PROPOSAL 244

5 AAC 92.072. Community subsistence harvest hunt area and permit conditions.

Eliminate all community subsistence harvest hunts as follows:

Abolish all community subsistence permit hunting.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Abolish the community subsistence hunts.

The community subsistence hunts have gone away from their original intent of subsistence living and have instead become a free for all for any groups of 25 people to gain extra days to hunt before the general season, giving them an unfair advantage to harvest game that should be available to all residents. There are no check or limits to the number of people who can obtain the community harvest permits.

Currently there are 2741 community harvest tags for moose and caribou in Unit 13, an extremely high percentage of those tags are going to people located in Anchorage and other urban areas as well as several tags going to people that do not even have Alaska addresses. This is not subsistence. Furthermore, the way the community harvest permits are handed out, it leaves this program wide open to fraud and abuse. This can be seen by the number of urban addresses and out of state addresses given in this year's permit winners. The way that the community harvest regulations are written, a person does not even have to be in the state while someone else is hunting his or her tag. Subsistence hunting is the act of hunting for survival. Those that live in rural environments already qualify for federal subsistence hunting areas and tags. There are also ways to proxy hunt for the elderly and disabled. The community subsistence hunts are an unfair advantage to a few and are currently being abused. Giving preferences to a group of any size would be considered unconstitutional. Article 8, Section 3 of Natural Resources states, Common Use — wherever occurring in their natural state, fish, wildlife and waters are reserved to the people for common use.

PROPOSED BY: Tony Gillham   (HQ-F21-015)
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