

RC 53

The intent of this proposal was to extend the season to basically let nonresidents have two ten day hunt periods, therefore spreading out pressure somewhat. Pressure was already tolerable but this would have made for an even better quality hunt.

With the amendment, it eliminated the intent of the proposal because moose hunts are almost always scheduled at ten days for nonresidents, both guided and unguided.

I believe this proposal will actually cause more conflict than it reduces because all nonresident hunters will want to be in the field on the opener to get the best of very limited spots.

I appreciate the sentiment of adding 5 days to the season but Sept 1 is already relatively busy. There are many bear and resident moose hunters entering the field at this time. This will cause a bottleneck and likely result in some resident hunters not being able to schedule air taxis. There are only 2 air taxis entering this area and they are both very busy. Nonresidents generally schedule earlier, especially those that are guided. The limited spots will be taken by these hunters rather than some of the resident hunters.

I have talked to one of the air taxis in the area (Tickchik Air) and they agree with my assessment and suggested Sept 5-20 as an alternative. another point that he raised is that most sport fishing lodge pressure wanes after the first week of September and close Sept 10 further minimizing conflict later in the season.

This would be preferable but I would also prefer the old (shorter Sept 5-15) season be retained to maintain equilibrium among hunters in the area, rather than the Sept 1-15 season. I don't care what the season is as long as we avoid the Sept.1 timeframe.

I would request the Board reconsider this proposal and either amend, take no action, or Fail the proposal.