



# Sifton-Miners Range Moose Management Unit (MMU)

Early – Winter Moose Survey, November 20, 22-30, 2021

## MMU Status

GMS: 5-48, 5-49, 5-50

Survey Area: 3,594 km<sup>2</sup>

Sustainable Harvest: 26 bulls

Density (in moose habitat): 278 moose/1000km<sup>2</sup>

Avg. License Harvest: 19 (2017-2021)

Est. First Nation Harvest: 18

Total No. of Moose: 928

Total No. of Adult Bulls: 258

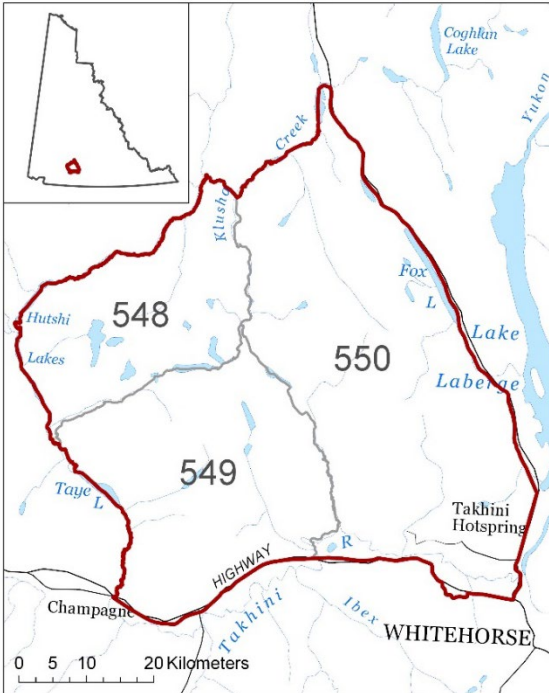
Bulls / 100 Adult Cows: 50

Calves / 100 Adult Cows: 17

Yearlings / 100 Adult Cows: 12

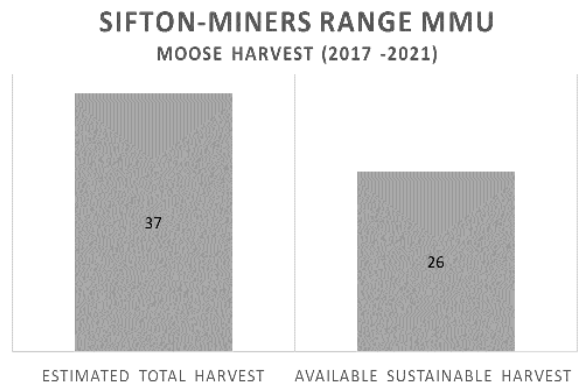
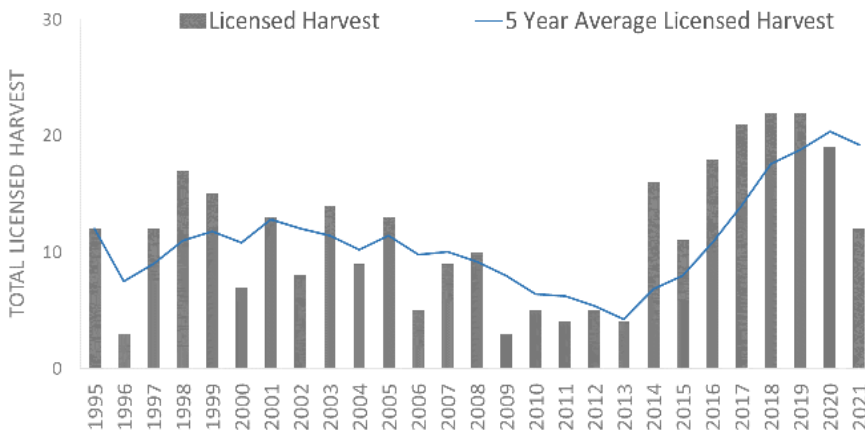
## Location

The Sifton-Miners Range Moose Management Unit (MMU) is located 15 km northwest of Whitehorse and is within the traditional territories of the Kwanlin Dün First Nation, Ta'an Kwäch'än Council and the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations.



