WHEATON RIVER

MOOSE SURVEY, NOVEMBER, 1980

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and

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The lower reaches of the Wheaton River have been identified as an environmentally significant area by Theberge et al 1980. The Wildlife Branch was contracted by Dr. Theberge to gather preliminary baseline data on moose in this area. (Map)

Because of the limited budget a detailed census could not be undertaken, however we were able to stratify the area. The stratum are classified relative to each other and do not have density values. No attempt was therefore made to determine a population estimate for the study area. Moose observed, track density and habitat type were the criteria used to establish strata boundaries.

A wandering flight pattern was used to stratify the area, however, more time was spent in salix/betula communities as they are preferred by moose. This high grading technique is useful in locating hot spots but it does not allow extrapolation of observed animals to determine densities as unknown percentages of each stratum were searched.

Moose were classified as: adult males or females by antlers or vulva patch; yearling male or female by body size and antlers; medium or large males by antler size; and calves by body size.

The survey was done on November 29 using a helicopter with three observers. The results of the survey follow. Numbers correspond to map locations.

1. 1 female, calf
2. 1 female
3. 1 female, calf
4. 1 female, calf
5. 2 female, 1 yearling female, 2 males (l)
6. 1 male (l)
7. 1 female, 1 yearling male, 2 males (l)
8. 1 female, calf
9. 2 female, calf, 1 male (l)
10. 1 female, calf
11. 1 female, calf
12. 1 female
13. 1 female
14. 2 males (l), 1 male yearling
15. 9 females, 2 calves, 1 yearling male, 4 males (m), 9 males (l), 1 yearling female
16. 1 female

Males: (l) large, (m) medium

TOTAL: 24 females, 9 calves, 2 yearlings females, 3 yearlings male, 4 medium male, 17 large male = 57

Ratios: 38 calves/100 females (2.5 + years)

92 males/100 females

Calves = 16% of the total population

These ratios are indicative of a healthy population especially inlight of the fact that hunting pressure is minimal, due to the lack of access in this area.

The seasonal movement of this population is unknown, but I would expect some vertical movement into the valley floor to occur later in the winter.

P.S. Feb. 26, 1980 - moose observations in Wheaton valley

- Numerous moose tracks observed in the valley bottom; highest concentration within the first couple of miles from Bennett Lake

- No moose sign at higher elevations

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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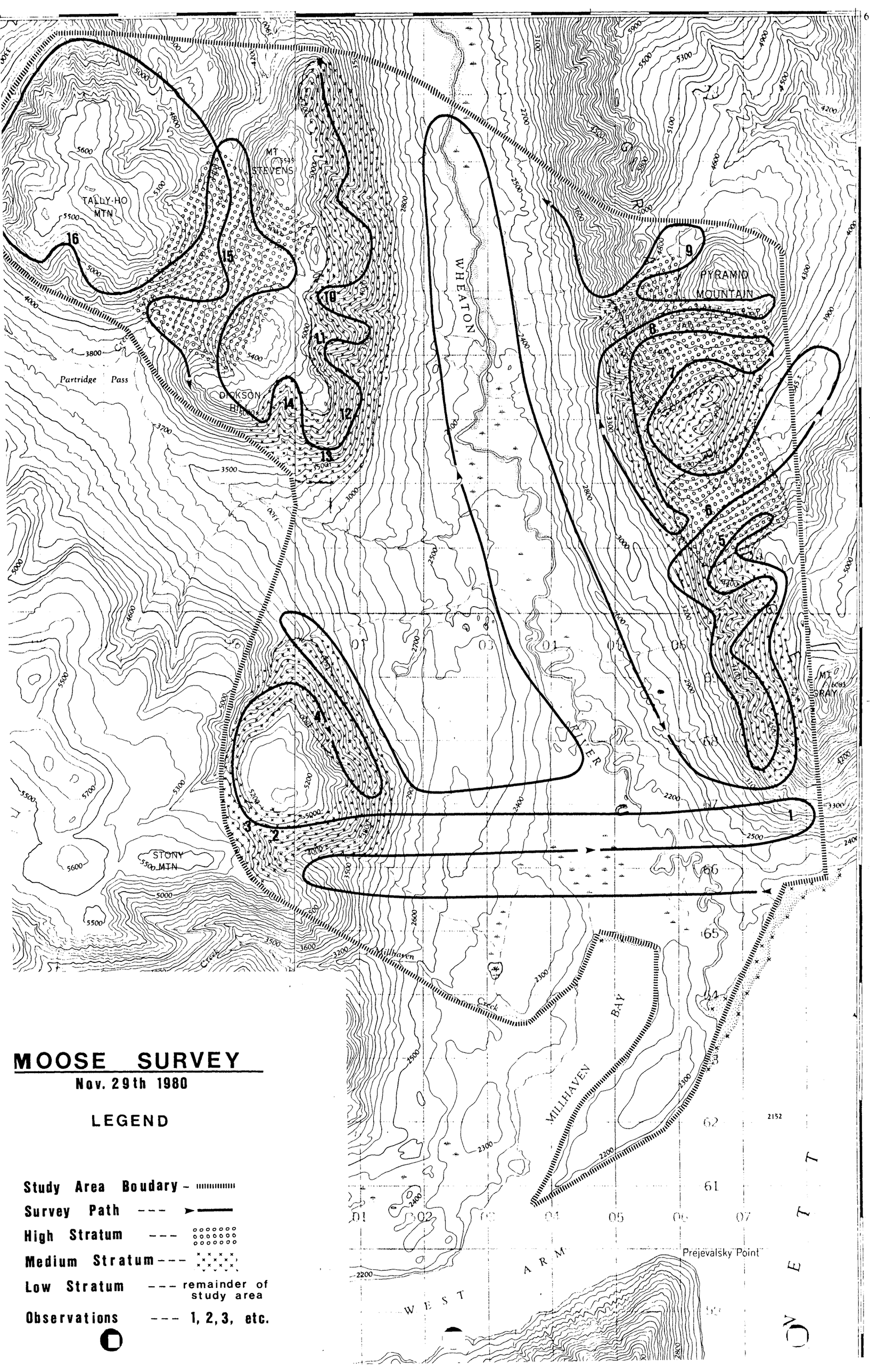
Theberge J. B., Nelson, J. G., Fenge, T. , 1980, "Environmentally Significant Areas of the Yukon". Canadian Arctic Resources Community. Yukon Series, Research Monograph Four, 34 pp.


MOOSE SURVEY
Nov. 29th 1980
LEGEND
Study Area Boudary
Survey Path
High Stratum
Medium Stratum
Low Stratum
remainder of study area
Observations
1, 2, 3, etc.
MT STEVENS
TALLY-HO MTN
Partridge Pass
DICKSON HILL
WHEATON
PYRAMID MOUNTAIN
STONY MTN
MILLHAVEN BAY
Millhaven Creek
Prejevalsky Point
WEST ARM
MT GRAY
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16