

ACR #8– Limit moose hunting permits in Unit 22B Remainder to one permit per household, establish smaller hunt areas within Unit 22B Remainder and limit hunters to one of those hunt areas.

SUBMITTED BY: City of White Mountain

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

Regulation: 5 AAC 92.052(7) and 5 AAC 92.052(20) - Limiting permits per household and restricting hunters to specific units in Unit 22B Remainder

WHAT IS THE PROBLEM YOU WOULD LIKE THE BOARD TO ADDRESS? STATE IN DETAIL THE NATURE OF THE CURRENT PROBLEM.

Current moose hunting regulations in Unit 22B Remainder do not adequately limit hunting permits per household, nor do they restrict hunters to specific units. This results in a disproportionate number of non-local hunters overwhelming the area, which significantly reduces the opportunities for local subsistence hunters to successfully harvest moose.

Challenges: The lack of restrictions on hunting permits allows multiple members of a single household to acquire permits, leading to over-hunting in certain areas. Additionally, without requiring hunters to choose specific zones, hunters from outside 22B Remainder—especially from Nome—can saturate prime hunting areas, further decreasing local hunting success.

WHAT SOLUTION DO YOU PREFER?

We propose limiting the number of moose hunting permits in Unit 22B Remainder to one permit per household. Furthermore, hunters should be required to select a specific subunit within 22B Remainder to hunt in, rather than having unrestricted access across the entire unit. These measures would reduce hunting pressure in key areas and improve the opportunities for local subsistence hunters.

This solution would ensure a more equitable distribution of hunting permits and better align with the needs of local subsistence hunters, while preventing non-local hunters from dominating specific hunting grounds.

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.

When the current permit regulations were adopted, they did not foresee the overwhelming number of non-local hunters coming into Unit 22B Remainder and dominating key hunting

areas. The lack of a permit limit per household, along with unrestricted access across the entire unit, has created an inequitable situation for local subsistence hunters in White Mountain.

The unforeseen effect is that non-local hunters, with better access to transportation and equipment, can outcompete local hunters for moose. Limiting permits to one per household and restricting hunters to specific subunits would help mitigate this issue and provide local subsistence hunters with a more reasonable opportunity to harvest moose.

3) Does the request identify a biological concern for the population or a threat to meeting objectives for the population?

No, there is no immediate biological concern. Moose population data for Unit 22B Remainder indicates a stable population with a high bull-to-cow ratio. Adjusting permit regulations will not negatively affect 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)?

Yes. The current regulations did not anticipate the influx of non-local hunters into 22B Remainder, especially from Nome. As a result, local subsistence hunters are left with diminished opportunities to harvest moose. The lack of permit restrictions and specific subunit hunting requirements has made it difficult for White Mountain residents to effectively hunt in their traditional areas.

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?

N/A

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF THIS PROBLEM IS NOT SOLVED PRIOR TO THE REGULAR CYCLE?

If this issue is not resolved, local subsistence hunters in White Mountain will continue to face difficulties in successfully harvesting moose. The lack of restrictions on permits and subunit selection will allow non-local hunters to dominate key hunting areas, further diminishing local hunters' ability to meet their subsistence needs.

STATE WHY YOUR ACR IS NOT PREDOMINANTLY ALLOCATIVE.

This ACR is not predominantly allocative. It seeks to address a permit distribution issue specific to Unit 22B Remainder, ensuring local subsistence hunters have a fairer opportunity to participate in hunting. Limiting permits to one per household and requiring hunters to select specific subunits

would not reallocate moose between user groups but rather ensure more equitable access for local 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 City of White Mountain is actively involved in this issue. Through ongoing discussions with local hunters, the city council, and community members, we have identified the challenges posed by the current permit regulations. This ACR is submitted on behalf of the local subsistence hunters, who are significantly affected by the current regulations and seek an adjustment to ensure they can meet their subsistence needs.

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.

This issue has not been previously considered as an ACR or as a formal proposal to the Board of Game.