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PRESS RELEASE

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

(Juneau) – The Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the 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 and Game set the 2016 harvest objective at 25 bull moose for the portion of the Yakutat Forelands west of the Dangerous River. As of Monday afternoon, October 10, 2016, 18 bulls have been harvested. We believe hunters have taken, but not yet reported, additional moose and expect the harvest will meet or exceed the harvest objective. An aerial survey in December 2015 found 16 bulls : 100 cow moose which is below the Yakutat area management objective of 25 bulls:100 cows. Because the December 2015 survey took place at a time when bulls begin to shed antlers and some bulls may have been misclassified as cows, the bull:cow ratio for that survey is conservative. However, to ensure an adequate number of bulls are available to breed all cows, the growth of this population and future harvest opportunity, we believe it is important to not exceed the harvest objective of 25 bulls.

Because the harvest objective of 25 bull moose is expected to be reached during the federal subsistence moose season the State of Alaska moose hunting season will not open in 2016 in the area west of the Dangerous River to Yakutat Bay on the Yakutat Forelands. An Emergency Order (01-15-16) has been issued closing the state moose hunting season in this area on Friday, October 14, 2016 @ 11:59 pm. The United States Forest Service will issue a news release closing the federal moose hunting season in this area, effective October 11, 2016 @ 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 over 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 Stephanie Sell at the Douglas Area Office of ADF&G @ 465-4266.