

ACR #7 – Shorten the resident moose hunting season in Unit 19C, close the moose hunting season for nonresidents, and beginning in 2024, allow nonresidents to hunt moose by drawing permit only.

SUBMITTED BY: Donald Ruhoff and Karla Ruhoff

CITE THE REGULATION THAT WILL BE CHANGED IF THIS ACR IS HEARD.

5 AAC 85.045 Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.

Unit 19C RM653

WHAT IS THE PROBLEM YOU WOULD LIKE THE BOARD TO ADDRESS? STATE IN DETAIL THE NATURE OF THE CURRENT PROBLEM.

Unit 19C, RM653 is overhunted. In 2020, 77 bulls were taken, 2021, 97 bulls were taken, at present (2022) 83 bulls taken, and still 62 people left have to report. This does not include the winter hunt and the natural predators and harsh winters that may come. This Unit 19C RM653 small area cannot maintain moose populations and moose growth with too many hunters. Over 200 hunters in 2022.

WHAT SOLUTION DO YOU PREFER?

We are proposing a draw permit for nonresident hunters and shorten the season to 10 days for all hunters from September 8th through September 17th. The ratio of nonresident to resident hunters makes this very hard on residents who rely on this moose resource for their livelihood with this incoming "change in and change out" of hunters that is too frequent in some camps there are as many as 22 hunters changing in and out and others as many as 10. This will limit the number of camps that have frequent change outs with large numbers of hunters coming in. Again, we as residents rely on moose to feed our families. **We propose in the interim that in 2023 that there is resident hunting only and no nonresident hunting in Unit 19C RM653 area, then go into draw permit for nonresidents in 2024 season.**

STATE IN DETAIL HOW THIS ACR MEETS THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:

- 1) **To correct an error in regulation.**
- 2) **To correct an effect of a regulation that was unforeseen when a regulation was adopted.**

This is a small area to be taking that many moose year to year to sustain a healthy and growing population. It has been reported the decrease in this area. The bull-to-cow ratio and the increase in hunters each year into this Unit 19C RM653 area. Over 200 hunters now. Huge impact on moose population. With this comes more garbage left up at the runway and along trails that is not healthy for our wildlife.

- 3) **Does the request identify a biological concern for the population or a threat to meeting objectives for the population?**

Yes, the concern is hunter to moose population. More hunters, decline in moose and the bull-to-cow ratio. This decline is steadily dropping and was noted by Department of Fish and Game in McGrath.

- 4) **Does the request identify an unforeseen, unexpected event or effect that would otherwise restrict or reduce a reasonable opportunity for customary and traditional wildlife uses, as defined in AS 16.05.258(f)?**

Yes, too many hunters and moose reduction will result in little to no moose and the unit and/or moose hunting would have to be closed either temporarily or permanently depending on the studies. Bad for us who rely on this moose resource.

- 5) **Does the request identify an unforeseen, unexpected resource situation where a biologically allowable resource harvest would be precluded by delayed regulatory action and such delay would be significantly burdensome because the resource would be unavailable in the future?**

Yes, it would by taking 75-100 bulls each season, you cannot expect to maintain a healthy moose population and maintain a bull-to-cow ratio.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF THIS PROBLEM IS NOT SOLVED PRIOR TO THE REGULAR CYCLE?

Large healthy mating bulls are declining and will continue decline. I hunted this unit over 30 years and saw the season change from any bull and open until October 10th then reduced to September 25th and then September 20th any bull. Now its September 20th, spike fork or 50" or 4 brow tines. After all these changes we were getting better bulls it is going backwards again due to the increase in hunters and moose are declining again. I have never seen as many hunters in the RM653 as I have in the last eight years it has greatly increased and this year over 200.

STATE WHY YOUR ACR IS NOT PREDOMINANTLY ALLOCATIVE.

This problem will not correct on its own. It needs to have a change made by Alaska Board of Game to save the moose and our livelihood of this resource. I am a resident of Alaska and have a deep concern for this.

IF THIS REQUEST IS ALLOCATIVE, STATE THE NEW INFORMATION THAT COMPELS THE BOARD TO CONSIDER AN ALLOCATIVE PROPOSAL OUTSIDE OF THE REGULAR CYCLE.

I think this needs to be acted on now before it's too late and moose become almost extinct in this RM653 area.

STATE YOUR INVOLVEMENT IN THE ISSUE THAT IS THE SUBJECT OF THIS ACR.

My wife and I are Alaskan residents and both hunters. This resource is critical to our food supply and it is the best organic meat you can eat. We want our kids and grandkids to have this resource available to them to be able to hunt out here and enjoy this generally quiet, scenic and variety of wildlife to view and hunt. This is someplace to share and watch them provide for their families

and who knows maybe for us when we are older and cannot hunt ourselves. At its current level of moose and the decline it will not be around and open or available. We want to preserve the moose integrity.

STATE WHETHER THIS ACR HAS BEEN CONSIDERED BEFORE, EITHER AS A PROPOSAL OR AS AN ACR, AND IF SO, DURING WHICH BOARD OF GAME MEETING.

Not to my knowledge has this been proposed before.