

This proposal requests that the Unit 13 federal subsistence moose harvest season be shifted 10 days later into the season.

Proposal submitted by Shirley “Tursy” Smelcer (Tursy1961@gmail.com)

Proposed Federal Regulation

Unit 13 Moose

Unit 13E—1 antlered bull moose by Federal registration permit (FM1301) only; only 1 permit will be issued per household. Aug. ~~1~~–Sept. ~~20~~–30

Unit 13, remainder —1 antlered bull moose by Federal registration permit (FM1301) only. Aug. ~~1~~–Sept. ~~20~~–30

Justification for Season Shift

This proposal seeks to adjust the start and end dates of the federal moose hunting season ten days later based on harvest trends and changing ecological conditions.

Harvest Trends Support Later Season

Graphs provided in the accompanying materials demonstrate most federally harvested moose in Unit 13 are taken during the final week of the current hunting season (Sept. 14–20). This trend suggests that peak moose activity—and hence the most effective hunting window—occurs toward the end of the existing season. A 10-day shift in the hunting season would better align the season with periods of higher success for federally qualified subsistence users.

Climatic Justification: Later Rut

This proposed shift is consistent with similar changes made across other parts of the state in recognition of a climate-driven shift in the moose rut. As Alaska continues to experience warming temperatures, biological indicators such as the timing of the rut and animal movement patterns are occurring later in the year. Adjusting the season by ten days would ensure that federally qualified hunters are able to hunt during the most biologically and culturally appropriate opportunity.

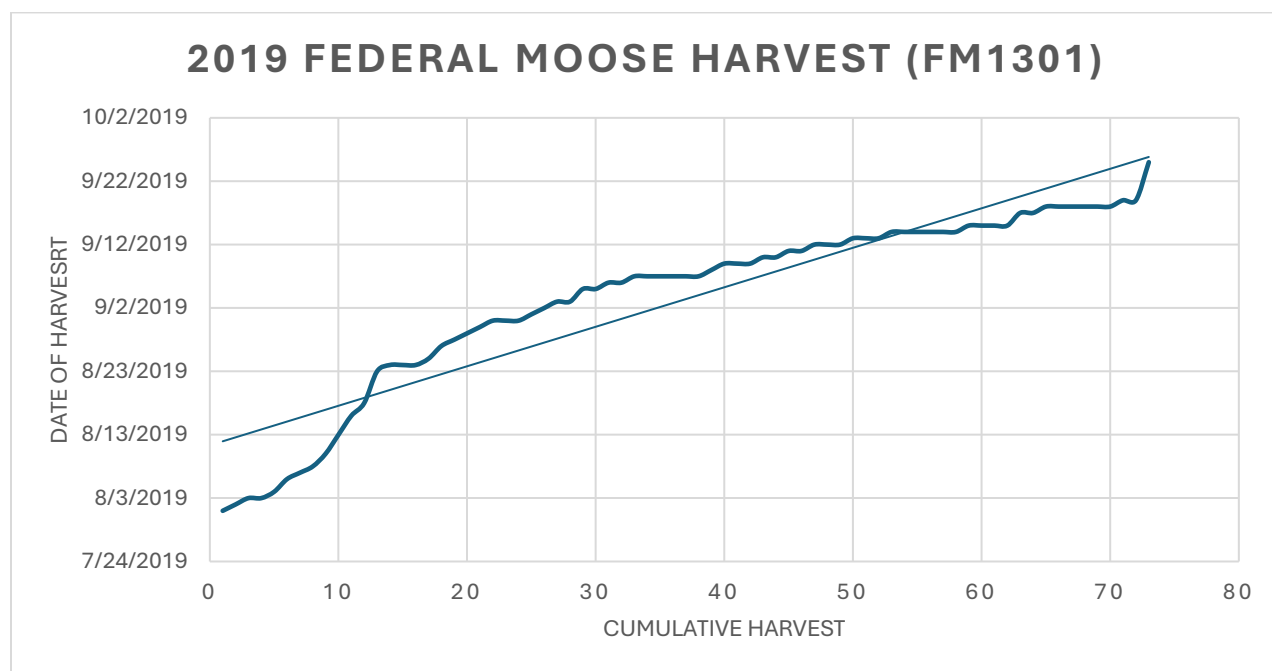
Subsistence Priority and Food Security

In Unit 13, federally qualified subsistence users are increasingly dependent on moose due to the loss of caribou hunting opportunities and reduced availability of other game. Aligning the hunt with actual animal behavior increases the likelihood of harvest success, directly supporting household food security and cultural continuity in the region. Increasing the likelihood of

