

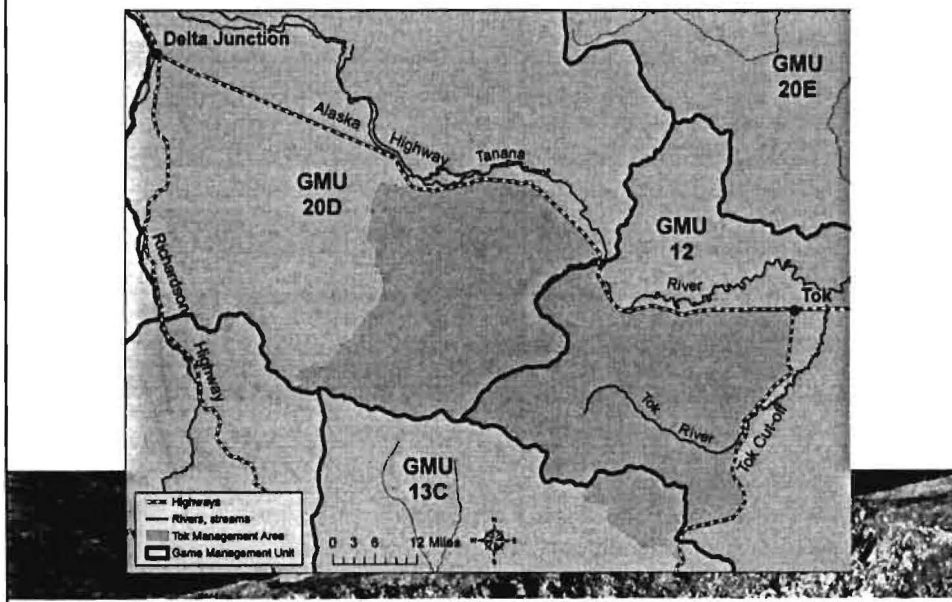
Proposal 188 – Sheep – TMA (Tok Management Area)



- Submitted by: Public
- Effect of Proposal: Allocate a fixed 10% of the Tok Management Area Dall sheep permits to nonresidents.
- ADF&G Recommendation:
No Recommendation



Tok Management Area (TMA)



Proposal 188

TMA sheep permits are the most sought after sheep permit in the state

- Over 5000 hunters applied for TMA sheep permits in 2011

81 permits are issued each year

- 40 permits for Aug 10 –Aug 25 (DS102)
- 40 permits for Aug 26 –Sept 20th (DS103).
- one Governors Tag

Hunters have <2% chance of receiving a permit



Proposal 188

Internet application

- Increasing number of nonresident applications
- More permits were allocated to nonresident hunters

In 2006 the Board limited nonresidents to a maximum of 10% of the TMA sheep permits

- All applicants are selected at random from the same pool, once 10% of the available permits have been issued to nonresidents; remaining permits are issued to residents only
- insures resident hunters have a higher probability of receiving these valued permits
- addressed concerns of high harvest of full-curl rams due to the higher success rates of guided nonresident hunters.



Proposal 188

- Since 2007, 10% of permits issued have been allocated to nonresidents.
- This proposal would not change the current distribution of permits.
- As long as nonresident applicants continue to exceed 10% of Alaska resident applicants, 10% of permits will continue to be allocated to nonresident hunters.



Proposal 188

**Allocate a fixed 10% of the Tok Management Area
Dall sheep permits to nonresidents.**

**Recommendation: No Recommendation
Allocation Issue**



Proposal 189 – Sheep – TMA and DCUA

(Tok Management Area and Delta Controlled Use Area)



- **Submitted by: Public**
- **Effect of Proposal: Restrict Dall sheep hunting in the Tok Management Area and the Delta Controlled Use Area to Alaska residents only**
- **ADF&G Recommendation:**
No Recommendation



Proposal 189

- Hunting pressure in the Tok Management Area (TMA) and Delta Controlled Use Area (DCUA) is controlled by drawing permit.
- Sheep populations in both areas are stable, hunter success rates are above 45% in both areas
- Rams with horns ≥ 40 inches are harvested by Alaska residents each year under the current management strategy
- TMA
 - Up to 10% of permits are awarded to nonresident hunters each year
- DCUA
 - number of sheep permits awarded to nonresidents is not limited
 - majority of applicants remain Alaska residents



Proposal 189

2007–2011 TMA sheep hunters harvested an average of 37 rams per year

- resident hunters accounted for 78% of the take

- In 2010 TMA sheep permits were reduced from 100 to 80 permits following 3 years in which $\leq 7\%$ of harvested rams had horns ≥ 40 inches in length.

