

Gitxsan Update

December 11, 2025 Update



SKEENA SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT FORUM

- Share a little about SSAF
- Provide an overview of work completed
- Provide an overview of upcoming work

SSAF is an apolitical, consensus-based, co-management body that provides technical support to First Nations and BC decision-makers. SSAF supports decision-makers by leading data collection, development, and analysis; as well as decision-support tools.

SSAF does not make land and resource decisions.

Our Vision

In the spirit of reconciliation, natural resources are stewarded together by SSAF nations and the Province of BC through collaborative processes for the benefit of all life sustained by land, water, and air.

Our Mission

Working in respectful partnership and apolitically, we generate and use trusted data to develop decision support tools, establish management directives, and advance shared decision-making.

- Major Project Work
- Data Work
- Strategic Work
- Indigenous Guardian Projects

- Lakes Resiliency Project (LRP) FLP
 - Forest Landscape Planning project wrapping up, SSAF data used to inform current condition and SSAF led the Wildlife and Aquatics working groups to develop forestry objectives. Draft plan expected in January
- Bulkley Morice FLP
 - Forest Landscape Planning project getting started. SSAF will provide data for use in current condition report and will work through LRP objective to apply not this TSA.
- NCTL CE Assessment
 - SSAF developed a biophysical CE assessment for the North Coast Transmission Line. This assessment build in collaboration recommends mitigations based on the risk to the values on the landscape.

- SkWERM – Wildlife Habitat Model
 - SSAF has been developing a wildlife habitat model to better reflect the state and availability of wildlife habitat. 3 year of field validation has contributed to this work. This work is being used to inform FLP, GAR and the Moose Habitat CE assessment.
- Cultural Indicators
 - SSAF Nations have developed a cultural indicators program, a survey-based program to identify trends of the SSAF values using current day indigenous practices. GLMO is leading SSAF on data collection. Data collected in this project is Nation owned and controlled.
- Moose Habitat CE Assessment
 - SSAF has completed the development of a Moose habitat assessment. Data and assessment available to nations. This work has and will inform major project work.

- Tier One 1 Year Planning
 - Nation representative will be working to refresh the Tier One 5 Year plan over the next few months.
- SSAF Program Planning
 - SSAF is developing a static planning over the next 6 month. Each partner is preparing to work their organizations leadership for feedback on our Vision, Mission, Role and work. We want to hear from you and Max will be in touch.

Trail identification and restoration planning

- This work will provide an inventory of cultural trails and identify work required to restore.

Moose Health

- A multi year program to assessment health of moose and determine is health is a factor in moose populations in the SSAF study area. Results from the first year developed into the following infographic.

COMMUNITY BASED MOOSE HEALTH MONITORING 2021 REPORT

Moose are an important food, social and ceremonial species for First Nations in the SSAF Study Area. To improve our collective understanding of moose in the SSAF, a community based moose health monitoring program was created to track moose health in the SSAF and provide information to Nations on the safety of eating moose in their traditional territories.



WHY AND HOW DO WE MEASURE MOOSE HEALTH?

The SSAF Moose Health program is designed for community members; to create discussion about the state of moose in the SSAF area, to discuss what members are seeing when they are using the land, and to maximize the use of animals and monitor moose health.

How did the moose die?

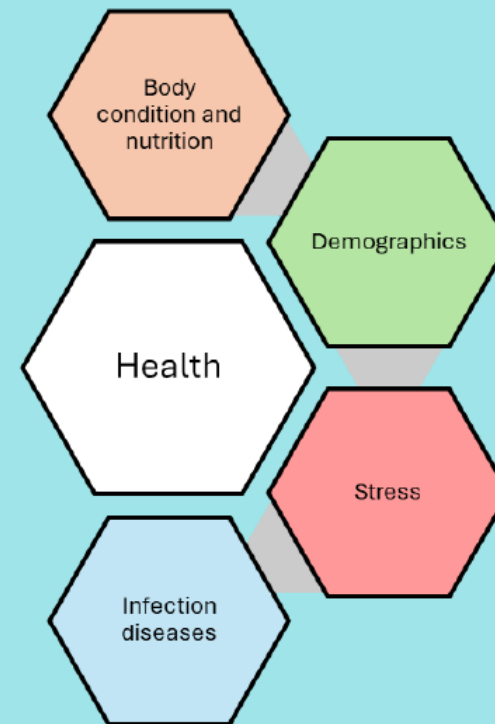


Moose components analyzed:

- hair
- blood
- droppings
- teeth and jaw
- hair/skin sample
- organs (kidney, liver)
- bones
- meat



What does the moose tell us?



RESULTS

Infection diseases

Prevalence of bacteria, viruses and ticks was low compared to other moose health projects in BC.



Stress

Moose in our samples had normal chronic stress levels, with a few showing higher rates. Short-term stress levels were also within normal range, except for a few showing high stress.



Body Condition and Nutrition

Majority of samples had good skin and hair coat, with some missing hair due to ticks. Majority of moose were in good condition, with 4 recorded as skinny.



Demographics

13 moose were male, 14 moose were female and 2 were unknown. 2021 had a diverse pool of adults and sub-adults.



Status of measure  low concern  caution  concern

PRGT CE Assessment

- SSAF is preparing to develop a Cumulative Effect Assessment for the PRGT pipeline. This assessment will recommend mitigations to BCER, BC and the PRGT. This work will contain a legal disclaimer which will state this is a collaborative product and does not reflect the interest or view of each partner on this project.

Purpose:

- Assessment of cumulative effects of PRGT in the SSAF area
- Provide evidence-based mitigation recommendations

Scope

- Biophysical, socio-economic, and socio-cultural impacts
- Integration of Indigenous values in SSAF CE assessments

Mining Decisions

SSAF will be exploring opportunities and readiness to use our data to inform specified mining decisions.

Restoration

SSAF would like to further develop our restoration program with tools, process and support to decrease risk to SSAF values.

Archeology Assessment Training for Guardians

SSAF is providing arch assessment training in the spring to guardians to allow them to collect arch data in the field in a manner that allows BC to protect these feature using the Heritage Conservation Act.



THANK YOU