

(The Board of Game deferred a portion (Section 2) of proposal 112 as amended from the 2014 Interior Region meeting to the Statewide Regulations meeting scheduled for March 14-18, 2014.)

PROPOSAL 112A – 5AAC 85.045(a)(18). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose and 92.530. Management Areas. Create a youth drawing permit hunt for antlerless moose in Unit 20B, and create a Unit 20B Youth Hunt Management Area that specifies hunt conditions as follows:

The regulatory language in Section 1 was adopted by the Board at the 2014 Interior Region meeting (see RC 59), replacing the original language in the proposal. The Board will deliberate on the regulatory language in Section 2 at this meeting.

Section 1:

Remainder of Unit 20(B)

1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only; by youth hunt only; up to 200 permits may be issued or

Aug. 5–Aug. 14

No open season

1 bull; or

Sept. 1 – Sept. 20

Sept. 5 – Sept. 20

1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only; up to 1,500 permits may be issued in the Remainder of Unit 20(B); a person may not take a cow accompanied by a calf; or

Aug. 15 – Nov. 15
(General hunt only)

No open season.

1 antlerless moose by registration permit only; a person may not take a cow accompanied by a calf

Oct. 1 - Feb. 28
(General hunt only)

Section 2:

5 AAC 92.003. Hunter education and orientation requirements.

(j) a hunter 10 years old to 17 years old participating in a hunt designated as a “youth hunt” must have successfully completed a department-approved basic hunter education course;

...

5 AAC 92.130. Restriction to bag limit.

(i) A big game animal, except deer, taken under a youth hunt, as defined in 92.990(), will count as the bag limit of both the child and the supervising hunter who accompanies the child; only the child may shoot the big game animal, except that the accompanying adult may shoot the animal only to prevent the animal from escaping after having been wounded by the child; the supervising hunter is responsible for ensuring that all legal requirements are met.

Article 20. Definitions.

5 AAC 92.990. Definitions. (a) In addition to the definitions in AS 16.05.940, in 5 AAC 84 - 5 AAC 92, unless the context requires otherwise.

“youth hunt” means a hunt limited to a child aged 10 to 17 and an accompanying adult; if the child is a

(A) resident, the accompanying adult may be any licensed resident hunter 21 years of age or older;

(B) nonresident, the accompanying adult must be a licensed resident hunter 21 years of age or older who is a parent, stepparent, or legal guardian of the child;

ISSUE: At their Interior/Eastern Arctic meeting in 2012, the Board of Game encouraged the Department of Fish and Game (department) to identify hunting opportunities for youth in the Interior. Unit 20B has approximately 18,000–20,000 moose and the department issues about 1,000 antlerless moose permits in the central and western portions of the unit outside the Fairbanks Management Area. This provides ample opportunity to allocate a portion of the drawing permits to youth hunters. We recommend that the unit-wide number of antlerless moose permits not increase, but that a percentage (about 20%) of the available permits be allocated to an early season, youth drawing hunt for hunters that are ages 10 to 17. Creating this hunt would give young people a greater chance to harvest a moose before school starts, and it could easily be integrated into the department’s Unit 20B moose harvest strategy.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Youth hunters will have to continue applying and competing for regular drawing permits in which they receive no advantage in obtaining a permit.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Youth hunters and their families will benefit.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Adult hunters would suffer because fewer antlerless drawing permits would be available to them.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

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