

Moose Resource Report

Wildlife Management Unit 01A

Moose Management in Ontario

In Ontario, the moose population and its habitat is managed using an ecological approach. This approach takes into account a wide range of factors related to moose and uses the best available science and information on moose populations and harvest. Ontario's Cervid Ecological Framework and Moose Management Policy give specific direction on how to manage moose across the province. They can be found online at ontario.ca/moose.

As part of managing moose, an objective is set for the number of moose that should be in an area. Ecological, social, cultural and economic factors related to moose are incorporated when making decisions about harvest allocation and what management actions are needed to help achieve that objective.

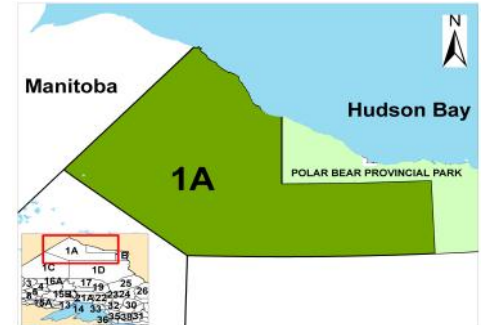


WMU 01A Description

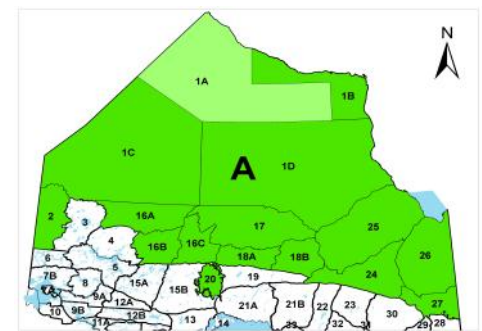
Wildlife Management Unit (WMU) 01A is administered by the Cochrane District of the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR). This unit is a part of the Far North Planning Area. WMU 01A is bordered by Hudson Bay in the north, Polar Bear Provincial Park in the east, and Manitoba in the west. The southern boundary is the 54°N line of latitude. Except for one winter road the WMU is completely roadless. This winter road links the only two communities within the WMU, Peawanuck and Fort Severn with Gillam, Manitoba. The unit covers an area of more than 85,800 square kilometres and is part of Cervid Ecological Zone (CEZ) A.

Cervid Ecological Zone A

Woodland caribou with low densities of moose and white-tailed deer live in this zone. For both moose and white-tailed deer, the goal is to maintain low densities through population and habitat management. The ministry's management objective is to minimize impacts on woodland caribou populations through maintenance or restoration activities as directed by the Caribou Conservation Plan and associated policies. Maintaining low densities of moose and deer that reflect natural ecological conditions is consistent with managing the wildlife community as per the Caribou Conservation Plan.



Map of WMU 01A

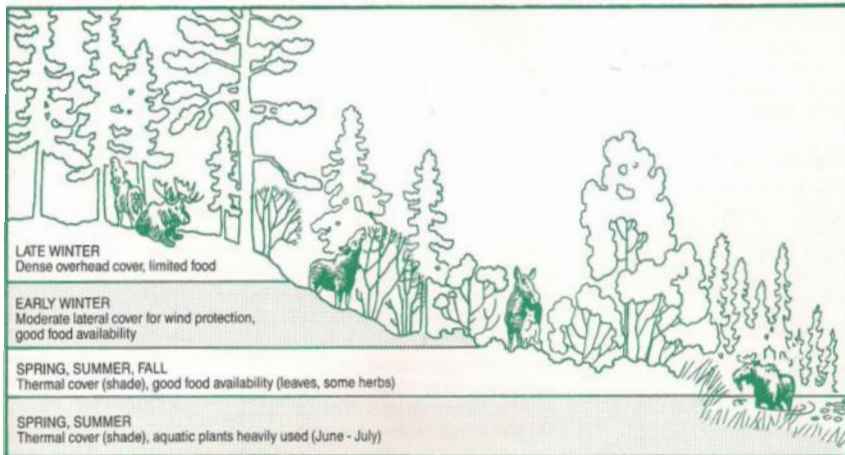


Map of Cervid Ecological Zone A

ontario.ca/moose

Moose Habitat Suitability

WMU 01A is located in the Hudson Bay Lowlands within eco-regions 0E and 1E. A proportion of WMU 01A is treeless sub-arctic tundra. There are large expanses of open tundra, and fens, with some sparsely-treed sections, dominated by tamarack. The central part of WMU 01A is dominated by extensive treed bog and palsa (low oval land elevations) complexes. Generally, the WMU is very flat and poorly drained. In the river levees, where drainage is better, forests of black spruce dominate.



