



“Moose Day” February 27, 2010

As part of the Meg and Bert Raynes Wildlife Fund and Jackson Hole Nature Mapping, the 2nd annual “Moose Day” was held February 27, 2010. Important and accessible winter ranges within Teton County were partitioned into 54 different search areas. Forty-seven (47) trained Nature Mappers volunteered to simultaneously search assigned areas between daylight and 11:00 a.m. They were instructed to utilize public access routes and vantage points to survey their assigned areas and obey winter range closures. All moose data were entered in the Nature Mapping on-line standardized database under Project “Moose Day 2”. Eighty-six (86) individual moose were observed (Figure 1.).

Weather conditions were relatively warm with temperatures in the low to mid 20’s F, and partly to mostly sunny conditions. The Snake River Basin was at 55% of the snow water equivalent average (NRCS snowtel site data). Considerably low snow water equivalent conditions allowed for relatively easy moose access to the entire valley floor as well as higher elevations of adjacent foothills. Thus, moose distribution appeared more scattered with lower densities in historically favored low elevation sites.

The 54 search areas extended from Pacific Creek and Buffalo Valley south to the southern extent of Teton County along the Snake River corridor (Figure 2). The USFS and volunteers also searched the Gros Ventre River corridor. The town of Jackson was also partitioned into numerous search areas. This report and associated maps will be available on the Jackson Hole Nature Mapping web site.

Summary:

1. 54 individual search areas searched by 47 observers
2. 86 individual moose were observed in 51 different moose groups (Figure 1).
3. Sex identification was difficult due to antler drop in December. Thus, many were placed in the “unknown” category.
Adult Males – 12 Adult Females – 16 Adult Unknown – 10 Unknown Age/Sex – 35
Juveniles – 9 Yearlings – 4
4. Volunteers had a good time and expressed their appreciation and willingness to participate in wildlife observations.

Recommendations:

1. Have folks record their search effort (i.e. hours searching, miles driven).
2. Have the observers document their search route and vantage points.
3. Have observers document the fact they did not see a moose.
4. Train folks to accurately identify males vs females after antler drop.
5. Provide more detailed maps to observers.

