

Moose Conservation Closures

Moose hunting is now closed to all hunters in the following Game Hunting Areas (GHA's):

- 21, 21A (north Interlake)
- 29, 29A (Turtle Mountain area)
- 12 (Red Deer Lake area)
- 18, 18A, 18B, 18C (Duck Mountain area)
- 14, 14A (Swan-Pelican area)
- 13, 13A (Porcupine Mountain area)
- A portion of 26 (Nopiming Area)



Signs notifying hunters of the closure are posted around the boundary of each GHA.

Special Moose Management Initiatives

Manitoba Sustainable Development is concerned about declining moose populations in certain areas and is taking action. These actions include:

- **Research:** Undertaking a study in eastern Manitoba to determine the prevalence of *Parelaphostrongylus tenuis* (the parasite which causes brain worm) in white-tailed deer to further understand its effects on the local moose population. The parasite is normally found in its natural host, white-tailed deer. However, it is fatal to other members of the deer family, such as moose. Manitoba Sustainable Development will be looking at the presence of the parasite in white-tailed deer heads harvested in parts of the eastern region (GHA 17A, 26 and 36). Hunters are requested to submit white-tailed deer heads for examination. White-tailed deer heads can be dropped off at the Lac du Bonnet, Pine Falls or Seven Sisters Manitoba Sustainable Development offices. A research study using GPS collars on moose and wolves is being undertaken in GHA 26.
- **Moose hunting:** All licensed moose hunting seasons have been suspended in the Duck Mountain (GHA 18-18C), Porcupine Mountain (GHA 13, 13A), Turtle Mountain (GHA 29, 29A), GHAs 12, 14, 14A, 19A, 21, 21A and 26. These seasons will be reinstated when populations have recovered.
- **Wolf management:** Wolf hunting seasons have been extended province-wide. The bag limit in the Duck Mountain (GHAs 18-18C) and GHA 26 is two wolves. This will result in the harvest of more wolves in these two areas where moose populations have been depressed. Manitoba Sustainable Development will undertake regular aerial surveys of wolf populations and assess diet of wolves.
- **Disease and parasite management:** Parasites (brain worm, liver fluke) carried by white-tailed deer in the southeast part of the province have negatively affected moose. Deer Muzzleloader and General Deer Seasons in GHAs 26 and 36 have been extended to reduce white-tailed deer numbers. As well, a second deer licence will continue to be available in GHAs 17A, 26 and 36. A third deer licence is available in GHA 26.
- **Access control:** Selected roads and trails have been closed by removing culverts, digging trenches and berms and placing barricades at river crossings. This is being done in high moose-density areas to restrict truck travel, reduce ORV traffic and decrease harvest of moose.

- **Moose population assessment:** Funding from the Wildlife Enhancement Initiative is supporting aerial surveys for moose. Populations of concern will be monitored regularly to evaluate the effectiveness of management actions.
- **Consultation with Indigenous communities:** Indigenous communities are being consulted about initiatives to increase moose populations in areas where they are depressed. These consultation efforts have resulted in moose conservation hunting closures for all people in the Duck Mountain (GHA 18-18C), Porcupine Mountain (GHA 13, 13A), Turtle Mountain (GHA 29, 29A), and GHAs 12, 14, 14A, 21 and 21A. A partial area closure for all people has been implemented in GHA 26.
- **Moose management strategies:** Manitoba Sustainable Development established moose advisory committees consisting of local groups, Indigenous organizations and government to help develop moose recovery strategies.
- **Increased enforcement efforts:** Additional coverage by Conservation Officers has been provided for the Duck Mountain area (GHAs 18-18C) and for GHA 26.
- **Wildlife biologists:** Two wildlife biologists, located in Swan River and Lac Du Bonnet, have been hired to implement moose recovery programs.

Manitoba Sustainable Development is working with all users, interest groups and Indigenous harvesters to recover moose populations. Hunters can help by:

- harvesting wolves and submitting samples for analysis ([Manitoba Hunting Guide](#) - page 46 for details)
- taking advantage of increased white-tailed deer hunting opportunities in GHAs 17A, 26 and 36 and submitting samples for analysis ([Manitoba Hunting Guide](#) - see page 27 and 29)
- participating in public meetings about area-specific moose management strategies