

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

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ALASKA BOARD OF GAME
SPRING 2001
MARCH 2 - 12, 2001
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

FIRST CLASS MAIL

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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 2001 PROPOSAL BOOK**

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PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

REVIEWER LETTER

DEAR REVIEWER:

The attached packet of regulatory proposals will be considered by the Alaska Board of Game at its **Spring 2001** meeting concerning hunting and use of game in the Interior Region, **March 2 - 12, 2001** at the Downtown Marriott in Anchorage, Alaska. The proposals generally concern changes to hunting regulations in Southcentral Alaska.

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

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

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

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

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

Comments may be submitted at any time until the public testimony period for that proposal and/or its subject matter is closed at the meeting and deliberation by the board begins. As a practical matter, you are encouraged to have all written comments presented to the above Juneau address by **February 16, 2001**. Receipt by this date will assure that your written comments will be published in the board workbook. Comments received after February 16 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 2001 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 8, 2001. 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, 2000

Dates & Location

Topic

SPRING 2001 March 2 – 12, 2001
Downtown Marriott Hotel
Anchorage, AK

Southcentral Region

Proposal Deadline: December 8, 2000
Comment Deadline: February 16, 2001

FALL 2001 TBA

Arctic Region

Winter 2002 TBA

Statewide

Spring 2002 TBA

Interior Region

For information about the Board of Game, contact:

Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Boards Support Section
PO Box 25526
Juneau, Alaska 99802-5526
Phone: (907) 465-2027
Fax: (907) 465-6094
Email: margaret_Edens@fishgame.state.ak.us

ALASKA BOARD OF GAME MEETING SCHEDULE

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)
- Identified Big Game Prey Populations and Objectives
- Wolf Predation 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., 5 AAC 92.066. Permit for Access to Walrus Islands State Game Sanctuary) will be taken up when the board is scheduled to consider regulations in that region.

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

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

<u>Area</u>	<u>Cycle**</u>		
SOUTHEAST-REGION I Game Management Units: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	Fall 2002	Fall 2004	Fall 2006
SOUTHCENTRAL-REGION II Game Management Units: 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 All GMUs: Brown Bear Tag Fees Reauthorization of Antlerless Moose Hunts	Spring 2001	Spring 2003	Spring 2005
ARCTIC AND WESTERN-REGION V Game Management Units: 18, 22, 23, 26A	Fall 2001	Fall 2003	Fall 2005
INTERIOR-REGION III Game Management Units: 12, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25, 26B, 26C All GMUs: Brown Bear Tag Fees Reauthorization of Antlerless Moose Hunts	Spring 2002	Spring 2004	Spring 2006

****THE MEETING CYCLE REPEATS ITSELF ON TWO-YEAR INTERVALS**
This schedule was adopted October 20, 1995; updated August 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000

Alaska Board of Game Winter Meeting Schedule

STATEWIDE REGULATIONS: 5 AAC 92

CYCLE “A”: Winter 2002, 2006, 2010, 2014, etc.

.001 Application of this Chapter
.002 Liability for Violations
.003 Hunter Education and Orientation Requirements
.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
.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
.034 Permit to Take Game for Cultural Purposes
.037 Permits for Falconry
.039 Permit for Taking Wolves Using Aircraft
.047 Permit for Using Radio Telemetry Equipment
.104 Authorization for Methods and Means Disability Exemptions
.106 Intensive Management of Identified Big Game Prey Populations
.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 “B”: Winter 2004, 2008, 2012, 2016, etc.

.035 Permit for Temporary Commercial Use of Live Game
.040 Permit for Taking 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 and 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, and Cranes
.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 with Cubs Prohibited
.260 Taking Cub Bears and Female Bears
.400 Emergency Taking of Game
.410 Taking Game in Defense of Life or Property
.550 Areas Closed to Trapping

ALASKA BOARD OF GAME

(Revised October, 2000)

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Mike Fleagle P.O. Box 33 McGrath, AK 99627	1/31/2002
Lori Quakenbush, CHAIR P.O. Box 83236 Fairbanks, AK 99708	1/31/2000
Greg Roczicka, VICE-CHAIR P.O. Box 513 Bethel, AK 99559	1/31/2002
Walter Sampson P.O. Box 49 Kotzebue, AK 99752	1/31/2001
Greg Streveler P.O. Box 94 Gustavus, AK 99826	1/31/2002
Eruk Williamson 12720 Lupine Rd. Anchorage, AK 99516	1/31/2001

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 2001 board workbook. Written comments regarding the proposals in this proposal booklet may not be published if the comments are sent to individual board members.

Board members may also be reached at:

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

BOARDS SUPPORT SECTION

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

Board Meeting Recording:

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

TDD

Phone: 1-800-478-2028

Email address:

margaret_edens@fishgame.state.ak.us

TENTATIVE AGENDA
BOARD OF GAME
March 2 - 12, 2001
DOWNTOWN MARRIOTT HOTEL, ANCHORAGE, 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 2

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>DEADLINE FOR <u>SIGN-UP</u> TO TESTIFY IS: 12 NOON, SUNDAY, MARCH 4</p>

Saturday, March 3

8:30 AM

Continue public testimony

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

Sunday, March 4 through Monday, March 12

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 6 as follows:

Change the Unit 6 beaver season opening date from Dec. 1 to Nov. 10.

ISSUE: Allow the few that trap beaver to increase their harvest, but will more importantly align the beaver and otter seasons.

Unit 6 season is currently Dec. 1 to Apr. 20.

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

This committee along with the biologists from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the U.S. Forest Service believe that there are an over abundance of beaver on the Copper River Delta. Opening the beaver season on Nov. 10 will align the beaver and otter seasons, this will ultimately lead to less waste of beaver that are caught before the season opens from trappers targeting otters.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Trappers will have more opportunity.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Copper River/Prince Williams Sound Advisory Committee (HQ-01S-G-064)

PROPOSAL 2 - 5 AAC 84.270(1). FURBEARER TRAPPING. Amend this regulation in Unit 9 as follows:

	Season	Bag Limit
Unit 9 Beaver	Nov. 10—Apr. 30	40

ISSUE: Large, healthy beaver populations with relatively few being harvested.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Overpopulation possibly, but certainly loss of areas available to returning salmon stocks.

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? People who rely on salmon for food or income.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Leon Alsworth (HQ-01S-G-027)

PROPOSAL 3 -5 AAC 84.270(1). FUR BEARER TRAPPING. Amend this regulation in Unit 9B as follows:

Open beaver season Nov. 10 when general trapping season opens.

ISSUE: Beaver trapping does not open until Jan. 1—the latest opening in the state.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Beavers are expanding at a rapid rate here. Fish spawning areas are cut off. Lowlands are flooded and water supply is contaminated.

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Trappers and locals who use carcasses for the table, dog teams, and bait. Salmon.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Jim Tilly (HQ-01S-G-032)

PROPOSAL 4 - 5 AAC 84.270(1). FUR BEARER TRAPPING Change beaver trapping season dates in Unit 9E as follows:

Open season Nov. 10 to Mar. 31 -- 40 limit.

ISSUE: Change open season on beaver in Unit 9E. It is now Jan. 1 to Mar. 31 – 40 limit. Change to Nov. 10 – Mar. 31 – 40 limit.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Beaver population is on the increase, and they are blocking off salmon streams and killing off the salmon.

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Everyone, also the salmon.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Timothy M. Enright (HQ-01S-G-059)

PROPOSAL 5 - 5 AAC 84.270(1). FUR BEARER TRAPPING. Extend the season to trap beaver in Unit 13 as follows:

Season dates for beaver – Sept. 25 – May 15.

ISSUE: Season dates for beaver – Unit 13.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? There is no opportunity before October to take beaver in the Unit.

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? This proposal will give opportunity to take beaver earlier in the year, prior to freeze up. There is sufficient beaver to support this proposal.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Copper Basin Advisory Committee (SC-01S-G-039)

PROPOSAL 6 - 5 AAC 84.270(1). FUR BEARER TRAPPING. Amend this regulation for beaver in Unit 16B as follows:

Unit 16B: Resident and nonresident: No limit and no closed season.

ISSUE: Unit 16B beaver population is increasing. Due to the remoteness of Unit 16B and depressed fur prices, little trapping for beaver is taking place. Beaver populations have gone unchecked for a number of years now. Beaver have become instrumental in the spread of nonnative northern pike in the unit and the subsequent decline in the salmon, rainbow trout, and arctic grayling stocks in the area.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Beaver will continue to dam more and more streams creating more habitat for nonnative northern pike. Native stocks of fish will continue to decline requiring more restrictions to be placed on sport, commercial, and subsistence anglers.

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Salmon, rainbow trout, and arctic grayling populations will improve. Fewer restrictions on sport, commercial, and subsistence fishing will be required. A hunting season for beaver will create another food source for hunters and remote residents.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Two years ago opening of the trapping season was changed from Nov. 10 to Oct. 10 with little positive impact. In Unit 16B waterways are starting to freeze by Oct. 10, making it difficult and dangerous for trappers to travel.

PROPOSED BY: Michael Williams (SC-01S-G-027)

PROPOSAL 7 - 5 AAC 84.270(1). FUR BEARER TRAPPING. Align the Unit 9 beaver season with the Unit 17 season, and allow additional opportunity to harvest beavers in Unit 9 using firearms.

Unit	Open Season	Bag Limit
(1) Beaver		
...		
[UNIT 9 (EXCEPT UNIT 9(B))]	[JAN. 1–MAR. 31]	[40 PER SEASON]
[UNIT 9(B), HOWEVER ONLY FIREARMS MAY BE USED TO TAKE UP TO 2 BEAVERS PER DAY FROM APRIL 15–MAY 31]	[JAN.–MAR. 31] [APR. 15–MAY 31]	[40 PER PERSON]
Units 9 and 17; however, only firearms may be used to take up to 2 beaver per day from April 15-May 31	Nov. 10-Mar. 31 April 15-May 31	40 per season

...
5 AAC 92.095. UNLAWFUL METHODS OF TAKING FUR BEARERS; EXCEPTIONS. (a) ...

(3) taking beaver by any means other than a steel trap or snare, except that a firearm may be used to take 2 beaver per day in Units 9[(B)] and 17 from April 15 through May 31,

...

ISSUE: Beaver populations in Unit 9 remain at high levels and are underutilized by trappers because of low pelt prices, typically poor travel conditions, and the high expense of running a remote trapline. Additional opportunity for taking beaver can be provided without jeopardizing population status. A limited spring firearm season with a small daily bag limit will help prevent overharvest in close proximity to villages. This proposal will also align the seasons in Unit 9 with those in Unit 17. Some trappers from villages in Units 9(B) and 9(C) also trap in Unit 17, and aligning the seasons will minimize confusion.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Trappers will forgo additional opportunity to take beaver both for pelts during the winter trapping season and for food during the spring.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Primarily local beaver trappers.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those who oppose the harvest of beavers.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Eliminating the seasonal bag limit of 40 beavers was rejected because overharvest could occur in some localized areas.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-01S-G-112)

PROPOSAL 8 - 5 AAC 84.270(2). FUR BEARER TRAPPING. Amend this regulation as follows:

Change the closing date for trapping coyote in Unit 6 to Apr. 30 to align the closing date unit wide.

ISSUE: The current regulation reads Nov. 10 to Apr. 30 in Unit 6C south of the Copper River highway and east of the Heney Range, and from Nov. 10 to Mar. 31 for the remainder of Unit 6.

The current trapping regulations were liberalized many years ago by the board in Unit 6C to help control the coyote population in the area most used by nesting Dusky Canada Geese.

Unit 6 trapping regulations for coyote would read the same Nov. 10 to Apr. 30, thus causing much less confusion among the general public.

This proposal will unify the coyote trapping regulations for Unit 6. There is no conservation concerns, aligning these seasonal dates will eliminate confusing regulations.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Copper River/ Prince William Sound Advisory Committee (HQ-01S-G-063)

PROPOSAL 9 - 5 AAC 84.270(4). TRAPPING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR FUR BEARERS. Increase the trapping bag limit for red fox in Unit 14(C).

UNIT	OPEN SEASON	BAG LIMIT
(4) Fox, red (including the cross, black, or silver color phases)		
...		
Units 6, 9-11, 13, 14	Nov. 10-Feb. 28	No limit.

[14(A), 14(B)] and 16

Units 7 [,14(C)] and 15

Nov. 10-Feb. 28

One per season

...

ISSUE: Prior to the 1990s fox were uncommon in Unit 14C but the population has increased during recent years. Currently, no biological reason exists to limit the harvest of red fox in this unit to 1 fox per season. In the interest of streamlining trapping regulations in southcentral Alaska and providing additional trapping opportunity, the red fox bag limit in Unit 14(C) should be no limit, the same as the current bag limit in the remainder of Unit 14.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Loss of trapping opportunity in Unit 14(C).

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? People that participate in trapping red fox.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? People opposed to trapping red fox.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-01S-G-097)

PROPOSAL 10 - 5 AAC 84.270(6)(7). FUR BEARER TRAPPING. Amend this regulation for mink and marten in Units 14A and 14B as follows:

Mink and marten seasons in Units 14A and 14B would run concurrently from November 10 to January 31.

ISSUE: Make mink and marten trapping seasons the same dates in Units 14A and 14B to prevent illegal incidental catches of marten during January when mink season is open but marten season is not.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Marten caught in mink sets in January will be illegal.

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Mink trappers in Units 14A and 14B.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Robert Stahle (HQ-01S-G-002)

PROPOSAL 11 - 5 AAC 84.270(7). FUR BEARER TRAPPING. Amend this regulation for mink and weasel in Unit 6 as follows:

Change the closure of mink and weasel trapping season to February 28.

ISSUE: Give more opportunity to the few who trap mink and weasel, also aligning this season with the marten season.

Unit 6 mink and weasel season currently reads Nov. 10 to Jan. 31.
There are large populations of mink and weasel in Unit 6. The pressure from trapping has decreased immensely the past decade due to poor prices. Most of the trapping that occurs now is recreational or subsistence.

Align similar trapping seasons in Unit 6.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? This proposal will give more opportunity, align all similar trapping seasons in Unit 6, and eliminate the waste of mink and weasel that are caught after January 31 in marten traps.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Copper River/Prince William Sound Advisory Committee (HQ-01S-G-062)

PROPOSAL 12 - 5 AAC 85.010(1). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR BISON.

ISSUE: Proposal to end bison hunt on Ahtna Land and Resource Department

On July 30, 1998 Ahtna, Inc., received a letter from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, requesting support for a bison hunt in Game Management Units 11 and 13. The request at that time outlined a registration hunt to be conducted from the Department of Fish and Game office in Glennallen. On December 9, 1998, you received our proposal to the Board of Game detailing under what conditions Ahtna, Inc., could allow hunting on its land which has been closed to hunting by the public since 1990. The Board of Game denied that proposal and changed the hunt from a registration to a permit hunt. The hunt has been conducted for the last two years, during which time no Ahtna, Inc. shareholder has been able to participate in the hunt since none have drawn out a permit.

Since, as the Department of Fish and Game has concurred that it is virtually impossible to be successful in the hunt without trespassing on Ahtna, Inc. land, the attached proposal asks that the board close the bison hunt in Units 11 and 13. Ahtna has made every attempt to cooperate in allowing the hunt on its land. As a private landowner, Ahtna has the right to allow who it wills, to utilize its land. Anyone hunting on Ahtna land without its consent is in trespass. The bison hunt encourages trespass.

On behalf of Ahtna, Inc.'s 1,220 shareholders, I ask that you approve our request to discontinue the bison hunt. This hunt is an affront to Ahtna's right as a private landowner. I thank you in advance for your consideration.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Joseph Hart, Land and Resource Manager of Ahtna, Inc. (HQ-01S-G-138)

PROPOSAL 13 - 5 AAC 85.015(2). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR BLACK BEAR. Change this regulation as follows:

In Unit 6A and 6B open black bear hunting season from Aug. 20 through May 31.

ISSUE: No real problem, other than black bear. Close encounters when hunting mountain goats in the high country.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Mountain goat hunters are having continued close encounters of black bears and in the high country with season not open during Aug. 20 through Aug. 31. The possibility of D.L.P. with black bears during Aug. 20 through Aug. 31.

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Mountain goat hunters who would like to bag a black bear during their mountain goat hunt during Aug. 20 through Aug. 31. A decrease in D.L.P.'s during this time.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? No closed season on black bears in Unit 6A and 6B.

PROPOSED BY: Sam Fejes (SC-01S-G-029)

PROPOSAL 14 - 5 AAC 85.015(3). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR BLACK BEAR and 5 AAC 92.085(4)(A). UNLAWFUL METHODS FOR TAKING BIG GAME; EXCEPTIONS and 5 AAC 92.011. TAKING OF GAME BY PROXY. Amend these regulations in Unit 7 to include the following:

Proxy hunting for bear--all meat will be salvaged, proxy hunt; ends July 1; must be resident of Seward.

ISSUE: Proxy hunting for black bear until July 1.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? There will be too many bears and this will keep most bears out of town and school playgrounds.

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The handicapped; they can not get out and hunt.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Not being able to black bear hunt for the handicapped; they like the meat, and are not hunting for the hides or rugs. May and June is a good time for hunting bears for meat.

(HQ-00F-G-019)

PROPOSED BY: Stephen J. Dudley

(HQ-01S-G-021)

PROPOSAL 15 - 5 AAC 85.015(3). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR BLACK BEAR. Amend this regulation in Unit 14 to include the following:

Black bear baiting	Unit 14A	April 15 - <u>June 15</u> [MAY 25]
	Unit 14B	April 15 - <u>June 15</u> [MAY 31]
Black bear hunting	Unit 14A	Sept. 1 - <u>June 15</u> [MAY 25]
	Unit 14B	No closed season

ISSUE: Black bear populations have rebounded and hunters have missed opportunities to harvest a black bear with the short baiting season. Black bears are predators of moose calves and hunters are also unable to harvest as many moose because of declining moose populations in these units.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Additional missed opportunities to harvest a bear, and with further decline of the moose population, less opportunities to harvest moose as well.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Lengthened seasons may increase the chances of harvesting a black bear. Bear baiting clinics or “schools” have improved the knowledge of this renewable resource.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Hunters wishing to harvest a black bear, and all people wanting increased moose populations.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? People who disagree with harvesting animals.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Matanuska Valley Fish and Game Advisory Committee (SC-01S-G-009)

PROPOSAL 16 - 5 AAC 85.015(3). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR BLACK BEAR. Amend this regulation as follows:

Black bear hunting in Unit 14C (Area 2) Eagle River drainages upstream from Creek: Residents and nonresidents: 1 bear the day after Labor Day weekend through June 30. Allow use of archery within ½ mile of trails and other facilities.

ISSUE: No open general season for black bear in Unit 14C (Area 2) upper Eagle River.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Hunting opportunity will go unutilized and problem bears will continue in Eagle River and along Crow Pass Trail.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? N/A

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Hunters will have more opportunity to harvest black bear.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Some reduced bear viewing.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Closing season dates earlier would have little effect on any potential conflict with other recreationists because this remote backcountry is snow covered late into June.

PROPOSED BY: Anchorage Fish and Game Advisory Committee (SC-01S-G-065)

PROPOSAL 17 - 5 AAC 85.015(3). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR BLACK BEAR and 5 AAC 92.530(5)(B). MANAGEMENET AREAS. Amend these regulations as follows:

Extend spring black bear hunting season in Game Management Unit 14C (Eklutna Management Area, Eagle River registration hunt, and remainder of Chugach State park) from May 20—May 31.

ISSUE: Limited season for black bear in Game Management Unit 14C (Area 2 Area 4) and Remainder of Chugach State Park.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Hunting opportunity will go unutilized because current harvest rates are not limiting the population. There will be increasing number of nuisance bear encounters reported.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? N/A

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Hunters will have more opportunity to harvest black bear.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Some reduced bear viewing.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Anchorage Fish and Game Advisory Committee (SC-01S-G-064)

PROPOSAL 18 - 5 AAC 85.020(5). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR BROWN BEAR and 5 AAC 92.132. BAG LIMITS FOR BROWN BEARS. Amend these regulations in Units 6A and 6B as follows:

Nonresidents: 1 brown bear per year, instead of 1 brown bear every 4 years.

The same regulation, one brown bear every year, was adopted two years ago for Units 6A and 6B, but was for residents only.

ISSUE: Brown bear regulations were changed two years ago in attempt to increase moose calf production and increase the survival rate of swan and other young waterfowl on the Copper River Delta Flats.

The change to one brown bear per year for residents has not increased the brown bear harvest to the point that it has made an impact. Changing the regulations to include nonresidents will increase harvest on brown bears.

I believe the change in regulations that took place two years ago was to include nonresidents, but was overlooked.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The continuation of the low survival rate with moose calves, swans, and other waterfowl on the Copper River Delta Flats.

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Moose calves, swans, and other waterfowl will increase their populations.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Moose calves, swans, and other waterfowl on the Copper River Delta Flats.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Sam Fejes (SC-01S-G-030)

PROPOSAL 19 - 5 AAC 85.020(5). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR BROWN BEARS. Open a fall registration hunt for brown bears on Montague Island in Unit 6(D).

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(5)		
...		
Unit 6(D), Montague Island <u>1 bear every 4 regulatory years by registration permit only</u>	<u>Oct. 15 – Nov. 31</u> [NO OPEN SEASON]	<u>Oct. 15 – Nov. 31</u> [NO OPEN SEASON]
...		

ISSUE: In response to a population decline on Montague Island, the Board restricted brown bear hunting during 1989-1993 to spring hunting only, resulting in an annual harvest of 1 bear per year. Bear hunting has been closed year round on Montague since 1994 to allow the population to recover from an estimated low of 30-50 bears. The population has since increased to an estimated 60-80 bears. Deer hunters on Montague are increasingly reporting encounters with aggressive brown bears, particularly near public use cabins. A fall-only registration hunt would provide some opportunity for deer hunters to take a limited harvest of bears near public use cabins, while allowing the bear population to continue to increase. The registration hunt would be closed by emergency order when the harvest quota is reached. The long-term objective is to allow the population to increase to approximately 100 bears (140 bears/1000 km²) before opening a spring hunting season.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Encounters between deer hunters and aggressive brown bears will continue, increasing the chances of bears being killed in defense of life or property, and of deer hunters being injured in popular hunting areas.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Deer hunters would have the opportunity to hunt brown bear on Montague Island.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? We produced a pamphlet to inform and educate hunters about bear safety while deer hunting, but the problem bears are still present. We considered a fall/spring season and a spring-only season. However the initial, limited harvest quota could probably not support both spring and fall seasons. Based on years 1989-1993, harvests from a spring-only season would fall short of the quota because deer hunters would not be present to take bears opportunistically.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-01S-G-113)

PROPOSAL 20 - 5 AAC 85.020(7). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR BROWN BEAR and 5 AAC 92.061. SPECIAL PROVISIONS FOR UNIT 8 BROWN BEAR PERMIT HUNTS. Amend these regulations as follows:

Remainder of Unit 8, from the drainages of Uyak Bay north.
Residents and nonresidents: 1 bear every 4 regulatory years by permit Oct. 15 – Nov. 20 [OCT. 25 – NOV. 30] Apr. 1 — May 15.

ISSUE: Even though there is a good population of brown bears on Kodiak Island, a large percentage of the bears go into hibernation before the fall season opens, particularly on the northwest side from Uyak Bay north.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Both residents and nonresident hunters spend a lot of time and money to hunt brown bears on Kodiak Island, but cannot be selective because one does not see many bears after October 25.

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? A hunter will be more likely to harvest a male bear because he will be able to be more selective. A hunter and/or his guide should sign an affidavit stating that he has watched videos or read literature on identification of adult male bears.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Professional Hunters Association Inc. (HQ-01S-G-048)

PROPOSAL 21 - 5 AAC 85.020(8). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR BROWN BEAR. Change the fall season date in Unit 9B as follows:

Brown bear season fall 2001, Sept. 20 – Oct. 10.

ISSUE: Season change on brown bear Unit 9B, fall season 2001, which is now Sept. 20 – Oct. 21.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Weather is a big factor in Unit 9B, after Oct. 10. Lakes start freezing, west wind blows a lot, safety is a big factor.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Less bears would be taken, also safety for hunter and pilots.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Hunters, bears, pilots.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one, except a few smoke houses.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Leave season as is. Rejected, because Department of Fish and Game and other hunters would like to see less bears taken for safety reasons.

PROPOSED BY: Michael C. DeNeut (1-01S-G-002)

PROPOSAL 22 - 5 AAC 85.020(8). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR BROWN BEAR and 5 AAC 92.530(15). MANAGEMENT AREAS. Amend these regulations in the Western Alaska Brown Bear Management Area to include the following:

Expand this area by including Unit 9(C).

(15) The Western Alaska brown bear management area:

- (A) The area consists of Unit 9(B), Unit 9(C), Unit 17, Unit 18, and that portion of Units 19(A) and 19(B) downstream of and including the Aniak River drainage;
- (B) The area is open to brown bear hunting under regulations governing Units 9(C), 9(B), and Units 17-19, except that
 - (i) resident hunters may obtain a registration permit in place of a resident brown bear tag before hunting;
 - (ii) brown bear hunting under the authority of a brown bear registration permit is open from Sept. 1 through May 31 for one bear per regulatory year;

ISSUE: Local residents of Unit 9(C) cannot hunt brown bear annually for subsistence. There are only a few local residents left that subsist on brown bear. By not including Unit 9(C) in the Western Alaska Brown Bear Management Area, these people are being denied an opportunity to subsist on brown bear annually.

If this regulation is approved, 5 AAC 85.020 HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR BROWN BEAR (8), needs to be amended to reflect the subsistence seasons and bag limit changes.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Local residents will continue to be denied the opportunity to harvest brown bears for subsistence in Unit 9(C).

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Local residents who wish to harvest brown bears annually for subsistence.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one, the bear population is very healthy. The board expanded the hunting season two years ago to curtail the bear population. ADF&G recommends the expanded season to continue for the next two years.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None, we feel including Unit 9(C) in the Western Alaska brown bear management area is the only way to protect our subsistence hunting rights for brown bear on state lands.

PROPOSED BY: Naknek/Kvichak Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-01S-G-004)

PROPOSAL 23 - 5 AAC 85.020(8). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR BROWN BEAR and 5 AAC 92.132. BAG LIMIT FOR BROWN BEARS. Amend these regulations in Unit 9C as follows:

1 bear every regulatory year by permit open season: Sept. 20-Oct. 31
 Apr. 15-May 25

ISSUE: The high brown bear population density in Unit 9C.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The high brown bear populations will continue to have negative impacts on the declining Northern Alaska Peninsula Caribou Herd populations.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Too high of a brown bear density.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? People who depend on the NAPCH. For the past two years the NAPCH hunt in game management Units 9C remainder, and 9E have been in Tier II status. In 1999, there were 600 state Tier II permits and 60 Federal Subsistence permits issued. The caribou populations reported in 1999 were 8,600 caribou, in 2000 the numbers are reported to have decreased substantially to 7,000 with 400 Tier II permits issued and 40 Federal Subsistence permits issued. Disease, range conditions, and predators have had a detrimental impact on the caribou populations. This would also provide additional opportunity for brown bear harvest.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those who have an economic interest in the harvest of large brown bear.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Considered further and earlier extensions of the bear fall season. Rejected them because of the potential increase of the moose harvest in Unit 9C.

PROPOSED BY: Bristol Bay Native Association (HQ-01S-G-070)

PROPOSAL 24 - 5 AAC 85.020(8). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR BROWN BEAR and 5 AAC 92.510(9)(C). AREAS CLOSED TO HUNTING. Open brown bear hunting under a drawing permit in an area of state-owned land east of the McNeil River State Game Sanctuary boundary.

Unit	Resident Season	Nonresident Season
Unit 9(C), that portion consisting of state Lands east of the McNeil River State Game Sanctuary boundary	Oct. 1-Oct. 21 (odd years only) May 10-May 25 (even years only)	Oct. 1-Oct. 21 (odd years only) May 10-May 25 (even years only)

ISSUE: This area of state-owned land (approximately 65,000 acres) is inside the boundary of Katmai National Park, and was open to bear hunting under a general season until 1985. The Board of Game (BOG) closed this area to bear hunting in 1985 as a show of good faith in ongoing

discussions of a land trade with the National Park Service (NPS). Shortly after these state lands were closed, the NPS discontinued any serious negotiations concerning the potential land trade despite this being the highest ranked land under Katmai's land protection plan.

Prior to Katmai National Park being expanded under ANILCA, local subsistence hunters and trappers were repeatedly assured that their traditional activities would be allowed to continue in the new park areas on the western boundary. As it turned out, all the promises were worthless. The final ANILCA bill excluded traditional subsistence uses in the areas added to Katmai, one of only 2 or 3 new park areas where subsistence users were disenfranchised. An essential part of the land trade negotiations was to convert the western addition of Katmai to a preserve, where regulated hunting and trapping could resume. Again, local people were misled and ignored when the NPS dropped the land trade.

In March 1997, the board discussed a proposal similar to this. The Superintendent of Katmai National Park testified that the NPS was opposed to reopening of this area to bear hunting, and assured the board that the NPS would reactivate negotiations for the land trade. The board took him at his word, and rejected the proposal, with the proviso that if the NPS did not extend serious efforts to revive the land trade, the board might reconsider their action. The Naknek/Kvichak Advisory Committee was not surprised when the NPS again reneged on this promise, so we would like to again raise the issue.

Biologically, we believe the bear harvest that would result from passage of this proposal would be insignificant to both the Katmai and McNeil River brown bear populations.

If this proposal passed, 5 AAC 92.510(9)(C) would have to be amended to specify that only state lands below mean high tide adjacent to federal lands within the boundaries of Katmai National Park are closed to the taking of brown bears, as it is not our intention to open state tidelands to bear hunting further south.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? About 65,000 acres of state uplands will still be open to all hunting, except for brown bears, and trapping. The land will not have permanent protective status, and could be disposed of by future administrations. Any development within this area could have significant negative impacts on brown bears using Katmai and McNeil, because of the potential for them to get into conflicts with people. Local people will still be excluded from traditional subsistence hunting and trapping in areas added to the west side of Katmai.

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Those hunters who get permits to hunt brown bear in this area would be the immediate, but likely short-term beneficiaries. Ultimately, if this action prompts the NPS to negotiate a land trade in good faith, the benefits will be significant and widespread. For example, if this 65,000 acres is acquired by the NPS, it will be closed to all hunting (not just brown bear hunting); trapping and the habitat will be under permanent and inviolate protection from development. If the western addition to Katmai is converted to a preserve (with the proviso that brown bear hunting would not be permitted in this area); brown bear enthusiasts will not have lost anything and local subsistence hunters will again have access to traditional hunting areas to pursue moose and caribou. Additionally, other state interests will benefit from receiving other lands or money to balance the fair market value of the state lands traded to NPS.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? People opposed to hunting brown bears in an area surrounded by Katmai National Park and McNeil River State Game Sanctuary or opposed to brown bear hunting under any circumstance.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? To quote from the Matanuska Valley Advisory Committee’s 1997 proposal: “This is a potentially explosive issue between non-consumptive users and hunters, and we did not want to start a controversy where one group is pitted against the other in a vociferous, antagonistic manner. Therefore, we thought on the option to leave the status quo in place. However, in doing so, it is unlikely that anything will ever change. We thought the best method was to bring the issue before the board, and hopefully with open-minded debate, a solution can be attained that will be mutually acceptable to most people.” The Naknek/Kvichak Advisory Committee agrees that this situation could have a win-win outcome, but only if the NPS is prompted into serious negotiations, which will not happen under current regulations. We believe the NPS has never dealt with this issue in good faith, and never will as long as the areas is closed to bear hunting.

