

PROPOSAL 126

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

Allow the use of muzzleloaders equipped with scopes in the taking of big game as follows:

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

(c) the use of [A MUZZLELOADER EQUIPPED WITH A SCOPE, OR] a muzzleloader using smokeless powder as a charge during any permitted, registered or special season hunts is prohibited.

NOTE: This is the exact wording as currently exists in the regulation, with the proposed text to be deleted, mentioning scope restrictions regarding muzzleloaders for any weapons restricted hunts, being bracketed, capitalized and struck through.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? This proposal would be to eliminate wording in subsection (c) of 5 AAC 92.085 which prohibits the use of a muzzleloading weapon equipped with a scope during any permitted, registered or special season hunt for muzzleloading firearms only.

This proposal would also eliminate the wording which prohibits the use of a scope during muzzleloading weapons certification field day qualifications.

The underlying premise behind ethical big game hunting is to ensure a clean, efficient and humane take of an animal as possible. Technology has allowed the use of a scope mounted weapons to ensure the greatest potential of that being possible - significantly greater than with the use of open sights.

This proposal would allow hunters the opportunity to harvest game using the most effective technology available and minimize the number of wounded animals being lost due to poor shot placement as a result of not being able to utilize the most effective technology available. As a side note, up until a few years ago, crossbows were not permitted as an allowable alternative weapon in hunts restricted to bows and muzzleloaders, as they were considered in the same category as high-powered weapons.

Now, crossbows are permitted in this exception category for some hunts, but it is permissible for use of scopes with crossbows, but not with muzzleloading weapons.

If it is now permissible for using crossbows with scopes, should not muzzleloading weapons with scopes also be permissible?

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