

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

Report Period 1 July 2015–30 June 2020

Plan Period 1 July 2020–30 June 2025

Sara M. Longson



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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 public website.

This species management report and plan was reviewed and approved for publication by Lincoln Parrett, Regional Supervisor for Region III, Division of Wildlife Conservation.

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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 5 regulatory years 2015–2019 and plans for survey and inventory management activities in the following 5 regulatory years, 2020–2024. A regulatory year (RY) begins 1 July and ends 30 June (e.g., RY14 = 1 July 2014–30 June 2015). This report is produced primarily to provide agency staff with data and analysis to help guide and record agency efforts but is also provided to the public to inform it of wildlife management activities. In 2016 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game’s (ADF&G, the department) Division of Wildlife Conservation (DWC) launched this 5-year report to more efficiently report on trends and to describe potential changes in data collection activities over the next 5 years. It replaces the moose management report of survey and inventory activities that was previously produced every 2 years.

I. RY15–RY19 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 consist of monitoring reported harvest and listening to public concerns. Population surveys and habitat assessments are not conducted, and DWC area managers do not work under specific management objectives. Instead, we operate only with the goal of maintaining moose hunting opportunity. A more active survey and inventory approach in Unit 21C is not likely in the future given higher priority management concerns in other units within the Galena management area.

Management Direction

EXISTING WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PLANS

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

GOALS

Manage Unit 21C moose on a sustained-yield basis to provide consumptive and nonconsumptive opportunity.

CODIFIED OBJECTIVES

Amounts 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

There is a negative finding for the intensive management of moose in Unit 21C.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

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

MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

1. Population Status and Trend

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

2. Mortality-Harvest Monitoring and Regulations

ACTIVITY 2.1. Review annual harvest.

Data Needs

Hunter numbers and harvest in Unit 21C are low. As a result, ADF&G only monitors 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 1–2 reminder letters; after that, e-mails and telephone calls were made to hunters in an attempt to obtain harvest reports.

Results and Discussion

Harvest by Hunters-Trappers

Harvest in Unit 21C averaged 25 bull moose per year during RY15–RY19 (range = 16–35 moose). This is similar to the previous reporting period (RY10–RY14) which averaged 17 bull moose per year (range = 12–23 moose). The average number of hunters during RY15–RY19 was 60 hunters per year (range = 27–80 hunters). Both of these metrics are comparable to the previous reporting period (RY10–RY14), which averaged 17 bull moose per year and 43 hunters per year, respectively.

Hunter Residency and Success

In Unit 21C, nonresident hunters harvested more moose than resident hunters. Mean annual harvest during RY15–RY19 was 15 moose for nonresident hunters and 10 moose for residents.

Harvest Chronology

Thirty-five percent of the harvested moose were taken from 16 to 20 September, 32% were harvested from 11 to 15 September, 21% were harvested from 21 to 25 September, and 11% from 6 to 10 September.

Transport Methods

In Unit 21C, hunters typically used airplanes (51%) or boats (47%) for transportation. Other transportation methods used to reach the hunt area were 3- or 4-wheeler, airboat, or unknown (combined 2%).

Alaska Board of Game Actions and Emergency Orders

During RY17, the Board of Game adopted Proposal 95 which changed drawing hunt DM812 (as well as DM892 in Unit 24C and the Units 21C and 24C portions of the RM834 hunt area) to registration permit hunt RM838. The RM838 permit is available to both residents and nonresidents, and no longer requires antler destruction.

Recommendations for Activity 2.1

Continue to monitor reported harvest.

3. Habitat Assessment-Enhancement

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

NONREGULATORY MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS OR NEEDS

None.

Data Recording and Archiving

Harvest data will be stored on ADF&G's Wildlife Information Network (WinfoNet, <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

The management goal, to provide a sustained opportunity to participate in hunting moose, was achieved. 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 RY20–RY24 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

Amounts 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

There is a negative finding for the intensive management of moose in Unit 21C.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

There are no management objectives for Unit 21C.

REVIEW OF MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

1. Population Status and Trend

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

2. Mortality-Harvest Monitoring

ACTIVITY 2.1. 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) will be used to query the moose harvest database and construct summaries of reported harvest from drawing, registration, and general season hunts. Hunters received 1–2 reminder letters; after that, e-mails and telephone calls are made to hunters in an attempt to obtain harvest reports.

3. Habitat Assessment-Enhancement

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

NONREGULATORY MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS OR NEEDS

None.

Data Recording and Archiving

Harvest data will be stored on ADF&G's Wildlife Information Network (WinfoNet, <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.

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- Boggs, K., T. V. Boucher, T. T. Kuo, D. Fehringer, and S. Guyer. 2012. Vegetation map and classification: Northern, western and Interior Alaska. Alaska Natural Heritage Program, University of Alaska Anchorage.
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