

ACR 6 – Establish a minimum caliber ammunition for moose hunting in Unit 18.

SUBMITTED BY: Mid-Lower Yukon Fish and Game Advisory Committee

CITE THE REGULATION THAT WILL BE CHANGED IF THIS ACR IS HEARD.
5 AAC 92.085. Unlawful methods of taking big game; exceptions.

WHAT IS THE PROBLEM YOU WOULD LIKE THE BOARD TO ADDRESS? STATE IN DETAIL THE NATURE OF THE CURRENT PROBLEM. Moose are a primary food source for many subsistence users in Unit 18. Users rely on the meat for food security. Moose are lost each year because of small caliber and low-quality ammunition that are ineffective in killing big game such as moose. While smaller calibers such as 223 Remington, 17 Remington or 22-250 may be adequate for smaller game, they lead to wounding and loss of moose. Many hunters have observed expired, or wounded moose resulting from several shots using inadequate caliber size and ammunition. Others have observed, in successfully harvested moose, infected flesh wounds that are "pus filled" and, as a result, large portions or the entire moose are unfit for human consumption.

Using a caliber of .243 or larger would minimize this waste and encourage ethical moose hunting and salvage practices.

WHAT SOLUTION DO YOU PREFER? Establish a minimum caliber ammunition for moose hunts in Unit 18 as .243 or larger.

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.** The current regulation allows for small and inadequate caliber and ammunition to be used for hunting moose that results in wounding, loss and lots of wasted meat.
- 3) **Does the request identify a biological concern for the population or a threat to meeting objectives for the population?**
- 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)?**
- 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?**

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF THIS PROBLEM IS NOT SOLVED PRIOR TO THE REGULAR CYCLE? Continued wanton waste and non-lethal, but harmful, injuries to moose will continue.

STATE WHY YOUR ACR IS NOT PREDOMINANTLY ALLOCATIVE. This would affect all hunters that choose to hunt moose in GMU 18.

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

STATE YOUR INVOLVEMENT IN THE ISSUE THAT IS THE SUBJECT OF THIS ACR. The Mid-Lower Yukon AC is comprised of the Yukon River villages of Mountain Village, Pitka's Point, St. Mary's, Pilot Station, Marshall and Russian Mission. The majority of the people residing in these communities are subsistence hunters and rely on moose for food security.

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. Yes, in 2016 during the Statewide Board of Game meeting it was considered as Proposal 72.