

Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Boards Support Section
P.O. Box 25526
Juneau, AK 99802-5526



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**ALASKA BOARD OF GAME
SPRING 1999 MEETING
March 5 - 15, 1999
Anchorage, AK**

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O.E.O.

**US Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240**

If you are a person with a disability who may need a special accommodation in order to participate in the process on the proposed regulations, please contact Diana Cote at (907) 465-6095 no later than February 19, 1999 to make any necessary arrangements. To correspond by text telephone (TDD) call 1-800-478-2028.

**ALASKA BOARD OF GAME
SPRING 1999 PROPOSAL BOOK**

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PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

REVIEWER LETTER

DEAR REVIEWER:

The attached packet of regulatory proposals will be considered by the Alaska Board of Game at its **Spring 1999** meeting concerning hunting and use of game in the Southcentral Region, **March 5 - 15, 1999**, at the WestCoast International Inn, in Anchorage, Alaska. The proposals generally concern changes to hunting regulations in Southcentral Alaska.

Before taking action on these proposed changes to the regulations, the board would like your written comments and/or oral testimony on any effects the proposed changes would have on your activities.

The proposals in this packet are presented as brief statements summarizing the intended regulatory changes. In some cases, where confusion might arise or where the regulation is complex, proposed changes are also indicated in legal format. In this format, underlined words are additions to the regulation text and capitalized words or letters in square brackets [XXXX] are deletions.

You are encouraged to read all proposals presented in this packet, as some regulations have statewide application and may affect all regions of the state.

After reviewing the proposals, you may send written comments to:

ATTN: BOG COMMENTS
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Boards Support Section
P.O. Box 25526
Juneau, Alaska 99802-5526
FAX - (907)465-6094

Comments may be submitted at any time until the public testimony period for that proposal and/or its subject matter is closed at the meeting and deliberation by the board begins. As a practical matter, you are encouraged to have all written comments presented to the above Juneau address by **February 19, 1999**. Receipt by this date will assure that your written comments will be published in the board workbook. Comments received after February 19 will be presented to board members at the time of the meeting, but will not be printed in the board workbook. Written comments will also be accepted during the board meeting, and of course, public testimony during the meeting is appreciated.

When making comments regarding these proposals, on the first line list the PROPOSAL NUMBER to which your comment pertains and whether you favor or oppose the proposal. This will assure that the comments are noted by the board members in relation to the proper proposal(s).

(continued on next page)

The following guidelines will greatly assist the board in understanding your concerns:

Written comments will be hole-punched and copied to go into the board workbook. Therefore, please use 8 1/2 x 11 paper and leave at least a 1 1/2 inch margin on the left side and a 1-inch margin on the right side, top and bottom. If typed, please make sure the print is dark. If handwritten, use dark ink and write legibly. Briefly explain why you are in favor of or opposed to the proposal.

If you plan to testify, a written copy of your testimony is helpful, but is not required. Again not required, but 25 copies of your written testimony is also helpful.

ADVISORY COMMITTEES: In addition to the above, please make sure the meeting minutes reflect why the committee voted as it did. If the vote was split, include the minority opinion. A brief description--a couple of sentences--will do. Detail attendance, number in attendance (e.g., 12 of 15 members) and what interests were represented (such as guides, hunters, trappers, etc.).

Additional proposal booklets may be obtained at offices of the Department of Fish and Game.

A tentative agenda for the Spring 1999 meeting of the Board of Game is shown on page x. A roadmap showing a tentative order in which proposals will be considered will be available in early February. During the meeting, a recorded telephone message will be available, with current updates on the board's agenda and roadmap. That phone number is 465-8901 (Juneau) or 1-800-764-8901 outside of Juneau.

If you are a person with a disability who may need a special accommodation in order to comment on the proposed regulations, please contact the Boards Support Section at 465-6095 no later than February 19, 1999. To correspond by text telephone (TDD), call 1-800-478-2028.

Sincerely,

BOARDS SUPPORT SECTION

ALASKA BOARD OF GAME
TENTATIVE FUTURE MEETING SCHEDULE
as of January 1999

	<u>Dates & Location</u>	<u>Topic</u>
SPRING 1999	March 5 - 15, 1999 Anchorage Proposal Deadline: December 11, 1998 Comment Deadline: February 19, 1999	Southcentral Region
FALL 1999	October 22 - 26, 1999 Barrow Proposal Deadline: August 6, 1999 Comment Deadline: October 8, 1999	Arctic and Western Region
WINTER 2000	January 14 - 17, 2000 Anchorage Proposal Deadline: October 29, 1999 Comment Deadline: December 31, 1999	Statewide Issues*
SPRING 2000	Dates to be determined Location to be determined	Interior Region

For information on the Board of Game's past, current, and upcoming meetings and actions, including proposal forms, access our web site at:

www.state.ak.us/local/akpages/FISH.GAME/boards

*See Board of Game's meeting cycle on pages **vi - vii** for list of statewide regulations that will be considered during the Winter 2000 meeting.

ALASKA BOARD OF GAME MEETING CYCLE

The board meeting cycle generally occurs from October through March. The board considers changes to regulations on a region-based schedule. Each region will be discussed on a two-year cycle. When the regional area is before the board, the following regulations are open for consideration within that region:

- Trapping Seasons and Bag Limits -- All species
- General and Subsistence Hunting Seasons and Bag Limits -- All species
(Except antlerless moose hunts as noted below)
- Wolf Control Implementation Plans
- Bag Limit for Brown Bears
- Areas Closed To Hunting
- Closures and Restrictions in State Game Refuges
- Management Areas
- Controlled Use Areas
- Areas Closed To Trapping

Regulations which are specific to an area (e.g., Permits for Access to Round Island) will be taken up when the board is scheduled to consider regulations in that region.

Two statewide regulations will be taken up annually, at the spring meeting: Reauthorization of Antlerless Moose Hunts, and Brown Bear Tag Fees. Proposals for changes to these regulations will be considered each spring.

Other statewide regulations will not be taken up every meeting cycle. Statewide regulations are scheduled to be reviewed on a four-year cycle, distributed between winter meetings scheduled to occur every other year. The list of statewide regulations and the associated meeting cycle is attached.

<u>Area</u>	<u>Cycle**</u>		
SOUTHEAST-REGION I Game Management Units: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	Fall 2000	Fall 2002	Fall 2004
SOUTHCENTRAL-REGION II Game Management Units: 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 All GMUs: Brown Bear Tag Fees Reauthorization of Antlerless Moose Hunts	Spring 1999	Spring 2001	Spring 2003
ARCTIC AND WESTERN-REGION V Game Management Units: 18, 22, 23, 26A	Fall 1999	Fall 2001	Fall 2003
INTERIOR-REGION III Game Management Units: 12, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25, 26B, 26C All GMUs: Brown Bear Tag Fees Reauthorization of Antlerless Moose Hunts	Spring 2000	Spring 2002	Spring 2004
**THE MEETING CYCLE REPEATS ITSELF ON TWO-YEAR INTERVALS			

This schedule was adopted October 20, 1995; updated August 1, 1997

Alaska Board of Game Winter Meeting Schedule

STATEWIDE REGULATIONS: 5 AAC 92

CYCLE: Winter 2002, 2006, 2010, 2014, etc.

.001 Application of this Chapter
 .002 Liability for Violations
 .004 Policy for Off-Road Vehicle Use for Hunting and Transporting Game
 .005 Policy for Changing Board Agenda
 .010 Harvest Tickets and Reports
 .011 Taking of Game by Proxy
 .012 Licenses and Tags
 .016 Muskoxen Tag Fees
 .018 Waterfowl Conservation Tag
 .019 Taking of Big Game for Certain Religious Ceremonies
 .020 Application of Permit Regulations and Permit Reports
 .025 Permit for Exporting a Raw Skin
 .027 Permit for Exporting Big Game Trophies
 .028 Aviculture Permits
 .029 Permit for Possessing Live Game
 .031 Permit for Selling Skins and Trophies
 .033 Permit for Sci, Ed, Propagative, or Public Safety Purposes
 .039 Permit for Taking Wolves Using Aircraft
 .110 Control of Predation by Wolves
 .165 Sealing of Bear Skins and Skulls
 .170 Sealing of Marten, Lynx, Beaver, Otter, Wolf, and Wolverine
 .200 Purchase and Sale of Game
 .210 Game as Animal Food or Bait
 .220 Salvage of Game Meat, Furs, and Hides
 .230 Feeding of Game
 .250 Transfer of Muskoxen for Sci and Ed Purposes
 .450 Description of Game Management Units
 .990 Definitions

STATEWIDE REGULATIONS: 5 AAC 92

CYCLE: Winter 2000, 2004, 2008, 2012, etc.

.037 Permit for Falconry
 .040 Permit for Taking of Furbearers with Game Meat
 .041 Permit to take Beavers to Control Damage to Property
 .043 Permit for Capturing Wild Furbearers for Fur Farming
 .049 Permits, Permit Procedures, and Permit Conditions
 .050 Required Permit Hunt Conditions and Procedures
 .051 Discretionary Trapping Permit Conditions & Procedures
 .052 Discretionary Permit Hunt Conditions and Procedures
 .062 Priority for Subsistence Hunting; Tier II Permits
 .068 Permit Conditions for Hunting Black Bear with Dogs
 .070 Tier II Subsistence Hunting Permit Point System
 .075 Lawful Methods of Taking Game
 .080 Unlawful Methods of Taking Game; Exceptions
 .085 Unlawful Methods of Taking Big Game; Exceptions
 .090 Unlawful Methods of Taking Fur Animals
 .095 Unlawful Methods of Taking Furbearers; Exceptions
 .100 Unlawful Methods of Hunting Waterfowl, Snipe, & Crane
 .130 Restriction to Bag Limit
 .135 Transfer of Possession
 .140 Unlawful Possession or Transportation of Game
 .150 Evidence of Sex and Identity
 .160 Marked or Tagged Game
 .260 Taking Cub Bears & Female Bears with Cubs Prohibited
 .400 Emergency Taking of Game
 .410 Taking Game in Defense of Life or Property

ALASKA BOARD OF GAME

(Revised March 1998)

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NOTE: All written comments to proposals published in this proposal booklet must be sent to the ADF&G Boards Support Section at the address below in order to be included and published in the Board of Game's Spring 1999 board workbook. Written comments regarding the proposals in this proposal booklet may not be published if the comments are sent to individual board members.

Board members may also be reached at:

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
Boards Support Section
P.O. Box 25526
Juneau, AK 99802-5526

BOARDS SUPPORT SECTION

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Web site address: www.state.ak.us/local/akpages/FISH.GAME/boards/bordhome.htm

Board Meeting Recording:

Phone: 465-8901 (in Juneau)
1-800-764-8901 (outside of Juneau)

TDD

Email address:

Phone: 1-800-478-2028
dianac@fishgame.state.ak.us

**TENTATIVE AGENDA
BOARD OF GAME
March 5 - 15, 1999
WEST COAST INTERNATIONAL INN, ANCHORAGE, ALASKA**

[NOTE: This is a tentative agenda for this meeting of the Board of Game. It is subject to variance throughout the course of the meeting. At the discretion of the chair, additional periods of public testimony may be set. Also, evening sessions may be scheduled as necessary. A more detailed agenda will be available in February.]

Friday, March 5

8:30 AM

OPENING BUSINESS

Call to Order; Introductions of Board Members and Staff
Purpose of Meeting (overview)

STAFF REPORTS

Note: special evening session of public testimony:

6:30 PM

PUBLIC TESTIMONY BEGINS - This is the primary time for testimony on all issues before the Board of Game. At the chair's discretion, there may be additional sessions.

TO TESTIFY BEFORE THE BOARD ON PROPOSALS BEING CONSIDERED AT THIS MEETING, YOU MUST COMPLETE A BLUE TESTIMONY CARD. PUBLIC TESTIMONY WILL CONTINUE UNTIL ALL THAT SIGN UP HAVE TESTIFIED.

<p>DEADLINE FOR <u>SIGN-UP</u> TO TESTIFY IS: 12 NOON, SUNDAY, MARCH 7</p>

Saturday, March 6

8:30 AM

Continue public testimony

At the conclusion of public testimony the Board will begin deliberation on the proposals.

Sunday, March 7 through Monday, March 15

8:30 AM

Conclude public testimony

Board Deliberation on proposals

Miscellaneous Business, if any

(The Board schedule will generally be: 8:30 AM - 12 noon and 1:00 - 5:00 PM with lunch from noon until 1:00 PM. This schedule is subject to change at the discretion of the chair.)

PROPOSAL 1 - 5 AAC 84.270(1). FUR BEARER TRAPPING. Extend the season and increase the bag limit for beaver in Unit 6 as follows:

Units and Bag Limit	Open Season
Unit 6, Beaver	
<u>Unlimited</u>	Dec. 1 – <u>Mar. 31</u>
[20 PER SEASON]	[APR. 30]

ISSUE: The Copper River Delta has changed drastically in the past thirty years. The pre-1964 Delta was covered by the ocean tide twice a day making it virtually impossible for any tree, bush or shrub to grow. Since then, the alders, the cottonwoods and the willows have taken over a great majority of the Copper River Delta. The transformation has brought a variety of new inhabitants, but by far the most visibly populated is the beaver. Experts have said the Copper River Delta has more beaver per square mile than anywhere in Alaska and possibly anywhere in the country.

This committee along with biologists from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the US Forest Service believe that there is an over abundance of beaver on the Copper River Delta. The major problem when trapping beavers in this area is accessibility. The low price for beaver along with the costly operating expense has discouraged trappers from targeting on beavers. Units 13, 14, 17 and 20 have unlimited bag limits and according to ADF&G, have fewer beavers per square mile. By relaxing the bag limit and extending the closing date, trappers will be able to target on more areas and more animals thus keeping a little better control of the beaver population and make beaver trapping more cost effective.

Increasing the bag limit and extending the season for beaver will allow the few that do trap beaver to increase their harvest and also help control the unbelievable population.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Copper River/Prince William Sound Advisory Committee (HQ-99S-G-058)

PROPOSAL 2 - 5 AAC 84.270(1). FUR BEARER TRAPPING. Amend the existing regulations governing trapping seasons and bag limits for beaver in Units 9B and 17. as follows:

UNIT	OPEN SEASON	BAG LIMIT
(1) Beaver		
...		
Unit 9 (<u>except 9 (B)</u>)	Jan 1-Mar.31	40 per season.

Unit 9(B); however only firearms may be used to take up to 2 beaver per day during April 15-May 31 Jan 1-Mar. 31 40 per season.
April 15-May 31

...

Unit 17; however only firearms may be used to take up to 2 beaver per day during April 15-May 31 Nov. 10-Feb. 28 40 per season.
April 15-May 31

...

ISSUE: This is a housekeeping proposal. Previous board action changed methods and means (5 AAC 92.095(a)(3)) to allow taking beaver with the use of firearms in Units 9B and 17 from April 15 through May 31. However, the open season dates were not changed to reflect this change in methods and means. Changing the season dates as proposed will rectify this oversight.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Existing season dates in Units 9B and 17 for taking beaver with the use of firearms will remain inconsistent with existing legal methods and means.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Law enforcement officials, wildlife managers, trappers.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Status quo.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-99S-G-133)

PROPOSAL 3 - 5 AAC 84.270(1). FUR BEARER TRAPPING. Extend beaver trapping season in Unit 16B as follows:

Unit 16B trapping season for beaver open Oct. 1 and close May 15.

ISSUE: Unit 16B is a relatively isolated game management unit and there is little trapping pressure on the beaver population. The population has grown significantly in several areas of Unit 16B and they are well established in some key salmon streams, such as Alexander Creek drainage. The damming of these streams is creating ideal habitat for northern pike which in turn is devastating the salmon, rainbow trout and arctic grayling populations. The current trapping season allows for no open water trapping, which is necessary for success in many of the small feeder streams. Under the current season the snow becomes too deep too quickly to effectively target these beaver.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The damming of critical fish rearing streams by beavers will result in continued creation of deep slack water areas. The advancement of voracious northern pike into critical habitat will continue unabated.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The indigenous fish of key drainages in Unit 16B, anglers and trappers will all benefit.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Northern pike through the reduction of habitat suitable to them.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Obtaining a nuisance permit to target beavers in critical streams was suggested as more effective, but it is not supported by the Palmer ADF&G. Another proposal was to extend the beaver trapping season to June 1 vice May 15 to give trappers the advantage of increased mobility due to high water in the spring. This was also not supported by Palmer ADF&G. It is thought that kits would be trapped, but it should be noted the purpose of this proposal is to reduce the impact of damming critical fish habitat and its resulting increase in northern pike. This requires a serious reduction in beaver populations (including kits) in critical streams.

PROPOSED BY: Michael W. Williams (HQ-99S-G-195)

PROPOSAL 4 - 5 AAC 84.270(1). FUR BEARER TRAPPING. Change this regulation in Unit 14 as follows:

The Little Susitna River drainage within the Hatcher Pass management area is closed to beaver trapping.

ISSUE: There is underutilized beaver habitat in the Hatcher Pass management area, particularly along and adjacent to the Little Susitna River. Being readily visible available from the Hatcher Pass Road, this area provides an excellent location for a watchable wildlife opportunity for the public.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? There will be fewer active beaver ponds resulting in lost opportunity for public viewing and appreciation.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The thousands of people who travel to the Hatcher Pass area will benefit.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? The trapper who would like to trap beaver would suffer.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Other monitoring and management solutions by ADF&G would be too expensive of time and money considering the small area affected.

PROPOSED BY: Kathy Wells (SC-99S-G-035) (HQ-99S-G-102)

PROPOSAL 5 - 5 AAC 84.270(5). FUR BEARER TRAPPING and 5 AAC 85.060(4). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR FUR ANIMALS. Amend these regulations as follows:

1 lynx per year, or closure in Unit 15.

ISSUE: Lynx need a bag limit for trapping and hunting.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Lynx will decrease again to closure as they did in the 1980s in Unit 15.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Charles Shubert

(HQ-99S-G-118)

PROPOSAL 6 - 5 AAC 84.270(6). FUR BEARER TRAPPING. Extend marten season in Units 6A and 6B as follows:

Unit 6	Open Season
Marten	Nov. 10 – <u>Feb. 28</u> [JAN. 31]

Extending the closing date from Jan. 31 to Feb. 28 will allow the few who wish to trap in these areas more time enabling them to branch out their trap lines and cover more area which, in part, makes the effort cost effective and also keeps the pressure of any one area to a minimum.

ISSUE: Units 6A and 6B are both on the east side of the Copper River. These two areas are only accessible by snowmachine or airplane from mid–November through late April, although most access is by snowmachine due to operating costs. The problem with the season as it stands now is that it does not allow the few that actually trap in these areas time to effectively cover the area needed to make trapping these areas worth their while. This area does not completely freeze up enough to be guaranteed access until late December or early January. Units 1, 2, 3 and 5 have a closing date of February 15, and Unit 13 which is directly north of this area closes February 28. Aligning the seasons with Units 1, 2, 3, 5 and 13 will give trappers more opportunity, allow them to be more competitive, and make the Southcentral seasons more uniform.

This committee feels that Unit 13 and Units 6A and 6B marten seasons should become aligned. These two units butt up to one another making the winter conditions almost identical. The quality of pelt remains top of the line well after late February assuring top dollar from the buyer.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Copper River/Prince William Sound Advisory Committee (HQ-99S-G-057)

PROPOSAL 7 - 5 AAC 84.270(6). FUR BEARER TRAPPING. Amend regulations for marten in Units 7, 8, and 15 as follows:

Open season: Nov. 10 – Dec. 31.
Bag Limit: 5

The Forestry Board should join in the Joint Board process to share concerns for late successional wildlife species.

ISSUE: We have little information on the effects intensive forestry and human growth will have on marten in high latitudes. Populations have steeply declined in other states in milder, less harsh climates. Habitat loss, long gestation period, late sexual maturation, and delayed implantation is a recipe for crisis management.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? We will wonder why we did not apply the precautionary principal to keep regulations updated to habitat alteration and human growth. To have no limit educates the people that we have a limitless resource.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Statewide precaution.

PROPOSED BY: Nancy Hillstrand (HQ-99S-G-121)

PROPOSAL 8 - 5 AAC 84.270(12). FUR BEARER TRAPPING. Change regulation for marmot in Unit 15C as follows:

Impose a bag limit of 1 per day in all areas north of Kachemak Bay in Unit 15C except close the season along the bluff above Homer and East End Road between West Hill Road and the end of the bluff at Fritz Creek until the population recovers.

ISSUE: Hoary marmots are now rarely noted along the bluffs above the Homer area, yet current regulations specify no closed season and no bag limit for marmots in Unit 15C. Besides trapping and shooting, increasing development and numbers of roaming dogs also are reducing marmot populations. Marmot populations have been so depressed that very few animals remain in their

historic areas of the Homer uplands. Reports from long-term local residents indicate that marmots previously were common on the bluff, especially along Skyline Drive and East Hill Road.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? If the season for marmots in the Homer area is not closed and strict season and bag limits later imposed, marmot populations may be locally extirpated in additional areas.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Marmot populations should gradually increase, and bluff residents and wildlife viewers may once again see and hear the familiar whistle of marmots in the canyons and uplands near Homer. Eventually hunters and trappers also would benefit from the recovery and proliferation of marmots, and limited take could again be permitted following population recovery in the Skyline Drive area.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Nobody, because practically no marmots remain in the area with a proposed bag limit and hunting moratorium. Trappers and hunters can still obtain unlimited numbers in the southern portion of Unit 15C. If populations sufficiently increase in road-accessible areas north of Kachemak Bay in future years, the bag limit could be increased and the moratorium could be lifted in the Skyline Drive area.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Do nothing, and marmot populations will be unable to recover. A temporary closure to shooting and trapping marmots north of Kachemak Bay in Unit 15C would be the best way to assure recovery of local populations. Translocations from other areas also should occur.

PROPOSED BY: Edgar Bailey (HQ-99S-G-049)

PROPOSAL 9 - 5 AAC 84.270(12). FUR BEARER TRAPPING. Amend regulations for marmot and squirrel as follows:

	Area	Open Season
Flying squirrel	Units 6–17	no open season
Red and ground squirrel	Units 6–17	June 10 – Mar. 30
Marmot	Units 6–17(except 15C)	Jul. 30 – Mar. 30
Marmot	Unit 15C north of Kachemak Bay	closed (15C needs to rebuild)

The Forestry Board should join in the Joint Board process to share complex concerns to consciously design habitat for early and late successional wildlife.

ISSUE: Small mammal prey species are key components of regional biodiversity of predator-prey relationships. Allowing a reproductive season and/or limit can educate, and promote intended value of small prey. Regulations need to keep ahead of altered habitat and human growth in high latitudes of the subarctic.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The public will remain uneducated to the significance of these mammals to the balance of predator-prey relationships. As we provide more small prey species for marten, wolverine, lynx, brown, and black bear, wolf, coyote, horned owls, eagles, hawks, etc. we lower the demand for man-desired species, livestock or pets.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Everyone from being educated on the life histories of all wildlife species and their position in regional biodiversity.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? People will still have DLP.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Nancy Hillstrand (HQ-99S-G-122)

PROPOSAL 10 - 5 AAC 84.270(13). FUR BEARER TRAPPING. Extend season dates for wolf trapping in Unit 13 as follows:

Open wolf trapping season: Oct. 1 and extend the season until June 30.

ISSUE: Overabundance of wolves in Unit 13 in excess of the Board of Game adopted population objective.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Mortality will continue to be excessive on moose and caribou. Moose will continue to decline and reasonable harvest quotas cannot be established for caribou and moose.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Hunters, guides, prey populations, fur dealers, tanners.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Trappers may not benefit significantly because wolves caught after April may be of lesser value. A reduced wolf population will result in smaller harvest in the short-term future.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Aerial shooting, land and shoot, Fish and Game control, non-lethal control. These means are not politically acceptable, and some are too expensive (non-lethal).

