



# Proposal 1:

## Adaptive management of moose in Yukon

### Objective

We want to respond to moose management issues more effectively, while honouring our obligations in the Umbrella Final Agreement for amending fish and wildlife legislation. This proposal increases the range of harvest management tools available in order to better respond to pressures on Yukon's moose population, while maintaining hunting opportunities.

**Some adaptive management measures are in place to manage moose in three regions already (Southern Lakes, Aishihik and Faro) and we want a suite of adaptive tools to be available Yukon-wide.**

### What would this proposal change?

This proposal would make a range of moose harvest management tools available for consideration and implementation in response to harvest pressures found on the land. Currently, if wildlife managers need to immediately address an issue, their options are limited to a permit system varying the number of permits available or opening or closing subzones. This requires a regulation change, which can take between **2 and 4** years to complete and implement. We'd like to see timelier and less restrictive options available to manage moose.

### How would it work?

The process and authorities to recommend and implement a harvest management tool in a specific area will stay the same. Recommendations to use a tool will continue to come from First Nations governments, Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board (YFWMB), Renewable Resources Councils or the Department of Environment Fish and Wildlife Branch based on science, traditional knowledge, feedback and suggestions from communities, associations and citizens. This structure is based on the authorities given under [Chapter 16 of the Umbrella Final Agreement](#).

### What tools could we use?

This proposal is seeking feedback on potential tools we could use to manage moose adaptively. These tools are included in the [YFWMB Moose Harvest Management Framework](#), which contains a suite of possible moose management tools.

Tools could include:

- Varying season dates for harvest;
- Setting antler configuration requirements (e.g., spike-fork bulls, 10-point bulls);
- Enabling threshold or registration hunts;
- Applying permits to subzones;
- Restricting off-road vehicle use in certain areas (e.g., designated trails); and
- Other measures that are listed within the [YFWMB Moose Harvest Management Framework](#).

We want to hear if Yukoners support more flexible tools like the ones outlined above and in the [YFWMB Moose Harvest Management Framework](#). Fill out the survey to tell us which tools you think may or may not work in Yukon. Fill out the survey (available online at [www.yfwmb.ca](http://www.yfwmb.ca) after February 14) to tell us which tools you support.

Your input on this regulation proposal will also help inform the final tools that will be included in an updated Moose Harvest Management Framework.

Adaptive management provisions in regulation are not automatically implemented. Rather, they provide for a broader range of options (and potentially combinations of tools) to use a moose management issue seen locally.

### Umbrella Final Agreement

Under the Umbrella Final Agreement, we must share sustainable harvest, with priority going to the subsistence needs of First Nations. In many Moose Management Units licensed harvest is close to or more than the total sustainable harvest, and this needs to be re-balanced.

[Learn more](#)

### What we are seeing

Harvest reports, aerial surveys and local observations tell us that moose harvest is at or above sustainable levels in many Moose Management Units.

### Ministerial authorities do not change

The Minister of Environment will continue to be informed by technical advice from the Department of Environment Fish and Wildlife Branch, and consider recommendations from First Nations, Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board and Renewable Resources Councils.

# Let's take a closer look at ways to manage moose

	Proposed process <b>Adaptive management</b>	Current process <b>Wildlife Act Regulation change process</b>
Timelines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Submit a proposal to the YFWMB or local Renewable Resources Councils (RRCs) at <b>any time</b>.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regulation change proposals are accepted by the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board (YFWMB) every <b>2 years</b> and may take up to <b>4 years</b> to become law.</li> </ul>
How change happens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nothing will change until action is required. The regulation change enables future “options.”</li> <li>When a moose management issue comes up, recommendations may be submitted by <b>anyone</b> – including the Government of Yukon, First Nations governments, YFWMB, RRCs, communities, councils and associations and Yukoners.</li> </ul> <p><b>Where to bring forward your concerns? (See process)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local issue: submit to the relevant RRC in the area where you have noticed the issue. You do not have to be a local resident of the area to approach the RRC.</li> <li>Territory-wide issue: submit to the YFWMB.</li> <li>You can also bring your concerns directly to the Department of Environment.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>YFWMB during biannual regulation intake (every 2 years).</li> <li><b>Anyone</b> – including the Government of Yukon, First Nation governments, RRCs, communities, councils and associations, and Yukoners – can bring regulation change proposals to YFWMB for consideration.</li> </ul>
Review, engagement and consultation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>YFWMB and RRC review submissions, with public review being undertaken on supported proposals that have not been reviewed by the public yet.</li> <li>YFWMB or RRC will make recommendations to the Minister of Environment and/or First Nation government on proposals to advance.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The YFWMB meets to determine which proposals to advance.</li> <li>The YFWMB shall make provisions for public involvement in the development of its decisions and its recommendations.</li> <li>Feedback received is used to develop recommendations to the Minister of Environment. The YFWMB can also make recommendations to First Nations governments.</li> </ul>
Ministerial role	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Minister of Environment's role does not change.</li> <li>Upon receiving recommendations, the Minister considers science, traditional knowledge, public and First Nations' interests, laws and government mandate.</li> <li>The Minister then accepts, varies (modifies recommendation), sets aside (delays a decision, usually for a set amount of time) or replaces the recommendation.</li> </ul>	
Implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adaptive management tools for all game management subzones is enabled in regulation and can be implemented following Ministerial sign-off and appropriate communications of the changes.</li> <li>Decision may require government-to-government consultation with First Nations. The Minister must consult and accommodate (make changes to adaptive action) if legal requirements are triggered or required.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New legislation is drafted and goes through multi-level review within Government of Yukon.</li> <li>Legislation may require government-to-government consultation with First Nations. The Minister must consult and accommodate (make changes to legislation) if triggered or required.</li> <li>Minister of Environment brings draft legislation to Cabinet. Cabinet approves by Order in Council and new legislation is enacted when signed by the Commissioner in Executive Council.</li> </ul>
Tools to manage moose	<p>The tools could include measures such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>varying season dates for harvest;</li> <li>setting antler configuration requirements;</li> <li>enabling threshold or registration hunts;</li> <li>applying permits to subzones;</li> <li>off-road vehicle use in certain areas;</li> <li>other tools listed in the <a href="#">YFWMB Moose Harvest Management Framework</a>.</li> </ul> <p>Provide your feedback on the available tools to manage moose by filling out the survey. Your feedback will also inform updates to the <a href="#">YFWMB Moose Harvest Management Framework</a>.</p>	<p>Our current tools are limited. We usually manage moose by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>opening or closing subzones; or</li> <li>putting subzones on permit.</li> </ul> <p>Some game management subzones (e.g., Southern Lakes, Aishihik and Faro) already have adaptive management tools in place. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>vary season dates for harvest;</li> <li>threshold harvest;</li> <li>restricted off-road vehicle use related to hunting;</li> <li>prohibit special guiding; and</li> <li>limit commercial harvest.</li> </ul>