

Note: Proposal 22 is a combination of seven submissions all requesting elimination of the restriction for using motorized vehicles for the RM038 moose hunt in Unit 1B.

PROPOSAL 22

5 AAC 92.052. Discretionary permit hunt conditions and procedures.

Eliminate the restriction for using motorized vehicles for the RM038 moose hunt in Unit 1B as follows:

Delete this special condition completely, as it is no longer necessary.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Concerning RM038, there is a special condition. "Hunting with the use of a motorized land vehicle is prohibited in Unit 1B, except to retrieve moose, establish camps, or check boats."

This "rule" was added in 1978, when the area was logged. "Road" hunting afforded easy access to the moose moving into the area. The area has since grown back, providing a lot of cover for the moose, and "road" hunting no longer would provide such easy access to moose.

The area allows for the use of motorized land vehicles for hunting of all other game species. So you may drive a vehicle in this area to hunt deer during moose season.

PROPOSED BY: Kris Thynes

(EG-F22-077)

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I recommend that the current no motorized land vehicle hunt stipulation in Unit 1B be discarded. There is absolutely no scientific reason behind the regulation and there is no reason why we shouldn't be allowed to moose hunt the exact same way as everywhere else in the state. Being as this is currently a unique hunt condition, I don't think anything even needs to be worded, just get rid of it and state in the new books that Unit 1B is now open to hunting by any legal means as any other unit.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Special condition for general moose hunt in Unit 1B, the prohibition of motorized land vehicles for hunting, except for getting to camp, checking boat, and retrieving a moose once harvested. This regulation is out of date and makes it unfair for certain hunters. Currently there are several moose camps at various pull-offs on the logging roads in the area. Only one of the camps is owned by a resident of Point Agassiz. Frankly the rest of us can't afford to buy campers and move them up the road so we can hunt on foot or on bicycle. I am a resident of Point Agassiz and I am a disabled Veteran. I have a messed up neck, two bad shoulders, a messed up back and cannot ride a bike, or hike far enough up the valley to hunt moose. I spent ten years in the interior where I harvested a moose every year on the remote lake I lived on. Here in Unit 1B I don't have a chance because I can't ride an ATV up the road system to hunt, or my truck. This is the only place in the state where you can't use an ATV or truck. Frankly it is dangerous for me to try to hunt as I can't carry weight on my back because of my disability so I can't carry survival gear.

The area biologist just explained at the last board meeting that this stipulation was created because of a group of drunk driving, night shooting hunters in the 80s' that is a non-issue out here now. Now most the cabin owners and moose hunters are elderly, and they should have just as much of chance to hunt as anyone in the rest of the state. For all those who don't have a moose camper, we can't get to an area of moose, on foot or bike from our residence without hiking or biking all day. How would we be able to turn around and get all the way home to grab a truck or ATV and a winch to safely recover our moose if we could manage to harvest one? That would be wanton waste!!

**PROPOSED BY:** Cody Ledoux

(EG-F22-083)

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The solution would be to allow hunters to use motorized vehicles in regards to hunting moose.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The hunt condition regarding moose hunting in Unit 1B saying we can't use motorized vehicles to hunt. It's an out-of-date condition based on events that occurred between individuals decades ago. The scenarios that brought about this hunting condition are obsolete and currently only cause difficulty due to territory hoarding among current hunters, and the inability to travel to better hunting grounds without an established and maintained camp. I am requesting this hunt condition be removed.

PROPOSED BY: Faith Nelson

(EG-F22-085)

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The solution is to eliminate the "special conditions" for the Unit 1B's moose hunt. I propose no new regulations regarding the game Unit 1B

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The issue is the "special condition" rule prohibiting the use of motorized land vehicles in all of game Unit 1B. I would like the board to eliminate this "special condition" rule for the Unit 1B moose hunt. As a long time moose hunter in game Unit 1B. I find this "special condition" rule in a non-controlled use area a rule that serves no purpose other than to limit access for hunters. The fact that this is the only game unit in Southeast Alaska that has this "special condition" makes no sense. In order for me to hunt from my cabin I have to either walk or use a bicycle and travel many miles on a logging road to access the spots I choose to hunt. I can drive my truck on these roads and hunt any other animal in season, but a moose is ruled illegal.

**PROPOSED BY:** Mark Hofstad

(EG-F22-090)

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Legalize the use of motorized vehicles to hunt moose in Unit 1B.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I would like to address the no driving of motorized vehicles while hunting moose on the Thomas Bay road system in Unit 1B. The point of it, years ago, was because of it's a small area and lots of hunters used to go there.

However, the habitat has changed the days of driving and hunting. The clear cuts are over, the habitat has grown up, and very few hunters go there anymore because hunting isn't as good as it used be with the lack of moose habitat. Yet jet boats are allowed to drive and hunt the rivers in the same area while road access isn't allowed. Use of vehicles to hunt moose would be beneficial for the residents that live there, as well as anyone else hunting Unit 1B

PROPOSED BY: Austin Sollars

(EG-F22-099)

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I recommend deleting the hunt condition, special stipulation that prohibits the use of motorized land vehicles in Unit 1B. There is no scientific reason behind it and it is an unfair rule. There doesn't need to be a new regulation, just make it the same as every other place in the state.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** There is currently a hunt condition for moose hunting in Unit 1B that doesn't allow land-based motor vehicles for hunting. This is the only place in the state that has this stipulation, and it is ridiculous. This is in Southeast Alaska, in a rainforest where people can die from hypothermia in a day. To not be able to provide enough meat for our family, due to the risks of not being able to carry proper survival gear is just plain stupid. I have lived in Unit 1B, remotely since 2003. I have never been able to moose hunt because the moose live 5 miles from my home, and I have a bad back so I cannot ride a bicycle. We should have the same rights as everyone else in the state.

**PROPOSED BY:** Steve Nelson

(EG-F22-106)

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I recommend that the restrictions on motorized land vehicles, for moose hunting in Unit 1B, be lifted to allow everyone a fair chance at harvesting a moose.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Hello, My name is Sidney Nelson. My family lives, off-grid, out at Point Agassiz in Unit 1B. We live on the coast. There is currently a special rule, that only applies to Unit 1B that states you cannot use a motorized land vehicle for moose hunting, until after you shoot the moose. This is an unfair law to anyone who isn't either young and in shape (who can either hike or bike 10 miles to shoot a moose and then back to get a vehicle in time to salvage it before it spoils) or for the 6 or 8 people who are fortunate enough to have a moose camp set up. As anyone who lives out here knows, there are only so many places for a moose camp, those spots have been in use by the same people for dozens of years. There was no new places for our boys to hunt when we moved here in 2003 and there still isn't. The only option would be to hunt with ATVs which should be allowed. We are low income and cannot afford a riverboat, but we do own ATVs. Everywhere else in Alaska you are allowed to hunt using an ATV, here should be no different. Some people are talking about suggesting using e-bikes, that would only allow the rich who can afford a \$1500-\$3000 bike to have another advantage over us. We just want a fair chance to provide for our families.

PROPOSED BY: Sidney Nelson

(EG-F22-108)
