

Proposal 49

Please do not allow crossbow hunting in archery only hunting seasons under any circumstances primarily for safety reasons. The following is a true story.

My hunting partner and I were observing a bull and cow caribou feeding in the middle of the tundra between the Dalton Highway and the trans-Alaska pipeline right-of way on the North Slope. The caribou were undisturbed. We observed a person approaching the caribou along the pipeline right of way carrying a hand-held decoy. The caribou spooked and ran away. At that point, a hunter in full camouflage sat up from the tundra within 50 yards of where the caribou were feeding. His hard work stalking the caribou was spoiled. Neither my hunting partner nor I, observing with binoculars, or the person carrying the decoy, saw the camouflaged archer in the field positioning for a shot. There is no doubt that the person with the decoy would have taken a much longer shot at the caribou with a crossbow, and seriously jeopardized the life of the hunter stalking the animals.

Crossbows are extremely dangerous weapons. Note that crossbows are not considered a "hunting bow" by the Pope & Young Club and crossbows are specifically excluded from the definition of a hunting bow here:

<https://pope-young.org/bowhunting/equipment.asp>

The Pope & Young Club position statement on crossbows is here:

https://pope-young.org/bowhunting/position_statement.asp

In addition, I am more than 60 years old, and when I cannot shoot a bow, I will carry a rifle.

Proposal 50

Please support any proposals that increase opportunities for archery only moose hunts, both before and after firearms seasons, and special seasons in urban and high-pressure hunting areas.

Proposal 53

Please support increased opportunities for archery hunting Dall Sheep separate from rifle hunters. This is a safety concern because archery sheep hunters near the position for a shot will be in the line of fire from rifle hunters who may not see the archer stalking the sheep. See the comment on crossbow hunting.

Other

Please remove the provision in the Dalton Highway Controlled Use area restricting hunter's licensed vehicles to within ¼ mile of the highway on developed roads and gravel pits. This forces hunters to stay nearer to the highway even where access is available and increases danger and conflicts with industrial use of the highway. This restriction also violates the spirit of Alaska by restricting access to public property. In addition, the listed mileage for access to the Sag River is incorrect, and in fact there are several. Access should be provided as far off the highway as possible at every opportunity, including the boat ramp at the ADOT Sag River Station near Pump Station 3, and the spine road north of the Kuparuk River bridge over the Dalton Highway.

Thank you for supporting archery hunting in Alaska

Not cross bows

