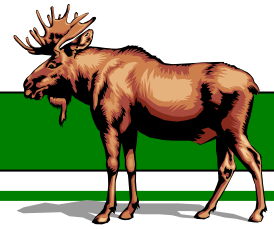




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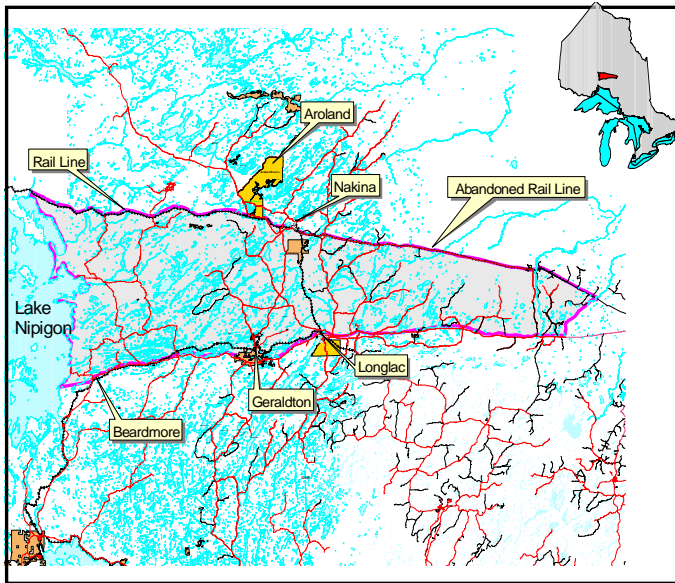
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Resources Report – Status of Moose in WMU 19

Description of WMU 19

Wildlife Management Unit 19 is a large WMU at 11,500 km² in size, located north of Geraldton. WMU 19 is bounded by Highway 11 on the south, Lake Nipigon on the west, the abandoned Pagwa Rail line and the Nakina-Armstrong CNR line on the north and the Otasawian River on the east.



Habitat

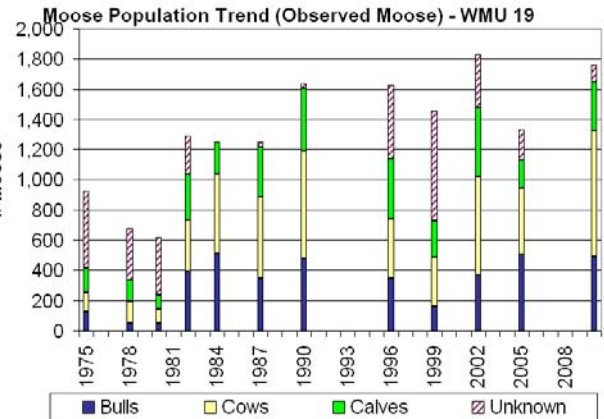
WMU 19 lies within the Boreal Forest Region of Northwestern Ontario and is typical of a natural wildfire driven ecosystem. It contains both coniferous and hardwood tree species in pure and mixedwood stands. The predominant species are: black spruce (65%); jack pine (8%); trembling aspen (13%); white birch (5%) and balsam fir (5%). The unit is almost entirely crown land (>90%) and has an extensive network of logging roads. (Information on hunting closures is available at local MNR offices).

Survey History and Moose Population

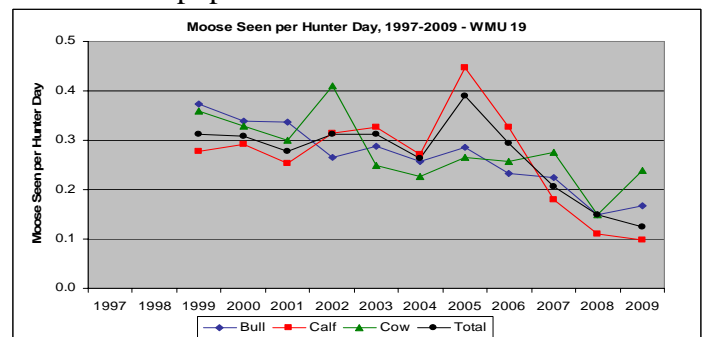
The most recent survey in 2010 indicates that the moose population is relatively stable at about 1755 animals. The density is relatively low at 0.15 moose/km². A problem with the Bull to Cow ratio dropping below the guideline level of 67 bulls per 100 cows

was identified in the 2010 survey. The harvest ratio has been changed to 2.5:1 bulls to cows to address this issue.

The calves/100 cows were also below the regional median threshold of 47 calves/100 cows for the past two surveys.



Moose seen per hunter day is believed to give an indication of population trend.



