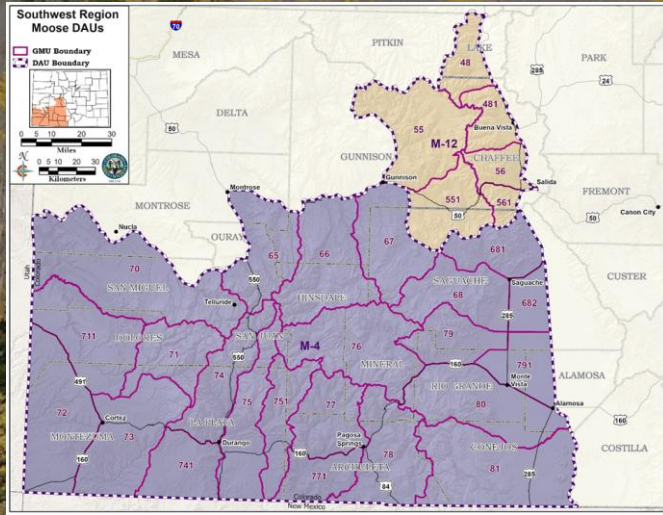


Southwest Region Moose (*Alces alces shirasi*) Herd Management Plans



COLORADO
Parks and Wildlife
Department of Natural Resources

July 17, 2026
Ignacio, Colorado

Background

- **1978-1993: Moose are reestablished in Colorado via transplants**
- **Colorado supports a growing population of ~3,500 moose**
 - ~800 limited hunting licenses annually
- **Two herds in southwest Colorado total ~650 moose**
 - 19% of statewide total population

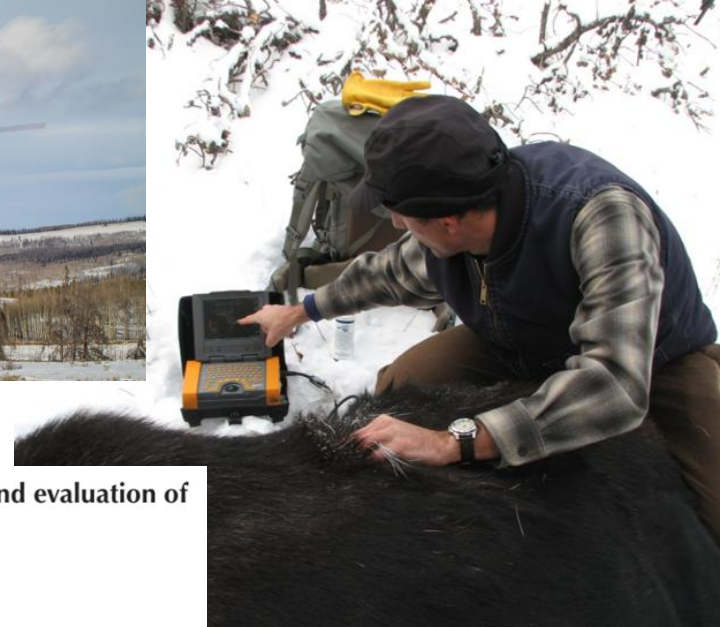


Common Management Issues

- **Human Development/Expanding Anthropogenic Influence**
 - **Habitat Loss/Degradation**
- **Increasing Recreation Pressure**
- **Climate Change**
- **Disease**



Moose Research in Colorado



Moose calf detection probabilities: quantification and evaluation of a ground-based survey technique

Eric J. Bergman, Forest P. Hayes, Paul M. Lukacs and Chad J. Bishop

*E. J. Bergman (<https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4298-0732>) ✉ (eric.berg@state.co.us)
Fort Collins, CO 80526, USA. – F. P. Hayes, P. M. Lukacs and C. J. Bishop,
Sciences, W.A. Franke College of Forestry and Conservation, Univ. of*

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WILDLIFE RESEARCH PROJECT SUMMARY

Pilot evaluation of prey distribution and moose recruitment following exposure to wolf predation risk in North Park, Colorado

