

PROPOSAL 141 – 5 AAC 92.069. Special provisions for moose drawing permit hunts.
Allocate a portion of the nonresident drawing permits for moose in Unit 17A to guided hunters as follows:

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

(b)(5) in Unit 17A, the department shall issue a maximum of 50 percent of the available nonresident drawing permits to guided nonresidents, and a minimum of 50 percent of the available nonresident drawing permits to non-guided nonresidents. If the number of nonresidents applying for permits for either nonresident hunt is insufficient to award the required percentage, the department may award the remaining available nonresident drawing permits to the other nonresident hunt;

Regulations allow for up to 50 nonresident permits in Unit 17A but permits are limited to 20 by an agreement reached through the Unit 17A moose working group in conjunction with the Togiak Advisory Committee, Togiak Refuge and others. Twenty seems to be a reasonable number at this point due to limited access. I used the 50% language simply because it is already in regulation for other areas. Another number could be chosen but I believe this language allows for flexibility. Only four guided moose hunters are permitted in Unit 17A at this time; so it would be 20% but it should be higher in the case that the Togiak Refuge allows guided moose hunting in their other concession. There are two concessions but the second does not allow guided moose hunting at this time. Togiak or Twin Hills Villages could also decide to allow moose take on their lands. These villages have not yet allowed guided moose hunting to my knowledge but it could be a good opportunity if a shareholder had a guide license.

The moose population in this area is very healthy and resident hunters have a two moose bag limit, "any bull" harvest, cow harvest, a 28-day fall season, and a month-long winter season. This would not increase take, but provide for a more predictable situation.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Nonresident guided moose hunting in Unit 17A is limited by Federal Concession Quotas making the need for a drawing hunt for guided hunters unnecessary and burdensome. Having guided hunters apply for hunts where the draw odds are high (over 50% historically), and guides are limited by concession, are very messy. Guides must put in more hunters than their quota but it is impossible to judge how many hunters must apply to reach the allocated number allowed under refuge concessions. This may result in more hunters drawn than the guide is allowed to take. I am the only guide currently allowed to take moose hunters in Unit 17A and my concession quota is only four moose hunters. I currently have 18 people on my list that want to apply for the hunt. If I put them all in, I will likely have too many drawn, if I put in fewer, I run the risk of not having enough. The extra hunters that draw will likely not hunt because they want a guided hunt. This removes an opportunity from other hunters that would have preferred a non-guided hunt. There are currently 20 tags available in the drawing.

I would like the Board of Game to adopt a regulation for a registration permit for guided moose hunters in Unit 17A (preferred option, see additional proposal for this option) OR allocate a portion of the drawing to guided hunters in a similar fashion as other units (this option).

PROPOSED BY: Aaron Bloomquist

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