

**PROPOSAL 140 – 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.** Open a guide required, nonresident registration hunt for moose in Unit 17A as follows:

5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose

(a)(15)

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS: Sept. 5–Sept. 15

1 bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side, by drawing permit only; up to 50 permits may be issued

**or**

**1 bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side, by registration permit only; up to 10 permits will be issued to guided hunters only.**

Regulations allow for up to 50 nonresident permits in Unit 17A but permits are limited to 20 by an agreement reached through the Unit 17A moose working group in conjunction with the Togiak AC, Togiak Refuge and others. Twenty seems to be a reasonable number at this point due to limited access. My intent would be to remove the number of registration permits allowed from the drawing hunt. (If four registration permits are issued, only 16 drawing tags will be issued). Although only four guided moose hunters are permitted in Unit 17A at this time; I used "up to ten permits" so the Dillingham area biologist would have some flexibility in the case that the Togiak Refuge allows guided moose hunting in their other concession, there are two concessions but the second does not allow guided moose hunting at this time. Togiak or Twin Hills Villages could also decide to allow moose take on their lands. These villages have not yet allowed guided moose hunting to my knowledge but it could be a good opportunity if a shareholder had a guide license.

The moose population in this area is very healthy and resident hunters have a two moose bag limit, "any bull" harvest, cow harvest, a 28-day fall season, and a month-long winter season. This would not increase take, but provide for a more predictable situation.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Nonresident guided moose hunting in Unit 17A is limited by Federal Concession Quotas making the need for a drawing hunt for guided hunters unnecessary. Having guided hunters apply for hunts where the draw odds are high (over 50% historically), and guides are limited by concession, are very messy. Guides must put in more hunters than their quota but it is impossible to judge how many hunters must apply to reach the allocated number allowed under refuge concessions. This may result in more hunters drawn than the guide is allowed to take. I am the only guide currently allowed to take moose hunters in Unit 17A and my concession quota is only four moose hunters. I currently have 18 people on my list that want to apply for the hunt. If I put them all in, I will likely have too many drawn, if I put in fewer, I run the risk of not having enough. The extra hunters that draw will likely not hunt because they want a guided hunt. This removes an opportunity from other hunters that would have preferred a non-guided hunt. There are currently 20 tags available in the drawing.

I would like the Board of Game to adopt a regulation for a registration permit for guided moose hunters in Unit 17A OR allocate a portion of the drawing to guided hunters in a similar fashion as other units (see additional proposal for this option).

**PROPOSED BY:** Aaron Bloomquist

(EG-F17-089)

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