Proposal 95 Moose

- Effect of the proposal
  - Establish a resident winter moose hunt in 19D East
- Department recommendation
  - **SUPPORT** additional harvest but **NEUTRAL** on the allocative aspects of proposal
- McGrath AC proposal
  - Support with amendment

1

1

Proposal 95 Moose

Current Unit 19D East resident moose hunting regulations:

RM650

- Sept 1 – Sept 25

Harvest Ticket

- Sept 1 – Sept 20 (outside the UKCUA)

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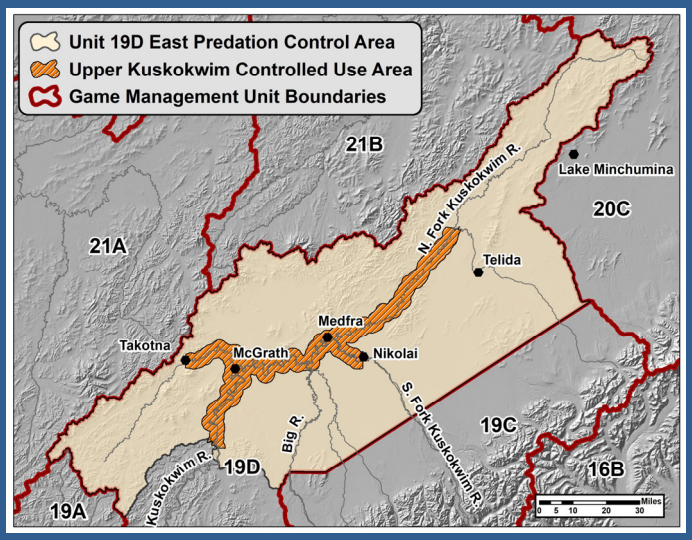
Proposal 95 Moose



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Proposal 95 Moose

Proposed changes: establish a winter hunt in Unit 19D East

- Feb 1 – Feb 28
- Registration permit available in the hunt area from January through the end of the season
- Residents only
- Any moose except cows with calves
- No aircraft except between public airports
- Quota set by the department

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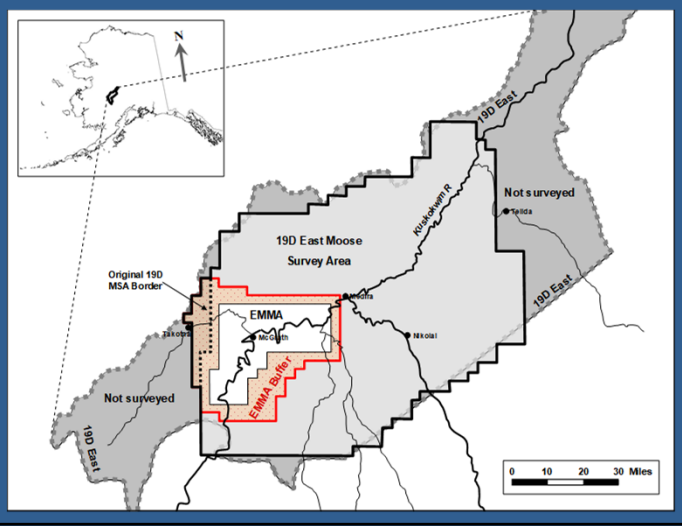
Proposal 95 Moose

19D East Moose Survey Areas



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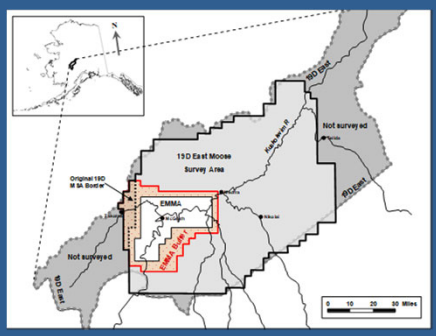
Proposal 95 Moose

19D East MSA Data



Year	Estimate with SCF applied	Calves: 100 cows	Bulls:100 cows	Total moose/mi^2
2001	2,564 (±726)	25 (±10)	34 (±17)	0.5
2004	2,744 (±661)	54 (±20)	31 (±13)	0.5
2008	3,889 (±959)	41 (±15)	55 (±22)	0.7
2017	5,884 (±1020)	37 (±12)	39 (±13)	1.1

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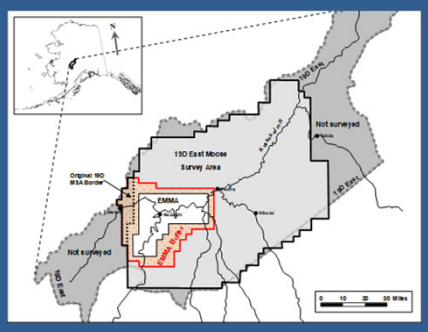
Proposal 95 Moose

Expanded EMMA Moose Data



Year	Estimate with SCF applied (90% CI)	Calves: 100 cows (90% CI)	Bulls:100 cows (90% CI)	Total moose/mi^2
2001	868 (±147)	36 (±10)	21 (±6)	0.8
2004	1,192 (±228)	66 (±18)	18 (±6)	1.1
2006	1,308 (±174)	55 (±10)	30 (±8)	1.2
2007	1,720 (±306)	53 (±14)	36 (±10)	1.5
2008	1,718 (±352)	44 (±12)	40 (±11)	1.5
2009	1,820 (±323)	38 (±10)	40 (±11)	1.6
2010	1,796 (±312)	43 (±11)	49 (±13)	1.6
2011	1,647 (±295)	42 (±11)	33 (±10)	1.5
2012	1,337 (±256)	36 (±10)	39 (±12)	1.2
2015	2,014 (±398)	41 (±12)	36 (±11)	1.8
2017	2,389 (±372)	42 (±3)	31 (±6)	2.1
2019	2,291 (±443)	33 (±3)	35 (±10)	2.0

7

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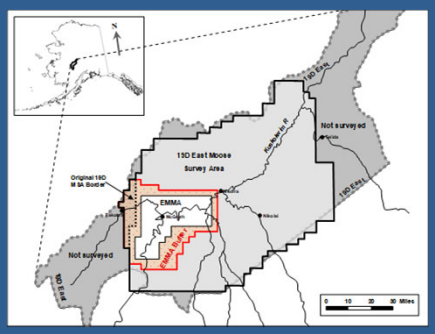
Proposal 95 Moose

EMMA Moose Data



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2015	955 (±216)	47 (±15)	22 (±10)	1.8
2017	1,019 (±165)	47 (±3)	15 (±2)	1.9
2019	965 (±240)	44 (±6)	21 (±15)	1.8

8

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Proposal 95 Moose

Current 19D East IM guidelines for managing moose population growth

- Population objective in the EMMA 2 moose/mi^2
- >20% twinning promote growth
- 15-20% twinning stabilize population through harvest
- <15% twinning reduce population through harvest

9

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Proposal 95 Moose

Twinning Data (EMMA)

Year	N	singletons	twins	twinning rate
2010	45	32	13	29%
2011	38	24	14	37%
2012	47	31	16	34%
2013	55	43	12	22%
2015	45	23	22	49%
2016	53	36	17	32%
2017	44	32	12	27%
2018	39	34	5	13%
2019	49	40	9	18%
2-year average				**16%**

10

10

Proposal 95 Moose

- IM moose population objective has been met.
- Moose harvest objectives have not been met.
- 2-year average twinning rate is between 15-20%
- Additional harvest is available

11

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Proposal 95 Moose

19D East Moose Harvest

Year	RM650	GM000	Total	Success
2010	105	4	109	48%
2011	127	7	134	53%
2012	103	2	105	41%
2013	107	7	114	52%
2014	131	12	143	52%
2015	142	20	162	59%
2016	123	22	145	61%
2017	121	17	138	60%
2018	103	20	123	55%

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Proposal 95 Moose

- 19D East population estimate 8,540 moose
- IM plan harvest objective 180 from the wolf control area
- Wolf control area harvestable surplus 200 moose
- Current average harvest 130

13

13

Proposal 95 Moose

- Effect of the proposal
  - Establish a resident winter moose hunt in 19D East
- Department recommendation
  - **SUPPORT** additional harvest but **NEUTRAL** on the allocative aspects of proposal
- McGrath AC proposal
  - Support with amendment

14

14

Proposal 96 19D East IM

- Effect of the proposal
  - Reauthorize the intensive management plan for Unit 19D East through June 2026
- Department recommendation
  - **SUPPORT**
- Department proposal
- McGrath AC
  - Support

15

15

Proposal 96 19D East IM

- **Proposed regulation:**
  - Re-authorize the IM Plan for Unit 19D East for 6 years
  - Includes public wolf control
  - Options for department bear and wolf control
  - Modify Unit 19D East
  - Modify wolf control focus area
  - Amend moose harvest objective

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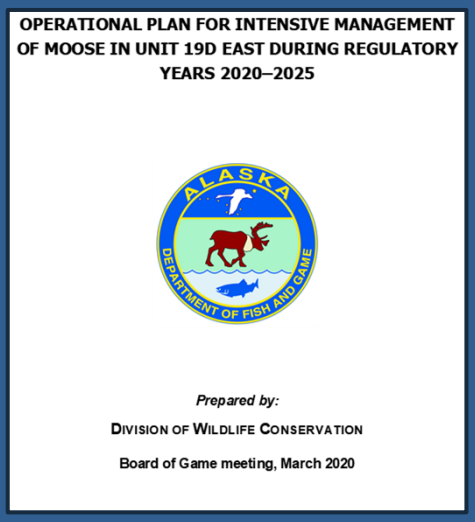
Proposal 96 19D East IM


OPERATIONAL PLAN FOR INTENSIVE MANAGEMENT OF MOOSE IN UNIT 19D EAST DURING REGULATORY YEARS 2020–2025

Prepared by:

DIVISION OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

Board of Game meeting, March 2020

17

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Proposal 96 19D East IM

History

- **Wolf predation control plan adopted 1995**
- **Department bear removals in 2003–2004**
- **Aerial wolf control 2003 – present**
- **Public bear snaring 2009-2014**

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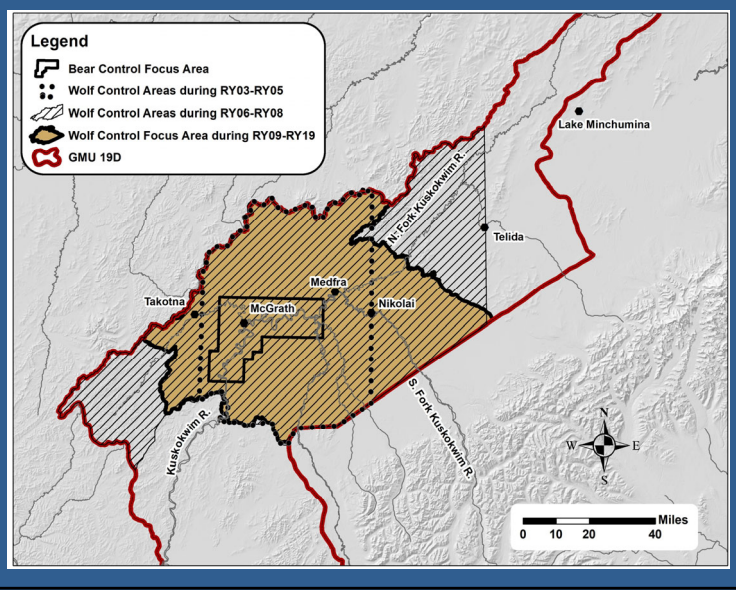
Proposal 96 19D East IM



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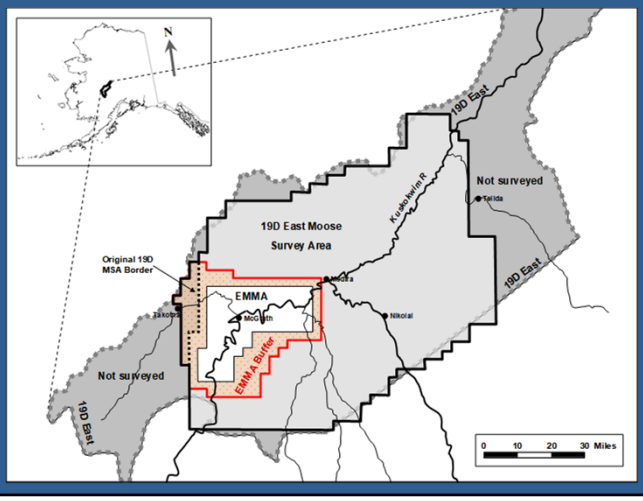
Proposal 96 19D East IM

19D East Moose Survey Areas



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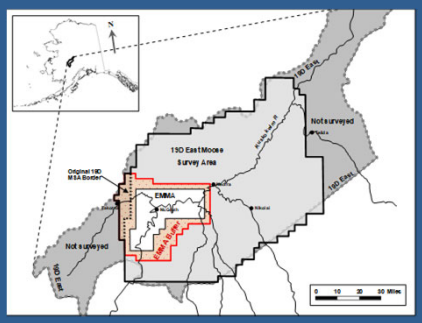
Proposal 96 19D East IM

19D East MSA Data



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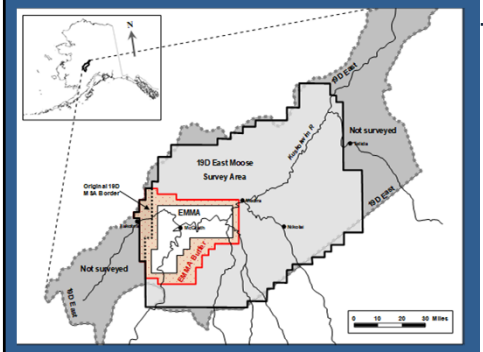
Proposal 96 19D East IM

Expanded EMMA Moose Data



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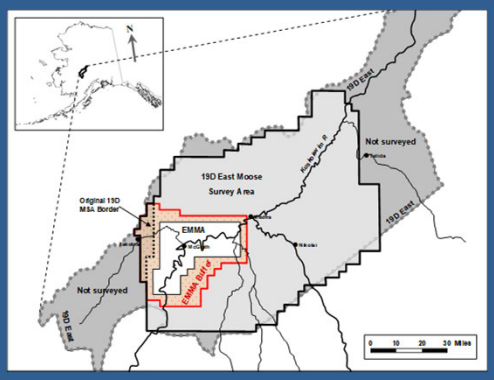
Proposal 96 19D East IM

EMMA Moose Data



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2019	965 (±240)	44 (±6)	21 (±15)	1.8

23

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Proposal 96 19D East IM

19D East IM Population Objective
6,000 – 8,000 (0.7-0.9 moose/mi²)

19D East Population Estimate
8,540 (1.0 moose/mi²)

24

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Proposal 96 19D East IM

19D East IM Harvest Objective
400 – 600 Moose

19D East Harvest RY10 – RY18
130 Moose/Year

25

25

Proposal 96 19D East IM

Twinning Data (BCFA)

Year	N	singletons	twins	twinning rate
2010	45	32	13	29%
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2012	47	31	16	34%
2013	55	43	12	22%
2015	45	23	22	49%
2016	53	36	17	32%
2017	44	32	12	27%
2018	39	34	5	13%
2019	49	40	9	18%
2-year average				**16%**

26

26

Proposal 96 19D East IM

IM Plan Moose Objectives

- **Density Objective**
  - **1 moose/mi² in WCFA**
- **Harvest Objective**
  - **225 moose from WCFA**

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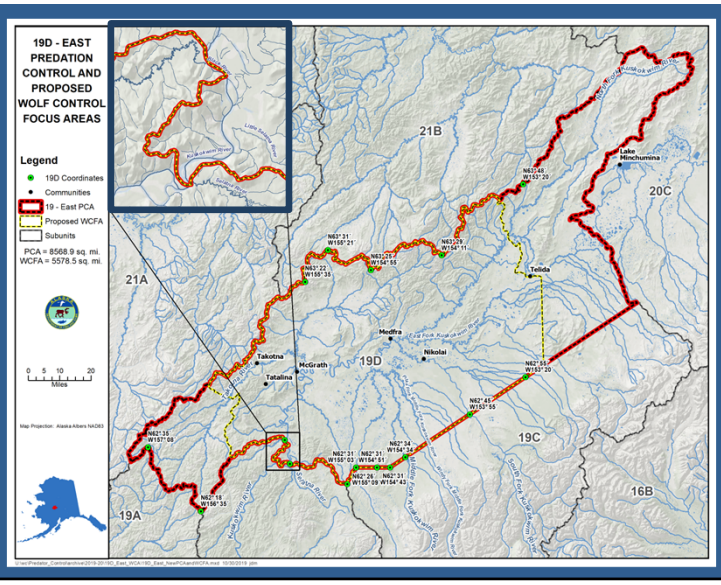
Proposal 96 19D East IM