PROPOSED BY: Naknek/Kvichak Advisory Committee (HQ-01S-G-005)

PROPOSAL 25 - 5 AAC 85.020(8). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR BROWN BEAR and 5 AAC 92.510(9). BAG LIMIT FOR BROWN BEARS. Change brown bear hunting in Unit 9C as follows:

Open all state lands lying east of the eastern boundary of McNeil River Game Refuge and all state lands lying north of federal lands in Katmai National Park, including adjacent tidelands to the hunting of brown bear. This basically would all be state lands within Seward Meridian Township 13 Range 29 West, Range 28 West and Range 27 West.

Management seasons and bag limits would be the same as for the remainder of Unit 9C outside of the Naknek River Drainage. Prey species such as moose will continue to decline in numbers resulting in more resident restrictions.

ISSUE: The brown bear population in this general area has been increasing or stable. This area has become a political issue and not a biological issue. The harvest of a limited number of bears will not have any sort of population level impact or lost bear viewing opportunities.

On January 25, 1995, the board adopted Resolution 95-82, which stated in part that “...the Alaska Board of Game finds it in the best interest of the state to adopt a no net loss policy for hunting and trapping opportunities.” Brown bear hunting opportunity in southwest Alaska and Unit 9 in particular has decreased in the past decade. Hunting is a tool ADF&G can use to manage brown bear populations. Presently no management of brown bear populations in this area is being done.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Brown bear hunters will continue to lose a viable opportunity to harvest bears. ADF&G will lose a viable tool to manage bear populations.

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Hunting revenue contributes considerably to the health of habitat and game populations and also to the local economy.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Mark Freshwaters (HQ-01S-G-038)

PROPOSAL 26 - 5 AAC 85.020(8). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR BROWN BEAR and 5 AAC 92.132. BAG LIMIT FOR BROWN BEARS. Amend these regulations in Unit 9E as follows:

1 bear every regulatory year Open Season: Sept. 25 – Oct. 1
Apr. 15 – May 25

ISSUE: The high brown bear density.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The high brown bear populations will continue to have negative impacts on the declining caribou populations.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Too high of a brown bear density.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? People who depend on the Northern Alaska Peninsula Caribou Herd, additional opportunity for brown bear harvest. The NAPCH is in serious decline. The herd peaked at about 2,000 animals during the 1980s but has severely declined to 8,600 in 1999 and down to 7,000 animals reported in 2000. Much of this decline can be attributed to range problems, predators, and disease. Harvest opportunity is of a major concern to all area residents as there are very limited animals, moose and caribou, to harvest. In 1999, a Tier II hunt was implemented with 600 state permits and 60 federal subsistence permits issued. In the year 2000, with the reduction in caribou populations, (down to 7,000) there were only 400 Tier II and 40 Federal Subsistence permits issued. Residents of this area have to compete on a statewide level with others for the Tier II permits and there are very few Federal Subsistence permits to distribute to the area villages that qualify.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those who have an economic interest in the harvest of large brown bears.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Considered further earlier extensions of the bear fall season. Rejected because of the potential increase of the moose harvest.

PROPOSED BY: Bristol Bay Native Association (HQ-01S-G-072)

PROPOSAL 27 - 5 AAC 85.020(8). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR BROWN BEAR and 5 AAC 92.132. BAG LIMIT FOR BROWN BEARS. Amend these regulations in Unit 9E as follows:

1 bear every year by permit Registration: Sept. 25-Dec. 31
Apr. 15 – May 25

ISSUE: The high brown bear density.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? High brown bear populations will continue to have negative impacts on the declining caribou populations.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Too high of a brown bear density.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? People who depend on the Northern Alaska Peninsula Caribou Herd, additional opportunity for subsistence harvest. Caribou peaked on the Alaska Peninsula during the 1980s at about 20,000 animals. In 1999 when a Tier II hunt was implemented, the populations had decreased to 8,600, and in 2000 numbers have been reported to have declined to 7,000. Limited opportunity to harvest for area residents is difficult as they have had to compete on a statewide level for the 600 Tier II permits available in 1999 and down to 400 Tier II permits in 2000. Federal subsistence permits are more difficult to obtain also as there were only 60 available in 1999 and 40 available in 2000. Even with a permit, the opportunity to harvest is difficult because of the very limited numbers of caribou and their proximity to area village hunters.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one. Those who oppose any brown bear harvest.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Bristol Bay Native Association (HQ-01S-G-071)

PROPOSAL 28 - 5 AAC 85.020(8). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR BROWN BEAR and 5 AAC 92.132. BAG LIMITS FOR BROWN BEARS. Amend these regulations in Unit 9E as follows:

Residents: 1 bear every year
Nonresidents: 1 bear every 4 years

ISSUE: Open bear season every year for residents in Unit 9E.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? People will continue to kill bears and not report them.

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Local rural residents.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Timothy M. Enright (HQ-01S-G-060)

PROPOSAL 29 - 5 AAC 85.020(10). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR BROWN BEAR. Extend the spring season for brown bear as follows:

Season dates for grizzly bear in Unit 11 – Aug. 10 – June 15.

ISSUE: Season dates for grizzly bear in Unit 11.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? There are many bears in this unit and hunting pressure is limited. Some are crossing over to Unit 13 where predation is a problem.

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? This proposal would allow the take of incidental grizzly bear in Unit 11 and would possibly increase hunting of grizzlies overall. This will help the depressed moose and caribou populations of Unit 11.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Copper Basin Advisory Committee (SC-01S-G-038)

PROPOSAL 30 - 5 AAC 85.020(10). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR BROWN BEAR and 5 AAC 92.132. BAG LIMITS FOR BROWN BEARS. Amend these regulations in Unit 11 as follows:

Residents and nonresidents: 1 bear every regulatory year Sept. 1 – Oct. 31
or
Apr. 25 - May 31

ISSUE: Increase the brown bear bag limit in Unit 11 from one bear per four regulatory years to one bear per year.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? 1) Loss of hunting opportunity – the brown bear population in Unit 11.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? N/A

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Unit 11 bear hunters.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one, based on the number of hunters who utilize Unit 11. We do not expect a significant increase in harvest that may effect population status or reduce other uses.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Only increase the brown bear bag limit north of the Sanford River. Rejected because brown bear harvest throughout Unit 11 on state, private, and preserve land is low.

PROPOSED BY: Upper Tanana/Fortymile Advisory Committee (I-01S-G-005)

PROPOSAL 31 - 5 AAC 85.020(12). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR BROWN BEAR and 5 AAC 92.132. BAG LIMIT ON BROWN BEARS. Amend these regulations as follows:

Unit 13 1 bear every regulatory year Aug 10-June 15.

ISSUE: Seasons on grizzly bear in Unit 13E need to be aligned, especially west of the Alaska Railroad.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Three different opening dates and two different closing dates create a lot of confusion in such a small area.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Improves moose calf mortality.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Anyone wishing to harvest a bear.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? The area in question is west of the Alaska Railroad and Denali State Park, in Unit 13E. The area also borders the Denali National Park lands added in 1980. The season in the park addition also adds to the problem of having a triangle of land west of the railroad that has a different opening date than the land on either side of it. By aligning the season opening and closing dates, this will absolve any confusion in this area.

PROPOSED BY: Denali Advisory Committee (SC-01S-G-015)

PROPOSAL 32 - 5 AAC 85.020(13). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR BROWN BEAR. Amend this regulation to include the following:

Brown bear drawing permit hunt in Unit 14C (Area 5) with up to 7 permits issued by the department. Season dates: Sept. 15—May 25.

ISSUE: No open season for brown bear in Unit 14C (Area 5).

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Only one to two brown bears in all of Unit 14C will continue to be harvested per year.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? N/A

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Hunters will have more opportunity to harvest brown bear.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Some reduced bear viewing.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? A registration hunt could cause the possibility of too many bears being taken and does not give the department flexibility in management to account for take from DLP (defense of life or property) and vehicular incidents.

PROPOSED BY: Anchorage Fish and Game Advisory Committee (SC-01S-G-061)

PROPOSAL 33 - 5 AAC 85.020(13). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR BROWN BEAR and 5 AAC 92.132. BAG LIMIT FOR BROWN BEAR. Increase the brown/grizzly bear bag limit to two bears in a portion of Game Management Unit 13 as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season	Nonresident Open Season
Remainder of Unit 13: 2[1] bears every regulatory years	Aug. 10—Jun. 15	Aug. 10—Jun. 15

ISSUE: Increase the brown/grizzly bear bag limit to two bears in a portion of Game Management Unit 13 as follows: Bear and wolf predation in the western portion of Game Management Unit 13 has suppressed the recovery of the western Unit 13 moose population. While wolves seem to be the primary influence here, bears too are a controlling factor in the survivability of recruitment for the western Unit 13 moose herd. Predation of calves during the May/June calving period has limited the number of calves entering the population. Not all bears utilize calves as a prey base, but there are those bears within the population that predate heavily on post natal calves, and it is these bears that are a significant factor in controlling the recovery of the moose population. It was demonstrated at the Winter 2000 BOG that a 2 percent decline in the bear population over a five-year period could trigger a stabilization and slow recovery of the Unit 13 moose population. At this time, current seasons and bag limits may or may not have begun to trigger that 2 percent decline in the Unit 13 bear population. To encourage that rate of decline, or to enhance it somewhat, it is recommended that a two bear bag limit be imposed for the remainder of Unit 13.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Current bag limits and harvest rates have not significantly triggered a decline in the bear population within the western portion of Unit 13, in excess of 2 percent.

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Resident moose hunters through an increased survivability rate for calf moose and an enhancement to the moose population by higher recruitment rates. Unit 13 brown/grizzly bear guides by promoting the hunting of brown/grizzly bears in unit 13 with a 2 bear bag limit.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Robert P. Hardy (SC-01S-G-055)

PROPOSAL 34 - 5 AAC 85.020(14). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR BROWN BEAR and 5 AAC 92.132. BAG LIMIT FOR BROWN BEARS. Change these regulations in Unit 16B as follows:

Residents and nonresidents: 1 bear every regulatory year Aug. 10—May 25

ISSUE: Unit 16B is currently one brown/grizzly bear every four years. The brown/grizzly bear population is quite large in Unit 16B. Encounters between brown/grizzly bears and humans (remote residents and sport anglers) are on the rise. Recent studies show an increase in calf moose mortality rate. Indications are it is due to predation. Unit 16B has no connection to the road system and hunting access by plane or boat is limited. Hunting pressure is low and most of the hunting is by ski plane in the spring and is minimal at best.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The moose population will likely go into a serious decline. The number of encounters between remote residents/sport anglers and brown/grizzly bears will increase.

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one. Brown/grizzly bear populations should remain healthy despite increased hunting opportunities.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? The opening of the hunting season was changed from Sept. 1 to Aug. 10. The earlier opening has drawn little interest since hides are not of good quality this early in the year. Vegetation is still quite dense making it difficult to hunt.

PROPOSED BY: Michael Williams (SC-01S-G-028)

PROPOSAL 35 - 5 AAC 85.020(14). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR BROWN BEAR. Lengthen the brown/grizzly bear season in Game Management Unit 14B as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season	Nonresident Open Season
Unit 14A, 1 bear every 4 regulatory years	Sept. 15—May 25	Sept. 15—May 25
Unit 14B, 1 bear every 4 regulatory years	<u>Sept. 1—May 31</u>	<u>Sept. 1—May 31</u>

ISSUE: Lengthen the brown/grizzly bear season in Game Management Unit 14B as follows:

Radio telemetry tracking, aerial surveys and hunter reports indicate that the Unit 14B brown/grizzly population is increasing. Aerial surveys in the northwest quadrant of Unit 14B during the April/May emergence period indicated a denning occurrence of one bear per 5.8 miles

squared. Brown/grizzly habitat in Unit 14B is deemed excellent with a wide variety of food sources including salmon, moose, and vegetation sources. Productivity of the bear population is high, and survival rates/dispersal of young bears are optimum. Human access into the area is very limited. Adult brown/grizzly bears are very territorial, especially adult males. Nearly all of the available habitat for brown bears in this unit is currently occupied and defended by adult bears. Because of this, dispersal and recruitment seems to be emigrating into nearby available habitat within Units 16 and 13. Due to conservation concerns regarding moose in Units 16 and 13, the immigration of brown bears into these units from Unit 14B is of concern. By starting the fall season two weeks earlier (moving the opening date from Sept. 15 to Sept. 1), there would be an increased opportunity for moose and caribou hunters to harvest an incidental bear. Likewise, by moving the spring closing date from May 25 to May 31, it would give hunters the additional time to pursue bears when spring access is improving. It is speculated that by lengthening the season dates, the additional harvest in this unit would amount to 5-6 bears annually.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Hunters will be unnecessarily denied the opportunity to pursue bears during the early fall and late spring bear seasons. Dispersal and recruitment rates into adjacent units will continue to threaten the health and vitality of ungulate populations (prey species) there. Predation on ungulate populations within Unit 14B will increase and ultimately have detrimental effects on availability for moose and caribou hunters.

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Moose and caribou hunters in Unit 14B and adjacent units, by a decrease in predation on ungulates by brown bears. Brown/grizzly bear hunters through an increased opportunity to pursue bears.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Lengthening the fall season only, lengthening the spring season only.

PROPOSED BY: Robert P. Hardy (SC-01S-G-056)

PROPOSAL 36 - 5 AAC 85.020(15). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR BROWN BEAR and 5 AAC 92.132. BAG LIMITS FOR BROWN BEAR. Amend these regulations in Units 17A, 17B and 17C as follows:

Residents and nonresidents: 1 bear every year Sept. 20—May 31

ISSUE: The high brown bear population density in all of Unit 17. In some areas of Unit 17 the brown bears are having a detrimental impact on the moose and caribou calf survival rates.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The brown bear populations will continue to grow. Despite the harvest of one bear every four regulatory years, the harvest is reported to be of larger and older bears, this is indicative of a larger bear census.

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Property owners surrounding area townships and villages. Those who want to harvest large trophy brown bear. The moose and caribou calves who are reportedly being taken by those large brown bear populations. With the increasingly higher participation in Unit 17 by all hunters, the success of those harvesting moose and caribou will improve over time with the potential increases in large game populations.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those who want to have a limited bear harvest.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Nushagak Advisory Committee (HQ-01S-G-078)

PROPOSAL 37 - 5 AAC 85.020(15). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR BROWN BEAR. Change Unit 17 brown bear hunting season dates as follows:

Units 17A, 17B, and 17C: Aug. 20—May 31, resident and nonresident

ISSUE: Brown bear predation on moose. Brown bear eat moose. Unit 17 has a high population of brown bears, and moose are in high demand in Units 17B and 17C for subsistence and sport hunters, both local resident and resident, and nonresident hunters.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Moose populations could decline further. Increase in brown bear population and more “trouble” bears around and in local communities.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Increase opportunity for brown bear harvest. Align brown bear season with moose season so local hunters have opportunity to take bear while moose hunting.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Local resident, resident, subsistence, and sport moose hunters.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one known at this time.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Antler restrictions during moose registration hunt, and/or shorter resident season. This possible solution rejected because we do have sustainable moose population and local resident, resident, and nonresident hunting is important to this area.

PROPOSED BY: Byron Lamb (HQ-01S-G-129)

PROPOSAL 38 - 5 AAC 85.020(15). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR BROWN BEAR. Change this regulation in Unit 17B as follows:

Residents and nonresidents: 1 bear every 4 regulatory years – Sept. 15 — Oct. 10 or Apr. 15 — May 25

ISSUE: Increase the brown bear season in the fall by five days in Unit 17B for resident and nonresident hunters. The main reason is that moose calf survival rate is low because of the high population of brown bear. Add the five days on the front of the season.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The moose population will drop in all of Unit 17.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. Hunters will be able to harvest a few more bear which will allow both subsistence and general hunters to harvest more moose also.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Moose and brown bear hunters. Also it will make it safer for campers.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Adding ten days to front of the fall brown bear season. Too much overlap with the current moose season.

PROPOSED BY: Roger D. Morris (SC-01S-G-005)

PROPOSAL 39 - 5 AAC 85.025(3). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR CARIBOU. Amend this regulation in Unit 9B as follows:

You may hunt caribou Jan. 1—Apr. 15 in Unit 9B except that portion in the Lake Clark and Newhalen River drainages, the same day you have flown.

ISSUE: Same-day-airborne hunting between the villages of Newhalen and Port Alsworth is taking place on private or federal lands closed to hunting. Local hunters in those areas experience high levels of competition for the same animals.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Trespassing on private lands and impacts to local hunters.

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Local user groups.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those utilizing aircraft to take caribou in Unit 9B.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Leon Alsworth (HQ-01S-G-028)

PROPOSAL 40 - 5 AAC 85.025(3) and (12). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR CARIBOU. Amend this regulation in Units 9B and 17B as follows:

Nonresidents: 1 caribou Aug. 1 – Apr. 15

OR

Nonresidents: 2 caribou
no more than 1 bull may be taken during Aug. 1 – Nov. 30

ISSUE: Bulls have too much hunting pressure on them in these units with so many of the Mulchatna caribou herd shifting to the west of these units.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Continued depletion of quality caribou bulls and possible biological harm to bull populations.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? May reduce the chance of losing quality bull stocks in these units.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Nonresident hunters who after taking one bull have to pass on larger passing bulls.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Leon Alsworth (HQ-01S-G-026)

PROPOSAL 41 - 5 AAC 85.025(4). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR CARIBOU. Amend this regulation in Unit 9D to include the following:

Residents:	1 caribou	Sept. 1 – Sept. 30
		Nov. 1 - Mar. 31
Nonresidents:	1 bull	Sept. 1 – Sept. 30
Residents:	1 caribou	Sept. 1 - Sept. 30
		Nov. 1 – Mar. 31
Nonresidents:	1 bull	Sept. 1 – Oct. 10

ISSUE: The board reviews caribou regulations in this unit biannually. This proposal addresses that review and provides for hunting season(s) and bag limit(s) for 2001 and 2002.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? There is no current problem. Biologically, the herd dynamics can adequately provide the opportunities requested.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? This proposal will improve the quality of the resource by providing for a balanced harvest, including both subsistence needs and old surplus bulls.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? This proposal would benefit all user groups.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? I am not aware of anyone who would suffer.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? N/A.

PROPOSED BY: Dick Gunlogson (SC-01S-G-023)

PROPOSAL 42 - 5 AAC 85.025(4). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR CARIBOU. Lengthen the resident caribou hunting season in Unit 9(D), and change the bag limit for nonresidents.

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

...

(4)

Unit 9(D)

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 caribou

Aug. 10-Sept. 30
[SEPT. 1-SEPT. 25]
Nov. 15-Mar. 31

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 caribou [BULL]

Sept. 10-Sept. 30

ISSUE: As the Southern Alaska Peninsula caribou herd (SAPCH) approaches the lower limit of the population objective, more hunting opportunity can be provided. A post-calving survey in 1999 yielded a count of 3,600 caribou. Composition surveys in October 1999 and 2000 estimated ratios of 51 and 42 bulls per 100 cows and 25 and 37 calves per 100 cows, respectively. This proposal opens the resident season 21 days earlier and allows nonresidents to harvest caribou of either sex, although it is expected that virtually all nonresidents will continue to take only bulls. This change and the companion proposal for Unimak Island will also align state season dates and bag limits to reduce confusion.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? If nothing is done, the season dates and bag limit would differ from adjacent Unimak Island, and less hunting opportunity will be provided.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Residents will be able to hunt earlier in the fall and nonresidents will not be at risk if they mistakenly take an illegal cow caribou.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those that oppose additional caribou hunting opportunity in Unit 9(D).

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? The status quo was considered, but there could be confusion over different seasons and bag limits between the 2 segments of the SAPCH. Existing regulations are more restrictive than needed at this time as the SAPCH herd approaches the desired population level.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-01S-G-111)

PROPOSAL 43 - 5 AAC 85.025(5). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR CARIBOU. Reopen the caribou hunting season on Unimak Island in Unit 10, and align the season dates with the Unit 9(D) caribou season.

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
...		
(5)		
Unit 10, Unimak Island only	Aug. 10–Sept. 30	Sept. <u>10</u> [1]–Sept. 30
1 <u>caribou</u> [BULL]	<u>Nov. 15</u> [DEC. 1]–Mar. 31	
...		

ISSUE: There has been no state hunt on Unimak Island since 1994 when the Southern Alaska Peninsula caribou herd (SAPCH) was estimated to number less than 2,500 in Unit 9(D), and less than 300 on Unimak Island in Unit 10. Recent surveys have indicated that both segments of the SAPCH have recovered. A U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service survey during 1997 yielded a count of 600 caribou on Unimak Island. In May 2000, a private individual counted almost 1,000 caribou on the island. In October 2000, we classified 406 caribou and observed ratios of 40 bulls:100 cows and 21 calves:100 cows for the population. The hunt on Unimak Island was closed by emergency order in 1994 and 1995, and was supposed to have been dropped permanently from the codified regulations during 1996. An administrative oversight retained a hunt on Unimak Island in the codified regulations; this proposal amends the current codified regulation to align the season dates and bag limits with what is in the companion proposal for the mainland segment of the SAPCH in Unit 9(D).

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? If nothing is done, the existing regulations for Unimak Island would legally be in place, but the season dates and bag limit would differ from adjacent Unit 9(D).

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Both resident and nonresident hunters would benefit by having more opportunity to hunt caribou on Unimak Island.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those that oppose caribou hunting on Unimak Island.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Hunting under the current codified regulations was considered, but there could be confusion over different seasons and bag limits between the 2

segments of the SAPCH. Existing regulations are more restrictive than needed at this time as the Unimak herd approaches the desired density.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-01S-G-108)

PROPOSAL 44 - 5 AAC 85.025(5). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR CARIBOU. Amend this regulation in Unit 10 as follows:

Unit 10, Unimak Island only

Resident season – Aug. 10 – Oct. 10	Bag limit – one caribou
Nonresident season – Sept. 1 – Oct. 10	Bag limit – one bull caribou

ISSUE: Opening the caribou season in Unit 10 on Unimak Island for resident and nonresident hunters, there has been no state caribou hunting season on Unimak Island since 1994 when the population of caribou was less than 300. Recent surveys have indicated that the population has recovered and is continuing to increase. A fish and wildlife survey in 1997 yielded a count of 600 caribou on Unimak.

In May of 2000, I personally conducted a survey on approximately 70 percent of Unimak Island and counted almost 1,000 caribou. Having flown the remaining 30 percent of Unimak Island that was not involved in the survey prior to the survey date and seeing consistent numbers of caribou in this area. I can estimate that the total population of caribou on Unimak Island conservatively exceeds 1,200 caribou. In October of 2000 the Department of Fish and Game did a composition survey of 406 caribou on Unimak. The ratios developed from this survey were 40 bulls and 21 calves per 100 cows for the population. These ratios are some of the best in the state when compared to other herds. The department records indicate that there has never been more than 40 caribou harvested in any one season on Unimak Island. The department estimates that there is a harvest surplus of caribou that can sustain this amount of harvest easily. It is unlikely that harvest amounts would exceed that at which have been harvested in the past due to the complicated logistics of hunting on Unimak, and the cost associated with these logistics.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The caribou herd on Unimak may grow to a size that Unimak Island may not be able to sustain and the population may crash. This is possibly why the population decreased dramatically in the early 90s.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, having a consistent harvest from the caribou herd on Unimak Island will help sustain a population that the Island can handle.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Both resident and nonresident hunters would benefit by having more opportunity to hunt caribou on Unimak Island.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those that oppose caribou hunting on Unimak Island.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Rod Schuh (SC-01S-G-041)

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

Open second season November 10 with the option of more opportunity in fall, not to exceed a take determined by the state.

ISSUE: Caribou season dates in Unit 13.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Caribou are still in rut or just out of rut in October—some or all of meat may be inedible and would be wasted.

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? This proposal will benefit all hunters by ensuring second season caribou are edible and they are through the rut.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Copper Basin Advisory Committee (SC-01S-G-033)

PROPOSAL 46 -5 AAC 85.025(8). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR CARIBOU. Change the hunting regulations to allow for drawing permits for the Nelchina caribou herd and make the subsistence requirements more realistic.

I would like the board to offer at least half of the Nelchina permits on a drawing basis for resident hunters only. This would not guarantee those of us on the “outside” a permit but it would, at least, give some of us a fair chance to hunt Nelchina caribou. The other half of the permits could still be offered under a revised Tier II system that would provide subsistence rights for those at the very top of the list (most likely people living in the actual area of the herd that need the subsistence advantage). The board would have to decide if hunters should be allowed to apply for the Tier II permit and the drawing permit for the same hunt in the same year.

ISSUE: Change the way caribou harvest permits are issued for Nelchina caribou. The current Tier II system is flawed and does not provide fair access to subsistence hunters. The advantage and thus the permits go to those who have been hunting this herd the longest or to those who do not have a problem with fudging the truth a little to get their permit. I know many people who draw a permit every year but often do not hunt. They do not need the meat, but are not about to skip an application period because they may want to sport hunt sometime in the future and they know if they do not keep applying and drawing the permit every year, they may never get another one. This makes it difficult for someone like me, who relies on the meat harvested while hunting, but who moved to Anchorage in the early 90s (not early enough to get established in the “good old boy system”) to get a permit. I have bought one steak from the grocery store in 10 years. All other meat has been from the animals I have harvested. I subsist. Yet, I cannot hunt in the only decent caribou population that I can get to on the ground without having to drive to the other side of the state. Yet others that fly and drive motor homes from distances far greater than I

draw permits and all I can do is watch as they “subsistence” hunt. Is my need for meat any less than these folks because I have not been here as long as they have?

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The system will go unchanged and many who do not know the meaning of the word subsist, will continue to draw permits while others who are not in the system already will never have an equal and fair opportunity to hunt Nelchina caribou.

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Everyone who subsists but cannot currently hunt Nelchina caribou because they have not been in the system long enough or are not willing to bend the truth to get a permit. Sport hunters who would like a chance to hunt Nelchina caribou.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Some hunters who are now drawing permits (because they will have to compete on an even basis with other hunters).

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Make the whole hunt a drawing permit (rejected because there are people who live in this rural area who do rely on the Nelchina caribou herd for subsistence in the truest form of the word.

Considered a different ratio for Tier II and drawing permits than a 50 / 50 split down the middle. This would be OK but I have no way defining what would be the best percentages so I just split them down the middle.

PROPOSED BY: Steve Kemper (HQ-01S-G-056)

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

Put all Tier II applicants for Nelchina caribou in a pool and do so in a drawing that is fair.

ISSUE: Tier II permits for Nelchina caribou.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? No Tier II caribou in the Nelchina Basin (Unit 13).

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All Tier II caribou applicants.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one. Equal.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Clyde E. Kovak (SC-01S-G-001)

PROPOSAL 48 - 5 AAC 85.025(8). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR CARIBOU. Amend this regulation as follows:

Unit 13 caribou season and bag limits: 1 bull caribou per household by drawing permit, Aug. 10—Sept. 20.

ISSUE: The Tier II caribou season in Unit 13.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Loss of hunting opportunity—further decline in caribou numbers.

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All Alaskans will be treated fairly.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Anyone who has cheated on their permit application.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? We, as a committee, have had a lot of discussion over the Unit 13 (Nelchina) caribou herd, and the Tier II permit system. We feel the Tier II permit system has run amok. The application questions are too open and vague and this leads to misinformation and cheating. There have been numerous instances where people have gotten permits, yet did not even know where Unit 13 was. We feel that the Tier II system is inept at stopping false information on the application. Therefore, we would like the hunt to go to a drawing permit. Since everyone in Alaska is a subsistence user by law, the drawing permit would give everyone an equal and fair chance at a caribou permit without having to “outscore” those who fill out the Tier II application with false information. Also, due to the decline in the herd size, we would like to see only one permit per household and close the winter season.

PROPOSED BY: Denali Advisory Committee (SC-01S-G-016)

PROPOSAL 49 - 5 AAC 85.025(8). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR CARIBOU and 5 AAC 92.062. PRIORITY FOR SUBSISTENCE HUNTING; TIER II PERMITS. Amend these regulations in Unit 13 as follows:

Residents: 1 bull by permit; 1 Tier II permit per household
Aug. 10—Sept. 20

Nonresidents: No open season.

ISSUE: Diminishing caribou available for harvest due to predator problems and possible range problems resulting in less Tier II permits. The resource should be made available to as many households as possible. The problem we would like the board to address: Caribou are vulnerable during the Oct. 21—Mar. 31 season and are often harassed by snowmobiles in the open country around Paxson. This is an unacceptable practice and has proven not to be enforceable.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Tier II permits will be issued as they are now – some households may get 3 or more, other households will get none.

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Tier II permits will be available to a greater segment of the resident population.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Households who presently get more than 1 Tier II permit, snowmobile hunters.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Limited second season Oct. 20—Dec. 1.

PROPOSED BY: Paxson Advisory Committee (SC-01S-G-019)

PROPOSAL 50 - 5 AAC 85.025(9). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR CARIBOU. Replace the cow caribou drawing permit hunt in the Killey River herd with a registration permit hunt and change the season dates and bag limits

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
...		
(9)		
...		
Unit 15(B), that portion south and west of Killey River, <u>within the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge</u>		
<u>3</u> [1] caribou by drawing permit only; <u>however, only one bull may be taken</u> , up to 150 permits may be issued; <u>or</u>	Aug. 10-Sept. 20 (General hunt only)	Aug. 10-Sept. 20
<u>3</u> [2] cow caribou by <u>registration</u> [PER DRAWING] permit only; [UP TO 100 PERMITS MAY BE ISSUED]	<u>Aug. 10-Sept. 20</u> (General hunt only) [AUG. 10-OCT. 10]	<u>Aug. 10-Sept. 20</u> [AUG. 10-OCT. 10]
...		

ISSUE: The Killey River Caribou herd was established by relocating animals from the Nelchina herd during 1985 and 1986. An aerial survey conducted on November 1, 2000 indicated that the

herd has continued to grow and now numbers at least 632 animals. Sex and age ratios were 24 calves/100 cows, 42 bulls/100 cows and calves comprised 14 percent of the total classified.

The Kenai Peninsula Caribou Management Plan authored by the Department, U. S. Forest Service and U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service recommends a herd density between 0.8 to 1.0 caribou/km² in this area. The Killey River herd currently occupies 516 km² or an area capable of sustaining 413 to 516 caribou. The herd is currently between 18 and 35 percent or 116 to 219 animals over the recommended stocking rate. In 1996, the Department initiated a monitoring program to assess herd health by capturing and weighing female calves (short yearlings) in the spring. Short yearlings dropped in weight from 65.7 kg (145 lbs.) in 1996 to 63.5 kg (140 lbs.) in 1998, and to 58.4 kg (128 lbs) in 2000. Mean weights between 1996 and 1998 showed no significant difference although the weight declined slightly (2.2 Kg) in 1998. A comparison of mean weights from 1996 to 2000 revealed a statistically significant difference in mean weight indicating that herd nutritional status has declined and the caribou may be overgrazing their range. Because the herd was estimated at 550 caribou in the spring of 2000 when these animals were captured, subsequent surveys should result in further declines in mean weight. If this herd is allowed to remain at the present size, long-term range damage will occur and future-stocking rates will be reduced.

A limited permit hunt held during the past 2 years failed to reduce the herd's growth. A total of 160 permits were issued over the last 2 years resulting in a total of only 8 cows harvested. The area is very difficult to access without horses; opening it for a registration hunt and increasing the bag limit for the drawing permits should increase the hunting effort and reduce the herd size.

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Hunters that want to take advantage of additional hunting opportunities and are willing to harvest a cow.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Individuals opposed to wildlife management.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? A general season, requiring a standard caribou harvest ticket, was not considered because in-season harvest reporting is essential for the successful management of this herd.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
(HQ-01S-G-095)

PROPOSAL 51 - 5 AAC 85.025(12). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR CARIBOU. Change this regulation in Unit 17A as follows:

Unit 17A – Residents:	1 bull by registration permit	Aug. 25—Sept. 20
	1 antlered bull	Dec. 1—Dec. 31
Nonresidents:	No open season	

ISSUE: Allow for a resident registration hunt for moose in Unit 17A in fall and winter that U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service considers high density concentrations of moose.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The high concentration of moose – the bull:cow ratio of 105 bulls/100 cows will continue to create an imbalance in the herd and waste the resource.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Reducing the bull numbers allows for the bull/cow ratio to be more inline with department guidelines – 30 bulls/100 cows.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All residents.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Status quo – isn't working.

