

RC# 16

Tim Andrews

**Proposals 1, 2, 3 and 4**

**Proposed substitute language to address proposals affecting an area  
with abundant moose populations ( Lower Yukon and Unit 18  
Remainder )**

**Introduction:** Proposal 1 seeks to modify the boundaries of Unit 18 Remainder and Lower Yukon Moose Management Areas. Proposal 2, 3 and 4 seeks to provide for similar hunting season and bag limits as the Lower Yukon Moose Management Area in the Unit 18 Remainder. A more recent moose census was conducted in the Andreafski and Paimiut which reflected a significant growth in the moose populations that exceeds the Lower Yukon Moose, three-fold. According to the most recent census, ( U.S. Census 2010 ) within the core of Unit 18 Remainder, the total human population is 2,723 people with a total of 660 households. Additionally similar to the currently designated RM615 Moose Management Area, the Lower Yukon Moose Management Area was designated to protect the moose populations in the area to meet management and Lower Yukon AC population objectives.

**PROPOSED SUBSTITUTE LANGUAGE to address Proposal 1, 2, 3 and 4:**

We would recommend that the board dissolve the Unit 18 Remainder/Lower Yukon Boundaries.

**Unit 18:** The former boundaries of the Unit 18 Remainder and Lower Yukon Moose Management Areas.

Adopt increased hunting seasons ( March 31 ) and bag limits of the former Lower Yukon Moose Management Area to avoid a population crash in Unit 18.

**RESIDENT HUNTERS:**

**August 1 – September 30** 2 moose of which only 1 may be an antlered bull; a person may not take a calf or a cow accompanied by a calf.

**October 1 – March 31** 2 antlerless moose

## **NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:**

September 1 – 30 1 antlered bull

## **JUSTIFICATION:**

- 1. The “Lower Yukon “ moose management area achieved its objectives and no longer needs distinct and clarified boundaries. The “Unit 18 Remainder” have surpassed the moose productivity of the Lower Yukon and no longer needs its protections. Thus, the “Lower Yukon” and “Unit 18 Remainder” designations are no longer needed. The RM615 are designation remains the same.**
- 2. There is no biological reason not to increase the bag limit and hunting season in the Unit 18 Remainder portion. With only 2,723 people and 660 households in Unit 18 Remainder) and a moose population of 8,345 ( Paimiut and Andreafski Moose Census Areas. The most recent population of the Lower Yukon Moose Management Area is 3,320 moose ( 2008 ) and a human population of 5,725 and 1,249 households. Current regulation allows communities in the Lower Yukon Moose Census Area to harvest more moose and provide for a longer hunting season than that is allowed in the Unit 18 Remainder where there is two times less human population and two-times less households with nearly three times the moose population.**
- 3. Many of the moose in Unit 18 Remainder utilize the “new growth” willowed sandbars as their winter feeding grounds. Many of those areas are beginning to show the symptoms of over grazing. All the new growth willow are starting to appear as if someone took a mower and made consistent size willows all across the sandbars. Curbing the moose population growth is essential in providing quality winter graze for moose. During the spring, summer and fall, the moose disperse into areas that provide alternative food for their diet, including willow. Given that, worder to provide for good winter survival of moose, providing quality winter food for moose is critically important. The willow have to be provided the opportunity to regenerate to maintain healthy moose**

populations. Therefore the moose population have to remain at current levels or be reduced to allow the winter feed to regenerate.

4. The increased hunting opportunity to March 31 would provide primarily local people and others with positive C&T determinations to harvest moose in warmer weather and longer daylight hours. There have been many requests to increase the winter season in both Lower Yukon and Unit 18 Remainder hunting seasons.