

Note: Proposal 208 was accepted by the Board of Game as an Agenda Change Request for consideration at the Interior and Eastern Arctic Region meeting scheduled for March 2024.

Proposal 208

5 AAC 85.045. Seasons and bag limits for moose.

Lengthen the moose hunting season in Unit 19E by five days; allow proxy hunting, and eliminate the restriction of one permit per household as follows:

In the Unit 19E RM682 moose hunt –

- Allow proxy hunting,
- delete the “1 permit per household” condition (preferably with the ability to re-apply this condition if needed, e.g., due to drastic decline in moose or unforeseen regulation abuse),
- and add 5 days to the hunt to become Sept. 1-10.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Stony Holitna AC submitted an agenda change request with the following information:

The Department of Fish and Game, Division of Wildlife Conservation did a GSPE moose survey in March, 2022, showing a positive increase in the Unit 19E moose herd since 2020, especially in the Bear Control Focus Area (BCFA), where moose density went from 2.0 to 2.9 moose/sq. mile, and harvestable surplus went from 42 to 62. The Stony Holitna AC (SHAC) was unable to meet to get a proposal for condition changes in RM682 in time for the May 1 deadline. The Interior cycle doesn't come up until 2027, and these conditions offer increased hunting opportunity, which would be lost those three years.

The recent 2022 regulation change that allows proxy hunting won't go into effect in Unit 19E. There would be the loss of hunting opportunity for all hunters, as well as meat availability for the elderly and handicapped.

There was no regulation error – but there was a regulation change that allows proxy hunting for this type of hunt.

The increase in moose population was unknown. The regulation change in proxy hunting was unforeseen. Proxy hunting, more than one permit per household, along with a 5-day hunt extension, will offer increased hunting opportunity.

There is no threat to IM objectives with the modest permit numbers being issued. This hunt was created as an Experimental Hunt, and it continues to be.

The positive survey results and change in proxy hunt regulations were unforeseen and unexpected. To delay these changes in hunt conditions until the next Board of Game cycle would restrict harvest opportunity needlessly for three years.

This unforeseen increase in animals will allow more animals to be taken when the opportunity is offered.

Hunters will have to wait until the next meeting in 2027 to take advantage of the additional opportunity.

These hunt condition changes are not predominately allocative. They simply add additional opportunity to an existing hunt.

The SHAC represents the people and villages within Unit 19E and this ACR has not been considered before.

PROPOSED BY: Stony Holitna Fish & Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F23-ACR3)
