



Study specifics

Region: Beaver River Watershed,
Yukon

Survey Area: 5,600 km²

Survey Date: October 31 to
November 8, 2019

Number of moose seen: 631

Total population estimate: 989

Population density estimate:
205 per 1,000 km²

Beaver River watershed moose survey

Early winter 2019

Project objectives

The main purposes of this survey were to estimate the abundance, distribution, and composition of the moose population in the watershed before a proposed 65 kilometre all-season access road is built into this remote area.

Project background

This was the first population census for moose in the remote Beaver River watershed. These data can be used as a baseline for assessing the effects of any future developments or changes in harvest pressure.

Project overview

We conducted an early-winter survey of moose in the Beaver River watershed north-east of Mayo from October 31 through November 8, 2019 using helicopters.

Key findings

We counted all moose in survey blocks that covered about 40% of the survey area. We found a total of 631 moose: 184 adult bulls, 334 adult and yearling cows, 29 yearling bulls, and 84 calves.

We estimated a population of 989 moose (the probability that the population was between 883 and 1,103 is 90 per cent) for the survey area. This number is equal to a density of about 177 moose per 1,000 km² over the whole area, or 205 per 1,000 km² in suitable moose habitat. This is on the upper end of the range of typical

Yukon moose densities of 100 to 250 moose per 1,000 km² of moose habitat.

We estimated that there were about 30 calves and 19 yearlings for every 100 adult cows in the survey area. These ratios indicate that survival of calves born in 2019 and 2018 was about average compared to other Yukon areas surveyed.

We estimated that there were about 61 adult bulls for every 100 adult cows in the survey area. This adult sex ratio is approximately equal to the Yukon average from surveyed populations, and well above the minimum threshold of 30 bulls per 100 cows identified in our moose management guidelines.



For more information, please contact

Mark O'Donoghue: 867-996-2162
Northern Tutchone regional biologist

Sophie Czetwertynski: 867-332-5343
Ungulate biologist

