

2013 - JCR Evaluation Form

Species: Moose

Period: 6/1/2013 - 5/31/2014

Herd: MO415 - UINTA

Hunt Areas: 27, 35, 44, 901-902

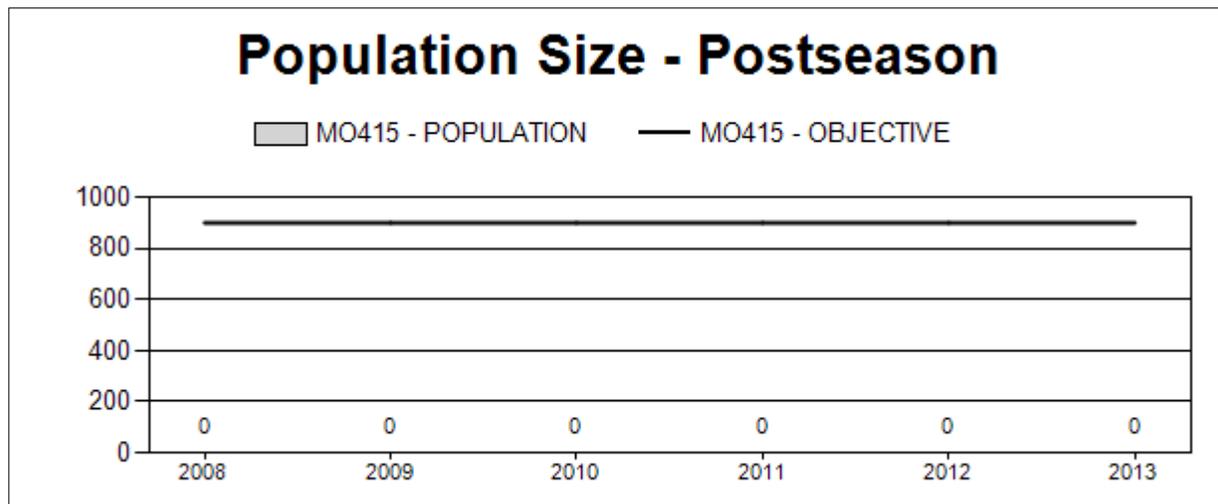
Prepared By: JEFF SHORT

	<u>2008 - 2012 Average</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014 Proposed</u>
Population:	NA	NA	NA
Harvest:	32	18	18
Hunters:	41	20	20
Hunter Success:	78%	90%	90%
Active Licenses:	41	20	20
Active License Percent:	78%	90%	90%
Recreation Days:	357	151	150
Days Per Animal:	11.2	8.4	8.3
Males per 100 Females	43	100	
Juveniles per 100 Females	51	50	

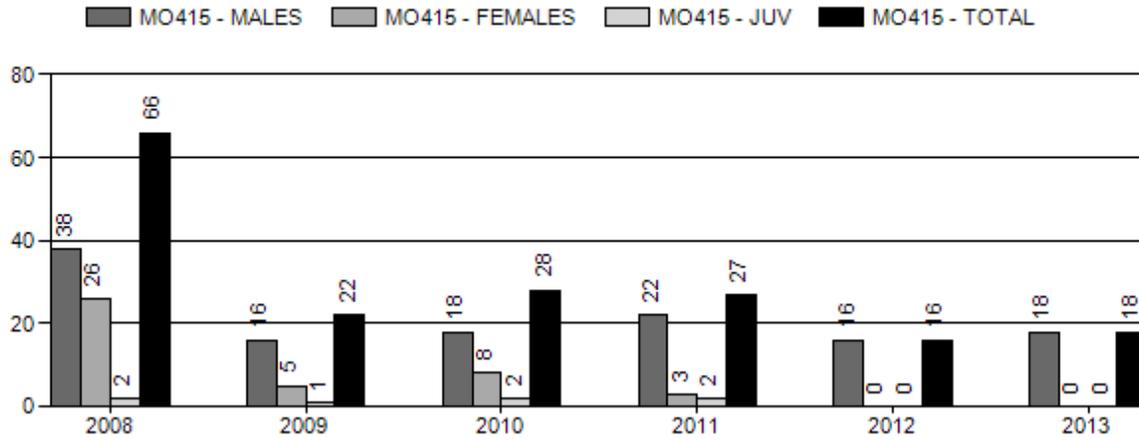
Population Objective:	900
Management Strategy:	Special
Percent population is above (+) or below (-) objective:	NA
Number of years population has been + or - objective in recent trend:	NA
Model Date:	None

Proposed harvest rates (percent of pre-season estimate for each sex/age group):

