

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH & GAME  
Boards Support Section  
PO Box 25526  
Juneau AK 99802-5526

FIRST CLASS  
POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
PERMIT 131  
JUNEAU, AK



**ALASKA BOARD OF GAME**  
**SPRING 2000**  
**MARCH 3 - 13, 2000**  
**FAIRBANKS, ALASKA**

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

*March 3*

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**O.E.O**

**U.S. 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 Margaret Edens at (907) 465-2027 no later than February 10, 2000 to make any necessary arrangements. To correspond by text telephone (TDD) call 1-800-478-2028.**

**ALASKA BOARD OF GAME  
SPRING 2000 PROPOSAL BOOK**

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**NOTE:**

**The Board of Game will review the status of three management plans and may consider recommendations and endorsement of these plans.**

**These are:**

- 1. Delta Bison Management Plan;**
- 2. Koyukuk River Moose Management Plan; and**
- 3. Fortymile Caribou Herd Harvest Plan.**

**Copies of current drafts of the plans can be obtained by contacting the Division of Wildlife Conservation; 12300 College Road; Fairbanks, AK 99701, or call (907) 459-7335.**

*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 2000** meeting concerning hunting and use of game in the Interior Region, **March 3 - 13, 2000** at the Wedgewood Resort in Fairbanks, Alaska. The proposals generally concern changes to hunting regulations in Interior 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 18, 2000**. Receipt by this date will assure that your written comments will be published in the board workbook. Comments received after February 18 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 2000 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 10, 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 December, 1999

	<u>Dates &amp; Location</u>	<u>Topic</u>
SPRING 2000	March 3 - 13, 2000 Fairbanks, AK	Interior Region
	Proposal Deadline: December 10, 1999 Comment Deadline: February 18, 2000	
FALL 2000	November 3 - 11, 2000 Juneau, AK	Southeast Region
	Proposal Deadline: August 4, 2000 Comment Deadline: October 13, 2000	
SPRING 2001	March 2 - 12, 2001 Anchorage, AK	Southcentral Region
	Proposal deadline: December 8, 2000 Proposal deadline: February 16, 2001	

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

<http://www.state.ak.us/local/akpages/FISH.GAME/boards/bordhome.htm>

\*See Board of Game's meeting cycle on pages **vi - vii** for list of statewide regulations that will be considered during the Winter 2002 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>		
<b>SOUTHEAST-REGION I</b> Game Management Units: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	Fall 2000	Fall 2002	Fall 2004
<b>SOUTHCENTRAL-REGION II</b> 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
<b>ARCTIC AND WESTERN-REGION V</b> Game Management Units: 18, 22, 23, 26A	Fall 1999	Fall 2001	Fall 2003
<b>INTERIOR-REGION III</b> 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
<b>**THE MEETING CYCLE REPEATS ITSELF ON TWO-YEAR INTERVALS</b>			

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, 2016, 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 December, 1999)

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Mike Fleagle P.O. Box 33 McGrath, AK 99627		1/31/02
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Eruk Williamson 12720 Lupine Rd. Anchorage, AK 99516		1/31/01

***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 2000 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

### ADVISORY COMMITTEE COORDINATORS

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---

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#### **Board Meeting Recording:**

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

#### **TDD**

**Phone:** 1-800-478-2028

#### **Email address:**

[margaret\\_edens@fishgame.state.ak.us](mailto:margaret_edens@fishgame.state.ak.us)

**TENTATIVE AGENDA**  
**BOARD OF GAME**  
**March 3 - 13, 2000**  
**WEDGEWOOD RESORT, FAIRBANKS, AK**

[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 3**

**8:30 AM**

**OPENING BUSINESS**

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

**STAFF REPORTS**

**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><b>DEADLINE FOR SIGN-UP TO TESTIFY IS: 12 NOON, SUNDAY, MARCH 5</b></p>
--

**Saturday, March 4**

**8:30 AM**

Continue public testimony

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

**Sunday, March 5 through Monday, March 13**

**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. Amend this regulation for beaver in Unit 21E as follows:

Allow beaver harvest by shooting and trapping in Unit 21E from Nov. 1 – June 10, no limit.

**ISSUE:** Beaver shooting for spring.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Trapping for beaver is almost nonexistent because of the price. Beaver population is at an all time high with little trapping being done. Spring shooting is more effective and less of an expense.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** People who want beaver in the early spring when the fur is at its prime.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** None.

**PROPOSED BY:** GASH Advisory Committee (HQ-OOS-G-014)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 2** - 5 AAC 84.270(5). FUR BEARER TRAPPING. Lengthen the trapping season for lynx in Units 12 and 20E as follows:

Nov. 1 – Mar. 15 – Limit of five lynx in November and snare only after February 28.

**ISSUE:** Limited lynx trapping season. Propose lengthening lynx season from Nov. 1 to Mar. 15. Snare only after February 28.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Incidental catch of lynx prior to December 1 will not be reported. Although fur is generally not prime until December, some trappers catch lynx inadvertently while targeting other furbearers. These animals may not be tagged until December, however.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Trappers and consumers of lynx fur and meat.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** N/A.

**PROPOSED BY:** Upper Tanana/Fortymile Advisory Committee (I-OOS-G-033)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 3** - 5 AAC 84.270(5). FURBEARER TRAPPING. Amend this regulation to extend the maximum lynx season from February 28 to March 15 in Units 12, 19, 21, 24, and 25 and impose a 5 lynx bag limit during November in Units 12, 20, and 25C.

UNIT	OPEN SEASON	BAG LIMIT
(5) Lynx		
...		
Units 12, 20, and 25(C )	Nov. 1- <del>Nov. 30</del> [FEB. 28]	<u>5 lynx; season may be closed by emergency order.</u>
	<u>Dec. 1- Mar. 15</u>	No limit; season may be closed by emergency order.
Unit 19	Nov. 1- <u>Mar. 15</u> [FEB. 28]	No limit.
Unit 21	Nov. 1- <u>Mar. 15</u> [FEB. 28]	No limit.
Units 22 and 26	Nov. 1-Apr. 15	No limit.
Unit 23	Dec. 1-Jan. 15	Three per season
Unit 24	Nov. 1- <u>Mar. 15</u> [FEB. 28]	No limit.
Remainder of Unit 25	Nov. 1- <u>Mar. 15</u> [FEB. 28]	No limit.
...		

**ISSUE:** Lynx are managed in Units 12, 20A, 20B, portions of 20C, 20D, and 20E following the lynx tracking harvest strategy since 1992. That strategy is designed to afford the greatest protection to lynx populations during the low part of their population cycle to allow for a more rapid and larger growth phase. Trappers are supportive of this management strategy when the lynx population is low. Many trappers desire a longer season than what was offered during the previous lynx cycle during the lynx population highs.

Longer seasons during lynx population highs are biologically permissible. Since the tracking strategy was adopted, the department has tried to schedule the trapping season during the period when lynx are the most prime. Although fur quality varies between areas and years and generally is not as valuable in November and early March, there is no biological reason to restrict trapping opportunity during these months when the lynx population can support it.



Recreational and beginning trappers who generally take few lynx use the November period most often. Marten and fox trappers also take small numbers of lynx incidentally during November. Opening the November season under a bag limit will allow incidental catch to be utilized. This would be a fair compromise between the recreational trapper to whom fur quality is not the most important consideration and commercial/subsistence trappers who want to maximize the economic value of their harvest. The March season would primarily be used by serious long line trappers only in areas where the lynx pelts hold their quality.

This regulatory change still meets the criteria of the lynx tracking harvest strategy. Lynx trapping seasons will continue to be restricted where conservative harvest is appropriate. This includes areas where trapping pressure is relatively high and/or where natural refugia from trapping are few or nonexistent, as well as when fur prices are high. This ensures that trapping pressure during the lynx population lows does not limit population growth. This proposal only offers more trapping opportunity during the lynx population highs.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Trapping opportunity will be lost. Incidental take will not be utilized in the most efficient manner.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** All lynx trappers.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** None.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-00S-G-068)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 4 - 5 AAC 85.010(3). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR BISON.**  
Create a muzzleloader only season in Unit 20D as follows:

Oct. 1 – March 31. Residents only. Buffalo may be taken with .58 caliber or larger, shooting at least 560 gr. bullets.

**ISSUE:** I would like to see a muzzleloader season for buffalo in Unit 20D and any other units that have buffalo permits available.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Nothing – it will make muzzleloader shooters unhappy.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Muzzleloader hunters.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?**

**PROPOSED BY:** Lewis R. Holmes (HQ-00W-G-035)  
(HQ-00S-G-008)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 5** - 5 AAC 85.020. HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR BROWN BEAR. Extend the general hunt season by two weeks in Units 21D and 24. Increase the bag limit to one brown bear every year in Units 21D and 24.

Unit and Bag Limit	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
...		
(19)		
...		
Unit 21(D)		
1 bear every regulatory year by registration permit	Sept. 1-May 31 (Subsistence hunt only)	No open season
1 bear every [4] regulatory year[S]	Sept. 1- <u>June 15</u> [MAY 31]	Sept. 1- <u>June 15</u> [MAY 31]
...		
(22)		
Unit 24		
1 bear every regulatory year by registration permit	Sept. 1-May 31 (Subsistence hunt only)	No open season
1 bear every [4] regulatory year[S]	Sept. 1- <u>June 15</u> [MAY 31]	Sept. 1- <u>June 15</u> [MAY 31]

**ISSUE:** The current season ends on May 31 and leaves little time for hunting after break-up of rivers makes access possible. This would provide increased hunting opportunity on a resource that is being utilized below maximum sustainable harvest objectives. Average annual harvest in Units 21(B,C,D) and Unit 24 are 12 and 16 bears respectively, while the sustainable harvest can support up to 35 and 25 bears for the same two units.

The current bag limit is one bear every four regulatory years. This proposal would also change the bag limit to one bear every year for those hunters not hunting under a Northwest Alaska Brown Bear Management Area permit. This change would also provide increased hunting opportunity on a resource that is being utilized below maximum sustainable harvest objectives.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Hunters will be denied hunting opportunity.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Brown bear hunters.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one. General hunting opportunity is increased for residents and nonresidents while the subsistence provisions under the Northwest Alaska Brown Bear Management Area are maintained.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** No changes.

**Note:** This proposal is part of the Koyukuk River moose management planning effort being conducted by the Department in cooperation with the advisory committee based Koyukuk River Moose Hunters' Working Group. A few of the proposals may require modification based on final discussions between the Working Group and Department. To evaluate the complete package of proposals stemming from this planning effort refer to the following proposals:

1. Moose: Change the moose general hunt regulations in Units 21D and 24 within the Koyukuk Controlled Use Area (KCUA) from the RM 830 registration hunt to two drawing hunts and expand the area of the drawing hunt and RM 832 registration hunt to the entire controlled use area. The Working Group has recommended that the drawing hunt be split into two hunt periods for the early and later part of the season, and the Department can implement this split season through discretionary permit hunt authority.
2. Moose: Reauthorization of the cow harvests in Units 21D and 24. This proposal will reauthorize all the cow harvests; however, the Working Group has recommended the Department use permit discretionary authority to not provide for a cow harvest in the general hunt in the KCUA. Additional discussions may result in the recommendation to further restrict cow harvest in the fall hunt.
3. Moose: Open the RM 832 subsistence registration season 5 days earlier (Aug. 27). The Working Group has recommended opening and closing the RM 832 season 5 days earlier to make the season Aug. 27-Sept. 20. If this proposal is adopted with the season ending date of Sept. 25, the Department can end the season on Sept. 20 through discretionary permit hunt authority. If the proposal were written to end the season on Sept. 20 through regulation, the Department would not have discretion to add the five days back on the end of the season. The approach used in this proposal will maintain flexibility to return to the Sept. 1- Sept. 25 season, should a major increase in participation in the early hunt occur and threaten sustainability of the harvest. The Working Group has also recommended submitting a proposal to the Federal Subsistence Board to align the federal and state subsistence seasons.
4. Customary and Traditional Uses of Moose: Re-examine the amounts reasonably necessary for subsistence uses of moose in Units 21 and 24.
5. Black bear (in 5 AAC 92.085(4)(A). Unlawful Methods of Taking Big Game; Exceptions): Allow black bear baiting during the fall hunting season in the portion of Units 21D and 24 within the KCUA.

6. Brown bear: Increase the bag limit to one bear per year in the general hunt in Units 21D and 24 and extend the season to June 15.

**PROPOSED BY:** ADF&G on behalf of the Koyukuk River Moose Hunters' Working Group  
(HQ-00S-G-074)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 6** - 5 AAC 85.020(17). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR BROWN BEAR. Change the brown bear season in Unit 19B to match the season in Unit 19A as follows:

Unit 19A and 19B residents and nonresidents: one bear every four regulatory years. Open season: Sept. 1- May 31.

**ISSUE:** Change the brown/grizzly bears season in Unit 19B to match the season in Unit 19A.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** The moose population will continue to decline in Unit 19B as a result of predation by increasing numbers of brown/grizzly bears.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Residents and nonresidents that would like a greater opportunity to harvest a brown/grizzly bear. Residents and nonresidents that would like continued opportunity to harvest moose.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** None considered.

**PROPOSED BY:** Wayne Woods (HQ-OOS-G-022)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 7** - 5 AAC 85.020(17). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR BROWN BEAR. Amend this regulation in Units 19A, 19B, 19C, and 19D as follows:

Brown bear seasons open September 1 and close May 25.

**ISSUE:** The brown bear season in Unit 19B is too short and should be consistent with Units 19A, 19C and 19D. We need to alleviate the confusion within this unit on bear seasons. This will increase hunters' chances of taking a brown bear and increase the moose population.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Confusion will continue over mixed opening and closing seasons. We will watch the moose/calf population decline due to a limited bear season. Hunters will continue to have a short bear season, i.e., 90% of the hunting is over by October 5 due to winter weather conditions that limit accessibility by aircraft.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** All resident and nonresident hunters.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Another solution was to open the season earlier than September 1. I felt this would be rejected because the board would not accept it.

**PROPOSED BY:** Bob Adams (HQ-OOS-G-035)

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**PROPOSAL 8** - 5 AAC 85.020(17). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR BROWN BEAR. Change the season dates in Unit 19 B as follows:

Unit 19B one bear every 4 regulatory years, Sept. 1 – May 31 [SEPT. 10 – MAY.25]

**ISSUE:** Predation causing moose numbers to drop in Units 19A and 19B. Wolves and bears are in large numbers in these units and the problem is serious.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Moose populations will continue to decrease and all human user groups will not have a reasonable chance of success when hunting.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** The moose population will have less pressure on it and moose hunters will benefit. Bear hunters will be able to hunt 10 days earlier as they can in Unit 19A.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one, the brown bear population has exploded.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Aerial wolf hunts by ADF&G and the general population. The governor will not allow it and the judicial and legislative branches will not force him to work for the benefit of all Alaskans. Lower tag fee for brown bear.

**PROPOSED BY:** Doug Carney (HQ-OOS-G-002)

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**PROPOSAL 9** - 5 AAC 85.020(17). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR BROWN BEAR. Change the season dates in Unit 19B as follows:

Increase the number of days for brown bear nonresident hunting in Unit 19B by 10 days. Instead of beginning on September 10 the new regulation would open the season on September 1 (it would also be in conjunction then with Unit 19A).

**ISSUE:** Presently the brown bear season for nonresidents in Unit 19B opens on September 10. The season for this unit needs to be extended so the opening date is September 1. Due to the substantial increase in the brown bear population in Unit 19B, this season needs to be extended by 10 days. Observations this year, after flying some 150 hours within a thirty (30) mile radius of my lodge (located nine miles from Sparrvoehn), is that our moose population is down considerably. The worst I have seen in thirty years. I equate this problem in part to the increased number of brown bears in the area.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** If this problem is allowed to continue, the moose population will be depleted ever more.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** The moose would benefit from this change in regulation as now the bear are taking too many of our moose.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one would suffer from this change in regulation.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** I have not considered any other solution in trying to solve this problem.

**PROPOSED BY:** Gary Pogany (HQ-OOS-G-024)  
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**PROPOSAL 10** - 5 AAC 85.020(18). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR BROWN BEAR. Extend the season in Unit 20A as follows:

Grizzly bear season opens Sept. 1 [SEPT. 10] – May 31.

**ISSUE:** Grizzly bear season opening on Sept. 10.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Steady increase of bear population.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Opening week moose hunters.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?**

**PROPOSED BY:** Middle Nenana River Advisory Committee (I-OOS-G-015)  
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**PROPOSAL 11** - 5 AAC 85.020(18). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR BROWN BEAR and 5 AAC 92.132. BAG LIMIT FOR BROWN BEARS. Amend these regulations in Units 20A and 20C as follows:

1 bear every 2 consecutive years, Sept. 10 – May 31.

**ISSUE:** Four year waiting period for successful bear hunters.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Steady increase in bear population.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Moose calves, bear hunters, State of Alaska.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?**

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** One boar grizzly every two years or one sow grizzly every four years seemed to confuse some people.

**PROPOSED BY:** Brent Keith (I-OOS-G-013)  
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**PROPOSAL 12** - 5 AAC 85.020(18) and (19). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR BROWN BEAR and 5 AAC 92.132. BAG LIMITS FOR BROWN BEARS and 5 AAC 92.015. TAG FEE EXEMPTIONS. Amend these regulations in Units 20F, and 21B and 21C as follows:

Allow one brown/grizzly bear every year instead of one every four years and to allow residents to dispose of the animal within the community without the tag. To dispose of bears within the community means that the animals would not leave the community.

**ISSUE:** Human bear conflict and predation on moose.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Declining moose population and More confrontations that may lead to loss of life.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Village residents and other rural residents living in the same areas as brown/grizzly bears.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** There are no other solutions except to kill the animal when in a life threatening situation.

**PROPOSED BY:** Tanana-Rampart-Manley Advisory Committee (I-OOS-G-009)  
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**PROPOSAL 13** - 5 AAC 85.045(18) and (23). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Amend this regulation as follows:

Open up surrounding units in the Fairbanks area (such as 20B, 20C, 20D, and 25C) for late season hunting with antler restrictions in order to increase hunting opportunity and to spread out hunting pressure.

**ISSUE:** Hunting pressure and bull:cow ratios in Unit 20A for moose.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Bull:cow ratios will continue to drop and hunters will continue to be restricted as a result of this.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Fairbanks area hunters.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** None.

**PROPOSED BY:** Mike Chapin (I-OOS-G-055)  
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**PROPOSAL 18** - 5 AAC 85.020(24). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR BROWN BEAR. Amend this regulation in Unit 26B as follows:

Residents and nonresidents – one bear every four regulatory years (no drawing permit) Aug. 10 – May 31.

**ISSUE:** Nonresident grizzly bear spring season needs to be reopened with no drawing for permits. This would mean all subunits in the game management unit have the same season dates.

The spring season was recently closed in Unit 26B by ADF&G to punish several guides who operate in this area. The department maintained that the guides went against their management goals and over harvested bears during the fall 1996/1997 seasons. Not only did the harvest exceed the number of bears targeted by the department but the nonresident guided hunters took a large number of sows.

The 1998/1999 grizzly bear season harvest has returned to its desired quota and the population in Unit 26B seems to be as healthy as ever. Grizzly populations in neighboring subunits east and west of Unit 26B are quite high. Recently ADF&G proposed a "one bear every year" change to Unit 26A which adjoins Unit 26B. These bears roam a large portion of the North Slope during the spring/summer/fall seasons. Since these animals know no boundaries how can one unit be managed so differently than another.

Traditionally, only a few guides conduct spring grizzly bear hunts in Unit 26B. Older mature bears are the target of the spring hunts since these are the first bears to emerge from dens. Spring hunting of bears in the Brooks Range gives the guide a greater chance of viewing mature boars thus allowing for a more desirable harvest.

By restricting the nonresident grizzly hunter to a fall only season you have in fact cut out the best tool the guide has in assuring the selection of the older mature boars.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Traditional spring grizzly season for nonresident hunters will cease. Economic impact on local guides who traditionally spring bear hunt.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Hunters and guides, also calf survival in moose. Muskox and caribou will benefit.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?**

**PROPOSED BY:** Dave Neel

(I-OOS-G-036)

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**PROPOSAL 19** - 5 AAC 85.025. HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR CARIBOU.  
 Reduce the length of the season for caribou in the Rainy Pass Herd.

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
...		
(11)		
Unit 16		
1 bull	Aug. 10- <u>Sept. 20</u> [OCT. 10] (General hunt only)	Aug. 10- <u>Sept. 20</u> [OCT. 10]
...		
(14)		
...		
Unit 19(C)		
1 bull	Aug. 10- <u>Sept. 20</u> [OCT. 10] (General hunt only)	Aug. 10- <u>Sept. 20</u> [OCT. 10]
...		

**ISSUE:** The current caribou season in Units 19C and 16B extends the harvest of bulls into the rutting season, when bull caribou meat quality is undesirable. The reason the season currently extends into the rut is that prior to 1992 the bag limit was one caribou which allowed hunters to hunt cows after Sept. 20. In 1992, the bag limit was changed from one caribou to one bull, because of Department concerns for a potential over-harvest in Unit 19C. The longer fall caribou season is an artifact of the pre-1990 moose season in Unit 19C that ended on October 10. Shortening this fall season to prevent the taking of bull caribou during a period when the meat is undesirable would be consistent with management of other caribou herds in interior Alaska.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** The caribou herds in Unit 19C will continue to be harvested during periods when the meat is undesirable.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Hunters to whom meat quality is an important part of the hunt.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Hunters to whom meat quality is not an important part of the hunt.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Maintain the status quo.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-00S-G-073)  
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**PROPOSAL 20** - 5 AAC 85.025. HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR CARIBOU. Change the caribou bag limit from 1 bull to 1 caribou for the hunting seasons in Units 20F and 24 in the Ray Mountains, change the boundaries, and change the season.

<b>Units and Bag Limits</b>	<b>Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)</b>	<b>Nonresident Open Season</b>
(15)		
...		
Unit 20(F), <u>north of the Yukon River</u> [TOZITNA RIVER DRAINAGE]		
RESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 caribou [; ONLY BULL CARIBOU MAY BE TAKEN DURING THE AUG. 10-SEPT. 30 SEASON; CARIBOU OF EITHER SEX MAY BE EITHER SEX MAY BE TAKEN DURING THE DEC. 1-DEC. 10 AND MAR. 1-MAR. 15 SEASONS]	<u>Aug. 10—Mar. 31</u> [AUG. 10-SEPT. 30] (GENERAL HUNT ONLY) [DEC. 1-DEC. 10] [(GENERAL HUNT ONLY)] [MAR. 1-MAR. 15] [(GENERAL HUNT ONLY)]	
NONRESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 <u>caribou</u> [BULL]		Aug. 10-Sept. 30
[REMAINDER OF UNIT 20(F)]		
[1 BULL]	[AUG. 10-SEPT. 30] [(GENERAL HUNT ONLY)]	[AUG. 10-SEPT. 30] [(GENERAL HUNT ONLY)]
...		
(19)		
...		
Unit 24, <u>south of the south bank</u> <u>of the Kanuti River and East of the</u> <u>Allakaket-Tanana Trail</u> [THE KANUTI RIVER DRAINAGE UPSTREAM FROM KANUTI CHALATNA CREEK, THE FISH CREEK DRAINAGE (INCLUDING BONANZA CREEK), AND THAT PORTION OF 25(D) DRAINED BY THE WEST FORK OF THE DALL RIVER WEST OF 150 W. LONG.]		

1 caribou [BULL]

Aug. 10—Mar 31  
[SEPT. 30]

Aug. 10-Sept. 30

Remainder of Unit 24

**RESIDENT HUNTERS:**

5 caribou per day; however, cow  
caribou may not be taken  
May 16-June 30

July 1-June 30

**NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:**

5 caribou; cow caribou may not  
be taken May 16-June 30

July 1-June 30

...

**ISSUE:** Poor access causes harvest to be extremely low in the Ray Mountains Caribou Herd. Population size of the Ray Mountains Herd has increased three to four fold since the bag limit of one bull was established in the mid-1980s. The herd now numbers about 2,000 and reported harvest during the last 4 hunting seasons (1995-1998) has been 0. Prior to 1995, reported harvest ranged from 2 to 9 bulls annually. We know there is some unreported harvest, particularly in the vicinity of the Rapids during the fall, and north of Tanana in the winter hunt, but the total harvest probably does not exceed 20 per year. The herd is inaccessible in summer, and the few hunters are mostly residents who fly in from Fairbanks and locals who live nearby. With the difficult access and weather conditions, and very low harvest, there is no reason to place the added burden of sex identification on hunters. In both of these herds, weather is more favorable for hunting in August because access is primarily through ridge-top landing strips. During this time of year, caribou are scattered and difficult to find, and most people are probably hunting for meat. From 33 to 8 hunters per year reported hunting in the Ray Mountains, Galena Mountain, and Wolf Mountain herds (combined) from 1990 to 1997, and reported hunting pressure has been declining. (The bag limit in the Galena and Wolf Mountain herd is already 1 caribou.)

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Hunters making the effort to go to the Ray Mountains Herd will continue to have the unnecessary burden of having to correctly identify and shoot bull caribou only. Confusion over the boundaries on the northern portion of the hunt area will continue. There will be reduced hunting opportunity with the existing seasons.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** A few hunters who make the effort to hunt this remote caribou herd.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** People opposed to hunting female caribou.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** None.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-00S-G-084)

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**PROPOSAL 21** - 5 AAC 85.025. HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR CARIBOU. Change the 1 bull bag limit to 1 caribou during the fall season, liberalize the winter season, and adjust the area open to hunting for the White Mountain Caribou Herd.

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
...		
(15)		
...		
Units 20(B) and 20(F), those portions north and west of the Steese Highway, north and east of the Elliot <u>Highway to its intersection with the [and] Dalton Highway[s], then east of the Dalton Highway</u> and south of the Yukon River.		
1 caribou per regulatory year, only as follows:		
1 <u>caribou</u> [bull]	Aug. 10-Sept. 20 (General hunt only)	Aug. 10-Sept. 20
1 caribou by registration permit only; up to 100 caribou may be taken	<u>Nov. 1</u> [FEB. 1]-Mar. 31 (General hunt only)	<u>Nov. 1</u> [FEB. 1] -Mar 31
...		
(20)		
...		
Unit 25(C), those portions <u>west of the east bank of the main stem of Preacher Creek to its confluence with American Creek, then west of the east bank of American Creek.</u> [NORTH AND WEST OF THE STEESE HIGHWAY]		
1 caribou per regulatory year, only as follows:		

1 <u>caribou</u> [BULL]	Aug. 10-Sept. 20 (General hunt only)	Aug. 10-Sept. 20
1 caribou by registration permit only; up to 100 caribou may be taken	<u>Nov. 1</u> [FEB. 1] -Mar. 31 (General hunt only)	<u>Nov. 1</u> [FEB. 1] -Mar. 31

...

**ISSUE:** Poor access and the one bull bag limit causes fall harvest to be low and poor access and scattered caribou distribution in black spruce forests makes winter hunting of White Mountains caribou very difficult. The White Mountains Herd has increased since the bag limit of one bull was established in the mid-1980s and now numbers about 1,200. Total (fall and winter hunts) reported annual harvest averaged 18 in the White Mountains Herd for the 1994-95 thru 1998-99 seasons. Currently, the estimated sustainable harvest is 50 bulls and 40 cows. With the difficult access and low harvest, there is no reason to place the added burden of sex identification on hunters during the fall.

The winter hunt in the White Mountains has been progressively liberalized since it began in 1990-91. However, the total reported harvest since the inception of the winter hunt has been 11 caribou. Until the 1998-99 season, the winter hunt was by drawing permit only. During the new registration hunt during February and March 1999 the reported harvest was one caribou. Success has been poor because the caribou are distributed in small groups in dense black spruce forests and often the weather conditions during February make extended trips to isolated areas hazardous.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Hunters making the effort to go to the White Mountains to hunt caribou during the fall will continue to have the unnecessary burden of having to correctly identify and shoot a bull caribou. An opportunity to expand wintering hunting will be lost if motorized access to hunt White Mountains caribou is limited to the month of February.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Hunters who desire added opportunity to harvest caribou from the White Mountains Herd.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Trappers in the area may have to alter their practices. Additional motorized activities may increase user conflicts.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Having the winter season during February and March only.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-00S-G-082)

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**PROPOSAL 22** - 5 AAC 85.025.(15) HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR CARIBOU. Change the quotas and bag limits in portions of Units 20B, 20D, 20E and 25C beginning in Regulatory Year 2001-2002. This regulation would not take effect in regulatory year 2000-2001.

