Hunting and Trapping

Emergency Order

Under the Authority of AS 16.05.060

Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Emergency Order No. R4-9-26

Issued at Palmer, Alaska
November 13, 2026

Effective Date: 12:00 a.m.
December 1, 2026

Expiration Date: June 30, 2027
unless superseded by
subsequent emergency order

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order opens the State of Alaska winter antlered bull moose hunting season in Game Management Units 17B and 17C under registration moose hunt permit RM585. The hunting season will open at 12:00 am on December 1, 2026. This season will close on December 31, 2026, at 11:59 pm, or by Emergency Order if quota is met. To participate, hunters must possess a valid 2026 Alaska state hunting license, and a state registration permit (RM585) available at the Dillingham Fish & Game office or online. The bag limit is one antlered bull. Hunters that have harvested a moose anywhere in the state this regulatory year are ineligible to hunt this permit.

This emergency order does not affect any other moose hunting regulations in Unit 17.

REGULATION:

Therefore, the following regulations in **5AAC 85.045(15), Hunting Seasons and Bag Limits for Moose**, are superseded by this emergency order, and the following provisions are effective:

Units and Bag Limits	**Resident Open Season (Subsistence General Hunts)**	**Nonresident Open Season**
(15)		
…		
Unit 17(B), that portion in the Unit 17(B) nonresident closed Area		

RESIDENT HUNTERS:	
1 bull by registration permit only; however, during the period Sept. 1–Sept. 15, spike-fork bulls and bulls with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 3 or more brow tines on one side may be taken with a harvest ticket; or	Aug. 20–Sept. 15 [Dec. 1–Dec. 31]
1 antlered bull by registration permit only	**Dec. 1 – Dec. 31**
…	
Remainder of Unit 17(B)	
1 bull by registration permit only; however, during the period Sept. 1–Sept. 15, spike-fork bulls and bulls with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 3 or more brow tines on one side may be taken with a harvest ticket; or	Aug. 20–Sept. 15 [Dec. 1–Dec. 31]
1 antlered bull moose by registration permit only;	**Dec. 1–Dec. 31**
…	
Unit 17 (C)	
RESIDENT HUNTERS:	
…	
1 antlered bull moose by registration permit only	**Dec. 1–Dec. 31**
…	

All other moose regulations remain unchanged and are not affected by this emergency order.

Doug Vincent-Lang
Commissioner

By delegation to: 

Todd Rinaldi
Regional Management Coordinator

JUSTIFICATION:

The *may be announced* winter registration moose hunt RM585 in Game Management Units 17B and C will open on December 1, 2026. An additional opportunity during the winter season for both 17B&C is warranted given the robust population estimates and composition assessments yielding high bull-to-cow ratios. Recent survey information indicates the Unit 17B population is within the revised intensive management objective range of 2,800–3,500. These conditions indicate the population can sustain some additional bull harvest. Registration hunt RM585 will close on December 31 at 11:59 pm or by Emergency Order if harvest quota is met.

A portion of Unit 17C is closed to hunting this winter under RM585. The closure area is enacted due to high accessibility from the road system and puts those moose at risk of overharvest. The "West Wood River Closure" is as follows: Starting at the mouth of the Wood River, west of the Wood River along the south shore of the Wood River continuing along the south shore of Lake Aleknagik, across the mouth of both Sunshine and Lillie creeks, north to the south shore Lake Nerka, east of the mouth of Pike Creek, continuing west along the south shore of Little Togiak Lake, west to the Unit 17A boundary, following the Unit 17A/17C boundary south to the headwaters of the Weary River, east down the Weary River to the confluence of the Snake River and from the Snake River to Bristol Bay back north to the Wood River.

Registration permits will be available in person at the Dillingham ADF&G office and online beginning November 18. Successful hunters are required to report to the Dillingham ADF&G office in person or by phone (907-842-2334 or 907-746-6322) **within 3 days of killing a moose**. All permit reports must be returned to ADF&G, regardless of success, within 15 days of the close of the season.

As a reminder, those who were successful in harvesting one moose anywhere in the state are unable to participate in this hunt.

It is important that hunt permittees return their fall hunt reports to provide wildlife managers the information they need to understand harvest by mailing in their paper reports, completing them online at hunt.alaska.govhttps://secure.wildlife.alaska.gov/index.cfm?fuseaction=interperm.enter_report_hunterid or in person at any Alaska Department of Fish and Game office.

For questions or more information about moose hunting opportunities in Unit 17, contact the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in Palmer at (907) 746-6322.

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