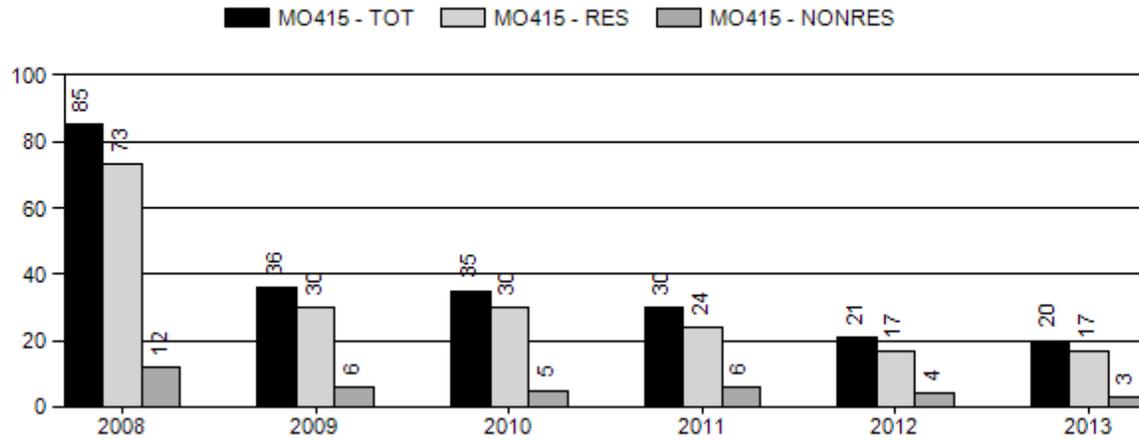
	<u>JCR Year</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
Females ≥ 1 year old:	NA	NA
Males ≥ 1 year old:	NA	NA
Juveniles (< 1 year old):	NA	NA
Total:	NA	NA
Proposed change in post-season population:	NA	NA