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Wildlife Conservation Association (I-99S-G-008)

PROPOSAL 11 - 5 AAC 84.270(13). FUR BEARER TRAPPING and 5 AAC 85.056(2). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR WOLF. Amend this regulation for Unit 13 as follows:

Wolves shall not be trapped or hunted in Unit 13E.

ISSUE: Emergency closure of wolf trapping and hunting in Units 13E. The state needs to work together with the Denali National Park Service in order to legally protect those wolf groups (Sanctuary and Toklat) that account for at least 95 percent of all wolf sightings within the park, and at least 50 percent of all sightings by tourists statewide. These tourist habituated wolves present literally hundreds of thousands of dollars to the state's economy. They are also of great scientific, educational and historical significance. Both have plummeted in numbers to critically low levels.

Hunting and trapping could wipe them out, as it has the Savage and Headquarters wolf groups, both of which were similarly habituated to tourists.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? These individual group of wolves may be killed, and Alaska’s tourist economy will suffer. A part of Alaska’s history will be lost if the Toklat wolves are destroyed.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Alaskans, tourists, and future generations.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? A few trappers and possibly a hunter or two.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Wildlife Alliance (SC-99S-G-072)

PROPOSAL 12 - 5 AAC 85.045(14). FUR BEARER TRAPPING. Amend regulations for wolverine in Units 7, 14, 15 and 16A as follows:

Open season: Nov. 10 – Jan. 31
Bag limit: 2

The Forestry Board should join in the Joint Board process to share habitat concerns for wildlife specifies.

ISSUE: In Units 7 and 15, intensive forestry and human growth is rapidly altering habitat. We have little information on wolverine or the effects this will have on wolverine at these high latitudes. Populations have steeply declined in other states in milder, less harsh climates. To have no limit educates the people that we have a limitless resource.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? With habitat loss, long gestation period, late sexual maturation, and delayed implantation and little data, we may wonder why we did not apply the precautionary principal to keep regulations updated to habitat alteration.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Nancy Hillstrand (HQ-99S-G-123)

PROPOSAL 13 - 5 AAC 92.550. AREAS CLOSED TO TRAPPING. Amend this regulation as follows:

Trapping should be closed in the following areas in Unit 6D: All land within one mile of the coastline of Blackstone Bay, Passage Canal, and Port Wells (including Harriman Fiord).

ISSUE: Trapping should be closed in these areas.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Nonconsumptive users will continue to be negatively impacted by trapping.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Nonconsumptive users.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Kneeland Taylor (SC-99S-G-064) (HQ-99S-G-107)

PROPOSAL 14 - 5 AAC 92.550. AREAS CLOSED TO TRAPPING. Amend this regulation to include the following:

All trapping should be closed in the following areas:

All drainages leading into Turnagain Arm; all land within two miles of any publicly owned road within Unit 7; and all land within one mile of the following designated trails: The Resurrection Pass trail in its entirety from Hope to Seward, the Devils Pass trail, the Johnson Pass trail, the Crescent Lake trail, the Carter Lake trail, the Ptarmigan Creek trail, the Lost Lake trail, the Russian Lake trails (i.e. from both ends), all land within one mile of the coastline of Resurrection and Aialik Bays (including the coastline between these two bays), all land within five miles of the Grandview stop on the Alaska Railroad.

ISSUE:

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Nonconsumptive users will continue to be negatively impacted by trapping.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Nonconsumptive users.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Kneeland Taylor (SC-99S-G-063) (HQ-99S-G-106)

PROPOSAL 15 - 5 AAC 92.550(3). AREAS CLOSED TO TRAPPING. Amend this regulation to include the following:

Trapping should be closed in the following areas: All drainage leading into Eklutna Lake and the Eklutna River, all drainages leading into Peters creek, all drainages leading into Eagle River, all drainages leading into Ship Creek, all drainages leading into Turnagain Arm, all drainages leading into Anchorage Management Area, all of the Hatcher Pass public use area, all land within two miles of any publicly owned road within Unit 14C.

That portion of the Chugach State Park which is not closed to trapping should be open to trapping under Unit 14C season and bag limits, except that there should be no trapping of wolves, wolverine, land otter, beaver, or lynx permitted.

ISSUE:

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Nonconsumptive users will continue to be negatively impacted by trapping.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Nonconsumptive users.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Kneeland Taylor (SC-99S-G-062) (HQ-99S-G-108)

PROPOSAL 16 - 5 AAC 85.010(1). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR BISON.
Amend regulations in Unit 11 as follows:

Require that hunters obtain a limited use permit from Ahtna, Inc. before they obtain a bison hunt permit from the state. The fee for the permit is \$2,000.

ISSUE: A proposed bison hunt in Unit 11 includes a large area of land owned by Ahtna, Inc. an Alaska Native Regional Corporation. This hunt will promote trespass on Ahtna land. Ahtna land is closed to hunting by the general public.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Ahtna, Inc., will enforce its land closure policy by prosecuting trespassers to the fullest extent of the law. The state will be required to deal with hunters who harvest bison on Ahtna land without its permission.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Ahtna shareholders would be assured that their lands are being protected against trespassing.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those who do not want to pay for the limited use permit.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Keep Ahtna land closed to hunting – desire to cooperate. We may entertain variations on the limited use permit still totaling \$2,000.00.

PROPOSED BY: Ahtna, Inc. (HQ-99S-G-113)

PROPOSAL 17 - 5 AAC 85.015(3). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR BLACK BEAR. Amend regulations in Unit 14A as follows:

Black bear Unit 14A: Residents and nonresidents: one bear, no closed season.

ISSUE: Too many black bears where people live.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? More houses and storage sheds will be broken into and children will not be able to play outside or walk to school buses.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Almost everyone living in Unit 14A.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Extending the season to June 15 would help some because most of the bears go through here after the season closes.

PROPOSED BY: Joyce L. Macbeth (HQ-99S-G-032)

PROPOSAL 18 - 5 AAC 85.015. HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR BLACK BEAR and 5 AAC 84. FUR BEARER TRAPPING. Amend these regulations to provide the following:

Units 9, 11, 13, 16

Hunting season: Aug. 20 – June 10 3 bears
Trapping season: Sept. 1 – June 10 3 bears

Units 7, 15

Hunting season: Aug. 20 – June 10 2 bears
Trapping season: Sept. 10 – June 10 2 bears

The hunting and trapping regulations will be changed to include bear for sale like wolf is. The methods for trapping regulations for bear will be the same as for hunting bear. Traps and snares will not be allowed for bear. Bear gall bladder regulations will remain the same.

ISSUE: Most units in Alaska have no closed season for black bear, usually with a limit of 3 bears. The meat of black bears taken Jun. 1 – Dec. 31 can be used as animal feed for pets and livestock, as long as the hide is salvaged. If a person has no dogs or pigs to feed, he may leave the meat to rot, but the hide still needs to be salvaged even in mid-summer when the hide has little or no value. This situation does not maximize the potential use of black bear. Other big game animals whose fur has value, such as wolf, have closed seasons when the hide is poorest. Closing the black bear season for the 2 months when the hides are in the worst condition will help avoid wasting bear hides.

To offset a reduced harvest due to a reduced season some compensation is needed. Increasing the limit from 3 to 6 alone won't be enough because there is not enough incentive unless being able to

sell is included. Black bear used to be regulated like wolf under both hunting and trapping regulations. Certainly if an animal is abundant enough to allow shooting in July and to be left to the ravens or fed to dogs as long as the worthless hide gets sealed, then that animal is abundant enough to be better utilized with a shorter season wherein the animal may be sold. (Gall bladder would not be saleable.)

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Not solving this problem will continue to underutilize a resource.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Those who would like to be able to sell bear hides will benefit.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those who like to shoot bears in the summer when the hide has no value would suffer. They could still feed pets and livestock as long as they salvage the hide after Aug. 10.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Daniel Elliott (SC-99S-G-037) (HQ-99S-G-101)

PROPOSAL 19 - 5 AAC 85.020(6). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR BROWN BEAR. Change season dates on Unit 7 as follows:

Unit 7: Open season Apr. 15 – Apr. 25.

ISSUE: There has not been a viable brown bear hunt season in several years. The brown bear population has increased beyond optimal levels and has created problems in certain areas. Hunting season dates need to be changed to create hunting opportunity and protect the brown bear resource.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? ADF&G will continue to manage the brown bear resource with emergency orders without a meaningful management opportunity. Man and bear confrontations will increase without the opportunity to lawfully harvest this resource. The DLP statistics support the position of amending seasonal hunting openings.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? People who want to hunt bears. Fish and Wildlife protection will not have so many DLP bears. ADF&G will not need to manage by emergency order.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Open season: May 1 – Jun. 15 or Sept. 25 – Oct. 31

PROPOSED BY: Seward Advisory Committee (SC-99S-G-002)

PROPOSAL 20 - 5 AAC 85.020(6). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR BROWN BEAR. Amend this regulation in Unit 7 as follows

Unit 7: Open season May 1 – Jun. 15.

ISSUE: There has not been a viable brown bear hunt season in several years. The brown bear population has increased beyond optimal levels and has created problems in certain areas. Hunting season dates need to be changed to create hunting opportunity and protect the brown bear resource.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? ADF&G will continue to manage the brown bear resource with emergency orders without a meaningful management opportunity. Man and bear confrontations will increase without the opportunity to lawfully harvest this resource. The DLP statistics support the position of amending seasonal hunting openings.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? People who want to hunt bears. Fish and Wildlife protection will not have so many DLP bears. ADF&G will not need to manage by emergency order.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Open season: Apr. 15 – 25 or Sept. 25 – Oct. 31.

PROPOSED BY: Seward Advisory Committee (SC-99S-G-003)

PROPOSAL 21 - 5 AAC 85.020(6). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR BROWN BEAR. Change season dates in Unit 7 as follows:

Unit 7: Open season Sept. 25 – Oct. 31.

ISSUE: There has not been a viable brown bear hunt season in several years. The brown bear population has increased beyond optimal levels and has created problems in certain areas. Hunting season dates need to be changed to create hunting opportunity and protect the brown bear resource.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? ADF&G will continue to manage the brown bear resource with emergency orders without a meaningful management opportunity. Man and bear confrontations will increase without the opportunity to lawfully harvest this resource. The DLP statistics support the position of amending seasonal hunting openings.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? People who want to hunt bears. Fish and Wildlife protection will not have so many DLP bears. ADF&G will not need to manage by emergency order.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Open season: May 1 – Jun. 15 or Apr. 15 – Apr. 25.

PROPOSED BY: Seward Advisory Committee (SC-99S-G-004)

PROPOSAL 22 - 5 AAC 85.020(6) and (14). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR BROWN BEAR. Change regulations in Units 7 and 15 as follows:

There will be a fall brown bear hunt by registration from Oct. 15 – Nov. 30 unless closed by emergency order. The spring brown bear hunt would be closed except by emergency order if the annual quota is not met. Furthermore, if a spring hunt takes place, the dates would be moved to Apr. 15 – Apr. 25. This would include all of Units 15 and 7.

ISSUE: Due to spring season harvest, DLP bears, and other mortalities there has not been a fall brown bear season in four years on the Kenai Peninsula. A late fall season needs to be the primary focal point for bear harvest management.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? There will continue to be a lack of fall brown bear hunting due to overharvest of sows.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Brown bear hunters looking for a quality, prime hide. All hunters who want another chance to hunt later into the fall. Bear managers, because fewer sows will probably be killed.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those who prefer a spring hunt.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Every other year seasons. Too long between hunting periods, especially if there are emergency closures on either end of hunting year.

PROPOSED BY: Larry L. Lewis (HQ-99S-G-036)

PROPOSAL 23 - 5 AAC 85.020(6) and (14). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR BROWN BEAR. Change the brown bear season dates in Units 7 and 15 to allow for only one season annually, as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(6) Unit 7 1 bear every 4 regulatory years by registration permit only ...	Oct. 15 - Oct. 31 (General hunt only) [MAY 10 - MAY 25] [[GENERAL HUNT ONLY]]	Oct. 15 - Oct. 31 [MAY 10 - MAY 25]
(14) Unit 15 [A] 1 bear every 4 regulatory years by registration permit only	<u>Oct. 15 - Oct. 31</u> <u>(General hunt only)</u> [MAY 10 - MAY 25] [[GENERAL HUNT ONLY]]	<u>Oct. 15 - Oct. 31</u> [MAY 10 - MAY 25]

[REMAINDER OF UNIT 15]	[OCT. 15 - OCT 31] [(GENERAL HUNT ONLY)]	[OCT. 15 - OCT. 31]
	[MAY 10 - MAY 25] [(GENERAL HUNT ONLY)]	[MAY 10 - MAY 25]

...

ISSUE: A management protocol was developed creating a maximum number of bears that could be taken to sustain a population of 250-300 bears. This protocol focuses primarily on the take of female bears. The department's objective is to take less than six female bears annually. It is also a goal of the department to provide stable seasons so hunters can adequately plan their hunts.

Combined hunter harvest and defense of life and property (DLP) kills have exceeded management objectives on the Kenai for five of the last six years. The fall season has been closed by emergency order every fall since 1995 to avoid further overharvest. Previous regulation changes recommended by the department and approved by the board were not conservative enough. The department recommends that the Kenai population can sustain only one season.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Brown bears may continue to be harvested in excess of management objectives.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Hunters that desire to hunt during the fall season.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-99S-G-160)

PROPOSAL 24 - 5 AAC 85.020(12). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR BROWN BEAR. Lengthen the brown bear season in Unit 13 as follows:

Change the brown bear season dates to Sept. 1 – Jun. 15 in Unit 13.

ISSUE: Length of brown bear season . Bear population is up.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Further or continuing pressure on moose and caribou populations.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Moose and caribou.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Denali Advisory Committee (SC-99S-G-012)

PROPOSAL 25 - 5 AAC 85.020(12). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR BROWN BEAR and 5 AAC 92.132(1). BAG LIMIT FOR BROWN BEARS. Change this regulation in Unit 13 as follows:

Brown bear limit: 2 bears per year, no tag fee, Jan. 1 – Dec. 31. Hunters must salvage the hide or meat, but not both.

ISSUE: Bear predation in Unit 13. Board of Game Findings 95-84-BOG, Intensive Management for Unit 13, paragraphs 7 and 8 conclude that brown bears should be reduced to 350 animals, or until the moose calf:cow ratio is 30:100 (currently 17:100). Since then the bear population has retained constant and moose have further declined.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The moose population will remain in a predator pit, limiting consumptive opportunity.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All viewers and consumptive users of moose and caribou.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Reducing human harvest of moose, rejected because human harvest is not statistically significant to moose population and prohibited by intensive management statutes.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Wildlife Conservation Assoc. by Lynn Levensgood (HQ-99S-G-092)

PROPOSAL 26 - 5 AAC 85.020(13). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR BROWN BEAR and 5 AAC 92.132. BAG LIMIT FOR BROWN BEARS. Change regulations in Unit 14 as follows:

Unit and Bag Limit	Resident	Nonresident
Unit 14	Open Season	Open Season
Residents:		
Three bears of either sex, and any age, no closed season	Aug. 10 – May 31	Aug. 10 – May 31
One adult male bear each regulatory year		
Nonresidents:		
1 adult male bear each regulatory year.		

Nonresident hunters must be accompanied by a resident with a valid hunting license, or a licensed guide. No tag is required for a bear shot within one mile of one’s home.

A temporary drastic solution is needed for a serious problem. Three bears would allow a hunter to take a sow with her cubs. As soon as the moose population is back to its mid-1980s size, the limit should go to one adult male bear per year.

ISSUE: The excessive brown bear population on the hillside areas of Unit 14A, which has nearly extinguished the moose, and threatens children and farm animals.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?

1) The last moose will be gone; 2) Bears will increasingly endanger children in their yards and on the way to school buses, and more farm animals will disappear; 3) Because bears can no longer be frightened off by gunshots or noise, more will be shot illegally; 4) Bears will break into buildings; 5) The bear population will crash unless they learn to fish again.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Most residents of Unit 14, especially those with children or farm animals, or those who are dependent on wild game for food. The Department of Fish and Game, because they would not have to deal with so many DLP bears and would have moose herds to manage.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one. Even the big game guides would profit in the long run from a restored moose herd in the mountains and a balanced bear population. The wolves would have more to eat.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Abolish the sealing requirement – too many hunters enjoy killing animals. Lower nonresident fees and collect tag fee at time of sealing - only the very rich can afford a guide so the fees do not matter.

PROPOSED BY: Joyce L. Macbeth (HQ-99S-G-031)

PROPOSAL 27 - 5 AAC 85.020(13). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR BROWN BEAR and 5 AAC 92.530. MANAGEMENT AREAS. Amend these regulations as follows:

First, extend brown bear season in Remainder of Unit 14C through Oct. 31. Second, allow brown bear hunting in all portions of Unit 14C currently open to black bear hunting. Season dates would be May 1 – May 25 and Sept. 15 – Oct. 31. Methods and means, permit, and hunter certification requirements would be identical to those in place for black bear.

ISSUE: Increased brown bear/human interaction in Unit 14C.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Brown bear population will continue to grow, conflicts between bears and people will continue to be a problem.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Individuals who would like to harvest a brown bear in Unit 14C. Goat registration hunters in remainder of 14C are in the field through Oct. 31. Extending the brown bear season to Oct. 31 would allow additional hunting opportunities. Opening additional areas to brown bear hunting will also allow additional opportunity. Increasing the harvest in areas currently closed should help reduce the number of brown bear/human interactions.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Folks who do not want to see brown bears killed.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Allowing a registration or drawing permit hunt in selected areas is a viable alternative.

PROPOSED BY: Barry Stratton (SC-99S-G-045)

PROPOSAL 28 - 5 AAC. 85.020(13). **HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR BROWN BEAR.** Lengthen the brown bear hunting season in Unit 14A and 14C and align with 14B as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(13)		
Unit 14 [(B)]	Sept. 15-May 25 (General hunt only)	Sept. 15-May 25
1 bear every 4 regulatory years		
[REMAINDER OF 14]	[SEPT. 15-OCT. 10] [[GENERAL HUNT ONLY]] [MAY 1-MAY 25] [[GENERAL HUNT ONLY]]	[MAY 1-MAY 25]
[1 BEAR EVERY 4 REGULATORY YEARS]		

ISSUE: Brown bear population objectives for Unit 14 call for “a population that seems largely unaffected by hunter harvest” while providing an optimum opportunity to hunt bears. To reach that goal the desired hunter harvest has been set at 6-10 bears including less than three females younger than 3-years-of-age. During the last 8 years, hunters in Unit 14A have harvested an average of 4.7 bears (1.0 sows older than 3-years-old) annually, and hunters in Unit 14B have harvested 4.5 bears (1.6 sows older than 3-years-old). Hunters did not harvest any bears in Unit 14C during that period. However, non-hunting related mortality has averaged 3.7 bears (0.5 sows older than 3 years of age) in Units 14A and 14B and 1.4 bears (0.2 sows older than 3-years-of-age) in Unit 14C. While it is extremely difficult to measure the population size, brown bear numbers seem to be increasing or at least remaining stable. As human settlement spreads, conflicts with brown bears have increased which would seem to indicate the amount of bear habitat is diminishing. Residents seem to tolerate certain interactions and risks in remote recreational settings but are much less tolerant of interactions in and around housing and agricultural developments. Recognizing that bear habitat in Unit 14A has decreased in the last ten years and that bear numbers appear to have increased in adjacent, un hunted Chugach State Park, we feel it is appropriate to allow a higher harvest to take advantage of any dispersing bears. The harvest should be allowed to increase to 10-15 bears with five or less females 3-years-old or

older for Unit 14. Extending the brown bear hunting season in Unit 14A to match Unit 14B should allow for an increase in hunter harvest while minimizing the total harvest of adult females.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? We suspect the frequency of human-bear interactions will continue to increase as more young bears disperse from Chugach State Park and Unit 14B. Opportunity to harvest dispersing brown bears will remain limited. Numbers of DLPs and undesirable interactions will increase.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Hunters wishing to take a brown bear, recreationalists wishing to avoid dangerous encounters, livestock owners, residents and anglers.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-99S-G-134)

PROPOSAL 29 - 5 AAC 85.020(13)(14)(17) and (18). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR BROWN BEAR and 5 AAC 92.015. BROWN BEAR TAG FEE EXEMPTIONS. Change these regulations as follows:

Eliminate resident brown bear tag fee requirement, and change to one brown bear per year in Units 14, 15, and 16. In Anchorage, open areas 1-5 for hunting.

ISSUE:

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? An increasing bear population will dramatically continue to decrease the calf moose and caribou populations thus affecting the moose and caribou numbers for positive game management. Additional encounters in the Anchorage are between humans and bears.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Moose and caribou populations, Alaska hunters, Anchorage residents and those who prefer to photograph and view our wildlife.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Barbara Broadwater (HQ-99S-G-005)

PROPOSAL 30 - 5 AAC 85.020(14). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR BROWN BEAR and 5 AAC 92.015. BROWN BEAR TAG FEE EXEMPTIONS. Amend these regulations in Unit 16B as follows:

The requirement of the four year regulation of one brown bear per hunter, and the requirement for a bear tag be eliminated for Unit 16B which would hopefully reduce the extreme number of bears in this area.

ISSUE: I wish to bring to the attention of the Board of Game the problem with the abundance of bears in Unit 16B, especially in the area of the Kustatan River drainage.

I personally have had numerous encounters with bears while fishing in the Kustatan and McArthur rivers and the signs of bears are so numerous that it is a matter of time before someone is seriously mauled or killed in this area.

A friend and myself had a very serious encounter with a brown bear a year ago during the moose season that required the killing of the bear to prevent from being a statistic of a bear mauling.

I also noticed while moose hunting in this area there is the total lack of moose calves which I can be assured was caused by the deprivation of bears.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Jerry Parnham (HQ-99S-G-026)

PROPOSAL 31 - 5 AAC 85.020(8). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR BROWN BEAR. Change winter season in Unit 9B as follows:

Brown bear open every year, Sept. 1–Oct. 31, May 10 – May 25
Bag limit – 1 bear every 2 years.

ISSUE: Open brown bear earlier, from Oct. 1 to Sept. 1, to align with the federal season and state Unit 9C Naknek River regulations.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Locals would continue to find it difficult to harvest brown bear. Bear population has exploded and would rise even more impacting moose and caribou calves.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Locals that would like to harvest brown bears when they are still hanging around the village. Come Oct. 1 most bears are up in the hills getting ready to hibernate. Also, moose and caribou calves.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? At least open the season earlier Sept. 1.

PROPOSED BY: Lake Iliamna Advisory Committee (HQ-99S-G-030) (SW-99S-G-006)

PROPOSAL 32 – 5 AAC 85.020(8). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR BROWN BEAR. Change this regulation in Unit 9C as follows:

Brown bear open every year, Sept. 1 – Oct. 31 and May 10 – May 25
Bag limit – 1 bear every 2 years.

ISSUE: Open brown bear earlier from Oct. 1 to Sept. 1 to align with the federal season and Unit 9C Naknek River regulations.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Locals would continue to find it difficult to harvest brown bear. Bear population has exploded and would rise even more impacting moose and caribou calves.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Locals that would like to harvest brown bears when they are still hanging around the villages. Come Oct. 1 most bears are up in the hills getting ready to hibernate. Also, moose and caribou calves.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? At least open the season earlier Sept. 1.

PROPOSED BY: Lake Iliamna Advisory Committee (HQ-99S-G-029)

PROPOSAL 33 - 5 AAC 85.020(8). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR BROWN BEAR. Change this regulation in Unit 9E as follows:

Increase the bear bag limit from 1 every 4 years to 1 every 2 years for resident and nonresident sport hunters in Unit 9E.

