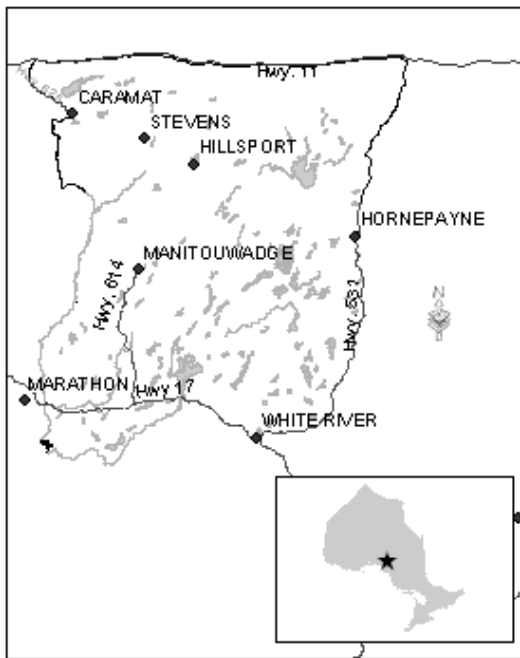




Resources Report – Status of Moose in WMU 21B

Description of WMU 21B

Wildlife Management Unit (WMU) 21B is located in the Ministry of Natural Resources' Wawa District, and is within the jurisdiction of the Manitowadge Area Office. It is bounded by Highway 11 to the north, Highway 631 to the east, the White River and Lake Superior to the south and the Pic River and Highway 625 to the west.



21B is a large WMU encompassing an area of 13,709 km². Approximately 95% of the area in this management unit exists within 5km of a road and 99% of this management unit consists of crown land. Although access exists to most of the area in 21B, there are hunting restrictions in certain areas. There are four main reasons for these restrictions: Hunting Safety Closure (ensure safety of workers in the bush), Provincial Parks and Nature Reserves, Municipal discharge by-laws, as well as Moose Management Closures.

Moose Management Closure areas exist where there was significant concern regarding the hunting of moose in large clear-cut areas which no longer provide the cover necessary for protection. The

Manitouwadge Public Consultation Committee and the Forest Management Planning Teams for the Big Pic and Black River forests reviewed areas for closure to hunting and these were later temporarily closed with the onset of operations. Each year the Wawa District compiles a moose closure package which contains detailed maps of all closure areas for 21B. These closure packages can be obtained from either the Wawa or Manitowadge Offices. When a closed area reaches the criteria to be reopened a notice will be posted.

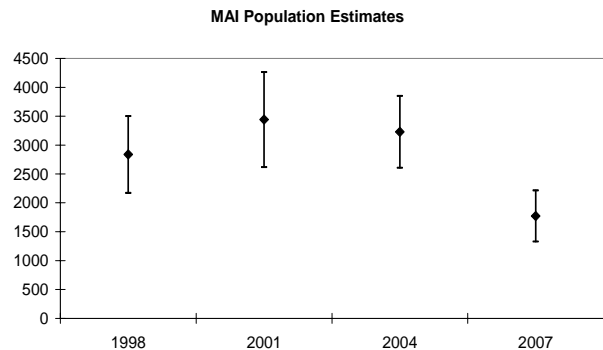
Habitat

WMU 21B is located in the boreal forest of northern Ontario. The dominant tree species in this area are jack pine, white and black spruce, balsam fir, white cedar, aspen and poplar.

Moose aquatic feeding areas, which are very important to moose in the spring and summer, are found distributed throughout the unit, however, these areas do not tend to be of the highest ranking with respect to size of area and type of vegetation.

Survey History and Moose Population

WMU 21B has had moose aerial inventory surveys conducted on it since the early 1970's. These surveys are now performed on a three year rotation. This management unit was last surveyed in January 2007.



Recent surveys indicate that the moose population in WMU 21B has declined well below the target of 3,400 moose. In the most recent survey in 2007 the

population estimate was 1773 +/- 25%. This precipitous decline is the result of multiple factors, including predation, over-exploitation, and drought. The decline in the moose population in 21B has necessitated drastic reductions in moose adult validation tags, beginning with the 2007 hunt.

The Moose Hunt

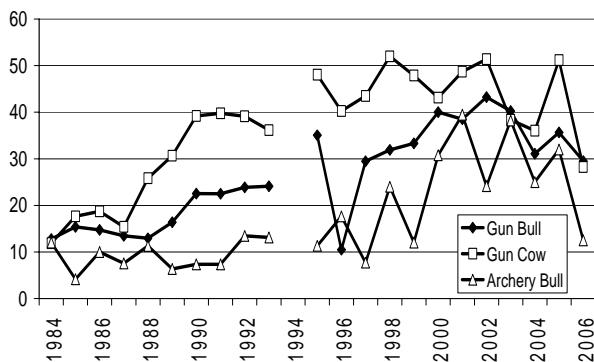
There are both Archery and Gun seasons for moose in WMU 21B which are open to both residents and non-residents. The archery season normally opens two weeks before the gun season in this WMU and ends the day before the gun hunt opens. There is a shorter non-resident gun season, about 5 weeks for non-residents contrasted by about 9 weeks for residents.

From postcard survey data it is estimated that a total of 283 moose were harvested in 2006, consisting of 53% bulls, 27% cows and 20% calves. The projected calf harvest over the past eight hunting seasons has averaged at 26.2%. The calf harvest in this WMU varies from year to year, ranging from a high of 49.6% (1999) to a low of 9.5% (2004).

In 2006 the total adult harvest was composed of 97% gun harvest and 3% archery harvest in 21B. Tourist industry harvest accounted for 4% of the total reported harvest in 21B for 2005 (2006 totals not currently available).

Hunter success rates fluctuate from year to year, but the trend has been increasing steadily over the past 25 years, from an average of about 10% in the mid-1980s to its current rate of approximately 40%.

Tag Filling Rates



Tag Quotas

Tag quotas are adjusted on an annual basis to account for changes in the moose population as well as changes in the harvest.

The decline in the 21B moose population, changes to the population structure (fewer bulls, more cows), and the upward trend in hunter success rate have led to a significant reduction in tags, beginning in 2007.

Other Wildlife

White-tailed deer are sometimes spotted in WMU 21B but sightings are normally scattered throughout the landscape. There is at present no season for deer in 21B; however in 21A just west of 21B there is a season for deer.

Another ungulate whose existence has been confirmed in small numbers within WMU 21B is the Forest Dwelling Woodland Caribou, currently listed as Threatened by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC).

Commercial fur species (beaver, otter, pine marten, lynx, fox, muskrat) are prevalent in this unit. Game birds in this unit consist of ruffed, spruce and sharp-tail grouse and are normally represented in good numbers throughout the hunting season. Snowshoe hare is another small game species which can be found within this WMU, often in high numbers.

Strategy

The management strategy for this WMU is to reduce harvest in order to grow the population toward the population objective for the unit. Calf harvests should be monitored in the future to maintain a sustainable rate of harvest. 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 3400 (0.25 moose/ha).

About this Report

Prepared by: *Steve Bobrowicz*
Area Biologist
Manitouwadge Area Office
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