

Moose in Manitoba

Project Overview

Over the last 10 to 15 years, declines in moose population have resulted in moose conservation closures being established in various parts of southern Manitoba. Some of the regional populations of moose have shown little or no growth since the closures were established. Other regional populations of moose are recovering, but at a slower rate than expected.

The Wildlife, Fisheries and Resource Enforcement Branch recently produced two documents; one outlining aerial moose survey results from 2020 and another describing the main threats to moose populations in Manitoba. The goal of this project was to start engaging with Manitobans about the status of Manitoba moose populations.

The Wildlife, Fisheries and Resource Enforcement Branch is in the initial stages of engaging with Indigenous communities and interest groups in an effort to work towards a shared-management framework for moose harvest in Manitoba. Information sharing will be an important part of the shared-management process.

Engagement Overview

Letters along with the documents outlining aerial survey results and main threats to moose in Manitoba were sent to various communities and organizations across the province. The objective of these letters, documents and the EngageMB Moose Project was to share information regarding the status of moose populations with Indigenous communities, municipalities and various wildlife and Indigenous organizations, as well as the public at large.

In addition to information sharing, individuals were invited to participate in a short online survey to better understand the public's familiarity with different threats to moose. The online survey results will help inform what content to include in future informational documents for communities and the public at large. The EngageMB Moose Project was meant to supplement community and public meetings. The initial stage of this broad engagement on moose in Manitoba was initiated in the fall of 2020 and concluded early winter 2021.

What We Heard

The EngageMB Moose Project has provided an opportunity to identify how familiar the public is with different threats to moose.

A total of 1,772 individuals visited the EngageMB Moose Project, with 187 individuals participating in the survey and 205 participating in the quick poll.

How familiar are you with the following threats to the moose population in Manitoba?

Figure 2 illustrates that most participants were moderately or very familiar with threats to moose. Parasites and diseases were the least familiar of the threats, while humans were the most familiar to participants.

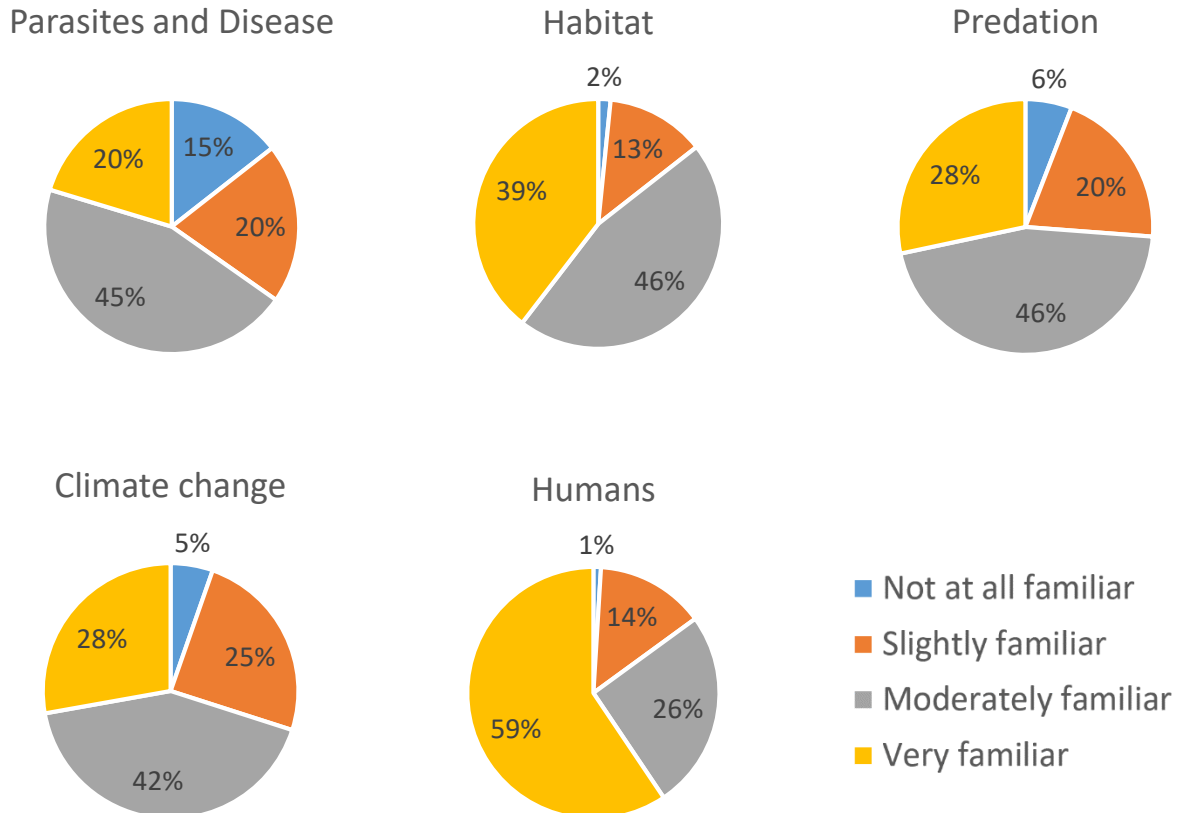


Figure 2: Pie charts identifying participant's familiarity with different threats to moose in Manitoba (n=187).

