

Proposal 190

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

Reauthorize the antlerless moose seasons in Unit 20A 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
(18)		
Unit 20(A), the Ferry Trail Management Area, Wood River Controlled Use Area, and the Yanert Controlled Use Area		
RESIDENT HUNTERS:		
...		
1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only; up to 2,000 permits may be issued in combination with the Remainder of Unit 20(A); 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.	
...		
1 moose by targeted permit only; by shotgun,	Season to be announced by emergency order	

crossbow, or bow and arrow only; up to 100 permits may be issued

(General hunt only)

...

Remainder of Unit 20(A)

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

...

1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only; up to 2,000 permits may be issued in combination with Unit 20(A), the Ferry Trail Management Area, Wood River Controlled Use Area, and the Yanert Controlled Use Area; 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

Aug. 25–last day of Feb.

...

1 moose by targeted permit only; by shotgun, crossbow, 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 by the Board of Game. The primary goals of the Unit 20A antlerless hunts are to regulate moose population growth and herd size within the intensive management (IM) population objective, at levels that the habitat can support, to provide harvest opportunity to help meet IM harvest objectives, and to provide subsistence hunters with a reasonable opportunity to pursue moose for subsistence uses without reducing bull-to-cow ratios below objectives.

Unit 20A antlerless harvest is determined by a decision matrix that incorporates population status in relation to the IM population objective, nutritional status, and the population trend. The Unit 20A moose population is currently within the IM population objective and nutritional indices suggest the population is at moderate to high nutritional levels, but the population trend is uncertain. In November 2024, the Unit 20A population estimate was 11,696 moose (90% confidence interval 10,155–13,237 moose; 2.0–2.6 moose per square mile), which fell within the IM population objective of 10,000–15,000 moose and was similar to the previous estimated Unit 20A population size from fall 2022. Nutritional status is assessed primarily via twinning rates and short-yearling weights. The 3-year average twinning rate in western Unit 20A was 21%, 16% in central Unit 20A , and 32% in eastern Unit 20A . These twinning rates suggest moderate (10-20% twinning rates) to high (>20% twinning rates) nutritional status. Female short-yearling weights collected during 2023–2024 averaged 398 lbs, which is greater than the 385 lb threshold indicative of high nutrition in the decision matrix. The population trend since the November 2024 population survey is uncertain due primarily to the winter of 2025–2026, which appeared to negatively affect calf survival because of deep snow and persistent extreme cold. Due to this uncertainty in population trend data, no antlerless hunts in Unit 20A will be held in regulatory year 2026. Antlerless hunt plans for regulatory year 2027 will be reassessed following collection of additional data, including a planned population survey in the fall of 2026.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F26-014)