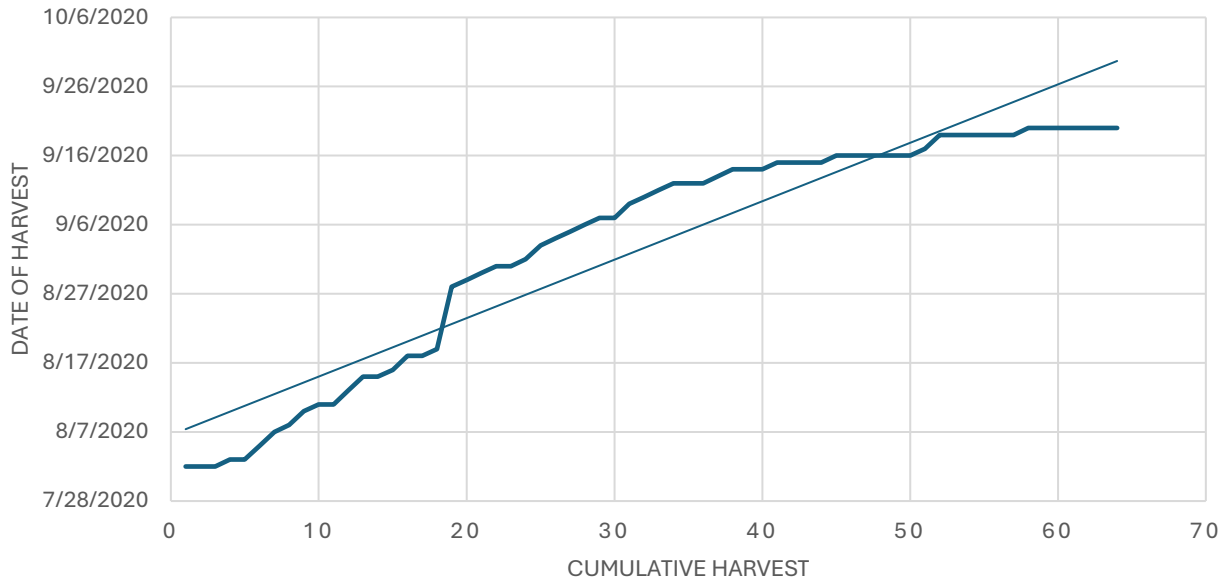
successful moose harvests ensures a meaningful federal subsistence priority to federally qualified users.

Conclusion and Request

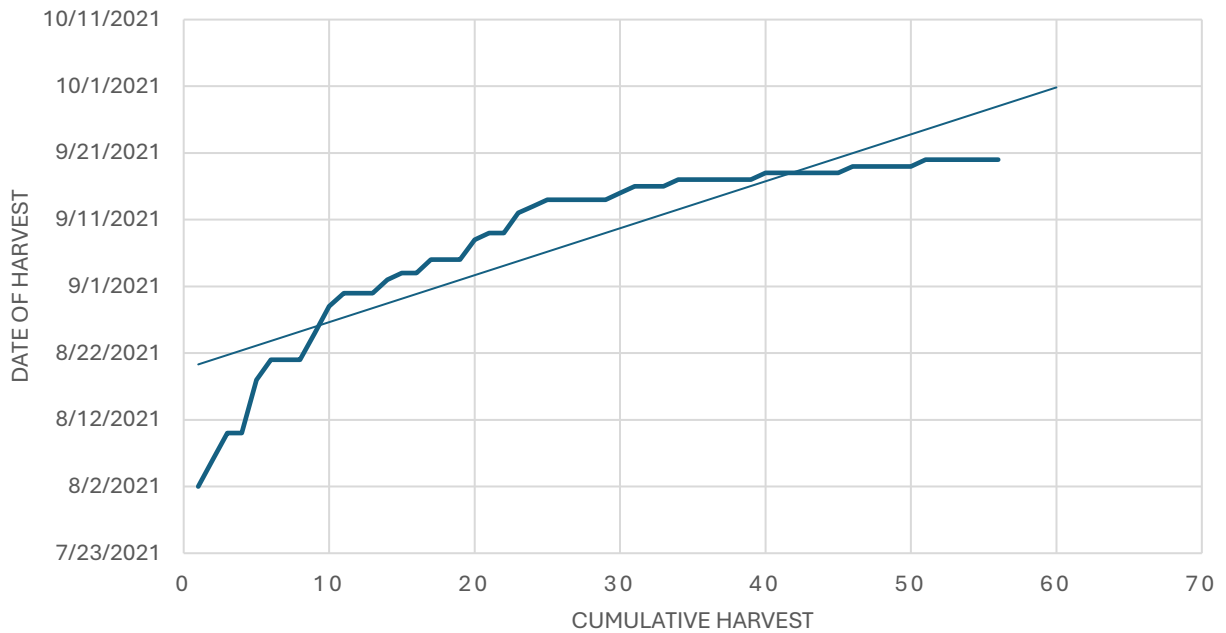
The proposed Unit 13 federal subsistence moose hunting season adjustment is biologically justified, consistent with statewide trends, and important to ensure adequate opportunity for successful moose harvests for rural subsistence users during a time of changing environmental conditions and increasing food insecurity. Increasing federal subsistence moose harvest success in the limited federal lands of Unit 13 serves to ensure priority federal subsistence uses pursuant to ANILCA Title VIII.



