

PROPOSAL 140

5 AAC 92.150. Evidence of sex and identity.

Eliminate the evidence of sex requirement for big animals with a bag limit restricted to one sex as follows:

The solution is fairly simple. Stop requiring evidence of sex to be left on big game animals when the hunt is limited to a single sex. When this regulation was put into place, DNA testing was not very common and was cost prohibitive. Today though, for <\$100, a sample of muscle can be submitted to a lab and the sex determined easily and relatively quickly. If the Alaska Wildlife Troopers were suspicious of meat that was claimed to be from a male when in fact was a female the Troopers could take a sample from every single quarter and any other piece of the meat that they felt suspicious of and determine if ALL meat was from the same sex. Further, if the Troopers felt meat came from another male, not associated with the antlers or horns they accompany, they could submit the samples for a single nucleotide polymorphism (SNP) markers analysis. This is a common technique in wildlife forensic science. Simply put, you could use DNA to test if the skull matched the meat.

Regardless of the method used, this genetic testing is much more versatile for troopers in the field and provides much better data than simply leaving a bit of gender identifying tissue on a single hindquarter.

Another factor that could be considered is to change the definition of the evidence of sex to include horns or antlers. Currently only the horns of a Dall sheep are considered as evidence of sex. Ironically, both male and female Dall sheep have horns so it does not make sense for moose antlers to not count as evidence of sex.

Ultimately, this proposal will simplify the hunters responsibility to care for their meat in the field and will not limit the Troopers ability conduct an investigation when suspicious of an illegal activity. The advances in DNA testing make this regulation obsolete.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? We would like to address the requirement to leave evidence of sex on moose. There are multiple issues with this regulation that I will mention here.

1. One option is to leave the penis attached to a hind quarter as evidence of sex. When choosing to leave the penis you must cut through the penis to have a section to leave on the hind quarter. When cutting through the penis there is always a small amount of urine that comes out and that comes in contact with your meat. This is less than ideal from a meat care standpoint. The tissue of the penis is one of the first places that bacteria will begin to cause spoilage and this can more easily infiltrate the meat once it is started. This is exacerbated when on a longer hunting trip.
2. The second option is to leave a testicle on a hind quarter. The testicles are connected very loosely by tissue that can be easily torn from the hindquarter once the quarter is removed from the animal and during hanging and transport. Besides the delicate nature of their connection to the meat, the testicle can also be one of the first places to spoil and in turn begin to spoil the meat. Again, this is exacerbated when on a longer hunting trip where the meat care is already difficult. Finally, leaving a testicle on the hind quarter does not allow them to be eaten in camp

which is a tradition for many and ultimately ruins the testicle for consumption later on because they spoil faster than the rest of the meat.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee? We talked about this at the March Fairbanks Advisory Committee meeting. The committee was in favor of this change as written.

PROPOSED BY: Lance Nelson

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