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## Advisory Announcement

*For Immediate Release: October 2, 2020*

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## CLOSURE OF TIER 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 Tier II moose hunting season under the state subsistence permit TM059, for Game Management Unit 1D. An emergency order (01-13-20) was issued to close the season in this area at **11:59PM, Sunday, October 4, 2020**.

Biologists observed 66 moose (10 bulls, 6 cows, 5 calves, and 45 antlerless moose) during an aerial survey conducted on December 15, 2019. Because of patchy fog we were unable to survey the Upper Chilkat River, the Takhin River, and the Kicking Horse River areas which includes about 50% of the traditional survey area. Approximately 20 bulls/100 cows were counted during the survey which is below the management objective of 25 bulls/ 100 cows. However, less than 20% of moose that were collared in the area were observed during the survey. This indicates that sightability was poor and that many moose were likely in areas that were not surveyed.

Overwinter survival of adult cows was 95%. Approximately 40% of collared cows had twins and calf survival from spring (i.e. the parturition period) to November 2019 was 31% which was comparable to results from other study areas in southeast Alaska (e.g. Gustavus and Berners Bay). However, the portion of yearling bulls harvested in the Chilkat Valley between 2017 and 2019 averaged 21%. This is lower than some other areas of southeast Alaska (e.g. Gustavus and Taku River), which average closer to 40% yearling bulls in the harvest. This may be an indicator of lower recruitment of yearling bulls in the Chilkat Valley population. During the 2020 season, approximately 20% of harvested bulls have been yearlings (based on antler configuration).

ADF&G's current management objective for this population is a harvest of 20-25 bull moose with legal antler configuration (spike or fork (S/F), 3 brow tine (3BT) on at least one antler, or 50-inch antler spread).

As of October 2nd, 25 bulls (6- S/F; 13 - 3BT; 4- fifty inch plus, and 2- sublegal) have been reported. The upper limit of our management objective set at 25 bulls has been met, and in order to maintain a sufficient number of bulls in the population, an emergency order (01-13-20) is being issued to close the Tier II moose hunting season in Unit 1D at 11:59 pm, Sunday, October 4, 2020.

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

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