

**Cora Campbell, Commissioner**



Division of Wildlife Conservation  
1300 College Road  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701  
(907) 459-7206

# Alaska Department of Fish and Game

## NEWS

Friday, October 14, 2011

CONTACT:

Cathie Harms, 459-7231

### **Unit 20A Muzzleloader Hunt Area Changed**

The hunt area for a November muzzleloader season for bull moose in Unit 20A south of Fairbanks (DM766) has been expanded and drawing permits have been reissued. Permits have been mailed to hunters who were selected for the 2011 hunt and should be received within the next two weeks.

The hunt area now includes portions of the Tanana Flats east of the Totatlanika River and north of the Rex Trail along with lands east of the Wood River Controlled Use Area (CUA) and west of Delta Creek.

Original DM766 drawing permits received in July 2011 should be destroyed. The reissued permits must be signed by hunters to be valid.

The muzzleloader hunt had been held for several years in the Wood River CUA. In 2010, the Board of Game received a proposal to eliminate the hunt due to reasons including conflicts with trappers and local residents, and concerns about disturbance to moose. The board decided to retain the hunt, but directed the department to relocate DM766 within 20A in 2011.

For the 2011 season, the Department selected a remote hunt area between the Wood River CUA and Delta Creek that was less likely to rekindle the social conflicts, but was not easily accessible. When hunters applied for the DM766 permit, the permit supplement newspaper included the correct area description, but the map mistakenly indicated the original area within the Wood River CUA. The online version was corrected, but many applicants were confused about the hunt area.

“In addition to the confusion caused by the inaccurate map, several hunters have recently shared concerns about access, and one affected advisory committee supported enlarging the hunt area,” said Fairbanks Area Biologist Don Young. “As a result, we added some more accessible areas in the Tanana Flats.”

Young said the Department has received numerous requests to move the hunt back to the Wood River CUA, but the board issued clear directions that the hunt must be moved. “The board directed the Department to move the hunt,” he said. “Board members will consider this issue again at their March 2012 meeting in Fairbanks, and I encourage everyone interested in the hunt to let the board know your preferences.”

Hunters with questions should call the Department at 459-7206.

###

