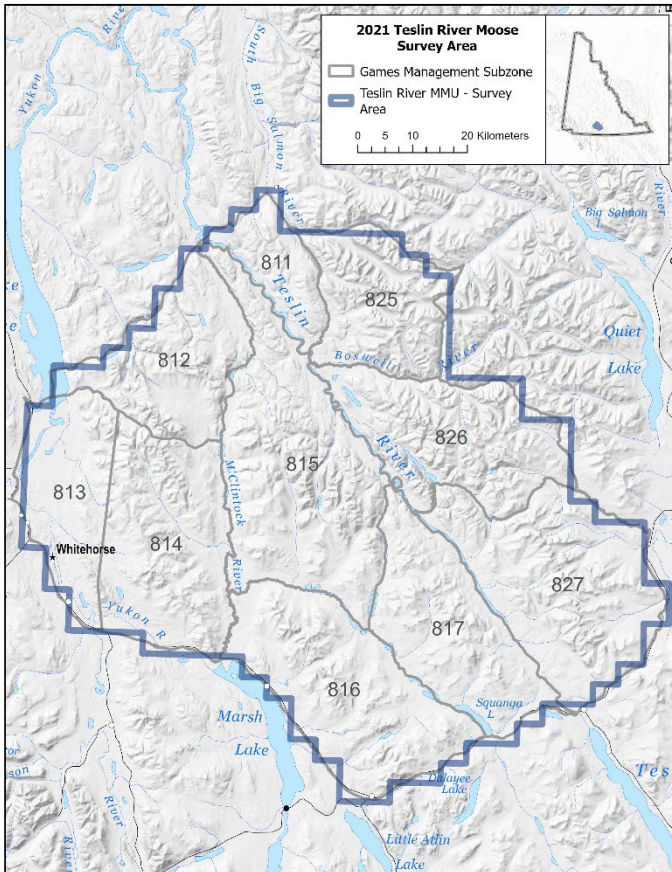




# Teslin River Moose Management Unit

Early-Winter Moose Survey – November 22-30, 2021



## Survey area

The Teslin River Moose Management Unit (MMU) is located northeast of Whitehorse. This survey marks the first comprehensive assessment of the entire Teslin River MMU, though sections of the MMU were previously surveyed in 2011, 2007, and 1999.

## Acknowledgments

We thank the Ta'an Kwäch'än Council and Laberge RRC for their support during this survey, as well as the pilots from Horizon Helicopters for their expertise.

## Moose Management Unit status

### GMS

8-11 to 8-17 and 8-25 to 8-27

### SURVEY AREA

7,697 KM<sup>2</sup>

### MOOSE DENSITY IN MOOSE HABITAT

172/1,000 KM<sup>2</sup>

### TOTAL MOOSE

1,178

### TOTAL ADULT BULLS

349

### ADULT BULLS/100 ADULT COWS

57

### CALVES/100 ADULT COWS

23

### YEARLINGS/100 ADULT COWS

13

## Survey overview

The purpose of this survey was to estimate the abundance, distribution and composition of moose in the Teslin River MMU, and to use this information to evaluate current harvest levels. We counted moose in 147 of 457 survey blocks, or about 32% of the total area. A total of 644 moose were observed (189 mature bulls; 355 mature and yearling cows; 23 yearling bulls; 75 calves; and 2 unclassified moose). We observed the highest numbers of moose in subalpine areas where there was abundant willow.

## Survey method

In the Yukon we use a model-based approach to estimate moose populations that incorporates local knowledge and habitat information (i.e., fire history, land cover, vegetation type and percent cover and elevation). We use information gathered from surveyed blocks to estimate the number of moose in non-surveyed areas. We adjust the total number of moose observed and estimated to account for moose that were missed.

