

To whom it concerns-

Please accept this comment in support of proposal # 203. As a lifelong Alaskan born, raised and still residing in the Anchorage bowl I have seen first hand how the Moose population in the Municipality of Anchorage has grown. It's what makes Anchorage 'wild' and I love it! This healthy moose population within our city limits has its negative effects though, particularly in high use recreation areas such as Kincaid Park. Since grade school in the mid-1980's I have enjoyed the incredible network of trails in the summer and winter as a cross country skier and more recently on mountain bike.

I've also had my fair share of close calls with moose on the Kincaid trails. I remember multiple times being re-directed onto different trails as a 'Polar Cub' during Junior Nordic League ski practice. High School cross country ski races and Biathlon races were routinely redirected or held up. Or young athletes risking skiing by (within 5-10') a stressed out moose to continue a race.

More recently in August of 2017, I had my own very close call with a Moose while mountain biking on the STA single track trails. Coming over a small rise in the trail I met a young bull moose broadside directly in front of me. To avoid impact I left the trail with my bike and crashed. This left me about 5' away from this moose, on the ground and extremely vulnerable to an attack. Fortunately the moose did not attack and simply sauntered off the trail leaving me bruised and bleeding but okay.

This is just one of countless human/ moose encounter stories from Kincaid Park.

I believe that proposal #203 if adopted can take a small step to begin to address what I believe is an over population of Moose within the Kincaid park boundaries. Adoption of this proposal has its risks but I think if managed appropriately and similar to other limited take moose hunts near heavily used recreation areas (eg: DM666) this will be a net benefit for recreationists using Kincaid park year round.

Lastly, this proposal addresses the need and desire for mobility challenged hunters to more easily join their fellow Alaskans in harvesting meat for themselves and their family. As an able-bodied person this is something I (and many of us) take for granted. The ability to physically and mentally challenge ourselves through taking of wild game I won't say is uniquely Alaskan, but it is a huge part of our identity! If proposal #203 can help make that experience easier for my friends who are wheelchair-bound and allow them the opportunity to re-connect with this innately Alaskan experience of taking wild game while ALSO addressing a wildlife/ human conflict, than I think the benefits strongly outweigh the risks.

Please give proposal #203 your full consideration and do right for Alaskans.

Respectfully,

Graham Predeger