

LOCALNEWS

Dayton: DNR must stop collaring moose

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

Gov. Mark Dayton Tuesday signed an executive order which requires the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources to stop the practice of radio collaring moose in Minnesota, and to stop issuing new permits for moose radio collaring.

Recent reports have brought to light that collaring of moose has resulted in the deaths of some adult moose, and puts calves in danger of abandonment by their mothers and may lead to a higher incidence of mortality, said a news release from Dayton's office.

Dayton's executive order requires that the DNR end



A crewmember from Quicksilver Air attaches a GPS collar in 2013 to a bull moose in Voyageurs National Park.

the radio collaring practice immediately, and indefinitely.

"I respect that DNR researchers are trying to understand why our moose population is declining," said Dayton. "However, their methods of collaring are causing too many of the moose deaths they seek to prevent. Thus, I will not

authorize those collaring practices to continue in Minnesota."

Since 2013, the DNR has used GPS tracking collars on adult and calf moose in order to learn more about the factors contributing to the declining moose population in Minnesota. Currently, more than 70 percent of young moose do

not survive their first winter in Minnesota. Sixteen of the 74 newborn calves that have been collared by the DNR in their efforts to study the state's declining moose population have been abandoned by their mothers. Six of the 16 abandoned calves were placed at the Minnesota Zoo or other facilities.

KAO hires new staff

KAO REPORT

A new staff member has joined Koochiching Aging Options to help provide services to older adults of Koochiching County.

Gary Kaunonen will act as caregiver consultant and program support person for this social service organization.

Kaunonen's duties will include the facilitation of such programs as Groceries to You! and Senior Wheels. As a caregiver consultant, he will support those who are providing help to a friend or family member facing the challenges of growing older. In addition, he will be focusing on community outreach and volunteer coordination.

Kaunonen grew up in east central Minnesota and for the past decade has lived in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan where he has pursued his doctoral degree in rhetoric, theory and culture. An undergraduate degree in psychology led to his work in behavioral programs for adults in residential settings. He has broad experience in writing, cultural interpretation and teaching.

"I am excited to be work-

ing with the volunteers, clients, and staff at Koochiching Aging Options," said Kaunonen of his new position. "I am also happy to be residing in the county. I look forward to catching a state record walleye from my canoe this summer."

"The board of directors and I are very excited to welcome Gary to the community and to our organization," said Douglas Skrief, executive director of Koochiching Aging Options. "His background and concern for older adults will help to enrich the services we provide. It's good news for county residents."

Koochiching Aging Options is an independent not-for-profit organization that assists older adults of Koochiching County and their families. For information about programs and about how you can help, visit the KAO offices at 1000 Fifth Street or call 283-7030. Its website is KoochichingAgingOptions.org.



Gary Kaunonen

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