

Survey Results from 2014-15

In 2015, three aerial surveys were flown; two white-tailed deer surveys in Game Hunting Areas 22 and 25A and one moose survey in GHAs 29 and 29A (see attached map). Because of insufficient snow, the 2015 moose surveys planned for Game Hunting Areas 13, 13A (Porcupine Mountain area), 18, 18A, 18B, 18C (Duck Mountain area) and 26 were cancelled.

Survey Summaries

White-tailed Deer Survey Game Hunting Area 22

An aerial survey was conducted in Game Hunting Area 22 in southwest Manitoba from 24 February to 4 March, 2015 to estimate the white-tailed deer population following concerns about potentially declining deer populations throughout the province. A modified Gasaway stratified random block survey method was used. Stratification transects were flown throughout the entire Game Hunting Area over 3.5 days. Signs of deer (beds and craters) and number of animals were documented. Using results from the stratification survey, sample units within Game Hunting Area 22 were classified into four strata: extra-low, low, medium and high density of deer. Randomly selected blocks within each stratum were intensively surveyed. Intensive surveys were conducted over a 4 day period on 21.83% of the total area of Game Hunting Area 22. We estimated the population in Game Hunting Area 22, at 8,997 (90% CI: 7,949 – 10,045) white-tailed deer. The weighted mean density estimate was 0.89 white-tailed deer/km² in 2015. Using similar survey methods, a weighted mean density estimate of 1.92 white-tailed deer/km² was calculated in 2001.

White-tailed Deer Survey Game Hunting Area 25A

An aerial survey was conducted in Game Hunting Area 25A from 17-22 February, 2015 to obtain information on the deer population in south-central Manitoba following concerns about potentially declining deer populations throughout the province. A modified Gasaway stratified random block survey method was used. Stratification transects were flown throughout the entire Game Hunting Area over 2.5 days. Signs of deer (beds and craters) and

number of animals were documented. Using results from the stratification survey, sample units within Game Hunting Area 25A were classified into five strata: extra-low, low, medium, high and extra-high density of deer. Randomly selected blocks within each stratum were intensively surveyed. Intensive surveys were conducted over a 3 day period on 24.57% of the total area of Game Hunting Area 25A. We estimated the population in Game Hunting Area 25A at 4,549 (90% CI: 3828 – 5270) white-tailed deer. Using similar survey methods, a population estimate of 4,130 (90% CI: 3633 - 4628) white-tailed deer was produced in 2001.

Moose Survey Game Hunting Areas 29 and 29A

An aerial survey was flown in Game Hunting Areas 29 and 29A in southwest Manitoba between 17 February and 19 February, 2015 to census the moose population based on concerns that the moose population was in decline. A total count survey method was used and the entirety of Game Hunting Area 29A and part of 29 were surveyed. During the survey 17 bulls, 54 cows and 24 calves were observed, for a total of 95 moose. The overall estimated density was 0.08 moose/km². Using similar survey methods, a density of 0.19 moose/km² was calculated in 2008, suggesting a decline in the number of moose in Game Hunting Areas 29 and 29A. A total of 312 elk and 463 deer were also counted.

PROVINCIAL BIG GAME AERIAL SURVEYS 2014 - 2015

