

Wayne Kubat's March 4th, 2011 testimony to the Alaska Board of Game concerning proposal 94 to re-establish a non resident moose season in 16B.

Thank you Chairman Judkins and Board members for this opportunity to testify.

I'm Wayne Kubat. I've hunted moose in 16B since the early 80's and guided about 6 hunts per year there from 1987 to 1999, by which time over predation by mostly wolves but also bears had more or less decimated the population. 16B hasn't had a non resident season since the fall of 2000. I'd like to encourage the board to adopt proposal 94, which would establish an August 20th – Sept. 20th non resident moose season in 16B. ***I think the current number of surplus bulls and the very high bull cow ratios – above 50 in some areas - justify it!***

Spike Fork 50 started in 16B during about 1993, but I don't think it was really needed to protect an adequate bull/cow ratio for breeding. Rarely, since the early 70's, has the bull cow ratio ever gone below 30 bulls per 100 cows. I believe it had more to do with consistency with other areas and I think there were some legal issues with subsistence also. In 1993 and 1994, 16B mainland had a ***32 day general season*** hunt for residents and non residents alike that ran from August 20th –Sept. 20th, ***the same season that this proposal is asking for.*** Between 1995 and 2000, the season was 42 days and ran from August 20th to Sept. 30th. The following chart shows some mainland 16B harvest #s, that should be pretty close.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Total Harvest</u>	<u>General Season</u>	<u>Subsistence</u>	<u>Last 5 days</u> (9/26 – 9/30)	<u>Non Residents</u>
93/94	155	132	23	--	--
94/95	230	126	104	--	--
95/96	187	161	26	40	38
96/97	293	196	97	51	39
97/98	314	229	85	56	48 (Best)
98/99	288	196	92	59	37
99/00	266	164	102	51	40
00/01	264	174	90	40	32

High lights from this chart show that during most of the 90's, the highest total bull harvest was **314**, the highest non resident take was **48**, subsistence averaged about **100** per year, and about 25% of the ***general season*** harvest occurred the last five days of September(usually about **50** animals).

A steady decline in harvest started in 97/98, as the total population was also in steady decline. The last time prior to 97/98 that the total bull harvest exceeded 314, was in 89/90, when the total harvest was about 340 bulls.

Regulations allow for a non resident season when there are over 240 surplus bulls and throw the season into tier two, at 200 animals. In the department's justification for proposal 103 to reauthorize the unit 16 intensive management plan (page 127), they show

a fall 2010 surplus of **508** and estimate **30-58 bulls/100 cows for fall of 2004 to 2008**. It might be even higher now. Also, roughly 200 bulls are being added to the population each year.

As long as we maintain spike fork 50 regulations and hunt no later than September 25th, river corridors, drawing or registration hunts, or minimal seasons for non residents shouldn't be necessary. This proposal asks for the same general harvest season that we had in 94/95 when we had a total harvest of 230 bulls. Even at harvest levels of 300, which we rarely reached even when we had a 42 day season and hunted until the end of September, we should be able to stay above 240 surplus bulls. At the most you might have to restrict non resident seasons a little in 3-4 years, but why not utilize the surplus while it's there to generate game management revenue?

Opposition to this proposal may argue against allowing non resident hunting opportunities in areas that have predator control programs. The problem with this line of thought is that when stuff breaks, it usually takes money to fix it. When the moose population is in the toilet, who pays the bill for game management? I'm a 35 year resident and live here year round. I'd like to be able to supplement my income and add to the Alaskan economy by guiding a few non resident moose hunters, instead of letting the surplus go to waste. The average non resident harvest through most of the 90's, was about 40 moose. ***I'm guessing the total NR participation was 100 or better, and resulted in access of \$50,000.00 revenue from licenses and tags alone, not to mention all of the other benefits. I'm sure the department could find a very good use for this extra income!***

I think my friends on Mat Valley AC unanimously opposed this, but my friends on Mt. Yenlo AC unanimously supported it, and most of them live right in the middle of 16B, as does Dave McHoes, who authored this proposal. ***I think we need to better utilize this valuable resource, and that this proposal is a good step in the right direction.***

If the department opts for season dates of August 25th – Sept. 25th in all of 14A, 14B, 16A and 16B, then we should use those dates, ***and at the minimum, allow non residents hunt to the 20th***. Personally I think you should start them all August 20th. Doing so would increase opportunity without increasing the harvest much. ***I don't buy the wasted meat argument for not starting on Aug. 20th. We can have warm weather in Sept. and still have to care for the meat. Thank you for your consideration!***

Sincerely,

Wayne Kubat