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Proposal 96 19D East IM

92.123 paragraph (c) should correctly read "the Unit 19(D) East Predation Control Area is established and consists of those portions of the Kuskokwim River drainage within Unit 19(D) upstream from the Selatna River drainage, [AND] **but excluding** the Black River drainage,"

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Proposal 96 19D East IM

Wolf Population

- **198 wolves in 19D East in 2001**
  - **130 in wolf control focus area**

30

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Proposal 96 19D East IM

Wolf Objectives

- **Reduce wolves by at least 60 – 80% in the WCFA**
- **Only removing wolves from the WCFA will ensure wolves persist in Unit 19D East**

31

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Proposal 96 19D East IM

Wolf take within the WCFA

RY	Hunting Trapping	Wolf control	Total removal	Spring Abundance	% Reduction
2010	6	13	19		
2011	11	22	33	24	77%
2012	5	8	13	20	81%
2013	9	9	18	9	91%
2014	13	10	23	19	82%
2015	19	12	31		
2016	14	12	26	63	40%
2017	23	29	52	31	70%
2018	10	63	73	10	90%

32

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Proposal 96 19D East IM

Black bear population BCFA

Year	Estimate
2003 pre-removal	96
2004 post-removal	4
2007	70
2010	123
2013	113
2016	96

33

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Proposal 96 19D East IM

Black bear population 19D East

Location	Population estimate	Population Density (bears/1,000mi^2)
19D East	1,700	200

34

34

Proposal 96 19D East IM

Black bear take from the BCFA

RY	Hunting
2014	15
2015	3
2016	5
2017	8
2018	4

35

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Proposal 96 19D East IM

Grizzly Bear Numbers

Location	Population estimate	Population Density (bears/1,000mi^2)
19D East	128	15
BCFA	9	17

36

36

Proposal 96 19D East IM

Grizzly bear take from the BCFA

RY	Hunting
2014	2
2015	0
2016	2
2017	0
2018	0

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Proposal 96 19D East IM

Bear Control

- **Consider future department conducted bear control if moose densities fall below 1.2 moose/mi^2 in the bear control area and twinning rates are above 20%.**

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Proposal 96 19D East IM

Bear Objectives

- Black bears in BCFA
  - lowest level possible
- Brown bears in BCFA
  - lowest level possible

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Proposal 96 19D East IM

Twinning Rate Guidelines

- When above 20% - promote growth
- When 15 – 20% - stabilize population
- When below 15% - reduce population

40

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Proposal 96 19D East IM

- Effect of the proposal
  - Reauthorize the intensive management plan for Unit 19D East through June 2026
- Department recommendation
  - **SUPPORT**
- Department proposal
- McGrath AC
  - Support

41

41

Proposal 97 Moose

- Effect of the proposal
  - Change tier II permit (TM680) to a registration permit
- Department recommendation
  - **NEUTRAL** on allocation issues but **OPPOSED** as written because hunters are harvesting the maximum number of moose
- Bethel AC proposal

42

42

Proposal 97 Moose

Current Regulations

- Unit 19A downstream from and including the George River and downstream from and excluding Downey Creek
  - Sept 1 – Sept 20
  - 1 antlered bull
  - Tier II permit TM680
  - 1 permit per household
  - Up to 300 permits

43

43

Proposal 97 Moose

Proposed Regulations

- Unit 19A downstream from and including the George River and downstream from and excluding Downey Creek
  - Sept 1 – Sept 20
  - 1 antlered bull
  - Registration permit
  - Permits available in Units 18 and 19 before the hunt
  - No limit on the number of permits

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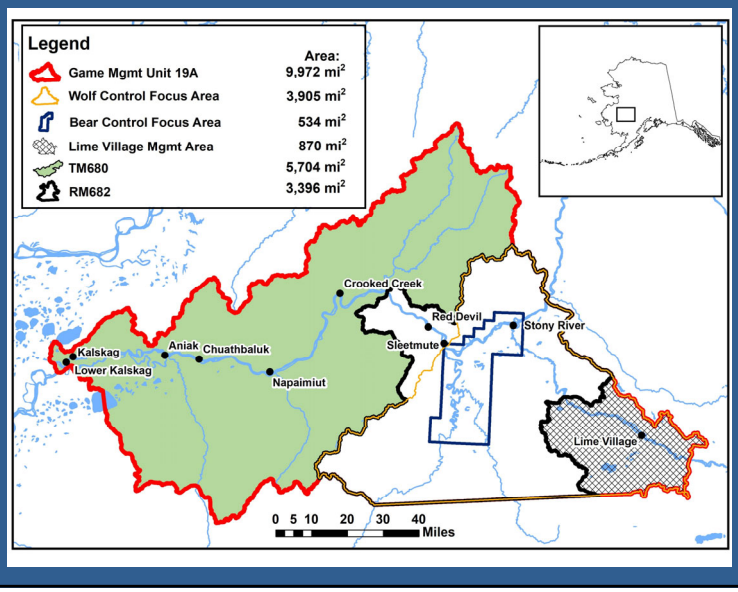
Proposal 97 Moose



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Proposal 97 Moose

Regulatory History

- 2000 concerns of declining moose
- 2002 BOG shortened seasons
- 2002 Planning process initiated
  - Central Kuskokwim Moose Management Planning Committee

46

46

Proposal 97 Moose

Regulatory History

CENTRAL KUSKOKWIM MOOSE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Prepared by:
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Division of Wildlife Conservation
In cooperation with:
Central Kuskokwim Moose Management Planning Committee

June 2004

47

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Proposal 97 Moose

Regulatory History

- RM640 moose permits
  - 1,031 permits in 2004
  - 1,086 permits in 2005
- 57% of all permits went to Unit 18 hunters and 39% went to Unit 19A hunters
- Approximately 82% of permittees hunted
- Average of 147 moose harvested annually

48

48

Proposal 97 Moose

Regulatory History

- Harvestable surplus was being exceeded under RM640
- 2006 closed eastern 19A excluding the LVMA
- TM680 established in western 19A

49

49

Proposal 97 Moose

Amounts Necessary for Subsistence

Positive C&T determination and ANS

- Unit 19 outside the LVMA 400-700 moose including:
  - 175-225 in Unit 19A
  - 20-24 in Unit 19B
- 30-40 in the LVMA portion of 19A
- Harvestable surplus for 19A outside LVMA 242

50

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Proposal 97 Moose

Harvest Summary

- State Hunt 200 Permits (TM680)
  - Average 105 bulls/year RY15 – RY19
- Federal Hunt 100 Permits (FM1901)
  - Average 45 bulls/year RY15 – RY19
- Mortuary Moose Harvest
  - Average 10 moose/year

51

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Proposal 97 Moose

Moose Composition Data

Regulatory year	Bulls: 100 Cows	Calves: 100 Cows	Percent calves
2005–2006	20	23	16%
2007–2008	28	52	29%
2008–2009	42	23	14%
2013–2014	38	41	23%
2016–2017	22	52	30%
2017–2018	20	64	35%
2018–2019	26	28	18%

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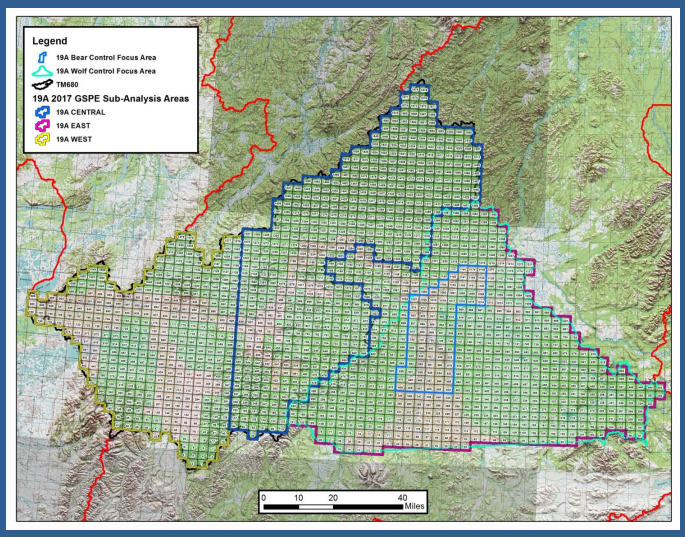
Proposal 97 Moose



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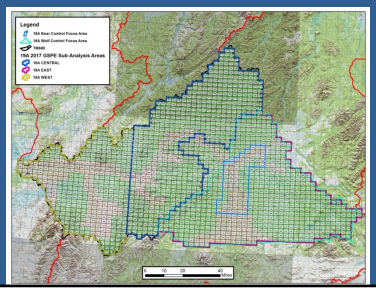
Proposal 97 Moose

TM680 Survey Results

- 2010 western survey area 0.4 moose/mi^2
- 2017 western survey area 1.3 moose/mi^2

- 2010 TM680 0.3 moose/mi^2
- 2017 TM680 0.7 moose/mi^2



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Proposal 97 Moose

2017 GSPE Population Results

Area	Total Area	Total Moose (w/SCF)	Density	**Harvestable Surplus**
TM680	5,735 mi^2	4,135	0.7	**165**
RM682	3,419 mi^2	1,932	0.6	77
19A	9,154 mi^2	6,067	0.6	**242**

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Proposal 97 Moose

Major Points

- Currently harvesting 160 moose per year
- TM680 harvestable surplus 165 moose
- Two-year average bull:cow ratio 23:100
- **No additional harvest available in TM680 area**
- 19A harvestable surplus (242) is above ANS (175-225)

56

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Proposal 97 Moose

- Department recommendation
  - Harvesting maximum number of animals available
  - Concerns of increased harvest
  - Estimate around 1000 permits would be issued
  - Need to ensure harvest does not increase
  - Need clear guidance on permit issuance

57

57

Proposal 97 Moose

- Effect of the proposal
  - Change tier II permit (TM680) to a registration permit
- Department recommendation
  - **NEUTRAL** on allocation issues but **OPPOSED** as written because hunters are harvesting the maximum number of moose
- Bethel AC proposal

58

58

Proposal 98 Moose

- Effect of the proposal
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  - **NEUTRAL** on allocation issues but **OPPOSED** as written because hunters are harvesting the maximum number of moose
- Public proposal

59

59

Proposal 98 Moose

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Proposal 98 Moose

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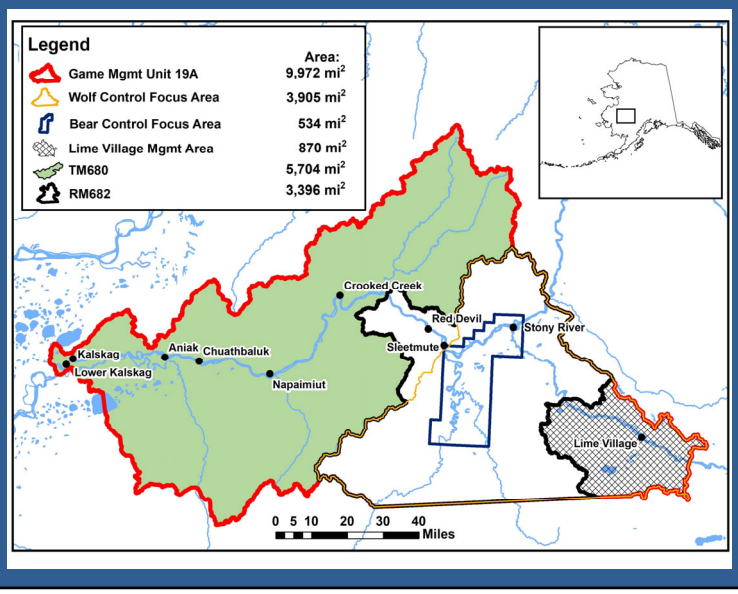
Proposal 98 Moose



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Proposal 98 Moose

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Proposal 98 Moose

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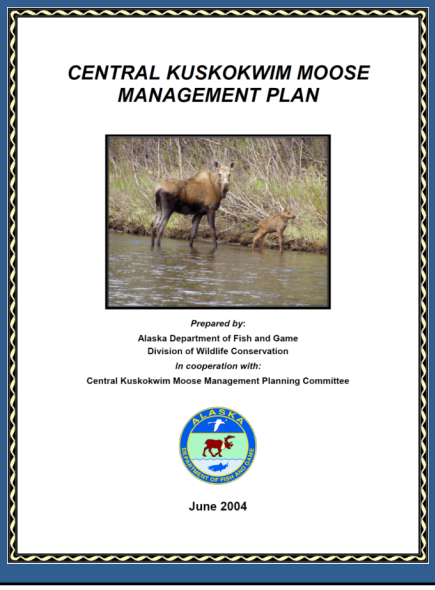
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- RM640 moose permits
  - 1,031 permits in 2004
  - 1,086 permits in 2005
- 57% of all permits went to Unit 18 hunters and 39% went to Unit 19A hunters
- Approximately 82% of permittees hunted
- Average of 147 moose harvested annually

65

65

Proposal 98 Moose

Regulatory History

- Harvestable surplus was being exceeded under RM640
- 2006 closed eastern 19A excluding the LVMA
- TM680 established in western 19A

66

66

Proposal 98 Moose

Amounts Necessary for Subsistence

Positive C&T determination and ANS

- Unit 19 outside the LVMA 400-700 moose including:
  - 175-225 in Unit 19A
  - 20-24 in Unit 19B
- 30-40 in the LVMA portion of 19A
- Harvestable surplus for 19A outside LVMA 242

67

67

Proposal 98 Moose

Harvest Summary

- State Hunt 200 Permits (TM680)
  - Average 105 bulls/year RY15 – RY19
- Federal Hunt 100 Permits (FM1901)
  - Average 45 bulls/year RY15 – RY19
- Mortuary Moose Harvest
  - Average 10 moose/year

68

68

Proposal 98 Moose

Moose Composition Data

Regulatory year	Bulls: 100 Cows	Calves: 100 Cows	Percent calves
2005–2006	20	23	16%
2007–2008	28	52	29%
2008–2009	42	23	14%
2013–2014	38	41	23%
2016–2017	22	52	30%
2017–2018	20	64	35%
2018–2019	26	28	18%

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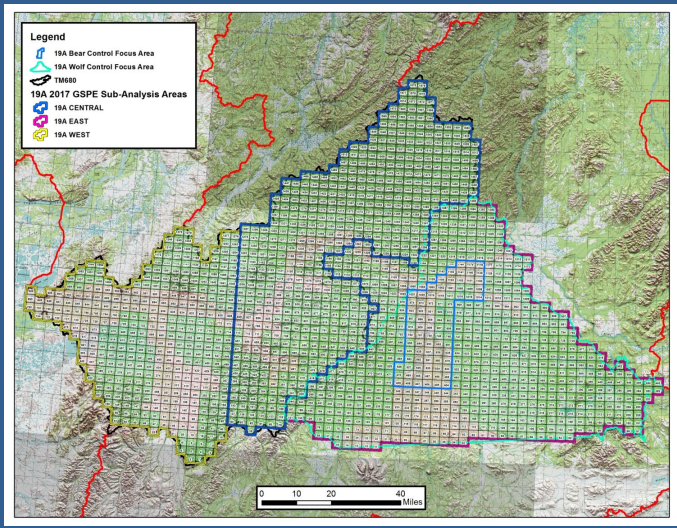
Proposal 98 Moose



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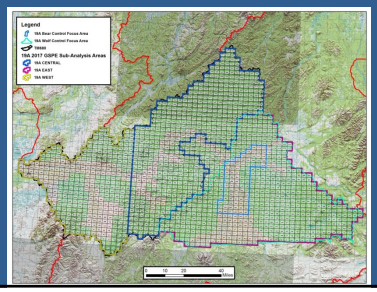
Proposal 98 Moose

TM680 Survey Results

- 2010 western survey area 0.4 moose/mi^2
- 2017 western survey area 1.3 moose/mi^2

- 2010 TM680 0.3 moose/mi^2
- 2017 TM680 0.7 moose/mi^2



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Proposal 98 Moose

2017 GSPE Population Results

Area	Total Area	Total Moose (w/SCF)	Density	**Harvestable Surplus**
TM680	5,735 mi^2	4,135	0.7	**165**
RM682	3,419 mi^2	1,932	0.6	77
19A	9,154 mi^2	6,067	0.6	**242**

