

ACR 2 – Mule deer, moose winter tick, and other parasites and pathogens.

SUBMITTED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

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

5 AAC 85.XXX. Hunting seasons and bag limit for mule deer.

WHAT IS THE PROBLEM YOU WOULD LIKE THE BOARD TO ADDRESS? STATE IN DETAIL THE NATURE OF THE CURRENT PROBLEM. Mule deer are occasionally seen in interior Alaska and are likely coming from places in Canada that have winter tick. Winter tick is a threat to cervid health in Alaska, especially for moose.

WHAT SOLUTION DO YOU PREFER? The department would like to discuss with the board how to best manage wildlife that moves into Alaska, and how to best handle pathogens and parasites they carry.

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

- 1) **To correct an error in regulation**
- 2) **To correct an effect of a regulation that was unforeseen when a regulation was adopted**
- 3) **Does the request identify a biological concern for the population or a threat to meeting objectives for the population?** Winter ticks have not been documented in Alaska yet; however, the department would like to provide the board with information specific to pathogens and parasites that might be introduced to Alaska by mule deer, not just winter ticks. Winter ticks are prevalent in other places in North America and heavy infestations of winter tick on moose can result in severe anemia, skin irritation, hair loss, and ultimately death. This, combined with the increased sightings of mule deer in Alaska, have led to the department requesting this be discussed out of cycle.
- 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? A request was received from a local Advisory Committee to allow the harvest of mule deer in Alaska as a way to prevent the spread of disease. Currently, mule deer have been documented in interior Alaska, specifically in the Interior/Northeast Arctic region, though pathogens and parasites are not region specific, nor are they specific to mule deer, and the department prefers this be addressed on a statewide issue. The next regularly scheduled statewide meeting to address this statewide is in winter/spring of 2020/2021.

STATE WHY YOUR ACR IS NOT PREDOMINANTLY ALLOCATIVE. The department is requesting the board address the extending range of species not commonly occurring in Alaska. Some species have the potential to be carriers of diseases or parasites harmful to indigenous wildlife, and the department is currently undergoing monitoring and collecting of information specific to those pathogens and parasites.

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.

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. N/A