PROPOSED BY: Togiak Advisory Committee (HQ-01S-G-067)

PROPOSAL 52 - 5 AAC 85.025(12). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR CARIBOU. Change this regulation in Unit 17A as follows:

Unit 17A	Residents:	Aug. 1 – Mar. 31
West of the Kanik River	5 caribou	Remainder of Unit 17A -
	Nonresidents:	Special season may be
	No open season	announced

ISSUE: Allow an open caribou season in Unit 17A.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? No hunting would be allowed even when large numbers of caribou are present as it takes the department several weeks to react to open the season.

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Everyone has an opportunity to benefit.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Status quo – restrictive on an overabundant caribou herd.

PROPOSED BY: Togiak Advisory Committee (HQ-01S-G-066)

PROPOSAL 53 -5 AAC 85.030(6). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR DEER. Amend this regulation in Unit 8 as follows:

Reduce the maximum harvest from 4 deer to 3 deer.
Shorten the season. Aug. 1—Nov. 30[DEC. 30]

Establish a mail-in Harvest Report Card for deer just like those used for moose, sheep, and caribou.

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

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

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

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

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

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

PROPOSED BY: John D. Frost (SC-01S-G-069)

PROPOSAL 54 - 5 AAC 85.030(6). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR DEER.

Amend this regulation in Unit 8 to provide the following:

Change the bag limit for one buck to one deer during Nov. 1 – Nov. 14 on the Kodiak road system.

ISSUE: Change the deer bag limit on the Kodiak road system during the primitive arms hunt from one buck to one deer either sex to provide more hunting opportunities to bow hunters and muzzle loader hunters.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Less opportunities for hunters to fill their freezers.

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Primitive arms hunters.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Jeff A. Wadle (SC-01S-G-042)

PROPOSAL 55 - 5 AAC 85.040(3). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR GOATS. Change the mountain goat permit dates in Unit 15C on the Kenai Peninsula as follows.

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(3) Unit 15C, that portion south and west of a line beginning at the mouth of Rocky River up the Rocky and Windy Rivers across the Windy River/Jakolof Creek divide and down Jakolof Creek to its mouth		
1 goat by Tier II subsistence hunting permit only	Aug. 1 – <u>Oct. 15</u> [SEPT 30] (Subsistence Hunt Only)	No open season
1 goat by registration permit only	<u>Nov 1</u> -[OCT. 15] Nov 30	No open season
Unit 7 and the remainder of Unit 15	Aug. 10- <u>Oct 15</u> [SEPT. 30] (General Hunt Only) <u>Nov. 1</u> -[OCT. 15] Nov. 30 (General Hunt Only)	Aug. 10-[SEPT. 30] <u>Oct. 15</u> <u>Nov. 1</u> -[OCT. 15] Nov. 30

1 goat by drawing permit only in the Aug 10-Oct. 15 [SEPT. 30] season (up to 500 permits will be issued), or 1 goat by registration permit only in the Nov. 1 – [OCT. 15] Nov. 30 season.

ISSUE: Due to the high interest in registration hunts on the Kenai, some areas are not opened to avoid overharvest even though some areas still have harvestable quotas. We would recommend that the department consider allowing the drawing hunt to extend to October 15 to allow hunters additional opportunity to use their drawing permits. In order to effectively do this, the registration hunt would have to be moved back two weeks and start on November 1.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Hunter opportunity will be lost because additional permits could not be issued.

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Those drawing permittees who prefer to hunt later in the fall.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Registration permit hunters that prefer to hunt in October.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Change the dates in some areas and not in others. This would be very confusing to the hunting public when adjacent areas have different hunting dates.

PROPOSED BY: Homer Advisory Committee (SC-01S-G-011)

PROPOSAL 56 - 5 AAC 85.040(3). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR GOAT. Amend this regulation in Units 7 and 15 to include the following:

Taking nanny mountain goat with kids prohibited. No person may take a nanny goat accompanied by a kid.

ISSUE: Decreasing numbers of mountain goats on the Kenai Peninsula, some count areas.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Numbers may continue to decline with reduced opportunities for hunting

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. This regulation will reduce the female harvest and subsequent kid mortality.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Hunters who wish to see continued goat hunting opportunities in the future.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Slight reduction in available harvest--redirected towards billy and unmated nannies.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Billy only restriction. Sexing goats can be difficult and could result in goats accidentally shot.

PROPOSED BY: Seward Advisory Committee (HQ-01S-G-003)

PROPOSAL 57 - 5 AAC 85.040(3)(4)(6) and (7). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR GOAT. Amend this regulation in Units 7, 8, 13,14 and 15 to provide the following:

Specify a number or percent of the total mountain goat permits in these game management units and mountain goat subunits to be allocated to guided nonresident hunters. In a similar way brown bear are allocated to resident and second-degree of kindred and guided nonresident hunters in Unit 8, Kodiak Island.

ISSUE: The availability of goat permits in Units 7, 8, 13, 14 and 15 for nonresident guided hunters. In these game management units goat permits are by drawing. Nonresident or nonresident alien guided hunters have difficulty in these units getting goat permits.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Guided nonresident hunters wishing to hunt goat, will hunt goat in game management units where goats are by registration permit or in other states, or Canadian Provinces. In the case of nonresident guided hunters who wish to hunt

with a particular guide they may have to wait years to win a drawing permit under the current system.

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Guided nonresident hunters, guides, assistant guides, taxidermists, hotels, bed and breakfasts, restaurants, sporting goods stores, and anyone who is in the tourism industry who services these sportsmen.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? A small number of resident hunters who would not have the permits available that would be used by the guided nonresident hunters.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? From my prospective I can see no other solution.

PROPOSED BY: Dennis W. Wade (HQ-01S-G-065)

PROPOSAL 58 - 5 AAC 85.040(4). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR GOAT. Amend this regulation in Unit 8 as follows:

Allocation of three nonresident permits per guide use area where they are overlapped by state goat areas in Unit 8, SW of a line extending from Uyak Bay to Three Saints Bay.

ISSUE: Overpopulation of mountain goats on the south end of Kodiak Island coupled with the lack of probability of a nonresident drawing a goat permit.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Nonresidents will continue to have a very slim chance to draw a permit. Goat population will continue to increase and will eventually overgraze and crash as currently 30 percent to 40 percent of the permits drawn for residents are not used, of those that are used, only an average of 60 percent are successful.

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? 1) Nonresidents wanting to hunt Unit 8 for mountain goat will have an opportunity; 2) Guides will benefit as nonresidents require a guide for mountain goat; 3) Local economy of Kodiak will benefit as more hunting public creates more work for air taxis, marine charters, restaurants, hotels, etc.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one. An allocation would not decrease the residents opportunity for permits.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Adoption of a permit point system.

PROPOSED BY: Gus Lamoureux (HQ-01S-G-015)

PROPOSAL 59 - 5 AAC 85.040(7). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR GOAT.
Amend this regulation to include the following:

Unit 14C (Area 2) is open for drawing permit hunt with up to 10 permits issued per year for season from Sept. 5—Oct. 15.

ISSUE: Unit 14C (Area 2) is closed to goat hunting.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? There will continue to be no hunting in upper Eagle River drainages where goat populations could sustain a harvest.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? N/A

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Goat hunters.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Crow Pass hikers who view goats from a distance.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? A general hunt might result in too high of harvest.

PROPOSED BY: Anchorage Fish and Game Advisory Committee (SC-01S-G-063)

PROPOSAL 60 - 5 AAC 85.040(7). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR GOAT.
Amend this regulation in Unit 14C as follows:

Unit 14C Penguin Creek and Bird Creek drainages:
Residents and nonresidents: 1 goat by drawing permit Sept. 5—Oct. 15.

ISSUE: Provide a goat drawing permit hunt in Penguin Creek and Bird Creek drainages.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? With 80 to 90 goats in this area a surplus will go unharvested.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? N/A

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Goat hunters using firearms.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Archers who hunt goats in this area will have little more competition.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Opening day after Labor Day weekend would not conflict with other park users because goats generally are found in the rugged and remote headwaters not frequented by other recreationists.

PROPOSED BY: Anchorage Fish and Game Advisory Committee (SC-01S-G-066)

PROPOSAL 61 - 5 AAC 85.040(7). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR GOAT.
Extend the season dates for goat in Unit 14C as follows.

Remainder of Unit 14C: Residents and nonresidents: 1 goat by registration permit Sept. 1—Oct. 31[OCT. 15].

ISSUE: Expand Game Management Unit 14C registration goat hunting season for any legal means from Sept. 1—Oct. 31.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? With approximately 390 goats in this area a surplus will go unharvested. Average annual take by bowhunters is only two.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? N/A

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Goat hunters using firearms.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Archers who hunt goats in this area will have more competition in the late season.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Anchorage Fish and Game Advisory Committee (SC-01S-G-068)

PROPOSAL 62 - 5 AAC 85.040(7). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR GOAT.
Amend this regulation in Unit 14C to include the following:

A hunt for goats would start as soon as possible in Eagle River Valley.

ISSUE: Establish a mountain goat hunt in Eagle River Valley vicinity--Icicle Creek.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Nothing.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. Utilize a game resource, increase ADF&G revenue.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Hunters and ADF&G.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? N/A

PROPOSED BY: John Bithos (SC-01S-G-006)

PROPOSAL 63 - 5 AAC 085.045(1). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Reauthorize the existing cow moose season at Berners Bay.

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(1)		
...		
Unit 1(C), Berners Bay drainages	Sept. 15–Oct.15 (General hunt only)	Sept. 15–Oct.15
1 moose by drawing permit only; up to 30 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, well above the post-hunt management objective of 90 moose. The bull to cow ratio of 18:100 was below the 25:100 called for in the management plan, indicating 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 2000 season we issued 10 bull permits and 10 cow permits. Eighteen permittees hunted and 16 were successful (89 percent success rate), killing 9 bulls and 7 cows during 56 hunter-days.

The Board of Game adopted a proposal (at the November 2000 meeting in Juneau) to allow ADF&G to increase the number of drawing permits for the Berners Bay moose hunt from 20 to 30. We will make a determination on the number of permits we will issue for the 2001 season after we conduct an early winter moose survey.

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-01S-G-120)

PROPOSAL 64 - 5 AAC 85.045(3). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Reauthorize the existing antlerless moose season at Nunatak Bench.

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

(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. A January 1999 survey enumerated 33 moose, suggesting that up to 50 moose may be present in the hunt area. We were unable to attain a bull to cow ratio due to the late timing of the survey.

In the 1997 season, 9 permits were issued and only 2 permittees hunted, spending a total of 3 days to kill 2 bull moose. In the 1998 season, 11 permits were issued, and 3 permittees took a total of 7 days to kill 1 bull moose. In the 1999 season, 11 permits were issued, and 4 permittees hunted a total of 14 days and no moose were harvested.

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-01S-G-119)

PROPOSAL 65 - 5 AAC 85.045(4). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Change this regulation in Unit 6A as follows:

Change the nonantlered moose hunt in Bering River, Unit 6A West from a drawing hunt to a registration hunt. Currently the nonantlered moose hunt is a drawing hunt.

ISSUE: In the mid 1990s this advisory committee along with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game constructed a moose management plan for Unit 6 in which the Board of Game unanimously passed. Unit 6A West was slated as a consumptive harvest area, while Unit 6A East was slated as a trophy area.

The past several years Unit 6 residents have seen their opportunity for moose harvest diminish. Unit 6B, Martin River area, has seen the elimination of nonantlered hunts and reduction of antlered permits reduced by 50 percent. This reduction in harvest in Unit 6B is warranted by the

unfavorable calf recruitment, this is most definitely caused by predation. The area biologist has also suggested that many of the moose in Unit 6B have possibly moved into Unit 6A West. These two units are divided by the Ragged mountains, but is easily accessed by the moose along the coastal delta.

This committee believes that by changing the nonantlered moose hunt from a drawing hunt to a registration hunt, the opportunity that has been lost in other areas will be gained in Unit 6A West. Currently this hunt is a drawing hunt, and following state drawing hunt guidelines, a person may only choose three areas per year, per species. What typically takes place in Unit 6 is residents pick the area close to town, Unit 6C, using two choices, then ultimately use their last choice in Unit 6A West. This is now the last chance to be drawn for a nonantlered moose due to the unfortunate elimination of the Martin River drawing hunt due to recruitment and predation problems. The biggest problem for someone who does draw one of the fifteen nonantlered tags is weather and the extremely high cost of accessing the area. By changing the hunt to registration, more opportunity will be afforded people who will share the expense to access these areas.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? This proposal will give more opportunity.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Copper River/Prince William Sound Advisory Committee (HQ-01S-G-061)

PROPOSAL 66 - 5 AAC 85.045(4). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in Unit 6(A).

...

(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 bulls may be taken; or	(General hunt only)
1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only; up	Sept. 1-Oct. 31
	(General hunt only)

to 30 drawing permits may be issued

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:
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:

Sept. 1-Oct. 31

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 6(A) west of Cape Suckling is 300 to 350 moose. A census conducted during November 1999 yielded a population estimate of 400 moose with 13 percent calves. The sudden increase in population was probably a result of movement from adjacent Unit 6(B) during the severe winter of 1998/99. The reported harvest during 1999 was 19 bulls and 2 cows, and during 2000 was 28 bulls and 7 cows.

The desirable post-hunt population size in Unit 6(A) 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 percent). Reported harvest was 20 bulls in 1999. A preliminary harvest of 3 bulls has been reported for 2000. No antlerless hunts were held during either year because we have been unable to conduct surveys as a result of lack of snow and poor weather.

Harvest of antlerless moose may be needed in 2001 to stabilize the population within our management objective.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? If antlerless hunts are possible in Unit 6(A), 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-01S-G-116)

PROPOSAL 67 - 5 AAC 85.045(4). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Amend this regulation in remainder of Unit 6A as follows:

Nonresidents – 1 bull, 50-inch antlers or antlers with 3 brow tines
Residents – 1 bull. any size antlers

ISSUE: Let Alaska residents take any size bull moose.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Residents.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Open it up for cows; do not know moose population.

PROPOSED BY: Harold Perantie (HQ-01S-G-008)

PROPOSAL 68 - 5 AAC 85.045(4). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Amend this regulation in Unit 6A as follows:

Prohibit taking moose the same day airboats are used for transportation and establish identification number system for airboats in Unit 6A.

A moose may not be taken until after 3:00 am the following day in which an airboat is used for transportation, and all airboats used for transportation must display an ADF&G identification number.

ISSUE: The increasing number of hunters using airboats each season has brought the continuous reports of shooting from airboats while in motion and the continuing herding and harassment of moose and other game.

This proposal was introduced four years ago for both Units 6A and 6B. The board decided at that time to implement this action in only Unit 6B as a trial run. Since that time, this proposal has greatly improved the over harvest problem, and giving more individuals an opportunity for hunting, due to a longer season in Unit 6B.

If this proposal is imposed for Unit 6A, it would improve the harvest control even more. This proposal would also lengthen the season and give more opportunities to individuals to hunt, and most of all stop the unethical harassment and herding of moose and other game.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Continued herding and harassment of moose and other game. Continued shooting from airboats, while in motion, and always a possibility of over harvest of moose and over desired harvest levels.

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Other resource users who do not use airboats for transportation and the moose and other game will benefit by eliminating the herding and harassment by airboats by same day use.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Airboat users who oppose restrictions on their activities.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Prohibiting use of airboats for the purpose of taking game.

PROPOSED BY: Sam Fejes (SC-01S-G-031)

PROPOSAL 69 - 5 AAC 85.045(4). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in Unit 6(B).

Units and Bag Limit	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
...		
(4)		
...		
Unit 6(B)		
1 moose per regulatory year, only as follows:		
<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- tion permit hunt is in effect, a moose may not be taken until after 3:00 a.m. on the day fol- lowing the day on which an	Aug. 27- Oct. 31 (General hunt only)	No open season

airboat is used for transportation, and all airboats used for transportation must display an ADF&G identification number.

...

ISSUE: Antlerless moose seasons must be re-authorized annually. We recommend continuation of an antlerless season to promote population stability. Desirable post-hunt population size is 300-350. A census completed during November 1999 yielded an estimate of 255 moose with 5 percent calves. The decrease in population was attributed to movement into adjacent Unit 6(A) during the severe winter of 1998/99 and poor calf survival. The reported harvest was 21 bulls during 1999, and 7 bulls and 1 illegal cow during 2000. Antlerless hunts were not held either year because of poor calf survival.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? If moose move back into Unit 6(B) from 6(A) and a season is possible, hunting opportunity will be lost.

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

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

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-01S-G-115)

PROPOSAL 70 - 5 AAC 85.045(4). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Increase the number of bull permits available and reauthorize the antlerless moose season in Unit 6(C).

(4)

...

Unit 6(C)	Sept. 1-Oct. 31 (General hunt only)	No open season.
1 moose by drawing permit only; up to 40 [20] permits for bulls and up to 20 permits for antlerless moose may be issued		

...

ISSUE: The current population objective, established in 1995, is to allow the population to increase to 400 moose by the year 2006, and to increase the harvest accordingly. A census completed during December 1998 yielded a population count of 334 moose with 24 percent calves. The reported harvest during 1999 was 19 bulls and 4 cows, and during 2000 was 19 bulls and 5 cows. Census results during 2000/01 may indicate that the population objective has been achieved early because of good calf survival and possible movement into Unit 6(C). An increase

in the number of bull permits issued from 20 to 40 will be necessary to stabilize the population at the new objective. Initial harvest objective will be set at 30–35 bulls when the population objective is achieved.

Antlerless moose seasons must be re-authorized annually. Continuation of an antlerless season will be necessary to stabilize the population. The available antlerless harvest quota in Unit 6(C) is currently taken under a federal subsistence season administered by the U.S. Forest Service. However, we recommend reauthorizing the state antlerless hunt in the event that the federal subsistence hunt is cancelled.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Hunting opportunity will be lost, and the population may exceed the objective set to provide adequate habitat during severe winters.

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

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

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-01S-G-114)

PROPOSAL 71 - 5 AAC 85.045(4). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Amend this regulation in Unit 6B as follows:

The moose-hunting season in Unit 6B is from Sept. 1 through Oct. 5 with special transportation restrictions from Sept. 1 through Sept. 15.

ISSUE: The moose hunting season in Unit 6B is from Aug. 27 to Oct. 31 with special transportation restrictions from Aug. 27 to Aug. 31 for nonmotorized hunting. This proposal would delay the start of the season 5 days until Sept. 1, extend the nonmotorized season through Sept. 15, and delay the close of the season 5 days through Oct. 5. This will provide a better quality hunt because: 1) The abundance of white socks should hopefully diminish. 2) Nonmotorized hunters will have a greater window of opportunity to hunt during favorable weather conditions. 3) The season opening date will coincide with that of bear season.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Nonmotorized moose hunters must continue to stalk the Delta during a short insect infested hunting season, often during unfavorable weather while trying to avoid confrontations with brown bears that in the worst case scenario would have to be surrendered to the state. (i.e., ruin your entire hunt and then have to endure a lot of work for nothing!).

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. Hunting during more favorable conditions will result in better quality moose meat.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Everyone who can appreciate hunting while not leaving to contend with stresses of motorized traffic.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one. The opportunity for motorized hunting during the first two weeks of September is provided for in Unit 6A.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Nonmotorized moose hunting season in Unit 6B, I believe the above is a fair compromise.

PROPOSED BY: Martin R. Faulkner (HQ-01S-G-053)

PROPOSAL 72 - 5 AAC 85.045(5). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in a portion of Units 7 and 14(C).

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 re-authorized 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 percent to 30 percent during the severe winter of 1994-95. Consequently, harvest quotas and the number of permits issued were reduced from 1997 to 1999. Bull harvests during 1997 through 1999 were 15, 18, and 8 moose, respectively. Cow harvests over the same period were 4, 0, 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-01S-G-102)

PROPOSAL 73 - 5 AAC 85.045(8). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Amend this regulation in Units 9C, 9D and 9E as follows:

36-inch antler maximum limit on moose taken during the December season in Units 9 C, 9D, and 9E.

ISSUE: The resident moose season in Units 9C, 9D, and 9E. This winter season was originally intended for rural residents to obtain winter meat. Too many Alaskan residents are capitalizing on the fact that moose are easy prey in the winter months and are coming to these areas and decimating moose populations.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Under current regulations, moose harvest is available 8 months annually in Unit 9. Moose hunting will eventually be Tier II in all these areas if something is not done. Moose populations cannot maintain healthy levels with the amount of hunting pressure that is currently being exerted.

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Moose populations will benefit if the 36-inch maximum antler restriction is imposed, as will local residents in the affected areas.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Air taxi operators who participate and advertise trophy winter moose hunts.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Elimination of December 15 season; not enough of a solution.

PROPOSED BY: Gus Lamoureux (HQ-01S-G-016)

PROPOSAL 74 - 5 AAC 85.045(8). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in Unit 9(C).

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

(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 re-authorized annually. The remainder of Unit 9(C) consists primarily of the Alagnak (Branch) River. The average harvest during recent years is 4 antlerless moose per year. In 1999, 6 cows were taken. During a composition survey completed on November 1999, we counted 279 moose with ratios of 35 bulls per 100 cows and 5 calves per 100 cows. The extremely low calf recruitment noted in 1999 was not typical for this area, and may be a one-year anomaly. Access to the Alagnak River during December is primarily by aircraft or snowmachine. During many winters, poor travel conditions keep hunting effort low. Continued harvest of a few cows is sustainable by the moose population if calf recruitment returns to more normal levels, and continuation of this hunt 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-01S-G-109)

PROPOSAL 75 - 5 AAC 85.045(8). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Increase the number of drawing permits available for moose in Unit 9(D).

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Seasons (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(8)		

...

Unit 9(D)

1 bull by drawing
permit only; up to 20
[10] permits may be issued

Dec. 15–Jan. 20

No open season

...

ISSUE: Moose density and habitat are limited in Unit 9(D), and the season was first opened in 1999 after being closed since Unit 9 was divided into subunits in the mid-1970s. For the 1999 and 2000 permits hunts, 10 permits were issued by drawing, and hunters were required to notify the department regarding whether they intended to hunt. An alternate permittee list was maintained to replace original winners who did not confirm their intentions to hunt by the October deadline. During 1999, 3 alternates obtained permits; however, only 3 of the 10 permittees actually hunted and none were successful. The low rate of participation is attributed to both the extreme remoteness of the hunt area and the typically inclement weather. We propose to increase the number of permits issued under the normal drawing, and eliminate the alternate list. Most drawing permit hunts in Alaska are conducted this way. As a history of hunter success is built in Unit 9(D), we will be able to adjust the number of permits issued to approach the allowable harvest quota.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Hunters will continue to be required to report before the hunt to verify whether they intend to hunt, and alternate permits will need to be issued. As indicated by the 1999 results, this system does not necessarily assure that most permits are used. We may be able to provide additional hunter opportunity if the number of permits issued is adjusted upward before the drawing is held to compensate for those permittees who chose not to hunt.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Hunters who are drawn will not have to report before the season to verify their intent to participate. More hunters will receive permits and have the option of hunting moose in Unit 9(D).

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those opposed to moose hunting in Unit 9(D).

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? The status quo using the alternate list was rejected because it is more cumbersome to both hunters and the department, and it has not maximized the opportunity to hunt moose in Unit 9(D).

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-01S-G-110)

PROPOSAL 76 - 5 AAC 85.045(8). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Amend this regulation in Unit 9E as follows:

Start the resident open season for Unit 9E Sept. 1. The new open season for residents in Unit 9E will be Sept. 1 – Sept. 20.

ISSUE: Moose season for Unit 9E. The Sept. 10 – Sept. 20 moose season for residents and nonresidents creates competition which local residents who depend on the meat need it the most. Moose are especially important to subsistence families now due to the poor health and very limited opportunity (Tier II) to hunt the Northern Alaska Peninsula Caribou Herd. Would like to align state regulation with federal regulations now in place.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Local subsistence families will not be able to harvest the moose that they need to feed their families.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? The earlier moose season will allow subsistence hunters the opportunity to harvest moose that are less likely to be going into rut.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Local subsistence families that are dependent on the moose resource.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Develop a special harvest area or moose management area for local residents. Rejected because it would be confusing, difficult to enforce and to restrict.

PROPOSED BY: Terry Christensen/Olaf Matson (HQ-01S-G-124)

PROPOSAL 77 - 5 AAC 85.045(8). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Amend this regulation in Unit 9E as follows:

Dec. 1 - Dec. 30 residents only, 1 bull with 36-inch antler spread or less

ISSUE: Resident moose hunt during Dec. 1 – Jan. 20. Too many residents are using this as a trophy hunt. It was designed to be a rural resident hunt for food.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Too many bulls will be shot during the winter and the moose population will suffer.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? It increases the population of mature moose.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Winter moose populations.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Winter trophy hunters.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: David H. Flynn (SC-01S-G-050)

PROPOSAL 78 - 5 AAC 85.045(8). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Change this regulation in Unit 9E as follows:

Sept. 1—Sept. 20 Resident

Dec. 1—Jan. 20 Resident

Keep nonresident the same.

ISSUE: Align moose hunting season dates with the federal hunt. Confusion on land for which is federal or state.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Continued confusion for hunters.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, further from rut.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Local.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Make federal regulations same as state. Board of Game does not have authority to change federal regulations.

PROPOSED BY: Johnny Lind (SC-01S-G-032)

PROPOSAL 79 - 5 AAC 85.045(11). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE.
Modify antler restrictions in Unit 13 as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
...		
(11)		
Unit 13		
1 moose per regulatory year, only as follows:		
1 bull by Tier II subsistence hunting permit; up to 50 permits may be issued, or	Aug. 15-Aug. 31 (subsistence hunt only)	No open season
1 bull with spike-fork antlers or 50-inch antlers or antlers with <u>4</u> [3] or more brow tines on one side	Sept. 1-Sept. 20	Sept. 1-Sept. 20
...		

ISSUE: The bull:cow ratio for Unit 13 has been below the management objective of 25-30 bulls per 100 cows since 1994 when spike-fork/50-inch regulations first took effect. The existing spike-fork/50-inch/3-brow tine regulation does not protect an adequate proportion of the bulls to keep the bull:cow ratio within management objectives. Population modeling indicates that changing the bag limit to spike-fork/50-inch/4-brow tines for antlered bulls should protect enough bulls to bring the bull:cow ratio up to approximately 25:100.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The bull cow ratio will stay near 20 bulls per 100 cows.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? We all benefit from healthy wildlife populations.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? People who normally take 3 brow-tine bulls

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Shorter seasons, elimination of fork antlered bulls from bag limit, unit specific harvest ticket.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-01S-G-106)

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

Spike only or 50-inch antlers or 3 brow tines on one side.

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

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

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? 25 percent of take of moose is spike-fork bulls. With changing regulation to spike-fork only, this could help increase bull:cow ratio.

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

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Tier II, Permit system.

PROPOSED BY: Copper Basin Advisory Committee (SC-01S-G-035)

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

Spike-fork or 50-inch antlers with 3 brow tines
Season: Sept. 1—Sept. 20, resident and nonresident.

ISSUE: Moose antler requirements in Unit 13. I think a lot of young bulls are being harvested with 3 brown tines. I think we should go to 4 brow tines to give younger bulls time to grow and breed and also help the bull:cow ratio and population.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Bull:cow ratio will keep going down. Quality of bulls will also suffer, also the population.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? You could harvest mature bulls and it will help bull:cow ratio and overall population.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Everyone.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Some people because there might not be as many legal bulls for a couple years.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Jeff Ghadd (SC-01S-G-053)

PROPOSAL 82 - 5 AAC 85.045(12). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Amend this regulation as follows:

Change the antler requirement for harvesting of bull moose in Unit 14 to “any bull”.

ISSUE: The spike-fork, 50-inch rule for harvesting bull moose in Unit 14 (especially Unit 14A) is not needed and needs to be done away with. This puts an unnecessary burden on hunters who are not looking for a trophy but simply want to fill their freezer. I let moose walk last year that I was pretty sure were legal, but could not be absolutely sure. Often you think you are looking at a spike but you can never be sure that there is not another little one or two inch point sticking out that you just have not seen yet. By the time you can be sure, often the moose is gone. My freezer was empty last year for the first time in 9 years. An “any hull” season will not jeopardize the breeding stock in Unit 14. Drive around during the winter months and count all the 50-inch + bulls that were legal to harvest but managed to elude hunters. The terrain and cover in Unit 14 provides more than adequate cover to protect and ensure a healthy bull moose population. There will be plenty of bulls left to breed that are in their prime. I, like many hunters, am not impressed with the argument that this rule allows me to see more moose. I do not care about seeing 10 bulls I cannot shoot in a season when it leaves me with an empty freezer. Let me just see a bull or two I can shoot and fill my freezer. If non-hunters want to view more mature bull moose, let them go to the Anchorage area. They have plenty of them there.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Hunters will continue to pass on legal bulls because they cannot be sure in many instances and therefore they cannot ethically shoot. Hunters will have empty freezers when they should be eating moose. Moose will continue to be shot and left because hunters miss judged their size (resulting in more wasted moose).

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, have you ever tried to eat a moose that wasn’t shot?

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All moose hunters in Unit 14.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Trophy hunters might find it more difficult to find large bulls in areas that are easily accessible. But there are plenty of remote places available to hunt trophy bulls that are unaffected by the spike-fork, 50-inch rule.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Leave the antler restriction in place -- Rejected because it is not necessary and not in the best interest of those who use this moose population for food.

PROPOSED BY: Steve Kemper (HQ-01S-G-054)

PROPOSAL 83 - 5 AAC 85.045(11). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Amend this regulation in Unit 13 as follows:

Units 13A, 13B and 13E	Residents:	1 bull by drawing permit only
	Nonresidents:	1 bull with spike-fork 50-inch antlers by drawing permit only Sept. 10—Sept. 30

Amount of permits set by ADF&G by how many animals can be taken and the percentage of hunters that will be successful and use their permit. Permits to be given out during winter permit process.

ISSUE: The regulation of spike-fork antlers or 50-inch antlers for moose has created a problem of illegal moose being taken, meat being left to waste, and the destruction of trails by hunters on off road vehicles trying to find a spike-fork antlers or 50-inch antlers for moose within the road system hunt area.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The continued destruction of the trail system, new pioneered trails everywhere. Frustration of hunters not being able to determine if moose antlers are over 50 inches, very low success rates by hunters.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Resident hunters will have a better chance of getting meat for their freezers.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Resident hunters and the trail system in Unit 13.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Close Unit 13 to nonresident hunters for moose hunting; rejected for economic reasons.

PROPOSED BY: Devin Branham (HQ-01S-G-040)

PROPOSAL 84 - 5 AAC 85.045(12). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Amend this regulation as follows:

Change the antler requirement for harvesting of bull moose in Unit 14 to “any bull”.

ISSUE: The spike-fork, 50-inch rule for harvesting bull moose in Unit 14 (especially Unit 14A) is not needed and needs to be done away with. This puts an unnecessary burden on hunters who are not looking for a trophy but simply want to fill their freezer. I let moose walk last year that I

was pretty sure were legal, but could not be absolutely sure. Often you think you are looking at a spike but you can never be sure that there is not another little one or two inch point sticking out that you just have not seen yet. By the time you can be sure, often the moose is gone. My freezer was empty last year for the first time in 9 years. An “any bull” season will not jeopardize the breeding stock in Unit 14. Drive around during the winter months and count all the 50-inch + bulls that were legal to harvest but managed to elude hunters. The terrain and cover in Unit 14 provides more than adequate cover to protect and ensure a healthy bull moose population. There will be plenty of bulls left to breed that are in their prime. I, like many hunters, am not impressed with the argument that this rule allows me to see more moose. I do not care about seeing 10 bulls I cannot shoot in a season when it leaves me with an empty freezer. Let me just see a bull or two I can shoot and fill my freezer. If non-hunters want to view more mature bull moose, let them go to the Anchorage area. They have plenty of them there.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Hunters will continue to pass on legal bulls because they cannot be sure in many instances and therefore they cannot ethically shoot. Hunters will have empty freezers when they should be eating moose. Moose will continue to be shot and left because hunters miss judged their size (resulting in more wasted moose).

