

Proposal 183

5 AAC 85.045 (a)(24). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.

Change the resident spring moose season from “to be announced” to April 1–April 14 in Unit 26B excluding the Canning River drainage as follows:

What solution do you recommend? In other words, if the board adopted your solution, what would the new regulation say?

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
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(24)

...

Unit 26(B), excluding the
Canning River drainage

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull by drawing permit
only; up to 30 permits
may be issued

Sept. 1 – Sept. 14

1 bull; [DURING THE PERIOD
FEB. 15–APRIL 15, UP TO A
14 DAY SEASON MAY BE
ANNOUNCED BY EMERGENCY
ORDER]

Apr. 1 – Apr. 14
[(TO BE ANNOUNCED)]

...

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

The moose population has fluctuated between 100 and 600 moose in Unit 26B since the department began implementing regular surveys in 2003. This population has been growing, with the most recent population count at 390 moose in April 2024. When the population surpassed the management objective of 200 moose, harvest was reinstated in regulatory year 2022. Harvest during the spring hunt is rare but can be important for subsistence users. Formalizing this hunt period in regulation alleviates the need to issue an emergency order each year and allows the hunt dates to be printed in the regulation book. If the population drops below 200 moose, an

emergency order would be issued to close the spring hunt and, if necessary, the fall drawing permit hunt would not be held.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F26-027)
