

W I N T E R M O O S E S U R V E Y S
G M Z 3 - 4
A N D A R E V I E W O F M O O S E
H U N T I N G S E A S O N S - 1 9 7 9

D.G. LARSEN
YUKON WILDLIFE BRANCH

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Moose seasons for 1979 are outlined in Table 1. The major differences over the previous years are: the elimination of an antlerless season in G.M.Z. 1-2-3-4; the reduction of an antlered season along a ten mile corridor between Dawson and Mayo; the reduction of an antlerless season in G.M.Z. 5-7; and the extension of an antlerless season in G.M.Z. 9. The above seasons apply to residents, non-residents and trappers. They do not, however, apply to status natives.

The most evident changes have occurred in G.M.Z. 1-2-3-4. This report will deal only with those areas.

The closures have come about as a result of a combination of factors including: concerns expressed by residents over the status of the moose populations; concerns expressed by conservation officers; initial aerial surveys for moose flown in February and March; a lack of baseline data for the area; and population data obtained from the Alaska Fish and Game Department on moose along the U.S.-Canadian border.

Preliminary aerial surveys were conducted in February and March (Appendix 1) to assess moose populations along the Yukon and Stewart Rivers, between Dawson and Lansing. This work was sparked by a petition circulated in the Dawson area by the local conservation officer. In it, residents voiced their disapproval of an antlerless season (Appendix 11). As the Wildlife Branch had no knowledge of the moose populations in that area we felt their concerns warranted some attention. However, due to budget constraints we were only able to take a superficial look at the area this year.

TABLE 1. Moose Hunting Seasons for 1979

<u>G.M.Z.</u>	<u>Type of Animal</u>	<u>Residents and Non-residents</u>	<u>Trappers</u>		<u>Status Natives</u>	
			<u>1st Moose</u>	<u>2nd Moose</u>		
1-2-3-4	corridor	antlered	Oct 1 - Oct 15	Oct 1 - Oct 15	Nov 1 - Nov 13	open
		antlerless	closed	closed	closed	open
	remainder	antlered	Aug 1 - Oct 31	Aug 1 - Oct 31	Nov 1 - Nov 13	open
		antlerless	closed	closed	closed	open
5-7	antlered	Aug 1 - Oct 31	Aug 1 - Oct 31	Nov 1 - Nov 13	open	
	antlerless	Sept 17 - Sept 23	Sept 17 - Sept 23	closed	open	
8-10-11	antlered	Aug 1 - Oct 31	Aug 1 - Oct 31	Nov 1 - Nov 13	open	
	antlerless	Sept 17 - Sept 30	Sept 17 - Sept 30	closed	open	
9	antlered	Aug 1 - Oct 31	Aug 1 - Oct 31	Nov 1 - Nov 13	open	
	antlerless	Sept 17 - Oct 15	Sept 17 - Oct 15	closed	open	

The aerial survey results (Table 2) have been divided into four areas for comparative purposes:

1. Dawson to Mayo on the Yukon and Stewart Rivers
2. Mayo to the mouth of the Hess River on the Stewart River
3. Mayo to Fraser Falls
4. Fraser Falls to the Hess River

The data indicate extremely low densities of moose between Dawson and Mayo and high densities between Mayo and the Hess River. Upon further breakdown of this latter area, the data indicated most of the moose were observed between Fraser Falls and the Hess River. Productivity and sex ratios follow this same pattern with the highest figures obtained from Fraser Falls to the Hess River and the lowest between Dawson and Mayo. Figures from Mayo to Fraser Falls are misleading as a very small sample size was obtained. For a more comprehensive breakdown of the survey data, refer to Appendix 1.

The population above Fraser Falls shows all the signs of an extremely healthy, and possibly expanding herd. Densities would be considered moderate to high. Below the falls, and especially between Mayo and Dawson, the figures indicate a less healthy but still quite acceptable population at extremely low densities.