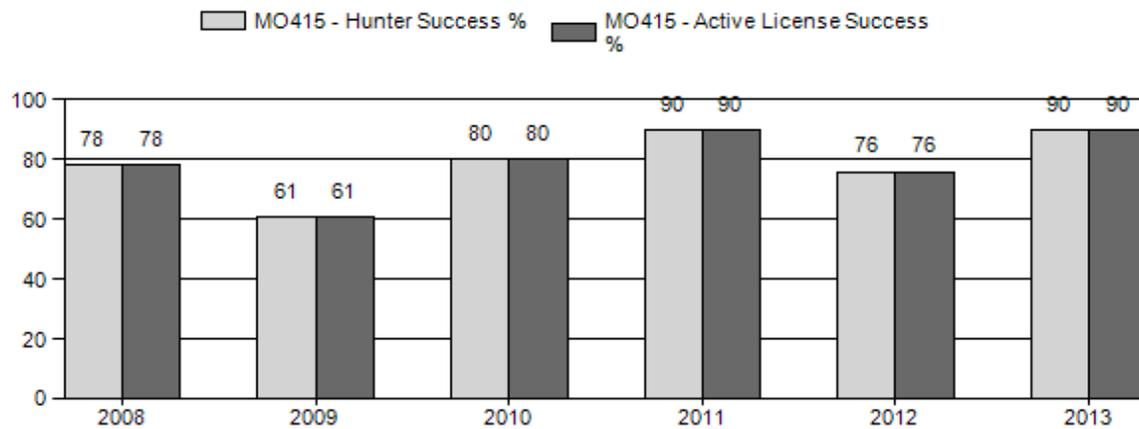
Harvest



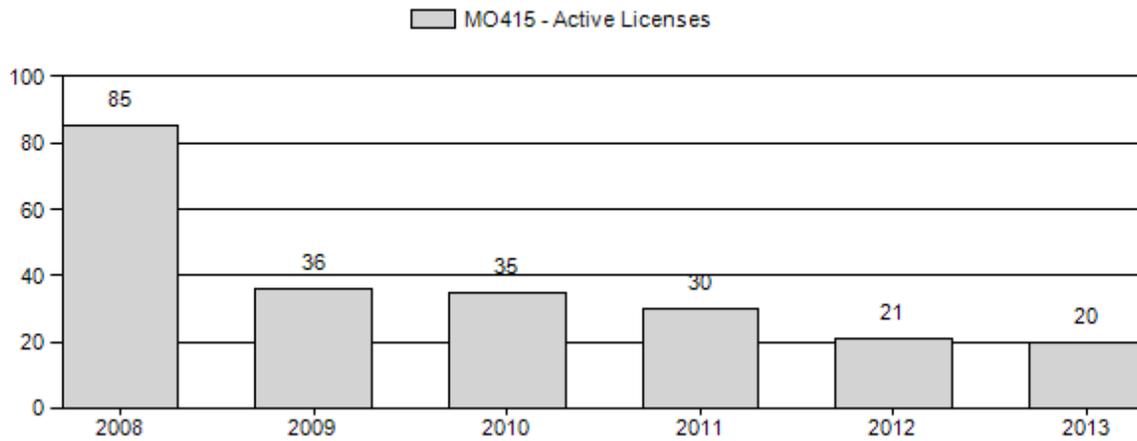
Number of Hunters



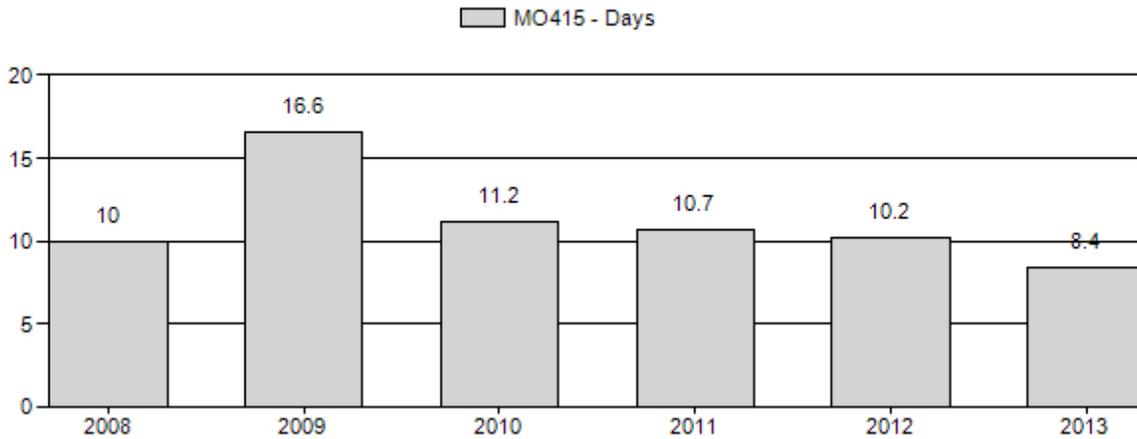
Harvest Success



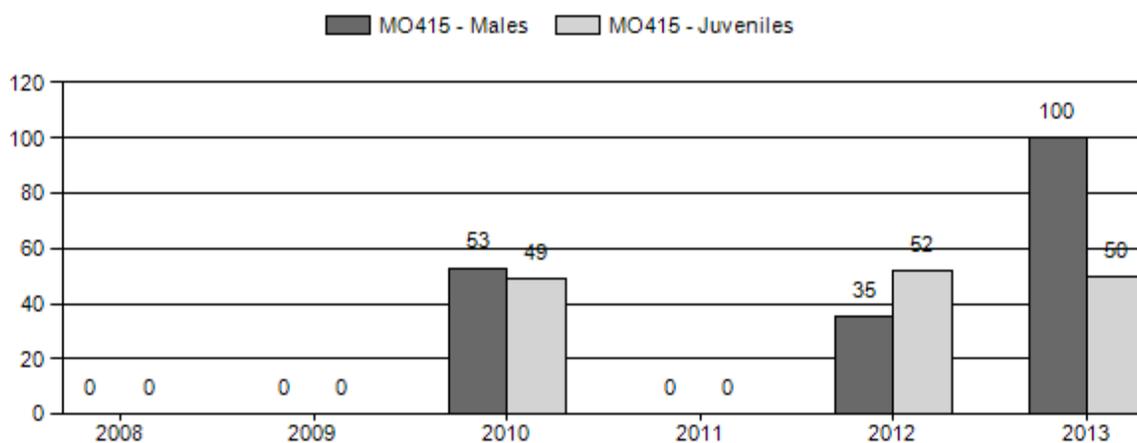
Active Licenses



Days per Animal Harvested



Postseason Animals per 100 Females



2008 - 2013 Postseason Classification Summary

for Moose Herd MO415 - UINTA

Year	Post Pop	MALES				FEMALES		JUVENILES		Tot CIs	CIs Obj	Males to 100 Females			Young to			
		Ylg	Adult	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%			Yng	Adult	Total	Conf Int	100 Fem	Conf Int	100 Adult
2008	0	0	0	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0	±0	0	±0	0
2009	0	0	0	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0	±0	0	±0	0
2010	0	0	0	62	26%	118	50%	58	24%	238	0	0	0	53	±0	49	±0	32
2011	0	0	0	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0	±0	0	±0	0
2012	0	0	52	52	19%	149	54%	77	28%	278	0	0	35	35	±0	52	±0	38
2013	0	0	8	8	40%	8	40%	4	20%	20	0	0	100	100	±0	50	±0	25

2014 HUNTING SEASON

SPECIES : **Moose**

HERD UNIT : **UINTA (415)**

HUNT AREAS: **27, 35, 44**

Hunt Area	Type	Dates of Seasons		Quota	Limitations
		Opens	Closes		
27	1	Oct. 1	Nov. 20	15	Limited quota licenses; antlered moose
35	1	Oct. 1	Nov. 20	5	Limited quota licenses; antlered moose
44					CLOSED
27, 35	Archery	Sept. 1	Sept. 30		Refer to Section 3 of this chapter

Hunt Area	License Type	Quota change from 2013
Herd Unit Total		

Management Evaluation

Current Postseason Population Management Objective: 900

Management Strategy: Special

2013 Postseason Population Estimate: ~300

2014 Proposed Postseason Population Estimate: ~300

Herd Unit Issues

This is an interstate herd shared with Utah. Many moose that summer in the Uinta Mountains in Utah come to Wyoming to winter. Limited winter range is an issue for this herd. A significant portion of the lower elevation moose habitat is on private land so landowner tolerance of moose can be an issue. Moose coming into towns and residing in yards has been a reoccurring issue but far less common than in the past.

