

Proposal 57

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

Lengthen the resident only registration moose hunt RM620 in Unit 18 by two weeks to end October 15 as follows:

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

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

Lengthen the resident only registration moose hunt RM620 in Unit 18 by two weeks to end October 15 as follows:

5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. (a)(16)

. . . Unit 18, that portion that drains into Kuskokwim Bay south of Carter Bay drainage (59° 10.8' N; 162° 0.2' W) drainage 1 antlered bull by registration permit only Sept. 1 – Oct. 15 [SEPT. 30]

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

Moose are an important subsistence resource for members of the Goodnews Bay and Platinum villages. Due to the increase in food costs, the villages remote locations, and changing environmental factors, food security is a significant and growing concern. Importantly, since 2020, subsistence hunters have not hunted caribou from the Mulchatna caribou herd due to low population numbers. The Mulchatna caribou herd has historically been one of the villages primary food sources. Thus, there is an increased reliance on moose hunting to meet subsistence needs, and the moose population in the area near Goodnews Bay and Platinum have seen an increase in moose population. As the moose population has increased the quota for the fall hunting season has also increased. For the last 10 years we have not come close to meeting this quota.

Extending the season date to October 15th would align the RM 620 hunt with around RM 617 and RM 615 to the north. This increased opportunity where to help local hunters put meat in the freezer and help the department come closer to meeting its quota. Five of the last six years, Goodnews Bay has asked for an extension and we've been given an extension to the 15th of October. This would save time and effort for both residents and biologists to extend the season permanently. In the last few years the harvest quota has been 40 or more moose but the number of registration permits given out has been less than 30. There's little to no danger of over harvesting with the extended time. With difficulty of getting permits out to villages due to our remoteness, it would be nice if a limited amount were available online.

The hunting season in Quinhagak RM617 and RM615 Zone 2 adjacent to the north of Goodnews Bay drainage is open from September 1 to October 15 in unit 18 hunt area. The Goodnews Bay and Platinum villages propose that its season be extended by 15 days to match those seasons and provide a more meaningful opportunity for Goodnews Bay and Platinum residents to meet subsistence needs.

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

PROPOSED BY: Janet Bavilla (HQ-F26-002)
