

BC MooseTracker App

Moose are an iconic part of BC landscapes. They are a popular source of sustenance and recreational hunting for BC residents and non-residents alike, and they are critical to the culture and sustenance of many Indigenous communities. Maintaining accurate information on moose populations is a key part of safeguarding this culturally and ecologically important species.

To supplement traditional aerial surveys, the BC government released the BC MooseTracker App in 2016. This free to download citizen-science tool enables hunters to contribute their valuable observations on the number, sex and location of moose they encounter into a central database. With enough participation, provincial biologists can harness these collective observations to detect changes in moose populations.



So far, the utility of BC MooseTracker data is limited by low user participation. **In order for biologists to observe trends in the moose data, many more hunters need to use the app.**

Only **3.2%** of B.C.'s 40,000 moose hunters have used the app.

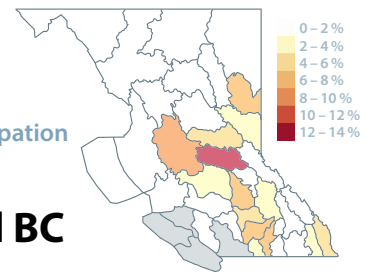


Users observed a moose every **4.6 hours** on average.



Most participation came from hunters in **Central BC**

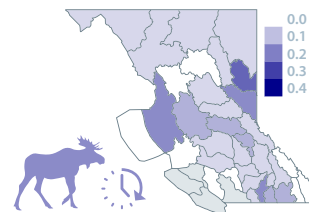
HUNTER PARTICIPATION



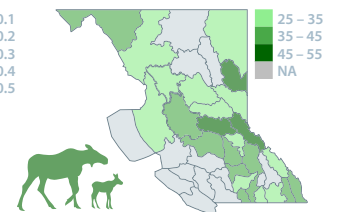
The app has useful features for hunters, including the most recent Hunting and Trapping synopsis and a way to track your observations over the years.

Results from 2016 to 2019 shown below reflect low participation and therefore low confidence in the data. More participation is necessary to improve the accuracy of the data being collected and to make it useful for management purposes.

MOOSE PER HOUR



CALF:COW RATIO



With additional participation, the BC MooseTracker App could allow biologists to leverage the knowledge of hunters and improve understanding of trends in moose populations at low cost.



Are you a moose hunter interested in participating? You can download the app for free through iTunes or the Google Play store.

Compatibility: iPhone, iPad, and iPod touch, iOS 7.0 or later and Android devices.



For more information, please contact: moosetracker@gov.bc.ca or visit: www.gov.bc.ca/wildlifehealth/moosetracker