- 2010
 - 11% of rams harvested had horns ≥ 40 inches in length
 - 3 rams with horns ≥ 40 inches (all by Alaska residents)

- 2011
 - 23% of rams harvested had horns ≥ 40 inches in length.
 - 7 rams with horns ≥ 40 inches (5 by Alaska residents)
 - The average horn length of harvested rams was 37.5 inches, the longest average horn size since the TMA was established in 1974



Proposal 189

Largest ram harvested in the TMA in 2011 was taken by an un-guided Alaska resident (horns >44 inches in length).



Fairbanks Daily News Miner

Proposal 189

2007–2011 the department issued 150 DCUA sheep permits per year

- average of 9.4% of the permits were issued to nonresidents

2007-2011

- Hunters harvested an average of 48 rams per year
- Resident hunters accounting for 85% of the harvest
- Average of 2 rams (range 1–6) with horns >40 inches were harvested each year in the DCUA during this period



Proposal 189

With nonresident hunters eliminated, permits would remain difficult to obtain

- 5680 TMA applicants in 2010
 - 609 nonresidents.
 - Without nonresidents the chance of a resident being drawn would have changed from:
 - 1.2% to 1.3% for the early season (DS102)
 - 1.7% to 1.9% for the late season (DS103)
- 3917 DCUA applicants in 2010
 - 226 nonresidents
 - Without nonresidents the chance of a resident being drawn would have changed from:
 - 4.3% to 4.5% for the early season (DS203)
 - 3.4% to 3.7% for the late season (DS204)



Proposal 189

**Restrict Dall sheep hunting in the Tok
Management Area and the Delta Controlled Use
Area to Alaska residents only.**

**Recommendation: No Recommendation
Allocation Issue**

5 AAC 92.108. Identified big game prey populations and objectives.

Finding	Population Objective	Harvest Objective
Unit 20A: Positive	<u>12,000-15,000</u>	<u>900 – 1,100</u>
	[10,000 – 12,000]	[1,400 - 1,600]

Proposal 198 Fox Trapping in 12 and 20E



- **Submitted by:**
Upper Tanana/Fortymile Advisory Committee
- **Effect of Proposal:** Lengthen fox trapping season in Units 12 and 20E to align with the coyote season, including snare and trap restrictions in October and April
- **ADF&G Recommendation:**
Take No Action (See proposal 149)

Proposal 198

Lengthening fox season has already been addressed in proposal 149

Although there is little biological concern of overharvest of fox in units 12 or 20E, to make trapping seasons consistent throughout the interior region, the department does not recommend adopting this regulation

- Fur quality is low in April
- Very few foxes reported caught in traps or snares in October or April
- Removing additional fox in April will reduce surviving fox before breeding
- Extending the trapping season for fox is not expected to greatly increase harvest in Units 12 and 20E

Proposal 198

Lengthen fox trapping season in Units 12 and 20E to align with the coyote season, including snare and trap restrictions in October and April

Recommendation:

Take No Action (See proposal 149)

Proposal 199

Lynx and Fox Hunting in 12 and 20E



- **Submitted by:**
Upper Tanana/Fortymile Advisory Committee
- **Effect of Proposal:** Extend the end of hunting seasons for lynx and fox in Units 12 and 20E from March 15 to April 30
- **ADF&G Recommendation:**
Do Not Adopt

Proposal 199

During 2006–2011 an average of 6 lynx were harvested annually by hunting in Units 12 and 20E combined.

No sealing requirement for fox in Units 12 or 20E

The take of fox by hunters is assumed to be low

- Fur quality of most lynx and fox taken after March 15 is poor
- Lengthening hunting seasons through April will remove some fox and lynx which have survived the winter and are preparing to breed.
- Snowshoe hare numbers are declining
low in the lynx–hare cycle is expected to occur in the next 2–3 years

89 39

Proposal 199

Extend the end of hunting seasons for lynx and fox
in Units 12 and 20E from March 15 to April 30.

