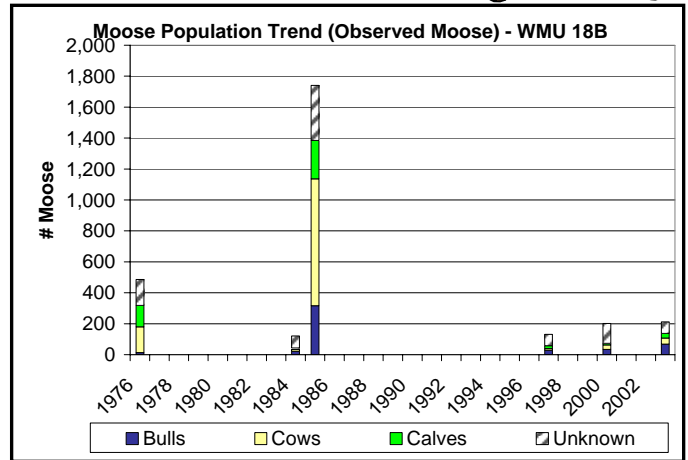
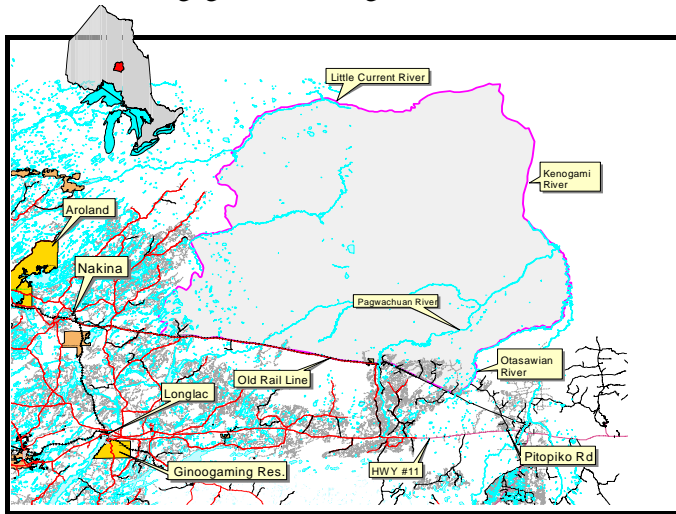


Resources Report – Status of Moose in WMU 18B

Description of WMU 18B

Wildlife Management Unit (WMU) 18B is 11,100 km² in size, located halfway between Nakina and Hearst. It is bounded by the abandoned Pagawa Rail line on the south, the Drowning River and Jemar & Prairie Lakes on the west, the Little Current River on the north and the Otasawian, Nagagami & Kenogami Rivers on the east.



Habitat

WMU 18B lies within the Boreal Forest Region of Northwestern Ontario and is typical of a natural wildfire driven ecosystem. The predominant tree species is black spruce. The unit is almost entirely crown land (>95%). Road access is limited to a very small portion of the unit along its southern boundary where logging has occurred. (Information on hunting closures is available at local MNR offices).

Survey History and Moose Population

Due to the very low densities of moose in the unit (0.038 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 202 moose; however the herd status is unknown due to the very wide confidence limits (38 to 55%) around this estimate. The unit was last surveyed in January of 2003.

The Moose Hunt

The resident gun season starts in early October and runs until December 15th. There is also a three week archery/muzzle loader season prior to the gun season. (Check the hunting summary for exact dates). Archers and Muzzle loaders must wear a solid hunter orange vest and hat. (Remember to apply for an archery tag in the draw to be eligible for a muzzle loader tag). This is one of the two moose black powder seasons available in the Province.

