

PROPOSAL 88

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

Change the registration moose hunt, RM445, in the Chugach State Park Management Area in Unit 14C to an archery only hunt as follows:

Chugach State Park Management Area (excluding Ship Creek drainage):

One bull with spike-fork antlers or 50-inch antlers or antlers with 3 or more brow tines on at least one side by bow and arrow only by certified bowhunters.

September 1 - 30

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Chugach State Park Management area is currently open to moose hunting from September 1 - 30 for one bull with spike-fork antlers or 50-inch antlers or antlers with three or more brow tines on at least one side. Much of this area is prohibitively remote for ethical moose hunting but the areas that are accessible are close to very popular multi use trails and pathways. This creates potential for hunter/non-hunter conflict and the potential for accidents when using long range centerfire rifles around populated areas and heavily used trails.

In addition, there are currently limited opportunities for local hunters who wish to pursue moose with bow and arrow, the exception being RM445 where many years of archery hunting close to a heavily used trail has set a positive precedent. Unfortunately, RM445 is very heavily hunted because so many local hunters enjoy the challenge of archery hunting for moose.

One solution to these issues would be to transition the Chugach State Park Management area, or at least a large portion of it, to archery only for moose hunting. This would likely be a popular hunt given the proximity to Anchorage and the increasing popularity of archery hunting for moose but given the limited range of archery equipment would also not increase the overall harvest of moose in the area.

As with all archery only hunts, it should be reiterated that this hunt would not decrease any hunting opportunity for any Alaska resident or nonresident. It would simply require that hunters who wish to use these areas do so with archery equipment.

PROPOSED BY: Paul Forward

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