Our biggest concern is our lack of knowledge on disease issues in this herd. We have had several documented cases of elaeophorosis caused deaths in this herd and feel that this may have had a significant population effected on the herd. This has stabilized and elaeophorosis caused mortalities have reduced significantly in the last two years. However, we are continuing our conservative management strategy until we see moose numbers rebound significantly.

In 2006 Hunt Area 44 was added to the herd unit. There have been increasing numbers of moose in this area. This has created some concern to habitat managers since these moose are impacting the ability to bring back riparian shrubs in these xeric habitats. The objective has been to keep moose from establishing in this area. In 2012 Area 44 was added to the Area 35 hunt in the packet. In 2014 Area 44 will be closed to moose hunting due to concern over offering an opportunity with extremely low moose numbers. It will likely be reopened when moose numbers start to grow again.

Weather

Weather during 2013 and into 2014 was highly variable. In the early part of 2013 the winter was very mild and dry. A dry spring and summer followed. In late August and into September heavy precipitation came and ended the dry conditions. The winter of 2013-2014 has been reasonably mild to this point. The winters of 2011-2012 and 2012-2013 were very mild with low snowpack resulting in good over winter survival. However, the dry springs and summers of 2012 and 2013 negatively impacted summer and winter range forage production in upland areas.

Habitat

Habitat data collection has been inconsistently collected in this herd unit and has been absent in the recent past.

Field Data

Since data is very limited in this herd it is difficult to look at data trends. It is not possible to model this interstate herd. Classification data is not collected consistently. We experienced a significant reduction in nuisance moose complaints and reduced field observations of moose in the period between 2007 and 2011. Between the 2007 and the 2011 survey our field observations indicated we had a sharp reduction in moose populations. We also received complaints from moose hunters about moose numbers. This prompted us to drastically reduce moose hunting opportunity during that period.

The moose flight data supported our concern about a reduction in moose numbers in the Uinta Herd Unit. The 2011 survey was conducted in ideal circumstances with high snow loads making moose highly visible and concentrated on specific wintering areas. The survey was also more intensely flown than previous surveys. This indicates that it was a good reference count and that we would have not missed large numbers of animals that may have been seen in previous surveys. The 2011 count represents the lowest total moose seen in Wyoming since the counts have been conducted. This information supported the deep cuts we made in moose harvest over the past several years and we propose to stay conservative with harvest this year.

Moose surveys are flown in cooperation with Utah DNR, most recently in February 2013. Past results are shown below. Utah pays for a joint elk and moose survey on average every 3rd year.

TOTAL MOOSE COUNTED BY YEAR

	1996	1998	2001	2004	2007	2011	2013
UTAH DAGGETT (8B)	103	84	109	107	95	NA	74
UTAH SUMMIT (8A)	182	229	243	150	181	92	104
WYOMING	393	289	334	270	314	232	174
TOTAL WYOMING AND UTAH SUMMIT	575	518	577	420	495	324	278
TOTAL	678	602	686	527	590	324	352

Harvest Data

Antlerless harvest opportunity has been eliminated in this herd unit. We have drastically reduced the number of licenses in the last five years. Type 1 hunts have had very good success rates in the last four years. Tooth age data indicates at current hunting levels we are able to recruit a few older animals into the population and have them available to hunters.

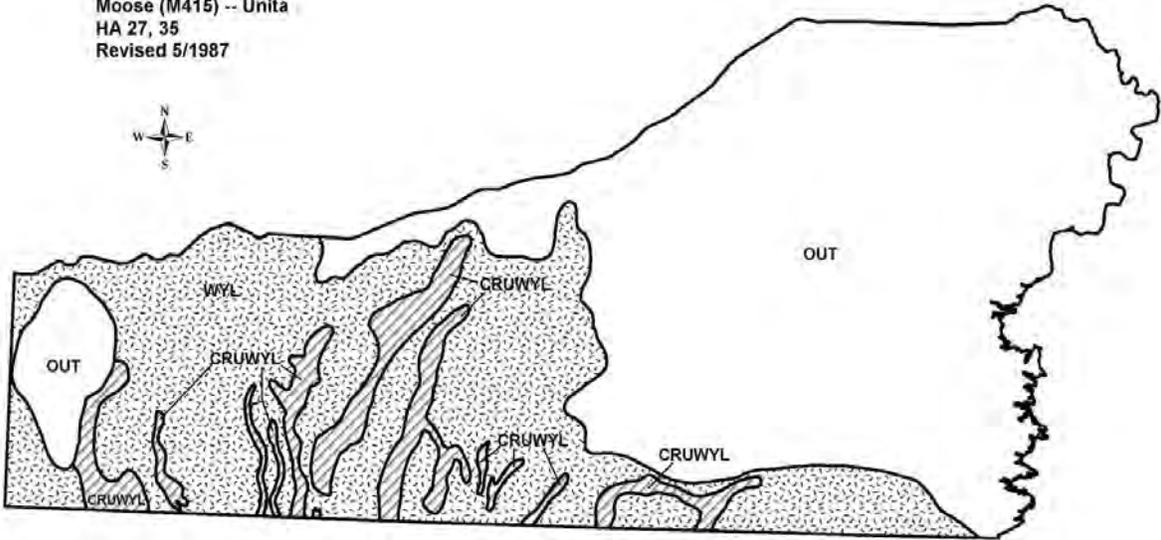
Population

Due to interstate nature of this herd no working model exists. Weather severity is usually the determining factor in the number of moose that come into Wyoming from Utah during the winter. This and other factors make data collected inconsistent and unreliable.

