PROPOSAL 119

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

Create an archery only moose hunt in Unit 7 Remainder for both residents and nonresidents as follows:

Unit 7 Remainder

Residents and nonresidents

One bull with a spike on at least one side or 50-inch antlers or antlers with three or more brow tines on at least one side, by bow and arrow only Aug. 22 – Aug. 29

<u>OR</u>

One bull with a spike on at least one side or 50-inch antlers or antlers with three or more brow tines on at least one side Sept. 1-Sept. 25.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Adding additional hunting days to the general season and restricting them to archery equipment would greatly add to hunter opportunity, while also keeping the impact on the resource to a minimum. Harvest rates for bowhunters are much lower than those who use firearms, which creates a valuable opportunity for hunters to enjoy more time in the field without necessarily expecting to take an animal. This hunt would precede the current general season which, combined with the already existing antler restrictions and limits of archery equipment, would add to the difficulty in harvest and limit impact on moose populations. This hunt would mirror exactly the early, bow and arrow only seasons in Units 15A Remainder and 15B Remainder.