72

72

Proposal 98 Moose

Major Points

- Currently harvesting 160 moose per year
- TM680 harvestable surplus 165 moose
- Two-year average bull:cow ratio 23:100
- **No additional harvest available in TM680 area**
- 19A harvestable surplus (242) is above ANS (175-225)

73

73

Proposal 98 Moose

- Department recommendation
  - Harvesting maximum number of animals available
  - Concerns of increased harvest
  - Estimate around 1000 permits would be issued
  - Need to ensure harvest does not increase
  - Need clear guidance on permit issuance

74

74

Proposal 98 Moose

- Effect of the proposal
  - Change tier II permit (TM680) to a registration permit
- Department recommendation
  - **NEUTRAL** on allocation issues but **OPPOSED** as written because hunters are harvesting the maximum number of moose
- Public proposal

75

75

Proposal 99 Moose

- Effect of the proposal
  - Change the tier II permit (TM680) to a household permit
- Department recommendation
  - **NEUTRAL**
- Central Kuskokwim AC proposal

76

76

Proposal 99 Moose

Current Regulations

- Unit 19A downstream from and including the George River and downstream from and excluding Downey Creek
  - Sept 1 – Sept 20
  - 1 antlered bull
  - Tier II permit TM680
  - Individual permit with only 1 permit/household
  - Up to 300 permits

77

77

Proposal 99 Moose

Proposed Regulations

- Unit 19A downstream from and including the George River and downstream from and excluding Downey Creek
  - Sept 1 – Sept 20
  - 1 antlered bull
  - Tier II household permit
  - Up to 300 permits

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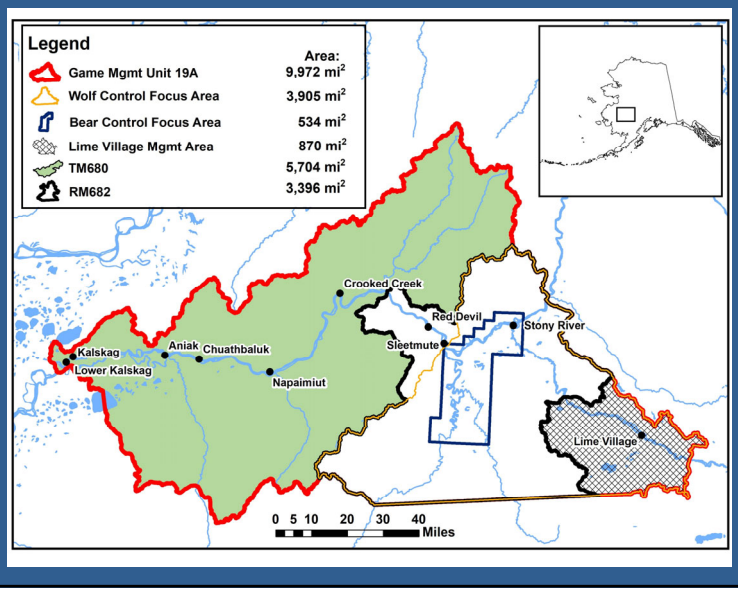
Proposal 99 Moose



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Proposal 99 Moose

Harvest Summary

- State Hunt 200 Permits (TM680)
  - Average 105 bulls/year RY15 – RY19
- Federal Hunt 100 Permits (FM1901)
  - Average 45 bulls/year RY15 – RY19
- Mortuary Moose Harvest
  - Average 10 moose/year

80

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Proposal 99 Moose

- Effect of the proposal
  - Change the tier II permit (TM680) to a household permit
- Department recommendation
  - **NEUTRAL**
- Central Kuskokwim AC proposal

81

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Proposal 100 Moose

- Effect of the proposal
  - Extend resident season dates for moose hunting in 19A remainder
- Department recommendation
  - **OPPOSED**
- Public proposal
- Stony Holitna AC
  - Opposed

82

82

Proposal 100 Moose

Current Regulations

- Unit 19A remainder
  - Sept 1 – Sept 5
  - 1 antlered bull
  - Registration permit RM682
  - Up to 75 permits
  - Holitna/Hoholitna Controlled Use Area

83

83

Proposal 100 Moose

Permit Conditions

- Available in person in Sleetmute and Stony River during month of July
- Only one permit per household
- May not hold any other moose hunting permits on the Kuskokwim River
- Proxy hunting is not allowed
- Reporting required by Sept 20

84

84

Proposal 100 Moose

Proposed Regulations

- Unit 19A remainder
  - Sept 1 – Sept 30
  - 1 antlered bull
  - Registration permit RM682
  - Up to 75 permits
  - Holitna/Hoholitna Controlled Use Area

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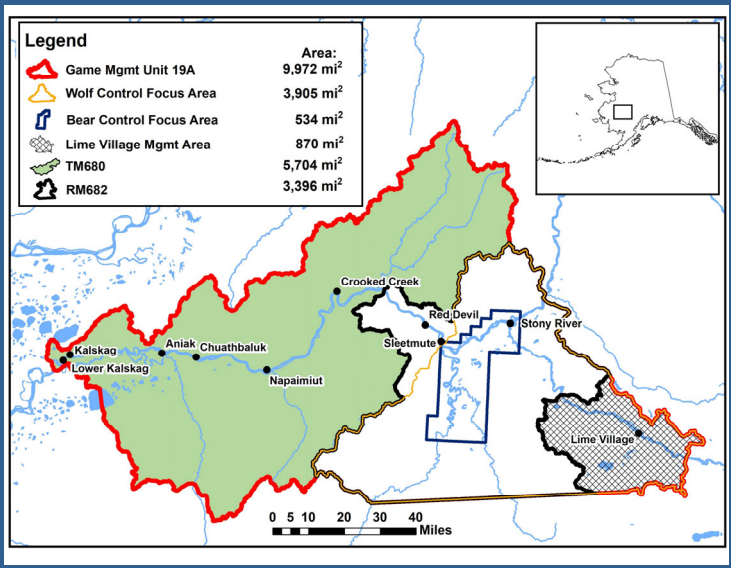
Proposal 100 Moose



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Proposal 100 Moose

2019 Harvest Data RM682

- 30 permits issued
- 19 hunted
- 8 killed (42% success)
  - 6 Holitna
  - 2 Stony

87

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Proposal 100 Moose

2017 GSPE Population Results

Area	Total Area	Total Moose (w/SCF)	Density	**Harvestable Surplus**
RM682	3,419 mi^2	1,932	0.6	77
BCFA	534 mi^2	728	1.4	**29**

88

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Proposal 100 Moose

Composition Data

Regulatory Year	Calves: 100 Cows	Bulls:100 Cows
2013–2014	50	55
2016–2017	55	58
2017-2018	34	36
2018-2019	40	52
2019-2020	21	40

89

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Proposal 100 Moose

Points To Consider

- RM682 hunt area was closed for 13 years
- Moose numbers have improved but the harvestable surplus is small (~30 moose)
- Board actions to open hunt were deliberately conservative
- Local support was contingent upon a conservative hunt
- Need several years of data to assess harvest before changes are made

90

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Proposal 100 Moose

- Effect of the proposal
  - Extend resident season dates for moose hunting in 19A remainder
- Department recommendation
  - **OPPOSED**
- Public proposal
- Stony Holitna AC
  - Opposed

91

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Proposal 101 CUA

- Effect of the proposal
  - Remove the 40-horsepower restriction in the Holitna-Hoholitna controlled use area in 19A
- Department recommendation
  - **NEUTRAL**
- Public proposal
- Stony Holitna AC
  - Opposed

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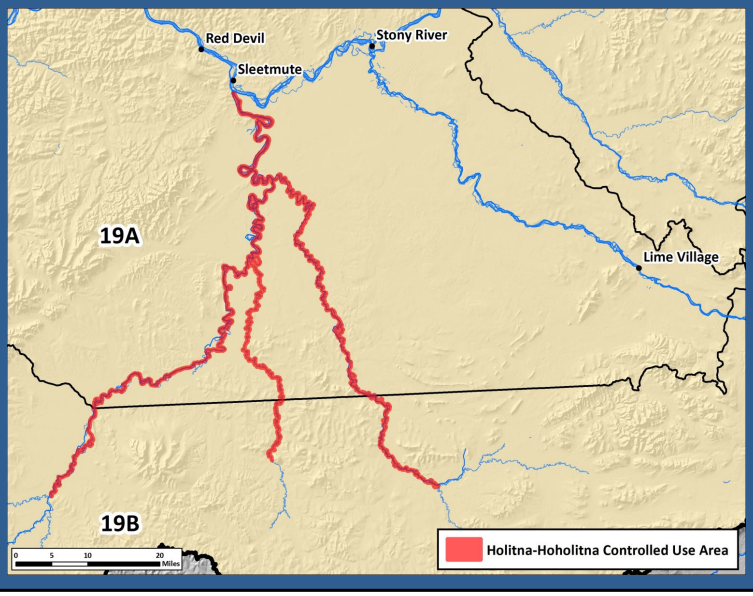
Proposal 101 CUA



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Proposal 101 CUA

Current Regulation

- Closed to the use of any boat equipped with a motor in excess of 40 horse-power for taking big game, from August 1 – November 1.

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Proposal 101 CUA

Proposed Regulation

- Remove horsepower restriction in the Unit 19A portion of Holitna-Hoholitna controlled use area

95

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Proposal 101 CUA

- RM640 moose permits
  - 1,031 permits in 2004
  - 1,086 permits in 2005
- 57% of all permits went to unit 18 hunters and 39% went to Unit 19A hunters
- Approximately 82% of permittees hunted

96

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Proposal 101 CUA

Background

- The board created the CUA to reduce user conflicts
- The board has consistently upheld the CUA and similar proposals failed in 1994, 2004, 2008 and 2017
- The board recently opened a hunt for the first time since 2005

97

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Proposal 101 CUA

- Effect of the proposal
  - Remove the 40-horsepower restriction in the Holitna-Hoholitna controlled use area in 19A
- Department recommendation
  - **NEUTRAL**
- Public proposal
- Stony Holitna AC
  - Opposed

98

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Proposal 102 Moose

- Effect of the proposal
  - Shift the season dates for TM680
- Department recommendation
  - **NEUTRAL**
- Public proposal

99

99

Proposal 102 Moose

Current Regulations/Proposed Regulations

- Unit 19A downstream from and including the George River and downstream from and excluding Downey Creek
  - Sept 1 – Sept 20/**Sept 5 – Sept 25**
  - 1 antlered bull
  - Tier II permit TM680
  - Up to 300 permits

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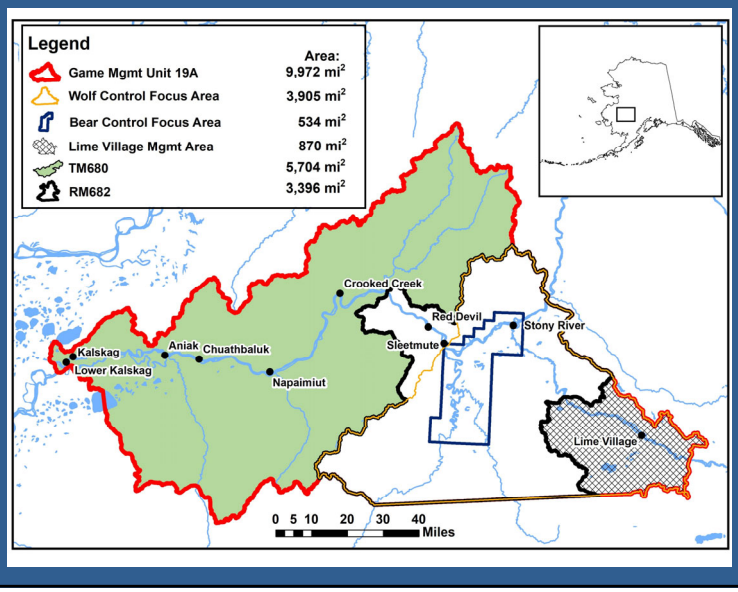
Proposal 102 Moose



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Proposal 102 Moose

Harvest Summary

- State Hunt 200 Permits (TM680)
  - Average 105 bulls/year RY15 – RY19
- Federal Hunt 100 Permits (FM1901)
  - Average 45 bulls/year RY15 – RY19
- Mortuary Moose Harvest
  - Average 10 moose/year

102

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Proposal 102 Moose

2017 GSPE Population Results

Area	Total Area	Total Moose (w/SCF)	Density	**Harvestable Surplus**
TM680	5,735 mi^2	4,135	0.7	**165**

103

103

Proposal 102 Moose

Moose Composition Data

Regulatory year	Bulls:100 Cows	Calves: 100 Cows
2005–2006	20	23
2007–2008	28	52
2008–2009	42	23
2013–2014	38	41
2016–2017	22	52
2017–2018	20	64
2018–2019	26	28

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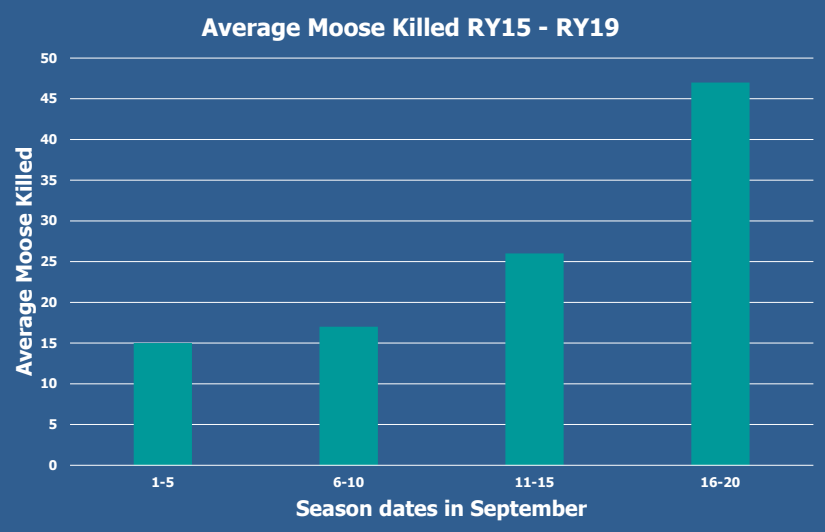
Proposal 102 Moose



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Proposal 102 Moose

Major Points

- Currently harvesting 160 moose per year
- Harvestable surplus 165 moose
- Two-year average bull:cow ratio 23:100
- Shift in season dates would increase harvest
- **No additional harvest available in TM680 area**

106

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Proposal 102 Moose

- Effect of the proposal
  - Shift the season dates for TM680
- Department recommendation
  - **NEUTRAL**
- Public proposal

107

107

Proposal 103 Moose

- Effect of the proposal
  - Establish a tier II hunt in 19A remainder if harvestable surplus falls below the lower range of ANS
- Department recommendation
  - **NEUTRAL**
- Public proposal
- Stony Holitna AC
  - Opposed

108

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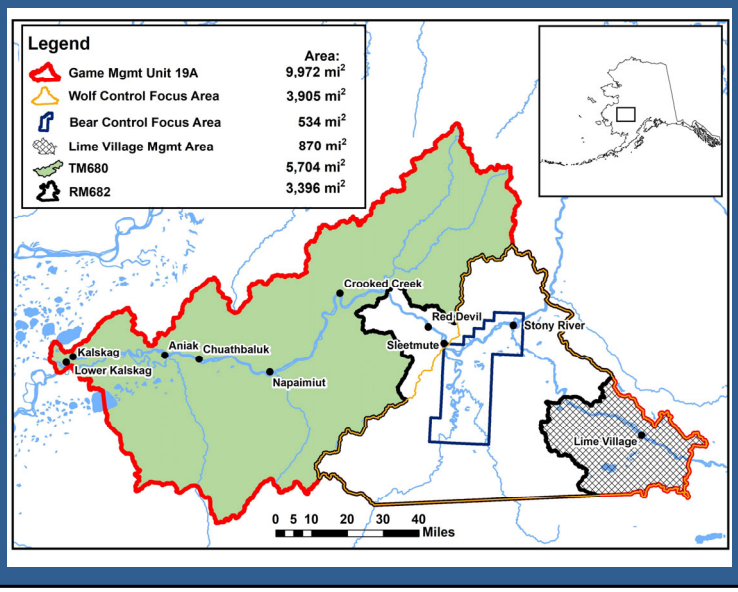
Proposal 103 Moose



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Proposal 103 Moose

Current Regulations

- Unit 19A remainder
  - Sept 1 – Sept 5
  - 1 antlered bull
  - Registration permit RM682
  - Up to 75 permits
  - Holitna/Hoholitna Controlled Use Area

110

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Proposal 103 Moose

Board Findings (2019-225-BOG)

1. Registration permits for moose in the remainder of Unit 19A will be available in person in communities in the hunt area only, during the month of July, and only one permit is allowed per household.
2. A person holding a permit for this hunt may not hold another moose permit in the Kuskokwim River drainage for that regulatory year.
3. 30 permits will be issued the first year. Up to 75 permits may be issued in subsequent years at the department's discretion. In exercising this discretion, the department should consider the harvestable portion of the moose population, the success of hunters in harvesting moose under these permits, and the potential for overhunting that could result in a population decline.
4. If the 2-year average bull:cow ratio decreases below 35:100 the hunt will close until a 2-year average bull:cow ratio is at least 35:100 within the hunt area.
5. If the harvestable portion of the population decreases below the lower range of the amount reasonably necessary for subsistence for 19A, the hunt will close until the harvestable portion reaches the minimum ANS for 19A.
6. No proxy hunting will be permitted for this hunt.