ISSUE: Board of Game needs to look at predator control.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Sport hunters.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Chignik Advisory Committee (HQ-99S-G-105)

PROPOSAL 34 - 5 AAC 85.020(8). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR BROWN BEAR and 5 AAC 92.540(17) MANAGEMENT AREAS. Amend regulations within the Chignik Alaska Brown Bear Management Area as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident and Nonresident
Unit 9E, 1 bear every 4 regulatory years.	Oct. 7 – Oct. 21 fall odd years only

ISSUE: Lengthen brown bear season in Unit 9E to Oct. 1 – Oct. 21 in odd years.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The Northern Peninsula Caribou herd may take longer to grow if predators continue to increase.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The Northern Peninsula Caribou herd.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No person.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Tracy Vrem (HQ-99S-G-069)

PROPOSAL 35 - 5 AAC 85.020(8). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR BROWN BEAR. Change this regulation as follows:

Unit 9E – Brown bear season – Oct. 1 – Oct. 21 (odd years only)
Brown bear season – May 5 – May 25 (even years only)

ISSUE: Increasing brown bear numbers on the Alaska Peninsula could provide more hunting opportunity.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Brown bear numbers would continue to rise. More takings in defense of life and property will be reported in the villages of the Alaska Peninsula.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Alaska Peninsula village residents, bear hunters.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Nobody.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Gary King, Jr. (SC-99S-G-031)

PROPOSAL 36 - 5 AAC 85.020(8). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR BROWN BEAR. Amend this regulation for Unit 9 as follows:

Unit 9E brown bear season and bag limits:

Residents and nonresidents, 1 bear every 4 regulatory years.

Spring May 10 – May 25

Fall Oct. 1 – Oct. 15

ISSUE: The fall bear season in Unit 9E. It is too late in October. I recommend Oct. 1 – Oct. 15.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Hunters using water based operations can be stranded in the field due to freeze-up.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All water-based hunters and the population of moose and caribou. Especially young animals.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: David and Howard Flynn (SC-99S-G-049)

PROPOSAL 37 - 5 AAC 85.020(8). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR BROWN BEAR. Amend regulations in Unit 9E as follows:

Unit 9E brown bear season and bag limits

Spring May 10 – 25 of even years

Fall Oct. 1 – 15 of odd years

Residents and nonresidents: 1 bear every 4 regulatory years.

ISSUE: The fall brown bear season in Unit 9E is too late. Should be Oct. 1 - Oct. 15.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The predation of caribou and moose calves will continue at an alarming rate as is the current case. In addition the safety of anyone with water-based operations will increase 99% with many less freeze-up problems. Small bears and sows will continue to be taken instead of large boars, as is the present situation.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Water-based hunters all over Unit 9E. Adult moose and caribou populations as well as the calves having an increased chance of survival. The department's policy on a late season in October limits the hunter to small sows because, by ADF&G's own admission, the large boars go nocturnal by the time the season opens. This reduces the likelihood of taking a big boar. The same bears, I might add, that easily take down an adult moose or caribou. The stubbornness and ignorance of Fish and Game and the Board of Game are responsible for the gross mismanagement of the Alaska Peninsula caribou herd. They have verbalized that they are

willing to sacrifice the ungulate population levels so that tourists will have a larger opportunity for bear viewing. This season change, with close scrutiny and better public awareness (i.e., Kodiak Fish and Game recommends a bear video to the public) will go a long way to increase the peninsula herd populations and allow for the harvest of trophy size animals for all three species.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Gus Lamoureux (HQ-99S-G-127)

PROPOSAL 38 - 5 AAC 85.020(8). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR BROWN BEAR. Change season dates in Unit 9E as follows:

Start fall hunt for brown bear on Sept. 25. There are so many bears killing moose calves, as well as caribou populations beginning to go down. Please look at this more closely.

ISSUE: Hunting brown bear in the fall is too late in the year in October. The weather gets so bad the planes freeze up on the floats, and the lakes freeze over. My hunt is shortened every year because of bad weather and I can only hunt in the fall. (I hunt Unit 9E.)

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? By the hunt being in September, the hunter would be able to take the big boars from the populations of bear. All I see is little sows everywhere because the big boars kill the small boars, and the big boars go nocturnal that late in the year. The bears need to be in check.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The bear populations are so bad the caribou and moose populations are getting harmed from the bears every year. Sooner or later the moose and caribou hunting season will be closed.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Alaska Department of Fish and Game, when less tags are bought, hunters are getting tired of fighting the weather.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Terry Verble (HQ-99S-G-196)

PROPOSAL 39 - 5 AAC 85.020(15). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR BROWN BEAR. Amend regulations in Unit 17 as follows:

Take five days off spring season and add to front of all season.

Unit 17B

Residents and nonresidents:

1 bear every 4 years – Sept. 15 – Oct. 10

Apr. 20 – May 25

ISSUE: Brown bear population in Unit 17 is at an all time high and both residents and nonresidents are missing out of hunting opportunities. Realign season dates for brown bear in Unit 17B.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Missed hunting opportunity for brown bear hunters, both resident and nonresident.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All brown bear hunters in Unit 17B. Also all moose hunters in Unit 17B.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Adding 10 days to the front of brown bear fall season. The department does not want moose and brown bear season to overlap.

PROPOSED BY: Roger D. Morris (SC-99S-G-034)

PROPOSAL 40 - 5 AAC 85.020(15) HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR BROWN BEAR. Amend regulation in Unit 17B as follows:

Change dates of fall bear season from Sept. 20 – Oct. 10 to Sept. 10 – Oct. 10.

This will bring Unit 17B in line with the seasons in Unit 17A and Unit 17C, and allow hunters to harvest bear during the moose season. Moose now closes on Sept. 15.

ISSUE: Dates of fall season on brown/grizzly bear for resident and nonresident hunters in Unit 17B.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Continue to lose moose to bear predation.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Any person who hunts bear or moose in this unit.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Clark Whitney (HQ-99S-G-198)

PROPOSAL 41 - 5 AAC 85.025(1). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR CARIBOU. Amend regulations in Unit 7 as follows:

Establish a registration “primitive” weapon hunt for bowhunters and “traditional” side lock muzzleloaders. Several options available.

ISSUE: Low harvest rate of, and low opportunity to, hunt Kenai Mt. caribou herd by hunters mentally and physically capable of harvesting animals under challenging hunt conditions.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Potential winter kill in harder than normal winters. Potential range damage due to over abundance going into winter.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The caribou range and herd. Those wishing to hunt with primitive weapons.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one, this is an added opportunity.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Increase permit numbers, potentially bad public relations, and compounds problem. Additional drawing permit, this is one option.

PROPOSED BY: Larry Schweigert (HQ-99S-G-063)

PROPOSAL 42 - 5 AAC 85.025(1). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR CARIBOU. Amend regulation in Unit 7 as follows:

Convert late season to a separate, primitive weapons hunt, either drawing or registration.

ISSUE: Probable caribou “chase stress” during late season DC001 caribou hunt/snowmachine access, using modern weapons.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Caribou will be chased and stressed by snowmachine. Hunters attempting to close within modern rifle range on their machines. Bad public relations if discovered.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Rut stressed caribou. All hunters, by increased hunting opportunity, by addressing a potentially bad public relations situation, and by safeguarding the caribou.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Anyone who wishes to chase caribou until within modern rifle range using snowmachines.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Banning snowmachines from the hunt. Limiting snowmachine use to within ¼ mile of Resurrection Trail. (Fairly unenforceable, not necessary)

PROPOSED BY: Larry Schweigert (HQ-99S-G-064)

PROPOSAL 43 – 5 AAC 85.025(a)(9). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR CARIBOU. Establish a drawing permit hunt for cow caribou hunt in the Killey River herd in Unit 15B as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
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(9)
Unit 15(B), that portion
south and west of Killey River

1 caribou by drawing permit only; up to 150 permits may be issued	Aug. 10-Sept. 20 (General hunt only)	Aug. 10 - Sept.20
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<u>2 cow caribou per drawing permit only; up to 100 permits may be issued.</u>	<u>Aug. 10-Oct. 10</u>	<u>Aug. 10-Oct. 10</u>
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ISSUE: The Killey River Caribou herd was established by relocating animals from the Nelchina herd in 1985 and 1986. The herd has grown steadily, with a significant increase during the past two years, and now numbers about 500 caribou. If this herd is allowed to continue to increase in size, range damage will occur. An additional concern is maintaining a low hunter density in this wilderness portion of the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge. Allowing a limited number of hunters to harvest a multiple bag limit of female animals will slow the herd’s growth, while maintaining a reasonable number of hunters in the area. Permits would be allocated into two seasons to reduce hunter crowding.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The Killey River caribou herd will likely continue to increase beyond the carrying capacity of its range until the habitat is overbrowsed. The caribou population would likely decline below management objectives.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Hunters that want to take advantage of additional hunting opportunity.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? A registration or single animal bag limit hunts was not considered but rejected since they would increase hunter density beyond desired levels.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-99S-G-136)

PROPOSAL 44 - 5 AAC 85.025(8). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR CARIBOU. Amend this regulation in Unit 13 as follows:

Change the opening of the Tier II hunt for Nelchina Caribou to August 10.

ISSUE: The “special drawing permit” hunt with archery and muzzleloaders Aug. 1– Aug. 9 is not so special. The Tier II hunt allows high power rifles and also opens Aug. 1. There have been numerous incidents where archers or muzzleloaders were stalking caribou to get close when hunters

with high power rifles shot at the same animals from several hundred yards away. Avoiding this sort of competition, and safety hazard, is what the special hunt was intended to do.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Continued user conflict. Reduced hunter opportunity days as more primitive weapon hunters decline to participate.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Primitive weapon hunters would get what was advertised. Probable growth in interest in this hunt as the word about the quality of experience spreads.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one, because Tier II hunters have a long season with the greatest kill occurring in September or later.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Shifting the primitive weapons hunt to a later date; rejected because once the high power hunt begins the animals become spooky and difficult to stalk at close range.

(SC-98-G-035)
(HQ-99S-G-112)
(HQ-99S-G-019)

PROPOSED BY: Alaska State Muzzle Loaders Association

PROPOSAL 45 - 5 AAC 85.025(8). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR CARIBOU. Amend this regulation in Unit 13 as follows:

Change the opening date of Tier II caribou season

Unit and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season
Unit 13	<u>Aug. 10</u> – Sept. 21
antlered bull by permit	[AUG.1]
	Oct. 21 – Mar. 31

ISSUE: Summer caribou migration patterns may be disrupted in the northern areas of Unit 13 due to early hunting pressure along the Denali Highway. Also, increased chance of meat spoilage due to warm weather in early August.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Caribou have difficulty accessing parts of their range north of the Denali Highway.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Hunters, wildlife viewers.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Aug. 20 opening date.

PROPOSED BY: Paxson Advisory Committee

(HQ-99S-G-052)

PROPOSAL 46 - 5 AAC 85.025(8) HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR CARIBOU. Change season dates for caribou in Unit 13 as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)
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Unit 13	<u>Aug. 10</u> - Sept. 20. [AUG. 1]
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ISSUE: Caribou season dates in Unit 13.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Caribou movements in late July and August are being disturbed as caribou move into the upper areas of the Denali with the early season dates which were created with the start of Tier I.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? This proposal will benefit all hunters by preserving the early migration of the caribou throughout the unit.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Copper Basin Advisory Committee (SC-99S-G-052A) (11Q-99S-G-080)

PROPOSAL 47 - 5 AAC 85.025(8) HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR CARIBOU. Amend this regulation in Unit 13 as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season
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Unit 13 1 caribou by permit	<u>Aug. 1</u> – <u>Sept. 25</u> [SEPT. 20]
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<u>Oct. 15</u> – Mar. 31 [OCT. 21]

4,000 caribou may be harvested – 9% of the herd.

ISSUE: Bulls-only Tier II caribou harvest in Unit 13 (Nelchina Caribou Herd). Historical data shows that hunters prefer cow caribou after September 25. Tier I and Tier II should be either sex.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? We will continue to see the sex ratio of the herd skewed toward cows. The current sex ratio is adequate to assure breeding of all ovulating females.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Hunters prohibited from harvesting cows when some bulls are not fit to eat. Hunters currently prohibited from hunting because of the limited Tier II permits, longer seasons disperse hunting effort.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Limited cow only – wasted meat from wrong sex kills. Open season registration hunt. Fish and Game does not know how to liquidate Tier II hunts.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Wildlife Conservation Association (I-99S-G-007)

PROPOSAL 48 - 5 AAC 85.025(8). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR CARIBOU. Change the bag limit to 1 caribou for the Tier II hunt and reduce season, and eliminate the Tier I hunt, as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(8) Unit 13	Aug. 10 - Sept. 20 [AUG. 1 - SEPT. 20] (Subsistence hunt only) Oct. 21. - Mar. 31 (Subsistence hunt only)	No open season

1 caribou [BULL] per regulatory year by Tier II permit only; up to 10,000 permits may be issued; the commissioner shall close the season by emergency order when up to 5,000 caribou have been taken by Tier II hunters; [OR 1 COW, OR ANTLERED BULL WITH 6 OR LESS TINES ON 1 ANTLER, PER REGULATORY YEAR BY TIER I REGISTRATION PERMIT; DURING THE AUG. 1-AUG. 9 PERIOD, ONLY BOW AND ARROW OR MUZZLE-LOADING RIFLES MAY BE USED; DURING THE AUG. 10 - SEPT. 20 PERIOD PERMITTEES MUST CHOOSE ONE OF TWO HUNT PERIODS: AUG. 10--AUG. 31 OR SEPT. 1--SEPT. 20; ALL PERMITTEES MAY HUNT OCT. 21--MARCH 31 SEASON; THE COMMISSIONER SHALL CLOSE THE SEASON BY EMERGENCY ORDER

WHEN UP TO 10,000 COWS HAVE BEEN TAKEN BY TIER I HUNTERS; THE COMMISSIONER ALSO MAY OPEN THE SEASON BY EMERGENCY ORDER.]

ISSUE: The Nelchina caribou herd population size is 38,500 and has been reduced to within the fall population size objective of 35,000 - 40,000 caribou. The Tier I registration hunt is no longer necessary because it was established to reduce the herd from its previous population high of 50,000 animals. The first nine days of the season Aug. 1 – Aug. 9 can be eliminated as they were an attempt to give alternative weapon Tier I hunters a special season. We should be able to maintain herd size within the population objective by issuing up to 10,000 Tier II permits for any caribou.

The current bull:cow ratio for the Nelchina herd is 21 bulls per 100 cows; a bull-only Tier II harvest is going to worsen this already low ratio. Herd size cannot be maintained with a bulls-only harvest, so the bag limit for Tier II permit holders needs to be changed to one caribou of either sex. An allowable harvest of 1,500 bulls and 1,500 cows is projected for the 1999 season with a projected 8,000 Tier II permits issued. When 1,500 animals of either sex have been harvested, the season for that sex will be closed by emergency order, and all remaining permits will be valid for only one sex of caribou. The season will be closed entirely when the harvest quota is met.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? If the bag limit is not changed to include cows, it will be difficult to maintain the herd size within population objectives.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All who qualify to hunt the Nelchina herd under Tier II.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those who do not qualify for Tier II.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? We could issue 30,000 registration permits to harvest the 1500 cows, but the chance for harvesting considerably more than our harvest objective would be excessive.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-99S-G-183)

PROPOSAL 49 - 5 AAC 85.025(8). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR CARIBOU. Amend this regulation in Unit 13 as follows:

From Aug. 1 – 4 The taking of caribou by bow and arrow only.
From Aug. 5 – 8 The taking of caribou by bow and arrow or muzzleloader.
From Aug. 9 – Sept. 20 or Oct. 21 – Mar. 31 by rifle or the above means.

ISSUE: Hunting restrictions of methods to taking of caribou. Open a portion of the season to archery and muzzleloader hunting only.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Hunters who qualify for a Tier II caribou permit in Unit 13 will not have an opportunity to hunt in a more primitive way to get closer in touch with the animal their taking in a safe manner.

PROPOSAL 53 - 5 AAC 85.025(3). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR CARIBOU. Amend regulations in Units 9E and 9C as follows:

Unit 9E, that portion south of the Meshik and Aniakchak rivers – No open caribou season. Remainder of Unit 9E and all of Unit 9C: 1 bull caribou – Sept. 21 – Oct. 5.

ISSUE: The Northern Alaska Peninsula Caribou numbers are down while the bull ratios are higher than optimum for reproduction. A hunting season for caribou is very important to guides as it bridges the time between the short moose season ending Sept. 20 and the fall bear season beginning Oct. 7, allowing for uninterrupted operations and employment of guides in Unit 9.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Continued harvest of cows on the Alaska Peninsula will cause continued decline in calf production. Total elimination of the nonresident season will cause unnecessary hardship on the guides in Unit 9.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? In the long-term all persons who utilize the Alaska Peninsula Caribou herd. In the short-term, guides who need the caribou season between moose and bear seasons in order to maintain employment of guides and keep their camps open during this 15-day period.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Hunters south of the Meshik and Aniakchak rivers and guides who are used to the longer caribou season.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Total caribou closure: causes major problems for guides who cannot just close down operations between moose and bear seasons. Mob and Demob costs too high. Lack of continuous employment for cooks, pilots and assistant guides.

PROPOSED BY: Gary King, Jr. (SC-99S-G-033)

PROPOSAL 54 - 5 AAC 85.025(3). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR CARIBOU. Amend regulations in Units 9C and 9E as follows:

Nonresidents: 1 bull, Sept. 21 – Oct. 14.

ISSUE: A decrease in the Northern Alaska Peninsula Caribou herd justifies a modification in season to reduce harvest. Some nonresident season is warranted, however, and will not jeopardize the health of the herd or create conflicts with other users.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Nonresident hunting opportunity is important economically for many people living in the Unit as well as other areas of the state. It would be contrary to maintaining a balanced allocation system to eliminate nonresident hunting.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Nonresident hunters, guides, and businesses who serve this component of Alaska’s tourism industry.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? In a practical and real sense, no one will suffer. Local resident hunting opportunity has not and will not be jeopardized if this regulation is adopted and neither will the health of the herd given low harvest levels.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Professional Hunters Association (HQ-99S-G-129)

PROPOSAL 55 - 5 AAC 85.025(3). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR CARIBOU. Reduces the caribou hunting seasons and bag limits for the Northern Alaska Peninsula herd in Units 9C and 9E, and creates a separate season in Unit 9A as follows.

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
OPTION 1		
(3) Unit[S] 9(A)	<u>Aug. 1–Mar. 31</u> [AUG. 10–MAR. 31]	<u>Aug. 1–Mar. 31</u>
<u>1 caribou</u>		
[RESIDENT HUNTERS: 4 CARIBOU; HOWEVER, NO MORE THAN 1 MAY BE A COW; NO MORE THAN 2 CARIBOU MAY BE TAKEN AUG. 10–AUG. 31; NO MORE THAN 1 CARIBOU MAY BE TAKEN SEPT. 1–NOV. 30 AND ONLY BY A HUNTER WHO HAS TAKEN NO CARIBOU IN THE STATE FROM JULY 1 THROUGH AUG. 31; NO MORE THAN 1 CARIBOU MAY BE TAKEN PER CALENDAR MONTH FROM DEC. 1 THROUGH MAR. 31]		
[NONRESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 BULL]		[AUG. 10–OCT. 31]
Unit 9(B)		
RESIDENT HUNTERS:	Aug. 1–Apr. 15	

5 caribou; however, no more than 2 bulls may be taken from Oct. 1 through Nov. 30

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

2 caribou

Aug. 1–Apr. 15

Unit 9C

Aug. 10–Sept. 20

No open season.

Nov. 15–Feb. 28

1 or 2 bull caribou; season will be closed when 600 caribou are taken in Units 9(C) and 9(E) combined.

[RESIDENT HUNTERS:

4 BULLS; HOWEVER

[AUG. 10–MAR. 31]

NO MORE THAN 2 MAY

BE TAKEN AUG. 10- AUG.31;

NO MORE THAN 1 MAY

BE TAKEN SEPT. 1–NOV. 30

AND ONLY BY A HUNTER WHO

HAS TAKEN NO CARIBOU

IN THE STATE FROM JULY 1

THROUGH AUG. 31;

NO MORE THAN 1 MAY

BE TAKEN PER CALENDAR MONTH

FROM DEC. 1 THROUGH MAR. 31]

[NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

[AUG.10-SEPT. 4]

1 BULL]

[SEPT.21-OCT. 31]

Unit 9(E)

Aug. 10–Sept. 20

No open season.

Nov. 1–Apr. 30

1 or 2 bull caribou; season will be closed when 600 caribou are taken in Units 9(C) and 9(E) combined.

...

[RESIDENT HUNTERS:

4 BULLS HOWEVER

[AUG. 10–APR. 30]

NO MORE THAN 2

MAY BE TAKEN AUG. 10–AUG. 31;

NO MORE THAN 1 MAY

BE TAKEN SEPT. 1–NOV. 30, AND

ONLY BY A HUNTER WHO HAS

TAKEN NO CARIBOU IN

THE STATE FROM JULY 1 THROUGH

SEPT. 1; NO MORE THAN 2

MAY BE TAKEN APR. 1–APR. 30]

[NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:
1 BULL]

[AUG. 10–SEPT. 4]
[SEPT. 21–SEPT. 30]

OPTION II

(3)
Unit[S] 9(A)

Aug. 1–Mar. 31
[AUG. 10–MAR. 31]

Aug. 1–Mar. 31

1 caribou

[RESIDENT HUNTERS:
4 CARIBOU;HOWEVER,
NO MORE THAN 1 MAY BE
A COW; NO MORE THAN 2
CARIBOU MAY BE TAKEN
AUG. 10–AUG. 31; NO MORE
THAN 1 CARIBOU MAY BE
TAKEN SEPT. 1–NOV. 30 AND
ONLY BY A HUNTER WHO
HAS TAKEN NO
CARIBOU IN THE STATE
FROM JULY 1 THROUGH
AUG. 31; NO MORE THAN
1 CARIBOU MAY BE TAKEN
PER CALENDAR MONTH FROM
DEC. 1 THROUGH MAR. 31]

[NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:
1 BULL]

[AUG. 10–OCT.31]

Unit 9(B)

RESIDENT HUNTERS:
5 caribou; however, no more
than 2 bulls may be taken from
Oct. 1 through Nov. 30.

Aug. 1–Apr. 15

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:
2 caribou

Aug. 1–Apr. 15

Unit 9(C)

1 or 2 bulls by Tier II permit only;
up to 600 bulls may be taken in
Units 9(C) and 9(E) per regulatory
year

Aug. 10–Sept. 20
(Subsistence hunt only)
Nov. 15–Feb. 28
(Subsistence hunt only)

No open season

[RESIDENT HUNTERS:
 4 BULLS; HOWEVER [AUG. 10–MAR. 31]
 NO MORE THAN 2 MAY
 BE TAKEN AUG. 10- AUG.31;
 NO MORE THAN 1 MAY
 BE TAKEN SEPT. 1–NOV. 30
 AND ONLY BY A HUNTER WHO
 HAS TAKEN NO CARIBOU
 IN THE STATE FROM JULY 1
 THROUGH AUG. 31;
 NO MORE THAN 1 MAY
 BE TAKEN PER CALENDAR MONTH
 FROM DEC. 1 THROUGH MAR. 31]

[NONRESIDENT HUNTERS: [AUG.10-SEPT. 4]
 1 BULL] [SEPT.21-OCT.31]

Unit 9(E)	<u>Aug. 10–Sept. 20</u>	<u>No open season</u>
	(Subsistence hunt only)	
<u>1 or 2 bulls by Tier II permit only;</u>	<u>Nov. 15–Feb. 28</u>	
<u>up to 600 bulls may be taken in</u>	(Subsistence hunt only)	
<u>Units 9(C) and 9(E) per regulatory</u>		
<u>year</u>		

...

