

PROPOSAL 255

5 AAC 85.045(a)(17). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.

Reauthorize a fall antlerless hunt during September and a winter any-moose season during February in a portion of Unit 19D as follows.

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(17)		
...		
Unit 19(D), that portion of the Black River drainage within 2 miles of the Kuskokwim River and that portion of the Selatna River drainage north of the Selatna River within 2 miles of the Kuskokwim River.		
...		
1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only; up to 20 cows may be taken.	Sept. 1 – Sept. 30 (General hunt only)	o open season
...		
Unit 19(D), that portion 2 miles on either side of the Kuskokwim River from the Selatna River upstream to the confluence of the South Fork and the North Fork of the Kuskokwim River, and 2 miles on either side of the South Fork of the Kuskokwim River from the mouth to Nikolai, and 2 miles on either side of the Takotna River from the mouth to the bridge at Takotna, excluding the Black River drainage and the Selatna River drainage		
...		
1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only; up to 20 cows may be taken; or	Sept. 1 – Sept. 30 (General hunt only)	No open season

1 moose by registration permit only; a person may not take a cow accompanied by a calf	Feb. 1 – Last day of Feb.	No open season
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Unit 19(D), that portion of the Black River drainage excluding that portion within 2 miles of the Kuskokwim River, and that portion of the Selatna River drainage north of the Selatna River, and excluding that portion with 2 miles of the Kuskokwim River

1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only; up to 20 cows may be taken; or	Sept 1 – Sept 30 (General hunt only)	No open season
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...

1 moose by registration permit only; a person may not take a cow accompanied by a calf	Feb 1 – Last day of Feb	No open season
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What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?

Antlerless moose hunting seasons must be reauthorized annually.

The moose population in Unit 19D upstream of the Selatna River recently experienced a significant decline due to an extremely difficult winter in 2022/2023. During a November 2023 geospatial population estimate (GSPE) the Alaska Department of Fish & Game (department) documented a decline from 2,471 moose (2.2 moose/mi²) to 1,591 moose (1.4 moose/mi²) . Due to this decline, the department closed the winter hunt in regulatory year (RY) 23 by emergency order. Proposal 66, which was submitted by the McGrath Advisory Committee (AC) prior to the documented decline, was passed by the Board of Game (board) in March 2024 authorizing a new draw permit hunt in the fall for cows in a portion of Unit 19D. The hunt was reauthorized by the board during March 2025 with unanimous support from the McGrath AC. While the department does not intend to issue antlerless permits in RY26, the department would like to keep the hunt available as a tool to provide additional opportunity when it is again warranted.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish & Game	HQ-F25-043
