

Interior Region

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Regional

133. Open resident hunting seasons one week before nonresident seasons in all intensive management areas in Region III.
134. For Region III Units, allocate 10 percent of drawing permits to nonresidents; restrict nonresident participation with less than 10 permits.
135. For Region III Units, limit drawing permits to 10 percent for out of state hunters, 90 percent for residents.
136. Begin the hunting season for Dall sheep seven days earlier than nonresidents in Region III Units.
137. Convert nonresident sheep seasons to draw only hunts, require guide-client agreement and cap harvest at 15-20% of allowable harvest.
138. Convert all sheep hunts in Region III to drawing only, 90% for residents.
139. Convert all nonresident sheep seasons to drawing permit hunts and limit to 5 percent of total permits.
140. Reauthorize resident grizzly bear tag fee exemptions throughout Interior and Eastern Arctic Alaska.
141. Implement black bear trapping regulations.
142. Prohibit trapping of black bear in the Interior region.
143. Allow the taking of black bear at bait stations the same day you have been airborne.
144. Allow for same day airborne hunting or black bear over bait.
145. Develop a Unit specific Amount Needed for Subsistence (ANS) finding for the Interior Region.
146. Open year-round coyote seasons in Region III.
147. Allow the use of helicopters for access to trapping in Region III.
148. Close certain nonresident trapping seasons in the Interior Region.
149. Extend the season for fox, martin, mink, and weasel in Units 12, 20, &25C.
150. Close certain nonresident furbearer hunting seasons in the Interior Region.
151. Review the conditions of the Controlled Use Areas in Region III and repeal those that are no longer meet the original intent.
152. Open early youth hunt (10-17 years) for all big game in Region III Units; require accompanying adult to forfeit bag limit.
153. Eliminate the requirement to pick up moose registration permits weeks or months prior to the season in remote villages in Regions III. Make all registration permits available in season from designated vendors.

McGrath Area – Units 19, 21A, & 21E

154. Reauthorize antlerless moose hunting seasons in Unit 19D.
155. Close certain caribou hunts in Units 19A, 19B, 19C, 19D, 21A, and 21E.
156. Close the nonresident season for caribou in parts of Unit 19.
157. Amend the Mulchatna Caribou Herd Predation Management Plan
158. Modify the population objective for Mulchatna caribou.
159. Implement a predator control plan for the range of the Mulchatna Caribou Herd.
160. Extend the Lynx trapping season in Unit 19.

Galena Area – Units 21B, 21C, 21D and 24

161. Split the moose drawing permit hunt in Unit 21D (DM817) into two drawing permit hunts.
162. Allow 10% of the Koyukuk CUA permit winners to use aircraft; allow guided permit winners to choose either boat or aircraft.
163. Authorizes a predator control program in a small portion of Unit 24B.
164. Eliminate the aircraft restriction in the Kanuti Controlled Use Area.
165. Close all hunting for the Galena Mountain Caribou Herd in Unit 24.
166. Lengthen the wolf hunting season for residents and nonresidents in Unit 21.
167. Lengthen wolf hunting season to the end of May for Units 21, 22, and 24.
168. Allow brown bears to be harvested with bait in Unit 21D.
169. Extend the Lynx trapping season in Unit 21.

Northeast Alaska – Units 25A, 25B, 25D, 26B and 26C

170. Shorten the moose season in a portion of 25A:
171. Require meat-on-bone salvage for moose in Unit 25A.
172. Require meat-on-bone salvage for moose in Unit 25B.
173. Require meat-on-bone salvage for moose in Unit 25D.
174. Establish a registration hunt for moose in the Firth/Mancha River drainage in Unit 26C.
175. Increase the nonresident bag limit for Porcupine Herd caribou in Units 25B, 25D, 26C, and the eastern portion of Unit 25A.
176. Return the nonresident bag limit on Porcupine Herd caribou to two bulls.
177. Decrease the bag limit for caribou in Unit 26B.
178. Close Red Sheep Creek and Cane Creek drainages to hunting for sheep.
179. Convert the general season nonresident sheep hunt to drawing hunt in the Dalton Highway Corridor area
180. Open wolf trapping in Units 25A, B, and C earlier, starting October 1.
181. Extend brown bear seasons in Unit 26B.
182. Increase the annual bag limit for black bear in Unit 25D.

- 183. Allow hunters to take more than one brown bear by community harvest permit in Unit 25D.
- 184. Allow the use of crossbows in the Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area.
- 185. Allow the taking of small game by falconry in the Dalton Highway Corridor Management area.

Tok Area – Units 12 & 20E

- 186. Modify moose season in portion of Unit 12 and 11.
- 187. Convert the any bull moose hunt to a spike-fork 50-inch or 3 or more brow tines in portion of Unit 12.
- 188. Allocate 10 percent of sheep drawing permits to nonresidents.
- 189. Close the nonresident sheep season in the Tok and Delta drawing hunts.
- 190. Close nonresident sheep season in the Tok and Delta drawing hunts.
- 191. Extend the moose season and restrict the harvest to larger bulls in Unit 20E.
- 192. 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.
- 193. Move the Fortymile caribou season start date back to August 10, close corridor within one mile of highways during fall season.
- 194. Open a youth only hunt for Fortymile Caribou.
- 195. Remove the proxy prohibition for taking caribou in Unit 20E; and prohibit proxy hunting for Fortymile and White Mountain caribou in Unit 25.
- 196. Allow brown bear baiting with same season and restrictions as black bear baiting.
- 197. Re-Implement the grizzly bear control portion of the UYTPCP in Southern Unit 20E, and allow bear snaring and same day airborne taking of bears.
- 198. Align the Unit 12 and 20E fox trapping season with the coyote season, including snare and trap restrictions in October and April.
- 199. Extend hunting seasons for lynx and fox to April 30.
- 200. Amend the Amount Reasonably Necessary for Subsistence Uses in Unit 12.

Delta Area – Unit 20D

- 201. Reauthorize antlerless moose hunting seasons in Unit 20D.
- 202. Allow assistance from same-day-airborne for Delta bison permit holders
- 203. Restrict the use of all motorized vehicles in portion of 20D.

Fairbanks Area - Unit 20A, 20B, 20C, 20F, & 25C

- 204. Modify the Intensive Management findings for moose in Unit 20A.
- 205. Change the legal animal for the Unit 20A & 20B antlerless hunts.
- 206. Reauthorize the antlerless moose hunting season in Unit 20A.

207. Revert to the original hunt area for the November muzzleloader hunt in Unit 20A.
208. Establish a new muzzleloader hunt in Remainder of Unit 20A; outside the controlled use area.
209. Require hunters to use a locking tag if hunting any bull drawing permit in Unit 20A.
210. Move the northern boundary of the Wood River Controlled Use Area.
211. Prohibit the use of ATVs above 2500 feet elevation in a portion of Unit 20.
212. Prohibit the use of ATVs in a portion of Unit 20.
213. Allow motorized vehicle access in the Yanert Controlled Use Area in Unit 20.
214. Create an "any ram" drawing permit hunt in Unit 20.
215. Establish a community harvest hunt area for the Village of Minto in Unit 20.
216. Open a general season bull hunt 10 days earlier in the Minto Flats Management Area; convert the winter any moose hunt to antlerless and issue unlimited permits.
217. Establish a community harvest permit hunt for the Village of Minto.
218. Reauthorize the antlerless moose hunting season in Unit 20B.
219. Eliminate the Minto Flats Management Area restrictions on airboats.
220. Lengthen the muzzleloaders season in Unit 20B and expand the hunt area to all of the Fairbanks Management area.
221. Lengthen the muzzleloader season in Unit 20B, Creamers Refuge.
222. Modify the muzzleloader hunt area to prohibit harvest of antlerless moose in the Salcha River drainage.
223. Modify the muzzleloader hunt to prohibit harvest of antlerless moose in the Salcha River drainage.
224. Review the boundary of the Fairbanks Management Area; focus on changing the boundary near Murphy Dome and Ester Dome.
225. Remove the prohibition on aircraft use for beaver trapping in the Minto Flats management area.
226. Align the resident and nonresident moose seasons in Unit 20C.
227. Establish an intensive management area for Unit 20C.
228. Adopt a wolf control program for Unit 20C.
229. Adopt an Intensive Management plan for Unit 20C.
230. Adopt a bear control program for Unit 20C.
231. Establish a black bear trapping season in parts of Unit 20C.
232. Allow harvest of grizzly bear over a black bear bait site; require salvage of meat and hide
233. Establish a new controlled use area near Denali.
234. Require meat-on-bone salvage for moose in Unit 25C.
235. Increase the bag limit for black bear in Unit 25C.
236. Allow limited harvest of grizzly bear at black bear bait stations in Units 20A, 20B and 25C.
237. Align the brown/grizzly season in all of Unit 20.

Other Units

238. Implement a predation management plan in Unit 9B.
239. Reauthorize antlerless moose hunt in Unit 1C, Berners Bay
240. Reauthorize antlerless moose hunt in Unit 1C, Gustavus
241. Reauthorize antlerless moose hunt in Unit 5A, Nunatak Bench
242. Reauthorize antlerless moose hunt in Unit 6A
243. Reauthorize antlerless moose hunt in Unit 6B
244. Reauthorize antlerless moose hunt in Unit 6C
245. Reauthorize antlerless moose hunt in Unit 13
246. Reauthorize antlerless moose hunt in Unit 14A
247. Reauthorize antlerless moose hunt in Units 7/14C Placer-20mile
248. Reauthorize antlerless moose hunt in Unit 14C
249. Reauthorize antlerless moose hunt in Unit 14C, Anchorage Mgt. Area
250. Reauthorize antlerless moose hunt in Unit 14C, Birchwood and remainder
251. Reauthorize antlerless moose hunt in Unit 14C, Ship Creek
252. Reauthorize antlerless moose hunt in Unit 15A, Skilak Loop
253. Reauthorize antlerless moose hunt in Unit 15C, Homer
254. Reauthorize antlerless moose hunt in Unit 16B, Kalgin Island
255. Reauthorize brown bear tag fees in Region IV

ALASKA BOARD OF GAME
Interior Region
March 2 - 11, 2012
Wedgewood Resort
Fairbanks, Alaska

~TENTATIVE AGENDA~

NOTE: This Tentative Agenda is subject to change throughout the course of the meeting.

This Tentative Agenda is provided to give a general idea of the board's anticipated schedule. The board will attempt to hold to this schedule; however, the board is not constrained by this Tentative Agenda. Persons wishing to testify must sign-up by the deadline. Public testimony will continue until those present at the meeting are heard; the board will continue working through its agenda immediately upon conclusion of public testimony. The following time blocks are only an estimate.

Friday, March 2, 8:30 AM

OPENING BUSINESS

Call to Order

Introductions of Board Members and Staff

Board Member Ethics Disclosures

Purpose of Meeting (overview)

STAFF AND OTHER REPORTS

PUBLIC AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE TESTIMONY (upon conclusion of staff reports)

THE DEADLINE FOR SIGN-UP TO TESTIFY will be announced at the meeting. Public testimony will continue until persons who have signed up before the deadline and who are present when called by the Chairman to testify, are heard.

Saturday, March 3, 8:30 AM

PUBLIC AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE TESTIMONY Continued

Sunday, March 4, 8:30 AM

BOARD DELIBERATIONS (Upon conclusion of public testimony)

Monday, March 5 – Sunday, March 11, 8:30 AM

BOARD DELIBERATIONS Continued

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS, including petitions, findings and policies, letters, and other business (Upon conclusion of deliberations)

ADJOURN

Special Notes

1. This agenda is TENTATIVE and subject to change during the meeting. A list of staff reports and a roadmap will be available at the meeting. Scheduled updates will be available on the Board of Game website.
2. Meeting materials are available through the website at: www.boardofgame.adfg.alaska.gov or by contacting the ADF&G Boards Support Office in Juneau at 465-4110. A live audio stream for the meeting is intended to be available at: www.boardofgame.adfg.alaska.gov
3. The State of Alaska Department of Fish and Game complies with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA). Individuals with disabilities who may need auxiliary aids, services, and/or special modifications to participate in this hearing and public meeting should contact 465-4110 no later than February 17, 2012 to make any necessary arrangements.

Regional

PROPOSAL 133 - 5 AAC, Chapter 85. Seasons and bag limits. Open resident hunting seasons one week before nonresident seasons in all intensive management areas in Region III.

In every designated intensive management area in Region III, the hunting seasons for all big game prey species will start one week earlier for residents than for nonresidents.

ISSUE: In every area of the state identified as an "Intensive Management Area" (IM) for big game prey species, open the hunting season for residents of the state one week (7 days) earlier than for nonresidents of Alaska. These would apply to all big game prey population of animals in the designated IM areas.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Residents of Alaska will continue to have to compete with non-residents to harvest big game animals that are the property of the residents of Alaska. The Intensive Management law specifies that the board shall adopt regulations that specify that resident "personal or family consumption has preference over taking (of big game) by nonresidents" (AS 16.05.255). Additionally, the IM law specifies that the board must manage the big game prey populations primarily for food, in areas designated as Intensive Management Areas. So, it is clear that the intent of the law is that the residents of Alaska should have a priority to harvest the prey population of animals in IM areas, to be used as a food source, instead of a "trophy".

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? For one thing, it would improve the "quality" of the hunt for both residents and nonresidents, as it would reduce the competition for the same animals by residents and nonresidents both guided and unguided. Additionally, it would bring the State into compliance with the guidelines set forth in the Intensive Management law, by allowing residents of the State a greater opportunity to harvest food for their family from resource that belongs to them. Residents would have a greater opportunity to harvest prey animals, especially in areas with restricted quotas, antler restrictions, and/or horn growth restrictions, etc.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Residents of the State of Alaska.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Nonresidents of the state, although they would be allowed in the IM areas, just a week later than residents. Additionally, there are many areas of the state that are not designated Intensive Management Areas.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: If the board continues to reject a resident preference for all big game hunting in the State of Alaska, following the lead of every other western state, then this issue will ultimately end up in the State Legislature.

PROPOSED BY: Larry Dalrymple

LOG NUMBER: EG042811356

PROPOSAL 134- 5 AAC, Chapter 85. Seasons and bag limits. For Region III Units, allocate 10 percent of drawing permits to nonresidents; restrict nonresident participation with less than 10 permits.

All drawing permits will set a maximum allocation limit for nonresidents that will not exceed 10 percent of the permits available for any one unit. Drawing permits with less than 10 permits available will restrict nonresident participation.

ISSUE: All drawing permit areas for big game shall have limits set for nonresident permits at 10 percent of the total permits available or less. Any area with less than 10 permits available for hunting-would exclude nonresident participation.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? It is currently happening. Nonresidents are competing equally with Alaskan residents for some of the most coveted hunting permit areas in the country. A state owned limited resource where local residents have NO preference. Negative feeling from a majority of Alaska resident hunters that do not understand how current management would not support a preference system. The current system doesn't equally benefit residents.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes-Limiting the amount of nonresidents will improve resident opportunities for drawing a permit, help improved success, quality of the hunt, limit most conflicts and bring the state of Alaska more in line with other state management practices of limiting non-resident participation to a maximum of 10 percent of the permits. Records show nonresidents have a significantly increased harvest success than residents. Improved age and trophy quality will improve.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Alaskan residents, Alaska youth and future Alaskan residents will benefit with a guarantee that 90 percent of the drawing permits available in a restricted drawing will go to residents.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Possibly the guide will have fewer clients. If promoted properly, that would not change.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: Limiting restricted drawing permit areas to resident hunters only. The guiding industry has a major influence with the state wide policies, even though their agenda is strictly monetary and only looking out for themselves and not the precious resource we Alaskans insist are managed for resident preference.

PROPOSED BY: Douglas Lammers

LOG NUMBER: EG042911416

PROPOSAL 135 - 5 AAC 92.050. Required permit hunt conditions and procedures. For Region III Units, limit drawing permits to 10 percent for out of state hunters, 90 percent for residents.

My proposed solution to this problem is to limit the number of drawing permits to out of state residents--10 percent to out of state hunters, 90 percent to Alaskan resident hunters for those Units in Region III.

ISSUE: Currently, Alaska residents are on equal footing with out of state residents in the distribution of drawing permits for all big game species. An Alaskan's chance of drawing a prized Dall sheep permit is no different than our out of state counterparts. This needs to be addressed, as this is not the conventional situation in most other Western states.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? If this problem is not solved, Alaskans will continue to feel that their land and resources belong as much to themselves as they do to their out of state neighbors.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. For instance, the percentage of sublegal rams taken each year is typically higher for non-residents than residents. At least partially responsible for this is the guide, who is not liable in those situations. If the percentage of non-resident permits were limited, it is possible, if not probable, that older, larger legal rams may become more prevalent over time.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Alaskans, who previously had a much smaller chance of drawing a permit.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Nonresidents--but I think suffer is not accurate. Non-residents will still have many non-drawing areas in which to hunt.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: Excluding nonresidents from drawing permits altogether is another solution to consider. However, Alaskans want to reciprocate, and hunt in other states as well. It does not seem fair to completely exclude nonresidents from certain areas, but limiting drawing permit areas is a reasonable compromise.

PROPOSED BY: Paul Ferucci

LOG NUMBER: EG042711333

PROPOSAL 136 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting Seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep. Begin the resident sheep season seven days earlier than nonresidents in Region III Units.

Resident hunting season for Dall sheep shall be August 3rd to September 20th. Nonresident hunting season shall be from August 10th to September 20th. Drawing permit areas will start 7 days earlier for Alaska residents and if there is a split season, the second half will be shortened

by 7 days for nonresidents such that residents can start the second half 7 days prior to nonresidents.

ISSUE: The Board of Game needs to address the declining number of full curl legal rams available to Alaska residents. While sheep populations have been stable to slightly declining, the availability of legal rams, much less trophy rams, has been significantly reduced and is in serious decline. Success rates for resident sheep hunters will never be on par with non-residents if not allowed an earlier jump from the efficiency of their guides. To offset the advantage non-residents have due to the efficiency of guides, resident hunters should have an earlier opening.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Alaskan resident hunters will continue to suffer from the mismanagement of this species. Alaskan youth will never have the opportunity afforded to their parents and grandparents to successfully hunt healthy populations of Dall sheep with ample populations of large rams. Alaska wildlife belongs to all Alaskans and these resources should be managed as such.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. Resident hunters will have an improved quality of hunt and avoid conflicts with guides and their clients. Nonresident hunters will have an improved quality of hunt by avoiding conflicts with resident hunters. Transport services associated with sheep hunting will improve as this will lessen the bottleneck on transporters seen at the beginning of each season, especially during poor weather. This may also increase the safety of hunters and transporters by spreading out the season and users more. Current Alaska residents and future Alaskans may be more interested in hunting Dall sheep, its management, and the future of Dall sheep hunting if they had greater opportunity to locate and harvest a legal ram, much less quality rams.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Alaska residents, Alaska youth, and future Alaskans. Dall sheep populations may also improve as more people may feel like they have a chance at successfully harvesting a quality ram and will be more interested in the management of the resource. This benefits Alaska, all of Alaska's game resources, and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one, though some will say nonresident hunters, non-resident guides, and resident guides may suffer. Harvest records, however, show that resident sheep hunters are much less successful than non-residents because of their guides. This is largely due to time guides can give to pre-season scouting, which is done mostly by fixed wing aircraft. While success rates for resident hunters will hopefully increase, there is little reason to think that nonresident success rates will decline significantly. Pre-season scouting will still be available to guides. Sheep populations will not suffer directly—again because resident hunter success rates are consistently low. Future sheep populations, however, may suffer and receive little support or interest, if today's youth and future generations cannot hunt healthy populations of sheep, as is currently the case. You will be hard pressed to find any Alaska resident—who is not a guide or associated with a guiding business—who does not favor this proposal. If not sure whether to favor Alaska residents over non-residents, please look at any other state and how they manage their resources for the benefit of their residents and not for the financial benefit of a few.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: Close nonresident hunting of Dall sheep for five years or until healthy populations of sheep with sufficient populations of legal rams is re-established. Charge resident hunters non-resident harvest fees during this interim to offset any loss of funding from loss of non-resident tags. This would be the best management practice the board could do, as it would best serve current and future Alaska residents, and most of all best serve the Dall sheep population as a whole. This solution was rejected based on past performance of the Board of Game where political and financial interests of a few, trumped the best interests of Alaska residents, Alaska game resources, and Alaska itself. Push the legislators to drop the requirement for nonresidents to be guided for sheep. This solution was rejected based the political and financial interests of a few always seem to trump the best interests of Alaska residents, Alaska game resources, and Alaska itself.

PROPOSED BY: Jake Sprankle and James Von Holle

LOG NUMBER: EG042711328

PROPOSAL 137 - 5 AAC 85.055 . Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep; and 92.057. Special provisions for Dall sheep drawing permit hunts. Convert nonresident sheep seasons to draw only hunts, require guide-client agreement and cap harvest at 15-20% of allowable harvest.

All nonresident sheep hunts in Region III where we have general open season (non-draw) hunts for nonresidents (excluding units within USF&WS and NPS lands) become draw only, require a signed guide-client agreement before or at time of permit application, and the number of permits is capped based on sheep density and population estimates conducted by ADF&G so that nonresident harvest does not exceed 15-20 percent of the year's estimated harvestable surplus. These stipulations would not apply to any nonresidents hunting with a 2nd degree of kindred.

It is also recommended that the Board of Game incorporate some kind of post-hunt adult ram threshold when determining how many permits to issue for each Guide Use Area, so that we ensure we are leaving a certain percentage of adult rams in the population each year. ADF&G would also need discretionary authority to limit permits based on weather events and high winterkill numbers.

ISSUE: Dall sheep conservation, unlimited nonresident sheep hunting opportunities and unlimited guide numbers in parts of Region III. In many parts of Region III (excluding Units within USF&WS and NPS lands) where we have open general season sheep hunts, there are no limits on the number of nonresident hunters or the guides they are required to hire to hunt sheep. Because nonresident guided hunters have such a higher success rate than resident hunters, this has led to localized overharvests of sheep and diminished populations, as well as crowding and conflicts between guides and resident hunters and guide-on-guide conflicts among an unlimited number of guides licensed for the same area.

Conservation and sustainability of sheep populations has not been successful under a full-curl only harvest regulation that allows for nearly every full curl ram to be taken each season, as is happening in some areas. We need to leave more full curl rams on the mountain to breed in late

November at the peak of the rut, in order that they dominate the breeding and younger sub-dominant rams aren't overly taxed in competing for ewes that it affects their overwinter survival.

The prospect of resident sheep hunting going to draw-only, as it has in other areas with similar problems, is another reason to implement better conservation strategies.

Delays in implementing the proposed Department of Natural Resources Guide Concession Program (GCP) should not hamper the board's attention to these conservation issues, and as the earliest possible implementation of the GCP is now 2013, the time to act on sheep conservation is now.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Continued localized depletions of full-curl rams that threaten population sustainability and resident general open season sheep hunting opportunities, continued user conflicts and crowding, and continued inequitable nonresident sheep harvest rates of 40 percent annually in much of Region III.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. By limiting nonresident sheep hunting opportunities in much of Region III we thus limit the guides they must hire, thereby reducing sheep harvests. This will result in more full curl rams on the mountain to breed in November, less sub-dominant ram winter mortality, and will improve the quality of sheep hunts for both guided and unguided hunters by reducing crowding and conflicts afield.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All those who truly put the resource first and wish to see our Region III sheep populations conserved and sustained. All resident hunters. All guided nonresident hunters who want a more quality sheep hunt without the crowding and conflicts we currently have in many areas.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Some guides could suffer monetarily because of fewer nonresident clients. Division of Wildlife Conservation funding would decrease due to fewer nonresident sheep tags being sold, and some local economies could see a decrease in nonresident hunting-related tourism. (It should be noted that these are the same effects implementation of the Guide Concession Program, which is supported by the board, would have.) Nonresident sheep hunters would lose the guarantee to be able to hunt Dall sheep in parts of Region III, and would have to take their chances with a draw-only hunt.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: Cap nonresident allocations at 10-15 percent of harvestable surplus based on density and population estimates. Rejected because we want to have a bit higher nonresident sliding scale allocation cap that will encourage support from more guides and other organizations.

Base nonresident draw permit sheep allocation caps on most recent 10-year harvest figures instead of density/population estimates and actual harvestable surplus. Rejected because in many areas the last ten years of harvests have been beyond what is sustainable. If ADF&G is unable to conduct current sheep density and population estimates on which to base harvestable surplus and nonresident permit numbers, a better method than basing those on harvest records is needed.

Create Region III registration sheep hunts for residents in all general (non-draw) open season areas, implement mandatory harvest reporting period, give ADF&G discretionary authority to

close some sheep hunts based on harvest reports, in conjunction with our proposed solution. Rejected as unneeded at this time. However, given that the priority is sheep conservation and continued sheep hunting opportunities, resident sheep hunters need to be aware that this type of approach may be necessary, and preferable, to a draw-only hunt in the future.

September 1st start to all Region III sheep hunts where general open season (non-draw) regulations apply. Rejected. There is a need to continue to provide youth/family hunting opportunities prior to the school term. Making many resident hunters choose between sheep or moose hunting isn't the preferable avenue to fix the problems as outlined.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Chapter Backcountry Hunters & Anglers

LOG NUMBER: EG042911403

PROPOSAL 138 - 5 AAC 85.055 . Hunting Seasons and Bag Limits for Dall sheep. Convert all sheep hunts in Region III to drawing only, 90% for residents.

Hunting by drawing permit only. Residents are allotted 90 percent of the available permits. The state takes an active role managing our resource to provide trophy quality age structure and healthy ram population.

ISSUE: All nonresident and resident sheep tags will be issued by drawing permit basis only. The number of drawing permits and areas will be drawn up by ADF&G. Nonresident participation/permits will not exceed 10 percent of the total number of permits for any given area.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The problem has already started. Competition between user groups is becoming more problematic creating additional conflicts and lessening the overall experience of the hunt. Unlimited mismanagement of a valuable renewable resource. Lost revenue to manage the resource responsibly by the state. Non-resident advantage in resource allotment, verses all other states that manage sheep harvest responsibly for the residents that own the resource.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes-improved the amount of legal rams available per hunter in the field. Improved age structure and trophy quality by reducing over harvest. increased revenue to manage the herd responsibly by ADF&G. Lessons crowding conflicts and improves hunting experience.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Both residents and nonresident hunting groups will find the overall hunting experience will immediately improve, both with opportunities and less user conflicts. The biggest benefactor will be all residents of the state that expect ADF&G to manage this valuable resource responsibly.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Both residents and nonresident will need improved planning to participate in the drawing hunt process. Guides may have fewer clients to guide, but the hunt experience will improve. All user groups will ultimately have minimal suffering.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: Statewide drawing permits only to hunt sheep. We should really consider in the long term going statewide. By changing Region III to drawing permit, this will allow some of the users to relocate or select a different hunt area if they were not successful drawing a permit.

PROPOSED BY: Doug Lammers

LOG NUMBER: EG042911400

PROPOSAL 139 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep. Convert all nonresident sheep seasons to drawing permit hunts and limit to 5 percent of total permits.

All nonresident sheep tags will be issued on a permit drawing basis. The number of drawing permits and areas will be drawn up by the ADF&G. Nonresident participation in sheep hunts cannot exceed 5 percent of the total number of sheep tags issued in Alaska (resident & nonresident).

ISSUE: Management of Dall sheep, too many of our sheep are being harvested by nonresidents being guided many times by nonresident guides. My cousin from Cincinnati booked a hunt with an out-of-state guide at the SCI convention. They flew him in to the Brooks Range, the next day they shot the 1st legal ram they saw from over 300 yards and had him out in less than 72 hours.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Alaska resident hunters will continue to suffer from the mismanagement of this species. Alaskan youth will never have the opportunity afforded to their parents and grandparents to successfully hunt healthy populations of Dall sheep with ample populations of large rams. Alaska wildlife belongs to all Alaskans and these resources should be managed as such.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. Current Alaska residents and future Alaskans may be more interested in hunting Dall sheep, its management, and the future of Dall sheep hunting if they had greater opportunity to locate and harvest a legal ram, much less quality rams.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Alaska residents, Alaska youth, and future Alaskans. Dall sheep populations may also improve as more people may feel like they have a chance at successfully harvesting a quality ram and will be more interested in the management of the resource. This benefits Alaska, all of Alaska's game resources, and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Nonresident hunters, non-resident guides, and resident guides may suffer. Harvest records, however, show that resident sheep hunters are much less successful than non-residents because of their guides. While success rates for resident hunters will hopefully increase, there is little reason to think that non-resident success rates will decline significantly. Sheep populations will not suffer directly—again because resident hunter success

rates are consistently low. Future sheep populations, however, may suffer and receive little support or interest, if today's youth and future generations cannot hunt healthy populations of sheep, as is currently the case.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: Contact my legislators to push for dropping the requirement for non-residents to be guided. I rejected this solution since it appears the political and financial interests of a few, trump the best interests of Alaska residents, Alaska game resources, and Alaska itself.

PROPOSED BY: James Von Holle

LOG NUMBER: EG042811338

PROPOSAL 140 – 5 AAC 92.015. Brown bear tag fee exemptions. Reauthorize resident grizzly bear tag fee exemptions throughout Interior and Eastern Arctic Alaska.

(a) A resident tag is not required for taking a brown bear in the following units:

...

(4) Units 12, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25, 26(B), and 26(C)

...

ISSUE: Resident brown bear tag fees were put in place statewide during the mid 1970s to discourage incidental harvest, elevate the status of brown and grizzly bears to trophies, and to provide revenue. Today, Region III populations are healthy, grizzly bears are highly regarded as trophies, and revenue can be generated from non-tag fee sources. The board must annually reauthorize all resident tag fee exemptions, and legislative action is needed to change this requirement.

Eliminating resident grizzly bear tag fees throughout Interior and Eastern Arctic Alaska (Region III) simplifies regulations, increases hunter opportunity, and is not likely to cause declines in these grizzly bear populations. This proposal would assist with our objective of managing Region III grizzly bear populations for hunter opportunity and would continue to allow hunters to take grizzlies opportunistically. During regulatory years 2006–2009, 35% of grizzlies harvested by resident hunters in Region III were taken incidentally to other activities (compared to 4% incidental take in regions I and II and 17% statewide).

We estimate that a kill rate of at least 6 percent, composed primarily of males, is sustainable. Human-caused mortality in most of Region III has been consistently less than 6% of the population, indicating that possible increased harvest in most units can be accommodated with little effect on grizzly bear populations. Where harvests are elevated (i.e. Units 20D, 20B, 20A, and portions of 26B), grizzly populations are managed through changes in seasons and bag

limits. Resident tag fees that were in place prior to 2010 appeared to have no effect on harvest in these areas.

As part of this request to reauthorize exemption of grizzly tag fee throughout Region III, we recommend that the board, at a minimum, continue to reauthorize the tag fee exemptions for subsistence registration permit hunts in Units 19A and 19B (downstream of and including the Aniak River drainage), 21D, and 24.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Harvest opportunity will be lost and hunters will be required obtain the \$25 resident tag. Subsistence users in areas where tag fees are currently exempt will find it more difficult to harvest grizzly bears for food.

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Residents who are unable to purchase the \$25 tag before hunting, due to lack of vendors or economic reasons, will be able to opportunistically and legally harvest grizzly bears.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? People who believe the \$25 resident tag fee is useful in managing grizzly bear populations and those who believe grizzly bears should not be harvested to provide food for subsistence hunters.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Decrease the Region III grizzly tag fee to \$10. This would require legislative action.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

LOG NUMBER: ADFG042811XX

Note: The Board of Game deferred this proposal to the Spring, 2012 meeting as amended so the seasons and bag limits applies only to Units 12, 19E & 25B. This proposal was previously referred to as proposal 36.

PROPOSAL 141 - 5 AAC 84.270. Furbearer trapping.; 92.0XX Black bear trapping requirements.; 92.051. Discretionary trapping permit conditions and procedures.; 92.080. Unlawful methods of taking game; exceptions.; 92.095. Unlawful methods of taking furbearers; exceptions.; 92.165. Sealing of bear skins and skulls.; 92.200 Purchase and sale of game.; 92.220. Salvage of game meat, furs, and hides.; 92.990 Definitions.; and 99.025. Customary and traditional uses of game populations. Implement black bear trapping regulations as follows:

5 AAC 84.270. Furbearer trapping. Trapping seasons and bag limits for furbearers are as follows:

Units and Bag Limits

Open Season

Bag limit

...

(XX) Black Bear

RESIDENTS AND NONRESIDENTS

**Unit 12, that portion
north of the Alaska
Highway, and
west of the Taylor
Highway**

**Apr. 15–June 30
July 1–Oct. 15**

**No bag limit, by
registration permit
only; may be closed
by emergency order
when XX brown
bears incidentally
taken.**

RESIDENTS AND NONRESIDENTS

Unit 16(B)

**Apr. 15–June 30
July 1–Oct. 15**

**No bag limit, by
registration permit
only; may be closed
by emergency order
when XX brown
bears incidentally
taken.**

RESIDENTS AND NONRESIDENTS

Unit 19(A)

**Apr. 15–June 30
July 1–Oct. 15**

**No bag limit, by
registration only;
may be closed
by emergency order
when XX brown
bears incidentally
taken.**

RESIDENTS AND NONRESIDENTS

Unit 19(D)

**Apr. 15–June 30
July 1–Oct. 15**

**No bag limit, by
registration only;
may be closed**

by emergency order
when XX brown
bears incidentally
taken.

RESIDENTS AND NONRESIDENTS

Unit 20(E)

Apr. 15–June 30
July 1–Oct. 15

No bag limit, by
registration permit
only; may be closed
by emergency order
when XX brown
bears incidentally
taken.

RESIDENTS AND NONRESIDENTS

Unit 25(D), outside the
Dalton Highway Corridor

Apr. 15–June 30
July 1–Oct. 15

No bag limit, by
registration only;
may be closed
by emergency order
when XX brown
bears incidentally
taken.

5 AAC 92.0XX Black bear trapping requirements. Establish a new regulation for black bear trapping requirements as follows:

(a) A person may not trap a black bear with the methods in 5 AAC 92.095, without first obtaining a trapping license and registering with the department.

(b) In addition to any condition that the department may require under 5 AAC 92.051 black bear trapping is subject to the following provisions:

(1) a person must be at least 16 years of age to trap black bear;

(2) only biodegradable materials may be used as bait; if fish or game is used as bait, only the head, bones, viscera, or skin of legally harvested fish and game may be used;

(3) a person who uses bait or scent lures must remove bait, litter, and equipment from the site when baiting is completed;

(4) except in Units 12, 13, 15, 16, 19, 20, 21, 25(D), a person may not give or receive remuneration for the use of a black bear bait and bucket footsnare station, including

barter or exchange of goods; however, this paragraph does not apply to a licensed guide-outfitter who personally accompanies a client at the black bear bait and bucket footsnare station site;

(5) a person must report to the nearest department office, within five days, the incidental take of any brown bears taken by bucket footsnare or take of any brown/grizzly bear accompanying a brown bear taken by bucket footsnare;

(6) a person who sets bucket footsnare must check their bucket footsnare a minimum of every two days;

(7) a nonresident must be accompanied by a resident over the age of 16 who is registered to trap bears;

A regulation allowing discretionary conditions to be applied to trapping permits has been in place for years. The Division of Wildlife Conservation is recommending additional conditions to allow sampling without requiring sealing in some areas, and require minimum distance requirements in some areas.

5 AAC 92.051. Discretionary trapping permit conditions and procedures.

In areas designated by the board, the department may apply any or all of the following conditions to a registration trapping permit:

- (1) a permittee shall demonstrate
 - (A) the ability to identify the permit area;
 - (B) a knowledge of trap use and safety;
- (2) a permittee shall attend an orientation course;
- (3) only a specified number of permittees may trap during the same time period;
- (4) a permittee may trap only in a specified subdivision within the permitted area;
- (5) a permittee may only use traps or snares of a specified type or size;
- (6) a permittee may only set a trap or snare as specified by the department;
- (7) before receiving a permit, the permittee shall acknowledge in writing that he or she has read, understands, and will abide by, the conditions specified for the permit area;
- (8) a permittee may trap only during the specified time periods;
- (9) a permittee must check his or her traps within a specified interval;
- (10) a permit applicant must be at least **16** [10] years old;

(11) a permit applicant less than **16** [14] years old must be accompanied by an adult, **16 years of age or older**, with a valid trapping license;

(12) a permittee shall submit, on a form supplied by the department, information requested by the department about the permittee's trapping activities under the permit; the permittee shall submit this form to the department within the time limit set by the department;

(13) a permittee shall label the permittee's traps and snares as specified by the department.

