

Division of Wildlife Conservation
Doug Vincent-Lang, Acting Director
Region IV, Palmer Area Office
1800 Glenn Highway, Suite 4
Palmer, Alaska 99645-6736



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

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release: October 1, 2014

CONTACT: Todd Rinaldi
Area Wildlife Biologist
Palmer: (907) 746-6325
todd.rinaldi@alaska.gov

Department Now Accepting Applications Online for Mat-Su Targeted Moose Hunt

(Palmer) – The Division of Wildlife Conservation is accepting online applications for targeted moose hunt AM415 in the Matanuska and Susitna valleys through October 31.

Application for this winter's hunt is open to Alaska residents who have successfully completed a certified state hunter education program; a bow hunter education certificate is also required for those who wish to hunt with a bow. A limited number of hunters will be selected later through a randomized process – applications are not chosen in order of receipt.

To apply online, visit <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=huntlicense.targeted> Paper applications will also be accepted until the end of October at the department's Palmer office during regular business hours.

Targeted hunt AM415 was established by the Board of Game to address nuisance-moose issues in Game Management Subunit 14A. The department has increasingly used this permit hunt to reduce the number of moose-vehicle collisions in the Mat-Su. Because the hunt occurs near populated areas, only shotguns and bows, which have shorter velocities than rifles, can be used.

"One of the main objectives is to reduce the number of moose around roadways in high-collision areas and move them into the freezer without involving an insurance agent," said Palmer Area Wildlife Biologist Todd Rinaldi.

Approximately 280 moose are struck and killed by motorists each year on Mat-Su roadways. During winters of unusually deep snow, that number can double as moose tend to congregate around highway corridors. Motorists are frequently injured and sometimes killed when vehicles traveling at normal highway speeds collide with the animals which may weigh between 500 and 900 pounds.

Permitted hunters must have land owners' permission to hunt on private land, and hunters will be issued a hunt-specific orange vest to wear while hunting and transporting meat to identify them as permitted hunters. The department and Alaska Wildlife Troopers will conduct field checks to ensure hunters comply with permit conditions and conduct themselves in a safe, ethical, and legal manner.

For more information on the Mat-Su targeted hunt, contact Todd A. Rinaldi, Area Wildlife Biologist, at the Alaska Department of Fish and Game's office in Palmer at (907) 746-6325.

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