Seasonal movements of moose in Ontario



Growing season browse

Moose aquatic feeding areas are generally found in cool water lakes, along medium-sized and shallow rivers and on shallow basins of cold water lakes.



Moose aquatic feeding area

Early winter habitat is primarily made up of mature or over-mature, open canopy, mixed-wood stands with less than 60 per cent tree cover, as well as areas that had been burned or cutover about five to twenty years ago.



Early winter habitat

Late winter habitat consists of denser stands of mature conifer with good overhead cover. Mixed stands made up of less than half mature conifer should also be considered as late winter habitat if pure conifer stands are not available. Upland sites are preferred.



Late winter habitat

Moose Management in WMU 01A

Moose management considers the best available knowledge, including scientific, local and Aboriginal traditional knowledge, as well as social, cultural and economic values. It also respects Aboriginal peoples' unique perspectives and practices related to moose management, including the exercise of constitutionally protected Aboriginal and Treaty rights. The ecosystem based management of moose includes the management of populations, harvest and habitat, with consideration of potential stressors, such as climate change, predator-prey interactions and disease.

Population Status and Trends

Managing moose populations requires information on their abundance, distribution, harvest, and recruitment trends. In Ontario, the size of the moose population is estimated on a WMU basis through the use of Moose Aerial Inventories. Inventories use a consistent method across the province for estimating moose populations from an aircraft, and are generally conducted every three to five years.

There have been no recent surveys of the moose population.



Photo: MNR Northeast Region

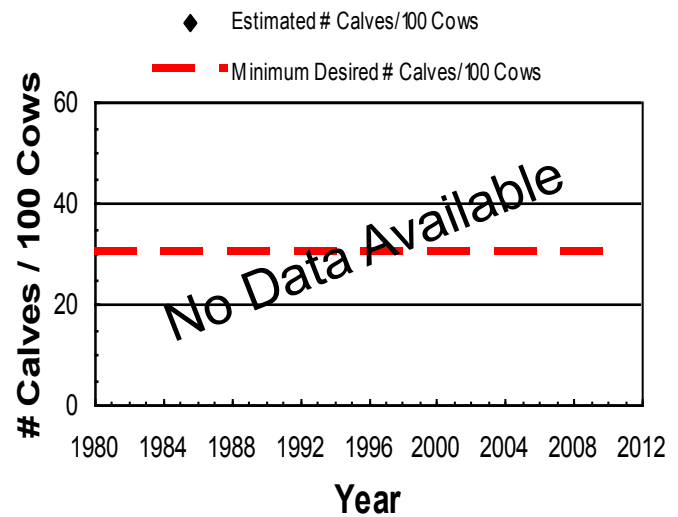


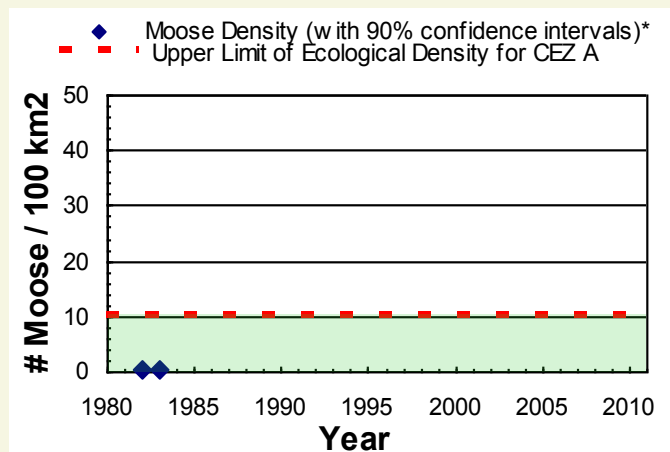
Figure 1: Calf recruitment (# Calves per 100 Cows) trends estimated from moose aerial inventories compared to lowest desired level.

