



Committee for Moose Management
Summary of Meeting Discussions
March 19, 2013
5:30 p.m.
Winnipeg River Learning Centre, Pine Falls

Present

Kelly Leavesley (MB Conservation & WS)
Eugene Bear (Hollow Water FN)
Gerry Arbez (LdB Wildlife Assoc)
Bob Austman (MBMF)
Ken Rebizant (MB Conservation & WS)

Vince Keenan (MBMF)
Stu Jansson (MB Trappers Assoc)
Cam Neurenberg (LdB Wildlife Assoc)
Ken MacMaster (MB Wildlife Fed)
Daniel Dupont (MB Conservation & WS)

Introductions

Committee members introduced themselves at the beginning of the meeting.

Additions to the agenda

No additions were made to the agenda.

Minutes from the December 6th, 2012 meeting

Question regarding letter to MB Hydro thanking them for the opportunity to provide input. Uncertain if the letter was actually sent out.

Update on the status of the Model Forest – Kelly Leavesley

Kelly read a letter from Brian regarding reduced funding for the Model Forest and announcing the end of the program on March 31, 2014. The letter outlined the workplan for 2013-2014 until the end of the Forest Communities Program.

Ken MacMaster questioned whether it would be a good idea to combine the Moose Committee and Caribou Committee in order to save money. Kelly spoke to the advantages and disadvantages of combining the two committees. Gerry Arbez noted that he hoped that the caribou committee will continue. Cam stated that the Caribou program has had a high profile and questioned department staff if it will continue. Ken MacMaster asked MB Conservation staff about the status of the caribou collaring program. Kelly summarized the 3-pronged format of recent research work with woodland caribou. Suggestion was made to have at least one caribou meeting per year.

Letter re: Atikaki Boat Caches – Kelly Leavesley

A pilot project will be carried out by the Park Branch to determine the best way to allow private boat caches in a number of provincial parks. Further details on the pilot project are needed before there can be any meaningful discussion. Kelly and Daniel will get more details regarding the pilot project.

Moose Curriculum – Bob Austman

Bob gave an update on the moose curriculum. The final chapter is on First Nation's use of moose from a historical/cultural perspective. Bob will send the first draft to department staff for review.

Moose survey result 2013 – Kelly Leavesley

Minnesota DNR carrying out research on moose mortality. Over 100 moose have been collared to help determine what may be causing their decline.

Kelly showed a slide showing similar moose declines in Ontario (WMA 2, 6, 7A and 7B). Cam suggested that we cultivate a relationship with Ontario MNR to discuss common issues relating to moose management in adjacent game hunting areas.

Ken Rebizant reported that moose are doing well in agricultural zones in Saskatchewan, but the moose in their boreal ecozones are facing similar challenges as moose are in MB.

GHA 26 Moose Survey:

Year	1995	2000	2006	2010	2013
Population	1788	2350	1553	823	1307

- Stratification flights lines are 1.75 km apart.
- Sampling flight lines 500 m apart.
- Approximately 25% of sampling units are flown (this year 30%).

- Point estimate of 1307 moose (Range of 1082 – 1532 moose)
- Population composition
- 35 calves/ 100 cows
- 51 bulls/ 100 cows

Moose seen during sampling:

- Cows 290 (51 %)
- Calves 100 (18%)
- Bulls 175 (31%)
- Total 565 (100%)

Wolf trapping incentive program – Daniel Dupont

2011/2012 – 57 wolves were harvested (21 in north half / 36 in south half).
Approximately 45% of the wolf population was removed in 2011/2012.

2012/2013 – as of Feb 13, 2013, 15 wolves harvested (5 in north half / 10 in south half).

Wolf monitoring – Daniel Dupont

2012 – Estimated count of 74 wolves (early March) of which 31 wolves were observed.

2013 – Estimated count of 115 wolves (early February) of which 59 wolves were observed.

Total (Harvested wolves + Survey): 2012 – 126 wolves / 2013 – 130 wolves

Daniel mentioned he's looking for beaver and snowshoe hare samples.

Moose monitoring – Kelly Leavesley

2012 – 2 cows collared (1 malfunctioned)

2013 – 6 cows collared

- Net gunning from helicopter was used as capture method.
- Iridium collars used: 2 year life span.

Cam questioned conservation staff re: frequency of future aerial surveys. Vince asked if there may be increased pressure to re-open the moose season in GHA 26 in light of positive survey results. Ken Rebizant replied that at the very least 2016 would be the earliest possible date, depending on many variables.

Deer head collection – Daniel Dupont

30 deer heads turned in. Daniel will examine heads for presence of brain worm.

Moose conservation planning – Kelly Leavesley

- Workshop dates: May 16 & 17, 2013
- Workshop planning: 2 day workshop
- Purpose – to help develop a long term moose management strategy.

Next meeting – Monday April 15th, 2013

- Meeting to show different moose model runs based on different scenarios.