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PRESS RELEASE

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State Extends Registration Moose Hunt in Unit 22A Central

(Nome) – The Alaska Department of Fish and Game announces an emergency order to extend the State of Alaska resident fall season for antlered bull moose by registration permit hunt RM841 in Unit 22(A) Central until September 20, 2015. An extension of the season will allow additional opportunity to reach the harvest quota of 22 antlered bulls.

The area included in the extended season for hunt RM841 includes Unit 22(A) Central, that portion in the Unalakleet River drainage and all drainages flowing into Norton Sound north of the Golsovia River drainage and south of the Tagoomenik and Shaktoolik River drainages.

Moose seasons in Unit 22(A) Central were closed in 2005 because of a declining trend in the area's moose populations since 1989. A stratified moose census completed in March 2008 estimated 339 moose in the area, and beginning in 2008 the Alaska Board of Game adopted a registration moose hunt regulation with harvest quotas to prevent over harvest. A stratified moose census completed in February 2012 estimated 545 moose in the survey area, which is a 13% annual rate of increase since the 2008 population survey. No additional population counts have been completed due to poor weather during scheduled surveys.

Based on the population in this area, the Department set a harvest quota of 22 antlered bull moose for regulatory year 2015-2016. To protect breeding bulls from disturbance or harvest by hunters, the fall season will not be extended beyond September 20.

All other moose hunting regulations in Unit 22 remain unchanged and are not affected by this emergency order.

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