

PROPOSAL 71

5 AAC 85.045(13). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.

Establish a general season moose hunt for Unit 15B east and eliminate the drawing hunt as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(13)		
...		
Unit 15(B), that portion bounded by a line running from the mouth of Shantatalik Creek, Tustumena Lake, northeastward to the head of the westernmost fork of Funny River; then downstream along the westernmost fork of Funny River to the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge boundary; then east along the refuge boundary to its junction with the Kenai River; then eastward along the south side of the Kenai River and Skilak Lake; then south along the western side of Skilak River, Skilak Glacier, and Harding Icefield; then west along the Unit 15(B) boundary to the mouth of Shantatalik Creek	[SEPT. 1—SEPT. 20] [(GENERAL HUNT ONLY)] [SEPT. 26—OCT. 15] [(GENERAL HUNT ONLY)]	[SEPT. 1—SEPT. 20] [SEPT. 26—OCT. 15] [(GENERAL HUNT ONLY)]
[1 BULLWITH 50-INCH ANTLERS OR ANTLERS WITH 3 OR MORE BROW TINES ON ONE SIDE, BY DRAWING PERMIT ONLY; UP TO 100 PERMITS MAY BE ISSUED; OR]		
<u>1 bull with spike or 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow</u>	<u>Aug. 22—Aug. 29 (General hunt only)</u>	

tines on one side, by bow and arrow only; or

1 bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side, by bow and arrow only; or

Aug. 22–Aug. 29

1 bull with spike or 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side; or

Sept. 1–Sept. 25
(General hunt only)

1 bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side

Sept. 1–Sept. 25

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Unit 15B east has been under restrictive permit hunt regulations since 1977. Access to this area is limited due to Kenai National Wildlife Refuge travel restrictions. The 2014 Funny River Fire substantially changed habitat in this area. Moose forage availability has increased since the fire, improving the quality of moose habitat, which will likely lead to increased production of moose. A population estimate was conducted in 2017 producing a point estimate of 837 moose (95% CI; 669-1004). Establishing a general season hunt for Unit 15B east with general season antler restrictions that mirror other portions of Unit 15B and general season restrictions of Unit 15C (currently one bull with spike or 50-inch antlers, or antlers with four or more brow tines on one side for residents, or a bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with four or more brow tines on one side for nonresidents) will provide hunters an increased opportunity to harvest moose as the population increases. Due to the restricted access in this area it is unlikely that an overharvest of bulls will occur. Liberalizing the current permit hunt restrictions was considered for this area, but such an action would not increase hunter opportunity.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F18-046)