UNITS AND BAG LIMITS	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and GENERAL HUNTS)	Nonresident OPEN SEASON
...		
(15)		
...		
Unit 20(B), that portion south and east of the Steese Highway	[AUG. 10-SEPT. 20]	[AUG. 10-SEPT. 20]
<u>RESIDENT HUNTERS:</u> 1 <u>caribou</u> [BULL] by registration permit only; up to <u>300 caribou</u> [50 BULLS] may be taken <u>under combined resident and nonresident bag</u> in combination with Unit 20(D), that portion north of the south bank of the Tanana River <u>and Unit 20(E), that portion within the Middle Fork of the Fortymile River and Charley River drainages</u>	<u>Aug. 10-Sept. 20</u> <u>(General hunt only)</u>	
<u>NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:</u> <u>1 bull by registration permit only;</u>	<u>Aug. 10-Sept. 20</u>	
Unit 20(D), that portion north of the south bank of the Tanana River	[AUG. 10-SEPT. 20]	[AUG. 10-SEPT. 20]
<u>RESIDENT HUNTERS:</u> 1 <u>caribou</u> [BULL] by registration permit only; up to <u>300 caribou</u> [50 BULLS] may be taken <u>under combined resident and nonresident bag</u> in combination with Unit 20(B), that portion south and east of the Steese Highway <u>and Unit 20(E), that portion within the Middle Fork of the Fortymile River and Charley</u>	<u>Aug. 10-Sept. 20</u>	

River drainages

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull by registration permit only;

Aug. 10-Sept. 20

...

Unit 20(E), that portion within the Middle Fork of the Fortymile River and Charley River drainages.

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 caribou by registration permit only; up to 300 caribou may be taken under combined resident and nonresident bag in combination with Unit 20(B), that portion south and east of the Steese Highway and Unit 20(D), that portion north of the south bank of the Tanana River

Aug. 10-Sept. 30

Dec. 1-Feb. 28

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull by registration permit only;

Aug. 10-Sept. 20

Remainder of Unit 20(E)

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 caribou [BULL] by registration permit only; up to 900 caribou [450 BULLS] may be taken under combined resident and nonresident bag

Aug. 10-Sept. 30

Dec. 1-Feb. 28

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull by registration permit only;

Aug. 10-Sept. 20

[NO OPEN SEASON]

...

(20)

...

Remainder of Unit 25(C)

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 caribou [BULL] by registration permit only; up to 600 [450 BULLS] may be taken under combined resident and nonresident bag

Aug. 10-Sept. 30  
Dec. 1-Feb. 28

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:  
1 bull by registration permit only;

Aug. 10-Sept. 20  
[NO OPEN SEASON.]

...

**ISSUE:** Since 1996, the Fortymile caribou herd has been managed following the recommendations outlined in the Fortymile Caribou Management Plan (Plan). Herd recovery into traditional range was the Plan's primary goal. The three management components used to reach the goal were reduced harvest, nonlethal wolf control, and habitat management. The Fortymile herd has increased from 22,588 caribou to 33,110, an average annual increase of 12% since the Plan's inception. Pending no severe adverse climatic conditions, the herd is expected to grow to over 45,000 caribou by year 2001.

From 1996 through 2000, Fortymile caribou harvest in Alaska was limited to 150 bulls and in Yukon there was no hunting for Fortymile caribou including a volunteer moratorium of subsistence harvest by the Yukon First Nations. Following termination of the Plan in 2001, the Plan recommends that the harvest quota be increased to at least 2% but restrictions should still remain that will maintain harvest below the sustainable level to ensure continued herd growth and recovery.

Using the Plan's recommendations as guidelines, the five advisory committees (Central, Delta, Eagle, Fairbanks, and Upper Tanana/Fortymile) which represent the area inhabited by the Fortymile herd, cooperatively developed the Fortymile Caribou Harvest Plan (Harvest Plan). This coalition of advisory committees (AC coalition) incorporated input collected from the Alaskan public, other state advisory committees and federal regional councils, state and federal agencies, and the Fortymile Caribou Management Team into the Harvest Plan. This proposal follows the recommendations outlined in the Harvest Plan.

The Harvest Plan recommends harvest management that furthers the goal of continued growth of the Fortymile herd and its recovery to traditional range in Alaska and Yukon, Canada. The objective for annual herd growth recommended in the Harvest Plan was 10%. The majority of the responding public supported this objective. As herd size increases, it is expected the herd will begin to expand its movements to traditional ranges not used for 10-40 years.

A Fortymile caribou harvest plan is concurrently being developed in Yukon. The Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board and AC coalition has maintained a close working relationship and together has agreed to the same herd population and harvest goals. Both harvest plans recommend a conservative annual harvest rate of about 3% to be divided between Alaska and Yukon. Of the total harvest, 65% will be allocated to Alaska and 35% to the Yukon. The Yukon Board has stated that there is little chance of a significant harvest in Yukon until the herd begins crossing the Yukon River. Yukon residents want to ensure the herd's return to the Yukon prior to



beginning harvest. Caribou allocated to Yukon, which are not harvested, will be allocated to herd growth.

The AC coalition realizes that Fortymile caribou are harvested across its range and a dependable quota by area is important for many people. Also, many people rely on the herd during the winter and have little access to the herd during the fall. To meet these needs, the annual harvest will be allocated between the fall and winter seasons, with approximately 25% being saved for the winter. The winter season has been traditionally a resident subsistence hunt. Even when nonresident hunting for Fortymile caribou was legal, few nonresidents participated in the winter hunt. Based on this hunt history, the AC coalition recommends that nonresidents are not allowed to participate in the Fortymile caribou winter hunt.

Fortymile caribou harvest by nonresidents during the fall season has historically been low (<5%). The AC coalition recommends allowing nonresidents to participate during the fall hunt but reduced the possibility of competition with Alaska subsistence hunters by recommending a shorter season and restricting the bag limit to one bull. If competition between nonresidents and Alaska resident subsistence hunters proves to be too high along the road and trail systems during the first two years of the hunt, than nonresident hunting should be further restricted to the remote portions of the herd's range in Units 20B, 20D, and 20E.

The Fortymile herd's range can effectively be subdivided into three areas to meet fall harvest needs. Allocation to each area was determined using historical take and herd migration. Under these criteria, 35% of the harvest was allocated to the Steese Highway/Central area (including the Preacher Creek drainages), 15% to Salcha, Goodpaster, Charley, and Middle Fork Fortymile drainages, and 50% to the Taylor Highway area. The proposed starting harvest quotas in 2001 and 2002 are up to 875 and 1300 caribou, respectively. The actual quotas will be determined based on herd size and trend. During years the herd growth rate objective is not met, the harvest quota will be maintained at the level of the previous year for at least one year. The proposed unit quotas are high enough to meet best scenario harvest quotas through year 2006 or when the herd exceeds 73,000 caribou.

It was the desire of the AC coalition and all individuals and groups who have commented on the harvest plan to have a one caribou bag limit. Fish and Wildlife Protection officers responsible for monitoring the Fortymile hunt also desire a one caribou bag limit. Biologically, a one caribou bag limit should not affect the herd population objective of 10% annual growth. Using harvest data collected from other hunts around the state with a one caribou or any caribou bag limit, bulls comprise about 75% of the harvest. The current bull:cow ratio in the Fortymile herd is comparable to non-hunted herds due to low harvests and high adult survival the past four years.

The Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) does not think a one caribou bag limit will cause an excessive cow harvest but will closely monitor to ensure excessive cow harvest does not occur. There are periods during the fall when the herd can be more segregated and a greater number of cows may be vulnerable to harvest. The intention of the one caribou bag limit is to reduce illegal kill and to allow hunters to select for cows when the meat quality of bulls is of lower quality. To protect against the chance of an overharvest of cows, the AC coalition recommends a cow quota of 25% of the harvest quota. A portion of the cow quota will be allocated to the winter season.

The Fortymile caribou hunts will be monitored using registration permits at least during 2001 and 2002. Under this hunt management, ADF&G will be able to close hunts once the quotas are met. Registration permits will be available from more locations to ease the administration burden on hunters. During the past 5 years, permits were only available from limited locations in Tok, Eagle, Central, Delta, and Fairbanks.

The proposed unit quotas are for Fortymile caribou only. Periodically, portions of the Nelchina, Porcupine, Mentasta, White Mountain, and Macomb herds are within the Fortymile caribou hunt area. If necessary, these herds will be given protection from harvest by closing portions of the hunt area.

After much discussion with protection officers, biologists, and hunters, the AC coalition decided the best method to manage road crossings and the possibility of excessive harvest would be for the ADF&G to enact temporary closures in areas where significant number of caribou are crossing. This method is currently being used along the Dempster Highway in Yukon when the Porcupine herd migrates across. Hunters who are disabled and qualify for special licensing will be exempt from closures along the Taylor and Steese Highways.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Hunting opportunity will be lost. Hunters will not be rewarded for their voluntary harvest reduction between 1996 and 2001.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Fortymile caribou hunters and people who support continued herd growth. Local economies in many rural communities within the herd's range will benefit from more hunters visiting the area. Increased hunter opportunity in the Fortymile range will reduce pressure on other roadside caribou herds and possibly reduce competition between hunters in these areas.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** People who support reduced hunting of the Fortymile caribou herd.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** The AC coalition received a recommendation to maintain the Fortymile herd at 50,000 caribou using harvest as the management method. To meet this objective increased harvest would have to begin in 2000, one year before the completion of the Plan. The AC coalition and the majority of the responding public decided against this recommendation because of the commitments made during development and implementation of the Plan and to the public's desires for continued herd growth and recovery to traditional ranges in Alaska and Yukon.

The AC coalition also received recommendations to increase harvest but at a slower rate than outlined in the Harvest Plan. The AC coalition decided against this suggestion because the proposed harvest in the Harvest Plan allowed for moderate to high herd growth (10%) meeting the herd population objective and offered hunters opportunity to utilize this important subsistence resource fulfilling the promise made in the Plan.

**PROPOSED BY:** AC Coalition and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-00S-G-088)

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**PROPOSAL 23** - 5 AAC 85.025(15). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR CARIBOU. Amend this regulation in Unit 20 to include the following:

The bull caribou permit hunt would be the boundary east of California Creek in the Ferry Management Area. North and south boundaries would read the same as is.

**ISSUE:** Bull caribou permit in Unit 20A. The decline of caribou in Ferry Management Area between Nenana River and California Creek.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Caribou never have a chance to survive in the Ferry Management Area on West Side of California Creek.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Future caribou hunters, our children and grandchildren.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one - hunters travel to the east of California Creek because of easy access.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?**

**PROPOSED BY:** Middle Nenana River Advisory Committee (HQ-OOS-G-018)  
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**PROPOSAL 24** - 5 AAC 85.025(15). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR CARIBOU. Amend this regulation in Unit 20A as follows:

One bull caribou by permit. Residents only, must prove they receive permanent fund dividend.

**ISSUE:** Bull caribou permit in Unit 20A for Alaska residents only. There are only 100 permits should be for residents only.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** More nonresidents will be getting permits.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Alaska residents.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Nonresidents.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?**

**PROPOSED BY:** Lolita Valcq (HQ-OOS-G-020)  
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**PROPOSAL 25** - 5AAC 85.045. HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Shorten the season, modify antler restrictions, and reauthorize antlerless season in Unit 20A as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
... (18)		
Unit 20(A), the Ferry Trail Management Area and the Yanert Controlled Use Area	Sept. 1-Sept. <u>17</u> [25] (General hunt only)	Sept. 1-Sept. <u>17</u> [25]
1 bull with spike-fork antlers or 50-inch antlers or antlers with <u>4</u> [3] or more brow tines on one side		
Unit 20(A) within the Nenana Controlled Use Area	Sept. 1-Sept. <u>17</u> [25]	Sept. 1-Sept. <u>17</u> [25]
1 bull		
Remainder of Unit 20(A)		
1 moose per regulatory year only as follows:		
1 bull	Sept. 1-Sept. <u>17</u> [25] (General hunt only)	Sept. 1-Sept. <u>17</u> [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:**

Unit 20A

Declining bull:cow ratios have fallen below the management objective of 30 bulls:100cows for Unit 20A. Estimated bull:cow ratios in Unit 20A have fallen from 39 bulls:100 cows in 1996 to 23 bulls:100 cows in 1999. In addition, current estimates indicate that the moose population is no longer increasing, but has stabilized at about 11,500 moose. Demand has continued to increase

since the early 1990s, however. (Reported bull harvest: regulatory years 1990-91 – 1994-95: mean = 353; 1996-97 – 1998-99: mean = 616) We anticipate that hunter effort in Unit 20A will continue to increase, placing greater demands on the moose population and that this trend will be exacerbated due to declining moose populations and subsequent reduced hunting opportunities in adjacent Unit 13.

#### Ferry Trail Management Area (FTMA)

Declining bull:cow ratios have fallen below the management objective of 20 bulls:100cows for the FTMA. Estimated bull:cow ratios have fallen from 26 bulls:100 cows in 1994 when a spike-fork or 50-inch antlers or 4 or more brow tines on 1 side (S-F-50 or 4 brow tines) antler restriction was adopted to 23 bulls:100 cows in 1996 when the current S-F-50 or 3 or more brow tines antler restriction was adopted to 19 bulls:100 cows in 1998 and 15 bulls:100 cows in 1999. We anticipate that increasing hunting pressure and demands on the 20A moose population will be exacerbated in the FTMA due to greater accessibility in the FTMA particularly with regard to hunters using ATVs.

#### DM 766 - November 1 – 31 muzzleloader drawing permit hunt restricted to bulls only

Whether or not to keep the late season muzzleloader hunt for bulls only in the eastern portion of the Wood River Controlled Use Area while shortening the general moose season in Unit 20A because of low bull:cow ratios is an allocation issue. An average of 12 bulls per year (regulatory years 1996-97 through 1998-99) are harvested during this hunt. Biologically, the harvest of bulls from this hunt is not a significant factor with respect to declining bull:cow ratios in Unit 20A.

#### Unit 20A antlerless moose season reauthorization

Antlerless moose hunting seasons must be reauthorized annually. Surveys conducted in 1999 in Unit 20A resulted in an estimate of about 7200 cow moose and 23 bulls:100 cows. Three cow hunts conducted in portions of Unit 20A during regulatory years 1996-1998 resulted in a mean annual harvest of 69 cows. It is the department's contention that the Unit 20A moose population can sustain a limited cow harvest, particularly in high density areas such as those selected for the cow hunts. However, in 1996, the department agreed with the Fairbanks Advisory Committee that the hunts would remain in codified, however cow permits (up to 300) would be issued only when the moose population was increasing. No cow permits were issued in 1999 because surveys conducted in 1997 and 1998 indicated that the Unit 20A moose population had stabilized. We recommend that the board reauthorize the hunt to facilitate reinstatement of cow moose hunts when appropriate to meet management goals and objects.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Hunter success rates will decline and, in general, the quality of hunting experiences will deteriorate. The biological health of the Unit 20A moose population may be compromised as bull:cow ratios reach low levels.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** In the long run, all hunters (over 1100 hunters reported hunting moose in Unit 20A in 1998), since Unit 20A is currently a bull only hunting area and higher bull:cow ratios generally translate into higher success rates and greater hunter satisfaction. Members of the general public that enjoy seeing and watching bull moose.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** For the short term, hunters that prefer to hunt moose during the later part of the season.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** S-F-50 restrictions for all or part of the season. Liberalize surrounding units (20B, C) to reduce hunting pressure in Unit 20A. Shorten season by opening the moose season later in September.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-00S-G-079)  
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**PROPOSAL 26** - 5 AAC 85.045. HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Address an administrative error in the codified by correcting the nonresident bag limit and hunting season for moose in the Unit 20E Ladue River Controlled Use Area.

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
... (18) ...		

Unit 20(E), that portion within the Ladue River Controlled Use Area

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull per regulatory year, only as follows:

1 bull with spike-fork antlers	Aug. 15-Aug. 28	[NO OPEN SEASON.]
1 bull	Sept. 1-Sept. 15 (General hunt only)	[SEPT. 1-SEPT. 15]
1 bull by drawing permit only; up to 100 permits may be issued	Nov. 1-Nov. 30 (General hunt only)	[NO OPEN SEASON.]

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull with 50 inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side Sept. 5-Sept. 15

...

**ISSUE:** The Ladue River Controlled Use Area (LRCUA) was created in spring 1994 to prohibit the use of any motorized land vehicle for hunting from September 1 - 30 except on certain trails. The intent of the controlled use area was to ensure adequate protection to the bull moose

population in the area and to allow greater hunter opportunity during late fall when hunters could access areas not possible during the snow free months. The proposal the board passed did not change season length or bag limits for nonresidents during the general season. However, due to an error when transferring the board action into codified, the nonresident season and bag limit was changed to match the season and bag limit for residents. This was not consistent with the intent of the LRCUA, and does not follow the board's intent of allocation in Unit 20E. Since the 1980s, the nonresident hunting season began on September 5 and the nonresident bag limit was one bull with 50 inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on at least one side.

Since 1994, however, the annual Alaska Hunting Regulations booklet continued to list the proper antler restriction and September 5 - 15 hunting season for nonresident hunters. Hence, management and enforcement of nonresident hunting in the LRCUA continued as prior to 1994. Therefore, correction of the administrative error in the codified will not disrupt any established hunting patterns or expectations by nonresident hunters.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** The intent of the board for allocation in this area will not be met, and continued enforcement of the restricted nonresident season and bag limit is in jeopardy of legal challenge.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Resident hunters.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Nonresident hunters that would prefer the opportunity to take any antlered bull moose.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** None.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-00S-G-077)  
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**PROPOSAL 27 - 5AAC 85.045. HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE.**  
 Change the fall subsistence seasons dates for the registration hunt to begin on Aug. 27.

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	Sept. 5-Sept. 25 (General hunt only)	Sept. 5-Sept. 25
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		

1 moose per regulatory year: however, moose may be taken by registration permit only during the period Aug. 27 [SEPT. 1]-Sept. 25

Aug. 27 [SEPT. 1]-Sept. 25  
Feb. 1-Feb. 10  
(Subsistence hunt only)

...

(22)

Unit 24, that portion within the Koyukuk Controlled Use Area downstream from Huslia

1 moose per regulatory year as follows:

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

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 Aug. 27 [Sept. 1]-Sept. 25

Aug. 27 [SEPT. 1]  
-Sept. 25  
Dec. 1-Dec. 10  
Mar. 1-Mar. 10  
(Subsistence hunt only)

No open season

...

**ISSUE:** Moose hunter numbers and harvest of moose has been increasing significantly within the Koyukuk Controlled Use Area for the last 10 years. Beginning the subsistence season five days earlier will provide subsistence users an opportunity to harvest moose earlier and with less crowding than occurs during the general hunt season. This may also help to reduce the number of hunters in the Koyukuk CUA during the general hunt season.

In an effort to ensure distinction between the general and subsistence registration hunts, the intends to strictly enforce the intent of the trophy value destruction of antlers. Specifically, hunters will be required to comply with antler destruction through voluntary compliance in the field. Additionally, the condition of the subsistence permit Hunt that requires the salvage of the head will be enforced to ensure that moose heads are included with the salvagable portions of the moose.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Moose hunter numbers and harvest of moose will continue to increase in excess of the population's sustainable yield. Conflicts among user groups may continue.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Subsistence moose hunters that want to hunt an earlier season.



**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** If increasing numbers of residents take advantage of the subsistence season regulation, harvest could increase.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?**

- Split the general and subsistence registration seasons
- Shift the general registration season forward by five days
- Extend the subsistence season early by five days
- Lobby for federal season extension by five days earlier
- Decrease the number of hunters during the general season by other regulatory means

**Note:** This proposal is part of the Koyukuk River moose management planning effort being conducted by the Department in cooperation with the advisory committee based Koyukuk River Moose Hunters’ Working Group. A few of the proposals may require modification based on final discussions between the Working Group and Department. To evaluate the complete package of proposals stemming from this planning effort refer to the following proposals:

- 1) Moose: Change the moose general hunt regulations in Units 21 D and 24 within the Koyukuk Controlled Use Area (KCUA) from the RM 830 registration hunt to two drawing hunts and expand the area of the drawing hunt and RM 832 registration hunt to the entire controlled use area. The Working Group has recommended that the drawing hunt be split into two hunt periods for the early and later part of the season. The Department can implement this recommendation through discretionary permit hunt authority.
- 2) Moose: Reauthorization of the cow harvests in Units 21D and 24. This proposal will reauthorize all the cow harvests; however, the Working Group has recommended the Department use permit discretionary authority to not provide for a cow harvest in the general hunt in the KCUA. Additional discussions may result in the recommendation to further restrict cow harvest in the fall hunt.
- 3) Moose: Open the RM 832 subsistence registration season 5 days earlier (Aug. 27). The Working Group has recommended opening and closing the RM 832 season 5 days earlier to make the season Aug. 27-Sept. 20. If this proposal is adopted with the season ending date of Sept. 25, the Department can end the season on Sept. 20 through discretionary permit hunt authority. If the proposal were written to end the season on Sept. 20 through regulation, the department would not have discretion to add the five days back on the end of the season. The approach used in this proposal will maintain flexibility to return to the Sept. 1-Sept. 25 season, should a major increase in participation in the early hunt occur and threaten sustainability of the harvest. The Working Group has also recommended submitting a proposal to the Federal Subsistence Board to align the federal and state subsistence seasons.
- 4) Customary and Traditional Uses of Moose: Re-examine the amounts reasonably necessary for subsistence uses of moose in Units 21 and 24.
- 5) Black bear (in 5 AAC 92.085(4)(A). Unlawful Methods of Taking Big Game; Exceptions): Allow black bear baiting during the fall hunting season in the portion of Units 21D and 24 within the KCUA.
- 6) Brown bear: Increase the bag limit to one bear per year in the general hunt in Units 21D and 24 and extend the season to June 15.

**PROPOSED BY:** ADF&G on behalf of the Koyukuk River Moose Hunters Working Group  
(HQ-00S-G-086)

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**PROPOSAL 28** - 5 AAC 85.045. HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE.  
 Convert the February antlerless moose hunt into a registration permit hunt in Unit 21E.

<b>Units and Bag Limits</b>	<b>Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)</b>	<b>Nonresident Open Season</b>
...		
(19)		
....		
Unit 21(E)		
<b>RESIDENT HUNTERS:</b>		
1 moose per regulatory year; however, antlerless moose may be taken only during the period Feb. 1- Feb. 10 <u>by registration permit only</u> and moose may not be taken within one-half mile of either the Yukon River or the Innoko River dur- ing the period Feb. 1-Feb. 10	Sept. 5-Sept. 25 Feb. 1-Feb. 10	
<b>NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:</b>		
1 bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side		Sept. 5-Sept. 25
...		

**ISSUE:** Higher quality harvest data is needed for the February moose hunt. In recent history, this hunt has been addressed by the Board several times in the form of proposals, emergency actions, and requests for emergency actions. Based on the number of times the Board has dealt with this issue and concerns from local users, the department would like a higher level of precision in the hunting effort/harvest data collected for this hunt. A registration permit system with an unlimited number to be issued would be the most effective way of collecting the desired level of precision in the data. For example, the reported harvest from 1992 to 1998 for the February antlerless hunt has ranged between 1 and 19 moose with a reported average February harvest of 9 moose. However the estimated harvest, based on subsistence surveys is between 75 and 125 moose. Implementing a registration permit for this hunt would help clarify and answer many of the questions that have arose and will arise again regarding this moose hunt.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Future questions regarding this hunt will continue to be addressed and argued using minimal data and primarily anecdotal information.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** All hunters who rely on this population.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Conduct an annual survey moose harvest in the GASH villages and set up a check station to monitor the hunters coming in from to the south. This was not proposed because it would be more time intensive and less cost effective than a registration permit.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-00S-G-091)  
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**PROPOSAL 29** - 5 AAC 85.045. HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE.  
Lengthen the season and change the bag limit for the Tier II moose hunt in Unit 25D West.

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
...		
(23)		
...	Aug. 25-Feb. 28 [SEPT. 25] (Subsistence hunt only) [DEC. 1-DEC. 10] [(SUBSISTENCE HUNT ONLY)] [FEB. 18-FEB. 28] [(SUBSISTENCE HUNT ONLY)]	No open season

1 moose [BULL] per regulatory year; however, antlerless moose may be taken only during the period Sept. 26-Feb. 28; by Tier II subsistence hunting permit only; up to 125 permits may be issued

...  
**ISSUE:** Moose population density in Unit 25D West averages about 1 moose per 4 to 5 square miles. Fall calf:cow ratios range from 20-40:100, while bull:cow ratios range from 30-50:100. Moose numbers have been chronically low, but surveys during 1992-1999 suggest the population has been fairly stable. Limiting factors include predation by black bears, grizzly bears and

wolves, as well as hunting. Predation by black and grizzly bears is the major cause of calf moose mortality during their summer.

A harvest quota of 35 bull moose has been in place since 1986. Moose have been hunted under a Tier II permit system on State managed lands and navigable waters since 1990. Up to 125 Tier II permits are issued each year. A federal subsistence permit system is also in effect and, beginning in 1993, a federal permit was required to harvest moose on federal public lands. FWS currently distributes 30 permits in three local communities. The federal season extends from August 25 to February 28, while the season on state managed lands is open from Aug. 25-Sept. 25, Dec.1-10, and February 18-28.

A number of factors have complicated moose management and harvest monitoring in Unit 25D West. The length of time needed to obtain and compile harvest reports for the two permit systems, as well as substantial unreported harvest, have made it difficult to effectively monitor harvests relative to the quota. Tier II reports are due within 10 days of harvesting a moose or 15 days after the close of the season (March 15). Local harvest reports and anecdotal information suggest the actual harvest includes about 40 bulls and up to 20 cow moose each year. In the 1980s ADF&G estimated that a local harvest of about 64 moose would be expected, based on the number of people in Unit 25D West and use levels in surrounding areas where moose were more abundant.

The cumulative effect of various annual permit application requirements, confusion over geographic boundaries, and a variety of local circumstances have resulted in poor reporting and limited participation in the management system. A number of issues have been identified as steps that are likely to improve moose management on the western Yukon Flats. They include revising the harvest quota for moose, reducing the maximum number of Tier II permits available, and aligning state and federal hunting seasons.

An analysis of recent moose population estimates and composition data indicate that a harvest of approximately 40 bull and up to 20 cow moose is not likely to cause a population decline. However, it will continue to be a factor affecting potential growth of the herd. The department intends to establish a revised harvest quota of 60 moose including a maximum of 20 cows. In view of the additional federal permits that have been issued in recent years, and the more limited area open to hunting under the Tier II regulation, the department will also reduce the number of Tier II permits that are available. Aligning the state and federal seasons is intended to simplify regulations. Management efforts will focus on obtaining timely and accurate harvest information and maintaining the harvest within the quota.

A voluntary effort by local communities to obtain moose harvest information is the most practical way to improve local harvest reporting, and this effort has already begun. Local communities have expressed interest in improving harvest reporting so that moose management can be based on better information.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Reliable data on the number of moose taken by hunters is an important component of moose management, but will be difficult to obtain without resolving key issues relating to management on the western Yukon Flats.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Moose hunters and moose management programs.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** No other practical solutions were identified.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-00S-G-081)

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**PROPOSAL 30** - 5 AAC 85.045. HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Implement resident and nonresident drawing hunts in the place of the current general registration permit hunt and expand the area of the drawing hunts and subsistence registration permit hunt to include all of the Koyukuk Controlled Use Area. Eliminate the antler restriction in the general drawing hunts.

