

Table of Contents

1.0 INTRODUCTION	1
2.0 PRINCIPALS OF COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT	2
3.0 PROJECT ACTIVITIES	3
3.1 MEETINGS, SEMINARS, AND WORKSHOPS.....	3
3.2 NEGOTIATE CO MANAGEMENT PROJECT AREA	3
3.3 PROJECT DOCUMENTATION AND REPORTING TO STAKEHOLDERS.....	3
3.4 DEVELOPMENT OF THE MOOSE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY	3
4.0 RESULTS	4
4.1 SUMMARY OF MEETING & WORKSHOPS	4
4.2 PROCEEDINGS - YEAR END WORKSHOP, MARCH 18, 1995.....	5
4.2.1 <i>Participants</i>	5
4.2.2 <i>Update of Activities</i>	5
4.2.3 <i>Impacts to moose created snowmobiles</i>	6
4.2.4 <i>Licenses issued and the accuracy of harvest statistics</i>	6
4.2.5 <i>The role of First Nations people in law enforcement</i>	7
4.2.6 <i>Impacts of forestry operations</i>	7
4.2.7 <i>Committee for Moose Management (CMM)</i>	8
4.2.8 <i>Education</i>	8
5.0 CONCLUSIONS & CRITICAL PATH	9
5.1 SUMMARY OF ISSUES	9
5.2 ACTION PLAN.....	10
5.2.1 <i>Committee For Moose Management (CMM) in the MMF</i>	10
5.2.2 <i>Action Items</i>	11

"FOR OUR FUTURE"

Cooperative Moose Management - A Grass Roots Initiative in the Manitoba Model Forest

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This project is a Manitoba Model Forest (MMF) initiative, sponsored through the Integrated Resource Management (IRM) component, which promotes the incorporation of non timber & wildlife requirements into forest management planning. Public involvement in decision making is a critical component of IRM and offers a mechanism through which the views held by different segments of society can be identified. Through this process, points of contention and disagreement can be discussed and, hopefully, reasonably addressed. Some of the benefits that can result from holding open public discussions include:

- providing a means to allow differing views on resource management to be heard;
- increased level of comfort for decision-makers so that they have a reasonable understanding of key issues before reaching a decision;
- increased public trust in the management process itself, and enhancing the public's views of the need for, or legitimacy of the proposed actions;
- the provision of accurate and complete information can lead to a more informed public and a reduction in the number of rumors and misconceptions associated with the management actions; and
- if people share in the generation of management alternatives, they are more likely to make realistic trade-offs;

Moose are a highly valued and commonly understood species in the region. The development of a moose management strategy through a public planning process will have major implications for resource managers and industry currently responsible for managing moose, and developing forest harvesting and renewal plans. These plans, which should incorporate the objectives of the stakeholders, would be paramount in advancing IRM in Manitoba. This initiative is a complex social and biological undertaking, involving an assemblage of interested parties, including:

- First Nations and local communities;
- Non Government Organizations (NGO's);
- Wildlife associations; and
- Individuals interested in the management and conservation of moose.

The primary objective is to develop a consensus between these stakeholders which melds traditional beliefs, current rights, and non-Aboriginal views into a common vision for moose management in the MMF. Responsible IRM will ensure that Manitoba Natural Resources (MNR) considers this public consensus in the development and application of resource management activities. Clearly, the major implication of this project is the meaningful involvement of stakeholders, and particularly First Nations in the IRM process.

“FOR OUR FUTURE”

Cooperative Moose Management - A Grass Roots Initiative in the Manitoba Model Forest

2.0 Principals of Cooperative Management

The MMF area covers more than 1 million ha of the Manitoba boreal forest ecosystem. Moose in this area are effected by landscape activities such as forest operations and access, as well as human harvesting of moose. Natural forces such as predation and disease will always continue to play a role in the status of moose populations and their availability for consumptive or non consumptive use. The following principles illustrate the necessity for an IRM approach which incorporates the inherent views and needs of the various stakeholders in managing the MMF moose population:

