

Effects of Motivation and Effort on Success of Moose Hunters in Interior Alaska

Jennifer I. Schmidt (Department of Biology and Wildlife, University of Alaska Fairbanks, PO Box 756100, Fairbanks, AK 99775; fsjis@uaf.edu.)

R. Terry Bowyer and Hilmar Maier (Institute of Arctic Biology, University of Alaska Fairbanks, PO Box 757000, Fairbanks, AK 99775; frrtb@uaf.edu, fnham@uaf.edu.)

Jay Ver Hoef (State of Alaska Department of Fish and Game, 1300 College Rd., Fairbanks, AK 99701; jay_ver_hoef@fishgame.state.ak.us.)

Moose (*Alces alces*) are the largest extant cervid, occur throughout the Holarctic, and are an integral part of the boreal forest ecosystem. Humans also have a dynamic, complex influence on the boreal forest and moose in interior Alaska. Moose hunting within Alaska supports a subsistence lifestyle and provides recreation for residents and nonresidents alike. Heavy harvest and varied demands placed on local populations by hunters can result in intense selective pressures on moose. Preferences, motivations, and efforts of hunters directly influence harvest success and hunting areas. Key to understanding the population dynamics of moose in interior Alaska is a more complete knowledge of effects humans have on moose populations. Moose hunters in Alaska possess interactive controls over the environment that are currently poorly understood. Attempting to better understand moose population dynamics and the boreal-forest ecosystem necessitates the better understanding of how moose hunters use that resource. Ability to relate subsistence and recreational hunters, effort levels, methods of take, and other factors to success and resource use is invaluable to wildlife managers. Knowledge concerning profiles of moose hunters combined with the likely effects on the resource by those users could allow for more proactive management, such as local habitat or sex ratio manipulations. Effort, status of residency, transportation, and type of hunt are important to the probability of success for moose hunters in interior Alaska. These results will provide a better understanding of the human dimensions of moose hunting in Alaska and allow for more successful and adaptive-management plans.



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