111

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Proposal 103 Moose

Proposed Regulations

- Unit 19A remainder
  - Sept 1 – Sept 5
  - 1 antlered bull
  - Registration permit RM682
  - Up to 75 permits
  - Holitna/Hoholitna Controlled Use Area
  - Area will go to tier II if harvestable portion is below the lower range of the ANS

112

112

Proposal 103 Moose

Amounts Necessary for Subsistence

Positive C&T determination and ANS

- Unit 19 outside the LVMA 400-700 moose including:
  - 175-225 in Unit 19A
  - 20-24 in Unit 19B
- 30-40 in the LVMA portion of 19A

113

113

Proposal 103 Moose

2017 GSPE Population Results

Area	Total Area	Total Moose (w/SCF)	Density	**Harvestable Surplus**
TM680	5,735 mi^2	4,135	0.7	165
RM682	3,419 mi^2	1,932	0.6	77
19A	9,154 mi^2	6,067	0.6	**242**

114

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Proposal 103 Moose

Points to consider

- RM682 hunt area was closed for 13 years
- Board actions to open hunt were deliberately conservative
- Local support was contingent upon sideboards including returning to a closure rather than tier II

115

115

Proposal 103 Moose

- Effect of the proposal
  - Establish a tier II hunt in 19A remainder if harvestable surplus falls below the lower range of ANS
- Department recommendation
  - **NEUTRAL**
- Public proposal
- Stony Holitna AC
  - Opposed

116

116

Proposal 104 19A IM

- Effect of the proposal
  - Reauthorize the intensive management plan for Unit 19A through June 2026
- Department recommendation
  - **SUPPORT**
- Department proposal
- Stony Holitna AC
  - Support

117

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Proposal 104 19A IM

- **Proposed regulation:**
  - Re-authorize the IM Plan for Unit 19A for 6 years
  - Includes public wolf control
  - Options for department bear and wolf control
  - Amend moose harvest objective

118

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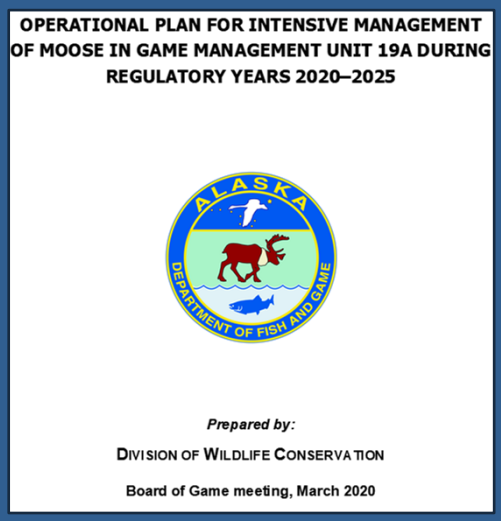
Proposal 104 19A IM


OPERATIONAL PLAN FOR INTENSIVE MANAGEMENT OF MOOSE IN GAME MANAGEMENT UNIT 19A DURING REGULATORY YEARS 2020–2025

Prepared by:

DIVISION OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

Board of Game meeting, March 2020

119

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Proposal 104 19A IM

- **2004 wolf predation control plan in 19A and 19B**
- **2006 revised to include just 19A**
- **2009 reauthorized in just eastern 19A**
- **2012 amended to include department conducted bear control**
- **2014 reauthorized for 6 years**

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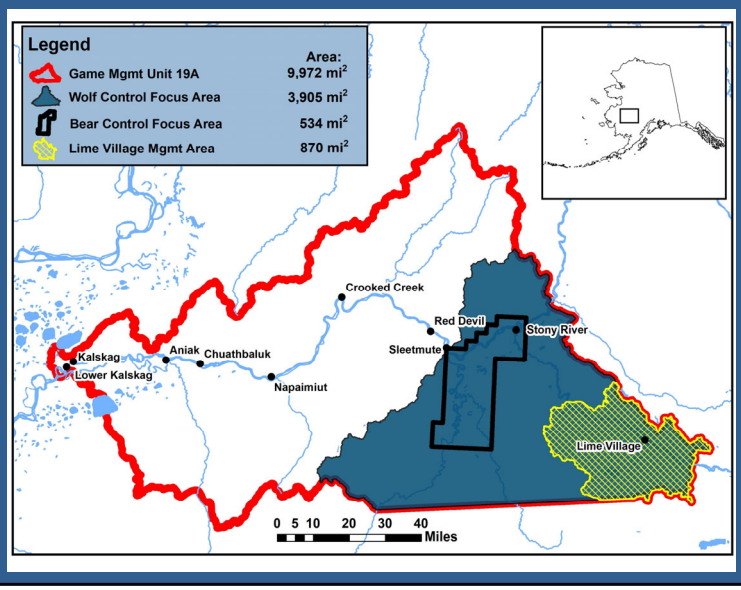
Proposal 104 19A IM



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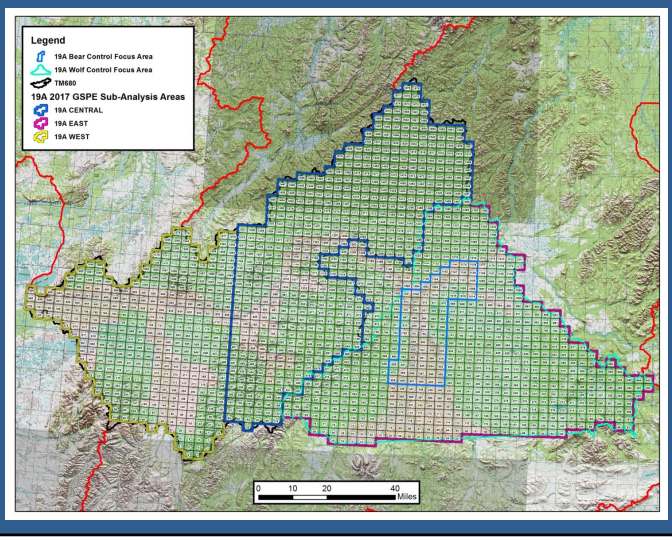
Proposal 104 19A IM

19A Moose Survey Areas



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Proposal 104 19A IM

19A East Moose Survey Data

Year	Moose	Moose/mi^2
2005	1,285	0.3
2008	1,715	0.4
2011	1,715	0.4
2017	2,165	0.5

123

123

Proposal 104 19A IM

Composition Data Unit 19A BCFA

Regulatory Year	Calves: 100 Cows	Bulls:100 Cows
2010–2011	19	48
2011–2012	31	38
2013–2014	50	55
2016–2017	55	58
2017-2018	34	36
2018-2019	40	52
2019-2020	21	40

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Proposal 104 19A IM

Twinning Data (BCFA)

Year	N	Singletons	Twins	Twinning Rate
2013	41	18	23	56%
2014	48	18	30	63%
2018	40	14	26	65%
2-year average				**64%**

125

125

Proposal 104 19A IM

19A IM Population Objective **7,600 – 9,300 (0.8-0.9 moose/mi²)**
19A Population Estimate **6,300 (0.6 moose/mi²)**

126

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Proposal 104 19A IM

19A IM Harvest Objective **400 – 550 Moose**
19A Harvest RY19 **175 Moose**

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Proposal 104 19A IM

IM Plan Moose Objectives

- **Density Objective**
  - **1 moose/mi^2 in WCFA**
- **Harvest Objective**
  - **155 moose from WCFA**

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Proposal 104 19A IM

Pre-control Wolf population

- 150 wolves in 19A in 2006
  - 75 in wolf control focus area

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Proposal 104 19A IM

Wolf objectives

- Reduce wolves by at least 60 – 80% in the WCFA
- Only removing wolves from the WCFA will ensure wolves persist in Unit 19A

130

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Proposal 104 19A IM

Wolf take within the WCFA

RY	Hunting Trapping	Wolf control	Total removal	Spring Abundance	% Reduction
2010	1	10	11	19	75%
2011	0	8	8	13	83%
2012	2	0	2	22	71%
2013	2	6	8	24	68%
2014	5	2	7	20	74%
2015	2	0	2		
2016	1	14	15		
2017	2	1	3		
2018	2	8	10	60	20%

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Proposal 104 19A IM

Black bear population 19A

Location	Population estimate
19A	2,500 – 3,000
BCFA (pre-control)	92 – 102

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Proposal 104 19A IM

Grizzly bear population 19A

Location	Population Estimate
19A	180 – 210
BCFA (pre-control)	10 – 15

133

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Proposal 104 19A IM

Bear control

Year	Black Bear	Grizzly Bear
2013	84	5
2014	54	10

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Proposal 104 19A IM

Grizzly bear take from the BCFA

RY	Hunting
2014	1
2015	1
2016	0
2017	0
2018	0

135

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Proposal 104 19A IM

Bear Control

- **Consider future department conducted bear control if densities fall below 1.2 moose/mi² in the bear control area and twinning rates are above 20%**

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Proposal 104 19A IM

Bear Objectives

- Black bears in BCFA
  - lowest level possible
- Brown bears in BCFA
  - lowest level possible

137

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Proposal 104 19A IM

Twinning rate guidelines

- When above 20% - promote growth
- When 15 – 20% - stabilize population
- When below 15% - reduce population

138

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Proposal 104 19A IM

- Effect of the proposal
  - Reauthorize the intensive management plan for Unit 19A through June 2026
- Department recommendation
  - **SUPPORT**
- Department proposal
- Stony Holitna AC
  - Support

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Proposal 105 19A IM

- Effect of the proposal
  - Authorize predator control for wolves and bears in Unit 19A
- Department recommendation
  - **NEUTRAL**
- Central Kuskokwim AC proposal

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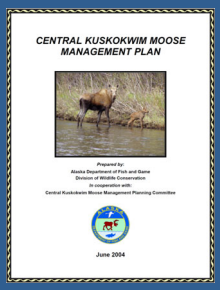
Proposal 105 19A IM

- **2004 wolf predation control plan in 19A and 19B**
- **2006 revised to include just 19A**
- **2009 reauthorized in just eastern 19A**


CENTRAL KUSKOKWIM MOOSE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Prepared by:
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Division of Wildlife Conservation
In cooperation with:
Central Kuskokwim Moose Management Planning Committee

June 2004

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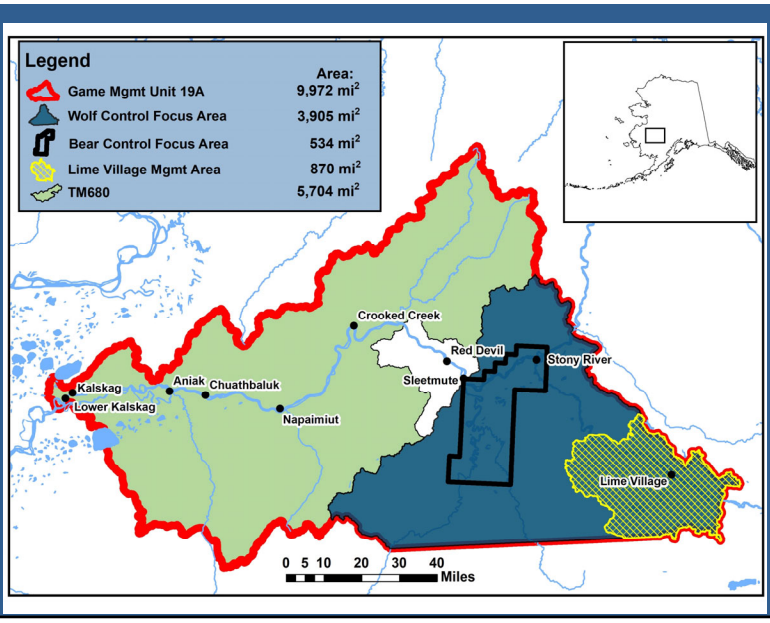
Proposal 105 19A IM



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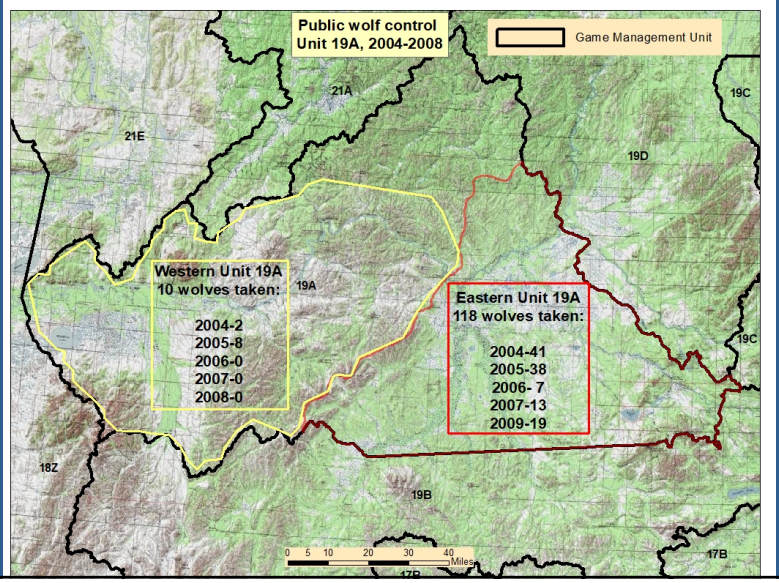
Proposal 105 19A IM



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Proposal 105 19A IM

Reasons wolf control did not work downriver of Sleetmute:
-It's not just one thing-

1. Land ownership
2. Topography
3. Weather and snow conditions
4. Other factors

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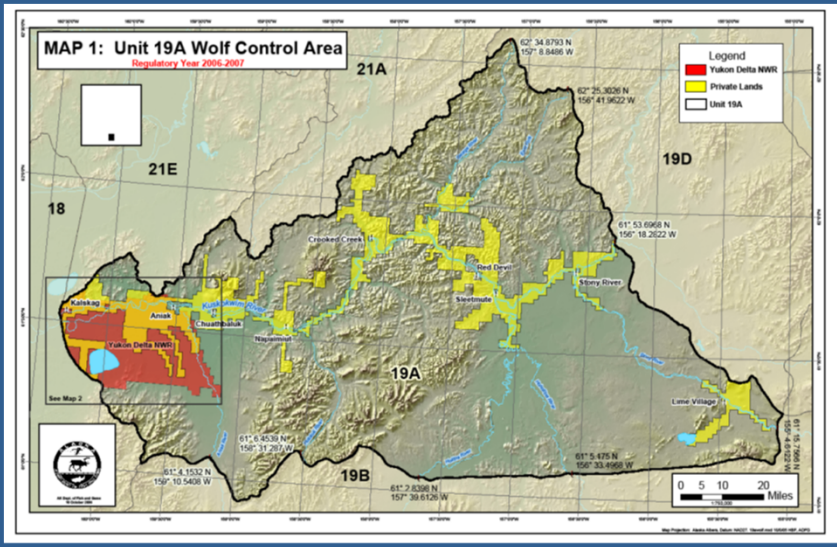
Proposal 105 19A IM

