

# Anchorage Area – Unit 14C

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**PROPOSAL 148 - 5 AAC 85.045(12). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.**  
 Reauthorize the antlerless moose seasons in Unit 14C as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(12)		
... Unit 14(C), Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (JBER) Management Area  1 moose by regulatory year by drawing permit, and by muzzleloading blackpowder rifle or bow and arrow only; up to 185 permits may be issued	Day after Labor Day —Mar 31 (General hunt only)	Day after Labor Day —Mar 31
Unit 14(C), that portion known as the Birchwood Management Area  1 moose by drawing permit, by bow and arrow only; up to 25 permits may be issued	Day after Labor Day —Sept. 30 (General hunt only)	Day after Labor Day —Sept. 30
Unit 14(C), that portion known as the Anchorage Management Area  1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only, and by bow and arrow, shotgun, or muzzleloader only; up to 50 permits may be issued	Day after Labor Day —Nov. 30 (General hunt only)	No open season
Unit 14(C), that portion of the Ship Creek drainage upstream of the Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (JBER) Management Area		

1 moose by drawing permit only; up to 50 permits may be issued; or	Day after Labor Day —Sept. 30 (General hunt only)	Day after Labor Day —Sept. 30
1 bull by registration permit only	Oct. 1—Nov. 30 (General hunt only)	Oct. 1—Nov. 30
...		
Remainder of Unit 14(C)		
1 moose per regulatory year, only as follows:		
1 bull with spike-fork antlers or 50-inch antlers or antlers with 3 or more brow tines on one side; or	Day after Labor Day —Sept. 30 (General hunt only)	Day after Labor Day —Sept. 30
1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only; up to 60 permits may be issued; or	Day after Labor Day —Sept. 30 (General hunt only)	No open season
1 bull by drawing permit only, by bow and arrow only; up to 10 permits may be issued	Oct. 20—Nov. 15	No open season

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**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The harvest of antlerless moose provides ADF&G with a management tool to maintain the number of moose in Unit 14C at the low end of the population objective (1,500 moose). At this population level there will be reductions in over-browsing of winter habitat, moose-vehicle collisions, moose-human conflicts in urban areas, and starvation during severe winters. In addition, the moose population will be healthier and more productive due to decreased stress levels associated with winter food shortages.

Moose in Unit 14C are managed intensively for a population objective of 1,500-1,800 moose and an annual harvest objective of 90-270 moose. In 2013, we estimated a moose population of approximately 1,533 moose. At this population level, we have experienced a dramatic decline in human-moose conflicts and decreased winter mortalities. Harvesting cow moose is paramount to maintaining the population at the low end of the objective while providing adequate harvest opportunity.

Antlerless moose hunts must be reauthorized annually. During summer, an estimated 200-300 moose inhabit the Anchorage metropolitan area. This number can increase up to 700-1,000 moose during the winter, when moose move into the metropolitan area from the surrounding mountain valleys. As a result, high moose densities cause severe over-browsing in some areas and lead to an increased incidence of moose-vehicle collisions and conflicts with humans. The number of antlerless permits we issue depends on the current population estimate and bull:cow ratios, as well as estimated winter mortality (Table 1).

Table 1.

<b>Regulatory Year</b>	<b>Either Sex Permits</b>	<b>Antlerless Permits</b>	<b>Cows Harvested</b>
2003	55	60	32
2004	57	80	20
2005	100	46	33
2006	110	46	33
2007	110	40	37
2008	110	35	36
2009	110	25	29
2010	110	23	31
2011	67	23	25
2012	58	23	18
2013	58	23	25

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (EG-C14-339)  
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**PROPOSAL 149 - 5 AAC 085.045(12). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.**  
 Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in the Twentymile/Portage/Placer hunt area in Units 7 and 14C as follows:

<b>Units and Bag Limits</b> (5)	<b>Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)</b>	<b>Nonresident Open Season</b>
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 Unit 7, the Placer River drainages, and that portion of the Placer Creek (Bear Valley) drainage outside the Portage Glacier Closed Area, and that portion of Unit 14(C) within the Twentymile River drainage

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 moose by drawing permit only; up to 60 permits for bulls will be issued in combination with nonresident hunts, and up to 70 permits for antlerless moose will be issued

Aug. 20—Oct. 10  
(General hunt only)

**NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:**

1 bull by drawing permit only; up to 60 permits for bulls will be issued in combination with resident hunts

Aug. 20—Oct. 10

...