Ecological Population Density

A goal of moose management is to keep the moose density within a range at which they can fulfill their natural role in the ecosystem. The desired ecological population density varies between Cervid Ecological Zones across the province.

Key factors affecting natural moose ecology are habitat suitability, other cervid species, natural predators such as wolves and black bears, and climate change.

However, the moose population for WMU 01A is well below the upper limit of the desired ecological density (10 moose per 100 km²) for Cervid Ecological Zone A (Figure 2).



* there is a 90% chance the population falls within the range shown

Figure 2: Moose Density (with upper and lower limits of the ecological density for CEZ A)

Moose Management in WMU 01A

Harvest Management

There is one regulated moose hunting season in WMU 01A. The resident gun season begins on September 17 and continues to December 15 each year. Non-resident gun season starts two days after the resident gun season start date and runs until November 15 each year. In WMU 01A, the licensed harvest is allocated with 90 percent to the resident hunt and 10 percent to the tourist industry hunt.



Harvest Statistics

The estimated number of moose harvested by residents has been zero animals. Over the past five years, annual average harvest by 9 resident hunters (70 hunter-days) has been 0 moose. There is no tourist industry hunt in this unit.

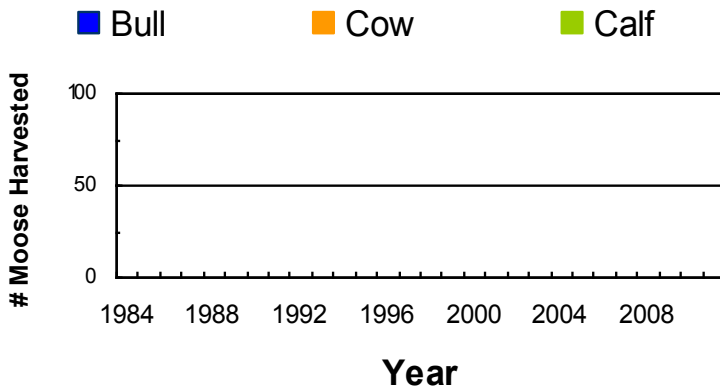


Figure 3: Resident Harvest

Adult Validation Tag Quotas

Harvest planning, including adult validation tag quotas, is done annually to reflect the most recent population survey and harvest information. Tag quotas have remained relatively low and stable since 1999 at 22 gun bull tags and 23 gun cow tags in WMU 01A.

Hunter Interest

Hunter interest in WMU 01A is very low. The unit is very remote making it more challenging for hunters to reach the moose population. In 2011, resident tag quotas were 22 gun bull and 23 gun cow, with 5 Choice 1 draw applicants (Figure 4). There are no tourist outfitters that offer moose hunting packages.

This unit is also where moose are predominantly harvested by Aboriginal community members.

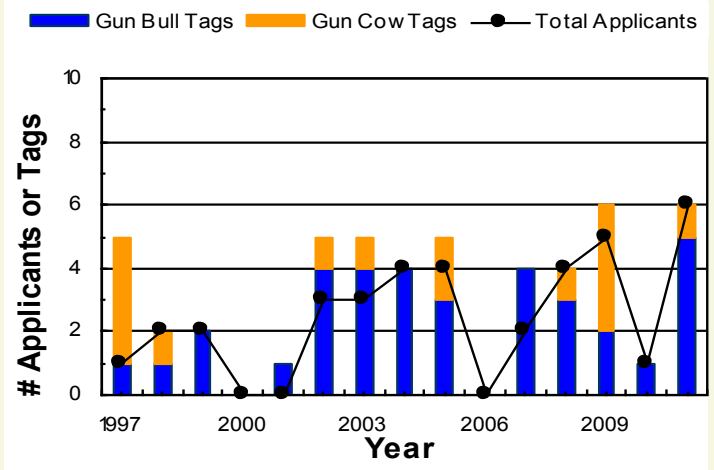


Figure 4: Resident Gun Tag Supply



Report resource abuse. Call the toll free reporting line at any time: 1-877-TIPS-MNR (847-7667)