Two reasons are suggested for this disparity. The first is habitat and the second is hunting pressure. Although range data are not available, the area above Mayo appears to have more potential moose habitat than that below, on a per square mile basis. Gross visual analysis of the habitat in both areas suggest that over browsing is not a problem. This, however, is a subjective observation lacking an objective base.

TABLE 2. Productivity, adult sex ratio and density data for moose along the Yukon - Stewart Rivers - February and March, 1979

<u>Area</u>	<u>Survey Dates</u>	<u>Total Moose Observed</u>	<u>Adult ♂♂ : 100 ♀♀</u>	<u>Calves : 100 ♀♀</u>	<u>% Calves in Herd</u>	<u>Density (Moose/Sq Mile)</u>	<u>Moose Observed/ Survey Hour</u>
1. Dawson to Mayo along the Yukon & Stewart Rivers	Feb 26, 27, 28 Mar 1, 8, 9, 30	83	63 : 100	35 : 100	15%	0.14	5
2. Mayo to the mouth of the Hess River	Feb 27, 28 Mar 22	111	93 : 100	54 : 100	18%	1.40	16
3. Mayo to Fraser Falls	Feb 27, 28	16	160 : 100	0 : 100	0%	1.17	N/A
4. Fraser Falls to Hess River	Feb 27, 28	56	107 : 100	64 : 100	25%	0.67	N/A

Habitat above and below Fraser Falls between Mayo and the Hess River appears to be very similar, although moose densities do not reflect this. This disparity in moose densities is supported by a previous survey flown by the Wildlife Branch in February of 1976^(a). The author states: "Between Mayo and Fraser Falls, no evidence of moose was found, inspite of excellent winter habitat... Above the falls moose and their sign were abundant..." During that survey estimated densities were 1.96 moose per square mile.

Hunting pressure was initially expected to be high between Mayo and Dawson. Upon analysis of the hunter questionnaires, it appears that this is not true for the 1978 hunting season. Seven moose were taken by residents along the Stewart River (within five miles on either side) between Mayo and the Hess River. A total of sixteen hunters reported using this area, resulting in a 44% success rate. Between Mayo and Dawson along the Stewart and Yukon Rivers, nine moose were taken by 54 hunters. This works out to a 17% success rate. Unfortunately, we do not have accurate hunting statistics from previous years for comparative purposes. As well, data are too limited for comparisons above and below Fraser Falls. However, Mayo conservation officer, T. Nette, (pers. comm.) has suggested that those hunters who portage Fraser Falls report a 100% success rate. The above data was obtained from resident hunters only.

In 1974 regional conservation officer, T. Nette, recorded native harvest in the Mayo area. During that year a total of thirteen moose were taken down river from Mayo to Dawson and sixteen from Mayo to the Hess River. He repeated this process in 1978 and reported two moose taken above Mayo and one below. The moose reported above were

(a) A Winter Moose Survey on the Proposed Fraser Falls Impoundment Area - Stewart River. Game Branch, 1976.

taken within the ten mile corridor along the Yukon and Stewart Rivers.

In 1978 regional conservation officer, D. Drummond, recorded moose taken by all residents, native and white, in the Dawson area. Out of the 41 known moose kills in his district, fourteen (34%) were taken along the Stewart and Yukon Rivers. Of these, two were taken by natives.

Our data, therefore, shows that in 1978, nine moose were taken between Mayo and the Hess River, and 24 between Mayo and Dawson by residents and natives.

Although it is not advisable to extrapolate data from other areas for comparisons, I feel in this case due to a lack of historical data, it would be worth looking at some Alaska data. Survey results from two areas are present below. These are units 20E (including Eagle, Chicken and Tetlin Junction) and unit 12 (an area south of the Alaska Highway and along the U.S.-Canadian border). The data below was obtained from technical reports produced by the Alaska Fish and Game Department and from the Alaska Hunting Regulations for 1978.

The percentage of calves in the population has varied from between 2 to 8% over the last four years (1975 - 1978) in unit 20E. Moose observed per hour of survey has averaged 23.5 in this same unit. Hunter success rate for 1976 was 19%. Based on these and other data the hunting season in 1978 was closed to moose hunting.

