

ACR 12 – Expand winter hunting opportunities for moose in Unit 16B.

SUBMITTED BY: Alaska Department of Fish & Game

MEETING ACR SUBMITTED FOR: 2016 Statewide Regulations

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

5 AAC 85.045(14). 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.

The current seasons and bag limits for moose in Unit 16B are not sufficient to reach the management harvest objectives. Additional winter hunting opportunity is needed to take advantage of high population size and bull ratios, particularly in Unit 16B Middle and South where the populations are at or above the management objectives for population size. During the most recent surveys, the bull:cow ratios were estimated to be 60 bulls:100 cows in Unit 16B North in 2014, 46 bulls:100 cows in Unit 16B Middle in 2010, and 52 bulls:100 cows in Unit 16B South in 2010.

WHAT SOLUTION DO YOU PREFER? We recommend the board adopt two new winter hunts to provide additional hunting opportunity and to keep the moose populations within objectives. The Department's intent is to use a combination of registration and drawing permit hunts to control the harvests and keep them within sustainable limits, while regulation the moose population within the management objectives.

STATE IN DETAIL HOW THIS ACR MEETS THE CRITERIA STATED ABOVE.

a) for a conservation purpose or reason: Additional winter moose hunting opportunity is needed to regulate the moose population within the management objectives. The hunting opportunities currently provided are insufficient to regulate the moose population.

b) to correct an error in regulation: N/A

c) to correct an effect on a hunt that was unforeseen when a regulation was adopted: N/A

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

The next regularly scheduled Board of Game meeting for Region IV will be held in 2018. Any regulations passed during that meeting will not go into effect until July 1, 2018, and a new drawing hunt could not be implemented until regulatory year 2019. Delaying the consideration of this proposal until the 2018 meeting will postpone the implementation of a new hunt structure that will allow managers to regulate the moose populations within management objectives.

STATE WHY YOUR ACR IS NOT PREDOMINANTLY ALLOCATIVE. The proposed hunts expand the existing resident-only winter hunting opportunity and would apply equally to

all Alaska residents. Nonresident hunting opportunity is limited to the fall and is offered through a general season hunt.

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

STATE YOUR INVOLVEMENT IN THE ISSUE THAT IS THE SUBJECT OF THIS ACR. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, hunt manager.

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. The proposed regulation has not been considered by the board previously.