- Multiplicity of Benefits**- society has expectations for deriving benefits from the use of the moose resource including traditional, recreational and intrinsic values which together must be achieved without compromising the sustainability of the herd;
- Distribution of Benefits**- communities have expectations that the benefits derived from the moose should reflect community economic, cultural and spiritual needs;
- Multiple Ownership**- the government, public and industry must all share in the decisions respecting the management and conservation of moose and other forest resources;
- Integration**- ecosystem management requires the simultaneous management of many resource features including biodiversity, wildlife, timber, recreation, water quality and quantity etc.; and
- Sustainability**- sustaining the supply of moose and the benefits over time is essential to the commitment of providing future generations with a healthy resource base to support healthy economies and social systems into the future.

The following report describes the 1994/95 activities, issues identified, and the critical path for cooperative moose management in the MMF.

"FOR OUR FUTURE"

Cooperative Moose Management - A Grass Roots Initiative in the Manitoba Model Forest

3.0 Project Activities

The results of earlier workshops clearly identified that, before any specific management strategies are developed, involvement from the MMF First Nations is imperative. It was also made clear that without the consensus of First Nations, particularly at the community level, cooperative efforts are impossible to implement. The past year's activities have focused on providing facilitation services to the community of Hollow Water and MNR for workshops and meetings. As discussed, the Hollow Water First Nation is taking a lead role in the conservation of natural resources in their areas of traditional use and have paved the way for meaningful consultation with all stakeholder groups, government, and industry.

The following tasks describe the activities which were conducted during 1994/95.

3.1 Conduct Meetings, Seminars, and Workshops

Based on the results of the January 1994 workshop, emphasis was placed on conducting meetings and workshops in the First Nations Community of Hollow Water.

3.2 Negotiate Co Management Project Area

In conjunction with the Eastern Region Wildlife Manager, the process of developing a potential pilot project area involving the Hollow Water First Nation and other interested parties was conducted. This involved several meetings and workshops, discussion of issues with Band Elders, and seeking community consensus on a desired approach.

3.3 Project Documentation and Reporting to Stakeholders

The results of all meetings and workshops were documented; and all minutes, results, and action items were disseminated to all stakeholders.

3.4 Development of the Moose Management Strategy

A framework by which the moose management strategy could proceed within the context of IRM was developed during a final workshop held on March 18, 1995.

“FOR OUR FUTURE”

Cooperative Moose Management - A Grass Roots Initiative in the Manitoba Model Forest

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Summary of Meeting & Workshops

The meetings and workshops focused on providing facilitation services for events in Hollow Water, and a final yearend workshop involving all stakeholder groups. These meetings included general discussions with key community people and councilors, and workshops involving Elders. As a result of the multi stakeholders year end workshop, a formalized committee of all interested parties including Hollow Water was initiated and formalized. This committee will embark upon the establishment of a workable cooperative moose management initiative, the details, of which, are discussed further in this report.

The following is a listing of official meetings and workshops conducted

Date	Location	Focus
June 1, 1994	Hollow Water First Nation	project introduction, establishment of ground rules for workshops
August 25, 1994	Hollow Water First Nation	discuss issues regarding resource management, and establish framework for advancing the initiative
September 12, 1994	Hollow Water First Nation	Community Moose Management Workshop
October 19, 1994	Hollow Water First Nation	Community Workshop and Elder discussions
November 7, 1994	Winnipeg - Symposium	Paper presented to the Joint Symposium, “Our Northern Forests”
November 23, 1994	Hollow Water First Nation	Meeting between Hollow Water & Manitoba Natural Resources Policy & Coordination Co-op Management representative Doug Barrett
January 31, 1995	Hollow Water First Nation	moose management meeting with Chief and Council
March 18, 1995	Manitou Lodge - Pine Falls	General Moose Management Workshop involving all interest parties and Hollow Water First Nation

note: Appendix 1 contains detailed minutes from all meetings and Appendix 2 is a complete list of all participants in attendance at

“FOR OUR FUTURE”

Cooperative Moose Management - A Grass Roots Initiative in the Manitoba Model Forest

these meetings

Several meetings were also held between the project consultant, MMF Manager, Mr. Mike Waldram, and project acceptor, Mr. Dick Robertson, Eastern Region Wildlife Manager.

