

## **Dillingham Area – Unit 17**

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**PROPOSAL 136** – 5 AAC 85.045(15). **Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.**  
 Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in Unit 17A as follows:

<b>Units and Bag Limits</b>	<b>Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)</b>	<b>Nonresident Open Season</b>
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(15)

Unit 17(A)

Up to 2 moose per  
 regulatory year only as follows:

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

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1 antlerless moose by registration  
 permit; during the period Dec. 1  
 –Last day of Feb. a season of up  
 to 31 days may be announced  
 by emergency order;

Winter Season to be  
 Announced by  
 Emergency Order  
 (Subsistence hunt only)

...

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Antlerless moose hunts must be reauthorized annually by the Board of Game (board). The board adopted an antlerless moose hunt in Unit 17A in support of the Unit 17A Moose Management Plan, which was modified during a meeting of the Unit 17A Moose Management Planning Group in December 2012. The planning group consists of entities interested in the management of this moose population and includes representatives from the Bristol Bay Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Council, the Nushagak and Togiak Fish and Game Advisory Committees, the Togiak National Wildlife Refuge, and the ADF&G Unit 17 management office.

According to the third goal of the revised Unit 17A Moose Management plan, antlerless moose hunting opportunity can be offered when the population is above 600 moose and increasing. The revised plan also recommends that a bag limit of up to two moose when the population exceeds 1,200 moose.

Based on the most recent survey in October 2017, the point estimate was 1,760 moose in Unit 17A. The bag limit of two moose and antlerless harvest opportunity provides a mechanism to limit population growth and allows hunters to harvest surplus animals.

The moose population in subunit 17A is growing and can sustain additional harvest; however, the objectives for this population include allowing it to expand into neighboring areas as well as provide for additional harvest opportunity. The population is currently contributing to the growth of moose populations, especially to the north and west.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F17-034)  
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**PROPOSAL 137 – 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.** Change the resident, fall season dates for moose hunting in Unit 17A as follows:

... Unit 17(A) 1 bull per regulatory year, only as follows:

RESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 bull by registration Aug. [25] ~~30~~–Sept. [20] 25 permit only; or (Subsistence hunt only) 1 antlered bull by Dec. 1–Jan. 31 registration permit; (Subsistence hunt only) during the period (To be announced) Dec. 1–Jan. 31, a season of up to 14 days may be announced by emergency order

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS: No open season. ...

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Shift the fall moose season in Unit 17A by five days for residents. The amount of moose traffic during the proposed season increases hunter’s safety and is in line with the moose migratory pattern. Currently the season opens too early, the moose are moving more towards the proposed season of August 30 – September 25. With the rise of fuel prices and amount of moose traffic in the area, this shift is warranted for safe hunting procedures.

**PROPOSED BY:** Togiak Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F17-025)  
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**PROPOSAL 138 – 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.** Extend the resident, fall season for moose hunting in Unit 17A as follows:

... Unit 17(A) 1 bull per regulatory year, only as follows:

RESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 bull by registration Aug. 25–Sept. [20] 25 permit only; or (Subsistence hunt only) 1 antlered bull by Dec. 1–Jan. 31 registration permit; (Subsistence hunt only) during the period (To be announced) Dec. 1–Jan. 31, a season of up to 14 days may be announced by emergency order

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS: No open season. ...

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Extend the fall moose season in Unit 17A by five days for residents. The amount of moose traffic during those days have increased. At the end of the current season, there is a slowdown of moose. Once the current

season closes, there is an increase of the moose within the unit, this is the reason for the increase of an additional five days to the fall moose hunt.

**PROPOSED BY:** Traditional Council of Togiak (HQ-F17-008)  
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**PROPOSAL 139 – 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.** Lengthen the nonresident moose hunting season in Unit 17A as follows:

5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose

(a)(15) Unit 17A

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS: [Sept. 5–Sept. 15] **Sept. 1–Sept. 20**

One bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with four or more brow tines on one side, by drawing permit only; up to 50 permits may be issued.

The moose population in this area is very healthy and resident hunters have a two moose bag limit, "any bull" harvest, cow harvest, a 28-day fall season, and a month-long winter season. This would not increase take, but provide for a more predictable situation.

