

Amended language for Proposal 155
Submitted by ADF&G/DWC

5 AAC 92.118(c). Intensive Management Plans IV are entirely deleted and replaced by the following:

(c) Unit 15(C) Predation Control Area: the Unit 15(C) Predation Control Area is established and consists of all lands within Unit 15(C) north of Kachemak Bay including the Fox River Flats (1,171 square miles); state and private lands are approximately 856 square miles;

- (1) This is a continuing control program that was first established by the board in 2012 for wolf control; it is currently designed to increase moose numbers and harvest by reducing predation on moose by wolves and is expected to make a contribution to achieving the intensive management (IM) objectives in Unit 15(C);**
- (2) Moose and wolf objectives are as follows:**
 - (A) Moose IM population objectives for Unit 15(C) as established in 5 AAC 92.108 are 2,500–3,500 moose. This objective is within the range of historic population estimates; the bull-to-cow objective is 20–25:100 for Unit 15(C);**
 - (B) The moose harvest objectives for Unit 15(C) is 200–350 moose; which is 8% of the low population objective and 10% of the high population objective ;**
 - (C) The department has determined that wolves can be removed from public and private lands within the control area to the extent possible without affecting the sustainability of the wolf population in Unit 15(C) because the control area is approximately 33% of Unit 15(C) and does not include all lands that the wolf population occupies;**
- (3) Findings concerning populations and human use are as follows:**
 - (A) Moose harvests were below IM harvest objectives in Unit 15(C) from 2011 to 2015;**
 - (B) Predation is likely an important cause of the failure to achieve these objectives;**
 - (C) A reduction in wolf predation in Unit 15(C) may make progress toward achieving the Unit 15(C) IM harvest objectives for moose;**
 - (D) Reducing predation has been effective utilizing recognized and prudent active management techniques and based on scientific information;**

- (E) Reducing wolf numbers is likely to be effective given land ownership patterns if conducted by department personnel;
- (F) Reducing predation is in the best interests of consumptive users;
- (4) Authorized methods and means are as follows:
- (A) Hunting and trapping of wolves by the public in the Unit 15(C) Predation Control Area during the term of the program will occur as provided in the hunting and trapping regulations set out elsewhere in this title, including the use of motorized vehicles;
- (B) Notwithstanding any other provisions in this title, the commissioner may issue public aerial or public land and shoot permits as a method for wolf removal under AS 16.05.783;
- (C) Department personnel will be allowed to conduct aerial wolf removal using aircraft under AS 16.05.783
- (5) Time frame is as follows:
- (A) Through July 1, 2022, the commissioner may authorize the removal of wolves in the Unit 15(C) Predation Control Area
- (B) Annually the department shall, to the extent practicable, provide to the board a report of program activities conducted during the preceding 12 months, including implementation activities, the status of the moose and wolf populations, and recommendations for changes, if necessary to achieve the objectives of the plan;
- (6) The commissioner will review, modify, or suspend program activities as follows:
- (A) When the mid-point of the IM population and harvest objectives for the moose population are achieved;
- (B) If after 3 years, the harvest of wolves is not sufficient to make progress towards the intensive management population objectives for wolves;
- (C) Predation control activities may be suspended:
- (i) If after 3 years, there is no detectable increase in the total harvest of moose in the control area
- (ii) If after three years, any measure consistent with significant levels of nutritional stress in the moose population is identified;

(iii) When the moose population and harvest objectives within Unit 15(C) have been met.

(iv) If the population exceeds a density of 3.0 moose per square mile (approximately 3,500 moose).