<b>Units and Bag Limits</b>	<b>Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)</b>	<b>Nonresident Open Season</b>
...		
(19)		
...		
Unit 21(D), that portion within the Koyukuk Controlled Use Area		

**RESIDENT HUNTERS:**

1 moose per regulatory year, only  
as follows:

1 [ANTLERLESS] moose [ OR 1 BULL WITH 50-INCH ANTLERS OR ANTLERS WITH 4 OR MORE BROW TINES ON ONE SIDE] by <u>drawing</u> [REGISTRATION] permit <u>only; up to 320</u> <u>permits may be issued in combination</u> <u>with Unit 24, that portion within the</u> <u>Koyukuk Controlled Use Area</u>	Sept. 5-Sept. 25 (General hunt only)	[SEPT. 5-SEPT. 25]
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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)	
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**NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:**

<u>1 bull by drawing permit; up to 80</u> <u>permits may be issued in combination</u> <u>with Unit 24, that portion within the</u> <u>Koyukuk Controlled Use Area</u>		<u>Sept.5 - Sept. 25</u>
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...

(22)

Unit 24, that portion within the Koyukuk Controlled Use Area [DOWNSTREAM FROM HUSLIA]

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 moose per regulatory year, only as follows:

1 [ANTLERLESS] moose [OR 1 BULL WITH 50-INCH ANTLERS OR ANTLERS WITH 4 OR MORE BROW TINES ON ONE SIDE] by drawing [REGISTRATION] permit only; up to 320 permits may be issued in combination with Unit 21D, that portion within the Koyukuk Controlled Use Area

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]

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull by drawing permit; up to 80 permits may be issued in combination with Unit 21D, that portion within the Koyukuk Controlled Use Area

Sept. 5-Sept. 25

[REMAINDER OF UNIT 24, WITHIN THE KOYUKUK CONTROLLED USE AREA]

[RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 MOOSE; HOWEVER, ANTLERLESS MOOSE MAY ONLY BE TAKEN 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]

...

**ISSUE:** Moose hunter numbers and harvest of moose has been increasing steadily in the Koyukuk Controlled Use Area for the last 10 years. A variety of regulations have been implemented for the Lower Koyukuk River area over the years and although the population has supported high densities of moose, the demand now is simply in excess of the supply of moose. A limited drawing hunt is recommended to limit the number of hunters. The Working Group further recommended that the drawing be conducted 12 months in advance and that the drawing provides for a party of up to four hunters.

Since 1990, the number of hunters registering for the CUA has increased from 306 hunters to 731 hunters in 1999. The harvest of moose has increased from 158 to 367 for the same time period. While the population was at its peak from 1992-1995 and growing, harvest rates approaching 8%-9% could be supported. With the apparent recent decline in the population, harvest rates in excess of 10% cannot be supported.

Recruitment parameters observed during trend count area surveys in 1999 such as calf:cow ratios and yearling bull:cow ratios are declining. Calves:100 cows in the Three Day Slough trend count area were 13:100 and 14:100 for the last two years. These indicators of a declining population, along with the apparent increase in wolf numbers observed in the same area, necessitate limiting the general hunt permit.

Expanding the area of general drawing hunt (formerly registration hunt RM 830) and subsistence registration hunt RM832 to apply within the entire Koyukuk Controlled Use Area will enable better tracking of numbers of moose hunters and harvest levels and help ensure the harvest remains sustainable. Elimination of the antler restrictions in the general hunt may help to reduce problems with wanton waste of moose under the 50-inch requirement.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Moose hunter numbers and harvest of moose will continue to increase in excess of the population's sustainable yield.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** All people who will utilize the moose resource in the future. All people that desire sound ecological management of the resource.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** A cap on the unlimited growth in the number of hunters will exclude some hunters periodically. Nonresident hunters will be most strictly limited because Alaska residents will still have opportunity under the subsistence registration hunt. There remains a concern that Alaska resident hunters who do not succeed in the drawing for the general hunt may choose to hunt in the RM 832 subsistence registration hunt and that overall hunting pressure may not be sufficiently reduced to ensure sustainability of the moose population.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** The Koyukuk River Moose Hunters' Working Group considered several alternative solutions including reducing the number of permits available at one time in the registration hunt RM 830. This was not viewed as workable because hunters might travel all the way to the Ella's cabin checkstation and find that RM 830 permits are not available. Department staff has also considered retaining the antler restrictions in the RM 830 hunt to provide a more conservative harvest in the general hunt and to maintain a greater distinction between the general and subsistence hunts. The Working Group considered how the drawing hunt for nonresidents might be phased in through the fall 2000 hunting season to cause the least disruption possible to ongoing commercial operations. These options will be further discussed with the Working Group prior to the March Board of Game meeting.

An additional consideration was to establish a check station at Huslia to enhance the Department's ability to collect data and ensure compliance with regulations. However, if a drawing hunt and expansion of the permit area proposals are adopted, harvest monitoring will be greatly improved.

**Note:** This proposal is part of the Koyukuk River moose management planning effort being conducted by the Department in cooperation with the advisory committee based Koyukuk River Moose Hunters' Working Group. A few of the proposals may require modification based on final discussions between the Working Group and Department. To evaluate the complete package of proposals stemming from this planning effort refer to the following proposals:

- 7) Moose: Change the moose general hunt regulations in Units 21D and 24 within the Koyukuk Controlled Use Area (KCUA) from the RM 830 registration hunt to two drawing hunts and expand the area of the drawing hunt and RM 832 registration hunt to the entire controlled use area. The Working Group has recommended that the drawing hunt be split into two hunt periods for the early and later part of the season. The department can implement this recommendation through discretionary permit hunt authority.
- 8) Moose: Reauthorization of the cow harvests in Units 21D and 24. This proposal will reauthorize all the cow harvests; however, the Working Group has recommended the Department use permit discretionary authority to not provide for a cow harvest in the general hunt in the KCUA. Additional discussions may result in the recommendation to further restrict cow harvest in the fall hunt.
- 9) Moose: Open the RM 832 subsistence registration season 5 days earlier (Aug. 27). The Working Group has recommended opening and closing the RM 832 season 5 days earlier to make the season Aug. 27-Sept. 20. If this proposal is adopted with the season ending date of Sept. 25, the Department can end the season on Sept. 20 through discretionary permit hunt authority. If the proposal were written to end the season on Sept. 20 through regulation, the Department would not have discretion to add the five days back on the end of the season. The approach used in this proposal will maintain flexibility to return to the Sept. 1-Sept. 25 season, should a major increase in participation in the early hunt occur and threaten sustainability of the harvest. The Working Group has also recommended submitting a proposal to the Federal Subsistence Board to align the federal and state subsistence seasons.
- 10) Customary and Traditional Uses of Moose: Re-examine the amounts reasonably necessary for subsistence uses of moose in Units 21 and 24.
- 11) Black bear (in 5 AAC 92.085(4)(A). Unlawful Methods of Taking Big Game; Exceptions): Allow black bear baiting during the fall hunting season in the portion of Units 21D and 24 within the KCUA.
- 12) Brown bear: Increase the bag limit to one bear per year in the general hunt in Units 21D and 24 and extend the season to June 15.

**PROPOSED BY:** ADF&G on behalf of the Koyukuk River Moose Hunters Working Group  
(HQ-00S-G-076)

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**PROPOSAL 31** - 5 AAC 85.045(a)(1). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Reauthorize the existing antlerless moose season at Berners Bay.

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

**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. Fall 1999 surveys enumerated 107 moose, indicating that well above the management objective (90 moose post-hunt) were present. The bull to cow ratio (18:100) from the survey, lower than the 25:100 called for in the plan, 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 16:100. For the fall 1999 season we issued 10 bull permits and 8 antlerless permits; a total of 16 hunters hunted and 15 were successful (94% success rate), killing 10 bulls and 5 cows during 43 hunter-days. The recently revised moose plan calls for 40 hunter-days of effort, 20 hunters, a hunter success rate of 80%, and a harvest of 18 moose. For the 2000 season, we intend to issue 10 bull permits once again, and increase the number of cow permits up to 10. The Board has previously authorized the harvest of up to 20 moose from Berners Bay.

**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 balance the herd.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** None.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-00S-G-044)  
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**PROPOSAL 32** - 5 AAC 85.045(a)(3). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Reauthorize the existing antlerless moose season at Nunatak Bench.

<b>Units and Bag Limits</b>	<b>Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)</b>	<b>Nonresident Open Season</b>
(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 in Unit 5A. The Nunatak Bench strategic moose management plan calls for a post-hunt moose population of 50 moose in this area. Fall 1994 sex and age composition 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, and the calf to cow ratio was 22:100, indicating sufficient cows to justify a limited harvest. The most recent survey, in January 1999, resulted in the count of 33 moose.

In the 1997 season, 9 permits were issued and only 2 hunters hunted, spending a total of 3 days to kill 2 bull moose. In the 1998 season, 11 permits were issued, and 3 hunters took a total of 7 days to kill 1 bull moose. The 1999 season is still open at this time (12/10/99); we have issued 8 permits and only 1 hunter has reported an unsuccessful hunt. The strategic moose management plan calls for a harvest of 5 moose by 10 hunters, expending 60 days of effort.

**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 in this area of limited moose range.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** None.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-00S-G-045)  
 \*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 33** – 5 AAC 85.045(a)(4). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in Unit 6A.

<b>Units and Bag Limits</b>	<b>Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)</b>	<b>Nonresident Open Season</b>
-----------------------------	---	------------------------------------

...

(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:

Sept. 1-Oct. 31

1 bull by registration permit only; up to 30

(General hunt only)

bulls may be taken; or

1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only; up to 30 drawing permits may be issued

Sept. 1-Oct. 31

(General hunt only)

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

Sept. 1-Oct. 31

1 bull by drawing permit only; up to 5 drawing permits may be issued

Remainder of Unit 6(A)

1 moose per regulatory year, only as follows:

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

Sept. 1-Oct. 31

(General hunt only)

Sept. 1-Oct. 31

1 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%). Preliminary results from a fall 1999 census yielded a population estimate of about 400 moose with 15% calves. Reported harvest during 1999 was 19 bulls and 2 cows. There was likely some movement of moose last winter from Unit 6B into Unit 6A, where snow depth and duration of the snow pack were much reduced.

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%). A harvest of 10 bulls was reported for 1997, and 13 bulls in 1998. No antlerless hunts have been held recently to allow the population to increase. Because survey conditions

have been inadequate during recent years, we have not been able to determine the current status of the population. Harvest of antlerless moose may be resumed during 2000 if completion of surveys indicate that the population has increased to healthy levels.

**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 6(A).

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** People who are opposed to antlerless moose hunting.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** None.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-00S-G-046)  
 \*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 34** - 5 AAC 85.045(a)(4). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in Unit 6B.

<b>Units and Bag Limit</b>	<b>Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)</b>	<b>Nonresident Open Season</b>
...		
(4)		
...		
Unit 6(B)		
1 moose per regulatory year, only as follows:		
<u>1</u> [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 identifica- tion number; <u>or</u>	Aug. 27- Oct. 31 (General hunt only)	No open season
<u>1</u> [AN] antlerless moose by drawing permit only; up to 30 drawing permits may be issued for antlerless moose; during the time the registra-	Aug. 27- Oct. 31 (General hunt only)	No open season

tion 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.

...

**ISSUE:** Antlerless moose seasons must be reauthorized annually. We recommend continuation of an antlerless season in Unit 6B to promote population stability. Desirable post-hunt population size is 300-350. A census completed during November 1999 yielded a count of 250 moose with 4% calves and 18 bulls per 100 cows. The reported harvest during 1999 was 19 bulls and 2 cows. Significant winter mortality and significant movement of moose into Unit 6A West likely occurred.

**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?** People who are opposed to antlerless moose hunting.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** None.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-00S-G-047)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 35** – 5 AAC 85.045(a)(4). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in Unit 6C.

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 survey completed during December 1998 yielded a population count of 334 moose with 24% 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 this increase in population size by limiting cow harvest to a maximum of 5 per year. The reported harvest during 1998 was 19 bulls and 5 cows, and during 1999 was 19 bulls and 4 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?** Those opposed to antlerless moose hunting.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** None.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-00S-G-048)  
\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 36** - 5 AAC 85.045(a)(5). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in a portion of Units 7 and 14C.

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.

...

**ISSUE:** Antlerless moose seasons must be reauthorized annually. Total moose observed during annual trend counts in 1997-1999 were 173, 181 and 116 moose, respectively. During those years, the ratios of the number of bulls per 100 cows were 30, 24 and 18, respectively. The ratios of the number of calves per 100 cows were 47, 30 and 23, respectively. The estimated population of 145 moose is well below the management objective of 250. A population peak of 333 moose in 1990 probably exceeded the carrying capacity of the habitat, and an aerial survey completed 2 years later found that many of the moose had dispersed or died. The population also declined 25 to 30% during the severe winter of 1994-95. Consequently, harvest quotas and the number of permits issued were reduced from 1997 to 1999. Bull harvests from 1996 through 1998 were 21, 15 and 18 moose, respectively. Cow harvests over the same period were 3, 4 and 0 moose, respectively. No antlerless permits were issued in 1998 or 1999.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** The population will probably increase and could suffer major losses during a severe winter. Habitat may be overbrowsed, reducing carrying capacity in subsequent years, and road and train kills will increase.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** People who obtain a drawing permit, wildlife viewers and motorists driving in the Portage area. Visitor use is high and viewing is an important activity in this area.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** People who are opposed to antlerless moose hunting.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** None.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-00S-G-049)  
 \*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 37** – 5 AAC 85.045(a)(8). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in a portion of Unit 9C.

<b>Units and Bag Limits</b>	<b>Resident Open season (Subsistence and General Hunts)</b>	<b>Nonresident Open season</b>
(8)		
...		
Remainder of Unit 9(C)		
RESIDENT HUNTERS:		
1 moose; however, antlerless moose may be taken only from Dec. 15-Jan. 15	Sept. 1-Sept. 15 Dec. 15-Jan. 15	
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 3 antlerless moose per year. One cow was taken during each of the past 2 seasons. During a composition survey completed on December 2, 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?** Those who oppose any antlerless moose hunt.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** None.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-00S-G-050)  
 \*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 38** - 5 AAC 85.045(10). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Change the season dates in Unit 12 beginning in year 2001. This regulation would not take affect in regulatory year 2000-2001.

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and Nonresident General Hunts)	Open Season
...		
(10)		
Unit 12		
[1 BULL WITH SPIKE-FORK ANTLERS]	[AUG. 15-AUG. 28]	[NO OPEN SEASON]
Unit 12, that portion drained by the Little Tok River upstream from and including the first eastern tributary from the headwaters of Tuck Creek	<u>Aug. 24-Aug. 28</u> <u>Sept. 8-Sept. 17</u> [SEPT. 1-SEPT.15]	<u>Sept. 8-Sept. 17</u> [SEPT. 5-SEPT. 15]
1 bull with spike-fork antlers		



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

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

Sept. 1-Sept. 30

Sept. 1-Sept. 30

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

Remainder of Unit 12

**RESIDENT HUNTERS:**

1 bull

Aug. 24-Aug. 28

Sept. 8-Sept. 17

[SEPT. 1-SEPT. 15]

**NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:**

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

Sept. 8-Sept. 17

[SEPT. 5-SEPT. 15]

...

**ISSUE:** The Unit 12 moose population currently exists at low density (0.6-0.7 moose/mi<sup>2</sup>). Since 1993, the unit population has increased slowly due to a combination of favorable environmental conditions, improved habitat caused by natural fires, and habitat and predator management. Future habitat enhancement programs combined with moderate wolf and bear harvest by hunters and trappers are expected to cause future increases in moose numbers in portions of the unit.

Hunter participation and harvest has increased by 11% and 15%, respectively the past 5 years. Harvest has caused declining bull/cow ratios within the northwest portion of the unit particularly within the Tok and Tanana River drainages. Much of the central and southern portions of the unit are difficult to access and support high bull/cow ratios (50-80 bulls/100 cows). To prevent harvest from causing the bull/cow ratio to fall below the management objective and minimizing the effects of intensive management, harvest levels need to be stabilized in the accessible portions of the unit. An additional concern is more moose hunters are expected to begin using Unit 12 as more restrictive regulations are adopted in adjacent Unit 13. Most of these new hunters will hunt the more accessible areas and harvest is expected to increase furthering the decline of the bull/cow ratio.

Subdividing the moose season into two distinct time periods scheduled to occur when less moose hunters are historically in the field or when harvest success is lower may stabilize moose harvest in Unit 12. Both periods will offer attributes hunters have requested. During the early season

hunters can hunt with kids prior to the start of the school year and during more predictable weather. Large numbers of hunters usually hunt the early season but hunter success is normally lower because the leaves are still on the trees making moose hard to see and moose, because of their behavior are harder to find. During the late season, weather is more unpredictable, there are historically less hunters in the field but success rates are normally higher. Increases in hunter numbers may not occur because many hunters may not be able to time their hunt to the open periods.

Loss of the 15 day August spike-fork season will not have detrimental effects on subsistence hunters. Since the inception of the spike-fork season in Unit 12, only 4-5 bulls have been taken annually.

These season dates would apply only in the most heavily hunted areas of Unit 12. The same season dates are being requested for adjacent Unit 20E for regulatory year 2001-2002. It would be best to implement the restrictive moose regulations in 20E and 12 at the same time. Implementing the Unit 12 restriction for the 2000 fall hunting season would simply displace hunters into 20E before it is protected by more restrictive regulations. Unit 20E does not need the restrictive regulations for the 2000 fall season, and Unit 12 is not likely be harmed by one more year of hunting under the present regulations.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Conservation of the Unit 12 moose population is in jeopardy. Reduction of the moose population could possibly require a Tier II hunt to be implemented, a substantially reduced moose season, or antler restriction all which are not supported by most hunters

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** All moose hunters.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Hunters who want to hunt both moose and caribou on the same hunt. Hunters who traditionally hunt Labor Day weekend.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Substantially reduce the moose season. Rejected because short seasons cause undue hardship on people who depend on moose and increase competition and urgency amongst moose hunters reducing the quality of the hunt. Hunter safety may be compromised.

Impose antler restrictions. Rejected because of the current age structure of the units moose population would not allow antler restrictions to be effective in protecting the bull population. Local resident hunting practices would be in conflict possibly causing unacceptable levels of illegal kill.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-00S-G-080)  
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**PROPOSAL 39** - 5 AAC 85.045(10) and (18). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Amend this regulation in Units 12 and 20E as follows:

1 bull, not including male calves in the first year.

**ISSUE:** Calf moose harvest in Units 12 and 20E.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Some bull calves will continue to be harvested

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Moose population and subsistence users and hunters of the Upper Tanana residents in the long run.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** N/A

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** N/A

**PROPOSED BY:** Upper Tanana/Fortymile Advisory Committee (I-OOS-G-034)

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**PROPOSAL 40** – 5 AAC. 85.045(12). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Reauthorize the drawing permit hunts for antlerless moose in Unit 14A.

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
... (12)		
Unit 14(A) 1 moose per regulatory year, only as follows:		
1 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; or	Aug. 10-Aug. 17 (General hunt only)	Aug. 10-Aug. 17
1 bull with spike-fork antlers or 50-inch antlers or antlers with 3 or more brow tines on one side; or	Aug. 20-Sept. 25 (General hunt only)	Aug. 20-Sept. 25
1 bull by drawing permit only; up to 300 permits may be issued; or	Aug. 20-Sept. 25 (General hunt only) Nov. 1-Nov. 15 (General hunt only)	Aug. 20-Sept. 25  Nov. 1-Nov. 15

1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only; up to 600 antlerless moose permits may be issued; or	Aug. 20-Sept. 25 (General hunt only) Nov. 1-Nov. 15 (General hunt only)	No open season.
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...

**ISSUE:** Antlerless moose hunts must be reauthorized annually by the Board. The subpopulation of moose in Unit 14A is now estimated at 5,340, which is within the post-hunt objective of 5,000-5,500 moose, of which 3,440 are cows. Despite moderate levels of accidental mortality which occur along highways and railroads in this unit, a high natality rate in excess of 35 calves:100 cows and a high over-winter survival rate make up to 300 antlerless moose surplus in any given year. During November 1999, we observed in this subpopulation 37 calves:100 cows and a segment estimate of 3420 cows. During an average winter, we expect 20-30% mortality among calves and 6-7% mortality among cows in addition to accidental deaths. Reported harvest of cows during fall 1997 was 249 (520 permits issued), and during fall 1998 the harvest was 205 (470 permits). We issued no permits during 1999 because the subpopulation estimate had fallen below objective levels.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** There would be no antlerless moose hunt. The Unit 14A moose subpopulation will quickly grow beyond the ability of the habitat to sustain that population level. Increased incidences of starvation, conflicts with humans and vehicle collisions will occur.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** All who wish a healthy, productive moose population in the Matanuska-Susitna Valleys and those who wish to use antlerless moose for human consumption.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Any who disagree with the harvest of antlerless moose.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** None.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-00S-G-051)  
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**PROPOSAL 41** - 5 AAC 85.045(a)(12). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in the Fort Richardson Management Area in Unit 14C.

<b>Units and Bag Limits</b>	<b>Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)</b>	<b>Nonresident Open Season</b>
(12)		
...		
Unit 14(C), that portion of the Fort Richardson Management Area north of Eagle River	Day after Labor Day -Nov. 15 (General hunt only)	Day after Labor Day -Nov. 15

1 moose by drawing permit by muzzle-loading rifle; up to 35 permits may be issued

Unit 14(C), Fort Richardson Management Area

Day after Labor Day  
-Nov. 15  
(General hunt only)

Day after Labor Day  
-Nov. 15  
Dec. 15-Jan. 15

1 moose per regulatory year by drawing permit, by bow and arrow only; up to 125 permits may be issued.

Dec. 15-Jan. 15  
(General hunt only)

...

**ISSUE:** Antlerless moose seasons must be reauthorized annually. A November 1999 census on Fort Richardson, Elmendorf Air Force Base and upper Ship Creek yielded a population estimate of 474 moose with a bull:cow ratio of 57 bulls per 100 cows and a calf:cow ratio of 31 calves per 100 cows. At its peak of 622 moose in November 1994, the population exceeded the carrying capacity of local wintering areas. The moose population subsequently declined 45% on account of the severe winter of 1994-95 and deteriorating browse conditions within the area. Currently, the population is increasing and is approaching the management objective of 500 moose. Harvests for 1997 and 1998 were 31 bulls and 12 cows, and 28 bulls and 10 cows, respectively. Thirty-five antlerless permits were issued in 1998 and 1999.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** The population may again exceed the carrying capacity of the habitat if antlerless hunts are not authorized.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Muzzleloaders and bow hunters who draw permits. Persons living near Fort Richardson who incur damage to their gardens and shrubs and motorists on the Glenn Highway and in east Anchorage.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Those who oppose antlerless moose hunting, and archery or muzzleloader hunting or hunting in general.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Longterm, large-scale habitat enhancement is desirable but difficult because of costs and conflicts with military operations.

**PROPOSED BY:** Dept. of Fish and Game and U. S. Army, Ft. Richardson (HQ-00S-G-052)  
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**PROPOSAL 42** – 5 AAC 85.045 (12). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Reauthorize the antlerless moose hunt on Elmendorf Air Force Base in Unit 14C.

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(12)		

...

Unit 14(C), Elmendorf  
Air Force Base

Day after Labor Day  
-Sept. 30  
(General hunt only)

Day after Labor Day  
-Sept. 30

1 moose by drawing permit, by  
bow and arrow only; up to 15  
permits may be issued.

.....

**ISSUE:** Antlerless moose seasons must be reauthorized annually. Moose on Elmendorf Air Force Base are part of a resident wintering population of about 474 moose that also occupy Fort Richardson. During September, up to 150 of these moose frequent lands managed by Elmendorf. A majority of these animals move to Fort Richardson during late fall and winter, many into areas where hunting is not allowed. Because the density of hunters on Fort Richardson has reached maximum manageable levels, the Elmendorf hunt provides additional hunter opportunity and helps achieve desired harvest levels. During the 1997 season, hunters took 5 bulls and 5 cows, and in 1998, 4 bulls and 4 cows. Five antlerless permits were issued in 1998 and 1999.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** The overall Fort Richardson-Elmendorf A.F.B. moose population is thought to have been above carrying capacity during the 1994-1995 winter. Browse was overutilized over extensive areas during the severe winters of 1989-1990, 1991-1992, and 1994-1995.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Bowhunters who draw permits. Persons living on or near Elmendorf Air Force Base who incur damage to their gardens and shrubs, and motorists on Elmendorf and in north Anchorage.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Those opposed to antlerless moose hunting, bow and arrow hunting, or hunting in general.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Long-term, large-scale habitat enhancement is desirable, but difficult because of costs and conflicts with military operations.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game and Elmendorf Air Force Base  
(HQ-00S-G-053)

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**PROPOSAL 43** – 5 AAC 85.045(a)(12). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in the Birchwood Management Area and the remainder of Unit 14C.

Units and Bag Limits	<b>Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)</b>	<b>Nonresident Open Season</b>
----------------------	---	------------------------------------

...  
(12)

...

Unit 14(C), that portion known as the Birchwood Management Area

Day after Labor Day -Sept. 30 (General hunt only)

Day after Labor Day -Sept. 30

1 moose by drawing permit, by bow and arrow only; up to 25 permits may be issued

...

Remainder of Unit 14(C)

1 moose per regulatory year, only as follows:

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

Day after Labor Day -Sept. 25 (General hunt only)

Day after Labor Day -Sept. 25

1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only; up to 60 permits may be issued

Day after Labor Day -Sept. 25 (General hunt only)

No open season

**ISSUE:** Antlerless moose seasons must be re-authorized annually. Composition counts are not routinely flown in the Birchwood Management Area. However, we believe that a small resident population of 10-15 moose as well as an equal number of animals from Fort Richardson frequent the area. During the 1997 season, archers took 1 cow, and during 1998, 1 bull and 2 cows. Five antlerless permits were issued during 1998 and 1999.

The number of cow moose in those portions of the remainder of Unit 14C where antlerless moose hunts are held appears to be about the same as in the early 1990s. Cows observed during annual trend counts from 1990 through 1994 ranged from 179-154. The moose populations in these areas appear to be at or near carrying capacity. Cow harvests reported for 1997 and 1998 hunting seasons were 1 and 9 moose, respectively. Forty permits were issued in 1998 and 55 in 1999.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** The opportunity to harvest antlerless moose will be lost, and urban moose-human conflicts will likely increase.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Persons who acquire permits for antlerless moose hunts.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** People opposed to antlerless moose harvest or hunting in general.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** None.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-00S-G-054)

\*\*\*\*\*

**PROPOSAL 44** - 5 AAC 85.045(a)(12). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in the Anchorage Management Area in Unit 14C.

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(12)		
...		
Unit 14(C), that portion known as the Anchorage Management Area	Day after Labor Day -Nov. 30 (General hunt only)	No open season

1 moose by drawing permit, by bow and arrow, shotgun, or muzzleloading rifle only; up to 50 permits may be issued; no person may take an antlered bull unless it has a spike-fork antler; this hunt will be held at the department's discretion

.....

**ISSUE:** Antlerless moose hunts must be reauthorized annually. During summer, an estimated 200-300 moose inhabit the Anchorage metropolitan area. This number increases to 700-1,000 moose during the winter. Many of these moose come from the upper Campbell Creek valley, which lies within Chugach State Park. Moose numbers are at record high levels in this count area; 213 moose were counted during November 1998 yielding an estimated population of 280 moose. These moose move into the metropolitan area during December or January, where high densities of moose cause severe overbrowsing in some areas, and leads to increased incidences of collisions with motor vehicles and adverse conflicts with humans.

