

PROPOSAL 129

5 AAC 92.085. Unlawful methods of taking game; exceptions

Establish a minimum standard of centerfire rifle cartridges for taking big game as follows:

Legal rifle cartridges for big game must have a barrel bore of at least .25 inches and be chambered to fire a centerfire cartridge of not less than two inches overall length including the bullet which is designed to expand.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I have personally been aware of several moose that were shot and lost after being hit with too small of a caliber rifle. Some were shot several times with .223 rifles. The shooters in some cases said, "They shot an entire AR-15 magazine of ammo but must have missed."

I recovered two moose that a shooter said they must have missed. I had people tell me about shooting a brown bear over "eighteen times with a .223 and then it died slow."

I have spent 16 years summer through fall in rural Alaska. I have heard about the lack of moose-hunting opportunities. The waste of game due to the use of insufficient cartridge size is a significant contributor to the dwindling game populations. A larger cartridge size would reduce the loss of animals significantly. Most state game regulations require a cartridge minimum size for big game hunting. Alaska, having the largest big game animals surely should also establish minimum cartridge sizes.

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