

Hunter Education Requirements

PROPOSAL 89

5 AAC 92.003. Hunter education and orientation requirements.

Require nonresident moose hunters to attend a hunter orientation course and be accompanied by a registered guide or resident family member within the second degree of kindred as follows:

Amend hunter education requirements for nonresident hunters as follows:

92.003 Hunter education and orientation requirements.

(c) A nonresident hunter [in Unit 17(B)] must have attended a department-approved hunter orientation course (to include trophy recognition and meat care) before hunting for moose [or] **and** must be accompanied by a registered guide or resident family member within the second degree of kindred.

[(d) A nonresident hunter in Unit 19(B) must have attended a department-approved hunter orientation course (to include trophy recognition and meat care) before hunting for moose or caribou or must be accompanied by a registered guide or resident family member within the second degree of kindred.]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Currently, all adult Alaskan residents under the age of 39 must successfully complete a certified hunters education course in order to hunt in Units 7, 13, 14, 15, and 20 under

5 AAC 92.003. Hunter education and orientation requirements. A person born after January 1, 1986 that is

(1) required to have a hunting license must have successfully completed a certified hunter education course in order to hunt in Units 7, 13, 14, 15, and 20

Whereas nonresident hunters are afforded the option to forgo a certified hunters education course (including trophy recognition and meat care) under

(2)(c) A nonresident hunter in Unit 17(B) must have attended a department-approved hunter orientation course (to include trophy recognition and meat care) before hunting for moose or must be accompanied by a registered guide or resident family member within the second degree of kindred.

(d) A nonresident hunter in Unit 19(B) must have attended a department-approved hunter orientation course (to include trophy recognition and meat care) before hunting for moose or caribou or must be accompanied by a registered guide or resident family member within the second degree of kindred.

As such, nonresidents are legally sanctioned to sidestep hunters' education (including trophy recognition and meat care) so long as they are accompanied by a registered guide or resident family

member within second degree of kindred. Whereas adult Alaskan residents are not provided with this option to hunt in Units 7, 13, 14, 15, and 20.

Whereas the Board of Game must provide that the subsistence taking of moose, deer, elk, and caribou by residents has preference over taking by nonresidents under:

Sec. 16.05.255. Regulations of the Board of Game; management requirements

(d) Regulations adopted under (a) of this section must provide that, consistent with the provisions of AS 16.05.258, the taking of moose, deer, elk, and caribou by residents for personal or family consumption has preference over taking by nonresidents.

Additionally, nonresidents are required to be accompanied by a registered guide or resident family member within second degree for brown bear, grizzly bear, mountain goat, or sheep hunting under **Sec. 16.05.407. Nonresident hunting big game animals must be accompanied.** While **Sec. 16.05.407** does not apply for the taking of moose or caribou, it also does not prevent the board from doing so.

Moreover, residents born before January 1, 1986, are not required to complete a hunters education course. Therefore, hunts where nonresident hunters are accompanied by a 39-year-old or older family member (within the second degree of kindred), neither have received formal training in firearms safety, wildlife conservation, and respect for Alaska’s natural resources, landowners, and other hunters. Requiring nonresident hunters to take a hunters education course (including trophy recognition and meat care) provides them with the maximum safety and education.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee? I worked with members of the public and received feedback from ADFG staff.

PROPOSED BY: Janessa Newman and Charlie Wright (EG-F24-099)

PROPOSAL 90

5 AAC 92.003. Hunter education and orientation requirements.

Require all goat hunters to pass an online mountain goat quiz prior to hunting as follows:

Existing regulation:

If you are planning to hunt goats in Units 1, 4, 5, 6C, or 6D you are required to pass the online mountain goat quiz prior to hunting.

Proposed regulation

All goat hunters are required to pass the online mountain goat quiz prior to hunting.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Increase hunter awareness and training in sex identification of mountain goats to help reduce female harvest. Reduced female harvest supports greater populations and more opportunity for hunters.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee? No.

PROPOSED BY: Jon Nicholas Kruger (EG-F24-085)

PROPOSAL 91

5 AAC 92.003. Hunter education and orientation requirements.

Require all goat hunters to pass an online mountain goat quiz prior to hunting as follows:

Hunters planning to hunt mountain goats in Alaska are required to pass the online mountain goat quiz prior to hunting. https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=quiz.overview&quiz_id=3

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? It is well established and accepted that the harvest of nanny's is detrimental to the mountain goat population. According to statistics from ADF&G staff, recent efforts to educate hunters by requiring that they complete a mountain goat gender identity quiz have proven successful in reducing the nanny harvest in those areas. Currently Units 1, 4, 5, 6C and 6D require that hunters complete the Gender Identification quiz found at https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=quiz.overview&quiz_id=3

There are other areas in the state where there exist mountain goat hunts, both draw and registration, that do not require gender ID education and quiz completion and it is the intention of this proposal to increase the mountain goat gender awareness of hunters by requiring that all registration and draw tags in the state of Alaska include the requirement that the hunter must successfully complete the gender ID quiz prior to hunting. Even in areas like RG480 on Kodiak, where nanny harvest is now required if a second goat is taken, there would be significant benefit to requiring this educational process. It is the hope of this author that this could be a small step in enhancing mountain goat population health and encouraging hunter engagement on goat conservation throughout the state.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee? Yes, I have discussed this with one current and one former ADF&G biologist who are in favor of this proposal and believe that it could be a difference in decreasing nanny harvest.

PROPOSED BY: Paul Forward (EG-F24-094)