The last moose hunt in the Anchorage Management Area occurred during the mid-1980s. An archery-only hunt in Chugach State Park adjacent to the Hillside residential area in 1983 was very controversial with the public. The Board of Game modified this regulation in 1999 to allow the use of shotguns and muzzleloading rifles for hunting moose in the upper Campbell Creek area. However, the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation has not yet revised its regulation that prohibits discharge of firearms in this portion of Chugach State Park, and the hunt could not be held this year.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** The moose population will continue to overbrowse winter habitat and mortality of moose attributable to collisions with vehicles and starvation during severe winters will continue.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** People who acquire permits for antlerless moose hunts. People who believe there are too many moose in the Anchorage Management Area.



**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** People opposed to hunting antlerless moose, hunting moose in parks, or hunting in general.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** None.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-00S-G-055)  
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**PROPOSAL 45** - 5 AAC 85.045(a)(13). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in the Skilak Loop Wildlife Management Area of Unit 15A

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(13)		
Unit 15(A), the Skilak Loop Wildlife Management Area		
1 moose by drawing permit only; up to 30 permits for spike-fork antlered moose may bc issued; or	Sept. 15-Sept. 30 (General hunt only)	Sept. 15-Sept. 30
1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only; up to 50 permits may be issued; the taking of calves, and females accompanied by calves, is prohibited	Sept. 15-Sept. 30 (General hunt only)	No open season.
...		

**ISSUE:** Antlerless moose seasons must be reauthorized annually. The density of moose in Skilak Loop Wildlife Management Area (SLWMA) exceeds the management objective of 2 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 2 moose per square mile or about 130 moose counted during the fall survey. A survey completed on 30 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" or larger), 100 cows and 21 calves. Ratios observed were 43 bulls per 100 cows and 21 calves per 100 cows. A survey was not completed in fall 1999 due to the lack of snow. 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 antlerless moose and season was held during 1999 when 40 permits were issued and 8 antlerless moose were harvested. Twenty permits were issued for the spike-fork bull hunt and no moose were taken.

**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?** Individuals opposed to hunting.

**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 Dept. of Fish and Game and U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
(HQ-00S-G-056)

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**PROPOSAL 46** - 5 AAC 85.045(a)(13). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in a portion of Unit 15C.

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(13)		
... Unit 15(C), that portion south of the south fork of the Anchor River and northwest of Kachemak Bay		
1 bull with spike-fork antlers or 50-inch antlers or antlers with 3 or more brow tines on one side; or	Aug. 20-Sept. 20 (General Hunt only)	Aug. 20-Sept. 20
1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only; the taking of calves, and females accompa- nied by calves, is prohibited; up to 50 permits may be issued	Aug. 20-Sept. 20	Aug. 20-Sept. 20
...		

**ISSUE:** Antlerless moose seasons must be 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 6 moose per mile during February of 1992 have resulted in severely overbrowsed habitat. Many willow

stands remain 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 2 winters have been severe with record snowfall occurring during 1998-99. Fifty-one moose were reported starved in 1997-1998 and 53 in 1998-1999. Additional mortality from defense of life and property kills and moose dying from accidents added to a record total of 71 dead moose.

The Department initiated a program to improve habitat conditions on the Homer benchlands. Goals of this program are to reduce the moose population to allow decadent browse stands to recover. 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 been in place for 5 years.

Sixteen moose were harvested by 30 permittees during the 1995 season, 22 moose by 40 permittees during 1996, 21 moose by 40 permittees during 1997, and 11 moose were taken by 50 permittees during the 1998 season. The 1999 season dates were changed to mirror the general season. Seven moose were reported taken.

A moose survey completed in February of 1999 resulted in 370 moose counted under good to excellent survey conditions. Assuming 75% - 90% sightability, the estimated population for this area is 411-493 moose. The Department's objective is to maintain this population at approximately 365 moose. We recommend re-authorization of the antlerless hunt and anticipate issuing 25 permits for the fall 2000 hunt.

**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-00S-G-057)  
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**PROPOSAL 47** – 5 AAC. 85.045(a)(14). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Reauthorize the antlerless moose hunt on Kalgin Island in Unit 16B.

<b>Units and Bag Limits</b>	<b>Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)</b>	<b>Nonresident Open Season</b>
(14)		
...		

Unit 16(B), Kalgin Island

1 moose per regulatory year,  
by registration permit only

Aug. 20 - Sept. 30

Aug. 20 - Sept. 30

...

**ISSUE:** Antlerless moose hunts must be reauthorized annually. The population objective for this predator-free 23 mi<sup>2</sup> island is a density of 1 moose/mi<sup>2</sup>. Following a December 1998 survey, we estimated the population at 130-150 moose (27 bulls and 53 calves per 100 cows), which is equivalent to approximately 6 moose/mi<sup>2</sup>. After spring reproduction, we estimated 150-180 moose inhabited the island during summer 1999.

Because of concerns over population growth and habitat conditions, a drawing permit hunt for cows was initiated in 1995. During 1995-1998, human harvest from a drawing hunt for cows and an any-bull general hunt failed to slow the increase in the population. In an attempt to reduce the population quickly, the Board established a registration hunt for any moose for the fall 1999 season. The reported harvest for the 1999 season was 79 moose (50 cows, 29 bulls) from 438 permits issued. We estimate the population will number 70-110 moose, equivalent to 3.0-4.8 moose/mi<sup>2</sup>, by fall 2000. A similar registration hunt is needed during fall 2000 to further reduce this population and prevent excessive habitat damage and potential starvation. The danger of overharvest is very low due to the difficult hunting conditions found on the island.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Without liberal harvest, the population will continue to exceed the island's carrying capacity, resulting in severe habitat damage and a dramatic decline in moose numbers through starvation.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Hunters who make the effort to get to Kalgin Island will enjoy the opportunity to take any moose.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Seasonal residents of Kalgin Island may be concerned about the increase in hunters on the island and around their cabins and homes.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** A general season for any moose will also work to reduce numbers, and will not require the significant staff time necessary with a registration hunt.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-00S-G-058)  
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**PROPOSAL 48** - 5 AAC 85.045(15). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR CARIBOU. Amend this regulation in Unit 20C as follows:

15 permits issued for mature bull caribou with a minimum of 8 points on one antler.

**ISSUE:** Unable to hunt caribou in Unit 20C.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Old mature bulls will continue to go to waste.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Hunters—State of Alaska.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Any bull caribou – rejected – only want to take older bulls that are towards the end of their life.

**PROPOSED BY:** Middle Nenana River Advisory Committee (I-OOS-G-014)  
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**PROPOSAL 49** - 5 AAC 85.045(a)(17). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Reauthorize the antlerless moose hunting season in Unit 19A.

<b>Units and Bag Limits</b> (17)	<b>Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)</b>	<b>Nonresident Open Season</b>
Unit 19(A), that portion within the Lime Village Management Area	Aug. 10-Sept. 25 (Subsistence hunt only) Nov. 20-Mar. 31 (Subsistence hunt only)	No open season.
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		
Unit 19(A), 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		
<b>RESIDENT HUNTERS:</b> 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	
<b>NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:</b> 1 bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines		Sept. 1-Sept. 20

on one side

....

**ISSUE:** Antlerless moose hunting seasons must be reauthorized annually. The estimated harvest from 1993 to 1999 for the February antlerless hunt (19A ,except Lime Village Mgmt. Area) has ranged between 5 and 50 moose with an average estimated February harvest of 22 moose. An estimated average of 15 moose are taken during the winter season within the Lime Village Management Area. 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?** Continuation of the ability to harvest antlerless moose will benefit primarily local hunters who are not fortunate enough to harvest a moose during the fall season.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one is likely to suffer except, perhaps, people opposed to antlerless moose hunting.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** None.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-00S-G-059)

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**PROPOSAL 50** - 5 AAC 85.045(17). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Amend this regulation in Units 19A and 19B as follows:

Season dates in Units 19A and 19B would be the same: Sept. 1 – Sept. 20.

**ISSUE:** Some hunters are harvesting moose in Unit 19A after the close of the season (Sept. 20) and saying they harvested in Unit 19B, which has a 5 day longer season (Sept. 25).

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Hunters will continue to harvest moose after the close of the season in Unit 19A.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** All hunters.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Hunters who illegally harvest moose in Unit 19A then claim they harvested the moose in Unit 19B.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?**

**PROPOSED BY:** Central Kuskokwim Advisory Committee (HQ-OOS-G-037)

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**PROPOSAL 51** - 5 AAC 85.045(17). HUNTING SEASON AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Change this regulation so season dates in Units 19A and 19B are the same.

Unit 19A Residents and nonresidents Sept. 1 – Sept. 25  
Unit 19B Residents and nonresidents Sept. 1 – Sept. 25

**ISSUE:** On the border between Units 19A and 19B it is hard to tell where the line is, hunters are killing animals in Unit 19A and saying they killed them in Unit 19B.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** More illegally taken moose in Unit 19A.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Hunters that hunt in that area will be legal as long as they know the date.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?**

**PROPOSED BY:** Doug Carney (HQ-OOS-G-001)  
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**PROPOSAL 52** - 5 AAC 85.045(17). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Amend this regulation in Units 19A and 19B to provide the following:

Establish a drawing permit requirement for nonresident moose hunters in Units 19A and 19B. Retain present season lengths. This is a stopgap solution until a program of intensive management provides for a sustainable moose harvest for all hunters.

**ISSUE:** Since 1997, 1998, and especially 1999, a decline in resident and nonresident moose hunting success and moose numbers has become apparent in the upland habitat of Units 19A and 19B. This trend in hunting success has continued despite no significant changes in moose harvested, annual increases in fly-in hunters, and the 50-inch minimum antler restriction for nonresidents. The decline in moose is related to predation and the adverse winter of 1999.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Bull moose availability will continue to decline unless harvest restrictions and predator control are initiated.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Resident (fly-in) and some local residents will experience less competition for moose. Nonresidents now outnumber fly-in residents about 3 to 1.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Commercial hunter services and nonresidents without permits, but wishing to hunt Units 19A and 19B.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Initiate an intensive management program.

**PROPOSED BY:** Peter Shepherd (HQ-OOS-G-026)  
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**PROPOSAL 53** - 5 AAC 85.045(17) and (19). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Amend this regulation as follows:

Shorten nonresident hunting season in Units 19 and 21E ten days (Sept. 1 --Sept. 10) after Sept. 10 trophy value of moose will be required to be destroyed to insure compliance with law.

**ISSUE:** Lack of control over explosive growth of nonsubsistence moose hunting pressure in mid-Kuskokwim region, sustained yield principle of management in jeopardy.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Moose numbers in mid-Kuskokwim region will be depleted, resulting in loss of important food source to people and animals who live in region.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** People and animals who depend on and have depended on moose as an important food source.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Some guides, outfitters, and air taxi operators may not make as much money, but if resource is depleted no one will benefit, we all will suffer.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Close mid-Kuskokwim region completely until state comes up with management system for nonresidents

**PROPOSED BY:** Herman W. Morgan (HQ-OOS-G-028)  
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**PROPOSAL 54** - 5AAC 85.045(17). HUNTING SEASONS BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Shorten the moose season in Unit 19D.

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(17) ... Unit 19(D), that portion of the Kuskokwim River drainage upstream from and including the <u>Selatna</u> [SELANTNA] River drainage, except for that portion of the Upper Kuskokwim Controlled Use Area south and east of the Kuskokwim and North Fork Kuskokwim River	Sept. 1-Sept. <u>15</u> [25] [DEC. 1-DEC. 31]	No open season
Unit 19(D), that portion of the Upper Kuskokwim River Controlled Use Area south and east of the		





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:		
1 bull with spike-fork or greater antlers by bow and arrow only	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
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:** Fairbanks Management Area: 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.

Surveys were not conducted in the FMA in 1999, but surveys conducted in adjacent Unit 20A and 20B (West) outside the FMA suggest high moose abundance. Within the FMA, moose - vehicle collisions appear to have stabilized at relatively high levels and continue to be a chronic problem that pose significant safety concerns to motorists. Also, moose nuisance complaints continue to place significant demands on department staff. Reported harvest of cows in the FMA was 12 in

1998. Survey and harvest data indicate that the current seasons are biologically sustainable and it is our contention that an even higher harvest is sustainable with the moose population at current levels.

Minto Flats Management Area: The purpose of this antlerless hunt is to provide for subsistence harvests in a manner that allows opportunity for general hunts as well.

Surveys conducted in 1999 indicate that the moose density within the Minto Flats Management Area is relatively high. Bull:cow ratios of 30 bulls:100 cows meet our management objective while providing for a 10 day bull only general season and fall and winter subsistence seasons. This may partly be explained by moderately strong productivity (35 calves:100 cows) and twinning rates that continue to be higher than in adjacent Unit 20A. The reported harvest of cows taken during the subsistence hunt in the MFMA has been stable over the last 3 years (reported harvest: 1996 - 23; 1997 - 23; 1998 - 27). The current harvest of females from the MFMA population of about 1750 moose is sustainable.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Opportunity will be lost and nuisance moose problems and moose vehicle collisions may increase in the FMA. In the MFMA, 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?** Hunters and other residents.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** People opposed to antlerless moose hunting.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** None.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-00S-G-060)  
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**PROPOSAL 56** - 5 AAC 85.045(18). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Amend this regulation in Unit 20B as follows:

Have the season the same, except start two weeks earlier for archery in Unit 20B.

**ISSUE:** I would like to have a two week pre-season for moose in Unit 20B for archery season. Also expanding the Fairbanks Management Area in Unit 20B, because there is getting to be a lot of bow hunters for the area.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** It would give bow hunters a chance to spread out and not be packed in one arc as it has been for the last three years.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** The bow hunters.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?**

**PROPOSED BY:** George Pearson

(I-OOS-G-004)

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**PROPOSAL 57** - 5 AAC 85.045(18). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Establish a bow and arrow only season for residents in Unit 20B as follows:

By bow and arrow only in

Remainder of Unit 20B: Residents: 1 bull Sept. 20 - Sept. 25

Nonresidents: No open season

Note: All bow hunters must have passed the ADF&G proficiency test (or equivalent) in order to hunt. This will have the effect of reducing the loss of wounded animals.

**ISSUE:** Bow and arrow hunters have difficulty in finding hunting areas where they are not interrupted. Also, the early closure makes it difficult for them to effectively call moose to the ranges that are necessary for a clean kill. This proposal will improve the quality of the hunt for all hunters by spreading the hunting pressure over a longer period of time, without having any negative impact on the moose population.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** As hunting pressure increases there will continue to be a decline in the opportunities for having a "quality hunt." Black powder weapons have been excluded from this proposal because of the effectiveness of the modern replicas. This proposal eliminates user conflict.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** All hunters would benefit by distributing the hunting pressure over a longer time period, thereby eliminating user conflict during the regular season.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** This is a biologically sound proposal and no one would suffer.

The remainder of Unit 20B is already well defined in the regulations and would not overlap with any existing controlled use areas.

Expanding the bow and arrow seasons has been tried and proven in most of the lower forty-eight states as a way of expanding hunting opportunities without any negative impact on populations.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?**

**PROPOSED BY:** James C. Dunlap

(HQ-OOS-G-005)

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**PROPOSAL 58** - 5 AAC 85.045(18). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Amend this regulation in Unit 20 to include the following:

A late season by permit or drawing in order to harvest a certain number set by ADF&G. Area is probably more accessible by snowmachine or aircraft during winter. Possibly same-day-airborne hunting for a limited number of animals.

**ISSUE:** Unit 20A moose population peaking or possibly beginning to decline.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** More than likely it would mean starvation for a number of moose, especially if the area has a hard winter.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** People who did not harvest a moose during the fall season.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Possibly trappers in the area who have trap lines that hunters might use.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?**

**PROPOSED BY:** Tim N. Covell (I-OOS-G-012)

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**PROPOSAL 59** - 5 AAC 85.045(18). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Amend this regulation in Unit 20A as follows:

One bull with spike fork or 50-inch antlers, or antlers with four or more brow tines on at least one side.

**ISSUE:** Decline of bull moose since the hunt went from four brow tines to three brow tines.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Bull moose will continue to decline because of hunting pressure and easy access.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Moose population, bigger bulls in the future.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?**

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?**

**PROPOSED BY:** Lolita Valcq (HQ-OOS-G-021)

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**PROPOSAL 60** - 5 AAC 85.045(18). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Amend this regulation in Unit 20A as follows:

Spike-fork 50-inch, 3 brow tines harvest only on bull moose in all of Unit 20A, except in the Ferry Trail Management Area.

**ISSUE:** Low bull moose cow moose ratio in all of Unit 20A. Harvest has increased too fast in the past few years by allowing an any bull harvest.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Bull moose population will decrease ever faster.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Anyone interested in seeing more bull moose in Unit 20A.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** In the short term opportunity to harvest a legal bull may decrease. However, in the long term, this will promote a healthy moose population.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** 1) Drawing permit. 2) Shorten the moose season.

**PROPOSED BY:** Michael DeNeut (I-OOS-G-043)  
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**PROPOSAL 61** - 5 AAC 85.045(18). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Amend this regulation in Unit 20A, the Ferry Trail Management Area as follows:

Eliminate spike-fork antler harvest and change brow tine requirement from 3 brow tines to 4 brow tines, keep the 50-inch antlers.

**ISSUE:** Low bull moose/cow moose ratio in the Ferry Trail Management Area.

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

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Any one interested in seeing more bull moose in the area.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** In the short term, opportunity to harvest a legal bull may decrease. However, in the long term, this will promote a healthy moose population.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** 1) Drawing permit. 2) Move the management area boundary line back to the Tatatlanicha River.

**PROPOSED BY:** Michael Deneut (I-OOS-G-044)  
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**PROPOSAL 62** - 5 AAC 85.045(18). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Create a Unit 20E registration permit hunt and change the season dates beginning in regulatory year 2001-2002. This regulation would not take affect in regulatory year 2000-2001.

<b>Units and Bag Limits</b>	<b>Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)</b>	<b>Nonresident Open Season</b>
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Unit 20(E), that portion within the Ladue River Controlled Use Area

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull per regulatory year, only as follows:

[1 BULL WITH SPIKE-FORK ANTLERS] [AUG. 15-AUG.28]

1 bull by registration permit only; Aug. 24-Aug. 28  
Sept. 8-Sept. 17  
[SEPT. 1-SEPT. 15]  
(General hunt only)

1 bull by drawing permit only; up to 100 permits may be issued Nov. 1-Nov. 30  
(General hunt only)

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull with 50 inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on at least one side Sept. 8-Sept. 17  
[SEPT. 5-SEPT. 15]

Unit 20(E), that portion draining into the Yukon River upstream from and including the Charley and Seventymile River drainages, to and including the Boundary Creek drainages and the Taylor Highway from Mile 145 to Eagle

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

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

[1 BULL WITH SPIKE-FORK ANTLERS] [AUG. 15-AUG.28]

1 bull Aug. 24-Aug. 28  
Sept. 5-Sept. 25

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side Sept. 5-Sept. 25

Remainder of Unit 20(E)

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

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

[1 BULL WITH SPIKE-FORK  
ANTLERS]

[AUG. 15-AUG.28]

1 bull

Aug. 24-Aug. 28  
Sept. 8-Sept. 17]  
[SEPT. 1-SEPT. 15]  
(General hunt only)

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

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

Sept. 8-Sept. 17  
[SEPT. 5-SEPT. 15]

...

**ISSUE:** The Unit 20E moose population currently exists at low density (0.6 moose/mi<sup>2</sup>). Population trend is stable to slightly increasing. Intensive management of predators and habitat is ongoing in portions of the unit and is expected to benefit moose. Significant moose population response is not expected for at least 5 years in areas affected by wolf control and at least 10 years following three large prescribe burns (totaling about 95,000 acres). Hunter participation and harvest has increased by over 60% and 90%, respectively the past 5 years. Harvest has caused declining bull/cow ratios along the Taylor Highway and several trails and is beginning to have more effect in several more remote areas of the unit. Most of Unit 20E moose population supports a high bull population (> 60 bulls/100 cows) and is not affected by hunting.

Beginning in 2001, the Fortymile caribou hunt will be liberalized and thousands of hunters are expected to participate compared to hundreds the past 4 years. The incidental harvest of moose is expected to increase especially along the Taylor Highway and the area's trails and around several well known landing strips. The stable to slowly increasing moose population in Unit 20E will not be able to sustain this sudden increase in harvest.

To ensure continued maintenance of the bull population and to achieve the greatest effects from the ongoing intensive management programs, moose harvest cannot increase much above current levels. There are two ways to reduce incidental take of moose; either separate moose and caribou hunters by season or by permit. Stopping the caribou hunt during the fall moose season would needlessly reduce hunting opportunity for Fortymile caribou which is not supported by hunters, not biologically necessary, and in conflict with the Fortymile Caribou Management Plan and the Fortymile Caribou Harvest Plan.

Hunting opportunity for both moose and Fortymile caribou can be maximized by managing both hunts under a sole registration permit that requires the hunter to choose either caribou or moose to hunt. This will not affect most subsistence hunters because traditionally moose and caribou are hunted in different areas and at different times in Unit 20E. This regulation would not preclude any hunter from completing one hunt for one species turn that permit in and then hunt the other. The intent of the registration permit requirement is to stop the incidental take of moose.



An additional threat to the current Unit 20E moose population and the projected population trend is hunter immigration from Unit 13. The number of moose hunters in Unit 20E has increased the past 5 years. The majority of the new hunters are from southcentral Alaska. The timing of the new hunters into Unit 20E corresponds to the implementation of the spike/fork or 50 inch regulation in all the road accessible game management units in Region II. Increased immigration of hunters into Unit 20E and other interior game management units is likely based on the trend of the Unit 13 moose and caribou populations.

Some increase in the number of moose hunters in Unit 20E is acceptable especially if hunters are dispersed throughout the unit. However, if 100s of more hunters begin to hunt Unit 20E, the moose population would not be able to sustain the expected increase in harvest. To ensure harvest does not become an important factor in keeping the moose population objectives to be met, increases in hunter numbers must be slowed and adequate hunter distribution must occur.

Hunter distribution can be managed through the discretionary authority under the registration permit. Too rapid of an increase in hunter numbers may be avoided by splitting the moose season into two parts scheduled to occur when less moose hunters are historically in the field or when harvest success is lower. Both periods will offer attributes hunters have requested. During the early season hunters can hunt with kids prior to school the start of the school year and during more predictable weather. Large numbers of hunters usually hunt the early season but hunter success is normally lower because the leaves are still on the trees making moose hard to see and moose because of their behavior are harder to find. During the late season, weather is more unpredictable, there are historically less hunters in the field but success rates are normally higher. Increases in hunter numbers may not occur because many may not be able to time their hunt to the open periods.

Loss of the 15 day August spike-fork season will not have detrimental effects on subsistence hunters. Since the inception of the spike-fork season, only 1-2 bulls have been taken annually.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Conservation of the Unit 20(E) moose population is in jeopardy. Reduction of the moose population could possibly require a Tier II hunt to be implemented, a substantially reduced moose season, or antler restriction all which are not supported by most hunters.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** All moose hunters.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Hunters who want to hunt both moose and caribou on the same hunt. Hunters who traditionally hunt Labor Day weekend.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Closing the Fortymile caribou hunt between September 1-15. Rejected because reduced hunting opportunity for Fortymile caribou during the fall hunt is not supported by hunters, not biologically necessary, and in conflict with the Fortymile Caribou Management Plan and the Fortymile Caribou Harvest Plan.

Substantially reduce the moose season. Rejected because would cause undue hardship on people who depend on moose, increase competition and urgency amongst moose hunters reducing the quality of the hunt. Hunter safety may be compromised.

Create a Unit 20(E) Management Area that utilizes temporary access restrictions to manage hunter and harvest distribution. For example, if the moose population in an area is in danger of an overharvest designate only certain trails or strips that can be used for access only that would reduce but not eliminate hunter opportunity and success. This is the type of management used in the Ladue River Controlled Use Area and it has allowed the bull/cow ratio to recover and is supported by the majority of hunters who used that area. Should be discussed but may not be sufficient in reducing incidental harvest of moose by caribou hunters.

Impose antler restrictions. Rejected because of the current age structure of the units moose population would not allow antler restrictions to be effective in protecting the bull population. Local resident hunting practices would be in conflict.

Create a Tier I moose hunt with area quotas. Would restrict hunter opportunity and would not limit incidental harvest of moose by caribou hunters increasing conflict between hunter groups.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-00S-G-069)  
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**PROPOSAL 63** - 5 AAC 85.045(a)(19). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Reauthorize antlerless moose hunting seasons in Unit 21D.

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 registration 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)		
<b>RESIDENT HUNTERS:</b>		
1 moose per regulatory year; however, antlerless moose may	Sept. 5-Sept. 25 Feb. 1-Feb. 10	

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

**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 harvest in the two geographic areas described in regulation (above), can be supported by present moose populations on a limited basis only. Fall 1999 surveys suggest static or declining numbers in Three Day Slough, Kaiyuh Slough, Pilot Mountain Slough, and Squirrel Creek, trend count areas. Calf:cow and yearling:cow ratios indicate recruitment rates are declining, and more conservative harvest on the reproductive portion of the population is needed in some areas of the unit. Surveys conducted in March 1999 indicate increasing wolf population that is also having a downward influence on recruitment rates of moose in the game management unit.

**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?** People who like to hunt cow moose.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** People opposed to antlerless moose hunting.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?**

Continue the cow harvest for all seasons currently open

Continue the cow harvest except for the RM 830 General Registration Hunt (see note #2 below)

Continue the cow harvest except for fall hunting in the Koyukuk River Drainage portion of Unit 21D

Continue the cow harvest during the winter seasons only

**Note:** This proposal is part of the Koyukuk River moose management planning effort being conducted by the Department in cooperation with the advisory committee based Koyukuk River Moose Hunters' Working Group. A few of the proposals may require modification based on final discussions between the Working Group and Department. To evaluate the complete package of proposals stemming from this planning effort refer to the following proposals:

**Moose:** Change the moose general hunt regulations in Units 21D and 24 within the Koyukuk Controlled Use Area (KCUA) from the RM 830 registration hunt to two drawing hunts and expand the area of the drawing hunt and RM 832 registration hunt to the entire controlled use area. The Working Group has recommended that the drawing hunt be split into two hunt periods for the early and later part of the season. The Department can implement this recommendation through discretionary permit hunt authority;

Moose: Reauthorization of the cow harvests in Units 21D and 24. This proposal will reauthorize all the cow harvests; however, the Working Group has recommended the Department use permit discretionary authority to not provide for a cow harvest in the general hunt in the KCUA. Additional discussions may result in the recommendation to further restrict cow harvest in the fall hunt.

Moose: Open the RM 832 subsistence registration season 5 days earlier (Aug. 27). The Working Group has recommended opening and closing the RM 832 season 5 days earlier to make the season Aug. 27-Sept. 20. If this proposal is adopted with the season ending date of Sept. 25, the Department can end the season on Sept. 20 through discretionary permit hunt authority. If the proposal were written to end the season on Sept. 20 through regulation, the Department would not have discretion to add the five days back on the end of the season. The approach used in this proposal will maintain flexibility to return to the Sept. 1-Sept. 25 season, should a major increase in participation in the early hunt occur and threaten sustainability of the harvest. The Working Group has also recommended submitting a proposal to the Federal Subsistence Board to align the federal and state subsistence seasons.

Customary and Traditional Uses of Moose: Reexamine the amounts reasonably necessary for subsistence uses of moose in Units 21 and 24.

Black bear (in 5 AAC 92.085(4)(A). Unlawful Methods of Taking Big Game; Exceptions): Allow black bear baiting during the fall hunting season in the portion of Units 21D and 24 within the KCUA.

Brown bear: Increase the bag limit to one bear per year in the general hunt in Units 21D and 24 and extend the season to June 15.

**PROPOSED BY:** ADF&G on behalf of the Koyukuk Moose Hunters' Working Group  
(HQ-00S-G-061)

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**PROPOSAL 64** - 5 AAC 85.045(19). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Change the season dates for residents in Unit 21D as follows:

Unit 21D – that portion within the Koyukuk Controlled Use Area  
1 moose, Feb.5 – Feb.14 [FEB. 1 – FEB. 10]

Reminder of Unit 21D  
1 moose... or any however moose may not be taken within one-half mile of the Yukon River. Feb. 5 – 14 [FEB. 1 – FEB. 10.]