1. Land Status



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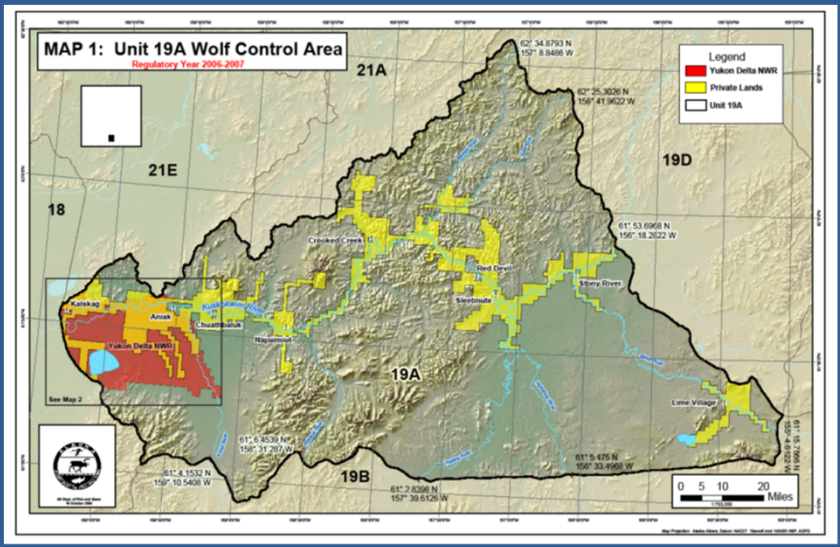
Proposal 105 19A IM

2. Topography



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Proposal 105 19A IM

3. Weather and snow conditions

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Proposal 105 19A IM

4. Other factors

- High fuel costs
- Pilot availability
- Logistics
  - long way to Aniak
  - lodging difficult/expensive
  - food
  - tie downs and electricity

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Proposal 105 19A IM

19A IM Population Objective
7,600 – 9,300 (0.8-0.9 moose/mi^2)

19A Population Estimate
6,300 (0.6 moose/mi^2)

149

149

Proposal 105 19A IM

19A IM Harvest Objective
400 – 550 Moose

19A Harvest RY19
175 Moose

150

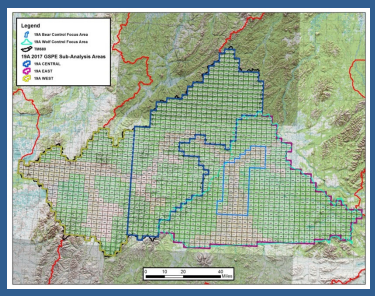
150

Proposal 105 19A IM

TM680 Survey Results

- 2010 western survey area 0.4 moose/mi^2
- 2017 western survey area 1.3 moose/mi^2

- 2010 TM680 0.3 moose/mi^2
- 2017 TM680 0.7 moose/mi^2



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Proposal 105 19A IM

Harvest Summary

- State Hunt 200 Permits (TM680)
  - Average 105 bulls/year RY15 – RY19
- Federal Hunt 100 Permits (FM1901)
  - Average 45 bulls/year RY15 – RY19
- Mortuary Moose Harvest
  - Average 10 moose/year

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Proposal 105 19A IM

Harvest Potential

- Currently 200 tier II permits are issued and last year 276 people applied
- RM640 moose permits
  - 1,031 permits in 2004
  - 1,086 permits in 2005
- More demand than permits available

153

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Proposal 105 19A IM

- **Summary:**
  - Land access has changed, but there are still large areas of federal land which are not accessible
  - Weather and snow are typically not good in this area
  - Pilot availability may be a significant challenge

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Proposal 105 19A IM

- Effect of the proposal
  - Authorize predator control for wolves and bears in Unit 19A
- Department recommendation
  - **NEUTRAL**
- Central Kuskokwim AC proposal

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Proposal 106 19A IM

- Effect of the proposal
  - Expand the bear control area to include the LVMA
- Department recommendation
  - **NEUTRAL**
- Stony Holitna AC proposal
  - Support

156

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Proposal 106 19A IM

- **2004 wolf control began in Unit 19A including LVMA**
- **2009 reauthorized in just eastern 19A**
- **2012 amended to include department conducted bear control in the BCFA**
- **2014 reauthorized for 6 years**

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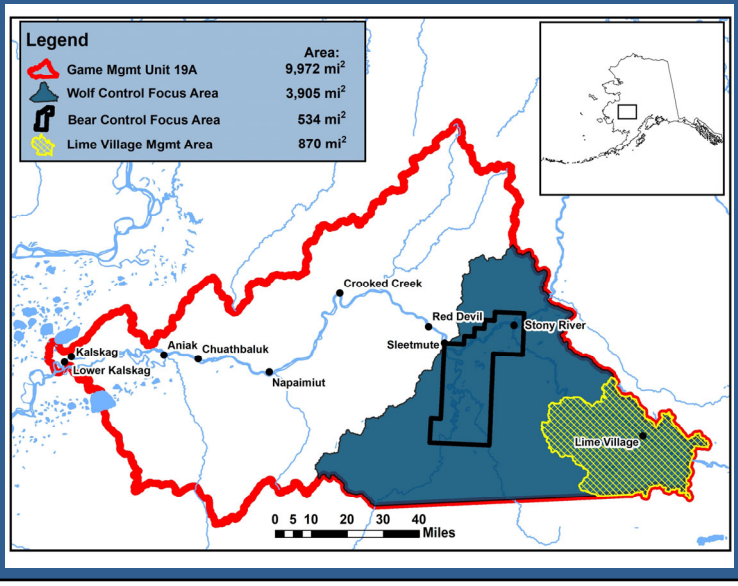
Proposal 106 19A IM



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Proposal 106 19A IM

19A IM Population Objective **7,600 – 9,300 (0.8-0.9 moose/mi^2)**
19A Population Estimate **6,300 (0.6 moose/mi^2)**

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Proposal 106 19A IM

19A IM Harvest Objective **400 – 550 Moose**
19A Harvest RY19 **175 Moose**

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Proposal 106 19A IM

19A East Moose Survey Data

Year	Moose	Moose/mi^2
2005	1,285	0.3
2008	1,715	0.4
2011	1,715	0.4
2017	2,165	0.5

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Proposal 106 19A IM

2017 GSPE Population Results

Area	Total Area	Total Moose (w/SCF)	Density	Harvestable Surplus
TM680	5,735 mi^2	4,135	0.7	165
LVMA	**870 mi^2**	**232**	**0.3**	**10**
RM682	3,419 mi^2	1,932	0.6	77
19A	10,024 mi^2	6,300	0.6	252

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Proposal 106 19A IM

Composition Data Unit 19A BCFA

Regulatory Year	Calves: 100 Cows	Bulls:100 Cows
2010–2011	19	48
2011–2012	31	38
2013–2014	50	55
2016–2017	55	58
2017-2018	34	36
2018-2019	40	52
2019-2020	21	40

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Proposal 106 19A IM

Twinning Data (BCFA)

Year	N	Singletons	Twins	Twinning Rate
2013	41	18	23	56%
2014	48	18	30	63%
2018	40	14	26	65%
2-year average				64%

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Proposal 106 19A IM

Harvest Summary

- 7 Permits (TM684)
  - Average 2 bulls/year RY09 – RY18

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Proposal 106 19A IM

- Effect of the proposal
  - Expand the bear control area to include the LVMA
- Department recommendation
  - **NEUTRAL**
- Stony Holitna AC proposal
  - Support

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Proposal 107 Moose

- Effect of the proposal
  - Establish a resident winter moose hunt in Unit 21E
- Department recommendation
  - **SUPPORT** additional harvest but **NEUTRAL** on the allocative aspects of proposal
- GASH AC proposal

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Proposal 107 Moose

Current Unit 21E Resident Moose Hunting Regulations:

RM836

- Sept 1 – Sept 25

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Proposal 107 Moose

Proposed changes: establish a winter hunt in 21E

- Residents only
- Feb 15 – March 15
- Registration permits available in the hunt area and online
- Any moose except cows with calves
- Aircraft restrictions within Paradise Controlled Use Area
- Quota set by the department

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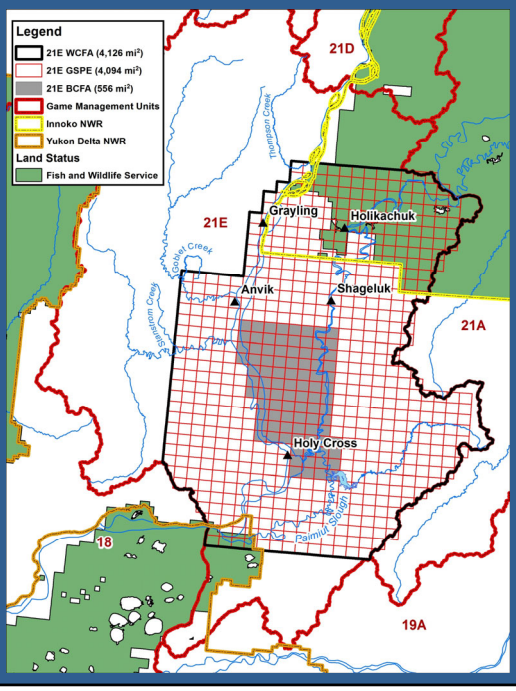
Proposal 107

21E Moose Survey Area



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Proposal 107 Moose

21E Moose Survey Area

Year	Estimate with SCF	Moose/mi^2
2012	5,398	1.3
2016	8,372	2.0
2019	8,607	2.1

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Proposal 107 Moose

21E Composition Data

Regulatory year	Bulls:100 Cows	Calves: 100 Cows	Percent calves
2010–2011	61	51	24
2011–2012	64	47	22
2016–2017	40	40	22
2017–2018	24	38	23
2018–2019	42	17	11

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Proposal 107 Moose

Holy Cross Area Twinning

Year	Percent Calves	Cows w/calves	Twins	Twinning Rate
2016	30%	44	16	36%
2017	31%	104	30	27%
2018	17%	66	6	9%
2019	29%	80	11	14%
2-year average				12%

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Proposal 107 Moose

Shageluk Area Twinning

Year	Percent Calves	Cows w/calves	Twins	Twinning Rate
2016	26%	23	7	30%
2017	35%	50	24	48%
2018	27%	54	16	30%
2019	46%	58	20	34%
2-year average				32%

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Proposal 107 Moose

Current 21E IM guidelines for managing moose population growth

- Population objective in the WCFA 1 moose/mi^2

- >20% twinning promote growth
- 15-20% twinning stabilize population through harvest
- <15% twinning reduce population through harvest

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Proposal 107 Moose

21E IM Population Objective **9,000 – 11,000 (1.1-1.4 moose/mi^2)**
21E Population Estimate **9,777 (1.2 moose/mi^2)**

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Proposal 107 Moose

21E IM Harvest Objective **550 – 1,100 Moose**
21E Harvest RY19 **190 Moose**

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Proposal 107 Moose

- IM moose population objective has been met
- IM moose harvest objective has not been met
- Time to stabilize the population
- Additional harvest is available

178

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Proposal 107 Moose

- Effect of the proposal
  - Establish a resident winter moose hunt in Unit 21E
- Department recommendation
  - **SUPPORT** additional harvest but **NEUTRAL** on the allocative aspects of proposal
- GASH AC proposal

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Proposal 108
Moose

Establish check stations and require trophy destruction of moose antlers for RM836 in 21E

Department Recommendation: Neutral

Proposed by: Member of Public

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Proposal 108
Moose

Current Regulations for GMU 21E

***Residents* 21E:**

One antlered bull by registration permit (RM836) from September 1-25

***Nonresidents* 21E:**

One bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on at least one side by drawing permit (DM837/DM839) September 5-25

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Proposal 108
Moose

Proposed Regulations

- Alaska residents who harvest a moose with RM836 must destroy the trophy value of their antlers by cutting at least one antler in half
- Mandatory check stations in Grayling, Anvik, Shageluk, or Holy Cross

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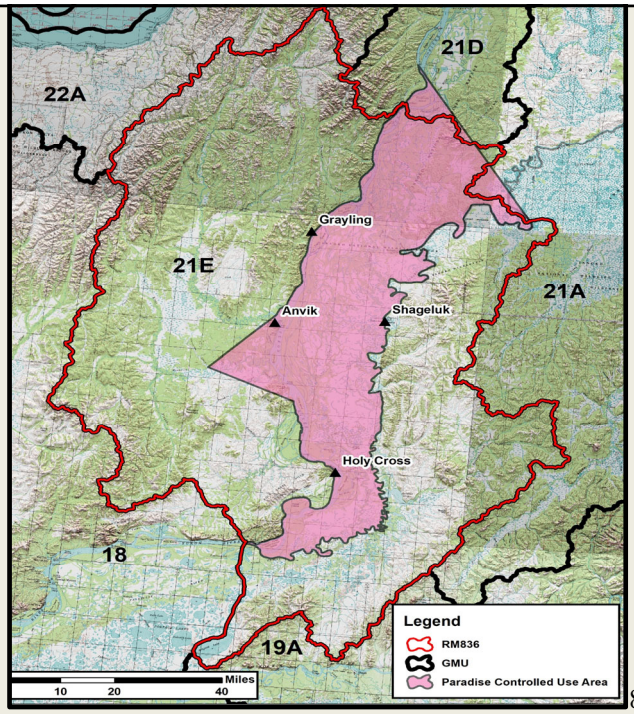
Proposal 108
Moose

Unit 21E

- Pink shaded area represents Paradise Controlled Use Area (**PCUA**)
- Includes villages of Grayling, Anvik, Shageluk, and Holy Cross (GASH)



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Proposal 108
Moose

Concerns from Proponent

- **Local moose hunters compete with "nonresident hunters"**
- **Competition between hunters push locals outside the PCUA**
- **Amount necessary for subsistence (ANS) is not being met**
- **Moose densities cannot support current harvest pressure**

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Proposal 108
Moose

21E Moose Population

- 21E population estimate: **9,777** moose
- 2019 Moose densities: **1.2 moose/mi^2 (SCF)**
- Positive C&T finding
- ANS finding of **600-800** moose ***in all of Unit 21***
- 21E Harvestable surplus: **390** moose

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Proposal 108
Moose

Harvest 2014-2018

- Average annual harvest of **169** moose under RM836
- Combined average annual harvest of **23** moose under nonresident draw permits
  - DM837(35 permits)
  - DM839(15 permits)
- Combined average annual harvest of about **190** moose taken from 21E over last 5 years

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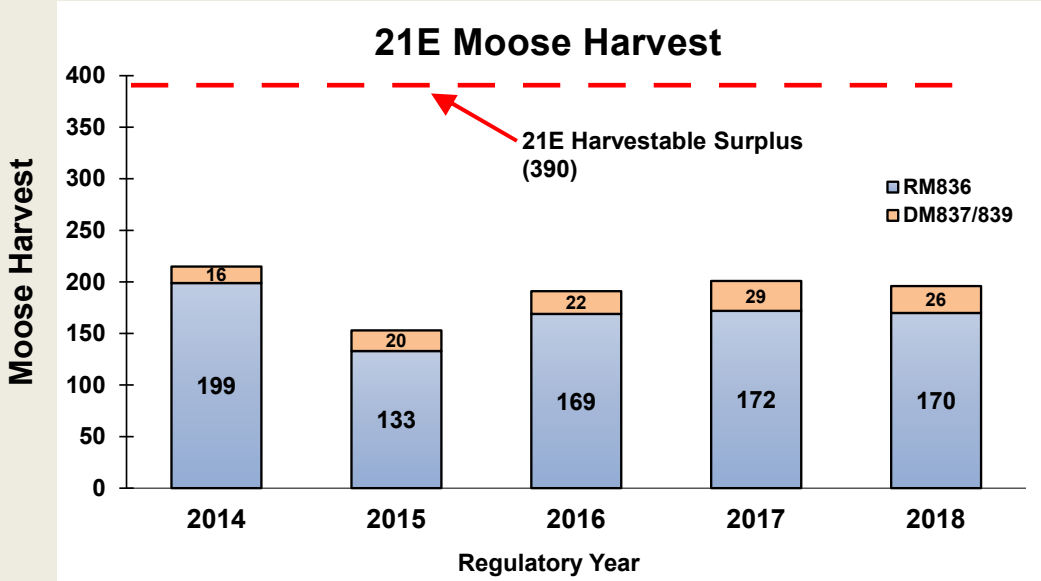
Proposal 108
Moose



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Proposal 108
Moose

Unit 21 Harvest

Unit	Avg Annual Harvest (rept + est. unrept)	Moose Population Estimate	Can Population Provide for Current level of harvest?	Harvestable Surplus
21A	75 (45 + 30)	2,442	yes	120
21B	101 (76 + 25)	2,317 (±417)	yes	95
21C	27 (22 + 5)	900-1300 extrapolated est. (0.25-0.35 moose/mi^2)	yes	45
21D	412 (287 + 125)	10,478 (±1,572)	yes	445
21E	190 (180 + 10)	9,777	yes	390
Total	805 (610 + 195)			1,095
Combined ANS	600-800			

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Proposal 108
Moose

Check Station Considerations

- Instituted for obtaining biological samples
- They cannot be used for enforcement
- Volunteers have no enforcement authority

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Proposal 108
Moose

Summary

- **Moose densities in 21E increasing**
- **Annual harvest *does not exceed* harvestable surplus in 21E**
- **Harvestable surplus (1,095) in Unit 21 is *greater* than ANS (600-800)**
- **Restrictions would only apply to Alaska residents holding RM836 registration permits**
  - **Nonresidents cannot hold this permit**

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Proposal 108
Moose

Establish check stations and require trophy destruction of moose antlers for RM836 in 21E

Department Recommendation: Neutral

Proposed by: Public

191

191

Proposal 109
Moose

Change the general season moose hunt in Unit 21A to a registration hunt.

