

Moose Management Report and Plan, Game Management Unit 21C:

Report Period 1 July 2010–30 June 2015, and
Plan Period 1 July 2015–30 June 2020

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Species management reports and plans provide information about species that are hunted or trapped and management actions, goals, recommendations for those species, and plans for data collection. Detailed information is prepared for each species every 5 years by the area management biologist for game management units in their areas, who also develops a plan for data collection and species management for the next 5 years. This type of report is not produced for species that are not managed for hunting or trapping or for areas where there is no current or anticipated activity. Unit reports are reviewed and approved for publication by regional management coordinators and are available to the public via the Alaska Department of Fish and Game's website.

This species management report and plan was reviewed and approved for publication by Doreen I. Parker McNeill, Management Coordinator for the Division of Wildlife Conservation, Fairbanks.

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Purpose of this Report

This report provides a record of survey and inventory management activities for moose (*Alces alces*) in Unit 21C for the previous 5 regulatory years and plans for survey and inventory management activities in the 5 years following the end of that period. A regulatory year (RY) begins 1 July and ends 30 June (e.g., RY10 = 1 July 2010–30 June 2011). This report is produced primarily to provide agency staff with data and analysis to help guide and record its own efforts but is also provided to the public to inform them of wildlife management activities. In 2016 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game's (ADF&G) Division of Wildlife Conservation launched this 5-year report to more efficiently report on trends and describe potential changes in data collection activities over the next 5 years. It replaces the moose management reports of survey and inventory activities that were previously produced every 2 years and supersedes the 1976 draft Alaska wildlife management plans (ADF&G 1976).

I. RY10–RY14 MANAGEMENT REPORT

Management Area

Unit 21C is located in western Interior Alaska, north of the Yukon River, and northwest of Galena. The area includes the Melozitna River drainage upstream from Grayling Creek, and Dulbi River drainage upstream from and including the Cottonwood Creek drainage. There are no established communities within Unit 21C, and access is limited. Unit 21C encompasses 3,660 mi², and the terrain is hilly and mountainous. Mean elevation within the unit is 1,294 feet (range = 213–4,978 feet). Vegetation is dominated by white and black spruce (*Picea glauca* and *Picea mariana*) forests, low and tall shrub, and tussock tundra communities (Boggs et al. 2012). Portions of 2 ecoregions found in Unit 21C include the Yukon River lowlands and Ray Mountains ecoregions (Nowacki et al. 2001). Maps for Unit 21C boundaries and special management areas are found at <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=maps.main>.

Summary of Status, Trend, Management Activities, and History of Moose in Unit 21C

Hunter numbers and harvest in Unit 21C are low, access is difficult, and there are no human settlements in this area. Given this, there has been little need to monitor the moose population in this area. Management activities in Unit 21C are restricted to monitoring reported harvest and listening to public concerns. Population surveys and habitat assessments are not conducted, and we do not work under specific management objectives. Instead, we operate only with the goal of maintaining moose hunting opportunity. A more active management approach in Unit 21C is not likely in the future given higher priority management activities currently ongoing in other subunits in the Galena management area.

Management Direction

EXISTING WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PLANS

There are no management plans for moose in Unit 21C.

GOALS

- Provide a sustained opportunity to participate in hunting moose.

CODIFIED OBJECTIVES

Amount Reasonably Necessary for Subsistence Uses

Unit 21 has a positive finding for customary and traditional uses for moose and amounts reasonably necessary for subsistence uses of 600–800 moose from the unitwide population on an annual basis.

Intensive Management

Unit 21C has a negative finding for intensive management.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

There are no management objectives for Unit 21C.

MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

1. Population Status and Trend

ACTIVITY 1. Moose population status and trend are not monitored in Unit 21C.

Data Needs

Not applicable.

Methods

Not applicable.

Results and Discussion

Not applicable.

Recommendations for Activity 1.

None.

2. Mortality-Harvest Monitoring and Regulations

ACTIVITY 2. Review annual harvest.