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, have you ever tried to eat a moose that wasn’t shot?

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All moose hunters in Unit 14.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Trophy hunters might find it more difficult to find large bulls in areas that are easily accessible. But there are plenty of remote places available to hunt trophy bulls that are unaffected by the spike-fork, 50-inch rule.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Leave the antler restriction in place -- Rejected because it is not necessary and not in the best interest of those who use this moose population for food.

PROPOSED BY: Steve Kemper (HQ-01S-G-054)

PROPOSAL 85 - 5 AAC 85.045(12). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE and 5 AAC 92.530(5). MANAGEMENT AREAS. Create a spring and fall grizzly bear hunt in Unit 14C, Chugach State Park Management Area.

ISSUE: There are too many grizzly bears in Chugach State Park. This has been evidenced by the increasing numbers of grizzly encounters in and around Anchorage. There is a huntable population of grizzly bears in the park and hunters should be allowed to hunt them in the areas that are now already open to rifle hunting for moose.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? We will continue to see an increase in juvenile grizzlies in Anchorage. As more and more of these young ornery bears are pushed closer to people there will inevitably be confrontations that end in maulings and possibly death. There have been a lot of bears running around in close proximity to children in the past couple of years. Let’s not wait until a child is hurt or carried off by a grizzly.

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All hunters who would like to hunt grizzly bear in the Park. People in the Anchorage area.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? People who would rather see free roaming bears in the streets of Anchorage than consider the safety of children. These people would actually benefit from the decrease in danger but they may not know enough about those big cute furry things to realize it. Juvenile grizzlies can be quite unpredictable at times and do not care if the person they are about to munch would like to be able to hunt them or would rather let them walk around protected in the streets of Anchorage.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Let the Department of Fish and Game eliminate problem bears – Rejected because this is a waste of hunting resources and only addresses the problem after there has been an incident. (That first incident could be a fatal one)

Let ADF&G transplant the bears to remote locations -- Rejected because this is expensive and uses precious, dwindling ADF&G resources and we have plenty of bears all over the state, in some places too many. Where are we going to take them? And what do we do when they return on their own?

PROPOSED BY: Steve Kemper (HQ-01S-G-055)

PROPOSAL 86 - 5 AAC. 85.045(12). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Reauthorize the drawing permit hunts for antlerless moose in Unit 14(A).

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
...		
(12)		
Unit 14(A)		
1 moose per regulatory year, only as follows:		
...		
1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only; up to 400 [600] antlerless moose permits may be issued; or	Aug. 20-Sept. 25 (General hunt only) Nov. 1-Nov. 15 (General hunt only)	No open <u>season</u> [SEASON]
...		

ISSUE: Antlerless moose hunts must be reauthorized annually by the Board. The subpopulation of moose in Unit 14(A) was last estimated at 5,400 which is within the current post-hunt objective of 5,000 - 5,500 but below the proposed population objective of 6,000 – 6,500. The

existing cow segment objective is 3,440 and the proposed cow segment objective would be 3,870. During November 1999, we observed 36 calves:100 cows and a segment estimate of 3750 cows. Snow depths in the subunit during the 1999-2000 winter were greater than average. As a result we estimated a minimum 30-35 percent mortality among calves and 8-9 percent mortality among cows in addition to accidental deaths. Higher levels of predation by a growing number of wolves in and adjacent to the subunit was also indicated. Reported accidental mortality, along highways and railroads, reached a moderately high level for this subunit, of 185 and 34 moose killed, respectively. In addition we estimated another 30-50 moose were killed by illegal hunting. The one area of the subunit where the cow segment of the population had increased and seems to be reaching habitat carrying capacity is in the Matanuska River valley east of Palmer. The current mild winter should enhance recruitment into the cow segment.

Future strategies for allocating cow harvest in 7 different permit hunt areas within the subunit will concentrate cow harvest only in areas where moose densities exceed available winter habitat and segment objectives for that hunt area. This will allow us to recommend cow permit hunts for a hunt area even if the overall subpopulation remains below objective levels.

The desire to increase the subunit population and an apparent higher mortality rate caused by predation justifies a reduction to the upper limit of permits to be issued. The maximum annual number of cow permits likely to be needed over the next 5 years will unlikely exceed 400. Antlerless moose permits were last issued during fall 1998 when 470 issued permits resulted in 205 cows harvested. During 1999 and 2000, we issued no permits because the subpopulation estimate remained below objective levels.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? There would be no antlerless moose hunt. Portions of the Unit 14(A) moose subpopulation could 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-01S-G-084)

PROPOSAL 87 - 5 AAC 85.045(12). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in the Anchorage Management Area in Unit 14(C).

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

Unit 14(C), that portion known as the 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 re-authorized annually. During summer, an estimated 200-300 moose inhabit the Anchorage metropolitan area. This number increases to 700-1,000 moose during the winter. Many of these moose come from the upper Campbell Creek valley, which lies within Chugach State Park. Moose numbers are at record high levels in this count area; 213 moose were counted during November 1998, and 145 were counted in 1999. 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. This 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-01S-G-099)

PROPOSAL 88 - 5 AAC 85.045(12). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in the Birchwood Management Area and the remainder of Unit 14(C), and lengthen season in portion of the remainder of Unit 14C.

Units and Bag Limits (12)	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
... 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 - <u>Sept. 30</u> [Sept. 25] (General hunt only)	Day after Labor Day - <u>Sept. 30</u> [Sept. 25]
1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only; up to 60 permits may be issued	Day after Labor Day - <u>Sept. 30</u> [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, during 1998, 1 bull and 2 cows, and in 1999, 1 bull was taken. Five antlerless permits were issued each year during 1997, 1998, and 1999.

The number of cow moose in those portions of the remainder of Unit 14(C) 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, 1998, and the 1999 hunting seasons were 1, 9, and 2, moose, respectively. Twenty-five permits were issued in 1997, 40 in 1998, and 50 in 1999.

The Sept. 30 closure is to align the season in the remainder of 14C with season changes proposed for Units 14A and 14B.

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-01S-G-098)

PROPOSAL 89 - 5 AAC 85.045(12). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Reauthorize the antlerless moose hunt on Elmendorf Air Force Base in Unit 14(C).

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 re-authorized 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, 1998, and 1999 seasons, hunters took 5 bulls and 5 cows, 4 bulls and 4 cows, and 6 bulls and 1 cow, respectively. Five antlerless permits were issued each during 1997, 1998, and 1999.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Habitat may be over-browsed, reducing carrying capacity in subsequent years, and road and train kills will increase. The overall Fort Richardson-Elmendorf Air Force Base moose population is thought to have been above carrying capacity during the severe 1994-1995 winter. Browse was over-utilized across extensive areas during the severe winters of 1989-1990, 1991-1992, and 1994-1995. If cows are not harvested, the population could increase and suffer major losses during a severe winter.

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 Department of Fish and Game (HQ-01S-G-080)

PROPOSAL 90 - 5 AAC 85.045(12). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in the Fort Richardson Management Area in Unit 14(C).

Units and Bag Limits (12)	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
... 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 re-authorized 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 percent 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, 1998, and 1999 were 31 bulls and 12 cows, 28 bulls and 10 cows, and 29 bulls and 9 cows, respectively. Thirty-five antlerless permits were issued in 1998, and in 1999 50 either-sex permits were issued.

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

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game and U. S. Army, Fort Richardson
(HQ-01S-G-101)

PROPOSAL 91 - 5 AAC 85.045(12). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Amend this regulation in Units 14A and 14B as follows:

Residents: 1 bull by drawing permit only

Nonresidents: 1 bull with spike-fork 50-inch antlers by drawing permit only

Season: September 10—Sept. 30

Amount of permits to be determined by ADF&G by how many animals can be taken and percentage of hunters that will be successful and use their permit. Permits would be given out during the winter permit season (Dec. 6).

ISSUE: The current regulation of spike-fork 50-inch antler restriction has led to the problems of meat being left to waste. The lengthened season in this unit is not improving the success rate; it is only draining hunters financially while trying to find a spike-fork 50-inch antlered moose. The trail system in Unit 14 is being decimated by excessive hunting days spent looking for a spike-fork 50-inch antlered moose.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Very low success rates by hunters in relation to hunter days spent in the field. The continued destruction of the trail system and new pioneered trails everywhere. The frustration of hunters trying to determine if a moose is spike-fork 50-inch. Illegal animals being taken and left for waste.

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Successful permit holders would have a better chance of getting meat for their freezers.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? An “any bull” season for residents only, and close Unit 14 to nonresidents.

PROPOSAL 92 - 5 AAC 85.045(12)(14). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Amend this regulation in Units 14 and 16 as follows:

Units	Seasons	Legal Moose
14A, 14B, 14C, 16A, 16B	Aug. 22-Aug. 28 (archery only)	Spike-fork 50-inch bull
	Sept. 1-Sept. 15	Spike-fork 50-inch bull
	Sept. 19-Sept. 25	antlered

This proposal seeks to establish a reasonable hunting opportunity where all hunters can easily and clearly tell if the moose they are looking at is legal.

The 7-day antlered moose season would provide that opportunity, while the other two seasons would provide different moose hunting alternatives. Scheduling the any antlered moose season later should decrease the number of participants during that season, as it would provide a maximum number of legal bulls during the earlier, more harvest restrictive, spike-fork 50-inch antlers seasons.

ADF&G has said an any-antlered moose season has the potential to attract a large number of participants and could possibly result in excessive harvest of bulls. Because of that concern, this season has purposely been proposed for only 7 days.

If ADF&G believes (because of high potential participation) the proposed any-antlered moose season could still have a high likelihood of harvesting excessive bulls, then I would strongly recommend hunters choosing to hunt this proposed season in Units 14 and 16 receive a separate registration harvest ticket and not be allowed to hunt moose in additional units or seasons in the Southcentral Region that year. This should cut participation and harvest, but still allow hunters to choose their preferred option.

ADF&G biologists, for several years, have stated the hunting public prefers longer seasons and less crowded hunting conditions available under spike-fork 50-inch antlers regulations. If the biologists are correct, then the majority of the public will choose to hunt during the spike-fork 50-inch antlers seasons, and the antlered bull alternative should cause little or no increased harvest. If the biologists are wrong, and the majority of the hunting public chooses the any antlered moose hunt, ADF&G could adjust priorities and provide additional similar hunting opportunities. In my mind, trying this proposal can only result in a win-win situation. ADF&G biologists, do you have enough confidence in your position to test it by supporting this conservative alternative?

I am also inviting the public to please send comments to the Board of Game if you support this proposal – or have other suggestions that would provide a reasonable hunting opportunity where nearly all hunters can clearly and easily tell if the moose they are looking at is legal.

ISSUE: According to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) 1998 spike-fork 50-inch antlers Moose Hunter Assessment Survey, over 60 percent of responding hunters from Units 14 and 16 agree spike-fork 50-inch antlers makes it too difficult to tell if a bull is legal. Over 75 percent agree spike-fork 50-inch antlers increases the chance of making a mistake.

Approximately 70 percent agree spike-fork 50-inch antlers decreases the chances for harvesting a moose. Additional information supplied in ADF&G Intensive Management Worksheets show spike-fork 50-inch antlers regulations can be considerably over restrictive: in Unit 14B more than half of legal harvestable surplus bulls may go unharvested, and in Unit 16A 45 percent of the harvestable surplus goes unharvested. Since implementation of spike-fork 50-inch antlers both Units 14B and 16A have seen substantial drops in reported hunter participation. In Unit 14B the drop has been over 75 percent.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Over 60 percent of hunters in Units 14 and 16 will be frustrated by regulations making it too difficult to tell if a bull moose is legal. Ethical hunters will continue passing up legal moose they are not sure are legal, but mistakes will continue to be made, and illegal moose will continue to be killed. Meat will be wasted when illegal bulls continue to be left in the field by hunters afraid of getting caught.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. If less illegal bulls are killed, less meat will likely be left in the field and wasted. In addition, many moose hunters may feel less stressed about making harvest decisions, enjoy their hunts more, and be more supportive of moose hunting.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All hunters would find it easier to determine if a bull was legal during the any-antlered moose season. Hunters wanting to harvest meat in a time efficient manner should also benefit during the any-antlered moose season.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? People who prefer more than 29 days of moose hunting opportunity per year.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? I also helped write the similar Matanuska Valley Fish and Game Advisory Committee split season moose hunting proposal, but after its submission, wanted to invite public consideration of additional proposed season dates. After talking with other hunters and reviewing data from ADF&G's spike-fork 50-inch antlers Moose Hunter Assessment, I believe the dates in this proposal may more accurately reflect seasons the public would prefer.

PROPOSED BY: Andrew N. Couch (SC-01S-G-012)

PROPOSAL 93 - 5 AAC 85.045(12). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Amend this regulation in Unit 14 as follows:

Units	Open Season	Legal Moose
14A, 14C	Sept. 6—Sept. 20	bull
14B, 16A, 16B	Sept. 1—Sept. 20	bull

The Department of Fish and Game has often said that the current moose regulations are one alternative of several possible ways to manage moose populations. The department knows a significant number of moose hunters would prefer an option where they could participate on a yearly basis and most hunters could clearly and easily tell if bull moose were legal. Yet, the department moose hunts will continue pushing more moose off prime late fall feeding areas.

ISSUE: Current Southcentral Alaska moose hunting regulations make it too difficult to tell if bull moose are legal, and as a consequence, the average hunter must spend considerably more time hunting in order to harvest a moose. In addition, every year an unknown number of illegal bull moose are killed, when hunters make honest mistakes or take chances by shooting questionably legal moose.

I would like the board to provide a “meat moose” season, where hunters could again harvest any bull moose in some part of Southcentral Alaska if they are fortunate enough to find one. In an area the size of Southcentral Alaska, it seems entirely reasonable that this type of hunting alternative should be provided—especially considering the fact that most moose hunters in this part of Alaska are primarily interested in harvesting meat rather than trophy antlers.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The Alaska Department of Fish and Game will continue managing moose to produce long seasons and “trophy hunting” opportunities even though many hunters are more interested in harvesting meat. Hunters will continue to be frustrated by overly restrictive regulations. Illegal moose will be killed. Late November and December moose hunts will continue pushing moose off prime late fall feeding areas.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. Harvesting more bull moose before the rut rather than afterward in November or December should improve the meat quality.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All hunters would find it easier to tell if moose were legal in Units 14A, 14B, 14C, 16A, and 16B.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Hunters liking longer seasons and less crowded conditions, although those options would still be available in Southcentral Alaska.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? A different antler restriction regulation would work better than the current regulation. The old 36-inch 3 brow tine regulation used successfully in Unit 13 for several years would be a significant improvement from what we have now, but even though hunters would find it easier to tell if more moose were legal, there would still be questionably legal animals, and undoubtedly illegal bulls would continue to be killed. Still—it would be considerably better than what we have now.

PROPOSED BY: Frede L. Stier (HQ-01S-G-041)

PROPOSAL 94 - 5 AAC 85.045(12) and (14). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Amend this regulation in Units 14 and 16 as follows:

36-inch minimum antler size, or 3 brow tines.

ISSUE: Regulations provide insufficient number of harvestable mature bulls. Too few moose reach 50-inch minimum, leaving hunters overly reliant on spike or fork animals.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Hunters preferring a larger meat animal have a difficult time finding legal game. Hunters are having trouble ascertaining legality of spike-fork antlers, leading to excessive 3-point and calf illegal harvest.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. Average size of animals harvested would be larger while seasons could be maintained near current length.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Hunters seeking larger meat animal. Hunters likely could more speedily identify many legal game animals with a 36-inch minimum antler size.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Hunters utilizing the winter spike-fork season.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? A 40-inch or 45-inch antler minimum would be acceptable and preferable to current regulations, but I opted for a 36-inch minimum because more hard data is available for that.

PROPOSED BY: Duane R. Couch (HQ-01S-G-052)

PROPOSAL 95 - 5 AAC 85.045(12) and (14). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Amend this regulation in Units 14 and 16 as follows:

Seasons:	Aug. 10—Aug. 17	Bow hunting (spike-fork, 50-inch antlers or 3 brow tines)
	Aug. 20—Aug. 27	Any antlered moose
	Labor Day Weekend	Two-week period (spike-fork, 50-inch antlers or 3 brow tines)

ISSUE: I would like to see the board reestablish a 7-day any antlered moose legal season beginning August 20 in conjunction with a two-week spike-fork 50-inch antlered moose season beginning Labor Day weekend. The reason for choosing the beginning date for the any-antlered season to start August 20 is to permit hunting before the school year begins.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Many hunters find it to be a very challenging situation trying to identify legal moose under the present spike-fork, 50-inch antler regulations. I have hunted under the present and prior regulations and have shot moose during both of these periods. I felt quite confident under the any-antlered regulations of identifying legal moose. I feel very nervous under the present regulations and in spite of being very careful, I have shot and turned in to Fish and Game an illegal moose. Many others have shared this experience. If this happens again I would feel like giving up hunting.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? I believe this proposed change would result in less illegally killed moose. I strongly suspect that many moose are either killed and left in the field or snuck home because they did not fit the current parameters of legal moose.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The conscientious hunter.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those desirous of long hunting seasons. I have tried to provide for this in a compromise by allowing for a two-week period to hunt for spike-fork, 50-inch 3 brow tines.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Having a two week any-antlered moose season and no spike-fork 50-inch season at all, I rejected it because this short of a season may be too short for some hunters and/or too efficient so as to harvest too many moose.

PROPOSED BY: Terry Warta (HQ-01S-G-025)

PROPOSAL 96 - 5 AAC 85.045(12) and (14). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Amend this regulation in Units 14A, 14B and 16A as follows:

Residents: 1 bull with spike-fork antlers or 50-inch antlers, or at least 3 brow tines on at least one side Dec. 10 – Dec. 17.

Nonresident: No open season.

ISSUE: Late season spike-fork hunt (Dec. 5 -15). This hunt should be shortened to seven days and should be a spike-fork antlers or 50-inch antlers or antlers with 3 brow tine hunt. The current regulation has hunters looking at every animal anyway—why not make it a real moose hunt for Alaskans only?

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The late season spike-fork hunt has hunters looking for a very specific animal causing hunters to get close and check out all moose. This, I believe, is causing moose to burn off body fat during a crucial time of year. By allowing a true hunt, hunters might slow down. Eliminate all nonresident hunters.

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All resident hunters.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Devin Branham (HQ-01S-G-044)

PROPOSAL 97 - 5 AAC 85.045(12) and (14). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Change this regulation for moose in Units 14A, 14B and 16A as follows:

For Unit 14A Moose:

Residents and nonresidents:	Harvest Ticket	Aug. 10-Aug. 17
1 bull with spike-fork 50-inch		
3 brow tines, bow and arrow only;		
or 1 bull with spike-fork 50-inch	Harvest Ticket	Aug. 20-Sept. 25
3 brow tines;		

Units 14B and 16A:

Residents and nonresidents: 1 bull with	Harvest Ticket	Aug. 10-Aug. 17
spike-fork 50-inch 3 brow tines, bow and		

arrow only; or 1 bull, spike-fork 50-inch
3 brow tines; or 1 bull by permit

Harvest Ticket
Drawing

Aug. 20-Sept. 25
Nov. 1-Nov. 15

ISSUE: To prevent the possibility that hunters might unwittingly cause moose to leave important post-rut foraging areas, I would like to eliminate the December spike-fork bull moose season in all 3 subunits, and offset this with an increase in the number of Nov. 1—Nov. 15 any-bull drawing permits in Units 14B and 16A.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? I believe early winter is a time when moose are maximizing forage intake after the rut and prior to the onset of winter. Many moose linger in alpine and sub-alpine areas until forced down by deep snow. This late season came about in a legitimate effort to maximize harvest of legal bulls in areas important for meat harvest. However, having hunters in the field might have the unintended consequence of causing moose to leave these post-rut areas prematurely. In years with early snowfall, snow machine use (by hunters and nonhunters) is high. In years of little or no snow, travel is easier both on foot or ORV due to hard or frozen ground. If moose, especially cows, are forced out of important late-fall foraging areas, it could result in higher winter mortality, lower productivity, and higher susceptibility to predation.

While this regulation would not affect nonhunters (on snow machines, foot, ORVs, etc.) it would prevent hunters from disturbing many moose in search of a bull with a spike or fork. While some nonhunters may attempt to avoid concentrations of moose, hunters must deliberately examine moose groups, as yearling bulls are often in with cow groups. These late seasons can attract a large number of hunters because they occur so close to the largest population centers in the state, and provide the only big-game hunting opportunity during December.

In areas with healthy bull:cow ratios (Units 14B and 16A), additional opportunity should be provided by increasing the number of any-bull permits issued for the Nov. 1-Nov. 15 season. Because permit numbers are tightly controlled, the effects of additional hunters during November can be minimized. Also, the board recently added 5 days to the fall general season, giving hunters additional opportunity during the 37-day fall general season to harvest spike-fork bulls.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? N/A

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All hunters benefit if moose go into winter in better condition, have a better chance of survival, and have higher productivity. Nonhunters who have objected to late seasons (in past proposals) will benefit. Hunters who participate in the Unit 14B and Unit 16A drawing hunts will benefit if ADF&G increases the number of any-bull permits issued. ADF&G will receive harvest tickets earlier (October instead of January), providing the opportunity for timely assessment of fall harvest.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Hunters who enjoy the opportunity to hunt in a late season when travel conditions are often easier, and when snow cover allows optimum meat care.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Change late spike-fork general season to early November; rejected for same reasons. With stable or declining moose populations and high predator numbers we should provide opportunity to go into winter in the best condition possible.

PROPOSAL 98 - 5 AAC. 85.045(12) and (14). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Lengthen the fall spike-fork/50-inch bull season and eliminate the any-bull drawing permit hunts and late season spike-fork bull hunts in Units 14(A), 14 (B) and 16(A).

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. <u>30</u> [25] (General hunt only)	Aug. 20-Sept. <u>30</u> [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 BULL WITH SPIKE-FORK ANTLERS]	[DEC. 5 – DEC. 15] [[GENERAL HUNT ONLY]]	[DEC. 5 – DEC. 15]
Unit 14(B)		
1 bull 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. <u>30</u> [25] (General hunt only)	Aug. 20-Sept. <u>30</u> [25]
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[1 BULL BY DRAWING PERMIT ONLY; UP TO 200 PERMITS MAY BE ISSUED; OR]	[AUG. 20-SEPT. 25] (GENERAL HUNT ONLY)	[AUG. 20-SEPT. 25]
	[NOV. 1-NOV. 15] [(GENERAL HUNT ONLY)]	[NOV. 1-NOV. 15]

[1 BULL WITH SPIKE-FORK ANTLERS]	[DEC. 5 – DEC. 15] [(GENERAL HUNT ONLY)]	[DEC. 5 – DEC. 15]
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(14)

Unit 16(A)

1 bull 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]	Aug. 20-Sept. <u>30</u> [25] (General hunt only)	Aug. 20-Sept. <u>30</u> [25]
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[1 BULL BY DRAWING PERMIT ONLY; UP TO 400 PERMITS MAY BE ISSUED; OR]	[AUG. 20-SEPT. 25] [(GENERAL HUNT ONLY)]	[AUG. 20-SEPT. 25]
	[NOV. 1-NOV. 15] [(GENERAL HUNT ONLY)]	[NOV. 1-NOV. 15]

[1 BULL WITH SPIKE-FORK ANTLERS]	[DEC. 5–DEC. 15] [(GENERAL HUNT ONLY)]	[DEC. 5–DEC. 15]
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ISSUE: Recent aerial moose surveys and censuses indicate that a substantial decline in total moose numbers has occurred north of Willow in Units 16(A) and 14(B). Prolonged deep snow during the 1999-2000 winter and rising predator densities over the past 3 years caused a 34 percent decline in moose numbers in Unit 16(A) since 1997, and a 50 percent decline in adjacent northern Unit 16(B) since 1996. In Unit 16(A), we observed 28 bulls/100 cows, 6 yearling bulls/100 cows and 22 calves/100 cows in an estimated population of 2,420 moose during the November 2000 census. During fall 1997, we observed in the same area an estimated population of 3,640 moose with 33 bulls/100 cows, 12 yearlings bulls/100 cows and 35 calves/100 cows. Similar declines are suspected to have occurred in Unit 14(B); however, we believe the subpopulation of moose in Unit 14(A) was impacted less. We estimate that the Unit 14(B) population declined from 1,700 moose during fall 1999 to near 1,300 moose during fall 2000. The impact of the decline on the harvestable surplus of bulls represents a reduction of 60-80 bulls annually in Unit 16(A) and 30-40 bulls annually in Unit 14(B). Under the spike-fork/50-inch harvest strategy, the general fall season is unlikely to produce an overharvest. However, the any-

bull permit hunts and the late spike-fork-only seasons may have ill effects on the recovery of these subpopulations.

The any-bull permit hunts during the November 1-November 15 period encourage hunters to enter important moose post-rut areas, dispersing moose during a critical period for individual moose survival. This premature dispersal may affect reproductive potential for recovering moose subpopulations. Likewise, the late spike-fork-only hunt during December 5-December 15, aside from diminishing potential bull recruitment into the population, may also place undesirable stress during early winter. The reduction in hunting opportunity caused by elimination of the any-bull permit hunts and the late spike-fork only hunts can partially be compensated by allowing hunters to hunt through September 30 during the general fall season in Units 14(A), 14(B) and 16(A). Unit 14(A) is included in the season change to promote uniformity of season dates among adjacent units.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF THIS PROBLEM IS NOT SOLVED? The recovery of the moose subpopulations in Units 14(B) and 16(A) could be impaired by hunter activities occurring during critical periods while the population is low and vulnerable to excessive predator pressures.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All who desire to see a recovering moose population in the lower Susitna River valley, and those who prefer to hunt moose in late September.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those who prefer to hunt when snow cover enhances access, and those hunters who desire an opportunity to harvest any bull regardless of antler configuration.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

- 1) Reduce the number of any-bull permits and change permit hunt dates to October 10-October 20 while eliminating the late spike-fork-only hunt. This solution would reduce the conflict on post-rut and early winter moose concentrations. It would allow an opportunity to maximize harvest but necessitates annual monitoring to assure avoidance of overharvest. Annual censuses are impractical given costs, resources and weather patterns.
- 2) Eliminate only the any-bull drawing permit hunts. This solution would reduce conflicts on the post-rut grounds but would not eliminate the additional harvest of yearlings nor would it eliminate disturbance during early winter.
- 3) Keep seasons as is but substantially reduce number of any-bull permits. By issuing a token number of permits those hunters who wish to avoid the SF50 antler restrictions will have a slim chance of hunting locally if drawn. The conflicts with moose in post-rut and early winter concentrations still exist.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-01S-G-104)

PROPOSAL 99 - 5 AAC 85.045(12)(14). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Amend this regulation in Units 14 and 16 as follows:

Units 14A, 14B, 14C, 16A	Open Seasons	Legal moose
	August 20-Aug. 26	antlered
	September 1-Sept. 15	spike-fork antlers or 50-inch antlers or 3 brow tines

ISSUE: We request that the board establish an any-antlered moose season of up to 7 days long in conjunction with a 15-day spike-fork antlers or 50-inch antlers or 3 brow tine antler restricted season.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? According to ADF&G's moose hunter survey, most hunters agree that spike-fork 50-inch antlers regulation makes it too difficult to tell if a bull is legal. Over 75 percent agree spike-fork 50-inch antlers increases the chance of making a mistake. Since many bulls are not clearly legal, ethical humans are afraid to harvest legal moose, but at the same time, mistakes are made and illegal bulls are killed each year. We are simply requesting a moose hunting opportunity where nearly all hunters can clearly and easily tell if the moose they are looking at is legal.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Our advisory committee proposal would possibly improve the quality of moose harvested. In Units 14A and 14C, in particular, larger moose would likely be harvested. From a meat gathering perspective, considerably more meat could be harvested from the same amount of animals taken. Waste should decrease if fewer illegal moose are killed and left in the field.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All hunters would find it much easier determining if bull moose were legal during the any-antlered moose season. Hunters primarily interested in harvesting meat would likely experience increased success during this period as well.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? People preferring longer or later moose hunting seasons would see shorter seasons to provide reasonable opportunity for hunters wanting a system that allows them to easily and clearly determine if bulls are legal. This committee proposal attempts to accommodate both groups.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Matanuska Valley Fish and Game Advisory Committee has spent significant portions of numerous meetings discussing with the public and ADF&G staff different moose hunting regulation scenarios. Below are some ideas considered:

Previously, the committee proposed a different antler restriction that would more readily match the antler characteristics of local moose populations, but abandoned that approach since hunters would still be making judgment calls on whether antlers were legal – and questionably legal moose would continue to be harvested throughout the season.

Some members preferred returning to a shorter any bull legal season as the only option, but others wanted a longer hunting season possible with some type of selective harvest system. We considered any antlered moose hunts by drawing permits only, but many moose hunters want an opportunity to hunt moose on a yearly basis, and under Alaska's drawing permit system hunters may apply several years without getting drawn.

Archery and/or blackpowder hunts for any antlered moose were suggested as an alternative that would harvest less bulls, but the committee believes most hunters are not familiar with or do not own these weapons, would need to make additional efforts getting certified to use them, and wounding loss of moose could increase.

The committee discussed how to adjust regulations if too many bull moose should be harvested under our proposal. Agreed upon adjustments for better ADF&G monitoring and/or means of cutting back excessive bull harvest include:

1. Registration could be required for the any antlered moose portion of the season. This would provide ADF&G with better hunt information in a more timely manner.
2. Hunters could be required to make a choice between the any antlered moose portion of the season or the spike-fork 50-inch antlers portion. This should reduce participation and harvest, while allowing all hunters to choose the hunting option they preferred.
3. The any antlered moose season could be shortened. Please note, in our proposal we request an any antlered moose season of up to 7 days. With the ADF&G area game biologist, we attempted to identify a conservative season length which should be maintain bull numbers in the moose population, while at the same time allowing a reasonable hunting opportunity. We prefer 7 days, but would agree to less, if necessary, to maintain healthy bull moose numbers.

Requested Action:

We are grateful for the opportunity to bring our concern before the Board of Game. We trust you will agree when more than half the responding moose hunters surveyed say, “spike-fork 50-inch antlers makes it too difficult to tell if a bull is legal,” a change must be made. We are counting on you (even if you choose an option other than this proposal) please adopt some reasonable moose hunting opportunity where all or nearly all hunters can clearly and easily tell if the moose they are looking at is legal. Thank you.

PROPOSED BY: Matanuska Valley Fish and Game Advisory Committee (SC-01S-G-010)

PROPOSAL 100 - 5 AAC 85.045(12) and (14). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Change this regulation in Units 14 and 16 as follows:

Units 14A, 14B, 14C: Sept. 1—Sept. 20, 36-inch antlers or 3 brow tines
Units 16A and 16B: Sept. 1—Sept. 30, 36-inch antlers or 3 brow tines

ISSUE: Legal moose size in Units 14 and 16.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? We will continue to have poor harvests.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? There would be no take of small bull which would help build herd, no antlerless hunts.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? In the long-run everyone will benefit.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Short-term those who count on getting a spike-fork horn.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Any bull hunt with a shorter season would work but will leave hunt times less flexible and put too many hunters in the woods at one time.