The nonresident moose hunt in Unit 17A is limited by a drawing in which only 20 tags are issued.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Nonresident moose hunting in Unit 17A is very limited, by a drawing hunt, making a very short season completely unnecessary. A longer season would actually provide a benefit by spreading the same number of hunters out over time. Access is very limited to less than ten lakes due to a no-fly corridor along most of the rivers in the area. Regulations allow for up to 50 nonresident permits in Unit 17A but permits are limited to 20 by an agreement reached through the Unit 17A moose working group in conjunction with the Togiak Advisory Committee, Togiak Refuge and others. Twenty seems to be a reasonable number at this point due to this limited access. Resident hunters would still have the advantage of a five day head start, an any bull season and a winter season.

I would like the Board of Game to adopt a regulation to extend the nonresident moose season by ten days.

**PROPOSED BY:** Aaron Bloomquist (EG-F17-093)  
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**PROPOSAL 140 – 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.** Open a guide required, nonresident registration hunt for moose in Unit 17A as follows:

5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose

(a)(15)

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS: Sept. 5–Sept. 15

1 bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side, by drawing permit only; up to 50 permits may be issued

**or**

**1 bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side, by registration permit only; up to 10 permits will be issued to guided hunters only.**

Regulations allow for up to 50 nonresident permits in Unit 17A but permits are limited to 20 by an agreement reached through the Unit 17A moose working group in conjunction with the Togiak AC, Togiak Refuge and others. Twenty seems to be a reasonable number at this point due to limited access. My intent would be to remove the number of registration permits allowed from the drawing hunt. (If four registration permits are issued, only 16 drawing tags will be issued). Although only four guided moose hunters are permitted in Unit 17A at this time; I used "up to ten permits" so the Dillingham area biologist would have some flexibility in the case that the Togiak Refuge allows guided moose hunting in their other concession, there are two concessions but the second does not allow guided moose hunting at this time. Togiak or Twin Hills Villages could also decide to allow moose take on their lands. These villages have not yet allowed guided moose hunting to my knowledge but it could be a good opportunity if a shareholder had a guide license.

The moose population in this area is very healthy and resident hunters have a two moose bag limit, "any bull" harvest, cow harvest, a 28-day fall season, and a month-long winter season. This would not increase take, but provide for a more predictable situation.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Nonresident guided moose hunting in Unit 17A is limited by Federal Concession Quotas making the need for a drawing hunt for guided hunters unnecessary. Having guided hunters apply for hunts where the draw odds are high (over 50% historically), and guides are limited by concession, are very messy. Guides must put in more hunters than their quota but it is impossible to judge how many hunters must apply to reach the allocated number allowed under refuge concessions. This may result in more hunters drawn than the guide is allowed to take. I am the only guide currently allowed to take moose hunters in Unit 17A and my concession quota is only four moose hunters. I currently have 18 people on my list that want to apply for the hunt. If I put them all in, I will likely have too many drawn, if I put in fewer, I run the risk of not having enough. The extra hunters that draw will likely not hunt because they want a guided hunt. This removes an opportunity from other hunters that would have preferred a non-guided hunt. There are currently 20 tags available in the drawing.

I would like the Board of Game to adopt a regulation for a registration permit for guided moose hunters in Unit 17A OR allocate a portion of the drawing to guided hunters in a similar fashion as other units (see additional proposal for this option).

**PROPOSED BY:** Aaron Bloomquist (EG-F17-089)

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**PROPOSAL 141 – 5 AAC 92.069. Special provisions for moose drawing permit hunts.**  
Allocate a portion of the nonresident drawing permits for moose in Unit 17A to guided hunters as follows:

**5 AAC 92.069. Special provisions for moose drawing permit hunts.**

**(b)(5) in Unit 17A, the department shall issue a maximum of 50 percent of the available nonresident drawing permits to guided nonresidents, and a minimum of 50 percent of the available nonresident drawing permits to non-guided nonresidents. If the number of nonresidents applying for permits for either nonresident hunt is insufficient to award the required percentage, the department may award the remaining available nonresident drawing permits to the other nonresident hunt;**

Regulations allow for up to 50 nonresident permits in Unit 17A but permits are limited to 20 by an agreement reached through the Unit 17A moose working group in conjunction with the Togiak Advisory Committee, Togiak Refuge and others. Twenty seems to be a reasonable number at this point due to limited access. I used the 50% language simply because it is already in regulation for other areas. Another number could be chosen but I believe this language allows for flexibility. Only four guided moose hunters are permitted in Unit 17A at this time; so it would be 20% but it should be higher in the case that the Togiak Refuge allows guided moose hunting in their other concession. There are two concessions but the second does not allow guided moose hunting at this time. Togiak or Twin Hills Villages could also decide to allow moose take on their lands. These villages have not yet allowed guided moose hunting to my knowledge but it could be a good opportunity if a shareholder had a guide license.

