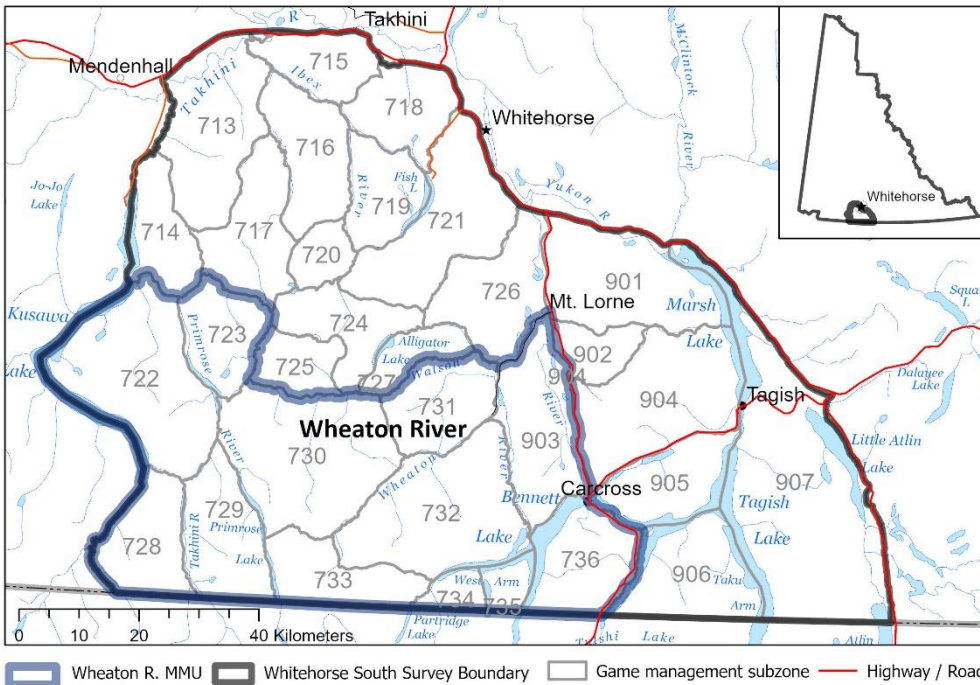




# Whitehorse South Survey Area: Wheaton River MMU

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) to survey moose. 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).

## Wheaton River MMU Status

GMS: 7-22, 7-23, 7-28 to 7-36, 9-03

Survey Area: 3,588 km<sup>2</sup>

Density (in moose habitat): 177 moose / 1,000 km<sup>2</sup>

Sustainable Harvest: 13 bulls

Avg. Annual License Harvest (2017-2021): 1 bull

First Nation Harvest: unknown

Total No. of Moose: 375

Total No. of Adult Bulls: 131

Adult Bulls / 100 Adult Cows: 73

Calves / 100 Adult Cows: 21

Yearlings / 100 Adult Cows: 13

### Location

The Wheaton River Moose Management Unit (MMU) is located within the Whitehorse South survey area, southeast of Whitehorse extending from the Watson River south to the British Columbia border. It is bounded by the South Klondike Highway to the east and Kusawa Lake and the Takhini River to the west and is within the traditional territories of the Carcross/Tagish First Nation and Champagne and Aishihik 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 Wheaton River MMU. We counted moose in 63 of 207 survey blocks, or about 30% of the total area. A total of 191 moose were observed (69 mature bulls; 99 cows; 6 yearling bulls; and 17 calves).

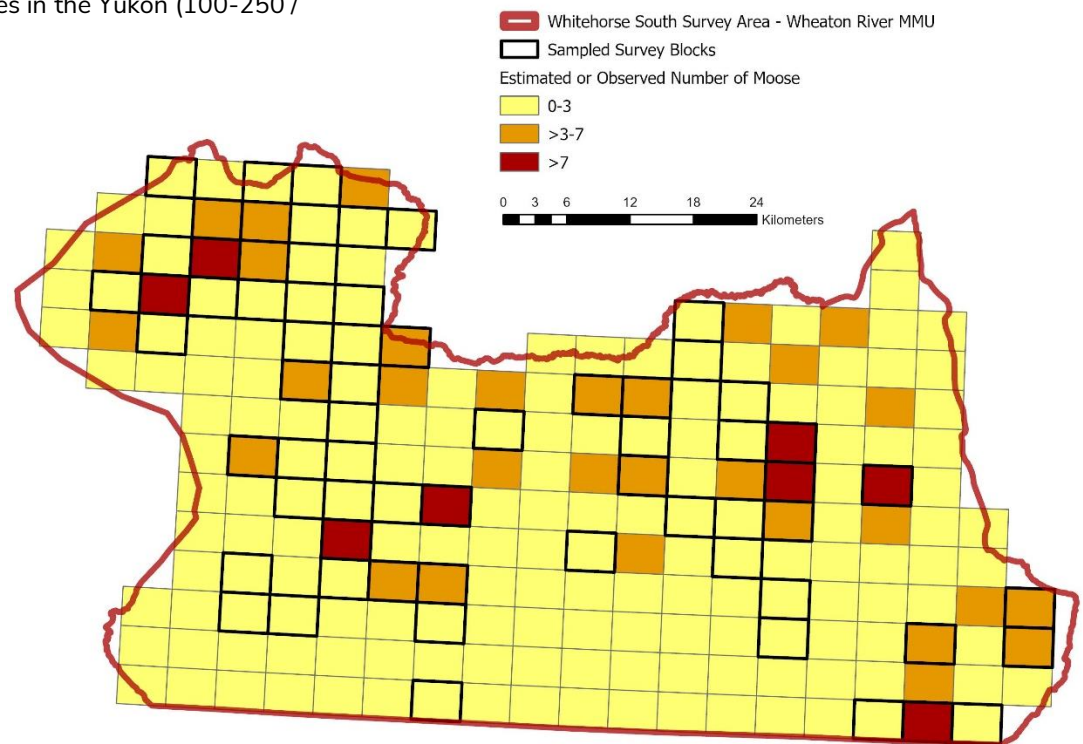
### Population Estimate / Composition

We estimate that there are **375 (319-439)** moose in the Wheaton River MMU. This equates to a density of **177 moose per 1,000 km<sup>2</sup> of available moose habitat** which is within the typical range of moose densities in the Yukon (100-250 / 1,000 km<sup>2</sup>).

We estimated **21 calves and 13 yearlings per 100 adult cows**, which is below the average observed across surveyed areas in the Yukon (29 calves and 18 yearlings per 100 adult cows).

We estimate **73 adult bulls / 100 adult cows**, which is well above the minimum of 30 adult bulls / 100 adult cows 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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