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PRESS RELEASE

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ADF&G Opens Resident Moose Hunt in Unit 22E

(Nome) – The Alaska Department of Fish and Game is opening the state resident winter moose season in Unit 22E by emergency order. A resident moose season with a bag limit of one antlered bull will open Mar. 7 – Mar. 15. Winter weather created poor travel conditions that prevented harvest of moose in the regular winter season. Hunters should note that if they have harvested a moose since July 1, 2013 they are not eligible to harvest a moose in this extended season.

The moose population in Unit 22E was surveyed in 2011 and the count of 669 moose was an increasing trend compared to the previous survey of 587 moose in 2006. Based on the most recent population estimate, available harvest has not been reached due to low success resulting from poor travel and hunting conditions during the season ending January 31, 2014. The winter bag limit has not changed and remains one antlered bull to prevent harvest of cows.

Antler drop of mature bulls generally begins in December. Spring moose surveys on the Seward Peninsula have shown young bulls retain their antlers into early spring. A March season is not expected to impact the breeding bulls, but will likely result in an increased harvest of young bulls.

In January 2014, the Alaska Board of Game reviewed the moose population information for Unit 22E and changed the winter season closing date to March 15, effective in next regulatory year (RY2014 begins July 1, 2014). The changes made by this emergency order are in alignment with the regulations effective next year in Unit 22E.

All other moose hunting regulations in Unit 22 remain unchanged by this emergency order.

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