

Proposal 118

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

Change bag limit in RM653 to One bull every two regulatory years with spike-fork antlers 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on at least one side as follows:

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

I would like to recommend a change to the bag limit for the RM653 hunt in Unit 19C. There would be no change to antler restrictions or season dates, but if a resident hunter harvests a moose under RM653, they would be ineligible to receive an RM653 permit the next year. There would be no changes to the nonresident permit hunt because they already can't get a permit 2 years in a row under the drawing permit rules.

RM653 Proposed language: One bull every two regulatory years with spike-fork antlers 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on at least one side by permit available online at hunt.alaska.gov, or in in person in McGrath, Anchorage, Fairbanks and Palmer, beginning August 1

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?

No, except that the McGrath Area Management Biologist was consulted for background proposal language.

PROPOSED BY: Steve Chronic

(OI-F26-089)