Management Summary

For 2014 hunting seasons we will remain conservative with hunter harvest. Hunt area 44 will be closed for 2014 and no antlerless harvest will be allowed in the herd unit. This is an effort to allow maximum growth of the herd toward objective. However, hunting is not likely to be the limiting factor for this herd. The objective and management strategy were last revised in 1998. They are scheduled to undergo review in 2014.

Moose (M415) -- Unita
HA 27, 35
Revised 5/1987



2013 - JCR Evaluation Form

Species: Moose

Period: 6/1/2013 - 5/31/2014

Herd: MO417 - LINCOLN

Hunt Areas: 26, 33, 36, 40

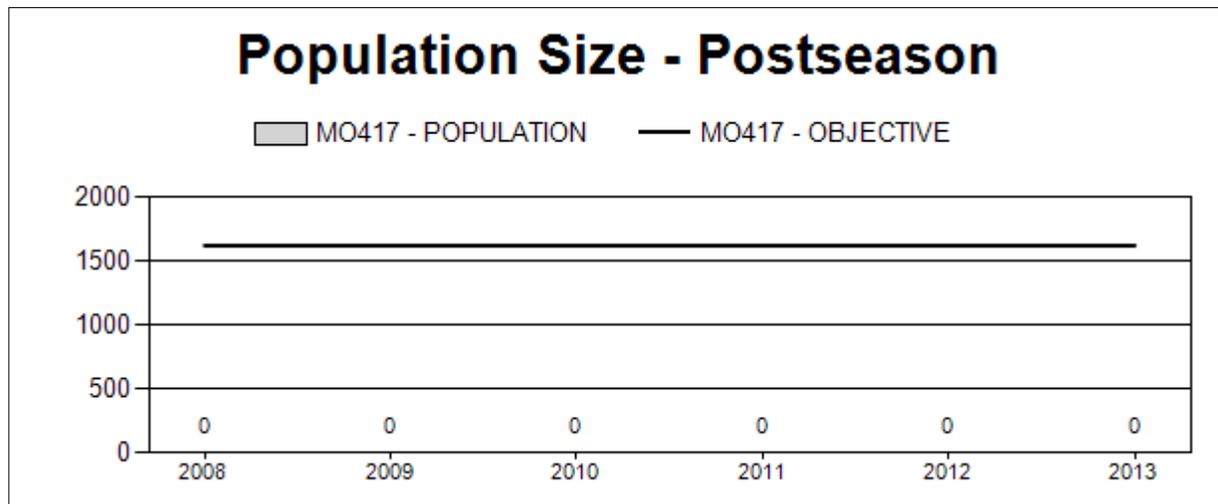
Prepared By: JEFF SHORT

	<u>2008 - 2012 Average</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014 Proposed</u>
Population:	NA	NA	NA
Harvest:	50	44	44
Hunters:	53	45	45
Hunter Success:	94%	98%	98 %
Active Licenses:	53	45	45
Active License Percent:	94%	98%	98 %
Recreation Days:	358	386	375
Days Per Animal:	7.2	8.8	8.5
Males per 100 Females	65	0	
Juveniles per 100 Females	37	0	

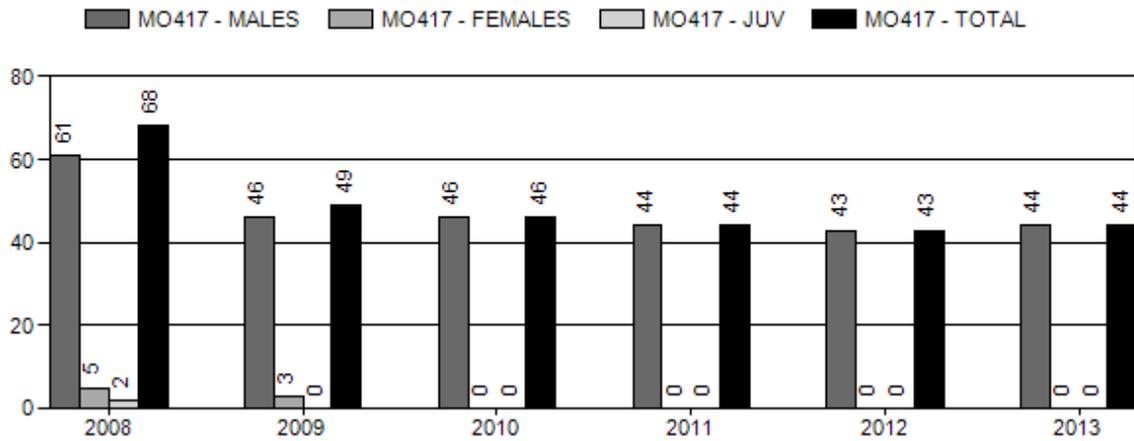
Population Objective:	1,620
Management Strategy:	Special
Percent population is above (+) or below (-) objective:	NA
Number of years population has been + or - objective in recent trend:	NA
Model Date:	None

