

AC 109

Unit 16B Trophy Destruction

History

On the second day of the Tier II season in 1997 a hunter from Anchorage shot what turned out to be the #2 All-time record moose in the Boone & Crocket Record Book.

Other south-central moose hunters were angered and frustrated over the fact that a B&C moose was taken on a Tier II hunt. This resulted in the requirement to eliminate the B&C trophy value from any Tier II bull taken in GMU 16B.

Trophy destruction requirements for the 16B Tier II moose season began with the 2001 – 2002 hunting season. For a time, Boone & Crocket Records Committee policy was to omit animals taken in limited availability hunts as these hunts were not open to the general public. They have since then reversed their policy and are now allowing subsistence animals to be included in the record book.

Biology and Management

The moose population in 16B is slowly recovering from the hard winters of the late 1990's. Moose surveys completed between 2008 and 2010 put the estimate at between 4788 and 6932 moose.

The Tier II hunts are divided into 3 separate hunts that correspond with the 3 separate survey areas for Unit 16B. These hunts are TM565, TM567, and TM 569

Currently, staff estimate that there are over 600 surplus bulls in the unit. Of the 910 moose taken in 16B from 2000 to 2009, 160 were taken by hunters who resided in the unit.

Background and Considerations

Given that the moose population appears to be increasing and there is no trophy destruction required for the Tier I season (Resident-only general season), there are several factors to consider:

The Department currently has no biological concerns regarding the taking of bulls with this Tier II hunt

The trophy destruction requirement was developed to address user conflicts and is not needed to manage this hunt

The Tier II hunt takes place *after* the general season moose hunt (11/15-2/28)

Many bulls taken on this hunt have only one antler or no antlers at all

Alternatives

1. Remove the requirement for the destruction of trophy value
2. Destroy *ALL* trophy value by cutting one or more of the antlers in half or cut and remove a portion of one antler
3. Require antlers to be left in the field or if removed from the unit, brought to a Department office in order to be altered in some manner so as to nullify the B&C measurement value

