



United States Department of Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve
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Fairbanks, Alaska 99709

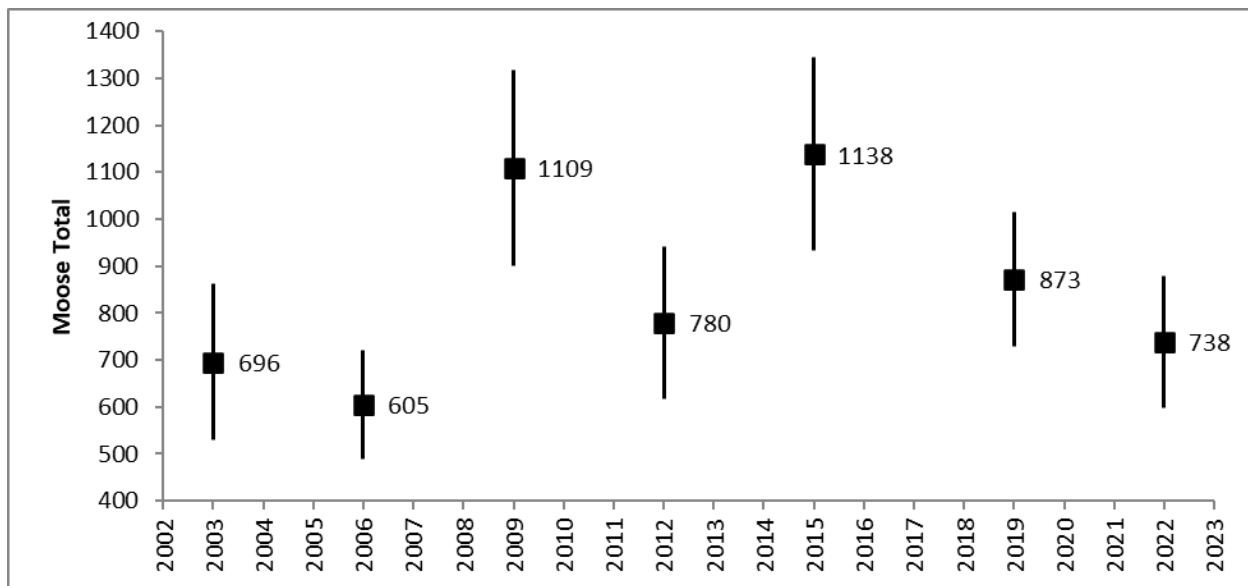


Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve Eastern Interior Regional Advisory Council Meeting March 1-2, 2023

- **Subsistence Update:** The Eagle Subsistence Working Group held a meeting in Eagle Village on February 2. Topics of discussion were: the 2023 Preserve Compendium, the Proposed Sport Hunting and Trapping Rule, wildlife projects and surveys, and staffing updates. This meeting also provided an opportunity for a meet and greet between Preserve staff and community members. The Working Group will continue to have annual meetings which provide the opportunity for information exchange between community residents and National Park Service staff.

For more information contact Marcy Okada at marcy_okada@nps.gov

- **November 2022 Moose Survey:** We conducted the 9th moose population survey of Yukon-Charley Rivers between November 6-19th. This year, we surveyed 110 units out of the 550 total units, which made up 20% of the study area, and flew about 95 hours. A total of 183 moose were observed which was comprised of 101 cows, 21 calves, and 61 bulls. The population estimate of 738 moose was slightly lower than the last estimate of 873 in 2019 and resulted in a moose density estimate of 0.24 moose/mi². A full report is being written and will be shared once it is completed. Contact Mat Sorum with any questions or for more information: mathew_sorum@nps.gov.



- **Moose Collaring Project:** We currently have 29 collared adult female moose in our ongoing moose project and are monitoring movements, reproduction, and calf survival. Adult mortality was up last year –3 females died between April and May and 3 more from June to September, 2022. In the spring of 2022, we found that 71% of the cows (22 of 31) gave birth and that the twinning rate was 50% (8 of 16 cows observed on the flights). Notably, both of these metrics were higher than in 2021 (66% parturition rate and 22% twinning rate. Calving seemed later than previous years in general, and the average calving date in 2022 was May 22, the latest yet. Over summer survival of calves was 50% (12 of 24). We plan to conduct flights this spring 2023, to measure over-winter survival of the calves and to deploy 4 more collars on moose in and around the Preserve. Contact Matt Cameron with any questions or for more information: matthew_cameron@nps.gov.
- **Wolf Monitoring Program Update:** We are currently monitoring 5 packs within the Preserve and 4 packs denned and produced pups over the summer. The fall pack count averaged 8.6 wolves, higher than the long-term average of 7.3 wolves, and above last spring's count of 5.0 wolves. Over the 2022 biological year (May 1 2022 – April 30 2023), we are tracking 25 GPS collared wolves. So far, of the 25 wolves, 5 died and 1 dispersed. Three packs disbanded during the summer due to deaths of a breeding adult. This year marks the 29th year of monitoring the wolf population in Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve.

Last spring, we deployed video/GPS combination collars on wolves. The cameras were set to collect 30-second video clips every daylight hour in March and again in June. The goal of the project is to collect data on spring and summer diets, behaviors, and record social behaviors during the early pup-rearing season. The collars have been retrieved and are currently being reviewed. So far this is what we've learned - during late winter, wolves spent a lot of time resting, in fact, nearly three quarters of the day. Besides resting, they spent 16% of their time traveling/hunting, 5% of their time socializing and playing with other wolves, and 5% of their time eating. In general, wolves spent the mornings and afternoons resting, late afternoons traveling/hunting, and early evenings socializing and eating. So far, we identified multiple kills and plan to use this data to describe kill rates and prey selection across the multi-prey system.

Contact Mat Sorum with any questions or for more information:
matthew_sorum@nps.gov.

- **Dall's Sheep Update:** A sheep survey will be conducted in the Preserve this year and survey results will be shared with the Council once the data is processed. Contact Mat Sorum with any questions or for more information:
matthew_sorum@nps.gov.