

January 27, 2024

Board of Game
c/o Savannah Hollingsworth

RE: January 25-29, Board of Game Meeting; Support for Proposals 7

Dear Board of Game,

The Native Village of Kwinhagak submitted and supports **Proposal 7**, which would extend fall moose hunting season within the area surrounding Quinhagak by 15 days. Although the original proposal requested extending the moose hunting season within the Kanektok and Arolik River drainages, Kwinhagak has since clarified that the proposed extension would apply to the entire hunt area for the community.

Moose are an important subsistence resource for members of the Native Village of Kwinhagak. Because of increases in food costs, the village's remote location, and changing environmental factors, food security is a significant and growing concern. Importantly, since 2020, subsistence hunters have not hunted caribou from the Mulchatna Herd due to low population numbers. The Mulchatna Herd has historically been one of the village's primary food sources. Thus, there is an increased reliance on moose hunting to meet subsistence needs, and coincidentally the moose population in the area near Kwinhagak (the Arolik River and Kanektok River drainages) is increasing.

The current season dates of September 1 to September 30 do not provide an adequate opportunity for Kwinhagak's subsistence needs. Poor weather during the month of September for the past two years has resulted in the failure to reach moose quotas before the hunting season closed. Other areas adjacent to Kwinhagak, such as the Goodnews and Eek Rivers, have moose hunts that are open for longer seasons, September 1 to October 15. Kwinhagak proposes that its season be extended by 15 days to match those seasons and provide a more meaningful opportunity for Kwinhagak residents to meet subsistence needs. Previously, the Federal Subsistence Board has extended Kwinhagak's moose hunting season by emergency action request.

Sincerely,

Native Village of Kwinhagak