[RESIDENT HUNTERS:
 4 BULLS HOWEVER
 NO MORE THAN 2 [AUG. 10–APR. 30]
 MAY BE TAKEN AUG. 10–AUG. 31;
 NO MORE THAN 1 MAY
 BE TAKEN SEPT. 1–NOV. 30, AND
 ONLY BY A HUNTER WHO HAS
 TAKEN NO CARIBOU IN
 THE STATE FROM JULY 1 THROUGH
 SEPT. 1; NO MORE THAN 2
 MAY BE TAKEN APR. 1–APR. 30]

[NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:
 1 BULL] [AUG. 10–SEPT. 4]
 [SEPT. 21-SEPT. 30]

ISSUE: Results of recent surveys and capture efforts show that caribou in the Northern Alaska Peninsula herd are nutritionally stressed and productivity is only at moderate levels. Unless productivity and survival of females increase substantially, it is likely that the herd will continue to decline. Restrictions in regulations have reduced the harvest, but at this time more drastic reductions are needed to prevent the bull:cow ratio from being reduced below an acceptable level. In 1997-98, an estimated 1,500 caribou were taken from this herd, including both reported and unreported harvests. During 1998, the herd was estimated at 9,200 caribou. The Board of Game adopted emergency regulations in August 1998 to change the resident bag limit to bulls only and to reduce the nonresident season. Composition surveys in October 1998 showed 31

bulls and 30 cows per 100 cows. The 1998-99 winter harvest is impossible to predict, but at this time it looks like there will only be a surplus of approximately 600 bulls available for the 1999-00 season.

Option I is only appropriate if the board revisits the finding of the amount of the Northern Alaska Peninsula caribou population necessary in Units 9C and 9E to provide for subsistence uses and makes a new finding.

Option II is necessary if the board makes no change to the current finding of 1,200 to 1,900 Northern Alaska Peninsula caribou in Units 9C and 9E as being necessary to provide subsistence uses.

There is also the possibility of different hunting regulations being implemented under the federal subsistence program. Harvests anticipated under the federal program need to be taken into consideration when setting harvest goals for hunts under either Option I or Option II.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Overharvests will occur and the bull:cow ratio will be reduced to an unacceptable level.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All caribou hunters will benefit in the long run by not exacerbating the decline of this herd.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Nonresident hunters and guides and transporters will be excluded and resident hunters will be severely restricted.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Two options were considered and both are presented to the board.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-99S-G-135)

PROPOSAL 56 - 5 AAC 85.025(3). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR CARIBOU. Amend regulations in Unit 9E as follows:

During Aug. 10 – Nov. 1, bulls taken by sport hunters must either have 6 or more top points, or less than 3 top points. This regulation will sunset in two years.

ISSUE: Declining Northern Alaska Peninsula Caribou herd and effort targeting larger breeding bulls. Plus declining ratio of large breeding bulls to smaller bulls.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Decline will continue under the present regulations.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The Northern Alaska Peninsula Caribou herd and all hunters in future years.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Close area to bulls altogether – deemed too restrictive. Closure to all but yearling – rejected as it would eliminate the sport hunt.

PROPOSED BY: Lower Bristol Bay Advisory Committee (SW-99S-G-011)

PROPOSAL 57 - 5 AAC 85.025(3). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR CARIBOU. Amend this regulation as follows:

Sport hunting on state lands for caribou in Unit 9E is closed.

ISSUE: The caribou herd that the people in the villages of Ivanof Bay, Perryville, and the Chigniks have relied on has not been returning for several years. There is no longer adequate subsistence meat available. The Bristol Bay Regional Subsistence Board closed a portion of Unit 9E to sport hunting because of this problem, now the state needs to close the remainder of Unit 9E.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? People from these communities will continue to be unable to meet their subsistence needs.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Subsistence users of Perryville, Ivanof, and the Chigniks will benefit by meeting their subsistence needs.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one. Sport hunters have alternative areas to hunt.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Tier II management for caribou hunts in Unit 9E.

PROPOSED BY: Chignik Advisory Committee (HQ-99S-G-012)

PROPOSAL 58 - 5 AAC 85.025(3). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR CARIBOU. Change this regulation in Unit 9E as follows:

Close caribou hunting Sept. 10 – Nov. 1.

ISSUE: Close all hunting for caribou in Unit 9E from Sept. 10 – Nov. 1.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Concerned about numerous fishermen who come into the Pacific side bays and hunt and never report them. Bulls on the Pacific side can be in rut in early Sept.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Less waste of unwanted meat.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Transit fishermen.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Maybe this area should be two rather than four caribou bag limit.

PROPOSAL 59 - 5 AAC 85.025(3). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR CARIBOU. Change this regulation in Unit 9E as follows:

Reasonable nonresident caribou season in Unit 9E. Caribou season:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
Unit 9E RESIDENTS: 2 bulls	Aug. 10- Mar. 31	
NONRESIDENTS: 1 bull		Aug. 10 – Sept. 7 Sept. 21 – Oct. 7

ISSUE: Northern Peninsula Caribou herd.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Game management by emotion, rather than sound biological data.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? State of Alaska license and tag sales, registered guides and some local businesses.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? All of above.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Tracy Vrem

(HQ-99S-G-068)

PROPOSAL 60 - 5 AAC 85.025(3). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR CARIBOU. Change regulations in Unit 9E as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Residents Open Season	Nonresidents Open Season
Resident Hunters: 2 bull caribou total	Jul. 1 – Aug. 31	
1 bull caribou only by a hunter who has taken no other caribou in the state, from Sept. 21 to Oct. 14	Nov. 1 – Apr. 30	

2 bull caribou (not to exceed the bag limit of 2 bull caribou per year)

Nonresident Hunters:

1 bull caribou with an antler restriction of not less than 6 or more top points on one side of the antlers.

Sept. 21 – Oct. 14

ISSUE: The Northern Alaska Peninsula Caribou herd has declined to a population level that consideration should be given to reduce the hunting season and bag limits of resident and nonresident hunters alike while maintaining hunting opportunity for all user groups.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The Northern Alaska Peninsula Caribou herd may continue to decline.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? These restrictions of hunting harvest over time will help both residents and nonresidents to maintain some hunting season until such a time in the future that the caribou herd rebuilds to higher levels for which the habitat can sustain, therefore returning to a longer season and higher bag limits.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Local resident hunters may suffer because they have had such a liberal bag limit of caribou for so many years which has included the harvest of cows. A reduction from 4 caribou to only 2 bull caribou will be a change for the local resident hunters of Unit 9E. Also, the nonresident hunter who would be on a guided or non-guided drop-off hunt will suffer from a substantial reduction of hunting opportunity time in the field, and with the antler restriction in place will further burden the nonresident hunter to be much more selective in the type of bull caribou that would be harvested.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? To change the southern boundary of Unit 9E, by using either the Cinder River or Meshik River drainages as the boundary, making it closed for nonresident hunters only. This boundary closure change would perhaps make some difference in the nonresident hunter harvest levels and would mostly affect guided hunters and some drop-off nonguided hunters. I did not consider this solution at this time because it needs to be determined by harvest data if this drastic boundary change will have the desired effect on target harvest levels.

PROPOSED BY: Tom Kirstein (HQ-99S-G-089)

PROPOSAL 61 - 5 AAC 85.025(3). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR CARIBOU. Amend regulation in Unit 9E to provide the following:

An allocation of 50% of the moose and caribou hunting opportunity to go to nonresidents. (They contribute more than 90% of the funds to conserve and manage the game.

ISSUE: Lack of opportunity for nonresident moose or caribou hunting.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Possible expensive court costs since nonresidents are likely to sue for their rights since the State of Alaska accepts significant funds (90%) for management.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Hunters from out of the area in addition to the locals.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? A few locals who must be taking more than their share (i.e., 40 local licenses issued, caribou, limit of four, 1400 harvest).

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Eliminate local hunting. Require other hunters to donate at least 50% of all meat to locals for subsistence. Unfair to locals.

PROPOSED BY: Fair Chase Hunts (SC-99S-G-060)

PROPOSAL 62 - 5 AAC 85.025(15). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR CARIBOU. Amend regulations in Unit 17 as follows:

Caribou	Required Permit	Open Season
Unit 17B and a portion of 17C east of the Wood River and Wood River Lakes: Residents: Five caribou of which only two may be bulls during Oct. 1 – Nov. 30	Harvest	During Jul. 1 – Jul 31 season may be announced
Nonresidents: Two caribou	Harvest	Open Aug. 1 – Apr. 15 Aug. 1 – Apr. 15

The ADF&G wildlife biologist in Dillingham will have the authority to open the season under an emergency order when Mulchatna caribou are easily accessible by local residents.

ISSUE: In late July of 1998, prior, to the August 1 start of the caribou season in Units 9B and 9C, thousands of caribou from the Mulchatna Caribou Herd were concentrated along the banks of the Nushagak River. At that time they were easily accessible by local residents using skiffs on the river. By the time the season opened the herd had moved many miles away from the river and an opportunity by local residents to harvest those animals had been missed. Local residents traveling the river in July could easily harvest caribou and quickly process the meat without spoilage.

The opportunity for local residents subsistence hunters to harvest meat at time when it is easily accessed is very important. Recently it has been especially important due to the economic disaster that local residents are enduring because of the disastrous Bristol Bay commercial fishing season in 1997 and 1998.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Local residents will miss future opportunities to harvest caribou meat efficiently.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Local residents who depend on caribou meat for their basic food needs.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one. The Mulchatna herd is healthy and the ADF&G wildlife biologist in Dillingham has state that the number of caribou that would be taken in July would not be of a significant amount to have any impact on the herd.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Start the season July 1. This solution was rejected because an established season that would benefit hunters whose priority is the horns, and not the meat, of the animals is not acceptable to local residents. Current regulations allow for a hunt during the rutting season in October and November when local residents do not hunt because the meat is not fit to eat.

PROPOSED BY: Bristol Bay Native Association (SW-99S-G-014)

PROPOSAL 63 - 5 AAC 85.030(5). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR DEER.
Change this regulation in Unit 6 as follows:

Increase the bag limit to five deer per year for residents to give more opportunity to hunters.

ISSUE: Since 1996, the weather patterns in Prince William Sound have been extremely mild. The population of deer in most areas has skyrocketed. The problem with an over abundant herd is it can cause serious damage to the winter range, which is desperately needed during an average to harsh winter. This overgrazing can cause more deer to try and find food near the salt water. During heavy snowfall years, the snow freezes solid in areas exposed to heavy surf. The deer that feed along the banks get stranded in the water and deep snow and freeze to death. These winter-kills can take years for the herds to recuperate.

The committee feels that an increase in the bag limit will give greater opportunity to hunters while helping the ADF&G keep the herd size at desired levels thus maintaining a healthier winter range. Unit 6 residents have seen horrible winter-kills in the past and hope to never see them again. These winter-kills take years to fully recover thus eliminating potential harvest possibilities. We feel that acting now by increasing the 1999 bag limit will dramatically help the deer population in the long term.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Copper River/Prince William Sound Advisory Committee (HQ-99S-G-061)

PROPOSAL 64 - 5 AAC 85.030(6). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR DEER.
Amend regulation in Unit 8 as follows:

Reduce the harvest to 2 male deer (2 bucks) per season on the east end of Kodiak Island. Area to include all lands east of a line from Kiliuda Bay to the head waters of the Spiridon River to the mouth of the Spiridon River and Spiridon Bay.

ISSUE: Dramatic reduction in deer population on eastern end of Kodiak Island due to winter kill, habitat changes, and over-hunting.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The deer population which is already too low will continue to decline.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All hunters who are interested in increasing the deer population to move normal levels.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one. Local residents can still harvest large numbers under federal law.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Gus Gillespie (SC-99S-G-006)

PROPOSAL 65 - 5 AAC 85.030(5). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR DEER.
Change the regulations in Unit 6 as follows:

The Prince William Sound deer season closes Dec. 15.

ISSUE: To change the deer hunting season closing date on Prince William Sound from Dec. 31 to Dec. 15.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The problem is after Dec. 15, especially after a lot of snow, the deer are forced out of the woods onto the open beaches. Boats during Christmas vacation from Seward, Valdez, Whittier and Cordova shooting from boats kill 30-70 deer for boat.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The fall deer hunters and the deer.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? The so-called beach deer hunters.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Ed E. Bilderback (SC-99S-G-014)

PROPOSAL 66 - 5 AAC 85.030(6). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR DEER.
Amend regulations in Unit 8 as follows:

Reduce the maximum harvest from 4 to 3 deer, shorten the season from Aug. 1 – Dec. 31 to Aug. 1 – Nov. 30. Establish a mail-in harvest report card for deer just like those used for moose, sheep and caribou.

ISSUE: Apparent significant decline in number and quality of deer in Unit 8.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Continued overharvest may damage the resource.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All hunters through higher sustained deer populations.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those hunters who prefer to wait until late season snows drive deer to the beaches and then kill a pile of them.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Reduce harvest to 2 deer/year, but allow the season to run through December.

PROPOSED BY: John D. Frost (SC-99S-G-021)

PROPOSAL 67 - 5 AAC 85.030(6). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR DEER.
Amend regulations in Unit 8 as follows:

That portion of Unit 8 that includes all of the 4 deer limit area:
Bag limit (antler restriction): 4 deer, with only one buck having more than 3 points on either antler (not including eyeguard) during the period from Oct. 25 – Dec. 31.

ISSUE: Several different values are attached to the Unit 8 deer population, from a variety of user groups. A source of meat for both local and nonlocal Alaskans, a valued hunting experience for both residents and nonresidents, and economic value to guides, transporters, air taxis and Kodiak Island businesses.

In recent years the unregulated segment of commercial users, air taxi lodge operators, and most notably transporters using boats have increased their pressure on the resource dramatically.

The deer population remains high, their numbers more affected by weather patterns. However there has been a noticeable decrease in the availability of bucks with “trophy” or multi-point antlers. With the annual harvest at notably high levels and two-point or fork-horn bucks being passed up in search of “big bucks” they are becoming the predominant genes available for the herd. If this trend continues, the “trophy” gene will be reduced to being an abnormality.

Thus far, with the state and federal governments either unwilling or unable to control the transporter industry, the quality of the hunting experience has, in some areas, been reduced to “unsaleable.” If the hunters using the unregulated industry are allowed to continue to harvest four trophy bucks each, the “salability” of a trophy deer hunt on Kodiak will be gone as well.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? After the multi-point gene has been hunted out, the value attached to the Unit 8 deer herd associated with trophy quality bucks will be gone. Resident hunters who wish to take trophy deer will not find them. Unit 8 is the best place in North America to harvest a trophy Sitka blacktail. Management considerations to protect this value will not diminish the other values attached to the resource.

WHO WILL BENEFIT? The Unit 8 deer population. Those hunters who wish to see a diversified gene pool. Those hunters who wish to take trophy-quality deer on Kodiak Island in the future.

WHO WILL SUFFER? Those hunters who wish to take more than one trophy buck during the rut or when heavy snow drives them to the beach. Commercial operators including guides who hook their clients based on an opportunity to take more than one trophy buck during the Oct. 25 – Dec. 31 period.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: Reduce the bag limit to two deer during the Oct. 25 – Dec. 31 period.

PROPOSED BY: Rob Holt (HQ-99S-G-117)

PROPOSAL 68 - 5 AAC 85.040(4). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR GOAT.
Change this regulation as follows:

Unit 8: Residents and nonresidents: One goat every four regulatory years by permit.

ISSUE: At present successful goat hunters can apply year after year by successful drawing applications and completely exclude other hunters who apply and never successfully draw a permit. With a limited number of permits a successful hunter should then be excluded from the drawing system for four years.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Some hunters will never even draw a permit let alone get to hunt while some others will repeatedly draw permits and successfully harvest or at least have the opportunity for a hunt.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Hunters that have applied repeatedly will have a higher percentage rate of successfully drawing a permit, and at least have the opportunity to hunt rather than being excluded by other hunters successfully drawing such a limited permit year after year.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Prior successful hunters will have to suffer a four-year wait to apply for a drawing permit but since they have already successfully harvested a goat I don't see it as a great hardship.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Leaving drawing as is, rejected because the problem is easily solved by only allowing successful hunters apply after four years giving others an opportunity.

PROPOSED BY: Dale E. Johnson (HQ-99S-G-016)

PROPOSAL 69 - 5 AAC 085.045(1). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Reauthorize the existing cow moose season at Berners Bay as follows:

Resident		
Units and Bag Limits	Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(1)		
...		
Unit 1(C), Berners Bay drainages 1 moose by drawing permit only; up to 20 permits may be issued	Sept. 15-Oct.15 (General hunt only)	Sept. 15-Oct.15
...		

ISSUE: This status quo proposal is necessary to accommodate cow moose hunting in Berners Bay. The strategic moose management plan for Berners Bay calls for a post-hunt moose population of 90 moose. A winter survey in January 1998 enumerated 60 moose, indicating that as many as 120 moose may be present in the hunt area. Because of the timing of the survey a reliable sex ratio is not available. The most recent (1994) reliable bull to cow ratio (38:100) information indicated that the cow segment of the population can and should be harvested to curtail population growth. The calf to cow ratio in that survey was 29:100, higher than the 25:100 called for in the plan. The most recent survey found 20% calves in the herd. All 1998 permit holders were successful, killing eight bulls and seven cows. The moose plan calls for 30 hunter-days and ten hunters; in 1998 fifteen hunters expended 29 hunter days.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The population will continue to grow and could exceed carrying capacity of the habitat. The harvest of moose in Berners Bay will be restricted to bulls.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Hunters will have more opportunity to hunt moose. The moose population will benefit from either-sex harvests that will help balance the herd.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-99S-G-137)

PROPOSAL 70 - 5 AAC 85.045(3). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Reauthorize the existing antlerless moose season at Nunatak Bench as follows:

	Resident	
Units and Bag Limits	Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(3)		

...

Unit 5(A), Nunatak Bench

Nov. 15-Feb. 15

Nov. 15-Feb. 15

1 moose by registration permit only;
up to 5 moose may be taken

...

ISSUE: This proposal to retain the status quo is necessary to continue the any-moose hunting season at Nunatak Bench. The Nunatak Bench strategic moose management plan calls for a post-hunt moose population of 50 moose in this area. Fall 1994 surveys enumerated 25 moose, suggesting that up to 50 moose may be present in the hunt area. The bull to cow ratio from that survey was 17:100, indicating sufficient cows to justify harvesting a limited number of cows. The calf to cow ratio in that survey was 22:100. A late winter survey in January 1996 resulted in the count of 33 moose (18% calves).

During the 1996 season, no moose were taken in this area. In 1997 two people reported hunting and both took bulls, expending a total of 3 hunter days. At the time this proposal was written no moose have yet been taken in the 1998 season.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The harvest of moose at Nunatak Bench will be limited to bulls.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Hunters will have more opportunity to hunt moose. The moose population will benefit from either-sex hunts that will help balance the herd.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-99S-G-138)

PROPOSAL 71 - 5 AAC 85.045(4). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE.

Amend regulations in Unit 6A as follows:

Eliminate the nonresident moose drawing in Unit 6A West to allow residents more opportunity to harvest moose.

ISSUE: The past several years have proven to be less than optimum for residents. There has been a reduction of non-antlered harvest in Unit 6C, this to help raise the overall population, a loss of opportunity in Unit 6B due to ADF&G closure of the non-antlered season the past two years, and complete closure this past year due to poor calf survival, and the loss of the non-antlered season in Unit 6A. The lost opportunity for harvesting moose in Unit 6 has led to many families not having an ample supply of meat for the winter.

This committee feels that the elimination of the nonresident drawing permits in Unit 6A West will give added opportunity to residents. The management plan that this advisory committee, ADF&G and the Board of Game developed in 1993 calls for increased opportunity for local residents in Unit 6. Unit 6A is split up into two sections, one east of Cape Suckling and one to the west. The area to the east is considered a trophy area with only bulls with a spread of 50 inches or three brow tines legal. This area is also a harvest area compared to the others which are either drawing or

registration. We feel that there will be no lost hunting opportunity for the nonresidents in Unit 6. ADF&G records show that 50 percent of the animals taken in Unit 6A East are taken by guided nonresidents. Eliminating the nonresident hunt in Unit 6A West will give more opportunity for residents while continuing to allow nonresidents and guides use of their traditional area, Unit 6A East.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Copper River/Prince William Sound Advisory Committee (HQ-99S-G 060)

PROPOSAL 72 - 5 AAC 85.045(4). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in Unit 6A as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(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: A <u>bull</u> [MOOSE] by registration permit only; up to 30 bulls may be taken	Sept. 1-Oct. 31 (General hunt only)	
An antlerless moose by drawing permit only; up to 30 drawing permits may be issued	Sept. 1-Oct. 31 (General hunt only)	
NONRESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 bull by drawing permit only; up to 5 drawing permits may be issued		Sept. 1-Oct. 31
Remainder of Unit 6(A)		

1 moose per regulatory year, only as follows:

A bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 3 or more brow tines on one side	Sept. 1-Oct. 31 (General hunt only)	Sept. 1-Oct. 31
An antlerless moose by registration permit only; up to 20 antlerless moose may be taken	Nov. 15-Dec. 31 (General hunt only)	Nov. 15-Dec. 31

...

ISSUE: Antlerless moose seasons must be reauthorized annually. We recommend continuation of the antlerless season to promote population stability. The desirable post-hunt population size in Unit 6A west of Cape Suckling is 300 to 350 moose. A census completed during January 1996 yielded a population count of 316 moose with 45 calves (14%). The reported harvest during 1996 was 24 bulls and 9 cows. Reported harvest during 1997 was 18 bulls. We canceled the antlerless hunt in this area during 1997 because census results indicated that calf survival was poor in adjacent Unit 6B. Reported permit harvest in 6A West during 1998 was 18 legal bulls. We plan to reinstate the antlerless season for 1999 season if calf survival improves.

The desirable post-hunt population size in Unit 6A east of Cape Suckling is 300 to 350 moose. A census completed during January 1996 yielded a population count of 282 moose with 29 calves (10%). Reported harvest was 16 bulls in 1996. A harvest of 10 bulls was reported for 1997. Although no antlerless hunts have been held recently to allow the population to increase, harvest of antlerless moose may be needed in 1999 to stabilize the population within our management objective.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? If calf survival improves and an antlerless hunt is possible, hunting opportunity will be needlessly lost.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Individuals who desire to hunt antlerless moose in Unit 6A.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-99S-G-139)

PROPOSAL 73 - 5 AAC 85.045(4). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in Unit 6B as follows.

Units and Bag Limit	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
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Unit 6(B)

1 moose per regulatory year, only as follows:

An antlered moose by registration permit only; up to 30 antlered moose may be taken; a moose may not be taken until after 3:00 a.m. on the day following the day on which an airboat is used for transportation, and all airboats used for transportation must display an ADF&G identification number	Aug. 27- Oct. 31 (General hunt only)	No open season.
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An antlerless moose by drawing permit only; up to 30 drawing permits may be issued for antlerless moose; during the time the registration permit hunt is in effect, a moose may not be taken until after 3:00 a.m. on the day following the day on which an airboat is used for transportation, and all airboats used for transportation must display an ADF&G identification number.	Aug. 27- Oct. 31 (General hunt only)	No open season.
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ISSUE: Antlerless moose seasons must be reauthorized annually. We recommend continuation of an antlerless season to promote population stability. Desirable post-hunt population size is 300-350. A census completed during December 1996 yielded a count of 308 moose with 19 (6%) calves. The reported harvest during 1996 was 17 bulls and 6 cows. We canceled the bull and antlerless hunts during 1997 because results of the census indicated that calf survival was poor. The bull hunt was reinstated for the fall 1998 season and the harvest was 23 bulls. We plan to reinstate the antlerless season for 1999 season if calf survival improves.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? If calf survival improves and a season is possible, hunting opportunity will be lost.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Individuals who desire to hunt antlerless moose in Unit 6B.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-99S-G-140)

PROPOSAL 74 - 5 AAC 85.045(4). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Reauthorizes the antlerless moose season in Unit 6C as follows:

Units and Bag Limit	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(4)... Unit 6(C) 1 moose by drawing permit only; up to 20 permits for bulls and up to 20 permits for antlerless moose may be issued ...	Sept. 1-Oct. 31 (General hunt only)	No open season.

