

ACR 7 – Prohibit the sale of moose antlers, with the exception of naturally shed antlers, in Unit 18.

SUBMITTED BY: Mid-Lower Yukon Fish and Game Advisory Committee

CITE THE REGULATION THAT WILL BE CHANGED IF THIS ACR IS HEARD.
5 AAC 92.200. Purchase and sale of game.

WHAT IS THE PROBLEM YOU WOULD LIKE THE BOARD TO ADDRESS? STATE IN DETAIL THE NATURE OF THE CURRENT PROBLEM. Mid-Lower Yukon communities have observed an increase in moose antler sales in their region (Game Management Unit 18). This has increased harassment of moose as people search for large bulls to harvest in order to sell the antlers. There is concern that the taking of large bulls and the harassment could be detrimental to the overall health of the moose, which local communities rely on for subsistence needs. Purchase of antlers and harvest of moose just for antler sales have increased wanton waste and teaches unethical and untraditional hunting practices to youth.

WHAT SOLUTION DO YOU PREFER? The Mid-Lower Yukon Advisory Committee discussed possible options to resolve this issue and recommends that the Board of Game (board) adopt a regulation to prohibit the sale of moose antlers with the exception of naturally shed antlers and antlers used for handicrafts. This was supported unanimously along with public input.

Other options that were discussed included: a) Prohibit the sale of all moose antlers in Unit 18, b) Allow only the sale of shed moose antlers in Unit 18, and c) Prohibit the sale of moose antler larger than 45" in Unit 18.

STATE IN DETAIL HOW THIS ACR MEETS THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:

- 1) **To correct an error in regulation.**
- 2) **To correct an effect of a regulation that was unforeseen when a regulation was adopted.** Current regulations have led to unforeseen social changes in villages along the Yukon River in Unit 18. Hunters have started selecting large bulls instead of the traditional younger animals, there has been an increase in theft of antlers from people's homes, and people have been harassing bulls in early winter including chasing them through trees in an attempt to knock antlers off. People are prioritizing making money off of moose antlers over traditional hunting customs. There has been an increase in unethical and untraditional hunting practices in front of youth.
- 3) **Does the request identify a biological concern for the population or a threat to meeting objectives for the population?**
- 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)?**
- 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?

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF THIS PROBLEM IS NOT SOLVED PRIOR TO THE REGULAR CYCLE? Continued harassment and possible wanton waste of moose will continue. Bad habits and loss of traditional practices by youth.

STATE WHY YOUR ACR IS NOT PREDOMINANTLY ALLOCATIVE. This would affect all hunters that choose to hunt in the area of concern.

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 Mid-Lower Yukon AC is comprised of the Yukon River villages of Mountain Village, Pitka's Point, St. Mary's, Pilot Station, Marshall and Russian Mission. The majority of the people residing in these communities are subsistence hunters and rely on moose for food security.

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 specific issue has been considered during prior board meetings, though a proposal was passed in 1990 to prohibit the sale of unmodified caribou antlers in Unit 23 and later modified to allow the sale of naturally shed antlers and handcrafts made from caribou antlers. In 2014 the BOG failed to support Proposal 28 during the Arctic/Western Region meeting, which would have removed the restrictions on selling caribou antlers in Unit 23 once they had been removed from the skull.