Period Covered: January 1, 2025-December 31, 2025

Principal Investigators: Ellen Brandell, ellen.brandell@state.co.us

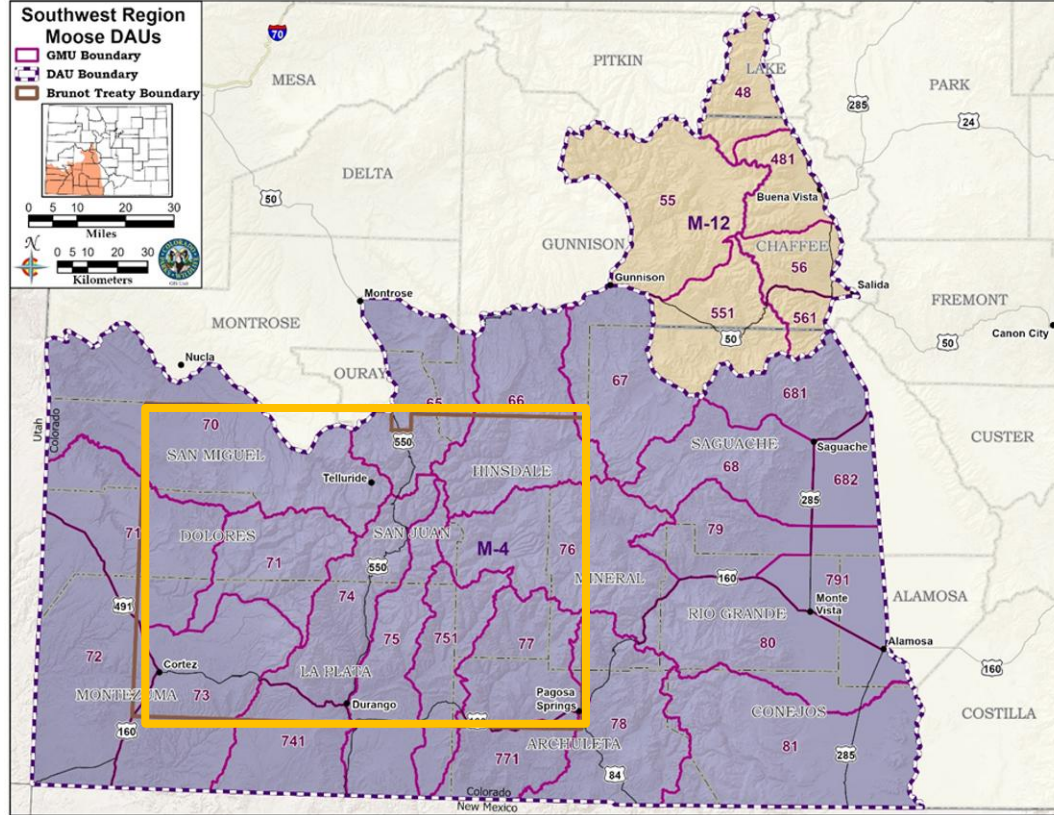


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The Brunot Agreement of 1873



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COLORADO'S BIG GAME MANAGEMENT BY OBJECTIVE PROCESS

Commission approves Herd
Management Plan objectives

Conduct hunting seasons

Collect data on harvest and
population demographics

Set hunting regulations to
achieve harvest goals

Assess population and compare
to HMP objectives



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Public Process

- **Hunter Surveys**
- **Landowner Surveys**
- **Public Meetings**
- **Sportsperson's Roundtable**
- **Habitat Partnership Program Committees**
- **Engagement with Local and Tribal Governments, Interest Groups, and Federal Land Managers**
- **30-day Public Comment and Press Releases**



SOUTHWEST COLORADO MOOSE HERD MANAGEMENT PLAN

DATA ANALYSIS UNIT M-4

Brent Frankland, Wildlife Biologist, Monte Vista

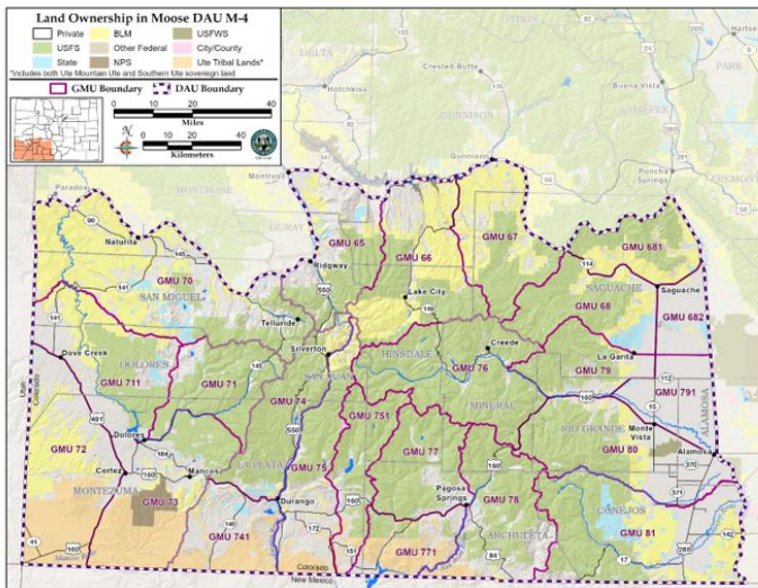
GMUs: 65, 66, 67, 68, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 681, 682, 711, 741, 751, 771, and 791

Last HMP Approved Year: 2005

Post-hunt Population: Previous Objective: 350-500; 2025 Estimate: ~500 moose.

Preferred Alternative: Maintain an increasing population, currently estimated at approximately 500 moose.

Preferred Alternative for the Age Structure of Harvested Bulls: 4 to 6 years of age and Antler Spread exceeding 40 inches.



