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NEWS RELEASE

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Targeted Moose Hunt Permits May Be Issued This Winter

The Department of Fish and Game may use a new type of hunt this fall and winter to attempt to take a few moose close to roads and urban areas in Units 20A and 20B near Fairbanks.

The “targeted hunt” involves issuing special permits to allow hunters to take a specific moose near the road system between November 1, 2014, and June 30, 2015.

“The primary objectives of the “targeted hunt” are to remove moose that are chronically near roadways before they get hit, harvest injured moose, and address nuisance moose situations” said Fairbanks Area Wildlife Biologist Don Young.

ADF&G will evaluate each moose situation and determine if the moose qualifies for the “targeted hunt”.

Fish and Game staff don’t expect to issue many permits, possibly none or as many as a dozen or so. It is likely that not all applicants will receive a permit.

Because the hunt occurs primarily near populated areas and roads, only shotguns with slugs and bows and arrows, which have shorter trajectories than rifles, will be permitted. Many of the permits issued for this hunt will be for moose in the Fairbanks Management Area (FMA). Hunting in the FMA will be by bow and arrow only.

To be eligible to participate, hunters must apply during the open application period from October 1-31. Applications are available at the Fairbanks Fish and Game office. Hunters must drop off applications at the Department of Fish and Game Office in Fairbanks at 1300 College Road.

Hunters will be assigned permits for a particular moose on a case-by-case basis. If a hunter is called but can’t respond, his or her name will be placed at the bottom of the list and the next hunter will be contacted.

If needed, permits may be issued as early as November 1, and targeted hunts may remain open through June 30. The department also may issue permits to address moose problems on private property after consulting with the landowner.

Permitted hunters must have land owners’ permission to hunt on private land, and will be required to wear a hunt-specific orange vest issued by the department to identify them as permitted hunters.

Basic hunter education requirements apply to this hunt since it is in Unit 20 (see page 13 of the Alaska Hunting Regulations). In addition, regardless of age, all applicants hunting with a shotgun are required to have successfully completed a certified state hunter education program prior to applying

for the hunt. All applicants hunting with bow and arrow are required to have successfully completed a department approved bow hunter certification course.

Roughly 100-150 moose are killed by motorists each year on Fairbanks Area roadways. More are struck and injured but survive and run off. Motorists are frequently injured and sometimes killed when vehicles traveling at normal highway speeds collide with the moose which weigh between 350 and 1500 pounds.

For more information on the Fairbanks area targeted hunt, contact Don Young or Tony Hollis, Area Wildlife Biologists, at the Alaska Department of Fish and Game's office in Fairbanks at (907) 459-7206.

Additional information about this hunt can also be found in the 2014-15 Alaska Hunting Regulation booklets, as well as on the department's website (<http://hunt.alaska.gov>).

The "targeted hunt" was initially established by the Board of Game in March 2011 to address serious nuisance-moose issues in Game Management Subunit 14A (Palmer-Wasilla area). The department has increasingly used this permit hunt to reduce the number of moose-vehicle collisions in that area. The board expanded the hunt to include areas along the road system in Subunit 14B, and, in March 2014, portions of subunits 20A and 20B.

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