The final workshop provided a solid “wrap up” of the project activities. An overview of the issues, the strategy, and required actions has been developed. The Year End workshop provided excellent direction for MNR and the MMF in advancing this initiative. The following are the detailed minutes of that workshop, and the resulting strategy and framework.

4.2 Proceedings - Year End Workshop, held March 18, 1995

The following is an account of the year end workshop involving the key interest parties, and outlines the critical path for next years activities.

4.2.1 Participants

Those attending the year end workshops included; Wesley Moneyas (Hollow Water), Alice Chambers (TREE), Ken Ellison (Seymourville), Kevin McMurren (LDB Wildlife), Lionel Nobiss (Wpg River Wildlife), Havey Payne, Dick Robertson (MNR), Karen Stock (U of M), Doug Schindler and Don Chesniak (TAEM)

4.2.2 General Information & Update of Activities

As project consultant, Doug Schindler chaired the meeting and provided the group with an update on the status of the project and reiterated issues from previous meetings and workshops. There was also a technical presentation regarding moose biology and population dynamics. Information on past aerial census and habitat issues was also presented. Dick Robertson provided information on management jurisdiction and the status of moose management in the MMF. Dick reiterated the fact that he would like guidance from the MMF stakeholders in the development of moose management strategies. Consensus from stakeholders is key in this process.

Wesley Moneyas, Vice Chief and Councilor of Hollow Water stated their intention to become involved in the Model Forest program. Wesley indicated that a Band Council Resolution (BCR), on this issue is forth coming. Concerns relating to enforcement and road refuges was discussed, and full cooperation is expected providing these issues can be resolved with MNR. Harvey Payne discussed a framework by which First Nations may participate in the MMF program.

Ken Ellison discussed the involvement of Metis communities, organizations, and federations. Doug Schindler indicated that there has been no formal participation from the Metis to date other than unaffiliated individuals. Invitations to participate in meetings and workshops have been sent to all communities in the Model Forest area. Each community in the Model Forest area has a Metis component. Individual Metis

"FOR OUR FUTURE"

Cooperative Moose Management - A Grass Roots Initiative in the Manitoba Model Forest

organizations have not been targeted, however, this invitation to local Metis organizations will be extended in the future.

"FOR OUR FUTURE"

Cooperative Moose Management - A Grass Roots Initiative in the Manitoba Model Forest

Ken Ellison stated that in the past the community of Seymourville was not interested in participating in the moose cooperative. Recently, a new council has shown willingness to participate. He also stressed the importance of having representation by Metis people in the MMF.

4.2.3 General discussion regarding the impacts to moose created by snowmobiles

Dick Robertson commented that moose will avoid a high use area although the trails may increase access for predators. Snowmobile trails may also create access to areas by ATV and 4 wheel drive vehicles.

4.2.4 Discussion regarding the regulation of the number of licenses issued and the accuracy of harvest statistics

Dick Robertson discussed the present license allocation system. Presently, there are two main game hunting areas (GHA's) in the MMF. GHA 26 is a general open area which is open for a two week period in early December. GHA 17-A, is also an open area with no restriction of licenses, with a one month fall season and a two week winter season. Vehicle restrictions are in place in both areas, however, in GHA 26, licensed hunters can only use designated routes for access. The majority of GHA 26 is presently inaccessible by vehicle to the licensed hunter. (Appendix 3)

Dick Robertson indicated that these seasons and regulations could be revised. Depending on the area, MNR could limit numbers of licenses through a draw system. Late season stats on GHA 26 are fairly accurate. Questionnaires are also sent out to license holders but their validity can be questioned. Moose check stations, which assist MNR in determining the number of moose taken during the winter season, have not been in operation since 1982. Accurate moose harvest records for the fall season in GHA 17-A are available from air charter companies, and lodge owners. No harvest records are available on hunters using private aircraft, but the impact is not considered high. Many kills still go unreported, particularly in regard to the First Nations harvest.