(14) a person using bait or scent lures shall clearly identify each site with a sign reading "black bear bait and bucket footsnare station" that also displays the person's trapping license number, or mark each bucket footsnare with the trapping license number;

(15) a permittee who takes an animal under a permit shall deliver specified biological specimens to a check station or to the nearest department office within a time set by the department;

(16) a permittee may not possess or transport an animal unless sufficient portions of the external sex organs remain attached to either the hide or meat to indicate conclusively the sex of the animal, this does not apply to the meat of an animal that has been cut and placed in storage or otherwise prepared for consumption upon arrival at the location where it is to be consumed.

(17) a person may not use bait, scent lures, or set a bucket foot snare within

(A) one-quarter mile of a publicly maintained road, trail, or the Alaska Railroad;

(B) one mile of a house or other permanent dwelling, businesses or schools; or

(C) one mile of a developed campground or developed recreational facility;

Trappers will likely need to use artificial light because they do arrive at sets after dark, particularly in September. This could become a safety issue. Use of lights could be restricted to within a certain distance of the set.

5 AAC 92.080. Unlawful methods of taking game; exceptions. The following methods of taking game are prohibited:

...

(7) with the aid of a pit, fire, artificial light, laser sight, electronically enhanced night vision scope, radio communication, cellular or satellite telephone, artificial salt lick, explosive, expanding gas arrow, bomb, smoke, chemical (excluding scent lures), or a conventional steel trap with an inside jaw spread over nine inches, except that

(A) a rangefinder may be used;

(B) a killer style trap with a jaw spread of less than 13 inches may be used;

(C) artificial light may be used

(i) for the purpose of taking furbearers under a trapping license during an open season from November 1 – March 31 in Units 7 and 9 – 26; **or black bears under a trapping license during an open trapping season;**

The Division of Wildlife Conservation recommends the following modifications to trapping methods to 1) allow same-day-airborne take of black bears during a trapping season, in order to provide flexibility to dispatch other bears in the group that may not be in the snare; and 2) prohibit trapping black bears by any means other than centerfire rifles and foot snares of a specific design.

5 AAC 92.095. Unlawful methods of taking furbearers; exceptions.

(a) The following methods and means of taking furbearers under a trapping license are prohibited, in addition to the prohibitions in 5 AAC 92.080:

...

(8) a person who has been airborne may not use a firearm to take or assist in taking a wolf or wolverine until after 3:00 am on the day following the day in which the flying occurred; or in taking a coyote, arctic fox, red fox, [OR] lynx, or black bear, unless that person is over 300 feet from the airplane at the time of taking; this paragraph does not apply to a trapper using a firearm to dispatch an animal caught in a trap or snare;

...

(20) taking black bears by any means other than centerfire firearm or a bucket foot snare

When the Board of Game originally allowed the sale of bear hides and skulls, the regulations adopted required that all bears intended for sale had to be sealed. This would require sealing of bears taken as a furbearer. This requirement is included for review purposes.

5 AAC 92.165. Sealing of bear skins and skulls. (a). Sealing is required for brown bear taken in any unit in the state, black bear of any color variation taken in Units 1 - 7, 11, 13–17, and 20(B), and a bear skin or skull before the skin or skull is sold.

Currently, meat of a big game animal, including black bear, cannot be sold. This prohibition would not apply to black bear as a furbearer taken under trapping seasons. For consistency, we recommend that no sale of black bear meat be allowed under either hunting or trapping.

5 AAC 92.200 Purchase and sale of game. (a) In accordance with AS 16.05.920 (a) and 16.05.930(e), the purchase, sale, or barter of game or any part of game is permitted except as provided in this section.

(b) Except as provided in 5 AAC 92.031, a person may not purchase, sell, barter, advertise, or otherwise offer for sale or barter:

...

(8) the meat of big game, **black bear**, and small game, except hares and rabbits; however, caribou may be bartered in Units 22 - 26, but may not be transported or exported from those units.

Require the salvage of either the hide or the meat of a black bear taken by trapping.

5 AAC 92.220. Salvage of game meat, furs, and hides. (a) Subject to additional requirements in 5 AAC 84 - 5 AAC 85, a person taking game shall salvage the following parts for human use:

...

(3) **except as provided in (6) of this section**, from January 1 through May 31, the hide, skull, and edible meat as defined in 5 AAC 92.990, and from June 1 through December 31, the hide and skull of a black bear taken in a game management unit in which sealing is required; from June 1 - December 31, the skull and either the hide or edible meat of a black bear taken in Unit 20(B),

(4) **except as provided in (6) of this section**, from January 1 through May 31, the edible meat, and from June 1 through December 31, either the hide, or the edible meat as defined in 5 AAC 92.990, of a black bear taken in any game management unit in which sealing is not required; however, from June 1 through December 31, the edible meat of a black bear taken by a resident hunter taking black bear under customary and traditional use activities at a den site from October 15 through April 30 in Unit 19(A), that portion of the Kuskokwim River drainage within Unit 19(D) upstream from the Selatna River drainage and the Black River drainage, and in Units 21(B), 21(C), 21(D), 24, and 25(D) must be salvaged.

...

(6) either the hide, or the edible meat as defined in 5 AAC 92.990, of a black bear taken under a trapping license;

Since trapping methods cannot totally exclude non-target animals, the prohibition on taking sows with cubs, and cubs must be modified to allow trapping of any bear.

5 AAC 92.260. Taking cub bears and female bears with cubs prohibited. A person may not take a cub bear or a female bear accompanied by a cub bear, except that a black bear cub or a female black bear accompanied by a cub bear may be taken by **a black bear trapper during an open trapping season, or** by a resident hunter from October 15 through April 30 under customary and traditional use activities at a den site in Unit 19(A), that portion of the Kuskokwim River drainage within Unit 19(D) upstream from the Selatna River drainage and the Black River drainage, and in Units 21(B), 21(C), 21(D), 24, and 25(D).

If the Board restricts trapping methods to the use of bucket snares, a definition of a legal bucket snare must be adopted.

5 AAC 92.990 Definitions.

...

() “bucket foot snare” means a cable at least 3/16-inch in diameter with a 7x7 strand, equipped with a locking device and at least one swivel, set in a manner designed to catch a bear by the foot; snares may only be set when accompanied by a spring powered device that propels the snare closed and may only be used inside a bucket or container into which the bear must reach, triggering the spring device and becoming snared by the foot; all snares, spring devices, buckets and/or containers must be elevated at least 36 inches off the ground; snares must be anchored to a live tree 6 inches in diameter or larger.

The Board of Game will need to establish a customary and traditional use finding and establish an amount necessary for subsistence for black bear as a furbearer before establishing seasons in units where these determinations have not already been made. Current findings for black bear as a big game animal in the proposed areas are shown for reference.

5 AAC 99.025. Customary and traditional uses of game populations.

The Board of Game has examined whether the game populations in the units set out in the following table, excluding those units or portions of those units within nonsubsistence areas established by the Joint Board of Fisheries and Game (5 AAC 99.015), are customarily and traditionally taken or used for subsistence and make the following findings:

SPECIES & UNIT (2) Black Bear	FINDING	AMOUNT REASONABLY NECESSARY FOR SUBSISTENCE USES
...		
Unit 12	positive	40 - 60
...		
Unit 16(B)	positive	15 - 40
...		

Unit 19 positive 30 - 50

Unit 20, outside the positive 20 - 30

Fairbanks non-subsistence

area

...

Unit 25 positive 150 – 250

(13) **Furbearers and Fur animals.** The Board of Game (board) finds that all resident uses of furbearers and fur animals are customary and traditional uses, and that furbearers and fur animals, in general, tend to be the focus of these uses, rather than users focusing on individual species or populations. Given this finding, the board also finds that effort on any given population varies according to its harvestable surplus.

(A) Beaver positive harvestable portion
all units with a
harvestable portion

(I) Black Bear
all units with a
harvestable portion

...

(b) In order to establish an amount reasonably necessary for subsistence uses under this section and whether a reasonable opportunity for subsistence uses exists, the Board of Game will, as the board determines is appropriate, attempt to integrate opportunities offered under both state and federal regulations.

(c) In this section,

(1) “amount reasonably necessary for subsistence uses” includes the total amount of animals from a population that must be available for subsistence hunting in order to provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence uses, under state and federal subsistence hunting regulations, where both exist;

(2) “reasonable opportunity” has the meaning given in AS 16.05.258(f).

ISSUE: *Note: The following issue statement was provided as a preamble to Proposal 36.*

Background: In the January 2009 statewide Board of Game meeting, black bears were classified as furbearers. This means that they may again be taken under trapping regulations with a trapping license if a trapping season is established by the Board of Game. It also means that all sales of black bear hides (raw and tanned) and parts (except gall bladders) became legal (as of 1 July, 2010). Black bear hides and parts must still have a CITES permit if transported out of the country, however.

Trapping of black bears is now also allowed in Maine, Quebec, New Brunswick, Manitoba, and Saskatchewan, and sale of black bear hides is also allowed in Idaho, Utah, and Montana, and some sale of bears is allowed in all Canadian provinces (black bears, grizzly bears, and polar bears). In Maine about 75 bears are trapped each year by about 330 permittees, including about 25 nonresidents. Nonresidents are not required to have a guide for bear trapping in Maine, but most hire guides because of convenience and the high success rate. Maine's bear trapping program has encountered relatively little controversy since a ballot initiative to ban bear trapping was defeated in 2004. Sale of bear hides has not been shown to be a conservation issue in North America.

Recommendations: At the present time, the Department of Fish and Game (department) recommends that there should be no trapping season for black bear in most areas of Alaska. The department is only recommending establishing trapping seasons in a few areas of the state, mainly Interior Alaska, to help with bear management problems—primarily to alleviate predation on moose calves in some moose populations and to experiment with bear trapping techniques as a management tool. It is the department's intent to use trapping as a management tool for black bears and grizzly bears where hunting is not sufficiently effective to achieve population management goals. At the present time, the department does not recommend using trapping as a method to simply increase harvest opportunity for black bears. The Board could always do that in the future, but a few more years experience with bear trapping programs is desirable before trapping becomes more widespread. The department has the following recommendations for the Board of Game for regulations that will apply if a trapping season is established:

If a trapping season is established, only centerfire firearm or an elevated bucket foot snare will be allowed as methods of take. Same-day-airborne shooting with a trapping license (as long as the trapper is 300 feet from the aircraft), should be allowed, even if a black bear is not snared. In addition, some of the restrictions that currently exist for black bear baiting under hunting regulations should be considered for bear trappers using bait, except that there will be no limit on the number of bucket snares a trapper may run. Trappers will be required to salvage either the hide or the meat of the black bear, and must check their bucket foot-snare sets at least every two days.

Seasons will occur when bear hides are most useful and prime, unless management objectives will not be achieved. Longer seasons, including year-round seasons may be needed to reduce bear numbers in some areas. There should generally be no bag limit for bear trapping. Sealing for bears sold within the state should not be required unless there is a sealing requirement for the Game Management Unit where they are taken.

Since trapping activities do not allow specific animals to be targeted, any black bear, including sows with cubs, and cubs, will be legal. In addition, same-day-airborne restrictions will not apply to black bear trappers. This flexibility is necessary to allow dispatch of bears near snares and other bears in the group attempting to protect a snared bear. Regulations and bag limits (any bear) will need to be considered concerning same-day-airborne incidental harvest of brown bears that must be dispatched if snared or accompanying a snared bear.

Bucket snares, when used correctly, catch a very limited number of brown bears and or bear cubs. A reporting and salvage requirement will be established for incidentally taken brown bears. Consistent with other big game species taken outside of legal methods and means, incidentally caught brown/grizzly bears will have been taken illegally and will become the property of the state, unless retention of grizzly bears, sale of hides, etc. is specifically desired by the Board as an aid in meeting management objectives. Black bear trapping seasons will be closed by department emergency order if a pre-determined number of brown bears are taken incidental to black bear trapping.

The department is interested in discussing three options with the Board for considering the involvement of nonresidents in bear trapping: 1) not allowing participation by nonresidents, 2) requiring nonresidents to be accompanied by a second-degree-of kindred resident (who is also registered to trap bears) over the age of 16, or 3) requiring nonresidents to be accompanied by any resident (who is also registered to trap bears) over the age of 16. Complexity of implementation increases by including nonresidents, particularly as regards the statute preventing take of brown/grizzly bears without a guide. However, eliminating nonresidents may significantly reduce the chance of success and the incentive for residents to participate in some bear management programs, including trapping.

The department is recommending that the Board at least require all trappers to register with the department. However, the Board may wish to require registration permits for all bear trapping, although this will require a greater effort on the part of department staff, registration permits will allow Area Biologists to specify permit conditions. Given the potentially dangerous situations, a minimum age limit (16), along with education and orientation requirements as a condition of the permit may be advisable.

Unless additional regulations are changed, black bear trappers would be allowed to use mechanized access in the Glacier Mountain Controlled Use Area, Ladue River Controlled Use Area, Upper Kuskokwim Controlled Use Area, and the Holitna - Hoholitna Controlled Use Area, since current restrictions only apply to hunters. Aligning brown/grizzly hunting seasons and black bear trapping and hunting seasons should be considered if the Board decides to allow trappers to retain incidentally caught brown/grizzly bears.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The regulations for black bear trapping will be ambiguous.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? These regulations will provide for better protection of harvest through trapping.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Trappers interested in trapping black bear.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those who oppose the concept of black bear trapping.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: None.

PROPOSED BY: The Department of Fish and Game

LOG NUMBER: ADFG090210D

PROPOSAL 142 - 5 AAC 84.270 Furbearer trapping. Prohibit trapping of black bear in the Interior region.

In Units 12, 19, 20 21, 24, 25, 26B, and 26C: Snaring of black bears is illegal.

ISSUE: The 2010 decision to list black bears as a furbearer, the ongoing liberalizations to bear snaring in Unit 16, and the dramatic changes to the Bear Management Policy this year is of great concern to many Alaskans.

Authorizing a black bear trapping season in interior Alaska, especially in areas bordering National Parks & Preserves is totally inappropriate and will invariably have a negative impact on bear populations in our National Parks & Preserves as well as present an unacceptable safety risk to the public. Bear snaring in areas of high use is not only dangerous, but is not the best and highest use of this resource. Wildlife viewing is an important part of our state's economy and brings valuable economic development to many communities and businesses around the state.

Though touted as safe, humane and effective way to kill bears, we, along with thousands of Alaskans would disagree. Bear snaring has not been legal in Alaska since statehood for many good reasons, including the following:

Safety: Allowing bear snaring stations as close as 1/4 of a mile from residences, roads and trails is anything but responsible and safe. There is no way for the public to know where bear snaring is taking place. The Department of Fish and Game currently does not provide a map or locations where bear snaring bait stations are located thereby putting the public at risk of inadvertently encountering a free-roaming adult or sibling of a bear caught in a snare as they recreate during the summer. The only time of year that is conducive to snaring bears correspond directly with the same time of year all types of recreationalists and tourists are in the wilderness enjoying other activities such as hiking, fishing, camping, and berry picking. As bear snaring areas expand, the danger grows that someone will be hurt; either a trapper, their 10 year old child, (who is now allowed to accompany the adult), or an innocent bystander who happens to be in the wrong place at the wrong time. Snaring is indiscriminate. Young bears with mothers can be trapped. The dangers presented by a free roaming adult bear with her cub caught a snare are unacceptable.

Humane: The practice of baiting a bear and snaring it is anything but humane. Testimony I heard from Department of Fish and Game officials at a recent Board of Game meeting that bears caught in snares simply sit down and take a nap after being snared is very difficult to believe, (and since the Department of Fish and Game has been circumspect in providing information to public, most of us do not know what actually happens at these sites). Unless there is someone attending the site, (which is not required) and can kill the bear immediately upon capture, we seriously doubt that a bear doesn't suffer as a result of being snared. Indeed, the ADF&G had to kill a brown bear due to injuries received from struggling to free itself in just a few hours of being caught in a snare in Unit 16. The fair chase ethic that many Alaskans abide by is affronted

by the practice of bear snaring. Bears have been, and remain, an iconic species that deserves better treatment than this.

Effective: Bear snares are quite indiscriminate, allowing the capture of brown bears, sows with cubs and cubs. This method of culling is not only socially unacceptable but is inconsistent with prudent wildlife management. Bears have a relatively low reproductive rate and the taking of sows with cubs and cubs has been universally discouraged over the years. With the singular focus of the Department of Fish and Game to boost ungulate populations, there is still little evidence that intensive management works over the long term. Many areas where intensive management has been conducted has resulted in reduced twinning rates, reduced growth of calves, increased age of first reproduction, and poor body condition including starvation in extreme situations.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? It is likely that bears will become a diminished resource as a result of the new policy. More people and pets will be faced with a public safety issue. The tourism industry will suffer. The classification of bears as furbearers is a wasteful and inappropriate use of the resource. Bears could become food-conditioned thereby creating a potential hazard for people.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, bear snaring is indiscriminate method of take. A trapper can still harvest a bear under a trapping license by using a firearm and bait station to attract a free roaming bear. Under this method, a trapper can be selective in harvesting the bear and avoid taking non target species and cubs or females with cubs. Bear snaring is a wanton waste of our resources.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Alaskans and visitors who value wildlife and sound biological management of our wildlife resources, and who want the opportunity to view wildlife in our national and state parks.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one will suffer. This practice only promotes waste and disrespect for wildlife.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: Removing black bears as a furbearer. Awaiting the statewide meeting that addresses this issue.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Center for the Environment

LOG NUMBER: EG050611461

PROPOSAL 143 - 5 AAC 92.085. Unlawful methods of taking big game; exceptions. Allow the taking of black bear at bait stations the same day you have been airborne.

In any predation control area and Unit 20, black bears may be taken at permitted bait stations the same day you have flown, provided you are at least 300 feet from the airplane.

300 feet seems minimal but I used the wording on page 19 of the hunting regulations. I would consider 1/4 mile or even 1/2 mile from the airplane acceptable. This would be similar to other

restrictions on page 27. (e.g. "...within one-quarter mile of a publicly maintained road..." or "...within one mile of a house...".)

ISSUE: I would like to see the board address “same day airborne” for black bear hunting over bait stations in Unit 20. I believe it is an unnecessary restriction to wait until 3 AM to hunt following the day you have flown in this area. The majority of black bears taken in Unit 20 are from bait stations in the spring. There is no advantage gained by flying in this case nor in other parts of the year due to the limited possibilities of fly, spot, land, and stalk. I don't see any difference or advantage from flying versus taking a boat or ATV into an area to hunt black bear at a bait station. There is no advantage gained by flying versus other means of transportation.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? With over 100,000 black bears in Alaska, this will continue to be an under-utilized resource. This unnecessary restriction also encourages stretching or breaking of the law. Limiting time afield only encourages hunters to be less selective in animals taken.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. The limitation of “same day airborne” increases time spent afield, but decreases allowed hunting time. By removing the restriction of “same day airborne”, hunters are allowed more time to hunt and increased opportunity to observe bears and be more selective in animals harvested, thereby increasing the quality of animals taken, decreasing the number of animals that should not have been taken, and overall improving the resource in the long run.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Interior Alaska hunters will benefit from this proposal by not being limited/restricted on hunting time if they choose to fly into an area to bait black bear versus using another means of transportation. As mentioned in question five above, I believe the species will benefit as well because hunters would be more selective when allowed more time afield.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? I can't see that anyone will suffer if this proposal is adopted. Other units may ask for the same proposal.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: I considered this proposal for all of the Interior region. However, I believe it would apply mainly to Unit 20 and I do not feel qualified to apply the same logic to all units in the Interior region.

PROPOSED BY: Thomas Scarboro

LOG NUMBER: EG042811370

PROPOSAL 144 - 5 AAC 92.044. Permit for hunting black bear with the use of bait or scent lures. Allow for same day airborne hunting or black bear over bait in Region III.

Allow same day airborne for black bear bait station hunters, as long as the hunter is more than 300 feet from the aircraft before shooting.

ISSUE: Restriction to same day airborne for black bear bait station hunters.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Hunters will be required to wait until some set time before being able to shoot at black bear bait stations. It would be better for hunters to be able to hunt after landing near their bait stations.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, bears that are on the bait station when hunters are required to 'wait' after being airborne are not available. Even though the bears may hang around for hours, they often don't want until a set time like "3 a.m. the day after flying".

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Hunters who fly to their black bear bait stations.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: Having no distance limit. We prefer the 300 feet as presented in the proposal.

PROPOSED BY: Fairbanks Advisory Committee

LOG NUMBER: EG042911380

PROPOSAL 145 - 5 AAC 99.025. Customary and traditional uses of game populations.

Develop a Unit specific Amount Needed for Subsistence (ANS) finding for the Interior Region.

Amend 5 AAC 99.025 as follows:

(11) Wolves

Units 12, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25, 26B & 26C:

Develop a Unit specific Amount Needed for Subsistence (ANS) finding for each Unit in the Interior Region. Sustained yield analysis must include all harvest by all methods and means, including trap or snare, and consider the total harvest rate by all methods and means regarding the sustained yield of wolves in each Unit. Independent ANS findings for take by hunting or trapping license must be defined since the ANS finding and sustained yield analysis for harvest as a furbearer (trapping license) is independent of the finding for take as a big game animal (hunting license).

Define an ANS based on ADF&G, USF&WS, BLM & NPS village surveys, sealing records, anecdotal information, and any other sources of historical harvest data of all residents of Alaska.

ISSUE: Lack of subsistence hunting ANS findings in the Interior Region. The Board of Game is required by law (AS 16.05.258) to define an amount needed for subsistence prior to establishing a harvest season for species with a positive customary and traditional finding.

The Board of Game has made a positive customary and traditional (C&T) use determination for wolves in these Units under the authority of AS 16.05.258 (a). Under that authority, when the Board makes a positive C&T finding the board is required to do the following - AS 16.05.258 (b) states:

"The appropriate board shall determine whether a portion of a fish stock or game population identified under (a) of this section can be harvested consistent with sustained yield. If a portion of a stock or population can be harvested consistent with sustained yield, the board shall determine the amount of the harvestable portion that is reasonably necessary for subsistence uses."

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The Board of Game will continue to illegally authorize harvest seasons for wolves in these Units. In the absence of an amount needed for subsistence finding, no harvest season can be legally authorized for any harvest of wolves. The Alaska legislature specifically intended residents to have first priority for the harvest of wildlife in Alaska in all regions of the state with a subsistence priority finding.

The amount needed for subsistence findings must consider historical harvest rates of all resident Alaskans. The Alaska constitution guarantees fair and equal access to Alaska's wildlife resources for all Alaskans.

Alaska Constitution, Article 8, Section 3 "Common Use"

"Wherever occurring in their natural state, fish, wildlife, and waters are reserved to the people for common use.

Traditional harvest of wolves in these Units therefore must include the traditional use levels of all Alaskans that have harvested wolves in these Units if the amount needed for subsistence is to reflect the needs of all Alaskans, the intent of AS 16.05.258, the findings of the Alaska Superior Court, and the Alaska Constitution.

"A requirement that one must reside in a rural area in order to participate in subsistence hunting and fishing, violates the Alaska Constitution, art. VIII, sec. 3, 15, & 17 - *McDowell v. State*, 785 P.2d 1 (Alaska 1989)

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, protecting the sustained yield for the subsistence take of wolves by residents of Alaska is the highest priority for the management of Alaska's resources, for upholding Alaska's constitution, and the legislative intent for establishing the Board of Game to make recommendations to the ADF&G regarding the management of Alaska's wildlife resources.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Residents that support the management of wolves based on the sustained yield principle that prioritizes harvest for residents first, especially subsistence harvest. Alaskan's have long history of relying on wolf pelts to support their subsistence

lifestyle. Wolf pelts are one of the most lucrative pelts for Alaskan subsistence hunters and trappers and no alternative exists for this important subsistence resource.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those that would prefer to deplete wolf populations below the amount Alaskan's need for subsistence.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: The Alaska Constitution requires it. No other option exists.

PROPOSED BY: Science Now Project!

LOG NUMBER: EG051011484

PROPOSAL 146 - 5 AAC 85.060. Hunting seasons and bag limits for fur animals; and 84.270. Furbearer trapping. Open year-round coyote seasons in Region III.

No closed season and no bag limit for coyotes either hunted or trapped.

ISSUE: Limitations on hunting and trapping coyotes.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Coyotes are now present throughout Region III and are a threat to many game animals, especially sheep and caribou calves. The number of coyotes needs to be low. They are relative newcomers to the region.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, it improves the survival probability for other species, namely Dall sheep and caribou.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Hunters and trappers and others who are working to restore our Dall sheep population.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: None

PROPOSED BY: Fairbanks Advisory Committee

LOG NUMBER: EG042911378

PROPOSAL 147 - 5 AAC 92.095. Unlawful methods of taking furbearers; exceptions. Allow the use of helicopters for access to trapping in Region III.

Helicopters may be used for access to trapping.

ISSUE: Helicopters are restricted for access to trapping. There are many locations that could be trapped if helicopters were allowed for trap setting and checking that are very difficult or not possible to access under the existing restriction.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? There are areas that would support trapping that are difficult or nearly impossible to access. Trap lines would be more economically viable with better access.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? There would be no change to the quality of the resource. There could be improvement in the number of furbearers harvested.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Trappers.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: None.

PROPOSED BY: Fairbanks Advisory Committee

LOG NUMBER: EG042911379

PROPOSAL 148 - 5 AAC 84.270 Furbearer trapping. Close certain nonresident trapping seasons in the Interior Region.

For species defined in 5 AAC 99.025(13)(a) - (m), amend 5 AAC 84.270 as follows:

Units 12, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25, 26B, & 26C

Nonresidents: No open season

ISSUE: Nonresident harvest opportunity under a trapping license for furbearers and fur animals with a positive customary and traditional use finding and a 100 percent harvestable surplus amount needed for subsistence (ANS) finding statewide [5AAC 99.025 (13) (a) - (m)].

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The Board of Game will continue to illegally authorize nonresident trapping harvest opportunity for furbearers and fur animals with a positive C&T and an ANS finding of 100 percent of the harvestable surplus.

The amount needed for subsistence findings must consider historical harvest rates of all resident Alaskans. The Alaska Constitution guarantees fair and equal access to Alaska's wildlife resources for all Alaskans.

Alaska Constitution, Article 8, Section 3, "Common Use"

"Wherever occurring in their natural state, fish, wildlife, and waters are reserved to the people for common use.

Traditional harvest of furbearers in these Units therefore must include the traditional use levels of all Alaskans that have harvested wolves in these Units if the amount needed for subsistence is to reflect the needs of all Alaskans, the intent of AS 16.05.258, the findings of the Alaska Superior Court, and the Alaska Constitution.

"A requirement that one must reside in a rural area in order to participate in subsistence hunting and fishing, violates the Alaska Constitution, art. VIII, sec. 3, 15 & 17 - *McDowell v. State*, 785 P2d 1 (Alaska 1989)

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, protecting the sustained yield for the subsistence take of furbearers and fur animals by residents of Alaska is the highest priority for the management of Alaska's resources, for upholding Alaska's constitution, and the legislative intent for establishing the Board of Game to make recommendations to the ADF&G regarding the management of Alaska's wildlife resources.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Residents that support the management of our furbearers and fur animals based on the sustained yield principle that prioritizes harvest for residents. Alaskan's have a long history of relying on furbearer and fur animal pelts to support their subsistence lifestyle.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those that would prefer to allocate furbearer and fur animal harvest opportunity under a trapping license to nonresidents when the Board of Game has determined 100 percent of the harvestable surplus is the amount residents need to meet their subsistence needs.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: The Alaska Constitution requires it. No other option exists.

PROPOSED BY: Science Now Project!

LOG NUMBER: EG051011485

PROPOSAL 149 - 5 AAC 84.270. Furbearer trapping. Extend the season for fox, martin, mink, and weasel in Units 12, 20, &25C.

Change the trapping season closing date from February 28 to March 15 for fox, martin, mink, wolverine, and weasel.

ISSUE: Because the season ends two weeks earlier than other furbearers caught in similar sets, trappers unintentionally catch marten, mink, fox, wolverine and weasel.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Trappers are required to surrender their incidental catches while targeting lynx.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? The resource would be unchanged. There is no decline in

fur value. Alaska Wildlife Troopers can still determine if the set is appropriate for one of the species listed.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Trappers who target these species. They would not have to surrender valuable fur. Enforcement would benefit from a uniform closing date for these species.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Anti-trappers.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: None

PROPOSED BY: Fairbanks Advisory Committee

LOG NUMBER: EG042911387

PROPOSAL 150 - 5 AAC 85.060 Hunting seasons and bag limits for fur animals. Close certain nonresident furbearer hunting seasons in the Interior Region.

For species defined in 5 AAC 99.025(13)(a) - (m), amend 5 AAC 85.060 Hunting seasons and bag limits for fur animals as follows:

Units 12, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25, 26B & 26C

Nonresidents: No open season

ISSUE: Nonresident harvest opportunity under a hunting license for fur animals with a positive customary and traditional (C&T) use finding and a 100 percent harvestable surplus amount needed for subsistence (ANS) finding statewide [5AAC 99.025 (13)(a) - (m)]

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The Board of Game will continue to illegally authorize nonresident hunting harvest opportunity for fur animals with a positive C&T and an ANS finding of 100 percent of the harvestable surplus.

The amount needed for subsistence findings must consider historical harvest rates of all resident Alaskans. The Alaska Constitution guarantees fair and equal access to Alaska's wildlife resources for all Alaskans.

Alaska Constitution, Article 8, Section 3 "Common Use"

"Wherever occurring in their natural state, fish, wildlife, and waters are reserved to the people for common use."

Traditional harvest of furbearers in these Units therefore must include the traditional use levels of all Alaskans that have harvested wolves in these Units if the amount needed for subsistence is to reflect the needs of all Alaskans, the intent of AS 16.05.258, the findings of the Alaska Superior Court, and the Alaska Constitution.

"A requirement that one must reside in a rural area in order to participate in subsistence hunting and fishing, violates the Alaska Constitution, art. VIII, sec. 3, 15 & 17 - *McDowell v. State*, 785 P.2d 1 (Alaska 1989)

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, protecting the sustained yield for the subsistence take of fur animals by residents of Alaska is the highest priority for the management of Alaska's resources, for upholding Alaska's constitution, and the legislative intent for establishing the Board of Game to make recommendations to the ADF&G regarding the management of Alaska's wildlife resources.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Residents that support the management of fur animals based on the sustained yield principle that prioritizes harvest for residents. Alaskan's have a long history of relying on fur animal pelts to support their subsistence lifestyle.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those that would prefer to allocate fur animal harvest opportunity under a hunting license to nonresidents when the Board of Game has determined 100 percent of the harvestable surplus is the amount residents need to meet their subsistence needs.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: The Alaska Constitution requires it. No other option exists.

PROPOSED BY: Science Now Project!

LOG NUMBER: EG051011486

PROPOSAL 151 - 5 AAC. 92.540. Controlled use areas. Review the conditions of the Controlled Use Areas in Region III and repeal those that are no longer meet the original intent.

Review and discuss the conditions in the various Controlled Use Areas (CUAs) in Region III as part of the Spring 2012 Board of Game meeting. Have the Department of Fish and Game research, ask the local Advisory Committees for input. The board should repeal those Controlled Use Areas that no longer meeting the management intent.

ISSUE: It has been many cycles since the board has reviewed the conditions in the CUAs in Region III

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Many of the conditions may be outdated by changes in habitat, population, access changes or production factors. Why continue outdated or un-needed conditions?

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Possibly, depending on changes or reconfirmation that conditions are appropriate.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All hunting and trapping participants

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: None

PROPOSED BY: Fairbanks Advisory Committee

LOG NUMBER: EG042811359

PROPOSAL 152 - 5 AAC, Chapter 85. Seasons and bag limits. Open early youth hunt (10-17 years) for all big game in Region III Units; require accompanying adult to forfeit bag limit.

Special season (dates to be determined by species) for resident youth hunters age 10-17. This will be an early season scheduled prior to the regular season hunting pressure. Youth must be accompanied by an experienced resident adult hunter who would forfeit their own tag for that regulatory year in order to give the youth a quality experience in the field.

ISSUE: Have a resident youth hunt for all species of big game in all Region III Game Management Units, which begins prior to the regular season and also before the start of the school year. This could be done on a registration basis for resident youth ages 10-17 years of age.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? In the State of Alaska, and all across the country, the number of hunters is declining. This is in part due to the fact that it is more difficult for young hunters to have a quality hunting experience when competing with older and more experienced hunters, along with declining numbers of game animals. If this trend is not reversed, revenue generated by license and tag fees will also decline as the ranks of older hunters are not replaced by the youth.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? This will increase youth involvement in hunting, which in turn will benefit the state with future hunting license purchases. Overall, harvest numbers should not suffer due to the adult participant forfeiting their tag.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All resident families with children.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? The adult hunters who are accustomed to the relative ease of harvesting unpressured early season game animals.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: Putting all game species in all units on a drawing permit. This would improve the quality of all hunting by limiting the numbers of hunters afield. The down side is that hunting opportunities for everyone would be severely limited, while still not bringing the additional numbers of youth into the sport.

PROPOSED BY: Michael Dullen

LOG NUMBER: EG042911390

Note: Units 18 and 23 will be considered at the Arctic Region meeting in November, 2011; see proposal 6.

PROPOSAL 153 - 5 AAC 85.045 Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Eliminate the requirement to pick up moose registration permits weeks or months prior to the season in remote villages in Region III. Make all registration permits available in season from designated vendors.

Unit	Registration #	Tag pickup dates and locations	Season Dates
18	RM615	[AUG 1-25] <u>August 1- September 10</u> In Bethel and villages in the hunt area	September 1-10
18	RM620	[AUG 1-25] <u>August 1- September 30</u> In Goodnews Bay and Platinum	September 1-30
19	RM650	[JULY 14 - AUG 20] <u>July 14 - September 25</u> In McGrath, Nikolai, and Tokotna	September 1-25
23	RM880	[JULY 1-15] July 1- December 31 in Unit 23 villages	August 1- October 31 and November 1 - December 31

ISSUE: Some registration moose permits are only available in the village nearest the hunt two weeks to five months before the hunt opens. This causes much extra cost (around \$1,000 extra from Anchorage) to participate in this hunt for all residents other than those residing in the local village. This is a rural priority designed to keep non-local hunters out. Moose are trust property (although introduced to Kodiak) and owned by all Alaskans equally. Most of these hunts will not be greatly utilized by nonlocal hunters but ALL Alaska residents should have an equal chance to obtain permits. Registration tags in most Units surrounding these areas are available throughout the season in local villages. Some of these areas have enough moose to offer five month seasons for any moose to those that can get the permits.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Only a small number of people will have a realistic opportunity to hunt moose in these sought after locations without spending extra money and time to go to the village weeks before hunting.

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Resident moose hunters that live outside the area.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Local hunters may see slightly more pressure from non local Alaskans.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: Get rid of the registration hunt and make it all drawing, not needed. Make permits available in all major cities.

PROPOSED BY: Aaron Bloomquist

LOG NUMBER: EG051911497B

McGrath Area – Units 19, 21A and 21E

PROPOSAL 154 - 5AAC 85.045(a)(17). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.
 Reauthorize antlerless moose hunting seasons in Unit 19D.