**ISSUE:** Extreme cold temperatures often prohibit travel during the first week of February. Weather conditions in the Koyukuk River area can produce extreme cold temperatures during late January through the first seven days of February. Moose hunting during the first several days of February can be limited due to the extreme cold temperatures. Changing the February season moose season in Unit 21D to February 5 – 14 would decrease the chances of extreme cold

temperatures for the unit and enhance the hunting opportunity for local moose hunters during the winter moose season.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Local hunters will not be able to hunt for moose during the winter season due to extreme winter temperatures. Families dependent on moose meat will go without because of short window of opportunity.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Rural users who harvest moose in Unit 21D during the February season would benefit from the proposed season change. A February 5 – 14 season would decrease the chances of extreme cold temperatures.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?**

**PROPOSED BY:** Benedict Janek (I-OOS-G-011)  
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**PROPOSAL 65 - 5 AAC 85.045(19). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE.**  
Reauthorize the antlerless moose hunting season in Unit 21E.

<b>Units and Bag Limits</b>	<b>Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)</b>	<b>Nonresident Open Season</b>
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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 estimated harvest from 1993 to 1998 for the February antlerless hunt has ranged between 8 and 74 moose with an

average February harvest of 34 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?** People opposed to antlerless moose hunting.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** None.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-00S-G-062)  
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**PROPOSAL 66** - 5 AAC 85.045(19). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Shorten the winter hunting season in Unit 21E as follows:

1 moose, either sex, Feb.1 - Feb.5

**ISSUE:** February moose season in Unit 21E. Shorten season. Rescind restrictions on island hunting.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Legal language usage on interpreting hunting areas may cause unwanted court cases.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Hunters, as it will not restrict the islands.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Moose. More may be taken, so we are asking for a shorter season.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** None.

**PROPOSED BY:** GASH Advisory Committee (HQ-OOS-G-013)  
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**PROPOSAL 67** - 5 AAC 85.045(19). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Shorten the moose hunting season dates in Unit 21E as follows:

One bull Sept. 5 – Sept. 15.

**ISSUE:** I would like to see the hunting days shortened because the bull moose start running around after the middle of the month.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** The moose population will decrease.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Residents in Unit 21E.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?**

**PROPOSED BY:** Phillip Demientieff (I-OOS-G-008)

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**PROPOSAL 68** - 5 AAC 85.045(19). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Amend this regulation as follows:

February season closed in Unit 21E.

**ISSUE:** State opening in Feb. 1 - Feb. 10 to be closed.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** The moose population will decrease.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Moose will benefit, also residents of Unit 21E.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** None, we already have a federal season open in February.

**PROPOSED BY:** Sandra Demientieff (I-OOS-G-007)

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**PROPOSAL 69** - 5 AAC 85.045(19) and (22). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Amend this regulation in Units 21D and 24 as follows:

Shift the fall subsistence and general hunt season: Aug. 21 – Sept. 21 [SEPT. 1 – SEPT. 25]

**ISSUE:** The increasing hunter pressure and crowding on the Koyukuk River between local subsistence users and general hunt hunter's and the compressed pressure on the Koyukuk River moose herd.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Increasing conflicts and hard feelings and too much pressure in too short a time.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** All reasonable hunters and wildlife managers.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?**

**PROPOSED BY:** Middle Yukon River Advisory Committee/Koyukuk River Advisory Committee (I-OOS-G-027)

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**PROPOSAL 70** - 5 AAC 85.045 (a)(20). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Reauthorize the antlerless moose seasons in a portion of Unit 22D, and in Unit 22E:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(20)		
... 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	Sept. 1-Sept. 30	
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		Sept. 1-Sept. 30
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 antlers with 4 or more brow		Aug. 1-Mar. 31



tines on one side

**ISSUE:** To be retained, antlerless moose seasons must be reauthorized annually. In October 1999, the Board of Game followed the department’s recommendation and eliminated the antlerless moose season in all of Unit 22B. This was in response to a 50% population decline documented over the last decade in western Unit 22B and continued low recruitment and productivity in the unit.

Moose populations in Unit 22D declined significantly during the late 1980s and early 1990s because of severe winter weather conditions. Census data indicate populations have stabilized; however, in the most accessible portions of Unit 22D, in the Kuzitrin, Kougarok and Pilgrim River drainages, moose populations are still below desired levels. In March 1997, the Board of Game eliminated the antlerless moose season in this portion of Unit 22D and we recommend it remain closed to aid in population recovery.

However, in the remainder of Unit 22D and Unit 22E, estimates of population size and recruitment provided by censuses and late winter surveys indicate that current harvests of antlerless moose are not adversely affecting the population status of moose. We recommend that antlerless moose hunting be continued in the remainder of Unit 22D and Unit 22E where the reported cow harvest in is low and is not believed to be adversely impacting the population. During the 1996-97 season the reported cow harvest in the remainder of Unit 22D and Unit 22E was 6 cows; in 1997-98 6 cows were reported taken; and in 1998-99 the reported cow harvest in the remainder of Unit 22D and Unit 22E was 9 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-00S-G-064)

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**PROPOSAL 71** - 5 AAC 85.045(a)(21). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Reauthorize the antlerless moose seasons in Unit 23.

<b>Units and Bag Limits</b> (21)	<b>Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)</b>	<b>Nonresident Open Season</b>
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Unit 23, that portion north of and including the Singoalik River drainage

RESIDENT HUNTERS:  
1 moose; a person may not  
take a cow accompanied by a calf

July 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

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 moose seasons must be reauthorized annually. Most moose populations in Unit 23 appear stable. The reported harvest of cows remains low throughout Unit 23.

**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-00S-G-065)

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**PROPOSAL 72** - 5 AAC 85.045(a)(22). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Reauthorize the antlerless moose hunting seasons in Unit 24.

<b>Units and Bag Limits</b> (22)	<b>Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)</b>	<b>Nonresident Open Season</b>
Unit 24, that portion within the Koyukuk Controlled Use Area downstream from Huslia		
1 moose per regulatory year as follows:		
1 antlerless moose or	Sept. 5-Sept. 25 (General hunt only)	Sept. 5-Sept. 25
1 bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side by registration permit		
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		
<b>RESIDENT HUNTERS:</b>		
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	
<b>NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:</b>		
1 bull with 50-inch antlers, or antlers with 4 or more		Sept. 5—Sept. 25

brow tines on one side

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 harvest in the four geographic areas described in regulation (above) can be supported by present moose populations on a limited basis only. Fall 1998 trend count surveys suggest static or declining moose populations in the Dulbi Slough, Dubi River Mouth, the Treat Island, and Mathews Slough. Population estimation surveys in northern GMU 24 also suggest a decline has occurred in the population. Calf:cow and yearling:cow ratios indicate recruitment rates are declining, and a more conservative harvest on the reproductive portion of the population is needed in some areas of the unit.

**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?** People who like to hunt cow moose.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** People opposed to antlerless moose hunting.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?**

Continue the cow harvest for all seasons currently open

Continue the cow harvest except for the RM 830 General Registration Hunt (see note #2 below)  
Continue the cow harvest except for fall hunting in the Koyukuk River Drainage portion of Unit 24  
Continue the cow harvest during the winter seasons only

**Note:** This proposal is part of the Koyukuk River moose management planning effort being conducted by the Department in cooperation with the advisory committee based Koyukuk River Moose Hunters' Working Group. A few of the proposals may require modification based on final discussions between the Working Group and Department. To evaluate the complete package of proposals stemming from this planning effort refer to the following proposals:

Moose: Change the moose general hunt regulations in Units 21D and 24 within the Koyukuk Controlled Use Area (KCUA) from the RM 830 registration hunt to two drawing hunts and expand the area of the drawing hunt and RM 832 registration hunt to the entire controlled use area. The Working Group has recommended that the drawing hunt be split into two hunt periods for the early and later part of the season. The Department can implement this recommendation through discretionary permit hunt authority.

Moose: Reauthorization of the cow harvests in Units 21D and 24. This proposal will reauthorize all the cow harvests; however, the Working Group has recommended the Department use permit discretionary authority to not provide for a cow harvest in the general hunt in the KCUA. Additional discussions may result in the recommendation to further restrict cow harvest in the fall hunt.

Moose: Open the RM 832 subsistence registration season 5 days earlier (Aug. 27). The Working Group has recommended opening and closing the RM 832 season 5 days earlier to make the season Aug. 27-Sept. 20. If this proposal is adopted with the season ending date of Sept. 25, the Department can end the season on Sept. 20 through discretionary permit hunt authority. If the proposal were written to end the season on Sept. 20 through regulation, the Department would not have discretion to add the five days back on the end of the season. The approach used in this proposal will maintain flexibility to return to the Sept. 1-Sept. 25 season, should a major increase in participation in the early hunt occur and threaten sustainability of the harvest. The Working Group has also recommended submitting a proposal to the Federal Subsistence Board to align the federal and state subsistence seasons.

Customary and Traditional Uses of Moose: Reexamine the amounts reasonably necessary for subsistence uses of moose in Units 21 and 24.

Black bear (in 5 AAC 92.085(4)(A). Unlawful Methods of Taking Big Game; Exceptions): Allow black bear baiting during the fall hunting season in the portion of Units 21D and 24 within the KCUA.

Brown bear: Increase the bag limit to one bear per year in the general hunt in Units 21D and 24 and extend the season to June 15.

**PROPOSED BY:** ADF&G on behalf of the Koyukuk Moose Hunters' Working Group  
(HQ-00S-G-063)

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**PROPOSAL 73** - 5 AAC 85.045(23). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Amend this regulation in Unit 25D to align the state season hunting with the federal season.

The state season would be Aug. 25 – Feb. 28 (aligned with the federal season). The harvest quota for Unit 25D west would be 40-50 bulls and a maximum of 20 cows. Up to 75 Tier II permits would be issued. Local councils will operate programs to collect harvest data and report harvest levels periodically throughout the season to ensure compliance with harvest levels.

**ISSUE:** The current state Tier II and federal moose permit system for moose hunting in Unit 25D west are difficult to implement, confusing to local residents, and the harvest quota is listed at below the actual need and current harvest of local people. The Board of Game should review this situation and support a quota that represents the current harvest level of 40-50 bull moose and up to 20 cow moose for the unit. The state season should be aligned with the federal season to reduce confusion and the possibility of harvesting moose on lands not permitted for this hunt. The number of Tier II permits should be a total of 75 and harvest reporting should be coordinated with the local council.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Harvest reporting and compliance with hunting regulations will be low. Accurate harvest data will be unavailable for management decision making. A moose management plan will not be effective without local support and population densities will remain low but stable. Current attempts by local communities and ADF&G to create a working moose management system will most likely fail. (Much cooperative work to identify the suggested changes leads us to believe that the suggested approach will build a cooperative management system between ADF&G, federal and community.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Moose hunters, ADF&G, federal agencies and village councils, by having an accurate and locally acceptable management system that meets the needs of the community members and the moose population by proactive management practices.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?**

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Doing nothing and allowing the current confusing system to continue. The current system is unworkable by local standards and practices.

**PROPOSED BY:** Stevens Village Tribal Government (I-OOS-G-022)  
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**PROPOSAL 74** - 5 AAC 85.055. HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR DALL SHEEP. Amend this regulation as follows:

Five percent of all Tok Management Area permits to go to guided nonresidents.

**ISSUE:** Nonresident permits to guides for the Tok Management Area (TMA). Ten percent of TMA permits go to nonresidents. Over the years, circumstances have resulted in guides having a slim chance of ever seeing a client who has drawn a TMA permit for the following reasons:

A) Second degree of kindred is not required to have a guide. More military personnel in Alaska put their family members in for a TMA permit. Long time Alaskans do the same.

B) The requirement of hunting license only and tag fee was put into effect in the mid 90's. This resident hunters down with the tag fee requirement being removed, nonresident hunter success did not improve.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** If problem not solved then licensed guides will continue to compete with second degree of kindred hunters with little chance of success.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Guides who pay to hold the TMA as an area for guided hunts.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Second degree kindred nonresident hunters—smaller chance of drawing.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** A) Guarantee to guides—reelected because it is only fair to give an equal chance for the 10 nonresidents. B) More permits to nonresidents—rejected because it is unfair to residents who are avid sheep hunters.

**PROPOSED BY:** Matt Snyder (I-OOS-G-031)

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**PROPOSAL 75** - 5 AAC 85.055. HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR DALL SHEEP. Amend this regulation as follows:

<b>Units and Bag Limits</b>	<b>Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)</b>	<b>Nonresident Open Season</b>
...		
(2)		
Units 12, 13, and 20, those portions known as the Tok Management Area	Aug. 10-Sept. 20 (General hunt only)	Aug. 10-Sept. 20
1 ram with full-curl horn or larger every 4 regulatory years, by drawing permit only; <u>up to</u> 120 permits <u>may</u> [WILL] be issued		
...		

**ISSUE:** The Tok Management Area (TMA) was created in 1974 to provide opportunity for hunters to pursue large-horned Dall sheep rams under uncrowded hunting conditions. Dall sheep rams in the TMA exhibit the second greatest horn growth qualities in Alaska. The area of greatest horn growth is in the southern Wrangell Mountains but most of that area is included within the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and no longer open for sheep hunting to the majority of hunters. The TMA is one of only two sheep hunting areas in the state specifically established for trophy sheep management. The combination of trophy rams and uncrowded hunting has made the TMA the most sought after sheep hunting permit in Alaska.

The primary management method used to increase the chance of encountering a large-horn ram has been limiting hunter participation and consequently harvest by use of a drawing permit system. By using drawing permits, annual harvest was kept low enough to allow some rams to attain their maximum potential horn size. Until 1994, this system created uncrowded hunting conditions and reduced competition between hunters allowing them to be more selective in taking a ram.

The following harvest objectives have been in place since 1974 to meet the goals of the TMA:

- Limit hunter participation and harvest by offering up to 120 permits annually.
- Maintain a population capable of allowing hunters to be selective in harvesting 30–45 rams each year.
- Maintain a mean horn length of 36–37 inches among harvested rams as well as a mean age of 8–9 years.
- Maintain an average of 7–10% rams with 40-inch or larger horns in the harvest.
- Prevent unacceptable increases in hunter concentration and maintain the existing aesthetically pleasing qualities associated with sheep hunting in the TMA.

During the past 5 years hunter participation and harvest rates have changed. Follows are the hunter participation and harvest trends between 1993 and 1998:

- 120 permits were drawn each year.
- In the 1980s 1300-1500 hunters applied each year for the TMA. During the 1990s 2300-2500 hunters apply each year. The chance of being drawn for the TMA has declined from about 8.6% to 5%.
- During the past five years the participation rate has increased 29% meaning about 100 hunters are hunting the TMA each year.
- Average annual harvest has increased from 42 to 52 rams; annual success rates ranged from 43% to 61%.
- Average horn length has declined from 37.1 inches to 36.6 inches.
- The percentage of rams with horns 40 inches or longer has declined from 14.2% to 9.7%.
- Hunter concentration and harvest has clustered during the past 5 years. Since 1994 34–51% of the hunters hunted within 2 drainages, taking 39–73% of the harvest.

The TMA sheep population declined during the early 1990s due to severe climatic conditions similar to other sheep populations in Alaska. Between 1992 and 1994, lamb survival was low and will affect trophy ram recruitment and harvest during the next 2 years. Based on the past 5-year hunter and harvest trends, the TMA harvest objectives are no longer being met and the potential



trophy quality of the TMA has declined. These trends are expected to continue into the near future due to the status of the TMA sheep population.

The department has presented this data to advisory committees around the state and to sheep hunters through a questionnaire to determine if the hunting public still supports the existing goals and harvest objectives for the TMA. We are interested in finding out if the sheep hunting public would support changes in the TMA hunt structure. We will be evaluating support for management that would better meet the goal of trophy sheep management by increasing the chance of harvesting a large-horned ram and retaining uncrowded hunting conditions, or if most hunters would rather see no change or possibly more liberal hunting opportunity.

Questionnaire results were not completed at the time of this proposal but will be presented to the Board during the March 2000 meeting. This proposal will initiate communication between sheep hunters, the Board of Game, and the Department of Fish and Game concerning future sheep management in the TMA. Questionnaire results and other public review will be the basis for final recommendations to the Board, and may include a variety of options for the regulations and conditions of the hunt.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Harvest rate will remain above the harvest objective for the TMA at the current participation level, causing other TMA hunt characteristics to fall outside of management objectives.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** TMA sheep hunters.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** In our discussions with the advisory committees and in the questionnaire the following general management options were presented:

Trophy Management:

Option I: Maintain the number of permits at 120 but subdivide the TMA into 2-8 discrete areas each with its own permit. Each area will be managed based on its potential of producing large-horned rams. The areas that have produced the greatest number of large-horned rams would have comparatively fewer permits offered and possibly periodic closures to increase the horn size and age structure of the rams in those areas;

Option II: Maintain status quo;

Option III: Increase the number of permits realizing the trophy quality will decline.

Hunting Conditions:

Option I: Maintain or increase the number of permits but divides the season into 2 distinct periods;

Option II: Maintain status quo.

The option generated by discussions with the advisory committees, other interested public, and through the questionnaire results will be presented with the department's analysis at the March meeting.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-00S-G-067)

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**PROPOSAL 76** - 5 AAC 85.055(10). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR DALL SHEEP. Change this regulation in Units 25, 26B, and 26C as follows:

The new regulation would eliminate state-permitted ewe harvests by changing bags limits for the state's Dall sheep registration permit hunts in Units 25, 26B, and 26C from three sheep to two rams. Additionally, the bag limit for the state's apparently unrestricted, three-sheep bag limit hunts on private lands within Gates of the Arctic National Park in Units 24 and 26A would be changed from three sheep to two rams. Intent is that everywhere a three-sheep bag limit exists, it would be changed to two rams.

**ISSUE:** Excessive season lengths (seven months) and liberal bag limits (three sheep) for Dall sheep in Units 24, 25, 26A east of the Etivluk River, and 26B and 26C are biologically unsound in allowing harvest of ewe sheep from depressed Dall sheep populations, and are slowing recovery of Dall sheep populations to former levels of abundance.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Recovery of Dall sheep to former levels of abundance will be either slowed or precluded because state permit regulation will continue to be more permissive than those federal regulations which place additional (but biologically sound) restrictions on harvests of ewe sheep from depressed populations.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Subsistence users who plan to use Dall sheep over the long term future and all other sheep users who will benefit from sheep populations at former, recorded levels of abundance.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Some hunters may be unconvinced by having to select young rams from mixed sex bands or expend more effort hunting in ram bands. However, much of the traditional hunting in these game management units occurs when ram bands mix with ewes for breeding purposes (thus minimizing this potential problem). The amount of meat from two rams is approximately the same as that from three ewes so the same amount of meat will be available for harvest by each hunter.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** We considered permitting quotas for ewe sheep harvests but rejected this approach because knowing a "safe" limit for ewe sheep harvest is impractical (if not impossible) from year to year, and former permit systems in these areas have failed to assess harvests accurately.

We considered continuing with the status quo because it may be argued that the present system does no harm. We reject this argument because there are no directly relevant data on the subject, and because it is inconsistent with the biological adaptations of Dall sheep. Additionally, the state's management mandates call for maintenance, protection, enhancement, and management of Dall sheep in the best interests of the economy and general well-being of the people of the

state. We do not think managing for fewer sheep (the universally documented purpose for ewe sheep harvesting) is in the best interests of the economy and general well-being of the people of the state.

**PROPOSED BY:** Foundation for North American Wild Sheep (1-OOS-G-047)

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**PROPOSAL 77** - 5 AAC 85.055(3). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR DALL SHEEP and 5 AAC 92.530 (9). MANAGEMENT AREAS. Amend these regulations in Unit 20 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.

(SC-99S-G-066)

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Chapter Foundation for North American Wild Sheep (HQ-00S-G-090)

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**PROPOSAL 78** - 5 AAC 85.055(8). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR DALL SHEEP. Close a portion of Unit 20A to sheep hunting as follows:

Areas draining the North slope of the Alaska range from the West fork of the Little Delta River to the Unit 20A Eastern border, (all lands drained by the East and West forks of the Little Delta River and Delta Creek). Close the area for five consecutive years, then open it for limited entry drawing permit or possibly a registration permit hunt.

**ISSUE:** There are very few mature Dall sheep rams left in this area. This area has traditionally produced large numbers of mature rams but the last 5-10 years their numbers have remained severely depressed. A combination of hard winters and overharvest of legal rams have left the sheep herd with few legal or large rams. This area has an abundance of prime sheep habitat and a history of producing many sheep and legal rams.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Continued lack of legal rams. No mature males to breed and hold ewes in the area. No mature rams to lead young rams through difficult winters. Lack of hunting opportunities for many years to come. Continued over-hunting of a marginal population resulting in poor hunt quality and success and a severely depressed large ram proportion.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Future sheep hunters of this and adjoining units. Hunters who should have a reasonable opportunity to find a legal ram when they go here.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** A few hunters and guides who will have to hunt elsewhere for five years. However, they too will benefit in the long run from greatly increased ram numbers to hunt. Only a few legal rams are taken here now where as many as forty per year were harvested not long ago.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Keep general hunt season open but with limited registration and/or closure by emergency order, or limited entry drawing permit. Close five years then reopen for general hunt. All rejected as it would not act quickly and would lead to the same current problem.

**PROPOSED BY:** Clinton W. Crusberg and Jack Morris (HQ-OOS-G-032)  
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**PROPOSAL 79** - 5 AAC 85.056(2). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR WOLF. Amend this regulation as follows:

No season or bag limits on wolves in Unit 21D.

**ISSUE:** Wolf predation on moose in Unit 21D.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** The moose population will continue to decline, more wolves equates to less moose.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Moose hunters.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** None.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?**

**PROPOSED BY:** Windell Arnold (HQ-OOS-G-031)

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**PROPOSAL 80** - 5 AAC 85.056(2). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR WOLF and 5 AAC 84.270(13). FUR BEARER TRAPPING. Amend these regulations in Units 13 and 20 as follows:

Close the home range of the Toklat and Sanctuary wolf packs that exists outside Denali National Park Wilderness to trapping and hunting. Specific area for closure beginning at the junction off the Parks Highway and Denali Highway east along the Denali Highway to Edmonds Creek then north to Pyramid Mt., then north to Dora Peak, then north to Elsie Creek, then west to Toklat River, then south down Toklat River to Denali National Park Wilderness Boundary, then east on the Wilderness boundary to the junction of the Wilderness Boundary and the Parks Highway, then south on the Wilderness Boundary to the point of beginning.

**ISSUE:** The Toklat/East Fork and Sanctuary wolf packs are extremely valuable to the State of Alaska's tourism industry and world wide scientific studies. The Alaska Wildlife Alliance has formally offered to pay trappers that have a recorded history of trapping in the described area, not to trap. These wolves have been studied since 1930 and their home range is now well known. Each year, thousands of visitors to Alaska's Denali National Park view these wolves up close as they travel on and along the park road.

In December 1998, the Toklat/East Fork pack had been reduced to only two adults and four puppies, making it extremely likely that the ability to pass on this trait would be eliminated by a single saturation snare set. The Toklat/East Fork pack that consisted of 28 wolves in the early 1990s had been reduced to these two adults and four puppies, indicating the need to provide special protection.

The standard wildlife management assumption that if one wolf pack is eliminated, another will replace it should not be used for these two packs. Replacement management does not provide for recognition of the economic value of these two packs to Alaska's tourist economy. The removal of the last member of the Headquarters Pack in 1992, and current lack of establishment of a new pack demonstrates flaws in the replacement philosophy.

No other location in the world has the combination of circumstances provided on the home range of these two packs. The Denali National Park Wilderness area currently closes 90% of the Toklat/East Fork pack home range and 70% of the Sanctuary packs home range to hunting and trapping. The Park's visitor restrictions to bus access and enforcement of wildlife watching ethics and standards for all visitors assures the wolves see consistent actions from humans.

Visitors to Denali National Park now consider seeing a wolf as more desirable than seeing brown bears. The Alaska Board of Game acted to close hunting of the Denali Caribou Herd as it ranges outside Denali Park, demonstrating management of a home range works in Alaska. Closing the trapping and hunting of wolves that follow this herd will help fulfill the objectives of the caribou

closure by providing for holistic management. Wolf predation on moose or caribou, especially by these two packs, has not been recorded or documented as concern for management in the area.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** A single saturation snare set could take the entire Toklat/East Fork pack, which will destroy the ability of tourists to have a reasonable expectation to see wolves in Denali National Park.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** The State of Alaska benefits by demonstrating that wolf elimination is not the only management goal in the state. Trappers benefit by receiving their recorded income from wolf pelts from the Alaska Wildlife Alliance in place of trapping this area. This will allow them to increase total income by focusing trapping efforts in other areas or on other species. The scientific community will benefit by enabling the studies of a single wolf pack initiated in 1930 to continue. Alaska's tourism industry will benefit from visitors telling of their wolf sightings and encouraging more visitors to Alaska. The studies and management of the natural fluctuations of the Denali Caribou Herd, including natural wolf predation, will benefit management of both caribou and wolves throughout the state.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Hunters that may capitalize on the "happenstance" encounter and opportunity to shoot a wolf will be required to hunt in other portions of the area if they want to be able to take a wolf while hunting caribou or moose.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Banning domestic and working dogs in the park and surrounding area as a means to prevent spreading of Pavor Virus and other diseases was considered as an impossible approach to helping protect these wolves.

(HQ-00W-G-059)

**PROPOSED BY:** Dorothy and Leo Keeler

(HQ-00S-G-009)

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**PROPOSAL 81** - 5 AAC 85.056(2). HUNTING AND SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR WOLF and 5 AAC 84.270(13) FUR BEARER TRAPPING. Amend these regulations in Units 13 and 20 as follows:

All hunting and trapping of wolves would cease on that portion of state land adjoining Denali National Park and Preserve on the northeast side whose boundaries would include the far northeast corner of Denali National Park and Preserve (at approximately 64°00'00" N, 149°13'.00" W), due to Elsie Creek (at approximately 64°00'00" N, 148°53'00" W), southeastward to the top of Dora Peak (at approximately 63°49'20" N, 148°41'00" W), southeastward to the top of Pyramid Mountain (at approximately 63°38'40" N, 148°31'00" W), due south to Bruskana Creek (at approximately 63°27'00" N, 148°31'00" W), westward (downstream) along the north side of Bruskana Creek to its confluence with the Nenana River (at approximately 63°26'10" N, 148°37'80" W), and westward (downstream) along the north side of the Nenana River to its confluence with Windy Creek at the east park boundary (at approximately 63°27'90" N, 148°49'00" W).

**ISSUE:** The Toklat (East Fork) and Sanctuary wolves of Denali National Park are the most viewed, most photographed, most enjoyed wolves in Alaska. Together they encompass parts of Units 13E, 20A and 20C. Approximately 20,000 people see them each year, or about 12 percent

of those taking bus tours. Nowhere else in the world comes close to matching this level of viewer opportunity. These wolves are especially cooperative, allowing visitors to watch them hunting, interacting socially and doing other behaviors close up, which is why they have become so popular with photographers. Seeing wolves for most visitors is a thrill of a lifetime. Studies by ADFG of visitor in-state spending habits suggest that people are prepared to spend about \$300 per person in anticipation of seeing wolves. On that basis, these two tourist habituated packs have contributed millions of dollars to the economy.

The Toklats are of special significance, having been the first wolves studied in the wild. They are also the oldest known (more than 60 years) and longest monitored pack in existence. Numerous scientists have studied and written about them.

Both of these packs are at risk when they venture onto state land. Early last year the Toklats numbered just two animals--the lowest number recorded in their sixty year history, while the Sanctuary pack declined from fifteen to three.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** One trapper or hunter operating in the right place at the right time could potentially destroy the integrity of these packs if not wipe them out entirely. This has happened in the past with other packs. The Savage wolves were a visitor highlight for many years until eliminated by a hunter. The Headquarters pack was another highly visible, visitor-tolerant group that provided enjoyment for tens-of-thousands of visitors year after year, until it was destroyed by a trapper.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** By granting full legal protection for these wolves on state land, the Board of Game would be recognizing the importance of maximizing viewer opportunity for all the people of Alaska and the nation as a whole, including the thousands of hunters, trappers and their families who also visit Denali. Additionally, it would recognize the great scientific and historical significance of the Toklat wolves in particular.

