

PROPOSAL 137

5 AAC 92.050. Required permit hunt conditions and procedures.

Change the drawing hunt permit process as follows:

Options and alternative strategies to consider either singly or in combination:

1. Increase waiting period(s) by species if successful in harvest and/or draw.
2. Reduce application number by species (e.g., 6 to 4)
3. Restrict applications for one applicant (or party) to maximum of three species per draw application year.
4. Restrict applications to apply for bison OR muskox, caribou OR elk, and/or sheep OR goat per draw application year.
5. Reduce resident bag limit for bison to once-in-a-lifetime if successful in harvest of a bison on a resident draw permit.
6. Increase opportunity for additional registration hunts with quotas where possible as an alternative to draw hunts.

Other options considered:

1. Bonus Point System - previously considered by Board (several different meetings).
2. Create and establish separate draw hunts for longtime applicants - requires tracking applicant history and possibly establishing a "hunter identification number".

Options rejected:

1. Preference Point System - previously considered by Board (same as above).
2. Once-in-a-lifetime drawing with unsuccessful harvest.
3. Long waiting periods for successful moose draw applicants.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The probability of successfully drawing a hunt permit (for most of the current hunts offered) has become exceedingly difficult over the last several years. In 2018, there were 321,126 applications for 8,302 draw permits. Just five years later (2023), there were 373,511 applications for 5,216 draw permits - an overall average reduction of almost half from 2.6% to 1.4%. The majority of the most desirable draw hunts have seen significant reductions in drawing opportunity. For example, DM410 (antlerless moose) has shown an increase from 2013 to 2023 of 2,628 applications for 75 permits to 8,674 for 100. Similarly, DC590 (caribou) has went from 906 applications for 100 permits (2013) to 9,248 for 100 (2023). Others include DE702 (elk) - 627 applications/8 permits (2013) to 3394 applications/6 permits, DI403 (bison) - 11,320 applications/50 permits to 33,306 applications/60 permits, and DS123 (sheep) - 560 applications/1 permit to 3,127 applications/1 permit.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee? This proposal was developed in consultation with local hunters interested in improving the opportunity to be successful in the hunt permit drawing. The alternatives were created to stimulate discussion at the Board of Game meeting to encourage action to address the

significant reduction in drawing opportunity for the average resident hunter. The local fish and game advisory committee has not consulted at this time nor is aware of this proposal.

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