Recommendation: Do Not Adopt

PROPOSAL 186A 5AAC 85.045(a)(9). Hunting seasons and bag limits for Moose. Modify moose season in portion of Unit 11 and 12.

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
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(9)

Unit 11, that portion east of the east bank of the Copper River upstream from and including the Slana River drainage

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull per harvest report by community harvest permit only; however, no more than 70 bulls that do not meet antler restrictions for other resident hunts in the same area may be taken in the entire community harvest area; or

Aug. 10 - Sept. 20 (Subsistence hunt only)

No open season.

1 bull with spike-fork antlers or 50-inch antlers or antlers with 3 or more brow tines on one side by registration permit only

Aug. 20 - Sept. 17

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side by registration permit only

Aug. 24 - Sept. 17

Remainder of Unit 11

1 bull per harvest report by community harvest

Aug. 10 - Sept. 20 (Subsistence hunt

No open season.

permit only; however, no more than 70 bulls that do not meet antler restrictions for other resident hunts in the same area may be taken in the entire community harvest area; or

only)

1 bull with spike-fork antlers or 50-inch antlers or antlers with 3 or more brow tines on one side

Aug. 20 - Sept. 20

Aug. 20 - Sept. 20

(10)

(10)

Unit 12, that portion including all drainages into the west bank of the Little Tok River, from its headwaters in Bear Valley at the intersection of the unit boundaries of Units 12 and 13 to its junction with the Tok River, and all drainages into the south bank of the Tok River from its junction with the Little Tok River to the Tok Glacier

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull per harvest report by community harvest permit only; however, no more than 70 bulls that do not meet antler restrictions for other resident hunts in the same area may be taken in the entire community harvest area; or

Aug. 24 - Aug. 28
Sept. 8 - Sept. 17
(Subsistence hunt only)

1 bull with spike-fork antlers or 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side

Aug. 24 - Aug. 28
Sept. 8 - Sept. 17

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull with 50-inch antlers
or antlers with 4 or more
brow tines on one side

Sept. 8 - Sept. 17

Unit 12, remainder of
that portion in the
Tok River drainage
upstream from the Tok
Cutoff Bridge

RESIDENT HUNTERS

1 bull with spike-fork antlers
or 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4
or more brow tines on one side

Aug. 24 - Aug. 28
Sept. 8 - Sept. 17

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS

1 bull with 50-inch
antlers or antlers with 4
or more brow tines on one side

Sept. 8 - Sept. 17

Unit 12, that portion lying
east of the Nabesna River
and south of the winter trail
running southeast from
Pickerel Lake to the
Canadian border

Sept. 1 - Sept. 30

Sept. 1 - Sept. 30

1 bull with 50-inch antlers or
antlers with 4 or more brow tines
on one side

**Unit 12, that portion within the
Nabesna River drainage
west of the east bank
of the Nabesna River
upstream from the southern
boundary of the Tetlin
National Wildlife Refuge**

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

**1 bull with spike-fork
antlers or 50-inch
antlers or antlers
with 3 or more brow
tines on one side by
registration permit only**

Aug. 20 – Sept. 17

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

**1 bull with 50-inch
antlers or antlers
with 4 or more brow
tines on one side by**

Aug. 24 – Sept. 17

registration permit only

Remainder of Unit 12

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull

Aug. 24 – Aug. 28

Sept. 8 – Sept. 17

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull with 50-inch
antlers or antlers
with 4 or more brow
tines on one side

Sept. 8 – Sept. 17

...

RC 100

PROPOSAL 192A- 5 AAC 85.025 (a)(15)(20). Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou.
Combine Fortymile and White Mountains Caribou herd seasons under 1 registration permit, remove harvest limits, lengthen the winter season for residents, and allow a new limited registration permit hunt.

Units and Bag Limits

**Resident
Open Season
(Subsistence and
General Hunts)**

**Nonresident
Open Season**

...

(15)

...