A precedent exists. The park's Denali Caribou Herd, which numbers approximately 2000 animals, has been given full legal protection on the adjoining state land since 1976. The herd moves onto the state land each winter (and draws the Toklat wolves out in the process).

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** A very few hunters and trappers. The Alaska Wildlife Alliance is prepared to remove entirely the financial hardship experienced by these individuals.

If the Board of Game elects to give the Sanctuary and Toklat wolves total legal protection on state land, the Alaska Wildlife Alliance will immediately make available \$2000 to be used as compensation to offset any losses during the coming year by those hunters and trappers who can reasonably show that they have taken Sanctuary or Toklat wolves on state land during any of the previous three years. The hunters and trappers would be compensated at a rate that reflects the average number of Toklat and Sanctuary wolves taken per year by each individual on the designated wolf-protected land multiplied by \$400 per wolf which is higher than the current average market value for wolf hides.

Efforts will be made to raise more monies to cover compensation needs if it proves necessary. However, given that the problem involves such few animals, the financial burden is not anticipated to be great.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Thousands of letters, faxes, telephone calls and emails have been received by the governor and the Denali Park superintendent asking for full legal protection for these wolves. The governor indicated to the Alliance that it should approach the Board of Game on this issue. This we did at the March, 1999 meeting. While our proposal did not pass at that time (two for, five against), it was recommended by Lori Quakenbush, the Chair of the Board of Game, that the Alliance bring this issue before the Board of Game again at its January meeting covering issues of statewide importance. This we are doing, accompanied with a lot more information on the movements of these two packs that can better define the areas needed to give them adequate legal protection.

(HQ-00W-G-105)

**PROPOSED BY:** Dr. Paul Joslin/The Alaska Wildlife Alliance

(HQ-00S-G-011)

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**PROPOSAL 82** - 5 AAC 85.065(3). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR SMALL GAME. Align ptarmigan hunting regulations in Unit 26; lengthen the ptarmigan season in Units 26B and 26C and increase the bag limit.

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunt	Nonresident Open Season
...		
(3)		
Ptarmigan (rock, willow, and white-tailed)		
...		
Units 8-10, 12, 17-19, [AND] 21, 24, 25 (except 25(C)), and the Dalton Highway Corridor and Prudhoe Bay Closed Area in Unit 26(B) [,AND 26 (EXCEPT 26(A))]	Aug. 10-Apr. 30 (General hunt only)	Aug. 10-Apr. 30
20 per day, 40 in possession		
Unit 22	Sept. 1-Apr. 30	Sept. 1-Apr. 30
20 per day, 40 in possession		
Units 23 and 26[(A)] (except within the	Aug. 10-June 15 (General hunt only)	Aug. 10- June 15



Dalton Highway Corridor  
and Prudhoe Bay  
Closed Area in Unit 26(B))

50 per day, 100 in  
possession

...

**ISSUE:** The proposed regulation would align ptarmigan hunting regulations in Units 26B and 26C with those recently established in Unit 26A. Ptarmigan are widely distributed on the North Slope. Local abundance is largely affected by seasonal movements and environmental conditions. Rock ptarmigan occur in the mountains, but willow ptarmigan are most plentiful in the region. They are most abundant in riparian habitat along major rivers but are also common in tundra habitats throughout the North Slope. Numbers fluctuate seasonally and annually. Nesting takes place in June when the snow melts. Increased harvest from this regulatory change is not expected to reduce the unit-wide population of ptarmigan in Unit 26. April through mid-June is an important period for subsistence harvests of ptarmigan in Unit 26 and the current season does not allow for hunting during this period.

Most ptarmigan hunting takes place near villages and near temporary hunting and fishing camps. Ptarmigan are usually hunted as a secondary species while people are fishing or hunting for other species. North Slope hunters generally harvest ptarmigan late in the season because that is when the birds are plentiful and weather is more suitable for hunting, and ptarmigan provide a welcome additional source of fresh meat. However, under the current regulation, the season is closed after April 30. There is no biological reason not to allow ptarmigan hunting during this period.

Lengthening the season may result in a small increase in the number harvested and some disturbance during the mating season in limited areas. However, due to the limited geographic distribution of hunting activity, there will be little if any effect on overall abundance or population dynamics. There is extensive habitat and relatively few hunters in Unit 26B and 26C. Although the proposed regulation may result in some increase in the number of birds harvested, hunting will probably continue to have a negligible impact on ptarmigan numbers.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Hunting opportunity will be lost and regulations will be unnecessarily complex. Some local residents will probably continue to harvest ptarmigan out of season or exceed the bag limit.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Local subsistence hunters.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** None.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-00S-G-066)

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**PROPOSAL 83** - 5 AAC 92.XXX. NEW REGULATION. Establish a new regulation as follows:

It is unlawful to employ someone in order to obtain hunting, guiding or transportation services unless the person providing these services is properly licensed by the State of Alaska.

**ISSUE:** The unregistered and unregulated guiding and transporting of hunters by unlicensed individuals, etc. There is no regulation or statute making it unlawful to hire an unlicensed guide or transporter to take one hunting.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** This kind of activity will continue to increase and get worse. It will continue to be difficult for U.S. Fish and Wildlife Protection to catch unlicensed guides, etc. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Protection will not be able to prosecute the client under the Lacy act.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** All law abiding persons.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Unlicensed guides, transporters, etc., and the people who hire them.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?**

**PROPOSED BY:** Middle Yukon and Koyukuk River Advisory Committee (1-OOS-G-025)  
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**PROPOSAL 84** - 5 AAC 92.015. BROWN BEAR TAG FEE EXEMPTIONS. Amend this regulation as follows:

Eliminate brown bear tag fee exemption fee for Alaska residents and increase fees through registration hunts for nonresidents in all game units.

**ISSUE:** Brown bear numbers are on the increase thus affecting a sustainable harvest rate on moose and caribou populations. In addition, the larger bear population causes an increased and continued threat on life and property.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Brown bear harvests will continue to be low with their numbers increasing. Human encounters greater with negative outcome along with a reduced opportunity for Alaskans to harvest moose and caribou.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** All Alaskans and a sustainable moose and caribou population.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?**

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?**

**PROPOSED BY:** Barbara Broadwater (HQ-OOS-G-016)  
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**PROPOSAL 85** - 5 AAC 92.015. BROWN BEAR TAG FEE EXEMPTIONS. Reauthorize the current brown bear tag fee for portions of Unit 20D.

**ISSUE:** Brown bear tag fee exemptions are taken up annually by the Board of Game at their Spring meeting. This proposal is to maintain the current brown bear tag fee exemption for portions of Unit 20D.

In 1995, the Delta Fish and Game Advisory Committee submitted an extensive plan for intensive management to the Board of Game at its 1995 spring board meeting. One portion of the Delta plan was the current brown bear tag fee exemption. The board has identified Unit 20D as under state definition of intensive management.

It is the opinion of the Delta Advisory Committee that the brown bear tag fee exemption is the only portion of the intensive management plan submitted by them that has had any real significance. Although the effect has been low impact in its four years of existence, the brown bear tag fee exemption has nonetheless produced results.

One side benefit has been the opportunity it has afforded to those who might not otherwise have the opportunity to hunt. The tag fee exemption area contains two Native villages, and many people outside of those villages for whom the \$25 tag fee is prohibitive. For many people in this area, a hunting license costs \$5, and the opportunity to hunt, not take, a brown bear is five times as much. Is there a reason for denying the people who cannot afford the bear tag an opportunity to take a bear? This could appear to be discriminatory. Even with the tag fee exemptions in place, the brown bear harvest remains within the harvest goals set by the Board of Game.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** The brown bear tag fee exemption would be lost for this limited area of Unit 20D. This logical tool of the original intensive management plan presented to the Board of Game in 1995 would be lost, as would a means of increasing calf survival for both moose and caribou in Unit 20D. Individuals who cannot afford a brown bear tag, including those who live within the tag fee exemption area, would once again be denied the opportunity to hunt brown bears. (Note: the opportunity to hunt is not directly related to success in this case, but the opportunity itself is valuable!) Hunters report finding extremely high brown bear populations during this past season throughout Unit 20D. The Delta Fish and Game Advisory Committee has been watching this pattern over the past two seasons and is trying to decide whether this represents an aberration, or what could be an established population trend. When brown bears are shot near the city limits of Delta Junction in November we begin to wonder. However, at this time we wish only to continue the tag fee exemption in the originally defined area and not extend it.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** In particular, hunters within and near the tag fee exemption areas who cannot afford brown bear tags. Serious brown bear hunters who can afford the tags will purchase them as this will remove the restriction forcing them to hunt only in this limited area. This will also benefit hunters in the area who may be hunting moose or caribou and are aware that they have the opportunity to take a bear without a tag. Moose and caribou hunters will benefit from this program in future years. The tag fee exemption also supports the present intensive management program established by the Board of Game for Unit 20D

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** The Delta Fish and Game Advisory Committee believes that many of the people they represent lose the opportunity to hunt brown bear without this tag fee exemption. In addition, the Delta Fish and Game Advisory Committee believes that the only item the Board of Game chose to implement from Delta's extensive intensive management proposal, originally made in 1995, would be lost. This is an extremely healthy brown bear population in a relatively inaccessible area, thus no one will suffer.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Elimination of the tag fee exemption; however, this would eliminate the benefits which accrue through this exemption.

**PROPOSED BY:** Delta Advisory Committee (HQ-OOS-G-038)

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**PROPOSAL 86** - 5 AAC 92.015(a). BROWN BEAR TAG FEE EXEMPTIONS. Reauthorize the brown bear tag fee exemption in the Western Alaska Brown Bear Management Area, the Northwest Alaska Brown Bear Management Area, and the Chignik Brown Bear Management Area.

(a) A resident tag is not required for taking a brown bear in the Western Alaska Brown Bear Management Area (5 AAC 92.530(15)), the Northwest Alaska Brown Bear Management Area (5 AAC 92.530(16)), or the Chignik Alaska Brown Bear Management Area (5 AAC 92.530(17)) if the hunter obtains a registration permit before hunting.

**ISSUE:** Brown bear tag fee exemptions must be reauthorized annually. Continuation of the tag fee exemptions listed above is necessary in order to facilitate the associated brown bear harvest programs. We believe it would be difficult to document subsistence harvest by residents hunting primarily for food if the tag fee is in effect. Prior to establishment of the management areas, little harvest was reported by subsistence hunters resident in the areas.

In addition to the tag fee waiver and registration permit, conditions that apply to subsistence hunting in the management areas include: salvaging the meat for human consumption, no use of aircraft for subsistence hunting of brown bears in the NWABBMA, and keeping the hide within the management area unless the skin of the head and front claws are removed at the time of sealing before being exported from the management area. The registration permit is a simple way to accommodate local subsistence hunting practices, while still conserving brown bear populations and obtaining harvest data.

Brown bear harvest appears to be within sustainable yield limits in each of these management areas. Harvest rates do not appear to have increased in response to registration hunting.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** The intent of the brown bear harvest programs in these areas will be compromised. There will be less interest and participation in these programs.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Those residents who wish to take brown bear primarily for food in the brown bear management areas.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Individuals who are opposed to these brown bear harvest programs.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** None.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-00S-G-043)  
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**PROPOSAL 87** – 5 AAC 92.015(b). BROWN BEAR TAG FEE EXEMPTIONS. Reauthorize the brown bear tag fee exemption in Unit 13.

(b) A resident tag is not required for taking a brown bear in that portion of Unit 13 outside of Denali State Park, in Unit 19(D), in Unit 20(D) north of the Tanana River or east of the east bank of the Gerstle River, or in Unit 25(D).

**ISSUE:** Brown bear tag fee exemptions must be reauthorized annually. The tag fee exemption in Unit 13 was enacted by the Board during 1995 to provide increased hunting opportunity for brown bears. This tag fee exemption along with a bag limit change from 1 bear every 4 years to a bear every year, and a fall season extension was adopted by the Board in an attempt to increase the brown bear harvest in Unit 13. In an effort to further increase harvests, the Board during 1999 lengthened the spring season by an additional 15 days.

Unit 13 was designated as an intensive management area by the Board of Game with the objective of providing more moose and caribou for human use. Because brown bears are important predators of moose calves in Unit 13, the Board determined that it was necessary to reduce brown bear predation on moose calves by increasing the harvest of brown bears. The intensive management program for Unit 13 has set a population size goal of 20,000-25,000 moose and a harvest goal of 1,000-2,000 moose per year. These moose population and harvest goals have not been met.

Harvests of brown bears in Unit 13 have increased since more liberal seasons and bag limits, and the tag fee exemption were enacted. The brown bear harvests have increased from 97 bears during the 1994-95 season to 127 bears during 1995-1996, 139 during 1996-1997, 138 during 1997-1998, and 125 during 1998-1999.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Increased harvest of brown bears in Unit 13 may help accomplish intensive management goals for moose. Without the tag fee exemption, there may be less interest in brown bear hunting and incidental harvest levels will be lower.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Brown bear hunters will benefit from increased hunting opportunity. Hunters and viewers of moose will ultimately benefit from increasing moose populations.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Individuals who are opposed to these management programs.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Elimination of the tag fee exemption, and attempting to accomplish intensive management through long seasons and a more liberal bag limit only.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-00S-G-041)  
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**PROPOSAL 88** - 5 AAC 92.015(b). BROWN BEAR TAG FEE EXEMPTIONS. Reauthorize the current exemption of brown bear tag fee in Unit 19D.

(b) A resident tag is not required for taking a brown bear in that portion of Unit 13 outside of Denali State Park, in Unit 19(D), in Unit 20(D) north of the Tanana River or east of the east bank of the Gerstle River, or in Unit 25(D).

**ISSUE:** The brown bear tag and fee requirement for Unit 19D was eliminated by the Board of Game for the 1998-99 regulatory year. The exemption must be reauthorized on an annual basis. The total harvest in Unit 19D has been 5 bears. This harvest is well below the sustainable harvest rate of 6% developed through grizzly bear research conducted by the department and based on the population estimate of 13 bears/1000mi<sup>2</sup> (165 bears) in Unit 19D.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** The tag fee would be reinstated for the 2000-2001 regulatory year.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Local and state resident hunters that wish to harvest bears annually in Unit 19D.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** People who do not feel grizzly bears should be harvested at a rate higher than 1 bear per every 4 years.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** None.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-00S-G-042)  
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**PROPOSAL 89** - 5 AAC 92.015(b). BROWN BEAR TAG FEE EXEMPTIONS. Reauthorize the current brown bear tag fee exemption for portions of Unit 20D.

...  
(b) A resident tag is not required for taking a brown bear in that portion of Unit 13 outside of Denali State Park, in Unit 19(D), in Unit 20(D) north of the Tanana River or east of the east bank of the Gerstle River, or in Unit 25(D).

**ISSUE:** The Unit 20D brown bear tag fee exemption must be reauthorized annually. The tag fee exemption was implemented in 1995 for portions of Unit 20D primarily to increase the harvest of brown bears for the purpose of reducing predation on moose and caribou calves (Board of Game Policy 95-85-BOG; and 5AAC 92.125(3)).

Current Unit 20D brown bear hunting regulations for those portions of Unit 20D north of the Tanana River, or south of the Tanana River and east of the Gerstle River include no tag fee, an Aug 10-Jun 30 hunting season, a bag limit of 1 bear/year, and a requirement to have the skull and

hide sealed in Unit 20D or in Tok. The southwestern portion of Unit 20D has a \$25 tag fee, a Sept 1-May 31 hunting season, and a bag limit of 1 bear/4 years.

The current brown bear harvest objective adopted by the Board of Game (BOG) in March 1995 is 5-15 bears/year. Brown bear harvest in Unit 20D, and in the tag fee exemption area, has increased since implementation of the tag fee exemption. Total harvest has ranged from 9 – 16 bears/year and mean harvest is 13 bears/year, which meets the objectives established by the BOG. Much of the increase, however, occurred in the southwest portion of Unit 20D where bear hunting regulations have not been liberalized, and where kill of DLP and nuisance bears in the vicinity of Delta Junction is significant. Harvest in the area exempt from tag fees has increased from a mean of 4 bears/year before the exemption, to 5 bears/year since the exemption was implemented.

The Macomb caribou herd population objective was met in fall 1999 with 640 caribou, however, the harvest objective was not met because there was no hunt. The BOG adopted a Macomb caribou herd population objective of 600-800 caribou with a sustainable harvest objective of 30-50 caribou/year by the year 2002. The Macomb herd was hunted during the 1998 season by registration permit with a harvest quota of 25. Actual harvest exceeded the quota and 32 caribou were killed.

The Unit 20D moose management objectives have not been met. The BOG adopted a Unit 20D moose population objective of 8,000 - 10,000 moose with a sustainable harvest objective of 240 - 500 moose/year by the year 2002. The current Unit 20D moose population estimate is 4,400 – 7,200 moose. Reported harvest during the 1998-99 hunting season was 234 moose.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Hunting opportunity for brown bears will be reduced. Also, the brown bear tag fee exemption is consistent with the Board’s authorized intensive management program for the Macomb caribou herd in southeastern Unit 20D and for the moose population in northern and southeastern Unit 20D. Failure to extend this tag fee exemption would be inconsistent with the intent of Board Policy 95-85 which is to reduce bear predation on moose and caribou calves to increase the moose and caribou populations in Unit 20D.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Brown bear hunters will continue to benefit from increased hunting opportunity. Moose and caribou hunters may eventually benefit if moose and caribou populations increase enough to allow a larger harvest.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** We are not aware of anyone who is suffering because of the current tag fee exemption, or who is likely to suffer if the exemption is renewed.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Eliminate the tag fee exemption, and thereby rely only on a longer season and a more liberal bag limit to accomplish the objective of a higher harvest of brown bears.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-00S-G-039)  
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**PROPOSAL 90** - 5 AAC 92.015(b) BROWN BEAR TAG FEE EXEMPTIONS. Reauthorize the current exemption of brown bear resident tag fee for Unit 25D.

(b) A resident tag is not required for taking a brown bear in that portion of Unit 13 outside of Denali State Park, in Unit 19(D), in Unit 20(D) north of the Tanana River or east of the east bank of the Gerstle River, or in Unit 25(D).

**ISSUE:** The brown bear tag and fee requirement for Unit 25D was eliminated by the Board of Game for the 1998-99 regulatory year. The exemption must be reauthorized by the Board annually or the fee automatically becomes reinstated. The total harvest of bears continues to be well below the estimated sustainable level of 19 bears. One bear was reported taken under the new regulation during RY 1998-1999, and preliminary data indicate that 4 were taken in fall 1999. We recommend continuing with the present regulation.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** The tag fee would be reinstated for the 1999-00 regulatory year.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Residents who are reluctant or unable to purchase the \$25 tag before hunting will be able to opportunistically and legally harvest a brown bear.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** None

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-00S-G-040)  
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**PROPOSAL 91** - 5 AAC 92.052. DISCRETIONARY PERMIT HUNT CONDITIONS AND PROCEDURES. Add an additional department discretionary authority to permit procedures.

...

(19) a person may be limited to one registration permit at a time in a hunt area.

**ISSUE:** A discretionary permit procedure is needed to protect a wildlife population that would otherwise be vulnerable to over-harvest incidental to harvest of a more plentiful wildlife population of a different species. This dilemma exists when a wildlife population is plentiful and can support a relatively high harvest, but its season overlaps another wildlife population of a different species that cannot sustain a significant increase in harvest. In most cases, hunters traditionally hunt one primary wildlife species but will opportunistically take another species. In the situation described above, this can result in excessive harvest of the incidental species. This can decrease hunter opportunity in future years by requiring more restrictive regulations. Alternatively, more restrictive regulations can be adopted proactively to prevent over-harvest of the “incidental” wildlife population, but this results in the inability to provide maximum opportunity to harvest the “primary” wildlife population. Neither scenario is an attractive alternative.



The ability to limit hunters to fewer species in the situation described above, will provide a mechanism to protect a population that would be susceptible to over-harvest through incidental take. This discretionary authority would delay - not preclude – a hunter from taking a species not chosen for the primary hunt. Once the permit requirements are met (i.e., the permit report is turned in) a hunter could obtain a permit for the “incidental” species. Requiring hunters to make a choice when selecting a permit option appears to be the only way to maintain opportunity and adequately protect wildlife populations in some management circumstances. Situations calling for the use of this discretionary authority will be uncommon but, when necessary, its use will protect against excessive incidental harvest while allowing full utilization of the more abundant/productive species.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Without this discretionary permit authority, either the season for the abundant species would have to be unnecessarily restricted during concurrent hunting seasons, or additional restrictions would have to be placed on species that are vulnerable to incidental harvest. Either option would unnecessarily reduce hunting opportunity and harvest.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Everyone.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Close or severely restrict season or bag limits to protect wildlife species vulnerable to incidental harvest.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-00S-G-078)

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**PROPOSAL 92** - 5 AAC 92.080. UNLAWFUL METHODS OF TAKING GAME; EXCEPTIONS. Amend this regulation in Units 19, 21, 24 and 25D as follows:

Any game may be taken by any method except: You may not drive, herd, or molest game with any motorized vehicle such as an aircraft, snowmachine, motor boat, etc. While you may use a motorized vehicle to locate an animal, you may not pursue with your vehicle an animal that is fleeing. With the exception that you may use a motorized vehicle to pursue and take wolves in Units 19, 21, 24, and 25D.

**ISSUE:** Low and declining moose populations in Units 19, 21, 24, and 25D. Increasing restrictions on harvesting moose and increasing restrictions on the taking of wolves identified as the primary cause of the low and declining moose populations.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Seasons and bag limits will continue to be restricted as hunting pressure continues to increase on the surviving moose populations. Also, the harvest of moose will continue to decline, possibly forcing unwanted Tier I and Tier II regulations.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Hunters will clearly benefit from increased moose and caribou harvests. Hunters and trappers will benefit from the increased take of wolves. Hunters and trappers have demonstrated their ability to suppress wolf populations and aid the

conservation of moose and caribou. All efforts to manage predator populations without resorting to costly control by the state should be implemented.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Those who object to killing wolves for emotional reasons will not benefit.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Department control of wolves. Too costly and not politically correct with the governor. Landing and shooting from an airplane or shooting from an airplane by the public. Also not politically correct with the governor.

**PROPOSED BY:** Oliver E. Burris (I-OOS-G-046)

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**PROPOSAL 93** - 5 AAC 92.085. UNLAWFUL METHODS OF TAKING BIG GAME; EXCEPTIONS. Allow black bear baiting during the fall hunting season in the portion of Units 21D and 24 within the Koyukuk Controlled Use Area.

...

(4) with the use of bait; except that black bears may be taken with the use of bait only as follows:

(A) in Unit 14(A) from April 15 through May 25; in Unit 14(B) from April 15 through May 31; in Units 1(A), 1(B), 1(D), 2, 3, 5-7 (except Resurrection Creek and its tributaries), 11, 13, 15, 16(A), and (except Denali State Park), and 17 from April 15 through June 15; and in Units 12, 16(B), 19-21, 24, and 25 from April 15 through June 30; and in the portion of Units 21(D) and 24 within the Koyukuk Controlled Use Area from September 1 through September 25;

...

**ISSUE:** Black bear baiting seasons are limited to the spring. People who hunt only in the Koyukuk Controlled Use Area during the fall moose seasons, do not have an opportunity to participate in hunting black bears with the use of bait stations. Fall black bear baiting would allow for an increase in black bear hunting opportunities.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** There will be less opportunity to harvest black bears during the fall hunting season.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Hunters who wish to harvest black bears while they are in the Koyukuk Controlled Use Area during the fall hunting season.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** None.

**Note:** This proposal is part of the Koyukuk River moose management planning effort being conducted by the Department in cooperation with the advisory committee based Koyukuk River Moose Hunters' Working Group. A few of the proposals may require modification based on final

discussions between the Working Group and Department. To evaluate the complete package of proposals stemming from this planning effort refer to the following proposals:

- 13) Moose: Change the moose general hunt regulations in Units 21 D and 24 within the Koyukuk Controlled Use Area (KCUA) from the RM 830 registration hunt to two drawing hunts and expand the area of the drawing hunt and RM 832 registration hunt to the entire controlled use area. The Working Group has recommended that the drawing hunt be split into two hunt periods for the early and later part of the season. The Department can implement this recommendation through discretionary permit hunt authority.
- 14) Moose: Reauthorization of the cow harvests in Units 21D and 24. This proposal will reauthorize all the cow harvests; however, the Working Group has recommended the Department use permit discretionary authority to not provide for a cow harvest in the general hunt in the KCUA. Additional discussions may result in the recommendation to further restrict cow harvest in the fall hunt.
- 15) Moose: Open the RM 832 subsistence registration season 5 days earlier (Aug. 27). The Working Group has recommended opening and closing the RM 832 season 5 days earlier to make the season Aug. 27-Sept. 20. If this proposal is adopted with the season ending date of Sept. 25, the Department can end the season on Sept. 20 through discretionary permit hunt authority. If the proposal were written to end the season on Sept. 20 through regulation, the Department would not have discretion to add the five days back on the end of the season. The approach used in this proposal will maintain flexibility to return to the Sept. 1-Sept. 25 season, should a major increase in participation in the early hunt occur and threaten sustainability of the harvest. The Working Group has also recommended submitting a proposal to the Federal Subsistence Board to align the federal and state subsistence seasons.
- 16) Customary and Traditional Uses of Moose: Re-examine the amounts reasonably necessary for subsistence uses of moose in Units 21 and 24.
- 17) Black bear (in 5 AAC 92.085(4)(A). Unlawful Methods of Taking Big Game; Exceptions): Allow black bear baiting during the fall hunting season in the portion of Units 21D and 24 within the KCUA.
- 18) Brown bear: Increase the bag limit to one bear per year in the general hunt in Units 21D and 24 and extend the season to June 15.

**PROPOSED BY:** ADF&G on behalf of the Koyukuk River Moose Hunters' Working Group  
(HQ-00S-G-075)

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**PROPOSAL 94** - 5 AAC 92.095. UNLAWFUL METHODS OF TAKING FUR BEARERS; EXCEPTIONS. Amend this regulation in Units 12, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25, 26B, and 26C to include the following:

Require the permanent placement of an identification number or name and address on water snares using cable 3/32 of an inch in diameter or larger and cable length of 40-inches or longer.

The required identification form will be permanently attached to each snare system in the form of a tag or other permanent attaching system, (e.g., etched or stamped on tie wire).

The ADF&G will administer the numbering system. The personal information associated with the issued number shall be held confidential and will not be released except to ADF&G personnel and Department of Public Safety personnel for enforcement purposes.

Untagged operational snares will be subject to seizure by enforcement officers.

The number assigned to the trapper will be a one time permanent number and will not be re-issued to another trapper.

In addition to the requirements listed above, trappers who have qualifying snares set on trap lines that start over 10 miles from a public highway (highway as defined in 5 AAC 92.990(22)) have the option to place a permanent sign of at least 8 ½" x 11" in size at the start of the trap line and a second sign at the one-mile point of their trap line. Those permanent signs must list the trapper's permanent ID as issued by ADF&G or the trapper's name and address. The identification form must be in numbers and letters at least one inch high and ¼ inch in width in a contrasting color.

This sign system will replace the requirements in section one at the trapper's option.