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(17)		
...		
Unit 19(D), that portion in the Upper Kuskokwim Controlled Use Area		
1 antlered bull by registration permit; or	Sept. 1–Sept. 25	No open season.
1 moose by registration permit; during the period Feb. 1–Feb. 28, a season may be announced by emergency order	(To be announced)	No open season.
Unit 19(D), that portion between and including the Cheeneetnuk and Gagaryah River drainages, excluding that portion within 2 miles of the Swift River		

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 antlered bull; or	Sept. 1–Sept. 20	
1 antlered bull by registration permit; or	Sept. 1–Sept. 25	
1 moose by registration permit; during the period Feb. 1–Feb. 28, a season may be announced by emergency order	(To be announced)	No open season.
NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:		
1 bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side		Sept. 1–Sept. 20
Remainder of Unit 19(D)		
1 antlered bull; or	Sept. 1–Sept. 20	No open season.
1 antlered bull by registration permit; or	Sept. 1–Sept. 25	No open season.
1 moose by registration permit; during the period Feb. 1–Feb. 28, a season may be announced by emergency order	(To be announced)	No open season.

ISSUE: Antlerless moose hunting seasons must be reauthorized annually. Our goal is to provide for a wide range of public uses and benefits, and to protect the health and habitat of moose populations. Antlerless hunts are important for improving or maintaining the ability of moose habitat to support current populations. They also help regulate moose population growth, help to meet Intensive Management (IM) objectives for high levels of harvest, and provide subsistence hunters with a reasonable opportunity to pursue moose for subsistence uses without reducing bull-to-cow ratios.

A February any moose hunt will be announced as needed to keep the moose population in the Upper Kuskokwim Villages Moose Management Area (MMA, specified in 5 AAC 92.125 (f)(2)(A)) at healthy levels and to provide additional hunting opportunity. The decision to hold

this to-be-announced season will be based on 2-year average twinning rates and other available biological information. We will establish the hunt area and harvest quota under discretionary permit authority based on the best population information available and September harvest data. Permits will be available in Unit 19D throughout the February season and a 2-day reporting requirement will be imposed so the harvest quota is not exceeded.

The moose population in the MMA has approximately doubled since 2003 and annual browse removal by moose has increased to approximately 41% of available browse, a relatively high rate. Although 2-year average twinning rates in Unit 19D remain above 25%, it may become necessary in the near future to harvest cows to either slow population growth or reduce the number of moose in the MMA.

We did not open the winter season during 2010–2011 because twinning rates were above 25%, but the upward trend of the moose population in this area makes it prudent to maintain this season so we will be able to respond if we observe a decline in twinning rates.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The moose population may increase to unacceptable levels or may need reduction when new data is available and analyzed. Opportunity to hunt a harvestable surplus of cow moose will be lost, and our ability to meet intensive management harvest objectives will be compromised.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. Passage of this proposal will improve or maintain the ability of moose habitat to support current moose populations and allow the department to manage the moose population in Unit 19D at optimum level. It will also allow hunters to harvest moose toward meeting the intensive management harvest objective without reducing bull-to-cow ratios to low levels.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Hunters will benefit because the health and habitat of the moose population will be protected, allowing for continued moose harvest.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? People who are opposed to intensive management harvest strategies.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? No antlerless permits or additional hunting opportunity in the fall.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

LOG NUMBER: ADFG042811PP

PROPOSAL 155 - 5 AAC 85.025. Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou. Close certain caribou hunts in Units 19A, 19B, 19C, 19D, 21A, and 21E.

Based on more current population and composition estimates for these three herds close all hunting opportunity unless justified by current population and composition analysis:

Unit 19A, 19B, 19C, 19D, 21A, 21E:

Nonresident: No open season

Resident: No open season

ISSUE: Big River - Farewell, Beaver Mountain and Sunshine caribou herds are in a population crisis. The population decline of these small, iconic, mountain caribou herds has occurred steadily over the course of the last two decades. Despite this well known pattern of decline, the Board of Game has done virtually nothing to mitigate the herds decline.

All three caribou herds have a positive customary and traditional use finding and are important historical sources of food for Alaskans.

Beaver Mountain Herd: In 2006, the Beaver Mountain herd was estimated to have 150 - 200 animals. In 2009, the area biologist stated in the ADF&G management report: " it is unlikely there are more than 125 caribou in the Beaver Mountains herd."

Sunshine Mountains Herd: The area biologist goes on to state that the Sunshine Mountains herd also declined over the same period as the Beaver Mountains herd. The area biologist stated: " In the 2007 population survey of the Sunshine Mountains only 59 animals were located..... it is unlikely that there are more than 75 caribou in this herd."

Big River - Farewell Herd: The area biologist stated this herd had fallen to as few as 750 animals in Regulatory Years (RY) 04 - 05. The area biologist goes on to state: "However, we (ADF&G) have no data to suggest that there this many caribou in the Big River - Farewell herd during RY 06-07. Furthermore, information from hunters regarding lack of caribou indicates that the population was likely much lower."

Of major concern is the lack of any current population and composition estimates for these herds, despite the fact that their dramatic declines are well documented. In 2008, the ADF&G conducted sheep surveys in the region. During those surveys in June, only 55 caribou with 6 calves were observed over the range of the Rainy Pass, Big River - Farewell, and Tonzona herds. The area biologist went on to state: "This leads us to believe that these populations were likely much lower than previously thought."

The historical population estimates are as follows:

Sunshine Mountain Herd: 700 animals in 1996 down to as few as 75 now.

Beaver Mountain Herd: 1600 animals in 1986 down to as few as 125 now.

Big River - Farewell Herd: 1500 animals in 1997 down to as few as 750, and likely much lower.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The Board of Game may continue to allow these herds crisis status to decline to the point they may be extirpated entirely.

Unfortunately, the Board of Game still authorizes nonresident harvest opportunity for these

herds. Local resident harvest is virtually gone while the only harvest occurring now is by nonresident trophy hunting, most likely guided sheep hunters looking for a "bonus" animal.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, restricting harvest, especially nonresident harvest, is necessary to maintain the viability of these caribou herd.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All user groups. Allowing these small mountain herds to expire completely is beyond any reasonable option.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one. Authorizing non-sustainable harvest is not an option.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: None. Allowing harvest, including nonresident harvest, of these herds in a severe crisis is not an option.

PROPOSED BY: Science Now Project!

LOG NUMBER: EG051111487

PROPOSAL 156 - 5 AAC 85.025. Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou. Close the nonresident season for caribou in parts of Unit 19.

Based on more current population and composition estimates for the Tonzona caribou herd:

Unit 19C and 19D:

Nonresident: No open season

ISSUE: Tonzona caribou herd harvest rates based on the assumption of low population levels. Current harvest objectives are not being met and it appears a harvestable surplus is virtually impossible for hunters to find. Between 2006 & 2008, the reported success rate was only 23 percent. In addition, between 2003 and 2008, 70 percent of the hunters that harvested a Tonzona caribou were nonresidents.

Local resident participation in caribou hunting in the region is very low indicating competition may be negatively impacting subsistence hunting opportunity.

Of major concern is the lack of any current population and composition estimates for the Tonzona caribou. In 2008, the ADF&G conducted sheep surveys in the region. During those surveys in June, only 55 caribou with six calves were observed over the range of the Rainy Pass, Big River - Farewell, and Tonzona herds. The area biologist went on to state: "This leads us to believe that these population were likely much lower than previously thought".

We are concerned about the low population of this herd and seek a reduced harvest as a strategy to ensure its continued viability.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Potential unsustainable harvest rate based on current population estimates that may negatively impact a caribou herd found in Denali

National Park and Preserve. National Parks Conservation Association is requesting that a fall 2011 count of the Tonzona caribou herd can be conducted prior to the Board of Game meeting.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, managing harvest based on current harvestable surplus estimates is a fundamental requirement to managing the Tonzona caribou herd based on recognized scientific wildlife management principles.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All user groups.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one. Authorizing non sustainable harvest is not an option.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: None. Authorizing non sustainable harvest is not an option.

PROPOSED BY: Jim Stratton, National Parks Conservation Association

LOG NUMBER: EG050311440

Proposal 157 - 5 AAC 92.125. Intensive Management Plans. Amend the Mulchatna Caribou Herd Predation Management Plan (adopted by the Board of Game in March 2011) to include the remaining segments of the MCH herd's range in subunits 19A and 19B. Add Units 19A and 19B to the existing predation management plan for the Mulchatna caribou herd.

(o) **Mulchatna Caribou Herd Predation Management Area.** Notwithstanding any other provisions in this title, and based on the following information contained in this subsection, the commissioner or the commissioner's designee may conduct a wolf population reduction or wolf population regulation program in the range of the Mulchatna Caribou Herd in Units **9(B), 17(B), 17(C), 19(A), and 19(B)** [AND 9(B)]:

(1) the Mulchatna Caribou Herd Predation Management Area is established to increase the Mulchatna Caribou Herd (MCH) within Units 9(B), 17(B), [AND] 17(C), **19(A), and 19(B)** to aid in achieving intensive management objectives; the Mulchatna Caribou Herd Predation Management Area encompasses approximately **39,683** [22,000] square miles; the active control area will be confined to a **10,000** [5,000] square mile area that includes **approximately 25** [23] percent of the management area and encompasses the calving grounds of the MCH;

(2) the discussion of wildlife populations and human use information is as follows:

(A) MCH population and human use information is as follows:

(i) the MCH was estimated to contain 14,231 caribou in October 1974; increased to 200,000 caribou by 1996; and declined to between 30,000 and 40,000 caribou by 2008;

(ii) nutritional limitations are not currently implicated as a factor affecting the current status of the MCH;

(iii) from 2000 through 2005, an average of 73 percent of radio-collared cows that were 36 months of age or older exhibited signs of pregnancy; from 2006 through 2010, an average of 75 percent of radio-collared cows that were 36 months of age or older exhibited signs of pregnancy;

(iv) October calf-to-cow ratios from surveys conducted from 1974 through 1999 averaged 43.5 calves per 100 cows (range 14.1 – 64.5); calf-to-cow ratios from surveys conducted from 2000 through 2010 averaged 22.8 calves per 100 cows (range 15.8 – 31.0);

(v) fall caribou calf recruitment is lower than expected based on the observed calf production; the department will conduct a caribou calf mortality study in May 2011 to estimate calf survival rates and causes of caribou calf death;

(vi) October bull-to-cow ratios from surveys conducted from 1974 through 1999 averaged 48.6 bulls per 100 cows (range 14.1-64.5); bull-to-cow ratios from surveys conducted from 2000 through 2010 averaged 21.2 bulls per 100 cows (range 15.8 – 31.0);

(vii) the harvestable surplus is estimated to be 1,050 caribou in 2010;

(viii) the intensive management population objective established by the board for the MCH is 30,000 - 80,000 caribou; the intensive management harvest objective is 2,400 – 8,000 caribou annually;

(ix) reported human harvest from the MCH was 4,770 caribou in 1998; estimates of reported and unreported harvest suggest that actual harvest may have exceeded 10,000 caribou during some years in the mid 1990s; annual reported human harvest has declined continually since 1998; reported harvests declined from 4,467 caribou in 1999 to 309 caribou in 2009; reported human harvest between 1999 and 2010 were not an important factor in the recent decline;

(B) the predator population and human use information is as follows:

(i) wolves are a major predator of caribou in the range of the MCH;

(ii) while no aerial population survey data are available for the wolf population in Units **9(B)**, 17, and **19(B)** [9(B)], recent anecdotal evidence obtained from pilots and local residents indicates that wolves are abundant throughout the area; the department intends to conduct surveys to estimate wolf abundance before implementing this predation reduction plan;

(iii) in 2008, the wolf population in Unit 9(B) was estimated at 60 - 90 wolves in 8 - 12 packs based on habitat type and prey base ; in 2002, the Unit 17(B) population was 280–320 wolves in 16–22 packs and the Unit 17(C) population was 150–200 wolves in 10–16 packs; **in 2006 the wolf population in Unit 19(A) was estimated at 107–115 wolves in 26–27 packs based on aerial surveys; the wolf population in Unit 19(B) was extrapolated based on surveys conducted in Units 19(A), 19(D), and 20(A), which resulted in a population estimate of 116–154 wolves in Unit 19(B);**

(iv) since 2000 through regulatory year 2009, an average of 18 wolves (range of 8 - 36 wolves) have been taken annually in Unit 9(B), an average of 39 wolves (range of 6-64 wolves) in Unit 17(B), [AND] an average of 32 wolves (range 1-64 wolves) in Unit 17(C), **an average of 36 wolves (range 10-79 wolves) in Unit 19(A), and an average of 23 wolves (range 3-57 wolves) in Unit 19(B);**

(v) research into the causes of caribou calf mortality indicate that wolves are a major predator of caribou calves in Southwest Alaska; research into the causes of caribou calf mortality on the Alaska Peninsula indicate that wolves are responsible for approximately 50 percent of calf deaths during the first two weeks of life;

(vi) brown bears are important predators of caribou in Southwest Alaska; while brown bears have been known to kill adult caribou opportunistically, brown bears are effective predators of calves during the first 10 days of life;

(vii) brown bears are abundant throughout the Mulchatna Caribou Herd Predation Management Area; spring brown bear density in Unit 9(B) was estimated at 50 brown bears per 1,000 square kilometers in May 2003; **the brown bear density estimate for Unit 19 was extrapolated from research projects conducted in other areas, which resulted in an estimate of 20 brown bears per 1,000 square kilometers in Unit 19(A) and 75 brown bears per 1,000 square kilometers in Unit 19(B);**

(viii) research into the causes of caribou calf mortality indicates that brown bears are typically responsible for up to 40 percent of the calf deaths during the first two weeks of life;

(3) predator and prey population levels and objectives and the basis for those objectives are as follows:

(A) the intensive management population objective established by the board for the MCH is 30,000 - 80,000 caribou; the intensive management harvest objective is 2,400 – 8,000 caribou annually; intensive management objectives were established by the board based on historic information regarding population numbers, habitat limitations, human use, and sustainable harvests;

(B) before July 1, 2011, wolf population objectives for Unit 9 were to maintain a wolf population that can sustain a three-year-annual harvest of 50 wolves; before July 1, 2011, wolf population objectives for Unit 17 were to maintain a wolf population that can sustain an annual harvest of at least 25 wolves; **the wolf population control objective in the Unit 19(A) Predation Control Area is 30-36 wolves to reduce wolf predation on moose while ensuring the conservation of the wolves within the Unit 19(A) Predation Control Area; before July 1, 2011, the wolf population objective in Unit 19(B) was to provide for a sustained harvest of 30% from the combined wolf population in Unit 19, except where greater harvests are mandated by approved wolf predation control implementation plans;**

(C) brown bear population objectives in Unit 9 are to maintain a high density bear population with a sex and age structure that can sustain a harvest composed of 60 percent males, with 50 males eight years of age or older during combined fall and spring seasons; brown bear population objectives for Unit 17 are to maintain a brown bear population that will sustain an annual harvest of 50 bears composed of at least 50 percent males; **the brown bear population objective in Units 19, 21A, and 21E is to sustain a mean annual harvest of no more than 100 bears with a minimum of 50% males in the harvest;**

(4) justification, objectives, and thresholds for the predator management implementation plan are as follows:

(A) justification for the Mulchatna Caribou Herd Predation Management Area is based on the board decision to designate the MCH as being important for providing high levels of human consumptive use; the boundaries of the Mulchatna

Caribou Predation Management Area correspond to the current range of the MCH within Units 9(B), 17(B), 17(C), **19(A), and 19(B)**; the board established the objectives for population size and annual sustained harvest of caribou in the herd's range consistent with multiple use and principles of sound conservation and management of habitat and all wildlife species in the area;

(B) the objective of the Mulchatna Caribou Predation Management Plan is to enhance the recovery of the MCH and to achieve a population sex and age structure that will sustain human harvests within the objectives established by the board for this herd; the goal of this program will be to reduce wolf numbers in the control area that encompasses the calving grounds of the MCH; the control area will be defined annually by the department based on previous caribou calving locations; the control area will be limited to **10,000** [5,000] square miles which includes **approximately 25** [23] percent of the lands within the Mulchatna Caribou Herd Predation Management area; because the management activities authorized by this plan are limited to the control area, the program will not affect all wolves within the Mulchatna Caribou Herd Management Area;

(C) the commissioner may initiate the reduction of wolf numbers in the control area within the range of the MCH according to the following thresholds:

- (i) the caribou population is below intensive management population or harvest objectives;
- (ii) nutrition is not considered the primary factor limiting caribou population growth; and
- (iii) calf recruitment is the most important factor limiting population growth and calf survival during the first four weeks of life is less than 50 percent;

(E) the commissioner will suspend the wolf reduction program if the following conditions are observed pending further review by the board to determine if the program can be modified to achieve the objectives of this program before reinstating the program, except that hunting and trapping by the public specified in other sections of this title may continue and are not subject to this subparagraph:

- (i) caribou nutritional indices, such as pregnancy rates, calf and adult body mass, or other condition indices, exhibit a declining trend from current values and the **bull-to-cow** ratio is greater than 20 bulls:100 cows;
- (ii) fall caribou calf-**to-cow** ratios remain below 20 calves per 100 cows for three consecutive years of wolf removal from the control area;
- (iii) the **bull-to-cow** ratio remains below the caribou population objectives and does not increase for three consecutive years of wolf removal from the control area;

(F) the commissioner may continue to reduce wolf numbers in the control area within the range of the MCH until the following thresholds are met without the benefit of wolf control:

- (i) the **bull-to-cow** ratio can be sustained within management objectives and the fall calf-to-cow ratios can be sustained above 30 calves per 100 cows;
- (ii) the population can grow at a sustained rate of five percent annually without the benefit of wolf control or caribou population objectives are met; or
- (iii) caribou harvest objectives are met;

(G) the wolf population objective for the Mulchatna Caribou Herd Predation Management Area is to annually reduce the number of wolves to a level that results in increased calf survival in caribou calving areas within Units 9(B), 17(B), [AND] 17(C), **19(A), and 19(B)**;

(H) the department will utilize radiotelemetry, wolf surveys, or a combination of those methods to ensure that a viable wolf population persists outside of active treatment areas within the range of the MCH;

(I) reduction of predators by humans is necessary to promote recovery of the caribou population;

(H) reduction of wolf numbers in control areas defined by the seasonal distribution of caribou is expected to stop the caribou population decline;

(I) reduction of bear numbers remains unlikely due to the high density of brown bears in Units 9 and 17, logistical limitations, and competing management priorities; **the reduction of bear numbers in Unit 19 is not required to increase caribou calf survival at this time based on research into the causes of caribou calf mortality conducted in Southwest Alaska, the lack of feasible methods to reduce bear predation on caribou, and the prior success of predation management plans that did not require a reduction in bear predation to increase caribou calf survival in other predation management areas in Southwest Alaska;**

(5) the authorized methods and means used to take wolves are as follows:

(A) hunting and trapping of wolves by the public in treatment areas during the term of the management program may occur as provided in the hunting and trapping regulations set out elsewhere in this title, including the use of motorized vehicles as provided in 5 AAC 92.080; the board finds that the opportunity to harvest the amount necessary for subsistence will continue to be provided by allowing ongoing hunting and trapping of wolves.

(B) the commissioner may issue public aerial shooting permits, public land and shoot permits, allow agents of the state to conduct aerial shooting, or allow department employees to conduct aerial shooting as a method of wolf removal under AS 16.05.783, including the use of any type of aircraft;

(C) the commissioner may authorize the use of state employees or state-owned or charter equipment, including helicopters, as a method of wolf removal under AS 16.05.783;

(6) the anticipated time frame and schedule for update and reevaluation are as follows:

(A) **through June 30, 2017** [for up to six years beginning July 1, 2011], the commissioner may reduce the wolf populations in the Mulchatna Caribou Herd Predation Management Area;

(B) annually the department shall, to the extent practicable, provide to the board at the board's spring meeting a report of program activities conducted during the preceding 12 months, including implementation activities, the status of caribou, wolf, and brown bear populations, and recommendations for changes, if necessary to achieve the objectives of the plan;

(7) other specifications that the board considers necessary:

(A) the commissioner shall suspend wolf control activities

(i) when prey population management objectives are obtained;

(ii) when predation management objectives are met; or
(ii) upon expiration of the period during which the commissioner is authorized to reduce predator numbers in the predator control plan area;
(B) the commissioner shall annually close wolf hunting and trapping seasons as appropriate to ensure that the minimum wolf population objectives are met.

ISSUE: The Mulchatna Caribou herd (MCH) population size was estimated to include between 30,000 and 40,000 caribou based on a post-calving population survey conducted in 2008, which is near the lower range of the intensive management population size objectives for the MCH (30,000 to 80,000 caribou). The reported harvest of caribou from the MCH declined to 309 caribou by 2009 and is below the intensive management harvest objective of 2,400 to 8,000 caribou annually.

During the March 2011 Region IV Board of Game meeting in Wasilla, the board adopted a predation management plan to reduce wolf predation on caribou in Units 9B and 17. Because the range of the MCH crosses regional boundaries and proposals for other regions were not included in the call for proposals for the Region IV meeting, inclusion of the remainder of the MCH range (Units 18, Region V; 19A and 19B, Region III) was delayed until future Board of Game meetings that address regulatory changes for the other regions. This proposal amends the Mulchatna Caribou Herd Predation Management Plan to include remaining segments of the MCH herd's range in subunits 19A and 19B.

Recent improvements in the status of the MCH have been noted, in terms of caribou body condition, pregnancy rates of 3 year old cows, and 10-month-old calf weights. However, the population's sex ratio, fall calf ratio, population size, and human harvests remain low and are not expected to improve without active management of predators.

Research into the causes of calf mortality demonstrated that low fall calf ratios (recruitment) found in conjunction with good calf production and nutritional status are indicative of populations that are limited by predation on calves. Studies conducted in southwest Alaska identified wolves as a major predator of caribou calves, and reconnaissance flights found that wolves occur throughout the range of the MCH. Radio tracking flights and calving surveys conducted during the past 11 years indicate that the majority of MCH caribou calve in Units 17 and 19 and that the majority of calves born die within these subunits.

Implementation of the predation management plan to reduce wolf predation on caribou calving grounds of the Southern Alaska Peninsula caribou herd has demonstrated that calf recruitment to fall (fall calf ratios) can be improved by reducing wolf numbers on caribou calving grounds, while leaving the wolf population in the remainder of the caribou herd's range unaffected by the reduction program. Activities proposed by this predation management plan employ a similar strategy of reducing wolf predation on caribou calves born on the MCH calving grounds in Units 17 and 19 while conserving the wolf population within the range of the MCH. The methods used to reduce wolf predation will be developed based on field research conducted in 2011, but they will likely include a combination of broad-scale aerial predation control by the public during the

winter and targeted wolf removal on the calving grounds during the summer by the department using helicopters.

This proposal requests the expansion of the Mulchatna Caribou Predation Management Plan to include subunits 19A and 19B in order to protect caribou calves born in these subunits and promote population recovery towards the intensive management objectives for population size and harvests.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? If the Mulchatna Predation Management area is not expanded to include portions of 19(A) and 19(B), caribou calves born in these subunits will not be protected by the program and their survival rates are expected to remain low. The loss of these calves will increase the amount of time required for the Mulchatna Caribou Herd to achieve the intensive management objectives for population size and harvests.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Expansion of this program to include portions of 19(A) and 19(B) is expected to increase the effectiveness of the Mulchatna Caribou Herd Predation Reduction Plan and promote herd recovery.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Those who wish to hunt caribou within the range of the Mulchatna Caribou Herd

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Note: The range of the Mulchatna Caribou Herd includes Units 9, 17, 18 and 19. Units 9 and 17 are not in Interior and Region.

PROPOSAL 158 - 5 AAC 92.125. Predation control areas implementation programs.

Implement a predator control plan for the range of the Mulchatna Caribou Herd.

Develop a comprehensive and cooperative Mulchatna Caribou Herd rebuilding plan under Intensive Management. Under Intensive Management it should include a Predator Control for both bears and wolves in all of the game units that are in this herds Range. The Mulchatna Caribou Herd is well below the management objective for calf mortality and the large bull composition consists of 9 percent, the bull to cow ratio is 15:100 (Management objective- 35:100).

ISSUE: Optimum number for The Mulchatna Caribou Herd should be raised for intensive management is implemented to improve calf survival and the sustainability of this herd.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The Mulchatna Caribou Herd will continue to decline.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Improving the calf survival and mortality also bull to cow ratios would help increase the sustainability of this herd.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All hunters as a result of a more sustainable herd.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: Close the hunt entirely. Unrealistic with the range and number of resident depending on the herd for food.

PROPOSED BY: Frank Woods

LOG NUMBER: EG050211425

Note: The range of the Mulchatna Caribou Herd includes Units 9, 17, 18 and 19. Units 9 and 17 are not in Interior Region.

PROPOSAL 159 - 5AAC 92.108. Identified big game prey populations and objectives.

Modify the population objective for Mulchatna caribou.

Mulchatna Caribou Herd management objective should be 100,000 to 150,000

ISSUE: The Mulchatna Caribou Herd (MCH) management objective numbers is moved 60,000 to 100,000 from the current 30,000-80,000 management objective.

Issues: 1.) Harvest numbers are so low in all of the range of this herd. 2.) The 2010 composition counts also indicate that the bull/cow ratios are lowest in the past three years. And are below the management objective 2010 count of 16.8/100 is below the management objective of 35/100. 3.) 2010 fall composition counts indicate that the calf/cow ratios are lower than in 2009 (19.5/100 in 2010 compared to 31/100 in 2009).

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The Mulchatna Caribou Herd will continue to decline.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? The Mulchatna Caribou Herd is currently at the low end of the management objective of 30,000 animals and the herd has out-migrated its initial range in Unit 17. Unit 17 harvests of caribou are embarrassing low and it is unacceptable to decrease the management objective numbers to meet the herd's decline to justify limiting harvests for consumptive use.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All hunters as a result of a more sustainable herd.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: Close the hunt entirely. Unrealistic with the range and number of resident depending on the herd for food.

PROPOSED BY: Frank Woods

LOG NUMBER: EG050211426

PROPOSAL 160 - 5 AAC 84.270. Furbearer trapping. Extend the lynx trapping season in Unit 19.

Extend the lynx trapping season in Unit 19 to run concurrently with the open season on wolverine in Unit 19; November 1-March 31.

ISSUE: Currently in Unit 19, lynx trapping ends after February 28th. The proposal is to extend the season through March creating easier and more practical enforcement by the Troopers; no waste of lynx from incidental catches and more accurate sealing data.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Enforcement by Troopers is very difficult because lynx and wolverine sets are very similar. There is bound to be incidental catches resulting in the potential waste of the animal, more work for the state and some trappers may not turn in their March catches making the sealing data inaccurate.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Potentially increased harvest of lynx may reduce pressure on hare population resulting in a greater prey base over a longer period of time. This could benefit all predator populations by smoothing out some of the peaks and crashes in population numbers.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Department of Fish and Game, Troopers, and trappers.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: -

PROPOSED BY: Rhone Baumgartner

LOG NUMBER: EG042811344

Galena Area – Units 21B, 21C, 21D, and 24

PROPOSAL 161 - 5 AAC 85.045(a)(18). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Split the moose drawing permit hunt in Unit 21D (DM817) into two drawing permit hunts.

Change the current DM817 hunt to two different drawing hunts. The first hunt to run from September 5-14, and the second to run from September 16-25.

ISSUE: The current drawing moose permit DM817 runs for too long of a season. We have a problem with meat spoilage during the season from people who stay too long in the field after getting a moose while other people in the hunting party continue to hunt. We suggest splitting the drawing permit into two drawing permits with less time in the field, which has worked in the Koyukuk Controlled Use Area Drawing Permit Hunts.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Meat will continue to be spoiled by people remaining in the field too long.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, it has the potential to cut down on meat spoilage from being in the field too long.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All people who will have good moose meat due to the drawing date change.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: None.

PROPOSED BY: Middle Yukon Advisory Committee

LOG NUMBER: EG031811286

PROPOSAL 162 - 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Allow 10% of the Koyukuk CUA permit winners to use aircraft; allow guided permit winners to choose either boat or aircraft.

Allocate 10 percent of the Koyukuk Control Use area permits to aircraft supported hunting and make guide contracted permits optional for either boat or aircraft access.

Of the 136 KCUA drawing permits currently available, 10 percent allocation of the 98 resident permits would allow for 10 permits to utilize aircraft. KCUA permits are split equally between

early and late season hunts which would further reduce aircraft access hunts to just five permits at any time in season.

There are currently 28 nonresident permits available in the KCUA. These are split equally by early and late season hunts and again by guided and non-guided permits. Rather than creating four new drawing permit categories, more simply, the guide contracted hunt portions of these permits should be made optional access at the discretion of the contracting guide and in accordance with their refuge operations plan. Statistically this could add up to seven early season and seven late season aircraft accessible hunts. In reality the number of hunters accessing with guides by aircraft would be less because some guides prefer boat operations. Guide contracted hunts might vary the overall percentage of aircraft accessed hunts plus or minus just a couple of percent dependent on a guides operations plan and draw success.

Because aircraft access hunters would likely apply mostly as party hunters (2 hunters, 1 aircraft), and guide aircraft handle multiple clients, the actual number of aircraft operating within the KCUA at a given time would remain minimal.

All drawing permit hunters accessing the KCUA by aircraft will be required to check-in and check-out at a ADF&G operated check-stations the same as boat users are currently required to do.

ISSUE: Prohibition of aircraft access to the Koyukuk controlled use area. The Koyukuk CUA was established in 1979 to reduce participation of nonlocal moose hunters and hunter conflicts by prohibiting the use of aircraft. However, by 1986 the number of hunters arriving by boat from outside the unit equaled the number of hunters who previously accessed the area by aircraft. The drawing permit hunt was consequently implemented and this alone has effectively controlled the numbers of non-subsistence hunters. To date however allocation for any hunting of moose via aircraft access has continued to be denied.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Nearly three million acres of public lands that are inaccessible by any means other than aircraft will remain essentially closed to hunting without any biological reason. The Koyukuk River, meanders through the nearly four million acre Koyukuk National Wildlife Refuge and currently offers moose hunting only to boat borne hunters. These boater hunting efforts might on average reach less than one mile back from the main river corridor. Meanwhile the Koyukuk Controlled Use Area covers a vast expanse of land scattered with small ponds, lakes and sloughs up to thirty miles back from the river. These waters and surrounding lands are inaccessible except by aircraft. These public lands are open to hunting but remain unutilized, vacant due to a management tool that was ineffective and has subsequently been replaced.

All permit hunts are currently constrained to the main river corridor where traditional subsistence hunting efforts also take place. Crowding and user conflicts among river users exist and have the potential to increase with an increase in subsistence registration hunts. Opening access to more public lands for the fixed number of permits will only help disperse hunting pressure. Additionally, reducing hunter concentration along river corridors will reduce competition for bulls in those areas, which will increase bull:cow ratios along the river and improve hunter success among the boat borne subsistence hunters.

Equal access to natural resources for different user groups will continue to be denied. Since the controlled use area is an area of drawing permit and registration permit, only a set number of hunters will have access to the area. Hunters should therefore have an option to access by boat or aircraft.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. Aircraft will add to a diversity of hunt options and ultimately the quality of hunting experience. The harvest would not increase yet would be spread over a larger area. Survey work suggests that moose populations are being disproportionately harvested nearest easy river access points, town sites and popularized land marks. Trend Area surveys along the river corridors and bull:cow ratios are typically lowest along the rivers (around 30 bulls per 100 cows), compared to bull:cow ratios in survey areas that include land away from the rivers (50-70 bulls per 100 cows). Aircraft access will help to disperse concentrated harvests of moose as well as move permit hunters away from traditional subsistence hunting areas.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All people who want to see the hunting pressure and people conflicts reduced on the Koyukuk River. Subsistence hunters competing with permit hunters for populations of river corridor moose. Hunters looking for a diversity of options and quality of experience. The refuge and its visitors having access to approximate three million more acres of public land. Businesses that support and utilize aircraft.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: Changing the regulation for the controlled use area to allow only the use of aircraft for moose hunting and banning boats for moose hunting completely. This solution also violates the equal access clause of the Alaska Constitution and is as silly as the present ban on aircraft.

Several proposals have been brought before the board over the years that offer solutions and have failed to pass. This due to a stigma, mostly local, that any aircraft access might upset the balance that has been struck within the KCUA. Any percentage up to 100 percent might be considered, but certainly 10 percent is a number that should work to begin to test the waters and strike a new and better balance which allows for limited aircraft access.

Create a single pool with 10 percent allocation aircraft access of resident and nonresident combined.

PROPOSED BY: Joe Schuster

LOG NUMBER: EG042911401

PROPOSAL 163 - 5 AAC 92.125. Intensive Management Plans. Authorizes a predator control program in a small portion of Unit 24B.

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() **Unit 24(B) Predation Control Area.** For the management of moose in the Upper Koyukuk Village Moose Management Area in Unit 24(B),

(1) The purpose of this plan is to allow for the removal of wolves by the department, near the villages of Alatna and Allakaket so that the moose population can support historical harvest levels,

(2) Notwithstanding any other provisions in this chapter, the department shall

(i) establish a 1,360 square miles Upper Koyukuk Village Moose Management Area (MMA) in Unit 24(B) in the vicinity of the communities of Alatna and Allakaket;

(ii) determine the appropriate level of wolf removal in the MMA;

(iii) estimate the nutritional condition of moose in the MMA;

(iv) estimate the appropriate level of moose harvest in MMA;

(v) develop a strategy that details the activities that will accomplish the purpose of this plan;

(vi) submit an annual report to the Board of Game detailing progress and activities.

ISSUE: This proposal establishes a predator control plan in Unit 24B and focuses wolf control activities in a 1,360 square mile Upper Koyukuk Village Moose Management Area. Residents in the Upper Koyukuk River drainage in Unit 24B have experienced a decreasing moose population and increased difficulty in moose harvest for the last 15 years. The economic impact of increasing hunter effort has been compounded by increasing fuel prices. Baseline biological data collected in Unit 24B since 1989 confirm the moose population is declining, corroborating concerns of local subsistence hunters. The department has assessed the moose population decline in Unit 24B and is developing an Intensive Management Program that includes this wolf predation control plan to address the situation.

The full plan will be posted on the website at: www.BoardofGame.ADFG.Alaska.Gov in November 2011.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Moose numbers will remain low in Unit 24B and residents of Alatna and Allakaket will continue to have difficulty harvesting moose and meeting their moose harvest needs.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, more moose will be available.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Moose hunters in areas of Unit 24B effected by this control plan.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? People opposed to predation control programs.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? De-emphasize moose management in Unit 24B and allow the moose population to remain at current levels.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

LOG NUMBER: ADFG042811J

PROPOSAL 164 - 5 AAC 92.540(B)(ii). Controlled use areas. Eliminate the restriction on aircraft in the Kanuti Controlled Use Area.

Eliminate the restriction on the use of aircraft. That would be part (ii) of 5AAC92.540.

ISSUE: Kanuti Control Use Area. Review the restriction in the KCUA

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? We will continue to restrict subsistence hunters and subsistence hunting opportunity and other uses. There are new population densities, new harvest information. That should justify why you should amend the use of aircraft.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. As we manage the resources and we have to make restrictions in an area. They are only meant to exist as long as the problem exists. They are not forever restrictions. When the resource has rebounded and management plans are being met, and subsistence needs are being fulfilled we have to consider removing past restrictions.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All subsistence users. Also other uses.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those who have been accustomed to the restriction on the use of an aircraft. People of the area may not like seeing more hunting pressure in their region. None of us like to see more people competing for the same resource in our areas. But when a harvestable surplus exist as it does now. We as stewards of the resource are obligated to manage for all Alaskan subsistence users.(AS 16.05.258). And other uses.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: Not summiting this proposal. But it would not be fair for other Alaskan subsistence user in the state, and other uses. That could have opportunity to harvest a moose for their families.

PROPOSED BY: Al Barrette

LOG NUMBER: EG042911423

PROPOSAL 165 - 5 AAC 85.025. Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou. Close all hunting for the Galena Mountain Caribou Herd in Unit 24.

