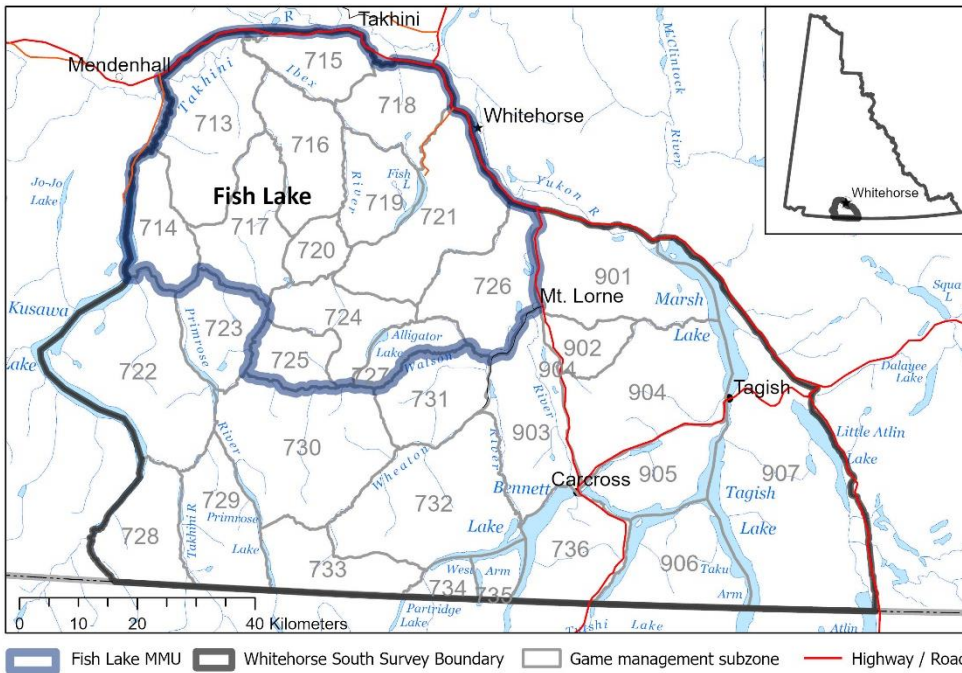




# Whitehorse South Survey Area: Fish Lake MMU

Early – Winter Moose Survey, November 22-29, 2021



## Moose 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 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 (9% sightability error).

## Fish Lake MMU Status

GMS: 7-13 to 7-21, 7-24 to 27

Survey Area: 2,969 km<sup>2</sup>

Density (in moose habitat): 273 moose / 1,000 km<sup>2</sup>

Sustainable Harvest: 21 bulls

Avg. Annual Licensed Harvest (2017-2021): 2.2 bulls

First Nation Harvest: Unknown

Total No. of Moose: 626

Total No. of Adult Bulls: 207

Adult Bulls / 100 Adult Cows: 82

Calves / 100 Adult Cows: 30

Yearlings / 100 Adult Cows: 36

## Location

The Fish Lake Moose Management Unit (MMU) is included in the Whitehorse South survey area and is located immediately west of Whitehorse and extends to Kusawa Lake. It is bounded by the Alaska Highway to the north and the Watson River to the south and is within the traditional territories of the Ta'an Kwäch'än Council and the Kwanlin Dün, Champagne and Aishihik, and Carcross/Tagish First Nations.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

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## Survey Results

### Survey Overview

The purpose of this survey was to estimate the abundance, distribution, and composition of the moose population in the Whitehorse South survey area, and to use this information to determine the sustainable moose harvest in the Fish Lake MMU. We counted moose in 88 of 176 survey blocks, or about 50% of the total area. A total of 448 moose were observed (147 mature bulls; 209 cows; 37 yearling bulls; 54 calves; and 1 unclassified moose).

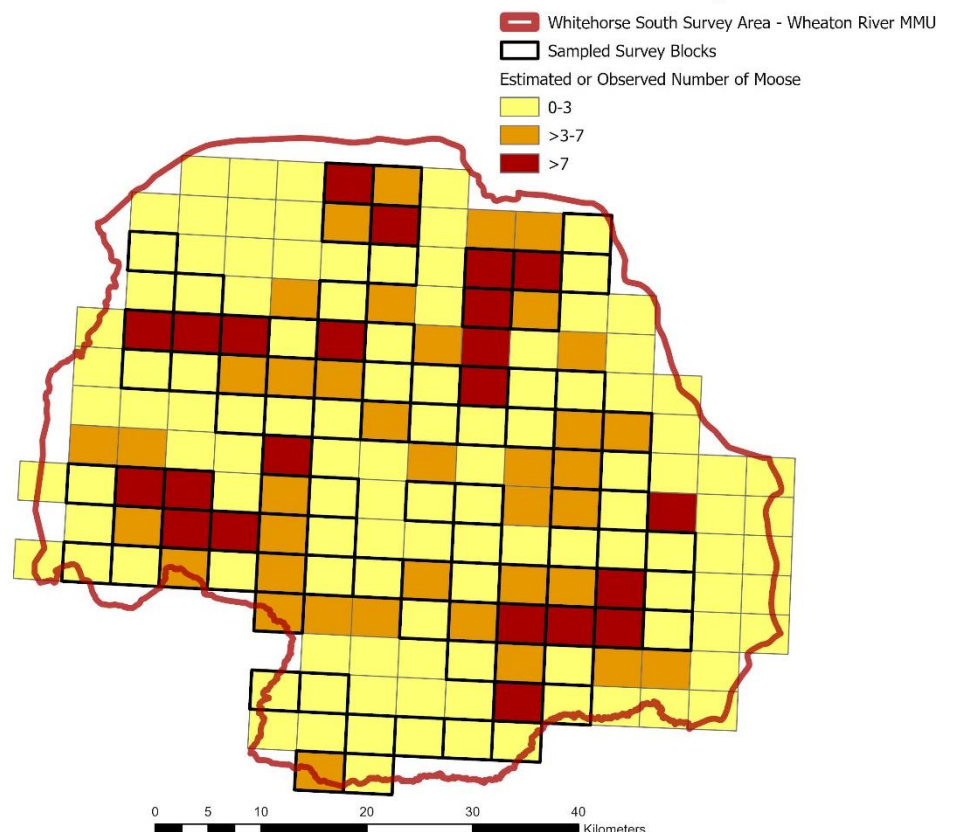
### Population Estimate/Composition

We estimate that there are **626 (580-686)** moose in the Fish Lake MMU survey area. This equates to a density of **273 moose per 1,000 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 **30 calves and 36 yearlings per 100 adult cows**, which is close to the average calves observed across surveyed areas in the Yukon and higher than the average observed yearlings (29 calves and 18 yearlings per 100 adult cows).

We estimate **82 adult bulls / 100 adult cows**, which is well above the minimum of 30 adult bulls / 100 adult cows that is recommended in our *Science-Based Guidelines for Management of Moose in Yukon*.

**Moose Survey Results for the Whitehorse South - Wheaton River MMU Survey Area**



## Acknowledgements

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