

**ACR #8** – Close the Unit 19C moose hunt for nonresidents, and beginning in 2024, allow nonresidents to hunt moose by drawing permit only.

**SUBMITTED BY:** Houston Morris, David Ansel, Nate Morris, Rosene Brown, Aleasha Ansel, and Ira Slanoff

**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.**

The number of hunters in Unit 19C is creating a shortage in the moose population and safety issues. The moose are being overharvested. Some groups are bringing in multiple change-outs of hunters, up to 22. In 2022, nearly 200 hunters in the area, around 50% nonresidents. A few of these camps are potentially illegally outfitting, interrupting other hunter's areas and hunts. Unit 19C is crucial for our Alaskan hunters' way of life. It is important that the Alaskan residents are protected and can harvest game for our families.

**WHAT SOLUTION DO YOU PREFER?**

We propose that for 2023 the area be designated resident only, and 2024 the state offers a specific number of permits for out of state individuals.

**STATE IN DETAIL HOW THIS ACR MEETS THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:**

**1) To correct an error in regulation.**

Unit 19C is a small area, and there are too many moose being taken from. The area has been growing rapidly with new hunters. This is creating issues with over harvest of moose, it is also creating issues with new hunters running into established camps and areas. This is not only creating issues with hunt interruption, but also a major safety concern.

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

This area originally was designed with a certain bull-to-cow ratio and a specific number of bulls were determined to be able to be harvested without impact of population. Talking to Department of Fish and Game, that number is somewhere around 45 bulls. With the amount of new hunters and much improved transportation in the area (including GPS, better ATVs etc.) the moose harvest has almost doubled.

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

Yes, the moose to hunter ratio would go down (around 50% out of state hunters). This would decrease the number of bulls taken and increase bull-to-cow ratio.

**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, if something is not done to limit the number of moose harvested, the Department of Fish and Game will have to shut down the area.

**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, with the number of bulls being taken, 75-100, the area cannot sustain a healthy moose population.

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

- The Department of Fish and Game may take immediate action and either shorten the season or shut moose hunting down.
- Another year of overharvest, and moose population impact.
- Illegal outfitting in the area will continue.
- Local hunters will continue to have their original hunting areas overrun
- Safety. The number of hunters in a small area could lead to someone getting shot.

**STATE WHY YOUR ACR IS NOT PREDOMINANTLY ALLOCATIVE.**

The issue in Unit 19C has been progressive and is not getting any better on its own. It is important for moose populations and for Alaskan subsistence hunters.

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

This is an immediate issue for many reasons. If something isn't immediately done, the moose population will continue to be decimated, the Alaskan subsistence hunters will continue to struggle with new hunters interrupting their hunts and hunting areas, ultimately, the local Department of Fish and Game will shut down the area.

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

We are a family that has been hunting the area for over 10 years. Our family relies on the moose for our main source of protein during the year. We have started to bring our kids out; it is important that they be able to harvest and enjoy the same as we have. With the current level of moose harvesting there is no way for this tradition to continue.

**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 that we are aware of.