

Antlerless Moose & Brown Bear Tag Fee

Reauthorizations for Other Regions

Proposal 220

5 AAC 085.045(4). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.

Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in Unit 6(C) as follows:

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

Seasons and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(4)		
...		
Unit 6(C)		
1 moose per regulatory year, only as follows:		
1 moose by drawing permit only; up to 40 permits for bulls and up to 20 permits for antlerless moose may be issued	Sept. 1-Oct. 31 (General hunt only)	No open season.
or		
1 moose by registration permit only;	Nov. 1-Dec. 31	No open season.
...		

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

Antlerless moose hunts must be reauthorized annually by the Board of Game (board). The department recommends reauthorizing the state antlerless hunt in Unit 6C to achieve the harvest objectives when the federal subsistence hunt is not able to achieve the desired level of harvest.

The population objective in Unit 6C is 600–800 moose. A population estimate completed during March 2023 yielded an estimate of 503 moose, 22% of which were calves. Preliminary survey

data from 2026 suggests that the population is back within the population objective. Because the available antlerless harvest quota in Unit 6C is currently harvested under a federal subsistence season administered by the U. S. Forest Service, we have not held the antlerless hunt since RY99.

A registration hunt was approved by the board (RM169) to provide additional hunt opportunity if harvestable surplus existed after federal hunts were administered. Without an antlerless moose hunt, this hunt cannot function as intended when it is needed. Continuation of the antlerless hunts may be necessary to manage population growth and keep it within the limits of what the habitat can support.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F26-005)

Proposal 221

5 AAC 85.045(a)(15). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.

Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in Unit 17A 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
(15)		
Unit 17(A)		
Up to 2 moose per regulatory year only as follows:		
RESIDENT HUNTERS:		
1 moose by registration permit only; or	Aug. 25–Sept. 25 (Subsistence hunt only)	
...		
1 antlerless moose by registration permit only;	Jan. 1–last day of Feb. (Subsistence hunt only)	

....

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

Antlerless moose hunts must be reauthorized annually by the board. The department management goals are to provide for a wide range of public uses and benefits, and to protect the health and habitat of moose populations. Antlerless hunts are important for improving or maintaining the ability of moose habitat to support populations. They also help regulate moose population growth, help to meet intensive management (IM) objectives for high levels of harvest, and provide subsistence hunters with the opportunity to pursue moose for subsistence uses without reducing bull-to-cow ratios. The board adopted an antlerless moose hunt in 2013 after hearing many comments from the public including those from groups such as the Bristol Bay Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Council, the Nushagak and Togiak Fish and Game Advisory Committees, and the Togiak National Wildlife Refuge.

The Unit 17A moose management plan calls for antlerless moose hunting opportunity when the population is above 600 moose and increasing. When the population exceeds 1,200 moose, a bag limit of up to two moose is needed to provide increased opportunity to reduce moose abundance to protect habitat. Based on the most recent survey in March 2026, the population estimate with sightability correction was $1,846 \pm 256$ moose. This is a decline from the previous 2022 estimate of $1,976 \pm 218$, but remains above the population objective. The bag limit of two moose combined with antlerless harvest opportunity provide a mechanism to limit population growth and allow hunters to harvest surplus animals.

The moose population in subunit 17A is over objective and can sustain additional harvest; however, the objectives for this population include allowing it to expand into neighboring areas to provide additional harvest opportunities. This population is currently contributing to the growth of adjacent moose populations, especially to the north and west.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F26-011)

Proposal 222

5 AAC 84.045(a)(12). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.

Reauthorize the antlerless moose draw permits in Units 14A and 14B 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
(12)		
Unit 14(A)		
1 moose per regulatory year, only as follows:		
...		
1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only; up to 2,000 antlerless moose permits may be issued; or	Aug. 20–Sept. 25 (General hunt only) Nov. 1–Dec. 25 (General hunt only)	No open season
...		
1 moose by targeted permit only; by crossbow, shotgun or bow and arrow only; up to 200 permits may be issued	Winter season to be announced (General hunt only)	No open season
Unit 14(B)		
1 moose per regulatory year, only as follows:		
...		
1 moose by targeted permit only; by crossbow, shotgun, or bow and arrow only; up to 100 permits may be issued.	Winter season to be announced (General hunt only)	No open season
....		

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

Antlerless moose hunts must be reauthorized annually by the Board of Game. There are two types of antlerless moose hunts in the Matanuska-Susitna Valley—a drawing permit hunt used to regulate growth of the moose population in Unit 14A, and targeted hunts used to mitigate public safety concerns in Units 14A and 14B.

