



## Department of Fish and Game

DIVISION OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION  
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An Agenda Change Request (ACR 3) has been submitted to the Alaska Board of Game requesting to change 5 AAC 85.045 hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. The proponent is asking the board to make the following changes to the RM682 hunt: allow proxy hunting, eliminate the one permit/household restriction, and add 5 days to the season with a new ending date of September 10<sup>th</sup>.

With respect to the board's Agenda Change Request (ACR) acceptance criteria (5 AAC 92.005):

- A. The department is unaware of any error in regulation.
- B. The department is unaware of any effects of regulations that were unforeseen when the regulation was adopted.
- C. The department is unaware of any biological concerns.
- D. The department is unaware of any unforeseen or unexpected events that would otherwise restrict or reduce a reasonable opportunity for customary and traditional wildlife uses as defined in AS 16.05.258(f).
- E. A March 2023 GSPE survey indicated growth in the Unit 19E moose population. The Stony Holitna Advisory Committee was not able to meet prior to the regular proposal deadline to submit a proposal to increase hunting opportunity. Waiting for the next regular Interior Region cycle would delay the board's ability to increase hunting opportunity until the next board meeting in March 2027.

There is a positive customary and tradition use finding for moose in Unit 19 outside of the Lime Village Management Area, with an amount reasonably necessary for subsistence of 400-700, including 175-225 in Units 19A and 19E, and 20-24 in Unit 19B.

In 2006 the board implemented a Tier II hunt in Unit 19A and closed Unit 19E (except the TM684 hunt area) to all moose hunting due to declining moose numbers. Based on department survey data, the board had determined there was no harvestable surplus in this area. Unit 19E (except the TM684 hunt area) was closed to moose hunting for 13 years until the board reopened a 5-day season (RM682) at their March 2019 meeting. Moose numbers have slowly increased in the RM682 hunt area and in March 2023, the department estimated the moose population to be approximately 2,700 moose or 0.8 moose/mi<sup>2</sup>. The current bull:cow ratio is 40:100.

The board deliberately opened RM682 in a very conservative fashion and made findings in 2019-225-BOG. This included no proxy hunting and allowing only one permit/household. An average of 17 hunters have taken 7 moose per year since 2019. This harvest takes place almost entirely within the bear control focus area where the harvestable surplus is approximately 60 moose.

The next regularly scheduled board meeting for Unit 19 regulations is in winter/spring of 2026/2027. If the board accepts this ACR, the department recommends the proposal come before the board at its March 2024 meeting in Fairbanks to allow for more public input.

Sincerely,

*Ryan Scott*

Ryan Scott  
Acting Director  
Division of Wildlife Conservation