

**PROPOSAL 250**

**5 AAC 85.045(a)(12). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.**

Reauthorize the antlerless moose seasons in Unit 14C.

<b>Seasons and Bag Limits</b>	<b>Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)</b>	<b>Nonresident Open Season</b>
(12)		
...		
Unit 14(C), Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (JBER) Management Area	Sept. 1—Mar 31 (General hunt only)	Sept 1.—Mar 31
1 moose per regulatory year by drawing permit, and by muzzleloading blackpowder rifle or bow and arrow only; up to 185 permits may be issued		
Unit 14(C), that portion known as the Birchwood Management Area	Sept. 1—Sept. 30 (General hunt only)	Sept 1.—Sept. 30
1 moose by drawing permit, by bow and arrow only; up to 25 permits may be issued		
Unit 14(C), that portion known as the Anchorage Management Area	Sept 1.—Nov. 30 (General hunt only)	No open season
1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only, and by bow and arrow, shotgun, or muzzleloading black powder rifle only; up to 50 permits may be issued		
Unit 14(C), that portion of the Ship Creek drainage upstream of the Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (JBER) Management Area		
1 moose by drawing permit only; up to 50 permits may be issued; or	Sept. 1—Sept. 30 (General hunt only)	Sept. 1—Sept. 30

1 bull by registration permit only	Oct. 1—Nov. 30 (General hunt only)	Oct. 1—Nov. 30
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Remainder of Unit 14(C)

1 moose per regulatory year, only as follows:

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1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only; up to 60 permits may be issued; or	Sept. 1—Sept. 30 (General hunt only)	No open season
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1 bull by drawing permit only, by bow and arrow only; up to 10 permits may be issued	Oct. 20—Nov. 15	No open season
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**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Antlerless moose hunts must be reauthorized annually, and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) recommends reauthorizing the antlerless moose hunts in Unit 14C. The harvest of antlerless moose provides the ADF&G with a management tool to maintain the number of moose in Unit 14C at the desired population objective (1,500 moose). This population size has been demonstrated to reduce over-browsing of winter habitat, moose-vehicle collisions, moose-human conflicts in urban areas, and starvation during severe winters. These hunts have also been successful in providing additional moose hunting opportunities in the state’s human population center with little controversy.

Moose in Unit 14C are managed for a population objective of 1,500–1,800 moose and an annual harvest objective of 90–270 moose (5 AAC 92.108). The number of antlerless permits issued depends on the current population estimate and bull:cow ratios, as well as estimated winter mortality. In 2013, the ADF&G estimated that the moose population contained approximately 1,533 moose in Unit 14C from a combination of population census, composition surveys and extrapolation to unsurveyed areas. A 2020 aerial composition count of the JBER management area and the Ship Creek drainage found 242 moose with a bull:cow ratio of 30 bulls per 100 cows and a calf:cow ratio of 25 calves per 100 cows. Compared to the 2013 survey of the same area, where a total of 225 moose were found with bull:cow and calf:cow ratios of 39:100 and 20:100, respectively, very little change has occurred. In addition, harvest numbers have remained relatively steady, indicating that population level has likely not changed dramatically. At this population level, we have received fewer reports of human-moose conflicts and winter mortalities. Harvesting cow moose is paramount to maintaining the population at the low end of the objective while providing harvest opportunity.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F21-026)

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