

PROPOSAL 58

5 AAC 85.045(a)(11). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.

Reauthorize the antlerless moose seasons in Unit 13 as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(11)		
Unit 13		
1 moose per regulatory year, only as follows:		
RESIDENT HUNTERS:		
...		
1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only in Unit 13(A); up to 200 permits may be issued; a person may not take a calf or a cow accompanied by a calf	Oct. 1–Oct. 31 Mar. 1–Mar. 31 (General 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 of Game (board). The current regulation allows hunters to take a limited number of cows in specific areas to keep the population within objectives.

This Unit 13 antlerless hunt was initially adopted in March 2011, and the first Unit 13 antlerless hunt under this regulation took place in September 2012. The hunt was modified when the board adopted an October and March season during the February 2013 board meeting.

Since the establishment of this hunt, the Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) has issued 10 permits annually in Unit 13A. ADF&G intentionally limited the number of permits issued annually to gain public support for the hunt, even though a higher rate of cow harvest was desirable to regulate the moose population within objectives. After considering a proposal during the 2015 Board of Game meeting, which was submitted by the public to increase the number of cow permits issued annually, the board directed ADF&G to issue a sufficient number of permits to allow the harvest of up to one percent of the cow population when the moose population is above the midpoint of the population objective for the subunit.

Moose have generally increased at an average rate of 2% per year in the intensive wolf management area over the past 10 years. The current population objective for Unit 13A is 3,500–4,200, and the population was estimated to be above objectives in 2015–2016 and within objectives

in 2017. The antlerless hunt in western Unit 13A is necessary to maintain the population within the intensive management objectives. The additional harvest provided by the hunt will also assist in achieving the harvest objectives for the population. If antlerless moose hunting opportunities are not reauthorized in Unit 13, the intensive management program and objectives will likely need to be restructured to maintain the moose population within a population size range that does not result in nutritional limitations for the moose and achieves the harvest objectives recommended by the public, advisory committees, and the board.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F20-41)
