

PROPOSAL 202

5 AAC 92.095(3). Unlawful methods of taking furbearers; exceptions.

Allow the use of a firearm to take beaver while trapping in Unit 17 as follows:

We would recommend that the regulation be changed to read like most of the western units in the state that:

A firearm is allowed to take beaver during the season within the bag limits that are established in regulations.

In this case, at this time for Unit 17 it would mean all season with no limits

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Unit 17 has some of the most complex regulations for beaver in the state. We would like to see the regulations cleaned up for simplicity for both the trappers and law enforcement.

Currently a person cannot use a firearm to take beaver from October 10- November 30. Then on December 1 until April 14 a firearm can be used to take an unlimited amount of beaver. Then on April 15 until May 31 a firearm may be used to take up to two beaver a day that must be used for human consumption.

As you can see, this is very complex. How law enforcement can determine that a particular beaver was shot at one time of the year, and not another so it's illegal to use as bait but must be consumed is beyond us.

We can currently trap as many beaver in a day as we want the entire season. The use of a firearm as a method of take will simply help achieve the goal of securing a few additional beaver for fur, food, or bait. Some people worry that this will lead to the demise of the beaver but our personal experience in hunting beaver has shown us that really shooting more than three or four in a day would be a major undertaking with a lot of luck. This is due to the limited amount of time beaver are actually out of their huts and available to take with a firearm.

PROPOSED BY: Todd Fritze and Kenton Moos

(EG-F21-025)
