



Moose (*Alces alces*)

Northern Minnesota is one of the few places where you can see moose in the continental United States. Moose are the largest members of the deer family, weighing up to 1300 pounds. Beginning in April, moose bulls grow palmate antlers that can span up to five feet before they are shed in December or January. Moose are

generally mild-mannered, with two notable exceptions: cows responding to a perceived threat to their calves (often twins, born in May or June); and bulls in rut (generally between mid-September and mid-October).

Moose can often be seen around ponds, lake shores, bogs and streams where they feast on water plants. They also favor young forest vegetation in areas of recent logging, forest fires or windstorms. Roadsides provide both shrubs for their diet and easy access to mature forests for shelter, so keep your eyes open for moose while driving through the forest.