

Public Statement Regarding ADFG Proposal #203, to establish a drawing for moose hunt by disabled hunters in unit 14C, Kincaid Park.

My name is [Jason Stoffer](#) and I was a resident of the state of Alaska for roughly 10 years from 1999 to 2009. I now live in Montana and have since suffered a spinal cord injury en route to my former job as a Federal Law Enforcement Officer.

While in Alaska, I took full advantage of the wilds through backpacking, hunting and fishing. I cannot express how deeply those activities contributed to my wholeness as a person. I hold those memories dear.

A spinal cord injury is currently a permanent life change, impairing not only mobility but also a litany of bodily functions and importantly, quality of life, independence and sense of well being. For folks like myself, opportunities to hunt and access natural resources are an extremely important way to pick up and reassemble the pieces of a formerly able-bodied life.

The hunts I've been on since my injury have allowed me to reconnect with the wild and provide quality food for my family. BUT, these opportunities are not common, nor easily accessible.

Proposal #203 is a well conceived opportunity to support the state's current and future disabled population while also helping to minimize dangerous wildlife vs. public encounters. I believe the benefit of this type of opportunity far outweighs any perceived inconvenience of its administration or temporary restrictions of other public activities in the park during the hunt period.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter!