

## RC 051

# Regarding Proposals 224, 225, 226 for Antlerless Moose Hunts in Game Management Unit 14 A

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The figures provided in this record copy were obtained from the Lower Susitna Valley Moose Population Identity and Movement Study, by Ronald D. Modafferi, published August 1999. The five figures show the summer-winter movements of moose into and out of Game management unit 14A.

In these figures, Section A shows original tagging locations, Section B shows winter locations (1 Jan-31 Mar), and section C shows summer locations, (7 May- 30 Sep).

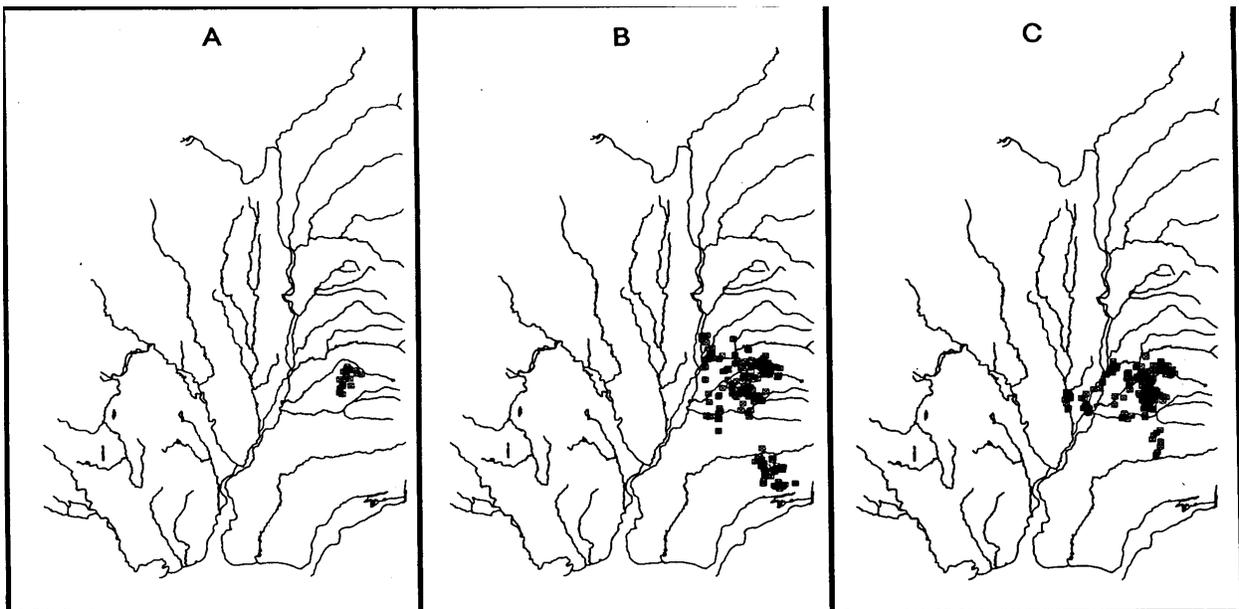


Figure 51 (K), page 138, 1999 Modafferi report

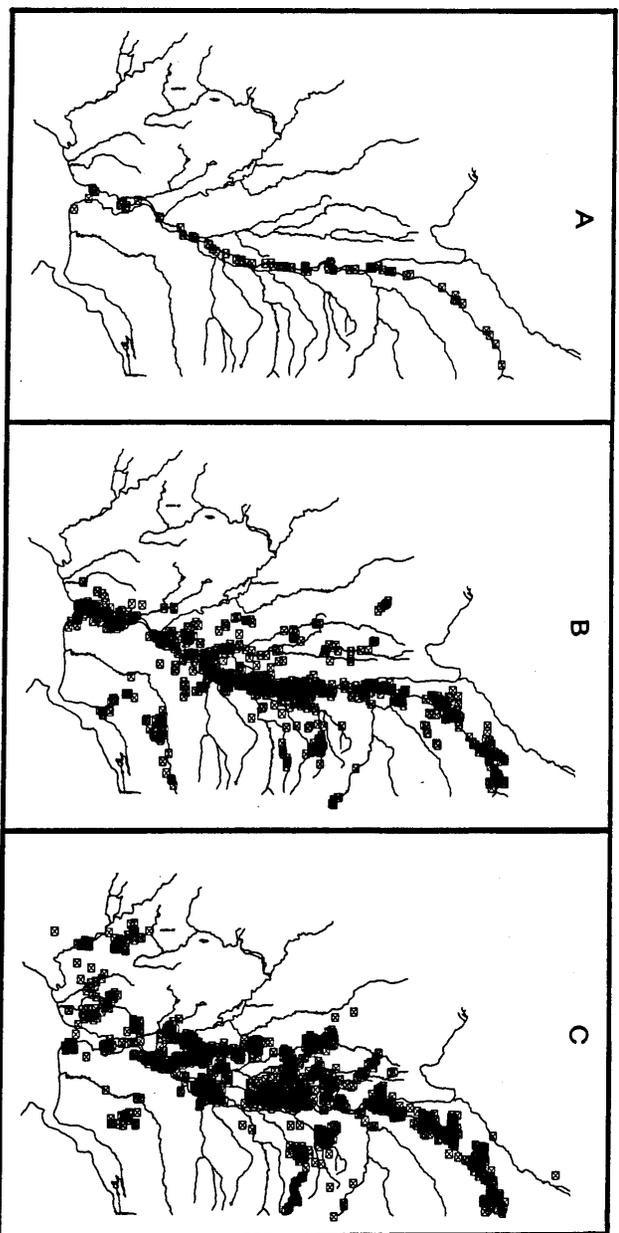


Figure 51 (H) page 135, 1999 Modafferi report

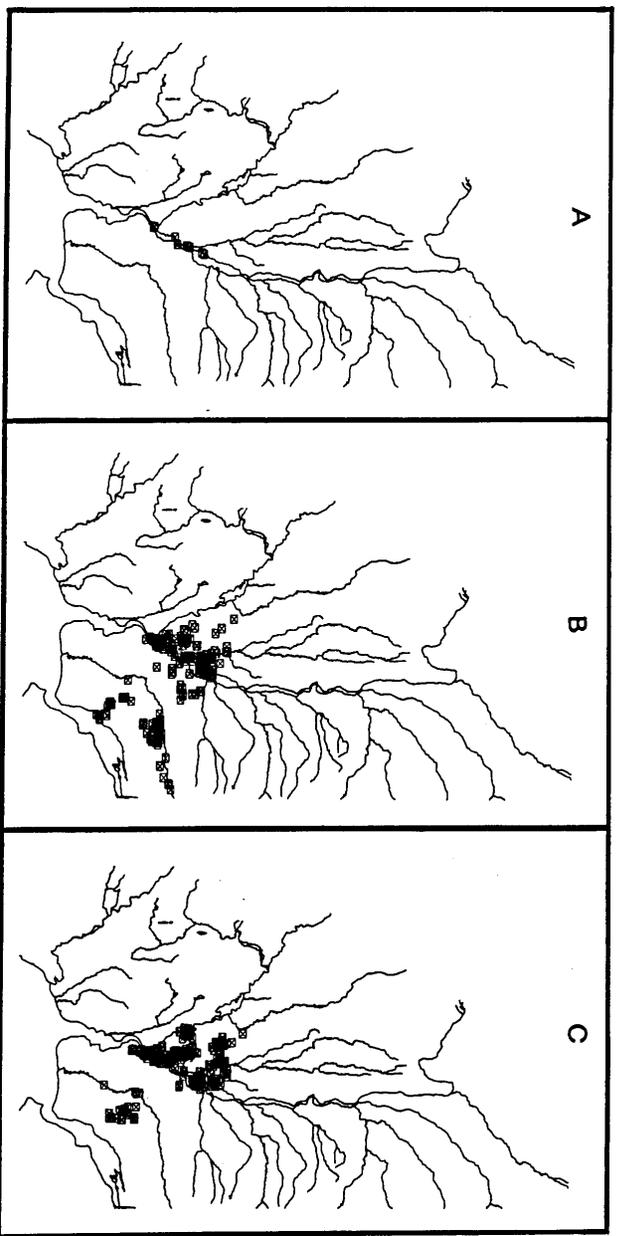


Figure 51 (D) page 131 1999 Modafferi report

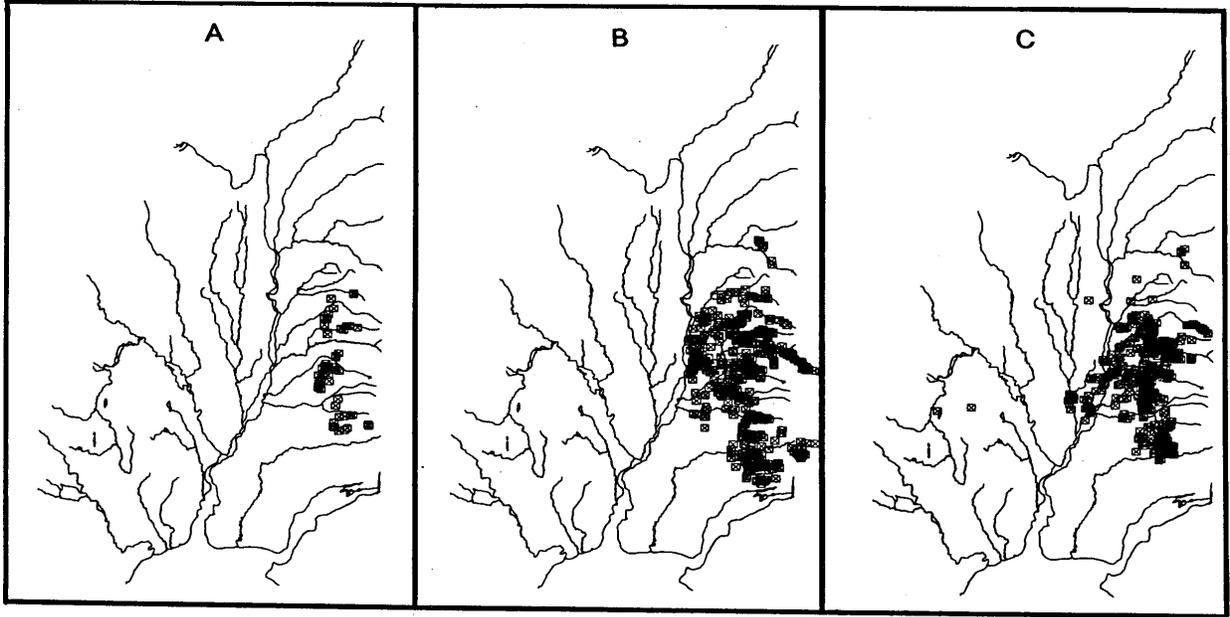


Figure 51 (P) page 143 1999 Modafferi report

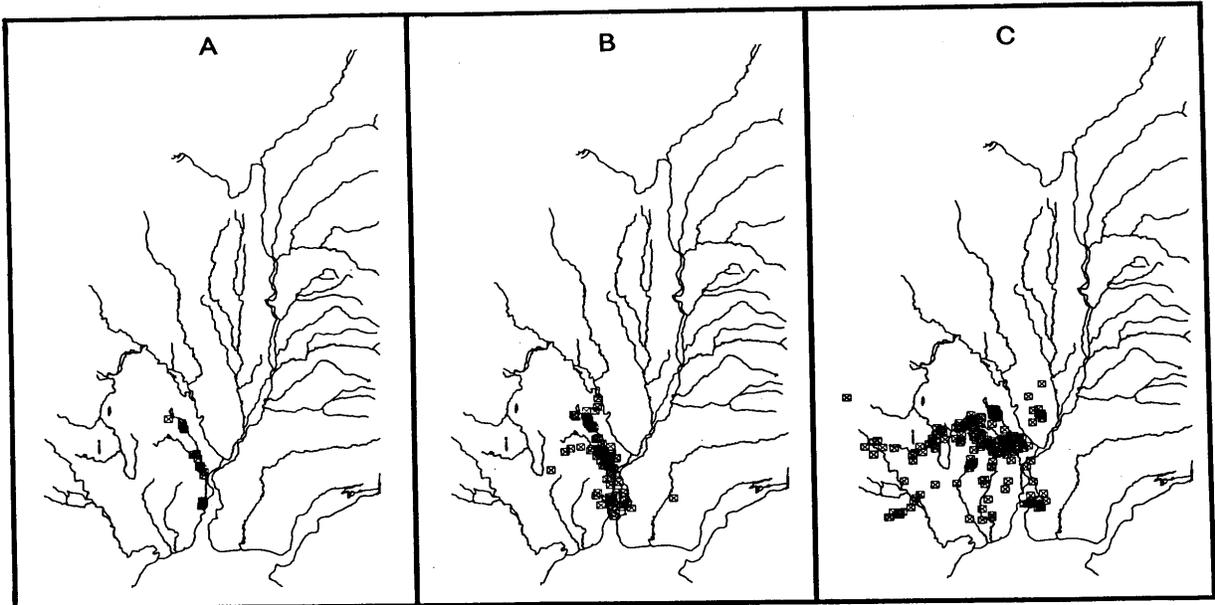


Figure 51 (S) page 146 1999 Modafferi Report

These figures all show movement into unit 14 A, and the second figure shows concentration of moose into the lower Susitna River valley during the winter. These movements are essential

information when considering moose management strategies in the Susitna Valley, which varies greatly by the relatively arbitrary subunits. As Modafferi states in his summary, (para. 4)

“Managers must have knowledge about moose traditional movements to implement harvests, surveys, and habitat management in the appropriate season and location.”

DM 413 and DM 414 are the two early winter hunts in Unit 14A; in 2018-2020 they accounted for 48.9%-44.2% of antlerless moose harvest in unit 14A in drawing permit hunts. DM 413 and DM 414 both have extremely large hunt areas and high success rates, allowing for substantial harvest in essential winter habitat. Simultaneously, this permit allows for harvest of moose from units 14B, 16A, and 16B, as shown by the migration patterns above.

Beyond these adverse effects on population management, DM413 and DM414 represent the only winter hunts in unit 14A. These two hunts increase the area-wide hunting season from 41 days (10 of which are archery only) to 96 days. This results in far more pressure on the moose population than is necessary, and the quota of moose from DM 413 and DM 414 could easily be redistributed into DM 400, DM 401, DM 402, DM 403, DM 406, DM 407, DM 408, DM 410, and YM 412. This change would reduce the moose hunting season length by more than half in 14 A, resulting in less enforcement duty for troopers, a shorter period of harassment for moose in the unit, opportunity for more hunters to participate, and consistent achievement of management goals. Furthermore, DM 413 and DM 414 harvest a number of bull moose (between 32 and 55 in 2018-2020) and the cessation of these hunts would result in the needed moose being available to support proposal 226.