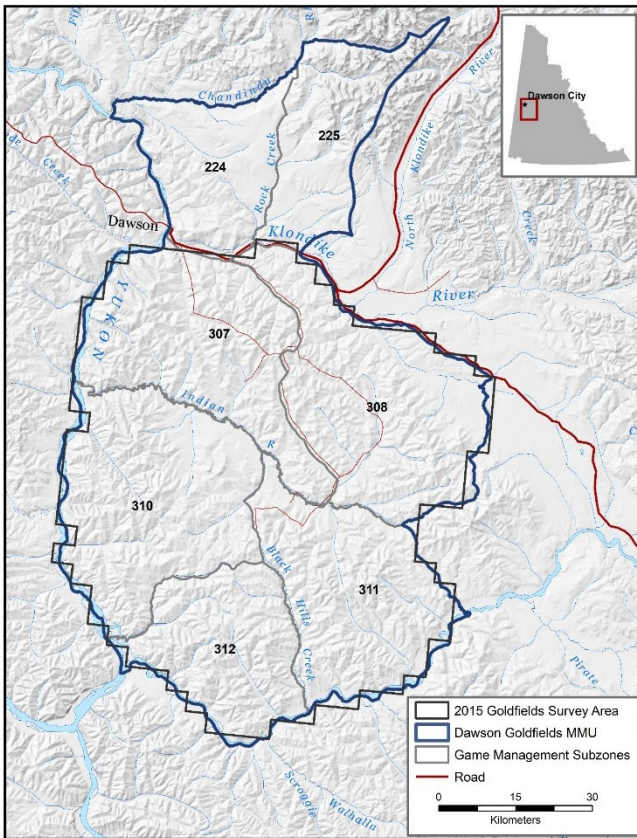




# Goldfields Moose Management Unit (MMU)

Early-Winter Moose Survey – November 11-19, 2015



## Survey Area Results

### GMS

307, 308, 310, 311, 312

### SURVEY AREA

5983 KM<sup>2</sup>

### MOOSE DENSITY IN MOOSE HABITAT

268/1000 KM<sup>2</sup>

### TOTAL MOOSE

1583

### TOTAL ADULT BULLS

396

### ADULT BULLS/100 ADULT COWS

46

### CALVES/100 ADULT COWS

29

### YEARLINGS/100 ADULT COWS

11

## Survey Overview

The purpose of this survey was to estimate the abundance, distribution, and composition of moose in the Goldfields survey area, and to use this information to evaluate current harvest levels in the MMU. We counted moose in 117 of 390 survey blocks, or about 30% of the survey area (SA). A total of 857 moose were observed (235 mature bulls; 437 mature and yearling cows; 66 yearling bulls; and 119 calves). We observed the highest numbers of moose in the subalpine, and in areas that burned in 2004.

## 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 Area

The Goldfields Moose Management Unit (MMU) is located south of Dawson City and is within Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Traditional Territory. The Survey area represents 81% of the MMU.