Department Recommendation: Neutral

Proposed By:
McGrath AC & GASH AC

McGrath AC : Support

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192

Proposal 109
Moose

Current Regulations 21A:

- **Residents-** One antlered bull by harvest ticket September 5- September 25
- **Nonresidents-** One bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on at least one side by harvest ticket September 5- September 25

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Proposal 109
Moose

Proposed Regulations

- Both resident and non-resident hunters would be required to possess a **registration permit** instead of a **harvest ticket** to hunt moose in 21A
- Seasons and bag limits would remain the same

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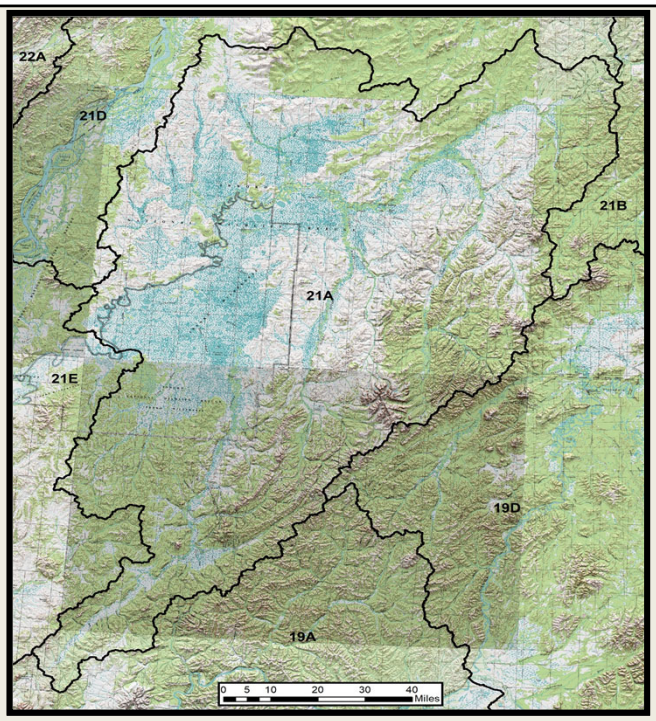
Proposal 109
Moose



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Proposal 109
Moose

21A Harvest

- **5 year annual average moose harvest: 60 moose**
- **Possible under reporting occurring:**
  - ***Interviews with hunters, Alaska Wildlife Troopers, and harvest data***
  - ***60-70% reporting***

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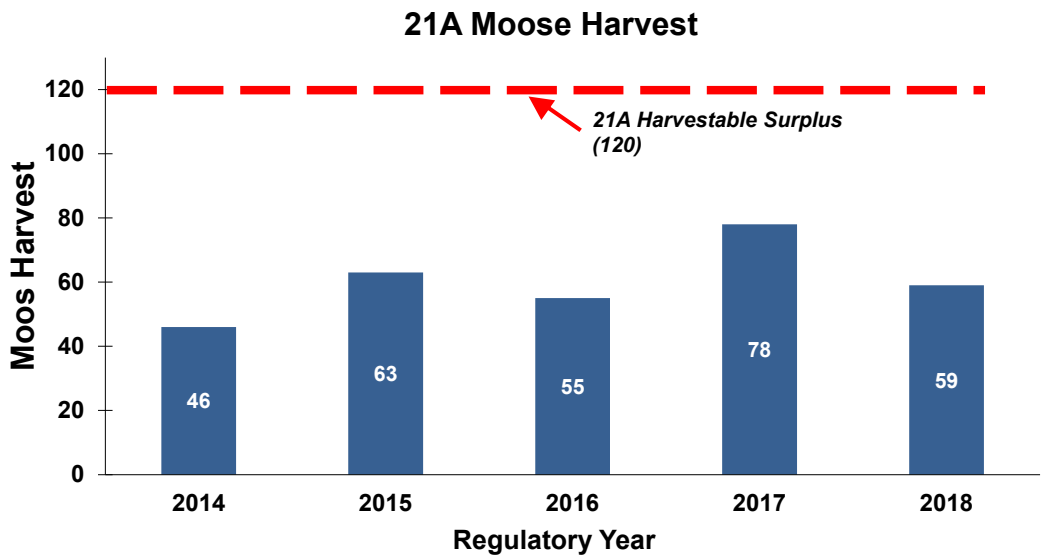
Proposal 109
Moose



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Proposal 109
Moose

Using 21E as a Similar Model

- 2014: GASH AC put forth a similar proposal that was adopted in 21E
- Post 2014 reported harvest almost doubled in 21E after RM836 institution
- We suspect a similar effect may take place in 21A if proposal is adopted

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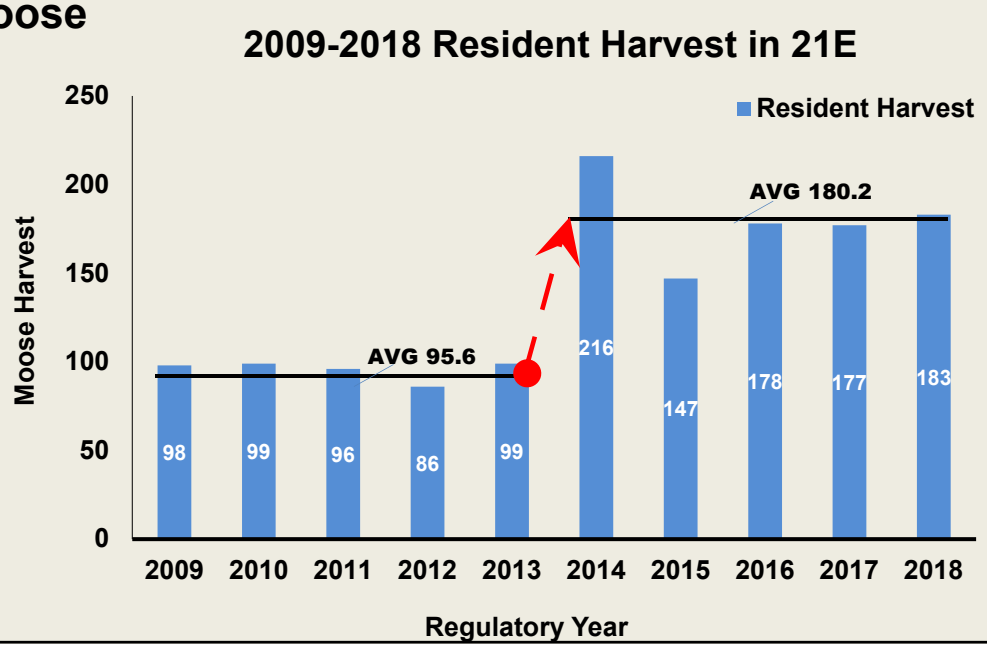
Proposal 109
Moose



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Proposal 109
Moose

Summary

- Possible under reporting occurring
- Board may wish to consider if institution of registration permit would affect subsistence opportunity
- 21A harvest is likely higher than reported
- Better reporting helps the Department make informed management decisions

200

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Proposal 109
Moose

Change the general season moose hunt in Unit 21A to a registration hunt

Department Recommendation: Neutral

Proposed by:
McGrath AC & GASH AC

McGrath AC: Support

201

201

Proposal 110
Moose

Allow Proxy Hunting for Moose in Unit 19D

Department Recommendation: Neutral

Proposed By: McGrath AC

McGrath AC: Support

202

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Proposal 110
Moose

Proposed Regulations

- This regulation would amend 92.011(k) (3) to allow proxy hunting in Unit 19D under a "*one antlered bull*" bag limit

203

203

Proposal 110
Moose

Current Regulations

- Proxy hunting is allowed by State residents for moose in **Tier II hunts**, "***any-bull hunts***", and "***antlerless moose hunts***."
- In Unit 19D residents may harvest "*one antlered bull*" by harvest ticket or registration permit
  - *Not eligible for proxy hunting*

204

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Proposal 110
Moose

Previous Considerations

- Previously "*one antlered bull*" bag limits were not considered antler restrictions
- Proxy hunting was allowed in 19D
- Interpretation not consistent with codified

205

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Proposal 110
Moose

Considerations

- Proxy hunting in "*one antlered bull hunts*" is not permitted
- McGrath AC wishes to allow proxy hunting in 19D and maintain "*one antlered bull*" bag limit

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Proposal 110
Moose

Allow Proxy Hunting for Moose in Unit 19D

Department Recommendation: Neutral

Proposed by: McGrath AC

McGrath AC: Support

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207

Proposal 111
Moose

Allow proxy hunting for moose in 21A & 21E

Department Recommendation: Neutral

Proposed By: GASH AC

McGrath AC: Support

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Proposal 111
Moose

Proposed Regulations

- This regulation would amend 92.011(k) (3) to allow proxy hunting in Unit 21A & 21E under a "*one antlered bull*" bag limit

209

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Proposal 111
Moose

Current Regulations

- Proxy hunting allowed in **Tier II hunts**, "**any-bull hunts**", and "**antlerless moose hunts**"
- Unit 21A residents may harvest "one antlered bull" by harvest ticket Sept. 5–25
- Unit 21E residents may harvest "one antlered bull" by registration permit Sept. 1–25

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Proposal 111
Moose

Previous Considerations

- Previously "*one antlered bull*" bag limits were not considered antler restrictions
- Proxy hunting was allowed in 21A & 21E under this interpretation
- Interpretation not consistent with codified

211

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Proposal 111
Moose

Considerations

- Proxy hunting in "*one antlered bull hunts*" is not permitted
- GASH AC wishes to allow proxy hunting in 21A & 21E and maintain a "*one antlered bull*" bag limit

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212

Proposal 111
Moose

Allow proxy hunting for moose in 21A & 21E

Department Recommendation: Neutral

Proposed by: GASH AC

McGrath AC: Support

213

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Proposal 112
Moose

Change the moose harvest ticket requirement to a registration permit within the Farewell portion of Unit 19C

Department Recommendation: Support

Proposed By: McGrath AC

McGrath AC: Support

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Proposal 112
Moose

Current Regulations

Unit 19C

- **Residents:** One bull moose with spike fork or 50-inch antlers, or antlers with 4 brow tines on at least one side with a harvest ticket during September 1–20
- **Nonresidents**: One bull moose, 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 brow tines on at least one side with a harvest ticket during September 1–20

Proposed Regulations

- Require a *registration permit* in the Farewell portion of 19C
- Season and bag limits would remain the same for both resident and nonresident moose hunters

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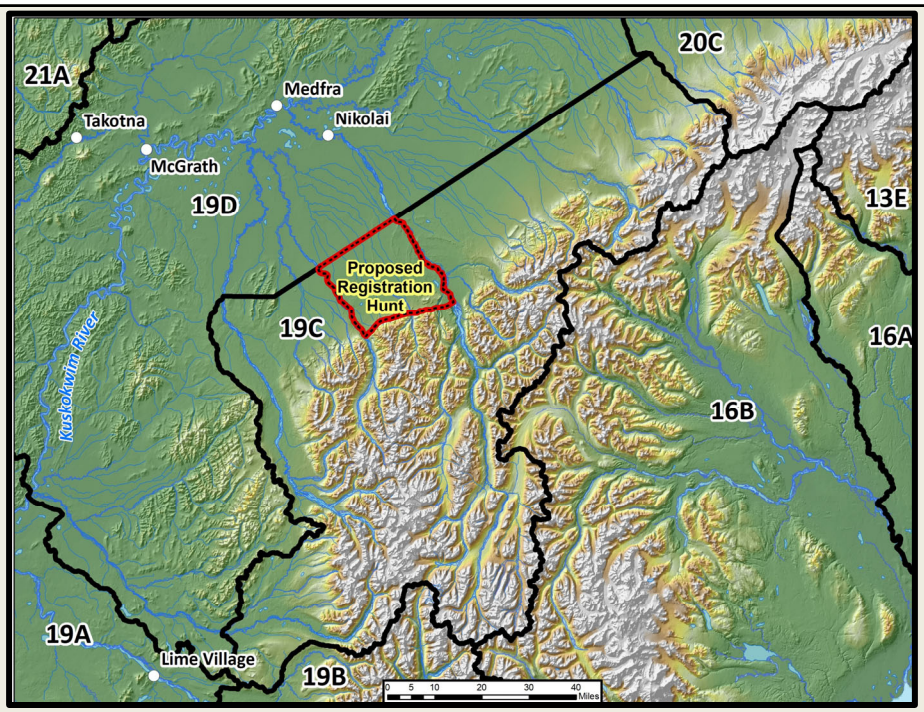
Proposal 112
Moose



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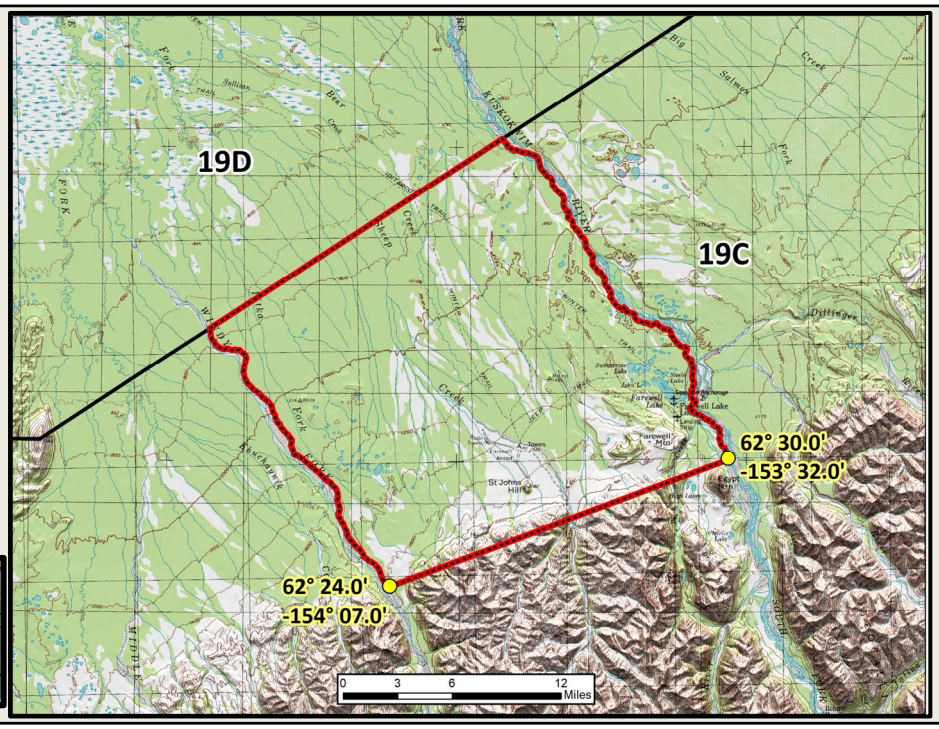
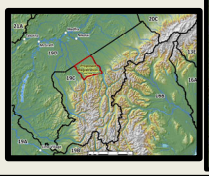
Proposal 112
Moose





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Proposal 112
Moose

19C Composition Data

Year	Total Moose	% Calves	Calf:cow	Bull:Cow
2010	312	17%	27:100	29:100
2016	189	13%	20:100	22:100
2017	322	17%	28:100	38:100
2018	544	12.5%	20:100	40: 100

