

(77L) HISTORY, BIOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT OF MOOSE ON THE WESTERN NORTH SLOPE OF ALASKA. Geoffry M. Carroll. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Barrow, AK 99723-1284, USA.

Moose became established in Alaska north of the Brooks Range during the first half of the 20th century. By 1970, when systematic aerial population surveys were initiated, approximately 2,000 moose existed in this region. Population size remained relatively stable until recently, when a sharp decrease in yearling recruitment contributed to a region-wide population decline. Causes of poor recruitment are unclear, although a combination of adverse weather, increasing predation, and deteriorating range may be responsible. During summer, moose occupy tundra habitats throughout the region, some as far north as the Arctic coast. During winter, however, most animals are restricted to narrow bands of riparian shrubs along streams draining the north slopes of the Brooks Range. As human demand for hunting opportunity increases and as productivity of moose in northern Alaska decreases, greater vigilance to avoid over harvest of this small and vulnerable population is necessary. Loss of critical riparian habitat from commercial activities is also of concern.



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