depression, and are wetter/muddier
- Wallows are typically in water receiving areas, although dry wallows do exist
- Wallows are on flat terrain, not hill sides or cliffs
- Wallows may have a stronger smell of urine
- Wallows do not contain licking/ sucking marks



Photos left to right: Karl Bachmann, Tatiana Gettelman.

Information to Consider

- **Sensitive Timing: April 1 – October 1**
- Do not construct roads within 200 m of a significant lick, unless no other practical option exists. Maintain a visual screen between any roads (existing or built) and the lick.
- If no longer needed, reclaim any existing roads within 200 m of the lick.
- Maintain a minimum 100 m buffer of intact forest around significant licks; this buffer should include at least two primary trails leading to the lick and connect adjacent forest to provide a windfirm travel corridor.
- Avoid conducting field reconnaissance, layout, cruising, or tree planting within 100 m of a significant lick from April 1 to October 1 (where possible). Leave the area if animals are observed approaching or at the site.

A SIGNIFICANT MINERAL LICK

Definition

A naturally occurring mineral lick that is used at least annually by one or more species as evidenced by:

- well-established trails or braided trail systems leading to the mineral lick site,
 - extensive excavation or trampling and/ or
 - teeth marks, pellets, tracks and hair

Location

- Not associated with any particular habitat type
- Found in seepage areas (wet or mucky licks), dry earth exposures such as clay or lacustrine deposits often found above river cutbanks, and rock face licks

Features

- Some licks with exposed mineral crystallization are easily recognizable due to their white or colourful mineral deposits; other licks are nondescript and only appear as bare soil areas or muddy slopes
- Most licks will have many visible, well used wildlife trails and the area will be trampled
- Vary greatly in size but usually several m²

Notes

- Mineral licks are relatively uncommon across the landscape and some ungulates will travel extensive distances (e.g., over 15 km) to visit them
- Three types of mineral licks are generally recognized:
 1. wet or mucky mineral licks found in seepage areas;
 2. dry earth exposures, such as clay or lacustrine deposits, often found above river cut banks; and
 3. rock face mineral licks.