## Acknowledgments

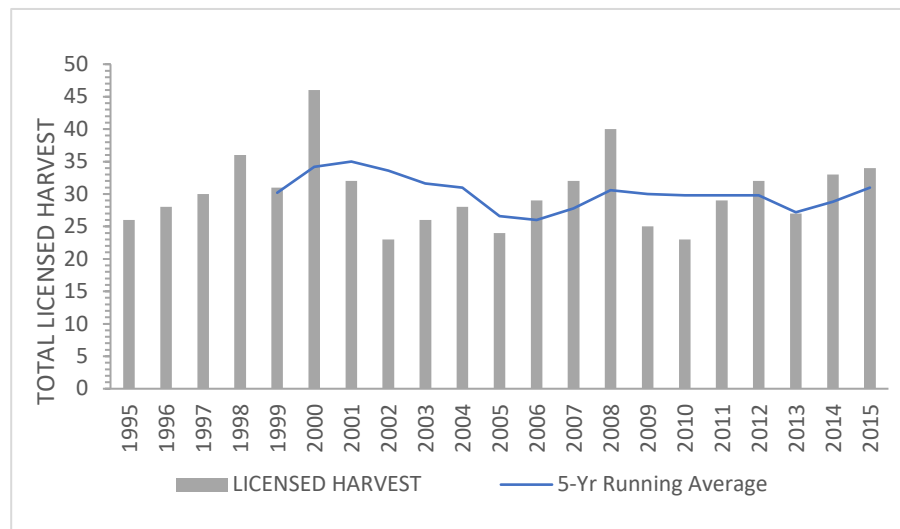
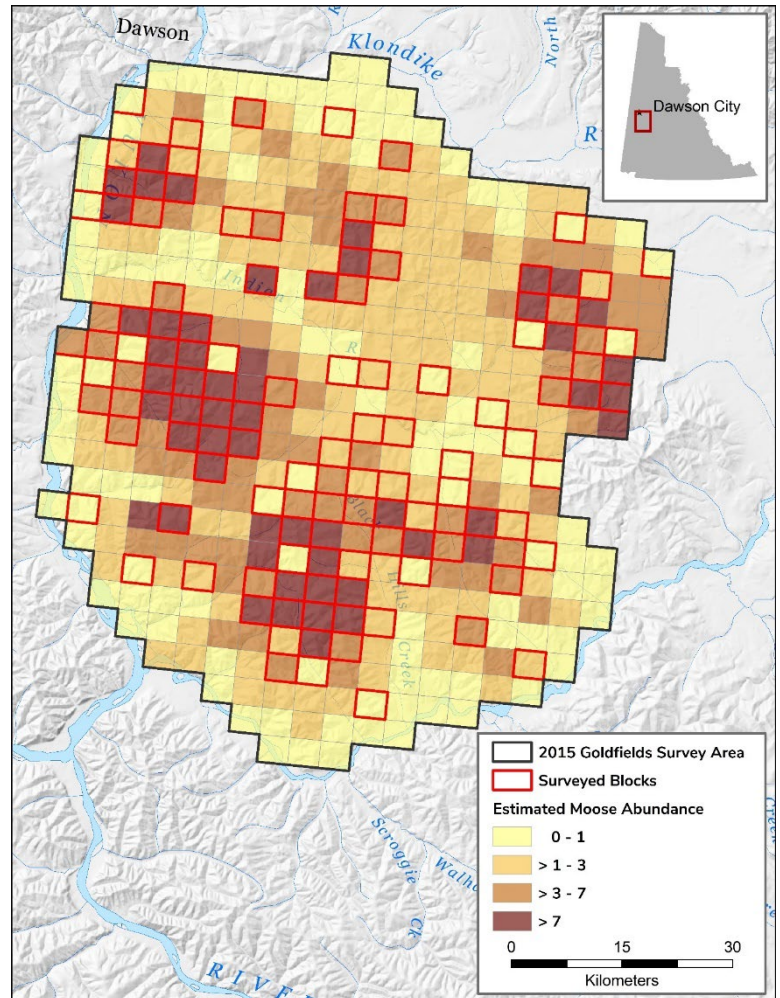
We thank Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and the Dawson District Renewable Resource Council for their support. We also thank our many local observers and our pilots Glen Wadsworth (Trans North Helicopters) and Mark Vansickle (TRK).

## Survey Results

We estimated **1583 (1449-1739)** moose in the Goldfields survey area. This equates to a density of **268 moose per 1000 km<sup>2</sup> of available moose habitat** which is above the typical range of moose densities in Yukon (100-250/1000 km<sup>2</sup>). We estimated a total of 396 adult bulls in the SA and **46 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 **11 yearlings per 100 adult cows**, which is below the average of areas surveyed in the Yukon (18 yearlings). We estimated **29 calves per 100 adult cows**, which is similar to other areas surveyed in the Yukon (29 calves).

## Harvest

Because we detected no change in this area since the last survey in 2008, our data indicate that the total harvest between the two surveys was sustainable. The 5-year average annual reported licensed harvest in the MMU preceding this survey (2016-2020) was 31 bulls. We estimate the sustainable harvest in the MMU to be 50 bulls annually (see full report for details). First Nation harvest information is required to accurately monitor the level of harvest in this population and ensure it remains sustainable.



## FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

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

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