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Ecology and Management of the North American Moose by Albert W. Franzmann and Charles C. Schwartz

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BOOK REVIEW

Ecology and Management of the North American Moose. 2nd edition. 2007. Albert W. Franzmann and Charles C. Schwartz. University Press of Colorado, Boulder. \$75.00, hardcover: alk. paper; 733 pages. ISBN 978-0-87081-895-0.

The Ecology and Management of the North American Moose is a prime example of what a single-species management book should accomplish, both scientifically and aesthetically. The contributing authors have provided a total of 19 clear and well-organized chapters covering topics from historic use to future management and research needs. While the authors should be commended for their efforts associated with individual chapters, the contributions of W.D. Berry (field sketches) and several photographers should not be overlooked as valuable supplements to the text.

Chapter 1, "Of Moose and Men," educates the reader about historic anthropogenic uses of moose by Native Americans of varying tribes throughout the moose's range. The authors have provided comparisons and contrasts for each native group on topics including spiritual and social significance, taboos, and hunting methods, to mention a few. In the second chapter, the reader will find a more scientific background of the moose, including evolutionary history, taxonomy, and morphology. Chapter 3 provides a more recent account of the North American moose (*Alces alces*), including subspecies distribution, population trends, and estimated densities.

The remaining chapters include topical information for anyone interested in specific

aspects of moose biology (ch. 5, "Behavior"; ch. 11, "Interspecific Relationships"; ch. 14, "Nutrition and Energetics"; ch. 15, "Pests, Parasites and Diseases"), moose ecology (ch. 6, "Population Dynamics"; ch. 7, "Predator/Prey Relationships"; ch. 8, "Incidental Mortality"; ch. 9, "Home Range, Dispersal and Mortality"; ch. 11, "Habitat Relationships"; ch. 13, "Food Habits and Feeding Behavior"), and moose management (ch. 12, "Management of Moose Habitat"; ch. 16, "Restraint, Translocation and Husbandry"; ch. 17, "Population and Harvest Management"; ch. 18, "Hunting"; ch. 19, "The Future of Moose Management and Research") of the moose in North America.

This book contains a massive amount of technical information about all aspects of the North American moose and cannot be readily reduced and digested in a single session. Prior to reading this book, I had limited exposure to virtually all aspects of the moose and its ecology and management. Having read through this book 3 times before feeling comfortable writing this review, I can honestly say that every time through I was able to find interesting information I had missed in previous readings. I would highly recommend that anyone interested in moose, no matter how small his or her interest may be, should pick up a copy of this book and peruse it. I guarantee that you'll end up reading the entire work.

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