

Note: Proposal 146 was accepted by the Board of Game as an Agenda Change Request for consideration at the Southcentral Region Meeting in March 2019.

PROPOSAL 146

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

Change the bag limit for Tier II moose hunts to any moose and establish a resident antlerless moose drawing hunt in Unit 16B as follows:

We would prefer the addition of antlerless hunting for residents when this population is above the upper end of the population objective. The amended regulation would modify the Tier II bag limit from bull to **moose** and would add antlerless permits by drawing for both a fall and winter season without removing any existing hunts.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Unit 16B moose population is currently estimated (March 2018) at 10,000 moose. The population objective for Unit 16B is 6,500 – 7,500 moose. The population is above objective (10,000) as of March 2018. The population needs to be reduced to be within objective for that population (6,500 – 7,500).

There is currently a biologically available resource for harvest (antlerless moose) that may be precluded by a delay in regulatory action due to the three-year board cycle and the process of drawing application that will delay use of the available antlerless moose until the year 2022 if this ACR is not accepted. If there is a winter with significant snowfall (as occurred in 1989-90 and 1999-00), the population of moose in Unit 16B will likely experience a steep decline and the available harvest will be lost and unavailable in the future.

If the problem is not addressed prior to the regular cycle, there will be a significant loss of available harvest. Additionally, the effects of the overpopulation will likely cause a depletion of winter forage and exacerbate the impacts of the next severe snow winter, causing the population to decline to a greater degree than if the population is within its objective.

There is no allocation in this proposal, as the subsistence hunt is liberalized to any moose and the added antlerless opportunity by draw is open to all resident hunters.

The advisory committee represents hunters who utilize the Unit 16B moose population.

PROPOSED BY: Susitna Valley Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F18-ACR4)
