

**PROPOSAL 16**

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

Establish a registration hunt for bull moose open to nonresident certified bowhunters only within Unit 17B, remainder as follows:

Institute a registration hunt open to nonresident certified bowhunters only with season dates starting on September 16 and closing on September 25 or by emergency order. Number of permits and harvest reporting requirements would be set by the Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G). This hunt for nonresidents would be subject to the of the same antler restrictions and hunter orientation requirements as outlined in all other Unit 17 nonresident hunts. Currently, all nonresident hunters in Unit 17 may only harvest bull moose with 50-inch antlers or antlers with four or more brow tines on at least one side. Nonresidents are also required to complete a nonresident orientation prior to hunting moose in Unit 17.

This new registration hunt would be for the entirety of Unit 17B, remainder only.

The purpose of this new hunt being a registration hunt would be so that ADF&G can monitor the participation and success rates more closely.

The purpose of the season being September 16 to September 25 would be so not to conflict with already existing hunts in the Unit while at the same time not extending beyond normal moose seasons in surrounding areas.

Having an additional hunt open to nonresidents would bring in more revenue to the State of Alaska as well as to local communities.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** A registration hunt for certified bowhunters only would give more hunters the opportunity to spend time in the field pursuing moose within Unit 17B without having a negative impact on the resource. According to ADF&G, 699 moose were harvested in Unit 17B from 2009 to 2018. According to the ADF&G Dillingham office, only 7 of the 699 moose harvested were reported taken with archery equipment. These reported harvests with bow and arrow account for 1% of all moose taken in Unit 17B over a 10-year period, showing the extremely low impact to moose populations. There is only one other registration hunt for moose in the entire State of Alaska that is limited only to certified bowhunters (RM445). From 2009 to 2018, hunters participating in RM445 have only seen a 2.3% success rate according to ADF&G. RM445 is a great example of the low impact a bow and arrow only hunt would have on moose populations. Having a registration hunt rather than extending the general season would allow the department to collect data, closely monitor success rates, as well as issue emergency orders if the need ever arises. Having a season that does not extend beyond September 25 would mirror most other moose season end dates in the surrounding units. The ADF&G biologist responsible for this area believes that current moose populations in Unit 17B can sustain this proposed hunt given that it would be restricted to certified bowhunters only. Lastly, having an additional hunt open to nonresidents would give the opportunity for guides to sell additional hunts to certified bowhunters, therefore, bringing in more revenue to the State of Alaska as well as to local communities.

**PROPOSED BY:** Mike Harris

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