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## **Advisory Announcement**

*For Immediate Release: September 9, 2023*

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### **State Closes Moose Hunt RM840 in Unit 22(B) West of the Darby Mountains**

(Nome) – The Alaska Department of Fish and Game announces an emergency order to close the State resident moose hunt by registration permit RM840 in the Unit 22(B) West of the Darby Mountains hunt area.

The State resident fall hunting season for bull moose by registration permit RM840 in Unit 22(B), that portion west of the Darby Mountains closes at 11:59 p.m. on September 9, 2023. Hunters should note that a season closure for federal public lands may be announced by federal managers.

The Alaska Board of Game established a moose registration permit hunt in Unit 22(B) West which is administered with a quota to prevent overharvest. To provide both fall and winter moose hunting opportunities in Unit 22(B) West of the Darby Mountains fall and winter registration permit hunts with separate harvest quotas are administered annually. The allocation of the harvestable surplus between the fall and winter hunting seasons follows recommendations provided by representatives of the Northern Norton Sound Advisory Committee.

The moose population in the combined Unit 22(C) and Unit 22(B) survey area increased at a rate of 5% annually between 2016 and 2022. The department set an annual harvest quota for Unit 22(B) of 40 bulls for regulatory year 2023-2024 based on the results of the 2022 spring abundance survey. The Department plans to administer registration permit hunt RM843 beginning January 1, 2024 with a quota that will be dependent on the harvest during the fall RM840 season. The total reported harvest during the fall RM840 moose hunt is 22 bulls as of September 9, 2023. The total reported moose harvest is expected to meet the fall harvest quota of 26 bulls by the season closing date announced in this emergency order and no further harvest is warranted. Harvest in excess of what has been allocated to the fall season would detract from the opportunity provided during the winter hunt.

The closure in Unit 22(B) West of the Darby Mountains is additive to the RM840 season closures previously announced for Unit 22(C), Unit 22(D) Remainder, Unit 22(D) in the Kuzitrin River drainage, and Unit 22(D) Southwest.

All other moose hunting regulations in Unit 22 remain unchanged by this emergency order.

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