

Proposal 164

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

Change allocation in moose hunts DM809, DM810 and DM811 in 21B to 80% for residents and 20% for non-residents as follows:

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

At the 2026 Southcentral Region board meeting, the board set a precedent of sorts on draw permit allocations when the nonresident allocation was above 20 percent. The board decided that for “trophy” species like mountain goat, nonresidents should receive 20 percent of the available permits and for “meat” animals like elk, nonresidents should receive 10 percent of the permits.

If we were to label the Upper Nowitna moose population as a “trophy” species, then the allocation of permits for this area should be no more than 20 percent going to nonresidents.

We propose to lower the nonresident allocation and raise the resident allocation so we have an 80/20 resident/nonresident split as follows:

DM 810 Resident – 16 permits

DM 809 Nonresident unguided – 1 permit

DM 811 Nonresident must-be-guided – 3 permits

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

Resident/Nonresident Draw Tag Allocation

Upper Nowitna River Moose Hunt Unit 21B

DM 809/810/811

Background: The upper Nowitna River area in Unit 21B within the Nowitna National Wildlife Refuge (NNWR) is known for its “trophy” moose. It became a hot spot for moose hunters and due to concerns too many moose would be taken along the river, the Board of Game made it a draw-only “trophy” moose hunt (DM 810) in the early 2000s within the upper Nowitna River corridor, similar to the Koyukuk moose hunt. The only way a hunter was allowed to keep the moose antlers from the Upper Nowitna River area was if he or she won the DM 810 permit or hunted under a general season OTC tag 2 miles outside the river corridor on either side.

The new DM 810 draw hunt had 20 permits available and was just like other draw hunts in the state where anyone could apply equally for a permit from one pool of tags. Since more residents than nonresidents typically put in for the permit, residents won most of the permits. That wasn't good for the guide with exclusive guiding privileges in the NNWR, so he put in a proposal at the 2008 Interior Board of Game meeting (Proposal 55) to change the allocation to 50/50

resident/nonresident. But since that alone wouldn't help him get clients, he also asked the board to make this a must-be-guided moose hunt for all nonresidents.

Part of his argument was that a lot of residents would win that permit but not hunt after they found out the area is hard to access and expensive to fly into. Which is true of a lot of draw permits. But the gist of the proposal was that he wasn't getting enough clients under the DM 810 draw hunt.

The board ended up passing Proposal 55 in 2008, separating out the DM 810 permits with a 50/50 resident/nonresident permit allocation, 10 permits to residents (DM 810) and 10 to nonresidents, 7 of which were must-be-guided (DM 811), with the remaining 3 going to nonresident unguided (DM 809).

The fact that we have a 50/50 resident/nonresident draw permit allocation, regardless if this is a "trophy" moose population, if the area is expensive or hard to get to, or a certain percentage of residents don't hunt their permit, is just a slap in the face to resident Alaskans who live here and raise their kids here. **Under no circumstances should we ever allocate half of any draw permits to nonresidents, whether it is considered a "trophy" animal or a meat animal.**

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

PROPOSED BY: Resident Hunters of Alaska

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