ISSUE: Antlerless moose seasons must be reauthorized annually. We recommend continuation of an antlerless season to promote population stability. A census completed during December 1996 yielded a population count of 260 moose with 45 (17%) calves. The current population objective, established in 1995, is to allow the population to increase to 400 moose by the year 2006. We will achieve the increase by limiting cow harvest to a maximum of 5 per year. The reported barvest during 1996 was 17 bulls and 5 cows, during 1997 was 18 bulls and 5 cows and during 1998 was 19 bulls and 5 cows.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Hunting opportunity will be lost.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Hunters desiring to take a moose in Unit 6C.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-99S-G-141)

PROPOSAL 75 - 5 AAC 85.045(11). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Amend regulations in Unit 13 as follows:

Open an antlerless moose hunt in Unit 13. The season date to be Dec. 1 – Dec. 15, 150 permits to be distributed to subsistence users.

ISSUE: Many of the rural hunters within Unit 13 need to have another hunt opened to have their subsistence needs met. The current hunting season for a Tier II moose hunting season and regular moose hunting season do not allow them to have a “reasonable opportunity” to harvest a moose.

Opening an antlerless moose season in December would give the subsistence users an opportunity to harvest a moose.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Many of the rural hunters within Unit 13 do not harvest a moose to provide for their families. To have another hunt open for them would allow greater opportunity to harvest a moose. Some of the rural hunters do not have ATVs to hunt off the highway system, they have to rely on road hunting to harvest a moose. Road hunting to harvest a moose is usually an unsuccessful hunt.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Some of the rural hunters within Unit 13 would benefit by having an antlerless moose hunt open in Unit 13. The additional hunting season for an antlerless moose hunt would give the rural hunters another hunting opportunity to harvest a moose.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one would suffer because the regular moose hunting season and Tier II moose hunt would still be open for all the hunters.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Lengthen the Tier II moose season to Aug. 1 – Sept. 20.

PROPOSED BY: Copper River Native Association (HQ-99S-G-130)

PROPOSAL 76 - 5 AAC 85.045(11). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Reduce the general season for bull moose in Unit 13 by 11 days with open season dates from September 1 to September 20 as follows:

Units and Bag Limits (11) Unit 13	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
1 bull by Tier II subsistence hunting permit; up to 150 permits may be issued	Aug. 1 – Aug. 19 (Subsistence hunt only)	No open season.
1 bull with spike-fork antlers or 50-inch antlers or antlers with 3 or more brow tines on one side.	<u>Sept. 1</u> [AUG. 20]-Sept. 20	<u>Sept. 1</u> [AUG. 20]-Sept. 20

ISSUE: The unit-wide bull:cow ratio has declined from 25 bulls:100 cows in 1992 to 18 bulls:100 cows in 1997. In heavily hunted portions of the units, the bull:cow ratio is even lower with only 10 bulls:100 cows. Total bull:cow ratios of 25-30 bulls:100 cows with 10-15 large bulls:100 cows are considered minimum long-term management goals for moose in Unit 13.

Hunting pressure is very heavy in Unit 13 and the harvest of bulls is high. Between 1993 and 1997, harvest data indicate a yearly average of approximately 6,000 hunters took about 1,035 moose a year. Not only was the number of hunters quite high in Unit 13, but they spent almost 47,500 days a year hunting. On average, hunters spent 8.7 days in the field each year from 1993-97 compared to 6.0 between 1986-89.

Calf survival to fall in Unit 13 has been lower since 1990, based on fall sex and age composition data. Fall counts have averaged 20 calves:100 cows since 1990 compared to 27 calves:100 cows observed in counts during the mid-to-late 1980's. Severe winters in the early 1990s resulted in lower overwinter survival of calves, adding to the problem of fewer calves present going into the winter. The result of this decline in survival is that fewer bulls have been recruited into the population in recent years, necessitating a reduction in the bull harvest.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Bull:cow ratios will remain low and could decline further. Current bull:cow ratios are lower than considered acceptable for long-term moose management in Unit 13.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? In the long-term all who utilize moose as increasing bull:cow ratios will provide for higher harvests in the future.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Individuals hunting moose in Unit 13 during 1999 who would like to hunt at times other than September 1 - 20.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? This was the action recommended by the SF/50 Task force based on responses to the moose hunter questionnaire. Reducing season length was the most favored first step to attempt to reduce harvests. Also considered were eliminating fork yearlings from the bag limit, requiring a legal animal to have 4 brow tines or a 50-inch antler spread, and issuing permits.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game and Spike-Fork/50 Task Force
(HQ-99S-G-147)

PROPOSAL 77 - 5 AAC 85.045(11). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Change season dates for moose hunting in Unit 13 as follows:

Season dates for moose in Unit 13: Sept. 1 – Sept. 20.

ISSUE: Season dates for moose in Unit 13.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The increase of hunters is putting more pressure on moose in August. Twenty-one percent of moose taken in Unit 13 occurs the last ten days of August.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? This proposal will decrease overall moose harvest by approximately 10% or more which will sustain moose bull:cow ratio as per game management plan for Unit 13.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Shorter moose season will lesson opportunity for August caribou hunters to incidentally take moose.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Tier II or permit system.

PROPOSED BY: Copper Basin Advisory Committee (SC-99S-G-053) (HQ-99S-G-078)

PROPOSAL 78 - 5 AAC 85.045(11). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE.
Amend regulations in Unit 13 as follows:

Unit 13 moose, spike only or 50-inch or 3 brow tines on one side.

ISSUE: Hunting pressure on moose to sustain bull:cow ratio.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Tighter restrictions on moose hunting in Unit 13, i.e., permits, Tier II, or complete closure. Continued low bull:cow ratio.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Twenty-five percent of take of moose is spike-fork bulls. With changing regulation to spike only this could help increase bull:cow ratio.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Less opportunity for moose hunters in Unit 13.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Tier II, permit system.

PROPOSED BY: Copper Basin Advisory Committee (SC-99S-G-052B) (HQ-99S-G-079)

PROPOSAL 79 - 5 AAC 85.045(11). HUNTING SEASON AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE.
Reduce the length of the hunting season for moose in Unit 13 as follows:

Sept. 1 – Sept. 15

If this is not considered by the board as a solution unit-wide, then perhaps this could be done in Unit 13B, which includes our own Delta River drainage which begins as Tangle Lakes. This would also make the moose season coincide with Unit 20D.

At present, the season begins on August 20, coinciding with the beginning of caribou season, and ends on September 20, also coinciding with the ending of caribou season. This area provides hunters with excellent opportunity to search out and find any moose in a given area, and provides moose with little or no cover. Moose season should not run throughout the entire caribou season, making them vulnerable to opportunistic caribou hunters.

ISSUE: There is currently a shortage of moose in Unit 13. Too large of a percentage of the bull moose are being harvested. This is in spite of the present restriction of spike-fork or 50-inch antlers or antlers with 3 or more brow tines on at least one side. The overall success rate is low, as the moose population is itself low.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Moose will remain at their present low populations, or may even decrease further

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Hunters seeking to put moose meat on the table, and would be supported by those who believe in taking a biologically sound approach.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Caribou hunters who wish to take an opportunistic moose.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Increase the number of brow tines required from three to four. We do not need to continue to promulgate rules which can change law abiding citizens into criminals by virtue of a simple mistake. The more brow tines that are required, the easier it is to make an error. The easiest approach appears to be that of shortening the overly long season. The generally warm weather of the month of August makes it particularly difficult to properly care for the meat of an animal as large as a moose.

PROPOSED BY: Delta Advisory Committee (HQ-99S-G-002)

PROPOSAL 80 - 5 AAC 85.045(11). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE.
Amend regulations in Unit 13 as follows:

Spike-fork antlers or 50-inch antler or antlers with 4 brow tines. This change will protect a much higher percentage of two to four year old bulls than what is being protected now. This is just a partial solution dealing with hunter regulations. The rest of the solution is to remove large amounts of predators.

ISSUE: Close to 60% of two to three year old bulls have 3 brow tines. Moose herd declining, very poor calf survival and very low bull:cow ratio. Predation is, and has been very high, especially from bears (ref: Balard 1980), brown/black, and wolves. Unit 13 is losing its base herd and 90% of the harvestable surplus goes to predators.

Spike-fork 50-inch with 3 brow tines does not work in Unit 13 as it did on the Kenai Peninsula. The reason is that on the Kenai Peninsula a 3 brow tine antler configuration is not typical on most bull moose under 50 inches. So most moose under 50 inches are protected. Not so in Unit 13, most moose under 50 inches do have 3 brow tines, so most moose under 50 inches are not protected. Moose under 50 inches are two to four year old bulls, they survive winters better than old moose and are good breeders.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Continued decline – no moose. Protection of young bulls is needed.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Everybody. Bring bull:cow ratio up. Approximately 40% of two-three year old bulls and whole herd in general. Approximately 20-25% of bulls have 4 brow tines.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSAL 81 - 5 AAC 85.045(11). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Change regulations in Unit 13 as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season	Nonresident Open Season
Unit 13		
1 bull by Tier II permit;	Aug. 1 – Aug. 19	
or 1 bull with spike-fork or		
50-inch antlers, or antlers	<u>Sept. 1– Sept. 15</u>	<u>Sept. 1–Sept.20</u>
with 3 or more brow tines	[AUG. 20–SEPT. 20]	[AUG. 20 – SEPT 20]
on at least 1 side		

ISSUE: Too much pressure on an already low moose population with a low bull:cow ratio.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Bull:cow ratio will continue to deteriorate and general moose populations will continue to decline.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Hunters, wildlife enthusiasts.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Hunters with limited times to hunt.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Antler restrictions, ORV restrictions, harvest ticket changes, Tier II changes, drawing permit system.

PROPOSAL 82 - 5 AAC 85.045(11). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Amend this regulation to provide the following:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season	Nonresident Open Season
Unit 13		
1 bull by Tier II permit	Aug. 1 – Aug. 19	
1 bull with spike-fork or		
50-inch antlers or with <u>4 or more</u>	<u>Sept. 1 – Sept. 15</u>	<u>Sept. 1 – Sept. 15</u>
[3 OR MORE] brow tines on	[AUG. 20 – SEPT. 20]	[AUG. 20 – SEPT. 20]
at least one side.		

ISSUE: Too much hunting pressure on a low moose population with a low bull:cow ratio.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Bull:cow ratio will continue to decline.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Hunters in the long run. Wildlife enthusiasts in general.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those with limited opportunity to hunt.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? ORV restrictions, harvest ticket changes, drawing permits.

PROPOSED BY: Paxson Advisory Committee (HQ-99S-G-053)

PROPOSAL 83 - 5 AAC 85.045(11). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Change season dates in Unit 13 as follows:

Open season Sept. 5 – Sept. 20.

ISSUE: The number of days hunting season will be open.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Bull:cow ratio will decline, and impact to environment by ORV activity will be more of a problem if we continue a 30-day season, as we know there are more ORVs every year, and moose herd will decline.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? We could all benefit, as the bull:cow ratio should stay at high levels.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? We should not see anyone suffer although ORV users will not have the option of going in and out of hunting area as many times with shorter season.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Richard J. Simmons (HQ-99S-G-040)

PROPOSAL 84 - 5 AAC 85.045(11). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Amend this regulation in Unit 13 as follows:

A legal bull moose shall have at least 4 brow tines on one side, or a spread of 50-inches or more measured in a straight line perpendicular to the center line of the skull.

ISSUE: Minimum brow tine restriction.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Bull:cow ratio will continue to decline.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? We will all benefit as we will increase the large bull:cow ratio.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? It is not likely anyone will suffer, although we may see fewer bulls taken for a year or two.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Richard J. Simmons (HQ-99S-G-041)

PROPOSAL 85 - 5 AAC 85.045(11). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Amend regulations in Unit 13 as follows:

Adopt the same language used in the 90-91, 91-92, and 92-93 hunting regulations:

Nonresidents: Unit 13 closed to moose hunting

Residents: 1 moose per household, 50-inch or 3 brow tines
Aug. 20 – Sept. 20.

ISSUE: Stop moose hunting in Unit 13 by nonresident hunters until a population of 20,000 to 25,000 moose can be obtained or until excessive restriction on moose hunting (i.e., 50-inch or 3 brow tine, spike-fork only, or any season restrictions) has been removed. Moose populations in Unit 13 have been heavily impacted by better access to normally inaccessible moose populations. This is done by using ATVs, predators like wolves and bears, more air taxi pressure and moose calf mortality. In some areas of Unit 13 calf survival is almost zero due to the unusually high number of black and brown bear.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Resident hunters will have fewer opportunities to harvest moose due to more harvest restrictions, shorter seasons, off-road restrictions and closed seasons. Moose populations will continue to decline.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Alaska residents who need to harvest moose in Unit 13.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Nonresident hunters.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Shorter seasons and 50-inch and 4 brow tines. Early season hunts do not impact moose as much as September hunting. There are not enough 4 brow tine moose.

PROPOSED BY: Frank M. Everett (HQ-99S-G-072)

PROPOSAL 86 - 5 AAC 85.045(11). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Amend this regulation as follows:

Close Unit 13 to moose hunting by nonresident hunters.

ISSUE: Decreasing population of harvestable moose and increasing hunting pressure for the available moose in Unit 13.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Alaska residents hunting in this area can expect to have an increasingly difficult time harvesting moose for their families.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Alaskan resident hunters in Unit 13.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Nonresident hunters, some guides and some outfitters. A similar closure was instituted in 1990-1993.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? We also need to look long and hard at swelling populations of black bear and wolves in Unit 13. Moose calf survival is nearly nonexistent in much of the area.

PROPOSED BY: Greg Pepperd (HQ-99S-G-073)

PROPOSAL 87 - 5 AAC 85.045(13). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in a portion of Unit 15C as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
<p>(13)... Unit 15(C), that portion beginning at the mouth of Falls Creek on Kachemak Bay, then northerly along Falls Creek to the headwaters, then northwesterly approximately 1 mile to the headwaters of the Anchor River, then downstream along the South Fork of the Anchor River, to the bridge at the North Fork Road approximately 3 miles from the Sterling Highway to where Diamond Creek crosses the road, then downstream from the Sterling Highway to Kachemak Bay, then along the mean tide line to the point of origin</p>	<p>Aug. 20-Sept. 20 (General hunt only)</p>	<p>Aug. 20-Sept. 20</p>
<p>1 bull with spike-fork antlers or 50-inch antlers or antlers with 3 or more brow tines on one side</p>		
<p>1 antlerless moose by drawing</p>	<p>Nov. 1-Nov. 30</p>	<p>Nov. 1-Nov. 30</p>

permit only; the taking of calves, and females accompanied by calves, is prohibited; up to 50 permits may be issued

ISSUE: Antlerless moose seasons must be reauthorized annually. The Homer benchland in Unit 15C serves as traditional moose wintering range. Moose migrate into lower elevation areas when snow levels in upper elevations increase, and much of the browse becomes unavailable. During moderate to severe winters, moose are concentrated onto the Homer benchland earlier and in greater numbers than during mild winters. High winter moose densities calculated at six moose per mile during February of 1992 have resulted in severely overbrowsed habitat. Recent survey results indicate that the population remains high with excellent production (64 calves per 100 cows). Many willow stands have become decadent with low annual browse production. In some areas, shrubs are dying from severe overbrowsing.

Winter mortality of moose, primarily calves, from starvation has occurred every year since 1988. The magnitude of the problem has varied with the severity of the winters. The winter of 1994-1995 was moderately severe with 43 starved moose reported. The past two winters have been mild. In 1995-96 there was no recorded winter mortality and two dead 1996-97. The 1997-98 winter was again moderately severe with 51 dead.

The department has initiated a program to improve habitat conditions on the Homer benchlands. Goals of this program are to reduce the moose population to allow the decadent browse stands to recover. The department begun enhancement projects to improve production and availability. We estimated that it would take 5 to 10 years to reduce the moose population to a size that existing habitat could support and which could sustain an annual harvest of 25 to 30 moose. The existing antlerless moose hunt has only been in place for four years.

Sixteen moose were harvested by 30 permittees during the 1995 season, 22 moose by 40 permittees during 1996, and 21 moose by 40 permittees during 1997. Preliminary results indicate that 11 moose were taken by 50 permittees during the 1998 season. The lower than average harvest was a result of the smaller hunt area and lack of moose movement into the hunt area from higher elevations.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The overall carrying capacity of this area will decline as decadent browse stands die off from continued overbrowsing.

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 (HQ-99S-G-158)

PROPOSAL 88 - 5 AAC 85.045(13). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Amend regulations in Unit 15 as follows:

Remainder of Unit 15A, and 15B: Residents and nonresidents. One bull with spike-fork or 50-inch antlers with 3 or more brow tines on at least one side, by bow and arrow only: Aug. 10 – Aug. 17;

Or;

One bull with spike-fork or 50-inch antlers or antlers with three or more brow tines on at least one side: Aug. 20 – Sept. 20.

ISSUE: The opening of Unit 15B to the taking of moose with a bow and arrow from Aug. 10–Aug. 17, with the existing spike-fork or 50-inch or three brow tine regulation. Excluding that portion of Unit 15B bounded by a line running from the mouth of Shantatilak Creek on Tustumena Lake, northward to the headwaters of the west fork of Funny River, then downstream along the west fork of Funny River to the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge boundary; then east along the refuge boundary to its junction with the Kenai River; then eastward along the south side of the Kenai River and Skilak Lake; then south along the western side of Skilak River, Skilak Glacier, and Harding Icefield; then west along the Unit 15B boundary to the mouth of Shantatilak Creek.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? As there really is not a problem at this time, what this regulation change will do is effectively give any hunter who wishes more time to hunt moose, and who is willing to take up the bow and arrow and passes the state’s bowhunter education course, the opportunity to increase his time in the field with minimal effect on the game populations. I also believe that it will reduce the chances of a hunting related accident in our ever-growing populated areas. Bowhunting has proven to be very safe in its long history. This will also relieve some of the bowhunting pressure in Unit 15A by expanding the area that these hunters have now. It will also allow those hunters on the Lower Peninsula closer access to the bowhunting areas.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All hunters who are willing to, or who have already, taken up the bow and arrow and have passed the state’s bowhunter education course. Anyone who lives in an urban area where taking the young bulls out of the area before the general hunting seasons might prevent an accident during that season since the bow is a relatively short range hunting tool.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? I believe that no one would suffer from this action, as it does not take anything away from anyone. It just adds more hunting opportunity.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? No other solutions have been considered because archery is the only option that has been proven (by way of the Unit 15A hunt and the archery registration hunts for goats) to allow maximum time in the field with minimal harvest. It is also the only option that requires the hunter to attend and pass the state certified bowhunting education course with a mandatory proficiency test.

PROPOSED BY: Garry Cason (HQ-99S-G-038)

PROPOSAL 89 - 5 AAC 85.045(13). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in the Skilak Loop Wildlife Management Area of Unit 15A as follows:

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

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 reauthorized annually. The density of moose in Skilak Loop Wildlife Management Area (SLWMA) exceeds the management objective of two moose per square mile. The SLWMA was closed to moose hunting in 1987 to allow the summer and fall resident population to increase. A joint management objective developed for this area by the department and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service calls for a fall population of approximately two moose per square mile or about 130 moose counted during the fall survey. A survey completed in November 1998 covering about 90 percent of the hunt area, yielded a count of 164 moose composed of 43 bulls (8 spike-fork, 7 yearlings with antlers 3-point or larger, 15 mid size, and 13 with antlers 50 inches or larger), 100 cows and 21 calves. Ratios observed were 43 bulls per 100 cows and 21 calves per 100 cows. Because the SLWMA is managed for a primary goal of wildlife viewing, another management objective requires that we maintain a minimum bull:cow ratio of 40 bulls per 100 cows. Because the 1998 bull:cow ratio was above this objective, we anticipate allowing a harvest of bulls at this time. The last antlerless moose season was held during 1998 when 40 permits were issued and 11 antlerless moose were harvested.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The SLWMA is a wintering area for moose. During moderate to severe winters, this area supports 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.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Wildlife viewers and hunters receiving permits.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Increase the moose carrying capacity of the area. Additional habitat enhancement is expensive and no projects are currently planned.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-99S-G-156)

PROPOSAL 90 - 5 AAC 85.045(13). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Amend this regulation in Unit 15A to include the following:

1 bull with spike-fork antlers or 50-inch antlers, or antlers with 3 or more brow tines on at least one side by bow and arrow only: Sept. 23 – Sept. 30.

ISSUE: Open an archery-only hunt in Unit 15A from Sept. 23 – Sept. 30.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Nothing of significant importance. However, due to the thick cover in this area it make it very difficult for archers in the early season (Aug. 10 – Aug. 17).

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All archers who wish to be in the field with an increased opportunity to harvest a moose.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? A drawing permit for the above. I rejected this for the above because I feel with the amount of archers and the success rate for them in this area will sustain an opening for a harvest ticket.

PROPOSED BY: Grant Arii (SC-99S-G-009)

PROPOSAL 91 - 5 AAC 85.045(13). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Amend regulations in Unit 15A to include the following.

Open up an early November permit hunt for spike-fork 50-inch bull moose, limited as determined by Fish and Game. Nov. 1 – Dec. 10, that portion of Unit 15A east of Mystery Creek Road and south of the Gas Pipeline Road (25 permits issued).

ISSUE:

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Nothing.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All hunters who wish to have a quality late fall hunt.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Jim Wood (HQ-99S-G-037)

PROPOSAL 92 - 5 AAC 85.045(13). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Change regulations in Units 15A and 7 as follows:

Unit 15A, east of Mystery Creek Road and Pipeline Road, and Unit 7 will be open for the taking of one bull moose under the current spike-fork 50-inch regulations from Oct. 20–Nov. 20 by drawing permit. (25 permits per year to be issued.)

ISSUE: Lack of late season, road accessible, moose hunting on the Kenai Peninsula.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Many hunters will not have the opportunity to experience a late season hunt due to monetary and/or logistical considerations.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Hunters who would like to experience a quality, road accessible late season hunt. Also, the Department of Fish and Game will benefit from the additional permit revenue.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Applying for Unit 15B East permits. Too expensive if you don't have access to horses.

PROPOSED BY: Larry L. Lewis (HQ-99S-G-023)

PROPOSAL 93 - 5 AAC 85.045(5). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in a portion of Units 7 and 14C as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(5)... 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	Aug. 20-Oct. 10 (General hunt only)	Aug. 20-Oct. 10

1 moose by drawing permit only; up to 60 permits for bulls and up to 70 permits for antlerless moose will be issued

strategy, and a biological evaluation of the effects of the SF/50 harvest strategy on area populations. The task force made their recommendations in early November 1998.

For Units 14A and 14B, the task force recommended retaining the SF/50 selective harvest strategy and lengthening the fall general season by five days (see separate proposal). To minimize hunter confusion, we believe the regulations in the remainder of Unit 14C, the only portion of Unit 14C where hunter effort is not controlled with permits, should mirror that change. Portions of the remainder of Unit 14C adjoin Unit 14A. Bull:cow ratios in Unit 14C are adequate, and should not be adversely affected by this change.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Hunter opportunity in Unit 14C will be unnecessarily restricted, and hunters may be confused about the differing season closing dates in adjoining areas. When the SF/50 selective harvest strategy was first initiated in 1993, we mistakenly forgot to include the remainder of Unit 14C. This caused some confusion until regulations were aligned with the rest of Unit 14.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? People hunting during the fall general season will benefit from five extra days of hunting, especially as leaves drop and moose approach the rutting period.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Some members of the general public who pursue other recreational activities in this portion of Unit 14C may be unhappy if the hunting season is lengthened.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? The task force deliberated on the merits of eliminating antler restrictions altogether and recommending a shorter, any-bull general season. Some members believe this would put too much harvest pressure on the liberalized areas. The group decided that the longer SF/50 season would work better to provide additional harvest while conserving moose populations and maintaining hunter opportunity, especially during harsh weather events.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-99S-G-150)

PROPOSAL 106 - 5 AAC 85.045(12). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Change the regulation in Unit 14 as follows:

No open season for nonresidents to hunt moose.

