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PRESS RELEASE

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State Closes Winter Antlered Bull Moose Hunt: Unit 22B West of Darby Mountains

(Nome) – The Alaska Department of Fish and Game announces an emergency order to close the Alaska resident winter season for antlered bull moose in Unit 22(B), that portion west of the Darby Mountains, by registration permit hunt RM843 (*Note: this area is identified as the Remainder of Unit 22(B) in the hunting regulations booklet*) at 11:59 p.m. on January 7, 2019. The area affected by this emergency order includes all drainages in Unit 22(B) west of the Darby Mountains

The western Unit 22(B) moose population has remained stable at a low density ($\leq 0.25/\text{mi}^2$) with recruitment rates at or below 10% between 1999 and 2013. The department completed a spring GSPE abundance survey in March 2016 which resulted in an estimate of 728 observable moose (609-847 at 90% C.I.), and a recruitment rate of 14%. The Alaska Board of Game established a moose registration permit hunt in western Unit 22(B) and the department set an annual harvest quota of 34 bulls based on results from the 2016 spring GSPE moose abundance survey. The fall season closed September 6, 2018 with a reported harvest of 21 bull moose. The winter season, hunt RM843, opened January 1, 2019 with a harvest quota of 13 antlered bulls. The harvest quota is expected to be reached by the closing date announced in this emergency order and no further harvest is warranted.

All other moose hunting regulations in Unit 22 remain unchanged by this emergency order.

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