June 18 2019

Attention Patrick Hubert.

Sorry for the delayed response as your response arrived June 3rd while attending my annual off season hunt camp maintenance work bee (June 3-6th) and it took me some extra time to prepare this.

I find it unbelievable to learn that after some 35 years since the inception of the "selective harvest system" that OMNRF has yet to establish any effective "Moose Mortality Management Objectives"; geared toward management of growth limiting factors (Predation, Native Harvest, Road/Rail kills, disease, starvation etc.) Mortality objectives toward getting even estimated numbers on 96% of Moose Mortality.

The following approach as outlined by yourself Patrick, OMNRF has used over the past 35 years is clearly not working: Leaving the future of Ontario's regulated moose hunting as an effective moose management tool in jeopardy!

By focusing 'Moose mortality management objectives" solely **"designed to be robust to lack of specific information on mortality factors other than provincially licensed harvest by relying on repeated aerial surveys". This approach:**

Misleads/misinforms moose hunters, political leaders, and the general public into believing this myth; that regulated hunting is the major population growth limiting factor in the moose management equation?!

Therefore I have prepared the following/attached presentation that I believe proves that regulated hunting harvest is the least contributing factor, and predation due to over populations of bears and wolves is the major leading factor.

Until and unless OMNRF develops and adheres to meaningful "Moose Management Mortality Objectives" similar to those laid out in '1980 Moose Management Policy' including effective predator control measures, when in place lead to record population 110,000 moose in the mid-90's. However Predator Control Measures were replaced with 'Predator Protective Measure" at his point in time. Subsequently despite chopping thousands of tags (hunting opportunities) moose population numbers have taken a significant downhill slide.

In 1983 with effective predator control in place (every moose and deer hunter had a free bear licence and could harvest wolves on small games licence) we harvested 12% for stability, 6% for growth; today with strict protective measures on bears & wolves in place; regulated harvest mortality accounts for less than 4% of total moose mortality. Meanwhile: Over the past 18 seasons In WMU's 42, 47, 48 & 49, literally hundreds of hunting opportunities (tags) have been lost only to ensure overpopulations of bears and wolves hunting 24-7 365 days per year, killing an unknown number of moose; don't run out of prey??!

WMU 47 alone has gone from 262 in 2001, to 1 (one) adult tag in 2019 rendering any harvest numbers irrelevant.

In year 2000 a total of 8791 Bull/Cow pool 1 hunters applied In WMU's 42, 47, 48 & 49, In 2018 these numbers fell to 5544 representing a loss of 3247 hunters (paying over $50 each for a mere chance at getting a tag) in these 4 WMU's alone; forced to relocate or quit hunting all together.

Again leaving the future of Ontario's regulated moose hunting as an effective moose management tool in jeopardy!

WMU 47 Year 2001

Rationale:

- Starting Population: 840 (Carrying capacity 20 moose per 100 square kilometer as determined OMNRF 2010)
- % calves 16 (OMNRF 2010)
- % cows 46 (OMNRF 2010)
- % Bulls 28 (OMNRF 2010)
- Spring Calves 1 per Cow 46% - 386 (Some have one, some two, some none.)
- Population grows to 1226 after spring calving.
- Planned Harvest 131 moose 262 adult tags issued (allowable harvest 50% - 131.) **Total harvest minimum 131 moose. 1226 less harvest 131 – 1095 moose remain. 34,5% of total Mortality.**

- Unknown/unrecorded Mortality 65,5 % - 255 moose accounts for unrecorded mortality to bring back to carrying capacity 840 moose.

    - **Predation: OMNRF est, min 50% of spring calves lost within first two weeks due to (bear & wolf predation 193 calves out of remaining 255 = 62)**
    - **Road kills? Rail kills? Native harvest? Poaching? Disease? Mistaken identification? Loss of habitat?**
    - **Total 255 – 193 = 62 calves left to be lost to other Unknown losses!**

- Assume **growth/decline** depends on **gain/loss** between spring calving and total mortality. (If positive the numbers compound up, if negative they run downhill.)

WMU 47 Year 2019

Rationale:

- Starting Population: 840 (Carrying capacity 20 moose per 100 square kilometer as determined OMNRF 2010)
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- Population grows to 1226 after spring calving.

