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PRESS RELEASE

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CLOSURE OF TEIR II MOOSE HUNT IN UNIT 1D(TM059)

(Juneau)-Biologists with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in Douglas announce an early closure of the Teir II moose hunting season under the state subsistence permit TM059, for Game Management Unit 1D. An emergency order (01-05-15) was issued to close the moose hunting season in this area at **11:59PM on October 1st 2015**.

Aerial surveys conducted in the Chilkat Valley the last few years has resulted in lower moose counts; a total of 177, 163, and 147 were observed in 2012, 2013, and 2014, respectively. The 2014 survey was conducted late in the winter with poor sightability conditions and should be considered a minimum count only. Although the department estimates the moose population in game management unit (GMU) 1D to be 250-350 moose, poor survey conditions due to lack of snow have been factors in the lower survey numbers since 2012. A harvest management objective of 20-25 bull moose with legal antler configuration (spike or fork, 3 brow tine on one antler, or 50 inch antler spread) was established for the moose harvest in GMU 1D. During the first week of the 2015 season 17 moose were harvested; as of September 28th, 2015, 23 bull moose have been taken. Low numbers of yearling bulls were harvested in 2014; as of September 28th, 2015 only 4 yearling bulls were taken and a relatively low number of calf moose detected during surveys suggests the potential for low recruitment into the population. Due to concerns of additional harvest beyond the management objective (20-25 bull moose), an emergency order (01-05-15) is being issued to close the Tier II moose hunting season in this area at 11:59 pm on October 1st, 2015.

Hunters with questions about moose hunting can contact Carl Koch, in the Douglas Area Office at 907-465-4329.

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