

PROPOSAL 80

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

Create a resident youth hunting season for any bull moose (YM4XX) in Unit 14A as follows:

One moose every regulatory year, August 20 – September 25 and November 15 - January 31.

No open nonresident season.

Youth hunt drawing permit: up to 50 permits may be issued.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Currently there are no resident youth any bull moose draw permits for Unit 14A. There is currently a youth bull moose hunt in neighboring Unit 16B, YM541. However, access to Unit 16B requires use of equipment, such as boat, plane, or snowmachine. There seems to be plenty of moose near the roadways and public use areas in Unit 14A for youth to participate. With declines nationwide regarding youth participation, I feel making more opportunities can increase our numbers here in Alaska.

Creation of a resident youth hunt in 14A would follow the guidelines found in YM541:

Eligible applicants: Resident youth who are 10 to 17-years-old. Each permittee must be accompanied in the field by a licensed resident adult at least 21-years-old. Bag limit counts against the bag limit of BOTH the permittee and the accompanying adult. Permittees and accompanying adults must wear hunter orange vests. Basic hunter education is required for all youth hunters participating in youth drawing hunts, regardless of their age or if their accompanying adult has basic hunter education.

The latest reports (at time of writing this) indicate the following harvest statistics for bull moose in 2018:

14A General Harvest Ticket	378 moose
16B General Harvest Ticket	179 moose
16B YM541 Draw Permit	16 moose

If the youth in YM541 are taking less than ten percent of moose compared to general harvest ticket hunters in 16B, we could assume a good starting point for the any bull youth hunt in Unit 14A would be around 35 animals. However, number of draw permits would be subject to latest herd population counts as well as 2019 harvest information. I do know that youth have the Unit 14A Point Mackenzie antlerless hunt, YM412, but for the bull hunt, I think it would be ideal to have the entire unit to provide the hunters more land opportunities for their harvest. Seasons would run similar to YM541, with dates August 20 – September 25 and November 15 - January 31.

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