Dick Robertson mentioned that it is important to gather more information on non regulated kills and to know what the total take is from all mortality sources. Wesley Moneyas stated that the community plays an important role. The key in tracking harvest by local communities is a responsible band and council. A comprehensive monitoring program by chief and council will also help to keep track of abusers of the resource. Local influence can have a tremendous impact on eliminating the "bad apple" scenario.

Wesley Moneyas indicated to the group that at one time, First Nations people and Natural Resource Officers (NROs) worked together and most kills were reported. Presently the relationship with First Nations people and the NROs is not very good. Indian people are intimidated by NROs and recently the trust has not been there. It is important to reestablish the rapport between First Nations people and NROs. A meeting with government officials and First Nations should be arranged to make known the

"FOR OUR FUTURE"

Cooperative Moose Management - A Grass Roots Initiative in the Manitoba Model Forest

problems First Nations people have with enforcement officers.

"FOR OUR FUTURE"

Cooperative Moose Management - A Grass Roots Initiative in the Manitoba Model Forest

Doug Schindler discussed the lack of information and data on predators in the MMF area. After considerable discussion, the group unanimously agreed that more research is required to determine the role and impact predators have on the MMF moose. Alice Chambers indicated that she would check with Mike Waldram as to the availability of funds to conduct predator studies. It is also recognized that predator research would benefit other projects such as the Integrated Forestry/Woodland Caribou Management Strategy.

There was some indication that local Wildlife Associations may be willing to participate in the operation of hunter check stations.

4.2.5 General Discussion on the role of First Nations people in law enforcement

Wesley Moneyas stated that co management "as it exists" does not include enforcement. It is important for First Nations people to be more involved in this aspect of management and this must be done in cooperation with MNR. Potential for "Aboriginal Natural Resource or Special Wildlife Officers", and "Ride along Program", etc. should be investigated. There were several comments from the floor including "what jurisdiction would special officers fall under", and "would they be hired by the band or the Province".

There was a consensus that there needs to be more Aboriginal involvement in enforcement issues.

Wesley Moneyas explained that it is necessary to resolve issues surrounding the past implementation of road refuges within the Hollow Water Home Trapping Block. These issues are complex and require attention. Hollow Water has forwarded a letter to Mr. Bob Enns, Eastern Region Manager, explaining these issues and the need for resolution. Dick Robertson assured the group that a response is in the making, and that he would discuss this issue with Mr. Bob Enns.

4.2.6 General discussion regarding impacts of forestry operations

Forestry operations are known to have both positive and negative impacts on moose. Increased access created by forestry roads can have a serious effects on moose in areas previously not accessible. There was general discussion on why industry should make roads inaccessible after operations are complete. There is no policy or regulation stating that roads must be made inaccessible after forestry operations. In some cases MNR will place gates across the road (i.e. Happy Lake).

Positive impacts include vegetation growth after forestry operations. Many browse species increase in quantity and quality after forestry operations providing food for moose. Discussion on habitat supply and the use of Habitat Suitability Index (HSI) models which indicates there is adequate habitat to support larger populations of moose than present.

"FOR OUR FUTURE"

Cooperative Moose Management - A Grass Roots Initiative in the Manitoba Model Forest

4.2.7 Committee for Moose Management (CMM)

Doug Schindler outlined the fact that this years work is complete and the project requires a new mandate by which to proceed. Those present agreed that there has been a great deal of progress in light of the complex issues, and that it is possible to build on what has been accomplished to date. Discussions regarding the scope of the project resulted in a consensus that the project should focus on the development of a pilot project area involving the Hollow Water First Nations. The project should also have a broad perspective in terms of education and extension throughout the region.

Ken Ellison informed the group that Manigotagan, Bissett and Seymourville have a strong spirit of cooperation, and feels strongly that something can be done in respect to this project. The group generally agreed that the project could be implemented in one community and then expanded to other traditional use areas. A successful project involving Hollow Water may influence other First Nations within the South East Tribal Council area.

