

Proposal 180

5 AAC 92.510. Areas closed to hunting.

Require archery hunters along the Dalton Highway in Unit 26B to be a minimum distance from the edge of the road; 5 miles for rifle hunters and 100 yards for archers during August and September as follows:

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

I propose that the board adopt regulations that archery hunters, like rifle hunters, are required to be a minimum distance from the edge of the road; 5 miles for rifle hunters and 100 yards for archers. The regulatory change for archery would only be in effect during the peak time for hunting from highway vehicles, August and September. This change would encourage hunters to use designated parking areas rather than parking wherever is most convenient to the Caribou they are following with their vehicles. This change would also make it illegal for archery hunters using highway vehicles from shooting from areas close to the road, like roadside ditches, which some view as a practice inconsistent with fair chase. My conversations with state troopers indicate that this would be a clear, enforceable change.

Possible new wording of regulation: Archery hunters in GMU 26B must be at least 100 yards from the edge of the Dalton Highway when actively shooting at any game species during August and September.

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

I would like the board to address safety concerns associated with Caribou hunters using highway vehicles along the Dalton Highway in Unit 26B. Data from the ADF&G shows that between 2010 and 2024 the total number of hunters (residents and non-residents) using highway vehicles in this GMU has increased from 1033 to 1219. The increase is particularly notably during August and September when most hunt this area.

Personal observations after hunting GMU 26B since 1992 and conversation with individuals from the ADF&G, DOT, trucking companies, the Alaska State Troopers, and other hunters all indicated that incidents between vehicular traffic on the Dalton and hunters in highway vehicles, particularly archery hunters, are increasing. Without setbacks, like are in place for rifle hunters, archery hunters are more likely to park along the highway in unsafe ways to gain quick access to Caribou.

In addition to safety concerns, others expressed concerns about fair chase and the quality of the hunting experience when hunters are shadowing Caribou in their vehicle and then jumping out for a quick shot from a roadside ditch.

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

I talked with ADF&G biologists, DOT employees with oversight for the Dalton Highway, trucking companies using the Dalton Highway, and the Alaska State Troopers. I presented this proposal to

the Fairbanks AC on 18 March 2026 and I subsequently amended the proposal based on the feedback I received at that meeting.

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