Data Needs

Hunter numbers and harvest in Unit 21C are low. As a result, we only monitor reported harvest to assess achievement of our goal for sustained opportunity to participate in hunting moose.

Methods

ADF&G's Wildlife Information Network (WinfoNet) was used to query the moose harvest database and construct summaries of reported harvest from drawing, registration, and general season hunts. Hunters received 1 or 2 reminder letters and usually an e-mail and telephone calls if we did not receive timely harvest reports.

Results and Discussion

Harvest by Hunters-Trappers

Harvest in Unit 21C averaged 17 bull moose/year during RY10–RY14 (range = 12–23). The average number of hunters during RY10–RY14 was 43 hunters/year.

Alaska Board of Game Actions and Emergency Orders

No regulation changes were adopted during RY10–RY14.

Recommendation for Activity 2.

Continue to monitor reported harvest.

3. Habitat Assessment-Enhancement

ACTIVITY 3. There were no projects to assess or enhance habitat in Unit 21C during this reporting period.

Data Needs

Not applicable.

Methods

Not applicable.

Results and Discussion

Not applicable.

Recommendations for Activity 3.

None.

NONREGULATORY MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS OR NEEDS

None.

Data Recording and Archiving

Harvest data will be stored on an internal database housed on a server (<http://winfonet.alaska.gov/index.cfm>). Electronic copies of data and reports will be stored in the WinfoNet – Data Archive. Project Title: Moose Management Program Unit 21C. Project ID: GMU 21C Moose. Primary Region: Region III.

Agreements

None.

Permitting

None.

Conclusions and Management Recommendations

We achieved our management goal to provide a sustained opportunity to participate in hunting moose. With low harvest of moose and difficult access, we recommend continuing with the approach of monitoring annual reported harvest and being attentive to public concerns.

II. PROJECT REVIEW AND RY15–RY19 PLAN

Review of Management Direction

MANAGEMENT DIRECTION

There are no changes in the management direction. We will continue to monitor annual harvest and listen to public concerns, should any arise.

GOALS

- Provide a sustained opportunity to participate in hunting moose.

CODIFIED OBJECTIVES

Amount Reasonably Necessary for Subsistence Uses

Unit 21 has a positive finding for customary and traditional uses for moose and amounts reasonably necessary for subsistence uses of 600–800 moose from the unitwide population on an annual basis.

Intensive Management

Unit 21C has a negative finding for intensive management.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

There are no management objectives for Unit 21C.

REVIEW OF MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

1. Population Status and Trend

ACTIVITY 1. Population status and trend will not be monitored in Unit 21C.

Data Needs

Not applicable.

Methods

Not applicable.

2. Mortality-Harvest Monitoring

ACTIVITY 2. Review annual harvest.

Data Needs

Hunter numbers and harvest in Unit 21C are low. As a result, we only monitor reported harvest to assess achievement of our goal for sustained opportunity to participate in hunting moose.

Methods

ADF&G's Wildlife Information Network (WinfoNet) was used to query the moose harvest database and construct summaries of reported harvest from drawing, registration, and general season hunts. Hunters received 1 or 2 reminder letters and usually an e-mail and telephone calls if we did not receive timely harvest reports.

3. Habitat Assessment-Enhancement

ACTIVITY 3. Moose habitat will not be assessed or enhanced during this planning period.

Data Needs

Not applicable.

Methods

Not applicable.

NONREGULATORY MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS OR NEEDS

None.

Data Recording and Archiving

Harvest data will be stored on an internal database housed on a server (<http://winfonet.alaska.gov/index.cfm>). Electronic copies of data and reports will be stored in the WinfoNet – Data Archive. Project Title: Moose Management Program Unit 21C. Project ID: GMU 21C Moose. Primary Region: Region III.

Agreements

None.

Permitting

None.

References Cited

- ADF&G (Alaska Department of Fish and Game). 1976. Alaska wildlife management plans: Western Alaska (draft proposal; subsequently approved by Alaska Board of Game). Division of Game, Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Project W-17-R, Juneau.
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