

**ACR 4** – Change the bag limit for Tier II moose hunts in Unit 16B to any moose and add a resident antlerless moose drawing hunt in Unit 16B.

**SUBMITTED BY:** Susitna Valley Fish and Game Advisory Committee

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

5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limit for moose.

**WHAT IS THE PROBLEM YOU WOULD LIKE THE BOARD TO ADDRESS? STATE IN DETAIL THE NATURE OF THE CURRENT PROBLEM.** The Unit 16B moose population is currently estimated (March 2018) at 10,000 moose. The population objective for Unit 16B is 6,500 – 7,500 moose.

**WHAT SOLUTION DO YOU PREFER?** We would prefer the addition of antlerless hunting for residents when this population is above the upper end of the population objective. The amended regulation would modify the Tier II bag limit from bull to **moose** and would add antlerless permits by drawing for both a fall and winter season without removing any existing hunts.

**STATE IN DETAIL HOW THIS ACR MEETS THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:**

- 1) **To correct an error in regulation.** N/A
- 2) **To correct an effect of a regulation that was unforeseen when a regulation was adopted.** N/A
- 3) **Does the request identify a biological concern for the population or a threat to meeting objectives for the population?** The population is above objective (10,000) as of March 2018. The population needs to be reduced to be within objective for that population (6,500 – 7,500).
- 4) **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)?** N/A.
- 5) **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?** There is currently a biologically available resource for harvest (antlerless moose) that may be precluded by a delay in regulatory action due to the 3-year board cycle and the process of drawing application that will delay use of the available antlerless moose until the year 2022 if this ACR is not accepted. If there is a winter with significant snowfall (as occurred in 1989-90 and 1999-00), the population of moose in Unit 16B will likely experience a steep decline and the available harvest will be lost and unavailable in the future.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF THIS PROBLEM IS NOT SOLVED PRIOR TO THE REGULAR CYCLE?** If this is not addressed prior to the regular cycle, there will be a significant loss of available harvest. Additionally, the effects of the overpopulation will likely cause a depletion of winter forage and exacerbate the impacts of the next severe snow winter, causing the population to decline to a greater degree than if the population is within its objective.

**STATE WHY YOUR ACR IS NOT PREDOMINANTLY ALLOCATIVE.** There is no allocation in this proposal, as the subsistence hunt is liberalized to any moose and the added antlerless opportunity by draw is open to all resident hunters.

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

**STATE YOUR INVOLVEMENT IN THE ISSUE THAT IS THE SUBJECT OF THIS ACR.** The advisory committee represents hunters who utilize the Unit 16B moose population.

**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.** We do not believe that this ACR has been considered before.