Units 20(B) and 20(F), those portions east of the Richardson, Steese, Elliott, and Dalton highways and south of the Yukon River, and Unit 20(D) that portion north of the south bank of the Tanana River

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

**1 caribou by registration permit only;
or**

**Aug. 10–Sept. 30
Dec. 1–Mar 31**

1 caribou by limited registration permit only, may be announced by emergency order within a portion of this area during Dec.1 – March 31;

(To be announced)

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull by registration permit only

Aug. 10–Sept. 20

...

Unit 20(E)

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

**1 caribou by registration permit only;
or**

**Aug. 10–Sept. 30
Dec. 1–Mar. 31**

Units and Bag Limits

**Resident
Open Season
(Subsistence and
General Hunts)**

**Nonresident
Open Season**

1 caribou by limited registration permit only, may be announced by emergency order within a portion of this area during Dec.1 – March 31;
or

(To be announced)

1 caribou by registration permit only, up to a 3-day season may be announced by emergency order within a portion of this area during the period Oct. 20–Nov. 30;

(To be announced)

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:
1 bull by registration permit only

Aug. 10–Sept. 20

...

[UNIT 20(B), THAT PORTION SOUTH AND EAST OF THE STEESE HIGHWAY]

[RESIDENT HUNTERS]
[1 CARIBOU BY REGISTRATION PERMIT ONLY; UP TO 1,800 CARIBOU MAY BE TAKEN UNDER COMBINED RESIDENT AND NON-RESIDENT BAG LIMITS IN COMBINATION WITH UNIT 20(D), THAT PORTION NORTH OF THE SOUTH BANK OF THE TANANA RIVER, UNIT 20(E), AND THE REMAINDER OF UNIT 25(C)]

[AUG. 10 - SEPT. 30]
[DEC. 1 - FEB. 28]
[(GENERAL HUNT ONLY)]

[NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:]
[1 BULL BY REGISTRATION PERMIT ONLY]

[AUG. 10 - SEPT. 20]

Units and Bag Limits

**Resident
Open Season
(Subsistence and
General Hunts)**

**Nonresident
Open Season**

[UNIT 20(D), THAT PORTION NORTH OF THE SOUTH BANK OF THE TANANA RIVER]

[RESIDENT HUNTERS]
[1 CARIBOU BY REGISTRATION PERMIT ONLY; UP TO 1,800 CARIBOU MAY BE TAKEN UNDER COMBINED RESIDENT AND NON-RESIDENT BAG LIMITS IN COMBINATION WITH UNIT 20(B), THAT PORTION SOUTH AND EAST OF THE STEESE HIGHWAY, UNIT 20(E), AND THE REMAINDER OF UNIT 25(C)]

[AUG. 10 - SEPT. 30]
[DEC. 1 - FEB. 28]

[NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:]

[AUG. 10 - SEPT. 20]

[UNITS 20(B) AND 20(F), THOSE PORTIONS NORTH AND WEST OF THE STEESE HIGHWAY, NORTH AND EAST OF THE ELLIOT HIGHWAY TO ITS INTERSECTION WITH THE DALTON HIGHWAY, THEN EAST OF THE DALTON HIGHWAY AND SOUTH OF THE YUKON RIVER]

[1 CARIBOU PER REGULATORY YEAR, ONLY AS FOLLOWS:]

[1 BULL; OR]

[AUG. 10 - SEPT. 20]
[GENERAL HUNT ONLY]

[AUG. 10 - SEPT. 20]

[1 CARIBOU BY REGISTRATION PERMIT ONLY; (GENERAL HUNT ONLY) UP TO 100 CARIBOU MAY BE TAKEN]

[DEC. 1 - MAR. 31]

[DEC. 1 - MAR. 31]

...

Units and Bag Limits

**Resident
Open Season
(Subsistence and
General Hunts)**

**Nonresident
Open Season**

[UNIT 20(E)]

[RESIDENT HUNTERS]
[1 CARIBOU BY REGISTRATION
PERMIT ONLY; UP TO 1,800
CARIBOU MAY BE TAKEN UNDER
COMBINED RESIDENT AND
NONRESIDENT BAG LIMITS IN
COMBINATION WITH UNIT 20(B),
THAT PORTION SOUTH AND EAST
OF THE STEESE HIGHWAY, UNIT
20(D), THAT PORTION NORTH OF
THE SOUTH BANK OF THE TANANA
RIVER, AND THE REMAINDER OF
UNIT 25(C); OR]

[AUG. 10 - SEPT. 30]
[DEC. 1 - FEB. 28]

[1 CARIBOU BY REGISTRATION
PERMIT ONLY DURING A WINTER
SEASON OF UP TO 3 DAYS
BETWEEN OCT. 20 AND NOV. 30 TO
BE ANNOUNCED BY EMERGENCY
ORDER.]

