

a new path



**Southern Lakes Wildlife
Coordinating Committee
Moose Update 2009**



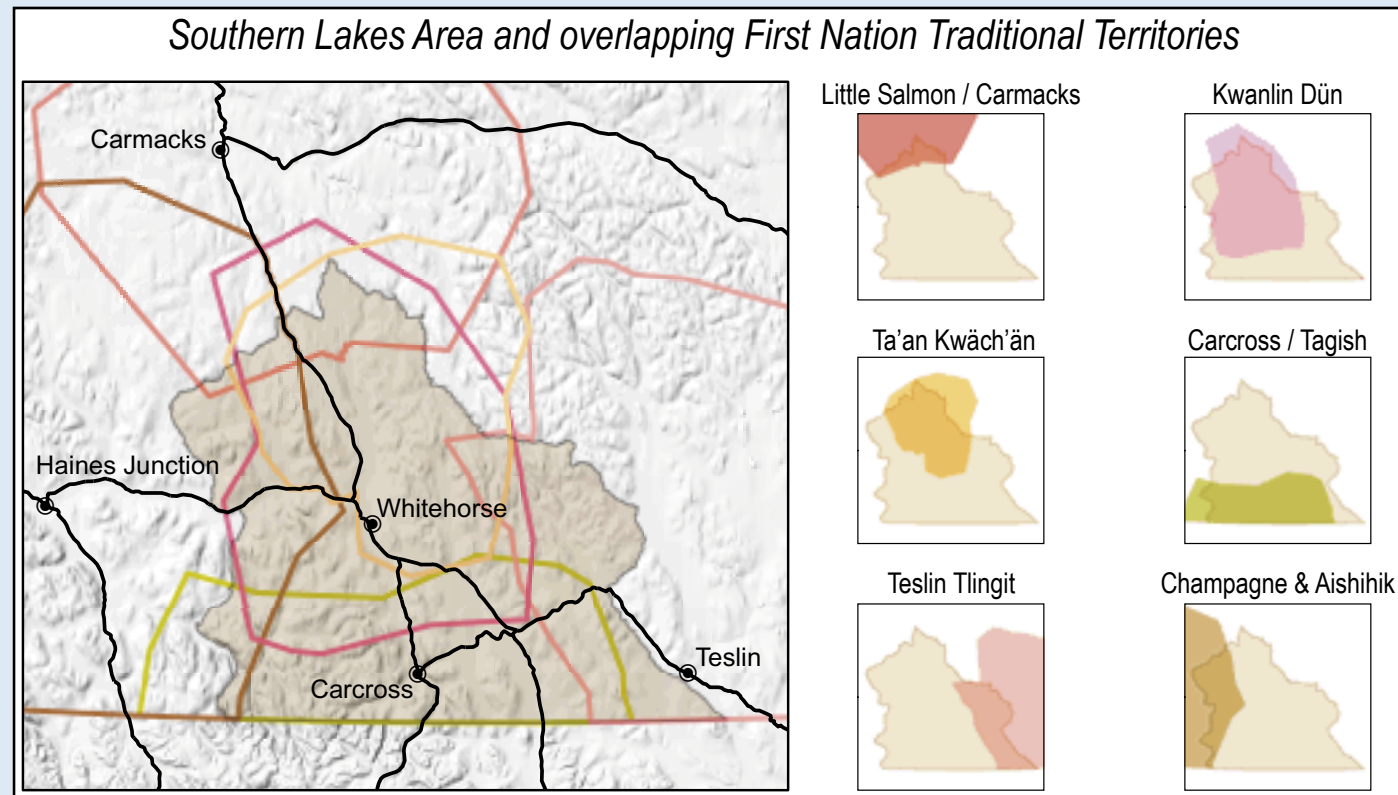
BACKGROUND

The Southern Lakes Wildlife Coordinating Committee is working on the recovery and management of wildlife populations and their habitats in the Southern Lakes area. The committee was established through the Carcross/ Tagish and Kwanlin Dun First Nations Final Agreements.

These agreements call for the integration of knowledge and experience to achieve wildlife conservation, and the integration of management to ensure that there is

no duplication in the public management of wildlife. Responsibility for wildlife management in this region rests with Yukon government, First Nations governments and Renewable Resources Councils.

