

# Moose in the Watersheds



## Moose Return to Massachusetts

Moose retreated north with the clearing of forests for farms. After farms were abandoned, the landscape slowly turned back to forests and the moose returned.

## Forests for Forage

Moose eat leaves, twigs, buds, and aquatic vegetation. A diverse mix of trees and new forest regeneration in the watersheds provide an abundant food source.

## Wetland Relief

Moose spend the summers in wetlands to seek food and relief from flies, mosquitoes, and heat. They seek bodies of water to cool themselves, because they can't tolerate heat. They find ample habitat for much of the population at Water Supply Protection lands.

Logging and forestry activity in a working forest can produce ideal moose habitat. Areas recently logged provide new plant growth, perfect for moose to thrive.

## Hide and Seek



For the largest mammal in the forest, moose can be elusive, but they leave behind distinctive signs.

Look for tracks in muddy swampy areas—or in the snow. Their wide hooves act like snowshoes.



Look for scat— similar in size to a chocolate covered almond, it is easily identifiable in the field.



Look for marks on trees. Tree rubs are gouges in young trees made by bull moose scraping the velvet off their antlers.

Thanks to forest management and quality foraging habitat, moose have returned to stay.



**Caught on Camera**  
Trail cameras are one way to see moose. Most active times are around sunrise and sunset.



**Hold the Salt!** Although found primarily in the deep woods, sometimes the best chance of seeing a moose is when it crosses the road. Unfortunately, moose are attracted to winter roads to lick salt laden runoff.

To see more, watch our video on YouTube @MassDCR Water Supply Protection Playlist.

