

PROPOSAL 153

5 AAC 92.050. Required permit hunt conditions and procedures.

Establish a bonus point system for bison and muskox drawing hunts as follows:

I suggest the Board of Game come up with a bonus point system for both bison and muskox similar to many of the western states. Each year an individual does not get drawn, he or she will get a bonus point. The following year, the hunter will get his or her name in the hat twice instead of once. Every unsuccessful year an application is submitted, the hunter gets his or her name in the hat an equal number of times to unsuccessful attempts. Individuals may be able to apply for a hunt after he or she will be the age ten or older at the time of the hunt. Bonus points will be lost after someone successfully draws the hunt or the species is not applied for two consecutive years. Bonus points allow everyone a chance to win but is weighted toward individuals who have been applying longer. Bonus points also help the state to generate more income since it encourages individuals to have the maximum points possible. Most western states make millions from applications alone. Within this system, the Alaskan resident would have a large preference to our wildlife resources (bison and muskox).

Currently, Alaska residents have no preference for muskox or bison in the drawing applications. This proposal would allow a strong preference to residents, potentially limiting nonresidents to only one tag every two to three years depending on the data and what the Board of Game decides. A nonresident should never have an equal or close to equal opportunity to a limited wildlife resource where the Alaskan resident draw odds are less than 1%

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Draw-only permit hunts for both residents and nonresidents reflect a need to limit the number of hunters afield for reasons that could be related to conservation, trophy-quality, hunt aesthetics, crowding etc. Whatever the rationale for a draw-only hunt for all user groups, and whatever the species, resident hunters should have a clear and substantial priority to draw a permit and an opportunity to hunt.

Resident hunters don't currently have that preference. Currently, we have bison and muskox draw-only hunts for both residents and nonresidents that allow equal opportunity for a nonresident to draw a permit. Examples are: DI 403 and DX 001/003. If an individual hunter lives in Alaska, Florida, Montana, or Texas, each individual hunter has equal odds to our extremely limited Alaskan resource. The DI 403 Delta bison permit had 15,570 applicants for 45 permits in 2020 for less than one percent chance of drawing for all applicants. The DX 001 and DX 003 Nunivak Island Muskox permits are similar. These rare and highly sought-after draw permit hunts should not allow nonresidents an equal opportunity to draw. Currently, the nonresident draw percentage for Delta bison is about one percent. That is the same odds of drawing as a resident. That is not fair to the resident hunter who has been putting in for decades for that permit, who lives here and contributes all year to the economy, and does not have reciprocal hunting opportunities in any of the western states.

PROPOSED BY: Brad Sparks

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