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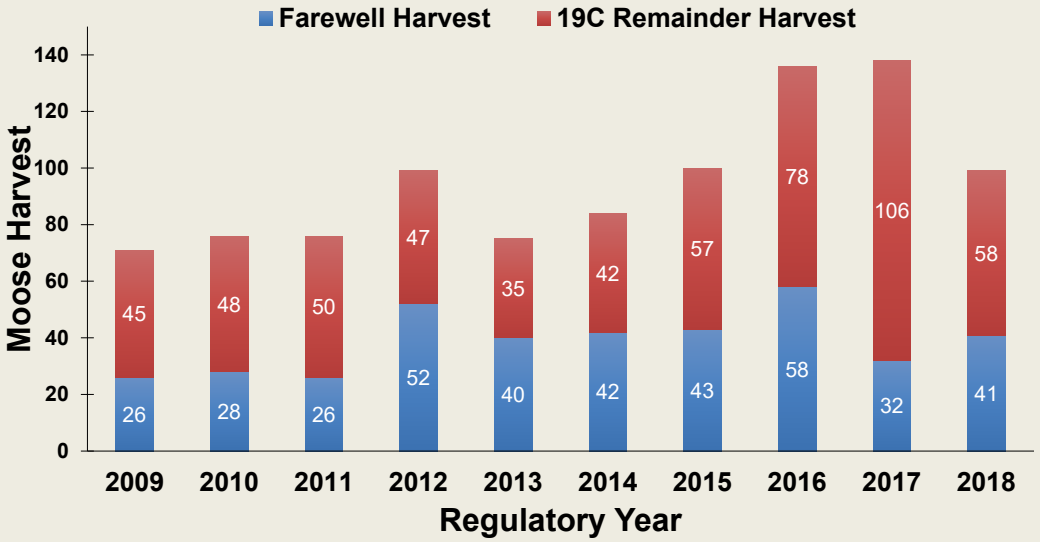
Proposal 112
Moose



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Proposal 112
Moose

Considerations for Farewell Hunt Area

- Estimated 60% to 70% reporting
- Hunters entirely access this area by aircraft
- Primarily use ATVs for transporting and hunting
- Board may wish to consider if institution of registration permit would affect subsistence opportunity

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Proposal 112
Moose

Using 21E as a Similar Model

- 2014: GASH AC put forth a similar proposal that was adopted in 21E
- Post 2014 reported harvest almost doubled in 21E after RM836 institution
- We suspect a similar effect may take place if proposal is adopted

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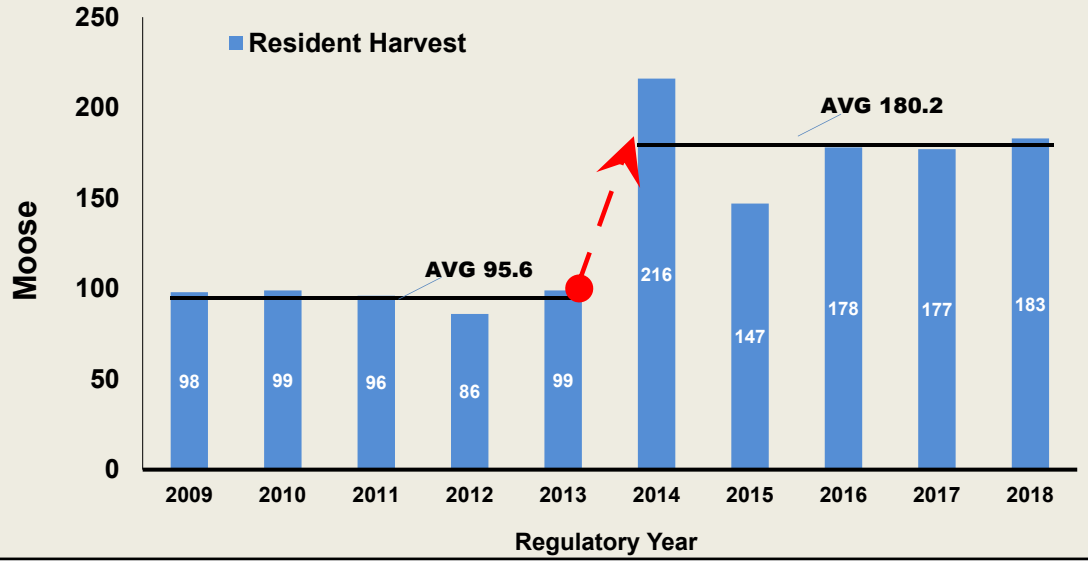
Proposal 112
Moose

2009-2018 Resident Harvest in 21E



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Proposal 112
Moose

Change the moose harvest ticket requirement to a registration permit within the Farewell portion of Unit 19C

Department Recommendation: Support

Proposed By: McGrath AC

McGrath AC: Support

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Proposal 113
Moose

Require nonresident hunters to complete hunter orientation prior to hunting moose in Units 21A and 21E

Department Recommendation: Neutral

Proposed By : McGrath AC & GASH AC

McGrath AC: Support

224

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Proposal 113
Moose

Current Regulations

Unit 21A

- Nonresidents — One bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on at least one side with a harvest ticket during September 5–25

Unit 21E

- Nonresidents — One bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on at least on side by drawing permit (DM837/DM839) during September 5–25

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Proposal 113
Moose

Proposed Regulation Changes

- Would require 21A & 21E nonresident moose hunters to complete video orientation "***Is This Bull Legal***?" and "***Field Care of Big Game***" before hunting
- No change to seasons, antler restrictions, or bag limits
- Can be completed through department website

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Proposal 113
Moose

Exceptions

- Nonresident hunters accompanied by a guide or resident family member within 2nd degree kindred

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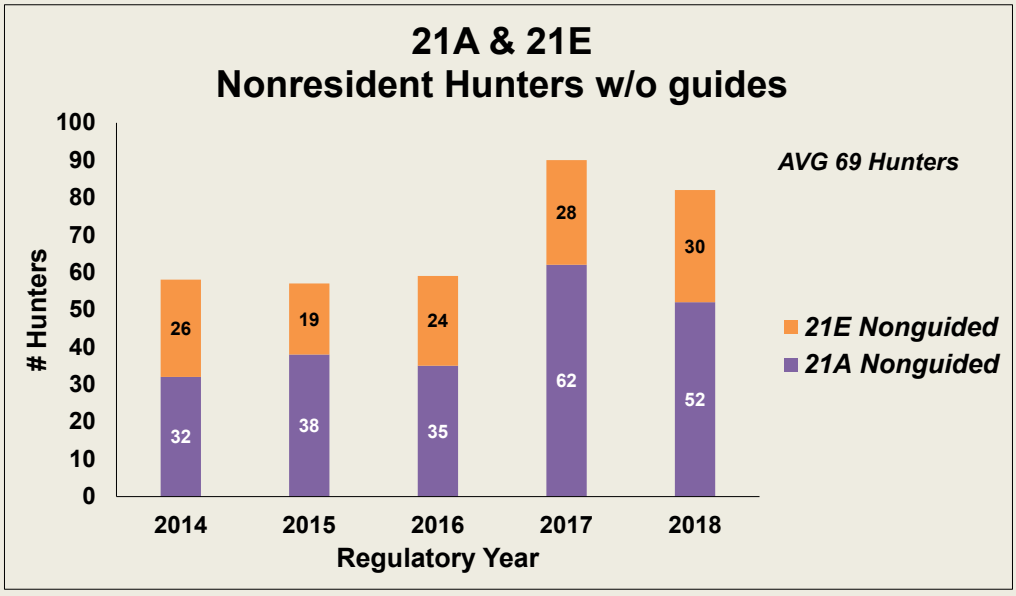
Proposal 113
Moose



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Proposal 113
Moose

Require nonresident hunters to complete hunter orientation prior to hunting moose in Units 21A and 21E

Department Recommendation: Neutral

Proposed by: McGrath AC & GASH AC

McGrath AC: Support

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Proposal 114
Caribou

Establish an Antlerless Winter Registration Caribou hunt in Units 21A and 19D

Department Recommendation: Supports

Proposed By: McGrath AC

McGrath AC: Support (with amendments)

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Proposal 114
Caribou

Current Regulations

Unit 21A:

- Both residents and nonresidents: One bull with a harvest ticket, August 10–September 20

Unit 19D Within drainages of the Nixon Fork River:

- Both residents and nonresidents: One bull with a harvest ticket, August 10–September 20

Unit 19D Remainder:

- Residents: One bull with harvest ticket, August 10–September 20 *OR*
- One caribou with harvest ticket, November 1–January 31
- Nonresidents: One bull with harvest ticket, August 10–September 20

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Proposal 114
Caribou

Proposed Regulations

Unit 19D & Unit 21A

- **Residents: One antlerless caribou Nov 1-Feb 28 by registration permit**
- **No airplane restrictions**
- **The old winter hunt during Nov 1-Jan 21 would no longer be in effect**

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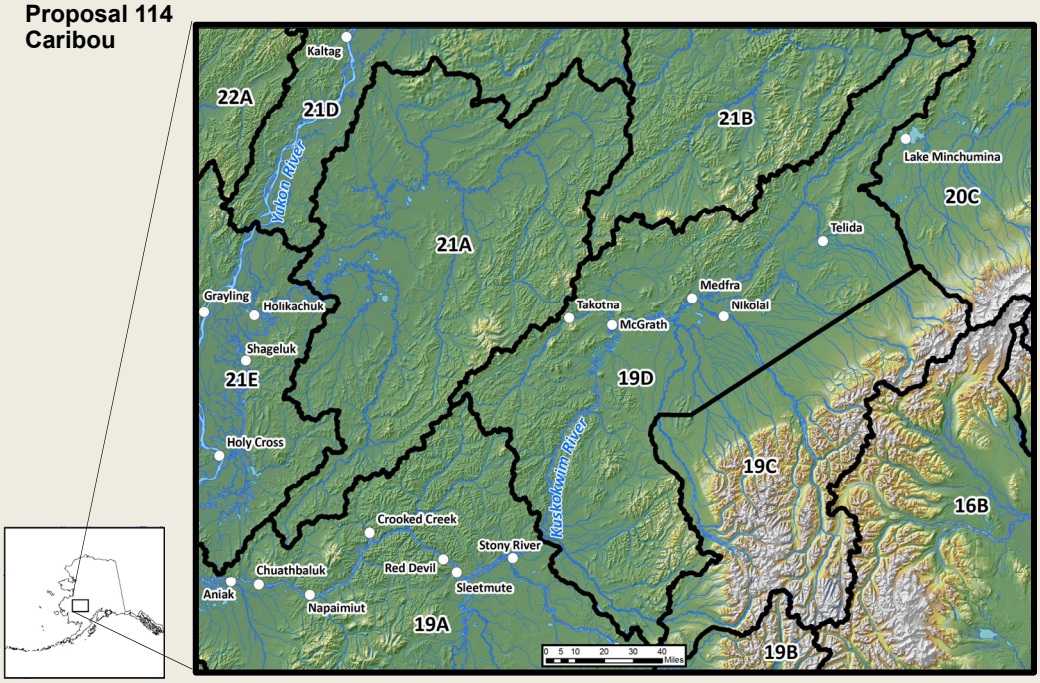
Proposal 114
Caribou



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Proposal 114
Caribou

Background

- **The Beaver Mountain and Sunshine Mountain herds are estimated at around 800 caribou**
- **Positive C&T finding for these herds in 19A, 19D, 21A, and 21E**
- **Amount necessary for subsistence of 5 caribou**

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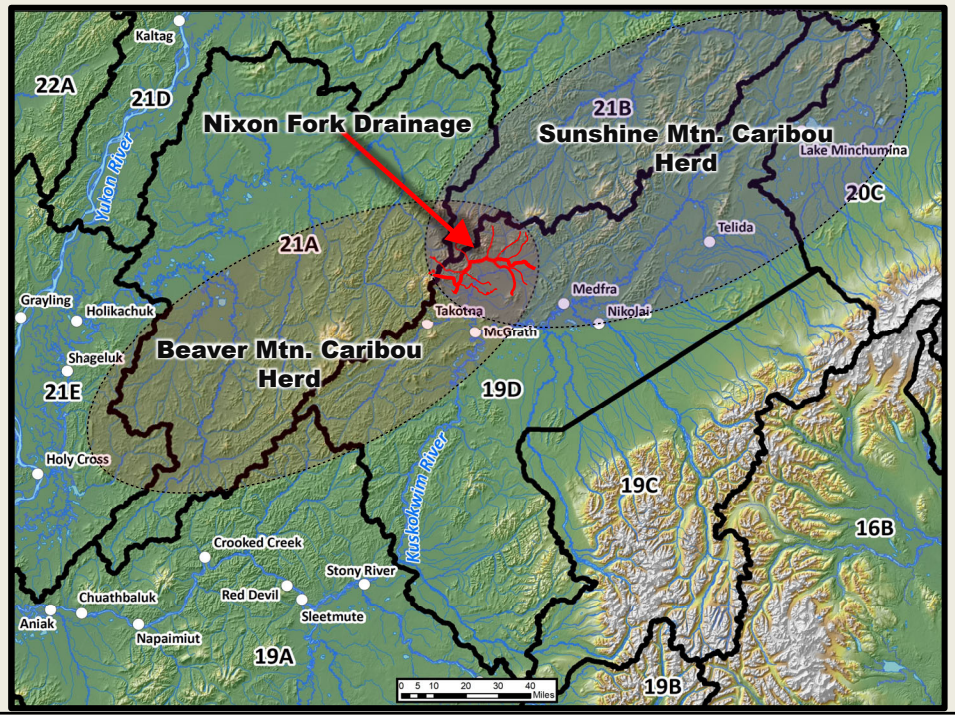
Proposal 114 Caribou



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Proposal 114 Caribou

Survey results

Year	Beaver Mountains Adults/Calves (Total)	Sunshine Mountains Adults/Calves (Total)	Total
2007	19/4 (23)	58/15 (73)	96
2009	62/15 (77)	69/12 (81)	158
2011	56/11 (67)	306/61 (367)	434
2012	228/34 (262)	510/79 (589)	851
2013	85/9 (94)	354/40 (394)	488
2019	237/32 (269)	196/40 (236)	505

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Proposal 114
Caribou

Caribou Harvest

- **Access is the most limiting factor**
- **Average annual harvest in the Beaver and Sunshine Mtn. herds was 3 caribou per year**
- **No winter harvest during last 5 years**

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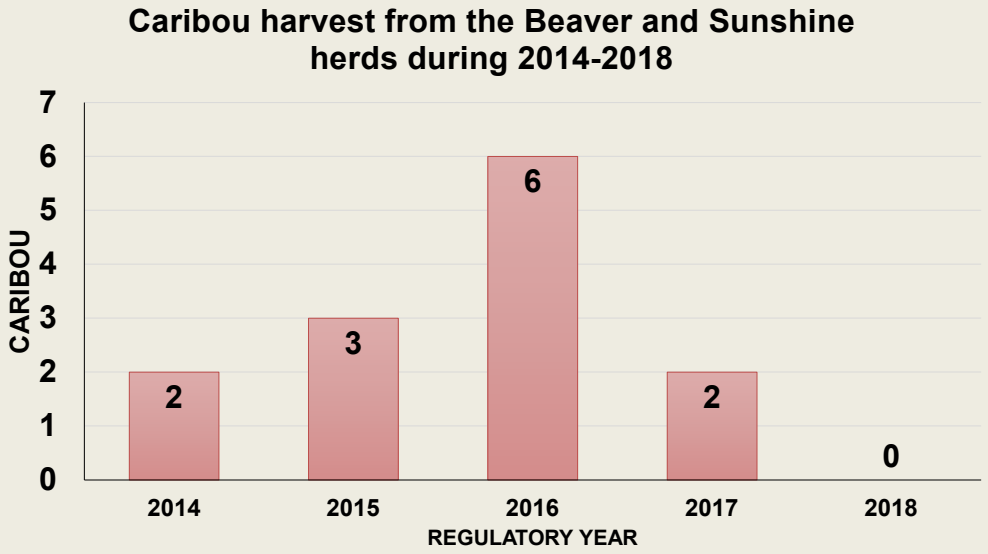
Proposal 114
Caribou



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Proposal 114
Caribou

Considerations

- Proposal would increase winter access in 19D
  - ***Remove Nixon Fork access restriction***
- Proposal creates a long hunt season
  - ***Nov-Feb***
- Long season and new access, harvest would need to be monitored closely
  - ***Short reporting Period***
- The antlerless restriction should reduce the take of cows
- First antlerless caribou hunt in Alaska

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Proposal 114
Caribou

Additional Considerations

- **The AC clarified they would like permits available locally during the season**
- **Aircraft prohibition**
- **If the board decides to adopt this proposal the department will need guidance on these 2 issues**

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Proposal 114
Caribou

Establish an antlerless winter registration caribou hunt in Units 21A and 19D

Department Recommendation: Supports

Proposed by: McGrath AC

McGrath AC: Support

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Proposal 115
Salvage

Require meat to be left on the bone for caribou, moose and bison in Units 19, 21A, and 21E

Department Recommendation: Neutral

Proposed By:
McGrath AC
SHAC
Central Kuskokwim AC
GASH AC

McGrath AC(support with amendment)
SHAC (support with amendment)