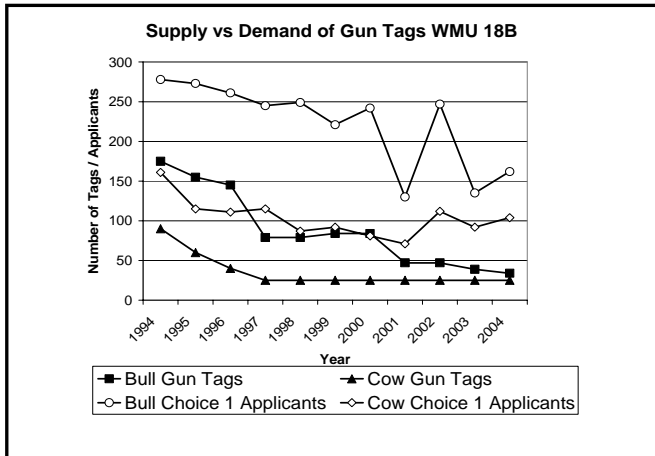
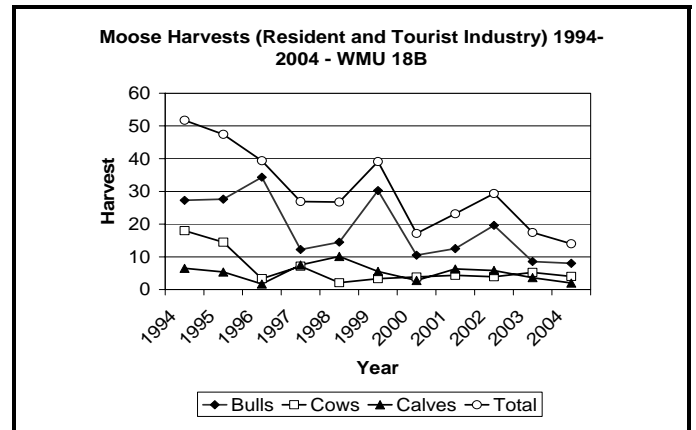
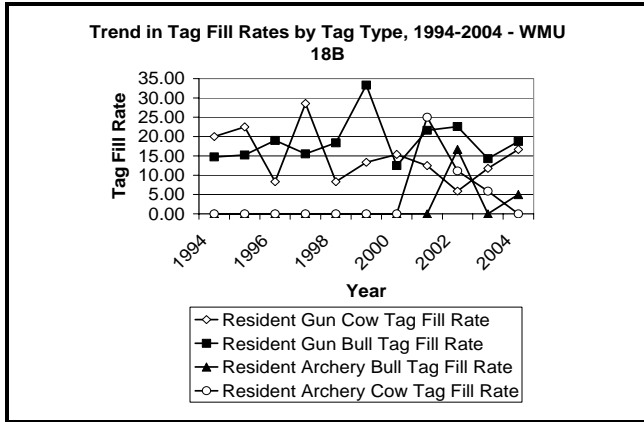
There is also an allocation to non-residents who must be accommodated at a tourist establishment. The tourist industry harvest allocation in WMU 18B is 20.8% of the total adult allocation.

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. The guaranteed group size for gun bull & cow tags has varied between 2 to 4 (it was 3 in 2004) and 2 to 3 (it was 3 in 2004) respectively. The guaranteed group size for

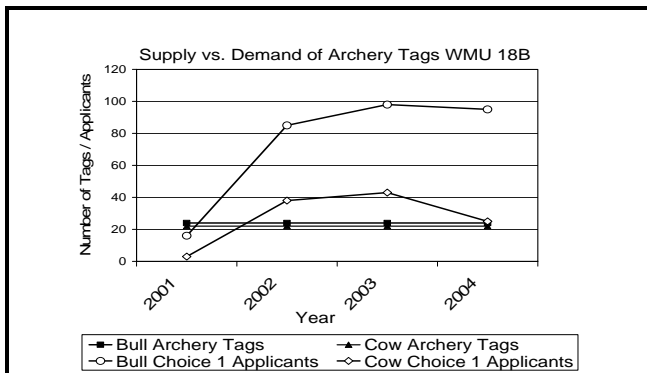
archery/muzzleloader bull has steadily increased from 2 to 4 since the season's inception while the cow has remained at 2.

Archery/Muzzle-loader Season: Since it's inception in 2001, there has never been an over harvest of the 3 Bulls and 2 cows allocated. (Greater than 90% of the hunters are using muzzle loaders).



Other Wildlife

Forest-Dwelling Woodland Caribou are present in this unit 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 target for this unit is 441 moose.

Harvest

The planned harvest is 15 bulls, 6 cows and 7 calves. In 2003, it is estimated that the overall harvest was 11 to 14 bulls, 5 to 7 cows and 4 to 8 calves. Hunter post card survey returns are generally poor for this unit.

Resident gun hunters: are harvesting above target for bulls, cows and calves.

Tourist Industry: hunters are above target for bulls only.

About this Report

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 Date: *March 7th, 2005*

