



Department of Fish and Game

DIVISION OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION
Headquarters

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November 6, 2020

An Agenda Change Request (ACR 6) has been submitted to the Alaska Board of Game requesting to change 5 AAC 85.045(a)(13)(B) Hunting seasons and bag limit for moose. The proponent is asking the board to align moose hunting seasons and bag limits in a portion of Unit 15B. This area is in the Anchorage-Matsu-Kenai Peninsula Nonsubsistence Area.

With respect to the board's Agenda Change Request (ACR) acceptance criteria (5 AAC 92.005):

- A. The department is unaware of any error in regulation.
- B. The department submitted this ACR to clarify the intent of the proposal that was adopted by the Board of Game at the March 2019 meeting. The intent of the proposal was to align all of the moose seasons and bag limits in mainland Unit 15B.
- C. The department does not believe that there is a biological concern that is caused by existing regulations.
- D. The department is unaware of any unforeseen or unexpected events that would otherwise restrict or reduce a reasonable opportunity for customary and traditional wildlife uses as defined in AS 16.05.258(f).
- E. The department is unaware of any unexpected resource situations that would cause a biologically allowable resource harvest to be precluded by delayed regulatory action.

Regulations adopted by the board in March 2019 did not change the existing moose drawing permit hunt area to align with the general moose season in 15B remainder, which resulted in confusion and lost opportunity. Conflicts between existing regulations and those adopted for 15B remainder include:

- 1) General moose season dates for 15B remainder are September 1-25; the general season dates for the area that was previously a drawing permit area are September 1-20.
- 2) The definition of a legal bull for general season hunts in 15B remainder is a bull with a spike on at least one side, or 50-inch antlers, or antlers with 3 or more brow tines on at least one side. The definition of a legal bull in the area that was previously a drawing permit area is a bull with 50-inch antlers, or antlers with 3 or more brow tines on at least one side.
- 3) 15B remainder has a bow and arrow only general season of Aug 22-Aug 29; the area that was previously a drawing permit area does not have a bow and arrow only general season.

These differences have caused confusion for moose hunters and there are no biological concerns for the moose population in the areas.

The area in question was previously managed under a drawing permit. Habitat conditions improved significantly due to wildfire activity benefitting moose. This portion of 15B can support the additional harvest that is likely to occur by having season dates and bag limits aligned with 15B remainder.

The next regularly scheduled board meeting for Unit 15 regulations is during winter/spring of 2021/2022. If the board accepts this ACR, the department recommends the proposal come before the board at its January 2021 meeting in Wasilla since some of the people in that region participate in moose hunts in Unit 15.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Eddie Grasser". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Eddie Grasser
Director
Division of Wildlife Conservation