



Allakaket-Atlatna Intensive Management Subsistence Research

This project establishes a baseline assessment for the harvest and use of moose and other large land mammals in the communities of Allakaket and Atlatna. The research will help measure the effectiveness of state-mandated intensive moose management programs.

DIVISION OF SUBSISTENCE
ALASKA DEPT. OF FISH AND GAME

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR
SETH WILSON
1300 COLLEGE ROAD
FAIRBANKS, AK 99701
907-4549-7398
1-877-646-7320
seth.wilson@alaska.gov

STUDY COMMUNITIES
ALLAKAKET
ALATNA

PROJECT TIMEFRAME
2010–2016



ADF&G complies with OEO requirements as posted at <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=home.oeostatement>

Project Description

Koyukon Athabascan people and the few Inupiaq people that reside along the Koyukuk River have a long and rich cultural history surrounding the harvest of moose and other large land mammals. This study will establish a baseline for the harvests and uses of moose, caribou, black bears, brown bears, Dall sheep, and gray wolves in the communities of Allakaket and Atlatna.

Oral history reports and ethnographies indicate that moose migrated into the Koyukuk River drainage in the 1930s. Moose abundance peaked in the 1990s, but subsistence hunters have noticed a gradual decline since that time.

In 2012, the Alaska Board of Game approved Proposal 163, which authorized an intensive management program in a small portion of GMU 24B, surrounding the communities of Allakaket and Atlatna, in order to increase the number of moose available for human consumption by controlling wolf predation. The research component of this management program is intended to measure the effectiveness of implementing state-mandated intensive moose management programs on a localized basis.

Division of Subsistence personnel will conduct big game subsistence harvest assessments in Allakaket and Atlatna as a 5-year data collection effort in conjunction with the intensive management project. Measures of moose harvest success will go beyond a simple tally of moose harvested by also accounting for effort (time spent hunting, distance traveled), expense (e.g., fuel used), and impact on the quality of the subsistence way of life (i.e. food security, economic benefit to the community), balanced against the expenditure of state funds. Hunter effort will be monitored throughout the study to measure whether the intensive management effort supports higher harvests of moose and also improves access to moose.

This project is funded by the Alaska State Legislature. Findings could influence development of intensive management projects in other parts of Alaska.

Project Objectives

- Document the harvest and use of moose and other large land mammals by residents of Allakaket and Atlatna
- Map contemporary large land mammal search and harvest areas
- Document moose hunting effort by individual hunters and households



Community Partnerships

In addition to collecting and analyzing big game subsistence harvest data, Division of Subsistence researchers will develop partnerships with local traditional councils, and they will train local researchers to assist with surveys. Each community will have the opportunity to review the data and analysis before finalization.

Project Activities

Researchers will meet with communities to review project goals and objectives. With community approval, researchers will administer household surveys and ethnographic interviews. All participation is voluntary and confidential. Researchers will hold community meetings to review the draft data and analysis, prepare a draft report for review by the communities, and prepare a final report. Box holders in each community will receive a summary report.

Project Timeline

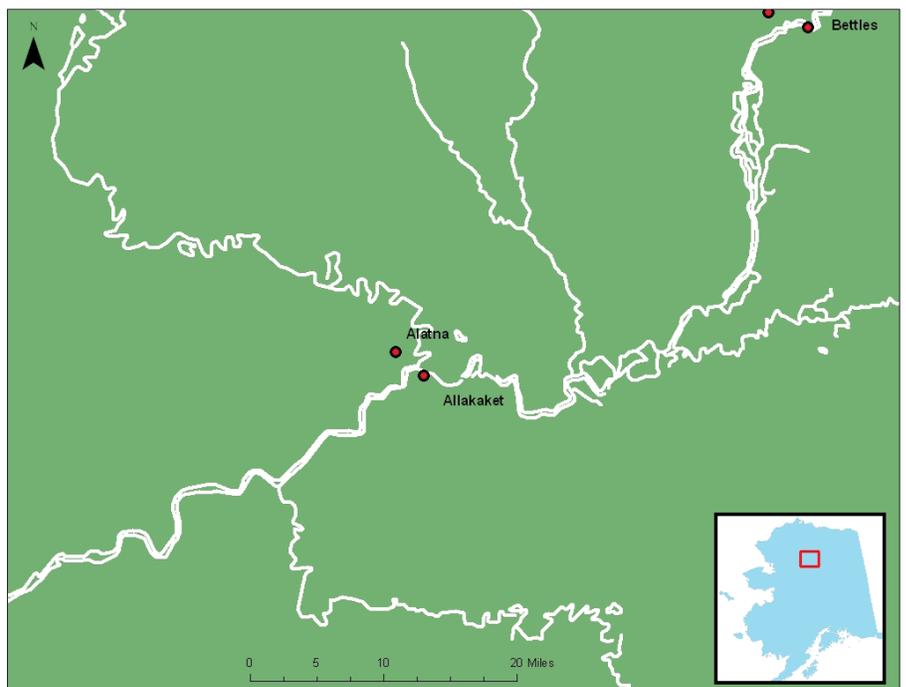
Community approval: 2010

Household surveys: 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, and 2015

Data analysis: 2012-2016

Community data review: 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, and 2016

Final report: Spring 2016



WHAT

We will systematically collect information on moose and other big game hunting effort, success and sharing patterns. Types of information we will collect include subsistence harvest and use quantities, local concerns, and traditional subsistence knowledge.

WHY

This project is part of a larger effort to control wolf predation of moose in the upper Koyukuk River area. This survey will specifically measure the success of predator control in helping local hunters meet their harvesting needs over a five-year period.

HOW

Research methods will include systematic household surveys, mapping of hunt areas, and select key respondent ethnographic interviews. Everyone is included: we hope to survey all households, including Native and non-Native households, subsistence harvesters and non-harvesters.

WHO

This project is funded by the Alaska State Legislature. Research will be conducted by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game Division of Subsistence. Surveys will be conducted by a Fish and Game researcher teamed with a local surveyor.

Household surveys are voluntary and confidential!