

Sleetmute Traditional Council
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September 25, 2017

To: The Alaska State Board of Game

RE: ACR 1

The person that made this ACR does not represent the people of Sleetmute or 19A – the Stony Holitna Fish and Game Advisory Committee, (SHAC), does. In 2006, the Sleetmute Traditional Council made a resolution of support for the moose closure in 19A, along with the traditional councils of Red Devil, Stony River, and Lime Village.

The council still supports that closure, until there are enough moose to ensure a sustainable population that would allow a hunt.

Members of the council attended the Stony Holitna Advisory Committee meeting on Sept, 19-20, and listened to the presentation by the ADF&G biologist. His power point shows that there is a harvestable surplus in 19A, although the moose per square mile is very low in the closure area. This information came from the Nov. 2016 and Feb. 2017 moose surveys.

The council is aware that a harvestable surplus does not have to be hunted, and can be used to help build the herd.

The council appreciates the ADF&G predator control program, that includes with the aerial wolf program and bear removal that have been done. Tribal members have seen a modest increase in moose numbers since the bear removal program. At the SHAC meeting, the biologist said that after the bear control program in McGrath, there was a 5 – year moratorium on moose hunting. The reason for this was, to give more than one generation of moose the chance to calve, building the herd without any hunting pressure.

At that meeting SHAC handed out options for an experimental registration hunt opening, that would allow a limited number of moose to be taken. The council supports SHAC's and the biologists plan.

The Sleetmute Traditional Council would like to see a full five years go by after the bear control program, before any sort of moose hunt is open.

The council would support a limited moose hunt in the present 19A closure area, if it were not implemented until the Fall of 2019 or 2020.

Thank you for your time and attention,



Sandra Greger, President of the Sleetmute Traditional Council