ISSUE:

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? An increasing declining moose population due to heavy hunting pressure from easy access as well as excessive road kills.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Greater game resources for Alaskans who are dependent on game for personal and family use for sustenance. Too many residents can no longer fill their freezers with existing open seasons available to nonresidents for drawing permits (i.e., any bull) and harvest tickets.

ISSUE: Units 14 and 16 have some of the best moose production in the state, but every year it has more moose hunters than moose available for harvest. Harvesting part of a cow/calf unit compounds this situation at least three ways: 1) Studies of collared moose in another part of the state (Unit 22) showed that certain cows were “good mothers” and tended to produce a calf or two every years. Other cows, perhaps for a variety of reasons, frequently failed to produce calves. Thus, harvesting “good mothers” obviously reduces future moose production. 2) Additionally, when a hunter harvests a mother cow its calf becomes less likely to survive through the winter. 3) Finally, if a hunter harvests the calf, sometimes the cow is also killed as it tries to defend its dead calf.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Units 14 and 16 moose production will remain less than optimum, resulting in lower hunter success and less viewing opportunities.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All people wanting higher moose production in Units 14 and 16 would benefit.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Some drawing permit winners who would harvest any legal moose, regardless of consequences to the moose population. Also, some future permit winners may accidentally kill cows without realizing a calf is present.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? If ADF&G enclosed a letter with Unit 14 and Unit 16 antlerless moose drawing permits explaining consequences of harvesting part of a cow/calf unit perhaps this problem could be partially resolved without making outlaws of future hunters who will make honest mistakes.

PROPOSED BY: Andy Couch (HQ-99S-G-132)

PROPOSAL 110 -5 AAC 85.045(a)(12) and (14). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Lengthen the fall general moose hunting season, and shorten the early-winter general moose hunting season in Units 14A, 14B and 16A as follows:

	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
Units and Bag Limits (12) Unit 14(A)		
1 moose per regulatory year, only as follows:		
A bull with spike-fork antlers or 50-inch antlers or antlers with 3 or more brow tines on one side, by bow and arrow only	Aug. 10-Aug. 17 (General hunt only)	Aug. 10-Aug. 17

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Some competition my occur with Tier II hunters.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Alaskan Bowhunters Association (SC-99S-G-020) (SC-99S-G-023)

PROPOSAL 113 - 5 AAC 85.045(14). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Amend this regulation to provide the following:

Open a bow and arrow moose season in all of Units 16A and 16B from Nov. 1 – Nov. 30 by bow and arrow registration permit for any bull.

To participate in this moose registration hunt, hunter must meet all Alaska’s Bowhunter Education Requirements.

Persons with a registration bow and arrow permit may not be accompanied by a person with or have in his possession any rifle, muzzle loader, firearm, or long range pistol (barrel over 8-inch and or scoped.)

ISSUE: Expand the hunting opportunity for moose in Unit 16A and 16B.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Unnecessary limitation of hunting opportunity. By limiting the methods and means by which animals may be harvested will create more hunting opportunity for the general public per animal harvested.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The general hunt public by creating more opportunity. We recommend that the board or department charge a \$30 registration fee for each permit issued.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Some competition may occur with Tier II hunters.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Edward Russell (SC-99S-G-029)

Note: The following proposal was deferred by the Board of Game until the March 1999 meeting.

PROPOSAL 114 - 5 AAC 85.045(8). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Authorize an antlerless moose hunt in Unit 9B.

Unit 9B, Dec. 1 – Dec. 31, antlerless moose may be harvested.

ISSUE: Authorization of antlerless moose hunts in the December season. This has traditionally been an antlerless hunt until it was taken away.

PROPOSAL 116 - 5 AAC 85.045(8). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Change winter season in Unit 9B as follows:

Unit 9B	Sept. 1–Sept. 15
1 bull moose	Jan. 1–Feb. 28
	[DEC. 1 – DEC. 31]

ISSUE: Changing date on the winter moose season from Dec. 1 – Dec. 31 to Jan. 1 – Feb. 28. The problem now is that freeze-up is not happening until December, and with the holidays that does not leave much time to harvest a moose. Especially if there is no snow.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? This hunt was initiated as a subsistence hunt, especially since the September hunt is getting more difficult to find moose with all the caribou hunters and sport fisherman traveling the rivers and creeks. Moose are scared away into inaccessible areas.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All local residents that harvest their yearly moose in the winter season.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Lake Iliamna Advisory Committee (SW-99S-G-005) (HQ-99S-G-030)

PROPOSAL 117 - 5 AAC 85.045(8). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in a portion of Unit 9C as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open season
Unit 9(C)...		
Remainder of Unit 9(C)		
RESIDENT HUNTERS:		
1 moose; however, antlerless moose may be taken only during the period Dec. 1- Dec. 31	Sept.1-Sept. 15 Dec. 1-Dec. 31	
NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:		
1 bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 3 or more brow tines on one side		Sept. 5-Sept. 15
...		

ISSUE: Antlerless moose seasons must be reauthorized annually. The remainder of Unit 9C consists primarily of the Alagnak (Branch) River. The average harvest during recent years is three antlerless moose per year. During 1997, one cow was taken. During a composition survey completed in December 1997, we counted 169 moose with ratios of 40 bulls per 100 cows and 20 calves per 100 cows. Access to the Alagnak River during December is primarily by aircraft or snowmachine. During recent winters, poor travel conditions have kept hunting effort low. A continued harvest of a few cows is sustainable by the moose population, and will provide some additional harvest opportunity.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The opportunity to take a few antlerless moose in the Alagnak (Branch) River drainage will be lost.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Those hunters who have the opportunity to take an antlerless moose in the Alagnak (Branch) River drainage.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-99S-G-144)

PROPOSAL 118 - 5 AAC 85.045(8). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Amend regulations in Unit 9C as follows:

Nonresidents: 1 bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 3 or more brow tines on at least 1 side, Sept. 10 – Sept. 20. (This season would coincide with Unit 9E.)

ISSUE: During the current nonresident season, old-age class bulls are not actively moving around in the first week of season. A pre-rut hunt makes sense, however. Starting the season five days later would still be pre-rut. Meat is easier to care for with a later season.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Hunting for old-age class animals is unnecessarily made difficult by the early season. It is simply more difficult to hunt selectively. Handling of meat is also made more difficult.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Hunters who are looking for older age class bulls. General residents and locally domiciled residents of Unit 9C who will not have to “compete” with nonresidents Sept. 1 - Sept. 9.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Hunters who want to selectively hunt for older age class animals. Handling of meat is easier with the season five days later.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Joe Klutsch (HQ-99S-G-128)

PROPOSAL 119 - 5 AAC 85.045(8). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Create a resident drawing permit hunt for moose in Unit 9D.

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open season
(8)... Unit 9(D)	Sept. 5-Sept. 20 [NO OPEN SEASON.]	No open season.
<u>1 bull by drawing permit only; up to 10 permits may be issued</u>		
...		

ISSUE: Since Unit 9 was divided into subunits in 1975, Unit 9D has been closed to the taking of moose. Moose habitat in Unit 9D is limited, and moose numbers were insufficient to sustain hunting. Observations made in recent years suggests that moose numbers have increased and that a limited harvest of bulls is now available.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The opportunity for residents to take a few additional bulls will not be realized.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Resident moose hunters.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Leave Unit 9D closed until a composition trend area is established and survey data are available. A Tier II hunt was not considered because of an existing negative C&T finding for moose in this subunit.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-99S-G-145)

PROPOSAL 120 - 5 AAC 85.045(8). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Amend this regulation in Unit 9E as follows:

Close moose to sport hunting on the Pacific side of Unit 9E.

ISSUE: Get an accurate count of moose on the Pacific side and one that would justify an opening for sport hunters.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? There has not been a moose count since 1988 on the Pacific side.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Subsistence users.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Sport hunters – but there are other areas to hunt.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Draw a line for the Pacific side and enforce it.

PROPOSED BY: Chignik Advisory Committee

(HQ-99S-G-103)

PROPOSAL 121 - 5 AAC 85.045(8). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Change regulations in Unit 9E as follows:

Have subsistence hunt by permit which would be determined by community population.

ISSUE: Unit 9E is currently closed to moose hunting. We would like the board to consider a subsistence moose hunt of residents by permit.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? There is not enough food/nutrient to sustain a large herd.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The surrounding communities such as Nelson Lagoon, King Cove, Sand Point, False Pass.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Nelson Lagoon Advisory Committee

(SW-99S-G-004)

PROPOSAL 122 - 5 AAC 85.045(8). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Extend the resident moose season in Unit 9E by 20 days as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open season
(8)		
...		
Unit 9(E)		

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull; however, moose taken during the period Sept. 5 [10] Sept. 20 must have 50-inch antlers or antlers with 3 or more brow tines on one side

Sept. 5 [SEPT. 10]- Sept. 20

Dec. 1-Jan. 15 [DEC. 31]

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS

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

Sept. 10-Sept. 20

ISSUE: Recent composition surveys in Unit 9E classified 750 moose in seven trend areas and showed an overall sex ratio of 69 bulls:100 cows. Total counts in these trend areas have remained relatively stable in the past 15 years. The bull moose season in Unit 9E during this period has remained the same, and in recent years the harvest has declined slightly. The high bull:cow ratio suggests additional hunting opportunity can be allowed. The earlier opening in September for residents will provide additional opportunity prior to the rut, and the winter hunt extension into January will permit hunting under generally more favorable travel conditions.

The overall low density of moose in Unit 9E and low recruitment (19 calves:100 cows in 1998 surveys) argue for a conservative approach to liberalizing the moose regulations. Depending on regulatory changes affecting hunting of the Northern Alaska Peninsula caribou herd, some nonresident and non-local Alaska hunters may opt to hunt elsewhere with better opportunities for combination moose/caribou hunts.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The opportunity for residents to take a few additional bulls will not be realized.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Resident moose hunters.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Nonresident moose hunters will not see any expanded opportunity to hunt moose, but existing seasons and success rate will be maintained.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Considered changing resident season to any bull.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-99S-G-146)

PROPOSAL 123 - 5 AAC 85.045(15). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Amend this regulation in Unit 17 to provide the following:

If the moose restrictions are warranted, we would review restricting nonresident moose season – resident moose season – fall and or winter permit moose season – antler restriction for the permit hunt.

ISSUE: Because moose harvest, moose population and hunter effort information will not be available before the proposal deadline we want to put the public on notice that when the above information becomes available we could be asking for moose hunting restrictions in Unit 17B and 17C.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? If the above moose information warrants, moose hunting restrictions will need to be implemented at this board cycle and not wait the additional two years for the next cycle.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? At this time it is impossible to determine. We think it is best to put the public on notice that possible restrictions could be coming from this advisory committee.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Impossible to determine at this time. We will notify the public as soon as possible if we believe the moose information warrants regulatory action.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Do nothing and wait until next board cycle. Could have harmful effect on the moose resource.

PROPOSED BY: Nushagak Advisory Committee (SW-99S-G-007)

PROPOSAL 124 - 5 AAC 85.045(15). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Change this regulation in Unit 17B as follows:

Unit 17 B, Remainder

Resident: Spike-fork or 50-inch or 3 brow tines, or 60 inches around the back.

Nonresident: 50-inch or 3[4] brow tines or 55 or 60 inches around the back, one big bull may be taken every 3 years. Unguided hunters must be checked on and meat removed every 4 days, weather permitting.

ISSUE: The intent of a 50-inch spread or 3 to 4 brow tines is to restrict take to mature bulls of a certain age class. I am addressing four problems here.

First, most moose over 50 inches do not have 4 brow tines. I believe most moose near or over 60 inches do not have 4 brow tines. My experience in this area has shown that less than one-third of the legal bulls have 4 brow tines. The department recommends that hunters view their moose-judging video "Is this Moose Legal." Throughout the video the hunter is requested to count brow tines to "...be sure the moose is legal." Not once does the narrator and "judge" determine the moose to be legal even when it is immediately obvious and measured to be over 70 inches. Even though rules of thumb of judging actual spread are given, not once are they applied to help train a hunter in judging spread. If the department cannot or will not do it, then hunters should not be required to either. Furthermore, the department's video chooses situations and conditions that are ideal for counting brow tines in the moose they judge to be legal by a brow tine only count. These situations and conditions do not reflect actual hunting situations and conditions during most seasons and particularly Unit 17B. By lowering the brow tine requirement to three, hunters will be able to verify more legal bulls based on brow tines.

The second problem is addressed by including an "Around the Back Measurement" to prove a legal bull. We must look at what kind of bulls we are actively encouraging taking and what kind are left to do the breeding. The current regulations encourage taking flat palmed bulls (maximum spread) with 4 brow tines (and they are the most desirable) while we are selecting for genetic reproduction the cupped antlered bulls (who have big antlers, but they are cupped toward the nose so they produce/generate no realistic spread measurement) or with 3 or less brow tines. Wildlife managers around the world have been using selective management techniques for 25 years or more to improve antler size and configuration. Under the current regulations we are selecting for reproduction potentially big moose that we outlaw taking. Changing the requirement to include (in Unit 17B for now) an around the back measurement allows hunters to take big cupped antlered moose and still comply with the intent of restricting take to mature bulls. I have made two suggestions for an "around the back measurement" at 55 inches and 60 inches. Either of these

would tend to “flatten out” the antlers and help determine a truly big moose regardless of configuration.

Third, the 4 brow tine, as opposed to 3 brow tine, requirement was put in place to make it harder for nonresident hunters and for guides guiding nonresident hunters to determine a legal moose. A better way to encourage taking a big moose would be to place a bag limit of “one moose every 3 years.” Most guided hunters can only afford and will only go on one moose hunt in their life. While less expensive air taxis drop off, hunters may come back year after year taking several moose. I believe the largest influx of moose hunters into Unit 17B have been drop-off hunters from air taxis and mobile operators from King Salmon, Iliamna, and Anchorage. No doubt guides have also increased harvest of bulls in recent years, but their operations are self limiting by guiding laws and regulations, where air taxis are not. Nonresident drop-off hunters do not pay any state land use fees, where guided hunters pay land use fees through the guide fee. Nonresident hunters are unsupervised in the field and would be more likely to walk away from a sub-legal bull and never be reported. A one moose per 3 years encourages taking big moose only, which is the intent.

Fourth, unguided nonresident hunters who are not checked on for meat removal stand the most likely chance of returning with spoiled meat. Requiring them to be checked on at least every 4 days will help relieve some spoiled meat problems. This aspect shines bad on everyone, and under bad weather/logistical conditions anyone can look bad even if they did their best. The fact of the matter is, most hunters would not be able to keep moose meat for 7-10 days in Unit 17 without most of it spoiling during most years. Bad weather means rotten meat. Most air taxis book many hunters, where guides take some. Most drop-off hunters are reliant upon their pilot as their only means of sending meat out while guides generally have the accommodations for meat and alternative transportation methods. Plus guides have contacts in the villages and cities that will accept any meat. Adding this regulation will put more good meat into the hands of people who need and want it, whoever they may be.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Many big moose will go unharvested. Many nonresidents and guides will lose opportunities to harvest big moose. We will be genetically selecting for undesirable sub-legal moose. In the long run, the state, the guiding industry and the air taxi industry will lose money and clients. Residents and nonresidents will still book a drop-off hunt and not pay extra money to be checked on in case they get meat early in the hunt and that meat will probably spoil. At sport shows, my biggest complaint is from hunters that were flown in and dropped off. The rest of their gear never showed up and the pilot never checked on them. When asked if they paid extra for a “check-on-you flight” they say no. In their mind, the pilot is to blame and the pilot says they booked 10 days and did not take care of the meat. Spoiled meat is what will happen.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Hunters everywhere, because this is a more realistic approach. Everyone who cares about realistic regulations that mirror realistic conditions and management goals. Guides and nonresident unguided hunters will be allowed more leeway in harvesting a big bull. The state will not have to prosecute a hunter who shot “a big moose” that was not legal under the current definition.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one will suffer unless you figure Fish and Wildlife Protection will have less to investigate and prosecutors will have less to prosecute and more conditions to consider.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Putting a one "big" moose every 10 years limit on nonresident hunters. Did not reject because most nonresident hunters will restrict themselves to a big moose voluntarily. And a big moose to you may not be the same as a big moose to you or the law! It may be their only big game hunt in a life time in Alaska. Let's not destroy a dream and create a nightmare. Keep in mind, the difference between a 50-inch moose and a trophy 60-inch moose is only a 10-inch misjudgment in the brush at 10-200 yards and the difference between 3 and 4 brow tines is where the narrowest spot is in the bay.

PROPOSED BY: Don Duncan

(HQ-99S-G-048)

PROPOSAL 125 - 5 AAC 85.045(15). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE and 5 AAC 85.025(12). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR CARIBOU. Amend these regulations in Unit 17B as follows:

Close commercial hunting of moose and caribou on the Nuyakuk River (5 miles on each side of the river) from the mouth to the Nuyakuk Falls.

ISSUE: Over the last 5 years, the Nushagak and Mulchatna river drainages have seen an explosive growth on commercial hunting of moose and caribou. It has got to the point that village people in Koliganek have a difficult time hunting moose during the season because of the competition from commercial operators. Koliganek village people avoid hunting their traditional hunting grounds on the upper Nushagak River because the river is overrun with commercial guide camps, seemingly on every bend. The only river close to the village that is still relatively unused by commercial operators is the Nuyakuk River. We want to save this river from getting overrun by commercial hunting. The village people need and support at least one river accessible to them, on which they will be able to hunt moose and caribou. This is the reason we wish to protect the Nuyakuk River. It is to be protected as a river that is accessible to Nushagak villagers and not over-exploited. We must protect it now while we can.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Glen Wysocki

(SW-99S-G-002)

PROPOSAL 126 - 5 AAC 85.045(15). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE and 5 AAC 85.025(12). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR CARIBOU. Amend these regulations in Unit 17B as follows:

Close to commercial hunting of moose and caribou. The Nuyakuk River – five miles on each side of the river from the mouth to the Nuyakuk Falls.

ISSUE: Overexploitation of the Nushagak and Mulchatna river drainages has left the village people of Koliganek with little opportunity to find moose. The overexploitation is due to explosive growth of commercial hunting on the river, we want to save the one river that is not overexploited yet.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The Nuyakuk River, the only river close to the village of Koliganek will get over exploited by commercial operators, to the detriment of the local subsistence hunters of caribou and moose.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Local villagers from Koliganek, New Stuyahok, Ekwok, Portage Creek, Dillingham and other self-guided sport and subsistence hunters.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Commercial guides and their clients (minimally).

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Koliganek Village Council and Skin Wysocki (SW-99S-G-003)

PROPOSAL 127 – 5 AAC 85.045(17). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Reauthorize antlerless moose season in Unit 19A.

ISSUE: State law requires the reauthorization of antlerless moose seasons each year for all game management units. The harvest of antlerless moose during the current season in this unit is within sustainable limits.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Hunting opportunity for moose will be needlessly lost.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Moose hunters wishing to take antlerless moose.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Sleetmute Village Council (HQ-99S-G-046)

PROPOSAL 128 - 5 AAC 85.045(17). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Reauthorize the antlerless moose hunting season in Unit 19A as follows:

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

Unit 19(A), that portion within the Lime Village Management Area

2 moose per regulatory year; up to 28 moose may be taken by Tier II subsistence hunting permit only; up to 14 permits may be issued

Aug. 10—Sept. 25
(Subsistence hunt only)
Nov. 20—Mar. 31
(Subsistence hunt only)

No open season.

Unit 19A, that portion of the Kuskokwim River upstream from, but not including the Kolmakof River drainage and south of the Kuskokwim River upstream from, but not including, the Holokuk River drainage

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 moose per regulatory year; however, antlerless moose may be taken only during the Feb. 1—Feb. 10 season

Sept. 1—Sept. 20
Nov. 20—Nov. 30
Feb. 1—Feb. 10

NONRESIDENTS:

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

Sept. 1—Sept. 20

....

ISSUE: Antlerless moose hunting seasons must be reauthorized annually. The reported harvest from 1993 to 1997 for the February antlerless hunt has ranged between 4 and 24 moose with an average February harvest of 12 moose. Based on the most recent moose surveys and the level of reported harvest in Unit 19A, the population is capable of sustaining this February antlerless season.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? There will be an unwarranted loss of hunting opportunity.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Local hunters who were not fortunate enough to harvest a moose during the fall hunting season.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-99S-G-178)

PROPOSAL 129 - 5 AAC 85.045(18). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Reauthorize the antlerless moose hunting season(s) in Unit 20A as follows:

Units and Bag Limits (18)	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
... Remainder of Unit 20(A) 1 moose per regulatory year only as follows:		
1 bull	Sept. 1—Sept. 25 (General hunt only)	Sept. 1—Sept. 25
1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only; up to 300 permits may be issued	Sept. 1—Sept. 25 (General hunt only)	Sept. 1—Sept. 25
1 bull by drawing permit only, by muzzle-loading firearms only; up to 75 permits may be issued	Nov. 1—Nov. 30 (General hunt only)	Nov. 1—Nov. 30
...		

ISSUE: Antlerless moose hunting seasons must be reauthorized annually. The current harvest of moose in Unit 20A remains below sustainable limits. Although we have not completed surveys in 1998, surveys in 1996 and 1997 and estimates of calf production and recruitment indicate the population continues to increase at a moderate rate. Portions of Unit 20A still have moderate to low moose densities, however, moose densities within the antlerless permit hunt areas are high and continue to increase.

We recommend that the board reauthorize the hunt. Population data indicate the population will continue to grow under the current regulations. In addition, ongoing moose and wolf research allow us to carefully monitor population parameters to ensure that the cow hunts are warranted. In addition, another season under current regulations will allow us to further evaluate the distribution of cow harvests. We intend to fully revisit both the objectives and seasons and bag limits with local advisory committees prior to the spring 2000 meeting of the board.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Hunting opportunity will be lost.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Hunters wanting to take antlerless moose.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSAL 130 - 5 AAC 85.045(18). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Reauthorize the antlerless moose hunting season in Unit 20B within the Fairbanks Management Area as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(18) ... Unit 20(B), that portion within the Fairbanks Management Area 1 moose per regulatory year, only as follows:	Sept. 1—Sept. 30 (General hunt only) Nov. 21—Nov. 27 (General hunt only)	Sept. 1—Sept. 30 Nov. 21—Nov. 27
1 moose by bow and arrow only, by drawing permit only; up to 25 permits may be issued ...	Sept. 1—Sept. 30 (General hunt only)	Sept. 1—Sept. 30

ISSUE: Antlerless moose hunting seasons must be reauthorized annually. The purpose of this antlerless hunt is to provide opportunity to harvest relatively abundant numbers of female moose in the Fairbanks management area and reduce moose-vehicle collisions and nuisance moose problems.

We have not completed surveys this year. However, moose are abundant within the Fairbanks Management Area and moose vehicle collisions appear to be increasing, at least through October and November of 1998. Previous surveys and harvest reports indicate that the current seasons are biologically sustainable. If current moose-vehicle collision rates increase we will likely propose to increase the number of permits at the spring 2000 board meeting.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Opportunity will be lost and nuisance moose problems and moose vehicle collisions may increase.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Hunters and other residents.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? People opposed to antlerless moose hunting.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSAL 131 - 5 AAC 85.045(18). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Reauthorize the antlerless moose hunting season in Unit 20B within the Minto Flats Management Area as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(18)		
...		
Unit 20(B), that portion within the Minto Flats Management Area		
1 moose per regulatory year, only as follows:		
1 moose by Tier II subsistence hunting permit only; up to 100 permits may be issued	Sept. 1—Sept. 20 (Subsistence hunt only) Jan. 10—Feb. 28 (Subsistence hunt only)	No open season.
1 bull with spike-fork antlers or 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side	Sept. 11—Sept. 20	No open season.
...		

ISSUE: Antlerless moose hunting seasons must be reauthorized annually. The purpose of this antlerless hunt is to provide for subsistence harvests in a manner that allows some opportunity for general hunts.

