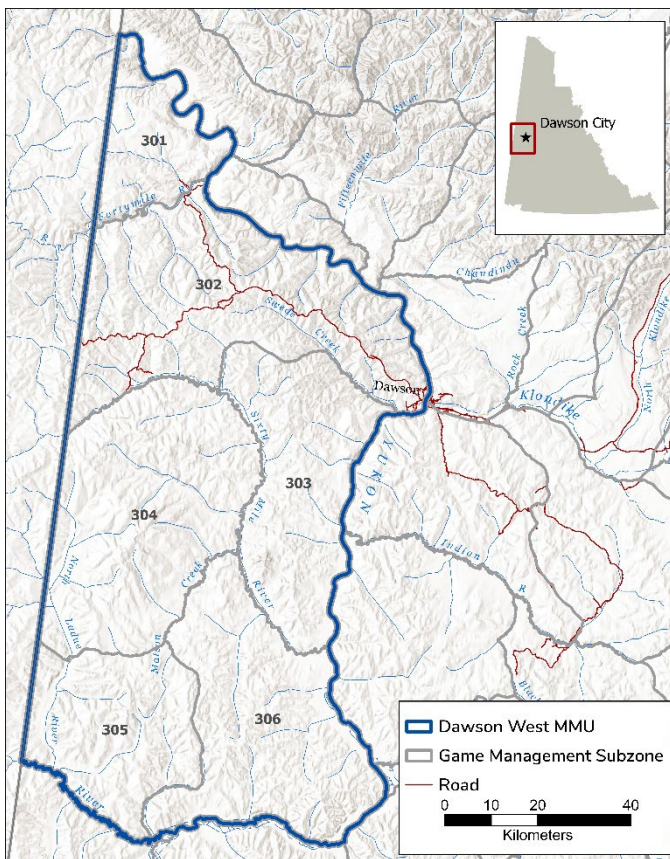




# Dawson West Moose Management Unit

Early-Winter Moose Survey – November 1-19, 2017



## Survey Area

The Dawson West Moose Management Unit (MMU) is located West of Dawson City and is within Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Traditional Territory.

## Acknowledgements

We thank Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and the Dawson District Renewable Resource Council for their support. We also thank our many local observers and our pilots Scott Turner (Great River Air), Jules Leonard and Andrew Crane (TRK).

## Survey Area Results

### GMS

301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306

### SURVEY AREA

9,256 KM<sup>2</sup>

### MOOSE DENSITY IN MOOSE HABITAT

189/1,000 KM<sup>2</sup>

### TOTAL MOOSE

1,718

### TOTAL ADULT BULLS

531

### ADULT BULLS/100 ADULT COWS

65

### CALVES/100 ADULT COWS

21

### YEARLINGS/100 ADULT COWS

23

## Survey Overview

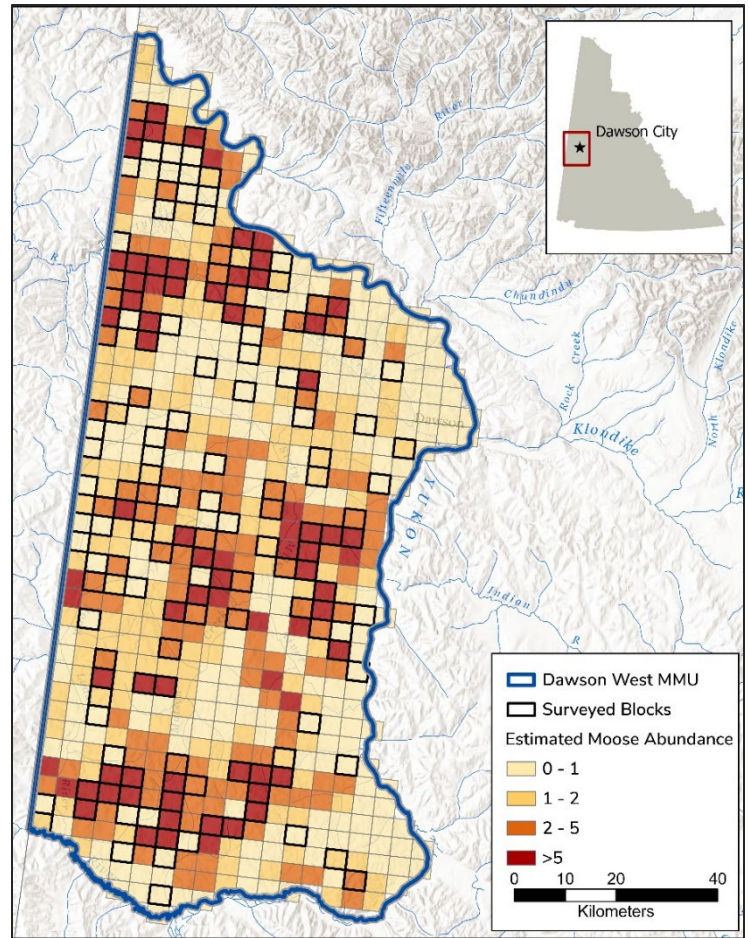
The purpose of this survey was to estimate the abundance, distribution, and composition of moose in the Dawson West MMU, and to use this information to evaluate current harvest levels. We counted moose in 167 of 607 survey blocks, or about 28% of the survey area. A total of 893 moose were observed (287 mature bulls; 469 mature and yearling cows; 51 yearling bulls; and 86 calves). We observed the highest numbers of moose in the subalpine, and in areas that had previously burned.