The moose population in this area is very healthy and resident hunters have a two moose bag limit, "any bull" harvest, cow harvest, a 28-day fall season, and a month-long winter season. This would not increase take, but provide for a more predictable situation.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Nonresident guided moose hunting in Unit 17A is limited by Federal Concession Quotas making the need for a drawing hunt for guided hunters unnecessary and burdensome. Having guided hunters apply for hunts where the draw odds are high (over 50% historically), and guides are limited by concession, are very messy. Guides must put in more hunters than their quota but it is impossible to judge how many hunters must apply to reach the allocated number allowed under refuge concessions. This may result in more hunters drawn than the guide is allowed to take. I am the only guide currently allowed to take moose hunters in Unit 17A and my concession quota is only four moose hunters. I currently have 18 people on my list that want to apply for the hunt. If I put them all in, I will likely have too many drawn, if I put in fewer, I run the risk of not having enough. The extra hunters that draw will likely not hunt because they want a guided hunt. This removes an opportunity from other hunters that would have preferred a non-guided hunt. There are currently 20 tags available in the drawing.

I would like the Board of Game to adopt a regulation for a registration permit for guided moose hunters in Unit 17A (preferred option, see additional proposal for this option) OR allocate a portion of the drawing to guided hunters in a similar fashion as other units (this option).

**PROPOSED BY:** Aaron Bloomquist (EG-F17-092)  
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**PROPOSAL 142** – 5 AAC 85.045(a)(15). **Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.** Shift the resident fall hunting season dates for moose in a portion of Unit 17A as follows:

**Unit 17(C), that portion east of the Weary River**

Resident Hunters: Aug. 20–Sept. 15

1 bull by registration permit only; however during the period Sept. 1–Sept. 15, spike-fork bulls and bulls with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 3 or more brown tines on one side may be taken with a harvest ticket, or

1 antlered bull by registration permit only Dec. 1–Dec. 31

**Unit 17(C), that portion west of the Weary River**

**Resident hunters** **Aug. 25–Sept. 20**

**1 bull by registration permit only; however during the period of Sept. 1–Sept. 20, spike-fork bulls and bulls with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 3 or more brow tines on one side may be taken with a harvest ticket**

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**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** I would like to see the fall moose hunt for that portion of Unit 17C west of the Weary River changed from the present season dates of August 20 – September 15 to August 25 – September 20.

We want to allow for more time during the early rut period to allow for safer and easier harvest location near the river because the terrain near Manokotak differs from the Nushagak River.

**PROPOSED BY:** Kenneth Nukwak (HQ-F17-024)  
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**PROPOSAL 143** – 5 AAC 85.045(a)(15). **Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.** Open the resident winter season for moose in a portion of Unit 17C by emergency order only as follows:

Unit 17C, that portion west of the Weary River, one antlered bull by registration permit; during the period of December 1 – last day of February; a season of up to 31 days may be announced by emergency order.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** I would like to see the winter moose hunt for that portion of Unit 17C west of the Weary River changed from the present fixed season dates of December 1 – December 31, to a season that can be opened by emergency order when snow conditions are most suitable for pursuing moose, similar to the winter hunt in Unit 17A.

I would like flexible season dates to allow for safe hunting and travel conditions, due to climate change.