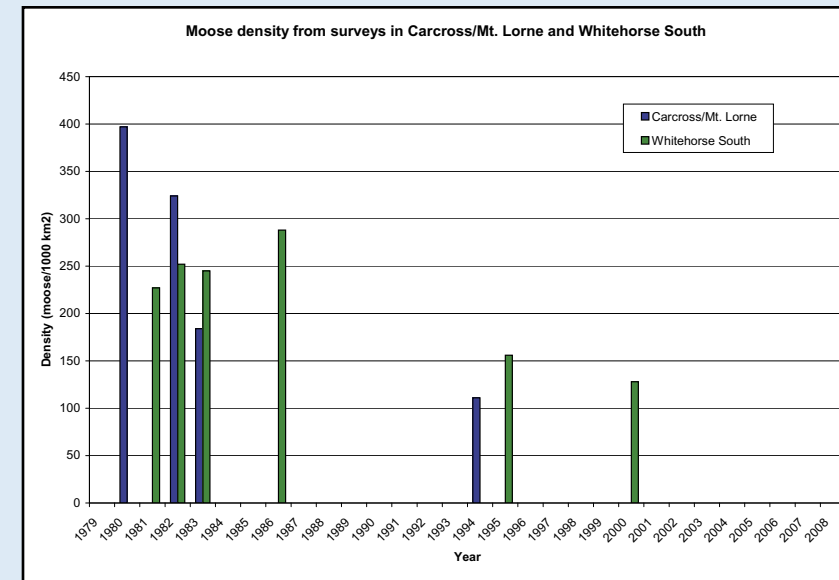
The committee has completed its recommendations on caribou management, and in the spring of 2009 will focus on moose management.



MOOSE IN THE SOUTHERN LAKES AREA

In the past, the Southern Lakes area had some of the highest numbers of moose in the Yukon. Traditional and local knowledge suggests that moose numbers began to drop between the early 1970s and 1980s.

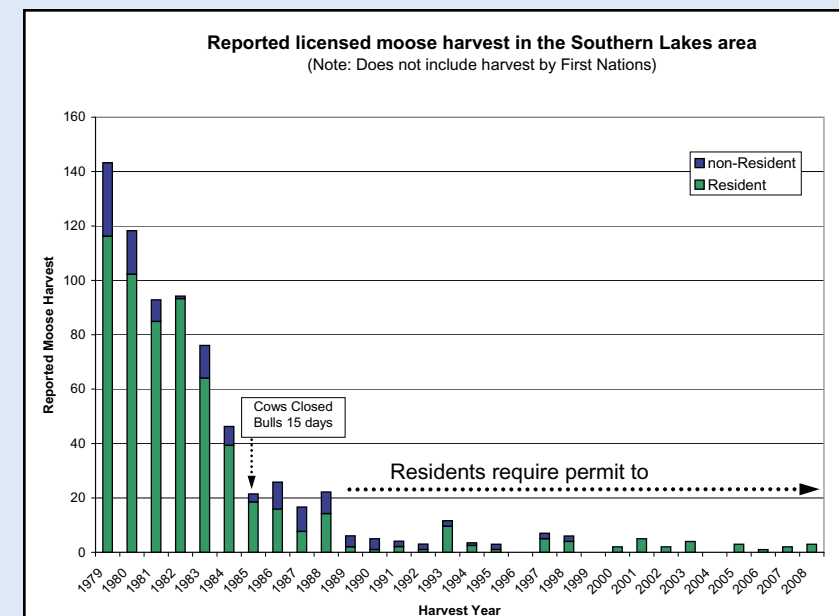
Moose harvest has also declined, and population surveys show that numbers are lower at this time. Due to public concern about the decline, the committee will be addressing this issue next in their work plan.



Population surveys show declines in moose density.

MOOSE DENSITY

Five areas have been regularly surveyed for moose in the Southern Lakes area since 1980. These areas include Teslin Burn, Mt. Lorne, Whitehorse North, M'Clintock and Whitehorse South. All areas show a decline in moose density. For example, an estimated density of over 200 moose per 1000 square km in Whitehorse South in 1981 dropped to less than 100 moose per 1000 square km by 2000.



Reported moose harvest has declined.

HARVEST

First Nation and Yukon resident hunters have experienced a steady decline in moose harvest since 1979. To help protect the population, regulations phased out cow hunting, reduced the bull season to 15 days and introduced a permit hunt.

Surveys indicate low calf survival in recent years; however, it may be variable within the region and by year related to winter severity. Predation is likely to be similar annually, but was only studied in the early 1980s.

Timeline of moose conservation and management in the Southern Lakes area



Traditional and local knowledge from long-time residents of the Southern Lakes area is very important.

Agreement has been expressed by the public on the decline of moose since as early as the 1970s. The public has also expressed the need for a moose management plan.

First Nations conduct wildlife patrols through a Game Guardian or other similar program. The objective is to record wildlife sightings and signs, to share information about the state of wildlife populations, and to be a presence on the land, monitoring and educating the public about hunting regulations, land use and wildlife concerns.