PROPOSED BY: Doug Sanderlin (HQ-01S-G-126)

PROPOSAL 101 - 5 AAC 85.045(12) and (14). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Amend this regulation in Unit 14 as follows:

Units	Seasons	Legal Moose
14A, 14B, 14C, 16A, and 16B	Aug. 23—Aug. 29 (archery only)	antlered bull
	Sept. 1—Sept. 7	antlered bull
	Sept. 10—Sept. 25	spike-fork 50-inch bull

This proposal seeks to establish a relatively short, but reasonable hunting opportunity where all hunters can easily and clearly tell if the moose they are looking at is legal. The split season also maintains considerable opportunity for those who prefer the spike-fork 50-inch strategy.

ISSUE: From its inception, many hunters have believed the spike-fork 50-inch harvest strategy is fundamentally flawed because of the real and considerable difficulty of determining, under hunting conditions commonly found in Units 14 and 16, if a moose has legal antlers. This results not only in ethical hunters passing up legal animals, but less careful hunters making illegal kills.

According to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, (ADF&G) 1998 spike-fork 50-inch Moose Hunter Assessment Survey, more than 60 percent of responding hunters from Units 14 and 16 agree spike-fork 50-inch makes it too difficult to tell if a bull is legal. More than 75 percent agree spike-fork 50-inch increases the chance of making a mistake. Approximately 70 percent agree spike-fork 50-inch decreases chances for harvesting a moose. Additional information supplied in ADF&G Intensive Management Worksheets show spike-fork 50-inch regulations can be considerably overrestrictive: In Unit 14B more than half of legal harvestable surplus bulls may go unharvested, and in Unit 16A 45 percent of the harvestable surplus goes unharvested. Since implementation of spike-fork 50-inch, both Unit 14B and 16A have seen substantial drops in reported hunter participation. In Unit 14B the drop has been more than 75 percent.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? More than 60 percent of hunters in Units 14 and 16 will be frustrated by regulations making it too difficult to tell if a bull moose is legal. Ethical hunters will continue passing up legal moose they are not sure are legal, but mistakes will continue to be made, and illegal moose will continue to be killed. Meat will be wasted when illegal bulls are left in the field by hunters who fear prosecution after making a mistake.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. If fewer illegal bulls are killed, less meat will likely be left in the field and wasted. By concentrating most of the hunting effort later in the year, cooler weather will reduce the likelihood of meat spoilage.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Hunters whose enjoyment of moose hunting and chances to kill a legal moose have been reduced by the spike-fork 50-inch harvest strategy. All hunters who harvest a moose during the seven day “any antlered bull” portion of the season.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Hunters who prefer the longest possible moose seasons.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? As a participant representing the Matanuska Valley Fish and Game 1998 spike-fork 50-inch Moose Hunter Assessment Task Force, I have been actively involved in moose harvest strategy discussions. ADF&G personnel appear solidly committed to the spike-fork 50-inch management. But according to the 1998 Moose Hunter Assessment Survey, a majority of respondents cited real and significant problems with spike-fork 50-inch management.

While my first choice would be a return to “any-bull” seasons, albeit considerably shortened ones, I offer this solution as a compromise.

PROPOSED BY: Dane F. Parks (HQ-01S-G-042)

PROPOSAL 102 - 5 AAC 85.045(12) and (14). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Amend this regulation as follows:

Units	Open Season	Legal Moose
14A, 14C	Sept. 20—Oct. 2	bull
14B, 16A, 16B	Sept. 1—Sept. 20	bull

The Department of Fish and Game has often said that the current moose regulations are one alternative of several possible ways to manage moose populations. The department knows a significant number of moose hunters would prefer an option where they could participate on a yearly basis and most hunters could clearly and easily tell if bull moose were legal. Yet, the department irresponsibly refuses to even suggest such an option.

Other states offer hunters options, so isn't it reasonable that in Southcentral Alaska (an area larger than entire states) moose hunters should also have such an option on a yearly basis.

ISSUE: Current Southcentral Alaska moose hunting regulations make it too difficult to tell if bull moose are legal, and as a consequence, the average hunter must spend considerably more time hunting in order to harvest a moose. In addition, every year an unknown number of illegal bull moose are killed, when hunters make honest mistakes or take chances by shooting questionably legal moose.

I would like the board to provide a “meat moose” season, where hunters could again harvest a bull moose if they are fortunate enough to find one. In an area the size of Southcentral Alaska, it seems entirely reasonable that this type hunting alternative should be provided—especially considering the fact that most moose hunters in this part of Alaska are primarily interested in harvesting meat rather than trophy antlers.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The Alaska Department of Fish and Game will continue managing moose to produce long seasons and “trophy hunting” opportunities even though many hunters are more interested in harvesting meat. Hunters will continue to be frustrated by overly restrictive regulations. Illegal moose will be killed. Late November and December moose hunts will continue pushing moose off prime late fall feeding areas.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. Harvesting more bull moose before the rut rather than afterward in November or December should improve meat quality.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All hunters would find it easier to tell if moose were legal in Units 14A, 14B, 14C, 16A, 16B.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Hunters liking longer seasons and less crowded conditions, although those options would still be available in Southcentral Alaska.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? A different antler restriction regulation would work better than the current regulation. The old 36-inch, 3 brow tine regulations used successfully in Unit 13 for several years would be a significant improvement from what we have now, but even though hunters would find it easier to tell if moose were legal, there would still be questionably legal animals and undoubtedly illegal bulls would continue to be killed. Still—it would be considerably better than what we have now.

PROPOSED BY: Richard M. Roberts and Audrey M. Roberts (HQ-01S-G-058)

PROPOSAL 103 - 5 AAC 85.045(13). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in a portion of Unit 15(C).

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

ISSUE: Antlerless moose seasons must be re-authorized annually. The Homer benchland in Unit 15(C) 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 past 2 winters have been severe with record snowfall occurring during 1998-99. Fifty-three moose were reported starved 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 6 years.

During 1999, the season dates were changed to mirror the general moose season with only 7 moose reported taken. We issued no permits for the 2000 season based on a lack of survey information following a severe winter.

The Department's objective is to maintain this population at approximately 365 moose. We were not able to complete a fall composition survey due to poor snow conditions during November 2000. However, we anticipate surveying this area prior to the Board meeting in March. We recommend re-authorization of the antlerless hunt and anticipate issuing up to 25 permits for the fall 2001 hunt. The number of permits issued is dependent on survey results.

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-01S-G-094)

PROPOSAL 104 - 5 AAC 85.045(13). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in the Skilak Loop Wildlife Management Area of Unit 15(A).

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(13) Unit 15(A), the Skilak Loop Wildlife Management Area		

1 moose by drawing permit only; up to 30 permits for spike-fork antlered moose may be issued; or	Sept. 15-Sept. 30 (General hunt only)	Sept. 15- Sept. 30
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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
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Unit 15(A), that portion east of the Mystery Creek Road and the Pipeline Road, and north of the Sterling Highway

1 bull 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; <u>by bow and arrow only</u> ; or	Aug. 10-Aug. 17 (General hunt only)	Aug. 10-Aug 17
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...

ISSUE: Antlerless moose seasons must be re-authorized annually. A joint management objective developed for the Skilak Loop Wildlife Management Area (SLWMA) by the Department and U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service calls for a fall population of approximately 2 moose per square mile or about 130 moose counted during the November survey. The SLWMA was not counted during fall 2000 due to unacceptable counting conditions. The last survey was completed on November 30, 1998 and covered about 90 percent of the hunt area. The survey 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. The ratios observed were 43 bulls/100 cows and 21 calves/100 cows. Because the SLWMA is managed primarily for wildlife viewing, a second management objective requires that we maintain a minimum bull:cow ratio of 40 bulls/100 cows. The last permit hunt was held in 1999 when 40 permits were issued for antlerless and 20 for spike-fork antlered moose. Eight hunters were successful during the antlerless moose hunt but none during the spike-fork. Because a fall survey was not completed during 1999, the hunts were not held in 2000.

During the Board of Game meeting in 1999, an early season archery only hunt was established. In that portion of 15A east of the Mystery Creek /Pipeline Road and north of the Sterling Highway, the regulation was printed incorrectly. This is a housekeeping change to correct the error.

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 Department of Fish and Game and the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
(HQ-01S-G-117)

PROPOSAL 105 - 5 AAC 85.045(14). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Amend this regulation in Unit 16B—Kalgin Island as follows:

Moose season should open Aug. 10 and close on Sept. 10.

ISSUE: The moose season is too long. Too many hunters hunt in late September because other areas are closed to moose hunting. As a consequence, the hunters break into the buildings and steal my tools, light plants, etc. Please close the season no later than September 10 as most of the commercial fishermen leave Kalgin Island when the salmon season is over by end of August.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The hunters will do more damage to locked up buildings and the owners will lose other property through thefts.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, the moose meat is prime at this time and the moose have not started into their “rut.”

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Property owners on Kalgin Island.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one. The hunters that come to Kalgin Island are not prepared for weather delays and breakdowns; they take it out on the property owners by breaking into buildings.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? The solution would be to remove moose from Kalgin Island. My property has been damaged the last two years.

PROPOSED BY: James S. Hermon, Sr. (HQ-01S-G-035)

PROPOSAL 106 - 5 AAC 85.045(14). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Amend this regulation in Unit 16B as follows:

Tier I registration hunt, with the hunt closed upon meeting harvest goals. Remainder of Unit 16B: Residents – same as existing, or 1 bull by registration permit (no aircraft for transportation or scouting)

ISSUE: The present subsistence moose hunt conducted in Unit 16B uses non-enforceable arbitrary, constantly changing and confusing questions and point system to limit the participants in this hunt. The system is fraught with fraud, underutilized permits, and varying harvest levels.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? If the present system is allowed to continue, the questions on the application will continue to change as each one is found discriminatory by courts. People will continue to (or not) receive permits because of fraudulent, improperly filled out, and late applications. Permits will be issued to people who do not use them. For example: people who kill a moose during other hunts, animal rights activists trying to save a moose for the wolves to eat, people who decide to just not hunt, people who filled out the wrong hunt number, harvest levels will continue to fluctuate because of changing numbers of true participants and hunting conditions.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? The resource would be managed better as ADF&G biologists can decide on what harvest levels are needed to keep populations healthy.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Every motivated, non-procrastinating Alaskan who wants to eat moose all winter long. The moose population, ADF&G, as no more discriminatory permit process and easier enforcement.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Criminals who knowingly falsify applications. Animal rights activists who tie up permits, lawyers who lose opportunity to sue the state, and honest aircraft operators.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Stop hunt as the hunt is not conducted as was intended by the individuals who started it. Rejected after discussing situation with numerous hunt founders. They do not want to lose C&T finding and winter moose.

Allow the use of aircraft. Rejected for the following reasons: 1) Personal experience during general hunt and trapping season has been that a few pilots have been violating existing regulations. There is very little law enforcement in our area (not all bad). 2) Moose are more vulnerable during winter from aircraft abuse as airplanes on skis can land very close to moose and moose are not moving as much in snow. Moose also are more visible from the air in winter. 3) If aircraft are allowed, the criminals will be rewarded and honest pilots will get another black eye as they are lumped together.

PROPOSED BY: David McHoes (SC-01S-G-002)

PROPOSAL 107 - 5 AAC 85.045(14). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Amend this regulation in Unit 16B as follows:

Unit 16B nonresident hunting closed;
Unit 16B resident season Sept. 1—Sept. 15

ISSUE: Catastrophic reduction in moose numbers in Unit 16B.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Population will be reduced to a level where recovery will be virtually impossible.

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Alaska residents and subsistence hunters.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Nonresident Unit 16B moose hunters.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Reduce size of wolf packs. No legal means to reduce pack size short-term.

PROPOSED BY: Edward W. Ratcliff (HQ-01S-G-007)

PROPOSAL 108 (Out of order) - 5 AAC 85.045(14). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR BROWN BEAR and 5 AAC 92.132. BAG LIMIT FOR BROWN BEARS. Amend these regulations in Units 16A and 16B as follows:

Units 16A and 16B bag limit for brown/grizzly bear: 1 every regulatory year.

ISSUE: According to data from Alaska Department of Fish and Game Unit 16B moose surveys the moose population in Unit 16B has declined approximately 50 percent from near 7000 moose in the late 1980s to approximately 4500 moose in 2000. The Unit 16A moose population has experienced a similar decline from approximately 4500 moose in the late 1980s to 2400 in 2000. We would like the board to adopt regulations that should reduce grizzly bear predation on spring moose calves.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The Unit 16A and 16B moose populations may continue to decline or remain far below population objective levels of 3500-4000 moose in Unit 16A and 6500-7500 moose in Unit 16B – human moose harvests will also remain far below objective levels.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? This proposal seeks to increase calf moose production in Units 16A and 16B, and if successful in time would allow the human harvest of moose in Unit 16A and 16B to return to previous levels closer to the identified human harvest objective levels of 300 (Unit 16A) and 650 (Unit 16B).

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Alaskans depending on moose as a food source.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Matanuska Valley Fish and Game Advisory Committee is also submitting two proposals seeking to lower wolf predation on moose calves in Unit 16B as well.

PROPOSED BY: Matanuska Valley Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-01S-G-050)

PROPOSAL 109 - 5 AAC 85.045(14). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Amend this regulation in Units 16A and 16B as follows:

Residents: 1 bull by permit drawing only.

Nonresidents: 1 bull with spike-fork 50-inch antlers by drawing permit only.

Season: Sept. 10— Sept. 30

Amount of permits to be determined by ADF&G by how many animals can be taken and percentage of hunters that will be successful and use their permit. Permits would be given out during the winter permits.

ISSUE: The current regulation of spike-fork 50-inch antler restriction has led to problems of meat being left to waste. The lengthened season in this unit is not improving the success rate. It is only draining hunters financially while trying to find a spike-fork 50-inch antlered moose. The trail system in Unit 14 is being decimated by excessive hunting days spent looking for a spike-fork 50-inch antlered moose.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Very low success rates by hunters in relation to hunter days spent in the field. The continued destruction of the trail system and new pioneered trails everywhere. The frustration of hunters trying to determine if a moose is spike-fork 50-inch. Illegal animals being taken and left for waste.

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Successful permit holders would have a better chance of getting meat for their freezers.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: James Belz

(HQ-01S-G-046)

PROPOSAL 110 - 5 AAC 85.045(14). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Amend this regulation in Unit 16B—Kalgin Island as follows:

Terminate all moose hunts by Sept. 10.

ISSUE: Do not extend an open moose hunt season beyond Sept. 10. Reason: to give Kalgin Island property owners some relief from late season hunters that break in, use, and vandalize private property after the owners have left. This date is usually about Sept 1.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? There will be altercations between Kalgin Island property owners and hunters using and abusing private homes and property.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Would improve relations between hunters and residents.

2,900 moose. The moose subpopulation south and west of Beluga River was last surveyed during November 1999 where we observed 38 bulls/100 cows, 4 yearlings bulls/100 cows and 8 calves/100 cows. We estimated this subpopulation at 700-800 moose which represents a likely decline of 20-30 percent since 1995. During the last 5 years, calves have represented an average of only 8 percent of the southern subpopulation while yearling bulls averaged 5 percent.

During 1993-1999, hunters harvested an average of 240 moose annually. The harvest was composed of 39 moose harvested by nonresidents (north of Beluga River only), 118 moose harvested by residents during the fall general season and 80 moose harvested by Tier II permittees. During 1993, the Board developed findings for the number of moose reasonably needed for subsistence in Unit 16(B) at 199-227 moose. Given current recruitment levels and adult mortality, we estimate an available harvest level of only 125 bulls annually during the next 3 years. This level of harvest is dependent on the size of the current bull:cow ratio, which is higher than the objective bull/cow ratio for the subunit. However, 3 years of harvest at 125 moose annually will drive the bull/cow ratio down to only 20:100, a level lower than current objective levels. After that period, the number of bulls that are surplus to the population will be largely dependent on annual recruitment, which at current levels that will be around 30-60 bulls annually.

Maintaining some opportunity for hunters outside of the winter Tier II permit hunt may be possible by restricting harvest during a shorter fall general season to spike/50-inch or 4-brow tine antlered bulls. These antler restrictions should reduce the number of available legal bulls by 25 percent to 35 percent, and the shorter season by another 10 percent to 25 percent. The intent of maintaining this hunting opportunity is to keep hunters in the field to participate in harvesting wolves and bears. The reduction in the Tier II harvest level is based on the 7-year harvest pattern of 260 permittees who report taking an average of 80 moose annually.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The bull moose segment in the population will rapidly decline. The bull harvest within 2 years could reduce the bull/cow ratio below 20/100 raising concerns about future recruitment and forcing an even more restrictive Tier II hunt.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All those concerned about the conservation of an important but declining moose population. All who wish to prolong moose hunting opportunities in Unit 16(B) for resident hunters.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Nonresident hunters and their guides and transporters. Some low scoring Tier II permittees.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Allowing Tier II permit hunts only was rejected because it would reduce the number of hunters in the field who could potentially harvest bears and wolves.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-01S-G-085)

PROPOSAL 113 - 5 AAC. 85.045(14). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Reauthorize the antlerless moose hunt on Kalgin Island in Unit 16(B), and shorten the season length.

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(14)		
...		
Unit 16(B), Kalgin Island		
1 moose per regulatory year, [30] by registration permit only	Aug. 20 - Sept. <u>20</u> [30]	Aug. 20 - Sept. <u>20</u>
...		

ISSUE: Antlerless moose hunts must be re-authorized annually. The population objective for this predator-free 23 mi² island is a density of 1 moose/mi². 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/mi². Following a January 2000 survey, we estimated the population at 60-80 moose (16-30 bulls and 24-30 calves per 100 cows), which is equivalent to approximately 2.5-3.5 moose/mi².

Because of concerns of over population and deteriorating 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. The reported harvest for the 2000 season was 62 moose (40 cows, 22 bulls) from 355 registration permits issued.

Following the fall 2000 hunt, the moose density is estimated to be near the objective level of 1 moose/mi². A similar registration hunt with a 10-day season reduction is needed to maintain the population at the objective level. A registration hunt also allows researchers monitoring this unique population to continue gathering biological information from specimens provided by successful hunters. A shorter season together with the difficult hunting conditions found on the island should minimize the danger of overharvest.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Without a liberal harvest including cows, the population will quickly grow 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 hunters trespassing on their land and cabins even with a shortened season.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? A general season for any moose will also work to maintain low moose densities, but would diminish the ability to collect meaningful specimens.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-01S-G-103)

The Board of Game amended this proposal at its March 2000 meeting and deferred it to its Fall 2000 meeting. The board further amended this proposal at its Fall 2000 meeting and deferred it to its March 2001 meeting. It is printed here for further public comment.

PROPOSAL 114 - 5 AAC 85.045. HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE, 5 AAC 92.052. DISCRETIONARY PERMIT HUNT CONDITIONS and 5 AAC 92.050. REQUIRED PERMIT HUNT CONDITIONS AND PROCEDURES. Amend these regulations in Unit 19 to include the following:

Require that nonresident moose hunts be by either registration or drawing permit only for all game management units where moose have been identified as important for providing high levels of human consumptive use through the following regulatory changes:

- 1) Add "by permit only" to all nonresident moose seasons affected by identified moose populations in 5 AAC 92.108.
- 2) Within 5 AAC 92.052 add a new paragraph; "for nonresident moose hunters a permit may be issued in person or through an agent until the last day of February; following that time, permits may only be issued as drawing permits."
- 3) Add to 5 AAC 92.050(a)(1) "the department must require adequate proof of agency."

ISSUE: In recent years the Board of Game has received numerous complaints and concerns regarding the rapid increase, and no upper limit to the number of hunters using outfitters and air taxi drop off services. Illegal or sub-legal take, subsistence related conflicts, and violations of wanton waste laws are of significantly greater proportion for unguided nonresident hunters using these services. Without some restrictions, resident hunters face the concern that in some areas competition with ever growing numbers of nonresident hunters will become impossible.

Registered guides are regulated in the number of hunters and the locations that hunters can be guided, outfitters and air taxi operations are not. Registered guides are held accountable for assuring that their clients take a legal animal and the meat is properly cared for; outfitters and air taxis bear no similar responsibility. There is no agency to regulate outfitters and air taxi operations, and options available for the Board of Game to address the situation are limited. Implementation of this concept should help the board and the department get a better handle on the number of nonresidents participating in hunt areas where there are conflicts, and be prepared to limit the number of permits if necessary without going directly to the more severe limitations of a drawing hunt. It should also in some measure institute a self-limiting factor to curb the uncontrolled growth in numbers of nonresident moose hunters through the requirement of needing someone in Alaska to act as their agent to obtain a permit.

Although estimates for some of these target populations may suggest that, at present, harvests appear to be within sustainable limits, the demand on these same moose populations only show signs of continued increase by subsistence, resident and nonresident hunters alike. Recent and forecasted fisheries disasters on the Seward Peninsula, Yukon and Kuskokwim River drainages presents even greater pressure and reliance on big game animals to make up the difference.

Responsible management calls for addressing the issue in an orderly and proactive manner to prevent implementing crises response actions in the future, and realistic recognition/accommodation of the state's subsistence use priority.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Resident hunters who are dependent upon these moose as a food staple will continue to experience displacement and increasing difficulty in obtaining their winter meat. Sustained yield of identified moose populations for resident hunters could be placed at risk of overharvest and subject to more severe harvest restrictions such as drawing or Tier II hunts much sooner than may otherwise become necessary.

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The Alaskan hunting community through less competition and conflict, and reduced waste or illegal/sub-legal take. Guides and clientele who may achieve a greater level of certainty that hunts will occur so long as scheduling is done well in advance. ADF&G, who would receive advance information on effort to help determine in over-exploitation is occurring. The state of Alaska potentially, through increased fees from the permit application process.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Possibly outfitters and transporters whose principal interest is moving as many people in as short a time as possible through any given area; or nonresidents who fail to plan well in advance and would only be hunting moose opportunistically.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? 1) Apply the requirement only in specific areas where the level of concern and conflict is most profound and continue future implementation on a piecemeal basis throughout the remainder of the state. 2) Shorten nonresident seasons, institute drawing hunts, or eliminate nonresident hunts entirely in affected areas.

All other options considered that could effectively address the situation are legislative or administrative in nature, and subsequently beyond the Board of Game's authority to implement.

PROPOSED BY: Herman Morgan – Amended by the Board of Game (HQ-01S-G-132)

The Board of Game accepted this proposal as an agenda change request at its Fall 2000 meeting. It is printed here for public comment.

PROPOSAL 115 - 5 AAC 85.045(17). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Amend this regulation in Unit 19D as follows:

Unit 19D Remainder:

Residents: 1 bull

Sept. 1—Sept. 20

Nonresidents: 1 bull

Aug. 10—Sept. 30

ISSUE: Request the board to reopen an area known as the remainder of Unit 19D to moose hunting for nonresident hunters. This area was inadvertently closed without proper justification at a previous meeting of the board.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The guides who were displaced from this area are now putting additional pressure on adjacent and other areas.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? It will make the remainder of Unit 19D more consistent with board criteria under an intensive management plan.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Nonresident hunters and guides who operate in this area.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Jim Harrower for Alaska’s Western Wildlife Alliance (HQ-01S-G-029)

PROPOSAL 116 – 5 AAC 85.045(17). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Reauthorize the antlerless moose hunting season in Unit 19A.

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(17)		
...		
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 19A, that portion of the Kuskokwim River upstream from, but not including the Kolmakof River drainage and south of the Kuskokwim River upstream from, but not including, the Holokuk River drainage		
RESIDENT HUNTERS:	Sept. 1–Sept. 20	

1 moose per regulatory year;
however, antlerless moose
may be taken only during
the Feb.1–Feb.10 season

Nov. 20–Nov. 30
Feb. 1–Feb. 10

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

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

Sept. 1-Sept. 20

ISSUE: Antlerless moose hunting seasons must be reauthorized annually. The estimated harvest during regulatory years 1993–1994 through 1999–2000 for the February antlerless hunt (19A, except Lime Village Mgmt. Area) was 5–50 moose, with an average estimated February harvest of 17. An average of 15 moose are estimated 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 these antlerless seasons.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? There will be an unwarranted loss of hunting opportunity.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Local hunters, 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-01S-G-093)

The Board of Game accepted this proposal as an agenda change request at its Fall 2000 meeting. It is printed here for public comment.

PROPOSAL 117 - 5 AAC 85.045(17). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Amend these regulations in Unit 19D as follows:

RESIDENT HUNTERS: Sept. 1 – Sept. 20
Remainder of Unit 19D
1 bull

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS: Sept. 1 – Sept. 20
Except for a corridor of one
mile each side of the Kuskokwim
River from the confluence of the
Swift River upstream to the Selatna River
drainage:
1 bull with 50-inch antlers
or antlers with 4 or more brow tines
on at least one side

ISSUE: The closure of moose hunting to nonresidents in the remainder of Unit 19D.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? This is a loss of hunting opportunity to nonresident hunters, in an area where there is little to no conflict with subsistence or resident hunters.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? This proposal would improve the quality of moose hunting in this area because it would disperse some nonresident moose hunters into an area that is not used by many hunters regardless of their residency status.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All moose hunters in not only this subunit, but in surrounding subunits as well because it will spread out nonresident hunting pressure over a bigger area.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one, because most of the subsistence and local area resident use is along the Kuskokwim River and this one mile corridor would protect that from nonresident use.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? No other solutions were considered.

PROPOSED BY: Rob Jones Jr. (HQ-01S-G-125)

The Board of Game accepted this proposal as an agenda change request at its Fall 2000 meeting. It is printed here for public comment.

PROPOSAL 118 - 5 AAC 85.045(17). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Amend this regulation as follows:

Open the area in Unit 19D located south of the Tatlawisuk River and east of the Swift River, or subdivide Unit 19D south of the Tatlawisuk and east of the Swift River. This will in effect re-open the Cheeneetnuk and Gagaryah Rivers.

ISSUE: The problem is the closure of nonresident moose hunting for the southern portion of Unit 19D, especially those rivers that flow into the Swift River. The moose harvest data shows that resident hunters do not hunt this area Unit 19D, and the moose harvest data also shows a history of nonresident hunting. Nonresident hunters have also hunted caribou and black bear as a by-product of hunting moose in this area of Unit 19D.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? If this problem is not solved in will prevent nonresident moose hunters from hunting moose in this portion of Unit 19D.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Nonresident moose hunters have historically hunted the area in question. These nonresident moose hunters have also hunted and harvested black bears, as a by-product of hunting moose. The reduction of the black bear population in this area could help the moose population. Hunters also hunt wolves in the area, yet I have never had a hunter harvest a wolf. Any reduction of predators in this area will help moose calf survival rate.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? This decision to re-open this area to nonresident moose hunting will benefit Moose John Outfitters, my company, who pioneered the Cheeneetnuk and Gagaryah Rivers in the late 70s and has been offering float trips to bowhunters on the Cheeneetnuk and Gagaryah Rivers for 18 years. There are other guides that occasionally operate in the area, yet access is difficult and changes occur every year. The result is few nonresident hunters frequent this area besides Moose John Outfitters.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? It is my belief that no persons will suffer if this solution is adopted. The moose harvest data for this area confirms that no one is likely to suffer, including the moose population in the Unit 19D designated wolf control area.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? I did not consider an alternative solution because this is the best solution for all stakeholders. This solution still accomplishes the board's goal of protecting the resident hunting of moose in Unit 19D, and this solution allows nonresident hunting to continue in an area that has not been historically hunted by resident hunters in Unit 19D. This area of Unit 19D is difficult to access, and the nonresident moose hunting has had a negligible impact on the moose population, especially as it relates to the overall moose harvest percentage.

In addition, I am submitting moose harvest data, provided by the area biologist in McGrath, for the last 5 years. I will have the data formatted in a more user friendly program for the meeting. Also, the area biologist is sending me a 10-year moose harvest report for the area.

PROPOSED BY: Ernest A. Holland (HQ-01S-G-130)

PROPOSAL 119 - 5 AAC 85.045(18). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Reauthorize antlerless moose hunting seasons in Unit 20A.

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

...
Remainder of Unit 20(A)

1 moose per regulatory year,
only as follows:

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull; or	Sept. 1–Sept. 20 (General hunt only)
1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only; up to 300 permits may be issued; or	Sept. 1–Sept. 25 (General hunt only)
1 bull by drawing permit only; by muzzle-loading	Nov. 1–Nov. 30 (General hunt only)

firearms only; up to 75 permits may be issued

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:
1 bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side; or

Sept. 1–Sept. 20

1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only; up to 300 permits may be issued; or

Sept. 1–Sept. 25

1 bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side by drawing permit only; by muzzle-loading firearms only; up to 75 permits may be issued

Nov. 1–Nov. 30

...

ISSUE: Antlerless moose hunting seasons must be reauthorized annually. We conducted surveys during 1999 in Unit 20A and estimated 7200 cow moose were present and the bull:cow ratio was 23:100. Three cow hunts were conducted in portions of Unit 20A during regulatory years 1996–1997 through 1998–1999 and resulted in a mean annual harvest of 64 cows. We feel 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, we agreed with the Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committee that the hunts would remain in codified, but cow permits (up to 300) would be issued only when the moose population was increasing. Therefore, no cow permits were issued in regulatory year 1999–2000 because surveys conducted in 1997 and 1998 indicated the 20A moose population had stabilized. However, 1999 survey data, indicating that the adult female segment of the population was increasing, resulted in approval for the antlerless hunts by the affected local advisory committees; and 300 antlerless permits were issued in regulatory year 2000–2001. Preliminary results indicate that 72 cow moose were harvested in that hunt. All indications are that trends in the 20A moose population remain unchanged and, therefore, we recommend that the board reauthorize these antlerless hunts to meet management goals and objectives for this population.

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Hunters wanting to take antlerless moose.

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

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-01S-G-091)

PROPOSAL 120 – 5 AAC 85.045(18). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Reauthorize antlerless moose hunting seasons in Unit 20B within the Fairbanks Management Area and the Minto Flats Management Area.

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 100 permits may be issued	Sept. 1–Sept. 30 (General hunt only) Nov. 21–Nov. 27 (General hunt only)	Sept. 1–Sept. 30 Nov. 21–Nov. 27
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.
...		

ISSUE:

Fairbanks Management Area (FMA)

Antlerless moose hunting seasons must be reauthorized annually. The purpose of this antlerless hunt is to provide opportunity to harvest relatively abundant female moose in the FMA and reduce moose-vehicle collisions and nuisance moose problems.

Although population surveys have not been conducted in the FMA since 1993, surveys conducted in adjacent Unit 20A and 20B (West) suggest high moose densities. Within the FMA, moose-vehicle collisions appear to have stabilized at relatively high levels and continue to be a chronic problem that poses significant safety concerns for motorists. Also, moose nuisance complaints continue to place significant demands on department staff. Regulatory changes made in regulatory year 2000–2001 allowed the department to issue up to 100 antlerless (excluding calves or cows accompanied by calves) permits for the FMA by bow and arrow only. We actually issued 50 antlerless permits, and preliminary reports indicate that 22 antlerless moose were harvested. No negative feedback has been received regarding the increased hunting effort and harvest. Survey and harvest data indicate that the current harvest is biologically sustainable, and that an even higher harvest is sustainable at the current population level.

