

**PROPOSAL 66**

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

Open a fall, archery only moose hunt in Units 14A and 14B as follows:

Units 14A, 14B (Harvest Tag areas only) One bull with spike-fork antlers or 50-inch antlers or antlers with 3 or more brow tines on at least one side by bow and arrow only from August 10-19 and **September 26-30.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Years ago, the general moose season in Units 14A and 14B was augmented with an early archery season. While this was a positive move for increasing hunter opportunity but the early season, especially in recent years, is fraught with challenge, most notably the warm temperatures which make responsible meat handling (and aging) difficult. Archery hunting has a low success rate even during the rut and extending the archery season for the last five days of September would increase opportunity during a colder, more meat friendly time of year, without significant impact on moose populations. This would also give hunters who wish to hunt with bow and arrow a few days of time later in the season to hunt without fear of being shot at/over trying to get close to a bull.

It's also worth noting that, based on the popularity of the Eklutna Lake archery moose hunt, there are a lot of hunters very interested in finding archery moose hunting opportunities. This would be a step in the right direction toward increasing opportunity for them.

**Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee?** No.

**PROPOSED BY:** Paul Forward

(EG-F24-095)

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