

**PROPOSAL 85**

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

Establish a registration hunt for bull moose limited to resident certified bowhunters only within Unit 16B as follows:

Institute a registration hunt open to certified bowhunters only with harvest reporting requirements to be set by the Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G). This hunt would be subject to the same residency requirements, bag limit, season dates and area as outlined in DM540. The purpose of this new hunt being a registration hunt would be so that ADF&G can monitor the participation and success rates more closely. The purpose of this hunt would be to give bowhunters a higher percentage of legal animals to pursue while still having limited success in harvest.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** A registration hunt for certified bowhunters only would give more resident hunters the opportunity to pursue a higher percentage of legal moose within Unit 16B without having a negative impact on the resource. According to ADF&G, 2,902 moose were harvested in Unit 16B from 2009 to 2018. According to the area biologist, only 46 of the 2,902 moose harvested were reported taken with archery equipment.

These reported harvests with bow and arrow account for less than 2% of all moose taken in Unit 16B over a 10-year period, showing the extremely low impact to moose populations. According to recent surveys by ADF&G (as of spring 2020), the moose in Unit 16B are approximately 2,500 over population objectives. There is only one registration hunt for moose in the State of Alaska that is limited only to certified bowhunters (RM445). From 2009 to 2018, hunters participating in RM445 have only seen a 2.3% success rate according to ADF&G. RM445 is a great example of the low impact a bow and arrow only hunt would have on moose populations in an any bull area. Lastly, having a registration hunt rather than taking off limitations for the general season would allow ADF&G to collect data, closely monitor success rates, as well as issue emergency orders if the need ever arises.

**PROPOSED BY:** Gary Weaver

(EG-F20-052)

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