Antlerless moose hunts have been authorized in Unit 14A since 2001 in order to regulate the growth of the population. The permit level was increased from 450 to 1,000 in 2013 to account for the continued increase in the population and again in spring 2018 from 1,000 to 2,000. Increased harvest based on the increased permit levels has brought the population back to near the population objective for the unit of 6,000–6,500 moose. The department has reduced permit levels significantly as the population has approached the objective and will continue to adjust them as necessary.

Moose surveys conducted in November 2023 yielded an estimate of 6,657 moose in Unit 14A. This estimate was greater than the post-hunt objective of 6,000–6,500 moose and less than the 2020 survey estimate of 7,112 moose. This indicates that antlerless harvests are having the desired effect of reducing the population to near objectives. The sex and age composition demonstrated a bull ratio of 30 bulls:100 cows and a calf ratio of 28 calves:100 cows. The Unit 14A moose twinning rate has been 28% in both 2024 and 2025, the highest since 2017, and has been trending upwards since the low of 15% in 2021; likely indicating population growth.

Moose-human conflicts have declined along with the moose population as it has approached the population objective. The targeted moose hunts in Units 14A and 14B, which are authorized to include an antlerless component, have been a tool to address public safety concerns related to moose-vehicle collisions and nuisance management issues. Moose-vehicle collisions result in property damage and may result in human injury or death. An average of 278 moose per year were killed in the Matanuska-Susitna Valley area during the last five years of average snowfall, which is lower than the previous 5-year average; substantially more moose are killed during higher snowfall years. The department also receives periodic complaints from the public about crop depredation and aggressive behavior that can be mitigated by this hunt opportunity. Antlerless hunts are an important tool to control the moose population’s trajectory and provide additional moose hunting opportunity in the Matanuska-Susitna Valley when appropriate.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F26-008)

Proposal 223

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

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

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

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 be issued; or	Sept. 1—Sept. 30 (General hunt only)	Sept. 1—Sept. 30
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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 objective of 1,500 moose. This population size reduces over-browsing of winter habitat, moose-vehicle collisions, moose-human conflicts in urban areas, and starvation during severe winters. Antlerless hunts also provide additional moose hunting opportunities with minimal controversy among resource users.

Moose in Unit 14C are managed intensively for a population objective of 1,500–1,800 moose and an annual harvest objective of 90–270 moose (5AAC 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 department 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 combined 2024 aerial composition count of the JBER Management Area and the Ship Creek drainage (the area that provides the most hunting opportunity in Unit 14(C)) found 233 moose. A bull:cow ratio of 44 bulls per 100 cows and a calf:cow ratio of 14 calves per 100 cows observed was an increase from 2023 ratios. Overall population estimates, and calf:cow ratios, are still slightly down from before the winter of 2022 when persistent, deep snow likely resulted in additional winter mortality and an increase in the late winter energetic demands on pregnant cows.

Harvest numbers continue to remain relatively steady, and at this population level we have received fewer reports of human-moose conflicts and moose-vehicle collisions. Harvesting cow moose is paramount to maintaining the population at the low end of the objective while still providing harvest opportunity.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F26-007)

Proposal 224

5 AAC 085.045(13). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.

Reauthorize the antlerless moose season on Kalgin Island in Unit 15B 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
(13) hunting seasons and bag limits for moose in Unit 15 are as follows: ...		
Unit 15(B), Kalgin Island 1 moose per regulatory year, by registration permit only ...	Aug. 20—Sept. 25	Aug. 20—Sept. 25

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

Antlerless moose hunts must be reauthorized annually by the Board of Game (board). The current regulation for hunting moose on Kalgin Island in Unit 15B allows hunters to harvest antlerless moose with the goal of reducing the population to the management objective of 20-40 moose.

In 1995, in response to concerns that the moose population on Kalgin Island had exceeded the island's carrying capacity and deteriorating habitat conditions, the board established a drawing permit hunt for antlerless moose. In a further attempt to reduce the number of moose on the island, the board established a registration hunt for any moose in 1999. Despite these measures to reduce moose numbers, moose remain abundant on the island and continue to meet or exceed the management objective. Antlerless hunts, such as RM572, provide potential opportunities for hunter harvest and improved food security while maintaining healthy moose herds and habitat.

During the most recent moose survey in November 2025, department staff counted 136 moose on Kalgin Island. In the last 5 years, the department issued an average of 107 permits for this hunt, of which 74 permittees hunted, yielding an average annual harvest of 23 moose. Tracking harvest over time provides an indicator of hunter effort and success rates; success rates on the island have remained high with a 5-year average of 31%.

