

PROPOSAL 130 – 5 AAC 92.052. Discretionary permit hunt conditions and procedures.

Allow hunters to obtain Unit 9B registration moose permits online and in other locations as follows:

Recommended changes:

One bull by permit available **online at <http://hunt.alaska.gov> or** in person in Unit 9B village or in King Salmon beginning August 16, contact King Salmon for additional information

Or

One bull by permit available in person in Unit 9B village or in person in **Anchorage, Cordova, Fairbanks, Glennallen,** King Salmon, **Palmer, or Soldotna,** beginning August 16, contact King Salmon for additional information

Or a combination of the two:

One bull by permit available **online at <http://hunt.alaska.gov> or** in person in **Anchorage, Cordova, Fairbanks, Glennallen,** King Salmon, **Palmer, or Soldotna,** beginning August 16, contact King Salmon for additional information

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Justification: For 40 years I have hosted fishing and hunting camps during moose season in Unit 9B. The existing requirement to register in the local villages needs to be changed for three primary reasons.

1) It makes the hunt dangerous. The need to fit permit application into the administrative hours of the villages and Lake Clark Park forces hunters to fly only on weekdays and only during business hours to arrive in time to meet the registrar's schedule. Often, the weather during that period is marginal, or worse. We now find that we fly in far worse weather than we historically have. Since we hunt in Unit 9B, we now have to route through Lake Clark Pass even if weather on alternate routes is better. This regulation makes access to the hunt substantially more dangerous than necessary.

2) It disenfranchises working Alaska resident hunters. If a hunter, such as one of our regulars who grew up hunting and fishing the Iliamna region, has only five days to hunt, this rule means he often cannot hunt. (EXAMPLE) One of our party learned to fly in a Cessna, roaming the Iliamna area. He now flies for Alaska Airlines and as a junior officer can only arrange five days off at a time. If he clears his last scheduled flight on a Friday afternoon, but not early enough to get to a registration site during working hours, the earliest he can register is Monday, (can't hunt), and must return on Tuesday evening or Wednesday morning depending on weather. This leaves one day to hunt. If the weather is poor on Monday, it leaves none. He never missed a trip from the time he was ten until this rule took effect. Since, he has missed two out of three years. This scheduling problem has caused every one of us to miss the entire hunt. In order to hunt, you really now need a full week of time off.

3) It is age discriminatory. For older hunters, (four of our group are over 65), the walk from where you can park a plane to the registration in (for example) Pedro Bay is becoming very difficult. With the time constraints at the site, a two or three-mile round trip walk only to find the site has run out of permits, or the person who issues them is not available, is very tough since it means we must find another site and repeat it. Even the walk from the Farm in Port Allsworth to the Park Service is tough on 75-year-old legs.

Some of us have hunted the area for three or four decades. We understand the need to conserve the moose herd. No matter how many we have in hunting camp, we have always maintained a strict maximum limit of two moose. We've collectively discussed the population issues and all agree that the single greatest impact on herd size came when brown bear hunting every fall and spring was eliminated. Before, we used to see equal numbers of bears and moose. Now, or for every moose we see, bull or cow, we see six to ten bears.

PROPOSED BY: Beaver Creek Hunting Group

(EG-F17-058)
