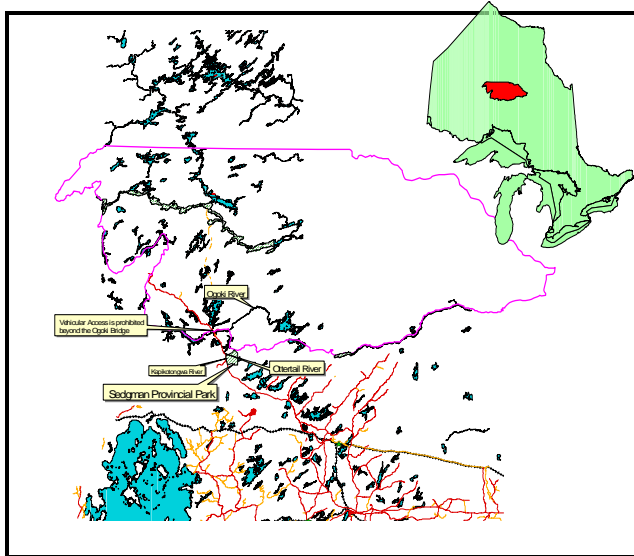


Resources Report – Status of Moose in WMU 17

Description of WMU 17

Wildlife Management Unit 17 is a very large WMU at 29,900 km² in size with limited access, located north of Nakina. It is bounded by the Attwood and Witchwood Rivers to the west, the Ogoki, Kapikotongwa and Little Current Rivers to the south and the Albany River and 11th Base Line to the north and east.

No unauthorized vehicular traffic is permitted beyond the Ogoki Bridge. The only access permitted, other than via air, is by the Ogoki, Ottertail and Kapikotongwa rivers. The Kapikotongwa River is located within Sedgeman Lake Provincial Nature Reserve; therefore no mechanical travel is permitted within the park with the exception of motorboat use for the purpose of travelling beyond the park. (Camping, hunting, caching of boats and the use of off road vehicles is not permitted within the park). Firearms must be encased. CO's recommend that trigger locks be used when transporting your encased firearm through the park. (An access Map to WMU 17 can be purchased from the Geraldton MNR area office).



Habitat

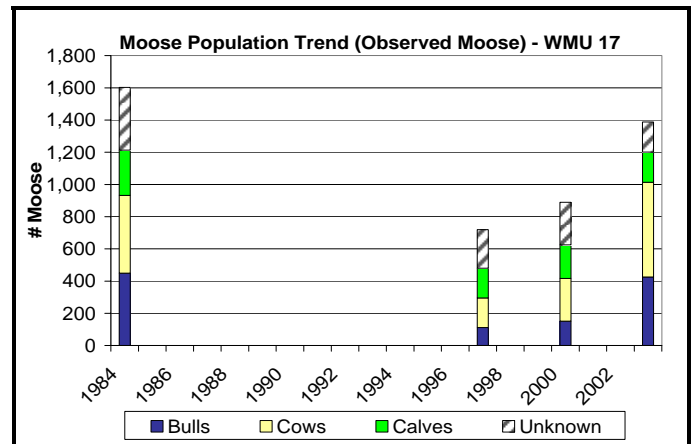
WMU 17 is located in Northwestern Ontario and is dominated by tree species characteristic of the boreal forest (black spruce (79%), jack pine (10%) and poplar (9%). The northeastern portion of the unit (specifically

38% of the unit) is considered unproductive moose habitat due to the large expanse of wetland.

WMU 17 is almost entirely Crown land. The Sustainable Forest Licence (SFL) holder within WMU 17 is Long Lake Forest Products Inc. (*Information on hunting closures is available at the Geraldton Area Office*).

Survey History and Moose Population

Due to the very low densities of moose in the unit (0.049 moose/km²), we have been unable to get a dependable population estimate in the 3 most recent surveys. For management purposes the population is estimated to be 889 moose; however the herd status is unknown due to the very wide confidence limits (37 to 43%) around this estimate.