The any moose registration hunt is recommended to reduce moose numbers on this predator-free island population. A registration hunt also allows the department to continue gathering biological information from specimens provided by successful hunters. The difficult hunting conditions and limited access will make overharvest unlikely.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F26-009)

Proposal 225

5 AAC 85.045(13). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.

Reauthorize the antlerless moose seasons in Unit 15C as follows:

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

This proposal would reauthorize the antlerless moose hunt for the 15C Antlerless (DM549) and the targeted hunt (AM550).

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

(13) hunting seasons and bag limits for moose in Unit 15 are as follows:

...

Unit 15(C), that portion from the mouth of Deep Creek easterly along the south bank of Deep Creek to N 59° 55.183', W 151° 8.155'; then southeasterly in a straight line to the unnamed creek at N 59° 54.342', W 151° 6.459'; and easterly down the south bank of this stream to Caribou Lake and easterly along the south shore to the outlet of Fox Creek, then south along the west bank of Fox Creek to the mouth of Fox Creek, and along the mean high tide line to the point of origin

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

...

1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only; the taking of calves, and females accompanied by calves, is prohibited; up to 100 permits may be issued in combination with the nonresident drawing hunt: or

Oct. 20—Nov. 20

...

1 moose by targeted permit only[,] Oct. 15—Mar. 31

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

...

1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only; the taking of calves, and females accompanied by calves, is prohibited; up to 100 permits may be issued in combination with the resident drawing hunt Oct. 20—Nov. 20

Remainder of Unit 15(C)

...

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

...

1 moose by targeted permit only Oct. 15—Mar. 31

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

Antlerless moose seasons must be reauthorized annually by the Board of Game. The department recommends reauthorization of the 15C antlerless hunt (DM549) and the targeted hunt (AM550) along the Sterling Highway in Unit 15C for the 2027-28 hunting season.

In February 2023, a geospatial population estimator (GSPE) census was conducted in the northern portion of Unit 15C (north of Kachemak Bay) and resulted in an initial population estimate of 5,162 moose (95% CI: 3,934–6390), of which 22% (95% CI: 15–28) were calves. This equates to a density of approximately 4.4 moose/mi² in the census area and indicates the population has continued to grow since 2010. However, the spatial distribution of moose during winter is heavily skewed away from elevations > 1000 feet in Unit 15C. This creates high variance of moose abundance in grid cells and removal of a single high density grid cell from the GSPE census reduces the population estimate to 4,486 moose (95% CI: range 3,581–5391), of which 22% (95% CI: 14–28) were calves. Despite this variability in moose distribution influencing precision of GSPE censuses, the population appears to be at or above the upper end of the intensive management population objective of 3,500 moose. Fall composition counts in

core count areas during November 2025 provided a bull ratio of 28 bulls:100 cows. Antlerless hunts, such as DM549 and AM550, provide potential opportunities for hunter harvest and improved food security while maintaining healthy moose herds and habitat.

The lowlands in Unit 15C, south of Deep Creek and Caribou Lake, which encompass the hunt boundary of DM549, contain high densities of moose when deep snow drives moose to lower elevations. The human population continues to grow in this area and, according to U.S. Census Bureau statistics, has doubled in size since the 1980s. Negative interactions with humans can occur as moose become more aggressive in their search for food around human residences in years of low food abundance. In 2023, the hunt area was expanded to reduce hunter conflicts with private property owners. Fifty to 65 permits were issued in each of the last 10 years resulting in an average harvest of 26 cows annually.

The purpose of AM550 is to allow for the harvest of antlerless moose along the Sterling Highway in Unit 15C during deep snow winters to reduce moose and vehicle collisions. On average, 65 known animals are killed each year in vehicle collisions in Unit 15C. The department will decide when and where permits will be issued during the hunt period. Targeted hunts are administered through a registration permit and up to 100 moose may be taken. The number of permits issued each year depends on existing conditions, and it is possible no permits will be issued in some years.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F26-010)

Proposal 226

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

Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in the Twentymile/Portage/Placer hunt area in Units 7 and 14(C) as follows:

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

Seasons and Bag Limits	Resident	Nonresident
	Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Open Season
(5)		
...		
Unit 7, the Placer River drainages, and that por- tion of the Placer Creek (Bear Valley) drainage		

outside the Portage
Glacier Closed Area, and
that portion of Unit 14(C)
within the Twentymile
River drainage

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 moose by drawing permit only; up to 60 permits for bulls will be issued in combination with nonresident hunts, and up to 70 permits for antlerless moose will be issued	Aug. 20—Oct. 10 (General hunt only)
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NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull by drawing permit only; up to 60 permits for bulls will be issued in combination with resident hunts	Aug. 20—Oct. 10
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...

