

ALASKA BOARD OF GAME

BOARD FINDINGS AND POLICY REGARDING  
BOWHUNTING

FINDINGS

- I. Alaska's comparatively low population, large land area open to hunting, and long seasons generally afford all individuals who use legal, specialized weapons a reasonable hunting opportunity;
- II. General permit hunting may restrict hunting effort both spacially and temporally, resulting in lower hunting densities, and providing additional high quality opportunities for bowhunters;
- III. Bowhunting provides a comparatively large amount of high quality recreation with regard to biological cost;
- IV. Bowhunting as one legitimate use among others is a management tool and may be applied, as appropriate, to achieve desirable management goals.

POLICY

- I. Bowhunting is recognized as a legitimate method of taking game in Alaska and is to be encouraged;
- II. It is acknowledged that where practicable and within reasonable limits, bowhunting shall be encouraged in areas open to the taking of game but closed to the discharge of firearms;
- III. In certain areas, for certain species, where the take of game must be limited or the area closed for management or safety reasons, bowhunting may be permitted when hunting with firearms is prohibited;
- IV. Though appropriate in many areas, it is acknowledged that aspects of bowhunting are highly visible and that bowhunting may be restricted on that basis.

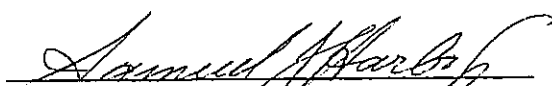
Editor's Note:

- (1) Areas closed to the discharge of firearms may be open to other legal methods of hunting; for example, bowhunting in Denali State Park.

The Board deliberately allowed bowhunters to continue to carry sidearms for added safety while bowhunting in areas closed to hunting by means of firearms. However, if abuses involving sidearms appear, bowhunters will be deprived of the extra security a sidearm provides.

ADOPTED: April 2, 1980  
Fairbanks, Alaska

VOTE: 7/0

  
Dr. Samuel J. Harbo, Jr., Chairman  
Alaska Board of Game