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Antlerless moose seasons must be reauthorized annually. A November 2013 aerial composition count of moose in the Twentymile, Portage, and Placer river drainages found 155 moose with a bull:cow ratio of 23 bulls per 100 cows and a calf:cow ratio of 27 calves per 100 cows. This population has a history of rapid increase following mild winters; consequently, in 2009, antlerless permits were issued for the first time since 2004. Thirty antlerless permits were issued for 2009, 2010, and 2011, and twenty antlerless permits were issued for 2012 and 2013. Harvests for 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, and 2013 were 25 bulls and 17 cows, 15 bulls and 15 cows, 19 bulls and 8 cows, 12 bulls and 7 cows, and 10 bulls and 7 cows respectively.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (EG-C14-340)  
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**PROPOSAL 150 - 5 AAC 85.045 Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.** Establish an antlerless moose drawing permit hunt for physically disabled residents in Kincaid Park, Unit 14C as follows:

The solution is an annual drawing hunt for up to ten antlerless moose during the month of October (lowest amount of park use). Eligible hunters will be those with a physical disability of 70% or greater as noted under AS 16.05.940(25), and require a wheelchair or other mobility device, who have taken a valid hunter's education course and passed a hunt orientation and marksmanship test provided by ADF&G. The intent of this hunt is to aid in increasing public safety among recreational users and to give mobility impaired individuals an option to participate in the Alaskan tradition of hunting. Legal means will be a shotgun or muzzleloading firearm. The entire moose will be removed from the kill site. The disabled hunter will be allowed to shoot from the trail from a motorized vehicle. ADF&G may require that another licensed hunter with valid hunter's education accompany the permitted hunter. A safety orange vest provided by ADF&G will be worn at all times by all hunt participants.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** With increased facility development and corresponding increased year-round use of Kincaid Park in west Anchorage, there has been a significant increase of negative human-moose interactions in the park. Many of these conflicts have ended with human injuries and property damage as a result. Youth ski and bicycle groups have been charged and attacked recently. This is causing a public safety concern for the many recreational users of the park. ADF&G has the ability to issue more antlerless moose permits in the Anchorage management unit.

**PROPOSED BY:** Ira Edwards (EG-C14-291)

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**PROPOSAL 151 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep.** Change the any sheep bag limit for Unit 14C to any ram, for draw hunts DS140, DS141, DS240 and DS241 as follows:

Change the current language to read: A legal ram is, any ram.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Change the current any sheep bag limit rule for Unit 14C to any ram, on draw hunts DS140, DS141, DS240 and DS241. The Anchorage Advisory Committee is opposed to the taking of ewes. With the current ongoing declining sheep population, we need every lamb-producing ewe to stay on the mountain

**PROPOSED BY:** Anchorage Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-C14-316)

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**PROPOSAL 152 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep.** Establish a resident only sheep hunt area in Chugach State Park, Unit 14C as follows:

Unit 14C: Resident only sheep hunting, with the exception of one Governor's tag hunt.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Establish a resident only sheep hunt area in Chugach State Park, Unit 14C, with the exception of one Governor's tag hunt. This area is one of the few in the state that residents have easy and affordable access to hunt Dall sheep. I would like to see the Board of Game set aside an area for residents only to hunt Dall sheep. With Unit 14C falling within the boundaries of Chugach State Park lands, it is a logical choice.

