



“Moose Day” April 18, 2009

As part of the Meg and Bert Raynes Wildlife Fund, it was decided to ask the citizens of the community to record their moose observations for a single day, April 18, 2009. They were asked to record the time, location and number of moose for each observation. The “Moose Day” was advertised in advance through Bert’s weekly news column and to a large group-email list associated with the local Nature Mapping and citizens science initiative. Individuals were asked to report sightings to Steve Kilpatrick’s email address. There were concerns that recent mild weather caused many moose to seek traditional spring/summer ranges where they would be less visible to the public. This most likely happened since many reporters stated seeing numerous moose in March to early April, but fewer to none recently.

Weather conditions were warm (50+ F) and sunny. Most of the valley floor was clear of snow and short (i.e. 1 inch) grass sprouts were present. Citizen response was great. Steve Kilpatrick reviewed each response for accuracy and deleted what were determined to be duplicate sightings. Non-duplicate sightings were plotted using GIS (see attached map). He also responded to all emails, thanking the individuals for their participation. This report and a map will be available on the Meg and Bert Raynes Wildlife Fund web site.

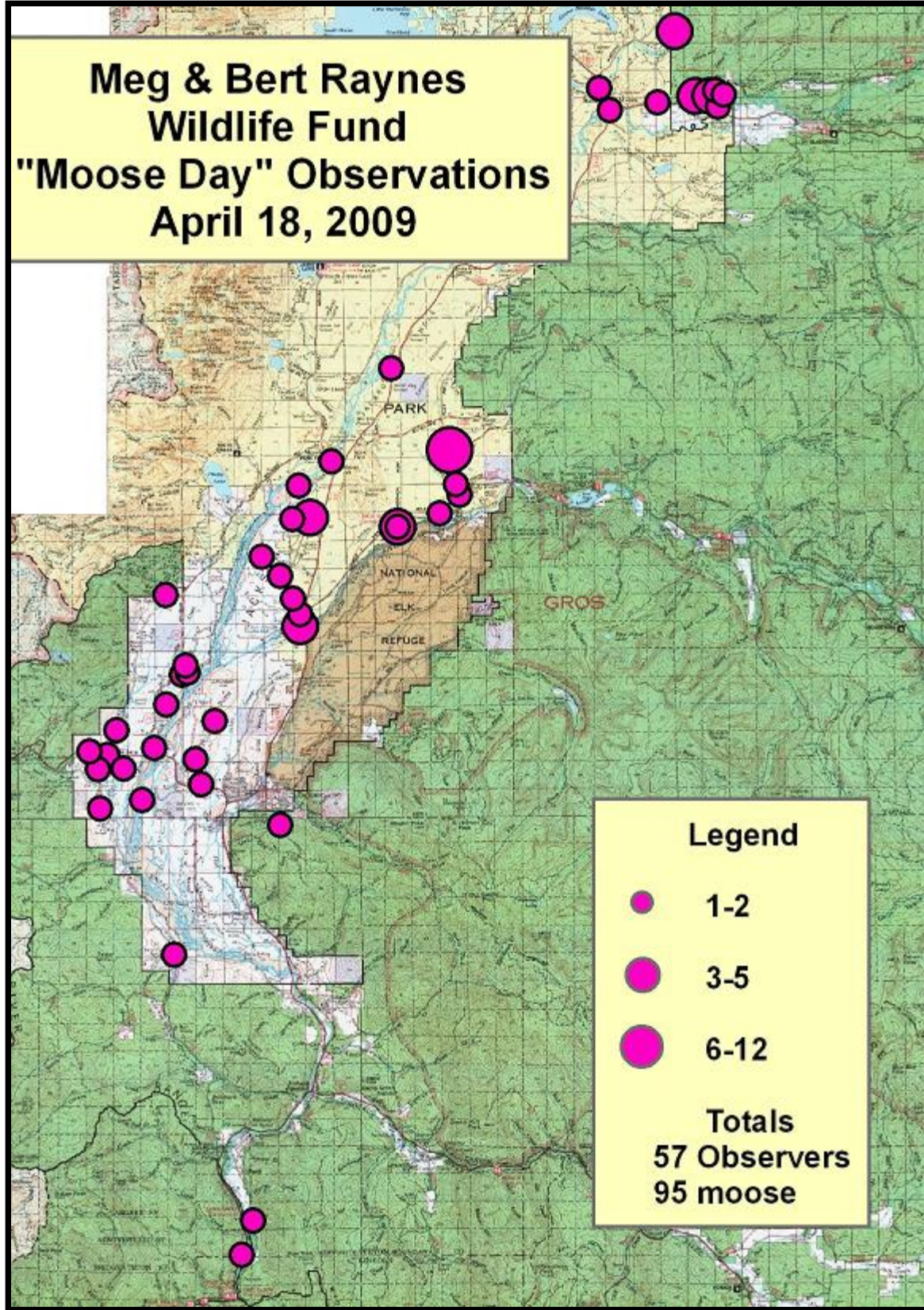
Summary:

1. 57 folks responded (most by email and a few by phone).
2. 95 individual moose were observed and mapped.
3. 185 duplicate sightings – which were not included on the map.
4. Sex identification was difficult due to antler drop in December. Thus many were placed in the “unknown” category.
Males – 11 Females – 13 Juveniles – 9 Unknown - 62 Total - 95
5. Many folks were compelled to seek moose in areas where they knew they would find moose (i.e. Gros Ventre Junction., airport, Kelly to old Science School Road.).
6. Many folks expressed their appreciation and willingness to participate in wildlife observations.

Recommendations:

1. Conduct the census earlier – March
2. Email out a form for more efficient and consistent data sorting, entry, etc.
3. Direct folks to certain areas – reduce duplication and search more developed sites.
4. Have the folks put a dot with number of moose observed on a map and send/email it back. It was very time consuming to read a location description and accurately find it on a map (i.e. “between the pink and yellow house, but up the hill a bit beyond the 25 mph sign”)
5. Train folks to accurately identify males vs females after antler drop.

**Meg & Bert Raynes
Wildlife Fund
"Moose Day" Observations
April 18, 2009**



Non-duplicate moose observations made during the Meg & Bert Raynes Wildlife Fund "Moose Day", April 18, 2009.