

ACR #3 – Lengthen the moose hunting season in Unit 19E by five days; allow proxy hunting, and eliminate the restriction of one permit per household.

SUBMITTED BY: Stony Holitna Fish & Game Advisory Committee

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

Alaska Administrative Code Number 5 AAC NEW

WHAT IS THE PROBLEM YOU WOULD LIKE THE BOARD TO ADDRESS? STATE IN DETAIL THE NATURE OF THE CURRENT PROBLEM.

Wildlife Conservation did a GSPE moose survey in March, 2022, showing a positive increase in the Unit 19E moose herd since 2020, especially in the Bear Control Focus Area (BCFA), where moose density went from 2.0 to 2.9 moose/sq. mile, and harvestable surplus went from 42 to 62. SHAC was unable to meet to get a proposal for condition changes in RM682 in time for the May 1 deadline. The Interior cycle doesn't come up until 2027, and these conditions offer increased hunting opportunity, which would be lost those 3 years. SHAC requests that Board of Game approves this ACR for the March, 2024 Interior Meeting.

WHAT SOLUTION DO YOU PREFER?

In the Unit 19E RM682 moose hunt –

- Allow proxy hunting.
- delete the “1 permit per household” condition (preferably with the ability to re-apply this condition if needed, e.g., due to drastic decline in moose or unforeseen regulation abuse),
- and add 5 days to the hunt to become Sept. 1-10.

STATE IN DETAIL HOW THIS ACR MEETS THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:

Criterion #1 does not apply, but the others do. The recent 2022 regulation change that allows proxy hunting won't go into effect in Unit 19E. There would be the loss of hunting opportunity for all hunters, as well as meat availability for the elderly and handicapped.

A. To correct an error in regulation.

There was no regulation error – but there was a regulation change that allows proxy hunting for this type of hunt.

B. To correct an effect of a regulation that was unforeseen when a regulation was adopted.

The increase in moose population was unknown. The regulation change in proxy hunting was unforeseen. Proxy hunting, more than one permit per household, along with a 5-day hunt extension, will offer increased hunting opportunity.

C. Does the request identify a biological concern for the population or a threat to meeting objectives for the population?

No - there is no threat to IM objectives with the modest permit numbers being issued. This hunt was created as an Experimental Hunt, and it continues to be.

D. 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)?

The positive survey results and change in proxy hunt regulations were unforeseen and unexpected. To delay these changes in hunt conditions until the next Board of Game cycle would restrict harvest opportunity needlessly for three years.

E. 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?

This unforeseen increase in animals will allow more animals to be taken when the opportunity is offered. See b, c, & d above.

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

Hunters will have to wait until the next meeting in 2027 to take advantage of the additional opportunity.

STATE WHY YOUR ACR IS NOT PREDOMINANTLY ALLOCATIVE.

These hunt condition changes are not predominately allocative. They simply add additional opportunity to an existing hunt.

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

STATE YOUR INVOLVEMENT IN THE ISSUE THAT IS THE SUBJECT OF THIS ACR.

The SHAC represents the people and villages within Unit 19E.

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.

No - this ACR has not been considered before.