The SLWCC began a Regional Wildlife Assessment on moose

SLWCC was established 2008

Carcross/Tagish Southern Lakes Moose Recovery Educational Program began 2007

Carcross/Tagish First Nation Final Agreement came into effect 2006

Kwanlin Dün First Nation Final Agreement came into effect 2005

The moose harvest management tool kit was approved by the Environment Yukon Minister 2002

Harvest management working group organized public meetings

Southern Lakes Caribou Steering Committee initiated discussion with First Nations on moose recovery

2001

Observations and local knowledge about moose was collected

2000

Moose recommendations submitted to the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board

Permit hunt implemented for moose

Moose recommendations submitted to the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board

Research on the causes and rate of moose mortality

1989

1985

Cow moose hunt closed and bull hunt reduced to 15 days

Moose population surveys began

1980's

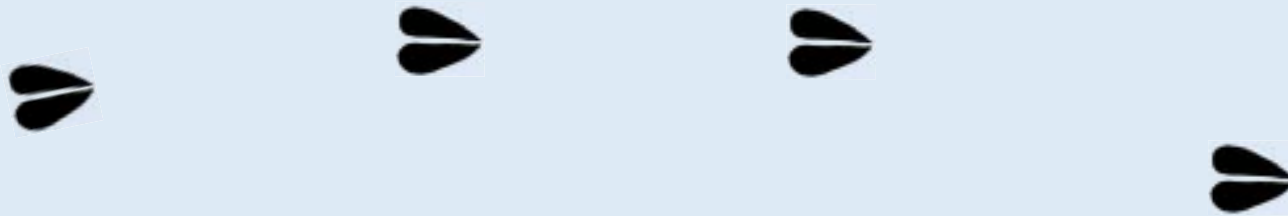
1970's

Local knowledge suggests a decline in moose



CONSERVATION

the management of fish and wildlife populations and habitats and the regulation of users to ensure the quality, diversity and long term optimum productivity of fish and wildlife populations, with the primary goal of ensuring a sustainable harvest and its proper utilization.



THE COMMITTEE

The Southern Lakes Wildlife Coordinating Committee is comprised of six First Nation Governments (Carcross/Tagish, Champagne and Aishihik, Kwanlin Dun, Ta'an Kwach'an, Taku River Tlingit and Teslin Tlingit), and Governments of Yukon, British Columbia and Canada.

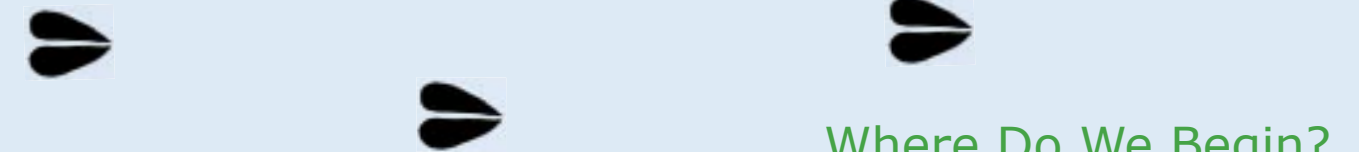
As defined in Final Agreements, the objectives of the committee are:

1. To coordinate management of caribou, moose, sheep and other wildlife populations and their habitats in the Southern Lakes area to promote the recovery and conservation of these populations; and
2. To coordinate the involvement of and improve communications among the First nations, Government, British Columbia and others with regard to the recovery and management of wildlife populations and their habitats in the Southern Lakes area.

TOOLS TO GUIDING RECOMMENDATIONS:

Many tools will be used to help the committee make recommendations about moose management in the Southern Lakes area, including:

- Traditional and local knowledge
- Community workshops
- Past moose harvest management recommendations
- Population and habitat inventories



How You Can Help...

Come to a community meeting or contact the committee to learn more, share your ideas and suggestions.

For more information visit our website at:

www.yfwcm.ca/slwcc,
or phone at 456-6599.

Where Do We Begin?

We will host meetings in the communities to share information on moose populations in the Southern Lakes area, and to hear community concerns.

Following the community meetings, the committee will host a planning workshop to review community concerns and build recommendations on moose management.

Regional Wildlife Assessment

The committee is working together to conduct a Regional Wildlife Assessment that respects the values and concerns of all users, for generations to come. We all share in the responsibility for moose management in the Southern Lakes area.



***The Southern Lakes
Wildlife Coordinating
Committee is dedicated
to the recovery and
management of caribou,
moose, sheep and other
wildlife populations and
their habitat in the
Southern Lakes area.***



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