[(WINTER SEASON
TO BE
ANNOUNCED)]

[NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:]

[AUG. 10 - SEPT.
20]

[1 BULL BY REGISTRATION PERMIT
ONLY]

...

(20)

...

Unit 25(C)

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

Units and Bag Limits

**Resident
Open Season
(Subsistence and
General Hunts)**

**Nonresident
Open Season**

1 caribou by registration permit only;
or

Aug. 10–Sept. 30
Dec. 1–Mar. 31

1 caribou by limited registration permit
only, may be announced by emergency
order within a portion of this area
during Dec.1 – March 31;

(To be announced)

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:
1 bull by registration permit only;

Aug. 10–Sept. 20

...

[UNIT 25(C), THOSE PORTIONS
WEST OF THE EAST BANK OF THE
MAINSTEM OF PREACHER CREEK
TO ITS CONFLUENCE WITH
AMERICAN CREEK, THEN WEST OF
THE EAST BANK OF AMERICAN
CREEK]

[1 CARIBOU PER REGULATORY
YEAR, ONLY AS FOLLOWS:]

[1 BULL; OR]

[AUG. 10 - SEPT. 20]
[(GENERAL HUNT
ONLY)]

[AUG. 10 - SEPT.
20]

[1 CARIBOU BY REGISTRATION
PERMIT ONLY; UP TO 100 CARIBOU
MAY BE TAKEN]

[DEC. 1 - MAR. 31]
[(GENERAL HUNT
ONLY)]

[DEC. 1 - MAR.
31]

[REMAINDER OF UNIT 25(C)]

[RESIDENT HUNTERS:]

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
[1 CARIBOU BY REGISTRATION PERMIT ONLY; UP TO 1,800 CARIBOU MAY BE TAKEN UNDER COMBINED RESIDENT AND NONRESIDENT BAG LIMITS IN COMBINATION WITH UNIT (20)(B), THAT PORTION SOUTH AND EAST OF THE STEESE HIGHWAY, UNIT 20(D), THAT PORTION NORTH OF THE SOUTH BANK OF THE TANANA RIVER, AND UNIT 20(E)]	[AUG. 10 - SEPT. 30] [DEC. 1 – FEB. 28]	
[NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:]		[AUG. 10 - SEPT. 20]
[1 BULL BY REGISTRATION PERMIT ONLY]		

ISSUE: The Fortymile Caribou Herd (FCH) is increasing and reoccupying its historical range that includes the area currently occupied by the White Mountains Caribou Herd (WCH). Seasons need to be updated to allow for continued herd growth and maximum hunting opportunity.

The Board of Game approved two Fortymile Caribou Herd Harvest Management Plans for 2001-2006 and 2006-2012. Both versions had the primary goal of promoting herd growth and restoring the herd to its historic range. An update of the plan to cover 2012-2018 will be presented to the Board at the March 2012 meeting in Fairbanks. Plans have been formulated by the FCH Harvest Management Coalition, a group currently including representatives from the Eagle, Central, Fairbanks, Delta, Upper Tanana/Fortymile, Anchorage, and Matanuska Valley Advisory Committees, from the Eastern Interior Regional Advisory Council (EIRAC), and Canadians from Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and Yukon Department of Environment. The coalition recommends the Board adopt this proposal to allow implementation of the updated Harvest Management Plan.

