

# POPULATIONS MOOSE

## DINJIK

Moose surveys were conducted in VGFN traditional territory in 1975, 1979, 1995, 1997 and 2000. Overall, moose numbers in the traditional territory are slightly lower than in the rest of the Yukon. Moose have declined drastically in Old Crow Flats but have doubled in the Richardson Mountain area and remained about the same along the Porcupine River. Traditional knowledge indicates that moose numbers go up and down quite a bit. For example, there were few moose around Rampart House in 1922 and 1935 to 1937 and few moose in the Whitestone area in 1940, 1941 and 1960.

### Concern

#### Alaska/Old Crow Flats population is in trouble.

Some of the moose that summer in the Old Crow Flats migrate to Alaska in winter whereas others may go to the Firth, Driftwood and maybe the Bell rivers. Recently, the moose harvest in Alaska has gone up and this may be partly related to the drop in moose numbers in the Old Crow Flats. The First Nations harvest of moose in the Flats is unknown and the harvest of moose by Yukon residents is minimal.

#### Solution Cooperative management with Alaska.

Since part of the Old Crow Flats moose population is shared with Alaska, it is important that harvest management be coordinated between the Yukon and the state.

**Actions**  
Responsible parties, Time line

**VGFN/YG (FWMB)**  
2001/02

Get Alaska information on harvest and regulations.

The following means of contacting Alaska for information were proposed:

- VGFN should speak to the Alaska Gwich'in at the annual Gwich'in Gathering. They should also raise this matter with the Gwich'in Steering Committee.
- The Yukon government should contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for harvest and outfitting information.
- The Yukon government and the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board should be prepared to raise this matter with the Alaska Board of Game once better information about the effect of Alaska hunting on the Old Crow Flats population has been determined. *Note: FWMB is bracketed as it is not a partner to the plan and would therefore need to be contacted at the appropriate time.* [2001-NY-AI-10]

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Moose



**Concern**

**Don't want Porcupine River population to go down.**

Most moose are taken by the community along the Porcupine River. Moose are relied upon in times of caribou scarcity and are used both for meat and clothing (moccasins, vests, etc.).

**Solution** Keep track of Porcupine River moose population and harvest.

This population could be in danger of over harvesting and, given its importance, it should receive priority for continued monitoring.

**Actions**

Responsible parties, Time line

**YG/VGFN**  
2002/03  
2003/04  
2004/05

Survey Porcupine River moose.

In 1997 a November survey of moose along the Porcupine from Bluefish to Driftwood estimated numbers of 575 to 600. A 3% harvest (18 moose) would be safe if they were all bulls. VGFN can contribute funds to the survey scheduled for 2004/2005. The biggest problem is getting the right plane as they are in high demand for this work. The survey should be done November 2001 if the plane can be hired. If not, definitely do it in November 2002 and every year thereafter if possible. [2001-NY-AI-11]

**Concern**

**Are radio-collars necessary?**

Radio-collars provide important information on moose movements (such as Old Crow Flats moose) but the community is always concerned about the effect of collars on the animals. Not much is presently known about the seasonal movements of moose along the lower Porcupine River. People say that moose come down to the river in late winter (after the new year) when the snow is deep. Moose are also seen along the headwaters of the river in summer. Other than this we don't know the movements of these moose. More detailed information would be valuable to combine with hunting to make sure the population is not over harvested. In integrated plans it is up to the community to weigh the benefits of radio-collar information for the population as opposed to their concerns for individual animals. There are presently no collaring programs for VGFN traditional territory moose and the need to know the movements of Porcupine River moose was not covered although it could be raised at an annual review of the plan.

**Solutions** Radio-collaring requires community consideration.

The need for radio-collaring information about Porcupine River moose was not addressed in the planning session. Perhaps it should be revisited depending on the results of the moose survey.

**Actions**

Responsible parties, Time line

**VGFN/YG**  
**NYRRC**  
2004/05

Consider Porcupine River moose radio-collaring.

This item was not addressed in the planning session and this tentative action was been suggested afterward so as not to loose track of the concern and its relevance to management. [2001-NY-AI-12]