

PROPOSAL 104 – 5 AAC 85.045(11). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.
 Reauthorize the antlerless moose seasons in Unit 13 as follows:

Units and Bag Limits (11)	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
Unit 13 1 moose per regulatory year, only as follows:		
...		
1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only; up to 200 permits may be issued; a person may not take a calf or a cow accompanied by a calf	Oct. 1–Oct. 31 Mar. 1–Mar. 31 (General hunt only)	No open season
...		

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Antlerless moose hunts must be reauthorized annually by the Board of Game (board). The current regulation allows hunters to take a limited number of cows in specific areas to keep the population within objectives.

This Unit 13 antlerless hunt was initially adopted in March 2011, and the first Unit 13 antlerless hunt under this regulation took place in September 2012. The hunt was modified when the board adopted an October and March season during the February 2013 board meeting.

Since the inception of this hunt, the Department of Fish and Game (department) has issued ten permits annually for a hunt in Unit 13A. The department intentionally limited the number of permits issued annually to gain public support for the hunt, even though a higher rate of cow harvest was desirable to regulate the moose population within objectives. After considering a proposal during the 2015 Board of Game meeting, which was submitted by the public to increase the number of cow permits issued annually, the board directed the department to issue a sufficient number of permits to allow the harvest of up to one percent of the cow population, when the moose population is above the midpoint of the population objective for the subunit.

Moose have generally increased at an average rate of 3% per year in the intensive wolf management area during the past ten years. The current population objective for Unit 13A is 3,500–4,200, and the population was estimated to be above objective in 2015 and 2016. The number of cows in western Unit 13A is expected to continue increasing, and the antlerless hunt in western Unit 13A is necessary to slow the growth of this population and to keep it within the intensive management objectives. The additional harvest provided by the hunt will also assist in

achieving the harvest objectives for the population. No additional antlerless opportunities in other portions of Unit 13 are recommended at this time.

If this antlerless moose hunting opportunity is not reauthorized in Unit 13, the intensive management program and objectives will likely need to be restructured to maintain the moose population within a population size range that does not result in nutritional limitations for the moose and to achieve the harvest objectives recommended by the public, advisory committees, and the board.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F17-033)