Harvest Management Plans in combination with predator control and trapper efforts have been successful. Over the life of the plans, the herd has grown from approximately 33,000 to 51,000 and is returning to portions of its historic range that have not been occupied for decades. Historic range being reoccupied includes the White Mountains in Units 20B, 20F, and 25C that are currently home to the much smaller WCH (approximately 600 animals). As it expands, we expect the FCH may eventually absorb the WCH, and the two herds will need to be managed as one. Therefore, we propose to simplify regulations by eliminating the fall general season hunt for the WCH and establishing one registration permit hunt in the fall and another in the winter that will regulate harvest from both herds. Using department discretionary permit authority, a

separate hunt zone within the registration permit area will also be established to allow continued separate management of the WCH with its own quotas until the possible time that the two herds can no longer be differentiated. Putting the WCH and the FCH on the same permit makes it easier to manage harvest of both herds. It also makes it easier for hunters to understand and to comply with the regulations.

As the FCH expands, the following additional regulatory flexibility is needed for the department to respond quickly to changing needs according to the Harvest Management Plan:

- The “up to 1800 caribou may be taken” limit should be removed from regulation to allow progressive increases in harvest as the herd grows or to allow herd stabilization if habitat becomes a limiting factor.
- The winter resident season should be lengthened in regulation to potentially allow more hunting opportunity, without using emergency orders to lengthen the season.
- A limited registration permit hunt should be held under department discretionary authority, in addition to the existing unlimited registration permit hunt. Currently, the department must close the FCH hunt along the Steese and Taylor Highways when animals congregate there because harvest cannot be controlled. No one gets a chance to hunt in these areas under these circumstances. A limited registration permit hunt would allow some opportunity for a few hunters, without exceeding the FCH harvest quota. It would be held only near the road system and only when large numbers of caribou are present and the unlimited hunt is closed. Farther away from the road, where access is more difficult, the unlimited registration permit hunt would remain open. Permits would be issued on a first-come-first-served basis by phoning a special ADF&G telephone number, starting at an advertized date and time.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Hunter confusion will increase due to unnecessarily complicated regulations, hunting opportunity will be lost, and management of the FCH and WCH will be compromised.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. Additional caribou will be available for harvest.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Caribou hunters and viewers.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those opposed to intensive management of big game species and department use of discretionary authority. Also, those who prefer a general hunt in the fall for WCH.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: Continuation of separate hunts for the FCH and WCH, increase harvest limit to a very high number, and weapons or vehicle restrictions to slow harvest along roads.

PROPOSED BY: Fortymile Caribou Herd Harvest Management Coalition

LOG NUMBER: EG042911392

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AC 101 p. 1 of 2

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To ALASKA
BOARD of GAME

Regarding Proposal 170 (Unit 25A moose)
a proposal to change season from current
05 Sept. opening to 15 Sept. opening
(entire Unit 25A)

STATEMENT

Because 95% of Unit 25A is
accessable only by water (floatplane or
boat) this proposal, combined with
the northeast Alaska location of the
unit freeze-up dates for lakes
and small streams (usually about the 15th)
in effect, closes over 95% percent of all of
Unit 25A.

Remaining access is limited effectively
to the very area the proposal intends to
protect. All hunting activity would be
focused on wheel equipped aircraft access
on the upper Sheenjek and Colleen Rivers.
Low (freeze-up time) water levels open up
the river bed/gravel bar areas to their
maximum availability. Also moose rutting is

concentrated on the same willow-bar habitat. Later season effort will result in higher hunter success rates.

If the intent of the proposal is to reduce hunter impact on the upper reaches of the Sheenjek and Colleen Rivers, then some ~~restriction~~ restriction on those specific sections of river would be more appropriate than closing the entire unit to water access.

My experience as a guide and pilot in Unit 25 since 1986 tells me that most of the float hunting takes place between Last Lake and the Kones River (on the Sheenjek) and between Bear Mtn and Hermo Korth's landing strip on the Colleen below Lois Creek.

I believe most of the hunters there are air-taxi-drop-off hunters, primarily hunting caribou, but with a moose tag in the party, "just in case..".

Guided hunters (guided either by me or John Peterson) do not do any moose hunting on the above described portions of the Sheenjek or Colleen. But, in my case, at least, if the proposal 170 were to pass, I would be forced to begin hunting later, thus on the Colleen gravel bars, or go out of business. Other local hunters, who now hunt far from river hunters, would be faced with the same displacement.

all this, while high fuel prices have greatly reduced overall hunting effort in this part of Alaska.

Respectfully Sandy Jamieson