

PROPOSAL 38

5 AAC 92.520(a). Closures and restrictions in state game refuges.

Amend the youth hunt for Unit 1C Mendenhall Wetland State Game Refuge as follows:

“The first two days of the established waterfowl season is open to youth hunters 17 years old or younger accompanied by a licensed hunter 21 years old or older, and both the child and accompanying adult must register with the department.”

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The current regulation states that youth hunters must be between ages 10 and 17. I believe this is not necessary and it needlessly excludes many young people from participating in the hunt with their parents or guardians. If a parent or guardian believes a child under 10 is capable of safely hunting under their supervision, there is no need to impose a minimum age. The permit registration requirements for child and adult would remain. The responsible adult must have their hunter's education and refuge permit, so they have passed two tests that cover responsible behavior statewide and locally on the Mendenhall Refuge and they are capable of supervising a child during the youth hunt.

PROPOSED BY: Erich Schaal

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