

Note: The following proposal is scheduled for consideration by the Board of Game at the March 2023, Southcentral Region meeting, per the board's ACR policy, 5 AAC 92.005, which states that if the board accepts an agenda change request, the board will develop and consider proposals for all agenda change requests for those specified regulations. (See Proposal 205 on this topic which was accepted by the board as an agenda change request.)

PROPOSAL 210

5 AAC 85.045 Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.

Close the Unit 19C moose hunt for nonresidents, and beginning in 2024, allow nonresidents to hunt moose by drawing permit only as follows:

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.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? 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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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

If the problem is not solved before the regular meeting cycle for this region:

- 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.

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.

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.

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.

PROPOSED BY: Houston Morris, David Ansel, Nate Morris, Rosene Brown, Aleasha Ansel, and Ira Slanoff (HQ-F22-ACR8)
