

*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 211**

### **5 AAC 85.045 Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.**

Shorten the resident moose hunting season in Unit 19C, close the moose hunting season for nonresidents, and beginning in 2024, allow nonresidents to hunt moose by drawing permit only as follows:

We are proposing a draw permit for nonresident hunters and shorten the season to 10 days for all hunters from September 8th through September 17th. The ratio of nonresident to resident hunters makes this very hard on residents who rely on this moose resource for their livelihood with this incoming "change in and change out" of hunters that is too frequent in some camps there are as many as 22 hunters changing in and out and others as many as 10. This will limit the number of camps that have frequent change outs with large numbers of hunters coming in. Again, we as residents rely on moose to feed our families. We propose in the interim that in 2023 that there is resident hunting only and no nonresident hunting in Unit 19C RM653 area, then go into draw permit for nonresidents in 2024 season.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Unit 19C, RM653 is overhunted. In 2020, 77 bulls were taken, 2021, 97 bulls were taken, at present (2022) 83 bulls taken, and still 62 people left have to report. This does not include the winter hunt and the natural predators and harsh winters that may come. This Unit 19C RM653 small area cannot maintain moose populations and moose growth with too many hunters. Over 200 hunters in 2022.

This is a small area to be taking that many moose year to year to sustain a healthy and growing population. It has been reported the decrease in this area. The bull-to-cow ratio and the increase in hunters each year into this Unit 19C RM653 area. Over 200 hunters now. Huge impact on moose population. With this comes more garbage left up at the runway and along trails that is not healthy for our wildlife.

The concern is hunter to moose population. More hunters, decline in moose and the bull-to-cow ratio. This decline is steadily dropping and was noted by Department of Fish and Game in McGrath.

Too many hunters and moose reduction will result in little to no moose and the unit and/or moose hunting would have to be closed either temporarily or permanently depending on the studies. Bad for us who rely on this moose resource.

By taking 75-100 bulls each season, you cannot expect to maintain a healthy moose population and maintain a bull-to-cow ratio.

Large healthy mating bulls are declining and will continue decline. I hunted this unit over 30 years and saw the season change from any bull and open until October 10th then reduced to September 25th and then September 20th any bull. Now its September 20th, spike fork or 50" or 4 brow tines.

After all these changes we were getting better bulls it is going backwards again due to the increase in hunters and moose are declining again. I have never seen as many hunters in the RM653 as I have in the last eight years it has greatly increased and this year over 200.

This problem will not correct on its own. It needs to have a change made by Alaska Board of Game to save the moose and our livelihood of this resource. I am a resident of Alaska and have a deep concern for this.

I think this needs to be acted on now before it's too late and moose become almost extinct in this RM653 area.

My wife and I are Alaskan residents and both hunters. This resource is critical to our food supply and it is the best organic meat you can eat. We want our kids and grandkids to have this resource available to them to be able to hunt out here and enjoy this generally quiet, scenic and variety of wildlife to view and hunt. This is someplace to share and watch them provide for their families and who knows maybe for us when we are older and cannot hunt ourselves. At its current level of moose and the decline it will not be around and open or available. We want to preserve the moose integrity.

**PROPOSED BY:** Donald Ruhoff and Karla Ruhoff

(HQ-F22-ACR7)

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