

Government of Yukon

BOX 2703, WHITEHORSE, YUKON Y1A 2C6 TELEPHONE 403-667-5811 TELEX 036-8-260



WILDLIFE BRANCH

OUR FILE 3997-1-11
YOUR FILE

80 02 18

MOOSE SURVEY - G.M.Z. 7 - March, 1979

Survey data:

Date - March 1, 1979

Weather - high overcast, -18°C, calm

Area - Wheaton, Watson Rivers and Annie, Alligator Lakes

Period - 13:00 to 17:00 hours

Time - approx. 240 minutes

Aircraft - Bell 206

Observers - D. Larsen, D. Linklater, H. Kohler

Observations:

1. 1♀, 1yoy - 2,600 ft elevation
2. 1♂, 2yr1 ♂, 1♀, 1 unident. - 2,700'
3. 1♀, 1yoy - 2,700'
4. 1♀, 1yoy - 2,700'
5. 1♂ - 3,800'
6. 2♀♀ - 2,600'
7. 1♂ - 3,400'
8. 1♀ - 3,800'
9. 1♀ - 4,300'
10. 5♂♂, 1yr1 ♂, 1♀ - 3,400'
11. 4♂♂, 2♀♀ - 4,600'
12. 2♂♂ - 4,700'
13. 1yr1 ♂ - 4,200'
14. 4♂♂ - 4,300'
15. 1♀ - 3,200'
16. 1♂, 1yr1 ♂, 1yoy - 3,200'
17. 1♀, 1yoy - 5,100'

.../2

Moose Survey
March 1, 1979
Page 2

18. 1♀, 1yoy - 4,200'
19. 1♀, 1yoy - 5,000'
20. 1♀ - 3,000'
21. 1♀ - 3,000'
22. 1♀ - 3,000'
23. 2♀♀, 1yoy - 3,400'
24. 1♀ - 4,500'
25. 1♂, 1♀ - 4,900'
26. 1♂, 4♀♀, 2yoy - 3,700'
27. 1♀ - 4,800'
28. 1♀ - 5,000'
29. 2♂♂, 3♀♀ - 5,000'
30. 2♀♀, 2yoy - 4,300'
31. 1♀, 1yoy - 4,800'
32. 2♀♀, 2yoy - 4,900'
33. 1♂, 1♀, 1yoy - 3,700'
34. gyrfalcon
35. 2♂♂ - 4,000'
36. 1♀, 1yoy - 4,900'
37. 1♀, 1yr1 - 4,800'
38. 1♀, 1yoy - 4,300'
39. 2♂♂, 1♀ - 4,300'
40. 2♂♂, 1♀, 1yoy - 4,200'
41. 2♀♀, 1♂, 1yr1 ♂ - 4,300'
42. 1♂ - 4,300'
43. 2♂♂, 1♀ - 4,300'

Totals: A total of 105 moose were observed (44♀♀, 18yoy, 33♂♂,
6♂♂yr1, 2♀♀yr1, 1 unident. adult)

Remarks: Yearling counts are only approximate as lone yearlings are
difficult to identify, especially at this late date. No
antlers were observed on either adult or yearling males.

Both the forested (valleys) and alpine habitats were searched, however, the majority (59%) of the animals were observed above 4,000 feet. Treeline occurs at approximately this elevation. Most of the habitat between 4,000 to 5,000 feet in this area is characterized by an extensive willow - birch shrub zone which is maintained by climatic factors. Females with calves were observed at an average elevation of 4,000 feet (range 2,600 to 5,100 feet), lone females at an average of 4,500 feet (2,600 to 5,000 feet) and males at 4,000 feet (range 2,700 to 5,000 feet). More data is needed to determine if the difference in elevation selection between parous and non-parous females is significant.

The adult sex ratios for this population is 33♂♂:44♀♀ or 75♂♂:100♀♀. The calf crop is 41 calves:100 adult ♀♀ or 17% of the total population. The yearling recruitment is 7.6% of the total population. This latter figure should be taken with a grain of salt due to the problems with identification at this time of year.

The resident harvest for this area (subzones 7-21,24,26, 27,31,32) in 1978 was 69 animals. The subzones above encompass a larger area than that surveyed, however, it does suggest that this population is under heavy hunting pressure.

D.L.



March 79



NEVADA MONTANA

MONTANA

SALLY HIGGINS MOUNTAIN

STONY MOUNTAIN

WEST ARM

BENNETT