

**PROPOSAL 62**

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

Establish an antlerless moose season in Unit 13E as follows:

**5AAC 85.045(a)(11)**

**Units and Bag Limits**

(11)

Unit 13

1 moose per regulatory year,  
only as follows:

...

**1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only in Unit 13(E); up to 200 permits may be issued; a person may not take a cow accompanied by a calf**

...

**Resident Open Season  
(Subsistence and  
General Season)**

**Nonresident Open Season**

**Oct. 1–Oct. 31  
(General hunt only)**

**No open season**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** An Intensive Management plan for moose in Unit 13 is in effect, and antlerless moose hunts are a management tool that provides additional harvest opportunity when moose populations rise above objectives, and also gives the Department of Fish and Game the ability to maintain moose abundance within population objectives.

There has been an antlerless hunt in Unit 13A since 2012, but currently there are no other antlerless hunts in Unit 13.

Moose abundance in Unit 13E has increased from an index of less than 4,000 moose in 2000 to 6,400 moose in 2018 and 2019. The current population objective for Unit 13E is an index of 5,000–6,000 moose. The harvest objective for Unit 13E is 300–600 moose. Moose harvest over the past five years averages 200 moose annually, which represents the highest harvest numbers since 1998. Recent composition surveys indicate that the bull-to-cow ratio is approximately 25 bulls per 100 cows, which is the management objective for Unit 13E, indicating that there are not additional bulls available for harvest under the current Intensive Management program. An antlerless hunt in Unit 13E will allow the department to maintain the moose population within abundance objectives and composition objectives while providing additional harvest opportunity.

If antlerless moose hunting opportunities are not available for Unit 13E, the intensive management program and objectives will 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 the harvest objectives recommended by the public, advisory committees, and the board will need to be reevaluated.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F20-039)

\*\*\*\*\*