The percentage of calves in unit 12 in 1977 was 25% and moose were observed at a rate of 107 per hour. Parts of this area were also closed to moose hunting in 1978 while the other segments were hunted between September 1 to 20 for males only.

Data from a survey flown in February of 1975 along the Yukon River from Circle to Eagle revealed a 20% calf crop and an observation rate of 23 moose per hour.

In 1976 along the Forty Mile drainage a calf crop of 1.6% and an observation rate of 18.5 moose per hour were recorded.

According to Tok regional biologist, D. Kelleyhouse, (pers. comm.) the limiting factors acting on their moose populations are a combination of overhunting; severe winters; predator-prey relationships and a general lack of good moose habitat.

This data and resulting hunting seasons should not be viewed lightly, as they are based on a number of years of intensive work.

In summary, I feel moose habitat between Mayo and Dawson is limited and restricted to the riparian areas. These riparian habitats have in the past been heavily hunted by natives and resident hunters. The limited hunting pressure in 1978 may be a result of low success rates experienced in recent years. Gross visual analysis of the habitat suggests that overbrowsing is not occurring. Therefore, in an attempt to bring the moose populations up to carrying capacity of the range, a closure is necessary. If other northern Yukon populations are subjected to the same limiting factors as the Alaskan populations, than I suspect similar problems in these areas.

In view of the insufficient data base, the Wildlife Branch has taken a conservative approach to this potential problem.

We recommend that further inventory work be conducted in 1979 - 1980 to obtain more information from these populations. With a better data base and the introduction of a subzone system, the moose resource can be managed more specifically. Unfortunately, with

the present budget restraints only small tracts of habitat can be surveyed annually.

If the populations respond to our management plan, more liberal seasons would be considered in the future.

APPENDIX I

FIELD SURVEY DATA

SURVEY DATA

Six of the seven surveys were conducted with a Bell 206 Jet Ranger and the remaining one with a Cessna 185. At least two observers were present on all surveys and in some cases three were used. Survey height and speed varied from 100 to 300 feet above ground level (AGL) and 80 to 100 mph indicated air speed (IAS) respectively.

Two types of survey techniques were used. The linear transect method was used in river bottom habitat over long distances and the intensive block survey method in upland habitat over smaller areas. The latter method was used to obtain elevational distribution away from the river valley and to obtain a more accurate estimate of moose densities.

Approximately 90% coverage was obtained from the block surveys. Observational biases have not been determined for these habitat types and we will, therefore, not attempt to use correction factors at this time.

Density figures were obtained from linear transects by estimating a survey strip of $\frac{1}{4}$ mile on either side of the aircraft.

Distribution data according to elevation were obtained from the February 26-27-28 surveys flown between Dawson and the mouth of the Hess River. During these surveys an equal amount of search time was spent in the upland habitat as in the river bottom, however, different survey techniques were used for each habitat type. Although the data is biased the following pattern emerged: river bottom to 2000 feet elevation, 64 (53%); 2100 - 3000 feet, 29 (24%); 3100 - 4000 feet, 28 (23%).

TABLE 3. Summary of Survey Data

Survey Area & Period	Observations					TOTAL Moose Observed	TOTAL Area Surveyed (sq mi)	Survey Time (hrs)	Moose/ hr Survey	Moose/ square mile
	♀♀	calves	♂♂	yrl ♂	unident.					
(1)	14	5	4	1	1	25	322.0	5.9	4.2	0.08
(2)	27	14	26	2	4	73	179.0	4.5	16.2	0.41
(3)	17	11	8	-	1	37	161.0	-	-	0.23
(4)	3	-	13	-	-	16	74.0	2.0	8.5	0.23
(5)	13	-	8	-	1	22	138.0	-	-	0.16
(6)	1	1	-	-	8	10	42.5	0.7	14.3	0.24
(7)	1	1	-	-	9	11	149.5	2.0	5.5	0.07
Sub-total Dawson to Mayo	48	17	33	1	12	111	802.0	-	-	0.14
Sub-total Mayo to Hess River	28	15	26	2	12	83	208.5	-	-	0.40
TOTAL	76	32	59	3	24	194	1010.5	-	-	0.19

