



Jackson Hole Wildlife Foundation Moose Day 2024 Report

Overview

Moose Day 2024 was an extraordinary event, marked by harsh winter conditions, including heavy snow and strong winds. These challenges tested the resilience and dedication of our volunteers. Held on March 2, 2024, this annual wildlife survey brought together passionate individuals who braved the elements to contribute to vital moose population data.

Despite the weather, 37 of the 68 designated search areas were partially surveyed, resulting in a count of 36 moose. While this is the lowest number observed since the event began in 2009, it reflects the formidable conditions rather than an actual decline in moose presence. Thanks to the commitment of our volunteers, valuable data continues to build our understanding of moose in the region.

Volunteer Highlights

- **Diane Hazen and Nancy Haaland** surveyed before snow and wind became unmanageable, reporting no sightings.
- **Bev Boynton, Ray White, and Kathy McCurdy** discovered a cow and calf after hours of skiing and driving in the Kelly area.
- **Ross MacIntyre**, JHWF Board President, trekked half a mile along the Snake River levee before retreating and reporting no sightings.
- **Kyle Kissock**, JHWF Communications Manager, led a successful hosted Moose Day walk, spotting moose in Cache Creek neighborhoods.
- **Liz Greenberger**, a rookie volunteer, observed two moose in Nethercott.
- **Chuck Harris and Karen Jerger** reported a cow with twin calves in the Melody neighborhood.
- Other teams faced extreme weather conditions, including intense snow, deep drifts, and whiteouts, demonstrating their remarkable dedication. Meanwhile, participants on the Idaho side of Teton Pass were virtually snowed in due to a “no unnecessary travel” advisory and road closures

The Data

Despite the challenges posed by the snowstorm, the data collected during Moose Day 2024 remains valuable. The principle that “some data is better than no data” holds true, as even partial observations contribute to long-term trends and help address critical knowledge gaps. Figures 1 and 2, along with Map 1, highlight verified moose observations and provide insights into habitat use and moose distribution

across the region. While survey coverage was limited, these observations play a crucial role in understanding moose population dynamics and guiding future conservation efforts.

Figure 1. Distribution of Moose Observed by Age and Sex during Moose Day 2024. This bar chart displays the total number of adult and juvenile moose observed across different categories, including female, male, and unknown sex. Most of the observations were female adults, followed by juvenile moose.

