



Watching moose can take a lot of patience if you're hoping for much action. They spend a lot of time slowly foraging and just standing or laying around. But patience can lead to a big payoff. Such was the case in the summer of 2014 as we watched Limpy and her male calf Butch feed along the edge of a high-country lake. It was interesting enough to see Limpy, with her damaged rear leg, deftly fend off an intruding young cow. But what really grabbed our attention was Butch's reaction. Energized by mom's strong defense, he began a long, comical bout of intense hyperactivity called gamboling. He literally ran circles around his mother, tearing along at top speed with his little head lowered in attack mode. Butch continually raced back and forth along the edge and in the shallows of the lake, kicking at phantoms, bucking, and slapping the water. Limpy had become quite calm, barely acknowledging her son as he performed his antics. But gamboling is really just one of the many forms of play that moose engage in...

[previous](#)

[next](#)