



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
 Bureau of Land Management
 National Park Service
 Bureau of Indian Affairs

Federal Subsistence Board

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Forest Service

Seasons and Harvests Limits Announced for Federal Subsistence Moose Hunts in Portions of Unit 12

EMERGENCY SPECIAL ACTION

Under Authority of: 36 CFR 242.10 and .19
 50 CFR 100.10 and .19

Emergency Special Action No: 12-MO-01-20 Issued at: Copper Center, Alaska, August 10, 2020

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Thursday, August 20, 2020
 Expiration Date 11:59 p.m. Sunday, September 20, 2020 unless superseded by subsequent special action

EXPLANATION: This Emergency Special Action announces the following changes to federal subsistence regulations for the harvest of moose in portions of Unit 12:

- Establish a hunt area of Unit 12, that portion within the Nabesna River drainage west of the east bank of the Nabesna River upstream from the southern boundary of Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge with a season of Aug. 20 – Sept. 20 and a harvest limit of one antlered bull by joint Federal/State registration permit.
- Announce a season between Aug. 24 and Aug. 28 with a harvest limit of one bull in Unit 12, remainder.
- Announce a season between Sept. 8 and Sept. 20 with a harvest limit of one bull in Unit 12, remainder.

The purpose of these changes is to implement regulatory changes made by the Federal Subsistence Board at its April 2020 meeting that have not yet been published in the codified regulations for the fall 2020 hunting season.

REGULATION: 36 CFR §242.26 and 50 CFR §100.26 are temporarily modified to read:

Unit 12—Moose

Unit 12, that portion within the Nabesna River drainage west of the east bank of the Nabesna River upstream from the southern boundary of Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge—1 antlered bull by joint Federal/State registration permit only	Aug. 20-Sep. 20
Unit 12, remainder – one bull	Aug. 24-Aug. 28 Sept. 8-Sept. 20

JUSTIFICATION:

These changes to seasons, harvest limits, and hunt area descriptions for moose in portions of Unit 12 were reviewed and approved by the Federal Subsistence Board as Wildlife Proposal 20-50 at its April 2020 meeting. There has been a delay in publication of these regulatory changes in the *Federal Register*, and a temporary Delegation of Authority Letter was issued to the Superintendent of Wrangell-St. Elis National Park and Preserve to implement the changes prior to publication in the *Federal Register*. The Board’s justification in adopting WP20-50 was as follows:

Creating a separate hunt area in the Unit 12 for RM291 permit hunt ... will reduce the complexity of the regulations by aligning the State and Federal hunt area descriptions for the RM291 permit. Harvest reporting in Unit 12 remainder would be accomplished using the State harvest ticket, the same reporting mechanism used by those hunting under State regulations in the area....

The BLM lands in Unit 12 remainder only recently became unencumbered and thus moose season has long been that which exists in State regulation, not the longer Federal season that applies elsewhere in the unit. According to the Eastern Interior [Regional Advisory Council (RAC)] Chair, local people have testified in support of maintaining the previous State season for various reasons including, one, reducing the complexity of State and Federal regulation, 2, reducing user conflicts and competition, especially over the Labor Day weekend, and, 3, reducing the effect of competition for this moose population on the residents of the Tetlin Indian Reservation, which is managed under State regulations immediately adjacent to Federal public lands in Unit 12 remainder. Federal public lands in Unit 12 remainder are considered remote and difficult to access but people from other adjoining units are anticipated to increase competition if the longer season is maintained. To provide a meaningful Federal priority, the Eastern Interior RAC recommendation extends the Federal season three days longer than the State season from September 17th through September 20th. The Eastern Interior RAC indicated that having the priority at the end of the season is meaningful because it is typically cooler making it easier to prevent meat spoilage. And, finally, changing the harvest limit in Unit 12 remainder from one antler[ed] bull to one bull will align with the State and Federal harvest limits in a portion of Unit 12 remainder, again, reducing regulatory complexity.

(Excerpt from Federal Subsistence Board meeting transcript for April 23, 2020, p. 631.)

National Park Service staff consulted with the Chair of the Eastern Interior RAC, the Chair of the Southcentral RAC, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G), and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) prior to issuing this Emergency Special Action.

Federal Subsistence Board by delegation to:

**BENNY
BOBOWSKI**

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BENNY BOBOWSKI
Date: 2020.08.10
10:02:13 -08'00'

Ben Bobowski
Superintendent
Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve
August 10, 2020

DISTRIBUTION:

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