

PROPOSAL 257

5 AAC 85.045(18). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.

Reauthorize the antlerless moose seasons in Unit 20B as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season Subsistence and General Hunts	Nonresident Open Season
(18)		
...		
Unit 20(B), that portion within Creamer's refuge		
...		
1 antlerless moose by bow and arrow only, by drawing permit only; up to 150 bow and arrow permits may be issued in the Fairbanks Management Area; a recipient of a drawing permit is prohibited from taking an antlered bull moose in the Fairbanks Management Area; or	Sept. 1–Nov. 27 (General hunt only)	Sept. 1–Nov. 27
1 antlerless moose by muzzle-loader by drawing permit only; up to 10 permits may be issued; a recipient of a drawing permit is prohibited from taking an antlered bull moose in the Fairbanks Management Area	Dec. 1–Jan. 31 (General hunt only)	No Open Season
Unit 20(B), remainder of the Fairbanks Management Area		
...		

Units and Bag Limits

1 antlerless moose by bow and arrow only, by drawing permit only; up to 150 bow and arrow permits may be issued in the Fairbanks Management Area; a recipient of a drawing permit is prohibited from taking an antlered bull moose in the Fairbanks Management Area; or

**Resident
Open Season
Subsistence and
General Hunts**
Sept. 1–Nov. 27
(General hunt only)

**Nonresident
Open Season**
Sept. 1–Nov. 27

1 moose by targeted permit only; by shotgun or bow and arrow only; up to 100 permits may be issued

Season to be announced by emergency order
(General hunt only)

No open season.

Unit 20(B), that portion within the Minto Flats Management Area

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

...

1 antlerless moose by registration permit only

Oct. 15–Feb. 28
(Subsistence hunt only)

No open season.

...

Unit 20(B), the drainage of the Middle Fork of the Chena River
RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only; up to 300 permits may be issued; a person may not take a cow accompanied by a calf; or

Aug. 15–Nov. 15
(General hunt only)

1 antlerless moose by registration permit only; a person may not take a cow accompanied by a calf; or

Oct. 1–Last day of Feb.
(General hunt only)

...

Units and Bag Limits

Unit 20(B), that portion southeast of the Moose Creek dike within one-half mile of each side of the Richardson highway

**Resident
Open Season
Subsistence and
General Hunts****Nonresident
Open Season****RESIDENT HUNTERS:**

...

1 moose by drawing permit only; by crossbow, bow and arrow, or muzzleloader only; up to 100 permits may be issued; or

Sept. 16–Last day of Feb.
(General hunt only)

1 moose by targeted permit only; by crossbow, shotgun, or bow and arrow only; up to 100 permits may be issued

Season to be announced by emergency order
(General hunt only)

Remainder of Unit 20(B)

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only; by youth hunt only; up to 200 permits may be issued; or

Aug. 5–Aug. 14
(General hunt only)

...

1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only; up to 1,500 permits may be issued in the remainder of Unit 20(B); a person may not take a cow accompanied by a calf; or

Aug. 15–Nov. 15
(General hunt only)

1 antlerless moose by registration permit only; a person may not take a cow accompanied by a calf; or

Oct. 1– Last day of Feb.

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season Subsistence and General Hunts	Nonresident Open Season
1 moose by targeted permit only; by crossbow, shotgun, or bow and arrow only; up to 100 permits may be issued	Season to be announced by emergency order (General hunt only)	

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?

Antlerless moose hunting seasons must be reauthorized annually. The primary goals of the Unit 20B antlerless hunts are to regulate moose population growth and size within the Intensive Management (IM) population objective and at levels that the habitat can support, provide harvest opportunity to help meet IM harvest objectives, provide subsistence hunters with a reasonable opportunity to pursue moose for subsistence uses without reducing bull-to-cow ratios, and reduce moose-vehicle collisions and nuisance moose issues.

The most recent Unit 20B moose population estimate was below the IM population objective and thus there are currently few antlerless hunts offered within the unit. In November 2023, the Unit 20B moose population estimate was 7,848 moose (90% confidence interval 6,613–9,083 moose; 0.7–1.0 moose per square mile), which is below the IM population objective of 12,000–15,000. This estimate was a decrease from the previous survey in fall 2020, when the population estimate was 12,480 moose. The primary cause for the decline was likely the difficult winter of 2021–2022, which was a prolonged winter with deep snow and icing events both of which negatively impacted moose populations throughout the interior. Following the winter of 2021–2022, no antlerless hunts have been offered in Unit 20B except for within the Fairbanks Management Area (FMA) and within the Richardson Highway corridor. The primary purposes of the FMA and Richardson Highway corridor hunts are to reduce vehicle-moose collisions, and for the FMA, to reduce nuisance moose issues.

The only antlerless hunts planned for Unit 20B for regulatory year 2026 are within the FMA and Richardson Highway corridor. Furthermore, targeted hunts for any moose may be used to address public safety or nuisance moose issues. Antlerless hunt plans for regulatory year 2027 and beyond will be based upon the results of the planned unitwide moose population survey in fall 2025 as well as ongoing monitoring of nutritional indices. Recent twinning and browse removal surveys within the Minto Flats Management Area, which is in western Unit 20B, suggest the nutritional condition of the moose in this area has improved and is currently at moderate to high levels. Thus, no additional antlerless hunts beyond the FMA, Richardson Highway corridor, and targeted hunts will be held in the near future unless the unitwide population increases to within the IM population objective, nutritional condition declines, or there is an identified harvest surplus within a portion of the unit due to a rapidly increasing population.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

HQ-F25-039
