

PROPOSAL 128

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

Change the bag limit for the youth moose hunt YM792 to one bull as follows:

Amended: “One bull by permit”

Removed: [with spike-fork or 50-inch antlers or antlers with four or more brow tines on at least one]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Would like consideration for YM792 youth hunt to consider expanding the bag limit to “any bull” in the event that the “antlerless” portion of the hunt is removed. This year’s hunt (2023) removed antlerless due to the harsh winter the season before. The bag limit for this season is now, “One bull per lifetime, with spike-fork or 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on at least one side.” This extremely limits the youth hunters on chances of success. After speaking with Delta Junction fish and game, it was confirmed that the large majority of all moose taken on that hunt are antlerless. With only a four day window of hunting per permit, it is very limiting on success since the area is not very large and closed to motorized vehicles. Parents or guardians taking their youth on the hunt will not have the ability to cover as much terrain as needed to find a legal bull on this hunt. My understanding of the youth program is to get the next generation taught, excited and interested in the great resources we have in this state. My fear is that this year will result in a low success rate for all the YM792 hunters and/or the tags not even being hunted. Also, the rest of Unit 20D has the same bag requirements. So in a year where antlerless is removed from the youth hunt, the youth have no advantage other than the small areas bounded off to them. If the regulation for this youth hunt isn’t addressed, it could result in a significant drop in applicants and an even bigger drop in successful moose taken.

Suggest allowing motorized vehicles when the antlerless portion is removed to assist the maximizing the land area the youth can cover in the area.

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