Proposed harvest rates (percent of pre-season estimate for each sex/age group):

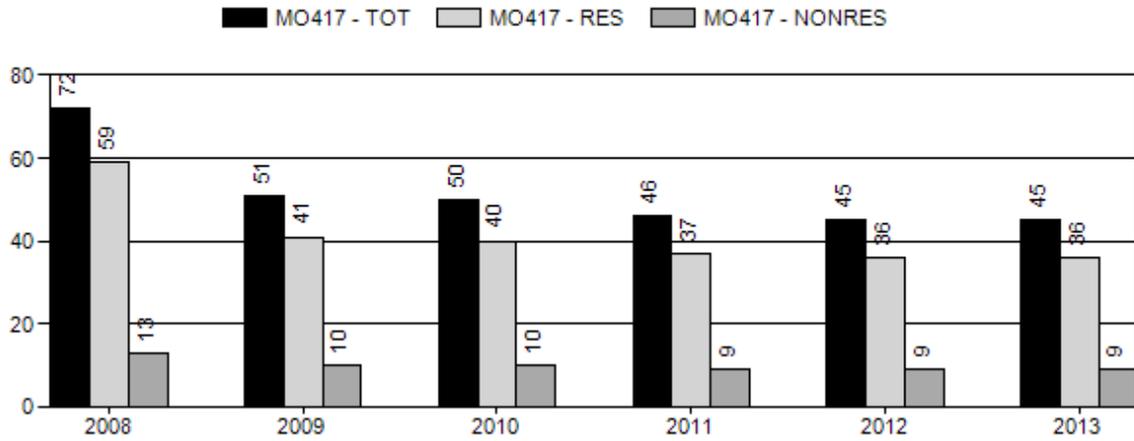
	<u>JCR Year</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
Females ≥ 1 year old:	NA	NA
Males ≥ 1 year old:	NA	NA
Juveniles (< 1 year old):	NA	NA
Total:	NA	NA
Proposed change in post-season population:	NA	NA