- * (1) Feb 26-27, Dawson to McQuesten Airstrip along Yukon and Stewart Rivers.
 (2) Feb 26-27, Mayo to mouth of Hess River along the Stewart River.
 (3) Feb 28, Mar 8-9, Mayo to McQuesten Airstrip along Stewart River.
 (4) Mar 1, Sixty Mile River.
 (5) Mar 8-9, parts of McQuesten and Stewart River.
 (6) Mar 22, Mayo to Hess River along Stewart River.
 (7) Mar 30, Dawson to Mayo along Yukon and Stewart Rivers.

River bottom elevations vary from between 1000 to 2000 feet elevation. Of the 64 animals observed at river bottom, 53 (83%) were between Mayo and the Hess River. Therefore, the majority of the moose observed between Dawson and Mayo were in upland habitat and between Mayo and the Hess River, in riparian habitat. These figures should be viewed with caution as there are biases in techniques and are based on small sample sizes.

Yukon River - Stewart River Moose Survey

Date: February 26, 1979

Aircraft: Bell 206

Pilot: W. Eng

Crew: D. Larsen
D. Drummond

Weather: Clear, calm, -43°C

Survey period: 1100 - 1600 hours

Survey time: 3 - 4 hours

Survey area: Dawson upstream on Yukon River to Stewart Island.

(linear transect surveys = 61 miles or 30.5 square miles searched; intensive block survey = 231.3 square miles)

Observations: The following numbers correspond to map locations

- | | | |
|----|---------------|------------------------------|
| 1. | 1♀, 1♂ yrl. | elevation 3,400 feet |
| 2. | 1♂ | elevation 3,400 feet |
| 3. | 2♂♂ | elevation 2,900 feet |
| 4. | 1♀ | elevation 3,000, temp. -26°C |
| 5. | 1♀ | elevation 2,200 |
| 6. | 1♂ | elevation 2,500 |
| 7. | 1♀, 1♀ & calf | elevation 3,100 |
| 8. | 1♀ & calf | river |

TOTAL: 6♀♀, 2 calves, 4♂♂, 1♂ yrl.

Along the Yukon River itself and within the block areas searched, the lack of moose and moose sign was obvious.

Yukon River - Stewart River Moose Survey

Date: Febraury 27, 1979

Aircraft: Bell 206

Pilot: W. Eng

Crew: D. Larsen
D. Drummond & T. Nette

Weather: Clear, calm, -36°C

Survey period: 1000 - 1800 hours

Survey time: 6 hours

Survey area: Stewart River - Stewart Island - McQuesten Airstrip (A.M.)

(linear transect surveys = 39.5 square miles;

intensive block surveys = 48.8 square miles)

Mayo - Mouth of Hess River (P.M.) (linear transect

surveys = 42.5 square miles; intensive block surveys

= 89.7 square miles)

Observations: Numbers correspond to map locations

(A.M.)

9.	1♀ and calf	elevation 2,700 feet temp. -28°C
10.	2♀♀ 1 adult, unident.	elevation 2,800 feet elevation 3,400 feet
11.	2♀♀	elevation 2,800 feet
12.	1♀ and calf	elevation 3,600 feet temp. -22°C
13.	1♀ and calf	elevation 3,500
14.	1♀	river
15.	7 wolves on moose kill	

(P.M.)

