

PROPOSAL 130

5 AAC 92.085. Unlawful methods of taking big game; exceptions.

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

A minimum of .243 caliber rifle is required for taking of moose.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? We would like an established minimum caliber requirement for moose statewide as follows: Require a minimum of .243 caliber centerfire rifle for the harvest of moose.

Unfortunately, moose are shot with rifles and ammo that inadequate to kill them.

Moose are one of the largest North American big game species and unfortunately, some moose are shot with rifles and ammo that are inadequate to kill them. The common rifle to hunt moose in some parts of the state is the .223 Remington. With the high number of variables, perfect shot placement is not a guarantee every time a trigger is pulled, and often can end in a dead and unharvested moose with the .223. Because of this, the true number of moose killed is higher that what is reported at harvest, thus negatively impacting the number of moose that can be harvested.

Finally, one of the most common uses of the .223 and other centerfire 22 caliber rifles and smaller in North America is predator/varmint hunting. As a result, a majority of the ammo loaded commercially for the .223 use hollow point or other fragmenting ballistic tip bullets, none of which are made for the deep bone breaking penetration needed to effectively kill moose. Rather, ballistic tip and hollow point bullets so commonly loaded for the .223 are designed to penetrate and explode inside the body of the coyote, fox or other predator/varmint targeted. Frequently, when these types of bullets are used for big game, especially moose, the targeted animal is maimed by a bullet that comes apart before getting adequate penetration to effectively kill the moose.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee? This is a proposal is by the Bethel Fish and Game Advisory Committee.

PROPOSED BY: Bethel Fish & Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F24-018)