Unit 24 (area occupied by the Galena Mountain caribou herd):

Nonresident: No open season

Resident: No open season

ISSUE: Galena Mountain caribou herd population crisis. Currently the herd has declined to approximately 95 animals.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The Board of Game may continue to allow the Galena Mountain herd to decline to the point they may be extirpated entirely. Unfortunately, the Board of Game still authorizes nonresident harvest opportunity for this herd despite the fact that the decline has been well documented since 2005.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, restricting harvest, especially nonresident harvest, is necessary to maintain the viability of this caribou herd.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All user groups. Allowing these small mountain herds to expire completely is beyond any reasonable option.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one. Authorizing non-sustainable harvest is not an option.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: None. Allowing harvest, including nonresident harvest, of these herds in a severe crisis is not an option.

PROPOSED BY: Science Now Project!

LOG NUMBER: EG051111488

PROPOSAL 166 - 5 AAC 85.056. Hunting seasons and bag limits for wolf. Lengthen the wolf hunting season for residents and nonresidents in Unit 21.

Wolf: Open season, August 10 - **May 31** [APRIL 30]

ISSUE: High populations of wolves in rural areas of Unit 21.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Game populations will continue to decline.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? It will help reduce wolf numbers in rural areas and would increase the calf recruitment. This would result in a healthier game population.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All who enjoy Alaska's wildlife.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Only those who like to see "nature take its course."

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: State predator control programs. I rejected them due to the cost.

PROPOSED BY: Benjamin Holbrook

LOG NUMBER: EG050411447

PROPOSAL 167 - 5 AAC 85.056. Hunting seasons and bag limits for wolf. Lengthen wolf hunting season to the end of May for Units 21, 22, and 24.

Wolf hunting open season: August 10 - May 31.

ISSUE: Ending of wolf season dates.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The season will still end April 30. All moose hunting will continue to be by drawing due to depressed populations.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, the mortality of moose by wolf will be reduced.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Moose.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: None.

PROPOSED BY: Virgil Umphenour

LOG NUMBER: EG050611459

PROPOSAL 168 - 5 AAC 92.085. Unlawful methods of taking big game; exceptions. Allow brown bears to be harvested with bait in Unit 21D.

Allow the harvest of brown bears using bait in Unit 21D.

ISSUE: Unit 21D is heavily forested and grizzly bears cannot be harvested efficiently under the current regulations. Interior grizzly bears in Unit 21D are very secretive, avoid human encounters, and are very difficult to hunt. By allowing grizzly bears to be hunted with bait, bears can be selectively hunted and hopefully predation on calves can be reduced. Currently in all of Units 21B, C, and D less than 20 bears are harvested each year while the sustainable harvest rate will allow for up to 48 bears per year. Bears are being underutilized and they are a significant predator on moose calves in the area, as well as being a threat to personal safety to the residents of Unit 21D.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Grizzly bears will continue to be harvested at very low levels and they will continue to have a negative impact on the moose population.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Unknown

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All bear hunters.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? People opposed to bear baiting.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: Increasing bag limit to two bears.

PROPOSED BY: Middle Yukon Advisory Committee

LOG NUMBER: EG031811287

PROPOSAL 169 - 5 AAC 84.270. Furbearer trapping. Extend the Lynx trapping season in Unit 21.

Unit 21 – Lynx

Open season: November 1 - **March 31** [FEBRUARY 28]

ISSUE: We would like to see the lynx trapping season extended until March 31st, from the current ending date of February 28th. Lynx are abundant and increasing in Unit 21. Trapping pressure is generally low, especially compared to units to the east around Fairbanks. Unit 12, 20 and 25C seasons have already been extended to March 15, to take advantage of the abundant lynx population. The seasons to our West in Unit 22 extend all the way to April 15th. An extension to March 31st would allow Unit 21 trappers to continue trapping lynx during good weather and snow conditions while trapping wolverines and wolves.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? We will not be able to take full advantage of the harvestable surplus of lynx in this area.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Some people may be concerned about lynx fur quality in March. Trappers in Fairbanks could comment on the quality of their lynx in mid March. Incidentally harvested lynx from Unit 21 in March seem to retain good fur quality. Our winters are typically a little longer here than the Eastern Unit's so we do not believe there will be a significant reduction in the quality of this product due to an extension. The extended season may provide trappers with some financial incentive to keep trapping a little longer after the marten season is over.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Unit 21 trappers, Fur buyers, trapping supply dealers

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those generally opposed to consumptive use of natural resources may lose some more sleep.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: We also considered asking for extensions in Unit 24 and 19, but we are less familiar with the lynx and hare populations in those areas. If the resource is abundant in those remote units, and trappers there support the extension, we would certainly support that option as well.

PROPOSED BY: Brad Scotton and Charlie Green

LOG NUMBER: EG042811372

Northeast Alaska Area - Units 25A, 25B, 25D, 26B and 26C

PROPOSAL 170 - 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Shorten the moose season in a portion of 25A.

Unit 25A, Sheenjek and Coleen drainages: 1 bull moose, September 15-25

ISSUE: Moose hunting pressure has increased significantly in the Sheenjek and Coleen drainages during the previous five years. The moose population has been impacted. I am seeing less moose sign and fewer numbers of moose (including calves) from both the ground and the air. The moose that migrate from the Old Crow Flats are being intercepted on the Coleen and not making it to the Sheenjek, impacting this population. The increase in the number of hunters has also resulted in an increase of trash along the river.

Meat spoilage is occurring on the float hunts, particularly during the first half of September. Delaying the opening date of moose season would help address this issue.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The moose population may decline. Hunting pressure may continue to increase because the season is long. Meat spoilage may continue to occur if the season remains open on September 5th. Trash along the river will increase.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. The proposal will result in a higher number of moose and a cleaner environment.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The moose population and moose hunters who enjoy a higher quality hunt with fewer people.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Hunters, transporters, and guides who wish to hunt/use the earlier part of the season.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: Shift the season to a later season: September 20—30. This would address the meat spoilage issue. Hunters would need to be more selective because older bulls will be in rut. Water levels can drop during the end of September making it less preferable for float hunters.

PROPOSED BY: Heimo Korth

LOG NUMBER: EG041911306

PROPOSAL 171 - 5 AAC 92.220. Salvage of game meat, furs, and hides. Require meat-on-bone salvage for moose in Unit 25A.

Moose taken in Unit 25A will have the special meat salvage requirement that the edible meat of the front quarters, hind quarters and the ribs must remain naturally attached to the bone until the meat has been transported from the field or is processed for human consumption.

ISSUE: Reducing the spoilage and waste of harvested moose meat in Unit 25A transported from the field.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Waste of valuable moose meat and violation of time-honored practice of utilizing as much as possible from the harvested moose will continue.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Proper field dressing coupled with a meat on the bone requirement for Unit 25A would result in better cooling and drying of meat harvested, less meat wasted by being left in the field, and a better quality meat for processing for the hunters, their families and their communities.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All hunters would benefit by maximizing what the land has provided them. *Note: This proposal was an action item of the Eastern Interior Regional Advisory Council during its public meeting in March, 2011, in Fairbanks, Alaska.*

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Hunters who prefer boning out the meat.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: No one.

PROPOSED BY: Eastern Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Committee

LOG NUMBER: EG050611460

PROPOSAL 172 - 5 AAC 92.220. Salvage of game meat, furs, and hides. Require meat-on-bone salvage for moose in Unit 25B.

Moose taken in Unit 25B would have the special meat salvage requirement that the edible meat of the front quarters, hind quarters and the ribs must remain naturally attached to the bone until the meat has been transported from the field or is processed for human consumption.

ISSUE: Reducing the spoilage and waste of harvested moose meat in Unit 25B transported from the field.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Waste of valuable moose meat and violation of time-honored practice of utilizing as much as possible from the harvested moose will continue.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Proper field dressing coupled with a meat on the bone

requirement for Unit 25B would result in better cooling and drying of meat harvested, less meat wasted by being left in the field, and a better quality meat for processing for the hunters, their families and their communities.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All hunters would benefit by maximizing what the land has provided them. *Note: This proposal was an action item of the Eastern Interior Regional Advisory Council during its public meeting in March, 2011, in Fairbanks, Alaska.*

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Hunters who prefer boning out the meat.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: No one.

PROPOSED BY: Eastern Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Committee

LOG NUMBER: EG050611462

PROPOSAL 173 - 5 AAC 92.220. Salvage of game meat, furs, and hides. Require meat-on-bone salvage for moose in Unit 25D.

Moose taken in Unit 25D would have the special meat salvage requirement that the edible meat of the front quarters, hind quarters and the ribs must remain naturally attached to the bone until the meat has been transported from the field or is processed for human consumption.

ISSUE: Reducing the spoilage and waste of harvested moose meat in Unit 25D transported from the field.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Waste of valuable moose meat and violation of time-honored practice of utilizing as much as possible from the harvested moose will continue.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Proper field dressing coupled with a meat-on-the bone requirement for Unit 25D would result in better cooling and drying of meat harvested, less meat wasted by being left in the field, and a better quality meat for processing for the hunters, their families and their communities.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All hunters would benefit by maximizing what the land has provided them. *Note: This proposal was an action item of the Eastern Interior Regional Advisory Council during its public meeting in March, 2011, in Fairbanks, Alaska.*

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Hunters who prefer boning out the meat.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: No one.

PROPOSED BY: Eastern Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Committee

LOG NUMBER: EG050611465

PROPOSAL 174 - 5 AAC 85.025. Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou. Establish a registration hunt for moose in the Firth/Mancha River drainage in Unit 26C:

Units and bag limits	Resident	Nonresident
<u>Unit 26(C)</u> <u>Within the drainages of the Firth and Mancha Rivers</u>	<u>One bull by registration permit available online</u>	<u>One bull with 50” antlers or four or more brow tines on at least one side by registration permit available online</u>
	<u>Sept. 1-30</u>	<u>Sept. 1-30</u>
Remainder of Unit 26(B)	No open season	No open season
Unit 26(C)	No open season	No open season

ISSUE: Unit 26C has been closed for some time to moose hunting. The Firth/Mancha Drainage has, in the past, provided a unique moose hunting opportunity.

The moose in this area are very unique in that they migrate long distances from their summer range on the Old Crow Flats, North of the village of Old Crow in the Yukon to their wintering areas in the headwaters of the Firth, Mancha, Sheenjok, Colleen and Kongukut Rivers. In a 1996 study, Fran Mauer found that the moose wintering in the upper drainages of the Eastern Brooks Range migrate up to 200 miles to their summer range on the Old Crow Flats. These are thought to be the most migratory moose in Alaska. Moose start to arrive in the Eastern Brooks Range drainages around September 1st and most have arrived by early winter.

In the fall of 2010 ADF&G conducted a survey of the Firth/Mancha area and found over 200 moose with high bull/cow ratios. Many respectable bulls with antlers over 50” were observed although brooks range moose tend to be slightly smaller than moose farther South in Alaska. This moose population should be able to sustain an annual harvest of at least 5-10 bulls. Although it is unlikely that this level of harvest would be reached, a registration permit would allow ADF&G to closely monitor take in this area.

This area is also unique in that it is very remote and mostly inaccessible. There are very few landing strips and aircraft are the only option to access this area. The nearest village (Kaktovik) is about 100 miles to the Northwest. The nearest village with consistent bush flight service (Fort Yukon) is over 200 miles to the Southwest so access will be very expensive. A hunter that takes a moose in this area can expect to pay around \$5000 to an Air Taxi for one flight in and two flights out with moose and gear.

This hunt will provide an extremely high quality opportunity for a few hunters that value a true wilderness experience and are willing to pay the high cost of access. This hunt may take some

pressure off of the Colleen River drainage (about 50 miles south in Unit 25) that has seen an increase in hunters in the last few years.

There is no subsistence harvest of this moose population as they do not approach closer than about 80 miles from Kaktovik, the nearest village. In addition to the distance, they are separated from Kaktovik by large portions of the Brooks Range. There may be an occasional moose taken by the Village of Old Crow (population 253), located on the Porcupine River in the Yukon. The Gwich'in of Old Crow depend predominantly on Porcupine Caribou for their subsistence. All references to Old Crow mention caribou as an essential subsistence resource but none have been found to mention moose. Their official website lists many traditional caribou recipes but none for moose. Most traditional hunting is done along the Porcupine River, well south of the range of these moose.

There is no non-subsistence take of moose in Canada from this migratory population as nearly their entire range in Canada is within Vuntut and Ivvavik National Parks.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Nothing, status quo. Alaska hunters will continue to be restricted from hunting moose in this area.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, there is currently no moose resource harvested in this area.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Those that would like to experience a truly remote, wilderness moose hunt in ANWR.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: None

PROPOSED BY: Aaron Bloomquist

LOG NUMBER: EG051911500

PROPOSAL 175 - 5AAC 85.025(a). Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou. Increase the nonresident bag limit from 1 bull to 2 bulls for Porcupine Herd caribou in Units 25B, 25D, 26C, and the eastern portion of Unit 25A.

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

....

(20)

Unit 25(A), those portions east

of the east bank of the East Fork Chandalar River extending from its confluence with the Chandalar River upstream to Guilbeau Pass, 25(B), and the remainder of 25(D)

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

10 caribou July 1–Apr. 30

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

2 Bulls Aug. 1–Sept. 30
[1 BULL]

Remainder of Unit 25(A)

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

10 caribou; however cow caribou may not be taken July 1–Apr. 30
[ONLY FROM] July 1–May 15

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

5 caribou; however cow caribou may not be taken July 1–Apr. 30
[FROM] July 1–May 15

...

(22)

Unit 26(C)

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

10 caribou; however, only July 1–Apr. 30
bull caribou may be taken June 23–June 30
June 23–June 30

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

2 Bulls Aug 1–Sept. 30
[1 BULL]

ISSUE: This proposal increases the nonresident caribou bag limit within the Porcupine Caribou Herd's (PCH) range from 1 bull to 2 bulls. Photocensus results determined an increase in the PCH from 123,000 caribou in 2001 to 169,000 caribou in 2010. An October 2010 composition survey of the PCH indicated the bull:cow ratio was relatively high at 57 bulls:100 cows. The

PCH is co-managed by the U.S. and Canada through the International Porcupine Caribou Board and this proposal supports the Harvest Management Plan (HMP) in Canada where most PCH harvest appears to occur. The HMP calls for a bag limit of 2 bulls for licensed (non-indigenous) hunters in Canada when the PCH is $\geq 115,000$ caribou, and our proposal of 2 bulls for nonresidents of Alaska mirrors that.

Annual harvest is estimated at 4,000–6,000 caribou, representing a current harvest rate of 2–3 percent of the herd. About 78 percent of harvest occurs in Canada by subsistence hunters and 7 percent by other residents of Canada and nonresidents hunting in Canada. About 15 percent of the harvest occurs in Alaska; 12 percent by subsistence hunters from Arctic Village, Kaktovik, Venetie, and Fort Yukon; and 3 percent by nonlocal Alaska residents and nonresidents. Reported nonresident harvest of PCH caribou in Alaska is low (26–36 per year) and there is a slight increasing trend in the number of nonresident hunters and nonresident harvest. During 2005–2010, most nonresident harvest occurred in August and September (>90 percent), and few nonresident hunter harvested more than 2 caribou (in years when the bag limit was 5 caribou).

In 2010, the Board adopted a proposal to decrease the season length from July 1–Apr. 30 to Aug. 1–Sept. 30 and changed the bag limit from 5 caribou to 1 bull for nonresident hunters. Resident seasons and bag limits remained unchanged. At that time, the size of the herd was unknown because conditions had prevented a successful photocensus since 2001 and prior photocensuses documented a decline from 178,000 caribou in 1989 to 123,000 caribou in 2001. The department and the Canadian government were concerned that the herd had continued to decline and may have numbered around 100,000 caribou. As a result, the Canadian Management Board restricted licensed hunters to 1 bull and the Alaska Board changed the nonresident bag limit to 1 bull.

The current population estimate of 169,000 caribou is above the intensive management objective of 100,000–150,000 caribou and current harvest rates of 2–3 percent annually are below the harvestable surplus. Low harvest rates in Alaska have warranted liberal seasons and bag limits for residents throughout the decreasing and increasing phases of the PCH population. Additional opportunity for nonresidents is warranted and in concert with international co-management of the PCH.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Nonresident hunters will be unnecessarily restricted to a bag limit of 1 bull.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Not applicable.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Nonresident hunters who want to harvest more than 1 bull.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Increase the bag limit to 5 bulls for nonresidents. Although biologically sustainable based on past nonresident harvest rates, a 2-bull bag limit would mirror the harvest limit for licensed hunters in Canada. In addition, prior to 2010 very few nonresident hunters harvested more than 2 caribou when the bag limits was 5 caribou.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

LOG NUMBER: ADFG042811G

PROPOSAL 176 - 5 AAC 85.025. Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou. Return the nonresident bag limit on Porcupine Herd caribou to two bulls.

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(20) Units 25(A), those portions east of the east bank of the East Fork Chandalar River extending from its confluence with the Chandalar River upstream to Guilbeau Pass, 25(B), and the remainder of 25(D) RESIDENT HUNTERS: 10 caribou NONRESIDENT HUNTERS: [1 bull] <u>two bulls</u>	July 1 - Apr. 30	Aug. 1 - Sept. 30
Unit 26(C) RESIDENT HUNTERS: 10 caribou; however, only bull caribou may be taken NONRESIDENT HUNTERS: [1 bull] <u>two bulls</u>	July 1 - Apr. 30 June 23 - June 30	June 23 - June 30 Aug 1 - Sept. 30

ISSUE: In 2010 the Board of Game lowered the limit on Porcupine Caribou for nonresidents to one bull. This was justified by an estimated declining caribou population. In 2011 the population of the Porcupine Caribou Herd was found to be much higher than estimated in 2010. 2010 estimates were based on 2001 estimates of 123,000 animals. The herd was suspected to be stable

or still declining. The new estimate in 2011 of 169,000 animals is nearing the all time high of 178,000 animals in 1989.

Nonresident hunters take less than 50 Porcupine Caribou annually and usually less than five hunters take two animals. Nonresident hunting is very insignificant to the harvest of Porcupine caribou. Nonresidents should not have lost this opportunity based upon ten year old data and with new data showing near historic highs this opportunity should be restored.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Nothing, status quo. Nonresident hunters will continue to be restricted from taking a second caribou from the Porcupine herd.

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Those that would like to experience a truly remote, wilderness caribou hunt in and take two caribou.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those opposed to all nonresident hunting.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: None

PROPOSED BY: Aaron Bloomquist

LOG NUMBER: EG051911498

PROPOSAL 177 - 5 AAC 85.025. Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou. Decrease the bag limit for caribou in Unit 26B.

Unit 26B South of 69° 30' (south of Milepost 362) - **three** [FIVE] caribou total; bulls and cows.
Unit 26B Remainder - **three** [FIVE] caribou.

ISSUE: The Board of Game increased the bag limit for caribou in portions of Unit 26B from 2 to 5 caribou for resident hunters and from 2 bull caribou to five bull caribou for nonresident hunters in the 2010 Interior Region spring meeting. At that time the Arctic Advisory Council recommended that the board amend the proposal to a 3 caribou bag limit. We are still concerned that liberalizing the harvest by 150 percent will attract many hunters, including inexperienced hunters, to participate in this hunt. This could lead to an over-harvest of animals as well as an increase in wanton waste to this resource. Preliminary harvest estimates do not show that harvest has dramatically increased. However, these estimates are only from a partial season and they will increase throughout this winter and spring. Additionally, the new regulations became effective only during the fall season, so many hunters may have been unaware of the liberalized bag limit. Finally, many resident hunters and most nonresident hunters are unaware of the difficulties of packing out caribou across the tundra and on foot and it is likely that the current regulation will increase wanton waste.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? It is likely that a lot of wanton waste will occur. A good proportion of the hunters are relatively inexperienced and may not realize the size of the task to butcher 5 caribou and keep the meat clean and cool, let alone packing it out. Also,

there is the potential that this herd will be overharvested at a time when it is just expanding its range to areas it historically used. This is one of the few barren-ground caribou herds that is growing while most are in decline throughout the circumpolar arctic for unknown reasons.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? By restricting harvest to 3 caribou it will make it more likely that all the meat is properly handled and stored until it is removed from the field. Very few hunters can properly handle 5 caribou.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All hunters who walk of the Dalton Highway to harvest caribou.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one would really suffer but the few hunters who actually could shoot 5 caribou and pack them out without wasting edible meat might feel inconvenienced.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: Reduce the bag limit back to 2 caribou in this region but it is likely that the herd could withstand a slight increase in harvest. Also reduce the bag limit back to 2 but this would not completely negate our concerns about wanton waste if the resident bag limit remains 5 caribou.

PROPOSED BY: Arctic Advisory Committee

LOG NUMBER: EG050411445

PROPOSAL 178 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep. Close Red Sheep Creek and Cane Creek drainages to hunting for sheep.

Close Red Sheep Creek and Cane Creek drainages to sport hunting for sheep.

ISSUE: Sport hunting is interfering with the traditional subsistence uses and practices of Red Sheep Creek and Cane Creek by residents of Arctic Village, Venetie, Fort Yukon, Kaktovik and Chalkyitsik.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Sport hunting in Red Sheep Creek and Cane Creek drainages has created conflicts with local subsistence hunters and jeopardizes the health of the sheep population.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Recent data for the AVSMA (Arctic Village Sheep Management Area) where federal public lands are currently closed to non-federally qualified users is lacking. However, recent (2006, 2007, and 2008) surveys were conducted within the Cane Creek and Red Sheep Creek areas, which are within the AVSMA, but are no longer closed to non-federally qualified users. Densities of sheep varied: 1.7 sheep/mile² in 2006 (Payer 2006) and 0.8 sheep/mile² in 2007. Densities may have differed due to slightly differing survey areas associated with mineral licks that could have attracted sheep from outside the survey unit. In 2008, during a sheep population-composition survey, 130 sheep in 20 groups we observed with a ratio of 59 lambs: 100 ewes, suggesting good productivity.

In 1991, Dall sheep density in the Red Sheep Creek and Cane Creek drainages was estimated to be 2.25 sheep/mile², which is higher than surveys done in 2006 and 2007. The sheep population may have declined during this interval despite harvest restrictions for non-federally qualified users. This is consistent with trends observed in other Brooks Range sheep populations, and likely reflects incomplete recovery from weather-related declines during 1990-1994. Thirty-two of 96 rams (33 percent) were classified as "mature" in the 2006 survey and six of 14 (43 percent) were classified as "mature" in the 2007 survey.

In 1996, the estimated sheep density in the southern part of the AVSMA between Cane and Crow Nest Creeks was only 0.2 sheep/mile².

The Dall sheep population in the Cane Creek and Red Sheep Creek drainages may have declined between 1991 and 2007, while the trend for the southern part of the AVSMA is unknown. However 2008 composition data has indicated good production. Anecdotal reports from hunters suggest that sheep populations in the area continue to be relatively low. **Adoption of this proposal will allow the sheep population to retain more full curl ram sheep that are important to the breeding population of Brooks Range sheep.**

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All sheep hunters, especially subsistence sheep hunters.

Note: This proposal was an action item from the March 2011 public meeting of the Eastern Interior Regional Council in Fairbanks.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Sport hunters hoping to hunt in Red Sheep Creek and Cane Creek drainages.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: N/A

PROPOSED BY: Eastern Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

LOG NUMBER: EG050411446

PROPOSAL 179 - 5 AAC 85.055. Seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep. Convert the general season nonresident sheep hunt to drawing hunt in the Dalton Highway Corridor area.

On lands within the Dalton Highway Corridor in Units 24A and 26B, nonresidents must draw a tag to harvest a full curl sheep.

Season: August 10 - September 20th

Number of tags: 4 tags in Unit 24A and 4 tags in Unit 26B

ISSUE: In the past guides have willingly chose to not guide hunters in the Dalton Highway Corridor (DHC) because of high resident hunting pressure and static subsistence use in Units 24A and 26B. In the past 2-3 years this has changed significantly with multiple guides offering bow hunts within the DHC and using aircraft to assist in locating animals directly adjacent to the DHC. This has not only reduced the already low numbers of legal rams in the area but has caused serious user conflicts while, in effect, reallocating the sheep to nonresident hunters.

Because resident hunting pressure had already been steadily rising and sheep numbers have never recovered from the early 1990's population decline this new use has added serious tension among user groups. UNTIL a guide concession program is implemented that encompasses the DHC, a drawing hunt is necessary to restrain the unlimited commercial opportunity afforded on state and BLM lands. Intensive guided hunting in this area does not work and has and will continue to victimize users that existed in equilibrium with each other before the recent guide operations started up. Also, since federal subsistence regulations define a legal sheep as 7/8 curl, the historic subsistence harvest will further reduce the number of mature animals in the population even below the full curl threshold. The resource and social dynamic in this area is threatened by the current situation.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Tensions will rise between resident hunters and nonresident hunters as well as resentment towards ALL sport hunting by subsistence users. The perception the guided hunting is de-facto bad will be reinforced. The sheep population will be less resilient to bad weather events due to a lack of mature rams in the population to take on predation effects and train younger animals were to go in deep snow years. A lack of mature rams could reduce conception rates among ewes and result in less synchronous birthing and higher mortality rates on lambs due the high eagle populations in the central Brooks Range. A drawing hunt could be required on residents as well as nonresidents. Everyone will be less happy and a valuable sheep population that has provided excellent opportunity to bow hunters for years will remain depleted with marginal animals available for harvest. This increase in tensions and reduction in resource viability is avoidable.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. By reducing the number of guided hunters more sheep will live through the hunting season and there will be more available hunting sites without guided clients in them. As it stands now, the entire west side of the DHC in Unit 24A will have a guided client in it for entire season thus out competing resident and local hunters alike because. Guides are professionals and will get there first and spend money in air time to assure access and success.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All users, guided and non guided alike will benefit because there is a limited resource available and this will insure viability and long term quality. If this situation continues hunt prices and marketability will eventually decline due to reduced harvest rates. The initial success rates for these operations are due to the fact that local and state resident hunters have allowed sheep to live through the season and have put "sheep in the bank." By over exploiting these savings, we will be left with meager reserves of resource or social credibility. All users benefit by restraining exploitation of renewable resources.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one because there are still a total of eight drawing tags within the DHC! This is viable and realist number and financial opportunity for guides and spreads the pressure out in a way that minimizes the likelihood of user conflicts or resource depletion. By leaving trees, there are always trees to cut.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED:

PROPOSED BY: Thor Stacey

LOG NUMBER: EG042811360

PROPOSAL 180 - 5 AAC 84.270 Furbearer trapping. Open wolf trapping season in Unit 25A, B, and C earlier, to start October 1.

Change the season for Units 25A, 25B and 25C from November 1 through April 30, to October 1 through April 30.

ISSUE: The need to align wolf trapping seasons in Unit 25.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Wolf trapping seasons in Unit 25 will remain inconsistent.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? This proposal allows for more efficient trapping of wolves through consistent open seasons throughout Unit 25.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Trappers in Units 25A, 25B and 25C.

Note: This proposal was an action item of the Eastern Interior Regional Advisory Council during its public meeting in March, 2011, in Fairbanks, Alaska.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED:

PROPOSED BY: Eastern Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Committee

LOG NUMBER: EG050611458

PROPOSAL 181 - 5AAC 85.025. Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear. Extend brown bear seasons in Unit 26B.

Units and Bag Limit	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
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(24)

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Unit 26(B)[, THAT PORTION
INCLUDING THE KADLEROSHILIK
RIVER DRAINAGE SOUTH AND

EAST OF THE PRUDHOE BAY
CLOSED AREA, AND INCLUDING
THAT PORTION OF THE ECHOOKA,
IVISHAK LUPINE, AND RIBDON
RIVER DRAINAGES AND THE
ACCOMPLISHMENT CREEK
DRAINAGE NORTH OF A LINE
BEGINNING AT 69 DEGREES
08.97 MINUTES NORTH LATITUDE,
146 DEGREES 50.36 MINUTES
WEST LONGITUDE ON THE
DIVIDE BETWEEN THE
ECHOOKA AND SHAVIOVIK
RIVER DRAINAGES AND
ENDING AT 68 DEGREES 35.71
MINUTES NORTH LATITUDE,
148 DEGREES 29.64 MINUTES
WEST LONGITUDE, EXCLUDING
THE ACCOMPLISHMENT CREEK
DRAINAGE SOUTHWEST OF A LINE
FOLLOWING THE WEST BANK OF
ACCOMPLISHMENT CREEK
FROM 68 DEGREES 35.71
MINUTES NORTH LATITUDE, 148
DEGREES 29.64 MINUTES WEST
LONGITUDE TO THE CONFLUENCE
OF ACCOMPLISHMENT CREEK
AND THE SAGAVANIRKTOK RIVER
AT 68 DEGREES 42.19 MINUTES
NORTH LATITUDE, 148 DEGREES,
54.47 MINUTES WEST LONGITUDE,
AND INCLUDING THAT PORTION OF
THE SAGAVANIRKTOK RIVER
DRAINAGE SOUTH OF THE PRUDHOE
BAY CLOSED AREA AND NORTH
OF 68 DEGREES 42.19 MINUTES
NORTH LATITUDE (CROSSING
THE DALTON HIGHWAY NEAR
MILEPOST 300), AND INCLUDING
THAT PORTION OF THE KUPARUK
AND TOOLIK RIVER DRAINAGES
SOUTH OF THE PRUDHOE BAY
CLOSED AREA AND NORTH OF A LINE
AT 68 DEGREES 42.19 MINUTES,
NORTH LATITUDE, EXCLUDING
TRIBUTARY DRAINAGES FLOWING

INTO THE KUPARUK RIVER NORTH
OF THE CONFLUENCE OF THE
KUPARUK AND TOOLIK RIVERS
AND WEST OF THE WEST BANK
OF THE KUPARUK RIVER.]

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 brown bear per regulatory
year by registration permit
only

July 1-June 30

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 brown bear per regulatory
year by registration permit
only

July 1-June 30

[REMAINDER OF UNIT 26(B)]

[RESIDENT HUNTERS:]

[1 BEAR EVERY
REGULATORY YEAR]

[SEPT. 1 - MAY 31]

[NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:]

[1 BEAR EVERY
REGULATORY
YEAR BY DRAWING
PERMIT ONLY; UP TO
20 PERMITS MAY BE
ISSUED]

[SEPT. 1 - MAY 31]

ISSUE: Brown bear predation is a major factor influencing the decline of muskoxen in Unit 26B. This proposal extends the Unit 26B brown registration hunt to encompass all of Unit 26B. It would result in a year round season for both resident and nonresidents all of Unit 26B and eliminate the nonresident drawing permits that are currently required for outside the registration hunt area. This proposal would likely result in additional harvest of brown bears, which could help reduce the effects of brown bear predation on muskoxen.

The muskox population in northeastern Alaska has recently declined to low numbers. During 1969 and 1970, 64 muskoxen were reintroduced to northeastern Alaska after this species disappeared in the late 1800s or early 1900s. The population increased, and by the mid 1990s, approximately 700–800 muskoxen inhabited northeastern Alaska and northwestern Canada. Beginning in 1999, the muskox population began to decline and by the late 2000s, only about 350 muskoxen inhabited the same area with approximately 200 in Unit 26B and adjacent areas.

Hunting for muskoxen on the eastern North Slope in Alaska was only allowed by permit. ADF&G first opened a hunting season in Unit 26C in 1982 and in Unit 26B in 1990. By regulatory year 2006–2007, all hunting seasons for muskoxen in the northeastern Alaska were closed.

To evaluate potential causes of the muskoxen decline, ADF&G initiated a study in 2007 to assess calf production, age-specific survival rates, causes of mortality, and nutritional status in northeastern Alaska. The population declined from 196 muskoxen during 2007 to 184 during 2010, with brown bear predation identified as the predominant cause of mortality. Of 56 calves and 42 adult muskoxen known to have died during this period, 43 calves and 33 adults appeared to have been killed by brown bears. Additional deaths were due to disease (10 calves, 1 adult), accidents (drowning and motor vehicles; 2 calves and 7 adults), and starvation (1 calf and 1 adult). Analyses of muskox health and body condition suggested that a variety of pathogens are prevalent in this population, and that low levels of copper in the diet may be contributing to reduced immune system function. However, disease was not indicated as a common primary cause of death.

The severity of the decline of the northeastern Alaska muskox population and the speed with which the decline occurred (67% reduction during 1999–2006) indicate the critical nature of the situation and suggested that a proactive response was needed to prevent the population from further decline or extirpation. Therefore, the Board of Game opened the fall 2010 brown bear season 15 days earlier in Unit 26B. A total of 27 bears were taken in fall 2010.

In addition, during an October 2010 Board of Game meeting, brown bear seasons were liberalized beginning February 2011 in a portion of Unit 26B to increase bear harvest in the vicinity of muskoxen groups. More action to reduce the effects of brown bear predation on muskoxen may be needed.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE Muskoxen numbers in Unit 26B may decline to a very low number, jeopardizing population viability, reducing the opportunity for viewing, and reducing population recovery potential.

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Hunters interested in temporarily harvesting additional brown bears and possibly having future muskoxen hunting opportunities in Unit 26B. People interested in viewing muskoxen.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Hunters interested in either observing bears or having the opportunity to harvest brown bears in Unit 26B over the long term (e.g., 10 years) due to low number of bears in the area. People interested in a high probability of observing brown bears along the Dalton Highway in the next 10 years.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: Open the remainder of Unit 26B earlier in August versus September 1. Maintain existing regulations.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

LOG NUMBER: ADFG042811V

PROPOSAL 182 - 5 AAC 85.015. Hunting seasons and bag limits for black bear. Increase the annual bag limit for black bear in Unit 25D.

Unit 25D,

RESIDENT HUNTERS: 5 bears or 5 bears per community harvest report by community harvest permit in an established community harvest area; No Closed Season.

ISSUE: The current black bear bag limit is 3 bears annually in Unit 25D. ADF&G conducted a black bear population estimate and determined that there are as many black bear as moose. The moose population is at a low density. In addition, the Yukon Flats Refuge determined that black bears were a major predator on moose calves in Unit 25D. Some hunters would take more than three bears annually and since there are so many black bears, it is not necessary to limit the take to three bears. Hunters are missing an opportunity. There is a community harvest permit for black bears, but some hunters would prefer an increase in the annual bag limit versus another permit.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Hunters will miss opportunities to take more black bears from a high density black bear population. Black bear predation on moose calves will not be reduced.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? NA

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Hunters who wish to take more black bears for food or to help the moose population.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? People who do not like black bear hunting.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: None

PROPOSED BY: Yukon Flats Advisory Committee

LOG NUMBER: EG042811347

PROPOSAL 183 - 5 AAC 85.020. Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear. Allow hunters to take more than one brown bear by community harvest permit in Unit 25D.

Recent ethnographic reports noted "super hunters" with the ability to harvest more than current brown bear limits. Allow these hunters to take more than one brown bear per regulatory year by community harvest permit.

ISSUE: The need to decrease brown bear populations in the Yukon Flats in order to support Yukon Flats moose populations.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Moose populations in the Yukon Flats are among the lowest in the state. If the number of bears in this habitat remains steady or increases, moose populations will not recover and rebuild.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? This proposal allows for more efficient harvest of brown bear and should result in improved habitat for moose.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Bear and moose hunters in Unit 25D.

Note: This proposal was an action item of the Eastern Interior Regional Advisory Council during its public meeting March 2011, in Fairbanks, Alaska

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: None

PROPOSED BY: Eastern Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Committee

LOG NUMBER: EG050611457

PROPOSAL 184 - 5 AAC 92.530(7). Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area. Allow the use of crossbows in the Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area.

The area within the Prudhoe Bay closed area is closed to the taking of big game; the remainder of the Dalton Highway Corridor Management area is closed to hunting; however, big game, small game, and fur animals may be taken in the area by bow and arrow **and crossbows** only.

ISSUE: Crossbows are not included in the Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area (DHCMA).

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Alaska residents will have fewer opportunities to harvest caribou if crossbows are not included in the DHCMA.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? I understand bow and arrow is required to protect the pipeline; however, crossbows would offer a safe alternative while still protecting the pipeline, and would increase opportunity to harvest caribou for Alaska residents.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Alaska residents.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? None.

CONSIDERED: None.

