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PRESS RELEASE

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State Extends Winter Registration Moose Hunt in Unit 22A Central

(Nome) – The Alaska Department of Fish and Game announces an emergency order to extend the State resident winter season for antlered bull moose by registration permit hunt RM844 in Unit 22(A) Central until January 31, 2018. An extension of the winter season will allow additional opportunity to reach the surplus winter harvest quota of 7 antlered bulls.

The area included in the extended winter season for hunt RM844 includes Unit 22(A) Central, that portion in the Unalakleet River drainage and all drainages flowing into Norton Sound north of the Golsovia River drainage and south of the Tagoomenik and Shaktoolik River drainages.

Moose seasons in the central portion of Unit 22(A) were closed in 2005 because of a declining trend in the area's moose populations since 1989. A spring moose abundance survey completed in March 2008 estimated 339 observable moose in the area, and in 2008 the Alaska Board of Game adopted a registration moose hunt regulation with harvest quotas to prevent over harvest. The 2017 spring moose abundance survey estimated 840 observable moose. The estimate suggests a 9% annual rate of increase between 2012 and 2017.

The department set a harvest quota of 34 antlered bull moose in this portion of Unit 22(A) for regulatory year 2017-2018. The reported fall harvest from state and federal hunts is 27 antlered bulls, which left a surplus of 7 antlered bulls available for the winter hunt. Due to local harvest needs the winter season is being extended until January 31, 2018 to allow additional opportunity to reach the surplus winter harvest quota of 7 antlered bulls.

All other moose hunting regulations in Unit 22 remain unchanged and are not affected by this emergency order.

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