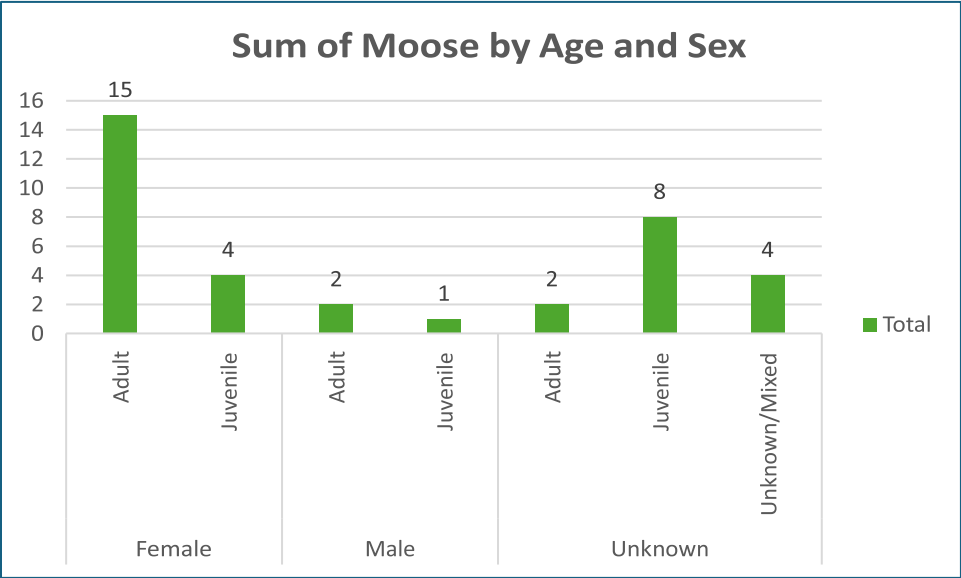
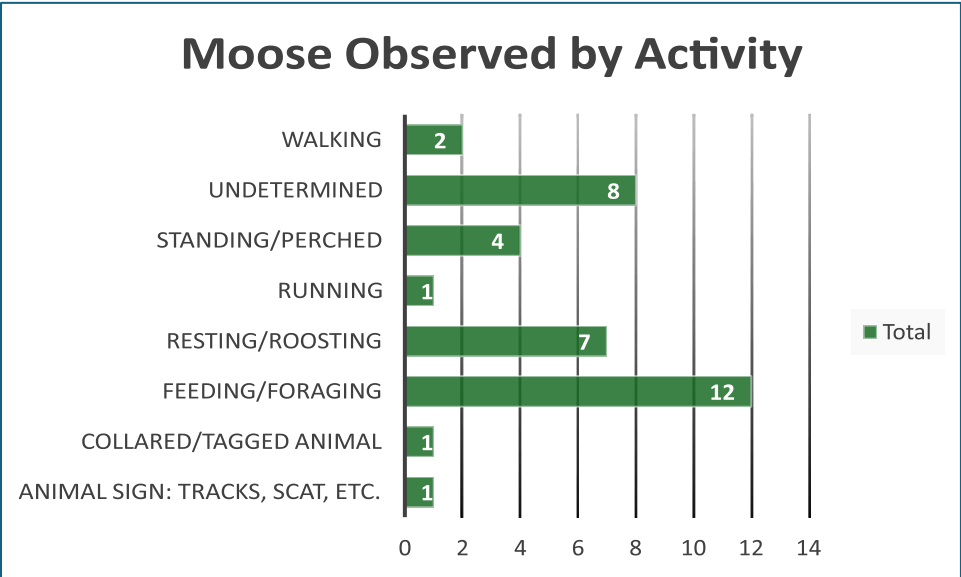
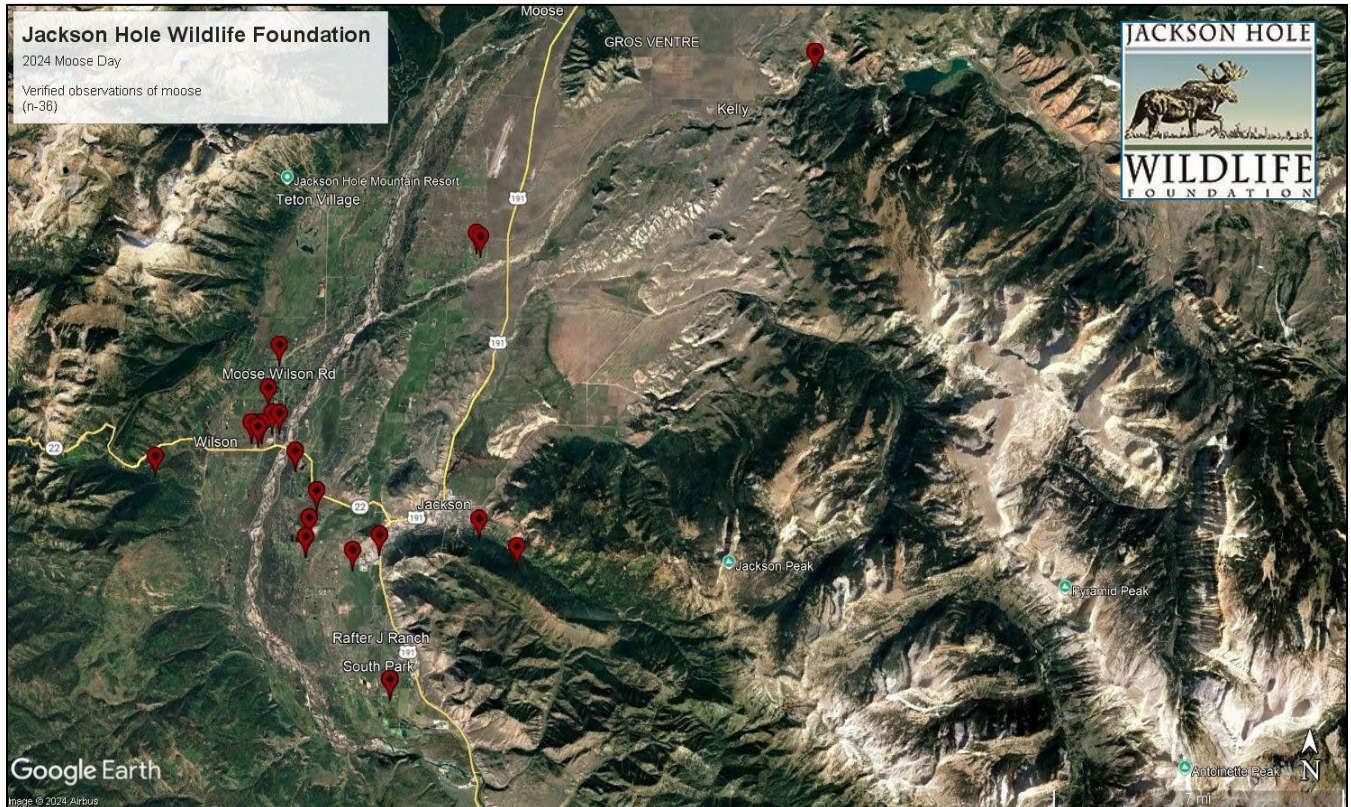


Figure 2. Moose Observed by Activity - This chart illustrates the variety of behaviors observed in moose during the 2024 Moose Day survey. Many moose were recorded as feeding/foraging (12 observations), followed by resting/roosting (7 observations), and standing/perched (4 observations). There were fewer instances of walking (2), undetermined activity (8), and running (1). A single tagged/collared animal and an observation of animal sign (tracks, scat, etc.) were also noted.



Map 1. Depicts the locations of moose observations made by Nature Mapping Jackson Hole volunteers on March 2, 2024, during the annual Moose Day count in Jackson Hole. The points on the map represent where moose were seen, with details on behaviors like feeding, resting, and walking observed at specific locations across the region. This map illustrates the data collected despite challenging weather conditions, offering a valuable insight into moose distribution and activities on that day.



Conclusion

Moose Day 2024 demonstrated the extraordinary commitment of our volunteers. From navigating snowdrifts to enduring whiteout conditions, their perseverance ensured this year's effort was not in vain. Each observation contributes to the bigger picture of wildlife conservation in the Jackson Hole area.

We extend our deepest gratitude to all participants and look forward to Moose Day 2025, with hopes for better conditions and even more moose sightings.