PROPOSED BY: Dale Ware

LOG NUMBER: EG10061088

PROPOSAL 185 - 5 AAC 92.530(7)(B). Management areas. Allow the taking of small game by falconry in the Dalton Highway Corridor Management area.

5AAC92.530(7)(B) the area within the Prudhoe Bay Closed Area is closed to the taking of big game; the remainder of the Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area is closed to hunting; however big game, small game, and fur animals may be taken in the area by bow and arrow only; **Additionally, small game may be taken in the remainder of the area by falconry.**

ISSUE: The Alaska Falconers Association is requesting the Board of Game to open the Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area to hunting for small game using falconry.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Currently the Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area allows hunting for small game by bow and arrow only. Alaska Statute AS16.05.789 only prohibits the use of firearms for hunting north of the Yukon River within five miles of the Dalton Highway. There are no other prohibitions listed in this statute. 5AAC92.530(7)(B) is more restrictive and prohibits other methods of take within the corridor with the exception of archery.

Alaska Falconers Association believe that falconry, which is recognized by the Board of Game as a method of taking small game, was inadvertently left out as a legal method of take within the corridor.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Falconry, defined as the means of taking game by means of a trained raptor, is the method of take that has the least impact on the small game resource. Falconry is a highly regulated sport that is practiced by a small number of very dedicated individuals. Falconers practice their discipline under the guidance of the Alaska Falconry Manual, which is part of the Alaska Fish and Game Code. Falconers purchase hunting licenses and state and federal duck stamps. Falconers follow a strict set of guidelines including licensing, experience, acquiring and housing raptors, and licensing new falconers through an apprentice program. Falconers are mandated to follow all of the hunting regulations. Falconers spend countless hours over several years to bring a raptor to a level where the bird can successfully take small game. Falconers, through their trained raptors, take very few game animals, and they leave a very small and quiet foot print on the landscape. They make it a point to avoid other hunters because their technique at harvesting game is incompatible with other resource users. There is almost no competition for the resource between falconry and other consumptive uses.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Falconers and falconry birds will benefit if this proposal is adopted because, if approved, hundreds of miles of highway will be opened to the harvest of ptarmigan, grouse, rabbits and other small game during the fall and winter months when these

plentiful small game populations are not available in other places. Falconry birds can be flown at a plentiful and easily accessed small game resource for several more months each year.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? We did not identify any other user groups that will suffer if falconry is approved as a legal method of harvesting small game in the DHCMA.

Falconry is a very low impact discipline with a very limited success rate. Falconers strive to distance themselves and their birds from other hunters and resource users. Often time hours are spent looking for the right set of circumstances just to initiate one flight. Many times those circumstances do not manifest themselves and no flight on game occurs.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: None

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Falconers Association

LOG NUMBER: EG021311280

Tok Area – Units 12 and 20E

Note: Unit 11 is not in the Interior Region.

PROPOSAL 186 - 5 AAC 85.045 Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Modify moose season in portion of Unit 12 and 11.

In the portion of Unit 11 draining into the east bank of the Copper River upstream from and including the Slana River drainage and the portion of Unit 12 west of the east bank of the Nabesna River upstream from the Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge's southern boundary, the season for residents and nonresidents should be August 24 – 28 and September 8 – 17, with a bag limit of one bull with spike-fork or 50-inch antlers or antlers with four or more brow tines on at least one side, by Joint State/Federal Registration Permit.

This season structure and bag limit has been used successfully to improve and maintain the bull:cow ratio in the Upper Tok River drainage in recent years.

A sister proposal has been submitted to the Federal Subsistence Board by the Upper Tanana Fortymile Advisory Committee to align the federal season dates in this same area and require the same Joint State/Federal Registration Permit under federal regulations. This Joint State/Federal Registration Permit should be structured similar to the Joint Registration Permit that has been used very successfully in Unit 20E for both moose and caribou. Reporting requirements should be similar to the Unit 20E moose registration permit requirements.

ISSUE: Moose seasons in the Nabesna Road area in portions of Units 11 and 12 are too liberal for this low density moose population to handle. During recent years, more and more hunters have been attracted to this road accessible area, due to easy access, which has compounded the problem. In addition, harvest reporting has been poor in this area under the green harvest ticket. This makes management much more difficult.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Bull:cow ratios will continue to decline causing conservation concerns. And poor harvest reporting will continue which will force managers to recommend overly conservative seasons and bag limits due to lack of adequate harvest information.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. It will reduce harvest which will allow the population to maintain a healthy bull:cow ratio. And it will improve harvest reporting which will allow managers to recommend more liberal seasons and bag limits to increase hunting opportunity.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? It will benefit all hunters by maintaining a healthy moose population and increasing hunting opportunity.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Hunters wanting a more liberal moose season and bag limit in this area.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: None.

PROPOSED BY: Upper Tanana Fortymile and Slana Fish and Game Advisory Committees

LOG NUMBER: EG050611467

PROPOSAL 187 - 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Convert the any bull moose hunt to a spike-fork 50-inch or 3 or more brow tines in portion of Unit 12.

The harvest limit for resident hunters for moose in Unit 12 remainder would be one bull with spike-fork antlers or 50-inch antlers or antlers with 3 or more brow tines on at least one side. This will align the harvest limit with that in Unit 11.

ISSUE: The current resident harvest limit for moose in Unit 12 remainder (end of the Nabesna Road) is one bull. This liberal harvest limit in a road- accessible area with several ORV trails providing easy access to the backcountry serves as a magnet for hunters and creates overcrowded conditions. The liberal harvest limit puts pressure on the low density moose population in the area. In addition, many hunters road hunt the entire Nabesna Road. Currently, the harvest limit in Unit 12 remainder (east end of the Nabesna Road) is different from that in Unit 11 (west end of the road). Aligning the harvest limits will simplify the regulations.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Overcrowding, high hunting pressure on a low density moose population, and the potential for confusion about the regulations will continue.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? This proposal will reduce overcrowding, improve the quality of the hunting experience, reduce the hunting pressure on the low density moose population, and reduce the potential for confusion by aligning the harvest limit along the length of the Nabesna Road.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? By reducing overcrowding, local hunters will have improved opportunity to put food on the table and a better hunting experience. Hunters under state regulations will benefit from consistent harvest limits along the entire length of the road as well as a better hunting experience.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Non-local hunters may have to look harder for a legal moose, however, the quality of the hunting experience will be improved with less competition.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: We considered a different antler restriction, however, the Commission felt that it was better to be consistent with the Unit 11 harvest limit.

PROPOSED BY: Wrangell-St. Elias National Park Subsistence Resource Commission

LOG NUMBER: EG033011290

PROPOSAL 188 - 5 AAC 85.055 . Hunting Seasons and Bag Limits for Dall sheep; and 92.057. Special provisions for Dall sheep drawing permit hunts. Allocate 10 percent of sheep drawing permits to nonresidents.

In the Tok Management Area for sheep, 10 percent of the sheep tags are allocated to nonresidents.

ISSUE: That the language for the Tok Management sheep hunts read that 10 percent of the tags will go to non-resident hunters.

Right now the language reads UP TO 10 percent can go to nonresidents.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? It is becoming harder and harder for non-residents to draw Tok sheep tags and the nonresident hunter is becoming less interested in hunting Alaska knowing that over 90 percent of the sheep tags are going to resident. The non-resident sheep hunter is turning his sights on hunting Dall sheep in Canada.

We need to remember that it is our non-resident hunter that funds the Department of Fish & Game. Plus 10 percent of the sheep tags to nonresidents is a standard practice in other states.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? It improves the overall sentiment of the non-resident towards the drawing sheep hunts in Alaska.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? It will allow for a few more non-residents to hunt sheep in the TOK management area. Guides may benefit if the non-residents that draw are not next of kin. Local business and Fish & Game will benefit financially with non-residents paying high license and tag fees and using more local services.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Depending on how the draw applicants break down it will either make the odds a little tougher or the same for the resident Tok applicant.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: None.

PROPOSED BY: Lance Kronberger

LOG NUMBER: EG041411300

PROPOSAL 189 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep; and 92.057. Special provisions for Dall sheep drawing permit hunts. Close the nonresident sheep season in the Tok and Delta drawing hunts.

Tok and Delta Management Areas for sheep permits are only open for Alaskan residents.

ISSUE: As hunting pressure continues to grow and management techniques prove ineffective concerning herd growth, true trophy size sheep become fewer and less available. Areas where

trophy rams exist need to be protected for use and access by Alaska residents. Such areas should not be open for nonresident hunters.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Alaskan residents will continue to lose the opportunity to have a chance at harvesting trophy class rams due to pressure from nonresident hunters.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? 1.) Harvest pressure on Tok/Delta sheep will be reduced by the elimination of commercial guide operations. 2.) Two sheep areas will be reserved for residents only.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Alaska residents will benefit.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Alaska residents and nonresident guides will complain but their suffering would be minimal. They still could access the rest of the state.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: Other sheep areas for Alaska residents were considered but Tok/Delta is best because of its already established permit program and herd potential for quality rams.

PROPOSED BY: Terry Marquette

LOG NUMBER: EG042811353

PROPOSAL 190 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep, and 92.057. Special provisions for Dall sheep drawing permit hunts. Close nonresident sheep season in the Tok and Delta drawing hunts.

No nonresident allocation will be available for Dall sheep in the Tok or Delta drawing permit hunts.

ISSUE: Set aside the Tok and Delta Dall sheep drawing permits for residents only.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? A limited resource will be given away to nonresidents who have no claim to Alaskan resources.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, it will provide advantage to the resident of Alaska to harvest Dall sheep without nonresident competition.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Alaskan residents.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Nonresidents.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED:

PROPOSED BY: Ray Heuer

LOG NUMBER: EG042811350

PROPOSAL 191 - 5 AAC 85.045 Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Extend the moose season and restrict the harvest to larger bulls in Unit 20E.

Extend the closing date of the DM794 and DM796 hunts to December 10 and change the bag limit to 1 bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on at least one side.

ISSUE: With a fall 2010 moose bull:cow ratio of 54 bulls:100 cows in the Ladue Controlled Use Area in southeast Unit 20E (ADF&G data), very few permits issued (three for DM794 and seven for DM796) and the extremely low success rate of DM794 (7 percent success rate from 2006-2010) and DM796 (17 percent success rate from 2006-2010) permit hunters in recent years, we believe the season length is unnecessarily restrictive (to short) and should be extended an additional 10 days into December to allow hunters additional time when snow conditions are more favorable to the use of snow machines. Also, the understanding of the Upper Tanana Fortymile Advisory Committee is that these drawing hunts were always intended to be trophy hunts and that hunters should be restricted to harvesting larger bulls. If they are restricted to large bulls, this is an additional reason why extending the season will not be a problem.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Success rates will remain extremely low and hunters will continue to harvest smaller bulls than what was originally intended for this hunt.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. It will result in trophy class bulls being harvested and leave the smaller meat bulls for the fall general season.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All permit hunters, due to the longer season. Trophy moose hunters and hunters hunting during the fall season, due to the antler restriction.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? People opposed to hunting or hunters wanting to have an any bull bag limit.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: None.

PROPOSED BY: Upper Tanana Fortymile Advisory Committee

LOG NUMBER: EG050611472

PROPOSAL 192 - 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

Aug. 10–Sept. 30
Dec. 1–Mar 31

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

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

...

Units and Bag Limits

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

**Nonresident
Open Season**

[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]

[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 and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
[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]
...		
[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]	

Units and Bag Limits

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

**Nonresident
Open Season**

[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:

1 caribou by registration permit only

Aug. 10–Sept. 30

Dec. 1–Mar. 31

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:]

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
[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:]		
[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:]		
[1 BULL BY REGISTRATION PERMIT ONLY]		[AUG. 10 - SEPT. 20]

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

PROPOSAL 193 - 5 AAC 85.025 Seasons and bag limits for caribou. Move the Fortymile caribou season start date back to August 10, close corridor within one mile of highways during fall season.

A. Open season for RC860 Zone 1 & 3 (resident and nonresident) fall season will be from August 10 to September 20 unless closed by emergency order due to harvest goal being met.

B. A corridor extending one mile from each side of the Taylor and Steese Highways will be closed to the taking of caribou from August 10-September 20. (No corridor would exist during the winter December 1-February 28 hunting season)

ISSUE: RC860 Zone 1 & 3; open season (FortyMile Caribou). The season start date of August 29th excludes families and youth from participating in this hunt due to the conflict with school schedules. The date was changed to address the problem of overharvesting the resource in a short period of time, but has proven ineffective. This proposal will move the season start date back to August 10th and will effectively curb the overharvest that has occasionally occurred near public roads.

The problem of caribou being located near the highways can occur any time of the year. During the fall of 2010, a large herd of caribou gathered near the Steese Highway on the August 29th opening date. This shows that current efforts to avoid the problem of massive harvest are not affectively resolved by the change of season start date.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Families and youth will be unable to participate in this hunt and excessive harvest near major highways will continue. Management of this resource will continue to be very difficult as large-scale harvest near the Taylor and Steese Highways will periodically occur.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? This proposal will improve hunter safety by spreading out the harvest geographically and moving the hunt away from public roads. It will improve resource management and make maintaining harvest goals easier for biologists. The early start date will be at a time of year when more enforcement officers can patrol the hunt by limiting overlap with

moose seasons. The weather in the backcountry will be more predictable, improving safety for participants.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Families and youth hunters from Alaska will benefit by having the early start date. Hunters that want to camp and enjoy a longer season in the backcountry (quality experience) will benefit by avoiding an early (quick) close to the season. Those that invest time, travel and money in reaching the backcountry will also benefit. The philosophy of fair chase will be promoted and will avoid negative publicity in the media. The resource (caribou) will certainly benefit from avoiding massive harvest near roads. The game biologists (managers) will benefit from having a slower, more predictable harvest allowing them to close the season before surpassing harvest objectives. Law enforcement will benefit from avoiding overlap with moose season, making scheduling easier and being on site to enforce game laws. Local hunters would still be allowed to hunt near the highway systems during the December 1-February 28, winter hunt.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? The only people that would be harmed by this proposed change are those who drive on the Taylor and Steese highways hunting for caribou from the road. They would be required to get 1 mile off of the highways to harvest caribou.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: We considered a five-mile corridor similar to what is in place on the Dalton Highway, including a provision for archery hunting. This idea does have merit but would be more difficult to enforce and could still provide management challenges, as harvest could be less predictable.

PROPOSED BY: Steve Klaich

LOG NUMBER: EG041711305

PROPOSAL 194 - 5 AAC . Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou. Open a youth only hunt for Fortymile Caribou.

Unit 20, August 10th - 15th. Fortymile Caribou Herd youth hunt.

One bull caribou open to Alaska residents 16 years and younger with the completion of the hunter education class.

ISSUE: I would like to see the Board of Game adopt a change to the Fortymile Caribou Herd. While I understood the need to make it a bull only hunt and make the open date later in the season (August 29th) we have lost an opportunity for the children in our state with the starting of school in much of the state earlier than the Aug 29th hunt opening. I would like to propose an August 10 thru August 15 opening for any bull caribou for residents of the state 16 years old and under with the completion of the hunter safety course. A five day hunt in which the harvested number of animals would be counted toward the seasonal quota established by the board.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? We have lost a great big game hunting opportunity for our children.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Both. Still maintaining close control on the number of animals taken to preserve and reestablish the herd and improving the quality of our children's concept of Alaska's natural resources and what we must do to protect them.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The children of this great state. One of our most valuable resources.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Some adults that regularly hunt the Fortymile Herd may be affected by the number of animals taken during the youth hunt that will apply to the seasonal allowable harvest quota.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: Making it a youth hunt with a set number of tags to be applied for during the draw. I thought that it may be rejected because of the increased clerical work load. And as most of us realize as we get older, it's about getting out and participating in the hunt. The kill is not the most important thing. A great lesson for kids.

PROPOSED BY: Larry DeBoard

LOG NUMBER: EG042511317

PROPOSAL 195 - 5 AAC 92.011. Taking of game by proxy. Remove the proxy prohibition for taking caribou in Unit 20E; and prohibit proxy hunting for Fortymile and White Mountain caribou in Unit 25.

(l) Notwithstanding (k) of this section, proxy hunting is prohibited in the following hunts where the board has determined that the use of the proxy would allow circumvention of harvest restrictions specified by the board:

(1) Unit 20E moose [AND CARIBOU] registration hunts and **Units 20(B), 20(D), 20(E), 20(F), and 25(C) Fortymile and White Mountains caribou registration hunts;**

...

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). Hunting methods 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 and 25C that are currently home to the much smaller WCH (approximately 600 animals). We expect the FCH may eventually absorb the WCH as it expands, and the two herds will need to be managed as one.

Only in Unit 20(E) is proxy hunting of FCH prohibited. This proposal would extend that prohibition to the entire FCH as well as the WCH. The FCH has strict hunting quotas, and taking some of that quota by proxy will reduce opportunity for hunters who want to hunt for themselves.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Only a portion of the hunt area is covered by the current restriction. Also, since the FCH and WCH share some of the same territory, there will be great confusion about where one can proxy hunt if the restriction is not applied to both herds.

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? While under the present harvest quota system, more Alaskan families will have an opportunity to share the resource.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? The very few hunters who have been able to use proxy hunting for the WCH and for the FCH outside of Unit 20(E).

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: None.

PROPOSED BY: Fortymile Caribou Herd Harvest Management Coalition

LOG NUMBER: EG042911393

PROPOSAL 196 - 5 AAC 92.044. Permit for hunting black bear with the use of bait or scent lures. Allow brown bear baiting with same season and restrictions as black bear baiting.

We recommend establishing a Unit 12 and 20E grizzly bear baiting season/permit, for residents and nonresidents, that coincides with the Unit 12 and 20E spring black bear baiting season (April 15 – June 30) and that grizzly bear baiting be administered in the same manner as black bear baiting.

ISSUE: Grizzly bear baiting was allowed under the Upper Yukon Tanana Predator Control Program in southern Unit 20E during RYs 2005 – 2008. Success rates were very low despite considerable effort by permittees and did not impact the grizzly bear population. However, permittees that participated appreciated the opportunity to bait grizzly bears and were able to harvest five grizzly bears over bait during 2005-2009. With this information, we propose

allowing grizzly bear baiting in Units 12 and 20E under general hunting regulations to allow additional opportunity to harvest grizzly bears.

Grizzly bears in Units 12 and 20E are smaller than coastal brown bears and are not sought after to the same extent as trophies. In addition, interior grizzly bears are not as important of an economic resource for Alaska guides and transporters as coastal brown bears. Finally, hunters baiting black bears currently are not allowed to harvest a grizzly bear when one comes into their bait station in the spring, resulting in lost opportunity to harvest a grizzly bear.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Grizzly bear hunting opportunity will be unnecessarily restricted and black bear baiters will not be allowed to harvest grizzly bears that come into their baits.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. It will allow black bear baiters to harvest grizzly bears over their black bear baits. Also, it may result in a few more grizzly bears killed out of the Upper Yukon Tanana Predator Control Area that could add to the success of that program. Especially if our grizzly bear snaring proposal is adopted by the Board of Game for southern Unit 20E in the Upper Yukon Tanana Predator Control Program.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Hunters wanting to bait grizzly bears.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? People opposed to hunting or grizzly bear baiting.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: None.

PROPOSED BY: Upper Tanana Fortymile Advisory Committee

LOG NUMBER: EG050611471

PROPOSAL 197 - 5 AAC 92.125. Predation control areas implementation programs. Re-implement the grizzly bear control portion of the UYTPCP in Southern Unit 20E, and allow bear snaring and same day airborne taking of bears.

The Upper Tanana/Fortymile advisory committee recommends:

- 1) Re-implementing the Grizzly Bear Control portion of the UYTPCP (Upper Yukon Tanana Predator Control Program) in Southern Unit 20E.
- 2) Reducing the size of the original Grizzly Bear Control Area to include an approximate 30-40 mile wide corridor along the Taylor Highway from Mile Post 9 to the Y (~MP100), and along the primary trail systems (which may be slightly outside the Taylor Highway Corridor, such as the 9-Mile and Chicken Ridge Trails) off the Taylor Highway. The grizzly bear control area should be refined with input from ADF&G to keep the area as focused as possible, but still achieve bear control and moose intensive management objectives. It needs to be realistically.
- 3) Allowing both baiting and snaring (with methods and means similar to those approved for the Unit 16B program) of both grizzly and black bears, including sows and cubs.

4) Allowing same-day-airborne use of airplanes and helicopters to set and check snare sets and hunt at bait sites.

ISSUE: The Grizzly Bear Control Program (in southern Unit 20E), under the Upper Yukon Tanana Predator Control Program (UYTPCP), was originally adopted by the Board of Game in the fall of 2004 and implemented in spring of 2005. The grizzly bear control program was implemented in an attempt to reduce grizzly numbers in key moose calving areas in southern Unit 20E to reduce predation on moose calves to benefit the moose population. ADF&G research has shown that grizzly bear predation on moose calves was the primary limiting factor to the moose population in southern Unit 20E.

Under the grizzly bear control portion of the UYTPCP, the board originally allowed baiting of grizzly bears, but did not approve the Upper Tanana Fortymile Advisory Committee's proposed snaring of grizzly bears. The grizzly bear baiting portion of the UYTPCP was suspended in RY09 because grizzly bear baiting alone was deemed ineffective at achieving bear control objectives. We have submitted several proposals to the board since 2004 to allow snaring of grizzly bears in the UYTPCP, which have all been rejected by the board due to political and social concerns about the method of snaring grizzly bears.

However, with the board's recent (March 2011) approval of brown bear snaring under the Unit 16B predator control program, we feel it is now appropriate for the board to approve a similar grizzly bear snaring program under the UYTPCP in southern Unit 20E.

To ensure the grizzly bear control program is as effective as possible, we recommend scaling back the size of the original UYTPCP Grizzly Bear Control Area to focus efforts in a much smaller area along the Taylor Highway corridor and along several heavily used adjacent trail systems off the Taylor Highway. This will 1) focus efforts in the areas with the best access to snare grizzly bears and to subsequently harvest additional moose benefiting from grizzly bear control; and 2) substantially reduce the total number of grizzly bears needing to be removed to meet control objectives.

While the southern Unit 20E moose population is increasing with wolf control alone, it is a slow increase and not occurring over all of southern Unit 20E. We feel grizzly bear snaring would enhance the current program tremendously and greatly improve moose calf survival and result in much more rapid increases in the moose population. In addition, there are some areas in southern Unit 20E, like the 9-Mile Trail area, where aerial wolf control has been nearly impossible in most years due to large numbers of wintering Nelchina caribou and thick tree cover making aerial wolf tracking almost impossible. In areas like the 9-Mile Trail area, grizzly bear snaring is the only reasonable predator control option available. Without bear snaring, this area may never achieve intensive management (IM) moose objectives, especially if an administration change results in elimination of aerial wolf control in the near future.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? It will take substantially longer to meet IM moose population and harvest objectives in Unit 20E and IM objectives may not be feasible in some areas like the 9-Mile Trail Area.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. It will result in more moose and ultimately more bears in the proposed area.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? People in support of intensive management.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? People opposed to intensive management.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: None.

PROPOSED BY: Upper Tanana Fortymile Advisory Committee

LOG NUMBER: EG050611469

PROPOSAL 198 - 5 AAC 84.270 Furbearer trapping. Align Units 12 and 20E fox trapping season with the coyote season, including snare and trap restrictions in October and April.

Align the Unit 12 and 20E fox trapping season with the coyote season, including snare and trap restrictions in October and April. This would change the fox season to October 15 – April 30, but it will be against the law to trap a fox in Units 12 and 20E during October or April with a steel trap or with a snare smaller than 3/32 inch in diameter.

ISSUE: The fox trapping seasons in Units 12 and 20E do not allow for the retention of foxes caught in wolf traps in late March and wolf snares in October and April.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Foxes caught in wolf traps and snares during late March and April will have to be surrendered to the state.

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Trappers catching fox in wolf traps in late-March and wolf snares in October and April.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? People opposed to trapping.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: None.

PROPOSED BY: Upper Tanana Fortymile Advisory Committee

LOG NUMBER: EG050611470

PROPOSAL 199 - 5 AAC 85.060 Hunting seasons and bag limits for fur animals. Extend hunting seasons for lynx and fox to April 30.

We propose liberalizing these seasons by extending the closing date for both lynx and fox, in Units 12 and 20E, to April 30. This will allow for more opportunity in late-March and April to

harvest high quality adult fox and lynx, with a very limited overall increase in annual harvest that will have no impact on these populations.

ISSUE: The fox and lynx hunting seasons in Units 12 and 20E are currently unnecessarily restrictive. Harvest is currently controlled by an annual bag limit of only two lynx and ten foxes, with no more than two foxes allowed in September. With conservative bag limits in place, longer seasons are possible without causing a conservation concern.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? There will be loss of opportunity to hunt lynx and fox in Units 12 and 20E in late March and April.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. This will allow for more opportunity in late-March and April to harvest high quality adult fox and lynx. Adult lynx in particular are at their peak quality in April.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Lynx and fox hunters that are currently losing opportunity in late March and April. Hunters wanting to specifically harvest high quality fox and lynx in late March and April.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? People opposed to hunting.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: None.

PROPOSED BY: Upper Tanana Fortymile Advisory Committee

LOG NUMBER: EG050611468

PROPOSAL 200 - 5 AAC 99.025. Customary and traditional uses of game populations

Amend the Amount Reasonably Necessary for Subsistence Uses in Unit 12 as follows:

(11) Wolves

Unit 12

Amount Needed for Subsistence: Define an amount based on ADF&G and USF&WS historical subsistence harvest data, village surveys, anecdotal information, and other sources.

In Unit 12 particular attention needs to be placed on protecting subsistence harvest in high access areas. For that reason, the board needs to set an ANS based strictly on Unit 12's needs.

ISSUE: The Board of Game has made a positive customary and traditional (C&T) use determination for wolves in this unit under the authority of AS 16.05.258(a). Under that authority, when the board has a positive C&T finding it is required to do the following:

AS 16.05.258 (b) states:

"The appropriate board shall determine whether a portion of a fish stock or game population identified under (a) of this section can be harvested consistent with sustained yield. If a portion of a stock or population can be harvested consistent with sustained yield, the board shall

determine the amount of the harvestable portion that is reasonably necessary for subsistence uses."

The wolf management objective is to maintain a wolf population of at least 100 wolves in Unit 12. Unfortunately, the ADF&G has not had the funds to conduct a scientific assessment of Unit 12's wolf population since 2003 which is prior to aggressive predator control programs being implemented in Unit 12.

Harvest data indicate that the wolf population may be declining since 2003.

The harvest rate from regulatory year (RY) 90/91 to RY 02/03 averaged 51 wolves per year.

From RY 03/04 to RY 07/08 the total average harvest has been 35 wolves per year, indicating that even under the state's most aggressive wolf reduction programs, including state sponsored helicopter gunning of wolves, and citizen based aerial gunning of wolves, the harvest is declining.

Trapping harvest has suffered the same reductions.

The trapping harvest rate from RY 90/91 to RY 02/03 averaged 42 wolves per year.

The trapping harvest rate from RY 03/04 to RY 07/08 averaged just 28 wolves per year, a 150 percent decline from historical harvest rates.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The board will continue to ignore its statutory obligation to protect and allocate limited subsistence resources for resident subsistence harvest.

The 2006 wolf management report noted that wolf packs located near easy access points and communities within Unit 12 were decreasing in population due to extensive trapping harvest. As in other regions, this suggests that wolf populations near roads, trails, and communities may be harvested at unsustainable rates. Wolf populations near communities in Unit 12 may need specific harvest objectives established for specific packs to maintain their long term viability and to meet the sustained yield mandate.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, protecting the sustained yield of subsistence resources is one of the highest priorities of Alaska's constitution and legislative intent.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Residents that support the management of wolves and caribou based on the sustained yield principle and that support the legislative intent to prioritize important subsistence resources for residents in time of depleted populations.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Nonresident hunters and subsequently the commercial hunting industry may lose opportunity to harvest wolves or caribou.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: The Science Now Project agrees with the legislative intent. No other option applies.

PROPOSED BY: Science Now Project!

LOG NUMBER: EG110910208

Delta Junction Area – Unit 20D

PROPOSAL 201 - 5AAC 85.045(a)(18). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.
 Reauthorize antlerless moose hunting seasons in Unit 20D.

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
...		
(18)		
...		
Unit 20(D), that portion lying west of the west bank of the Johnson River and south of the north bank of the Tanana River, except the Delta Junction Management Area and the Bison Range Youth Hunt Management Area		
RESIDENT HUNTERS:		
1 bull with spike-fork or 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side; or	Sept. 1 - Sept. 15 (General hunt only)	
1 bull by drawing permit; or	Sept. 1 - Sept. 15 (General hunt only)	
1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only; up to 1,000	Oct. 10 - Nov. 25 (General hunt only)	

permits may be issued in combination with that portion in the Delta Junction Management Area; a person may not take a calf or a cow accompanied by a calf; or

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

Oct. 10 - Nov. 25
(General hunt only)

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

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

Sept. 5 - Sept. 15

Unit 20(D), that portion within the Bison Range Youth Hunt Management Area

1 bull with spike-fork or 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side; or 1 antlerless moose, per lifetime of a hunter, by drawing permit only; up to 10 permits may be issued; a person may not take a calf or a cow accompanied by a calf

Sept. 1 -Sept. 30
(General hunt only)

Sept.1 - Sept. 30

Unit 20(D), that portion within the Delta Junction Management Area

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull with spike-fork or 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side by drawing permit only; up to 30 permits may be issued; or

Sept. 1 - Sept. 15
(General hunt only)

1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only; up to 1,000 permits may be issued in combination with that portion lying west of the west bank of the Johnson River and south of the north bank of the Tanana River; a person may not take a calf or a cow accompanied by a calf; or

Oct. 10 - Nov. 25
(General hunt only)

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

Oct. 10 - Nov. 25
(General hunt only)

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side by drawing permit only; up to 30 permits may be issued

Sept. 5 - Sept. 15

...

ISSUE: Antlerless moose hunting seasons must be reauthorized annually. Our goal is to provide for a wide range of public uses and benefits, and to protect the health and habitat of moose populations. These antlerless hunts are important for improving or maintaining the ability of moose habitat to support current populations. They also help regulate moose population growth, help to meet Intensive Management (IM) objectives for high levels of harvest, and provide subsistence hunters with a reasonable opportunity to pursue moose for subsistence uses without reducing bull-to-cow ratios.

Reauthorization of the permit hunts for cow moose without calves is necessary in southwest Unit 20D (south of the Tanana River and west of the Johnson River) to stabilize the population and contribute toward meeting the IM harvest objective of 500–700 moose. We expect that, in most years when antlerless permits are needed, only drawing permits will be issued. Registration permits will be issued in combination with drawing permits to obtain additional harvest only in years and areas where additional harvest is needed to maintain optimal moose densities.

The density of moose in Unit 20D reached the IM population objective of 8,000–10,000 moose in about 2005. The highest density of moose was in southwest Unit 20D at 5.6 moose/mi² during 2006. The moose population in this area was demonstrating the effects of increased competition for food, with a moderately low level 2-year average twinning rate of 14%. Also, browse surveys indicated that moose are consuming moderately high quantities (25%) of available browse over winter. Antlerless moose hunts during 2006–2009 helped reduce the density of moose in southwest Unit 20D to 3.9 moose/mi². Continued antlerless hunts are likely needed to maintain the population at the optimal density. Extensive management and research data to guide antlerless hunt decisions were collected in 2010, including calf weights, twinning rates, a population estimate, an extensive browse utilization survey, and aerial survey sightability information. These data are currently being analyzed to determine the continued need for antlerless hunts in southwest Unit 20D.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? These moose populations may increase to unacceptable levels or may need further reduction when new data is available and analyzed. Opportunity to hunt a harvestable surplus of cow moose will be lost and our ability to meet intensive management harvest objectives will be compromised.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. Passage of this proposal will improve or maintain the ability of moose habitat to support current moose populations and allow the department to manage the moose populations in these units at optimum population levels. It will also allow hunters to harvest moose toward meeting the intensive management harvest objectives without reducing bull-to-cow ratios to low levels.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The moose populations will benefit by having population densities compatible with their habitat. Hunters will benefit by increased moose harvest. Delta Junction residents may benefit from reduced moose–vehicle collisions and moose–human conflicts.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? People who are opposed to intensive management harvest strategies.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? No antlerless permits or more antlerless permits.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

LOG NUMBER: AFDG042811SS

PROPOSAL 202 - 92.085. Unlawful methods of taking big game; exceptions. Allow assistance from same-day-airborne for Delta bison permit holders

It is against the law to help someone else take big game until 3:00 a.m. the day following the day you have flown unless you are a non-Delta bison permit holder, are assisting a legal Delta bison permit holder, are not utilizing air-to-ground communications and are not landing at an unimproved airstrip.

ISSUE: Declining harvest success resulting in the inability of Delta bison hunters to meet the harvest objective of the Delta Bison Management Plan. The success rate of this past harvest was only 58 percent and the surplus bison create additional crop depredation on private lands.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The Bison Management Plan will not be as successful in diminishing crop damage to private lands through herd reduction as is desired.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? This proposal would allow hunters to be directed to locations where bison are present in a more efficient manner. This will assist the Department of Fish and Game in meeting the harvest objective of the current Delta Bison Management Plan and aid in diminishing bison damage to private lands.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Bison hunters and private landowners

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: Same Day Airborne Hunting or Land and Shoot. Both would create an unfair disadvantage for the non-airborne hunters.

PROPOSED BY: Don Quarberg

LOG NUMBER: EG050611477

PROPOSAL 203 - 5 AAC 92.004. Policy for off-road vehicle use for hunting and transporting game; and 92.540. Controlled use areas. Restrict the use of all motorized vehicles in portion of 20D.

No motorized vehicles from August 1 through September 30 within the drainages to the south and west of the south bank of McCumber Creek, including the area east of the east bank of Jarvis Creek upstream of its' confluence with Mc Cumber Creek.

ISSUE: Consider closing or restricting a small piece of land in Unit 20D to motorized vehicles for big game hunting, including the transportation of big game hunters, their gear, and or parts of big game.

Motorized vehicles have resulted in problems including hunter conflicts, excessive noise, making new trails, and fair chase. In addition, there are increasing numbers of hunters who are hunting with motorized vehicles rather than on foot. This behavior raises concerns of "fair chase" and can reflect poorly on hunting and hunters.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The quality of hunting will continue to decline. Also the destruction of the high country will continue to spread.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Improves the quality of hunting due to less noise in disturbing game while hunting on foot in the proposed area. This area that we are asking to be off limits is small, and still leaves good opportunities for motorized vehicle hunting within Unit 20D. A person can hunt anywhere along this closed area and be successful. Also this will significantly decrease the motorized vehicle destruction of the high country and additional trails being created.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All hunters would benefit from this, particularly sheep and caribou hunters. The quality of the hunt is increased, the environment is protected, and the resource is protected for future generations of hunters.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? While some hunters may miss being able to hunt directly from their motorized vehicles within this small area of land, ultimately, no hunters will suffer, as this solution preserves the resource, environment, and quality of the hunt.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: Restricting ATVs to designated trails, to certain elevations, to specific times of the day and prohibiting hunting the same day ATVs have been ridden. These options would be difficult to enforce.

PROPOSED BY: Delta Fish and Game Advisory Committee

LOG NUMBER: EG050611476

Fairbanks Area – Units 20A, 20B, 20C, 20F, and 25C

PROPOSAL 204 - 5 AAC 92.108. Identified big game prey populations and objectives.

Modify the Intensive Management findings for moose in Unit 20A.

Finding	Population Objective	Harvest Objective
Unit 20A: Positive	<u>12,000-15,000</u>	1,400 - 1,600

ISSUE: For purposes of implementing AS 16.05.255 (e) - (g), the Board of Game has made the following findings on whether the listed big game prey populations, or portions of those populations, are identified as important for providing high levels of harvest for human consumptive use, and has established the following population and harvest objectives: Unit 20(A) Positive, 12,000-15,000; 1,400 - 1,600.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The moose population in 20A will continue to be managed at a lower population objective.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, with the adjusted population objected the Department of Fish and Game could decrease the intensive management effort.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All users would benefit

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one should suffer

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: None.