## Survey Method

In the Yukon we use a model-based approach that incorporates local knowledge and habitat information (i.e. fire history, land cover, vegetation type and percent cover, and elevation). We use the information from surveyed blocks to estimate the number of moose in blocks that were not surveyed, and adjust the total number of moose observed and estimated to account for moose that were missed (5% sightability error).

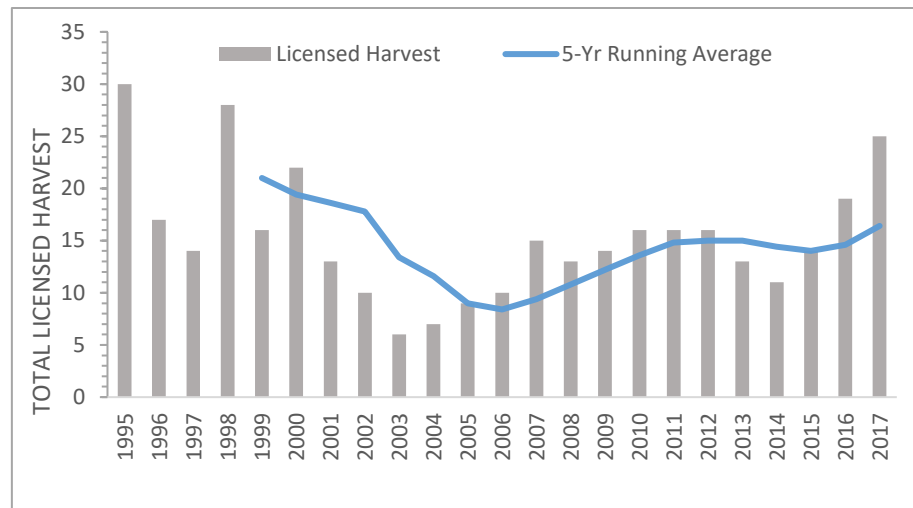
## Survey Results

We estimated **1,718 (1,501-1,967)** moose in the Dawson West survey area. This equates to a density of **189 moose per 1,000 km<sup>2</sup> of suitable moose habitat** which is within the typical range of moose densities in Yukon (100-250/1,000 km<sup>2</sup>). We estimated a total of 531 adult bulls in the survey area and **65 adult bulls per 100 adult cows**, which is above the minimum recommended level in our Science-based Guidelines for Management of Moose in Yukon (30 Bulls, Environment Yukon, 2016). We estimated **23 yearlings per 100 adult cows**, which is above the average of areas surveyed in the Yukon (18 yearlings). We estimated **21 calves per 100 adult cows**, which is below the average of other areas surveyed in the Yukon (29 calves).



## Harvest

The 5-year average annual reported licensed harvest in the MMU preceding this survey (2013-2017) was 17 bulls. We estimate the sustainable harvest in the MMU to be 53 bulls annually (see full report for details). This was the first census survey of the entire Dawson West MMU, so population trend data for the MMU are not available. First Nation harvest information is also required to accurately monitor the level of harvest in this population to ensure it remains sustainable.



## FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

Paul Boyce, North Yukon Regional Biologist, Department of Environment: [Paul.Boyce@yukon.ca](mailto:Paul.Boyce@yukon.ca)

Sophie Czetwertynski, Moose Program Biologist, Department of Environment: [Sophie.Czetwertynski@yukon.ca](mailto:Sophie.Czetwertynski@yukon.ca)