

Licenses, Tags, Harvest Tickets & Reports

PROPOSAL 82 - 5 AAC 92.012. Licenses and tags. Amend the requirement to fix a big game locking tag as follows:

2015–2016 Alaska Hunting Regulations, page 10:

If it stated "The tag must be locked on the animal prior to leaving the kill site," this would simplify and clarify the requirement.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The requirement to immediately place the locking tag on the animal immediately after the kill is difficult if not impossible to do. Several minutes if not hours may elapse before reaching the animal. On a sheep or goat several hours are required for skinning and butchering before you get to a logical place to attach the locking tag, i.e. in the skull plate. Since the meat must be salvaged, you could put the tag on the meat but that is not the best way because usually the meat is consumed or sent out before the horns.

PROPOSED BY: Bobby Graham (EG-C15-018)

PROPOSAL 83 - 5 AAC 92.010. Harvest tickets and reports. Eliminate the use of harvest tickets in any hunt requiring a metal locking tag as follows:

5 AAC 92.010. Harvest tickets and reports.

...

(m) Harvest tickets are not required in any hunt in which a metal locking tag is required. Hunters must submit an online report to the department within a specified amount of time. (recommend 10–30 days from date of kill or end of season)

Hunters must attach the metal locking tag to the animal before leaving the site of the kill.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Harvest ticket citations are by far the most common “wildlife violation” in Alaska. Most of these violations are to people who simply forgot to notch their harvest ticket, not people intentionally trying to over harvest game.

Justification:

- #1 Harvest tickets are redundant in hunts where locking tags are required.
- #2 Online reporting has become mainstream and is simple.
- #3 Printing harvest reports and tickets are not necessary in these cases.
- #4 This method has worked reasonably well for brown bears statewide for decades.

PROPOSED BY: Aaron Bloomquist (EG-C15-119)

PROPOSAL 84 - 5 AAC 92.012(b). Licenses and tags. Clarify the inspection requirements for licenses, harvest tickets, and permits as follows:

Change 5 AAC 92.012(b) to read:

All persons engaged in the act of hunting, trapping or in possession of game may not refuse to present the appropriate license, tag, permit, stamp or game in possession upon request from a peace officer of the state or designated employee of the department. Peace officers of the state and designated employees of the department may also inspect shotguns for compliance with waterfowl regulations.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Violation of our civil liberties. The Alaska Constitution grants us protection of unwarranted searches and seizures. In Article 1 sec. 3 and sec. 7 and sec. 14. Also AS 16.05.180 says each peace officer designated in AS 16.05.150 may without a warrant search anything or place if the search is reasonable or is not protected from searches and seizures without warrant within the meaning of art. I, Sec. 14, Alaska State Constitution, which specifically enumerates "persons, houses and other property, papers and effects." However, before a search without warrant is made, a signed written statement by the person making the search shall be submitted to the person in control of the property or object to be searched, stating the reason the search is being conducted. A written receipt shall be given by the person conducting the search for property which is taken as a result of the search. The enumeration of specific things does not limit the meaning of words in nature.

We realize hunting and trapping are regulated activities. But operating a motor vehicle is also regulated activity. A peace officer of the state cannot stop you, as a primary reason, just to see if you have a valid driver's license. Nor do you have to allow him to search your vehicle without a warrant. But officers can always ask.

The current language in regulation is, "no person may refuse to present for inspection any license or tag, any game, or apparatus designed to be, and capable of being, used to take game." This allows law enforcement to ask for licenses, tags, or permits at any time or anywhere. This also allows those same persons to inspect all apparatuses any time or anywhere. We can only conclude that apparatuses are vehicles, ATV's, boats, firearms and so on (i.e. personal property). We believe 5 AAC 92.012 (b) is not supported by statute. In fact the statute that gives this regulation authority 16.05.330 (a) says: "Except as otherwise permitted in this chapter, without having the appropriate license or tag in actual possession, a person may not engage in (2) hunting, trapping or fur dealing." So you must possess licenses and tags while engaged in hunting or trapping. The statute also says nothing about inspecting. But we may assume the intent of the statute gives law enforcement the ability to check licenses or tags while engaged in hunting or trapping, but it says nothing about apparatuses. This regulation needs to be amended.

PROPOSED BY: Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-C15-052)

PROPOSAL 85 - 5 AAC 92.010(g). Harvest tickets and reports. Remove the exception for harvest tickets and reports for caribou as follows:

Delete the exception in 5 AAC 92.010(g) that allows the harvest of caribou without requiring a harvest ticket or harvest report for residents residing north of the Yukon River. All persons hunting caribou north of the Yukon River must have a harvest ticket in possession and have obtained a harvest report.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Both the Western Arctic and the Teshekpuk caribou herds are in decline. Alaska's State Constitution Article VIII, Section 4 Sustained-yield requires the ADF&G to manage the herd on a sustainable basis. Of the three major known factors, weather conditions, habitat, and predation, limiting the herds' size, only harvest by predators can be regulated. Accurate harvest data is essential in order for the Board of Game to make sound decisions regarding caribou bag limits on herds in steep decline. There is a lack of accurate resident caribou harvest reporting north of the Yukon River. Requiring residents living north of the Yukon River to register with ADF&G does not provide accurate caribou harvest data.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Outdoor Council (EG-C15-072)

PROPOSAL 86 - 5 AAC 92.010(h). Harvest tickets and reports. Remove the exception to harvest tickets and reports for sheep as follows:

Delete the exception in 5 AAC 92.010(h) that allows hunting of Dall sheep in the Gates of the Arctic National Park without possessing a harvest ticket or obtaining a harvest report. Accurate sheep harvest data gathered from mandatory harvest tickets and reports is essential for managing game populations that are declining rapidly.

Since moose populations are currently not in peril within the Gates of the Arctic National Park, the Alaska Outdoor Council cannot make the same argument to remove the harvest ticket/report exception for moose on grounds of conservation concerns, but if the Board of Game should choose to delete the entire section (h) of 5 AAC 92.010 that would be fine.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Dall sheep populations are also in decline in the Western Brooks Range. The Alaska Board of Game closed Dall sheep hunting to all hunters in Units 23 and 26A west of the Etivluk River drainage during their spring 2015 meeting. The Gates of the Arctic National Park is considering taking over Dall sheep management and allocation due to declining sheep populations. Accurate sheep harvest is critical in order for the ADF&G to manage the sheep herds on the sustained-yield bases as required by state law Alaska Statute 16.05.255. Regulations of the Board of Game; management requirements.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Outdoor Council (EG-C15-073)