PROPOSED BY: Ray Heuer

LOG NUMBER: EG042911409

PROPOSAL 205 - 5 AAC 85.045 Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Change the legal animal for the Unit 20A & 20B antlerless hunts.

Subunits 20A & 20B antlerless hunts: One antlerless moose by permit. However, no person may take a [CALF OR] cow accompanied by a calf.

ISSUE: Calves are not allowed to be taken in antlerless moose hunts in Units 20A and 20B. This regulation places an undue burden and restriction on antlerless moose hunters. In other areas (Units 5, 7, and 14) with antlerless hunts, calves and cows accompanied by calves are legal. There is no biological reason why calves should not be legal in antlerless hunts.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Antlerless hunts with this restriction will continue and hunter opportunity will continue to be needlessly restricted. Harvest levels of antlerless moose will remain lower than management goals.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? N/A

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All antlerless moose hunter.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? That section of the public or hunters that believe it is wrong to harvest calf moose, irrespective of biological concerns or management objectives.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: Consideration was given to other options to legalize calf harvest. One option would be to have a drawing permit that is applied for as a party and the bag limit would be a cow/calf pair. This was rejected due to the necessity for creating another drawing hunt in a Unit that already has numerous moose drawing hunts. This option would also still allow existing antlerless hunts to continue with existing restrictions.

PROPOSED BY: Valerie Baxter

LOG NUMBER: EG042911395

PROPOSAL 206 - 5AAC 85.045(a)(18). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.
Reauthorize the antlerless moose hunting season in Unit 20A.

Units and Bag Limit	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
...		
(18) Unit 20(A), the Ferry Trail Management Area, Wood River Controlled Use Area, and the Yanert Controlled Use Area		

RESIDENT HUNTERS:
1 bull with spike-fork
antlers or 50-inch
antlers or antlers

Sept. 1 - Sept. 25
(General hunt only)

with 4 or more brow
tines on one side; or

1 antlerless moose by
drawing permit only; up
to 2,000 permits may
be issued in Unit 20(A);
a person may not
take a calf or a cow
accompanied by a calf;
or

Aug. 15 - Nov. 15
(General hunt only)

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

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

1 bull by drawing permit
only; up to 1,000 permits
may be issued; or

Sept. 1 - Sept. 25
(General hunt only)

1 bull by drawing
permit only; by
muzzleloader only;
up to 75 permits
may be issued
in Unit 20(A)

Nov. 1 - Nov. 30
(General hunt only)

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

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

Sept. 1 - Sept. 25

1 bull with 50-inch
antlers or antlers
with 4 or more brow
tines on one side
by drawing permit
only; by
muzzleloader only;
up to 75 permits

Nov. 1 - Nov. 30

may be issued
in Unit 20(A)

Remainder of Unit 20(A)

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

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

Sept. 1 - Sept. 25

1 antlerless moose by
drawing permit only;
up to 2,000 permits
may be issued in Unit
20(A); a person may
not take a calf or a
cow accompanied by a
calf; or

Aug. 15 - Nov. 15
(General hunt only)

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

Aug. 25 - Feb. 28

1 bull by drawing permit
only; up to 1,000
permits may be issued
in Unit 20(A); or

Sept. 1 - Sept. 25

1 bull by drawing permit
only; by muzzleloader only;
up to 75 permits may
be issued in Unit 20(A)

Nov. 1 - Nov. 30
(General hunt only)

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

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

Sept. 1 - Sept. 25

1 bull with 50-inch antlers

Nov. 1 - Nov. 30

or antlers with 4 or more
brow tines on one side by
drawing permit only; by
muzzleloader only up;
to 75 permits may be
issued in Unit 20(A)

...

ISSUE: Antlerless moose hunting seasons must be reauthorized annually.

The purpose of antlerless moose hunts in Unit 20A is to regulate population growth, to meet the Intensive Management (IM) mandate for high levels of harvest, and to provide subsistence hunters with a reasonable opportunity to pursue moose for subsistence uses in Unit 20A outside the Fairbanks Nonsubsistence Area (part of the western Tanana Flats). Our goal is to protect the health and habitat of the moose population and to provide for a wide range of public uses and benefits. The number of moose in Unit 20A was estimated at 16,000–18,000 (3.2–3.6 moose/mi²) in 2003. Research indicated this high-density moose population was experiencing density-dependent effects, including low productivity, relatively light calf weights, and high removal rates of winter forage.

Our objective beginning in regulatory year 2004 (RY begins 1 July and ends 30 June, e.g., RY04 = 1 July 2004 through 30 June 2005) was to reduce moose numbers to the population objective of 10,000–12,000 moose (2.0–2.5 moose/mi²) unless indicators of moose condition showed signs of improvement at higher densities. The fall 2010 population estimate was 14,500 (12,545–16,448; 90% Confidence Interval) moose. We recommended a harvest of 350 antlerless moose in RY10, which is an estimated harvest rate of 2.3% of the prehunt moose population. This harvest rate is expected to result in population stability, based on harvest rates and population trends observed between RY96 and RY09.

The Unit 20A antlerless moose hunt provides additional harvest opportunity which helps to meet human consumption interests and intensive management (IM) harvest objectives. In addition, this hunt has been successful in reversing moose population growth and in increasing moose harvest and hunter participation.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? This moose population may again increase, which would likely result in further declines in productivity, deterioration of the habitat, and exacerbate a population decline in years with severe winter conditions. The opportunity to hunt a harvestable surplus of cow moose would be lost and our ability to meet intensive management harvest objectives would be compromised. Subsistence hunters in the portion of Unit 20A outside the Fairbanks Nonsubsistence Area (part of the western Tanana Flats) may not have a reasonable opportunity to pursue moose for subsistence uses.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? This reauthorization of antlerless moose hunts will likely

improve or maintain the ability of moose habitat to support the current moose population. The additional harvest will help in meeting intensive management harvest objectives.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Meat and subsistence hunters will benefit from the opportunity to harvest cow moose. Moose populations will benefit by having moose densities compatible with their habitat.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those opposed to harvest of antlerless moose.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

LOG NUMBER: ADFG042811QQ

PROPOSAL 207 - 5 AAC 85.045(a)(18). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Revert to the original hunt area for the November muzzleloader hunt in Unit 20A.

One bull by drawing permit; by muzzleloader only; up to 75 permits may be issued.
Season: November 1 – 30.

Unit 20A, the Ferry Trail Management Area, Wood River Controlled use area, and the Yanert Controlled use area.

ISSUE: Traditional boundary of Muzzleloader Hunt DM766 was changed for 2011/2012 for no biological reason, with little public involvement or notice. With the same traditional boundary for over a decade, hunters applied for permits expecting the same hunt area unless extraordinary steps are made to make the change known. A new hunt area should have a new hunt number. This hunt change did not do that nor was it highlight as new or changed.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Confusion may continue for hunters. Also since area biologists are still looking for a moose population reduction in Wood River and Yanert Controlled use areas, population will continue to grow, forcing increased controversial antlerless hunts.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. Area is targeted for reducing Moose population. Since motorized vehicles are not authorized in September, this November option allows access too many areas otherwise untouched in the fall.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Hunters who enjoy late season hunts when there are no insects or heat that could damage your meat.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those who do not have a muzzleloader.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: Leaving the DM766 in new 2011 boundary does not work because it is mostly inaccessible in November.

PROPOSED BY: Dave Machacek

LOG NUMBER: EG030911282

PROPOSAL 208 - 5 AAC 85.045(a)(18). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.

Establish a new muzzleloader hunt in Remainder of Unit 20A; outside the controlled use area.

One moose by drawing permit only; muzzleloader only; up to 75 permits may be issued; a person may not take a calf or a cow accompanied by a calf. November 1 - December 30.

ISSUE: Alaska still has very limited options for late season muzzleloader hunts. DM766 Wood River Controlled use area hunt was moved in 2011 to new area East of the Wood making it basically a fly in hunt. With waist deep snow and no snow machine, a hunter can't range out from the runway in November. This area is only workable for those with cabins and equipment stored in the area.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? No muzzleloader hunt options in Unit 20A that are snow machine accessible during November.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, expanded season should allow access East of the Wood and the change to any Moose will aid the Antlerless hunt needs and removed stress of sorting out any bulls that may have dropped their antlers.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Muzzleloader hunters looking for a challenge.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? None.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: Leaving the hunt East of the Wood as it is in 2011. Most Novembers, none of the permits holders will be able to snowmobile into the hunt area creating no harvest and disappointed permit holders.

PROPOSED BY: Dave Machacek

LOG NUMBER: EG030911283

PROPOSAL 209 - 5 AAC 92.052. Discretionary permit hunt conditions and procedures.

Require hunters to use a locking tag if hunting any bull drawing permit in Unit 20A.

(XX) ; a permittee shall attach a locking tag to the base of an antler at the kill site and the antlers must remain visible during transport from the field;

ISSUE: In Unit 20A, general season (SF/50-inch regulation) and drawing permit hunts (“any bull”) run concurrently, thus making it difficult for the hunting public when seeing successful hunters transporting bull moose from the field to determine whether that animal was taken legally under the “any bull’ drawing permit regulation or illegally under the general SF/50-inch regulation. Requiring hunters to attach a locking tag at the kill site and keep the antlers visible during transport from the field will allow the hunting public to become more involved in recognizing and reporting said violations. In addition, this regulation may reduce the take of “sublegal” bulls during the general season antler restricted hunt because hunters will know they are being more closely scrutinized by fellow hunters.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Enforcement of the general season SF/50-inch regulation will be compromised.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, enforcement will be improved as the hunting public will become more involved in the process.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Everyone.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: No action.

PROPOSED BY: Middle Nenana Advisory Committee

LOG NUMBER: EG041411299

PROPOSAL 210 - 5 AAC 92.540. Controlled use areas. Move the northern boundary of the Wood River Controlled Use Area.

The northern boundary of the Wood River Control Use Area would run to the western edge of the Tatlanika Creek, drainage. Then along the southern edge of Fish Creek, St. George Creek, Gold King Creek, and Bonifield Creek, drainages. Then along the ridge to the wood river drainage.

ISSUE: Move the northern boundary of the Wood River Control Use Area, to open up the drainages of Tatlanika Creek, Fish Creek, St. George Creek, Gold King Creek, and Bonifield Creek, to motorized vehicles during the September Moose season. All these drainages have trails used by miners, and trappers to access upper reaches of these drainages. The August migration puts the bulk of the Moose population up in these drainages during the moose season, where they are inaccessible to hunters using the Rex Trail. No one is going to walk up one of

those drainages and kill a moose without the means of getting it out. The Rex Trail is not conducive to the use of horses like some of the rest of the Wood River Area is.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Missed opportunity to harvest moose from an intensive management area.

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? People that hunt along the Rex Trail.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: Leave it as it is and miss the opportunity to harvest Moose in areas that would not receive damage from the use of motorized vehicles since trails already exist.

PROPOSED BY: Roggie Hunter

LOG NUMBER: EG042811367

PROPOSAL 211 - 5 AAC 92.004. Policy for off-road vehicle use for hunting and transporting game; and 92.540. Controlled use areas. Prohibit the use of ATVs above 2500 feet elevation in a portion of Unit 20.

Use of all-terrain land vehicles is prohibited in Unit 20A above the 2500 foot elevation level between the west bank of Delta Creek and the east bank of the East Fork of the Little Delta River up to and including the east bank of West Hayes Creek.

ISSUE: Desecration and destruction of the natural environment and wildlife habitat by unrestricted activity of all-terrain land vehicles (ATVs) during the hunting season. In addition, this unfettered activity leads to harassment of wildlife, other hunters, violations of fair chase, declining hunter ethics and hunter safety issues.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Perhaps the last sliver of the north flanks of the Alaska Range between Tok and Denali Park that has been spared the destruction of the natural landscape by ATV's will be lost through lack of concern by the Board of Game. ATV use has been allowed to create a never-ending spider web of trails across the fragile tundra that continues to expand in an unrelenting pace as more hunters utilize this method of accessing game. Permanent damage is notably visible in the alpine tundra, which is extremely slow to heal. These trails create eroded gullies, especially where they climb and descend steep terrain.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? This restriction will preserve the physical and aesthetic quality of the alpine terrain nestled between Mt. Moffitt and Mt. Hayes while also preventing the mechanical disturbance of the game population of the area. This area has had little to no use of

ATV's in the past. However, each year they are encroaching closer, some were seen this year, illegally traversing military land with no consequences.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Members of the public (good stewards of the land) that still appreciate the unspoiled wilderness and the natural wonders of Alaska; especially those hunters who still enjoy hunting on foot in one of the most scenic areas of the Alaska Range. Game populations will also be spared the harassment of being attacked by hunters on ATVs.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one as this area has yet to be invaded by the ATV hunters. Historically, this area has been accessed for hunting via aircraft and foot traffic.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: Restricting ATVs to designated trails, specific times of the day and prohibiting hunting the same day ATVs have been ridden. All were rejected for difficulty in enforcement and costs of implementing.

PROPOSED BY: Delta Fish and Game Advisory Committee

LOG NUMBER: EG050611474

PROPOSAL 212 - 5 AAC 92.004. Policy for off-road vehicle use for hunting and transporting game; and 92.540. Controlled use areas. Prohibit the use of ATVs in a portion of Unit 20.

Hunters in Unit 20A are restricted to utilizing one type of motorized vehicle to access and hunt the drainages south of the 64th parallel, between the east bank of Delta Creek and the west bank of the East Fork of the Little Delta River up to and including the west bank of West Hayes Creek.

ISSUE: Desecration and destruction of the natural environment and wildlife habitat by unrestricted activity of all-terrain land vehicles (ATVs) during the hunting season. In addition, this unfettered activity leads to harassment of wildlife, other hunters, violations of fair chase, declining hunter ethics and hunter safety issues.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Perhaps the last sliver of the north flanks of the Alaska Range between Tok and Denali Park that has been spared the destruction of the natural landscape by ATV's will be lost through lack of concern by the Board of Game. ATV use has been allowed to create a never-ending spider web of trails across the fragile tundra that continues to expand in an unrelenting pace as more hunters utilize this method of accessing game. Permanent damage is notably visible in the alpine tundra, which is extremely slow to heal. These trails create eroded gullies, especially where they climb and descend steep terrain.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? This restriction will preserve the physical and aesthetic quality of the alpine terrain nestled between Mt. Moffitt and Mt. Hayes while also preventing the mechanical disturbance of the game population of the area. This area has had little use of ATV's in the past. However, each year they are encroaching closer, some were seen this year, illegally traversing Military land with no consequences.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Members of the public (good stewards of the land) that still appreciate the unspoiled wilderness and the natural wonders of Alaska; especially those hunters who still enjoy hunting on foot in one of the most scenic areas of the Alaska Range. Game populations will also be spared the harassment of being attacked by hunters on ATVs.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those wishing to hunt this area with ATVs. Historically, hunters have accessed this area via aircraft and then hunted on foot. Recently, an ATV was flown in to Bennett Strip and used for hunting purposes - the beginning of the end of the historical hunting quality of this area.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: Restricting ATVs to designated trails, to certain elevations, to specific times of the day and prohibiting hunting the same day ATV's have been ridden. All were rejected for difficulty in enforcement and costs of implementing.

PROPOSED BY: Delta Fish and Game Advisory Committee

LOG NUMBER: EG050611475

Note: This proposal was deferred by the Board of Game from the Spring 2011 meeting. It was previously listed as Proposal 232.

PROPOSAL 213 - 5 AAC 92.540(H)(ii). Controlled Use Areas. Allow motorized vehicle access in the Yanert Controlled Use Area in Unit 20.

Add language to 5AAC 92.540 (H)(ii) as follows:

“motorized vehicles restricted from August 1 through September 30”

ISSUE: The Fairbanks Advisory Committee has discussed changes needed to improve the antlerless moose hunts in Unit 20A as part of the annual reauthorization. One of the recommendations would change the motorized restrictions for antlerless moose hunting in the Yanert Controlled Use Area (YCUA). We request that changing the condition be part of the reauthorization discussion by the Board of Game at the upcoming meeting.

The suggested change to the now, year around access restriction would allow the Department of Fish and Game to raise the quota(s) for antlerless moose hunting, especially in the late fall/winter hunts. Access continues to be the biggest problem because of open water on the Tanana and other rivers and the lack of trail access (Rex Trail, Ferry Trail, etc.).

The lack of access routes causes both the overcrowding, negative, social aspects of the hunt and forces time constraints too late in the winter (January and February) for river crossings. The Intensive management moose harvest strategy includes approximately 300 antlerless (subunit total) to keep the population from growing. Spreading out the hunting pressure is very important to the success of harvesting the antlerless component.

The antlerless quota, especially for the late fall/winter hunt(s), is kept artificially low because of the restriction to motorized vehicles. (In this case, predominantly snow machines.) The Yanert

CUA could be accessed without crossing large, late freezing rivers. Allowing motorized vehicles after September 30 would allow the department to plan both an earlier date for antlerless hunts and would allow them to raise the quota for the subunit zone. With the difficulty of access for the late season hunts, it has been necessary to keep them open for long periods which causes additional conflicts with winter activities such as trapping. The public has testified that there has been too much focus for harvest along the Rex Trail, Ferry Trail and in the Goldking area.

Allowing motorized after September 30 would also align the YCUA with the Wood River CUA which is adjacent.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The Yanert CUA will offer only a handful of permits for the antlerless component of the 20A moose harvest. The potential for the benefits listed above will be lost.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCT PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, the product of avoiding overcrowded and concentrated hunting during the late season will be improved.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Hunters with antlerless moose permits and their families will benefit. There are no trophy antlerless hunters.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Depending on the exact dates and quota for the hunt ((not necessarily a long period), other winter recreation could be negatively impacted because of the need to share trails and back country with motorized vehicles.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None for the Yanert CUA.

PROPOSED BY: Fairbanks Advisory Committee

LOG NUMBER: I-11S-G-002

PROPOSAL 214 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep. Create an "any ram" drawing permit hunt in Unit 20.

The new regulation would create an "any ram" drawing permit hunt in Unit 20A for up to 10 tags. The hunt dates would be August 17th through September 20. The first week of the season would be closed to allow for undisturbed access for full curl only rams. We would prefer to see four tags allocated for the Wood River Controlled Use Area, four tags allocated for the Yanert Controlled Use Area, and 2 elsewhere in Unit 20A.

ISSUE: The sheep population in Unit 20A has increased allowing for a small increase in ram harvest. Some of the rams in the population may never reach full curl because of a broad arching curl or some other anomaly. A harvest of a few sub-full curl rams may remove these animals from the population. The hunt would diversify the harvest among the various age structures in the ram groups and may positively affect breeding dynamics.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? There will be an additional harvest opportunity that is not realized and some non-typical rams will continue to breed affecting horn structure in the whole population.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? NA

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Those sheep hunters willing to harvest a sub-full curl ram and possibly a dominant ram during breeding season with less competition.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Hunters who do not want to see any sub-full curl rams harvested or anyone against hunting.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: We considered a half curl drawing permit but part of the reason for this hunt is to allow for some ram harvest without having to make a field determination on ram legality.

PROPOSED BY: Middle Nenana Advisory Committee

LOG NUMBER: EG042811348

PROPOSAL 215 - 5 AAC 92.072. Community subsistence harvest hunt area and permit conditions. Establish a community harvest hunt area for the Village of Minto in Unit 20.

- The geographical description for the hunt area would be as follows: Unit 20B bounded by the Elliot Highway beginning at mile 118, then northeasterly to mile 96, then east to the Tolovana Hot springs Dome, then east to the Winter Cat Trail, then along the Cat Trail south to the Old Telegraph Trail at Dunbar, then westerly along the trail to appoint where it joins the Tanana River (including all channels and sloughs except Swan Neck Slough), to the confluence of the Tanana and Tolovana Rivers and then northerly to the point of beginning. (basically the description of the Minto Flats Management Area)
- There has already been a Positive Finding of Customary and Traditional use of moose taken and used for subsistence purposes in this area, and an Amount Necessary for Subsistence for the Minto Management Area has been established at 20-40 moose (AAC 99.025 Customary and traditional uses of game populations)
- The people of Minto have a long history of community-based harvest and sharing of wildlife resources in the designated hunting area. We pass on from generation to generation the proper way to handle, prepare, preserve, and store our wild resources; we teach new generations to value the fish and game resources that we rely on; we teach them the skills, values, and lore taught to use by our elders.

ISSUE: Since the Board of Game reclassified the Minto Flats area from a Tier II subsistence hunt to a general season hunt it has become increasingly more difficult for the residents of Minto Village to successfully acquire the registration antlerless moose permits. These permits are highly desirable and there is fierce competition for them. People line up for them many days before they are to be issued. These people set up camp in line and sleep in very expensive tents and recreational vehicles (this is not a standard of living you can reasonably expect to find in rural villages of Alaska). A little over a hundred years ago the people had few belongings and typically you kept what you could carry. Times have changed, but still we do not keep this type of expensive equipment, perhaps if we could afford such thing we would not need to hunt for moose.

We find it difficult to comply with the issuing conditions for these permits; it is not customary for our people to announce to all that we are going on a hunt. Natives also do not believe in bragging, and standing in these lines could be considered bragging.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? If nothing is done to change how these hunts are administered we will likely continue to have many issues:

- Social issues: people who do not live in our village arrive and disrupt village activities.
- Economical impacts: we will have to supplement our protein needs with other sources. It is worth noting that the fish returns have also been low in recent years, so wild game is more important than it has been.
- Religious, it is customary for our people to show respect and honor by having a potlatch for our deceased love ones. Providing wild game for these religious ceremonies is very important to our people.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? If this proposal is adopted it will greatly reduce conflict from user groups during the issuance of permits for the Minto Flats winter moose hunt. This community hunt will allow the people of Minto to more closely follow their customary and traditional ways.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Both rural and urban users should benefit from reducing competition for permits. This is a very good solution where the people of Minto can fill their subsistence needs and urban hunters are not disenfranchised.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? We can think of no one who will suffer from this solution.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: Returning to Tier II. Requesting additional salvage requirements (like in other areas of the state where hunters have been required to salvage the head for human consumption).

PROPOSED BY: Minto Village Council

LOG NUMBER: EG042811345

PROPOSAL 216 - 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Open a general season bull hunt, 10 days earlier in the Minto Flats Management Area; convert the winter any moose hunt to antlerless and issue unlimited permits.

Change the one bull with spike fork or 50 inch antler or 4 brow tines on least one side,
From: September 11 to September 25.
To: 1 September to 25 September. By harvest ticket.

Change the RM785 any moose, January 10 – February 28, which is limited to 130 permits last year.
To: RM785 antlerless moose permit. No limits on the permits. (To include every household in Minto that wishes to receive one.) Permits will be available in person in Fairbanks, Nenana and Minto. Permits will be issued starting October 15.

Hunt will start November 1, and will go until 125 antlerless moose quota is met.

This will still be a resident only opportunity.

ISSUE: To eliminate standing in line to receive a limited registration permit. Also to provide more reasonable subsistence opportunity.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Currently only a limited amount of registration permits are issued in Fairbanks, Nenana, and Minto. Fall permits issued is 100 any moose. Winter 130 any moose. These permits are very coveted and many people stand in line for several days to get one. Many subsistence hunters never receive one. If we don't solve this, many subsistence hunters lose opportunity. Especially in times of abundance.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. We have a high harvestable surplus of moose. In fact the moose population in the Minto Flats Management Area (MFMA) is about 4,200 and growing. We need to start at least stabilizing this population so we don't deplete our moose habitat by over browsing, preventing a population crash. Having a stable population of moose that the range can support. Gives us the utilizers of the moose a healthier animal. Healthy moose have good twining rates, and desirable calf weights.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All subsistence users of the resource. If changed, subsistence users won't have to stand in line for a fall any bull permit for the MFMA. If changed those who choose to hunt the MFMA will be restricted to spike fork, 50inch, or four brow tine moose, but will have additional 10 days to harvest one of those bulls. Also don't forget that portion of Unit 0B that lies outside the MFMA, and outside the Unit 20B non-subsistence area, is a subsistence area. It has the Elliot Hwy. going right through it. With many, many trails and navigable rivers in it. This area has no antler restrictions and you are able to hunt with a harvest ticket (1 Sept. – 15 Sept.). The Elliot Hwy. is the year round maintained road from Minto and Manley Hot springs to Livingood. All within the 20B subsistence area. This change will meet AS 16.05.258 Subsistence Allocation. Whereas we can restrict antlers and gender. With the length of the seasons and the amount of permits and the accessibility of the subsistence area reasonable

opportunity and economy of effort will be met. Our ANS in the last several years has always been met for the MFMA, and the rest of the 20B subsistence area also. The trappers will also like this change. This change is a good compromise as to when they are trapping aggressively for fox, lynx, wolves and wolverine. And lessen the conflict of moose hunter/trappers. As every year there are several accounts of theft of fur bearers and expensive wolf traps, and vandalism of sets. Changing the traditional January any moose hunt to a November antlerless moose hunt. Gives more advantages than disadvantages. Like more daylight to hunt, warmer weather, and keeping a good bull/cow ratio. The Department of Fish and Game will not have to set-up port-a-potties for the people who show up several days early to wait in line to receive one of the limited permits issued at the Fairbanks office. Or deal with what amounts to a camp ground prior to permits being issued.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those who do not like antler restrictions. The people who have made camping at Crammers Field with their RV'S and Arctic ovens a yearly tradition. What amounts to a winter tailgate party, barbeques and all. Duck hunters may believe there will be a conflict. But is subsistence moose more important for sustainability or are ducks in your cache the important staple? I believe both subsistence users can co- exist, just as the subsistence trappers do now. The law still does not allow for one subsistence priory over another.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: Community Harvest Permit.

PROPOSED BY: Al Barrette

LOG NUMBER: EG042911386

Note: This proposal was deferred by the Board of Game from the Spring 2011 meeting. It was previously listed as Proposal 204.

PROPOSAL 217 - 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose; and 92.074. Community subsistence harvest hunt areas. Establish a community harvest permit hunt for the Village of Minto as follows:

One, any-moose permit per household with a maximum of 50 moose for the village.

ISSUE: There are plenty of moose around Minto, but the people of Minto do not want to stand in line for any moose registration permits with non-Minto people. Because of this the people in Minto are not getting the moose they need to fill their subsistence needs.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? People in Minto continue to not have their subsistence needs met.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. Because the people will take only the number of moose they need.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All of the people of Minto.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one because there are enough moose that others can harvest moose as well.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Return to Tier II, but the board has already rejected this option

PROPOSED BY: Village of Minto

LOG NUMBER: I-10S-G-020

PROPOSAL 218 - 5AAC 85.045(a)(18). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.

Reauthorize the antlerless moose hunting season in Unit 20B.

Units and Bag Limit	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
...		
(18)		
...		
Unit 20(B), that portion within Creamer's Refuge		
1 bull with spike-fork or greater antlers, by bow and arrow only; or	Sept. 1–Sept. 30 (General hunt only) Nov. 21–Nov. 27 (General hunt only)	Sept. 1–Sept. 30 Nov. 21–Nov. 27
1 antlerless moose by bow and arrow only, by drawing permit only; up to 150 permits for archery may be issued in the Fairbanks Management Area archery hunt; a recipient of a drawing permit is prohibited from taking an antlered bull moose in the Fairbanks	Sept. 1–Nov. 27 (General hunt only)	Sept. 1–Nov. 27

Management Area; or

1 antlerless moose by muzzleloader by drawing permit only; up to 10 permits may be issued; a recipient of a drawing permit is prohibited from taking an antlered bull moose in the Fairbanks Management Area

Nov. 21–Nov. 27
(General hunt only)

Nov. 21–Nov. 27

Unit 20(B), remainder of the Fairbanks Management Area

1 bull with spike-fork or greater antlers, by bow and arrow only; or

Sept. 1–Sept. 30
(General hunt only)
Nov. 21–Nov. 27
(General hunt only)

Sept. 1–Sept. 30
Nov. 21–Nov. 27

1 antlerless moose by bow and arrow only, by drawing permit only; up to 150 permits for archery may be issued in the Fairbanks Management Area archery hunt; a recipient of a drawing permit is prohibited from taking an antlered bull moose in the Fairbanks Management Area

Sept. 1–Nov. 27
(General hunt only)

Sept. 1–Nov. 27

Unit 20(B), that portion within the Minto Flats Management Area

1 moose by registration permit only; or

Sept. 1–Sept. 25
(Subsistence hunt only)
Jan. 10–Feb. 28

No open season.

	(Subsistence hunt only)	
1 bull with spike-fork antlers or 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side	Sept. 11–Sept. 25	No open season.
Unit 20(B), the drainage of the Middle Fork of the Chena River		
1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only; up to 300 permits may be issued; a person may not take a calf or 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 calf or a cow accompanied by a calf; or	Oct. 1–Feb. 28 (General hunt only)	
1 bull; or	Sept. 1–Sept. 20	Sept. 1–Sept. 20
1 bull, by bow and arrow only; or	Sept. 21–Sept. 30	Sept. 21–Sept. 30
1 moose by drawing permit only; by muzzleloader only; up to 60 permits may be issued in combination with the hunt in the Salcha River drainage upstream from and including Goose Creek; a person	Nov. 1–Nov. 30 (General hunt only)	No open season.

may not take
a calf or a cow
accompanied by a
calf

Unit 20(B), that
portion of the
Salcha River
drainage upstream
from and including
Goose Creek

1 bull; or	Sept. 1–Sept. 20	Sept. 1–Sept. 20
1 bull, by bow and arrow only; or	Sept. 21–Sept. 30	Sept. 21–Sept. 30
1 moose by drawing permit only; by muzzleloader only; up to 60 permits may be issued in combination with the hunt in the Middle Fork of the Chena River; a person may not take a calf or a cow accompanied by a calf	Nov. 1–Nov. 30	No open season.

Unit 20(B), that
portion southeast
of the Moose
Creek dike within
one-half mile of
each side of the
Richardson highway

1 bull; or	Sept. 1–Sept. 20	Sept. 5–Sept. 20
1 moose by drawing permit only; by bow and arrow or muzzleloader only; up to 100 permits may be issued	Sept. 16–Feb. 28 (General hunt only)	No open season.

Remainder of Unit 20(B)

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 20B; a person may not take a calf or 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 calf or a cow accompanied by a calf;	Oct. 1–Feb. 28 (General hunt only)	

...

ISSUE Antlerless moose hunting seasons must be reauthorized annually.

Fairbanks Management Area (FMA) — The purpose of this antlerless hunt is to provide opportunity to harvest a surplus of antlerless moose in the FMA and potentially reduce moose–vehicle collisions and nuisance moose problems.

Based on our November 2008 survey, the moose population in the FMA is approximately 505 moose (1.7 moose/mi²). The number of moose–vehicle collisions in the FMA are high and pose significant safety risks to motorists. In addition, moose nuisance issues continue to place significant demands on property owners. To increase hunting opportunity and harvest and reduce moose–vehicle collisions, the department increased the number of drawing permits for antlerless moose by archery hunting only (DM788) incrementally from 25 in 1999 to 150 in 2004. However, antlerless harvest did not increase as much as anticipated (11 to 49) with increases in the number of permits issued. Therefore to further increase harvest to meet management goals the board expanded the season beginning in 2006 from September 1–30 and November 21–27 to September 1–November 27, and the bag limit was changed to any antlerless moose. The reported harvest for hunt DM788 averaged 49 antlerless moose (range 42–56) during RY06–RY07. Moose–vehicle collisions and moose nuisance problems have declined during RY06–RY08, presumably, in-part due to the higher antlerless moose harvests. However, the DM788 harvest fell to 14 in RY08 after permits were reduced by 50% and the bag limit was restricted to cows without calves. In RY09 the bag limit and 150 permits was restored and the harvest rebounded to 52, and then 41 in RY10 with the DM788 and DM786 (the disabled veteran version of DM788) combined.

Minto Flats Management Area (MFMA) — The primary purpose of this antlerless hunt is to provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence uses. In 2004, the board replaced the Tier II subsistence hunt TM785 (100 permits with a bag limit of one moose during September 1–20 and January 10–February 28) with 2 registration hunts, RM775 and RM785 (bag limit of one moose during September 1–25 and January 10–February 28). In addition, a 15-day general hunt (September 11–25) for bulls (with spike, forked or 50-inch antlers, or antlers with 4 or more brow tines) provides hunting opportunity and helps to meet IM harvest objective of 600–1500 moose in Unit 20B.

Population estimation surveys indicate the moose density within the MFMA is high (>4.0 moose/mi²). The reported harvest of antlerless moose taken during subsistence hunt TM785 averaged 24 during regulatory years RY96–RY03. The reported harvest for hunts RM775 and RM785 averaged 58 antlerless moose (range 32–76) during RY04–RY10, which was approximately 1% to 2% of the MFMA moose population and is likely sustainable.

Unit 20(B), the drainage of the Middle Fork of the Chena River and the Remainder of Unit 20 — The drawing permit hunts for antlerless moose was approved by the board in 2006 to take advantage of relatively high and increasing moose numbers in central Unit 20B. Increasing population estimates (from 12,313 in 2001 to 20,173 in 2009) and high calf:cow ratios (37–43:100 during 2003–2009) indicate numbers are increasing. Moreover, moose densities are relatively high (2.2 moose/mi²) in central Unit 20B surrounding Fairbanks.

The reported harvest for the central Unit 20B drawing hunts (outside the FMA) averaged 92 antlerless moose (range 83–101) during RY06 and RY07, but fell to 48 when permits were reduced by 50% and the bag limit was restricted to cows without calves in RY08. In 2009, with permits increased, the harvest increased to 168. The antlerless moose harvest in this area is designed to curb growth of this population that has surpassed the upper limit of the IM population objective of 12,000–15,000 moose and helps to meet IM harvest objectives for Unit 20B.

The overall Unit 20B moose population continues to grow at 4% per year, despite significant roadkill and harvest of more than 200 cows annually (258 in 2009, 265 in 2010) by permit, representing 1.2% of the prehunt population estimate (21,105 moose). The goal is to increase the cow harvest until the growth is stopped to prevent over use of the habitat.

To mitigate hunter conflicts, we spread hunters out over space and time. Our strategy was to learn from and avoid conflicts that developed in recent years in the Units 20A and 20D antlerless hunts. One of the main conflicts was a result of hunter crowding. Therefore, we divided areas of central Unit 20B that contain a surplus of moose into 16 small drawing permit areas based on drainages. Each area has permits in 3 time periods: one before the general hunt, one during, and one after. This way we maintain few hunters at a time in each permit area, yet expect to achieve a harvest of 400–500 cows.

Mortality from vehicle and train collisions has been high, averaging 149 moose killed annually by motor vehicles in Unit 20B. By focusing harvest in the more heavily roaded central Unit 20B, roadkill may be reduced.

Finally, extensive burns in northcentral Unit 20B will provide excellent habitat in the future. With improving habitat, continued high predator harvest, and relatively mild winters, we can expect continued high productivity and survival of moose, along with increased yield.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? This moose population may increase, which may result in deterioration of the habitat and could exacerbate a population decline in years with severe winter conditions. The opportunity to hunt a harvestable surplus of cow moose will be lost and our ability to meet intensive management harvest objectives would be compromised. In central Unit 20B and in the FMA in particular, moose–vehicle collisions and nuisance moose problems will likely remain high or increase. Subsistence hunters in the MFMA may not have a reasonable opportunity to pursue moose for subsistence uses.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, hunting opportunity and harvest will increase. This reauthorization of antlerless moose hunts will likely improve or maintain the ability of moose habitat to support the current moose population. It will also allow hunters to increase moose harvest toward the intensive management harvest objective without further reducing the bull-to-cow ratios.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Meat and subsistence hunters will benefit from the opportunity to harvest cow moose. Urban residents may benefit from reduced moose–vehicle collisions and moose–human conflicts. Moose populations will benefit by having moose densities compatible with their habitat.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those opposed to antlerless hunts.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

LOG NUMBER: ADFG042811RR

PROPOSAL 219 - 5 AAC 92.530(8)(B) Management areas. Eliminate the Minto Flats Management Area restrictions on airboats.

