Your second chance at a moose tag

The OFAH walks you through the second part of the 2021 moose tag process

On June 15, the second chance allocation stage for moose will open. Here is what you need to know to navigate this stage of the process.

What are the important dates?
The second chance stage runs from June 15 to July 7. Following that, the MNRF will run the allocation and hunters will be able to see if they were successful on August 1. While the primary allocation stage had a roughly three-week period in which to claim tags, the second chance stage hunters have until the end of the season to decide whether they want to claim a tag. All tags, including those awarded in the primary stage, will be available to print on August 17.

What tags are available?
During the second chance stage, hunters can apply for tags that were not applied for during the primary allocation stage and tags that were awarded to hunters, but not claimed. Hunters can find out what tags are available by visiting www.ontario.ca/moosequotas or by calling 1-800-288-1155 on June 15 or after.

While many of the tags available in this stage will likely be the same as those typically available under the old surplus system, there could be some high-demand tags available. For example, imagine a situation where two people who hunt together may have both received gun bull tags in the same unit during the primary allocation stage. Only wanting one tag, one hunter claimed theirs and the other did not. That second gun bull tag would now be available in the second chance stage.

Where do you apply?
Hunters can apply online at www.huntandfishontario.com, over the phone at 1-800-288-1155, or in person by visiting a licence issuer or participating Service Ontario. A hunter applying to the allocation process is only required to pay the $15 application fee once, regardless of whether they are applying to one or both of the stages. Second chance tags can only be claimed online or in person.

Choices, points, or no points?
As in the primary allocation stage, a hunter can select up to three choices when applying to the second chance stage. Those choices can be any combination of WMU, firearm (gun or bow), and tag type (bull, cow/calf, or calf) for which there are available tags. Hunters also have the option of picking WMU 99Z (hunt code 999) if they only wish to apply for a point and did not do so in the primary allocation stage.

The second chance stage differs from the primary allocation stage, in that only tags that hunters apply for and receive under their first choice will be awarded based on points and use the points of a hunter who claims one. Second and third choices in this stage will be awarded by random draw and do not use a hunter’s points. This recognizes that in the second chance stage, there will be a mix of high and low demand tags. A hunter who selects 99Z as their first choice can still enter second and third choices.

How it works
Example: Imagine that in the second chance stage there are 20 bow bull tags available in WMU 24 and five hunters applied for those tags as their first choice, 100 hunters applied as their second, and 200 applied as their third. The MNRF will run the allocation based on hunters’ first choices and the five hunters who applied for the WMU 24 bow bull tag as their first choice will all receive a tag. The remaining 15 tags will then pass to the hunters who applied as their second choice, with the tags being randomly awarded to 15 of those hunters. No tags would remain for people who applied under their third choice.

Find out more
www.ontario.ca/moosequotas

Other moose matters
The OFAH continues to work on all aspects of moose hunting and management. A letter was recently sent to Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry John Yakabuski on the importance of moose aerial inventories (MAIs) to effectively manage moose in the province.

The OFAH also provided recommendations to ensure that MAIs are conducted at a frequency that supports adaptive management in a way that effectively tracks population trends, and at a scale that is supported by science.

Concerns have also been raised about the vulnerability of MAIs to climate change and asked that the MNRF begin working on proactive solutions. Read the full letter www.ofah.org/moose

You can watch an in-depth demonstration of the entire moose tag process in your digital edition, or at www.ofah.org/insideaccess