

**ACR 3** – Extend the TM549 moose hunting season in Unit 15C, southwest of Pt. Pogibshi.

**SUBMITTED BY:** Chugach Regional Resources Commission

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

5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.

**WHAT IS THE PROBLEM YOU WOULD LIKE THE BOARD TO ADDRESS? STATE IN DETAIL THE NATURE OF THE CURRENT PROBLEM.** Extend the TM549 open season for moose in Game Management Unit, area 15C, southwest of a line from Point Pogibshi to the point of land between Rocky and Windy bays in order to increase hunter opportunity in the area. Inconsistent weather conditions have in the past limited hunting during the scheduled open season that is currently between August 25 and September 30. Area hunters have been experiencing effects of climate change and moose are migrating and rutting later than usual. A longer season would allow area hunters more flexibility to schedule hunts around challenging weather conditions.

**WHAT SOLUTION DO YOU PREFER?** Extend the TM549 moose hunting season in Unit 15C, southwest of Pt. Pogibshi as follows: **September 1** (August 25) – September 30 **and November 1-15.**

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

- 1) **To correct an error in regulation.** Not applicable.
- 2) **To correct an effect of a regulation that was unforeseen when a regulation was adopted.** When this regulation was adopted, it was unforeseen that the Alaska climate would continually change and moose would rut later into the fall than years ago.
- 3) **Does the request identify a biological concern for the population or a threat to meeting objectives for the population?** No, currently four permits are issued annually for TM549. This request will not increase the total number of moose permits issued each year. The harvest success rate varies annually but averages two moose.
- 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, the current open season dates do not provide adequate opportunity for community residents to harvest moose due to changing climate. In March 1987, the Board of Game made a positive customary and traditional (C&T) finding for uses of moose by residents of Nanwalek and Port Graham, and established a registration subsistence hunt in the portion of GMU 15C southwest of a line from Point Pogibshi to the point of land between Rocky and Windy Bay. This became a Tier II subsistence hunt (now TM549) in 1990.
- 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?** Not applicable.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF THIS PROBLEM IS NOT SOLVED PRIOR TO THE REGULAR CYCLE?** Hunting effort and hunting success will remain status quo. Permit holders are having a difficult time filling permits within the current season dates. The majority of the moose in recent years are harvested during the last week of the hunt and fifty percent of the permits are not being filled due to difficulty finding moose early in the season. If the current trend continues, the community of Port Graham will continue to request a season extension for this hunt on a yearly basis in order to provide reasonable opportunity for hunters to harvest a moose.

**STATE WHY YOUR ACR IS NOT PREDOMINANTLY ALLOCATIVE.** This ACR is not allocative because there is no proposed change to the bag limit of moose for TM549, nor would the proposal affect who is eligible for a permit. Our request is to address current season dates by a modification in the early season and adding additional opportunity from November 1 to November 15th, which would apply to all permit holders. We are not requesting any change in who is eligible to receive a permit or the permitting process.

**IF THIS REQUEST IS ALLOCATIVE, STATE THE NEW INFORMATION THAT COMPELS THE BOARD TO CONSIDER AN ALLOCATIVE PROPOSAL OUTSIDE OF THE REGULAR CYCLE.** Not applicable.

**STATE YOUR INVOLVEMENT IN THE ISSUE THAT IS THE SUBJECT OF THIS ACR.** Chugach Regional Resources Commission (CRRC) is an inter-tribal fish and wildlife commission certified by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization. Member Tribes of the Chugach Region include the Tatitlek Village IRA Council, Native Village of Eyak (Cordova), Port Graham Village Council, Nanwalek IRA Council, Chenega Bay IRA Council, Qutekcak Native Tribe (Seward), and the Valdez Native Tribe. We were directly asked by our Chairman of the Board and Chief of Port Graham, Patrick Norman to assist him with this ACR. Patrick Norman is a hunter and subsistence user of the TM549 hunt and as chief of the Port Graham Village Council, represents the communities' request in this matter.

**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.** This ACR has not been considered before. Historically, the communities of Port Graham and Nanwalek have requested season extensions directly through the area biologist in Homer on a year to year basis depending on harvest counts and community need. Recent requests were denied in 2012-2019. A season extension was passed by board action in 2005.