

Proposal 141

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

Close the August 24-28 seasons for Moose hunting in unit 20E as follows:

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

Close the August 24-28 seasons in unit 20E.

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

A large decline in Moose numbers, corresponding decrease in harvest and an increase in hunting pressure.

In the last five years we have lost 50 percent of the Moose in 20E. Bull cow ratios have dropped significantly since 2006.

There is currently a predator control program in 20E due to the low numbers of Moose.

Back in the early 2000s this committee submitted a proposal to put the August 24-28 seasons in place, the board of game passed it and the first August 24-28 season was opened in 2006. At the time Moose numbers were trending up and the committee's goal was to provide additional hunting opportunity that would largely be utilized by residents of 12 and 20E. Initially it was very successful. In 2006 twelve Moose were taken seven of them by local hunters.

Things have changed over the last 20 years, in 2025 six moose were taken in the August season with zero by local hunters. Overall hunter numbers have increased dramatically with a decrease in local hunters. The August season in today's world tends to exasperate this issue. Hunters are coming from far and wide in the August season, they are hunting, setting up large camps and leaving them set up thereby "Claiming a hunting area". They in many cases leave and then return when the September season opens. This is serving to displace local hunters.

Another problem with the August season is meat care, some years the temperatures in this area can be in the 70s and low 80s. Taking proper care of the meat especially if you are a long way from home can be nearly impossible. The trail systems have vastly expanded and the distance people are going off of the Taylor highway on these trails has increased significantly, Increasing travel time. There are no commercial processing facility's available in the local area.

We believe this is a conservation, allocation and a meat care issue at this point.

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

This proposal was developed and submitted by the Upper Tanana 40-Mile Advisory committee with information being supplied by ADFG in Tok at our request.

PROPOSED BY: Upper Tanana/Fortymile Fish & Game Advisory Committee (OI-F26-193)