16.	1♂	river
17.	1♂	river
18.	1♀	river
19.	1♀ & 1 wolf	river
20.	1♀, 1♀ & calf	river
21.	2♂♂	river
22.	1♀ & calf	river
23.	1♂	river
24.	1♀ & calf	river
25.	2♂♂	river
26.	1♂	river
27.	1♂	river
28.	2♂♂	river
29.	2♂♂	river
30.	1 unident.	river
31.	1♂	river
32.	1 unident.	elevation 3,100 feet
33.	1♂	elevation 3,000 feet
34.	1♀	elevation 3,000 feet
35.	1♂	elevation 2,200 feet
36.	1♂	elevation 3,000 feet
37.	2♀♀ & calf, 1♀	elevation 2,900 feet
38.	3♀♀, 2 calves	river
	1♂	
39.	1♀ & calf, 2♂♂	river

Yukon River - Stewart River Moose Survey
February 27, 1979
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40.	2♂♂	river
	2♀♀ & 2 calves	
41.	1♀ & calf	river
	1♀ & calf	
42.	1♀ & calf	elevation 3,400 feet
	1♀ & calf	
43.	1♀ & calf	elevation 3,500 feet
	1♀	
44.	1 unident.	elevation 2,600 feet
45.	1♂, 1 yrl. ♂	river
46.	1♀	river
47.	1 unident.	river
48.	1♀, 1♂	river
TOTAL:	34♀♀, 17 calves, 22♂♂, 1♂ yrl., 5 unidentified adults	

The number of moose and moose sign above Mayo, and particularly above Fraser Falls, was obviously more abundant compared to the area below Mayo. Usually the habitat above Mayo seems to be similar to that below, therefore, it is probable that other parameters are restricting the moose populations such as hunting.

Yukon River - Stewart River Moose Survey

Date: February 28, 1979

Aircraft: Bell 206

Pilot: W. Eng

Crew: D. Larsen
T. Nette

Weather: High overcast, calm, -30°C

Survey period: 1000 - 1500 hours

Survey time: 1010 - 1110
1250 - 1455 Total of 3 hours

Survey area: Stewart River - Williamson Lake area

Mayo - Stewart Crossing valley

Stewart Crossing - McQuesten Airstrip

(linear transect surveys = 61 square miles;
intensive block survey - 111 square miles)

Observations: Numbers correspond to map locations

49.	1♂	elevation 2,000 feet
50.	1♂	elevation 2,300 feet
51.	1♂	elevation 3,500 feet
52.	1♀	elevation 3,200 feet
53.	1♂	lake
54.	1♂ yrl. (one antler left)	elevation 2,000 feet
55.	1♀	elevation 1,700 feet
56.	1♀	river
57.	1♀, 1♂	elevation 3,500 feet
58.	1♀ & calf	elevation 2,400 feet
59.	1♀ & calf	elevation 1,900 feet

Yukon River - Stewart River Moose Survey

February 28, 1979

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60.	1♀	elevation 3,100 feet
61.	1♀ & calf, 1♀	elevation 2,500 feet
62.	1♀	elevation 2,300 feet
63.	1♂	elevation 3,400 feet temp. - 22°C
64.	1♂	elevation 3,200 feet
65.	1♂	elevation 3,400 feet
66.	1♀ & 2 calves	elevation 2,400 feet
67.	2♂♂	river
68.	1 unident.	river
69.	1♂	river

TOTAL: 11♀♀, 5 calves, 11♂♂, 1♂ yrl., 1 unidentified.

Sixty Mile River Moose Survey

Date: March 1, 1979

Aircraft: Bell 206

Pilot: Rod Watt

Crew: D. Drummond
T. Nette
W. Olson

Weather: Clear, cold, -38°C

Survey period: 1130 - 1400 hours

Survey time: 2 hours

Survey area: 60 Mile River

(linear transect survey = 74 square miles)

Observations: Numbers correspond to map locations.

70.	1♀, 1♂	elevation 2,000 feet
71.	1♂	elevation 3,300 feet
72.	1♂	elevation 2,900 feet
73.	4♂♂	elevation 3,800 feet
74.	1♂	elevation 3,400 feet
75.	1♂	elevation 3,000 feet
76.	2♀♀	elevation 3,000 feet
77.	1♀ & calf (caribou)	elevation 3,800 feet
78.	1♂	elevation 2,600 feet
79.	1♂	elevation 2,200 feet
80.	1♂	elevation 3,500 feet
81.	1♂	elevation 3,500 feet

Sixty Mile River Moose Survey
March 1, 1979
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82. 1 wolf on moose elevation 2,500 feet
carcass

83. 1 unident.