- Planned Harvest 1 moose Bull adult tag issued (allowable harvest .5%.) **Total harvest minimum 1 moose. 1226 less harvest 1 – 1225 moose remain. .1% of total Mortality.**

- Unknown/unrecorded Mortality 99,9 % - 385 moose accounts for unrecorded mortality to bring population back to carrying capacity 840 moose.

    - **Predation: OMNRF est, min 50% of spring calves lost within first two weeks due to (bear & wolf predation 193 calves out of remaining 385 = 192)**
    - **Road kills? Rail kills? Native harvest? Poaching Disease? Mistaken identification? Loss of habitat?**
    - **Total 192 moose left to be lost to other unknown causes?**

- Assume **growth/decline** depends on **gain/loss** between spring calving and total mortality. (If positive the population numbers compound up, if negative they run downhill.)

Bear kills moose calf in front of mother! Click on link.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-JVkaMqD5ml

Based on the above I believe developing effective Moose Mortality Management |Objectives combined with Predator control measures must become priority number one.

I stand to be corrected,

Sincerely

Eldon Hawton.

Moose Hunter,

North Bay

Bay

As a long time member and supporter of OFAH, over 50 years of moose/deer hunting experience, combined with my 6 years previous experience (two three year terms 1997 – 2003) with (Member) Ontario Moose & Bear Allocation Advisory Committee (OMBAAC), as appointed by Mike Harris. I am well aware of the issues and concerns of Northern Ontario residents and hunting population.

See attached pdf better illustrates the WMU 47 senerio.