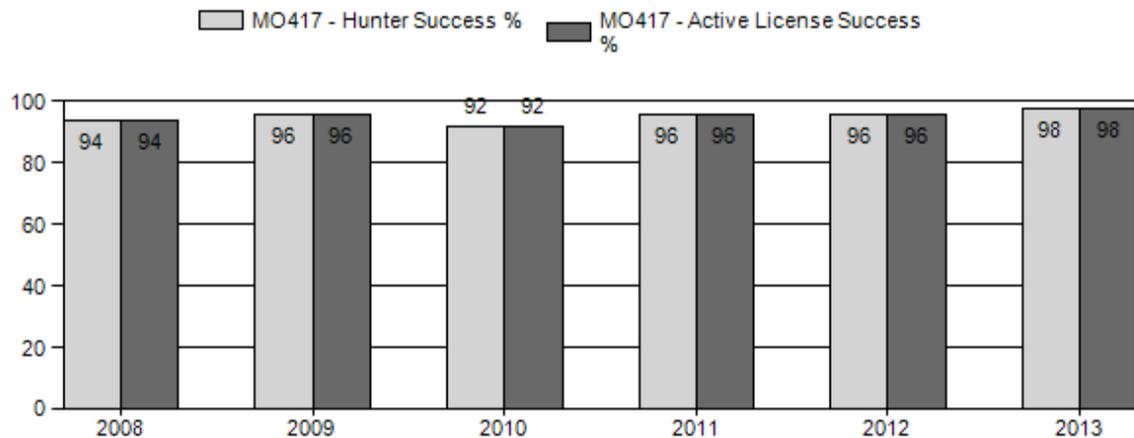
Harvest



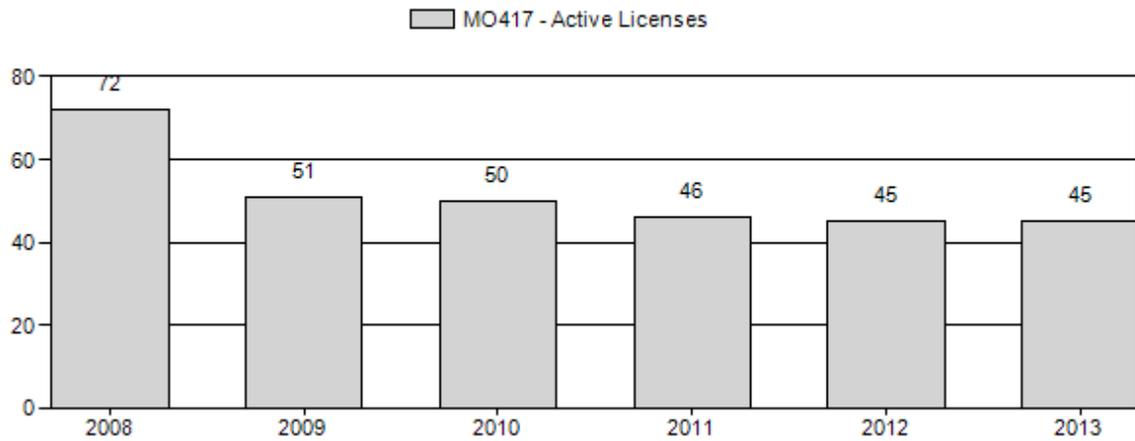
Number of Hunters



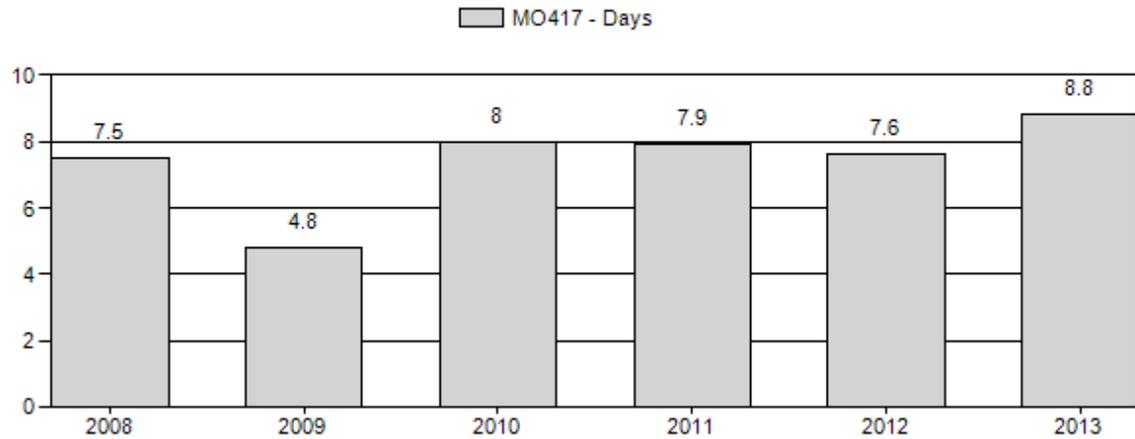
Harvest Success



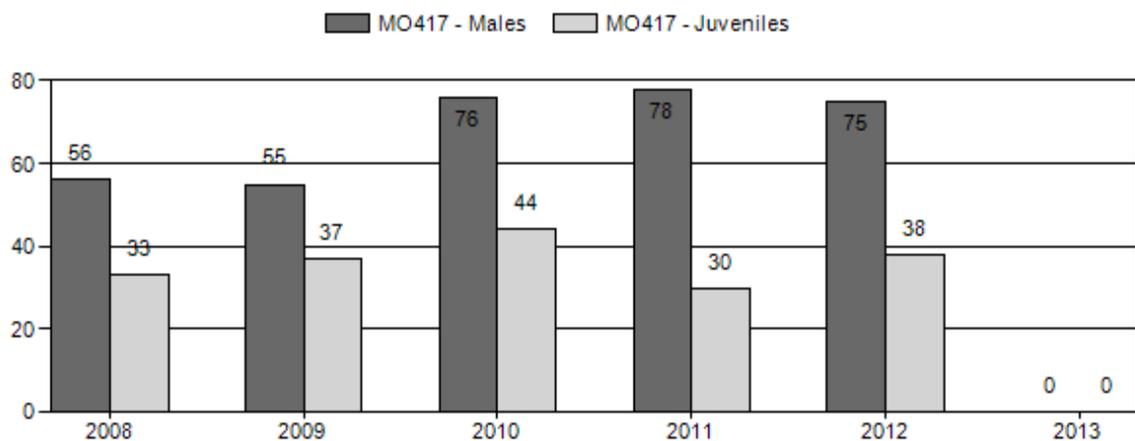
Active Licenses



Days per Animal Harvested



Postseason Animals per 100 Females



2008 - 2013 Postseason Classification Summary

for Moose Herd MO417 - LINCOLN

Year	Post Pop	MALES				FEMALES		JUVENILES		Tot Cls	Cls Obj	Males to 100 Females			Young to			
		Ylg	Adult	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%			Yng	Adult	Total	Conf Int	100 Fem	Conf Int	100 Adult
2008	0	0	0	90	29%	162	53%	54	18%	306	0	0	0	56	±0	33	±0	21
2009	0	0	53	53	28%	97	52%	36	19%	186	0	0	55	±9	37	±7	24	
2010	0	0	0	103	35%	135	45%	59	20%	297	0	0	0	76	±0	44	±0	25
2011	0	0	0	47	38%	60	48%	18	14%	125	0	0	0	78	±17	30	±9	17
2012	0	0	6	6	35%	8	47%	3	18%	17	0	0	75	±0	38	±0	21	
2013	0	0	0	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0	0	0	±0	0	±0	0	

2014 HUNTING SEASON

SPECIES : **Moose**

HERD UNIT : **LINCOLN (417)**

HUNT AREAS: **26, 33, 36, 40**

Hunt Area	Type	Dates of Seasons		Quota	Limitations
		Opens	Closes		
26	1	Oct. 1	Oct. 31	50	Limited quota licenses; antlered moose
33, 36, 40	1	Oct. 1	Oct. 31	5	Limited quota licenses; antlered moose, valid for any moose except cow moose with calf at side in Area 33
26, 33, 36, 40	Archery	Sept. 1	Sept. 30		Refer to Section 3 of this chapter

Hunt Area	License Type	Quota change from 2013
Herd Unit Total		

Management Evaluation

Current Postseason Population Management Objective: 1,620

Management Strategy: Special

2013 Postseason Population Estimate: ~600

2014 Proposed Postseason Population Estimate: ~600

Herd Unit Issues

A significant portion of the lower elevation moose habitat is on private land so landowner tolerance of moose can be an issue. Moose coming into towns and residing in yards has been an issue in the past. This herd unit is not a closed population with the northeast boundary line being through prime moose habitat.