Minto Flats Management Area (MFMA)

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 during fall 2000 indicate a high moose density (> 2 moose/mi²). Productivity (39 calves:100 cows) also is high and bull:cow ratios (31 bulls:100 cows) meet our management objective. Harvest during regulatory years 1996–1997 through 2000–2001 was 23, 23, 27, 23, and 27 (preliminary). These data demonstrate that the current harvest of females from the MFMA population of approximately 2200 moose (2000 estimate) 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-01S-G-090)

PROPOSAL 121 - 5 AAC 85.045(19). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Reauthorize antlerless moose hunting for the winter season only 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		

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 moose per regulatory year, only as follows:

[1 MOOSE BY REGISTRATION PERMIT ONLY; OR] [AUG. 27-AUG. 31] [(SUBSISTENCE HUNT ONLY)]

1 bull by registration permit only; or Aug. 27-Sept. 20 [SEPT. 1-SEPT. 20] (Subsistence hunt only)

1 bull by drawing permit only; up to 320 permits may be issued in combination with Unit 24, that portion within the Koyukuk Controlled Use Area; or Sept. 5-Sept. 25 (General hunt only)

1 moose during a 10-day season to be announced by emergency order during the period Feb. 1-Feb. 28 (To be announced) (Subsistence hunt only)

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow lines on one side by drawing permit; up to 80 permits may be issued in combination with Unit 24, that portion within the Koyukuk Controlled Use Area

Sept. 5-Sept. 25

Remainder of Unit 21(D)

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 moose per regulatory year; however, antlerless moose may be taken only [DURING THE PERIODS SEPT. 21-SEPT. 25 AND] during a 10-day season during the period Feb. 1-Feb. 28; to be announced by emergency order; moose may not be taken within one-half mile of the mainstem of the Yukon River during the February season

Sept. 5-Sept. 25 (To be announced)

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 during the winter hunts 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. Surveys conducted in March 1999 indicate an increasing wolf population that is also having a downward influence on recruitment rates of moose. Additionally, during the fall 2000 season, there was substantial confusion over the antlerless moose season dates, resulting in illegal harvest of at least 7 cow moose within the Koyukuk Controlled Use Area after the closing date of August 31.

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. Confusion over the different antlerless seasons within the unit will continue.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? People opposed to hunting cow moose.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? People who prefer to hunt antlerless moose.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

- Continue the cow harvest except for the Remainder portion of Unit 21D.
- Continue the cow harvest except for fall hunting in the Koyukuk River Drainage portion of Unit 21D.
- Continue the cow harvest as it currently exists.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-01S-G-088)

PROPOSAL 122 - 5 AAC 85.045(19). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Reauthorize the antlerless moose hunting season in Unit 21E.

...

(19)

....

Unit 21(E)

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 moose per
regulatory year; however,

Sept. 5-Sept. 25

Feb. 1-Feb. 10

antlerless moose may be taken only during the period Feb. 1 - Feb. 10 and moose may not be taken within one-half mile of the mainstem of the Yukon River or the Innoko River during the period Feb. 1-Feb. 10

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

Sept. 5-Sept. 25

...

ISSUE: Antlerless moose hunting seasons must be reauthorized annually. The reported harvest during regulatory years 1993–1994 through 1999–2000 for the February antlerless hunt was 2–38 moose with an average of 19. We recognize the reported harvest is a minimum take. Our most recent density estimate of 1 moose/mi² indicates the population is capable of sustaining this antlerless harvest.

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-01S-G-087)

PROPOSAL 123 - 5 AAC 85.045(20). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Reauthorize the antlerless moose seasons in Unit 22(C), a portion of Unit 22(D), and in Unit 22(E), as follows:

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

(20)

...

Unit 22(C)

PROPOSAL 124 - 5 AAC 85.045(21). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Reauthorize the antlerless moose seasons in Unit 23.

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
... (21)		
Unit 23, that portion north of and including the Singoalik River drainage		
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-01S-G-082)

PROPOSAL 125 - 5 AAC 85.045(22). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Reauthorize antlerless moose hunting for the winter seasons only in Unit 24.

...

(22)

Unit 24, that portion within the Koyukuk Controlled Use Area

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 moose per regulatory year, only as follows:

[1 MOOSE BY REGISTRATION PERMIT ONLY; OR]

[AUG. 27-AUG. 31] [(SUBSISTENCE HUNT ONLY)]

1 bull by registration permit only; or

Aug. 27-Sept. 20
[SEPT. 1-SEPT. 20]
(Subsistence hunt only)

1 bull by drawing permit only; up to 320 permits may be issued in combination with Unit 21(D), that portion within the Koyukuk Controlled Use Area; or

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

1 moose

Dec. 1-Dec. 10
Mar. 1-Mar. 10
(Subsistence hunt only)

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side by drawing permit; up to 80 permits may be issued in combination with Unit 21(D), that portion within the Koyukuk Controlled Use Area	Sept. 5-Sept. 25	
Unit 24, that portion of the John and Alatna River drainages within the Gates of the Arctic National Park . 1 moose	Aug. 1-Dec. 31	No open season
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 period [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

PROBLEM: Antlerless moose hunting seasons must be re-authorized annually. Antlerless moose harvest in the four geographic areas described in regulation (above), can be supported by present moose populations during the winter hunt only. Fall 1999 trend count surveys suggest static or declining moose populations for the Dulbi Slough, Treat Island, and Mathews Slough areas. Population estimation surveys in northern Unit 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. Additionally, during the fall 2000 season, there was substantial confusion over the antlerless moose season dates within Unit 24 and adjacent Unit 21D, resulting in illegal harvest of at least 7 cow moose within the Koyukuk Controlled Use Area after the closing date of August 31.

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. Confusion over the different antlerless seasons within the unit will continue.

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? People who like to hunt cow moose.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

- Discontinue all cow harvest.
- Continue the cow harvest except for fall hunting in the Koyukuk River Drainage portion of Unit 24.
- Continue the cow harvest as it currently exists.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game (HQ-01S-G-086)

PROPOSAL 126 - 5 AAC 85.055(4). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR DALL SHEEP. Amend these regulations in Units 13 and 14 as follows:

Either limit all hunters to one sheep every three years statewide; put all sheep hunters on a drawing permit only system in these areas, or put all nonresidents and air taxi operators on a draw permit system.

ISSUE: Crowded hunting and lower quality hunts for Dall sheep in the Chugach and Talkeetna mountains has become a problem, with low sheep numbers and high hunter numbers

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Unlimited access to Dall sheep in the Chugach and Talkeetna Mountains by registered guides and air taxi operators, with a bad winter kill in the winter of 1999-2000, makes for a very limited resource (mature Dall rams) with high hunting pressure. Hunt quality and herd quality have declined significantly in the last three years, and will continue to do so.

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All permit hunters will benefit by having a high quality hunt with an improved number of mature rams available, like in the Chugach State Park. The sheep population will obviously benefit by less pressure.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Hunters who hunt sheep just for meat every year, and hunters who do not mind the current low quality of hunting sheep in these mountain ranges, will suffer by being limited in their hunting opportunities.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Several solutions are listed, but something needs to be done.

PROPOSED BY: Dan Montgomery and Loren Karro (SC-01S-G-045)

the number of full-curl rams. No full-curl rams were observed during a 1997 ADF&G survey between Sode Creek and Suslota Lake. Few sheep hunters would go to the field after Sept. 20 reducing the impact of the any sheep bag limit, but this regulatory change would allow the subsistence hunter, if unsuccessful during the early season, additional opportunity.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, over time should increase the number of full-curl rams.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All sheep hunters and other sheep enthusiasts.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? 1) One ram only season: rejected because does not solve the problem of intense hunting pressure and low number of rams along the Nabesna road. 2) Delete the one sheep bag limit; rejected because the small amount of harvest that would occur in late Sept. would have no effect on population.

PROPOSED BY: Upper Tanana/Fortymile Advisory Committee (I-01S-G-004)

PROPOSAL 129 - 5 AAC 85.055(7). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR DALL SHEEP. Amend this regulation in Unit 14C as follows:

DS 120-Areas open to hunting are any areas in Unit 14C including the Anchorage Management Area, Eklutna Lake, Falls Creek, and Indian Creek.

OR

DS _____ -Areas open to hunting are the mountains surrounding Williwaw Lakes

DS _____ -Areas open to hunting are the Eklutna Lake areas including the Twin Peaks area

DS _____ -Areas open to hunting are the Windy Point/Falls Creek areas

ISSUE: Unit 14C has a healthy, harvestable sheep population that is managed by a number of hunts. It is also the closest and most healthy sheep population of the state (Anchorage, Valley, and Kenai Peninsula residents). In spite of its close proximity to these large population areas it remains one of the healthiest sheep populations in the state due to a variety of factors. A ewe drawing permit hunt (DS 120) was instituted a couple of years ago to allow people an opportunity to hunt ewes late in the season (October 10—31) in an area which supported a healthy sheep population of sheep. I do not know if the purpose of this hunt is to allow young people to be introduced to hunting sheep, but it is the ideal permit to do so. The problem I would like the board to consider is that even though the permit is open to “any Unit 14C sheep area,” there are no easily accessible areas to hunt for youth; the closest, easiest areas are closed (i.e. Anchorage Management Area, areas around Falls Creek, Indian Creek, and Eklutna Lake areas).

I am requesting that the board consider opening these closed areas, or portions thereof, to a youth-oriented ewe hunt. The hunt could be structured in such a way as to grant a small number of permits to a specific area so as to avoid having too many people in one area (e.g. five permits to Eklutna Twin Peaks area or the area where the DS 140 and DS 141 hunts take place, five permits to Windy Point/Falls Creek area, five permits to Williwaw Lakes area). A side benefit of structuring the hunt this way to the ADFG is that it would increase the number of permits people can apply for, thereby possibly increasing the revenue generated by the drawing permit system.

The hunt can be late in the season like it is now to avoid tourists and hikers who might be opposed to hunting in easily accessible areas. Most people are not hiking in these areas during mid to late October. If this is a bonafide concern, you could even limit the hunt to weekdays in an effort to avoid confrontation.

If it is not legally possible to have a “youth hunt permit” then I would ask you to open the permit to all hunters, but bill the hunt as a youth hunt and encourage other hunters not to apply.

If you opened these areas at these times it would also allow people who have limited physical or mental handicaps to have the opportunity to participate in a sheep hunt.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? There will not be an easy way to introduce children, youth, and those with limited handicaps to sheep hunting.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? N/A

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Children, young people, those with limited mental or physical handicaps, and others who cannot endure a “normal” sheep hunt would all be possible benefactors. All sheep hunters will benefit directly by the positive attention such as “youth hunt” or “hunt for those with limitations” would draw.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Perhaps if non-hunters are afield at that time they may not appreciate a hunt in an easily accessible area. Otherwise no one would suffer.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? There are no other solutions in this geographical area.

PROPOSED BY: Tom Cobaugh (HQ-01S-G-001)

PROPOSAL 130 - 5 AAC 85.065(3). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR SMALL GAME. Extend the season for ptarmigan in Unit 13 as follows:

Season dates for Ptarmigan Unit 13 – Aug. 10 – Apr. 15

ISSUE: Season dates for Ptarmigan Unit 13.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Lost opportunity for Ptarmigan hunters in Unit 13. There is not biological information/reason for not extending the hunting season. Reports have shown that hunters have no impact on Ptarmigan number fluctuations.

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Ptarmigan hunters.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Copper Basin Advisory Committee

(SC-01S-G-037)

PROPOSAL 131 - 5 AAC 85.065(3). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR SMALL GAME. Amend this regulation for Ptarmigan in Unit 13 as follows:

Change the open date to Aug. 25.

ISSUE: Change ptarmigan open date from Aug. 10 to Aug. 25. Young birds are being shot before they are fully developed. The adult bird with young birds are shot leaving young birds confused and lost. I saw this several times last season while picking berries (I am a hunter). In the past this was not a problem as almost no one hunted ptarmigan early. Large increase in early bird hunters in the last two to three years.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Young birds will continue to be shot and lost due to the adult birds being shot, leaving the young birds without a leader.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, the young birds are small, moving the open date to Aug. 25 the hunters would harvest a larger bird and the birds would have the ability to be good fliers.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Anyone who would like to harvest more meat per bird and all hunters who are sportsman.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Hunters who cannot hit a flying bird.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Allen G. Avinger

(I-01S-G-001)

PROPOSAL 132 - 5 AAC 85.065(4). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR SMALL GAME. Amend this regulation for Tribe Mergini (Sea Ducks) in Units 5-7,9,10, (Unimak Is. only), and Units 14—16 (except Unimak Is.) as follows:

Units and Bag Limits

(4)

Migratory game birds

(A) Ducks

Dabbler Ducks (Tribe Anitini);

Bay Ducks (Tribe Aythyini);

Sea Ducks (Tribe Mergini):

except

Spectacled and Steller’s Eider and

Long-tailed (Oldsquaw) are

closed for conservancy

Units 5—7, 9, 10, (Unimak Is. Only), and 14—16

Dabbler and Bay Ducks
(Tribe Anatini and Aythyini):
8 per day and 24 in possession;
however, not more than 1 per day and 3 in
possession may be Canvasbacks,

Sea Ducks (Tribe Mergini):
Eider, Scoter, Goldeneye, and Mergansers

3 per day and 9 in possession;
however, for conservancy, not more than
1 per day and 3 in possession may be
Harlequin, Black Scoter, Spectacled, Stellers,
Eiders, and Long-tail (Oldsquaw) are closed.

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS: Daily limits
apply; however no more than 3 each of Scoter,
Eider, Goldeneye, or Harlequin may be taken
per season for a total season possession limit
of no more than 18 ducks (for enforcement).

(B) Combined Ducks; Dabbler, Bay, and Sea Duck:
daily bag limits combined may not exceed 10
(CFR/Vol. 65, No. 164)

ISSUE: Thirteen of fifteen sea duck species, (Tribe Mergini), show a declining population trend. They are not enduring modern times when natural mortality is compounded by increased rapid access, additive harvest, oil spills, climatic phenomenon, contaminants, and habitat alteration.

Sustainable species-specific exploitation rates of the diverse eight genus of Tribe Mergini are unknown. (Dabbler, Tribe Anatini contains only one genus).

Sustainability of species is lost when the only management tools we use are hope, guesswork, deficient harvest data and crisis management. It appears that these animals have shown enough of a crisis to warrant assistance from the state to ensure they are conserved and managed on the sustained yield principle.

Present sea duck bag limits do not register concern to sport and subsistence harvesters so these people remain unaware. The state has the opportunity and ability to raise awareness and understanding in sport as well as subsistence user groups, by courageously taking the first step to guide the course of sustainability by example and good faith.

- (A) Spectacled and Stellers Eider – threatened listing – depletions over 90 percent.
- (B) Oldsquaw – declining at 5.5 percent per year, possibly up to 70 percent - petitioned for endangered status.
- (C) Oldsquaw – listed as a S2B, S2N by the Alaska Natural Heritage Program, ranking serious conservation concern.
- (D) Harlequin – not recovered from the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill.
- (E) Harlequin behaviour, ecology, strong site fidelity limited wintering range reflects high susceptibility to localized depletions.

- (F) Harlequin rarely eaten... “no person shall purchase, sell, barter, or offer to purchase, sell, or barter mounted specimens of migratory game birds” (50 CFR Part 20.91(b))
How many are needed?
- (G) The Harlequin is listed as endangered on the East Coast of Canada.
- (H) Western Barrows Goldeneye has a limited wintering range along the coast.
- (I) Eastern Barrows Goldeneye depletion is leading to an endangered status.
- (J) The Common and King Eider with a very limited wintering range are on the top of lists conservation concern. Common have declined substantially. Little is known of Kings.
- (K) The Black, White-winged and Surf Scoter appear to have declined by 40 percent continentally,
- (L) Black Scoter may be in significant declines
- (M) Labrador Duck – extinct – resembled black scoter, shot into extinction in the late 1800s.
- (N) Extinct prehistoric sea duck fossil records indicate overharvest.

Mergini live in harsh dynamic oceanic and ice environments. They subsist primarily on marine invertebrates: crustaceans, gastropods, and bivalves. They do not have the luxury like swans, geese, or dabblers of foraging in farmers’ fields or eating vegetation. Unlike dabblers most are K-selected species.

Fall/winter harvest occurs during the critical and susceptible wintering life stage where many of these species appear to segregate into sub-populations. There are many unknowns such as species-specific exploitation rates, effects of localized depletions, strong site fidelity, 60 percent crippling rates and depletion of energy reserves from disturbance.

We lack the biological knowledge to make educated management decisions. We are using deficient harvest data; even HIP is documented as severely lacking. We are hunting around threatened species in localized areas with little oversight, knowledge, or enforcement. We are managing as if the ecology, biology, behaviour, localized demographics, species-specific sustainable exploitation rate or species and gender compositions of these species is comparable and understood.

Homer and Seward and now the Whittier Tunnel which opens PWS, allows increased access from our most highly populated areas. Impacted birds have still not recovered from the EVOS.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The unknown cumulative effect of localized depletions on the wintering grounds from relatively few harvesters targeting possible sub-populations with strong site fidelity will continue. Especially near areas with ease of rapid access. Rafts of sea ducks are easily decimated over a short time. It may take decades for these areas to grow back. Up to 60 percent crippling rate is unacceptable. Wanton waste will continue as many are not retrieved or eaten. The sport hunt must set an example to show concern for these species and a good faith effort to bring light to the subsistence hunt. This point is critical.

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Everyone. Conservative management leads sustainability to serve all Alaskans. Regulation, is the essential educator. It alerts the public of unperceived

wildlife problems. Sport and subsistence harvesters have the opportunity to gain awareness to aid ailing sea duck populations to regain abundance.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those who do not understand the significant biological impact we are having on localized populations of the K-selected species while tremendous uncertainty surrounds estimates, harsh oceanic/ice processes, and climatic shifts, of Tribe Mergini. ADF&G has stated that few people participate in this hunt so few will suffer.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Designate no take refugia in critical wintering areas. Have ADF&G herring surveys include sea duck surveys. Create a comprehensive conservative Mergini Management Plan. Register sea duck guides so we have a handle on who is guiding and where.

PROPOSED BY: Pioneer Alaskan Fisheries, Inc. (HQ-01S-G-135)

PROPOSAL 133 - 5 AAC 85.065(4). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR SMALL GAME. Amend this regulation for Tribe Mergini (Seaducks) in Units 8, and 10 (except Unimak Island) as follows:

Units and Bag Limits

(4)

Migratory game birds

(A) Ducks

- Dabbler ducks (Tribe anitini);
- Bay ducks (Tribe Aythyini);
- Sea ducks (Tribe Mergini):
except
Spectacled and Steller's Eider and
Long-tailed (Oldsquaw) are
Closed for conservancy

Unit 8, and 10 (except Unimak Island)

Dabbler and Bay ducks

(Tribe Anatini and Aythyini):

8 per day and 24 in possession;
however, not more than one per day
and three in possession may be
Canvasbacks,

Sea ducks (Tribe Mergini):

Eider, Scoter, Goldeneye, and
Mergansers

3 per day and 9 in possession;
however, for conservancy, not more than
1 per day and 3 in possession may be
Harlequin, or Black Scoter, Spectacled, Stellers
Eiders, and Long-tail (Oldsquaw) are closed.

Nonresident hunters:
Daily limits apply; however no more than 3 each of scoter, Eider, Goldeneye or Harlequin may be taken per season for a total season possession limit of no more than 18 ducks (for enforcement)

(B) Combined ducks; Dabbler, Bay and Seaduck:
daily bag limits combined may not exceed 10 (CFR/Vol. 65, No. 164)

ISSUE: See Units 5-7,9,10 (Unimak Island Only), and Units 14-16.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Pioneer Alaskan Fisheries (HQ-01S-G-136)

PROPOSAL 134 - 5 AAC 85.065(4)(K). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR SMALL GAME. Amend this regulation to include the following:

Tundra swan season in Unit 17 - Sept. 1 – Oct. 31. Hunting is by registration permit only, with a limit of one swan per season in Unit 17.

ISSUE: No legal opportunity to harvest Tundra Swans in Unit 17.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Continued loss of opportunity for Unit 17 resident waterfowl hunters while the same resources (Tundra Swans) are harvested elsewhere.

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Unit 17 resident waterfowl hunters.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? People opposed to hunting.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Chris Itamulria (HQ-01S-G-123)

PROPOSAL 135 - 5 AAC 85.070(6). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR UNCLASSIFIED GAME. Amend this regulation for magpies in Units 6—17 as follows:

Magpie: Residents and nonresidents:5 birds per day; Sept. 1—Apr. 15

We should treat crows and magpies (members of the same family) the same. Magpies have dramatically and steadily increased over a 40-year period, are of detriment to other valuable and declining bird species, offer recreational and subsistence hunting during a slack time of the year (like most birds the meat is palatable). Hunting alone may not be of a sufficient magnitude to keep numbers in check, but it will help. Five birds per day seem a reasonable start. Hunting during breeding season is not recommended due to public rejection and ethical considerations.

ISSUE: Under the present regulations, hunting of magpies is not allowed. Magpies have steadily and drastically increased in Southcentral Alaska during the past four decades and especially so during the past five. Combined with the affects of the spruce bark beetle damage, this has a very detrimental effect on some songbirds.

I have noticed a drastic increase in magpie sightings within the described area during the past four decades, especially noticeable in the more populated areas. I have also observed effective and widespread predation by magpies on the eggs, nestlings, and young birds of many passerine breeding birds, including species of flycatchers, kinglets, thrushes, warblers, and sparrows. Many of the effected species are of great concern as expressed by the AOU, ADF&G, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service because of an alarming decline in population counts. This especially affects some of the long-distance migrants that winter in South America. All the reasons for such declines are not clearly identified. In Southcentral Alaska, decimation of mature spruce stands through the bark beetle epidemic has without doubt some influence because of shrinking suitable habitat.

Magpies, like most members of the corvidae family, are very adaptable and aggressive birds. They have adapted very well to urban environments and compete successfully with other species for food, habitat, and territory.

Although to the best of my knowledge no detailed long-term studies on their population size and dynamics has been undertaken in Alaska, the raw data from the yearly Audubon December bird counts over the past four decades gives a good and convincing picture. During the past five years the population is 43 times larger than in the early sixties in the Anchorage Bowl. Of even greater significance is the steady growth pattern.

Note: For scientific purposes, American magpies are now classified as *Pica hudsonica* (former *Pica pica*) by action of the American Ornithology Union (AOU), which is the official scientific organization for such purposes in the USA, effective Feb. 1, 2000.

Like the crows, magpies are covered by federal law under the Migratory Bird Act, (even though magpies are not regular migrants), (50 CFR 10), and therefore generally protected. 50 CFR 21, however, recognized the nature of the species and allows taking for depredation purposes. It also allows possession and utilization, but no commercial activities.

In Alaska, state regulations allowed hunting of crows and magpies until 1978. For reasons unknown to me, hunting was closed in 1979. Regulation No. 32 allows taking in accordance

with federal law, but gives no open hunting season. It is interesting to note that crows, which have the same legal status as magpies under federal regulations, continue to be a huntable unclassified game species in some areas of Alaska.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Predation by magpies on many critically declining song and forest bird species will continue.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? N/A.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Other passerine bird species, hunters, subsistence users.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Nobody I can think of.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Hunting, trapping, netting, etc. by governmental agencies—too bureaucratic and expensive. Destruction of nests—unethical, public rejection.

PROPOSED BY: Heinrich Springer (HQ-01S-G-037)

PROPOSAL 136 - 5 AAC 92.003. HUNTER EDUCATION AND ORIENTATION REQUIREMENTS.

(3) A hunter who is 12 thru 15 years of age at the start of the hunt, and has successfully completed a certified Hunter Education course, is allowed to hunt for a Unit 13 Tier II caribou permit holder, under the direct immediate supervision of the Unit 13 Tier II caribou permit holder.

ISSUE: The current structure of Tier II hunts virtually assures that no ‘new’ hunters, enter the ranks of Tier II hunters. The minimum score required to obtain a TC566 Nelchina caribou permit is so high, that a person must be at least 35 years old to obtain enough points to receive a permit. Essential elements of subsistence hunting are the teaching of traditional hunting practices and techniques, and the acquisition of skills. By excluding youth from obtaining permits, we are precluding the legal possibility of them ‘taking’ a caribou in this hunt. This change allows a permit holder to take a youth on the hunt, pass along traditions, teach them skills, and allow them to ‘take’ a caribou. The caribou taken is still considered the bag limit of the permittee.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The passing along of the traditions of hunting Nelchina caribou will be neglected.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Young hunters who are currently excluded from legally directly participating in this Tier II hunt.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one. Permits will still be allocated according to Tier II scoring regulations.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-01S-G-118)

PROPOSAL 137 - 5 AAC 92.003. HUNTER EDUCATION AND ORIENTATION REQUIREMENTS. Amend this regulation to include the following:

A nonresident who hunts Dall sheep, mountain goat, or brown/grizzly bear (except brown/grizzly bear in Unit 13), must hire and be accompanied in the field by an Alaska licensed guide or be accompanied in the field by an Alaska resident 19 years or older who is within the second-degree of kindred. An orientation course available at the ADF&G office in Glennallen would be required for all nonresident hunters before taking the field.

Upon completion of the course, nonresident hunters would receive a registration permit valid for 10 days. This permit could be renewed for an additional 10 days and must be returned to the department within 10 days of expiration.

ISSUE: Brown bear populations in Unit 13. Would like another pool of bear hunters. Most successful bear hunters would not take another bear.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Continuing high brown bear population with corresponding high moose calf predation on a diminishing moose population.

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Nonresident brown bear hunters, moose calves.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Some guides – we think this would be a very minimal impact.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Allowing snowmachine use for taking of brown bears (tracking/chasing) deemed unacceptable.

PROPOSED BY: Paxson Advisory Committee (SC-01S-G-018)

PROPOSAL 138 - 5 AAC 92.003. HUNTER EDUCATION AND ORIENTATION REQUIREMENTS. Amend this regulation for Unit 17 caribou as follows:

Require nonresident hunters to go through an orientation training. Orientation requirement for nonresident hunters. A nonresident hunter in Unit 17 must attend a department-approved hunter orientation course (to include trophy recognition and meat care) or must be accompanied by a registered guide or resident family member within the second-degree of kindred.

ISSUE: The spoilage and waste of caribou meat in game management Unit 17 by those who do not have the knowledge or experience to properly take care of the caribou harvested in the field.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The continued waste of caribou meat by those who do not take the proper care of their meat in the field.

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Everyone, especially those who have no experience in taking proper care of caribou meat in the field.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those nonresidents who do not prefer to go through an orientation training course.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Nushagak Advisory Committee (HQ-01S-G-077)

PROPOSAL 139 - 5 AAC 92.003(b). HUNTER EDUCATION AND ORIENTATION REQUIREMENTS. Amend this regulation for moose in Unit 17B as follows:

Require nonresident hunters to go through an orientation training. Orientation requirement for nonresident hunters. A nonresident hunter in Unit 17B must attend a department approved hunter orientation course (to include trophy recognition and meat care) or must be accompanied by a registered guide or resident family member within the second-degree of kindred.

ISSUE: The waste of moose meat in Unit 17B by those who do not have experience or the knowledge to properly take care of the moose harvested in the field.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The continued waste of meat by those who do not take proper care of their moose meat in the field.

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Everyone, especially those who have no experience in taking proper care of moose meat harvested in the field and those who cannot identify a legal sized bull.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those nonresidents who do not prefer to go through an orientation training course.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? We considered imposing restrictions on certain user groups but thought that a hunter orientation program would be more practical and beneficial for the resource.

PROPOSED BY: Nushagak Advisory Committee (HQ-01S-G-075)

PROPOSAL 140 - 5 AAC 92.004. POLICY FOR OFF-ROAD VEHICLE USE FOR HUNTING AND TRANSPORTING GAME. Amend this regulation to include Unit 13.

Except for those individuals who are physically disabled, you may not hunt or assist someone else to take big game until 3 AM the following day you have been transported off the primary/secondary road system by an ORV, as defined in 5AA92.004(c). (In this section, "off-road vehicles" includes four-wheel drive trucks and automobiles, motorcycles, three-to-eight

wheeled all terrain recreation and utility vehicles, vehicles with two tracks, air cushioned vehicles, and air boats operated outside of a navigable waterway.)

ISSUE: The use of ORVs during the fall hunting season to pursue and take game in Game Unit 13.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All hunters and others interested in seeing conservation oriented hunting continued.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? No other solutions were considered.

PROPOSED BY: Rod Herrin (SC-01S-G-024)

PROPOSAL 141 - 5 AAC 92.004. POLICY FOR OFF-ROAD VEHICLE USE FOR HUNTING AND TRANSPORTING GAME. Amend this regulation as follows:

Ban the use of off-road vehicles in Unit 13.

ISSUE: Off-road vehicles in Unit 13. The area is accessible by other means: horseback, backpack, airplane on wheels, floats, or skies, snowmachines in wignter. It s many river systems are accessible by boats.

The vegetation is extremely delicate and the smallest four-wheeler leaves tracks. The ground never recovers from the trauma. Who will benefit; all those in the interest of fair chase and pristine wilderness.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The erosion of a delicate ecosystem.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Fair chase.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All hunters and wildlife.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: John Clark (HQ-01S-G-018)

PROPOSAL 142 -5 AAC 92.010. HARVEST TICKETS AND REPORTS. Amend this regulation as follows:

Hunters must obtain a state harvest ticket to hunt moose. The harvest ticket will be valid for either Unit 13 or statewide except Unit 13. Hunters may only be issued one moose harvest ticket per regulatory year.

ISSUE: Diminishing moose available for harvest in Unit 13, increasing numbers of hunters, increased mobility among hunters taking an excessive toll on available moose.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Too many hunters for too little moose – poor success ratio.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Potential to improve hunt quality by reducing hunt numbers.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Unit 13 moose, hunters who wish it not so crowded.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Some hunters who like to hunt Unit 13 may get brain strain trying to decide where to go.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? More restrictive moose regulations to make this unit less attractive. This solution would also reduce take and bull:cow ratio is okay.

PROPOSED BY: Paxson Advisory Committee (SC-01S-G-017)

PROPOSAL 143 - 5 AAC 92.010. HARVEST TICKETS AND REPORTS. Amend this regulation as follows:

Unit 13 specific moose harvest tag. Hunters must choose either a statewide moose harvest ticket or a restrictive harvest ticket that limits the hunter to moose hunting only in Unit 13. Only one harvest ticket number per hunting license may be issued. This proposal would help reduce the apparent increasing problem of the growing number of ATVs used in Unit 13 and would also help increase the unit's bull:cow ratio. Bull:cow ratios at this time are 21 bulls per 100 cows.

ISSUE: Low bull:cow ratios throughout Unit 13.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Tighter restrictions on moose hunting in Unit 13, i.e., Tier II permit system, complete closure.

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? This proposal will most likely increase overall moose numbers in the unit and increase bull:cow ratios which benefits all hunters.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Hunters who hunt in several different game units; they would be limited to Unit 13 only hunting on a Unit 13 moose tag or would not be able to hunt in Unit 13 if opting for a statewide moose harvest tag.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Tier II or permit system.

PROPOSED BY: Copper Basin Advisory Committee (SC-01S-G-036)

PROPOSAL 144 - 5 AAC 92.015 (a) BROWN BEAR TAG FEE EXEMPTION. 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, as follows:

(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 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-01S-G-100)

PROPOSAL 145 - 5 AAC 92.015(b). BROWN BEAR TAG FEE EXEMPTION.

Exemption of \$25 tag fee for grizzly bear in Unit 11.

ISSUE: Grizzly bear tag fee \$25 Unit 11.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Grizzly bears will continue to increase in Unit 11.

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Bear hunters and Unit 11 moose and caribou.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Copper Basin Advisory Committee (SC-01S-G-034)

PROPOSAL 146 - 5 AAC 92.015(b). BROWN BEAR TAG FEE EXEMPTION. 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, ...

ISSUE: Brown bear tag fee exemptions must be re-authorized 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 board developed for Unit 13 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. 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, 125 during 1998-1999 and 163 during 1999-2000.

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-01S-G-107)

PROPOSAL 147 - 5 AAC 92.015(b). BROWN BEAR TAG FEE EXEMPTIONS. Reauthorize the current exemption for brown bear tag fee in Unit 19D.

...

(b) A resident tag is not required for taking a brown bear ... in Unit 19(D)...