CC BGMMC

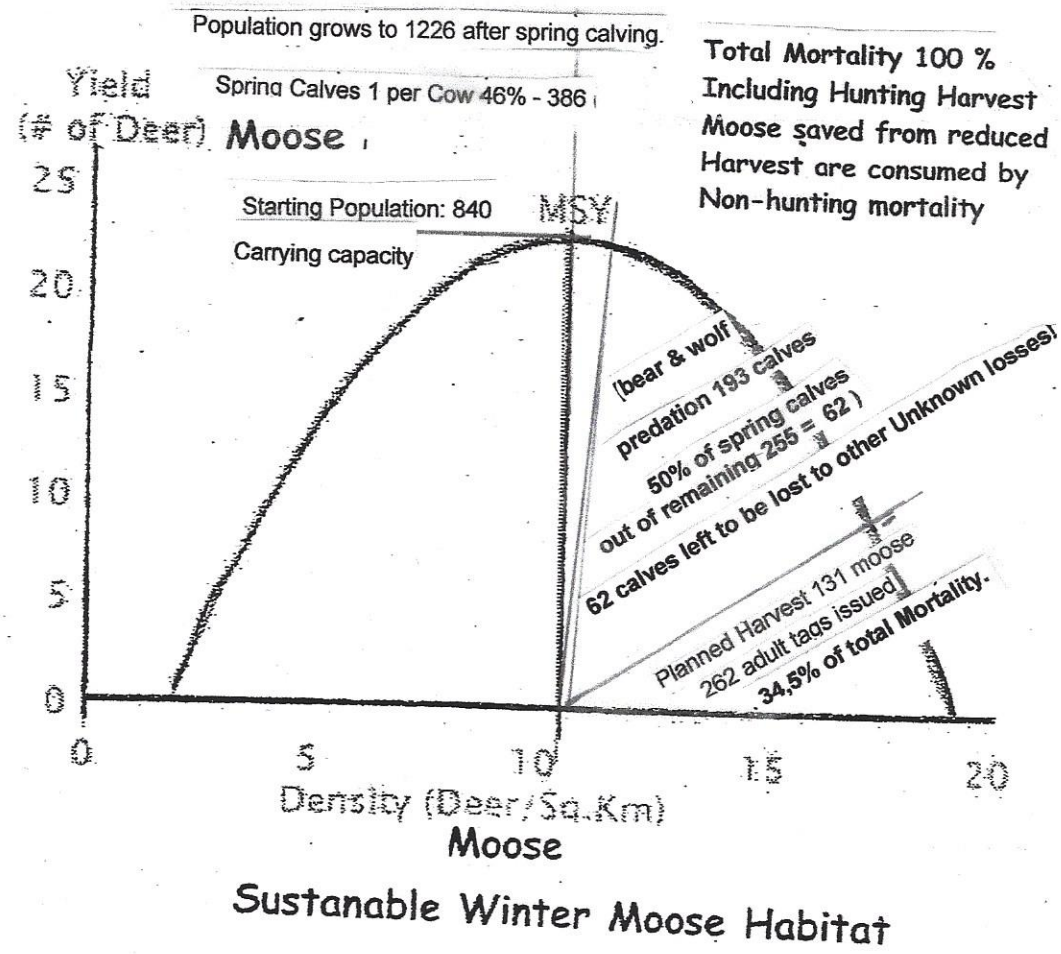
Vic Fedeli MPP

BCC

Fellow Moose Hunters

Stakeholder Organizations.

WMU 47 Year 2001



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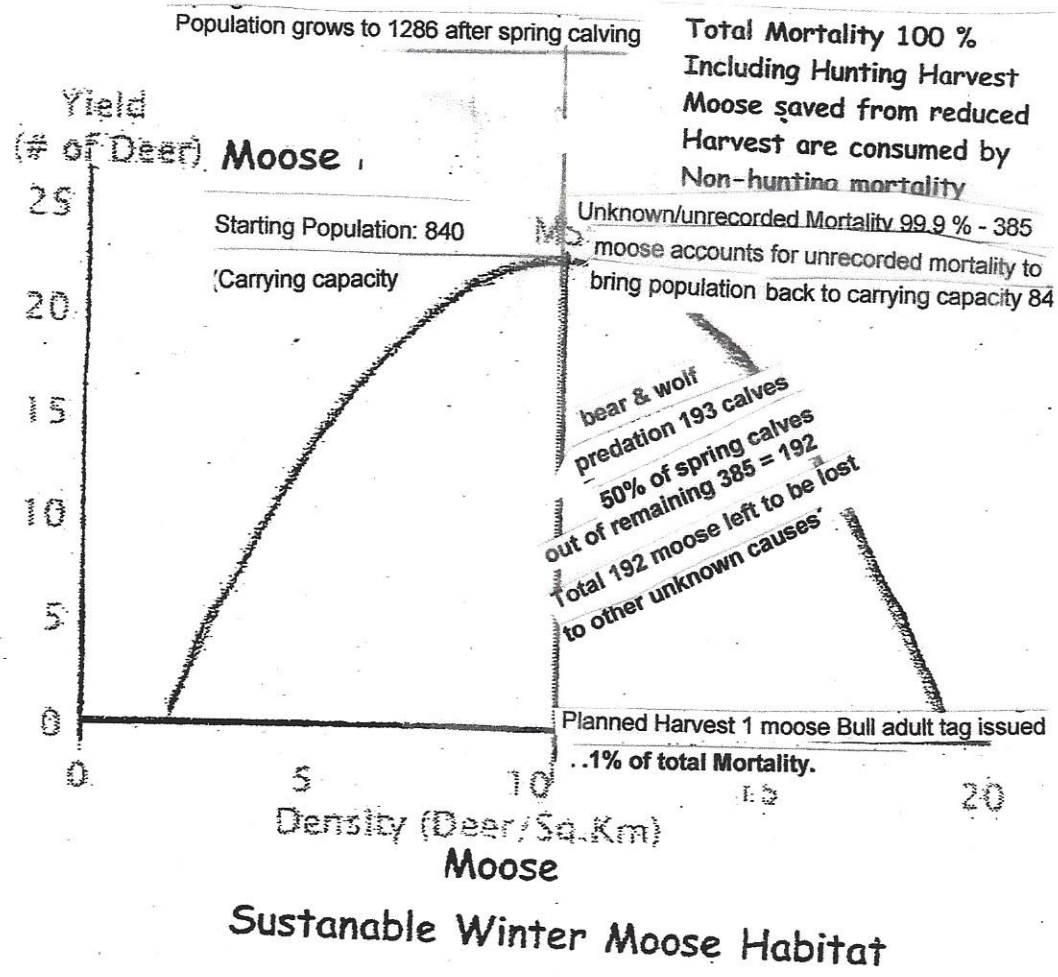
WMU 47 Year 2019



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