

PROPOSAL 80

5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.

Change the Hope/Palmer Creek Valley area general season moose hunt in Unit 7 to an archery-only permit hunt as follows:

The suggestion is to change the Hope/Palmer Creek area into a weapons-restricted draw hunt area with 2–4 tags.

One bull by bow and arrow only, with a spike on at least one side or 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on at least one side. By PERMIT.

This follows the model set in other multi-use areas (Eklutna, Birchwood, Ship Creek, etc.) and still allows hunting access to this wonderful corner of Alaska.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? In 2011, the town of Hope and the Palmer Creek Valley were opened to general season moose hunting. The result is heavy hunting pressure on the town of Hope and the Palmer Creek Valley. A small community just an hour and twenty minutes from Anchorage, accessible by road, with limited fish and game enforcement, the local community and local moose population are suffering from heavy hunting traffic. Hiking, biking, berry picking, camping, mining, and hunting are all enjoyed in the valley by a wide cross section of the local and Alaskan community.

Sadly, the Palmer Creek drainage in particular is getting dangerous. As an avid hunter and naturalist, I count on fish and game to fill my freezer every summer. Last fall, while calling moose for a family member, a vehicle stopped on the road above us. I stepped from behind the alder and waved at the truck. The truck left. I resumed calling, almost immediately the truck came back. This time, the driver balanced his rifle across the hood of his vehicle; looking through my binoculars I saw him sighted on me! I dropped to the ground, removed a game bag from my pack and waved it at the hunter in an attempt to show that I was not an acceptable target.

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