**ISSUE:** The inability by Fish and Wildlife Troopers to identify the owners of snares that are set and become illegal due to their not being retrieved at the close of the season; and to identify the owner of those snares that are catching incidental wildlife and who do not follow the guidelines dealing with incidentally caught animals as set out in regulation.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Snares that catch a non-targeted ungulate will continue to catch other targeted or non-targeted species if left in the field set due to the snare site location being overlooked; snares inadvertently left in the field set when the owner comes to close down his site; snares that are left set in the field due to numerous other reasons and not retrieved.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** The purpose of this proposal is to create a tool that will assist the enforcement officers in identifying the owners of snares that are catching animals and pets illegally, to identify the owners of snares that are left in the field set after the season has closed, and to seize unmarked snares that are set illegally. Trapper's who have their snares marked will be more cognizant of their responsibility for ethical trapping. The problem that has been identified mostly involves those snares that are used to snare wolves. The cable size restriction covers the majority of snare gear that trapper's use to take wolves.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?**

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?**

**PROPOSED BY:** Department of Public Safety, Division of Fish & Wildlife Protection  
(HQ-00S-G-027)

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**PROPOSAL 95** - 5 AAC 92.095. UNLAWFUL METHODS OF TAKING FUR BEARERS; EXCEPTIONS. Amend this regulation in Units 12 and 20E as follows:

In Units 12 and 20E all above-water snares with a cable measuring 3/32 inch diameter or greater and 40 inches length or longer must be identified with an owner-identification number tag. Long line trappers need only identify their lines with a sign within the first mile of either end of their lines.

**ISSUE:** Trappers in general by showing responsibility which will in turn protect the industry.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** N/A. Proposal is intended to facilitate accountability.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** A) Trappers in general by showing responsibility which will in turn protect the industry. B) Law enforcement – being able to locate and identify owners of sets if needed.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Registration of each snare site, similar to bear bait stations. Rejected – not necessary.

**PROPOSED BY:** Upper Tanana/Fortymile Advisory Committee (I-OOS-G-035)  
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**PROPOSAL 96** - 5 AAC 92.095(6). UNLAWFUL METHODS OF TAKING FUR BEARERS; EXCEPTIONS. Amend this regulation in the Minto Flats Management Area as follows:

Eliminate this restriction and make the rules for beaver trapping in the Minto Flats Management Area the same as they are everywhere else.

**ISSUE:** The origin of the prohibition against aircraft access for beaver trapping in Minto Flats is lost in obscurity, although it is thought to have arisen from complaints from "ground" trappers that they did not like having to compete with trappers using aircraft for access. This prohibition was created a long time ago when there was still some value in beaver pelts and a lot higher level of trapping effort for them. Even then we believe this conflict was probably more perceived than real.

There is not now, nor has there been for sometime a very significant level of beaver trapping activity in this area. The department has supplied beaver harvest data for the Minto Flats Management Area (MFMA) broken down by Uniform Coding Unit (UCU). For UCU 0201, generally the western portion of the area and including the village of Minto, the average reported harvest for the last five years has been approximately 50; however, for the last two years it was zero. For UCU 0205, the eastern portion of the area, the five year average was 10, the last two years it was one. Finally, for UCU 0210, the southern remainder (only about half of which is actually within the Minto Flats Management Area and the remainder is fairly close to Nenana and easily accessible from the Parks Highway) the five year and last two year averages are about 60 bearer.

Generally, beaver populations are quite large and healthy; Minto Flats populations are no exception. There is even some concern, and this concern has been expressed at their meetings by

members of the Minto-Nenana Advisory Committee, that overly abundant beaver populations are plugging waterways and obstructing passage of fish and people to an unprecedented and undesirable degree. The Fairbanks Advisory Committee has submitted this proposal at least twice in the past and it has been opposed by the Minto-Nenana Advisory Committee. The board has rejected the proposal on the grounds of concern about "user conflicts." The only authority of the board that supports rules such as this to alleviate "chronic user conflicts" is in the Off Road Vehicle Policy in 5 AAC 92.004(3). No ORVs are involved in this Minto Flats Management Area beaver trapping issue because neither airplanes or snowmachines are ORVs.

The Fairbanks Advisory Committee again respectfully submits this proposal and alleges there are likely to be very few user conflicts. We feel there is no significant reason for this prohibition to be continued and, in fact, an increased level of trapping effort for beaver in Minto Flats will benefit all users.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Not much – except that what is likely to be a very small number of people who would choose to trap beaver utilizing aircraft for transportation will continue to be prohibited from doing so for no good reason. However, continuation of this prohibition when there is so little justification further solidifies the impression of the Fairbanks Advisory Committee that "special interest" regulations where no conservation concern has been identified, once established, are almost impossible to dislodge.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** People who wish to trap beaver in Minto Flats utilizing aircraft for transportation.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** It is certainly possible that a few conflicts might occur between "ground" trappers and "airplane" trappers. However, considering that the numbers of "airplane" trappers is likely to be quite small and the fact that they can easily move to areas with no ground activity, we suspect such conflicts will be minimal.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Perhaps potential user conflicts could be mitigated by the board encouraging marking beaver houses on established "ground" traplines, and encouraging "airplane" trappers to respect them.

**PROPOSED BY:** Fairbanks Advisory Committee (1-OOS-G-040)  
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**PROPOSAL 97** - 5 AAC 92.108. IDENTIFIED BIG GAME PREY POPULATIONS AND OBJECTIVES. Amend this regulation for moose in Unit 25C as follows:

The determination for Unit 25C would be reversed to say positive for intensive management for moose.

**ISSUE:** The board determination that intensive management for moose in Unit 25C is negative.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** The number of moose in Unit 25C would continue to fall or remain at the current low levels.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Any person holding a valid hunting license, particularly Fairbanks, Circle, and Central area hunters.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Not reversing the decision.

**PROPOSED BY:** Central Advisory Committee (I-OOS-G-003)

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**PROPOSAL 98** - 5 AAC 92.108. IDENTIFIED BIG GAME PREY POPULATIONS AND OBJECTIVES. Proposed population and harvest objectives.

Game Management Unit	Population Objective	Harvest Objective
Moose		
12	4,500 – 6,000	450 - 650
19A	6,000 – 9,000	600 – 1,200
19B	12,000 – 15,000	1,200 – 2,000
19C	5,000 – 7,000	500 - 700
19D East	7,000 – 10,000	800 - 1,500
19D Remainder	5,000 – 8,000	700 – 1,200
20A	15,000 – 20,000	1,500 – 2,500
20B	15,000 – 20,000	1,700 – 3,000
20C	6,000 – 7,000	600 - 800
20D	8,000 – 10,000	800 – 1,200
20E 40 Mile & Ladue	10,000 – 13,000	1,000 – 1,500
21D	10,000 – 15,000	1,000 – 2,000
21E	9,000 - 13,000	1,000 – 1,500
24	15,000 – 18,000	1,500 – 2,500
25D	10,000 – 15,000	1,000 – 2,000

Caribou	Population Objective	Harvest Objective
Central Arctic	25,000 – 30,000	2,500 – 3,500
Delta	6,000 – 8,000	600 - 900
Nelchina	50,000 – 60,000	5,000 – 8,000
Macomb	700 – 1,000	70 - 125
Fortymile	50,000 (1)*	1,000 – 1,350 (1)*
	100,000 (2)*	10,000 – 15,000 (2)*
Porcupine	200,000 est. (3)*	5,000 (4)*

\*(1) 2001

\*(2) 2007

\*(3) population Alaska and Canada

\*(4) in Alaska.

**ISSUE:**

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?**

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?**

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?**

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?**

**PROPOSED BY:** Fairbanks Advisory Committee (I-OOS-G-045)

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**PROPOSAL 99** - 5 AAC 92.108. IDENTIFIED BIG GAME PREY POPULATIONS AND OBJECTIVES. Intensive management population and harvest objectives for caribou and moose in the Interior Region are listed for inclusion in this regulation.

...

Population	Population Objective	Harvest Objective	
Central Arctic Herd	Positive	<u>18,000-20,000</u>	<u>600-800</u>
...			
Delta Herd	Positive	<u>4,500-5,500</u> [6,000—8,000]	300-500
...			
Fortymile Herd	Positive	<u>50,000-70,000</u>	<u>850-2,600</u>
...			
Macomb Herd	Positive	600-800	30-50
...			
Porcupine Herd	Positive	<u>100,000-150,000</u>	<u>1,500-2,000</u>
...			
Moose			
...			
GMU 12	Positive	<u>4,000-6,000</u>	<u>150-250</u>
...			
GMU 19(A)	Positive	<u>6,000-10,000</u>	<u>200-350</u>
GMU 19(B)	Positive	<u>3,500-5,000</u>	<u>150-250</u>

...



GMU 19(D)-East	Positive	<u>2,500-4,000</u> [6,000-8,000]	<u>125-200</u> [300-400]
GMU 19(D)-remainder	Positive	<u>3,400-5,100</u>	<u>170-250</u>
GMU 20(A)	Positive	10,000-12,000	300-500
GMU 20(B)	Positive	<u>12,000-15,000</u>	<u>600-900</u>
GMU 20(C)-outside Denali	Positive	<u>3,000-4,000</u>	<u>150-240</u>
GMU 20(D)	Positive	8,000-10,000	240-500
GMU 20(E)- Fortymile Ladue River Drainage	Positive	<u>5,500-8,000</u>	<u>150-300</u>
...			
GMU 21(D)	Positive	<u>5,000-10,000</u>	<u>150-700</u>
GMU 21(E)	Positive	<u>9,000-11,000</u>	<u>300-400</u>
GMU 24	Positive	<u>8,000-12,000</u>	<u>250-600</u>
...			
GMU 25(D)	Positive	<u>6,000-8,000</u>	<u>180-400</u>
...			

**ISSUE:** Board determinations of the intensive management population and harvest objectives for Region III were deferred from the March 1998 meeting until the present, March 2000 meeting. These determinations are necessary to fully implement the intensive management statute and regulation

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** The intensive management regulation will not be fully implemented.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?**

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?**

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?**

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-00S-G-087)  
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**PROPOSAL 100** - 5 AAC 92.125. WOLF CONTROL IMPLEMENTATION PLANS. Amend this regulation in Unit 19 as follows:

Allow aerial wolf hunting control in Unit 19 by residents.

**ISSUE:** Aerial wolf control restrictions, not allowing the control of the wolf population in Unit 19 by means of aerial control by residents.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** No moose will be left in our area – we are at an all time low and getting worse.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Everyone living in Unit 19 who depends on moose meat to live.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Closing the season – how will we eat? Expenses here are very high.

**PROPOSED BY:** McGrath Advisory Committee (I-OOS-G-018)

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**PROPOSAL 101** - 5 AAC 92.125. WOLF CONTROL IMPLEMENTATION PLANS. Implement this regulation in Unit 19.

**ISSUE:** Implement 5 AAC 92.125, Wolf Predation Control Implementation Plan. Moose population is at an all time low and getting worse each day.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** The moose population will be so low that no hunting will be allowed.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Residents of Unit 19 that depend on moose meat.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Closing the season – how will we provide meat for our tables?

**PROPOSED BY:** McGrath Advisory Committee (I-OOS-G-019)

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**PROPOSAL 102** - 5 AAC 92.132(1) and (5). BAG LIMIT FOR BROWN BEARS. Change the bag limit for brown bear in Unit 25D as follows:

Change this regulation so that a bear taken in Unit 25D does not count against the one bear every four regulatory years.

**ISSUE:** Change the bag limit of one brown bear in Unit 25D to not count against the one bear every for regulatory years in other units.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** There will be lost hunting opportunities for brown bear in the Yukon Flats. The brown bear population is currently under harvested.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Brown bear hunters who wish to hunt brown bear in the Yukon Flats, but do not due to the restriction that bear taken in Unit 25D counts against the one bear every four regulatory years in other areas. This would enable a hunter to take bears for three

years in Unit 25D and still be able to take a bear during the fourth regulatory year in a unit which has that restriction.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one is likely to suffer.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Doing nothing limits the availability of brown bears for harvest in an under harvested population.

**PROPOSED BY:** Yukon Flats Advisory Committee and Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments  
(I-OOS-G-005)

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**PROPOSAL 103** - 5 AAC 92.135. TRANSFER OF POSSESSION. Amend this regulation in Unit 24 as follows:

A resident of village (for a year or more) could sign for transfer of meat.

**ISSUE:** To include residency for one year in villages.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** The hunters could get anyone, resident or not, in the village to sign for transfer of meat.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** The people receiving the meat could either sign for the meat, or if meat is not in good shape, not except the meat.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Residents less than a year.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** No comment.

**PROPOSED BY:** Darrell Vent, Sr. (I-OOS-G-042)

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**PROPOSAL 104** - 5 AAC 92.530. MANAGEMENT AREAS. Create a Unit 20E Management Area that will include the drainages of the Fortymile River and tributaries.

**ISSUE:** Anticipated disproportionate increase in hunting pressure and access in relation to moose population growth in Unit 20E.

The moose and caribou populations within the Fortymile River drainages of Unit 20E have been identified as big game populations under intensive management. Currently there is an ongoing nonlethal wolf control program occurring in a portion of this area, elevated grizzly bear harvests due to liberal seasons and bag limits, and habitat enhancement through three completed prescribed burns totaling about 95,000 acres. Also, over 60% of Unit 20E has been designated to receive limited fire protection under the Alaska Interagency Fire Management Plan and therefore will have a near-natural wildfire regime which will benefit moose. According to ADF&G, we can expect the moose population to begin to respond to these efforts but we can expect only slow moderate population increases because management has not occurred across the entire area.

Moose hunter numbers and harvest has increased over the past five years in Unit 20E. Most of these new hunters are using ATVs for access. The effects of this increased hunter usage have included declining bull moose numbers and substantial expansion of some of the unit's trails. In addition, in 2001, the Fortymile caribou hunt will be increased, thereby bringing a substantial increase in hunters to the area. This will most likely affect the unit's moose population. Consistent increase in hunter numbers and moose harvest is anticipated to grow faster than the unit's moose population in spite of intensive management.

Historically, even though Unit 20E is road accessible, access has been difficult due to few trails and landing strips. We support improved access into the unit but not without management guidelines ensuring the health of the moose and caribou populations.

It is the desire of the committee to find ways to accommodate some increased hunting opportunity without harming the unit's game populations and too rapidly changing the area's trail systems and the number of landing sites. The Ladue River Controlled Use Area covers a portion of Unit 20E and we have been observing the effects of designated trails and landing areas have on moose numbers and hunting opportunity. Since the inception of the area in 1996, the bull:cow ratio decline has stopped, but hunter satisfaction and opportunity has remained high.

We believe by creating a Unit 20E Game Management Area that would utilize temporary restrictions on the type of transportation that can be used to access an area or once in an area possibly cannot leave the trail we can reduce the dangers of an over harvest of moose. These area restrictions will be temporary in nature and will be relaxed once the moose population has increased to a size that can handle a greater number of hunters. At no time will transportation restrictions cover the entire Unit 20E Fortymile game management area but only in the areas that require greater protection.

We believe the intensive management programs initiated in this unit will benefit game populations. We believe that during this increasing trend period we must give the moose population relief from a rapid increase in harvest and access. The Upper Tanana/Fortymile Fish and Game Advisory Committee is willing to work with the department to develop the best management methods to benefit most from intensive management allowing the moose population to grow and yet, to offer hunters the greatest amount of opportunity.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** The moose population in Unit 20E will be vulnerable to an over harvest thereby negating the effects of recently completed and ongoing intensive management programs. Access into the unit will expand too quickly for the moose population to withstand.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Everyone.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Hunters who hunt areas that are showing signs of an over harvest may find restrictions making access more difficult.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** 1) Reduce moose season length. Rejected because most hunters want as much opportunity as possible. 2) Impose antler restrictions. Rejected because it was the least acceptable option to hunters from this area due to the amount of illegal

harvest that occurs in other areas and what they project could happen in Unit 20F. 3) Manage moose harvest under Tier II. Rejected because not necessary at this time.

**PROPOSED BY:** Upper Tanana/Fortymile Advisory Committee (I-OOS-G-032)  
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**PROPOSAL 105** - 5 AAC 92.530(7). MANAGEMENT AREAS. Modify the Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area in Units 20F, 25D, 24, 25A as follows:

Allow hunting by archery or muzzleloading firearms only. Require muzzleloading education certification for all muzzleloading hunters.

**ISSUE:** Continual loss of hunting opportunity due to closures of federal and private land in Alaska. Consider allowing muzzleloading firearms in the Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area south of Atigun Pass (Units 20F, 25D, 24, 25A).

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** The area south of Atigun receives less archery pressure than to the north of the pass and can probably sustain a slight increase in hunting pressure from muzzleloading hunters.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Will definitely help hunters willing to use a muzzleloading firearm.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Archers may not care to share the area with muzzleloaders as competition.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Considered the entire management area but recognize Unit 26B as traditional land primarily archery area.

**PROPOSED BY:** Midnight Sun Muzzleloaders (I-OOS-G-049)  
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**PROPOSAL 106** - 5 AAC 92.530(7). MANAGEMENT AREAS. Amend this regulation in Units 20, 24, 25, and 26 as follows:

Create access corridors through the five-mile management area along the Dalton Highway. Specific wording left to the board.

**ISSUE:** The lack of access for non-bowhunting hunters north of the Yukon River from the Dalton Highway.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Hunters will continue to hunt in areas such as Unit 20A where the department is trying to reduce harvest pressure.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** All hunters, especially non-bowhunters.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Reducing the Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area to something reasonable for a hunter to walk through in a reasonable amount of time, such as one mile.

**PROPOSED BY:** Mike Chapin (I-OOS-G-054)  
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**PROPOSAL 107** - 5 AAC 92.530(10). MANAGEMENT AREAS. Amend this regulation in the Fairbanks Management Area as follows:

Expand the boundaries from Ester Dome to Murphy Dome south side of the Murphy Dome Road to the Old Murphy Dome to the Elliot Highway.

**ISSUE:** Rifle hunting has caused concerns in the outlying area of the Fairbanks Management Area, i.e., shooting towards the houses within the subdivision. There are children playing in the area. More and more homes are being built outside of the Fairbanks Management Area since the original Fairbanks Management Area boundaries were placed.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Obnoxious gunshots to serious injuries or death could result.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Those who live in several subdivisions such as Keystone, Martin, Murphy, Skylight, Moose Mountain, Goldstream Valley and more.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Road hunters who use this area for rifle hunting.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** The local residents have taken some steps in educating the general public that this is a residential area via signs, road upgrade, etc. This is still not enough and the local residents are seeking assistance.

**PROPOSED BY:** Cal Westcott (I-OOS-G-006)  
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**PROPOSAL 108** - 5 AAC 92.530(10). MANAGEMENT AREAS. Amend this regulation in the Fairbanks Management Area as follows:

(A) this area consists of [THE GOLDSTREAM SUBDIVISION (SE<sup>1/4</sup> SE<sup>1/4</sup> SECTION 28 AND SECTION 33, TOWNSHIP 2 NORTH, RANGE 1 WEST, AND FAIRBANKS MERIDIAN) AND] that portion of Unit 20(B) bounded by a line from the confluence of Rosie Creek and the Tanana River, northerly along Rosie Creek to Isberg Road, then northeasterly on Isberg Road to Cripple Creek Road, then northeasterly on Cripple Creek Road to the Parks Highway, then north on the Parks Highway to Alder Creek, [THE DIVIDE BETWEEN ROSIE CREEK AND CRIPPLE CREEK, THEN DOWN CRIPPLE CREEK TO ITS CONFLUENCE WITH ALDER CREEK,] then westerly along Alder Creek to its confluence with Emma Creek, then upstream along Emma Creek to its headwaters, then northerly along the hydrographic divide between Goldstream Creek drainages and Cripple Creek drainages to the summit of Ester Dome, then down Sheep Creek to its confluence with Goldstream Creek, then easterly along Goldstream Creek to Sheep Creek Road, then north on Sheep Creek road to Murphy Dome Road, then west

on Murphy Dome Road to Old Murphy Dome Road, then east on Old Murphy Dome Road to the Elliot Highway, then south on the Elliot Highway to Goldstream Creek, then easterly along Goldstream Creek to its confluence with First Chance Creek to Tungsten Hill, then southerly along Steele Creek to its confluence with Ruby Creek, then upstream along Ruby Creek to Esro Road, then south on Esro Road to Chena Hot Springs Road, then east on Chena Hot Springs Road to Nordale Road, then south on Nordale Road to the Chena River [INTERSECTION WITH THE TRANS-ALASKA PIPELINE, THEN SOUTHERLY ALONG THE PIPELINE RIGHT-OF-WAY TO THE CHENA RIVER], then along the north bank of the Chena River to the Moose Creek dike, then along the Moose Creek dike to its intersection with the Tanana River, and then westerly along the north bank of the Tanana River to the point of beginning;

...

**ISSUE:** Confusion over the boundaries of the Fairbanks Management Area by hunters and Fish and Wildlife Protection and concern over rifle hunting close to residential areas. This proposal would clarify the boundary description and add areas near Cripple Creek Road, north of Goldstream Creek Road, north of Goldstream Creek and near Nordale Road.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Continued confusion over boundary descriptions and problems with rifle hunting close to residential neighborhoods potentially resulting in the loss of hunting.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** All local area hunters because they would have a more clear understanding of the Fairbanks Management Area boundaries. Archery hunters with more of an area to hunt.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Those hunters who historically hunted with a rifle in the areas to be added.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** To use Goldstream Road as the northern boundary as opposed to the Old Murphy Dome Road. This option was rejected because of the continued growth of the residential subdivisions north of Goldstream Road.

**PROPOSED BY:** Fairbanks Advisory Committee (I-OOS-G-041)  
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**PROPOSAL 109** - 5 AAC 92.540. CONTROLLED USE AREAS. Establish a controlled use area in the Chandlar Lake Area as follows:

Create an airstrip corridor, 15 miles from strip only subsistence/local hunting. Or issue permits for moose hunting in this area.

**ISSUE:** Over hunting of moose in the Chandalar Lake area. Heavy concentration of hunters in too small a space. There is easy access to the lake via a large public airstrip, but limited access away from lake to surrounding areas. Thus hunting is concentrated to boat access – lake three miles up stream, one mile down stream. There were over thirty moose hunters this year. Six to ten moose were taken, two to four moose left.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** The moose population in the area will drop to a level that may not recover. Limited moose migration into the area because of steep terrain surrounding lake. The moose may already be at this point.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Local Chandalar residents. Also guided hunters will benefit as they will be forced to spread out from the lake. If permits are adopted it will create a stable guide/hunting pattern.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Local residents. Also the guides operating the area will eventually see a drop in clients from disappointing hunts. This will happen next year, I believe.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?**

(HQ-00W-G-017)

**PROPOSED BY:** Eric Jayne, D.V.M.

(HQ-00S-G-007)

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**PROPOSAL 110** - 5 AAC 92.540. CONTROLLED USE AREAS. Establish a controlled use area in Unit 19C as follows:

The Farewell Airport (N62030.40' W 153053.62') is closed to the use of aircraft with a gross weight greater than 7500 lbs. for hunting big game, including the transportation of big game hunters, their gear and/or parts of big game, from July 1 through November 30.

**ISSUE:** The use of all terrain vehicles (ATVs) mostly 4-wheelers in the vicinity of the Farewell Airport (old flight service station site) has increased significantly over the last 10-12 years. This increase has been exacerbated by the use of large aircraft (DC6, DC3, Sky Vans and Casas) which bring in numerous, large ATVs and hunters at one time. These ATVs are capable of going almost anywhere and have caused extensive areas of habitat destruction. Countless trails can be found where they never existed, including a trail to every piece of high ground in the area. The sheer number and efficiency of these large machines have resulted in extensive habitat destruction, and a significant moose take with the ensuing reduction in the moose numbers in the vicinity of Farewell. A hunter can cover 100 miles in a day of "road hunting" and cross country treks whereas a hunter on foot can hardly hope to see a moose, much less kill one.

Local Fish and Wildlife Protection officers in McGrath have also stated that there is a same-day-airborne problem, with moose being spotted by aircraft, then located by a hunter with a Global Positioning System on an ATV, who drives directly to the spot and kills the moose.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** A continued increase in hunters and 4-wheelers, continued habitat destruction and a further reduction in moose numbers, and an increased potential for same-day-airborne and harassment.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** The moose population and their habitat would benefit most. Habitat destruction would be reduced and moose numbers would increase. Other wildlife would also benefit from a reduction in habitat destruction. Local residents who rely on this moose population would be provided more opportunity to meet their needs.



**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Owners of large ATVs that cannot fit into smaller aircraft or owners who do not want to break their vehicles down for shipping. Also, the business of air-taxi operators who operate aircraft over 7500 lbs. would be affected.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Restrict or limit the use of all ATVs in the vicinity of Farewell. This, however, would penalize local residents, landowners, and hunters. ATV restrictions are hard to enforce and you could still have an excessive number of ATVs depending on restriction imposed.

**PROPOSED BY:** Michael Hinkes (HQ-OOS-G-017)

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**PROPOSAL 111** - 5 AAC 92.540. CONTROLLED USE AREAS. Amend this regulation in Koyukuk Controlled Use Area as follows:

Units 21 and 24 hunters are required to stop at check station or Village of Huslia and report to department personnel or village public safety officers or Village Council personnel for verification and transfer of possession by village council or village public safety officers.

**ISSUE:** Hunters not stopping at Ella's cabin on Koyukuk River, must have their moose and horns verified by Huslia village public safety officers or Huslia Tribal Council personnel.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** The hunters could get guides, assistants, or other people from the village, or people working for the guides to sign for meat and we do not know what is being done with the meat. Also village members who do not understand transfer of possession.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** The hunters and village residents by providing proper transfer of meat and have a better understanding between hunters and Village of Huslia.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** People who do not transfer the meat or report it as transferred.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** No comment.

**PROPOSED BY:** Darrell Vent, Sr. (I-OOS-G-002)

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**PROPOSAL 112** - 5 AAC 92.540. CONTROLLED USE AREAS. Establish a controlled use area in Unit 12 as follows:

The solution preferred is to ban airboats on Fish (Camp) Lake, Moose Creek, Charlieskin Creek and Fish Creek.

**ISSUE:** These are lakes around Northway that are being used at an increased rate by airboat users for hunting migratory birds. These are primary wetlands and traditional hunting grounds for subsistence users. Airboat users have shown disrespect to these lands and to the local people. The population of airboat users is increasing every year.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** If the problem of airboat hunting is not solved, there will be further erosion of wetlands, traditional hunting grounds and a decrease of migratory bird population. Local subsistence users hunting will be marginalized as they cannot compete with the speed, land navigability of the airboat. The noise the airboats have scare away the migratory birds, often disrupting their nesting cycle.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** The beneficiaries include the protection of wetlands, increased migratory bird population, and the return of traditional hunting grounds for subsistence users. The airboat users will find other lakes to hunt.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one will suffer if the solution is adopted. The airboat users will find other lakes to hunt.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** We talked to the airboat users and told them our concerns hoping they would respect them and find other places to hunt. That didn't happen. What has happened is that their numbers increased.

**PROPOSED BY:** Northway Village Council (I-OOS-G-020)  
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**PROPOSAL 113** - 5 AAC 92.540. CONTROLLED USE AREAS. Establish a Kaiyuh Controlled Use Area from the Yukon River to the Kaiyuh Hills including the Upper Innoko Wildlife Refuge.

**ISSUE:** Increasing airborne hunting pressure on the Kaiyuh Flats. Increasing hunting pressure and illegal guiding operations on the Kaiyuh Flats, via., Upper Innoko Wildlife Refuge on a fragile moose population.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** This fragile subsistence moose population will rapidly decline.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Subsistence users and non-airborne hunters; and all wildlife.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Airborne hunters.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?**

**PROPOSED BY:** Middle Yukon Advisory Committee/Koyukuk River Advisory Committee (I-OOS-G-028)  
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**PROPOSAL 114** - 5 AAC 92.540(3)(J). CONTROLLED USE AREAS. Amend this regulation in Unit 20A as follows:

Nenana Controlled Use Area repealed as not biologically justified.