There was consensus that a committee be formalized to represent the various interest parties in the process. The group decided to name the committee: "The Committee for Moose Management in the Model Forest" (CMM). The committee will be open to all user groups in the MMF area. Progress reports will be drawn up to keep everyone apprised of accomplishments and activities. A chairman will have to be named at a later date, however, it was recommended that Doug Schindler and TAEM remain with the project to ensure continuity. Doug Schindler will act as the Secretary and Project Leader. Dick Robertson will function as an advisor to the committee and provide recommendations on moose management to Natural Resources. The objective of the committee is to increase the benefits derived from a healthy moose population to all stakeholders.

Hollow Water must grant full acceptance of the project before we can count on their involvement. Wesley cautioned the group not to jump ahead with decisions without approval from the chief and council, which will be forthcoming in the BCR discussed previously. Wesley will inform Doug Schindler when the BCR has been passed but indicated that if a formal Board and moose management agreement were to be signed by the Hollow Water First Nation, they would require an option to "opt out".

4.2.8 Education

Education will continue to be a high priority for the CMM. Facts sheets and videos could be circulated to schools, communities etc. An education and extension plan will have to be developed.

"FOR OUR FUTURE"

Cooperative Moose Management - A Grass Roots Initiative in the Manitoba Model Forest

5.0 CONCLUSIONS & CRITICAL PATH

In order to determine the future of the Cooperative moose project, it was necessary to obtain consensus from all interest parties as to the legitimacy of the cooperative moose project. Also required, is a firm commitment of involvement from each party to determine a critical path to advance the initiative. This entailed the confirmation of issues surrounding moose conservation and management, an identification of a process by which the issues can be addressed, and action items which the MMF, MNR, and stakeholders can use as a guide for next years activities. As previously documented, this consensus did occur.

The following sections summarize the issues, committee structure and actions items.

5.1 Summary of Issues

The following is a listing of moose management issues which were mutually agreed to by all parties.

Moose Population

There is general consensus that the moose population in the MMF is well below it's current capacity.

Moose Harvest Statistics

There is a need to significantly improve the collection and documentation of moose harvest data for all mortality sources including licensed, Treaty Indian, and Non Treaty/Status hunting, and illegal poaching.

Access Control

Existing forestry access and newly developed access into previously remote areas has resulted in both the suppression and decline of moose numbers both regionally and locally.

Active Involvement by First Nations

The first step in the development of a meaningful moose management strategy is the re establishment of a more positive relationship between the Hollow Water First Nations communities and Natural Resources. Part of this process requires clarification on the status of enforcement issues regarding the road refuge. It is recognized that First Nation Special Officers and Resource Technicians could be trained to become involved with moose management, education and enforcement.

Pilot Project Area

Before a full scale moose management strategy can be adopted and accepted for the entire MMF, a pilot project in the Hollow Water area is recommended. The Hollow Water First Nation is taking a very proactive role, and may lead the way in conservation and resource management in the MMF. A pilot project could test various approaches and

"FOR OUR FUTURE"

Cooperative Moose Management - A Grass Roots Initiative in the Manitoba Model Forest

methods for increasing moose numbers and offering enhanced opportunities for traditional, non consumptive, and recreational use. The pilot project could be expanded to other areas if successful.

"FOR OUR FUTURE"

Cooperative Moose Management - A Grass Roots Initiative in the Manitoba Model Forest

Education

The overriding factor to a successful moose conservation initiative is the education of all segments of society including youth. Providing information on moose ecology, legitimate uses and inherent values of moose requires on going education. The development of a conservation ethic in the management of moose can have far reaching implications in the advancement of IRM in the MMF and abroad.

Predators

It is generally recognized that there is a significant data gap in terms of what impacts timber wolves are having on the suppressed moose population. In order to manage the MMF moose herd, it is imperative that all aspects of moose population ecology be considered. The need for more data on predators and their impact on moose needs to be addressed.

5.2 Action Plan

In order to proceed further with the project, there was discussion on the formalization of a process by which the project can continue to advance. It was unanimously agreed to that a committee be formed which would provide guidance to the MMF and MNR. It was also confirmed that the project consultant continue to act as project leader and secretariat to the committee to ensure continuity and quality of project information and facilitation.

