

PROPOSAL 15

5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.

Establish a registration hunt for bull moose limited to resident certified bowhunters only within Unit 17B as follows:

Institute a registration hunt open to certified bowhunters only with season dates starting on September 16 and closing on September 25 or by emergency order. This hunt would be for residents only and subject to the same bag limit and reporting requirements as outlined for RM583. RM583 is an existing hunt that is open to any weapon for residents only from August 20 to September 15 in Units 17B and 17C.

This new registration hunt would be for the entirety of Unit 17B only.

The purpose of this new hunt being a registration hunt would be so that the Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) can monitor the participation and success rates more closely.

The purpose of the season being September 16 to September 25 would be so not to conflict with already existing hunts in the unit while at the same time not extending beyond normal moose seasons in surrounding areas.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? A registration hunt for certified bowhunters only would give more resident hunters the opportunity to spend time in the field pursuing moose within Unit 17B without having a negative impact on the resource. According to ADF&G, 699 moose were harvested in Unit 17B from 2009 to 2018. According to the ADF&G Dillingham office, only 7 of the 699 moose harvested were reported taken with archery equipment. These reported harvests with bow and arrow account for 1% of all moose taken in Unit 17B over a 10-year period, showing an extremely low impact to moose populations. There is only one other registration hunt for moose in the entire state of Alaska that is limited only to certified bowhunters (RM445). From 2009 to 2018, hunters participating in RM445 have only seen a 2.3% success rate according to ADF&G. RM445 is a great example of the low impact a bow and arrow only hunt would have on moose populations. Having a registration hunt rather than extending the general season would allow ADF&G to collect data, closely monitor success rates, as well as issue emergency orders if the need ever arises. Lastly, having a season that does not extend beyond September 25 would mirror most other moose season end dates in the surrounding units. The ADF&G biologist responsible for this area believes that current moose populations in Unit 17B can sustain this proposed hunt given that it would be restricted to certified bowhunters only.

PROPOSED BY: Mike Harris

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