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

Antlerless moose seasons must be reauthorized annually, and the department recommends reauthorizing the antlerless hunt in Units 7 and 14C. The moose population in the Twentymile/Portage/Placer area has a history of rapid increase following mild winters and sharp reductions during severe winters. In 2009, antlerless permits were issued for the first time since 2004. The number of permits issued depends on the current population estimate and bull:cow ratios, as well as estimated winter mortality. A November 2024 aerial composition count of moose in the Twentymile, Portage, and Placer River drainages found 203 moose with a bull:cow ratio of 33 bulls per 100 cows and a calf:cow ratio of 23 calves per 100 cows. This is the highest overall count in the Twentymile survey area since 2003 with an increase in the bull:cow ratio and an average calf:cow ratio.

The harvest of antlerless moose provides the department with a management tool to maintain the number of moose in the Twentymile/Portage/Placer area at a population level low enough to reduce over-browsing of winter habitat, moose-vehicle collisions, and starvation during severe winters. This allows for a healthier and more productive moose population due to decreased stress levels associated with winter food shortages. This hunt has been successful in creating additional moose hunting opportunity with little or no controversy.

Proposal 227

5 AAC 92.015. Brown bear tag fee exemptions.

Reauthorize the brown bear tag fee exemptions for the Central/Southwest Region as follows:

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

5AAC 92.015. Brown bear tag fee exemption

(a) A resident tag is not required for taking a brown bear in the following units:

(1) Unit 11;

(2) Units 13 and 16(A);

(3) Unit 16(B) and 17;

...

(11) Unit 9, within the following areas, unless a smaller area is defined by the department in an applicable permit:

(A) Unit 9(B), within five miles of the communities of Port Alsworth, Nondalton, Iliamna, Newhalen, Pile Bay, Pedro Bay, Pope Vanoy Landing, Kakhonak, Igiugig, and Levelock;

(B) Unit 9(C), within five miles of the communities of King Salmon, Naknek, and South Naknek;

(C) Unit 9(D), within five miles of the communities of Cold Bay, King Cove, Sand Point, and Nelson Lagoon;

(D) Unit 9(E), within five miles of the communities of Egegik, Pilot Point, Ugashik, Port Heiden, Port Moller, Chignik Lake, Chignik Lagoon, Chignik Bay, Perryville, and Ivanof Bay;

(12) Unit 10, within three miles of the community of False Pass, unless a smaller area is defined by the department in an applicable permit.

(b) In addition to the units as specified in (a) of this section, if a hunter obtains a subsistence registration permit before hunting, that hunter is not required to obtain a resident tag to take a brown bear in the following units:

(1) Unit 9(B);

(2) Unit 9(E), that portion including all drainages that drain into the Pacific Ocean between Cape Kumliun and the border of Unit 9(D) and Unit 9(E);

(3) Unit 17;

...

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

Brown bear tag fee exemptions must be reauthorized annually, or the fee will be automatically reinstated.

General Season Hunts: The board liberalized brown bear hunting regulations including the tag fee exemption to increase the harvest of brown bears in Units 11, 13, and 16 during the March 2003 Board of Game meeting and in Unit 17 during the March 2011 Board of Game meeting. The tag fee exemption in these units provides greater opportunity to harvest brown bears by allowing opportunistic harvest.

In March 2011 the board also exempted brown bear tag fees for bear hunts near communities in Unit 9 to address public safety concerns in communities. Brown bears are abundant in Unit 9 and are managed primarily as a trophy species. Brown bears are frequently observed in communities where they destroy property in search of food or garbage and occasionally kill pets. The bear seasons and bag limits adopted along with the elimination of the tag fee were intended to allow people to take bears before they destroy property, to promote a greater acceptance of the unit's bear population, and to resolve some of the compliance issues associated with the take of bears in defense of life or property.

Subsistence Brown Bear Hunts: The board waived the brown bear tag fee requirement for subsistence brown bear hunts in Unit 17 and portions of Unit 9. Subsistence brown bear harvest rates are low and well within sustainable limits. Exempting the resident tag fee has not caused an increase in subsistence harvest in these units. Continuation of the exemption accommodates cultural and traditional uses of brown bears in these units and provides an alternative for hunters who take brown bears primarily for their meat.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F26-021)
