



Although moose do not herd like deer or elk, they are much more sociable than people generally believe. They often congregate in pairs or small groups that dissolve and reform throughout the summer months. These gatherings vary in all sorts of ways, with both mixed and segregated ages and sexes. Moose often get together for no perceptible benefit other than companionship, but they also seem to believe in “safety in numbers”. Individuals who are nervous when they’re alone tend to calm down in the company of other moose. Hanging out with buddies seems to give them courage and a greater sense of security. We’ve observed several friendship bonds of two to three individuals that have endured over a season and even over several years. One such partnership persisted between Funnel (left) and Ry (right). These magnificent bulls have been steady companions since 2014, when Ry was just a yearling. We don’t know whether a familial link exists between them, but it may be that Ry is Funnel’s son. It would be interesting to confirm this possibility since it would suggest that bulls are involved to some extent in parenting. But there is much more to learn about moose friendship...

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