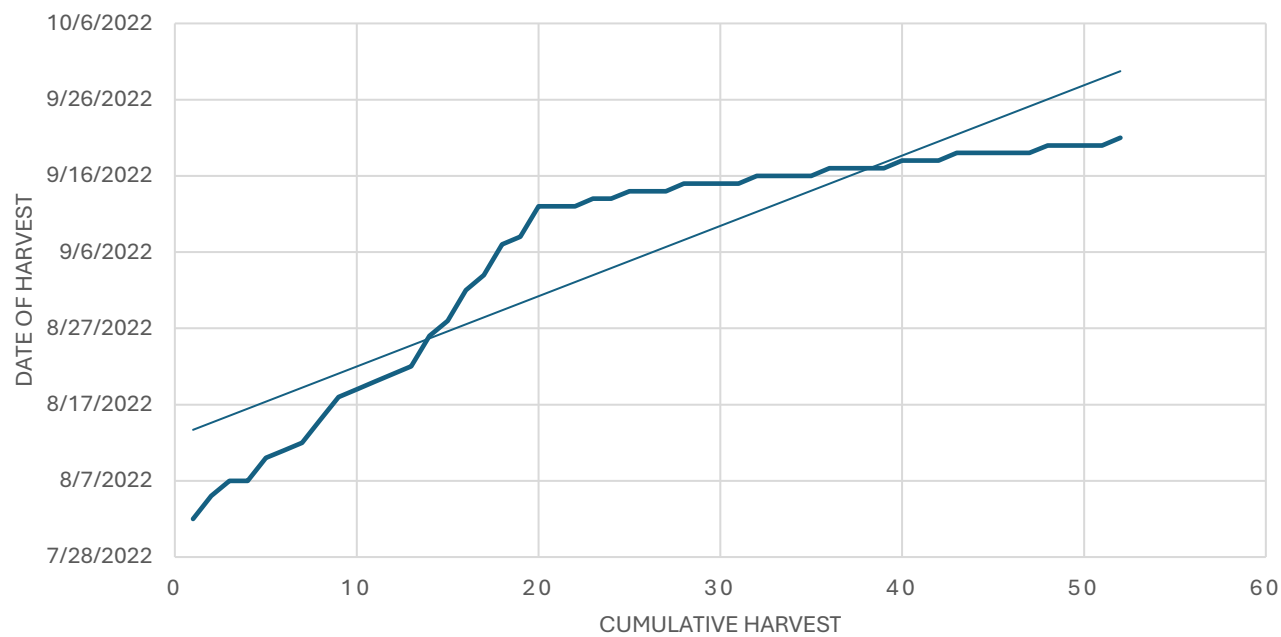
2020 FEDERAL MOOSE HARVEST (FM1301)



