

Moose on the Move

by Jeff Ives

Helicopters bring Utah's moose to their new home in Colorado.

It's a bird! It's a plane! Wait...it's a moose! Wildlife workers moved 24 moose from Utah to their new home in Colorado in 2007. The moose traveled part of the way hanging from helicopters. The helicopters safely **transported**, or moved, the animals to trucks for a six-hour drive.

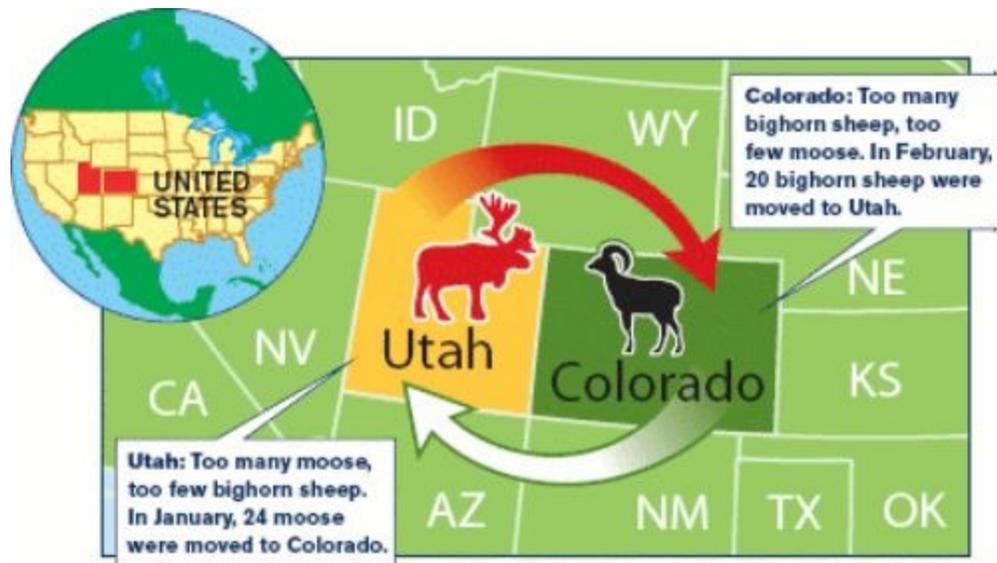
More than 90 moose were brought to Grand Mesa, Colorado that way by the end of the 2000s. The idea for the project began when a Colorado man thought of bringing moose to Grand Mesa for the first time. "There was a big meadow full of willows, and it looked like there should be a moose standing there," Roger Shenkel told *WR News*. Shenkel shared his idea with officials at the Colorado Division of Wildlife (DOW).

The DOW spent years studying Grand Mesa's habitat. A habitat is the place where an animal or a plant naturally lives. When officials decided that the area was suitable for moose, the DOW workers set out to find some of the animals to live there.

Fair Trade

Utah needed more bighorn sheep, because their numbers had dropped. In **exchange**, or trade, for the 24 moose, Colorado sent 20 bighorn sheep to Utah. "Here in northern Utah, we have too many moose," Justin Dolling of the Utah DOW told *WR News*. "We made a trade."

Animal Swap



Baker Vail

Colorado exchanged bighorn sheep for moose in 2007.

Animal **overpopulation** can be a big problem. That happens when too many animals live in one area. Those animals can run out of food. Wildlife officials help solve the problem by moving animals to areas where they can find enough food. The map shows how some moose and some bighorn sheep were swapped to keep both groups of animals healthy.