

**(36) A TALE OF TWO POPULATIONS: CHALLENGES OF MOOSE MANAGEMENT ON THE KENAI PENINSULA, ALASKA**

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*Abstract:* Moose on Alaska's Kenai Peninsula are an important public resource. In 2011 the state authority which sets wildlife regulations, the Alaska Board of Game, directed wildlife managers to initiate predator control programs to increase moose populations in 2 specific areas important for harvest. While close in proximity, these 2 moose populations in the northwest and southwest portions of the peninsula have differing management concerns. Before predator control was initiated in 2012, state managers initiated studies to assess limiting factors. Efforts to reduce wolf numbers were initiated in 2013 for the moose population in the northwest. A driving factor influencing the initiation of predator control programs is if the moose population falls below set size and harvest objectives. There is a need to periodically reassess how these objectives were set and if they are achievable with practical management actions. I will discuss these objectives in the context of objectives from around the state. I will also discuss the history and limiting factors of these 2 moose populations and the potential efficacy of predator control. Successful long-term and cost-effective management requires a nexus between the public, wildlife managers, regulatory authorities, and land managers. Decisions need to be driven by the biological potential of the given moose population and the feasibility of different management actions.





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