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NEWS

Wednesday, September 14, 2011

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State Extends Moose Season in Central Unit 22A (Unalakleet Area)

NOME – The Alaska Department of Fish and Game announces an emergency order extension of the State of Alaska season for antlered bull moose by registration permit hunt RM841 in Central Unit 22(A) until 11:59 p.m. on September 20, 2011. The hunt area covered by this extension includes Unit 22(A) that portion in the Unalakleet River drainage and all drainages flowing into Norton Sound north of the Golsovia River drainage and south of the Tagoomenik and Shaktoolik River drainages. Current harvest is at half the harvest quota of 14 antlered bulls and an extension of the season will allow additional hunting opportunity to reach quota. The season will be closed by a subsequent emergency order when the harvest quota is reached. Since harvest quotas are managed cooperatively with federal managers, hunters should note that this extension applies only to State managed lands and federal announcement is needed to change the season for moose hunting on federal public land.

Moose seasons in the central portion of Unit 22(A) were closed in 2005 because of a declining trend in the area's moose populations since 1989. A stratified moose census completed in March 2007 estimated 339 moose in the area, and beginning in 2008 the Alaska Board of Game adopted a registration moose hunt regulation with harvest quotas to prevent over harvest. The department set a harvest quota of 14 antlered bull moose in this portion of Unit 22(A) for regulatory year 2011-2012. At the time of this announcement, the combined total harvest from state and federal hunts is 7 antlered bulls. Due to the low harvest, the season is being extended to allow additional opportunity to reach the harvest quota of 14 antlered bulls. To protect breeding bulls from disturbance or harvest by hunters, the season will not be extended beyond September 20. Since all other hunting seasons since 2008 have met or exceeded harvest quota, this season extension is considered an unusual, but necessary, announcement by the Department. Because of the rare nature of this situation, we do not expect emergency announcements such as this in the future.

All other moose hunting regulations in Unit 22 remain unchanged and are not affected by this emergency order.

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