# THE IMPACTS OF HARVESTING COW MOOSE

Bull Moose Harvest

- When a bull moose is harvested, his ability to reproduce is stopped.

- The cow moose he would have mated with will mate with another bull and still have a calf the following year.

- This means that only **one** individual moose was removed from the potential population

Cow Moose Harvest

- When a cow moose is harvested, her ability to reproduce is stopped.

- Any calves she would have had, would have reproduced in the future and added to the population.

- This means that the cow, plus all of her potential calves, and their contribution to the future population, are removed.

Year 1

Year 3

Year 5
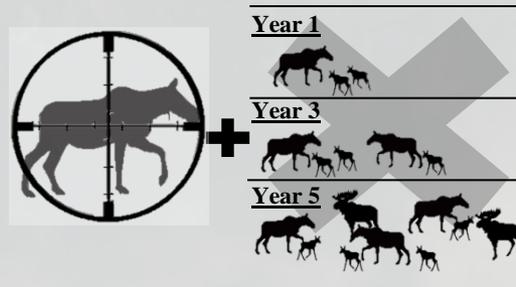
Area of Concern

Game Management Subzones:
10-21, 10-22, and 10-23

Regions:
- Wolf Lake Backcountry
- Nisutlin River
- Teslin Lake NE
- Teslin Lake NW
- Nisutlin Bay
- Morley
- South Canol South
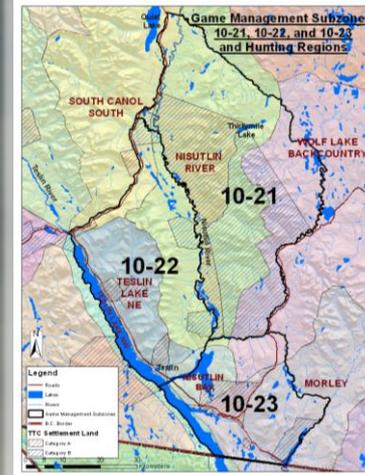
Bull : Cow Ratio

- Cow moose are considered the limiting factor in a population, rather than bulls.
- Cow moose are **polyestrous**, meaning that they can come into heat several times during the breeding season. This ensures that even when there are fewer bulls than cows, a cow has several opportunities to be able to mate with a bull.
- It is important, therefore, to keep a high number of cows to support high levels of reproductive opportunities.

"Dry Cows"

- A cow that is unsuccessful in producing a calf or protecting a calf that year is considered a "dry cow" for that year.

- Dry cows are often those that have lost their young to predation, but will reproduce in following years.

- A cow moose without a calf should **NOT** be considered as a sign that the individual is too old to reproduce. Cows beyond 12 years old have been shown to still produce calves, just less frequently.

- Studies have shown that approximately 84% of Yukon cows are between 5-13 years old – **Most cows are capable of producing calves their entire lives**

If a cow moose is harvested: REPORT the harvest – this is important information for understanding our moose populations.