

Board of Game, Proposal #203

Greetings Board Members,

This written statement is in support of proposal #203, creating a drawing for an antlerless moose hunt for mobility impaired hunters in game unit 14C, at Kincaid Park.

I am in support of this proposal for two reasons. First, increasing access to hunting in Alaska for our mobility impaired community members is at the heart of what makes Alaska best, caring for each other and our ability to have equal access to the resources of the state. I grew up eating almost exclusively wild fish and game and couldn't imagine if this ability were taken away from me due to loss of mobility. Alaska is lagging behind other states in our ability to support those with different mobility needs and fails our citizens in our cities, parklands, and hunting grounds. This proposal offers an opportunity to right this deficit as well as increase interest in our state and this region, combating the out migration our state currently is experiencing.

Secondly, Kincaid Park is overrun with moose. I am an avid outdoors woman and recreationalist; I respect the balance of wildlife and humans in the unique urban outdoor environment that Anchorage has to offer. However, Kincaid Park has seen increasing moose population density mixed with increased user base, creating a dangerous situation. I often avoid use of the are due to the significant numbers of moose encounters I have had on the trails. In one incident, while coaching a group of young mountain bikers through Mighty Bikes, our group of 10 kids were chased by an aggressive moose and narrowly missed being struck. All coaches are trained on proper moose encounter methods as are the children. They were not harassing the moose, who was actually on an adjacent trail before crossing through the brush running towards our group. This event was traumatizing for several of the children.

Adopting this proposal would increase equal access to our state's resources for mobility impaired community members and improve the safety of all trail users within Kincaid Park. An additional benefit of this proposal would be an increased attractiveness of the state and area for those looking to move here, showcasing what a unique place it truly is to live, one that supports all our citizens. Please consider adopting proposal #203.

Sincerely,

Kathryn G Kajdan Bell



Anchorage, AK 99507