We have not completed surveys this year, and the winter season has not begun. Previous surveys and harvest reports indicate that the current seasons are biologically appropriate. Calf production continues to be acceptable as twinning rates are higher than in adjacent areas. A Tier II season for any moose in the Minto Flats Management Area resulted in a harvest of 14 and 23 females in 1995 and 1996, respectively. The majority of the Tier II harvest continues to be bull moose. The harvest of females is sustainable from the moderately increasing population of over 2500 moose.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? If the subsistence harvest is restricted to bulls, the general season may have to be closed or further restricted. Opportunity to hunt a surplus of cow moose may be lost.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All Minto Flats area moose hunters.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-99S-G-187)

PROPOSAL 132 - 5 AAC 85.045(19). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Reauthorize the antlerless moose hunting season in Unit 21E as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
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(19)

....

Unit 21(E)

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 moose per regulatory year;
however, antlerless moose may be taken only during the period Feb. 1—Feb. 10 and moose may not be taken within one-half mile of either the Yukon River or the Innoko River during the period Feb. 1—Feb. 10

Sept. 5-Sept. 25
Feb. 1-Feb. 10

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

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

Sept. 5-Sept. 25

ISSUE: Antlerless moose hunting seasons must be reauthorized annually. The reported harvest from 1993 to 1997 for the February antlerless hunt has ranged between 4 and 19 moose with an average February harvest of 9 moose. Based on the most recent moose surveys and the level of reported harvest in Unit 21E, the population is capable of sustaining this February antlerless season.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? There will be an unwarranted loss of hunting opportunity.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Local hunters, who were not fortunate enough to harvest a moose during the fall hunting season.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSAL 133 - 5 AAC 85.045(20). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Reauthorize the antlerless moose seasons in portions of Unit 22B and Unit 22D, and in Unit 22E, as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(20) Unit 22(A)		
RESIDENT HUNTERS:		
1 bull	Aug. 1-Sept. 30 Dec. 1-Jan. 31	
NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:		
1 bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side		Aug. 1-Sept. 30
Unit 22(B), that portion west of the west bank of the Fish River and west of the southwest shore of Golovin Bay from the mouth of the Fish River to Rocky Point		
RESIDENT HUNTERS:		
1 antlered bull	Aug. 1-Jan. 31	
NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:		
1 bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side		Aug. 1-Jan. 31
Remainder of Unit 22(B)		
RESIDENT HUNTERS:		
1 moose; however, antlerless moose may be taken only from Dec. 1 through Dec. 31; no person may take a cow accompanied by a calf	Aug. 1-Jan. 31	
NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:		
1 bull with 50-inch antlers or		Aug. 1-Jan. 31

antlers with 4 or more brow
tines on one side

Unit 22(C)

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull Sept. 1-Sept. 14

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull with 50-inch antlers or
antlers with 4 or more brow tines
on one side Sept. 1-Sept. 14

Unit 22(D), that portion within the
Kougarok, Kuzitrin and Pilgrim
River drainages

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 antlered bull Aug. 1-Jan. 31

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull with 50-inch antlers or
antlers with 4 or more brow
tines on one side Aug. 1-Jan. 31

Remainder of Unit 22(D)

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 moose; however, antlerless
moose may be taken only
from Dec. 1 through Dec. 31;
no person may take a cow
accompanied by a calf; only antlered
moose may be taken from Jan. 1
through Jan. 31 Aug. 1-Jan. 31

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull with 50-inch antlers or
antlers with 4 or more brow
tines on one side Aug. 1-Jan. 31

Unit 22(E)

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 moose; no person may take
a cow accompanied by a calf Aug. 1-Mar. 31

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull with 50-inch antlers or
Aug. 1-Mar. 31

antlers with 4 or more brow
tines on one side

ISSUE: To be retained, antlerless moose seasons must be reauthorized annually. Estimates of population size and recruitment provided by annual censuses and late winter surveys indicate that current harvests of antlerless moose are not adversely affecting the population status of moose in most areas of Unit 22. Moose populations in Units 22B and Unit 22D declined significantly during the late 1980s and early 1990s because of severe winter weather conditions. Populations appear to have stabilized; however, in the most accessible portions of Unit 22B and Unit 22D moose populations are still significantly below desired levels. In March 1997 the Board of Game closed the antlerless moose seasons in the depressed portions of Unit 22B and Unit 22D to aid in population recovery. In the remainder of Units 22B, 22D and 22E the reported cow harvest is low and is not believed to be adversely affecting population growth and antlerless moose hunting should be continued. During the 1995-96 season 13 of 185 moose harvested were cows; during the 1996-97 season 20 of 198 moose harvested were cows; and during the 1997-98 season 6 of 203 moose harvested were cows.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Hunting opportunity for antlerless moose in portions of Unit 22 will be needlessly lost.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All hunters who wish to harvest an antlerless moose.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-99S-G-165)

PROPOSAL 134 - 5 AAC 85.045(19). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Reauthorize the antlerless moose hunting seasons in Unit 21D as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(19)		
...		
Unit 21(D), that portion within the Koyukuk Controlled Use Area		
1 antlerless moose or 1 bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side by regis- tration permit	Sept. 5—Sept. 25 (General hunt only)	Sept. 5—Sept. 25

1 moose per regulatory year; however, moose may be taken by registration permit only during the period Sept. 1--Sept. 25

Sept. 1—Sept. 25
Feb. 1—Feb. 10
(Subsistence hunt only)

Remainder of Unit 21(D)

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 moose per regulatory year; however, antlerless moose may be taken only during the periods Sept. 21—Sept. 25 and Feb. 1—Feb.10; moose may not be taken within one-half mile of the Yukon River during the Feb. 1—Feb. 10 season

Sept. 5—Sept. 25
Feb. 1—Feb. 10

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

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

Sept. 5—Sept. 25

ISSUE: Antlerless moose hunting seasons must be reauthorized annually. Antlerless moose harvests in the two geographic areas described in regulation (above) can be supported by present moose populations. This additional harvest provides for greater hunting opportunity by, primarily, local hunters than would be possible with a bulls-only fall hunt. Fall 1998 surveys suggest continued stable, high-density moose populations in Three Day Slough, Kaiyuh Slough, Pilot Mountain Slough, Squirrel Creek, and Long Stretch trend count areas. Bull:cow ratios and other population parameters indicate management objectives are being met.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The bag limit will revert to antlered moose only, which could reduce overall harvest of moose and result in more restrictive seasons. Failure to utilize the antlerless moose resource may result in lost opportunities to local users.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Primarily local residents who rely on the meat for subsistence will benefit. Individuals who consider cow moose meat preferable to bull moose meat will benefit.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? People opposed to antlerless moose hunting.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-99S-G-189)

PROPOSAL 135 - 5 AAC 85.045(21). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Reauthorize the antlerless moose seasons in Unit 23 as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(21) Unit 23, that portion north of and including the Singoalik River drainage	July 1-Mar. 31	
RESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 moose; a person may not take a cow accompanied by a calf		
NONRESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 bull with spike-fork or 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side		Sept. 1-Sept. 20
Unit 23, that portion in the Noatak drainage		
RESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 moose; however, antlerless moose may be taken only from Nov. 1 through Mar. 31; no person may take a cow accompanied by a calf	Aug.1-Sept. 15 Oct. 1-Mar. 31	
NONRESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 bull with spike-fork or 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side		Sept. 1-Sept. 15
Remainder of Unit 23		
RESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 moose; no person may take a cow accompanied by a calf	Aug. 1-Mar. 31	
NONRESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 bull with spike-fork or 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side		Sept. 1-Sept. 20

ISSUE: To be retained, antlerless seasons must be reauthorized annually. Late winter aerial surveys conducted during the last five years indicate the calf:cow ratio in Unit 23 has ranged from 15-33:100, and most populations appear stable. Unusually severe winters in 1989-90 and 1990-91 caused higher than normal overwinter mortality. We believe the moose population

declined in response to severe winters in some portions of the Unit. However, the reported harvest of cows in Unit 23 remains low, and at current levels is not adversely affecting growth and recovery of the population. During 1994-95, six of 133 moose harvested were cows; during 1995-96, eight of 173 moose harvested were cows; during 1996-97, 14 of 160 moose harvested were cows; and during 1997-98, seven of 160 moose harvested were cows.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Hunting opportunity will be needlessly lost.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All hunters who wish to harvest an antlerless moose.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-99S-G-166)

PROPOSAL 136 - 5 AAC 85.045(22). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Reauthorize the antlerless moose hunting seasons in Unit 24 as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(22) Unit 24, that portion within the Koyukuk Controlled Use Area down- stream from Huslia		
1 moose per regulatory year as fol- lows:		
1 antlerless moose or 1 bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side by registration per- mit	Sept. 5—Sept. 25 (General hunt only)	Sept. 5—Sept. 25
1 moose; however, moose may be taken by registration permit only during the period Sept. 1—Sept. 25	Sept. 1—Sept. 25 Dec. 1—Dec. 10 Mar. 1—Mar. 10 (Subsistence hunt only)	No open season.
Remainder of Unit 24, within the Koyukuk Controlled Use Area		

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 moose; however, antlerless moose may be taken only during the periods Sept. 21—Sept. 25, Dec. 1—Dec. 10, and Mar. 1—Mar. 10

Sept. 1—Sept. 25
Dec. 1—Dec. 10
Mar. 1—Mar. 10

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

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

Sept. 5—Sept. 25

Unit 24, that portion of the John and Alatna River drainages within the Gates of the Arctic National Park

Aug. 1—Dec. 31

No open season.

1 moose

Unit 24, all drainages to the north of the Koyukuk River upstream from and including the Alatna River, to and including the North Fork of the Koyukuk River, except that portion of the John and Alatna River drainages within Gates of the Arctic National Park

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 moose; however, antlerless moose may be taken only during the periods Sept. 21—Sept. 25 and Mar. 1—Mar. 10

Sept. 1—Sept. 25
Mar. 1—Mar. 10

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

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

Sept. 5—Sept. 25

...

ISSUE: Antlerless moose hunting seasons must be reauthorized annually. Antlerless moose harvests in the four geographic areas described in regulation (above) can be supported by present moose populations. This additional harvest provides greater hunting opportunity by primarily local hunters than would be possible with a bulls-only fall hunt. Fall 1998 trend count surveys suggest continued stable moose populations in Batza Slough and Mathews Slough. Previous trend count surveys for Dulbi Slough, Huslia River Flats, and Treat Island also indicate stable or increasing numbers, with high densities. Bull:cow ratios and other population parameters indicate management objectives are being met.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The bag limit will revert to antlered moose only, which could reduce overall harvest of moose and result in more restrictive seasons. Failure to utilize the antlerless moose resource may result in lost opportunities to local users.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Primarily local residents who rely on the meat for subsistence will benefit. Individuals who consider cow moose meat preferable to bull moose meat.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-99S-G-188)

PROPOSAL 137 - 5 AAC 85.055(5). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR DALL SHEEP. Change the regulation in Unit 11, the Crystalline Hills Range, as follows:

From one sheep, any sex, to one full-curl ram. This would enable the population of sheep to grow back to historical numbers.

ISSUE: Back in the early '90s, the harvest for Unit 11 changed. This change to one sheep, any sex has had serious impact on sheep populations. The area of our concern is the Crystalline Hills Range. This is one of the most accessible hunts from the road system and has some of the greatest hunting pressure. In the early to mid-1980s, there was a population of sheep that numbered near two hundred. The population was stable and very healthy until the change was made to the regulation allowing harvest of any sex. According to the Unit 11 area biologist, the averages over the last ten years have seen 15-20 sublegal rams and 15-20 ewes and lambs unit-wide. If you compare those unit-wide numbers to the following Crystalline Hills numbers of 2-8 ewes and lambs, you can begin to understand why the population of sheep has dropped from near 200 to this year's totals of between 25 to 35. We have done our homework and have discussed this proposal with the Unit 11 area biologist and with many people that live within this area, and none that we have spoken with have said they disagree with this proposal.

Mike Collins and his grandfather Cliff Collins have lived at Long Lake near the base of the Crystalline Hills for several decades. Mike and Cliff along with myself have enjoyed viewing, hunting sheep along this range and we wish we could someday see the populations there once were. We believe that if this proposal is adopted for this range, the numbers will one day grow to populations seen only a few short years ago. This proposal does not deny anyone the opportunity to hunt sheep, but will allow hunters, viewers and future generations of hunters and viewers to see the great numbers of sheep that once combed this range.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Tom Carpenter, Mike Collins, Cliff Collins (HQ-99S-G-003)

PROPOSAL 138 - 5 AAC 85.055(3). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR DALL SHEEP. Amend regulations in Unit 13 as follows:

Sheep Unit 13 – one ram, full-curl horn or more, one every other year.

ISSUE: Declining sheep population in Unit 13.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Sheep population may continue to decline.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Sheep population should provide for larger proportion of larger rams that may become available to more hunters.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Hunters who shoot one sheep every year.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Copper Basin Advisory Committee (SC-99-G-055) (HQ-99S-G-082)

PROPOSAL 139 - 5 AAC 85.055(7). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR DALL SHEEP. Amend this regulation in Unit 14C as follows:

Limit permits awarded to nonresidents, say 10% of permits are made available to nonresident hunters.

ISSUE: Nonresident sheep hunting in permit areas of the Chugach Mountains.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Nonresidents and guides get a disproportionate number of sheep permits in the Chugach.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Resident Alaskans will have a greater opportunity to hunt Dall sheep in the Chugach.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Guides, nonresident hunters.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Curtis Menard (HQ-99S-G-001)

PROPOSAL 140 - 5 AAC 85.055(7). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR DALL SHEEP. Increase the number of permits available for the late season Dall sheep drawing hunt in

the remainder of Unit 14C and allow drawing permit hunters to hunt sheep in the East Fork of Eklutna River.

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
Remainder of Unit 14C		
1 ram with full-curl horn or larger or 1 ewe by drawing permit only; up to 240 permits will be issued; or 1 ewe by drawing permit only; up to 150 permits will be issued	Aug. 10 – Oct. 31 (General hunt only)	Aug. 10 – Oct. 31
1 sheep by bow and arrow only, by drawing permit only; up to <u>120</u> [80] permits will be issued.	Oct. 1 – Oct. 10 (General hunt only)	Oct. 1 – Oct. 10

ISSUE: During the late season archery hunt in Unit 14C, bowhunters take very few sheep. Generally, up to one-third of the drawing permit winners do not participate in the hunt. Of the 50 to 60 hunters that do get into the mountains, only about 10% are successful. The most sheep that have been taken in this 10-day hunt is 6 rams, and 3 ewes in 1995, and they were scattered throughout Unit 14C. More sheep hunting opportunity can be provided in Unit 14C without crowding hunters, affecting total sheep numbers, or reducing sheep-viewing opportunities by other park users.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Lost hunting opportunity.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Sheep hunters.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Anti-hunters and some park users who believe hunting is incompatible with wildlife viewing.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Late-season registration hunt. Likely result in crowded conditions because it is so accessible to the majority of Alaska’s bowhunters.

PROPOSED BY: Alaskan Bowhunters Association (SC-99S-G-026)

PROPOSAL 141 - 5 AAC 85.055(7). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR DALL SHEEP. Amend regulations in Unit 14C as follows:

Open the sheep bow and arrow season in all of Unit 14C from Oct. 1 – Oct. 30 by registration permit for 1 ewe or 1 full-curl or larger ram by bow and arrow only.

To participate in this sheep registration hunt, hunter must meet all Alaska's Bowhunter Education Requirements. Registration permits will be issued in areas where sheep quotas have not been met by drawing permit hunters. Registration permits will be issued in each subunit to a limited number of hunters in the field with that subunit at any one time.

Persons with a registration bow and arrow permit may not be accompanied by a person with or have in his possession any rifle, muzzleloader firearm or long range pistol (barrel over 8-inch and or scoped).

ISSUE: Expand the hunting opportunity for sheep in Unit 14C.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Unnecessary limitation of hunting opportunity. By limiting the methods and means by which animals may be harvested it will create more recreational hunting opportunity for the general public per animal taken.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The general public by allowing more recreational hunting opportunity by restricting the method and means of harvest to allow for more man days in the field per animal harvested.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? The viewing public will not suffer because by October most people have left the viewing areas.

The department by the loss of revenue from the drawing permit application fees. To offset loss we recommend that the board or department charge a \$30.00 registration fee for each permit issued.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Edward Russell (SC-99S-G-028)

PROPOSAL 142 - 5 AAC 85.055(7). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR DALL SHEEP. Change this regulation in Unit 14C as follows:

Include the Eklutna drainage in the hunt area for the archery-only drawing permit DS140, which runs from Oct. 1- Oct. 10.

ISSUE: The Eklutna Lake drainage has a high number of sheep, including a high number of mature rams. ADF&G surveys counted 24 full-curl rams in 1997, and 34 in 1998. There are historically 80 permits issued for the late archery hunt, DS140, and allowing these permittees to hunt the Eklutna drainage would lessen the hunter density in other areas of the park. Archery hunters in the park historically have taken only about 2 rams per season during this late hunt so the biological effect will be negligible on the Eklutna herds. It seems to be an oversight in regulations that archery hunters cannot hunt the Eklutna "archery only" area (as well as East Eklutna) during this late hunt.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? High quality hunting opportunities in the Eklutna drainage will continue to be underutilized. Higher hunter density than necessary will occur in the rest of Unit 14C during this hunt.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Bowhunters who draw the late archery-only permit. Also, perhaps more hunters will be allowed to hunt if more areas are opened for this late hunt.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Very few if any hikers are above timberline in October, and the only other big game hunters who may possibly be around are the five goat permittees up East Fork Eklutna from Sept. 8 – Oct. 15. So probably no one will even notice the sheep hunters and one or two sheep (at the most) may be taken in the Eklutna drainage. Basically no one will suffer.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Open just the West Eklutna “archery-only” area to the late bowhunters, excluding East Fork Eklutna. If any of the Eklutna drainages are opened, add another 20 permits to the 80 now given since there will be more area and sheep to hunt. The odds are that an extra 20 permits will mean only one or two more rams will be taken (which is biologically insignificant).

PROPOSED BY: Toby Russ (HQ-99S-G-100)

PROPOSAL 143 - 5 AAC 85.055(7). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR DALL SHEEP. Amend regulations in Unit 14C as follows:

To allow the purchasers of Alaska’s governor’s permit for Dall sheep to hunt in the area comprised of DS141, within Unit 14C (the bow-only area) with a rifle during the period when the area is not open to bow hunting (Aug. 10 – Aug. 31).

ISSUE: We are trying to enhance interest from prospective bidders in Alaska’s governor’s permits for Dall sheep. Other states and provinces which obtain high bid values (\$200,000 to \$400,000) typically offer substantial incentives in terms of noncompetitive hunting opportunity either as to time or location. States or provinces that offer no additional incentive typically receive low bid values (\$10,000 to \$15,000). The first year that Alaska offered a governor’s sheep permit, we obtained \$200,000. After the potential bidders on the permit learned that they were competing directly with resident hunters who also draw permits the governor’s permit drew only \$50,000, and it is likely that the amount raised will decrease again for 1999.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The Alaska governor’s permits for sheep will continue to decrease in value or will plateau at their current level. The opportunity to obtain substantial funds which directly benefit Dall sheep and other game and nongame species through expanded research and management programs will be lost.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All hunters and nonhunters alike will benefit from additional funding for research and management regarding Dall sheep and other game and nongame species throughout the state.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? The impact on bow hunters within the DS141 area should be negligible. Only one ram would be taken in any year. Bow hunters traditionally harvest a very low number of rams within the area. The purchaser of the governor’s sheep permit will not be hunting within the area with a firearm during the same time period that bow hunters are using the area so there should be no issue as to the safety of the bow hunters using the area. Neither of the past purchasers of the governor’s permit have actually taken a ram although that situation hopefully will change in the future.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? We considered the possibility of closing the area to the governor's permit purchaser on Sept. 7. We rejected that alternative because it did not allow for preseason scouting and access by bow hunters.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Chapter Foundation for North American Wild Sheep (SC-99S-G-067)

PROPOSAL 144 - 5 AAC 85.055(3)(6)(7). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR DALL SHEEP and 5 AAC 92.530(2)(4)(9). MANAGEMENT AREAS. Amend these regulations as follows:

Allow an additional 10-day period from Aug. 1 – 10 for the purchasers of governor's sheep permits to hunt prior to the opening of the general sheep season.

ISSUE: We are trying to enhance interest from prospective bidders in Alaska's governor's permits for Dall sheep. Other states and provinces which obtain high bid values (\$200,000 to \$400,00) typically offer substantial incentives in terms of noncompetitive hunting opportunity either as to time or location. States or provinces that offer no additional incentive typically receive low bid values (\$10,000 to \$15,000). The first year that Alaska's offered a governor's sheep permit, we obtained \$200,000. After the potential bidders on the permit learned that they were competing directly with resident hunters who also draw permits, the governor's permit drew only \$50,000, and it is likely that the amount raised will decrease again for 1999.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The Alaska governor's permits for sheep will continue to decrease in value or will plateau at their current level. The opportunity to obtain substantial funds which directly benefit Dall sheep and other game and nongame species through expanded research and management programs will be lost.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All hunters and nonhunters alike will benefit from additional funding for research and management regarding Dall sheep and other game and nongame species throughout the state.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? There will be very little impact on other permittees' hunting opportunity, i.e., no more than two rams per year. Other persons who draw permits may lose the opportunity to hunt one large Dall ram in a given area (Unit 14C, Tok Management Area, Delta Control Use Area). Neither of the past purchasers of the governor's permit have actually taken a ram although that situation hopefully will change in the future.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? The other alternative is to maintain the status quo, let the value of governor's permits for sheep decrease over time and take what we can get and be happy. We rejected this alternative as the State of Alaska will lose a significant amount of research and management funding which it would otherwise be possible to obtain.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Chapter Foundation for North American Wild Sheep (SC-99S-G-066)

PROPOSAL 145 - 5 AAC 85.055. HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR DALL SHEEP. Create a bow and arrow season for sheep in Unit 15A as follows:

Open the sheep bow and arrow season in Unit 15A (Round Mt.) from Oct.1 – Oct. 30 by registration permit for one ewe or one full-curl or larger ram by bow and arrow only.

To participate in this sheep registration hunt must meet all Alaska’s bowhunter education requirements. Registration permits will be issued in areas where sheep quotas have not been met by drawing permit hunters.

Persons with a registration bow and arrow permit may not be accompanied by a person with or have in his possession any rifle, muzzleloader firearm or long-range pistol (barrel over 8 inches and/or scoped).

ISSUE: Create a limited the hunting opportunity for sheep in Unit 15A (Round Mt.)

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Limiting the methods and means by which animals may be harvested creates more recreational hunting opportunity for the general public per animal taken.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The general public by allowing more recreational hunting opportunity by restricting the methods and means of harvest to allow for man-days in the field per animal harvested.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? The viewing public will not suffer because by October most people have left the viewing areas.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Alaskan Bowhunters Association (SC-99S-G-024)

PROPOSAL 146 - 5 AAC 85.055(4). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR DALL SHEEP. Amend this regulation to include the following:

Open the sheep “bow and arrow” season in all of Unit 15A (Round Mt.) from Oct. 1 – Oct. 30 by registration permit for 1 ewe or 1 full-curl or larger ram by bow and arrow only.

To participate in this sheep registration hunt, hunter must meet all Alaska’s Bowhunter Education Requirements. Registration permits will be issued in areas where sheep quotas have not been met by drawing permit hunters.

Persons with a registration bow and arrow permit may not be accompanied by a person with or have in his possession any rifle, muzzle loader, firearm, or long range pistol (barrel over 8 inches and or scoped).

ISSUE: Create a limited the hunting opportunity for sheep in Unit 15A (Round Mt.)