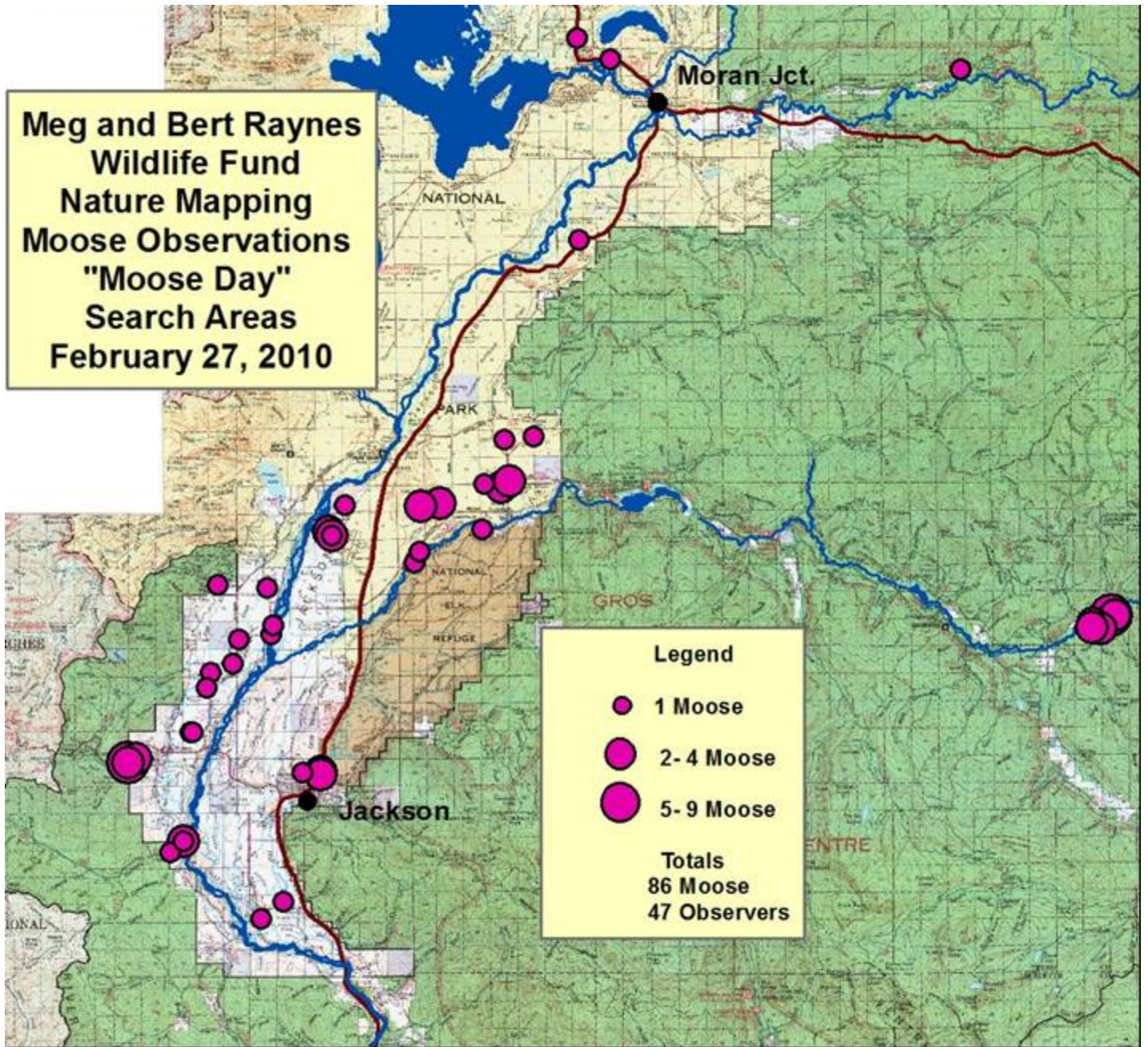


Figure1. A total of 86 individual moose were observed in 51 different locations during the Meg and Bert Raynes Wildlife Fund 2nd Annual Moose Day.

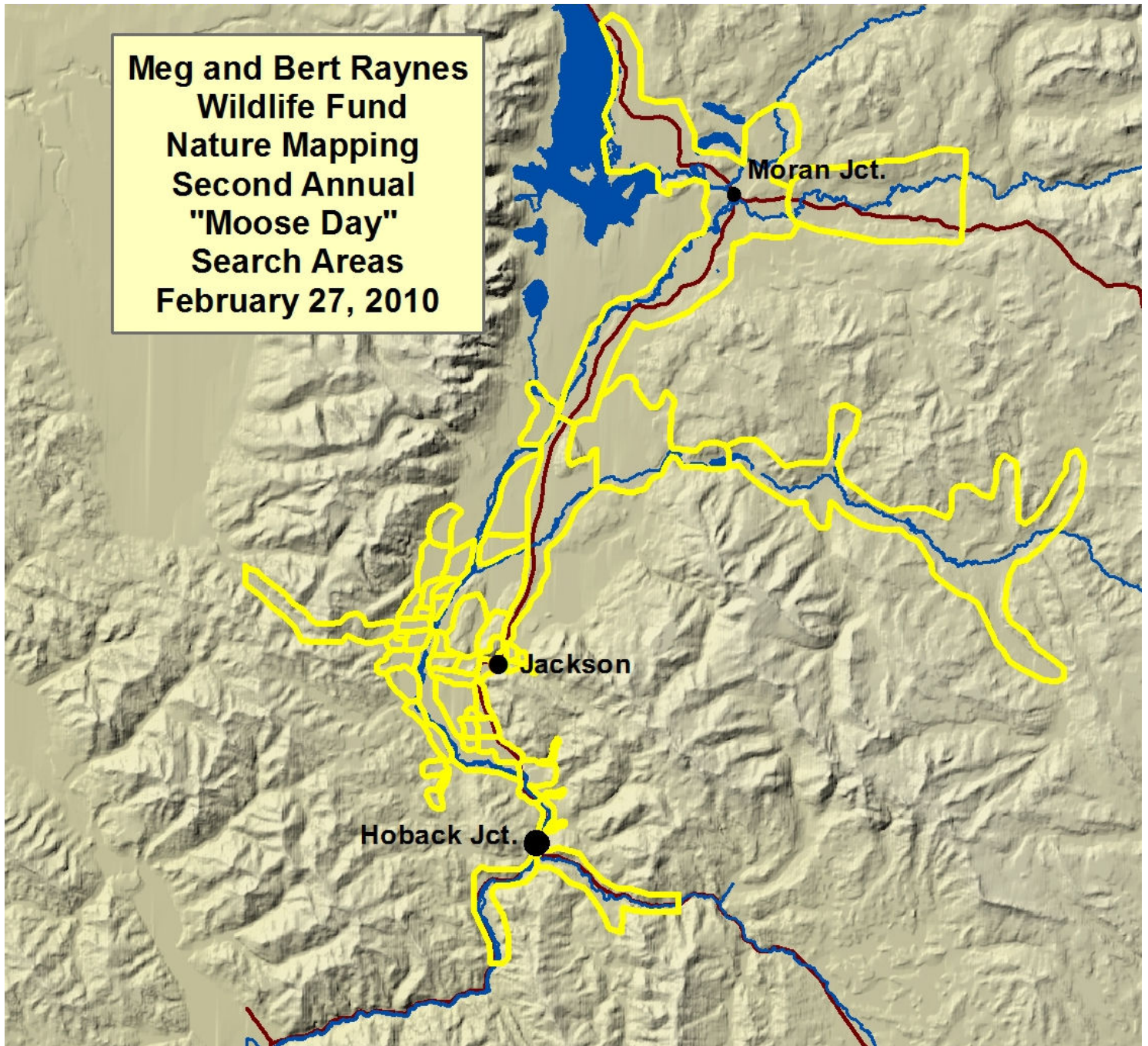


Figure 2. Forty-seven (47) observers searched 54 search areas within Teton County during the 2nd annual Meg and Bert Raynes Wildlife Fund Moose Day.