

# The Stony Holitna Fish and Game Advisory Committee

P.O. Box 33, Sleetmute, AK 99668 / Phone - 907 449-4209 / email – [SHAC@fastmail.fm](mailto:SHAC@fastmail.fm)

September 24, 2017

An Agenda Change Request, (ACR 1), has been submitted to the Alaska Board of Game requesting that the Board of Game open a registration hunt for moose in 19A .

With respect to the Board's Agenda Change Request, (ACR), acceptance criteria:

**(A)** The Stony Holitna Fish and Game Advisory Committee, (SHAC), does not believe there is a conservation concern that would be detrimental to the sustained use of moose in this part of GNU 19A. This closure originated when the four village councils in the area, (Lime Village, Stony river, Sleetmute, and Red Devil), and some members of the "Old" Central Kuskokwim AC. This was at the 2006 Region 3 BOG meeting. These villages and committee members from Stony and Sleetmute wanted any future harvestable surplus to be used to build the herd rather than having a Tier II hunt. A harvestable surplus does not mandate a hunt opening in a closed area.

The ACR author claims that this season he proposes "should have been made available in the 2017 cycle of BOG for Region 3, but ... an aerial survey to validate the opening" had not been done at the time of the meeting. The author claims that SHAC was not able to put in an ACR because of summer activities of committee members. "Should have been opened", is nothing but opinion, and the rest is only partly true. The area biologist decided that rather than hurrying a meeting with the purpose of putting in an ACR for an opening, he wanted to have a face-to-face meeting to explain in detail the "Whys and wherefores" an opening would be like, with all the details, so folks would understand it. There is no compelling reason to have an opening at this time.

**(B)** SHAC knows of no error in regulation, and neither did ACR 1's author.

**(C)** SHAC observes that this ACR does not correct an effect that was unforeseen when the closure was adopted, and neither does the author of ACR 1.

At the September 19-29, 2017 SHAC meeting in Sleetmute, the biologist did what he planned, and explained a registration hunt in detail to community members as well as SHAC.

The SHAC chair invited community members to take full part in the discussion much more than usual on this issue, as surveys were explained, and hunt conditions were considered.

SHAC and the biologist had been making a list of possible hunt conditions ever since the closure in 2006. At this meeting the committee decided on a list of hunt conditions it would prefer to see in place whenever a registration hunt is open.

One of these conditions is that the hunt be open no earlier than fall, 2019.

The rationale for this is that 2019 would be 5 years after the Bear Control program ended in 2014, and this would give an extra generation of cows the opportunity to have calves.

This is similar to what was done in McGrath – there was a 5-year moratorium on hunting moose after the Bear Removal Program was done in that area.

SHAC encourages the Board not to accept this ACR. If however, BOG does accept it, SHAC would like to see it tabled to a future BOG meeting that would not allow for an opening before fall, 2019.

Sincerely,

Doug Carney, SHAC Chairman