

Proposal 96

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

Amend the permit conditions for RM682 to allow permit holders to also hold and use other valid moose permits in the Kuskokwim drainage as follows:

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

This change would primarily affect the special conditions for hunt RM682 under 5 AAC 85.045 (hunting seasons and bag limits for moose) and/or 5 AAC 92 (permit hunt procedures). The current restriction appears in hunt-specific details and permit issuance rules.

Current (as described in hunt info and permit conditions): If you receive a RM682 permit you CANNOT receive another permit to hunt moose in the Kuskokwim drainage this regulatory year. [Or similar language prohibiting holding RM682 with other Kuskokwim drainage moose permits.]

Proposed Regulation Change: Amend the permit conditions for RM682 to remove the exclusion: ~~If you receive a RM682 permit you CANNOT receive another permit to hunt moose in the Kuskokwim drainage this regulatory year.~~ **Hunters who receive an RM682 permit may also hold and use other valid moose permits in the Kuskokwim drainage, subject to all other applicable regulations.**

(If a specific codification exists in 5 AAC 85.045(a)(19) or permit regs, reference it; otherwise, this targets the hunt condition directly.)

What would be the effect if this proposal is adopted? Hunters could participate in RM682 and other moose hunts in the Kuskokwim drainage (e.g., combining with permits in adjacent subunits), increasing flexibility for subsistence users and locals without significantly increasing overall harvest pressure, as reporting remains mandatory and populations are monitored.

Who is likely to benefit? Resident hunters, especially subsistence users in the Kuskokwim region and those accessing from areas like GMU 18, who face access challenges and want multiple opportunities.

Who is likely to suffer? Minimal impact: possibly slight increase in effort in some areas, but conservation tools (seasons, quotas if any, reporting) would prevent overharvest.

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

The registration moose permit RM682 in Unit 19E includes a restriction that prohibits a hunter from holding or using this permit if they hold any other moose hunting permit in the Kuskokwim drainage for the regulatory year. This excludes hunters from participating in multiple compatible moose hunts (e.g., registration or Tier II permits in adjacent or overlapping areas like other parts of the Kuskokwim drainage). For residents in or accessing via areas like GMU 18 or along the Kuskokwim River, this limits opportunities for subsistence or recreational hunting, reduces flexibility, and may create unnecessary barriers without clear conservation benefits. Removing this exclusion would allow hunters to hold RM682 alongside other valid moose permits in the

drainage, promoting equitable access while existing harvest reporting, seasons, and bag limits continue to manage populations sustainably

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

Bethel Advisory Committee

PROPOSED BY: Bethel Advisory Committee

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