

## **2012 Minnesota Moose Harvest**

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### **Introduction**

Each year, a limited number of permits are issued that allow Minnesota residents to hunt moose. The following report is intended to document the number of hunters applying for permits, the number of permits issued, a hunting party's chance of receiving a permit, hunter success rate, and a breakdown of the harvest by hunting zone. Information on permit numbers and moose harvested by members of the 1854 Treaty Authority or Fond du Lac band of Lake Superior Chippewa within the 1854 Ceded Territory is also provided.

### **Methods**

All successful State hunters are required to register their moose at 1 of 8 registration stations and provide information on the location where they killed their moose and date of kill. Hunters also are requested to collect biological samples from the moose harvested and these are submitted at the registration station.

### **Results**

In 2012, State hunters harvested 46 moose in northeastern Minnesota (Figure 1). No season was held in northwestern Minnesota. Of the 1,460 parties that applied for this year's moose hunt, 76 (5%) were drawn and purchased a license (Table 1). Additionally, 11 hunting parties which returned permits last year (2011) prior to the hunt, because of access restrictions caused by the Pagami Creek wildfire, were offered the opportunity to hunt the same zones (20, 24, 25, 62, and 64) in 2012 and all accepted. So a total of 87 licenses were purchased this year (Table 1). Table 1 also lists the number of permits offered by hunting zone, chance of being selected for a permit, and hunter success. The 1854 Treaty Authority issued 49 permits and band members killed 16 moose (11 bulls and 5 cows). The Fond du Lac band issued 64 moose permits (bulls only) of 72 available. The final harvest was 20 bulls (18 by hunters and 2 subsistence/ceremony animals). The Fond du Lac season closed on 31 December 2012.

### **Discussion**

The success rate of State hunters in 2012 was 53%, a decrease of 5% from 2011 (Tables 1 and 2). This was the sixth year of hunting for bulls only. The success rate for members of the 1854 Treaty Authority was 33%, up 7% from last year. The success rate for the Fond du Lac band hunters was 28%, up 3% from last year.

Table 1. Moose harvested, licenses offered and sold, application rate, and party success in 2012 moose hunt by State hunters in northeastern Minnesota.

Zone	Bulls	Licenses Offered	Licenses Sold*	Party Applications**	Chances for Permit	% Success <sup>‡</sup>
20	1	2 (2)	2 (2)	27	7%	25%
21	1	3	3	63	5%	33%
22	1	2	2	17	12%	50%
24	1	1 (1)	1 (1)	49	2%	50%
25	0	1 (1)	1 (1)	51	2%	0%
26	0	1	1	19	5%	0%
27	1	4	4	44	9%	25%
28	1	2	2	19	11%	50%
29	2	2	2	71	3%	100%
30	2	5	5	143	3%	40%
31	1	3	3	156	2%	33%
32	1	2	2	26	8%	50%
33	1	2	2	52	4%	50%
36	3	5	5	34	15%	60%
37	1	2	2	23	9%	50%
60	3	3	3	19	16%	100%
61	3	5	5	60	8%	60%
62	4	5 (5)	5 (5)	89	6%	40%
63	3	3	3	26	12%	100%
64	4	6 (2)	6 (2)	57	11%	50%
70	2	2	2	75	3%	100%
72	1	2	2	67	3%	50%
73	2	2	2	40	5%	100%
74	2	2	2	30	7%	100%
76	2	3	3	68	4%	67%
77	0	2	2	36	6%	0%
79	2	2	2	27	7%	100%
80	1	2	2	72	3%	50%
Total	46	76	76 (11)	1,460	5%	53%

\* 11 Parties (in parentheses) returned their license in 2011 prior to the hunt, because of access restrictions caused by the Pagami Creek wildfire. These same 11 parties were offered the opportunity to hunt the same zones (20, 24, 25, 62, and 64) in 2012 and all accepted.

\*\* Number of 2, 3, or 4-person parties minus rejected applications.

‡ Success based on licenses sold.

Table 2. Applicants, permit numbers, moose harvested, and success rates of State moose hunters in northeastern Minnesota since 1993.

Year	Party Applicants*	Permits	Licenses Purchased**	Moose Harvested	Party Success
1993	2,934	315	315	264	84%
1994	3,022	189	189	155	82%
1995	3,181	188	188	156	83%
1996	3,830	207	207	156	75%
1997	3,958	198	198	152	77%
1998	4,157	182	182	125	69%
1999	3,919	189	189	136	72%
2000			No Season		
2001	3,164	182	176	125	71%
2002	2,580	208	202	141	70%
2003	2,328	224	217	144	66%
2004	3,062	246	240	151	63%
2005	3,060	284	276	164	59%
2006	2,952	279	269	161	60%
2007	2,566	233	229	115	50%
2008	2,706	247	245	110	45%
2009	2,746	225	223	103	46%
2010	2,415	213	212	109	51%
2011	1,963	105	92	53	58%
2012	1,460	76	87	46	53%

\* Number of 2, 3, or 4-person parties minus rejected applications.

