

Bag Limit

PROPOSAL 163

5 AAC 92.130. Restrictions to bag limit.

5 AAC 92.010. Harvest tickets and reports.

Count wounded big game animals towards the hunter's bag limit for all units and require additional action in the field from hunters that attempt to take game as follows:

Reconstruct 5 AAC 92.130:

- [(F) IN UNITS 1 - 5 AND UNIT 8, A BLACK OR BROWN BEAR WOUNDED BY A PERSON COUNTS AGAINST THAT PERSON'S BAG LIMIT FOR THE REGULATORY YEAR IN WHICH THE BEAR IS TAKEN. HOWEVER, IN UNITS 1 - 5 AND UNIT 8, A BROWN BEAR WOUNDED BY A PERSON DOES NOT COUNT AGAINST THAT PERSON'S ONE BEAR EVERY FOUR REGULATORY YEARS BAG LIMIT ESTABLISHED IN 5 AAC 92.132.
- (G) IN UNIT 8, AN ELK WOUNDED BY A PERSON COUNTS AGAINST THAT PERSON'S BAG LIMIT FOR THE REGULATORY YEAR IN WHICH THE ELK IS TAKEN.]

To read 5 AAC 92.130:

- **(f) In Units 1-26 a big game animal wounded by a person counts against that person's bag limit for the regulatory year in which the animal is taken. The wounding of an animal of any species does not prevent that person from hunting that particular species the following regulatory year.**
- **(g) Upon attempting to take a big game animal the hunter is obligated to inspect the surrounding area in which the animal was standing to determine if the animal was wounded. A person must use every lawful means at their disposal to bag a wounded animal while it is in danger of escaping.**

Add section (m) to 5 AAC 92.010 as follows:

- **(m) A hunter who wounds a big game animal and that animal is not recovered must, before leaving the field, remove the day and month from the harvest ticket or permit and lock the metal locking tag when applicable.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? That any wounded game be counted against the hunter's bag limit.

PROPOSED BY: Matanuska Valley Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F20-011)

PROPOSAL 164

5 AAC 92.130. Restrictions to bag limit.

5 AAC 92.010. Harvest tickets and reports.

Count wounded big game animals towards nonresident hunter's bag limit for all units, excluding the one sheep and one bear every four years as follows:

Add section (k) to 5 AAC 92.130 as follows:

- **(k) In Units 1-26 a big game animal wounded by a nonresident hunter that animal will count against that hunter's bag limit. However a wounded brown bear does not count against that person's one bear every four regulatory years bag limit established in 5 AAC 92.132; and a wounded Dall sheep does not count against the person's one sheep every four regulatory years bag limit as established in 5 AAC 85.055.**

Add section (m) to 5 AAC 92.010 as follows:

- **(m) If a nonresident has wounded a big game animal but that animal was not recovered the hunter at the end of a contracted hunt or before leaving the field, the hunter must remove the day and month from their harvest ticket or permit and lock their big game metal locking tag.**

- Many outfitters already have this or similar written into their contracts.
- 12 AAC 75.340. PROFESSIONAL ETHICS STANDARDS FOR GUIDES. (d) Field craft standards. (2) use every lawful means at the licensee's disposal to bag a wounded animal while it is in danger of escaping, or, in a serious emergency, while human life or well-being is endangered.
- Nonresident hunters should be held to the utmost highest standard when hunting big game is concerned.
- It is commonly taught in hunter education courses to take the most ethical shot on an animal yet there is no accountability for making poor judgement calls in the field.
- A nonresident hunting with or without a guide could currently continue to hunt after an animal is wounded but not dispatched or retrieved.
- There are areas of the state that already have a regulation to include wounded game in a person's bag limit for both residents and nonresidents for certain species. This exemplifies that an expanded version of this type of regulation to hold nonresidents to a standard of ethics that is being taught as well as to protect our game from unreasonable loss is within the powers of the Board of Game.
- All methods of take have some probability of wounding game, however, current trends such as long range shooting have a high potentiality of wounded game. That game deserves the respect of being ethically hunted and dispatched.

- For hunt report filing purposes the report would be filled out as though an animal were taken, however, an additional option for “Was the animal recovered? Yes/No” would be included in the reporting process.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? That any big game wounded by a nonresident be counted against that hunter’s bag limit.

PROPOSED BY: Matanuska Valley Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F20-012)

PROPOSAL 165

5 AAC 92.050. Required permit hunt conditions and procedures.

Apply auction permit holder's bag limit to the year the animal is taken as follows:

Auction permit bag limits should apply only to the calendar year the animal is taken, and the hunter should be able to hunt the animal with a permit or auction tag the next year. The hunter would also be able to bid on the auction permit after a successful harvest of the same species in prior years.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? We would like to see auction permit holders' harvest only apply to that year’s bag limit. This would allow the hunter to bid on the same auction permit the following year, or to bid on an auction permit after a prior successful hunt. It would allow for more bids to be placed, which in turn would generate more money for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and would give the hunter the opportunity to hunt the same species again. It would not increase the nonresident harvest.

PROPOSED BY: Matanuska Valley Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F20-007)
