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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **Unit 13 Winter Bull Moose Hunts Are Closed for the Season**

(Glennallen) – Game Management Unit 13 moose hunts RM319 and CM301, closed by emergency order on December 1 after a daylong season, will not reopen this winter.

Nearly 1,600 registration and subsistence permits allowing a bag limit of one bull (no antler restrictions) in Units 13B and 13C were issued for a harvestable surplus of only 37 moose. Because the large number of permitted hunters created an extreme potential for overharvest, the department closed the hunt by emergency order after one day.

“The department needed to ensure harvest was not excessive,” said Glennallen Area Biologist Frank Robbins. “With the right snow conditions for travel and locating moose, there would be too much potential for a lot of bulls to be taken, even with an extremely short season.”

Biologists calculated that if only 25 percent of hunters with permits (1,600 hunters) hunted and only 15 percent of those actually hunting were successful, the quota would have been exceeded by 162 percent.

“The only tool we have to regulate the harvest is adjusting the season length,” Robbins said.

After a fall harvest of approximately 200 moose in Unit 13B and 105 bulls in Unit 13C, a harvestable surplus remained of 15 bulls in Unit 13B and 22 bulls in Unit 13C. The fall harvest in Unit 13C was 40 percent higher than the previous year.

In addition to harvest concerns, biologists report area moose surveys conducted in November documented unusually low calf recruitment, further reducing the number of bulls available for harvest this year.

Only four moose were reported taken during this winter’s 24-hour season. The low harvest was attributed to snowy weather making moose harder to locate during the hunt, and decreased hunter participation due to the short season length. Hunters are reminded that the permit reporting date has been extended; permit reports must be turned in by December 22. For more information, contact Frank Robbins at [frank.robbsins@alaska.gov](mailto:frank.robbsins@alaska.gov) , or phone (907) 822-3461.

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