\*\* In 2011 - 11 parties returned their licenses, because access to portions of their hunting zone (20, 24, 25, 62, and 64) was restricted. In 2012 – these same 11 parties were offered the opportunity to hunt the same zones and all accepted.

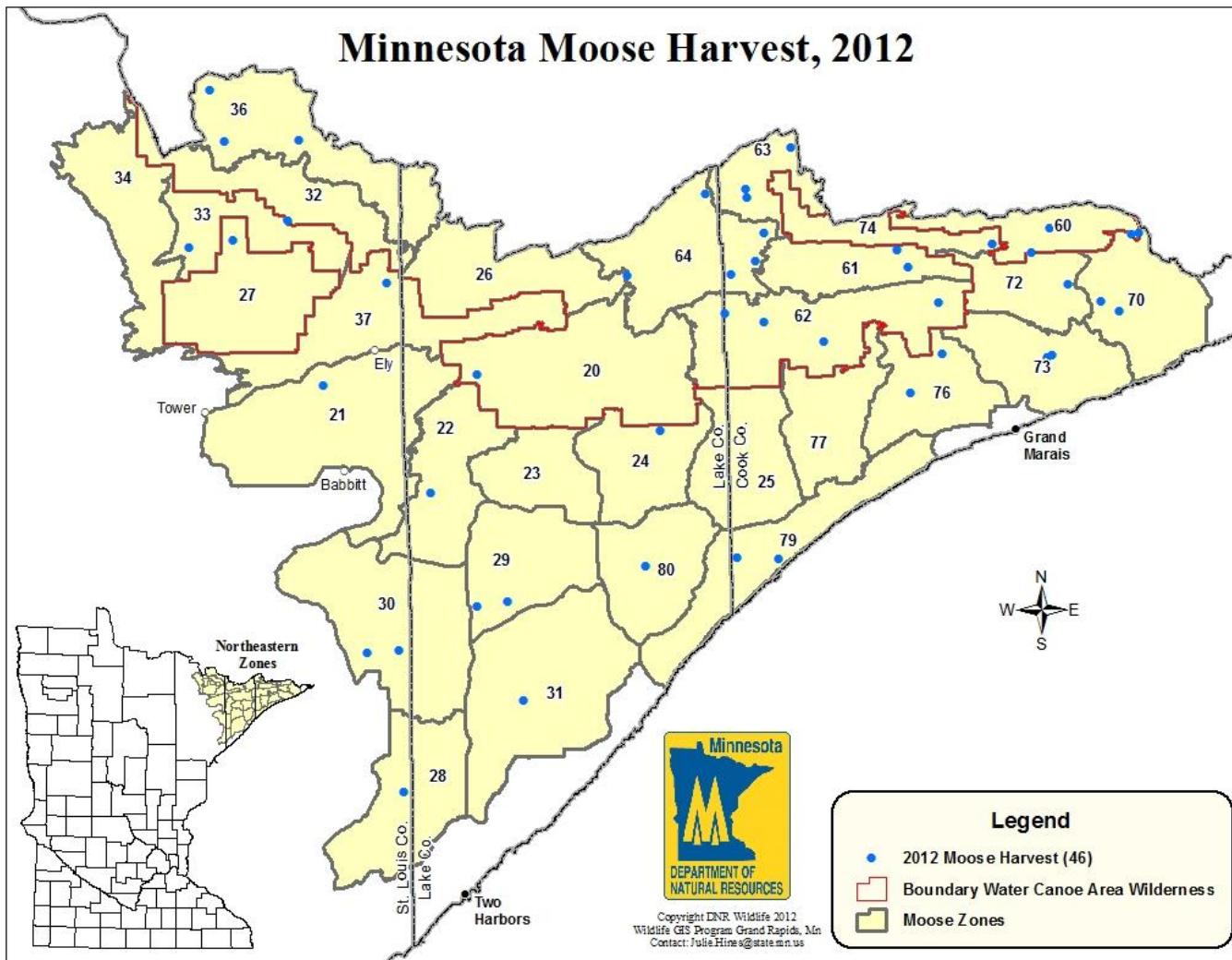


Figure 1. Moose zones and locations of harvested moose during the State's 2012 moose season.