

Note: The Board of Game does not have constitutional authority to limit hunting for Alaska residents based on residency.

PROPOSAL 25

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

Restructure the moose hunt in Unit 5A Remainder to align with the federal subsistence regulations as follows:

Unit 5A, except Nunatak Bench, west of the Dangerous River – 1 bull by joint state/federal registration permit only, October 8 – November 15. From October 8 – October 21, federal public lands are closed to harvest of moose except by residents of Unit 5A.

Unit 5A, except Nunatak Bench, east of the Dangerous River – 1 bull by joint state/federal registration permit only, September 16 – November 15. From September 16 – September 30, federal public lands are closed to harvest of moose except by residents of Unit 5A.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Currently, the area in Unit 5A west of the Dangerous River receives heavy hunting pressure during the first few days of the subsistence season, resulting in a rapid harvest and multiple animals taken out of localized areas. In recent years, the quota has been met and the season closed within about 4–5 days of the opening. The area east of the Dangerous River is less accessible than the west side, including minimal to no local air taxi service after September, and receives less pressure (the harvest quota is not usually met in this area). By opening up the east side of the Dangerous River earlier, access will be improved for subsistence users (longer days, potentially better weather conditions, and greater availability of local air taxi), allowing additional opportunities for subsistence users and potentially reducing the hunting pressure during the opening days of the subsistence season on the west side.

We also considered and discussed proposing a draw hunt for the west side of the Dangerous River, but since that would leave some subsistence users without any opportunity in that area, we decided not to pursue this option as a proposal.

This change will allow additional harvest opportunities (increased season length) on the east side of the Dangerous River, potentially resulting in an increased number of animals harvested. The harvest is managed by a quota, however, so overharvest is not anticipated to be a concern. This change may reduce and/or redistribute hunting pressure on moose on localized areas on the west side.

This change will allow additional opportunities for subsistence users, allowing additional time for harvesting and during a time when the harvest area is more accessible. It may also provide a longer, safer, more enjoyable and less competitive harvest opportunity on the west side.

PROPOSED BY: Yakutat Fish and Game Advisory Committee

(HQ-F18-006)
