

**PROPOSAL 71**

**5 AAC 85.035. Hunting seasons and bag limits for elk.**

Establish a drawing permit hunt for elk, open to take by bow and arrow only in Unit 8, Southwest Afognak as follows:

**Hunt Details**

Hunt Number: DEXXX

Hunt Type: Draw

Species: Elk

Legal Animal: One elk

Method: Bow and arrow only. Bowhunter certification is required.

Number of Permits: To be set by the department with up to 10 being issued.

Unit, Area: 08, Southwest Afognak Island

Season Dates: 09/14 – 09/24

Residency Restrictions:

    Hunt available to nonresidents

    Hunt available to Alaska residents

Reporting Requirements:

    Successful Hunters: Report in person or by phone to Kodiak within two days of end of hunt and permit report by mail within five days.

    Unsuccessful Hunters: Report online or by mail within 15 days of season end.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Establishing a drawing permit hunt restricted 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 be earlier than existing hunts in the area, which, combined with the limits of archery equipment, would add to the difficulty in harvest and limit impact on elk populations. An example of the low impact of archery equipment can be taken from existing drawing permit hunt DE318 in Unit 3. DE318 takes place from September 1- September 30 and precedes two drawing permit hunts that allow firearms in the same hunt area. According to data pulled from ADF&G, from 2009-2020, 276 permits were issued for DE318 with only 12 bulls being taken. This data shows an average of just over one bull per year being taken. We believe that adding an early season archery hunt should have little ecological effect on the elk population on Southwest Afognak. This hunt would be for the same area as current existing DE711 and DE713.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaskan Bowhunters Association

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