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PRESS RELEASE

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Winter Moose Hunt Opens in Game Management Unit 17A

(DILLINGHAM) – The Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Togiak National Wildlife Refuge, are announcing the opening of a 31-day winter moose hunting season in Game Management Unit 17A. The hunt will begin on Thursday, December 21, 2017, and continue through January 20, 2018. The bag limit for this winter hunt is two moose. Hunters who have already harvested a moose during the current regulatory year are eligible to participate in this hunt, but can only take one additional moose.

A March 2017 aerial survey estimated 2,076 moose in Unit 17A, which is well above the population objective. October 2017 composition surveys estimated 77 bulls and 24.5 calves per 100 cows. To keep harvests within sustainable limits, the antlerless season will be closed by emergency order and federal announcement when 30 cows have been harvested. The bull harvest will be closed by similar actions when 20 bulls have been taken.

To participate, hunters must possess a valid Alaska state hunting license (reminder: 2018 licenses are required beginning January 1) and at least one state registration permit (RM575 and/or RM576). Hunters will be allowed to harvest one antlered bull if they have registration permit RM575 in their possession and/or one antlerless moose if they have permit RM576. Hunters are required to have both permits to shoot two moose (one antlered bull and one antlerless moose); those who have already taken a moose in fall 2017 can only shoot one additional moose.

Registration permits will be available at the department's Dillingham office and Togiak Traditional Council office. Successful hunters are required to report to the department's Dillingham office (phone: 907-842-2334) or the Togiak Traditional Council (phone: 907-493-5003) within 24 hours of killing a moose. All permit reports must be returned to the department by February 5, 2018.

For additional information contact the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in Dillingham at 907-842-2334, or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Togiak National Wildlife Refuge, at 907-842-1063.

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