

PROPOSAL 226

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

Open resident bull permit hunts in Unit 14A as follows:

One antlered bull by permit with season dates of August 25 - September 25 - with up to 10 permits issued for each of the following antlerless moose permit hunt areas /options: DM 400, DM401, DM402, DM403, DM406, DM407, DM408, DM410, YM412.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Amend the Game Management Unit 14A moose hunt to provide an option for resident hunters to harvest one antlered bull by permit with areas and season matching current antlerless moose hunts DM400, DM401, DM402, DM403, DM406, DM407, DM408, DM410, YM412. Up to ten antler bull moose permits may be issued per drawing hunt area for a total of up to 90 bull moose permits to be issued per year in Unit 14A.

Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) data available when this proposal was written showed the Unit 14A moose population above both the populations objective and the bull to cow ratio objective. According to the area game management biologist, the trends with harvestable surplus moose and harvestable surplus bull moose have occurred during each of the last three moose census/surveys for Unit 14A. In consultation with the ADF&G area management biologist, issuing up to ten permits for any antlered bull moose for the nine areas/hunts identified above would spread any additional hunting effort and harvest throughout Unit 14A. Issuing a total of up to 90 antlered bull moose permits should maintain the Unit 14A bull to cow moose ratio at or above objective level, while providing additional Unit 14A moose harvest opportunity. If population trends change, the ADF&G would have the ability to adjust permit levels on an annual basis, and the Board of Game could also adopt additional changes at future Board of Game meetings.

Unit 14A is a popular moose hunting area with high hunter interest for hunts that increase the chance of harvesting a moose and make it easier to clearly identify a legal moose. Additional ADF&G revenue for management could likely be generated through permit fees. There are currently enough harvestable surplus bull moose to provide this hunt option.

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