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SOUTHWEST COLORADO MOOSE HERD MANAGEMENT PLAN

DATA ANALYSIS UNIT M-12

Alyssa Meier, Wildlife Biologist, Gunnison

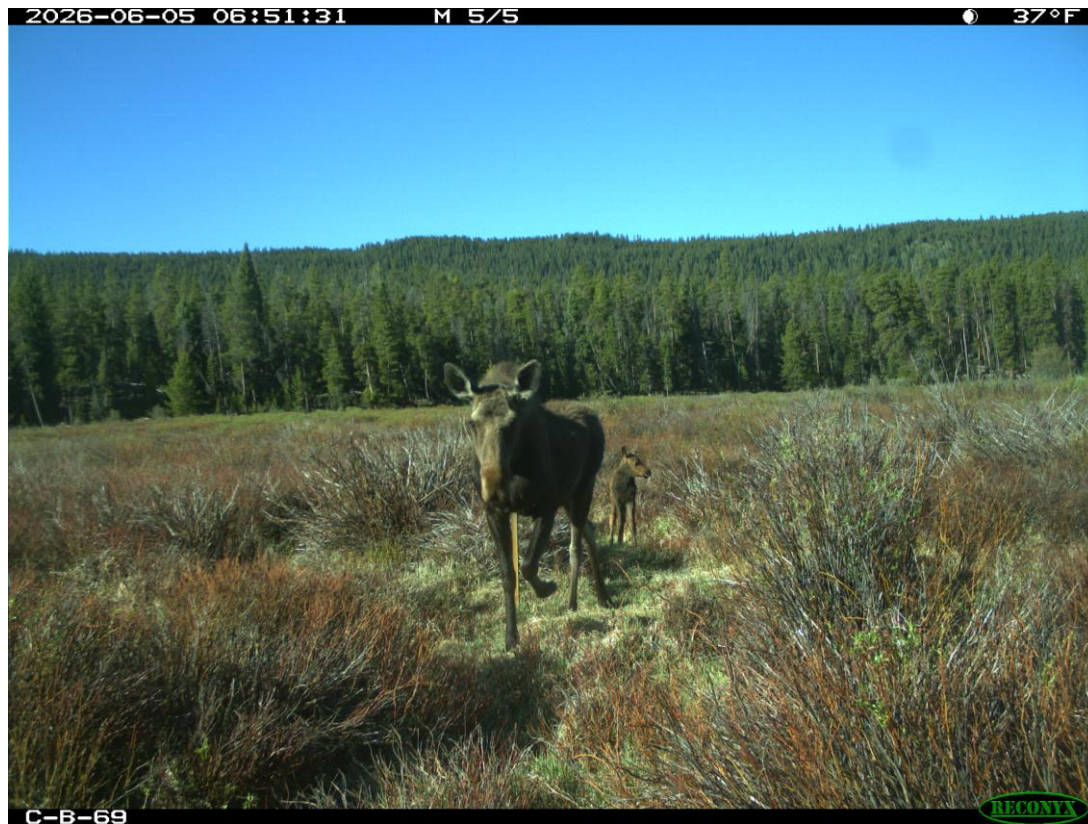
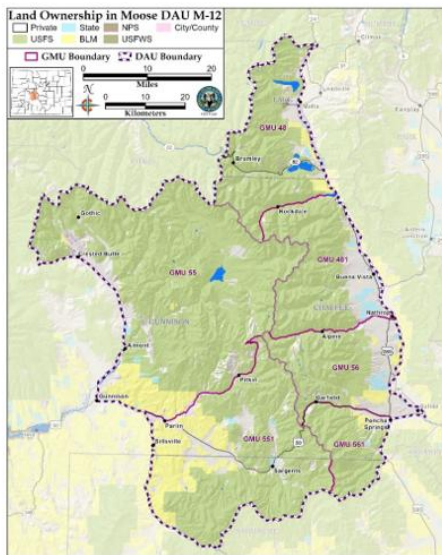
GMUs: 48, 55, 56, 481, 551, and 561

Last HMP Approved Year: N/A

Post-hunt Population: Previous Objective: (1) keep the population small enough to avoid excessive damage to willow stands; (2) maximize hunting opportunity for cows and mature bulls by maintaining high productivity in the herd; and (3) provide adequate opportunities for viewing. Estimate: between 100 to 150 moose.

Preferred Alternative: Maintain an increasing population, currently estimated at 125-175 moose.

Preferred Alternative for the Age Structure of Harvested Bulls: 4 to 6 years of age and Antler Spread of or exceeding 40 inches.



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Acknowledgements

- Alyssa Meier, Wildlife Biologist, Gunnison
- Brent Frankland, Wildlife Biologist, Monte Vista
- Brad Weinmeister, Wildlife Biologist, Durango
- Alyssa Kircher, Wildlife Biologist, Montrose
- Bryan Lamont, Wildlife Biologist, Salida
- Area 13, Salida
- Area 15, Durango
- Area 16, Gunnison
- Area 17, Monte Vista
- Area 18, Montrose
- Southern Ute Indian Tribe
- Ute Mountain Ute Tribe



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