Remove parts B of 5AAC 92.530(8). (Remove the limitation to airboats and aircraft for moose hunting).

ISSUE: Restrictions on airboats for moose hunting in the Minto Management Area (MMA).

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Moose hunting access is changing over time in the MMA because seasonal water levels restrict boat access. Moose populations, already high density, will continue to grow causing additional stress to the habitat. More importantly, the opportunity for moose harvest in one of the highest density areas will continue to be limited when there is no need to do so.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. The MMA moose population should be harvested to prevent overpopulation and over browsing.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Moose hunters who use airboats for hunting access.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Hunters who feel airboats are too noisy and too much competition.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: Removing the restriction for other than the general season. Removing the restriction for part of the MMA.

PROPOSED BY: Fairbanks Advisory Committee

LOG NUMBER: EG042911389

PROPOSAL 220 - 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Lengthen the muzzleloaders season in Unit 20B and expand the hunt area to all of the Fairbanks Management area.

Unit 20B, that portion within the **Fairbanks Management Area** [CREAMER'S FIELD MIGRATORY WATERFOWL REFUGE], one antlerless moose by muzzleloader only permit, DM789, **November 1-30** [November 21-27].

ISSUE: The current antlerless muzzleloader hunt, DM789, is restricted to Creamer's Field Migratory Waterfowl Refuge, is limited to 10 permits, and has a very short 7 day season. The areas of the refuge that are both open to hunting and contain good moose habitat are relatively small and it is difficult for bow and arrow and muzzleloader hunters to avoid one another during this short constricted season. These issues have resulted in user conflicts, limited hunter opportunity, and harvest levels that do not contribute to reducing moose/vehicle collisions in the Fairbanks area.

The current Fairbanks Management Area (FMA) bow and arrow only antlerless hunt, DM788, has harvested a range of 27 to 56 moose from 2000 to 2007, averaging 38 antlerless moose annually. The number of permits issued has ranged from 50 to 150 over the same time period and the season dates in 2009 were September 1 – November 27. These harvest levels would be raised by allowing a muzzleloader hunt within the whole FMA.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The current muzzleloader hunt will remain unnecessarily constricted and will continue to result in conflicts and poor hunt quality. Harvest numbers in the FMA for antlerless hunts may continue to be lower than management goals.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? N/A

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Anyone interested in hunting antlerless moose by muzzleloader in the Fairbanks Management Area.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Depending on how ADF&G decides to allocate antlerless permits in the FMA between bow and arrow and muzzleloader users, it could be possible that the number of permits allocated to bow hunters would go down.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: Consideration was given to modeling the FMA after the Anchorage (DM666) and Palmer-Wasilla Management Areas (DM403, 406-7, & 410): there, the antlerless permits are available to any certified bow and arrow, shotgun, or muzzleloader hunter. I considered that the antlerless FMA permits could be 113 (2010-2011 number) permits for either bow and arrow or muzzleloader hunters.

PROPOSED BY: Valerie Baxter

LOG NUMBER: EG042911402

PROPOSAL 221 - 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Lengthen the muzzleloader season in Unit 20B, Creamers Refuge.

Unit 20B, that portion within Creamer's Refuge: 1 antlerless moose by muzzleloader by drawing permit only; up to 10 permits may be issued; a recipient of a drawing permit is prohibited from taking an antlered bull moose in the Fairbanks Management Area. Season: **November 1 – 30** [NOV. 21-27].

ISSUE: I would like to propose a change to the season length for DM789: Creamer's Field Migratory Waterfowl Refuge, one antlerless moose by muzzleloader only – 10 permits issued. The current season is only 7 days long (November 21-27) and is concurrent with bow and arrow only seasons for antlerless and bull moose. The areas of the refuge that are both open to hunting and contain good moose habitat are relatively small and it is difficult for hunters to avoid one another during this short constricted season. These factors have resulted in hunter conflict and limited hunting opportunity on the refuge.

In addition to user conflicts, there is also low hunter success for this hunt. The number of moose that have been harvested (2004-2008) has ranged from zero to three, with an average of 1.4. At these harvest levels, this hunt does not contribute significantly to management goals for the overall Fairbanks Management Area and does not contribute to the reduction of moose/vehicle collisions in urban Fairbanks.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Conflicts among hunters will continue and hunting opportunity will remain unnecessarily constricted. Antlerless harvest levels will continue to be below management goals.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? N/A

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All hunters on Creamer's refuge will benefit from a lengthening of the DM789 muzzleloader season.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: Consideration was given to proposing that the boundaries of the muzzleloader hunt be expanded to include the whole Fairbanks Management Area. This solution is proffered in a separate proposal.

PROPOSED BY: Valerie Baxter

LOG NUMBER: EG042911396

PROPOSAL 222 - 5 AAC 85.045 Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Modify the muzzleloader hunt area to prohibit harvest of antlerless moose in the Salcha River drainage.

Change the hunt area description for DM782 to exclude the harvest of antlerless moose in the Salcha River drainage.

ISSUE: Antlerless moose harvest in drawing hunt DM782 (late muzzleloader) hunt in the Salcha River drainage.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The moose population in the Salcha River drainage portion of Unit 20B is the lowest density in the Unit. Property owners, recreational users and local hunters have asked the Fairbanks Advisory Committee to exclude the area from antlerless moose hunts until such a time as the population/density is higher and moose are more evident. Antlerless harvest as part of DM782 is not needed to encourage participation. The area is very remote and access is difficult. It is highly unlikely that a successful applicant would harvest an antlerless moose even though they are allowed in the entire hunt area. The area we are asking the board excludes antlerless is only a small remote portion of the area for DM782. There are many other opportunities for hunting antlerless moose in Unit 20B.

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Hunters and Salcha River area users who have monitored the moose population and harvest situation there for a long time

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one (i.e. no one would apply for the permit in order to hunt antlerless in the Salcha.)

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: None

PROPOSED BY: Fairbanks Advisory Committee

LOG NUMBER: EG042911375

PROPOSAL 223 - 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Modify the muzzleloader hunt to prohibit harvest of antlerless moose in the Salcha River drainage.

Muzzleloader moose season in that portion of Unit 20B that includes the drainage of the middle fork of the Chena River and that portion of the Salcha River drainage from and including Goose Creek. Antlerless moose may be taken in the Chena River drainage. Bulls only in the Salcha River drainage.

ISSUE: I would like the Board of Game to modify the antlerless muzzleloader moose season in Unit 20B by excluding the antlerless component for the Salcha River. The regulation now includes the drainage of the middle fork of the Chena River and that portion of the Salcha River drainage upstream from and including Goose Creek.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? With a 10 fold increase in hunting pressure over the last 10 years, no antler restrictions, the already late archery season, the 40 mile caribou hunt and the opposition to any antlerless moose season on the Salcha River, this hunt could have a negative effect on the Salcha moose and could affect the overall support for antlerless seasons in other game management units.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? The quality of the resource will be improved by reducing the demands on limited Salcha moose population.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Hunters in the Salcha River drainage.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED:

PROPOSED BY: Leonard Jewkes

LOG NUMBER: EG042811371

PROPOSAL 224 - 5 AAC 92.530. Management areas. Review the boundary of the Fairbanks Management Area; focus on changing the boundary near Murphy Dome and Ester Dome.

The Fairbanks management Area boundary description can be changed. (The Fairbanks Advisory Committee intends to invite the public to discuss the entire FMA boundary and then will prepare a map with any proposed changes to the community and the Board of Game. The ‘new’ and early proposal date requires us to put the boundary issue before the board now.

Preference is to have the public discussion near or just after moose season when the issues are timelier for the public participants.)

ISSUE: Review the boundary of the Fairbanks Management Area, focus on changing the boundary near Murphy Dome and Ester Dome.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? There are large areas now included in the FMA where there are few or no developments or homes. These areas do not need the protection the FMA affords to developed neighborhoods and subdivisions. The FMA is only a moose hunting boundary. Moose hunting should not be restricted if there is no need to do so.

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Moose hunters who do not hunt with archery equipment.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Moose hunters who do hunt with archery equipment.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: None.

PROPOSED BY: Fairbanks Advisory Committee

LOG NUMBER: EG042811363

PROPOSAL 225 - 5 AAC 92.095(6). Unlawful methods of taking furbearers; exceptions.

Remove the prohibition on aircraft use for beaver trapping in the Minto Flats management area.

Remove the aircraft use restrictions for beaver trapping. Example: Distance from the plane to a set. Beaver management in the interior has been revamped during the last two board cycles. The changes to a very liberal season and harvest using firearms are the result of a high population and high density. It makes no sense to keep the restriction on aircraft used for beaver trapping. The board should remove 5AAC 92.095(6).

ISSUE: Restrictions on using aircraft for beaver trapping.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Lost opportunity on a very high density resource.

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Trappers using aircraft for access.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one. Areas that need aircraft access are very seldom used by others.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: None.

PROPOSED BY: Fairbanks Advisory Committee

LOG NUMBER: EG042911391

PROPOSAL 226 - 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting Seasons and bag limits for Moose. Align the resident and nonresident moose seasons in Unit 20C.

Align the moose season opening and closing dates in Unit 20C for moose for nonresidents with the current resident season.

ISSUE: There is no biological reason for the nonresident and resident moose season in Unit 20C to have different opening and closing dates.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? There will be a loss of hunting opportunity for nonresidents and a potential lack of revenue for the state from nonresident fees.

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Nonresidents and the State of Alaska.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: -

PROPOSED BY: Middle Nenana Advisory Committee

LOG NUMBER: EG042911413

PROPOSAL 227 - 5 AAC 92.108. Identified big game prey populations and objectives. Establish an intensive management area for Unit 20C.

Unit 20C will be managed as an intensive management area.

ISSUE: Low moose densities in Subunit 20C due to lightly harvested brown bear and wolf populations. The evidence would seem to support wolves and brown bears are the limiting factor for moose in this Subunit 20C.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Unit 20C will continue to be managed at low densities. One third of this Unit is Denali National Park, which supports two large populations of predators that are protected from harvest. The area certainly is capable of sustaining larger moose populations; all that is required is controlling predators.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Currently the harvest objectives are set around 130. Managing the area for higher sustained yield would allow for a wide range of outdoor uses of the resource.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All users of Unit 20C will benefit from high populations of moose. Users of other areas who need a better hunting area.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? I do not believe that anyone will suffer by managing this area at high levels.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: I do not believe that anyone will suffer by managing this area at high levels.

PROPOSED BY: Ray Heuer

LOG NUMBER: EG042911410

PROPOSAL 228 – 5 AAC 92.110. Control of predation by wolves. Adopt a wolf control program for Unit 20C.

Adopt a wolf population reduction or a wolf population regulation program in Unit 20C.

- Liberalize methods and means regulation for taking wolves from moving snow machines and possible aerial management of wolves.
- Set a reasonable time for the management of the wolf population program, which ensures recover of the moose population.
- Other regulations as the Board of Game determines necessary to achieve a success recover of the moose population.

ISSUE: Contrary to Alaska law, Unit 20C has traditionally been managed at low moose densities. I would like the board to manage this sub-unit for high levels of human consumption, and this would require a reduction of the wolf population north of the Kantishna River.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Unit 20C will continue to be managed at low densities, and the intent of AS 16.05.255 will not be met (i.e.. Restore the abundance or productivity of identified big game prey populations). The area certainly is capable of sustaining larger moose populations; all that is required is controlling predators.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Harvest objectives have not been met in 20 years and the Department of Fish and Game has developed studies that determined the limiting factor of moose reaching their population objectives is lightly harvested bear and wolf populations. The board taking steps to manage predators in this unit will allow the moose population to be maintained at near maximum sustainable yield population levels IAW 5AAC 92.106.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All users of Unit 20C will benefit from high populations of moose. Users of other areas who need a better hunting area. The land owners who have private remote recreational/homestead properties in this unit.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? There is not likely to be any individual who will suffer from reducing the wolf population in this remote portion of 20C

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: No.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: None/

PROPOSED BY: Ray Heuer

LOG NUMBER: EG042911412

PROPOSAL 229 - 5 AAC 92.125. Intensive management implementation plan. Adopt an intensive management plan for Unit 20C.

Adopt an intensive management plan for Unit 20C. Identify and quantify the issues restricting moose population growth, plan for actions to enhance growth.

ISSUE: Unit subunit 20C is an intensive management (IM) area for moose. The population is significantly below the population objective and so is the harvest below the harvest objective. The department has been collecting data on the productivity and mortality during the last board cycle. An Intensive Management project plan should be adopted by the board during the Spring, 2012 meeting.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The longer IM plan is postponed, the longer it will take to bring the moose population up.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, having more moose is a quality of life issue for hunters in 20C.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Hunters from Unit 20C

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: None

PROPOSED BY: Fairbanks Advisory Committee

LOG NUMBER: EG042811357

PROPOSAL 230 - 5 AAC 92.115. Control of predation by bears. Adopt a bear control program for Unit 20C.

Adopt a bear population reduction or a bear population regulation program.

- Liberalize methods and means regulation for taking brown bear with the use of bait.

- Lengthen brown bear seasons to provide more harvest opportunity.
- Set a reasonable time for the management of the bear population program, which ensures recover of the moose population.
- Liberalize the use of aerial equipment to harvest bear in this unit. Implement other regulations as the Board of Game determines necessary to achieve a success recover of the moose population.

ISSUE: In Unit 20C establish a bear population reduction program in accordance with (IAW) 5AAC 92.115. In twenty years Unit 20C has not met the harvest objectives for moose IAW 5AAC 92.108 Identified Big Game prey populations and objectives. Unit 20C also has not met the population objectives by half in this same time period (of course this is based on estimates and extrapolations, as there are no surveys conducted in this area).

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Unit 20C will continue to be managed at low densities contrary to AS 16.05.255 (i.e.: Restore the abundance or productivity of identified big game prey populations). The area certainly is capable of sustaining larger moose populations; all that is required is controlling predators.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Harvest objectives have not been met in 20 years and the Department of Fish and Game has developed studies that determined the limiting factor of moose reaching their population objectives is lightly harvested bear and wolf populations. The board taking steps to manage predators in this unit will allow the moose population to be maintained at near maximum sustainable yield population levels IAW 5AAC 92.106.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All users of Unit 20C will benefit from high populations of moose, Users of other areas who need a better hunting area, The land owners who have private remote recreational/homestead properties in this unit.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Many non-consumptive users will not be happy with the active reduction of bear in this area. Denali National Park (where no hunting is allowed) makes up about 1/3 of this unit; additionally this 1/3 is the best brown bear habitat which also has the highest brown bear densities in the Unit. Consider however, that this moose population has been identified as a big game prey population that is important for providing high levels of human consumptive use IAW 5AAC 92.106 and 92.108.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: No

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: None

PROPOSED BY: Ray Heuer

LOG NUMBER: EG042911408

PROPOSAL 231 - 5 AAC 84.270 Furbearer trapping. Establish a black bear trapping season in parts of Unit 20C.

Allow trapping for black bear in Unit 20C in the Teklanika River and Kantishna River Drainages.

ISSUE: Region III needs some 'test' areas for black bear trapping. Unit 20C has a high bear population and some easily identifiable areas and a low productivity moose population. The Intensive Management population objective has not been met for moose.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? There is no intensive management predator management plan for Unit 20C. Nor is there likely to be one in the near future. The Department of Fish and Game is collecting data on the moose population and productivity. The remote black bear population is high and could sustain additional harvest.

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Trappers and moose hunters

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: None.

PROPOSED BY: Fairbanks Advisory Committee

LOG NUMBER: EG042911376

PROPOSAL 232 - 5 AAC 92.085. Unlawful methods of taking big game; exceptions. Allow harvest of grizzly bear over a black bear bait site; require salvage of meat and hide

I would like the Board of Game to allow the incidental harvest of grizzly bear over black bear bait in Subunit 20C to allow for a reasonable opportunity to harvest grizzly bear. The hide and the meat of bears taken in this manner must be salvaged.

ISSUE: Brown bear populations have begun taking over areas of Unit 20C which historically have been populated by black bear. During the 2009 fire season fire fighters had many encounter with troublesome bears that would not leave their camps alone. I expect the owners of the remote recreational cabins will experience the same problem because critical bear habitat has been destroyed by fire. This area as had low moose densities due to lightly harvested bear and wolf populations. The evidence would seem to support wolves and brown bears are the limiting factor for moose in this Unit.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? I believe these bear will begin to create problems with cabin owners and other recreational users of the area. Black bear harvest will decline because black bear baiters in the area have a hard time with grizzlies destroying baits and there have even been reports of grizzlies taking black bear after they were shot over bait.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? This proposal will provide for an incidental harvest of grizzly bears in a unit where an average of three bears are harvested a year. This will allow for an increased harvest of a population that enjoys the protection of Denali National Park where they cannot be hunted.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Black bear baiters will benefit from being able to shoot the brown bear that come to their baits. Moose hunters will benefit by the board creating an ecosystem capable of providing sustained yield of moose.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? I cannot think of anyone who will suffer from a grizzly bear baiting hunting opportunity in Unit 20C.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: No other solutions considered.

PROPOSED BY: Ray Heuer

LOG NUMBER: EG042911407

PROPOSAL 233 - 5 AAC 92.540. Controlled use areas. Establish a new controlled use area near Denali.

Establish the Denali Controlled Use Area to include the following state owned land and water as well as vacant and inappropriate lands within the following parcels found in Unit 20C:

- Township 12 South, Range 8 West, Fairbanks Meridian;
 - Sections 6 – 7
 - Sections 18 – 19
 - Sections 30-31
- Township 12 South, Range 9 West, Fairbanks Meridian
 - Sections 1 - 36
- Township 12 South, Range 10 West, Fairbanks Meridian
 - Sections 1 - 36
- Township 12 South, Range 11 West, Fairbanks Meridian
 - Sections 1 - 36
- Township 13 South, Range 9 West, Fairbanks Meridian
 - Sections 1-6 excluding national park lands
 - Section 7 - 12 excluding national park lands
- Township 13 South, Range 10 West, Fairbanks Meridian
 - Sections 1 - 6 excluding national park lands,
 - Sections 7 - 12 excluding national park lands
- Township 13 South, Range 11 West, Fairbanks Meridian
 - Sections 1 - 6 excluding national park lands,
 - Sections 7 - 12 excluding national park lands

ISSUE: Conflicts between user groups in an area of Unit 20C, commonly referred to as the "wolf townships". The wildlife and habitat resources found in the "wolf townships" are enjoyed

by a broad range of user groups, both local and nonlocal, both resident and nonresident and often at high levels of use. Mitigating excessive negative impacts to a particular user group and providing for broad public participation in the development of a policy to guide the allocation of resources in this small area of state lands is best accomplished by discussing and considering the establishment of a controlled use area.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Conflicts between user groups may continue to escalate and the best uses of state resources for the benefit of all Alaskan's may not occur.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, developing compromise between user groups is best accomplished through the development of a controlled use area. The state has long relied on this management "tool" in areas with high use levels and broad user group participation in a variety of activities when conflicts arise, and when social preference may be as important, or more so, than biological need.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All user groups will benefit by the process of developing a controlled use area plan.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one. The fundamental reason a controlled use area is designated is to give all user groups fair and equal representation and to ensure compromise, when necessary, is shared equally by all.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: Forming a working group. This was rejected in that broad participation by all of the public is best achieved through the development of a controlled use area. The region is small in area and the best long term solution to the problems associated with this region is the development of a controlled use area in the National Park Conservation Associations opinion.

PROPOSED BY: Jim Stratton, National Parks Conservation Association

LOG NUMBER: EG050311439

PROPOSAL 234 - 5 AAC 92.220. Salvage of game meat, furs, and hides. Require meat-on-bone salvage for moose in Unit 25C.

Moose taken in Unit 25C would have the special meat salvage requirement that the edible meat of the front quarters, hind quarters and the ribs must remain naturally attached to the bone until the meat has been transported from the field or is processed for human consumption.

ISSUE: Reducing the spoilage and waste of harvested moose meat in Unit 25C transported from the field.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Waste of valuable moose meat and violation of time-honored practice of utilizing as much as possible from the harvested moose will continue.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Proper field dressing coupled with a meat-on-the bone requirement for Unit 25C would result in better cooling and drying of meat harvested, less meat wasted by being left in the field, and a better quality meat for processing for the hunters, their families and their communities.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All hunters would benefit by maximizing what the land has provided them.

NOTE: This proposal was an action item of the Eastern Interior Regional Advisory Council during its public meeting in March, 2011, in Fairbanks, Alaska.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Hunters who prefer boning out the meat.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: No one.

PROPOSED BY: Eastern Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Committee

LOG NUMBER: EG050611464

PROPOSAL 235 - 5 AAC 85.056 Hunting seasons and bag limits for black bear. Increase the bag limit for black bear in Unit 25C.

Change the bag limit from three to five in Unit 25C.

ISSUE: Wolves and bears are significant predators on moose calves and are affecting the moose survival. The limit for black bear harvest should be raised from three to five.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Those few hunters who will harvest more than one bear will not be restricted to three in an area with a large bear population who are a cause of decline in moose calf survival.

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The hunters who will harvest under a multiple bear bag limit and those who will take bears whenever the opportunity presents.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: Having a higher limit but five is practical.

PROPOSED BY: Fairbanks Advisory Committee

LOG NUMBER: EG042911377

PROPOSAL 236 - 5 AAC 85.020. Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear. Allow limited harvest of grizzly bear at black bear bait stations in Units 20A, 20B and 25C.

Allow a hunter using a black bear bait station to harvest a brown/grizzly bear every four years in these three game management units.

ISSUE: Number of brown/grizzly bears in these units and having them 'take over' black bear bait stations thus keeping other bears away and becoming habituated to 'hunters' without fear of being hunted.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Black bear bait station hunters will be able to harvest black bears because of intervention by grizzly bears. Habituated grizzlies will damage remote camps, cabins, and reduce public safety because they have learned to be unafraid of people.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, the number of brown/grizzly bears in these units is high. They are taking over black bear habitat. The balance would be better if the number of grizzly bears was lower.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Hunters using black bear bait stations

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: Unlimited harvest of brown/grizzly bears over bait stations, rejected because we do not want to target brown/grizzly bears, but rather reduce their population in these three units.

PROPOSED BY: Fairbanks Advisory Committee

LOG NUMBER: EG042911382

PROPOSAL 237- 5 AAC 85.020. Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear. Align the brown/grizzly season in all of Unit 20.

Change the brown/grizzly season to August 10-June 30 with existing bag limit.

ISSUE: High brown/grizzly bear population. Late season opening causing problems with bears in camp without the hunters being able to hunt them.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Unit 20 moose, caribou and sheep hunters have complained for years because brown/grizzly bears cause damage to camps and meat without fear of humans. The late opening bear season means the high participation openings for moose seasons put people in the field a week before bear season opens.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? The quality of resource is more toward keeping sheep, caribou and moose meat on the pole and out of the mouths of brown/grizzly bears.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Hunters of Unit 20

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: None.

PROPOSED BY: Fairbanks Advisory Committee

LOG NUMBER: EG042911381

Other Units

Note: The Board of Game approved an agenda change request to consider this proposal at the Spring, 2012 meeting.

Proposal 238 - 5 AAC 92.125. Intensive management plans. Implement a predation management plan in Unit 9B.

() **Unit 9B Predation Management Area.** Notwithstanding any other provisions in this title, and based on the following information contained in this section, the commissioner or commissioner's designee may conduct a wolf population reduction or wolf population regulation program in Unit 9(B):

- (1) a Unit 9(B) predation management area is established to increase the moose numbers in Unit 9(B) and aid in achieving intensive management objectives; the Unit 9(B) predation management area consists of all Park Service lands in Unit 9(B) within the Kvichak River Drainage and encompasses 7,091 square miles;
- (2) the discussion of wildlife population and human use information is as follows:
 - (A) the prey population and human use information is as follows:
 - (i) the population size of the moose in Unit 9(B) is unknown; the moose population in Unit 9(B) was estimated to contain 2,000 moose in 1983 based on extrapolations from census of central Unit 9(E);
 - (ii) trend survey data collected in Unit 9(B) suggest that the population is declining and is now below 2,000 moose in Unit 9(B); the current population estimate is below intensive management objectives; moose numbers on nonfederal lands in Unit 9(B) were believed to be stable from 1980 to 2008 based on trend area surveys; the National Park Service has reported declining moose numbers for Lake Clark National Park and Preserve, especially in the northern part of the park;
 - (iii) nutritional limitations are not a significant factor affecting the status of the moose in Unit 9(B); a research study conducted in Lake Clark National Park and Preserve in 2004 found that the average weight for 10-month old female calves was 453 pounds (range 394-551 pounds), and male calves averaged 467 pounds (range 383-502 pounds); twinning rates also appeared to be high (greater than 40 percent) based on observations made in 2004;
 - (iv) November calf-to-cow ratios are variable in Unit 9(B) and average 21 calves per 100 cows (range 4 – 29);
 - (v) November bull-to-cow ratios in Unit 9(B) averaged 41 bulls per 100 cows (range 23-57); bull-to-cow ratios in northern and southern areas of Lake Clark National Park have varied from 28 - 77 bulls per 100 cows since the early 1990s;
 - (vi) high levels of consumptive use have been a priority for the moose population in Unit 9(B) since the 1950s; the board established a moose intensive management population objective for Unit 9(B) of 2,000 - 2,500 moose and an intensive management harvest objective of 100– 250 moose annually;
 - (vii) from 1990 to 1999 an average of 198 people reported hunting moose in Unit 9(B), harvesting an average of 69 moose annually; from 2000 to 2009 an average of 133 people reported hunting moose in Unit 9(B), harvesting an average of 38 moose;

current harvests are below intensive management objectives of sustaining a harvest of 100 to 250 moose annually;

(vii) the harvestable surplus is estimated to be 50 moose in 2011;

(viii) the reported harvests of moose from Unit 9(B) was 49 moose in 1998; estimates of reported and unreported harvest suggest that actual harvest may have exceeded 150 moose during some years in the mid 1990s; annual reported human harvest has declined since 1998; reported harvests declined from 82 moose in 1999 to 28 moose in 2009; reported human harvests between 1999 and 2010 were not an important factor in the recent decline;

(B) the predator population and human use information is as follows:

(i) wolves are a major predator of moose in Unit 9; wolf predation on moose occurs year round;

(ii) while no current aerial population survey data are available for the wolf population in Unit 9(B), recent anecdotal evidence obtained from pilots and local residents indicates that wolves are abundant throughout the area;

(iii) the wolf population objective in Unit 9 is to maintain a population of wolves that can sustain a harvest of 50 wolves annually;

(iv) in 2008, the wolf population in Unit 9(B) was estimated at 60 - 90 wolves in 8 - 12 packs based on habitat type and prey base;

(v) since 2000, an average of 19 wolves (range of 8 - 39 wolves) have been harvested annually in Unit 9(B);

(vi) brown bears are important predators of moose in Unit 9; while brown bears have been known to kill adult moose opportunistically, brown bears are effective predators of calves during the first 6 weeks of life;

(vii) brown bears are abundant throughout Unit 9; spring brown bear density in Unit 9(B) was estimated at 50 brown bears per 1,000 square miles;

(viii) the brown bear population objective in Unit 9 is to maintain a high density bear population with a sex and age structure that can sustain a harvest composed of 60 percent males, with 50 males eight years of age or older during combined fall and spring seasons;

(ix) human harvest of brown bears in Unit 9 occurs during fall of odd-numbered years and during the spring of even-numbered years; brown bear harvests averaged 35 brown bears annually in Unit 9(B) between 2003 and 2009

(3) predator and prey population levels and objectives and the basis for those objectives are as follows:

(A) the intensive management population objective established by the board for the moose population in Unit 9(B) is 2,000 – 2,500 moose; the intensive management harvest objective is 100-250 caribou annually; intensive management objectives were established by the board based on historic information regarding population numbers, habitat limitations, human use, and sustainable harvests;

(B) before July 1, 2011, wolf population objectives for Unit 9 were to maintain a wolf population that can sustain a three-year-annual harvest of 50 wolves;

(C) brown bear population objectives in Unit 9 are to maintain a high density bear population with a sex and age structure that can sustain a harvest composed of 60 percent males, with 50 males eight years of age or older during combined fall and spring seasons

- (4) justification, objectives, and thresholds for the predator management implementation plan are as follows:
- (A) justification for the Unit 9(B) Predation Management Area is based on the board decision to designate moose in Unit 9(B) as being important for providing high levels of human consumptive use; the board established the objectives for population size in Unit 9(B) and annual sustained harvest of moose consistent with multiple uses and principles of sound conservation and management of habitat and all wildlife species in the area;
 - (B) the objective of the Unit 9(B) Predation Management Area is to increase the number of moose in Unit 9(B) to achieve a population that will sustain human harvests within the objectives established by the board for this population; the goal of this program will be to reduce wolf numbers in the Unit 9(B) Predation Management Area; because the management activities authorized by this plan are limited to nonfederal lands in Unit 9(B) the program will not affect all wolves in Unit 9(B)
 - (C) the commissioner may initiate the reduction of wolf numbers in the Unit 9(B) Predation Management Area to the following thresholds:
 - (i) the moose population is below intensive management population or harvest objectives;
 - (ii) nutrition is not considered the primary factor limiting moose population growth; and
 - (iii) moose calf recruitment is the most important factor limiting population growth and calf survival during the first six weeks of life is less than 50 percent;
 - (D) the commissioner will suspend the wolf reduction program, if the following conditions are observed, pending further review by the board to determine if the program can be modified to achieve the objectives of this program before reinstating the program, except that hunting and trapping by the public specified in other sections of this title may continue and are not subject to this subparagraph:
 - (i) moose nutritional indices such as pregnancy rates, twinning rates, calf and adult body mass, or other condition indices exhibit a declining trend from current values and the bull-to-cow ratio is greater than 20 bulls per 100 cows;
 - (ii) November moose calf-to-cow ratios remain below 20 calves per 100 cows for three consecutive years during a period of wolf removal;
 - (iii) the harvestable surplus of moose is not increased following three consecutive years of wolf removal;
 - E) the commissioner may continue to reduce wolf numbers in the control Unit 9(B) Predation Management Area until the following thresholds are met without the benefit of wolf control:
 - (i) the bull-to-cow ratio can be sustained within management objective of 40 bulls per 100 cows and the fall calf-to-cow ratios can be sustained above 20 calves per 100 cows;
 - (ii) moose population objectives are met; or
 - (iii) moose harvest objectives are met;
 - (F) the wolf population objective for the Unit 9(B) Predation Management Area is to annually reduce the number of wolves to a level that results in increased moose calf survival;
 - (G) the department will utilize radio-telemetry, wolf surveys, or a combination of those methods to ensure that a viable wolf population persists in Unit 9;
 - (H) reduction of predators by humans is necessary to increase the moose population to achieve moose harvest objectives;

- (I) reduction of bear numbers in Unit 9(B) remains unlikely due to the high density of brown bears in Unit 9, logistical limitations, and competing management priorities;
- (5) the authorized methods and means used to take wolves are as follows:
 - (A) hunting and trapping of wolves by the public in the wolf predation control area during the term of this program may occur as provided elsewhere in this title, including use of motorized vehicles as provided for in 5 AAC 92.080; the board finds that the opportunity to harvest the amount necessary for subsistence will continue to be provided by allowing ongoing hunting and trapping;
 - (B) the commissioner may issue public aerial shooting permits, public land and shoot permits, allow agents of the state to conduct aerial shooting, or allow department employees to conduct aerial shooting as a method of wolf removal under AS 16.05.783, including the use of any type of aircraft;
 - (C) the commissioner may authorize the use of state employees or state-owned or charter equipment, including helicopters, as a method of wolf removal under AS 16.05.783;
- (6) the anticipated time frame and schedule for update and reevaluation are as follows:
 - (A) through June, 2018, the commissioner may reduce the wolf populations in the Unit 9(B) Predation Management Area;
 - (B) annually the department shall, to the extent practicable, provide to the board at the board's spring meeting, a report of program activities conducted during the preceding 12 months, including implementation activities, the status of moose, wolf, and bear populations and recommendations for changes, if necessary to achieve the plan's objectives;
- (7) other specifications that the board considers necessary:
 - (A) the commissioner shall suspend wolf control activities
 - (i) when prey population management objectives are obtained;
 - (ii) when predation management objectives are met; or
 - (iii) upon expiration of the period during which the commissioner is authorized to reduce predator numbers in the predator control plan area;
 - (B) the commissioner shall annually close wolf hunting and trapping seasons as appropriate to ensure that the minimum wolf population objectives are met.

ISSUE: This proposal was submitted to allow the board to review intensive management options, population and harvest objectives, and associated regulatory language that could be utilized to increase moose harvests in Unit 9(B). It is also intended to provide the public with an opportunity to comment on the proposed intensive management plan.

Moose occur at low densities in Unit 9(B), and the reported moose harvests have declined to 22 moose by 2010. Unreported harvests are difficult to assess, but appear to be variable and may be significant in some years. The reported harvest is below the intensive management harvest objective of 100-250 moose.

Moose population in Unit 9(B) is limited in part by the availability of moose habitat, predation, poor calf recruitment, illegal cow harvests, and out-of-season harvests; however the relative importance of each of these factors is unknown at this time. During 2011 the department will attempt to collect more information on the status of the moose population and on the factors limiting population growth. Information collected will be presented to the board along with a

feasibility assessment to determine the potential to increase the Unit 9(B) moose population to objectives and to increase harvests.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Moose harvest objectives for Unit 9B will not be achieved.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? If moose survival is increased, more moose will be available for harvest in Unit 9(B).

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Those who wish to hunt moose in Unit 9B.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? None

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

PROPOSAL 239 - 5 AAC 085.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Reauthorize the existing antlerless moose season in Berners Bay.

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(1)		
...		
Unit 1(C), Berners Bay drain- Oct.15 ages	Sept. 15–Oct.15 (General hunt only)	Sept. 15–
1 moose by drawing permit only; up to 30 permits may be issued		
...		

ISSUE: Antlerless moose hunts must be reauthorized annually by the Board. The Berners Bay strategic moose management plan calls for a post-hunt count of 90 moose, based on the estimated moose carrying capacity of this area. ADF&G has been very successful at maintaining this population level through the harvest of both bull and cow moose.

During 1998–2006, the number of drawing permits issued by the department for this herd ranged from 10 bull permits and 10 antlerless permits to 7 bull permits and 0 antlerless permits. The average annual harvest of bull moose during this period was seven, while cow harvests in years we issued antlerless permits was 4. Although we have the latitude of issuing up to 30 permits annually, we haven't issued more than 20 permits annually during any of the past 10 years; and no permits were issued during the period 2007-2010.

The number of moose counted during the fall aerial surveys determines the number of drawing permits issued. Aerial counts during 1990–2006 ranged from a high of 108 moose in 1999 to a low of 59 in 2002. The fall 2006 count of 76 moose was just one lower than the mean annual count of 77 during 1990–2006. However, severe winter weather in 2006, 2007 and 2008 resulted in this population decreasing, and the number of moose counted in replicate aerial surveys in 2007 and 2008 ranged between 33-62 moose. Estimated overwinter survival for cow moose during the period 2006-2008 was 85%, 87% and 92%, respectively, suggesting that mortality rates have declined since the severe winter of 2006/2007. An aerial survey conducted in December 2010 detected 73 total moose, including 10 calves. The 2010 count is slightly less than the mean annual count of 77 moose and the calf count is similar to surveys conducted prior to the winter of 2006/2007. Based on sightability data from collared moose, the Berners Bay moose population is estimated to be near 88 animals.

As a result of the severe winters and the impacts they have had on this moose herd, we did not issue any permits in 2010 and due the timing for drawing permit applications, there will not be a hunt in fall 2011. We will continue to monitor this population through annual composition and calving surveys, and use these numbers to decide whether or not we will issue any permits. In addition we will be collecting information on moose survival, mortality, and recruitment. If we begin to detect an increasing trend in moose numbers, and determine that this population is recovering, we can then decide whether a few permits can be issued. Very likely this would be only bull permits for the foreseeable future. In spite of this, we would prefer to keep the antlerless hunt available so we have this tool in the future if needed.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The population could increase and exceed the carrying capacity of the habitat as it has done in the past. The Berners Bay moose harvest will be restricted to bulls thereby limiting opportunity for hunters.