**PROPOSED BY:** Kenneth Nukwak (HQ-F17-023)

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**PROPOSAL 144 – 5 AAC 92.540 (5) (A) (ii). Controlled Use Areas.** Allow the use of motorized vehicles for moose hunting in the Upper Mulchatna Controlled Use Area as follows:

(ii) **except for the purposes of moose hunting** the area is closed to the use of any motorized vehicle for hunting big game, including the transportation of big game hunters, their hunting gear, or parts of big game from August 1 through November 1, except that the use of an aircraft or a boat is not prohibited, and a motorized vehicle in a legally permitted hunting camp is not prohibited

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The Upper Mulchatna Controlled Use Area is closed to the use of motorized vehicles (except aircraft and boats) for hunting big game. This includes all of Unit 17B. Currently hunters can enter the Upper Mulchatna Controlled Use Area with a motorized vehicle to hunt ducks and other small game, however if they see a moose while in the area with their motorized vehicle they cannot shoot it. This discourages use of the area outside of the river corridor by people hunting for subsistence reasons, who do not have access to an aircraft, and favors guides, and those who do have access to aircraft.

**PROPOSED BY:** Richard King (HQ-F17-001)

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**PROPOSAL 145 – 5 AAC 85.025. Hunting seasons a bag limits for caribou.** Open a nonresident registration hunt for caribou in Units 9 and 17 as follows:

**Unit 9 within the range of the Mulchatna caribou and all of Unit 17**

**Nonresidents: September 1–30**

**One bull caribou by registration permit. Up to 200 permits may be issued.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** As of the drafting of this proposal, the Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) states: "The harvest of Mulchatna caribou is well below sustainable levels." The Mulchatna caribou herd has started to grow and all indicators are that it is healthy. Unfortunately, it has recently resided predominantly in areas that are difficult to access. A nonresident hunt, limited by registration, should be well within the sustainability of this herd that is currently underutilized. I would suggest a limit of up to 200 tags

and ask ADF&G to initially only issue 50 across the entire range of the herd. It is desirable to see this herd continue to grow. Communities within the region have had a difficult time taking the harvestable surplus due to the locations of the animals. Providing a nonresident hunt will result in light harvest and most meat will be left in the communities within the region as is the case in all remote nonresident hunting opportunities.

A similar proposal for a drawing hunt was deferred from the Arctic/Western meeting for Units 18 and 19. This registration permit would be preferable but the drawing is another option.

**PROPOSED BY:** Aaron Bloomquist (EG-F17-101)

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*Note: The Board of Game does not have authority to increase tag fees.*

**PROPOSAL 146 – 5 AAC 85.025. Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou.** Open a guide-required nonresident drawing hunt for caribou in Unit 17B as follows:

I propose 14 nonresident caribou tags be issued by lottery for one bull caribou each for Unit 17B at the rate of \$1,000/tag to guided only nonresidents. Season dates to begin August 10 through August 19. Caribou hunts must be conducted by a licensed registered guide and may not be part any other hunting trip for another species.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** I have been conducting hunts for brown bear in the area and am seeing more and more very nice mature caribou bulls during the fall brown bear season in each camp location. Many of these mature bulls will not be harvested by hunters and die of natural causes. There are not enough caribou to offer unlimited licenses in the area but the caribou dying of natural causes is a lost opportunity for the state to make some money and bring back the prestige of trophy caribou hunting to an area that was once famous for it. There is little or no caribou hunting pressure from residents in the area. There are many out of state hunters who would gladly put money into the state in tag costs, hunting license fees, guide fees, lodging fees, meals, gas and other logistics for an opportunity to hunt the Mulchatna herd once again. This would amount to approximately \$150,000 revenue being created by out of state hunters. This needs to be done or we face the area being forgotten as a trophy caribou hunting destination for hunters from across the globe. Running the season to begin August 10 through August 19 would allow nonresident hunters to target strictly caribou and while no brown bear or moose seasons were running which would extend the time outfitter services could make money while not overcrowding the area for other hunters. It is a win-win-win deal for sportsmen, businesses and the State of Alaska. I would be glad to discuss conservation issues at any time.