Motorized access in all of Unit 13 shall be allowed for hunting and transporting moose and caribou from 12:01 a.m. Tuesday through 12:00 p.m. Saturday of each week. 12:01 a.m. Sunday through 12:00 p.m. Tuesday of each week shall be non-motorized except along the Denali, Richardson, and Glenn Highways, the Tok Cutoff, and the Lake Louise Road.

ISSUE:

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Virtually all caribou hunting in Unit 13 is subsistence. Many subsistence hunters do not have motorized support so cannot compete successfully with motorized users who may inadvertently drive game away from the highway system. Moose populations are suffering from overutilization. Trails are expanding and deteriorating from heavy use. These trends will continue (look at ADF&G's published statistics documenting increased motorized use over the past 10 years).

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Non-motorized users. Motorized hunters by allowing game disbursement.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? We don't see any problem except the inconvenience of being unable to transport on Sundays. This is far outweighed by the probability of better game disbursement and better hunt quality.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Alternating weekend closures, designated trails, controlled use areas.

PROPOSED BY: Paxson Advisory Committee (HQ-99S-G-055)

PROPOSAL 217 - 5 AAC 92.540(3)(C)(ii). CONTROLLED USE AREAS. Amend this regulation in the Clearwater Controlled Use Area as follows:

The area is closed to the use of any motorized vehicle for hunting, including the transportation of hunters . . . and/or parts of game, except for brown/grizzly bears and small game from March 15 – May 31. . . .

ISSUE: Unnecessary restriction within the Clearwater Controlled Use Area. Limited opportunity for hunters to reduce brown/grizzly bear population to the population objective (BOG 1995).

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The Clearwater Controlled Use Area will remain a virtual sanctuary for spring hunting because of access. The concept of access restrictions changing with seasons is part of the original concept for the Clearwater Controlled Use Area (see ADF&G presentation to the Board of Game, 1971).

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Bear and moose hunters.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? No one.

PROPOSED BY: Mike Tinker (I-99S-G-004)

PROPOSAL 218 - 5 AAC 92.540(4)(A). CONTROLLED USE AREAS. Amend this regulation in Unit 15 as follows:

Sept. 11 – Sept. 20: restrict private aircraft landings on refuge in Unit 15A lakes to before noon Saturday through Thursday and 6 p.m. on Fridays. Commercial evening landing destinations for hunter transport to field be designated 24 hours in advance.

Eliminate Saturday through Thursday afternoon private aircraft float plane landings in Unit 15A Kenai National Wildlife Refuge lakes; 6 p.m. curfew on Fridays. Allow evening unregistered commercial landings for the purpose of picking up meat, camps, and hunters. Allow commercial carrier evening hunting party/camp drops to 24-hour preregistered and designated camps. Private and commercial before-noon operations and afternoon takeoffs not affected.

ISSUE: Poor fair-chase ethics. Non-compliance with refuge 2,000 ft. “advisory” aircraft harassment of game and hunters.

2,000 foot minimum height refuge aircraft “advisory” is not working. No teeth, and no enforcement to speak of.

Rectify abuse of fair-chase ethics and unfair advantage over non-aircraft users by some who use aircraft on a regular (even daily) basis, to spot and evaluate moose just before dark, often to land on a nearby lake, and shoot the animal at first light – frequently in areas where grounded hunters (walk-ins and fly-ins alike) are already present. This represents poor fair-chase ethics, and tees-off grounded hunters, who, while waiting for a located or prospective bull to show, often have to endure up to several hours of intermittent to steady aircraft circling at 300 feet, immediately overhead. While grounded hunters may use such aircraft activity to advantage in pinpointing a bull, and as noise cover in stalking closer, this too is of dubious fair-chase ethics and is irritating, distracting, and degrading of hunt quality.

Circling of or repeated passes of low-flying aircraft often induce moose to remain abed or in heavy cover (or to return to it) and delay evening feeding periods of such targeted animals up to or until after dark where normally they would start feeding earlier in the evening and give fair-chase hunters an opportunity to harvest them before dark.

The 6 p.m. Friday exception is to avoid excessive impact on ethical weekend fly-in hunters who wish to fly out to camp after work and begin their hunt Saturday morning. There will likely still be some who just don’t get it and will still indulge in overnight spot, land, and shoot tactics on Fridays, but it will be more difficult. Hopefully, this will get their attention as to potential consequences if they continue unethical practices involving aircraft, and recategorizes the worst of their activities from unethical to illegal.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Problem will continue.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Ethical fair-chase hunters, both walk-ins and grounded aircraft accessed hunters. Moose.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Unethical, spot, land, and shoot at dawn hunters. Perhaps a very few ethical hunters who fly out evenings to established camps for quick morning hunts. Those

few fair-chase aircraft hunters who fly out after work during the week to established camps to hunt a couple hours the next morning before work.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Mandatory pre-registered camps; 24-hour fly and hunt rule; 3 p.m. or 6 p.m. curfew. Impose above proposal south of Swanson River, west of Swanson River Road only.

PROPOSED BY: Larry Schweigert (HQ-99S-G-062)

PROPOSAL 219 - 5 AAC 92.540(4)(B). CONTROLLED USE AREAS. Change this regulation in the Lower Kenai Controlled Use Area as follows:

Adopt the same regulation for the Lower Kenai Controlled Use Area as in the Anchor River/Fritz Creek where hunters' vehicles may be used to retrieve a downed animal during lawful hunting season.

ISSUE: Use of motorized vehicles to retrieve downed animals in Lower Kenai Controlled Use Area.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Some moose meat may spoil or a bear may get it before the hunter can remove it. Ecological damage could result because of sudden surge of motorized use in narrow timeframe of authorized use.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Moose meat may be salvaged and less loss to bears.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Anchorage Advisory Committee (SC-99S-G-018)

PROPOSAL 220 - 5 AAC 92.540(4)(B). CONTROLLED USE AREAS. Amend this regulation in the Lower Kenai Controlled Use Area as follows:

Closed to motorized vehicles Sept. 11- Sept. 20, from 6 a.m. to 10 a.m., and from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m..

ISSUE: Change motor vehicle restriction Sept. 11 - Sept 14, and Sept 17 – Sept. 20. from 6 a.m. to 10 a.m.; and from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. that hunters can go in and out or pack meat out, and hunt mornings and evenings without noise. There are very few people who hunt in the day.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Lots of illegal cabins are built, meat wasted to bears. Four days is a lot of time for meat to be out on the field.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Every person who uses a motor vehicle to hunt, camp and pack meat.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Few people who own cabins, and illegal cabins by good hunting grounds that will see more hunters hunting in the area in those eight days.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Lot of people cannot afford horses, boats, cabins, camps. but depend on meat they can harvest so they can have a way to go in and out the same day. The best time to harvest is in the last ten days of hunting. The well-financed have the way to do it, and enjoy the best hunting days by themselves, which they do not benefit anything to themselves but pleasure.

PROPOSED BY: Nikita Kuzman (HQ-99S-G-028)

PROPOSAL 221 - 5 AAC 92.540. CONTROLLED USE AREAS. Create a controlled use area in Region II as follows:

The controlled use area defined as all state lands and waters including borough, municipal submerged and private. The area is closed to the possession of hunting gear used in accordance with, and/or parts of game harvested under federal subsistence regulations.

ISSUE: The use of state assets and resources in an unconstitutional manner. State liability in using assets and resources in this manner.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The state will be promoting the unconstitutional preference to game resources by using and/or allowing the use of state assets and resources in the harvesting, transportation or storage of game taken, and the transportation or storage of gear used under unconstitutional federal law.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All residents of the state, all visitors to the state and anyone else that disagrees with legislating preference to certain groups of people.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those individuals that believe in legislating preference to certain groups.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Closing area to individuals rejected because of equal protection.

PROPOSED BY: Brian Peterson (SC-99S-G-041)

PROPOSAL 222 - 5 AAC 92.108. IDENTIFIED BIG GAME PREY POPULATIONS AND OBJECTIVES. Amend regulation for caribou in Unit 13 as follows:

The pre-calving population objective should be 60,000 caribou. The annual harvest objective should be 10% of the post-calving population until the population reaches the pre-calving population of 60,000. At that time the harvest should be increased to one-third of the annual initial production (35,000 – 40,000) or about 11,000 to 13,000 caribou. Wolf and bear predation should

be managed to maintain a 10% increase annually until 60,000 caribou are obtained. About four years.

ISSUE: The Nelchina Caribou herd is not being managed in a manner appropriate for an intensively managed caribou herd.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The herd will be underutilized for an accessible herd with a high demand for hunting for meat. An overabundance of predators will continue to stifle herd growth and utilization by hunters.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All hunters, all persons who enjoy seeing caribou, all predators that utilize caribou, guides, tour operators, lodge owners, businesses that sell or supply transportation, those that appreciate a well-managed ecosystem.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? These persons who oppose hunting, trapping, and the killing of animals by humans.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Wildlife Conservation Association (I-99S-G-006)

PROPOSAL 223 - 5 AAC 92.108. IDENTIFIED BIG GAME PREY POPULATIONS AND OBJECTIVES and 5 AAC 92.085(11). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Amend these regulations to provide the following:

The board should readopt its findings on intensive management for Unit 13, 95-84-BOG.

Moose population objective: 25,000 – 30,000 moose.
Human harvest objectives: 15,00 if 15,000 moose
3,000 if 20,000 moose
4,500 if 25,000
6,000 if 30,000 moose

1 bull season Sept. 1 – Oct. 1

ISSUE: The passive monitoring and non-management of Unit 13 moose. The Board of Game Findings 95-84-BOG declared Unit 13 moose to be intensively managed. To date ADF&G has done nothing except monitor and recommend reductions in human harvest which is statistically insignificant as a mortality factor of the moose herd.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The moose population will continue to decline and ADF&G and the Board of Game will continue to violate their affirmative responsibility to manage this population for maximum sustained yield of human harvest.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All users who desire actual management of the wildlife population.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Continued passive monitoring cannot satisfy intensive management statutes which require active management techniques to occur.

PROPOSED BY: Lynn Levensgood (HQ-99S-G-097)

PROPOSAL 224 - 5 AAC 92.108. IDENTIFIED BIG GAME PREY POPULATIONS AND OBJECTIVES and 5 AAC 85.025(8). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR CARIBOU. Amend these regulations in Unit 13 as follows:

Nelchina caribou population objective 40,000.

Total spring:

If population is 20-25,000 animals	10,000 permits issued for harvest objection of 250
If population is 25-30,000 animals	1,500 permits issued for harvest objective of 450
If population is 30-35,000 animals	25,000 permits issued for harvest objective of 650
If population is 35-40,000 animals	35,000 permits issued for harvest objective of 850
If population is over 40,000 animals	45,000 permits issued for harvest objective of 1,000
If population is over 50,000 animals	general season with harvest objective of 20,000

ISSUE: Incompetent management and violation of law by ADF&G, regarding Nelchina caribou harvest. 5 AAC 92.108 provides for the human harvest of 5,000 caribou if the population is over 30,000. In 1998, ADF&G closed the season by emergency order when harvest was only 2,300 even though the 1998 summer population was 44,192.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? ADF&G will continue to deny human harvest. BOG Findings 96-102-BOG mandated in 1996 a human harvest of 15,000 from a herd of 48,666. Only 5,580 were harvested (36,600 permits issued). In 1997, 35,376 permits were issued and only 3,666 animals harvested. In 1998 even though the population exceeded the population goal only 10,000 permits were issued and the harvest was stopped at 2,300.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Consumptive users who rely on this important population for food.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? The Board of Game and ADF&G who will lose public support by continually lying to Alaskans about providing human harvest, then closing the season.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Legislative mandate requiring allocation for human consumptive use based on set population/harvest ratio will be sought.

PROPOSED BY: Lynn Levensgood (HQ-99S-G-098)

PROPOSAL 225 - 5 AAC 92.108. IDENTIFIED BIG GAME PREY POPULATIONS AND OBJECTIVES. Adopt regulations identifying those ungulate populations that are important for providing high levels of harvest for human consumptive use, as follows:

For purposes of implementing AS 16.05.255 (e)-(g), the Board of Game has identified the following populations or portions of those populations as important for providing high levels of harvest for human consumptive use and has established the following population and harvest objectives:

Population	Finding	Population Objective	Harvest Objective
Deer			
GMU 1(A)	Positive		
GMU 1(B)	Negative		
GMU 1(C)	Positive		
GMU 1(D)	Negative		
GMU 2	Positive		
GMU 3	Positive		
GMU 4	Positive		
GMU 5	Negative		
<u>GMU 6</u>			
<u>GMU 8</u>			
Caribou			
<u>Adak</u>			
Beaver Mtn. Herd	Negative		
Central Arctic Herd	Positive		
Chisana Herd	Negative		
Delta Herd	Positive	6,000 - 8,000	300 - 500
Farewell/Big River	Negative		
Fortymile Herd	Positive		
Galena Mtn. Herd	Negative		
<u>Kenai Lowlands Herd</u>			
<u>Kenai Mountains Herd</u>			
<u>Killey River/Twin Lakes/ Fox River Herd</u>			
Macomb Herd	Positive	600 - 800	30 - 50
<u>Mentasta Herd</u>			
<u>Mulchatna Herd</u>			
Nelchina Herd	Positive	35[0],000 - 40,000	4,000 - 5,000
<u>Northern Alaska Peninsula Herd</u>			
<u>Nushagak Peninsula Herd</u>			
Porcupine Herd	Positive		
Rainy Pass Herd	Negative		
Ray Mountains Herd	Negative		
<u>Southern Alaska Peninsula Herd</u>			
Sunshine Mountain Herd	Negative		
Tonzona Herd	Negative		
White Mtn. Herd	Negative		
Wolf Mtn. Herd	Negative		
Moose			
GMU 1(A)	Negative		

GMU 1(B)-Stikine River	Negative		
GMU 1(B)-Thomas Bay	Negative		
GMU 1(C)-Berners Bay	Negative		
GMU 1(C)-Chilkat Range	Negative		
GMU 1(C)-Taku	Negative		
GMU 1(D)	Negative		
GMU 3	Negative		
GMU 5(A)-Nunatak Bench	Negative		
GMU 5(A)-Yakutat	Negative		
Forelands			
GMU 5(B)-Malaspina	Negative		
Forelands			
<u>GMU 6(A)</u>			
<u>GMU 6(B)</u>			
<u>GMU 6(C)</u>			
<u>GMU 6(D)</u>			
<u>GMU 7</u>			
<u>GMU 9(A)</u>			
<u>GMU 9(B)</u>			
<u>GMU 9(C)</u>			
<u>GMU 9(D)</u>			
<u>GMU 9(E)</u>			
<u>GMU 11</u>			
GMU 12	Positive		
<u>GMU 13(A)</u>			
<u>GMU 13(B)</u>			
<u>GMU 13(C)</u>			
<u>GMU 13(D)</u>			
<u>GMU 13(E)</u>			
<u>GMU 14(A)</u>			
<u>GMU 14(B)</u>			
<u>GMU 14(C)</u>			
<u>GMU 15(A)</u>			
<u>GMU 15(B)</u>			
<u>GMU 15(C)</u>			
<u>GMU 16(A)</u>			
<u>GMU 16(B)</u>			
<u>GMU 16(B) Kalgin Island</u>			
<u>GMU 17(A)</u>			
<u>GMU17(B)</u>			
<u>GMU 17(C)</u>			
GMU 19(A)	Positive		
GMU 19(B)	Positive		
GMU 19(C)	Negative		
GMU 19(D)-East	Positive	6,000 - 8,000	300 - 400
GMU 19(D)-remainder	Positive		
GMU 20(A)	Positive	10,000 - 12,000	300 - 500
GMU 20(B)	Positive		
GMU 20(C)-outside			
Denali	Positive		

GMU 20(D)	Positive	8,000 - 10,000	240 - 500
GMU 20(E)–Fortymile/ Ladue River Drainages	Positive		
GMU 20(E)-Yukon R	Negative		
GMU 20(F)	Negative		
GMU 21(A)	Negative		
GMU 21(B)	Negative		
GMU 21(C)	Negative		
GMU 21(D)	Positive		
GMU 21(E)	Positive		
GMU 24	Positive		
GMU 25(A)	Negative		
GMU 25(B)	Negative		
GMU 25(C)	Negative		
GMU 25(D)	Positive		
GMU 26(B)	Negative		
GMU 26(C)	Negative		

ISSUE: The board is directed by AS 16.05.255 (e)-(g) to adopt regulations providing for the intensive management of “identified big game prey populations” (defined as ungulate populations identified by the Board of Game that are important for providing for high levels of harvest for human consumptive use) as necessary to achieve “human consumptive use goals of the board.” To accomplish this the board must first identify the ungulate populations that are “important for providing high levels of human consumptive use.”

At the November 1997 meeting, the board decided to take a comprehensive approach to implementation of the intensive management law. At the January 1998 meeting, the board adopted regulations that provided specific criteria by which the board will determine which populations are important for providing high levels of human consumptive use. At the March 1998 meeting, the board applied those criteria to the Interior Region identified ungulate populations and made determinations as to which populations are important for providing high levels of human consumptive use. The same was done at the Fall 1998 meeting for Southeast Region populations. This proposal facilitates moving forward in the process and addressing which Southcentral Region populations are important for providing high levels of human consumptive use.

The second step in implementing AS 16.05.255 (e)-(g), where the board establishes “human consumptive use goals” for those populations, was not accomplished for the populations identified in this process. After the population identification process has been completed throughout the state, the board will examine the historic and current population size, historic and current human harvest, and hunter demand for each population. Based on this information, the board will establish population and harvest objectives for these populations. Once adopted by the board, these objectives will set the direction for management of these populations and establish standards by which the board and department can determine whether the population is depleted, or its productivity is reduced.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The board will continue to make decisions on intensive management in a reactive fashion. The department will not be able to plan effectively for intensive management. Important data needed by the board and the department may not be collected on some populations. Board decisions will be inconsistent and subject to legal challenge.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Everyone will benefit from having a clear understanding of which populations are important for providing high levels of human consumptive use and what the board's consumptive use goals are for these populations. Establishing these populations and objectives will enable the board and the department to develop long-term management plans, with public involvement, to ensure attainment of intensive management goals.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Do not codify the list of populations and objectives. This was rejected as it will not provide the same level of public participation in setting the objectives, nor ensure the objectives were as evident to all interested parties.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-99S-G-190)

PROPOSAL 226 - 5 AAC 92.450(9). DESCRIPTIONS OF GAME MANAGEMENT UNIT BOUNDARIES. Amend this regulation to provide the following:

Unit 9C: All land and water south of the Branch River, including Katmai National Park (not preserve).

ISSUE: Adjust subunit boundary between Units 9B, 9C to include everything north of the Alagnak River in Unit 9B.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Subsistence and sport hunters will be restricted in the harvest of Mulchatna caribou by regulations that are intended to protect or conserve Alaska Peninsula (Unit 9E) animals.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All subsistence hunters from Kakhonak as well as resident and nonresident caribou and bear hunters.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one. The geographic area and all the game animals within it as well as the climatic conditions are much more aligned with overall conditions in Units 9B than 9C.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Split the caribou and bear season in Unit 9C. Too cumbersome and confusing.

PROPOSED BY: Chris Goll (HQ-99S-G-009)

PROPOSAL 227 - 5 AAC 92.125(4)(C)(ii). WOLF PREDATION CONTROL IMPLEMENTATION PLAN. Amend this regulation as follows:

Stop the transplanting of wolves onto the Kenai Peninsula.

ISSUE: Historically wolves have not populated the Kenai Peninsula in any sizable amounts until the 1960s, and since then the wolves have populated most of the Peninsula without posing a threat to the game populations or private property.

In the spring of 1998, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game transplanted wolves from the Interior onto the Kenai Peninsula. This increase of wolves into an already balanced system is developing into the same problem which interior Alaska is already suffering from.

The Kenai Peninsula is an isolated ecosystem which is joined to the mainland by a small sliver of land, so an out-of-control predator population can have catastrophic effects on our game herds in a very short time.

The newly transplanted wolves have driven the wolves that once roamed in those areas into new areas causing over population or to the point where moose calf survival rates in some of these areas are at an all time low. Also the killing and destruction of personal property is at proportions never experienced on the Peninsula before.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? If the policy is not stopped, our game herds will continue to be reduced to the point of shorter season or closing certain areas to hunting. If hungry wolves continue destroying livestock, the Department of Fish and Game may soon be bogged down with compensation suits.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? People who hunt moose, caribou, sheep, and any other game animals that wolves eat. People who are trying to protect their private property from wolf attacks.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Steven J. Banse (SC-99S-G-046)

PROPOSAL 228 - 5 AAC 92.125(4)(C)(ii). WOLF PREDATION CONTROL IMPLEMENTATION. Amend this regulation as follows

Suspension of the forty-mile wolf control program should occur because the criteria for its execution have been met.

ISSUE: Suspend 5 AAC 92.125(4). Wolves have been translocated on to the Kenai as part of the wolf translocation and sterilization program. The state goal for wolf control is for the forty mile herd to grow by an annual rate of 5-10%. It has exceeded this amount in the past two years (10% from June 1996 – June 1997, and by 20% between June 1997, and June 1998). The herd has increased dramatically from 22,000 in 1990, to 31,000 in 1998.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? There is much concern over the long-term biological implications of continuing with a program that involves shredding a number of wolf family social systems through sterilization and translocation. There is little scientific justification for dumping wolves into areas already occupied by other wolves.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Wildlife Alliance

(SC-99S-G-071)

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

**FALL 1999 BOARD OF GAME MEETING
ARCTIC AND WESTERN REGION
October 22-26, 1999, Barrow, AK**

The Alaska Board of Game is accepting proposed changes to its regulations pertaining to hunting, trapping and the use of game in the *Arctic and Western Region* to be considered at the Fall 1999 board meeting. The Arctic and Western Region is composed of Game Management Units 18, 22, 23, and 26A.

DEADLINE FOR PROPOSALS: 5 PM, August 6, 1999

For Game Management Units 18, 22, 23, and 26A:

TRAPPING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS, **all species** (5 AAC, Chapter 84)
SUBSISTENCE AND GENERAL HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS, **all species**
except reauthorization of antlerless moose hunts (5AAC Chp 85 & 99)

*The following regulations will be considered for **only** Units 18, 22, 23, and 26A:*

- 5 AAC 92.046 Permits for Taking Incidental or Stranded Musk Oxen
- 5 AAC 92.067 Units 22, 23, and 26A Brown Bear Permits
- 5 AAC 92.108 Identified Big Game Prey Populations and Objectives
- 5 AAC 92.125 Wolf Control Implementation Plan
- 5 AAC 92.132 Bag Limit for Brown Bears
- 5 AAC 92.510 Areas Closed to Hunting
- 5 AAC 92.520 Closures and Restrictions in State Game Refuges
- 5 AAC 92.530 Management Areas
- 5 AAC 92.540 Controlled Use Areas
- 5 AAC 92.550 Areas Closed to Trapping

MAIL OR DELIVER PROPOSALS TO THE FOLLOWING OFFICES:

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P O Box 25526
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Susan Bucknell, ADF&G
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Sherrill Peterson, ADF&G
333 Raspberry Road
Anchorage, AK 99518-1599
PHONE: 267-2354
FAX: 267-2489

Proposal forms may be obtained from any office of the Boards Support Section. All proposals must contain an original signature. Please print or type the individual's name and an organizational name if appropriate. A fax is acceptable and considered an original. Proposals must be **received** in one of the above offices by the deadline (a postmark is **NOT** sufficient for timely receipt). Proposals are reviewed by the board's proposal review committee prior to publication. Language that is emotionally charged detracts from the substance of the proposal. It may draw opposition that may not be germane to the element(s) of the proposal and may elicit nonresponsive charges from the public/board members. The proposal review committee reserves the right to edit proposals containing offensive language. Following publication, proposal booklets will be available to advisory committees and interested members of the public for their review and comments. *If you are a person with a disability who may need a special modification in order to make a proposal, please call 465-6095 (1-800-478-2028 text telephone) no later than two weeks before the proposal deadline.*