

PROPOSAL 127

5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.

Expand the hunt area and change the bag limit for the Unit 20D youth moose hunt YM792, and eliminate the drawing hunt DM791 as follows:

Unit 20D, expand the YM792 hunt boundaries to the entirety of southwest Unit 20D including the Delta Junction Management Area (DJMA) and eliminate DM791 from regulation. Hunt Dates: Sept 16th-25th

Resident youth who will be 10-17 years old by the starting date of the hunt are eligible to apply, and can only hunt (with) a youth permit while they are 10-17 years old. Each permittee must be accompanied in the field by a licensed Alaska resident adult at least 21 years old.

One (1) Moose: antlerless moose permits (up to 100), by youth hunt (YM792) drawing permit only; up to ten Any Moose permits may be issued; a person may not take a calf or a cow accompanied by a calf; If the moose surveys determines there are a surplus of bulls, one any moose could be the bag limit for a portion of (example 1st-10th) successful applicants drawn. The remaining successful applicants' bag limit would be one antlerless moose.

Luck of the draw for bull tags. The bag limit (any moose or antlerless) and the number of permits will be a permit condition decided upon annually by the Delta area biologist based on most recent population and habitat surveys.

Example: The department determined it should harvest approximately 30 antlerless moose and has determined up to ten any bulls (Any Moose) could be harvested. Therefore, the department would issue 40 permits and the first ten applicants drawn would have the option to harvest. Any Moose, and the remaining 30 successful applicants could only harvest an antlerless moose.

Suggested language for the handy dandy:

Resident

20D

South of the north bank of the Tanana River and west of the west bank of the Johnson River, including the Delta Junction Management Area and the Bison Range Controlled Use Area

One moose by qualified youth hunters. Taking calves or cows accompanied by calves is prohibited.

YM792

Sept 16th–25th

Suggested language in the draw supplement:

Game Management Unit, Area20D, Southwest, Qualified Youth Residents Only

Hunt No.

YM792

Number of Permits

Up to 100

Season Dates

September 16th–25th

Legal Moose

Any Moose for the first 10 successful applicants drawn, except calves or cows accompanied by calves may not be taken.

Or

Antlerless for the remaining successful applicants. Taking calves or cows accompanied by calves is prohibited.

Specimens Required

Specimens may be required

Reporting Requirements if Successful

In person to ADF&G in Delta Junction within two days of kill

Additional Requirements and Information

Hunt Area: That portion of Unit 20D south of the north bank of the Tanana River and west of the west bank of the Johnson River.

See hunting regulations for motorized restrictions within the Bison Range Controlled Use Area. Bag limit will be determined by order drawn with up to 10 Any Moose permits being awarded.

(Table submitted with proposal)

Suggested language for the handy dandy:

R	20D	South of the north bank of the Tanana River and west of the west bank of the Johnson River, including the Delta Junction Management Area and the Bison Range Controlled Use Area	ONE MOOSE by Qualified Youth Hunters . Taking calves or cows accompanied by calves is prohibited.	YM792	Sept 16 th – 25th
---	-----	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------	------------------------------

Suggested language in the draw supplement:

Game Management Unit, Area	Hunt No.	Number of Permits	Season Dates	Legal Moose	Specimens Required	Reporting Requirements if Successful	Additional Requirements and Information
20D, Southwest, Qualified Youth Residents Only	YM792	Up to 100	September 16th-25th	Any Moose for the first 100 successful applicants drawn, except calves or cows accompanied by calves may not be taken. Or Antlerless for the remaining successful	Specimens may be required	In person to ADF&G in Delta Junction within 2 days of kill	Hunt Area: That portion of Unit 20D South of the north bank of Tanana River and west of the west bank of the Johnson River. See hunting regulations for motorized restrictions

				applicants. Taking calves or cows accompanied by calves is prohibited.			with the Bison Range Controlled Use Area Bag limit will be determined by order drawn with up to 10 Any Moose permits being awarded.
--	--	--	--	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--	--	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Simplify antlerless moose hunts in southwest Unit 20D.

In existing regulations, DM791 is an antlerless hunt in southwest Unit 20D. There is also a youth hunt (YM792) on the books that allows for bull and antlerless moose harvest, but in a very small area. With the recent severe decline in moose population, we are projected to issue fewer permits for the near future. Eliminating DM791, and expanding YM792 will provide a high quality youth hunt, and antlerless moose harvest while simplifying the regulations.

In January 2023, the department (ADF&G) presented a moose management workshop at which it confirmed that moose in Unit 20 suffered a significant population loss from the winter of 2021-2022.

The Delta Advisory Committee was asked how to move forward and make decisions for the future harvest of antlerless moose. (There are no antlerless hunts planned for this area in 2023, but future harvest may be needed)

The goal of the Delta AC is to create and maintain a productive and healthy moose population in southwest Unit 20D. This will be assessed through moose abundance and condition, habitat condition, and twinning rates as measured by the following surveys conducted by ADF&G:

- 1) Biennial geospatial population estimation (GSPE) moose population surveys
- 2) Annual calf twinning surveys
- 3) Short yearling calf weights
- 4) Browse removal surveys

Equipped with this information, the department will determine the number of antlerless permits to issue for southwest Unit 20D. These draw permits will be available through the expanded youth hunt (YM792).

The Delta AC recommends the harvest of bull moose also be included in this youth hunt. Adding the desired number of "Any Moose" (up to ten) permits to this hunt will provide opportunity for the youth to harvest a bull. Any moose permits will also allow the department to maintain the desired bull/cow ratio for the unit.

ADF&G staff has stated in moose management meetings that a bull/cow ratio of approximately 15/100 is sufficient for reproduction. However, many moose populations (including Unit 20D) are managed at 25 to 30 bulls per 100 cows to increase hunter satisfaction through seeing more bulls while hunting in antler-restricted areas. Keeping a close watch on bull/cow ratios will determine the number of bull of tags allocated for this hunt (up to ten). The allocation of ten or less tags to this (any moose) hunt should be

sustainable most years. ADF&G reported the southwest Unit 20D bull/cow ratio to be at 25/100 based on their most recent survey in 2022.

These tags would be put into this proposed expanded youth hunt (YM792) that will be a high quality youth hunt to help manage our moose population into the future.

PROPOSED BY: Delta Fish and Game Advisory Committee

(EG-F23-246)
