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## **PRESS RELEASE**

*For Immediate Release: October 3, 2017*

### **CONTACT:**

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## **CLOSURE OF TIER 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 Tier II moose hunting season under the state subsistence permit TM059, for Game Management Unit 1D. An emergency order (01-09-17) was issued to close the moose hunting season in this area at **11:59PM, Tuesday, October 3, 2017**.

A December 2016 aerial survey in the Chilkat Valley found more moose (221) than found during surveys in the previous four years (avg. = 168). We believe the higher count in 2016 resulted from greater snow cover and improved ability to see moose, rather than substantial growth of the population. ADF&G's current management objective for this population is harvest of 20-25 bull moose with legal antler configuration (spike or fork (S/F), 3 brow tine (3BT) on one antler, or 50 inch antler spread). As of October 2nd, 25 bulls (1- S/F; 17- 3BT; 4- fifty inch plus, and 3- sublegal) have been reported. The harvest of yearling bulls has been low in the last several years with 2, 4, and 6 bulls with spike or fork antlers being harvested during 2014, 2015, and 2016, respectively. Calf survival is unknown in the Chilkat Valley, however the proportion of calves observed during surveys in 2014-2016 has been between 8-14%. Due to concerns of continued low counts of spike or forked bulls in the harvest and because our management objective (20-25 bull moose) has been met, an emergency order (01-09-17) is being issued to close the Tier II moose hunting season in this area at 11:59 pm, Tuesday, October 3, 2017.

Hunters with questions about moose hunting can contact Carl Koch, in the Haines Area Office at 907-766-2830.

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