The advent of parasite caused mortalities of unknown magnitude in the herd complicates management. There is a lack of knowledge on disease issues in this herd. We have had several documented cases of Elaeophorosis caused deaths in this herd and feel that this may have had a significant population effect. Elaeophorosis caused mortalities have reduced significantly in the last three years.

Hunt area 36, formerly the Bear River Divide moose herd, is now considered part of the Lincoln moose herd. This is a small moose herd that is scattered over a large expanse of non-typical open moose habitat. The herd unit objective was 120 moose. Harvest data will continue to be analyzed separately. This area acts as an “over flow” area for adjacent larger populations of moose in the Uinta and Lincoln herds. The young average age of animal harvested there supports our concept that younger age class animals are immigrating into this area. We do not survey this area for moose.

In hunt area 40 the moose population is almost entirely on private lands. Like Area 36, it has a small population of moose. Area 33 also has a very limited number of moose. They primarily occur on Seedskaadee National wildlife refuge and along the Green River. Area 33 has been closed for hunting since 2003. It can be difficult for hunters to locate moose in areas 36 and 40. We have combined areas 33, 36 and 40 into one hunt with a total of 5 permits. This structure allows hunters to travel more to find moose. Area 33 will also allow hunting for cow moose without calf at side.

Weather

Weather during 2013 and into 2014 was highly variable. In the early part of 2013 the winter was very mild and dry. A dry spring and summer followed. In late August and into September heavy precipitation came and ended the dry conditions. The winter of 2013-2014 has been reasonably mild to this point. The winters of 2011-2012 and 2012-2013 were very mild with low snowpack resulting in good over winter survival. However, the dry springs and summers of 2012 and 2013 negatively impacted summer and winter range forage production in upland areas.

Habitat

Habitat data collection has been inconsistently collected in this herd unit and has been absent in the recent past.

Field Data

Moose surveys are done from a helicopter along with West Green River elk surveys. Classification data is collected during those flights. The winter of 2013/14 has been relatively mild to this point and moose have not migrated as far as normal to crucial winter ranges. The joint elk and moose survey is to be flown every other year and is scheduled for this year. Due to helicopter delays the survey has not been started and results will not be available before season setting recommendations are due.

Harvest Data

Antlerless harvest opportunity has been very limited in this herd unit. We have drastically reduced the number of licenses in the last six years. Type 1 hunts still have very good success rates. Hunt area 26 is considered a good quality moose hunt with potential for trophy animals. Area 26 has ample public access and a variety of places to hunt moose. Hunts in areas 33, 36 and 40 are considered good hunts with good success rates but require more time to find moose spread out over large areas. Public access can be more challenging in these areas but access to moose hunting is still available. They are not typically considered trophy areas but mature animals do exist and are harvested. Harvest data from 33, 36 and 40 does not give us much information since sample sizes are very small. In Hunt area 26 harvest data has a better sample size. Tooth age data from Area 26 indicates we have an average age of harvest of 5 years old for 2013. Average antler spread in Hunt Area 26 was 35.4 for 2013.

Population

Currently there is no model for this moose herd. We collect classification data on moose during elk and deer flights. Calf ratios remain good. Bull ratios are very good with the last three years being in the high 70's. Field observations indicated that the herd declined considerably around 2007/2008. For four consecutive years in Area 26 we saw very low numbers of moose on post-season classification surveys. This was very concerning considering counting conditions were ideal in post-season 2007 and post-season 2010 surveys. We had also experienced a reduction in nuisance moose complaints and reduced field observations of moose. This information prompted us to reduce harvest on this herd significantly over the last several years. Hopefully we will be able to get more detailed flight data on Area 26 in the future. If this occurs we may be able to produce a population model for that part of the herd.

Management Summary

Harvest opportunity has been substantially reduced in this herd over the past several years. We propose to remain conservative for 2014. In Hunt Area 26 the 2014 hunting season will be no change from the 2013 season. In Hunt Areas 36 and 40 we will keep the same number of licenses but also include Hunt Area 33 in the hunt. Hunt Area 33 will reopen for hunting after being closed since 2003. Moose in this area are confined to the riparian areas along the Green River. Due to high hunter success, and low densities of moose, this area cannot sustain a harvest every year. Antlerless harvest will only be allowed in Hunt Area 33 due to habitat concerns there. The objective and management strategy were last revised in 2004.

M417 - Lincoln
HA 26, 33, 36, 40
Revised 1/2006

