

PROPOSAL 60

5 AAC 85.030. Hunting seasons and bag limits for deer.

Create an archery only deer hunt in Unit 6 for resident and nonresident certified bowhunters only as follows:

RESIDENT/NONRESIDENT HUNTERS: 5 deer total, bucks only from August 1-September 30 by bow and arrow only, but during Nov. 1 - Nov. 15 open to certified bowhunters only

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Unit 6 deer are relatively easy to access from major population centers and are very vulnerable during the November rut. In addition, the area is open to rifle hunting from August 1-December 31, so there are many periods of time when hunters can legally use rifles to hunt but currently no window of time when those who prefer archery hunting can hunt deer without worry of rifle hunters shooting over them while stalking deer.

The season is very long but the deer are concentrated in certain areas during much of the years making it very difficult for hunters to have a quality and safe experience if they choose to bow hunt. On Kodiak Island there is an archery season so that hunters who wish to bow hunt can have a period of time during which they can safely hunt and this is lacking in Unit 6.

Most importantly, there is an increase pressure on that deer population and overall relatively low numbers in many areas during recent years. Using an archery hunt during some of the deer's most vulnerable time period would decrease the overall harvest while maintaining the same hunting opportunity for anyone willing to use a bow during that two week period. This would be of benefit to the population and to the hunters in the community.

PROPOSED BY: Paul Forward

(EG-F22-148)