ISSUE: The brown bear tag and fee requirement for Unit 19D was eliminated by the Board of Game beginning in regulatory year 1998–1999. The exemption must be reauthorized on an annual basis. The average annual harvest in Unit 19D has been 5 bears/year since the regulation took effect in fall 1998. This harvest is well below the sustainable harvest of 10 bears/year (6 percent of the population). We estimate there are 165 bears (13 bears/1000mi²) in the subunit and recommend continuing the tag fee exemption.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The tag fee would be re-instituted for the 2001-2002 regulatory year.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Local and state resident hunters who want 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-01S-G-092)

PROPOSAL 148 - 5 AAC 92.015(b). BROWN BEAR TAG FEE EXEMPTIONS. Reauthorize the current resident tag fee exemption for brown bear in portions of Unit 20D.

...

(b) A resident tag is not required for taking a brown bear... in Unit 20(D) north of the Tanana River or east of the east bank of the Gerstle River,

...

ISSUE: The Unit 20D brown bear tag fee exemption must be reauthorized annually. The exemption was implemented in regulatory year 1995–1996 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 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 unitwide harvest was 11 bears in regulatory year 1999–2000, and has been 10–16 bears/year with a mean harvest of 13 bears/year during regulatory years 1995–1996 through 1999–2000, which meets the objectives established by the BOG. Much of the increase, however, has occurred in the southwest portion of 20D where bear hunting regulations have not been liberalized, but where kill of DLP and nuisance bears in the vicinity of Delta Junction is significant. Harvest in the current tag fee exemption area has increased from a mean of 4 bears/year for 8 years before the exemption, to 5.4 bears/year since the exemption was implemented.

The BOG adopted a Macomb caribou herd population objective of 600–800 caribou with a sustainable harvest objective of 30–50 caribou/year. The Macomb caribou herd population objective was met in fall 2000 with a minimum population estimate of 605 caribou. A hunt was conducted during fall 2000 with a harvest of 22 caribou from a harvest quota of 25.

The BOG adopted a Unit 20D moose population objective of 8,000–10,000 moose with a sustainable harvest objective of 500–700 moose/year. The Unit 20D moose management objectives have not been met. The current Unit 20D moose population estimate is 4,900–7,200 moose. Reported harvest during the 1999–2000 general season was 163 moose.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? 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. 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. Also, hunting opportunity for brown bears would be reduced.

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 sufficiently 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 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-01S-G-089)

PROPOSAL 149 - 5 AAC 92.015(b). BROWN BEAR TAG FEE EXEMPTIONS. Reauthorize the current resident tag fee exemption for brown bear in Unit 25D.

...

(b) A resident tag is not required for taking a brown bear...in Unit 25(D).

ISSUE: The board must reauthorize the Unit 25D tag fee exemption annually or the fee automatically becomes reinstated. Since the exemption was implemented in regulatory year 1998–1999, the harvest of bears has been well below the estimated sustainable level of 19. Harvest during regulatory years 1998–1999 and 1999–2000 was 1 and 4. Preliminary data indicate 3 bears were taken in fall 2000. We recommend continuing the tag fee exemption.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The tag fee would be re-instituted for the 2001–2002 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-01S-G-121)

PROPOSAL 150 - 5 AAC 92.062. PRIORITY FOR SUBSISTENCE HUNTING; TIER II PERMITS. Amend this regulation for Unit 13 Tier II Nelchina caribou permits.

No more than one Tier II Nelchina caribou permit may be issued per household.

ISSUE: Due to declining numbers of Nelchina caribou, hundreds of families who used to get permits no longer do so. At the same time, other families still continue to get 2 or 3 permits. By restricting the permit per household, the permits will be spread among more households.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The status quo represents lost opportunity for many families to participate.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Allowing hundreds of more families to share in the resource enhances the quality of net resource.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Given a fixed number of permits, more families will benefit by this solution.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Families that used to get multiple Tier II permits will now receive one. Some of the individuals so restricted would still be eligible for federal permits.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? This proposal regulation could be limited to only those times when the number of permits is less than some historic number that might effect both the principles of Tier II and the Nelchina herd sizes. This was rejected so as not to distract from the essential point of the proposal.

PROPOSED BY: Daniel Elliott (SC-01S-G-026)

PROPOSAL 151 - 5 AAC 92.062. PRIORITY FOR SUBSISTENCE HUNTING; TIER II PERMITS. Amend this regulation for Unit 13 Tier II Nelchina caribou permits.

When Tier II permits are limited per household, any qualified-to-hunt member of such a household may take the animal allowed by the permit if accompanied in the field by the permit holder. The permit holder is responsible for all harvest and permit reporting.

ISSUE: The admonition on the photo cover of this past years regulation book says, “Take a Young Person Hunting.” Most young people are excluded from participating in the Tier II Nelchina caribou hunt since the defining criterion in qualifying is usually at least 30 years hunting experience.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Not changing the situation will discourage young hunters from hunting.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Allowing a young person to hunt under the tutelage of the permit holder expands the number of people allowed to share in a finite resource and perpetuates hunting traditions.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Young hunters would be the chief beneficiaries.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one suffers. There still is only one permit involved.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Another approach would change the beneficiary qualifications for proxy authorizations. This necessitates extra documentation unnecessary in the present proposal.

PROPOSED BY: Daniel Elliott (SC-01S-G-025)

PROPOSAL 152 - 5 AAC 92.066(4). PERMIT FOR ACCESS TO WALRUS ISLAND STATE GAME SANCTUARY.

An access permit for hunting may be issued under conditions specified by the department on a case-by-case basis, subject to application procedures and rules set out in (1) and (2) of this section, to hunting parties for the period Sept. 10—Oct. 10 only [SEPT. 20—OCT. 30 ONLY].

ISSUE: Currently twenty walrus may be taken on Round Island. The hunt season is from Sept. 20—Oct. 20. The Qayassiq Walrus Commission requests the Board of Game for an earlier hunt starting Sept. 10 and ending Oct. 10 each year.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Every year walrus hunters have had to endure adverse weather conditions, many times putting in jeopardy their lives and equipment. Their mode of transportation, usually their personal commercial fishing vessels that they use to obtain their livelihood during the summer fishing season; has often times, encountered severe weather late in the fall hunting season. The potential for economic loss is great due to adverse weather conditions encountered and the distances that they have to travel. Weather is a primary concern. To extend insurance coverage beyond the fishing season is very expensive and only adds to the economic burden that these hunters have to endure. An earlier hunt would give them an opportunity for better weather and relieve those boat owners of extending expensive coverage of boat and crew insurance.

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All those hunters who participate in the annual walrus hunt on Round Island.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? We considered an earlier hunt but are willing to be conservative in our approach as there are reported to be larger populations of walrus on Round Island during the months of August and September.

PROPOSED BY: Qayassiq Walrus Commission, c/o Bristol Bay Native Association
(HQ-01S-G-069)

PROPOSAL 153 - 5 AAC 92.080. UNLAWFUL METHODS OF TAKING GAME; EXCEPTIONS. Amend this regulation to include the following:

Airboats may not be used for hunting brown bear by a commercial operation (registered guide) in Unit 9.

ISSUE: Airboats can go not only on rivers and small streams but can travel across swamps and bogs or even wet tundra. There are large areas of swamp and wet tundra on the Bering Sea (west) side of Unit 9 that are pancake flat. An airboat could travel for miles in any direction, unimpeded. Hunters in airboats would have considerable advantage over conventional hunting methods. Airboats are extremely noisy, and disturbance to bear behavior can be expected.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The brown bears in Unit 9 are already experiencing more pressure than ever before from registered guides. There is more competition for the bears every season. It is only a matter of time before at least one guide starts using airboats to access what is currently very difficult land to get to. There might already be someone using airboats. Other guides will have to use airboats to compete. There will be even more pressure on the bear population and the quality of the hunting in Unit 9 will go down. Airboats are very loud and disturbing to the natural setting. We need to ban the use of airboats by

commercial operators before it starts, and keep the quality of the Unit 9 bear hunts as high as possible.

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Almost all brown bear hunters in Unit 9 will benefit by continuing to have a high degree of successful hunts using conventional means of hunting and transportation. Airboats are expensive, but if one guide starts using them, many will follow in order to be able to compete for the bears. The bear population will obviously benefit by an airboat ban.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? At present, few if any guides would be affected, as to my knowledge airboats have not been used by guides in this area. Any guide planning on introducing their use will have to change his or her plans. A benefit to swift adoption of this proposal will be to assist guides in future planning, where they may be considering making such a considerable investment.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Dan Montgomery and Loren Karro (SC-01S-G-044)

PROPOSAL 154 - 5 AAC 92.080(4) and (10). UNLAWFUL METHODS OF TAKING GAME; EXCEPTIONS. Amend this regulation to clarify the intent.

...

(4) Unless otherwise provided in this chapter, from a motorized vehicle, a motor driven boat, or a snowmachine unless the motor has been completely shut off and the progress from the motor's power has ceased, except that a motor driven boat may be used to take caribou in Units 23 and 26, a snowmachine may be used in Units 22 and 23 to position caribou to select individual caribou for harvest, provided the animals are not shot from a moving snowmachine, a snowmachine may be used to take wolves in wolf control implementation areas specified in 5AAC 92.125(1), (2), (3) and (5), and a motorized vehicle may be used to take game as described in 10 of this section.

...

(10) from a motorized land vehicle; except that in those portions of Units 7 and 15 within the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge, a motorized land vehicle may be used to take game by a person with physical disabilities, as defined in AS 16.05.940, who requires a wheelchair for mobility, under authority of a permit issued by the department and in compliance with Kenai National Wildlife Refuge regulations.

ISSUE: This is a house cleaning proposal to correct the confusion between 5AAC 92.080(4) and 5AAC 92.080 (10).

Motorized vehicle is defined in 5AAC 92. 990 (27). "Motorized vehicle" means a motor driven land, water, or air conveyance.

In (4), the regulation allows a person to hunt from a motorized vehicle, snowmachine, or motor driven boat as long as the motor has been completely shut off and the progress from the motor's power has ceased. In (10) the regulation makes it illegal to hunt from a motorized land vehicle.

For example, 5AAC 92.080 (4) allows a person to hunt from an ATV or a snowmachine as long as the motor is completely shut off and the progress from the motors power has ceased. It also allows caribou and wolves to be shot from a snowmachine. 5AAC 92.080 (10) prohibits this activity by saying it is illegal to hunt from a motorized land vehicle. A snowmachine is considered a motorized vehicle that operates on land.

The Department of Public Safety is requesting that the regulations be clarified to show the intent of the Board of Game on the issue of hunting from a motorized vehicle.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Hunters, law enforcement officers and the general public will continue to have a contradiction in the regulations.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All resource users.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED:

PROPOSED BY: Department of Public Safety, Division of Fish and Wildlife Protection
(HQ-01S-G-122)

PROPOSAL 155 - 5 AAC 92.080(7). **UNLAWFUL METHODS OF TAKING GAME; EXCEPTIONS.** Amend this regulation in Unit 13 to include the following:

Communications equipment may be used for safety purposes; however, it may not be used to aid in the taking of game, except wolves in areas where wolf control implementation plans have been adopted by the Board of Game. Season dates Dec. 1 – Mar. 15.

ISSUE: High wolf numbers in Game Management Unit 13 wolf control areas.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Continued high wolf population in the area.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? N/A

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Moose, caribou, and sheep viewers and hunters.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Wolf viewers.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Land and shoot which is now illegal because of referendum.

PROPOSED BY: Anchorage Fish and Game Advisory Committee (SC-01S-G-062)

PROPOSAL 156 – 5 AAC 92.085(4)(B)(i). UNLAWFUL METHODS OF TAKING BIG GAME; EXCEPTIONS. Restrict the use of fish or fish parts for baiting black bears in Units 7 and 15.

...

(4)

...

(B) baiting of black bears is subject to the following restrictions:

(i) only biodegradable materials may be used for bait; only the head, bones, viscera, or skin of legally harvested fish and game may be used for bait. **In Units 7 and 15, fish or fish parts may not be used for bait.**

...

ISSUE: The Department participated in a collaborative stakeholder planning effort to develop a management plan for Kenai Peninsula brown bears. This effort resulted in a plan entitled the *Kenai Peninsula Brown Bear Conservation Strategy*. This plan contains over 100 recommendations focused on minimizing bear-human interactions and reducing unnecessary brown bear mortality caused by defense of life or property kills. Three specific recommendations were directed towards the practice of hunting black bears with the use of bait. These recommendations included (1) separation of brown bear hunting season with black bear baiting season, (2) monitor the black bear hunting season to detect any conflicts between hunters and brown bears and (3) prohibit the use of fish and meat for baiting black bears. Recommendations (1) and (2) are currently being addressed. Recommendation (3) requires Board of Game action.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Brown bears may be inadvertently attracted to black bear bait stations increasing the probability of bear-human interactions. Hunters are less likely to remove all bait from their site at the end of the season when large amounts of fish are used.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Hunters using bait to harvest black bear will benefit by reducing their chances of attracting a brown bear. Complying with bait removal requirements will be easier.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Individuals who use fish carcasses and viscera for bait.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game at the request of the Kenai Brown Bear Stakeholders Group (HQ-01S-G-096)

PROPOSAL 157 - 5 AAC 92.085(8)(D). UNLAWFUL METHODS OF TAKING BIG GAME; EXCEPTIONS.

Stop this and let everyone hunt fair chase.

ISSUE: The regulation that permits same-day-airborne caribou hunting in Unit 9B.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The spring air circus in the Iliamna region will continue. Why this is acceptable and aerial predator hunting is shunned is puzzling.

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Everyone with scruples and the caribou.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Nonhunters who fly out to blaze away.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Jim Tilly (HQ-01S-G-031)

PROPOSAL 158 - 5 AAC 92.085(8). UNLAWFUL METHODS OF TAKING BIG GAME; EXCEPTIONS. Amend this regulation in Unit 8 to provide the following:

Taking of caribou from Jan. 1 – Dec. 31, in Unit 8, provided the hunter is at least 300 feet from the airplane at the time of taking;

ISSUE: Currently you cannot hunt caribou in Unit 8 the same day you are airborne.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The once domesticated reindeer herd of Kodiak Island will continue being a largely nonaccessible herd.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, it would allow better access to a caribou herd that is otherwise hard to harvest due to remoteness, logistics, and weather concerns.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All hunters of the herd who are able to take advantage of the herd’s proximity to the very limited number of aircraft landing areas.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? None known at this time due to the very limited hunting pressure on the herd at present.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Having a limited duration during the year for same day flying/hunting. Due to the very liberal season and bag limits at present, and the lack of hunting pressure, it appears the herd is very capable of much stronger hunting pressures.

PROPOSED BY: Alan Jones (SC-01S-G-020)

PROPOSAL 159 - 5 AAC 92.085(9) UNLAWFUL METHODS OF TAKING BIG GAME; EXCEPTIONS. Amend this regulation in Unit 6 as follows:

Same as regulation for Units 1—5.

ISSUE: Allowing shooting of big game from boats in Unit 6 creates three problems.

- A) The increased use of Unit 6 by hunters and non-hunters is creating a dangerous situation for people on shore when hunters are shooting from boats.
- B) Shot placement from a moving surface is without question more difficult and results in more wounded or poorly shot animals when necessary.
- C) When deer are pushed down to the beaches by snow and hunters can just pull up in a boat and shoot, it is questionable whether it is fair chase.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The chances of a person being shot and or killed will continue to increase. It is probable that more animals will die from wounds and not be salvaged when shot from boats than if hunters must be on land.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Shooting from land should result in better shot placement resulting in less wasted meat caused by poor shot placement.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The beaches will be safer for Unit 6 users. It could also benefit the perception of hunters. A lot of people do not consider this method as fair chase.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? It will require more effort on the part of boat hunters to harvest animals. I don't think it reaches the point of "suffering".

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Restricting only motorized vehicles – rejected because it doesn't address the safety issue and non-motorized vessels are often more unstable than motorized vehicles. I also felt being consistent with Unit 1-5 regulations is best.

PROPOSED BY: David Pinguoch (HQ-01S-G-024)

PROPOSAL 160 - 5 AAC 92.095. UNLAWFUL METHODS OF TAKING FURBEARERS. Amend this regulation in Unit 17 to provide the following:

Methods for trapping: You may not use an aircraft, snowmachine, motor-driven boat, or other motorized vehicle for the purpose of driving, herding, or molesting furbearers; except in Unit 17, the snowmachine may be used to pursue and take wolves.

ISSUE: The high populations of wolves in Unit 17. The wolf populations are adversely impacting the survival of moose and caribou calves by predation.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The wolf population will continue to grow. The traditional methods and means of harvesting wolves have been severely restricted, consequently the numbers of wolves in our region has increased dramatically. Along with this dramatic increase in predators, the survival rate of moose and caribou calves in particular has decreased substantially. If wolf populations continue to grow, the moose and caribou numbers in our area could be reduced to a number that could impose season and hunting restrictions on the harvest of moose and caribou in our game management unit.

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Those who rely on large game animals, primarily moose and caribou, for protection needs. Those who would like to be able to derive a supplemental income from the added ability to harvest wolves by pursuing them with a snowmachine.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those who would prefer status quo. Under current regulations, it is unlawful to pursue furbearers with a motorized vehicle. There are those who would prefer that the law remain unchanged and offer continued protection for the wolves.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Allowing the use of aircraft to the taking of wolves the same day airborne, but state law prohibits that.

PROPOSED BY: Nushagak Advisory Committee (HQ-01S-G-076)

PROPOSAL 161 - 5 AAC 92.108. IDENTIFIED BIG GAME PREY POPULATIONS AND OBJECTIVES. Provide population and harvest objectives for moose, caribou and deer populations in Units 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16 and 17 that are identified as important for high levels of human consumptive use.

Population	Finding	Population Objective	Harvest Objective
Deer			
...			
GMU 6	Positive	<u>24,000-28,000</u>	<u>2,200-3,000</u>
GMU 8	Positive	<u>70,000-75,000</u>	<u>8,000-8,500</u>
Caribou Herds			
..			
Mulchatna	Positive	<u>100,000-150,000</u>	<u>6,000-15,000</u>
Nelchina	Positive	35,000-40,000	3,000-6,000
Northern Alaska Peninsula	Positive	<u>12,000-15,000</u>	<u>800-1,500</u>
...			
Southern Alaska Peninsula	Positive	<u>4,000-5,000</u>	<u>200-500</u>
...			
Moose			
...			

GMU 9(B)	Positive	<u>2,000-2,500</u>	<u>100-250</u>
GMU 9(C) and 9(E)	Positive	<u>3,000-3,700</u>	<u>165-320</u>
...			
GMU 12	Positive	4,000–6,000	250-450
GMU 13(A)	Positive	<u>3,500-4,200</u>	<u>210-420</u>
GMU 13(B)	Positive	<u>5,300-6,300</u>	<u>310-620</u>
GMU 13(C)	Positive	<u>2,600-3,500</u>	<u>155-350</u>
GMU 13(D)	Positive	<u>1,200-1,900</u>	<u>75-190</u>
GMU 13(E)	Positive	<u>5,000-6,000</u>	<u>300-600</u>
GMU 14(A)	Positive	<u>6,000-6,500</u>	<u>360-750</u>
GMU 14(B)	Positive	<u>2,500-2,800</u>	<u>100-200</u>
GMU 14(C)	Positive	<u>1,500-1,800</u>	<u>225-270</u>
GMU 15(A)	Positive	<u>3,000-3,500</u>	<u>180-350</u>
GMU 15(B)	Negative		
GMU 15(C)	Positive	<u>2,500-3,500</u>	<u>200-350</u>
GMU 16(A)	Positive	<u>3,500-4,000</u>	<u>190-360</u>
GMU 16(B) (mainland)	Positive	<u>6,500-7,500</u>	<u>310-600</u>
...			
GMU 17(B)	Positive	<u>4,900-6,000</u>	<u>200-400</u>
GMU 17(C)	Positive	<u>2,800-3,500</u>	<u>165-350</u>
...			

ISSUE: Board determinations of population and harvest objectives for Southcentral Alaska moose, caribou and deer populations as required by the intensive management statute (AS 16.05.255(e)-(h)) were deferred to the March 2001 board meeting. Completion of these determinations is necessary in order for the intensive management statute to be fully implemented.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The intensive management statute and regulation will not be fully implemented.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Not applicable.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Not applicable.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Not applicable.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-01S-G-083)

PROPOSAL 162 - 5 AAC 92.125. WOLF PREDATION CONTROL IMPLEMENTATION PLAN. Amend this regulation to include Units 9C and 9E as follows:

Include portions of Units 9C and 9E as areas identified by the Board of Game for active management of wolf populations.

ISSUE: To establish in Unit 9 an area identified by the Board of Game for active management of wolf populations. Problem: Wolf predation on the declining Northern Alaska Peninsula Caribou Herd (NAPCH).

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The continued decline of the NAPCH. There is the potential of the NAPCH going into a predator pit situation. In the 1980s the caribou populations peaked at about 20,000 animals. Due to range problems, disease, and predators, the herd has declined to 8,600 in 1999. In 2000, the numbers have been reported to have dramatically decreased to a reported 7,000 caribou. In 1999, a Tier II permit hunt was implemented with 600 permits issued, area residents have to compete with other state residents for these permits. In 2000, with the continuing decline in caribou numbers, partly attributed to predation, the available number of Tier II permits issued was only 400. In 1999 there were 60 Federal Subsistence permits issued for all of Unit 9, and only 40 issued in 2000. This is a very dramatic decline in harvest opportunity for the area village residents of Unit 9, who are suffering because of the series of poor fishing years and have a very difficult time obtaining their red meat and subsistence foods.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. Potentially increasing the NAPCH populations and meeting the protein needs of area residents by increasing caribou harvests over time.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All consumptive resource users.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one, but those people who would be opposed to the same-day-airborne taking of wolves with a trapping license.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? We considered same-day-airborne for the taking of wolves with a hunting license, but state law prohibits that.

PROPOSED BY: Bristol Bay Native Association (HQ-01S-G-073)

PROPOSAL 163 - 5 AAC 92.125. WOLF PREDATION CONTROL IMPLEMENTATION PLAN. Amend this regulation to include the following:

Establish a wolf predator control implementation plan for all of Unit 16B.

ISSUE: Game Management Unit 16B moose population has decreased 50 percent in the past 11 years with year 2000 Alaska Department of Fish and Game data showing the population continuing the downward trend. The latest data shows only 7 moose calves per 100 cows through November and one wolf per every moose calf in the Northern portion of the Unit. The negative trend is continuing and may accelerate.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Moose population will drop even lower, human harvest opportunity will be lost, wolves will shortly run out of moose to eat.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Our proposal addresses halting the decline and then increasing the Unit 16B moose population back toward the moose population objective level.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? People who depend on Unit 16B moose as a food source. People who favor active game management to achieve identified population and human harvest objective levels.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? People who do not believe in management of game populations to achieve human established objectives. People who believe man should not participate in processes of nature.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? The committee is also proposing an increased wolf limit in Unit 16 from 5 per year to 10 per day, and an increased Unit 16 brown/grizzly bear bag limit from one every 4 years to one every year.

PROPOSED BY: Matanuska Valley Fish and Game Advisory Committee (SC-01S-G-059)

PROPOSAL 164 - 5 AAC 92.132. BAG LIMIT FOR BROWN BEARS. Amend this regulation as follows:

Resident hunters where necessary in the game management units, one brown or grizzly bear every four years. Nonresident hunters: one brown or grizzly bear yearly. Resident hunters because of much easier access and opportunity may need some restriction requirements for certain bear hunts in the state.

ISSUE: Delete the requirement of one bear for every four years for all nonresident hunters in all game management units for brown bears and grizzly bears.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The regulation for nonresidents of one brown or grizzly bear every four years should be deleted for several reasons that apply. Nonresident hunters do pay a significant amount to the state of Alaska for the license and tag fees associated with these species. Most nonresident hunters only ever hunt for either a brown bear or a grizzly bear in their lifetime. Occasionally there is a nonresident hunter who will want to hunt for another brown or grizzly bear once they have harvested either of these bear. What happens most often because of the waiting time of one bear in four years when a brown bear from the coastal region of the state has been taken, is that the nonresident hunter will go to Canada to hunt for a grizzly bear instead of Alaska because of the waiting period of four years. These

nonresident hunters returning to hunt for brown or grizzly bears on a yearly basis should not prove a factor because of the cost associated with such a harvest.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, this would offer to those nonresident hunters who would otherwise go to Canada to hunt for a grizzly bear the opportunity to hunt in Alaska. The state of Alaska’s big game guiding tourism industry would benefit and likewise the state.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The nonresident hunter who would like to hunt for a brown or grizzly bear sooner than four years. The state of Alaska guiding industry and the other revenues paid in the state of Alaska while going on such a hunt.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one, except those people in Canada that would be effected from hunters returning to Alaska instead of Canada!

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Make the regulation for one coastal brown bear every year, and for grizzly bears leave the regulation requirements for harvest as they currently are in the regulation book. This would provide that the nonresident hunter would have opportunity depending on which bear species would be hunted and where and when.

PROPOSED BY: Tom Kirstein (HQ-01S-G-131)

PROPOSAL 165 - 5 AAC 92.132. BAG LIMIT FOR BROWN BEARS. Amend this regulation in Units 16A and 16B as follows:

1 every regulatory year.

ISSUE: According to data from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game Unit 16B moose surveys the moose population in Unit 16B has declined approximately 50 percent from near 7,000 moose in the late 1980s to approximately 4,500 moose in 2000. The Unit 16A moose population has experienced a similar decline from approximately 4,500 moose in the late 1980s to 2,400 in 2000. We would like the board to adopt regulations that should reduce grizzly bear predation on spring moose calves.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The Units 16A and 16B moose populations may continue to decline or remain far below population objective levels of 3500 – 4500 moose in Unit 16A and 6500—7500 moose in Unit 16B – human moose harvests will also remain far below objective levels.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? This proposal seeks to increase calf moose production in Units 16A and 16B, and if successful in time would allow the human harvest of moose in Units 16A and 16B to return to previous levels closer to the identified human harvest objectives of 300 Unit 16A and 650 Unit 16B.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Alaskans depending on moose as a food source.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Matanuska Valley Fish and Game Advisory Committee is also submitting two proposals seeking to lower wolf predation on moose calves in Unit 16B as well.

PROPOSED BY: Matanuska Valley Fish and Game Advisory Committee (SC-01S-G-058)

The Board of Game accepted this proposal as an agenda change request at its Fall 2000 meeting. It is printed here for further public comment.

PROPOSAL 166 - 5AAC 92.140(d). UNLAWFUL POSSESSION OR TRANSPORTATION OF GAME and 5AAC 92.220(h). SALVAGE OF GAME MEAT, FURS AND HIDES.

5AAC 92.140(d). UNLAWFUL POSSESSION OR TRANSPORTATION.

...

(d) not withstanding (a) of this section, it is an affirmative defense to the crime of unlawful possession or transportation of game, if the person who possesses and transports game or parts of game taken in violation of AS 16 or a regulation adopted under AS 16 is doing so for the sole purpose of salvaging that game or parts of game as required by 5AAC 92.220, immediately salvaging that game or parts of game from the field and immediately surrendering that game or parts of game to a representative of the state located at the nearest office of the Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) or Department of Public Safety (DPS). [A PERSON MAY POSSESS AND TRANSPORT GAME OR PARTS OF GAME TAKEN IN VIOLATION OF AS 16 OR REGULATIONS ADOPTED UNDER AS 16, FOR THE SOLE PURPOSE OF SALVAGING AND SURRENDERING THAT GAME, OR PARTS OF THAT GAME TO A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE STATE AS REQUIRED IN 5AAC 92.220(H).]

5AAC 92.220(h). SALVAGE OF GAME MEAT, FURS AND HIDES.

...

(h) a game animal taken in violation of AS 16 or a regulation adopted under AS 16 is the property of the state. [A PERSON WHO TAKES A GAME ANIMAL IN VIOLATION OF AS 16 OR A REGULATION ADOPTED UNDER AS 16 SHALL SALVAGE THOSE PORTIONS OF THE ANIMAL REQUIRED BY THIS SECTION, SHALL IMMEDIATELY TRANSPORT THEM FROM THE FIELD DIRECTLY TO THE NEAREST OFFICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME (ADF&G) OR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY (DPS), AND SHALL SURRENDER THEM TO A DEPARTMENT REPRESENTATIVE.]

ISSUE: A March 2000 District Court decision at Palmer, Alaska found that sections of 5AAC 92.220(h) were unconstitutional. The court found that requiring a person to report a violation of AS 16 or a regulation adopted under AS 16 amounted to self-incrimination.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Law enforcement will not be able to cite an individual who possesses and transports illegally taken game or parts of game, no matter what the circumstances of the take were if that person turns himself in for the violation by reporting to the nearest office of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) or Department of Public Safety (DPS).

Law enforcement must have the discretion to cite an individual under those circumstances where “ground checking game” occurs or where other illegal activity is being covered up using the self turn requirement as an excuse, when the hunter is contacted by law enforcement in the field.

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED:

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Public Safety; Division of Fish and Wildlife Protection
(HQ-01S-G-133)

PROPOSAL 167 - 5 AAC 92.220. SALVAGE OF GAME MEAT, FURS AND HIDES.
Amend this regulation to include Unit 6 as follows:

From Jan. 1 Dec. 31 Unit 6, a black bear hide, skull and meat must be salvaged and removed from the field.

ISSUE: Increased hunting pressure in part as a result of increased access via the road from Whittier will have a detrimental effect upon black bear populations of Prince William Sound and Unit 6 where residents of the Sound have enjoyed watching black bears frequenting the beach area. People will shoot them just because they are there and they have a hunting license. Requiring hunters to salvage the black bear meat throughout the season may help conserve the wildlife resource by discouraging individuals that would kill just for the opportunity and because they are not presently required to salvage the meat.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Black bear populations within the management area will be degraded. Large black bears will be killed off first followed by any black bear that happens to be in the wrong place at the wrong time. Other users will be denied the opportunity to appreciate the wildlife.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? The resource does not have to be harvested to provide benefits. This proposal will improve the quality of life for residents, visitors and black bears of Prince William Sound and Unit 6.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Alaskans and visitors who respect the resource and support ethical game management.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one. People who want to shoot something just because it is there do not deserve the opportunity.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Close the black bear season in Unit 6 from May 31 to Dec. 31. I reject this solution because it would deprive an opportunity for those ethical hunters who wish to harvest a black bear in alpine areas late in the season and utilize the meat.

PROPOSAL 168 - 5 AAC 92.230. FEEDING OF GAME. Amend this regulation as follows:

The Board of Game adopt a regulation permitting the board to impose and enforce standards for approved bear-proof outdoor residential garbage and trash containers within the boundaries of any local municipal government in the state where the municipal government has failed to adopt equivalent standards within six months after adoption of the regulation by the board; and that the board regulation be effective upon its adoption as to any area in the Unorganized Borough where the department has identified a problem with bear attraction to improperly-stored residential garbage.

Most municipalities in Alaska have refused to adopt adequate residential garbage and trash storage standards, or to enforce the use of adequate bear-proof containers, claiming instead that bears and garbage “are a state problem.” If this is indeed a state problem, then the state is justified in addressing this problem - even inside the boundaries of municipalities - by adopting enforceable storage requirements. Bear/human interactions are one facet of wildlife management, and the state - not the municipalities - have exclusive authority for wildlife management under Alaska law.

ISSUE:

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Thomas E. Meacham

PROPOSAL 169 - 5 AAC 92.510. AREAS CLOSED TO HUNTING and 5 AAC 92.550. AREAS CLOSED TO TRAPPING. Amend these regulations as follows:

Prohibit hunting and trapping on or next to roads and designated trails in Units 14A, 14C, and 7. A citizens committee should be appointed to study the proposal.

ISSUE: Hunting and trapping along roads and heavily used trails in Alaska’s most populated areas.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Conflicts with nonconsumptive users will increase.

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Nonconsumptive users.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Hunters and trappers unwilling or unable to walk very far from their vehicles. There should be exceptions for the handicapped.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Kneeland Taylor (HQ-01S-G-039)

PROPOSAL 170 - 5 AAC 92.510. AREAS CLOSED TO HUNTING. Amend this regulation to include Unit 15C as follows:

Sadie Cove Wildlife Viewing Sanctuary, no hunting.

