

Division of Wildlife Conservation
Doug Vincent-Lang, Acting Director
Bethel Area Office
PO Box 1467
Bethel, AK 99559-1467



Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Cora Campbell, Commissioner
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526
www.adfg.alaska.gov

PRESS RELEASE

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CONTACT: Phillip Perry, Area Biologist
(907) 543-2979; phillip.perry@alaska.gov

ADF&G Extends Resident Moose Hunt in the Lower Yukon Area and Remainder of Unit 18

BETHEL – The Alaska Department of Fish and Game announces an Emergency Order to extend the resident moose season in two areas within Unit 18. The affected areas are the Lower Yukon Area and the Remainder of Unit 18. The season in these areas is extended 31 days to a closing date of March 31, 2014. Winter weather has been unusually mild and snow free, creating poor travel conditions that have prevented most hunters from harvesting moose in January and February.

In the Lower Yukon Area, the resident moose season with a bag limit of two antlerless moose is extended to March 31. This area is the portion of Unit 18 north and west of the Kashunuk River including the north bank from the mouth of the river upstream to the old village of Chakaktolik, west of a line from Chakaktolik to Mountain Village, and excluding all Yukon River drainages upriver from Mountain Village. If a person has harvested one moose since July 1, 2013 they are eligible to harvest one antlerless moose in this extended season. If a person has harvested 2 moose since July 1, 2013 they are not eligible to harvest a moose in this extended season.

In the Remainder of Unit 18, the resident moose season with a bag limit of one moose is extended to March 31. This area is the portion of Unit 18 excluding the Kuskokwim Area, the portion south of and including the Goodnews River drainage, and the Lower Yukon Area. If a person has harvested a moose since July 1, 2013 they are not eligible to harvest a moose in this extended season.

The moose population in this portion of Unit 18 is estimated at over 12,000 moose. Winter harvests in the past 5 years have fluctuated between 150 and 200 moose. During the current winter season, extended periods of poor travel conditions have made it very difficult to hunt moose. Hunt reports and observations from enforcement personnel indicate that harvests are very low and extending the season through the end of March will provide additional opportunity for resident hunters in Unit 18.

All other moose seasons and bag limits in Unit 18, including the Kuskokwim Hunt Area, remain unchanged and are not affected by this emergency order.

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