



IF&W INSIDER

WEEK ENDING 11/07/08

We are stewards of Maine's fish and wildlife, preserving and protecting our natural resources, quality of life and economic future.

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FLASHING WARNING SIGNS, REFLECTORS PART OF IF&W, MDOT STRATEGY TO REDUCE MOOSE-VEHICLE COLLISIONS

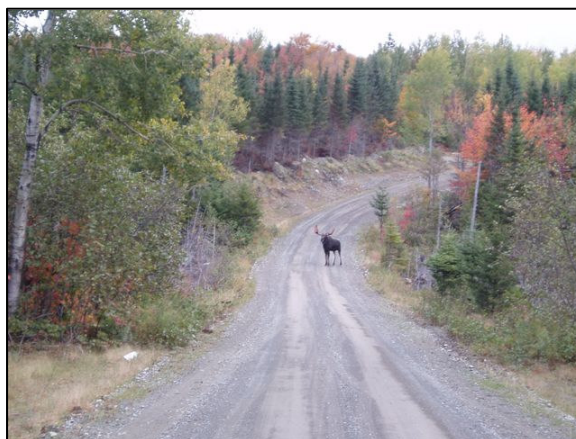
Maine enjoys a robust moose population, the highest population level in the lower 48 states.

The health of our moose population is evident, as for the first time we have initiated a moose hunting season this fall in portions of southern Maine. With hundreds of thousands of people enjoying this resource through hunting and wildlife watching, moose are a significant contributor to Maine's economy.

With a high moose population however, the opportunity for vehicle/moose collisions can also be high. In fact, hundreds of moose collisions occur every year on Maine roads, particularly around dusk and dawn. As a result, IF&W and MaineDOT have partnered through a Large Animal Crash Group to develop a strategy for reducing the frequency of moose collisions.

Aroostook County has the highest moose collision rate and regional wildlife biologist Rich Hoppe and MaineDOT have partnered to install some highly visible signage along two historically high risk corridors over the next month. The first will involve larger, billboard sized moose warning signs intermixed with vehicle activated, flashing moose crossing signs for a total of seven signs along Route 161. The second will be a one mile stretch of Route 1 in Cyr Plantation using experimental reflectors on the road side designed to reflect light back onto the road.

Encouraging drivers to alter their behavior in high risk areas, particularly at dusk and dawn, by keeping to the speed limit, scanning the roadsides, dimming dash board lights and using high beams can all help. At the end of the day we want everyone to return home feeling confident that with extra caution, roads can be driven safely. For additional information, visit MDOT website at <http://www.maine.gov/mdot/safetyoffice/maine-crash-data.php>.



MAINE WILDLIFE PARK CLOSES FOR THE SEASON ON VETERAN'S DAY

On Tuesday Nov. 11 at 5 p.m., the Maine Wildlife Park in Gray will close for the 2008 season. Since it is also Veteran's Day, the park will recognize and thank all past and present Maine military personnel and veterans for their service to our country by offering them an individual free adult admission to the park on our final day of operation for 2008. We would also like to thank all of our patrons for visiting us during the 2008 season.

IF&W Fact

POACHING ROBS MAINERS OF VALUABLE RESOURCES – **OUR FISH AND WILDLIFE**. THE MAINE WARDEN SERVICE IS INVESTIGATING CASES OF INDIVIDUALS TAKING TOO MANY FISH OR KILLING MOOSE WITHOUT A PERMIT, OUT OF SEASON AND LEAVING THEM TO DIE.



MOOSE KILLED IN ACTON

For the third consecutive year, a bull moose has been killed and left behind to die in the town of Acton. "They've touched nothing," said Warden Jason Luce to the Portland Press-Herald. "I don't even know if I can call these people poachers. They're just killing these to watch them die. Usually a poacher will take the antlers or the meat." An investigation is underway. Picture: A metal detector is used to locate the bullets used to kill a bull moose last weekend in Acton. Photo by Warden Jason Luce.

MAINE WARDEN SERVICE –FIELD NOTES

- **Search for Man with Alzheimer's:** Wardens Doug Kullis and Mark Merrifield and Sgt. John Blagdon responded to a call to search for a 78-year-old Wiscasset man who suffers from Alzheimer's disease. He had walked away from his home sometime after midnight on Oct. 27, and was located a short distance from his home by a neighbor.
- **Shooting:** A hunter was shot in his left hand as he was passed a firearm from another hunter on Nov. 1, the first day of deer hunting season, in Pittsfield. He was treated and released from Sebec Regional Hospital.
- **Hunting Violations:** Wardens continue to work the woods, writing summons for night hunting, illegal baiting, and other offenses.