

PROPOSAL 122

5 AAC 92.085. Unlawful methods of taking big game; exceptions.

Lower the minimum draw weight for bows for hunting big game as follows:

The following methods and means of taking big game are prohibited in addition to the prohibitions in 5 AAC 92.080:

(3) with a longbow, recurve bow, or compound bow, unless the

(A) bow is not less than (i) [40] **35** pounds peak draw weight when hunting black-tailed deer, wolf, wolverine, black bear, Dall sheep, and caribou; (ii) [50] **45** pounds peak draw weight when hunting mountain goat, moose, elk, brown/grizzly bear, musk ox, and bison;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Archery equipment, if set up and used correctly, is extremely efficient even when using lower draw weights. Numerous studies have proved that penetration on animals has much more to do with proper arrow set up and tuning than in the power of the bow itself. In many states, deer are regularly killed with 30-pound bows and moose with 40-pound bows. Dr. Ed Ashby's studies and experiments show evidence in favor of this argument. Out of the 49 other states, 9 have a minimum draw weight of 30 pounds, 12 have a minimum of 35 pounds, 10 have a minimum of 40 pounds, and 18 have no draw weight requirements.

Out of the 9 other states with moose seasons, 1 has a minimum draw weight requirement of 30 pounds, 2 have a minimum of 35 pounds, 3 have a minimum of 40 pounds, 1 has a minimum of 45 pounds, 1 has a minimum of 50 pounds, and 1 has no draw weight requirements.

Of the 10 other states with mountain goat seasons, 2 have a minimum draw weight of 30 pounds, 1 has a minimum of 35 pounds, 4 have a minimum of 40 pounds, 1 has a minimum of 50 pounds, and 2 have no draw weight requirements.

For the 13 other states with sheep seasons, 1 has a minimum draw weight requirement of 30 pounds, 2 have a minimum of 35 pounds, 4 have a minimum of 40 pounds, 1 has a minimum of 50 pounds, and 5 have no draw weight requirements.

Out of the 4 other states with seasons for bison, 1 has a minimum draw weight requirement of 30 pounds, 1 has a minimum of 50, and 2 have no requirements. Out of the top 10 other elk hunting states, the average draw weight requirement is 40 pounds.

Every province in Canada except for New Brunswick has a minimum draw weight requirement of 18 kilograms (39.6 pounds) for all species including brown bear, moose, musk ox, sheep, mountain goat, elk, and bison. New Brunswick's minimum draw weight requirement is 20 kilograms (44 pounds).

Lowering the minimum draw weight requirements would allow more youth to be able to pursue big game animals as well as individuals who can no longer pull heavier bows. This would be especially true for those who choose to use traditional equipment with no let off. As long as

bowhunters continue to hunt ethically and use efficient arrow and broadhead combinations, this lower draw weight minimum would not result in any negative effects.

PROPOSED BY: Mike Harris

(EG-F20-044)
