

PROPOSAL 147

5 AAC 92.031. Permit for selling skins, skulls, and trophies.

Allow the sale of prepared game trophies under a permit as follows:

5 AAC 92.031. Permit for selling skins, skulls, and trophies. (a) A licensed taxidermist may sell an unclaimed, finished skin or trophy under a permit issued by the department after the finished skin or trophy has been unclaimed for six month, and after the taxidermist sends notice of intent to sell, by registered mail at least 15 days before the sale, to the last known address of the person who ordered the taxidermy work.

(b) A court appointed or duly authorized estate executor, or a reference in a bankruptcy, may sell a game skin or trophy in a bankruptcy or probate action if that person first obtains a permit from the department.

(c) Repealed 7/1/2008.

(d) Repealed 7/1/2008.

(e) Repealed 7/1/2008.

(f) A person who has obtained ownership of a big game trophy as a result of a divorce may sell that big game trophy only if that person first obtains a permit from the department after providing the department with a list of the big game trophies being sold and a divorce decree documenting ownership.

(g) A person may sell, advertise, or otherwise offer for sale a skull or hide with claws attached of a brown bear harvested in an area where the bag limit is two brown bears per regulatory year only after first obtaining a permit from the department. Any advertisement must include the permit number assigned by the department, and the department will permanently mark all hides and skulls intended for sale. All bears sold under this permit must be reported to the department within the time frame specified on the permit.

(h) A person may sell a lawfully harvested and prepared big game trophy if that person first obtains a permit from the department.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? To allow the sale of prepared game trophies. Currently only taxidermists, estates, divorced and bankrupt persons are allowed to sell prepared big game trophies by permit. 2018 was the last time this regulation was changed, with regards to advertising the sale of certain grizzly bears, but in 2008 the regulation was changed to allow the sale of trophies from the proceeds of a divorced settlement. This regulation only allows Alaskans who fit one of these four reasons to sell a prepared big game trophy and discriminates against any other Alaskan, with no option to sell their prepared big game trophy.

The reason I am asking to allow Alaskans to have an option to sell their big game trophy by permit is. (1) At some point the state has to relinquish its ownership/control over legally harvested big game trophies, big game that has been lawfully harvested and was part of the sustained yield management plans implemented by the Board of Game, and the sale of a prepared big game trophy

does not violate the sustained yield principles set out in our constitution. (2) I believe once a lawfully harvested/salvage of a big game animal has taken place and the trophy has been prepared, ownership of that trophy belongs to the harvester, just like the meat, yet Alaskans are allowed by law to barter meat for cash. Currently the only private property an Alaskan cannot sell is tobacco, alcohol, and pharmaceuticals.

PROPOSED BY: Russell Knight

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