

Proposal 101

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

Extend the moose season in Game Management Unit 19D Remainder for certified bowhunters only by traditional longbow or recurve bow only as follows:

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

Extend the moose season in Game Management Unit 19D Remainder for certified bowhunters only by traditional longbow or recurve bow only.

Unit 19D, remainder (between and including the Cheeneetnuk and Kogrukluk River drainages, excluding within 2 miles of the Swift River):

Residents and nonresidents: One bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with four or more brow tines on at least one side; HT; Sept. 1–Sept. 20.

Residents and nonresidents: One bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with four or more brow tines on at least one side; by bow and arrow only; certified bowhunters using traditional longbows and recurve bows only; HT; Sept. 21–Sept. 25.

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

Moose hunting opportunity in Unit 19D is limited by the current season length. extending the season by five days under a highly selective method of take would provide additional time afield while maintaining negligible impact on overall harvest.

Extending opportunity in this manner would also help distribute hunter effort over a longer period, reducing crowding and competition during the existing general season. Spreading out hunter participation can improve overall hunt quality and reduce user conflicts without increasing pressure on the resource.

Warmer early-season conditions in recent years have increasingly created challenges for meat care and spoilage prevention. Providing a later opportunity under a highly selective method of take would allow harvest to occur under more favorable conditions, supporting proper meat care and reducing waste.

Restricting this extension to traditional longbows and recurve bows ensures that any additional harvest remains minimal. The effective range and difficulty associated with traditional equipment inherently limit success rates, resulting in low overall harvest even with increased opportunity.

This approach is not new. Multiple states (Oregon, Utah, Oklahoma, etc) have implemented traditional archery opportunities to increase time afield while maintaining low harvest levels. These seasons have proven effective at expanding opportunity without negatively affecting game populations.

There is also a substantial segment of the hunting community that actively seeks out more challenging methods of take. Traditional archery participation is not limited to a small niche;

many hunters are willing to accept lower success rates in exchange for a more challenging and deliberate hunting experience. Providing this opportunity aligns with that demand while maintaining conservative harvest levels.

If no change is made, opportunity remains limited despite the availability of a management tool that can increase participation without increasing harvest pressure.

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

Members and Board of Directors of Compton Traditional Bowhunters

PROPOSED BY: Compton Traditional Bowhunters

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