

North Slave Region Moose Surveys

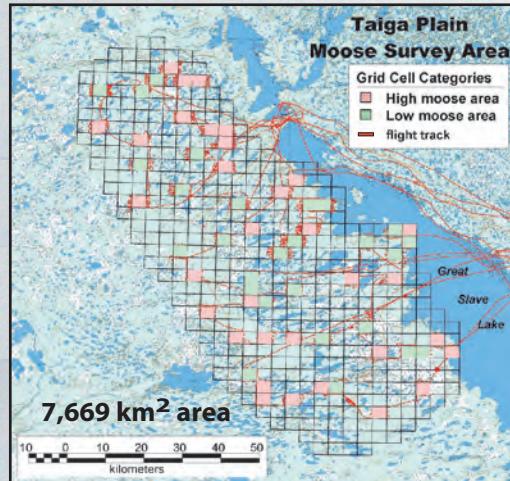
An aerial survey for moose was conducted in March 2004 to collect baseline estimates of moose density in the Taiga Plain and Taiga Shield ecozones of the North Slave Region, Northwest Territories.

Our technique subdivided the survey area into sample units of about 16 km² (2' latitude x 5' longitude). The sampling units were divided into expected high and low density of moose. This stratification was based on habitat characteristics from previous sightings of moose and input from hunters, wildlife officers, and biologists.

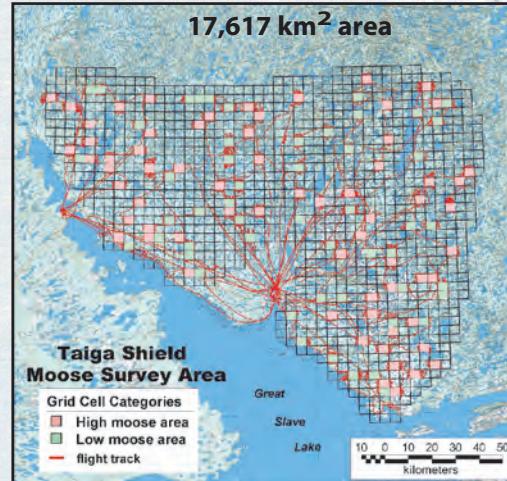
Randomly selected units of both high and low strata were flown at 100% coverage with the goal of counting every moose within a survey sample unit.



North Slave Region boundary showing ecozones



In the 60 Taiga Plain grid cells surveyed we saw 30 moose classified as 11 bulls, 14 cows, 2 calves, and 3 uncertain. We saw an additional 19 moose from incidental sightings outside of these grid cells. Therefore, we counted 49 moose in total and classified them as 18 bulls, 24 cows, 4 calves, and 3 uncertain.

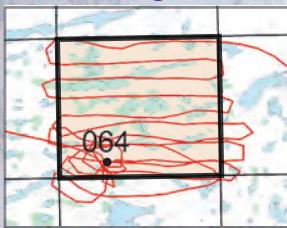


In the 120 Taiga Shield grid cells surveyed we saw 33 moose classified as 8 bulls, 16 cows, and 9 calves. We saw an additional 35 moose from incidental sightings outside of these grid cells. Therefore, we counted 68 moose in total and classified them as 21 bulls, 29 cows, and 18 calves.

SURVEY RESULTS

(including all sightings)

Grid Cell Flight Path



We used two Cessna 185 airplanes and local observers to count and classify moose as bull (small or large), cow, or calf. A GPS waypoint was taken when moose were sighted.

Moose Survey Area Estimates

Taiga Plain

306 moose

3.99 moose/100 km²

Taiga Shield

484 moose

2.75 moose/100 km²

Bull:Cow ratios

Taiga Plain

80:100

Taiga Shield

71:100

Calf:Cow ratios

Taiga Plain

16:100

Taiga Shield

64:100

Participants for these surveys were from the Yellowknives Dene First Nation, Lutsel K'e Dene First Nation, North Slave Metis Alliance, Tli Cho Treaty 11, RWED staff, and residents of Yellowknife.



Previous population estimates of moose in the North Slave Region have been lacking. We now have established baseline information on moose density within the region prior to the onset of significant development and ecological pressures.

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Northwest Territories Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development

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