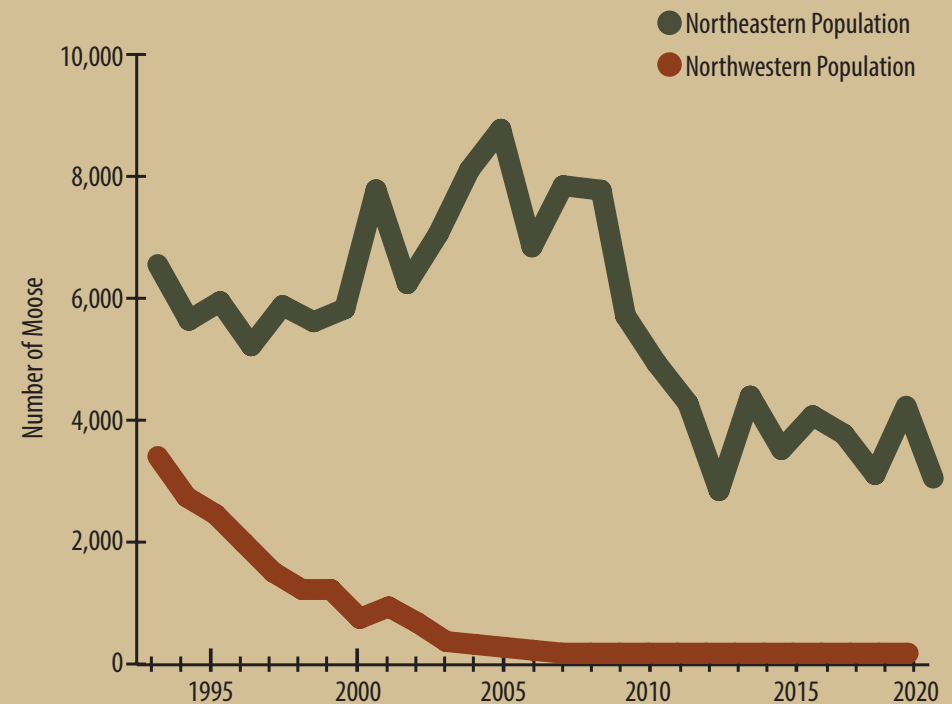


Moose 2020 Update

Declining Populations

This graph shows the moose population trends in Minnesota over the last 25 years. The northwestern Minnesota moose population is estimated to be 100 individuals—a number so small that researchers have stopped doing yearly surveys. The northeastern population has declined by roughly 64% since 2006, but the population has since stabilized in the study area.



Moose populations are estimated by conducting annual surveys. Data for the northwestern population are from Murray et al. 2006, and northeastern population estimates were provided by Moen et al. 2011, Lenarz 2012, and DelGuidice 2020. Due to COVID-19, the annual survey was not conducted in 2021.



The Minnesota Zoo partnered with Dr. Ron Moen of the Natural Resources Research Institute and scientists at Voyageurs National Park to conduct research to inform moose management. The aim was to slow the decline and prevent the loss of northeastern Minnesota's moose population. The scientists deployed GPS tracking devices on moose in order to monitor their movements. Researchers used this information, along with data on deer and wolves, to understand how and where parasites and predation may be impacting moose. Minnesota Zoo veterinarians were involved in this research to understand causes of moose mortality.

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