



Mammals

Moose

Alces alces americanus

Priority 2 Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN)

Class: Mammals (*Mammalia*)

Order: Even-toed Ungulates (*Artiodactyla*)

Family: Deer (*Cervidae*)



General comments:

Moose populations in Maine are considered stable, with an estimated 30,000-50,000 individuals primarily distributed across northern, western, and eastern Maine. Maine is considered a Moose population stronghold in the Northeast, but climate change and Winter tick infestations have the potential to negatively impact this species.

No Species Conservation Range Maps Available

SGCN Priority Ranking - Designation Criteria:

High Climate Change Vulnerability:	Vulnerability: 3, Confidence: High, Reviewers: Decided in Workshop (W)
Culturally Significant:	Species identified as both biologically vulnerable and culturally significant by Maine’s tribes.

No Habitat Associations

Threats

Threat Priority Level based on Severity and Actionability	Moderate Severity		High Severity	
	Highly Actionable	Medium-High	High	
	Moderately Actionable	Medium	Medium-High	
	Actionable with Difficulty	Low	Low	

IUCN Level 1 Threat Climate Change and Severe Weather

IUCN Level 2 Threat: Changes in Temperature Regimes

Severity: High Severity Actionability: Actionable with Difficulty

Notes: Climate change has the potential to impact primary moose habitat but also shift the ranges of disease vector hosts (white-tailed deer) and increase moose parasites (winter ticks).

Moose *Alces alces americanus***Priority 2 SGCN****IUCN Level 1 Threat Climate Change and Severe Weather****IUCN Level 2 Threat: Habitat Shifting or Alteration****Severity:** Moderate Severity**Actionability:** Actionable with Difficulty

Notes: Changing temperatures may be associated with winter tick populations and high overwinter mortality of moose calves. However, this relationship is poorly understood and requires additional investigation.

IUCN Level 1 Threat Invasive and Other Problematic Species, Genes and Diseases**IUCN Level 2 Threat: Invasive Non-native-Alien Species-Diseases****Severity:** Moderate Severity**Actionability:** Actionable with Difficulty

Notes: Where moose co-occur with white-tailed deer, moose can become infected with diseases commonly associated with white-tailed deer. Some of which can increase mortality risk.

IUCN Level 2 Threat: Problematic Native Species-Diseases**Severity:** High Severity**Actionability:** Actionable with Difficulty

Notes: Winter ticks population dynamics and direct impacts to abundance are not well understood, and high-winter tick populations have led to large-scale overwinter mortality of moose calves prior to their first birthday in some winters.

Species Level Conservation Actions:

None. Only species specific conservation actions that address high (red) or medium-high (orange) priority threats are summarized here.

Guild Level Conservation Actions:

This Species is currently not attributed to a guild.

Broad Taxonomic Group Conservation Actions:

Relevant conservation actions for this species are assigned within broader taxonomic groups in Maine's Wildlife Action Plan: Element 4.

Habitat Based Conservation Actions:

Additional conservation actions that may benefit habitat(s) associated with this species can be found in Maine's Wildlife Action Plan: Element 4. Click on the Habitat Grouping of interest to launch a habitat based report summarizing relevant conservation actions and associated SGCN.

The Wildlife Action Plan was developed through a lengthy participatory process with state agencies, targeted conservation partners, and the general public. The Plan is non-regulatory. The species, threats, and voluntary conservation actions identified in the Plan complement, but do not replace, existing work