

PROPOSAL 134

5 AAC 92.069. Special provisions for moose and caribou drawing permit hunts.

Allocate 90% of all moose drawing permits to residents as follows:

Issue 90% of moose drawing permits to Alaska residents.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The issue I'd like to address, on a statewide basis, is the allocation of primary meat animals in drawing hunts as spelled out in 5 AAC 92.069.

Moose drawing permit allocations should reflect food security needs for Alaskan residents. As a primary meat animal, there is no reason to allocate half of the moose in any given draw hunt to outside hunters, many if not most of whom do not want the meat. This is currently in practice, most egregiously in Unit 21B as spelled out in AAC 92.069(b)(3). I'd like the Board of Game to consider, during drawing permit distributions, a more reasonable share of these important subsistence animals: 90% guaranteed to residents of the State of Alaska. Other allocation solutions considered are numbers of 80 or 75 percent, as for caribou in 92.069(c), although I feel these are too low.

I understand the normal rationale for draw hunts; that there are not enough animals to satisfy the demand of a general season hunt. I also understand another rationale for draw hunts; the economic security of commercial users, and also that when hunts go to draw for "trophy" purposes, or to effectively add a new animal to the "must be guided" class as exists in statute, that there are often other opportunities available. One primary problem with this second rationale is that those additional opportunities, on federal land, are weighted to local residents, not equal access to all Alaskans as per state mandate. Another is that all harvesters should be able to use all parts of the animal to meet their needs, be it meat for the freezer, hide for clothing or sewing, or bones and antlers for hardware, handicrafts, decoration, and medicinal use. This is limited in some of those additional opportunities, along with adding onerous reporting and specimen requirements.

In summary, state regulation in 5 AAC 92.069 should be amended to reflect the prevailing guidance of the Alaska Supreme Court (McDowell 1989) and the Constitutional provisions of Alaskans' common use, maximum use, and maximum benefit clauses by the Board of Game using its authority to protect the harvest needs of all Alaskans, prioritized over those of nonresidents of the state, by issuing 90% of moose draw permits to resident Alaskans.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee? Yes, see above.

PROPOSED BY: Douglas Malone

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