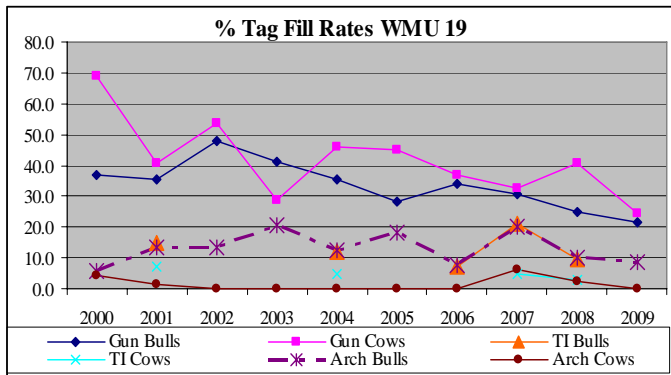
The Moose Hunt

The resident gun season starts in early October and runs until December 15th. There is also a three week archery season prior to the gun season. (Check the hunting summary for exact dates).

There is also an allocation to non-residents who must be accommodated at a tourist establishment. The tourist industry harvest allocation in WMU 19 is 4.7% of the total adult allocation. This unit is unique because it is the only unit in the province to issue archery tags to the tourist industry instead of gun tags. First Nation harvest is high in this unit.

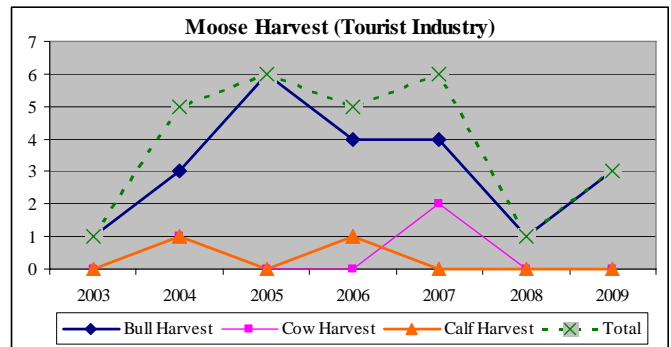
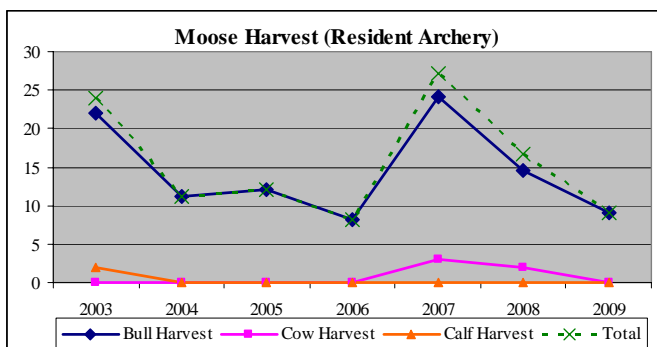
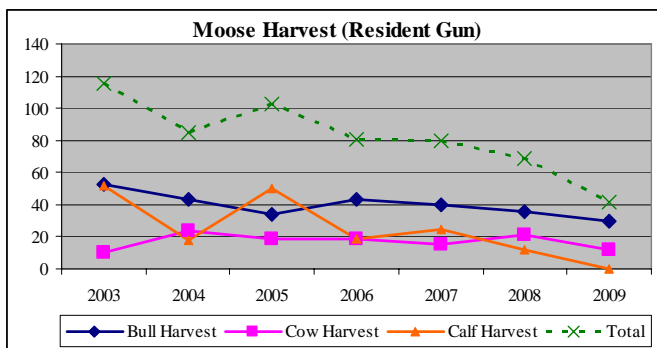
Tag Quotas

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 a decrease in tag fill rates. Changes occurring in tag numbers in years between aerial inventories are usually due to this increase.



Harvest

The total planned harvest is 79 bulls, 33 cows and 28 calves. Harvest appears to be decreasing since 2006. Harvest is determined by hunter post card returns, which are in the 50% to 60% range which is very poor. The resident gun hunter accounts for most of the total harvest.



Other Wildlife

Where there are multiple species the species at the greatest risk will be given management priority over those of lower risk in a given area. (Cervid Ecological Framework June 2009)

Forest-dwelling Woodland Caribou and a few White-tailed Deer are present in this unit. Forest-dwelling woodland caribou 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). White-tailed Deer are present in this unit but at low numbers.

Strategy

The Bull to Cow ratio will continue to be monitored to maintain it within the guideline level of 67 bulls per 100 cows. 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.

Population Objective

The population objective for this unit is approximately 2044 moose.

About this Report

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