

ACR #4 – Change the big game hunting license/tag/harvest ticket system for simplicity of use and efficiency.

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CITE THE REGULATION THAT WILL BE CHANGED IF THIS ACR IS HEARD.

5 AAC 92.010. Harvest tickets and reports

WHAT IS THE PROBLEM YOU WOULD LIKE THE BOARD TO ADDRESS? STATE IN DETAIL THE NATURE OF THE CURRENT PROBLEM.

Hunters are being burdened by citations and other expenses due to an antiquated and very poorly managed harvest ticket and locking tag system that has not kept up with technology. In addition, resident and nonresident hunters are constantly getting the wrong year's harvest tickets because ADF&G does not keep up with what is available on their website. Hunters often just click on the harvest ticket when they get their hunting licenses and they are for last year, not the current year. As of the writing of this proposal on 4/13/2022 the only moose, caribou and sheep tags available on the ADF&G website are for LAST year. Anyone that got their harvest tickets already online have non-valid tickets! This is certainly hundreds of people. Hunters from other states are not used to needing three items (license, tag and harvest ticket), especially when they have spent hundreds of dollars on their tags. Hundreds of these hunters show up each year without harvest tickets. Many get to the field and are either cited or need to spend hundreds or thousands of dollars to fly back and get the proper FREE harvest ticket. The department is launching an app so everything can be electronic, but the same antiquated ideas are included in the app. This system with multiple paper documents and metal tags is inefficient and expensive for wildlife division and causes many unnecessary burdens for the public.

WHAT SOLUTION DO YOU PREFER?

Remake the entire big game hunting license/tag/harvest ticket system for simplicity of use and efficiency. This new system would likely change and repeal multiple regulations, but we cited the harvest ticket regulation for ease of concept. The new system is described below in the steps necessary be legally to hunt.

Step one: Buy a hunting license (paper or electronic copy).

Step two: Indicate on your license before you checkout which big game species you intend to hunt that year. There will be a box to check for each species on the electronic form and a punch box on the paper hunting licenses. (This is very similar to the state duck stamp system.)

- a. If you are a nonresident or a resident planning to muskox or hunt brown bears in a tag required area, this step will trigger an extra fee in your cart for each species that require a (tag fee). Your license will be printed with the species boxes checked for each species you selected. Species can be added to in the future, if desired and a new license printed, or issued.
- b. There will be NO locking tags, your license with boxes checked is the proof you intend to hunt those species and have paid the any necessary fees for each species. This makes for a cheaper system and less chance of losing your tags or forgetting them in the field.

- c. There will be NO harvest ticket. Your license, with appropriate species box checked, will act as your authorization to hunt each species. You will write the date of harvest for each species on the back of your license, or in the app, the same as you would for the take of a king salmon. This makes it less likely to lose or forget harvest tickets.
- d. Selecting each species will automatically enroll you for a harvest report for each species. These may be request in a hard copy but will most commonly be recorded electronically, as it is now. These are to be filed after hunting (or not hunting). If this step is forgotten, or neglected, you must file before you may select that species on future hunting licenses.

Step Three: Go hunting.

Step Four: Upon take of an animal, write the date of take on the back of your hunting license, similar to king salmon reporting. You may also record it through the app to your hunting license.

Step Five: Report your hunting take, effort, etc. for each species online, through the app, or in person at an AGF&G office. Paper copies of hunt reports may also be requested. If this step is forgotten, or neglected, you must file before you may select that species on future hunting licenses.

Note: Registration and drawing hunts will be conducted in the same manner. You will still need to have the animal selected on your license but when you hunt you will need to have that permit number written on the back of the license. When you report, you will be required to report on that permit number (same as it is now but without the harvest ticket attached).

STATE IN DETAIL HOW THIS ACR MEETS THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:

1) To correct an error in regulation.

These situations were not anticipated when ADF&G went to online harvest tickets and licensing. ADF&G has promised to remedy the situation through several years and have not.

2) To correct an effect of a regulation that was unforeseen when a regulation was adopted.

See above

3) Does the request identify a biological concern for the population or a threat to meeting objectives for the population?

4) Does the request identify an unforeseen, unexpected event or effect that would otherwise restrict or reduce a reasonable opportunity for customary and traditional wildlife uses, as defined in AS 16.05.258(f)?

5) Does the request identify an unforeseen, unexpected resource situation where a biologically allowable resource harvest would be precluded by delayed regulatory action and such delay would be significantly burdensome because the resource would be unavailable in the future?

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF THIS PROBLEM IS NOT SOLVED PRIOR TO THE REGULAR CYCLE?

STATE WHY YOUR ACR IS NOT PREDOMINANTLY ALLOCATIVE.

IF THIS REQUEST IS ALLOCATIVE, STATE THE NEW INFORMATION THAT COMPELS THE BOARD TO CONSIDER AN ALLOCATIVE PROPOSAL OUTSIDE OF THE REGULAR CYCLE.

STATE YOUR INVOLVEMENT IN THE ISSUE THAT IS THE SUBJECT OF THIS ACR.

STATE WHETHER THIS ACR HAS BEEN CONSIDERED BEFORE, EITHER AS A PROPOSAL OR AS AN ACR, AND IF SO, DURING WHICH BOARD OF GAME MEETING.