

PROPOSAL 196

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

Reauthorize the antlerless moose seasons in Unit 14C as follows:

Seasons and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(12)		
...		
Unit 14(C), Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (JBER) Management Area	Sept. 1—Mar 31 (General hunt only)	Sept 1.—Mar 31
1 moose by 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—Mar 31 (General hunt only)	Sept 1.—Mar 31
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	Sept. 1—Sept. 30 (General hunt only)	Sept. 1—Sept. 30

be issued; or

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:

1 bull with spike-fork antlers or 50-inch antlers or antlers with 3 or more brow tines on one side; or	Sept. 1—Sept. 30 (General hunt only)	Sept. 1—Sept. 30
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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 department recommends reauthorizing the antlerless moose hunts in Unit 14C. The harvest of antlerless moose provides the department with a management tool to maintain the number of moose in Unit 14C at the desired population level, which has been demonstrated to reduce over-browsing of winter habitat, moose-vehicle collisions, moose-human conflicts in urban areas, and significant mortality events 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.

The number of antlerless permits issued depends on the current population level and bull:cow ratios, as well as estimated winter mortality. A combined 2021 aerial composition count of the Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (JBER) Management Area and the Ship Creek drainage (the area that provides the most hunting opportunity in Unit 14C) found 301 moose with a bull:cow ratio of 44 bulls per 100 cows and a calf:cow ratio of 20 calves per 100 cows. In 2020, a survey of the same area found a total of 242 moose with bull:cow and calf:cow ratios of 30:100 and 25:100, respectively. Compared to the 2013 survey, which found 225 moose with a bull:cow ratio of 39 bulls per 100 cows and a calf:cow ratio of 20 calves per 100 cows, little change has occurred. In addition, harvest numbers have remained relatively steady, indicating that the population level has likely not changed dramatically. At this population level, we have received fewer reports of human-moose conflicts and of winter mortalities. Harvesting cow moose is paramount to maintaining the population at lower levels while providing harvest opportunity.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F23-036)
