



Anchorage Moose Survey

You can help by reporting Anchorage moose locations to Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Feb. 19-21, 2021

How many moose are in Anchorage?

Moose are difficult to count in cities, especially in Anchorage. Aerial surveys don't work because much of the city is restricted airspace. Winter weather can also limit survey opportunities. However, a reliable population estimate is important for Alaska Department of Fish and Game biologists so they can effectively manage moose and address safety concerns.

One solution being tested by ADF&G biologists is a new ground-based method incorporating genetic data collected from Anchorage's moose to calculate a population estimate. In 2017 a pilot project was initiated to demonstrate the feasibility of the approach. In 2018 the work was expanded to cover the Anchorage Bowl (see map). This is the fourth and final year of the project. Department staff is calling on the public to help locate moose.

In other words, we need citizen scientists to help!

How sampling will work, and how the public can help

From **Friday, Feb. 19 to Sunday, Feb. 21, 2021**, the public is invited to report moose sightings within the Anchorage Bowl (see map). If you see a moose anywhere in this area during those days, please let us know. There are three ways to report moose to ADF&G:

- Call 907-267-2530
- Text 907-782-5051
- Report online at www.adfg.alaska.gov

When you report a moose sighting, make sure you include:

- The moose's location
- The date and time of the sighting
- The number of moose observed at the given location

Once the report is made, ADF&G biologists will respond and take a DNA skin biopsy using a special dart gun. The darts are designed to lightly strike a moose, collect a skin sample and fall to the ground for the biologists to collect.

The DNA from the sample will identify individual moose and enable researchers to determine mothers, their calves, and the degree of relatedness with other moose in the study. These data are allowing researchers to estimate the number of moose in the Anchorage area as well as how many are males and how many are females. Prior to this project, the technique had never been attempted on moose (especially in a city) and is termed a "Mark-Recapture" analysis. Biologists will use the data collected this year, in combination with the data collected over the last several years, to calculate an accurate population estimate and also estimate survival rates for Anchorage moose.

You can help by reporting Anchorage moose locations from Feb. 19-21, and by giving biologists space as they work to collect the DNA samples. ADF&G staff will be clearly identified with Department vests for safety. Please also know that biologists may be carrying dart guns for collecting DNA samples. Remember, moose can be dangerous; keep a safe distance. Thank you for your help and cooperation with this study!



Biologists will use dart guns to collect DNA samples.



This map shows the project area. Report moose in this area.