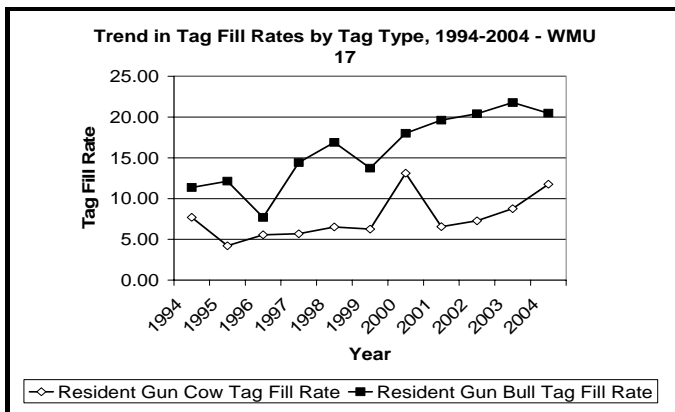
The Moose Hunt

This unit has an earlier than normal opening to the gun hunt due to the remoteness of the unit and dependency on air and water access. The Resident gun season opens on the 3rd Saturday in September, with the non-resident season opening two days later. (*Check the hunting summary for exact dates*). There is no special archery season in this unit.

The tourist industry (TI) harvest allocation in WMU 17 is 42.9% of the total adult allocation. All hunters who receive a TI tag must be accommodated at the tourist establishment. Native harvest is high in this unit.

Tag Quotas

Tag quotas are adjusted on a yearly basis to account for changes in the moose population as well as changes in the harvest. Over the years voluntary annual postcard surveys and the mandatory reports of tourist clientele have identified an increase in tag fill rates. Changes occurring in tag numbers in years between aerial inventories are usually due to this increase. (Post Card returns continue to be low). The tag fill rate for bulls is higher for bull tag holders than cow tag holders. Traditionally, the tourist industry experiences a higher tag fill rate for bulls than resident hunters. The guaranteed group size for gun bull & cow tags has remained constant at 2.

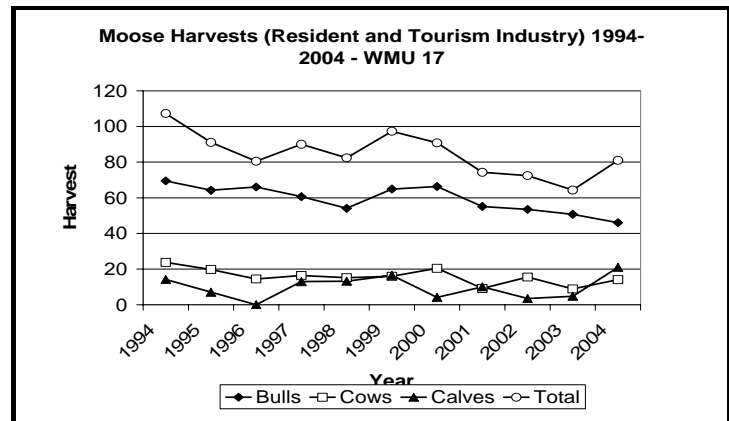
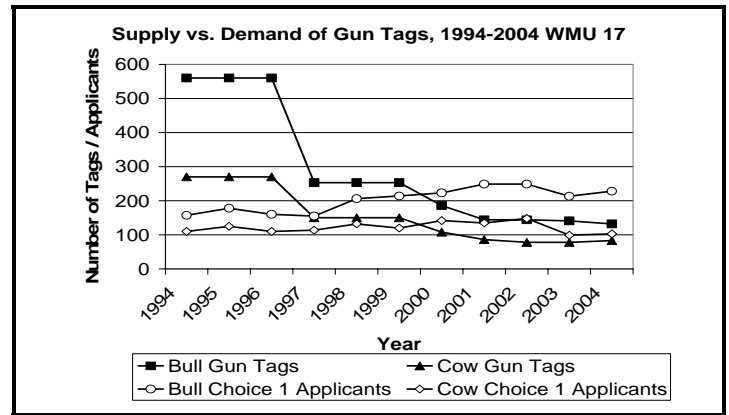


Harvest

The planned harvest is 52 bulls, 17 cows and 17 calves. In 2003, it is estimated that the overall harvest was 51 to 54 bulls, 9 to 11 cows and 5 to 6 calves. Hunter post card survey returns for this unit were in the 60% to 70% range. The TI hunter accounted for 34% of the total harvest in 2003.

Other Wildlife

Forest Dwelling Woodland caribou are present and are currently designated as Threatened both provincially, under the Ontario Species at Risk List, and federally, by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC).



Strategy

The management strategy for this unit is to maintain hunting opportunities while trying to increase the population. Calf harvests will be monitored carefully to ensure that they remain within a sustainable range. The moose population will continue to be monitored through aerial inventories and the harvest levels will be adjusted accordingly. Forest management activities will incorporate strategies to protect and promote specific moose and caribou habitat components.

Population Objective

The population objective for this unit is 1660 moose.

About this Report

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 Location: *Geraldton Area Office*
 Date: *March 7th, 2005*

