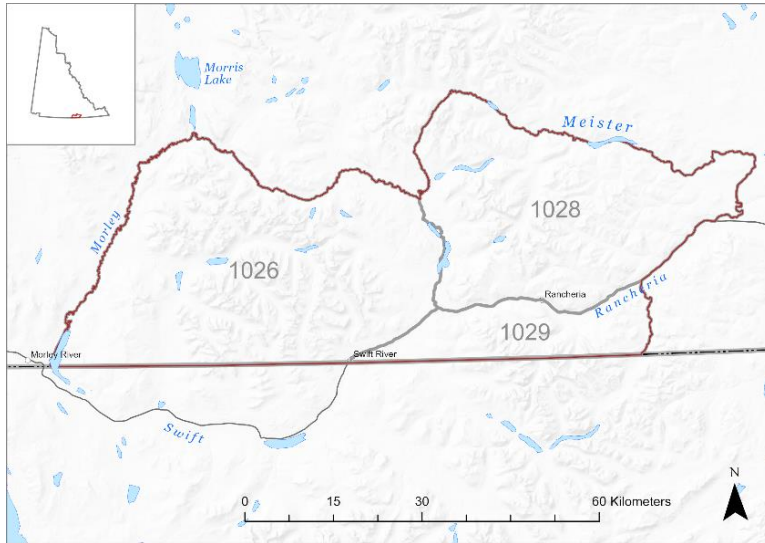# Yukon

Cassiar Mountains Moose Management Unit (MMU)

Early–Winter Moose Survey, November 10-19, 2020


Location

The Cassiar Mountains MMU (survey area) is located 40 km east of Teslin and north of the British Columbia border and is within the traditional territories of the Teslin Tlingit Council and Kaska Dena Council.

MMU Status

GMS: 10-26, 10-28, and 10-29

Survey Area: 3,523 km^2

Density (in moose habitat): 148 moose/1,000km^2

Total No. of Moose: 440

Total No. of Adult Bulls: 104

Adult Bulls / 100 Adult Cows: 44

Calves / 100 Adult Cows: 25

Yearlings / 100 Adult Cows: 16

Sustainable Harvest: 10 bulls

Avg. License Harvest: 12 bulls (2016-2020)

Harvest Statistics

The 5-year average licensed harvest in the Cassiar Mountains MMU is 12% of the adult bull population, which is slightly above the recommended sustainable harvest level of 10%. Reported First Nation Harvest information is not available for this MMU. Therefore, to estimate total harvest (First Nation and licensed) we assume that the annual First Nation harvest is 1.5 times the average resident licensed harvest of 11.6 bulls, which equals 17 bulls. However, actual First Nation harvest data is required to accurately evaluate the total harvest in this moose population.
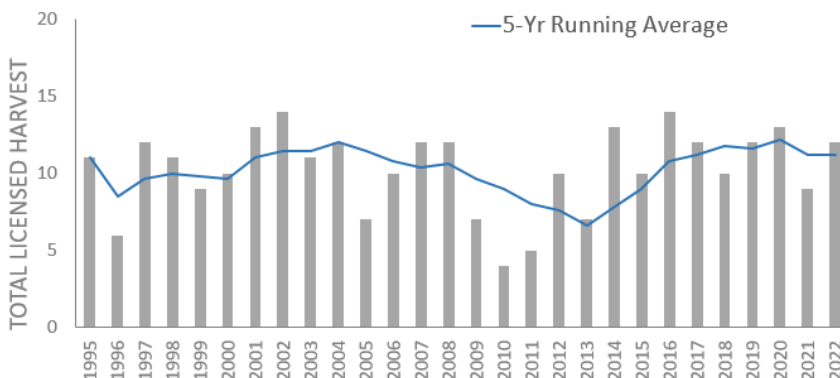
CASSIAR MOUNTAINS MMU
MOOSE HARVEST (2016-2020)
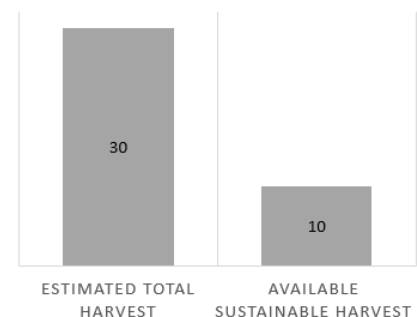
Census Results

Moose Survey Method

In the Yukon, we incorporate local knowledge and habitat information (i.e., fire history, land cover, vegetation type, slope, and elevation) into our survey methodology to ensure that we optimally sample the landscape. 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 (9% sightability error). Additionally, we used habitat and moose abundance information from a survey conducted concurrently in the area just south of the B.C. border to help model moose abundance in the Cassiar Mountains MMU. For additional details, consult the full report.

Survey Overview

The purpose of this survey was to estimate the abundance, distribution, and composition of the moose population in the Cassiar Mountains MMU, and to use this information to determine the sustainable harvest. We counted moose in 54 of 205 survey blocks, or about 26% of the MMU. A total of 195 moose were observed (44 mature bulls; 112 cows; 9 yearling bulls; 27 calves, and 3 moose of unknown sex and age class).

Population Estimate / Composition

We estimated **440 (331-611)** moose in the Cassiar Mountains MMU. This equates to a density of **148 moose per 1,000 km^2 of available moose habitat**, which is on the lower end of the typical range of moose densities of surveyed areas in the Yukon (100-250 / 1,000 km^2).

We estimated **25 calves and 16 yearlings per 100 adult cows**, which is slightly below the average observed across surveyed areas in the Yukon (29 calves and 18 yearlings per 100 adult cows).

We estimated **44 adult bulls per 100 adult cows**, which is above the minimum recommended in our Moose Management Guidelines.

2020 Cassiar Mountains Moose Survey

Cassiar Mountains Survey Area
Sampled Survey Blocks
Estimated or Observed Number of Moose
- 0 - 3
- 4 - 7
- >7

0   10   20   40 Kilometers

N

Population Status: We cannot determine whether the population is increasing, decreasing, or stable as no previous survey information exists for the Cassiar Mountains MMU. Results from this survey will serve as a baseline for which to compare future surveys.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

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