

Proposal 114

5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.

Make changes to allocations in hunts RM653, DM681, and DM682 based on 2 year average bull to cow ratios as follows:

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

The Farewell area is an important resource for Alaska residents looking to get their moose meat. Therefore, when the 2-year average bull-to-cow ratio is below the management objective minimum of 30 bulls:100 cows hunters should be limited by using: 1) a first-come-first-serve limited registration permit for residents (RM653), and 2) a draw hunt for non-residents (DM681/682). Allocation should be 90% residents and 10% non-residents. When the 2-year average bull:cow ratio is above 30:100 resident registration permits (RM653) will be unlimited, and nonresidents will remain under the current drawing hunt structure with 20 permits issued (DM681/682).

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

Overharvest of bull moose in Unit 19C in the Farewell area. Moose hunting pressure at Farewell steadily increased through RY23 while at the same time the bull:cow ratio was declining. In March 2020 the board created a registration permit (RM653) for both residents and nonresidents in the Farewell area to better track hunter effort and harvest. In March 2023 the board created a draw hunt for nonresidents (proposal 205) to address crowding issues and reduce the amount of harvest. Since RY24 there has been an unlimited number of registration permits available to residents and 20 draw permits issued to nonresidents. While the crowding issues have largely been addressed, bull:cow ratios continue to decline. Therefore, in RY26 the department is only going to issue 100 registration permits (RM653) to residents (first-come-first-serve) and 10 draw permits (7 DM681 and 3 DM682) to nonresidents.

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

This proposal was developed by the McGrath AC and was unanimously supported.

PROPOSED BY: McGrath Fish & Game Advisory Committee

(OI-F26-173)
