



Moose Overview

- The **Northwestern Moose** (*Alces alces andersoni*) is the only subspecies known to occur in Manitoba.
- They can grow to upwards of **1,300 pounds**, and towering over **6 feet** at the shoulder.
- Moose are the **largest members of the deer family**; largely known for their massive size, long legs, and prominent antlers, especially in males (bulls).
- They are **herbivores** and their diet consists of browsing on twigs, leaves, and aquatic plants.

Moose Facts

- In Canada, four subspecies of moose are found: the Alaska/Yukon moose, Shiras moose, Northwestern moose, and Eastern Canada moose
- Moose can live up to **15 to 20 years**
- Like a cow, moose have a **4-chambered** stomach
- During the summer moose eat an estimated **70 pounds** of vegetation per day
- They can run through the forest quietly at speeds up to **56 km/h**



For More Information on Moose
in Manitoba
cpawsmb.org
engagemb.ca/moose-in-manitoba

Contact Information

eclinfo@umanitoba.ca (204)-474-9316

The Northwestern Moose



Moose in Manitoba

In Manitoba, the moose population fluctuates and declines due to factors such as mining, logging, hydro dams, over-harvesting and climate change.

The moose population in Manitoba has dropped by 57% since 1960 and is now estimated to be under 20,000.

The decline has led to Moose Conservation Closures in parts of Manitoba. Some regional populations show little growth since the closures, while others recover slowly. We must collaborate to prevent further declines and ensure a sustainable moose population.

Wildlife experts and organizations like CPAWS Manitoba are concerned about the decline and are advocating for new management approaches to protect and restore moose populations.



Climate Change Impacts

Climate change threatens moose through changes in habitat, food availability, and even disease dynamics.

These impacts can lead to shifts in distribution, population dynamics, and species interactions



Mining Impacts

- Habitat destruction
- Alteration of natural movement patterns
- Reduced habitat connectivity
- Increased human contact
- Potential for poaching
- Threatens moose populations

Hydro Dam Impacts

- Habitat loss
- Fragmentation of moose
- Altered river flows
- Increased human and domestic animal interactions
- Affects breeding, movement, and survival
- With mercury contamination in the water, moose may have elevated mercury levels

Cultural Significance

In Ininew (Swampy Cree) culture, moose are vital for sustenance, materials, and spiritual values. An important cultural practice, utilizing the entire moose and sharing the harvest with the community. The hunt follows traditional knowledge and respects the land and animals.

Clothing and Materials:

- Moose hides were used for clothing, tents, and daily life necessities.

Ceremonial and Spiritual Significance:

- Moose are sacred animals representing gentleness, warmth, and love.
- The white moose symbolizes interconnectedness with nature and environmental care.

Traditional Practices:

- Moose hunting is a key part of Indigenous traditions, with feasts celebrating successful hunts.

Cultural Identity:

- Moose are central to Indigenous cultural identity and traditions.

Keystone Species:

- Decline of moose affects Indigenous communities and local ecosystems.