5.2.1 Committee For Moose Management (CMM) in the MMF

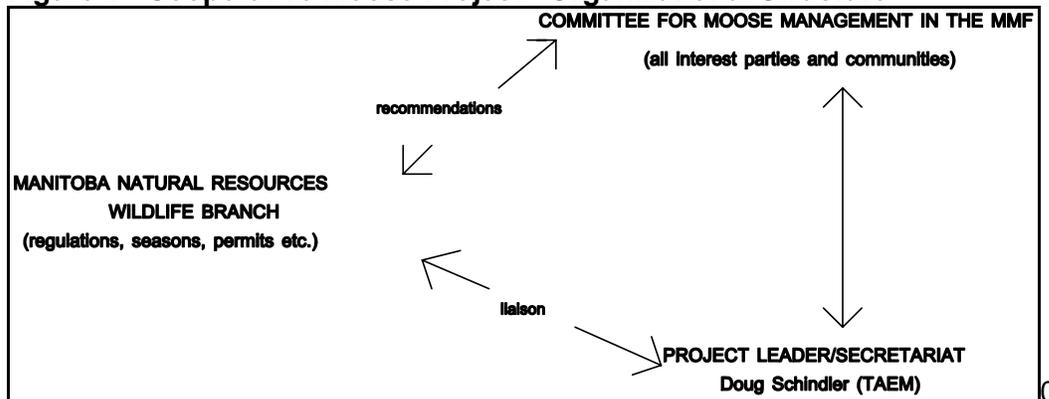
The formalization of this committee is a critical step towards more meaningful participation by the interested parties. The CMM will provide advice to the Minister of Natural Resources through the Eastern Region Wildlife Manager, and Natural Resources officials, in the management of moose and their habitat. Because this is a "grass roots" initiative, the CMM will be an open committee comprised of the local groups and communities. If unidentified groups or individuals choose to participate, they will be encouraged to do so. Focus on provincial groups or organizations is not recommended at this time due to the local nature of potential work. It is fully recognized that as the project expands, there may be a requirement to create a more formal committee and process.

As discussed, the CMM will act as an advisor to MNR in the management of moose in the MMF. The MMF will provide support to the CMM through facilitation services supplied by TAEM. The following figure illustrates the relationship of the CMM, MMF, MNR and TAEM.

"FOR OUR FUTURE"

Cooperative Moose Management - A Grass Roots Initiative in the Manitoba Model Forest

Figure 1 - Cooperative Moose Project - Organizational Structure



5.2.2 Action Items

As per the direction of the CMM, the following action items have been identified. TAEM will initiate meetings with Mike Waldram regarding the project status and the 1995-96 program.

1. Issues surrounding historical arrangements between MNR and the Hollow Water First Nation relating to enforcement on the road refuges in the home trapping block need to be clarified. Dick Robertson has initiated a resolution to this matter.
2. Maps, information, and data pertaining to moose and moose habitat needs must be prepared to begin the process of establishing a pilot moose management zone and strategy in 1995/96. Emphasis will be placed on the Hollow Water area.
3. Maps, information and data pertaining specifically to access, timber harvesting and renewal will need to be synthesized in the context of moose management issues and presented to the CMM to begin the process of an overall moose conservation strategy for the entire MMF.
4. Begin the process of determining appropriate methods for acquiring better data on moose harvest, including wildlife associations involvement in moose check stations and aboriginal wildlife officers and technicians.
5. Investigate and develop funding proposals for training and placement of aboriginal resource officers and technicians. The CMM would endorse such proposals and provide rationale and support.
6. Begin the process of developing an overall moose conservation strategy involving all First Nations within the MMF area.
7. Initiate research designed to illustrate the impacts predators are having on the MMF moose population.

"FOR OUR FUTURE"

Cooperative Moose Management - A Grass Roots Initiative in the Manitoba Model Forest

8. Develop a strategy to encourage more involvement from local communities and Metis.