

PROPOSAL 30

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

Establish a moose hunt for disabled hunters on state lands in Unit 5A, the Yakutat Region, as follows:

What solution do you recommend? In other words, if the board adopted your solution, what would the new regulation say?

Proposed Regulations:

- **Area:** State lands in Game Management Unit 5A (Yakutat region), excluding federal lands.
- **Season Dates:** The hunt would be scheduled one week prior to the start of the regular state moose season for Unit 5A.
- **Eligibility:** Participation would be limited to individuals holding a valid ADF&G Disabled Hunter Permit. Proxy hunting regulations may apply where necessary.
- **Bag Limit:** One bull moose per hunter, consistent with the general hunting regulations unless modified by ADF&G.
- **Permit System:** up to five disabled hunters through existing Unit 5A registration process.

Implementation Considerations:

- **Stakeholder Coordination:** We will work with local organizations, including the Yakutat Tlingit Tribe, advisory committees, and federal land managers to ensure support and smooth implementation.
- **Monitoring and Reporting:** Hunters will be required to report their harvest within five days to assist ADF&G in tracking harvest data and evaluating the hunt's effectiveness.
- **Evaluation:** ADF&G will be asked to assess the hunt annually, reviewing participation rates, harvest numbers, and impacts on the moose population to inform future management decisions.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?

Dear Members of the Alaska Board of Game,

I am writing to submit a proposal for your consideration to establish a special moose hunt for disabled hunters on state lands in Game Management Unit 5A, specifically in the Yakutat region. The proposed hunt would occur one week prior to the opening date of the federally regulated moose hunt in this area and would be open only to hunters with a valid Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) Disabled Hunter Permit.

Justification and Objectives:

Disabled Alaskans often face significant challenges when it comes to participating in traditional hunting seasons due to mobility limitations and increased competition for hunting opportunities. The proposed early-season hunt would provide a meaningful opportunity for these individuals to

access the moose population in a way that aligns with both wildlife management goals and Alaska's values of inclusion and subsistence use of natural resources.

This initiative would:

- Ensure equitable access to moose hunting for disabled hunters.
- Have a minimal biological impact on the moose population, with careful regulation and monitoring.
- Align with Alaska's commitment to supporting the hunting rights of all citizens, regardless of physical ability.

In closing, this proposal represents an opportunity to enhance access to moose hunting for disabled Alaskans, ensuring that all residents have an equal chance to participate in traditional subsistence practices while maintaining the sustainability of the local moose population. I respectfully request the Alaska Board of Game's support in adopting this proposal.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to your response.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee?

PROPOSED BY: Brian Metz

(HQ-F25-023)
