

# Government of Yukon



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## WILDLIFE BRANCH

OUR FILE 3997-5-14

YOUR FILE

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### G.M.Z. 7 - MOOSE WINTER SURVEY

Date: February 22, 1979

Aircraft: Bell 206 Helicopter

Pilot: D. Holden

Crew: D. Larsen  
M. Hoefs

Weather: Sunny, calm, -20°C

Survey Time: 1400 - 1700 hours

Survey Area: Haeckel Hill - North Ibex Mountain and adjacent valleys (see map)

Observations: A total of 55 moose (22♀♀, 12 calves, 11♂♂, 5 yearlings ♂♂, 5 unidentified) were observed on Haeckel Hill, North Ibex, Arkell Creek (N.E. side of valley) and adjacent valleys. The survey was confined to the shrub zone above treeline, along creeks and burnt areas in the valleys. These observations do not account for the total population, however, the sex-age ratios are representative.

An intensive coverage estimate of 50% has been used. A more accurate figure will be calculated later.

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A healthy sex ratio of 17♂♂:22♀♀ and calf crop of 12:22♀♀ were recorded. Assuming an equal number of yearling ♀♀ as yearling ♂♂ occur in the population, a calf ratio of 12:17♀♀ was observed. This converts into a 77% reproductive rate. Allowing for natural mortality, this figure is indicative of a healthy population as well.

Most of the observations were made between 3,000 - 4,000 feet elevation, around treeline. Ten animals were seen in the Ibex valley and five along the west face of Mt. Ingram (west of Arkell Creek).

Snow depth seemed to vary from approximately 1 foot to 2½ feet, depending upon the orientation of the slope to the prevailing winds.

The spatial and temporal distribution of moose in this area seems to be determined by the availability of browse, and not snow depth.

The following numbers correspond to map locations:

1. 1♂ yearling - antlers
2. 1♀
3. 1♂ - no antlers  
1♂ - no antlers
4. 1♂ - no antlers  
1♀ with calf
5. 1♀  
2♂ - no antlers
6. 1♀ with calf
7. 1♀ with calf
8. 1♂ yearling - antlers
9. 1♀ with calf  
1♀ with calf  
1♀
10. 1♀ with calf

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11. 1♀
12. 1♀
13. 1♀ with calf
14. 1♀  
1♀ with calf
15. 1♀  
1♀ with calf
16. 1♂ (2 gyrfalcons)
17. 1♂ (injured hind leg)
18. 1♀ with calf
19. 1♀, 1♂ yearling (antlers)  
1♂
20. 1♀
21. 1♂ yearling
22. 1♂
23. 1 unidentified moose
24. 1 unidentified moose
25. 1 unidentified moose
26. 1♀
27. 3 mule deer
28. 1♂  
1♂ yearling (still with antlers)
29. 1♀ with calf
30. 1♂
31. 1♀ with calf
32. 2 adult moose

♀ - 22

calves - 12

♂ (mature) - 11

♂ (yearling) - 5

unidentified - 5

TOTAL - 55 moose

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In addition to moose, three mule deer were observed between the confluence of the Ibex River with the Takhini River and where the highway crosses the Takhini River.

Seventeen sheep were seen on North Ibex Mountain and sixteen elk were observed three miles north of the junction of the Kusawa Lake road with the Alaska Highway. These observations are written up in a separate report (Hoefs).

D.L.

Feb 22, 1979