TOTAL: 399, 1388, 1 unidentified.

Stewart Crossing - Mayo Area Moose Survey

Date: March 8 - 9, 1979

Aircraft: Bell 206

Crew: T. Nette
Observer

Weather: Temperature -5°C

Survey time: 4.7 hours

Survey area: Stewart Crossing, McQuesten River

(linear transect survey = 138 square miles)

Observations: Numbers correspond to map locations.

84.	1♂	elevation 2,000 feet
85.	1♀	elevation 2,600 feet
86.	2♀♀	elevation 1,500 feet
87.	2♀♀	elevation 2,200 feet
88.	1♀	elevation 2,800 feet
89.	1♀, 1♂	elevation 2,800 feet
90.	1 unident.	elevation 1,800 feet
91.	moose kill (♂)	river
92.	2♀♀	river
93.	3♂♂, 1♀	river
94.	3♂♂	river
95.	1♀	elevation 2,200 feet
96.	1♀ & calf	elevation 1,900 feet
97.	1♀	elevation 2,300 feet
98.	1♀ & calf	elevation 2,000 feet
	1♀, 2 calves	

Stewart Crossing - Mayo Area Moose Survey
March 8 - 9, 1979
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99.	1♀	elevation 2,200 feet
100.	2♀♀	elevation 2,000 feet
101.	1♀, 2 calves	elevation 1,800 feet
102.	1♂	river
103.	moose kill (♀)	river
104.	1♀	elevation 1,900 feet
TOTAL: 20♀♀, 6 calves, 9♂♂, 1 unidentified.		

Yukon River - Stewart River Moose Survey

Date: March 22, 1979

Aircraft: Bell 206

Crew: D. Drummond
T. Nette
H. Jessup

Weather: Overcast, 0°C

Survey time: 40 minutes

Survey area: Mayo to Hess River on Stewart River

(linear transect surveys = 42.5 square miles)

Observations: 105. 2 unidentified

106. 1 unidentified

107. 1♀ & calf

108. 2 unidentified

109. 1 unidentified

110. 2 unidentified

TOTAL: 1♀ & calf, 8 unidentified

Although few moose were observed, extensive tracking
was noted above Fraser Falls.

Yukon River - Stewart River Moose Survey

Date: March 30, 1979

Aircraft: Cessna 185

Pilot: B. Watson

Crew: D. Drummond
V. Drummond

Weather: Clear, -28°C

Survey time: 2 hours

Survey area: Dawson to Mayo on Yukon and Stewart Rivers;
part of Sixty Mile River
(linear transect surveys = 149.5 square miles)

Observations: 111. 1♀ & calf
112. 3 unidentified
113. 2 unidentified
114. 1 unidentified
115. 1 unidentified
116. 2 unidentified
TOTAL: 1♀ and calf, 9 unidentified.

APPENDIX II

PUBLIC PETITION & FEED BACK

CCCURRENCE REPORT

WHITEHORSE, Y. T.

Game Management Area Mayo	Time pm;	Date 79-3-13	Occurrence No. MA-31-79
Name of Complainant Mayo Non-Status Residents			Telephone No.
Address Mayo, Y.T.			File No.
Location of Occurrence Stewart River - Yukon River - Mayo to Dawson			
Person Taking Complaint Tony Nette, C.O.		Person Responsible for Action Tony Nette, C.O.	

RE: Proposed Moose Hunting Closure - Stewart & Yukon Rivers

79-3-13

During the past week, writer has discussed with approx. 15 local hunters the proposed moose hunting closure from Mayo to Dawson, 5 miles either side of the Stewart and Yukon Rivers.

The reaction has been fairly consistent - with the hunter feeling that it is a good idea and that if the Wildlife Branch feels it is necessary then so be it. However, when this same person came to realize that the restrictions would not affect Status Indians, he immediately questioned the effectiveness of the closure and expressed strong concern for the fact that their government was unable to fully manage their wildlife resources as required.

