

Ahtna Comments Board Action to Reduce CSH Season

The Board should reconsider proposal 65 and its action reducing the CSH season to address the following three issues.

1. It is not clear if the reduced season is to begin for the 2015 season will be implemented for the 2016 season. Those already signed up and committed or the 2015 season had the legitimate expectation that the season would be the same as the 2014 season. In fact the document issued by ADF&G and on the department's website for 2015-16 Copper Basin Moose CSH informs those applying and committed to the hunt that the CSH moose season will be from August 10-September 20.
2. The board significantly cut hunting time by reducing the CSH season 20 days. Hunting opportunity is also significantly reduced by the current requirement that only one of every three households in the moose CSH will be issued a any bull harvest ticket. This limit should be eliminated to allow for more hunters from the CSH groups to hunt during the shortened season. Also, the department's information about the numbers of CSH groups and households signed up for the 2015 CSH for moose demonstrate that the 3 locking tags/household restriction did not result in less interest in the hunt.
3. The 20-day reduction in the CSH season does not provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence uses. This reduction cut the CSH subsistence season in half. The importance of the August hunt, and the opportunity to subsistence hunt before the general season starts, is clearly demonstrated in the slides on pp. 64-66 of the report presented by area biologist Frank Robins for proposal 65. (RC 002 ADF&G Oral Reports - Unit 13 proposals). These slide clearly show the need for the early season since significantly more than 50 percent of the CSH moose harvest occurs during the August hunt before the general season opens. The CSH subsistence harvest success declines significantly after the general season begins.