## Survey results

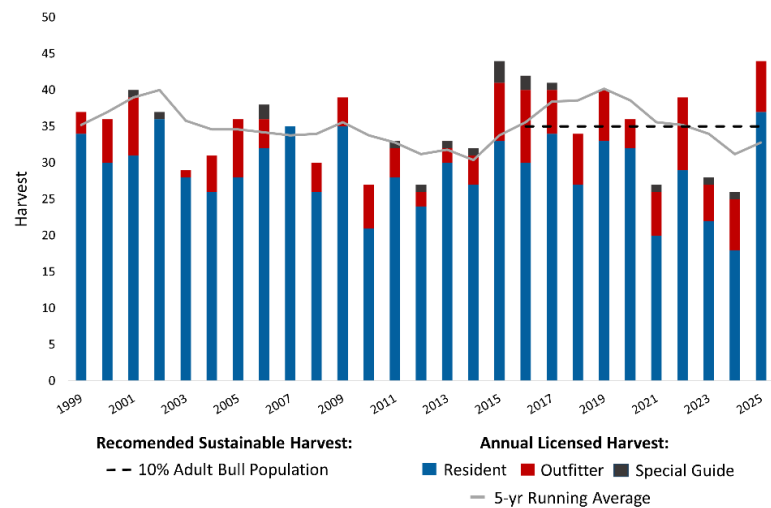
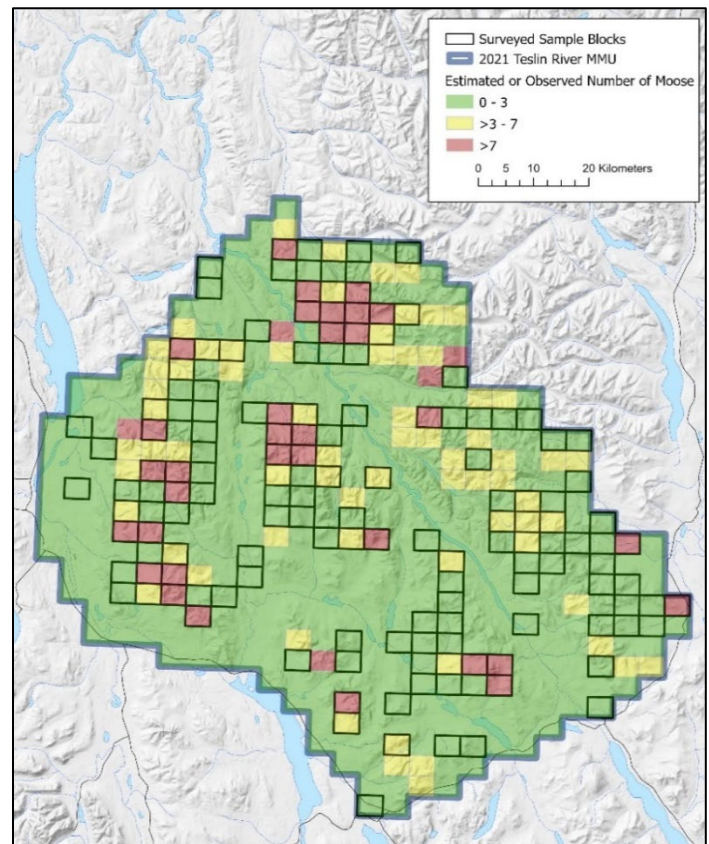
We estimated **1,178 (1,063 to 1,339)** moose in the Teslin River MMU. This equates to a density of **172 moose per 1,000 km<sup>2</sup> of suitable moose habitat**, which falls within the typical Yukon range (100 to 250 per 1,000 km<sup>2</sup>). We estimated 349 adult bulls, or **57 adult bulls per 100 adult cows**, which is above the recommended minimum (30 adult bulls per 100 adult cows). Yearling and calf ratios were **13 yearlings** and **23 calves per 100 adult cows**.

## Population trend

The entire MMU has not been previously surveyed. However, 65% of the south-western portion was surveyed in 2011 and within this area moose abundance declined (see full report for details).

## Harvest

We estimate that 35 bulls (10% of the 349 adult bulls) can be sustainably harvested annually in the MMU. Licensed harvest (resident, special guide, and outfitter) prior to the survey (2016 to 2020) averaged 39 bulls or 111% of the sustainable harvest. Licensed harvest from 2021 to 2025 (excluding 2022 harvest data due to Covid) averaged 31 bulls or 89% of the sustainable harvest. First Nation subsistence harvest is not available, so we estimate it to be equivalent to resident harvest. Therefore, we estimate annual average total harvest (reported licensed plus estimated First Nation subsistence) to be 70 bulls prior the survey (2016 to 2020) and 55 bulls or 157% of the sustainable harvest more recently (2021, 2023 to 2025). Actual First Nation harvest data is required to accurately assess total harvest.



## FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

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