When the closure was discussed with a number of Status Indian persons including the Chief of the Mayo Indian Band, there was very little reaction. There was an indication that the Indian people would cooperate with the restrictions, however the person that most strongly suggested this was seen hunting again along the road to Stewart Crossing the next day.

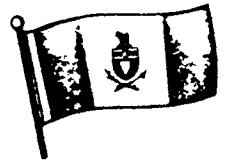
The impression writer got was that the Indian hunters were pleased to see that an exclusive hunting reserve had been created for themselves, but on the other hand that this reserve has a recognized management problem in its depleted moose population.

Documentation only:

c.c. Doug Larsen
Wildlife Biologist

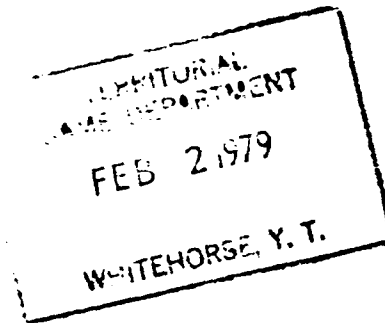
Tony Nette 79-3-27

Government of the Yukon Territory



BOX 2703, WHITEHORSE, YUKON Y1A 2C6 TELEPHONE 403-667-5811 TELEX 0368260

To: Doug Larsen
January 29, 1979
From Dan Drummond



OUR FILE
YOUR FILE

Re: Cow Moose season

Attached find a copy of my letter to Dr. Gordon Hartman of August 28, 1978 and attached petition in regards to the antlerless moose season.


The last paragraph of the letter indicates the GMZ's involved. I would however qualify this by adding that the most important areas involved fall in GMZ's 1,2,3, and 5.

I do however realize that with the large GMZ's that although the specific area of concern is quite small the area affected by a regulation change on the GMZ system would be larger.

Anyhow the most important GMZ are 1, 2, 3, and 5.

For your information.

Dan Drummond


Conservation Officer

Yukon Wildlife Branch
Box 344
Dawson City
Yukon Territory

August 28, 1978

Dr. G. Hartman
Director
Yukon Wildlife Branch
Box 2703
Whitehorse
Yukon Territory

Dear Gordon:

There has been an antlerless moose season in the Yukon for five years. Since 1975 when I started with the Game Branch many long time Dawson area residents have been telling me that there are less moose today than in years past and some attribute this decline to the harvesting of antlerless moose.

To my knowledge no census or other biological work has been done on the moose in this District other than an aerial survey conducted on the 60 Mile River in connection with mining development in 1976. As I have not lived here long enough to have seen this fluctuation in moose numbers myself, and no conclusive biological work has been done, I tend to listen to people who have the best available knowledge; the long term residents.

The moose hunting in the Dawson District is confined to the Stewart/Yukon Rivers, the Dempster Highway, and a few other roads and trails south of Dawson. Along the Yukon River system the antlerless moose are most susceptible to harvest.

I do not pretend to believe that the closure of the antlerless moose harvest will cure the ills of the moose population but I do believe that it will help.

Cont'd . . .

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I have voiced my feelings of the abolishment of the antlerless moose season to Game Branch staff on several occasions in the past. Nothing has happened.

The attached list of names is composed mostly of long term Dawson area residents who want the antlerless moose season abolished. Their geographical area of expertise of course is the Dawson/Stewart/Mayo areas. Because of this limited geographical area of knowledge I would advocate the closure of the antlerless moose hunting in zones 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5. This I hope could be implemented by regulation prior to the 1978 schedule season (September 12 - 25).

Please reply.

Sincerely,

DRD

Dan Drummond
Conservation Officer

encl.
DD/dm

A petition against the "ANTLERLESS" moose season in the Yukon.

We the undersigned demand that the antlerless moose season be abolished:

SIGNED	DATE	LENGTH OF RESIDENCY IN YUKON TERRITORY
Frank Ahern	Aug 14/78	27 years
Roy Coburn	Aug 123/78	4 YEARS
James Bell	Aug 23/78	1 year
J. Feller	Aug 23/78	
Dennis Melice	Aug 24/78	9 years
Myrtle Morgan	24/78	14 years

A petition against the "ANTLERLESS" moose season in the Yukon.

