

PROPOSAL 97

5 AAC 92.540(4)(B). Controlled use areas.

Eliminate the restriction on motorized vehicles for hunting moose in the Lower Kenai Controlled Use Area in Unit 15C as follows:

What solution do you recommend? In other words, if the board adopted your solution, what would the new regulation say?

Remove the restriction on motorized vehicles for moose hunting in the Lower Kenai Controlled Use Area (Unit 15C). This change will ensure fair access for hunters, align with current moose population data, and improve regulatory clarity while maintaining responsible land use practices. Additionally, it will support conservation efforts by allowing for better-managed hunting practices that align with ecological sustainability and wildlife management goals.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?

The current regulation prohibiting the use of motorized vehicles (except aircraft and boats) for moose hunting in Unit 15C of the Lower Kenai Controlled Use Area during specific dates in September is outdated, ineffective, and unnecessarily restrictive. The rule negatively impacts hunters by restricting access and contains unclear wording. Additionally, it does not effectively serve its intended purpose of protecting critical habitat.

- High Moose Populations: Surveys indicate that the moose population is either stable or increasing, suggesting that current restrictions may no longer be necessary. Including specific population data would further support this conclusion.
- Restricted Hunter Access: The prohibition makes it difficult for hunters, especially those with physical limitations, to access hunting areas and transport harvested moose.
- Ineffectiveness in Protecting Habitat: The seasonal restriction does not significantly contribute to habitat protection, as motorized use occurs outside the restricted dates.
- Unclear Wording: The regulation's language regarding permitted roads is confusing and creates enforcement challenges.
- Easing of Administrative and Regulatory Burdens: Removing this rule will simplify enforcement and regulatory oversight, reducing the administrative burden on wildlife officials and eliminating confusion for hunters.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee?

Yes, this proposal was written after a community comment forum with local hunters and wildlife stakeholders.

PROPOSED BY: Joshua Volland

(OI-F25-007)