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Hunters will have more opportunity to hunt moose. The moose population will benefit from either-sex harvests that will balance the herd.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

LOG NUMBER: ADFG042811Y

PROPOSAL 240 - 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Reauthorize the existing antlerless moose season in the Gustavus area.

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(1) ... Unit 1(C), that portion west of Excursion Inlet and north of Icy Passage		
1 moose per regulatory year, only as follows:		
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; or	Sept. 15–Oct. 15 (General hunt only)	Sept. 15–Oct. 15
1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only; up to 100 permits may be issued	Nov. 10–Dec. 10 (General hunt only)	Nov. 10–Dec. 10

ISSUE: Antlerless moose hunts must be reauthorized annually by the Board. The Gustavus moose population (Unit 1C) increased rapidly from just a few animals during the 1980’s to a count of 185 animals in 1998, to a subsequent count of 404 animals in 2003. By 2002 ADF&G estimated the winter range moose density at Gustavus exceeded 5 moose per km², with only a small portion of that area being productive winter range as identified by abundant stands of willow. Because of concerns with these high moose numbers, ADF&G biologists began conducting spring browse utilization surveys in 1999, and documented 85–95% of the current annual growth of willow twigs available to moose had been consumed.

Based on the browse utilization data and overall moose densities at Gustavus, an antlerless hunt was first authorized for the Gustavus area by the BOG in fall 2000. Between 2002 and 2008, hunters harvested 11 to 67 antlerless moose annually depending on the number of permits made available. A hunt was not held in fall 2007 due to high winter-related moose mortalities.

A goal of the Gustavus antlerless moose hunts is to control the number of moose on the available winter range to ensure the available habitat is adequate to support the animals utilizing it. Based on aerial survey data and the use of collared moose to determine sightability estimates it appears

this strategy is working. During a December 2010 aerial survey a total of 165 moose were detected; during the period 2000-2009, aerial counts ranged between 207-404 moose. Using sightability data the estimated population in 2008 and 2009 was 305 and 238 moose, respectively. Based on data collected during the December 2010 survey the population estimate is 252 moose.

Research was conducted on this moose population during 2003-2009 revealed cow moose in relatively poor body condition (as measured by rump fat thickness), and low reproductive indices (as measured by pregnancy and twinning rates) when compared to other coastal moose population in Yakutat and Berners Bay. Through the implementation of the antlerless hunts, the density of moose was lowered at Gustavus, resulting in improved body condition and reproductive indices and a more resilient moose population. The population is now at a level the department believes is sustainable with the available habitat.

Although an antlerless hunt was not held in 2009-2010, biologists believe it is important to keep this tool available to implement if needed. By closing the antlerless hunt in fall 2007, 2009, and 2010, biologists have shown that they will use the antlerless hunt with caution and utilize this harvest strategy only in the case where they believe it is necessary or justified.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? This moose population could persist at a density too high for the habitat to support, thereby continuing the overutilization of winter browse. Ultimately biologists are concerned that the long range carrying capacity of this range could be compromised due to this over utilization of preferred winter browse species.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All persons interested in having a healthy moose population, and one that does not compromise the health of the habitat they depend on. Also, an antlerless hunt can provide additional opportunity for those people interested in harvesting a moose.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

LOG NUMER: ADFG042811Y

PROPOSAL 241 - 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Reauthorize the existing antlerless moose season at Nunatak Bench.

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

Unit 5(A), that portion south of Wrangell-Saint Elias National Park, north and east of Russell and Nunatak Fjords, and east of the east side of East Nunatak Glacier to the Canadian Border (Nunatak Bench)

Nov. 15 - Feb. 15

Nov. 15 - Feb. 15

1 moose by registration permit only; up to 5 moose may be taken

...

ISSUE: Antlerless moose hunts must be reauthorized annually by the Board. The Nunatak Bench (Unit 5A) hunt area is separated from adjacent moose habitat by fjords and glaciers, allowing for little immigration or emigration by moose. Therefore we manage this population separately from the remainder of Unit 5A, with a much longer and later running hunting season that spans the period of November 15-February 15. Because of the isolated nature of Nunatak Bench and the limited amount of moose habitat, we have traditionally allowed maximum hunter opportunity through an either sex hunt, thereby aiding in our goal of limiting herd growth to stay within the carrying capacity of this area. The either sex hunt strategy accommodates the timing of this hunt given that much of the hunt period occurs post antler drop making sex differentiation difficult.

The Nunatak Bench strategic moose management plan calls for a post-hunt population of a maximum of 50 moose. During a February 2001 survey 52 moose were counted in this area followed by 25 in December 2003. However, since that time the moose population at Nunatak Bench has declined dramatically, with counts of 14, 11, and 14 moose in 2005, 2006, and 2007 respectively. An aerial survey completed in March 2010 (Regulatory Year 2009) counted 14 moose which included only 1 calf. Nunatak Bench was not surveyed in 2008. The decline in moose numbers is almost certainly related to the 68 foot rise in water level that flooded this area in 2003 when the advancing Hubbard Glacier created a dam. A similar situation occurred in 1986 that caused a similar decline in moose numbers. The cause of the moose declines post flooding appears to be due to the decimation of preferred willow browse by the high water, causing emigration of moose from the area.

During 1997-2004 hunting seasons an average of 12 permits were issued, with only four people actually hunted each season. An average of 8 days of hunting was expended each year to kill 0-4 moose, with an average annual harvest of about 2 moose. Six cows and 9 bulls made up the total harvest during this period. No moose have been harvested since 2004 and the department has not issued any permits for this area since then.

Although the moose numbers at this time do not support a harvest, the department would like to keep this antlerless authorization active should the moose numbers again reach a harvestable level (25 moose). After the 1986 flood, this population rebounded within 8 years from 10 to 25 moose and again supported a hunt. If this herd follows a similar pattern, we may see an opportunity to harvest moose here in a few more years. The department will continue to monitor this moose population and again allow a harvest when the survey counts reach or exceed 25 moose.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The harvest of moose at Nunatak Bench will be limited to bulls without any biological reason to do so. In addition, since much of the season occurs post antler-drop restricting the harvest to bulls would make it difficult for hunters to select a legal animal. Moose habitat is not abundant in this area and if herd growth is not restricted by a limited cow harvest, carrying capacity of winter range may be exceeded.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Adopting this proposal will provide more moose hunting opportunity.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Hunters will continue to have more opportunity to hunt moose. The moose population will benefit from either-sex hunts that will help balance the herd in this area of limited moose range.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

LOG NUMBER: ADFG042811AA

PROPOSAL 242 - 5 AAC 85.045.(4) Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Re-authorize the antlerless moose season in Unit 6A.

	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
Seasons and Bag Limits		
(4)		
Unit 6 (A), all drainages into the Gulf of Alaska from Cape Suckling to Palm Point		

1 moose per regulatory year,
only as follows:

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull by registration
permit only; up to 30
bulls may be taken; or

Sept. 1-Nov. 30
(General hunt only)

1 antlerless moose by
drawing permit only; up
to 30 drawing permits may
be issued

Sept. 1-Nov. 30
(General hunt only)

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull by drawing
permit only; up to 5 drawing
permits may be issued

Sept. 1- Nov. 30

Remainder of Unit 6(A)

1 moose per regulatory year,
only as follows:

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

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

Sept. 1- Nov. 30
(General hunt only)

1 antlerless moose by regis-
tration permit only; up to 20
antlerless moose may be taken

Nov. 15-Dec. 31
(General hunt only)

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

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

Sept. 1- Nov. 30

1 antlerless moose by
registration permit; up to 20
antlerless moose may be taken

Nov. 15-Dec. 31

...

ISSUE: Antlerless moose seasons must be re-authorized annually. We recommend continuation of the antlerless season to promote population stability. The desirable post-hunt population size in Unit 6(A) west of Cape Suckling is 300 to 350 moose. A census completed during January 2008 yielded a population estimate of 230 moose with 17% calves. The antlerless hunt has not been open since 2005.

The desirable post-hunt population size in Unit 6(A) east of Cape Suckling is 300 to 350 moose. A census completed during February 2008 yielded a population estimate of 245 moose with 8% calves. No antlerless hunts were held because of previous poor calf survival and population level below the management objective. However, if recruitment does improve, antlerless hunts may be needed to hold the moose population at objective levels.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? If antlerless hunts are eliminated in Unit 6(A), hunting opportunity will be needlessly lost.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Individuals who desire to hunt antlerless moose in Unit 6(A).

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? People who are opposed to antlerless moose hunting.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

LOG NUMBER: ADFG042811BB

PROPOSAL 243 - 5 AAC 85.045.(4) Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Re-authorize the antlerless moose season in Unit 6B.

Units and Bag Limit	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(4)		
...		
Unit 6(B)		
1 moose per regulatory year, only as follows:		
1 antlered moose by registration permit only; up to 30 antlered moose may be taken; or	Aug. 27- Oct. 31 (General hunt only)	No open season
1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only; up to 30 drawing permits may be	Aug. 27- Oct. 31 (General hunt only)	No open season

issued for antlerless moose;

...

ISSUE: Antlerless moose seasons must be re-authorized annually. Desirable post-hunt population size is 300-350. A survey completed during January 2008 indicated a population of 180 moose with 11% calves. Antlerless hunts have not been held during recent years because of continued poor calf survival and population level below the management objective. However, if the population increases to the desired level, antlerless hunts may be needed to hold the population at objective levels.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? If the moose population in Unit 6(B) increases and a season is possible, antlerless hunts will provide additional hunting opportunity.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Individuals who desire to hunt antlerless moose in Unit 6(B).

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? People who are opposed to antlerless moose hunting.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

LOG NUMBER: ADFG042811CC

PROPOSAL 244 - 5 AAC 85.045(4) Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Re-authorize the antlerless moose season in Unit 6C.

Seasons and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(4)		
...		
Unit 6(C)	Sept. 1-Oct. 31 (General hunt only)	No open season.
1 moose by drawing permit only; up to 40 permits for bulls and up to 20 permits for antlerless moose may be issued		

...

ISSUE: Antlerless moose seasons must be re-authorized annually. The population objective is 400 moose. A census completed during February 2011 yielded an estimate of 400 moose, 17% of which were calves. Because the available antlerless harvest quota in Unit 6(C) is currently harvested under a federal subsistence season administered by the U. S. Forest Service, we have not held the antlerless hunt since the 1999-2000 season. We recommend re-authorizing the state antlerless hunt as a back up to the federal subsistence hunt. Continuation of the antlerless hunts will be necessary to hold the population at objective levels.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Hunting opportunity will be lost, and the population may exceed the objective, which is based on the availability of adequate habitat during severe winters.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Hunters desiring to take a moose in Unit 6(C).

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those opposed to antlerless moose hunting.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

LOG NUMBER: ADFG042811DD

PROPOSAL 245 - 5 AAC 85.045(11). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Re-authorize the drawing permit hunts for antlerless moose in Unit 13.

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
Unit 13 1 moose per regulatory year, only as follows:		
...		
1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only; up to 200 permits may be issued;	Sept. 1 - Sept. 20 (General hunt only)	No open season

a person may not take a calf or a cow accompanied by a calf

...

ISSUE: Antlerless moose hunts must be re-authorized annually by the Board. This Unit 13 antlerless hunt was initially adopted in March 2011; at this time, no Unit 13 antlerless hunts have been implemented. The drawing hunt allows the hunt manager to restrict the number of cow moose harvested and limit the harvest to specific areas where the cow harvest is needed based on annual population fluctuations.

Moose in Unit 13 have generally been increasing at 3-5% per year over the past 10 years in areas where wolves have been intensively managed. As anticipated, moose increased in some portions of the unit faster than others.

After moose surveys are completed in November 2011, we will have an updated population estimate for Unit 13(A) as well as a preliminary harvest estimate for the 2011-12 moose hunting season. If the survey results and harvest match our projections, we anticipate offering a limited antlerless hunting opportunity in portions of Unit 13(A) during the 2012-13 moose hunting season. As originally stated during the March 2011 Board meeting, no more than 50 permits would be issued the first year of the hunt. No additional antlerless moose hunting opportunities are expected at this time.

The intensive management population objective for moose in Unit 13(A) is 3,500 – 4,200. The 2009 estimate of 3,530 moose is at the lower end of this objective. The 2010 estimate was slightly lower at 3,490 moose. These estimates are based on conservative extrapolation and sightability estimates. Due to the limitations of this estimation technique, there is a good possibility that there are more moose in Unit 13A than our estimates indicate. Given the limitations of the method used to estimate moose population size in this unit, it is important to consider other population performance indicators such as harvest trends. The harvest objective for Unit 13(A) is 210-420; the 2009 harvest was 268, and the preliminary 2010 harvest is 276. The number of bulls harvested in Unit 13(A) has more than doubled since 2000 when only 115 moose were taken. The increase in harvest observed through 2008 was likely a direct result of an increasing moose population, as hunting regulations did not change. Additional hunting opportunities were offered in 2009 and 2010, further increasing harvest.

The key objective for managing moose in this area is to maintain a moose density that is sufficient to achieve the harvest objectives, while maintaining a balanced bull-to-cow ratio of moose and a twinning rate that indicates that the population is sustainable over the long-term and is not limited by nutrition.

Maintaining a balanced ratio of bull-to-cow moose is another very important aspect of herd management. The objective for the bull-to-cow ratio in Unit 13 is 25 bulls-to-100 cows. This ratio has worked well in this unit and provides an adequate proportion of bulls for hunter satisfaction and reproduction. In 2010, the highest density of moose in Unit 13(A) was in the western portion of the unit, but the composition was only 22 bulls-to-100 cows (below the objective for the first time since 2003). In the eastern portion of the unit, the density of moose is much lower, but the composition was 44 bulls-to-100 cows. The ability to further increase the harvest of bulls from this unit is limited due to the low bull-to-cow ratio in the western portion of

the unit and the low density of moose in the eastern portion of the unit where access is difficult and success rates are lower.

Twinning data from radio-collared cow moose in western Unit 13(A) also provide productivity information in this area. Between 2008 and 2010, twinning rates have ranged from 26% to 30%, rates consistent with a nutritionally sound moose population. These rates are the highest recorded for this study area (data collection began in 1994), and suggest the current moose population size is sustainable. As the population continues to grow, declining twinning rates would indicate nutritional stress.

The number of cows in western Unit 13(A) is expected to continue increasing as a result of actions taken to reduce wolf predation. To maintain a healthy density and a balanced bull-to-cow ratio of moose in this area, a limited antlerless harvest opportunity in select portions of Unit 13(A) in 2012-13 will be necessary in the near future to slow the growth of this population as it approaches a level that will be sustainable in the long-term.

Intensive management efforts in Unit 13 will be adjusted to ensure long-term stability of the moose population and to achieve the desired bull-to-cow ratio and harvest objectives. If cow harvests are not implemented, intensive management efforts to reduce wolf predation rates will be suspended to achieve these goals.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Portions of the Unit 13 moose population could grow beyond the ability of the habitat to sustain that population level. Harvest opportunity will be lost.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes; an excessively high moose density can lead to nutritional stress that can limit antler growth, body size, and reproduction rates and the population would be more susceptible to adverse weather events, predation, parasites and disease that may cause a population decline.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All who wish to have a healthy, productive moose population in the Copper River basin, and those who wish to use antlerless moose for human consumption.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those who disagree with the harvest of antlerless moose will oppose reauthorizing this hunt.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Suspend the wolf reduction program in Unit 13A to slow the growth of the moose population.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

LOG NUMBER: ADFG042811EE

PROPOSAL 246 - 5 AAC 85.045(12). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.

Reauthorize the drawing permit hunts for antlerless moose in Unit 14A.

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(12)		

Unit 14(A)

1 moose per regulatory year,
only as follows:

...

1 antlerless moose by
drawing permit only; up to 500
antlerless moose permits
may be issued; or

Aug. 20-Sept. 25
(General hunt only)
Jan. 1-Feb. 25
(General hunt only)

No open season

...

ISSUE: Antlerless moose hunts must be re-authorized annually by the Board. During November 2008, the subpopulation of moose in Unit 14A was surveyed and estimated at 6,614 which was slightly more than the post-hunt objective of 6,000 – 6,500 moose. A composition survey in 2009 produced 24.7 bulls and 48.9 calves:100 cows. Snow depth accumulations in the subunit during the last 4 winters overall were average and survival of calves and adults was good.

During 1999 and 2000, we issued no permits because the subpopulation estimate remained below objective levels. In 2001 we resumed the antlerless hunts because the population had recovered and actually exceeded objectives. The 14A population is currently above the upper end of management objectives. Our strategy for harvesting cows from 8 different permit hunt areas within the subunit was to concentrate antlerless moose permits in those areas where moose densities were highest. Minor adjustments to permit numbers and drawing areas were made in 2007 to address areas with numerous nuisance moose calls. Also, the addition of a youth antlerless moose hunt in the Point MacKenzie area was began in 2007 (DM412). The permits for this hunt were allocated from the existing antlerless permit hunt area (DM402).

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Portions of the Unit 14(A) moose subpopulation could grow beyond the ability of the habitat to sustain that population level. Increased cases of starvation, conflicts with humans and vehicle collisions will occur.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes; excessively high moose density can lead to nutritionally stressed animals in the harvest.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All who wish a healthy, productive moose population in the Matanuska-Susitna valleys, and hunters that would like to harvest antlerless moose for human consumption.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those who disagree with the harvest of antlerless moose will oppose the reauthorization of these hunts.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

LOG NUMBER: ADFG042811FF

PROPOSAL 247 - 5 AAC 085.045(12). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in the Twentymile/Portage/Placer hunt area in Units 7 and 14C.

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
<p>(5)</p> <p>...</p> <p>Unit 7, the Placer River drainages, and that portion of the Placer Creek (Bear Valley) drainage outside the Portage Glacier Closed Area, and that portion of Unit 14(C) within the Twentymile River drainage</p>		

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

<p>1 moose by drawing permit only; up to 60 permits for bulls will be issued in combination with nonresident hunts, and up to 70 permits for antlerless moose will be issued</p>	<p>Aug. 20—Oct. 10 (General hunt only)</p>
----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

<p>1 bull by drawing permit only;</p>	<p>Aug. 20—Oct. 10</p>
---------------------------------------	------------------------

up to 60 permits for bulls
will be issued in combination
with resident hunts

...

ISSUE: Antlerless moose seasons must be re-authorized annually. An early December 2010 aerial composition count of moose in the Twentymile, Portage, and Placer river drainages found 160 moose with a bull:cow ratio of 30 bulls per 100 cows and a calf:cow ratio of 68 calves per 100 cows. This is the third-highest composition count for this hunt area, and this population has a history of rapid increase following mild winters; consequently, antlerless permits were issued for the first time since 2004. Thirty antlerless permits were issued for 2009 and 2010, and the number of bull permits were increased from 20 to 40. Harvests for 2009 and 2010 were 25 bulls and 17 cows, and 14 bulls and 11 cows, respectively.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The population will probably increase and could suffer major losses during a severe winter. Habitat may be overbrowsed, reducing carrying capacity in subsequent years, and road and train kills will increase.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. Moose populations that are not stressed by winter food shortages are healthier and more productive.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? People who obtain a drawing permit, wildlife viewers and motorists driving in the Portage area. Visitor use is high and viewing is an important activity in this area.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? People who are opposed to antlerless moose hunting.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

LOG NUMBER: ADFG042811GG

PROPOSAL 248 - 5AAC 85.045 (12). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.
Reauthorize existing antlerless hunt for Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (JBER).

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

(12)

...

Unit 14(C), Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (JBER) Management Area	Day after Labor Day —Mar 31 (General hunt only)	Day after Labor Day —Mar 31
-----------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------

1 moose by regulatory year by drawing permit, and by muzzleloading blackpowder rifle or bow and arrow only; up to 185 permits may be issued

...

Antlerless moose seasons must be re-authorized annually. An early December 2010 aerial census on Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson (JBER) yielded a population estimate of 102 moose with a bull:cow ratio of 39 bulls per 100 cows and a calf:cow ratio of 37 calves per 100 cows. This population has a history of rapid increase following mild winters.

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

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Confusion by having hunts within boundaries of military reservations that no longer exist.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Moose hunters and wildlife managers.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Status quo.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game and JBER

LOG NUMBER: ADFG042811HH

PROPOSAL 249 - 5 AAC 85.045(12). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Re-authorize the antlerless moose season in the Anchorage Management Area in Unit 14C.

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

...

Unit 14(C), that portion known as the Anchorage Management Area

Day after Labor Day -Nov. 30 (General hunt only)

No open season

1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only, and by bow and arrow, shotgun, or muzzleloader only; up to 50 permits may be issued

...

ISSUE: Antlerless moose hunts must be re-authorized annually. During summer, an estimated 200-300 moose inhabit the Anchorage metropolitan area. This number increases to 700-1,000 moose during the winter. Many of these moose come from the upper Campbell Creek valley, which lies within Chugach State Park. Most of these moose move into the metropolitan area during December or January, where high densities of moose cause severe overbrowsing in some areas, and lead to increased incidences of collisions with motor vehicles and adverse conflicts with humans.

Ten antlerless permits were issued for the upper Campbell Creek and McHugh Creek drainages in 2009, 2010, and 2011. Hunters took 5 cows in 2009 and 6 cows in 2010.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The moose population will continue to overbrowse winter habitat and mortality of moose attributable to collisions with vehicles and starvation during severe winters will continue.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. Moose populations that are not stressed by winter food shortages are healthier and more productive.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? People who acquire permits for antlerless moose hunts. People who believe there are too many moose in the Anchorage Bowl.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? People opposed to hunting antlerless moose, hunting moose in parks, or hunting in general.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None. This hunt has been successful in creating additional moose hunting opportunity in the state’s most heavily populated area with little or no controversy. It may also ameliorate overbrowsing the limited winter range and reduce vehicle collisions and conflicts with residents in nearby urban areas.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

LOG NUMBER: ADFG042811II

PROPOSAL 250 - 5 AAC 085.045(12). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Re-authorize the antlerless moose season in the Birchwood Management Area and the remainder of Unit 14(C).

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(12)		
...		
Unit 14(C), that portion known as the Birchwood Management Area	Day after Labor Day -Sept. 30 (General hunt only)	Day after Labor Day -Sept. 30
1 moose by drawing permit, by bow and arrow only; up to 25 permits may be issued		
...		
Remainder of Unit 14(C)		
1 moose per regulatory year, only as follows:		
1 bull with spike-fork antlers or 50-inch antlers or antlers with 3 or more brow tines on one side; or	Day after Labor Day -Sept. 30 (General hunt only)	Day after Labor Day -Sept. 30
1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only; up to 60 permits may be issued, or	Day after Labor Day -Sept. 30 (General hunt only)	No open season
1 bull by drawing permit only; by bow and arrow only; up to 10 permits may be issued	Oct. 20-Nov. 15 (General hunt only)	No open season
...		

ISSUE: Antlerless moose seasons must be re-authorized annually. Composition counts are not flown in the Birchwood Management Area. However, we believe that a small resident population of 10-15 moose as well as an equal number of animals from Fort Richardson frequent the area. Five bull permits in were issued in 2009, 2010, and 2011. Archers took 2 bulls in 2009 and 1 bull in 2010. Very little public land exists in this management area and most of it is city parkland closed to discharge of weapons. Large parcels of land owned by Eklutna Native Corporation could not be hunted by permittees because no access permits were issued, and this land is quickly turning into subdivisions. The one large block of public land remaining in this hunt area is Beach Lake Park, where discharge of firearms and bows is not allowed by city park ordinance. A management plan for this park is currently underway, and the department hopes to gain permission to allow hunting in the park.

Composition counts are seldom flown in the remainder of Unit 14(C) due to lack of funding. One hundred thirty-nine cows were counted during the fall 2001 trend counts in Knik/Hunter and Peters Creek count areas. The moose populations in these areas appeared to be at or above carrying capacity; however, to manage the moose population conservatively, lacking recent trend data, the number of antlerless permits was reduced from 20 to 10 in 2007, and then to 5 permits in 2010. Hunters in Knik/Hunter took 1 cow in 2008, 1 cow in 2009, and 1 cow in 2010. Permittees in Peters Creek took no cow moose in 2008 and 2009, and 1 cow in 2010.

In 2011 the Board created a new hunt in the Edmonds Park area of GMU 14C. This hunt will not be held until fall 2012.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The opportunity to harvest antlerless moose will be lost, and urban moose-human conflicts will likely increase.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. Moose populations that are not stressed by winter food shortages are healthier and more productive.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Persons who acquire permits for antlerless moose hunts.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? People opposed to antlerless moose harvest or hunting in general.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

LOG NUMBER: ADFG042811JJ

PROPOSAL 251 - 5AAC 85.045(12). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Re-authorize the antlerless portion of the any-moose drawing permit in the upper Ship Creek drainage in Unit 14C.

Resident

Units and Bag Limits	Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(12)		
...		
Unit 14(C), that portion of the Ship Creek drainage upstream of the Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (JBER) Management Area		
1 moose by drawing permit only; up to 50 permits may be issued; or	Day after Labor Day --Sept. 30 (General hunt only)	Day after Labor Day --Sept. 30
1 bull by registration permit only	Oct. 1—Nov. 30 (General hunt only)	Oct. 1—Nov. 30
...		

ISSUE: Moose use the upper Ship Creek drainage throughout the year. However, the highest density appears to be in fall and early winter when rutting and post-rut concentrations occur. In most years, accumulated snow packs force most of the moose out of the upper Ship Creek drainage in December. The moose move to lower-elevation wintering areas on Fort Richardson, Elmendorf AFB, and other portions of the Anchorage Bowl. An early December 2010 census on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (JBER) and upper Ship Creek yielded a population estimate of 316 moose with a bull:cow ratio of 31 bulls per 100 cows and a calf:cow ratio of 25 calves per 100 cows. Fifty either-sex drawing permits were issued for upper Ship Creek drainage in 2009 and 40 permits were issued in 2010, and 35 permits were issued for 2011. Hunters took 10 bulls and 5 cows in 2009 and 8 bulls and 1 cow in 2010. An additional 7 bulls were taken in the any-bull registration hunt after the drawing hunts in 2009.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. Moose populations that are not stressed by winter food shortages are healthier and more productive. An either-sex drawing moose hunt should allow greater harvests in an area with limited access.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Moose will continue to be under-harvested, with concomitant problems in nearby urban areas and occasional large die-offs during severe winters.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Moose hunters.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? People opposed to moose hunting.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None. A late-season registration hunt for any bull was held in 2007, 2008, and 2009 to harvest additional moose from upper Ship Creek drainage.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

LOG NUMBER: ADFG042811KK

PROPOSAL 252 - 5 AAC 085.045.(13) Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Re-authorize the antlerless moose season in the Skilak Loop Wildlife Management Area of Unit 15(A).

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(13)		
Unit 15(A), the Skilak Loop Wildlife Management Area		
1 moose by drawing permit only; up to 30 permits for spike-fork antlered moose may be issued; or	Sept. 15—Sept. 30 (General hunt only)	Sept. 15- Sept. 30
1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only; up to 50 permits may be issued; the taking of calves, and females accompanied by calves is prohibited	Sept. 15—Sept. 30 (General hunt only)	No open season
...		

ISSUE: Antlerless moose seasons must be re-authorized annually. A joint management objective developed for the Skilak Loop Wildlife Management Area (SLWMA) by the Department and U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service calls for a fall population of approximately 2 moose per square mile or about 130 moose counted during the November survey. The SLWMA was last counted during December 2005 and yielded a count of 79 moose, the lowest count in over 20 years. The ratios observed were 12 bulls/100 cows and 9 calves/100 cows. Because the SLWMA is managed primarily for wildlife viewing, a second management objective requires that we maintain a minimum bull:cow ratio of 40 bulls/100 cows. The last permit hunt was held

in 1999 when 40 permits were issued for antlerless and 20 for spike-fork antlered moose. The Department recommends maintaining the hunt, but not issuing permits for the fall 2012 season.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The SLWMA is a wintering area for moose. In the past, during moderate to severe winters, this area supported up to 300 moose, more than twice the desired resident population size. If resident moose are allowed to increase beyond the management objective, excessive use of the habitat will occur, affecting both resident and migratory moose that depend on this area. Viewing opportunities will be adversely affected as well.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Since this is a proposal to re-authorize an existing hunt, no resource or product improvements are expected.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Wildlife viewers and hunters receiving permits.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Individuals opposed to hunting.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Habitat treatments to increase moose carrying capacity of the area. During 2010 the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge clear cut 123 acres and burned 17 acres of the clear cut, but additional treatments will be needed to before we can expect a significant increase in moose carrying capacity.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service

LOG NUMBER: ADFG042811LL

PROPOSAL 253 - 5 AAC 085.045.(13) Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Re-authorize the antlerless moose season in a portion of Unit 15(C).

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(13)		
...		
Unit 15(C), that portion south of the south fork of the Anchor River and northwest of Kachemak Bay		
1 bull with spike-fork antlers or 50-inch antlers or antlers with 3 or more brow tines on one side; or	Aug. 20—Sept. 20 (General Hunt only)	Aug. 20-Sept. 20

1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only; the taking of calves, and females accompanied by calves, is prohibited; up to 50 permits may be issued

Aug. 20—Sept. 20

Aug. 20-Sept. 20

...

ISSUE: Antlerless moose seasons must be re-authorized annually. The Homer benchland in Unit 15(C) often holds high moose densities in winters when deep snow pushes the moose down into human populated areas. Even without deep snow, a high number of moose die due to malnutrition and negative interactions with humans are common as moose become more aggressive in their search for food around human residences.

In the fall of 2005, 441 moose were counted in the permit area and 26% were calves. Winters since the last count have been mild and moose numbers remain high. Fifty permits were issued in each of the last 9 years resulting in an average harvest of 22 cows per year. We recommend re-authorization of the antlerless hunt and anticipate issuing 50 permits for the fall 2012 hunt.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Deep snow winters will result in a high number of moose deaths due to malnutrition and continued conflicts between aggressive moose and humans.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? A limited antlerless moose hunt may improve overall browse quality.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Wildlife viewers and hunters receiving permits.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Individuals opposed to hunting.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

LOG NUMBER: ADFG042811MM

PROPOSAL 254 - 5 AAC 085.045(14). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.
Reauthorize the antlerless moose hunt on Kalgin Island in Unit 16B.

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

(14)

...

Unit 16(B), Kalgin Island

1 moose per regulatory year,
by registration permit only

Aug. 20 - Sept. 20

Aug. 20 - Sept. 20

...

ISSUE: Antlerless moose hunts must be re-authorized annually. The population objective for this predator-free, 23-mi² island is 20-40 moose a density of 1-1.75 moose/mi². Following a November 2010 survey, we counted 100 moose which is approximately 4.35 moose/mi².

Because of concerns of over-population and deteriorating habitat conditions, a drawing permit hunt for cows was initiated in 1995. In an attempt to reduce the population quickly, the Board established a registration hunt for any moose for the fall 1999 season. The population of moose on Kalgin Island is high at this time and remains well above the objective of 20-40.

The "any moose" registration hunt is recommended to provide additional mortality on this predator-free island population. A registration hunt also allows the department to continue gathering biological information from specimens provided by successful hunters. The difficult hunting conditions and limited access will minimize the danger of over-harvest. Allowing the continued harvest of calves provides an additional management tool needed to reduce population productivity.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Without a liberal harvest including cows and calves, the population will continue to exceed the island's carrying capacity, resulting in habitat damage and ultimately decline in moose numbers through starvation.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? If the island population size is kept at or near objective levels, moose will have adequate available forage and therefore, show less sign of being nutritionally stressed.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Hunters who make the effort to get to Kalgin Island will have the opportunity to take any moose.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Seasonal residents of Kalgin Island have been concerned about hunters trespassing on their land and cabins. The current season dates concentrate hunter activity when most seasonal residents are present.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? A general season for any moose will also work to lower moose densities, but would diminish the ability to collect biological information.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

LOG NUMBER: ADFG042811NN

PROPOSAL 255 - 5 AAC 92.015 Brown bear tag fee exemption. Reauthorize the brown bear tag fees for Region IV.

5AAC 92.125. Brown bear tag fee exemption

(a) A resident tag is not required for taking a brown bear in the following units:

- (1) Unit 11;
- (2) Units 13 and 16(A), that portion outside of Denali State Park;
- (3) Unit 16(B) and Unit 17;

...

- (11) Unit 9 within the following areas, or smaller area as defined by the department
 - (A) Unit 9(B) within 5 miles of the communities of Port Alsworth, Nondalton, Iliamna, Newhalen, Pile Bay, Pedro Bay, Pope Vanoy Landing, Kakhonak, Igiugig, and Levelock
 - (B) Unit 9(C) within 5 miles of the communities of King Salmon, Naknek, and South Naknek
 - (C) Unit 9(D) within 5 miles of the communities of Cold Bay, King Cove, Sand Point, and Nelson Lagoon
 - (D) Unit 9(E) within 5 miles of the communities of Egegik, Pilot Point, Ugashik, Port Heiden, and Port Moller, Chignik Lake, Chignik Lagoon, Chignik Bay, Perryville, and Ivanof Bay

- (12) Unit 10 within the following area or smaller area as defined by the department
 - (A) within 3 miles of the community of False Pass

...

(b) In addition to the units as specified in (a) of this section, if a hunter obtains a subsistence registration permit before hunting, that hunter is not required to obtain a resident tag to take a brown bear in the following units:

- (1) Unit 9(B);
- (2) Unit 9(E), that portion including all drainages that drain into the Pacific Ocean between Cape Kumliun and the border of Unit 9(D) and Unit 9(E);
- (3) Unit 17;

...

ISSUE: Brown bear tag fee exemptions must be reauthorized annually or the fee will be automatically reinstated.

General Season Hunts: The Board liberalized brown bear hunting regulations including the tag fee exemption to increase the harvest of brown bears in Units 11, 13, and 16, except lands within Denali State Park, during the March 2003 Board of Game meeting and in Unit 17 during the March 2011 Board of Game meeting. The tag fee exemption in these Units achieves a greater harvest of brown bears by allowing opportunistic take and attempts to reduce brown bear numbers to reduce bear predation on moose calves. Continuation of the exemption is necessary to encourage hunters to take brown bears in these units.

The Board also exempted brown bear tag fees for bear hunts near communities in Units 9 and 10 to address public safety concerns in communities during the board meeting in March 2011. Brown bears are abundant in Units 9 and 10 and are managed as a trophy species. Brown bears

are frequently observed communities where they destroy property in search of food or garbage and occasionally kill pets. The liberalized bear seasons and bag limits adopted along with the elimination of the tag fee were intended to allow people to take bears before they destroy property, to promote a greater acceptance of the unit's bear population, and to resolve some of the compliance issues associated with the take of DLP bears.

Subsistence Brown Bear Hunts: The Board waived the brown bear tag fee requirement for subsistence brown bear hunts in Unit 17 and portions of Unit 9. Subsistence brown bear harvest rates are low and well within sustainable limits. Exempting the resident tag fee has not caused an increase in subsistence harvest in these units. Continuation of the exemption accommodates cultural and traditional uses of brown bears in these units and provides an alternative for hunters who take brown bears primarily for their meat.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? If the Board does not reauthorize the tag fee exemption the fee will be reinstated and hunters will not be able to legally harvest a bear unless they purchase a \$25 brown bear tag. This action would likely reduce the harvest of bears in most of the affected units and in some cases redirect brown bear hunters to other units.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? In Units 11, 13, 16, and 17 where the goal of both the Board and the Department is to increase the harvest of brown bears to decrease the predation on moose calves, moose harvests may be improved by the increased bear harvests. In Unit 9 the exemption is intended to increase local acceptance of the high-density brown bear population and preserve a management strategy designed to maintain a high quality of bears being harvested.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Hunters who are reluctant to purchase the \$25 brown bear tag, opportunistic hunters who encounter a brown bear while hunting other species, and residents who've expressed concerns about brown bears that are frequently observed in rural communities.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

LOG NUMBER: ADFG042811WW
