

Proposal 117

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

Transition to a fully draw-based system for both residents and nonresidents in the Farewell RM653 area of 19C as follows:

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

Transition to a **fully draw-based system for both residents and nonresidents in the Farewell RM653 area of 19C**

1. Unified Draw System

- Replace the resident registration system with a draw system
- Maintain separate applicant pools for residents, unguided nonresidents and guide required nonresidents.

2. Allocation Structure

- Establish a defined percentage split (eg. 70% resident / 25% unguided nonresident / 5 % guide required nonresident) rather than fixed tag numbers
- Adjust total permits annually based on population data

3. Outcome-Based Management

- Set annual tags based upon desired take of moose goals and actual harvest success rates
- Adjust allocation percentages annually based on:
 - Moose population data
 - Hunter success rates
 - Cow : Bull ratio
 - Cow : Calve ratio

Suggested Regulation:

19C west of the South Fork Kuskokwim, East of the Windy Fork Kuskokwim and north of a line between 62° 24' N, 154° 7' W and 62° 30' N, 153° 32' W

Residents – One bull - with spike-fork, 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on at least one side. **DM???** [RM653] September 1-20

Or

One bull - by permit available in person in McGrath and Nikolai beginning Jan 15; aircraft prohibited Jan 1-Feb 28. RM655. Feb 1-Feb 28.

Nonresidents unguided – One bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on at least one side. DM681 September 1-20.

Nonresidents guide required - One bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on at least one side. DM682 September 1-20.

70% of the tags to residents / 25% to unguided nonresidents / 5% to guided nonresidents

Nonresidents may only put in for DM681 or DM682, not both.

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

Subject:

Implementation of a Draw-Based Allocation System for Residents & Nonresident Moose Hunting Permits in Mixed-Use Public Lands in the Farewell RM653 area of 19C

Executive Summary

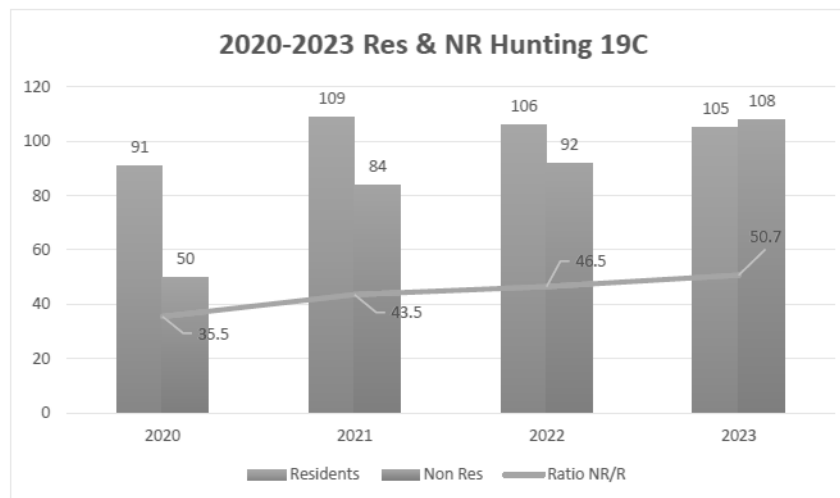
This proposal recommends the implementation of a regulated draw system to allocate nonresident moose hunting permits in specific Alaska game management units where hunting pressure is high and access is supported by federally funded infrastructure. The goal is to balance resident opportunity, maintain economic benefits from nonresident hunters, maintain the historical guiding industry of the area and ensure sustainable wildlife management aligned with established conservation principles.

Background and Justification

In the identified hunt area, RY26 current regulations allocate hunting opportunity as follows:

- Residents: 100 permits available through a limited registration system RM653
- Unguided Nonresidents: Limited to 7 permits issued through the draw system DM681
- Guide required Nonresidents: Limited to 3 permits issued through the draw system DM682

Despite this structure, historical hunt data, that before Nonresident draw was implemented, residents account for approximately **55%** of participation, while nonresidents account for **45%**.



Data from Alaska Dept of Fish and Game

A color version of this graph is available online at
<https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=gameboard.proposalboo>

This imbalance raises concerns regarding equitable access for Alaska residents, particularly in areas where:

- Access is facilitated by federally funded infrastructure including departing airports and the Farewell Airport
- Portions of the land are managed by the Bureau of Land Management

Because these lands and access points are supported by national public funding, they represent a shared resource. However, the State of Alaska retains the authority and responsibility to manage wildlife for the benefit of its residents while balancing broader public interests.

This hybrid approach may unintentionally produce inequitable outcomes and reduce transparency in allocation fairness. At the same time, nonresident hunters provide essential revenue through higher licensing fees and contribute to local economies through outfitters and guides currently offering services in 19C.

Although the current system heavily favors residents in permit allocation (100 resident permits vs. 10 non-resident tags), actual moose population show challenges from:

- Total moose population oscillation recently trending downward
- Bull to Cow ratio below 30:100 target
- Calving recruitment
- Grizzly, Black Bear and Wolf predation

Benefits of the Proposal

Balanced Access Ensures residents retain primary access while preserving opportunities for nonresidents

Resource Sustainability

Supports controlled harvest levels aligned with biological data

Fairness and Transparency

A draw system replaces uncertainty and perceived inequities with a clear, rule-based allocation process

Conclusion

This proposal offers a balanced, data-driven approach to moose hunting allocation in the Farewell area of 19C. By implementing a structured draw system, the Alaska Board of Game can ensure equitable access, sustain wildlife populations, and maintain the economic and conservation benefits associated with both resident and nonresident hunters.

Statement to the Board

The Alaska Board of Game is uniquely positioned to ensure that Alaska's wildlife resources are managed with both fairness and long-term sustainability in mind. The current system—combining a resident registration structure with a nonresident draw—creates inconsistent allocation methods and has resulted in disproportionate harvest outcomes despite significant differences in permit numbers. By transitioning to a unified draw system with clearly defined allocation percentages, the Board can improve transparency, align opportunity with actual harvest impact, and reinforce public confidence in the regulatory process. This approach maintains Alaska's commitment to resident access while still recognizing the economic and shared-use considerations tied to federally supported lands and access infrastructure.

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

No.

PROPOSED BY: Thomas Jones

(OI-F26-129)
