

# Hunting and Trapping

## Emergency Order

Alaska Department  
of Fish and Game

Under the Authority of AS 16.05.060

**Emergency Order** 05-05-14

**Issued at** Barrow, Alaska  
May 15, 2014

**Effective Date:** 12:01 a.m.  
July 1, 2014

**Expiration Date:** June 30, 2015

### EXPLANATION:

This Emergency Order changes the bag limit and season dates for resident moose hunts in Unit 26(A), and closes all drawing permit moose hunts for residents and nonresidents in Unit 26(A). Recent abundance surveys completed during April 6–9, 2014 have documented a 50 percent reduction in the moose population since 2011. Due to the low population status, hunting harvest must be reduced to conserve the population during the next regulatory year, July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015 (RY2014).

In the hunt area consisting of the Colville River drainage upstream from and including the Anaktuvuk River drainage, hunting will be limited to residents by harvest ticket for one bull during a fall season from Aug. 1 – Sept. 14; the winter hunt is closed; and drawing permit hunts DM980 and DM981 are closed. In the hunt area consisting of the Remainder of Unit 26(A), hunting will be limited to residents by harvest ticket for one bull during a fall season from Aug 1 – Sept 14. All nonresident hunts in Unit 26(A) are closed in RY2014.

### REGULATION:

Therefore, the following regulations in **5 AAC 85.045 (A) (24) HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE** are superseded by this emergency order, and the following provisions are effective for hunting moose in portions of Unit 26(A):

<b>Units and Bag Limits</b>	<b>Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)</b>	<b>Nonresident Open Season</b>
(24)  Unit 26(A), that portion in the Colville River drainage upstream from and including the Anaktuvuk River drainage		

1 bull; or	<b>Aug. 1 – Sept. 14</b>	No open season.
1 bull by drawing permit only; up to 40 permits may be issued; 20 percent of the permits may be issued to nonresident hunters; or	<b>No open season.</b>	<b>No open season.</b>
1 moose; a person may not take a calf or a cow accompanied by a calf	<b>No open season.</b>	No open season.
Unit 26(A), that portion west of 156° 00' W. longitude and excluding the Colville River drainage.		
1 moose; a person may not take a calf or a cow accompanied by a calf; or	July 1 – Sept. 14	No open season.
Remainder of Unit 26(A)		
1 bull	<b>Aug. 1 – Sept. 14</b>	No open season.
...		

All other moose hunting regulations in Unit 26A remain unchanged by this emergency order.

Cora Campbell  
Commissioner

By delegation to: Geoff Carroll  
Geoff Carroll  
Area Biologist

**JUSTIFICATION:**

A moose count conducted for all of Unit 26(A) during April 6–9, 2014 shows that the moose population has declined from 545 moose in 2011 to 279 in 2014. In addition, the trend area count in the core moose habitat of the Colville River drainage has also declined from 308 moose in 2013 to 165 in 2014. The survey also showed recruitment was nearly nonexistent with only 4 surviving short-yearling calves found in the unit. The unexpected 50% reduction and poor recruitment of the moose population in Unit 26(A) is very significant and requires action during the next regulatory year to reduce harvest to help the population recover.

During the period 2010 to 2013, the trend counts in the core area of the Colville River drainage showed steady growth. In January 2014, the Board of Game expanded opportunity by lengthening the fall general hunt seasons from Aug. 1 – Sept. 14 to Aug. 1 – Sept. 30. With the sudden down-turn in population status the season should return to Aug. 1 – Sept. 14 to prevent increases in harvest. The decline appears to be a result of nutritional problems related to a very late spring in 2013 and poor conditions during the following summer. Predation on nutritionally weakened moose has also probably been a contributing factor in the decline.

The low population requires changes to hunting seasons to conserve the population and allow for recovery. The 2014–2015 seasons in Unit 26(A) affected by this emergency order are:

- Closure of drawing permit hunts for nonresidents and residents, Hunts DM980 and DM981; 10 permits are invalidated by this emergency order
- Closure of resident winter hunt for one moose in the Colville River hunt area (e. g. Colville River drainage upstream from and including the Anaktuvuk River drainage)
- Shortened resident season for one bull in the Colville River hunt area and Remainder of Unit 26(A); the season is now Aug. 1 – Sept. 14
- No change to the season for one moose in Unit 26A west of 156° 00′ W. longitude because very few moose are harvested in this area, only 2 since 2006

Estimated available harvest at allowable harvest rates is approximately 16-18 bulls in the population. This amount is within the range of 15-30 moose in the finding for the amount reasonably necessary for subsistence in Unit 26(A). The limited available harvest requires closure of nonresident hunts. Restrictions to general hunt resident opportunity are needed to ensure that overharvest does not occur. Aircraft restrictions for moose hunting, except by drawing permit, are imposed by the Unit 26(A) Controlled Use Area so closure of the drawing permit hunt will substantially reduce harvest in the unit. With changes to the seasons, the harvest from Unit 26(A) west of 156° 00′ W. longitude is anticipated at less than one moose per year and harvest from the remainder of the unit is expected to be 15 bulls or fewer. These amounts are in alignment with the available surplus in Unit 26(A). Managers will monitor the population to reinstate opportunity when warranted.

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Unit 26A: Barrow

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Unit 26A

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