

Division of Wildlife Conservation
Eddie Grasser, Director
Douglas
PO Box 110024
Juneau, AK 99811-0024



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

Advisory Announcement

For Immediate Release: November 22, 2019

CONTACT:

Roy Churchwell, Area Management Biologist
(907) 465-4266

MOOSE HUNTING SEASON CLOSURE UNIT 5A NUNATAK BENCH

The Nunatak Bench (Unit 5A) hunt area is managed as a separate population because it is generally isolated from other moose populations by fiords and glaciers. The area is subject to severe winters and has low capability to support moose relative to other moose habitat in Unit 5A. The purposes of this hunt are to provide opportunity as the population allows and to maintain the number of moose within a level the limited habitat can support. This hunt opens after other moose hunts in the unit have closed, and it is a popular alternative for hunters who were unsuccessful during those hunts. Because much of the open season for this hunt takes place after bulls have dropped their antlers, either sex may be harvested.

Due to poor survey conditions, we have been unable to survey the Nunatak Bench since 2015 when a total of 14 moose (3 bulls, 2 cows, 3 calves, and 6 unknown sex) were observed. The Nunatak Bench management plan calls for a post-hunt population of no more than 50 moose; however, the Department does not plan to issue hunt permits until the population reaches at least 25 moose. Because we have not observed a count of at least 25 moose we are not opening this hunt at this time.

This Emergency Order (01-21-19) closes the state moose hunting season in this area on Friday, November 22, 2019 @ 11:59 pm.

Hunters with questions about moose hunting in Game Management Unit 5A are encouraged to contact Roy Churchwell at the Douglas Area Office of ADF&G @ 465-4266.

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