We the undersigned demand that the antlerless moose season be abolished:

Signed	Date	Length of Residency in Yukon Territory
Dan Drummond	August 10/78	4 years (July 74-)
John Proffit	August 10/78	LIFE (APPROX 50 years)
Jim Spender	August 10/78	7 years
W E Heister	Aug Aug 14/78	42 years
Ivor Rossack	Aug 14/78	50 years
Hans Algotsson	Aug 15-78	35 years
		48 years
		30 years
HAZEL MELOY	Aug 22/78	52 years
(Mrs Hazel Meloy)		

Harry N. Bradley	Aug 11/78	2 1/2 years
Jim Coulter	11 Aug 78	9 years
Colleen Kerkywick	Aug 11/78	7 years
A. Coulter	Aug 11/78	9 years
Albert Taylor	Aug 11/78	43 years
Bob Sharpe	Aug 11/78	30
Kay Sharpe	Aug 11/78	50+
Anne Canwood	Aug 12/78	2 1/2 yrs
Brian McDonald	Aug 16/78	7 yrs
J. C. O'Leary	Aug 17/78	2 1/2 years
M. O'Leary	Aug 17/78	4 yrs
Annmarie Dwyer	Aug 17/78	3 years
Conna Mendelsohn	Aug 18/78	7 years
Ed Hill	Aug 24/78	44 years

We the undersigned demand that the antlersess moose season be abolished;

Signed	Date	Length of residence in Yukon
Linda Taylor	Aug 10/78	30 years
Larry C. Smith	Aug 10/78	10 years
Bud Skinner	Aug 10/78	9 years
Joanne Bureau	Aug 10/78	50+ years
Joe Koenig	Aug 10/78	4 years
Mary Permyer	Aug 10/78	4 yrs
Vicki Fletcher	Aug 10/78	3 yrs
John Stacey	Aug 10/78	3 yrs
John Stacey	Aug 10/78	16 yrs
O H. Shaw	Aug 10/78	4 yrs
E. G. Russo	Aug 10/78	8 yrs
Joan Bureau	Aug 10/78	23 yrs
Rudolf Bureau	Aug 10/78	42 yrs
Owl Stacey	Aug 11/78	7 yrs
Alton J. S. Gogard	Aug 11/78	1 year
Marilyn Parnell	Aug 11/78	3 years
J. H. ...	Aug 11/78	1 year



WILDLIFE BRANCH

OUR FILE 3997-1-11

YOUR FILE

79 05 15

TO: Status Natives in the Mayo - Dawson - Pelly & Stewart Crossing Areas.
Attention: Mrs. P. Kormendy, Chief of the Dawson Indian Band, Dawson City, Y.T.
Mr. R. Hager, Chief of the Mayo Indian Band, Indian Band Office, Mayo, Y.T.

FROM: Yukon Wildlife Branch, Whitehorse, Y.T.

RE: Moose populations along the Yukon - Stewart Rivers

The Wildlife Branch is concerned over the low moose densities along the Yukon and Stewart Rivers between Mayo and Dawson City.

As a result of these concerns we have restricted hunting along a ten mile corridor between these two settlements. The hunting of antlerless moose has been prohibited along the corridor as well as throughout G.M.Z. 1-2-3 & 4. The antlered moose season within the corridor has been restricted to October 1 - October 15. The antlered season in the remainder of the area will be between August 1 - October 31.

We feel that the low densities in these areas are related to lack of habitat and increased hunting pressure. As status natives use this resource as well, we ask for your consideration and co-operation in maintaining the moose populations in your area. We would be pleased to discuss this matter with you at your convenience.

Doug Larsen
Management Biologist
Yukon Wildlife Branch

APPENDIX III

LETTERS TO NATIVE
ORGANIZATIONS & GENERAL PUBLIC