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PRESS RELEASE

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Emergency Order Closes Bull Harvest in Afognak Island Registration Elk Hunt; Cows Remain Legal Game

(Kodiak) – Hunting for bull elk is closed by emergency order in all portions of Afognak, Kodiak, and adjacent islands that encompass registration permit hunt area RE755. Hunters participating in RE755 may harvest cow elk only.

Back-to-back deep-snow winters in 2010-2011 and 2011-2012 have reduced Afognak Island elk numbers and the population has not yet fully recovered. An extensive road system built to accommodate expanded logging has increased hunter accessibility and raised the vulnerability of bulls. Limiting the harvest to cows is expected to boost Afognak's bull-to-cow ratio while still allowing an elk harvest. Cow elk harvests will be closely monitored to ensure overharvest does not occur and that population objectives are maintained.

Because the revised elk season is restricted to cow elk, successful hunters are reminded they must retain evidence of the elk's sex naturally attached to the meat until it is taken out of the field and butchered or processed for storage.

Hunting for cow elk on Afognak, Kodiak and surrounding islands will open on Thursday, October 23, 2014 to hunters with registration permits for RE755. Elk hunting on Raspberry Island is restricted to hunters with drawing permits. Detailed maps are available at the ADF&G office in Kodiak.

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