**PROPOSED BY:** Frank Neumann (EG-C14-315)

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**PROPOSAL 153 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep.** Limit the number of next of kin nonresident sheep tags in Unit 14C as follows:

The allocation of one nonresident rifle sheep tag and one nonresident archery sheep tag to next of kin. These hunts would have a separate DS permit numbers and would rotate between the rifle and archery sheep hunts within Unit 14C.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The increase in the percentage of nonresident sheep permits that are being drawn by next of kin nonresidents within the drawing areas. The increase in the Alaskan population has put a much larger number of next of kin nonresidents drawing sheep permits over the guided nonresident sheep hunters.

**PROPOSED BY:** Lance Kronberger (EG-C14-222)  
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**PROPOSAL 154 - 5 AAC 85.040. Hunting seasons and bag limits for goat.** Increase the number of nonresident goat drawing permits in Unit 14C as follows:

I propose one additional guided nonresident drawing permit in the following Unit 14C drawing goat hunt permit areas: DG852, DG854, and DG858. These hunts would have a separate DG number and would only be eligible to hunters who are guided by a licensed guide for Unit 14C.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The hunter participation and success in Unit 14C drawing goat hunts is low. These hunts are very physical and the country that the goats live in is very inaccessible to the average permit holder.

**PROPOSED BY:** Lance Kronberger (EG-C14-224)  
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**PROPOSAL 155 - 5 AAC 85.015. Hunting seasons and bag limits for black bear.** Add a drawing permit hunt for black bears within the JBER Management Area in Unit 14C as follows:

<b>Units and Bag Limits</b>	<b>Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)</b>	<b>Nonresident Open Season</b>
(3) ...		
<b><u>Unit 14(C), JBER Management Area</u></b>		
<b><u>1 bear every regulatory year, by drawing permit only; by shotgun only; up to 25 permits may be issued</u></b>	<b><u>April 15-June 15 (General hunt only)</u></b>	<b><u>April 15 – June 15</u></b>
Unit 14(C), <b><u>remainder</u></b>	No closed season	No closed season
1 bear ...		

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The majority of Unit 14C is open to black bear hunting, either by harvest ticket or by registration permit, with a bag limit of one bear per year. Black bear hunting in Chugach State Park is restricted to the day after Labor Day to June 15 to avoid potential conflicts with other park users, while the Remainder of Unit 14C has no closed season. Areas closed to bear hunting include the densely populated areas of the Anchorage Bowl and Eagle River. While the Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson (JBER) Management Area is open to big game hunting by permit only, no bear hunting has been permitted on the military lands to date. Since hunting is prohibited in city parks by municipal regulation, the remaining large portion of bear habitat that is currently not being utilized for hunting opportunity is located on JBER. We propose to create a shotgun only drawing permit hunt for black bears in the JBER Management Area of Unit 14C.

Black bear hunting is a popular activity within Unit 14C, and black bear harvest has increased in the last 20 years. Total annual mortality, including hunter harvest, as well as defense of life and property and road kills, averaged 70 bears per year from 2008 to 2012. In 2013 overall mortality of black bears declined to 36 bears, which included six road kills, five defense of life and property kills, and 25 harvested bears.

Overall in Unit 14C, the percent of females in the harvest has shown an increasing trend since 1994. In the last three years, the percentage of females in the harvest was 41% in both 2011 and 2012 and 52% in 2013. Regardless of the somewhat high take of female bears recently in Unit 14C, we do not believe that creating a drawing permit hunt on JBER will have a dramatic impact on overall bear harvest or contribute to a population decline in black bears in Unit 14C. It is probable that any harvest on JBER will be compensatory to current mortality, as bears on JBER also use areas of Unit 14C that are currently open to bear hunting. The intent of this proposal is to create a hunting opportunity where there is currently none. In addition, harvesting a limited number of black bears on JBER may address some human-bear conflicts on base and in adjacent Anchorage and Eagle River/Chugiak neighborhoods.

The management of this hunt will be a joint effort between ADF&G and JBER Natural Resources personnel and operated using the same process for base moose hunters. In addition to Basic Hunter Education certification, hunters will be required to attend an orientation, pass a proficiency test with the weapon with which they intend to hunt, and check in and out daily using the base recreational access system.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (EG-C14-332)

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