## Harvest Statistics

The 5-year (2017-2021) average total harvest estimate in the Sifton-Miners Range MMU is 14% of the adult bull population. This is above the recommended sustainable harvest of 10% of the adult bull population. First Nation harvest information is not available for this MMU. Here we assume that First Nation harvest is equal to resident licensed harvest to estimate the total moose harvest. However, First Nation harvest data is required to evaluate the actual harvest in this moose population.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

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## Census Results

### Moose Survey Method

In the Yukon we use a model-based survey approach that incorporates local knowledge and habitat information (i.e., fire history, land cover, slope and elevation). 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).

### Survey Overview

The purpose of this survey was to estimate the abundance, distribution and composition of the moose population in the Sifton-Miners Range MMU, and to use this information to determine the sustainable moose harvest and inform harvest management. We counted moose in 81 of 215 survey blocks, or about 38% of the total area. We observed 634 moose (198 mature bulls; 366 cows; 23 yearling bulls; and 47 calves). We observed the highest numbers of moose in the subalpine areas of the Sifton-Miners range and some lower-elevation areas with abundant willow.

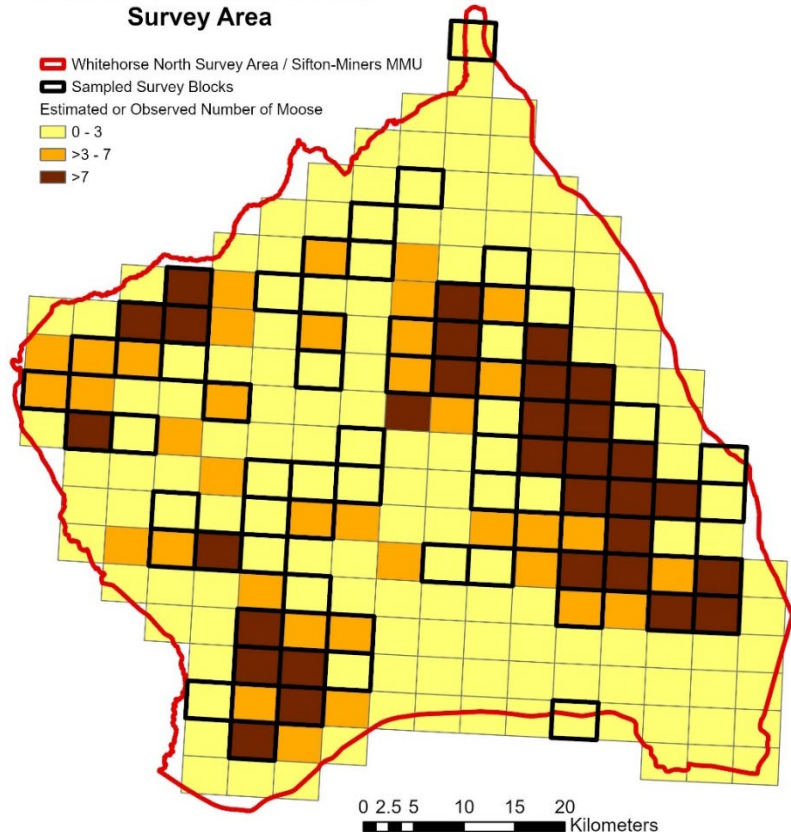
### Population Estimate / Composition

We estimated **928 (863-1015)** moose in the Sifton-Miners Range MMU. This equates to a density of **278 moose per 1,000 km<sup>2</sup> of available moose habitat** which is above the typical range of moose densities in Yukon (100-250 / 1,000 km<sup>2</sup>).

We estimated **17 calves and 12 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 estimated **50 adult bulls/100 adult cows**, which is above the minimum recommended in our Science-based guidelines for management of moose in Yukon. For details, please see the full report.

**Moose Census Results for the 2021 Whitehorse North Survey Area**



## Acknowledgements

We thank the Kwanlin Dün First Nation, Champagne and Aishihik First Nations, Ta'an Kwäch'än Council and the Laberge Renewable Resources Councils for their support during this survey. Thanks to Michael Jim, Errol Ekholm, Neil McGrath, Chris Wall, Ross Elgin, Mitch Heynen, Elise Brown, Lauren Wonfor, Chuck Shewen, Graham Van Tighem, Marc Cattet, Meaghan Elliot, Tom Jung and Aaron Koss-Young for their assistance as aerial observers, and to our pilot Scott Smith (TRK Helicopters).

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