

## **PROPOSAL 63**

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

Change the resident bag limit for moose in Unit 15 and remove the road closure criteria in Unit 15C as follows:

Unit 15A, B, and C: Spike, fork, 50-inch or four brow tines

Removal of road closure criteria in Unit 15C

#### **What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?**

- 1) Successful management for moose harvest resulting from current regulations.
- 2) ADF&G surveys report a high bull:cow ratio. This supports an opportunity to harvest more bulls.
- 3) Harvesting of fork, spike bulls increases harvest opportunity for Alaska residents.
- 4) Current regulations characterize a trophy hunt vs. an opportunity to harvest game food.
- 5) Law enforcement personnel in the field manage compliance with regulations with cooperation of many land managers across Unit 15.
- 6) Including an additional spike-fork with the current regulation of four brow tines and over 50-inches will increase harvest opportunity and promote sustainable stock.

If the problem is not solved, the sustainable environment may not be able to sustain large populations of moose. After the last significant change in harvest regulations, land managers found over 30 moose that had starved during the winter because the population exceeded the sustainable carrying capacity of the area. Adjustments in proven harvest thresholds predicated on the management of fish and wildlife stocks, genetic diversity, and trait expressions within the population managed according to the principals of fish and wildlife management. This follows the Alaska Constitution and allows residents to utilize resources that are expected to be made available. The Southern Peninsula advisory committees simply do not access tracts of land and are largely unaware of the changes identified by local observers. Developing higher moose numbers can be achieved through harvest management and a balance with sustainable practices of wildlife management that includes suitable harvest related to actual carrying capacity. Management of moose stocks is not a law enforcement issue. This is an issue that is predicated on the management of fish and wildlife stocks, genetic diversity, and trait expressions within the population managed according to the principals of fish and wildlife management.

If adopted, the moose will benefit and no one will suffer. A similar harvest criteria developed by others maintained successful populations and successful harvest yield for over twenty years.

Other solutions considered: Hunting with a normal state hunting license is not a “subsistence” harvest that is managed by the state. The state has clearly demonstrated that sustainable criteria similar to this proposed change has been successful for periods extending for over twenty years with no notable change in land use or ecology.

**PROPOSED BY:** Ninilchik Traditional Council

(EG-F18-056)

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