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PRESS RELEASE

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CLOSURE OF TEIR II MOOSE HUNT IN UNIT 1D (TM059)

(Juneau)-Biologists with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in Douglas announce an early closure of the Teir II moose hunting season under the state subsistence permit TM059, for Game Management Unit 1D. An emergency order (01-07-16) was issued to close the moose hunting season in this area at **11:59PM, Thursday September 22, 2016.**

Aerial surveys conducted in the Chilkat Valley the last few years has resulted in lower moose counts; a total of 163, 147, and 183 were observed in 2013, 2014, and 2015 respectively. Although the department estimates the moose population in game management unit (GMU) 1D to be 250-350 moose, poor survey conditions due to lack of snow have been factors in the lower survey numbers since 2013. A harvest management objective of 20-25 bull moose with legal antler configuration (spike or fork, 3 brow tine on one antler, or 50 inch antler spread) was established for the moose harvest in GMU 1D. As of September 21, 2016 (1 week into the season), 24 bull moose have been reported. Low numbers of yearling bulls were harvested in 2014 and 2015; and based on antlers from harvested moose this season the yearling bull proportion of the harvest is anticipated to be low again this year. The objective of 25 bulls: 100 cows has not been met since 2012 and only 18 bulls: 100 cows were counted during the 2015 survey. Due to concerns of additional harvest beyond the management objective (20-25 bull moose), an emergency order (01-07-16) is being issued to close the Tier II moose hunting season in this area at 11:59 pm, Thursday September 22, 2016.

Hunters with questions about moose hunting can contact Carl Koch, in the Douglas Area Office at 907-465-4329.

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