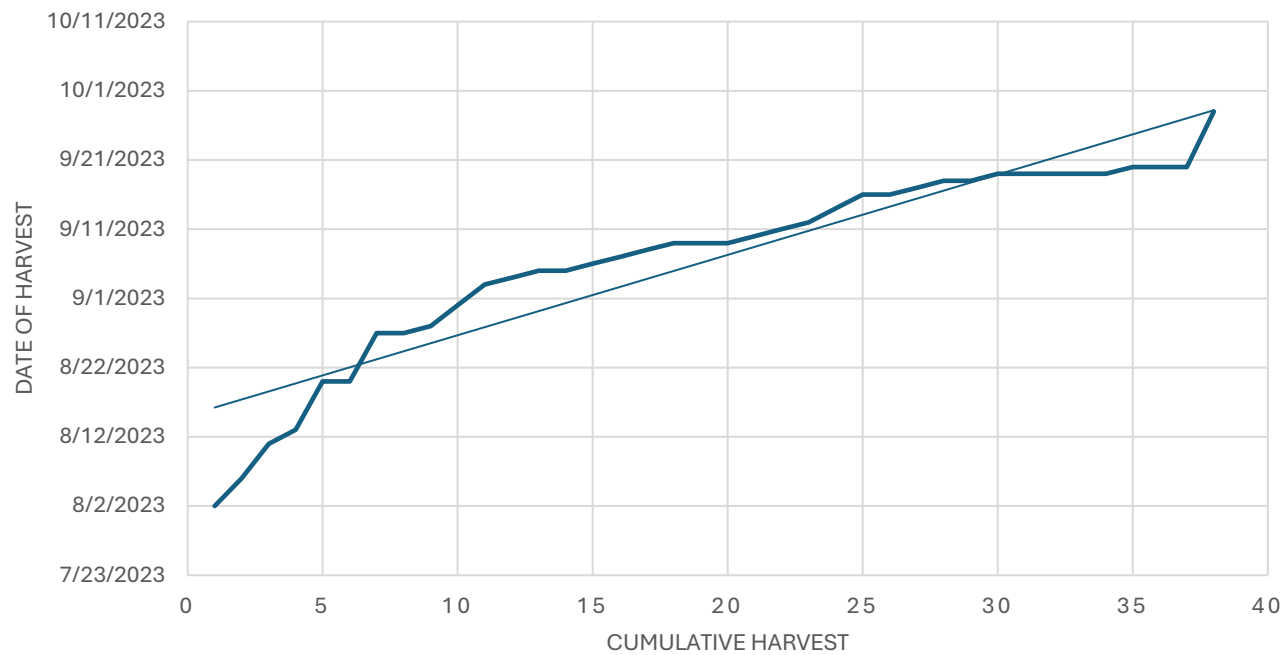
2021 FEDERAL MOOSE HARVEST (FM1301)



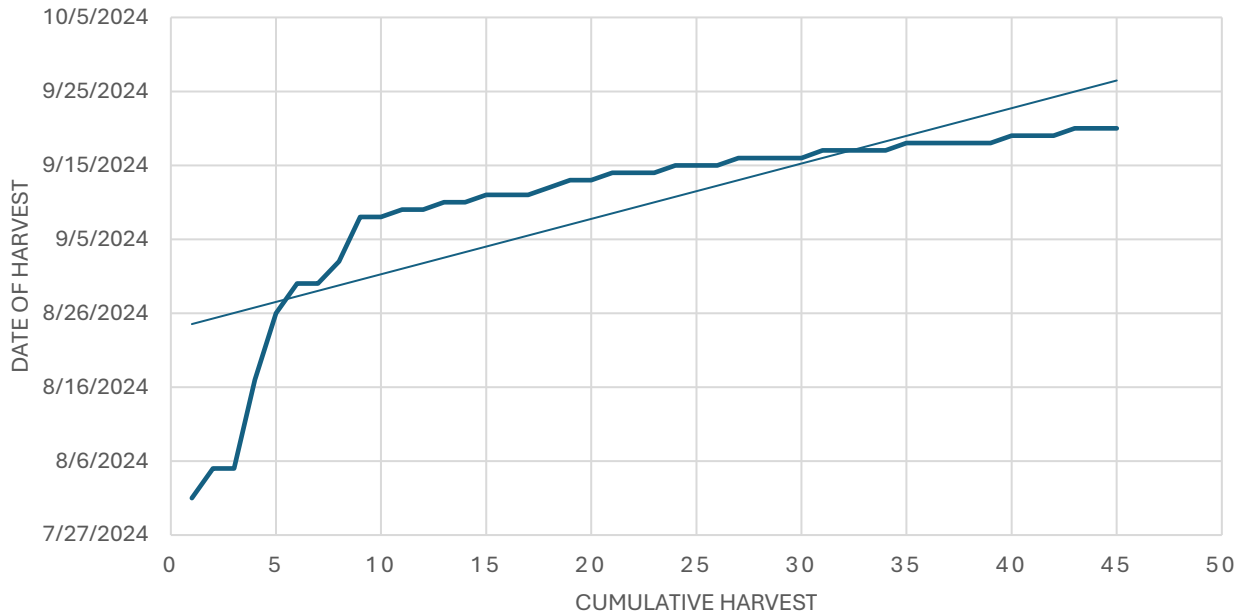
2022 FEDERAL MOOSE HARVEST (FM1301)



2023 FEDERAL MOOSE HARVEST (FM1301)



2024 FEDERAL MOOSE HARVEST (FM1301)



FEDERAL MOOSE HARVEST BY WEEK (FM1301)

