

# Eastern Moose

*Alces alces americana* (Mainland Population)

**STATUS**

Not listed



Endangered



© NS DNR

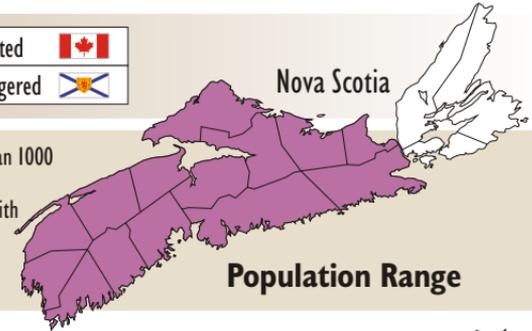
## Species Description

The Eastern Moose is the largest member of the Cervidae (deer) family. It has a solid torso and short tail, with long legs and broad, high shoulders. Moose have a short neck, broad over-hanging muzzle and long ears. Their fur has a coarse, brittle texture and varies in colour from shades of brown, to brown-black, to grey. Adult males are known for their large, palmate (broad and flattened) antlers and the “bell” or dewlap that hangs on the upper throat region.



Moose track and droppings

There are likely fewer than 1000 moose living throughout mainland Nova Scotia, with concentrations in the Tobeatic Wilderness and Cobequid Mountains.



## Habitat

Moose are herbivores who live in boreal and mixed-wood forests. They are often found where there is an abundance of food (twigs, stems, and foliage of young deciduous trees and shrubs). In spring, islands and peninsulas are often used by cows when giving birth. In summer, access to wetlands (and aquatic vegetation) is important.



© NS DNR



© NS DNR

People see moose on or near the road while driving, and outdoor-folk sometimes encounter moose in the woodland and wetland habitat described above.

## Interesting Points

- Native moose in Cape Breton disappeared by the 1800s; animals found there today were introduced from Alberta in the 1940s.
- Evidence suggests that mainland moose have nearly gone extinct twice in the past.
- A mechanical moose nicknamed “Bullwinkle” has been used to catch poachers on mainland Nova Scotia.

## Hunting Mainland Moose is Illegal

**To Report Illegal Activity:**  
Phone 1-800-565-2224

Due to the covert nature of poaching, it is impossible to count how many mainland moose are illegally slaughtered. Recent enforcement actions by NS DNR clearly show that illegal harvest is a serious threat to the long term health of moose in some mainland areas of Nova Scotia.



Bull moose

© NS DNR



Cow moose

© NS DNR



© NS DNR

## Threats to Survival

- Poaching (made easier with increased access via roads and OHVs).
- Recreational based disturbance.
- Disease and parasites (brain worm and winter tick).
- Pollution (heavy metals, acidification and global warming).
- Habitat loss and modification.



© NS DNR

Sick mainland moose

## How You Can Help

Do not disturb moose! Report sightings, or signs like antlers or scat - take a photograph, note the date, time and location. Report observations to the hotline below, or fill in an online form at:

[www.gov.ns.ca/natr/wildlife/web/msform.htm](http://www.gov.ns.ca/natr/wildlife/web/msform.htm)



© BRENNAN COWBRILL

Scat is the size and shape of chocolate almonds

## Contacts, Information & Sighting Reports

**Contact:** NS Department of Natural Resources at (902) 679-6091

**Info:** [www.gov.ns.ca/natr/wildlife/](http://www.gov.ns.ca/natr/wildlife/), [www.cpawns.org/moose/](http://www.cpawns.org/moose/)

**Sighting Reports:** 1-866-727-3447 or [sightings@speciesatrisk.ca](mailto:sightings@speciesatrisk.ca)