

**PROPOSAL 81**

**5 AAC 92.085. Unlawful methods of taking big game; exceptions.**

Allow muzzle loading and black powder cartridge long guns be used for harvesting moose in Units 14A and 14B as follows:

I would suggest, if the Board of Game (board) adopts this proposal, that the definitions of legal muzzleloader and black powder cartridge rifles as stated in the Delta bison hunt hunting information on the ADF&G web page be used. These definitions are as follows: muzzleloader: muzzle loading rifles must be .54 caliber or larger, or at least .45 caliber with a 300 grain or larger elongated slug; black powder cartridge rifles: must fire a 400 grain bullet or larger loaded with a minimum of 70 grains of black powder or equivalent (.45-70 with a 400 grain bullet or a .44-90 with a 550 grain bullet).

These definitions are considered adequate for harvesting bison so they should work just fine for moose. The number of prospective hunters who might choose to use these types of harvest tools would be relatively small, but having the ability to use a favorite muzzleloading firearm or black powder cartridge rifle would greatly enhance the experience.

The average hunter who might choose to use these black powder weapons is usually knowledgeable and experienced in their use.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The current regulations specify that a shotgun with slugs, a crossbow, or a bow and arrow are the only legal hunting tools allowed for participants in the targeted hunts in Units 14A and 14B. Because the hunts occur along highway corridors and near housing, a harvest tool with a relatively short range yet capable of killing a moose is required for safety reasons.

For hunters who are older or disabled, this hunt offers the best opportunity to harvest a moose if the individual is selected to participate in the hunt. For others, the ability to use a firearm type other than a shotgun would enhance the hunting experience beyond just shooting an animal. Because they are also relatively short-range firearms, with ballistics similar to shotguns with slugs, I propose adding muzzleloading and black powder cartridge long guns to the list of allowable harvest tools.

**PROPOSED BY:** Howard Delo (EG-F20-029)

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