



## **Tell Vermont Fish & Wildlife "No" to Moose Hunting Before It's Too Late. Talking Points for Discussions.**

1. Vermont's moose population is at its lowest point in over a decade - now estimated to be less than 2,000 animals, which is well below Fish & Wildlife's own target population of 3,000.

2. The foundational basis to hunt any species is that the species is at a healthy state and robust enough to absorb the loss of individuals taken through hunting. Over the last several years, the moose take has only contributed to the further decline on the species. Vermont Fish & Wildlife's core rationale for any hunt is violated in their moose proposal(s).

3. The moose population is facing grave threats from winter ticks and a warming climate (moose are highly sensitive to higher temperatures). A report commissioned by the NH Fish and Game Dept has projected that NH may no longer have moose on the landscape by 2050.

4. The further reduction in the population through the current proposal reduces the chances of people who simply want to SEE a moose. Why does the Department not consider wildlife watchers an important stakeholder?

5. Vermont Fish & Wildlife has stated recently that, " The intent of the (moose kill) proposal is to allow controlled population growth." That strategy has failed year after year after year. It is time for a new strategy - a moratorium until such time as the population has reached its carrying capacity of 3,000 animals. To emphasize further - this is not about stopping all future hunts, but rather ensuring that we do everything possible now to protect a population in severe decline.

6. With such a suppressed population, individuals matter in terms of genetic diversity. All individuals matter in fostering genetic diversity that may result in individuals better able to survive the various threats.