

Bethel Area Proposals

PROPOSAL 21 - 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Open a winter hunting season for moose in Unit 18 as follows:

The current moose regulation says: Unit 18, south of and including the Goodnews River drainage, one antlered bull by permit available in person in Goodnews Bay and Platinum, August 1–25. Season closes by emergency order when 20 bulls are taken. Permit number RM620, open season from September 1–30.

Add: by emergency order by the Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) and/or U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service announcing the opening of a 21-day winter moose hunting season in Unit 18, south of and including the Goodnews River Drainage by permit only, permit number RMXXX. The permits will be available in person only at Goodnews Bay and Platinum. The hunt will open on January 1–31, with a bag limit of one moose, with a quota of ten moose to be harvested. Once ten moose are harvested ADF&G will close the winter hunt by emergency order. Hunters who harvested a moose during the regulatory year are not eligible to participate in this hunt. All hunters are required to possess a valid Alaska hunting license and one state registration permit, permit number RMXXX.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Native Village of Goodnews Bay hereby proposes a winter hunt of moose in Unit 18, in Goodnews River drainage. During the open season, from September 1–30, not all hunters are successful in their fall hunt since most of the moose are within inaccessible area(s) where there are thick brushes or are too far inland, away from the river. The main transportation is the boat during the hunt and at fall time, when there is lack of rain, the river gets really low thus hampering the hunters' ability to go further upriver where most of the moose are. Not all hunters have jet outboards that they can utilize and by the time the season closes these hunters are left out and without much needed moose meat for their families over the winter. The winter hunt will not have a great effect on the population of moose in our area since the population of moose increases each year regardless of our hunt each year. We are seeing more cows with twin calves and with this trend we feel that the winter hunt is sustainable. Subsistence is our fabric of our lives and we cannot live on fish alone.

PROPOSED BY: Native Village of Goodnews Bay (EG-F16-049)

PROPOSAL 22 - 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Open a winter nonresident hunting season for moose in Unit 18 remainder as follows:

Add an additional nonresident season to the Unit 18 remainder area starting on December 1 and ending March 15.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Have a nonresident winter moose season added to the Unit 18 remainder area. The area currently has an extremely high moose population that is still growing extremely fast despite the liberal season and limits for residents. This would create an opportunity to get a winter meat moose for people who have recently moved into the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Region. Being that it is a winter season and most of the bulls

have dropped antlers early on in the season, nonresident sport hunting is a non-issue. I would suggest an additional nonresident season added to the Unit 18 remainder area starting on December 1 and ending March 15.

PROPOSED BY: Jon LaValle (EG-F16-053)

PROPOSAL 23 - 5 AAC 85.045(16). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Reauthorize the antlerless moose hunting seasons in the Remainder of Unit 18 as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
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Remainder of Unit 18

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

2 moose; of which only 1 may be an antlered bull; a person may not take a calf or a cow accompanied by a calf; or	Aug. 1—Sept. 30
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2 antlerless moose; or	Oct. 1—Nov. 30
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2 moose	Dec. 1—Mar. 15
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NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 antlered bull ...	Sept. 1—Sept. 30
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What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? To be retained, the antlerless moose seasons in the Remainder of Unit 18 must be reauthorized annually. The current antlerless hunts were adopted at the January 2014 Board of Game meeting in Kotzebue and were reauthorized for regulatory year (RY) 2016 at the March 2016 Board of Game meeting in Fairbanks. This proposal requests reauthorization for RY2017.

Implementation of antlerless hunts began in 2007 and has continued each year due to increased moose abundance, productivity, and population growth along the Yukon River drainage in Unit

18. Based on the steady growth in moose populations and productivity, the Department of Fish & Game proposes continued antlerless moose hunts in the Remainder of Unit 18.

Within the areas near the Yukon River, the moose population is estimated at a minimum of 12,000 animals with calf:cow ratios ranging from 37:100 to 69:100, and twinning rates close to 50% for all areas. Population growth continues to be strong in this portion of Unit 18 and anecdotal evidence suggests that calf survival rates remain high. The population is expected to continue to grow as animals move into under-utilized habitat.

Although the current year harvest data in the Remainder of Unit 18 has not been finalized, we expect harvest to be similar to the past three years and well within sustained yield for this robust population. Allowing antlerless harvest will benefit hunters through increased opportunity, and any increases in harvest may help slow the growth rate of the population in this portion of Unit 18.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F16-126)

PROPOSAL 24 - 5 AAC 92.044. Permit for hunting bear with the use of bait or scent lures.
Allow the harvest of brown bear at bear bait stations in Unit 18 as follows:

Simply add Unit 18 to the list of units that can take a brown bear at a black bear bait station. In Units 7, 11, 12, 13, 14B, 15, 16, **18**, 20A, 20B, 20C, 20E, 21D, 24C, 24D, and 25D brown/grizzly bears may be taken at a black bear bait station subject to the same restrictions as black bear. Hunters who take brown bears over bait in these areas are required to salvage the edible meat in addition to the hide and skull. Hunters must comply with seasons, bag limits, and sealing requirements for brown/grizzly bears (registration permits and locking-tags may be required in some areas, contact the Department of Fish & Game for details).

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I would like the Board of Game to allow brown bear taken over black bear baits in Unit 18. We have a harvestable number of brown bear in the unit. Brown bears are more frequently breaking into fish camps during times of limited salmon harvest. Would allow a better opportunity to harvest some brown bears in the heavily wooded river corridor and area of highest bear/human interaction takes place. There is precedence in other units throughout the state.

PROPOSED BY: Jaimie Kassman (EG-F16-108)

Note: This proposal is scheduled for the Arctic/Western Region meeting as proposal 25 and the Interior/Northeast Arctic Region meeting as proposal 83.

PROPOSAL 25 - 5 AAC 85.025. Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou. Open a nonresident draw hunt for caribou in Units 18 and 19 as follows:

Units 18, 19A, and 19B - Nonresidents:
One bull caribou by drawing permit September 1-30

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? As of the drafting of this proposal, ADF&G states: "The harvest of Mulchatna caribou is well below sustainable levels." The Mulchatna caribou herd has started to grow and all indicators are that it is healthy. Unfortunately, it has recently resided predominantly in areas that are difficult to access. A nonresident hunt, limited by drawing should be well within the sustainability of this herd that is currently underutilized. I would suggest a limit of up to 50 tags and ask ADF&G to initially only issue 20 across the entire range of the herd. It is desirable to see this herd continue to grow. Communities within the region have had a difficult time taking the harvestable surplus due to the locations of the animals. Providing a nonresident hunt will result in light harvest and most meat will be left in the communities within the region as is the case in all remote nonresident hunting opportunities. This proposal is submitted for both the Arctic and Western (Unit 18) and the Interior and Eastern Arctic (Unit 19A & B) meetings. This proposal will also be submitted for Units 9 and 17 when in cycle.

PROPOSED BY: Aaron Bloomquist

(EG-F16-010)