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Proposal 115
Salvage

Current Regulations

Meat that must be left on the bone when salvaged prior to Oct. 1st

Unit	Caribou	Moose	Bison
Unit 19A Holitna–Hoholitna CUA	**FQ, HQ**	**FQ, HQ**	None
Unit 19A remainder	*None*	*None*	*None*
Unit 19B	**FQ, HQ**	**FQ, HQ**	*None*
Unit 19C	*None*	*None*	*None*
Unit 19D	*None*	*None*	*None*
Unit 21A	**FQ, HQ**	**FQ, HQ, Ribs**	*None*
Unit 21E	*None*	**FQ, HQ, Ribs**	*None*

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Proposal 115
Salvage

Proposed Regulations

- Require front quarters, hind quarters, and ribs to be left on the bone when salvaged
- Required for caribou, moose, and bison in Units 19, 21A, and 21E
- McGrath AC and SHAC AC amendment requires meat on bone salvage prior to October 1st

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Proposal 115
Salvage

- This proposal would standardize regulations
- A lot of meat is donated to villages in 19A, 19D & 21E
- Easier for Troopers to enforce salvage requirements
- Potential impacts to hunters
  - More difficult to transport
  - Increased costs to hunters

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Proposal 115
Salvage

Require meat to be left on the bone for caribou, moose and bison in Units 19, 21A, and 21E

Department Recommendation: Neutral

Proposed By:
McGrath AC
SHAC
Central Kuskokwim AC
GASH AC

McGrath AC (support with amendment)
SHAC (support with amendment)

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Proposal 116
Muskox

Seek findings issued from the Board of Game regarding muskox herd management strategies in Unit 19A

Department Recommendation: Neutral

Proposed by: Central Kuskokwim AC

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Proposal 116
Muskox

Current Regulations:

- There is no open season for muskox in Unit 19A
- There has been no C&T or ANS findings

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Proposal 116
Muskox

Proposed Regulations:

- Seek BOG findings regarding muskox herd management strategies in Unit 19A
- No regulatory aspects to this proposal

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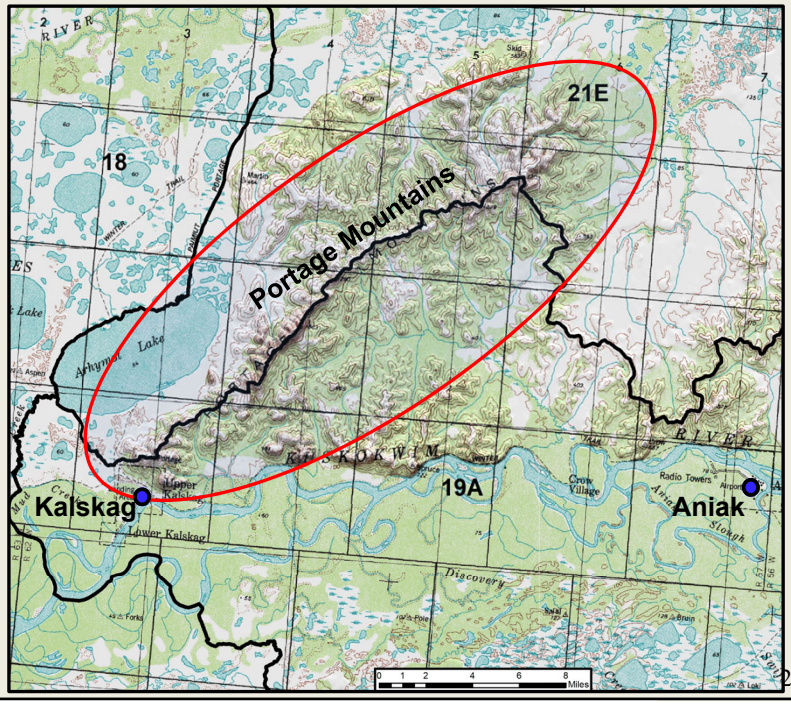
Proposal 116
Muskox

Portage Mtn. Herd Distribution



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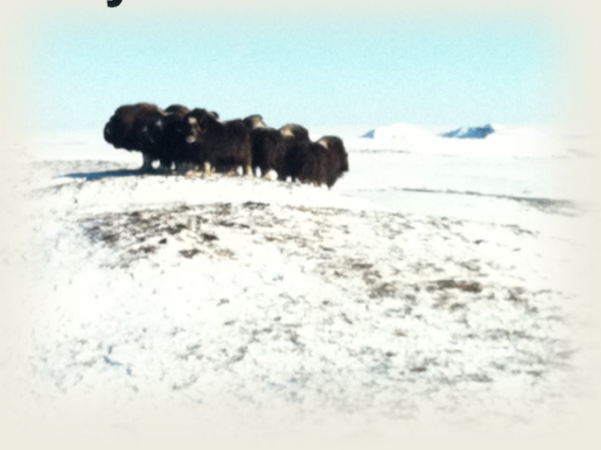
Proposal 116
Muskox

History



- Portage Mountain herd originated from Nelson Island
- **1989-** Collared cow muskox was observed at Arhymot Lake near Kalskag
- **2005-** Muskox near Kalskag and Holy Cross
- **2009-** 10 muskox observed near Kalskag
- **2017-2019-** First aerial surveys

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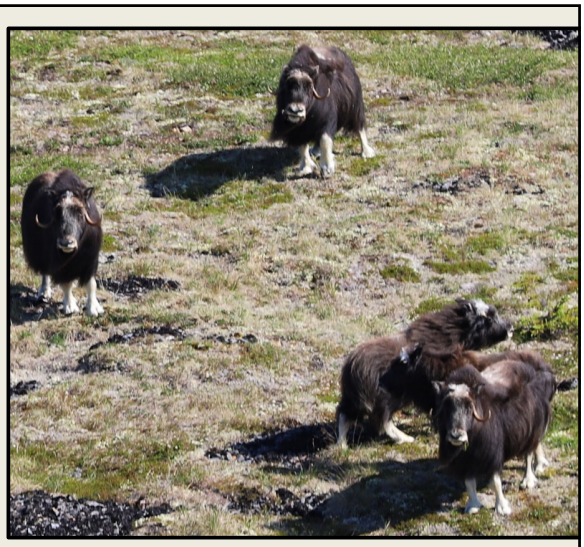
Proposal 116
Muskox

Current population status



- **Beginning to gather baseline data**
  - ***4 surveys completed to date***
- **Estimated at 100 muskox**
- **Photography aids in count accuracy and composition data**

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Proposal 116
Muskox

Requested Findings

- This strategy applies to the Unit 19A portion of the Kuskokwim River drainage Portage Mountain muskox herd territory as outlined in the Map 1, including the buffer zone surrounding the Portage Mountains:
- The muskox season in this area will remain closed for 4 years beginning in the year 2020;
- The season will be opened with a limited number of permits only after 4 years of no hunting, or after there is a minimum muskox population in the Portage Mountains of 150 animals;
- There will be no cow hunts unless habitat degradation occurs from excessive browsing;
- It is understood that a large muskox population will serve (but not completely) the subsistence needs of the residents of this area. The Central Kuskokwim AC fully expects that as limited subsistence hunting begins on this herd, the number of musk ox harvested locally will be a priority;
- Enforcement has a role in this strategy that needs to be developed in a cooperative fashion;
- The CKAC desires to collaborate with the local communities in the drafting of the Portage Mountain muskox Management Plan
- The Department is committed to achieving the goal of at least 150 muskoxen in the Portage Mountain muskox count area.

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Proposal 116
Muskox

Seek findings issued from the Board of Game regarding muskox herd management strategies in Unit 19A

Department Recommendation: Neutral

Proposed by: Central Kuskokwim AC

Central Kuskokwim AC: Support

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Proposal 117 Grouse

Determine a customary and traditional use finding for grouse in Unit 19 and modify regulations to provide reasonable opportunity for subsistence take.

5 AAC 99.025(a) Customary and traditional uses of game population(s)

- Effect of the proposal
  - Establish a positive customary and traditional (C&T) use finding for grouse in GMU 19 and modify seasons and bag limits where appropriate
- Department position
  - **NEUTRAL**. This is an allocative issue.
- Public proposal
  - SHAC **OPPOSED**
  - McGrath AC **TOOK NO ACTION**
  - Central Kuskokwim AC **SUPPORTED**

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Proposal 118 Ptarmigan

Determine a customary and traditional use finding for ptarmigan in Unit 19 and modify regulations to provide reasonable opportunity for subsistence take.

5 AAC 99.025(a) Customary and traditional uses of game population(s)

- Effect of the proposal
  - Establish a positive customary and traditional (C&T) use finding for ptarmigan in GMU 19 and modify seasons and bag limits where appropriate
- Department position
  - **NEUTRAL**. This is an allocative issue.
- Public proposal
  - SHAC **OPPOSED**
  - McGrath AC **TOOK NO ACTION**
  - Central Kuskokwim AC **SUPPORTED**

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Proposal 119
Lynx

Extend the lynx trapping season in 19C, 19D, and 21A to March 31

Department Recommendation: Support

Proposed by: McGrath AC

McGrath AC: Support

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Proposal 119
Lynx

<u>Current Trapping Regulations</u>

Units 19C, 19D, and 21A: No bag limit November 1-March 15

<u>Proposed Trapping Regulation Changes</u>

Units 19C, 19D, and 21A: No bag limit November 1-*March 31*

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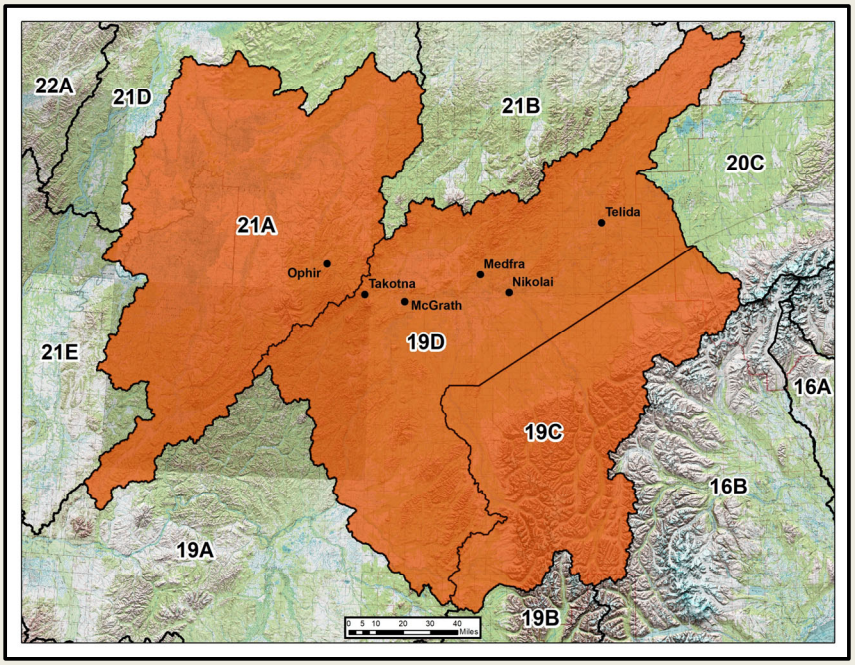
Proposal 119
Lynx



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Proposal 119
Lynx

Lynx Trapping Considerations

- **No conservation concerns**
  - ***Lynx harvest does not drive trapping efforts***
  - ***Harvest is low***
  - ***Low additional harvest expected***

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Proposal 119
Lynx

Lynx Trapping Considerations

- **Lynx Harvest**
  - ***Declining in recent years***
  - ***Participation is decreasing***
  - ***Large areas are inaccessible to trap lynx***

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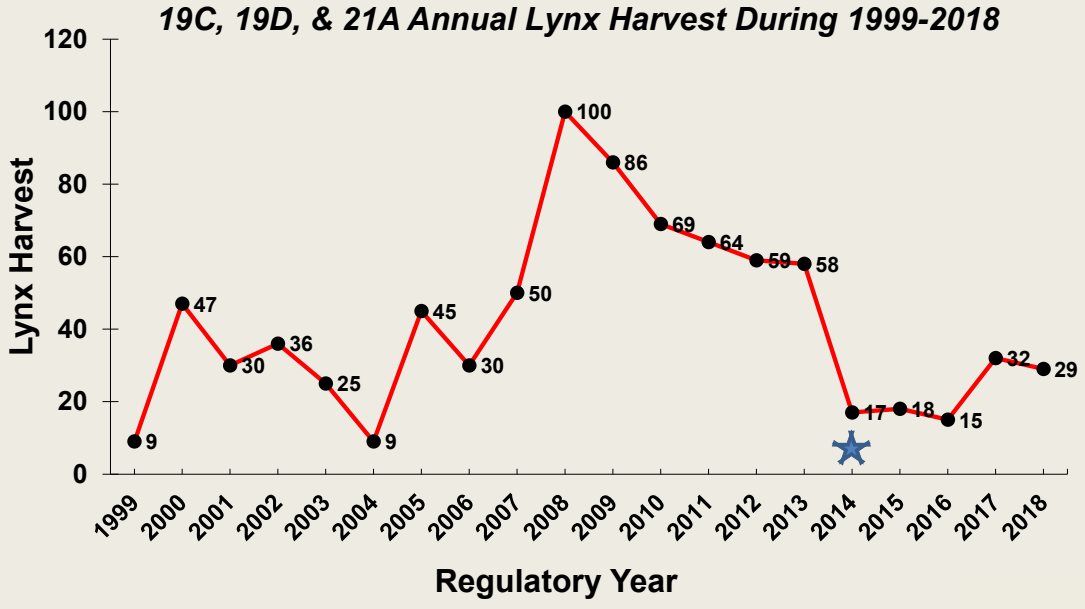
Proposal 119
Lynx



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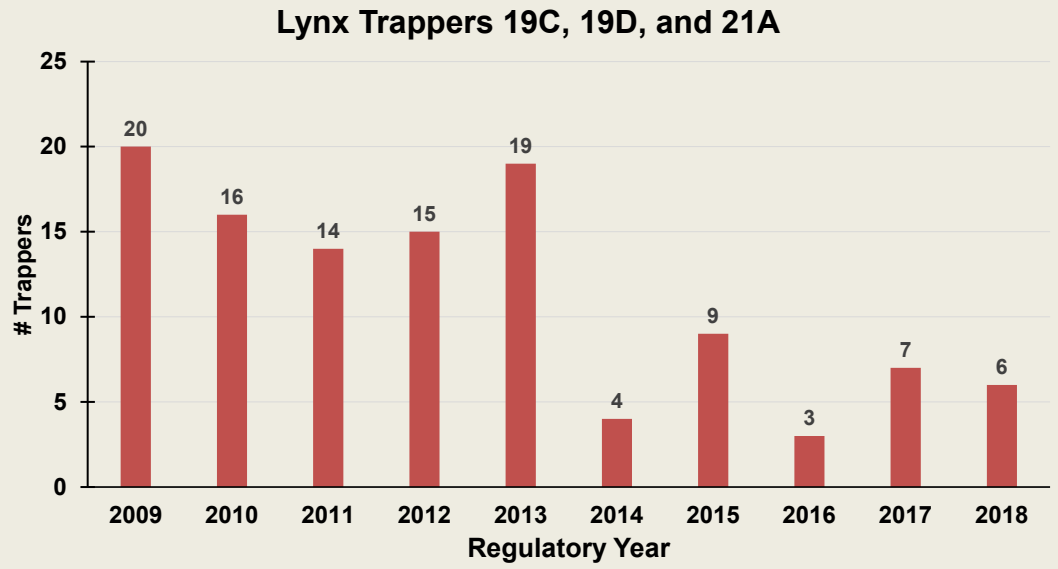
Proposal 119
Lynx



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Proposal 119
Lynx

Lynx Trapping Considerations

- **March Harvest and Incidental Catch**
  - ***BOG extended season from Feb 28th to March 15th in 2014***
  - ***Historically harvest low in March***

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Proposal 119
Lynx

Lynx Trapping Considerations

- **Opportunity**
  - ***This extension creates more opportunity***
  - ***Aligns season with wolverine***

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Proposal 119
Lynx

Lynx Trapping Considerations

- **Fur Quality**
  - ***Late March lynx are said to have poorer quality fur***
  - ***Others believe there is no decline in quality***

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Proposal 119
Lynx

Extend the Lynx trapping season in 19C, 19D, and 21A to March 31

Department Recommendation: Support

Proposed by: McGrath AC

McGrath AC: Support

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