ISSUE: To create a wildlife viewing sanctuary for Kachemak Bay's growing eco tourism targeted area. The Fjord of Sadie Cove land and water.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Conflicts with user groups will continue.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Setting this area aside for viewing and photography would insure a great eco tour opportunity for years to come.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All visitors to area.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? A few bear and goat hunters that shoot animals from boats.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? There are none.

PROPOSED BY: Jack Montgomery, Rainbow Tours (HQ-01S-G-074)

PROPOSAL 171 - 5 AAC 92.510. AREAS CLOSED TO HUNTING. Amend this regulation to include the following:

State restricted area in Unit 15C: Overlook Park, consisting of 137 acres of mainly wetlands with several small ponds on the bench lowlands below Baycrest Hill pullout and extending down to the beach west of Homer, is closed to all hunting. (Parcel I and II on Homer Plat No. 87-28RS and the NE ¼ SE ¼, Section 15, T6S, R14W, Seward Meridian).

ISSUE: The 137-acre area known as Overlook Park lies west of Homer below Baycrest Hill on the Sterling Highway. Besides being a unique ecological area, it should be closed to hunting for consistency with this state park unit's management plan and current park regulations that closes this very small area to the discharge of weapons, defined by park regulation as bow and arrows, cross bow, or firearms. Since this area formerly was private property it was never open to public hunting except by owner's permission.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Hikers and wildlife viewers in this tiny state park will largely lose the opportunity to see the area's wildlife, particularly moose, bears, and ducks. Hunters also will mistakenly hunt in this area and will be in violation of park

regulations prohibiting the discharge of firearms or other weapons. Only one or two waterfowl hunters can easily kill most of the several species of ducks using these ponds.

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Visitors who enjoy wildlife viewing, especially waterfowl, beavers, and muskrats, will benefit from increased wildlife viewing opportunities in this unique wetlands. The City of Homer will benefit from the addition of a unique wildlife viewing area, a desirable destination for hikers close to Homer. Hikers, birdwatchers, and others in the park will also benefit from increased safety if no hunting is allowed in this densely vegetated area.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? A few hunters who may have previously hunted with the private property owner's permission, or others who occasionally hunt in this small area would not be able to do so.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Doing nothing was considered, but rejected because having an area open to hunting that is closed to the discharge of firearms or other weapons creates the potential for people to violate the law. Future signs marking the park's boundary would state the area is closed to the discharge of firearms and other weapons and hunting.

PROPOSED BY: Kachemak Bay Conservation Society (HQ-01S-G-033)

PROPOSAL 172 - 5 AAC 92.530. MANAGEMENT AREAS. Create a management area in Unit 15C as follows:

ISSUE: We undersigned (800 signatures) formally request the creation of a Kachemak Bay Sea Duck Sanctuary, or Sea Duck Special Management area. This area consists of marine waters of that portion of Unit 15C called Kachemak Bay, east from a line from Bluff Point to Barbara Point to promote sustainability and provide refuge from harvest of the declining Tribe Mergini (Sea Ducks), to include: King Common, Spectacled, and Steller's Eider; Long-tailed (Oldsquaw), Harlequin, Surf, White-winged and Black Scoter, Barrows and Common Goldeneye, Bufflehead, Common, Red-breasted and Hooded Merganser.

1. We have seen steep declines in many of our sea duck species.
2. Sea duck species need the same protection as seabird species.
3. The majority of these species of this tribe are declining, some drastically.
4. Species already on the endangered species list reside in Kachemak Bay
5. The reproductive strategy of sea ducks is sensitive to mortality factors like other seabirds.
6. We watched Exxon Valdez Oil Spill reduce populations which have not recovered.
7. This unique and diverse tribe is of utmost significance to the viewing constituency of our educational, business economy and local residents.
8. We honor all marine birds with our annual shorebird festival.
9. Our many educational organizations promote healthy sustainable fish and wildlife resources.
10. We have a thriving marine tourism industry which appreciates the visual and audio integrity of an abundance and diversity of species on the water.
11. The marine tour, water taxis, bed and breakfasts, gift shops, restaurants, hotels, hostels, and the local economy of the City of Homer and the Kenai Peninsula Borough, make their

- living and benefit from thriving populations of diverse species of wildlife in Kachemak Bay.
12. These animals are of more economic benefit alive than dead to the people of Kachemak Bay.
 13. These species are not highly palatable to most.
 14. Dabbler species are not affected by this sanctuary.
 15. This sanctuary will benefit the large majority of the people of Kachemak Bay.
 16. We feel the future sustainability of our sea duck populations depends on special sanctuaries set up to protect resident-wintering sea ducks.
 17. We wish to hold these long lived resident creatures in trust for future generations to enjoy.
 18. Kachemak Bay is a critical habitat area and prime wintering area for these animals.
 19. The North Pacific is in an ecological regime shift affecting many species.
 20. Mortality factors become additive with declined population densities.
 21. A large number of our residents including many duck hunters have petitioned for this sanctuary.
 22. We understand disturbance factors of viewing must be taken into consideration if you choose to create distance stipulations.
 23. This highly visible sanctuary will bring education and awareness to the sensitive nature of these birds.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Awareness of declines will continue to be unknown. This sanctuary status will remain in place until which time wildlife agencies can prove that population densities of these species has increased to significant historical numbers, and our residents feel assured that these species have reached stable sustainability. People who enjoy the large rafts of sea ducks, which once inhabited this area, will lose opportunity.

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The majority of the population in this highly accessible area. The use and development of these resources are in the best interest of the economy, education and well being of the people of this area as stated in the mission statement of ADF&G. Those who make their living in lodges, marine tours or photographers as well as the people who have never had the opportunity to see diverse populations of marine birds.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those who do not realize declines are occurring.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: A.W.A.R.E. (Alaska Wildlife Animal Recovery Effort) (HQ-01S-G-137)

PROPOSAL 173 - 5 AAC 92.530. MANAGEMENT AREAS. Create a management area in Unit 13 as follows:

The area in Unit 13A beginning at the point of intersection of the Lake Louise Road and the township line between Townships 5N and 6N, CRM, bounded on the south by said line to a point approximately 1 1/3 mile east, i.e. the intersection of the section line between sections 34 and 35 T6N, R7W, CRM, thence in a northerly direction along said section line and its extension between sections 26 and 27 and 22 and 23, T6N, R7W, CRM to its first intersection with the

shoreline of Lake Louise, thence following the left shore line around the south and west sides of Lake Louise to the mouth of Grayling Creek (between Lake Louise and Little Lake Louise), thence up Grayling Creek to the point at which the private extension of Lake Louise road intersects Grayling Creek, thence in a southerly direction along said road to the Lake Louise Road at the causeway between Dinty Lake and Lake Louise, thence along the Lake Louise Road returning to the point of beginning is closed to hunting and trapping. However, big game, small game, and fur animals may be taken in the area, by bow and arrow only, during normally open seasons. This does not restrict hunters using firearms to transport hunting equipment and legally taken animals across the area on established trails either to the Lake Louise Road or to Lake Louise for transport by boat.

ISSUE: Unrestricted hunting in and around the community of Lake Louise, Alaska.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Someday, someone in or around one of the businesses or residences, or driving or walking along the ingress roads will be inadvertently shot.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes and no; primarily it is meant to protect people living and recreating around Lake Louise and their property, however, by opening it to archery only, it improves the quality of resources harvested by those sportsmen as there is less chance the game they have taken have been run all over the country.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? People living or recreating in the community of Lake Louise and archery hunters.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? The few landowners within the area that wish to hunt on their own property.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? In addition to the described area, I considered asking for a quarter mile buffer completely around Lake Louise, Susitna Lake, Tyone Lake, Dinty Lake, and Little Lake Louise, but rejected this due to the difficulty (real or imagined) of enforcement and possible objection of affected land owners wanting to target shoot or hunt on their own property.

PROPOSED BY: Walter R. Dotter (HQ-01S-G-023)

PROPOSAL 174 - 5 AAC 92.530. MANAGEMENT AREAS. Amend this regulation to provide the following:

For Game Management Unit 15C, in Sadie Cove, from the entrance to Mile 4 on the north and east shore, and from sea level to 3,000 feet elevation, that this area be designated a mountain goat sanctuary so that hunting goats will not be permitted in this very small but very significant area.

ISSUE: There are no wildlife viewing areas or sanctuaries available across Kachemak Bay in the State Park while there have been major financial investments in wildlife viewing on the Homer side of the bay. There is a large montary value to many agencies in having wildlife viewing available to the general public. I refer to the sudden increases in eco tourism as one example.

In this place from the entrance to Mile 4 of Sadie Cove, the goats come down to very low elevation including the beach, particularly in the spring and fall and through the winter. The goats are so easily seen from boats that this area of the cove has become particularly popular for hunters who desire a quick success. It has also become a very popular place for folks including tour boats and water taxis who enjoy viewing the goats. There exists a great conflict. We consider these 4 miles of Sadie Cove's shore and mountains as the best place in the State Park for the public to view wild mountain goats close hand from a boat. In the spring the nannies are having kids and the family groups are easily seen by anyone in Sadie Cove. Several tour boats frequent the area with their clients to view the goats.

Goat hunting has always been an elite hunt for those who are in the excellent physical condition to be able to climb to the goat's natural habitat. A goat hunt in Sadie Cove is less like a true goat hunt and more like a drive-by hunt in that it is just too easy to pack up in a skiff from town, patrol the shores of the cove, and come home before dark with a trophy. It is not unheard of to have a boat within 50 feet of a goat on the beach. There is very little meat on a goat making it a poor source of subsistence food.

The goats are in further danger from hunters in the area we have described, as the State Park has put in a trail called "Sadie Knob" which follows the ridge directly above the goat's spring and winter grounds. The goats are not accustomed to an attack from above and can easily be caught unaware by this simple maneuver on a gentle trail that most anyone can negotiate.

The habitat in Kachemak Bay State Park is extremely limited. We are not like the interior of Alaska where there is room and feed for the thousands and millions of animals that our state has become known for. We across Kachemak Bay know that every animal that lives in this place works hard for its living. As a result, we do not have the concentrations of animals that richer habitats offer.

The new regulation would say that mountain goat hunting is closed to recreational as well as subsistence users in the subunit of Unit 15C which could be called the Sadie Cove Special Wildlife Management Area. There would be no open season, no special permit hunts, no lottery hunts, no subsistence hunts, and in short, no hunts of any kind in this very tiny area of the State Park. No one would be allowed to kill a mountain goat for any reason whatsoever. I write this in my own words which may not be appropriate to fish and game guidelines. I would request that you re-word my phrases to meet your guidelines while maintaining the intent of what I have written.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? There will be few or no goats left to see in this extremely limited habitat.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Absolutely. It allows us to see these animals alive rather than in someone's living room dead and stuffed. If I desire to see animal mounts, there are plenty in the museums. The resource is the easily visible living animal in its natural home. The product produced is the enjoyment and the memories gleaned by experiencing the goats in their natural home going about their daily activities. The price tag on these memories and experience is immeasurable.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The City of Homer by added revenues and jobs. The Homer Chamber of Commerce as this would be a great selling tool for our town to use in its advertising. The people of Homer and the Kenai Peninsula who would profit from the greater amount of tourism especially in the spring which is considered a “shoulder season” – one where everyone could use a little boost in revenues.

The people visiting the goat sanctuary would benefit from the experience of seeing these magnificent wild animals in their natural habitat.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one would suffer, as there are plenty of areas to hunt goats in Unit 15C. These other areas have more traditional access to the goats creating a fair hunt and thereby a greater trophy for the successful hunter. The four miles of shoreline and as far up as 3,000 feet elevation which we are proposing, is a mere spec in the entire game management unit.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? I have not considered any other solutions at this time.

PROPOSED BY: Randi and Keith Iverson (HQ-01S-G-068)

PROPOSAL 175 - 5 AAC 92.530(18). MANAGEMENT AREAS. Amend this regulation in the Palmer-Wasilla Management Area to allow hunting with handguns of a certain muzzle energy in Unit 14.

ISSUE: In Game Management Unit 14, the Palmer Wasilla Management Area is open to the taking of big game by black powder firearm, shotguns with slugs, and bow and arrow only. Because this is a semi-residential area, I can only surmise this must be because of the proximity of people and the limited range of the aforementioned weapons, i.e., safety concerns.

I propose that you amend the regulations to allow hunting handguns of certain muzzle energy in this area. Those of you familiar with handgun hunting know the ballistics of most modern handguns are very similar to that of muzzleloaders and shotguns with slugs. Handguns would be as safe and as effective as either muzzleloaders or shotguns with slugs, maybe even better than shotguns with slugs for accuracy.

I have hunted with handguns all my life with great success. I would appreciate it if you would consider my proposal.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: John J. Perkins

(HQ-01S-G-014)

PROPOSAL 176 - 5 AAC 92.530(20). MANAGEMENT AREAS. Amend this regulation in Unit 13 Denali State Park Management Area as follows:

Unit 13 area consist of all lands (except federal lands) within Units 13A, 13B and all of 13E.

ISSUE: Active management of wolf populations in Unit 13E – amend to include all of Unit 13E, especially that portion west of the Alaska railroad.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Missed opportunities to harvest a wolf – do not need to subdivide a unit.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Culls overpopulation of wolves, will help stabilize moose populations.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Anyone harvesting wolves.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Denali Advisory Committee (SC-01S-G-013)

PROPOSAL 177 - 5 AAC 92.540. CONTROLLED USE AREAS. Establish a new controlled use area with restricted motorized access for big game hunting in Unit 13 as follows:

Eliminate motorized access for the first twenty (20) days of the Tier II TC566 Nelchina caribou hunt, and all big game hunting that occurs within that twenty days (August 10-August 30) or before September 1, for the area described as: Denali Highway – Tangle Lakes Restricted Access Area: Adjacent to and west of the Paxton Closed Area and west of Paxton Lake, westward along the Denali Highway and south of the Denali Highway to the Tangle Lakes, south and east of the Tangle Lakes to Dickie Lake and eastward down the Middle Fork to the Gulkana River, then northward to the outlet of Paxton Lake.

Proposed restriction: Closed to all motorized use for hunting access, including hunter and hunting gear, camp setup, stalking and hauling game during that twenty day period or before September 1.

This will allow the Nelchina caribou herd to move into the area accessible to foot hunters and horseback hunters previously denied hunting opportunities in this region by excessive four-wheeler use. It has been my experience that these four-wheelers keep the herd from its natural migration routes from coming from the Alphabet Hills and Talkeetna Mountains (summer range) and disturbs their natural migration route in through the Tangle Lake/Paxton area by easy motorized hunter access in the high country on four-wheeler trails.

A twenty day restricted motorized access delay (Aug. 10—Aug. 30) would enable the herd to initiate its fall migration to the north into this region. This is a critical time in the beginning of the fall migration and motorized hunting drastically restricts the migration. This will also allow

non-motorized hunters equal opportunity to take caribou and moose in this area. Eventually it will benefit the motorized hunters too, by allowing the herd to initiate its northward migration into the Tangle Lakes/Paxton region. This further allows long-time customary and traditional subsistence style “foot” hunters to continue their customs of non-motorized subsistence hunting.

ISSUE: Eliminate motorized hunting access affecting migration of the Nelchina caribou herd, during the period August 10 to August 30, or before September 1.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Migration route and timing of the Nelchina caribou herd altered; non-motorized hunters denied equal opportunity for access to this resource; tourists, travelers, visitors denied viewing wildlife.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. Allows natural migration routes to be maintained, varied.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Non motorized hunters, foot hunters, horseback hunters, true sportsmen, long time customary and traditional subsistence foot hunters, tourists.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Four-wheeler hunters, motorized hunters (but only temporarily – for 20 days)

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Eliminate motorized access permanently. Will propose next year.

PROPOSED BY: Ken Manning (SC-01S-G-021)

PROPOSAL 178 - 5 AAC 92.540. CONTROLLED USE AREAS. Amend this regulation to include the following:

Establish a Talkeetna Mountains Controlled Use Area in a portion of Game Management Units 13A and 13E as follows:

Talkeetna Mountains Controlled Use Area: beginning at the height of land separating the Talkeetna and Chickaloon drainages (T24N, R6E, Section 10) then east along the northern most fork of the Chickaloon River to the head of Nowhere Creek, then downstream along Nowhere Creek to its confluence with the Oshetna River, thence along the west bank of the Oshetna River to its confluence with the Susitna River, then in a northwesterly direction following the south bank of the Susitna River to a point lying in T31N, R3E, Section 23, then south in a straight line to the northern most arm of Stephan Lake and along the eastern shore of Stephan Lake and Prairie Creek to the confluence of the Talkeetna River in a southeasterly direction to the point of beginning; is closed to using motorized vehicles for hunting, including transportation of hunters, their hunting gear, and/or parts of game from August 5 to September 25. However, this does not prohibit the use of aircraft access within the controlled use area, or boat access along the Susitna River.

ISSUE: Establishment of the Talkeetna Mountains Controlled Use Area in a portion of Game Management Units 13A and 13E.

Advancing technologies in off-road-vehicle production has accelerated the expansion of trail systems within the Nelchina Basin. While the area in question currently has little, if any use occurring by off-road-vehicle operators for the purpose of hunting, it will not be long until a branching network of trails penetrates this area. The area is predominated by sub-alpine type habitat that is slow to recover upon disturbance by off-road-vehicle use. It is also the core calving area for the Nelchina caribou herd. Moose are highly susceptible to overharvest in this area due to high visibility in sub-alpine and alpine habitats. Moose and caribou populations are currently at very low productivity in this region and sustainability is in question with an additional influx of motorized off-road vehicle access.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The overall quality and aesthetics of the hunting experience will deteriorate to the point of an uncontrolled, highly competitive “free-for-all.” The biological health of the moose population in this area is in question and may be compromised by an increase in harvest as bull:cow ratios continue to falter. Disturbance to the Nelchina caribou herd on its primary fall staging area could have detrimental effects to the viability of this herd.

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All hunters seeking an aesthetically pleasing hunting experience in a noncompetitive environment. All users, as less obstructive disturbances have a low impact on wildlife productivity and viability.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Off-road vehicle users dependent on motorized access for the purpose of hunting.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Robert P. Hardy (SC-01S-G-057)

PROPOSAL 179 - 5 AAC 92.540. CONTROLLED USE AREAS. Establish a controlled use area in Unit 16B as follows:

Establish a controlled use area for the watersheds of Nicolai Creek and MacArthur River (south to MacArthur, north to Nicolai, east to Cook Inlet, and west to Alaska Range).

ISSUE: There is more competition for harvestable moose than the resource can tolerate. Subsistence hunters cannot compete with wealthy hunters able to use aircraft and airboats. Not all needy subsistence hunters in Tyonek have been successful. They see many bulls taken for horns only; meat is wasted.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Tyonek and Denaliya subsistence hunters will not be able to supply meat for their families.

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Tyonek families using more traditional hunting methods. Bears can get fish.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Nonresident wealthy hunters.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Close sport hunting in Unit 16B.

PROPOSED BY: Tyonek Fish and Game Advisory Committee (SC-01S-G-008)

PROPOSAL 180 - 5 AAC 92.540(3)(C)(ii). CLEARWATER CONTROLLED USE AREA. Amend this regulation to include the following:

The Clearwater Controlled Use Area would be closed to the use of motorized vehicles for hunting, including the transportation of hunters and their gear, except for brown/grizzly bears, wolves, and small game from March 15 to April 30. This would not prohibit the use of off-road vehicles weighing 1000 lbs. or less for retrieval of downed game on existing trails. However, this does not prohibit motorized access or transportation of game on the Denali Highway on existing trails.

ISSUE: The inability of hunters to safely and efficiently retrieve downed game from the Clearwater Creek Controlled Use Area. Increase the area and range that can be hunted and still retrieve game.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Hunters of moderate to low means are forced to pack downed game long distances, risking spoiling, loss of meat to predators and possible confrontations with predators.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? It allows retrieval of the resource before spoilage or loss to predators. A moose or adult caribou downed 3-5 miles off the road can take 3+ days to pack out. This would also allow for a more balanced harvest not just close to the Denali Highway.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? People wanting to hunt in areas without 4-wheelers riding around aimlessly disturbing game and other hunters.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Open area to motorized hunting. This would cause heavy traffic with every hunter driving in and out whether they were successful or not, using motorized vehicles only to retrieve downed game. The traffic would be a fraction of a percentage of a full access area.

PROPOSED BY: James Belz (HQ-01S-G-047)

PROPOSAL 181 - 5 AAC 92.540(3)(D)(ii). CONTROLLED USE AREAS. Amend this regulation in Unit 13 as follows:

The Tonsina Controlled Use Area would be closed to the use of motorized vehicles and pack animals for the use of hunting, including transportation of hunters and their gear. This would not prohibit the use of off-road vehicles weighing 1000 lbs. or less, or pack animals for retrieval of downed game on existing trails only. The use of off-road vehicles or pack animals for other than retrieval of game would be punishable by loss of vehicle or a \$2000 fine for pack animals.

ISSUE: The inability of hunters to safely and efficiently retrieve downed game from the Tonsina Controlled Use Area. Increase the area and range that a hunter can hunt and still retrieve game.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Hunters are forced to pack animals long distances, risking loss of meat to spoiling and loss of meat to predators. Also, confrontations with predators on return pack trips.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? It would allow retrieval of the resource before spoilage or loss to predators. A moose or sheep downed miles off the road in August or early September can spoil before it can be packed out.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Hunters wanting to hunt an area without off-road vehicles riding everywhere, but still want to retrieve their game in an efficient manner.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one I can think of.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Open area to full motorized and pack animal access. This would cause heavy traffic and trail pioneering; limiting access to successful hunters would only be a fraction of a percentage of a full access area.

PROPOSED BY: Devin Branham (HQ-01S-G-043)

PROPOSAL 182 - 5 AAC 92.540(4)(B). CONTROLLED USE AREAS. Repeal the Lower Kenai Controlled Use Area.

ISSUE: The Board of Game must repeal the Lower Kenai Controlled Use Area.

In Unit 15C the controlled use area was originally to be applied in the first two weeks of moose season, however the board arbitrarily applied it to the last half of moose season. The original intent of the controlled use area was to throttle back the moose harvest by ATV hunters. This original intent was rendered moot by the spike-fork/50-inch antler rule that was applied to the entire Kenai Peninsula.

On the Kenai Peninsula the vast majority of public land is permanently off limits to ATV use as it is in state and national parks and refuge. The largest area of privately owned, undeveloped land is in Unit 15C. The board exceeded its authority by banning a lawful activity on private property, as the board does not have zoning powers.

If a person lives off of a state of borough maintained road, as many in this sub-unit do, and that person shoots a moose in his yard, they could be in violation of the controlled use regulation. Also, if you own a recreational cabin in this area, you are precluded from moose hunting from your cabin if you did not get to it by foot or horseback.

This brings up several issues.

- This is not a biological issue.
- This is not an ecological issue.
- This is an impingement on private property rights.
- This regulation is in violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

This is not a biological issue. The spike-fork 50-inch regulation has accomplished the desired results and in fact the Alaska Department of Fish and Game recommended repeal of the controlled use regulation. If reduced harvest is a future goal it should be done by reducing the season, not by restricting access.

This is not an ecological issue. ATV use is allowed for everything but moose hunting. How does an enforcement officer know if someone is bear or moose hunting? The use of ATVs is allowed for general purpose, as well as moose hunting in the early season. If an ecological problem existed, then all ATV accesses should be denied. This is not the case.

Repealing this law will leave over half of Unit 15C off limits to ATV use, as it is inside refuge and park boundaries.

All terrain vehicle use is permitted for everything but moose hunting on September 11-14, and September 17-20. For two non-concurrent four-day periods, no moose hunting, nor transporting of moose parts, hunters, or gear used for moose hunting is allowed from ATVs. This poorly written, unenforceable regulation really serves no purpose and must be repealed.

This regulation is an impingement on private property rights. The Board of Game does not have zoning powers, and cannot ban a lawful activity on private property. As much of the land in the controlled use area is privately owned, the Board of Game is infringing on the rights of property owners to access their cabins and still participate in an open hunting season. Restricting access to large tracts of public land is fine and within the board's power, however, in this instance much of the land affected is privately owned. The board has overstepped its authority in this case, and this regulation must be repealed.

This regulation is a violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act Title 2 Subpart B. The ADA was enacted in 1990, and prevents a public entity (the BOG) from excluding an individual with a disability from participating in a service, program, or activity, based on a disability. This is particularly distressing in light of the fact that the partial funding for the board comes from Pittman-Robertson funds, to which disabled and elderly sportsmen contribute. Section 504 specifically points to the fact the Federally Assisted Programs meet ADA. By denying elderly and disabled hunters access to an open moose season on private and open access public land, the board is in violation of the ADA. Denying the elderly and the disabled the opportunity to moose hunt from their cabins during an open moose season is an outrage. This regulation must be repealed.

At a time when hunter participation is declining, and most new hunters are introduced to hunting by grandparents, it makes good sense to allow elderly hunters the access they need to take grandchildren hunting. In the fight to prevent outside animal rights groups from dominating our regulation process, we need all of the hunter recruitment we can get. The board has the ability to increase hunter opportunity in this instance without biological or ecological fallout. This regulation must be repealed.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The Board of Game will be in violation of ADA, as well as contrary to the recommendation of the Department of Fish and Game on this issue. This deplorable regulation will remain on the books as testimony to the arbitrary and capricious way the Board of Game carries out its duties. Elderly and disabled hunters will continue to be discriminated against. Private property rights will continue to be compromised.

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Elderly hunters, disabled hunters, young hunters, ATV hunters in general, and private property owners will all benefit from repealing this regulation. The State of Alaska will benefit by not having to spend money defending against ADA lawsuits, or prosecuting violations of this ridiculous regulation.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Perhaps some horseback hunter who is unwilling to hunt on the refuge, and whose personal aesthetic experience would be diminished by moose hunters on ATVs. Presumably this same hunter is unaffected by bear hunters or berry pickers on ATVs.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Since the majority of the Kenai Peninsula is closed to ATV use, no other solutions were considered.

PROPOSED BY: Gregory R. Gabriel, Jr. (HQ-01S-G-049)

PROPOSAL 183 - 5 AAC 92.540(4)(B)(ii). **CONTROLLED USE AREAS.** Amend this regulation in the Lower Kenai Controlled Use Area to include the following:

ISSUE: The area consists of those portions of Unit 15C upstream from the mouth of the Anchor River, Deep Creek, Ninilchik River, and Stariski Creek, including their drainages such as the North and South Forks, the Chakok, Twitter and Bridge Creek and bounded by a line following the west banks.

ADF&G has documented all-terrain vehicles to cause major upper tributary damage in Unit 15C to critical essential fish spawning, hatching, and rearing habitat in the headwaters of the anchor, Deep Creek and Ninilichik drainages.

ATV use has dramatically tripled in nine years for hunting in these areas causing “damage to wetlands, cutting off spawning areas, eroding banks, increasing sedimentation and shredding the delicate river filtration system.”

Upper tributaries are insurance policies for increased system carrying capacity, temperature regulators, chemical, biological, and physical water quality filtration systems.

Damage to this quality fragile habitat impairs carrying capacity of salmonid species, a major food source for land mammals including man.

Options to consider:

1. Organized controlled use areas in these fragile upper tributaries.
2. A Joint Board meeting with Board of Fish and/or Forestry.

3. Request ADF&G and ADNR form a memorandum of understanding pertaining to fish habitat and land use priorities.
4. Request revised FRPA which acknowledges upper tributaries in Region 3.
5. Compile local sportsman and conservation association solutions.
6. Have game regulations books map these areas of sensitivity to educate and raise awareness to the public.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Present and future fisherman and hunters who fish, as well as wildlife that utilize salmonid species as a food source. Economically this will benefit those who make their living assisting, serving and accommodating resource users.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those who do not understand the significant biological, physical, chemical impact we are having on carrying capacity, stream flow dynamics, and temperature parameter which dictate fish productivity.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Status quo is unacceptable. Cumulative annual impacts compound degradation to these critical areas. Rehabilitation to repair these areas is too costly. Prevention is key.

PROPOSED BY: Pioneer Alaska Fisheries, Inc. (HQ-01S-G-134)

PROPOSAL 184 - 5 AAC 92.550. AREAS CLOSED TO TRAPPING. Amend this regulation to include the following:

Unit 15C—Overlook Park, consisting of 137 acres of mainly wetlands with several small ponds below Baycrest Hill pullout along the Sterling Highway and extending down to the beach west of Homer. (Parcel I and II on Homer Plat. No. 87-28RS and the NE ¼ SE ¼, Section T6S, R14W, Seward Meridian).

ISSUE: The small population of beavers and muskrats periodically have disappeared from the Overlook Park ponds in recent years. There used to be a healthy population of muskrats and an active beaver lodge. Trapping probably eliminated both populations. One trapper can easily remove all local beaver and muskrats in a small area like Overlook Park. This area is now a state park and is being promoted for its wildlife viewing opportunities. We recommend closing the 137 acres comprising Overlook Park located on the bench and wetlands below Baycrest Hill pullout to all trapping. Since this area was formerly private property it was not legally open to trapping without owner's permission.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? If trapping is not prohibited, local muskrat and beaver populations will not be able to permanently recolonize these ponds.

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Visitors to Overlook Park's ponds will benefit from the opportunity to see a more complete wetlands ecosystem, which includes muskrats and beavers. The City of Homer will benefit from the addition of a wildlife and waterfowl viewing area within hiking distance of Bishop's Beach and Diamond Creek.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one because presently there do not appear to be any beaver and muskrats left, and if recolonized, trappers would be denied trapping on only 137 acres.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Doing nothing was considered, but rejected. Prohibiting trapping would eliminate the primary limiting factor probably preventing recovery of beaver and muskrat populations.

PROPOSED BY: Kachemak Bay Conservation Society (HQ-01S-G-034)

PROPOSAL 185 - 5 AAC 92.550. AREAS CLOSED TO TRAPPING. Amend this regulation to include Unit 6 as follows:

The following areas are closed to trapping on city, state, and federal lands within ½ mile of either side of the subsequent public roads within the proximity of Cordova: Copper River Highway to mile 27, Whitshed Road, Ski Hill Road, Power Creek Road, Alaganic Road, Saddlebag Glacier Road.

The following subsequent public easements are closed to trapping within the proximity of Cordova: Cabin Lake Road, Sheridan Glacier Road, and Goat Camp Road.

The following areas are closed to trapping on city, state, and federal lands within ½ mile of either side of the subsequent public trails within the proximity of Cordova: Hency Ridge Trail, the Reservoir Trail, Crater Lake/Alice Smith Trail Network, Sheridan Mountain Trail, Muskeg Meander Trail, Pipeline Lakes Trail, McKinley Lake Trail, Haystack Trail, and Saddlebag Glacier Trail, the Alaganic Slough Boardwalk, and the Ski Hill (O'Leary) Trail.

Problems with beavers damming culverts can be addressed on a case by case basis through the local state game biologist, and regulations pertaining to permits for controlling beavers or discretionary trapping requirements. The public can be notified of the necessity for the controlled removal at these locations.

ISSUE: An abundance of traps and snares (often traps large enough to take wolverine and land otter) set adjacent to the road and recreational trail systems provide a hazard to the general public that venture out the highway in the winter for excursions.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Conflicts and anti-trapping sentiment will escalate. Pets will continue to be injured. Women and children will continue to be traumatized when this occurs in their presence, or when a fur bearer fights a trap in view of the general public. Anti-trapping sentiment is justified when individuals trap beaver at lodges near established wildlife viewing areas.

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The general public will benefit from an increased level of security. Fur trappers will benefit by avoiding conflicts and other scenarios that will escalate anti-trapping sentiment.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one who is respectful of our wildlife resources and is concerned about the future of trapping in Alaska.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Kendra Zamzow

(HQ-01S-G-057)