**PROPOSED BY:** Thomas Dvorak (EG-F17-002)

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*Note: This proposal was deferred from the 2017 Arctic/Western and Interior/Northeast Arctic Region meetings to the 2018 Central/Southwest Region Meeting. It was previously numbered Proposal 25 and Proposal 83.*

**PROPOSAL 147 – 5 AAC 85.025. Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou.** Open a nonresident draw hunt for caribou in Units 18 and 19 as follows:

**Units 18, 19A, and 19B – Nonresidents:**

**One bull caribou by drawing permit September 1–30**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** As of the drafting of this proposal, ADF&G states: "The harvest of Mulchatna caribou is well below sustainable levels." The Mulchatna caribou herd has started to grow and all indicators are that it is healthy. Unfortunately, it has recently resided predominantly in areas that are difficult to access. A nonresident hunt, limited by drawing should be well within the sustainability of this herd that is currently underutilized. I would suggest a limit of up to 50 tags and ask ADF&G to initially only issue 20 across the entire range of the herd. It is desirable to see this herd continue to grow. Communities within the region have had a difficult time taking the harvestable surplus due to the locations of the animals. Providing a nonresident hunt will result in light harvest and most meat will be left in the communities within the region as is the case in all remote nonresident hunting opportunities. This proposal is submitted for both the Arctic and Western (Unit 18) and the Interior and Eastern Arctic (Unit 19A and B) meetings. This proposal will also be submitted for Units 9 and 17 when in cycle.

**PROPOSED BY:** Aaron Bloomquist (EG-F16-010)  
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**PROPOSAL 148 – 5 AAC 92.080(4)(B)(i). Unlawful methods of taking big game.** Allow the use of a snowmachine for harvesting caribou, wolf, or wolverine in Unit 17 as follows:

5 AAC 92.080(4)(B)(i): in Units 17, 22, 23 and 26(A), a snowmachine may be used to position a caribou, wolf, or wolverine for harvest, and caribou, wolves, or wolverines may be shot from a stationary snowmachine.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** I would like Unit 17 to be included in the use of a snowmachine to position a caribou, wolf or wolverine for harvest.

**PROPOSED BY:** Kenneth Nukwak (HQ-F17-022)  
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**PROPOSAL 149 – 5 AAC 84.270. Furbearer trapping, and 92.095(a)(3). Unlawful methods of taking furbearers; exceptions.** Liberalize the season and methods and means for trapping beaver in Units 9 and 17 as follows:

Liberalize the season and method and means for trapping beaver in Unit 9 and 17 as follows: **In Units 9 and 17 – No closed season** and no bag limit. A trapping license is still required.

It is against the law to take beaver by any means other than a steel trap or snare except: **In Units 9 and 17 you may shoot up to the established bag limit with either a firearm or bow and arrow throughout the season provided that either the meat or the hide is salvaged.**

**In Units 9 and 17 from June 1 to October 9, taking beaver by any means other than a firearm or bow and arrow is prohibited.**

**Beaver taken in Units 9 and 17 only need to be sealed if they are to be sold as raw fur.**

**In Units 9 and 17 you may shoot a beaver on the same day you have flown in an airplane if the beaver is either caught in a trap or snare or you are more than 300 feet from the airplane.**

**In Units 9 and 17 you may disturb or destroy a beaver dam.** You may not disturb or destroy a beaver house or den.

[IN UNITS 9 AND 17 THE OPEN SEASON IS FROM OCTOBER 10 – MAY 31]

[BEAVER TAKEN IN UNITS 9 AND 17 MUST BE SEALED WITHIN 30 DAYS AFTER THE CLOSE OF THE SEASON]

[ IN UNITS 9 AND 17 FROM APRIL 15 TO MAY 31, A FIREARM MAY BE USED TO TAKE 2 BEAVER PER DAY PROVIDED THAT THE MEAT IS SALVAGED FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION; AND IN UNIT 17 A FIREARM OR BOW AND ARROW MAY BE USED TO HARVEST BEAVER FROM DECEMBER 1 – APRIL 14, PROVIDED THAT THE MEAT IS SALVAGED.]

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The beaver population is ever expanding in Units 9 and 17. They are damming up more small streams every year and preventing salmon from reaching their spawning grounds. Many of these small streams have lost their entire run of salmon. The beaver population needs to be reduced. The liberalization of the beaver season, harvest methods, bag limits, salvage requirements and eliminating some of the sealing requirement will give everyone the maximum opportunity to harvest beaver in these units. Many residents and nonresidents have expressed interest in being able to harvest a few beavers when they are hunting other species. Local residents will be able to harvest beaver anytime they want for food or fur.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Professional Hunters Association (EG-F17-066)

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