**ISSUE:** Denial of access to world's largest caribou herd. The Western Arctic Herd has over 1/4 million animals. The Noatak Controlled Use Area (in which only 20 hunting licenses are sold to local residents) denies aircraft access to over 2000 sq. miles along 200 miles of the Noatak River.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Every village will want a controlled use area for a monopoly of access to the local hunting area. Such zoning (without biological justification) is illegal. See McDowell v. State and Kenaitzie v. State. Alaska's constitution prohibits granting of special privileges to any group.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** All Alaskans who believe in equality. Equal treatment under the law, equal access, and the common user doctrine, all as contained in Alaska's constitution.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Greedy individuals who want the state to provide them a private hunting area.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?**

**PROPOSED BY:** Lynn Levengood, AWCA (HQ-OOS-G-003)  
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**PROPOSAL 115 - 5 AAC 92.540(7). CONTROLLED USE AREAS.** Change the southern border of the Upper Kuskokwim Controlled Use Area as follows:

Insert the drainages of the Big River, then northeast in a line from elevation 2022ft. mountain 17 miles northwest of Lone Mountain to the 2193ft. mountain north of the Tonzona River to original Benchmark M. 1.26.

**ISSUE:** The Upper Kuskokwim Controlled Use Area. Close moose hunting in a large area to nonresidents. The southern five to ten miles of the area is not used by subsistence hunters, and has historically provided a few nonresident moose hunts. This new line can usually be seen in the field also.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Reduced opportunity for nonresidents to harvest a few moose, probably 0 to 4 moose.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** A few nonresident moose hunters and also one can see the west and east end of the line. Now, one cannot see the east end of the line.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** There is very little or no subsistence hunting in this 5 to 10 mile band of land.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Other solutions to describe the southern border of the Upper Kuskokwim Controlled Use Area: Possible example: 5 miles (or 10 miles) north of southern border.

**PROPOSED BY:** Dennis Harms (HQ-OOS-G-036)  
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**PROPOSAL 116** - 5 AAC 92.540(8)(A). CONTROLLED USE AREAS. Amend this regulation in the Koyukuk Controlled Use Area as follows:

No person would be issued a permit to harvest moose in Unit 21D unless the boat is registered and numbered in accordance with state and federal law.

**ISSUE:** Boating violations, hunting violations in Unit 21D (Koyukuk Controlled Use Area). Presently no way to identify boat owners.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** There will continue to be little accountability of how a person operates a boat or conducts hunting/subsistence use in Unit 21D.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Everyone.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** None.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?**

**PROPOSED BY:** Windell Arnold (HQ-OOS-G-030)  
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**PROPOSAL 117** - 5 AAC 92.540(8)(A). CONTROLLED USE AREAS. Include the Dakli drainage in the Koyukuk Controlled Use Area.

Include certain areas in Unit 24, because the hunters go into unit and could be illegally hunting or airplane to ground hunting.

**ISSUE:** Koyukuk Controlled Use Area boundary.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** The use of aircraft in Dakli area will increase for the transport of hunters.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** The use of area that is in Unit 24 by airplanes could increase, need to decrease because of possible airplane to ground hunting.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Airplane hunters.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** No comment.

**PROPOSED BY:** Darrell Vent, Sr., (Huslia Tribal Council) (I-OOS-G-001)  
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**PROPOSAL 118** - 5 AAC 92.540(8)(A)(ii). CONTROLLED USE AREAS. Amend this regulation in the Koyukuk Controlled Use Area as follows:

No more than 50 horsepower per boat may be used in the Koyukuk Controlled Use Area. All engines over 50 horsepower per boat must be sealed at the check station.

**ISSUE:** The problem is three-fold: 1) Noise; 2) Increased hunting pressure from non-area hunters and; 3) Moose moving away from river.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Problem will only get worse.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** 1) Hunters living closest to the hunting area. 2) Low volume hunters seeking a high quality hunt.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Those who want to take a lot of moose out of the area and travel fast.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Limit number of moose per boat but that would not help the noise problem.

**PROPOSED BY:** Leonard Dubber (HQ-OOS-G-006)  
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**PROPOSAL 119** - 5 AAC 92.540(8)(A)(iii). CONTROLLED USE AREAS. Amend this regulation in the Koyukuk Controlled Use Area to include the following:

Those hunters who declare to be subsistence hunters only be allowed to hunt subsistence-only areas. Nonsubsistence hunters will hunt in nonsubsistence areas.

**ISSUE:** Regulations require that hunters register at the department check station and declare to be either a subsistence hunter or a nonsubsistence hunter. Areas within the controlled use area are designated subsistence-only or nonsubsistence areas. Examples are the area from the Yukon River to the Gisasa River and from the Dulbi Slough to Huslia are subsistence-only areas. Little, if any, hunting is occurring within these areas. Particularly the area between the Dulbi Slough and Huslia. The problem is that hunters who declare to be subsistence hunters are hunting in the nonsubsistence area and few, if any, hunters are hunting in the subsistence-only area. This tends to concentrate hunters and causes high kill and low kill areas within the controlled use area.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** The concentration of hunters will continue to create some conflict between hunters. A concentration of hunters will also continue an uneven kill of moose in the controlled use area. This is a more important problem than several years ago because the wolf numbers are high, causing much more predation on the moose, therefore helping to lower moose per square mile ratio numbers.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** The moose in the controlled use area.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Those groups of hunters who have some subsistence hunters would be inconvenienced in one way or another.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Reinstate aerial wolf hunting, but it is too hot a political issue.

**PROPOSED BY:** Koyukuk Moose Hunters Association (HQ-OOS-G-025)  
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**PROPOSAL 120** - 5 AAC 92.540(8)(A)(iii). CONTROLLED USE AREAS. Amend this regulation in the Koyukuk Controlled Use Area to include the following:

Establish a check station at Huslia and require all hunters of RM 830 and 832 to check in and out at either Ella cabin or Huslia.

**ISSUE:** There is a loophole in the harvest data and possible illegal hunting.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Perhaps non-local hunters will take more advantage of this as hunting pressure continues to increase. A check station per se has a deterrent value.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** All responsible hunters and wildlife managers.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Irresponsible hunters and the DWC financially.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Check station at Dulbai Slough, another proposal.

**PROPOSED BY:** Middle Yukon Advisory Committee/Koyukuk River Advisory Committee  
(I-OOS-G-029)

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**PROPOSAL 121** - 5 AAC 92.540(8)(A)(iii). CONTROLLED USE AREAS. Amend this regulation in the Koyukuk Controlled Use Area to include the following:

Establish a check station at Dulbi Slough and require all hunters of RM 830 and 832 to check in and out at either Dulbi Slough or Ella’s cabin.

**ISSUE:** There is a loophole in the harvest data and possible illegal hunting.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Perhaps non-local hunters will take more advantage of this as hunting pressure continues to increase. A check station per se has a deterrent value.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** All responsible hunters and wildlife managers.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Irresponsible hunters and the DWC financially.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Check station at Huslia, another proposal.

**PROPOSED BY:** Middle Yukon Advisory Committee/Koyukuk River Advisory Committee  
(I-OOS-G-030)

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**PROPOSAL 122** - 5 AAC 92.540(8)(A)(iii). CONTROLLED USE AREAS. Amend this regulation in the Koyukuk Controlled Use Area to include the following:

Authorize check station for biological and enforcement purposes.

**ISSUE:** Lack of real – time data on moose harvest near and Huslia, especially for biological and enforcement purposes.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Continued over harvest and wanton waste.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Moose resource and moose hunters in general.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?**

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?**

**PROPOSED BY:** George Yaska (I-OOS-G-050)

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**PROPOSAL 123** - 5 AAC 92.540(J). CONTROLLED USE AREAS. Amend this regulation in the Nenana Controlled Use Area as follows:

It would go back to the way it was before no controlled use area, that way everyone can benefit.

**ISSUE:** Nenana Controlled Use Area closed to airboat use in Units 20A and 20C which was closed because of prejudice or political reasons, not biological.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Discriminate against one user group from hunting the area.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Everyone would. Since 1993 moose harvest reports show not much of a drastic change as far as Nenana hunters or moose taking, but a high number of hunters from across the state and out of state.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one would suffer.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?**

**PROPOSED BY:** Lee Olsen (I-OOS-G-017)

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**PROPOSAL 124** - 5 AAC 92.550. AREAS CLOSED TO TRAPPING. Amend this regulation in Unit 20C as follows:

No trapping within a half-mile of either side of the George Parks Highway from Milepost 276 to Milepost 243 and no trapping within one mile of a residential area or private driveways.

**ISSUE:** Road trappers on the Parks Highway between Milepost 275, Rex Bridge to Milepost 243, Moody Bridge have been careless giving all trappers a bad report. Animals have been seen and reported running down the highway dragging a trap. Traps are set too close to residences and driveways. Traps are not picked up or sprung when trapping season closes. Traps are set too

close to the highway, birds have been caught and these can be seen from the highway. This area is growing and will continue to grow, too many residents in the area for road trapping.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Trappers will get another bad report.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Our reputation as trappers.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?**

**PROPOSED BY:** Lolita Valcq (HQ-OOS-G-019)  
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**Editors Note: The following three proposals (125, 126, 127) address a request originally submitted as Proposal #79 to the Board of Game at its Spring 1998 meeting."**

**PROPOSAL 125** - 5 AAC 92.XXX. COMMUNITY SUBSISTENCE HARVEST AREA AND PERMIT CONDITIONS. Add the following regulation to establish conditions for community based subsistence harvest permits:

(a) The commissioner or the commissioner's designee may, in accordance with this section and 5 AAC 92.052, issue community-based subsistence harvest permits and harvest reports for big game species where the board has established a community harvest hunt area under (b) of this section.

(b) The board will consider proposals to establish community harvest hunt areas during regularly scheduled meetings to consider seasons and bag limits for affected species in a hunt area. Information considered by the board to justify the proposed action will include:

- (1) a geographic description of the hunt area;
- (2) the sustainable harvest and current subsistence regulations and findings for the big game population to be harvested;
- (3) a custom of community based harvest and sharing of the wildlife resource harvested in the hunt area; and
- (4) other characteristics of harvest practices in the hunt area including transportation and methods and means.

(c) Where the Board of Game has established a community harvest hunt area for a big game population, residents may elect to participate in a community harvest permit hunt in accordance with the following conditions:

(1) A hunt administrator representing a group of residents may apply to the department for a community harvest permit by identifying the community harvest hunt area and the species to be hunted, and by requesting community harvest reports for the maximum number of individuals who will subscribe to the community harvest permit. The hunt administrator:

(A) shall record and maintain a record of the names of residents subscribing to the community harvest permit and their hunting license number, permanent hunting identification card number, or birth date for residents under 16;

(B) shall issue harvest reports to residents who have subscribed to the community harvest permit, however may not issue more individual harvest reports than the sum of the individual bag limits for the number of residents who have subscribed to the permit;



(C) shall collect validated harvest reports from hunters following the take of individual game animals, record harvest information for individual animals taken, and collect biological samples or other information as required by the department for management;

(D) shall provide the department with harvest information within a specified period of time when requested, and a final report of all game taken under the community harvest permit within 15 days of the close of the hunting season; and

(E) shall request additional harvest reports for a community harvest permit from the department during a hunting season if the number of subscribers exceeds earlier specified maximum participation.

(2) A resident who elects to subscribe to a community harvest permit:

(A) shall not hold a harvest ticket or other state hunt permit for the same species where the bag limit is the same or fewer animals during the same regulatory year, however a person may hold harvest tickets or permits for same-species hunts in areas with a larger bag limit following the close of the season for the community harvest permit;

(B) shall not subscribe to more than one community harvest permit for a species during a regulatory year;

(C) shall have in possession when hunting and taking game a community harvest report issued by the hunt administrator for each animal taken;

(D) shall validate a community harvest report immediately upon taking an animal; and

(E) shall report harvest and surrender validated harvest reports to the hunt administrator within 5 days, or sooner if required by the department, of taking an animal and transporting it to the place of final processing for preparation for human use and provide the hunt administrator with information and biological samples required under terms of the permit.

(d) Seasons for community harvest permits will be the same as those established for other subsistence harvests for that species in the geographic area included in a community harvest hunt area. The total bag limit for a community harvest permit will be equal to the sum of the individual bag limits established for other subsistence harvests for that species in the hunt area. Seasons and bag limits may vary within a hunt area according to established subsistence regulations for different game management units or other geographic delineations in a hunt area.

(e) Establishment of a community harvest hunt area will not constrain residents from participating in subsistence harvest activities for a species in that hunt area using individual harvest tickets or other state permits authorized by regulation, nor will it require any resident eligible to hunt under existing subsistence regulations to subscribe to a community harvest permit.

(f) The department may decline an application for a community subsistence harvest permit from a hunt administrator who has previously failed to comply with requirements in (c)(1) of this subsection.

**ISSUE:** In March 1998 the Board of Game considered a proposal from the Yukon Flats Advisory Committee (YFAC) to establish community bag limits for moose and caribou harvests for villages on the Yukon Flats. The Board of Game voted to defer consideration of this proposal until the March 2000 meeting and asked the department to work with the YFAC and other interests to explore the concept of applying group subsistence permits to big game management. In October 1998 the YFAC passed a motion supporting an effort to work with the community of Chalkyitsik to develop a pilot project for a community harvest program for moose.

This proposed regulation provides the framework to implement a community subsistence harvest permit system and outlines the roles, responsibilities, privileges and authorities of participants, the department, and the Board of Game. The regulation is not intended to increase the overall harvest level, but rather to accommodate traditional resource uses and local hunting patterns.

The Board would consider proposals to establish community subsistence harvest hunt areas during scheduled meetings when seasons and bag limits for affected game management units are on the publicly noticed agenda. Community subsistence harvest hunt areas would be identified in regulation for certain big game species following Board approval.

Where a community hunt area is established in regulation, a group of Alaska residents eligible to participate in subsistence hunting activities in the hunt area could apply to the department, through a hunt administrator, for a community harvest permit. A permit application will specify the hunt area and species to be harvested. Residents could participate in the community subsistence harvest by contacting the hunt administrator and subscribing to the permit. An individual who subscribes to a community harvest permit will not also be eligible to participate in concurrent and most subsequent hunting opportunities for that species in other areas of Alaska during that regulatory year. Similarly, residents who elect to participate in other hunts for the same species by obtaining general harvest tickets or other permits cannot later subscribe to a community harvest permit during the same regulatory year.

More than one community harvest permit may be issued for a hunt area, however residents may only subscribe to one community permit during a regulatory year.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Conflicts between traditional hunting practices and state hunting regulations will continue. Some local residents will continue their traditional hunting practices despite state regulations.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Subsistence hunters.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** None

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-00S-G-072)

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**PROPOSAL 126** - 5 AAC 92.XXX. COMMUNITY HARVEST AREAS. Add the following regulation to describe the Chalkyitsik Community Harvest Area.

In the following areas the commissioner may issue community harvest permits for designated big game species:

1. Chalkyitsik Community Harvest Area for moose: That portion of Unit 25B including the drainage of the Salmon Fork River and drainage of the Black River downstream from Bear Mountain Creek, and that portion of Unit 25D including the Black River drainage upstream from Englishshoe Bar and the portion of the Porcupine River drainage from the lower mouth of Curtis

Slough upstream to the upper mouth of Rock Slough and the drainage of the Grass River north of the south bank of the Grass River east of 144 °15' W longitude.

**ISSUE:** The proposed regulation would establish a community subsistence hunt for moose in portions of Units 25B and 25D East. The community hunting program would provide resident hunters the option of hunting moose under a regulation that would accommodate some local hunting practices. This proposal is not intended to increase the overall moose harvest, but rather to accommodate traditional resource uses and local hunting patterns and improve harvest reporting. Accurate reporting will be important to the success of a community based hunting program.

Moose are the most important big game resource in this area, with bears and, rarely, caribou being obtained in small amounts. The residents of Chalkyitsik have historically focused on moose hunting during fall when conditions for drying or freezing meat are suitable. Additional moose are taken periodically during mid and late winter, depending on weather conditions and the need for meat. Residents of this community use riverboats to hunt moose along the Black River during fall, and during winter snow machines are used to hunt moose in this area and also in parts of the Porcupine and Little Black/Grass river drainages. Hunters travel up the Salmon Fork and into the upper Black River around Grayling Fork during fall, except when water is too low. Although many people hunt moose at various times, there are a smaller number of hunters that provide a large share of the moose meat used by the community.

Individual bag limits are often not well suited to resource use patterns in small communities, like Chalkyitsik, where a limited number of hunters have historically provided a substantial portion of the game used by the residents of a community.

The proposed subsistence permit would authorize a total bag limit equal to the sum of the individual bag limits (1 bull moose) of participating hunters, which would be pooled for the community subsistence hunt. The harvest will be monitored to ensure that the total harvest does not exceed sustained yield.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** There will continue to be a poor fit between general hunting regulations and local moose hunting practices and patterns in the proposed hunt area. Compliance with existing regulations is difficult and harvest reporting will likely continue to be low.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Communities interested in having an alternative bag limit and harvest monitoring and reporting system for moose hunting.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** The proposed regulation is intended to accommodate and regulate existing harvest patterns, and should not affect other hunters.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** None.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-00S-G-071)

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**PROPOSAL 127** - 5 AAC 85.045(a) (23). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. A community harvest bag limit by permit only is added to Units 25B and 25D east.

<b>Units and Bag Limits</b>	<b>Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)</b>	<b>Nonresident Open Season</b>
...		
(23)		
...		
Remainder of Unit 25(B)		
RESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 bull per regulatory year, <u>only as follows:</u>		
<u>1 bull</u>	Sept. 5-Sept. 25 (General hunt only) Dec. 1-Dec. 15 (General hunt only)	
<u>1 bull by community harvest permit only</u>	<u>Sept. 5-Sept. 25</u> <u>Dec. 1-Dec. 15</u>	
NONRESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side		Sept. 5-Sept. 25
...		
Remainder of Unit 25(D)		
RESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 bull per regulatory year, <u>only as follows:</u>		
1 bull	Sept. 10-Sept. 20 Feb. 18-Feb. 28	
<u>1 bull by community harvest permit only</u>	<u>Sept. 10-Sept. 20</u> <u>Feb. 18-Feb. 28</u>	
NONRESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side		Sept. 10-Sept. 20

...

**ISSUE:** The proposed regulation would establish a season and bag limit for a community subsistence harvest of moose in portions of Units 25B and 25D East. This additional season and bag limit would be necessary if the community subsistence harvest permit regulation proposal (located elsewhere in this proposal book) is adopted by the Board.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** It would be impossible to implement the community subsistence harvest permit regulation for the community of Chalkyitsik.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Subsistence hunters.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** None.

**PROPOSED BY:** This proposal was originally submitted by the Yukon Flats Advisory Committee (HQ-00S-G-070)

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**PROPOSAL 128** - 5 AAC 99.025. CUSTOMARY AND TRADITIONAL USES OF GAME POPULATIONS. Amending the entire section in order to add "positive and negative" and the amounts necessary. To prevent duplicate work by the board.

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

SPECIES AND UNIT	FINDING	AMOUNT REASONABLY NECESSARY FOR SUBSISTENCE USES
(1) Bison		
...		
Unit 19D	negative	
Unit 20D	negative	
...		
(3) Brown Bear		
...		
Unit 12	negative	
...		
Unit 19(A) and (B) down-Stream of and including the Aniak River drainage	positive	5
Unit 19(C)	negative	
Unit 19(D)	positive	2-6
Unit 20(D), outside the outside the boundaries of the Fairbanks Nonsubsistence	positive	1-2

Use Area		
Unit 20(E)	negative	
Unit 21 and 22	positive	20-25
Unit 23, 24, 26	positive	25-35
Unit 25	negative	
(4) Caribou		
Units 9(A), 9(B), 17, 19(A) that portion south of the Kuskokwim River, and 19(B) (Mulchatna herd)	positive	2,100-2,400
...		
Unit 12 and 13 (Nelchina herd)	positive	100% allowable harvest
Unit 12, 20(D), and 20(E) (Fortymile herd)	positive	350-400
Unit 16(B), Unit 19(B), 19(C), positive 19(D)(Big River herd, Rainy Pass herd)	50-70	
...		
Unit 19 (Tonzona herd)	positive	20-30
Units 19(A), 19(D), 21(A), 21(E) (Beaver Mountains herd, Sunshine Mountains herd)	positive	30
Unit 20(D) that portion south of the Tanana River except that portion within the Fairbanks Nonsubsistence Use Area (Macomb herd)	positive	10-40
Units 20(F), 21(B), 21(C), 21(D), 24 (Galena Mountains herd, Wolf Mountains herd, Ray Mountains herd)	positive	150-200
Units 21, 22, 23, 26 (Western Arctic herd)	positive	8,000-12,000
Units 25(A), 25(B), 25(D), 26(B), 26(C)(Porcupine herd)	positive	1,250-1,550
Unit 26(B) (Central Arctic herd)	positive	250-450
...		
(8) Moose		
Unit 12	positive	60-70
...		
Unit 19, that portion outside of Lime Village Management Area	positive	150-250
Unit 19, that portion within the Lime Village Management Area	positive	30-40
Unit 20(A), that portion outside the boundaries of	positive	50-75

the Fairbanks Nonsubsistence Use Area		
Unit 20(B), that portion outside the Minto Management Area	positive	75-100
Unit 20(B), that portion within the Minto Management Area	positive	20-40
Unit 20(C) and 20(F)	positive	100-130
Unit 20(D) (portion)	positive	5-15
Unit 20(D) (south of the Tanana River)	positive	5
Unit 20(E)	positive	50-75
Unit 21	positive	450-550
...		
Unit 25(A)	positive	25-75
Unit 25(B)	positive	15-37
Unit 25(C), that portion outside the boundaries of the Fairbanks Nonsubsistence Use Area	positive	8-15
Unit 25(D) (west)	positive	25-50
Unit 25(D) (east)	positive	150-250
Unit 26	positive	60-80
(9) Musk Oxen		
...		
Unit 26(B), that portion east of the Dalton Highway Corridor	positive	4
Unit 26(B), that portion west of the Dalton Highway Corridor	positive	20
Unit 26(C)	positive	15
(10) Dall Sheep		
...		
Unit 20, those portions within the Tok Management Area and the Delta Management Area	negative	
...		
Units 23, 24, 25(A), and 26 (Brooks Range)	positive	75-125
Unit 25(B) and (C)	negative	
(11) Wolves		
...		
Unit 16 – 26	positive	
(12) Small Game		
...		
(B) Grouse		
Units 11, 13, 15, 16,	positive	

20(D), 22, and 23

(C) Ptarmigan  
Units 11, 13, 15, 16, positive  
20(D), and 23

...  
(15) Unclassified Game  
(A) bats (statewide)negative

**ISSUE:** While “positive” findings of “customary and traditional uses” of game populations are listed in regulation (5 AAC 99.025), board findings regarding the “amount reasonably necessary for subsistence uses”, as authorized in 16.05.258(b), have never been listed in regulation. Also, “negative” findings of customary and traditional uses have not been listed in regulation. The administrative record of these findings by the board are difficult to access because they are not found in a single place. This potentially leads to inefficiency and errors by the department and the board in management and rule making, if past findings by the board are not complete and accessible.

The above proposal provides a complete list of findings made by the board under AS 16.05.258 (a) and (b) – “positive” findings, “negative” findings, and the “amount reasonably necessary for subsistence uses”. The list was compiled by department staff from the administrative record. If passed, it would clearly place all findings in a single regulation which would be regularly updated as new findings are made by the board.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Board findings of the “amount reasonably necessary for subsistence uses” and “negative” findings of customary and traditional uses would not be available in a single regulation, but would continue to be available through unconsolidated summaries, tape logs, and audiotapes.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** The board, the departments of fish and game and law, and the general public will all benefit by having a clear record of findings in a single regulation.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** None.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-00S-G-012)  
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**PROPOSAL 129** - 5 AAC 99.025. CUSTOMARY AND TRADITIONAL USES OF GAME POPULATIONS. Amend this regulation to include the following:

The quota for moose in Unit 25D west should be 40-50 bulls and maximum of 20 cows. Both the state (ADF&G) and federal agencies support this quota and work cooperatively with the village councils to ensure acceptance and compliance with a moose management system.



**ISSUE:** The number of moose reasonably necessary for subsistence uses in Unit 25D west is set too low by state regulation.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Hunting opportunity will be legally unnecessarily reduced. Participants in the hunt will likely harvest more animals than currently allowed and harvest reporting compliance will be low. Management decision making will be inefficient and local communities will be mistrusting in the process.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Moose hunters, agencies, village councils and moose management.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Continuing the same (current) system and quota with unreported harvest to meet subsistence needs councils would rather have a system that protects the local hunters from violations of an inadequate system.

**PROPOSED BY:** Stevens Village Council (Randy Mayo) (I-OOS-G-023)  
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**PROPOSAL 130** - 5 AAC 99.025. CUSTOMARY AND TRADITIONAL USES OF GAME POPULATIONS. Amend this regulation to include amounts reasonably necessary for subsistence.

**ISSUE:** Positive customary and traditional use findings for moose in Units 21D and Unit 24. Believed to be in error; if not, need to be revisited for amounts necessary for subsistence.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** In times of shortage and decreasing moose populations, subsistence needs and opportunities will not be sufficient.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** All subsistence hunters and wildlife managers.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?**

**PROPOSED BY:** Middle Yukon Advisory Committee/Koyukuk River Advisory Committee (I-OOS-G-038)  
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**PROPOSAL 131** - 5 AAC 99.025(6). CUSTOMARY AND TRADITIONAL USES OF GAME POPULATIONS. Reexamine the amounts reasonably necessary for subsistence uses of moose in Units 21 and 24.

**ISSUE:** Improved harvest data are available for the middle Yukon and Koyukuk River region since findings were made regarding the amount of moose reasonably necessary to meet subsistence needs. It would be beneficial to reevaluate the 1992 findings for moose in these two units to ensure they reflect subsistence needs.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Inaccurate information might be used to judge subsistence needs in the two units.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Subsistence hunters in both units. All the hunting public will benefit because more sound allocation decision-making is likely to occur.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** None.

**Note:** This proposal is part of the Koyukuk River moose management planning effort being conducted by the Department in cooperation with the advisory committee based Koyukuk River Moose Hunters' Working Group. A few of the proposals may require modification based on final discussions between the Working Group and Department. To evaluate the complete package of proposals stemming from this planning effort refer to the following proposals:

- 19) Moose: Change the moose general hunt regulations in Units 21 D and 24 within the Koyukuk Controlled Use Area (KCUA) from the RM 830 registration hunt to two drawing hunts and expand the area of the drawing hunt and RM 832 registration hunt to the entire controlled use area. The Working Group has recommended that the drawing hunt be split into two hunt periods for the early and later part of the season. The Department can implement this recommendation through discretionary permit hunt authority.
- 20) Moose: Reauthorization of the cow harvests in Units 21D and 24. This proposal will reauthorize all the cow harvests; however, the Working Group has recommended the Department use permit discretionary authority to not provide for a cow harvest in the general hunt in the KCUA. Additional discussions may result in the recommendation to further restrict cow harvest in the fall hunt.
- 21) Moose: Open the RM 832 subsistence registration season 5 days earlier (Aug. 27). The Working Group has recommended opening and closing the RM 832 season 5 days earlier to make the season Aug. 27-Sept. 20. If this proposal is adopted with the season ending date of Sept. 25, the Department can end the season on Sept. 20 through discretionary permit hunt authority. If the proposal were written to end the season on Sept. 20 through regulation, the Department would not have discretion to add the five days back on the end of the season. The approach used in this proposal will maintain flexibility to return to the Sept. 1-Sept. 25 season, should a major increase in participation in the early hunt occur and threaten sustainability of the harvest. The Working Group has also recommended submitting a proposal to the Federal Subsistence Board to align the federal and state subsistence seasons.
- 22) Customary and Traditional Uses of Moose: Reexamine the amounts reasonably necessary for subsistence uses of moose in Units 21 and 24.
- 23) Black bear (in 5 AAC 92.085(4)(A). Unlawful Methods of Taking Big Game; Exceptions): Allow black bear baiting during the fall hunting season in the portion of Units 21D and 24 within the KCUA.
- 24) Brown bear: Increase the bag limit to one bear per year in the general hunt in Units 21D and 24 and extend the season to June 15.

**PROPOSED BY:** ADF&G on behalf of the Koyukuk River Moose Hunters' Working Group  
(HQ-00S-G-085)

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