
YDNWR Special action request

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Date Mon 8/3/2026 2:11 PM

To Subsistence, OS <subsistence@ios.doi.gov>

Cc Rearden, Spencer SR <spencer_rearden@fws.gov>

1 attachment (103 KB)

YDNWR Moose Zone 2 SAR 2026.doc;

Please See the attached Special Action Request for a fall moose hunt in Unit 18 Kuskokwim Zone 2.
Thank you

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United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge
P.O. Box 346
Bethel, Alaska 99559

Special Action Request

Proponent: Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge

Issue: Establish a “may be announced” antlerless moose hunt from Sept. 1 – Oct. 15 with a harvest limit of one antlerless moose by Federal permit in the Kuskokwim Zone 2 moose hunt area in Unit 18.

Current Federal Regulations

Unit 18 – Moose

Unit 18, that portion east of a line running from the mouth of the Ishkowik River to the closest point of Dall Lake, then to the east bank of the Johnson River at its entrance into Nunavakanukakslak Lake (N 60°59.41' Latitude; W162°22.14" Longitude), continuing upriver along a line 1/2 mile south and east of, and paralleling a line along the southerly bank of the Johnson River to the confluence of the east bank of Crooked Creek, then continuing upriver to the outlet at Arhymot Lake, then following the south bank east of the Unit 18 border and then north of and including the Eek River drainage¹ - 1 antlered bull by State registration permit during the fall season Sep. 1-Oct. 15.

OR

Up to 1 moose by Federal registration permit during a may-be-announced winter season May be announced between Dec. 1-Jan. 31.

Federal public lands are closed to the taking of moose except by residents of Akiachak, Akiak, Atmautlauk, Bethel, Eek, Kalskag, Kasigluk, Kipnuk, Kongiganak, Kwethluk, Kwigillingok, Lower Kalskag, Napakiak, Napaskiak, Nunapitchuk, Oscarville, Quinhagak, Tuluksak, and Tuntutuliak.

Proposed Federal Regulations

Unit 18 – Moose

Unit 18, that portion east of a line running from the mouth of the Sep. 1-Oct. 15.

Unit 18 – Moose

Ishkowik River to the closest point of Dall Lake, then to the east bank of the Johnson River at its entrance into Nunavakanukakslak Lake (N 60°59.41' Latitude; W162°22.14" Longitude), continuing upriver along a line 1/2 mile south and east of, and paralleling a line along the southerly bank of the Johnson River to the confluence of the east bank of Crooked Creek, then continuing upriver to the outlet at Arhymot Lake, then following the south bank east of the Unit 18 border and then north of and including the Eek River drainage¹ - 1 antlered bull by State registration permit during the fall season

OR

1 antlerless moose by Federal permit during a may-be-announced fall season.

*May be announced
between
Sept. 1 - Oct. 15*

OR

Up to one moose by Federal permit during a may-be-announced winter season

*May be announced
between Dec. 1-
Jan. 31*

Federal public lands are closed to the taking of moose except by residents of Akiachak, Akiak, Atmautlauk, Bethel, Eek, Kalskag, Kasigluk, Kipnuk, Kongiganak, Kwethluk, Kwigillingok, Lower Kalskag, Napakiak, Napaskiak, Nunapitchuk, Oscarville, Quinhagak, Tuluksak, and Tuntutuliak.

Why should this regulation be changed?

The Board approved this hunt via adoption of WP26-43 at their April 2026 regulatory meeting. However, delay in publication of the final rule has created extenuating circumstances, necessitating special action to implement this antlerless moose hunt for the 2026 fall season. WP26-43 also requested delegating authority to determine the permit allocation system (to limit the number of permits), set season dates and permit conditions to manage the hunt in response to current population metrics for effective hunt administration. The Board already approved this delegated authority and issued a delegation of authority letter to the Yukon Delta NWR manager.

This antlerless fall hunt increases subsistence opportunity and there are no conservation concerns as the Zone 2 moose population continues to grow and is closely managed through harvest quotas and permit numbers. Establishing an antlerless fall hunt and delegating authority for its in-season management, allows for flexible, adaptable hunt management that optimizes subsistence harvest opportunity and conservation. This request will allow for additional harvest opportunity by federally qualified subsistence users in conjunction with the new State antlerless fall hunt.