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PRESS RELEASE

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MOOSE HUNTING SEASON CLOSURE UNIT 5A WEST OF THE DANGEROUS RIVER

(Juneau) – Alaska Department of Fish and Game and United States Forest Service announce an early closure to the moose hunting season in that portion of Game Management Unit 5(A) west of the Dangerous River, but not including Nunatak Bench. The hunt in this area is managed under joint state and federal registration permit RM061.

Biologists with the Alaska Department of Fish & Game set a harvest objective of 25 bull moose for this area for the 2014 hunting season. As of Sunday evening, October 12, 2014, the harvest had reached 25 bulls; the harvest is expected to exceed the harvest objective. An aerial survey in December 2013 resulted in 12 bulls per 100 cow moose ratio which is below the 25:100 management objective for the Yakutat area. While the December 2013 bull:cow ratio is considered a minimum ratio due to survey timing it is important, if possible, to not exceed the harvest objective of 25 bull moose west of the Dangerous River to ensure adequate bull to cow ratios for this portion of the Yakutat forelands.

Because the harvest objective of 25 bull moose has been reached during the federal subsistence moose season the State of Alaska moose hunting season will not open in 2014 in the area west of the Dangerous River to Yakutat Bay on the Yakutat Forelands. An Emergency Order (01-11-14) has been issued that closes the state moose hunting season in this area on Tuesday, October 14, 2014 @ 11:59 pm. The United States Forest Service will issue a news release closing the federal moose hunting season in this area, effective October 13, 2014 @ 11:59 PM.

Hunters are reminded that the remainder of Game Management Unit 5A east of the Dangerous River will remain open for moose hunting through the 15th of November or until the overall harvest of bull moose on the Yakutat Forelands reaches 55 bulls.

Hunters with questions about moose hunting in Game Management Unit 5A are encouraged to contact Ryan Scott at the Douglas Area Office of ADF&G @ 465-4359, or call the Yakutat ADF&G office @ 784-3255.