To the best of your knowledge, what are the top three threats facing the moose population in Manitoba?

Most participants thought human, habitat, and parasites and disease were the top three threats facing moose population in Manitoba (Figure 3).

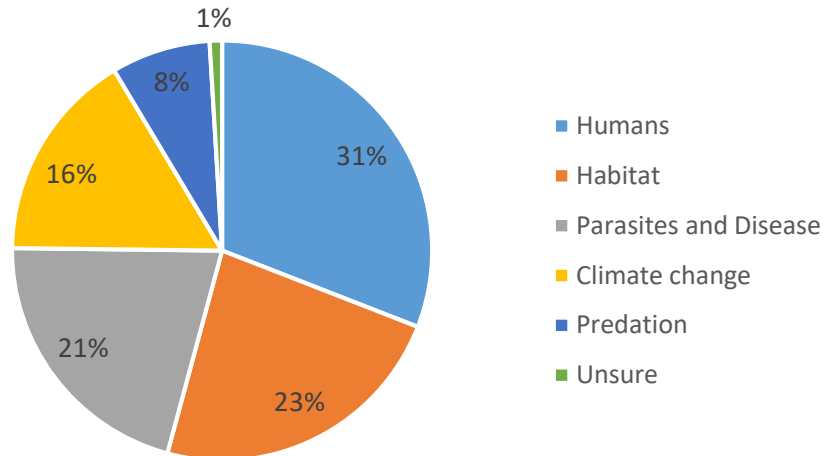


Figure 3: Pie chart identifying the top three threats to moose populations in Manitoba as identified by participants (n=187).

How concerned are you about moose populations in Manitoba?

Nearly three quarters of respondents indicated they were very concerned for moose populations in Manitoba (Figure 4).

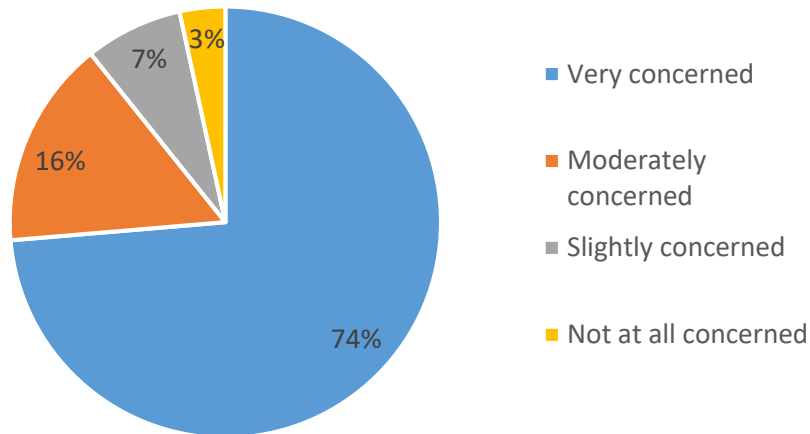


Figure 4: Pie chart identifying the level of concern for moose populations in Manitoba by participant's familiarity (n=205).

Do you have any comments to help maintain a healthy moose population in Manitoba?

Participants provided the following comments to help maintain healthy moose populations.

Hunting

- prohibit moose hunting by foreign residents
- prohibit all moose hunting in Manitoba
- prioritize moose harvest for Indigenous communities
- have one set of moose hunting regulations apply to all hunters
- prohibit harvest of cow moose
- no night hunting
- more hunting restrictions
- make all hunting areas draws
- increase enforcement to curtail poaching
- maintain current moose conservation closures areas
- establish moose refuges

Habitat

- protect moose habitat
- better fire management practices
- use control burns to regenerate moose habitat

Access and industry

- decommission roads and trails
- establish areas with no ATV access
- reduce human footprint
- mitigate effects of industry
- increase areas protected from natural resource extraction, development and privatization

Climate change

- increase actions to mitigate climate change effects

Parasites and disease

- increase white-tailed deer harvest
- mitigate the effects of parasites and diseases

Predators

- establish predator control strategies
- predator and prey populations self regulate

Co-management and Indigenous involvement

- foster cooperation between government and Indigenous peoples
- develop a co-management system that respects nation to nation, government to government relationships
- greater involvement of Indigenous communities in moose management
- recognize and prioritize Indigenous people's right to harvest

Monitoring and management

- more robust population monitoring
- develop a robust moose management plan founded in principles of wildlife management and traditional ecological knowledge,

Government priorities

- invest in and prioritize wildlife
- move away from extractive economy and focus on renewable and sustainable resources to maintain moose habitat.

Next Steps

The Wildlife, Fisheries and Resource Enforcement Branch will continue to engage with communities, organizations and the public as more informational documents are produced over the next few years. Meetings with Indigenous communities and interest groups will continue as we move forward with the shared-management process.

Questions?

If you have questions or comments, please contact the Wildlife, Fisheries and Resource Enforcement Branch at wildlife@gov.mb.ca.