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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **State Closes Moose Hunt in Unit 22B West of Darby Mountains**

(Nome) – The Alaska Department of Fish and Game announces an emergency order to close the State resident moose season in hunt area Unit 22(B) West of the Darby Mountains covered under registration permit hunt RM840.

The State resident fall season for bull moose by registration permit Hunt RM840 in Unit 22(B), that portion west of the Darby Mountains closes at 11:59 p.m. on September 7, 2017. *(Note: this area is identified as the Remainder of Unit 22(B) in codified regulations).* Harvest in western Unit 22(B) is expected to reach the fall harvest quota of 23 bulls by the season closing in this announcement and no further harvest is warranted at this time. Hunters should note that seasons and harvest quotas in this hunt area are managed cooperatively with federal managers and a similar season closure for federal permits may be announced by federal managers.

The moose population in western Unit 22(B) has declined by 64% since 1987, and recruitment rates have been below 10% for over 10 years. To help stabilize this population, the Alaska Board of Game established a moose registration permit hunt in western Unit 22(B). The department completed a spring GSPE abundance survey in March 2016 and found an estimate of 728 observable moose (609-847 at 90% C.I.). The department set a regulatory year 2017-2018 fall harvest rate of 3%, which gives a harvest quota of 23 bulls.

The closure in Unit 22(B) West of the Darby Mountains is additive to the RM840 season closures announced for Unit 22(C) and 22(D) Southwest and Kuzitrin drainage. The RM840 moose hunt is closed in all three hunt areas for this regulatory year.

All other moose hunting regulations in Unit 22 remain unchanged by this emergency order.

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