

**PROPOSAL 129**

**5 AAC 92.085. Unlawful methods of taking big game; exceptions.**

Require the use of expanding (soft point) bullets for big game hunting, excluding wolf and wolverine, as follows:

The following methods and means of taking big game are prohibited in addition to the prohibitions in 5 AAC 92.080:

1. with the use of a firearm other than a shotgun, muzzleloader, or rifle or pistol using a center-firing cartridge, except that

(A) in Units 23 and 26, swimming caribou may be taken with a firearm using rim fire cartridges;

(B) the use of a muzzleloader is prohibited unless the firearm is a shoulder mounted long gun, 45 caliber or larger, with a barrel that is rifled or smoothbore, and discharges a single projectile; and

(C) the use of a muzzleloader equipped with a scope, or a muzzleloader using smokeless powder as a charge, during any permitted, registration, or special season hunt for muzzleloaders only, is prohibited;

**(D) taking big game, other than wolf or wolverine, using non-expanding bullets is prohibited**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Require the use of an expanding (soft point) bullet when hunting big game, except wolf and wolverine taken under provisions of a hunting license.

Justification for this change is to reduce wounding loss of big game shot with non-expanding (solid) bullets and promote an ethical hunting practice. During many years of public testimony at Board of Game meetings, testifiers complained about hunters wounding moose, bear and caribou when using full metal jacket bullets in high velocity, small caliber rifles. Research and hunter experience clearly show big game animals shot with non-expanding bullets produce a narrow-wound channel when compared to results using expanding design bullets. The bullet from small caliber, high velocity ammunition, that does not hit bone, is likely to pass through an animal without causing sufficient damage to humanely kill it. Large game, such as moose and bears can travel long distances after being shot with solid bullets, and are generally not recovered. Although shot-placement is critical to humanly harvest big game, use of expanding bullets increase your odds of ethically killing an animal.

With some ammunition, there will be a slight increase in cost, however, the use of more lethal ammunition will reduce the number of shots required to humanly harvest an animal.

**PROPOSED BY:** Ted Spraker

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