

MP 233 – 234: Moose and the CDOT Shed

Route	Mile Marker	X	Y	Longitude	Latitude
U. S. ¹ Highway 40	233	435602.43	4414603.84	-105.753094	39.879044
	234	435833.08	4413021.98	-105.750242	39.864810

Between mileage post 233 and 234 is the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) Maintenance Shop for the Grand County side of the Pass. The Clear Creek County CDOT shop is between mileage posts 249 and 250 and this crew is responsible for both side of the Pass to the Mary Jane turn-off just south of Winter Park. The west side crew is part of CDOT



Region 3 which includes Moffat, Jackson, Grand, Routt, Rio Blanco, Garfield, Eagle, Mesa, Delta, Pitkin, Gunnison, Hinsdale, Lake and parts of Summit, and Montrose Counties. This crew is responsible for the safety of users on the Grand County side north of Berthoud Pass starting at the Mary Jane and continuing north and west. See information provided on the various avalanches on both sides of the Pass. They do an excellent job.



Moose can be seen on the Grand County side of the Pass. Warning signs are placed along the highway.

Moose are large animals. An average male can be six to seven feet at the shoulder and weight between eight hundred and fifty to one thousand five hundred and eighty pounds. Females are smaller and can weigh between six hundred to eight hundred pounds. They are excellent swimmers and can be fast and aggressive if disturbed.

Moose can run up to 35 miles an hour for short distances and trot steadily at 20 miles an hour. Calves can outrun a human by the time they are five days old.

Photos by author

¹ Taken from the Colorado Department of Transportation's website:
[websitehttp://apps.coloradodot.info/dataaccess/Highways/index.cfm?fuseaction=HighwaysMain](http://apps.coloradodot.info/dataaccess/Highways/index.cfm?fuseaction=HighwaysMain)

Moose were introduced into North Park (the Willow Creek Pass area) in 1978 and 1979. The population has expanded into Middle Park (Grand County).



The Colorado Division of Wildlife feels there are about 300 – 400 moose in Grand County and along the Blue River in Summit County. They estimate that there are 15 – 20 moose on Berthoud Pass.



The gestation period for moose is about eight months. They breed in late September and early October. Calving occurs in late May through early June. Cows often have twins, each weighing about 30 pounds.

In the Spring 2011, a cow with triplets was seen often by locals on the west side of the Pass. This was truly a special experience.

Moose will stay in their territory through the winter, often in willow marshes.

Young moose stay with their mothers until the following mating season.



All of the moose photos were taken by the author using a telephoto lens.