

Proposal 64

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

Shorten the non-resident fall moose hunting season in GMU 18 remainder to open Sept. 10 as follows:

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

Shorten the non-resident fall moose hunting season in GMU 18 remainder to open Sept. 10 as follows:

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Remainder of Unit 18

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 antlered bull

SEPT. 10 [Sept. 1] - Sept. 30

1 antlerless moose

Dec. 1 - Mar. 15

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

Moose numbers in Unit 18 are very high and it is becoming a very popular area for hunting by nonlocal Alaska residents, nonresidents, and guided and drop off hunts. The high moose population is a complex problem because moose need to be harvested so that their numbers don't get so high that they crash.

However, the influx of outsiders is creating increasing competition with local residents and there are also increasing reports of trespassing on Native Corporation lands and Native allotments, as well as reports of wanton waste. When meat is donated to communities, it is often already starting to go bad.

This proposal seeks to delay the start of the non-resident moose season to open Sept. 10 to allow resident hunters an opportunity to fill their freezers first. Delaying the start of the non-resident season will help reduce conflicts by decreasing overlap between user groups and giving a priority to Alaska residents. Moving the nonresident season to open later will also result in hunting during cooler weather and help reduce meat spoilage.

Although outside the scope of this proposal, the YKDRAC wants to note that the vastness of the YK Delta makes it challenging for law enforcement to patrol during the hunting season. We encourage more law enforcement in the area during the fall hunting season, and request the establishment of hunter checkpoints at hub community airports like Bethel, Emmonak, and St. Mary's to ensure meat is being salvaged properly and to reduce wanton waste.

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

The YKDRAC is comprised of 13 representatives from across the YKD region in Unit 18, many who also serve on their local Fish and Game Advisory Committees. Shortening the nonresident moose season in Unit 18 remainder was discussed in two separate YKDRAC public meetings and supported by attendees.