

ALASKA BOARD OF GAME
FEBRUARY 26 - MARCH 10, 2004 PROPOSAL SUPPLEMENT
REVIEWER LETTER

DEAR REVIEWER:

Attached are FIVE proposals that will be considered by the Alaska Board of Game at its **Spring 2004** meeting, to be held **February 26-March 10, 2004**, at the Wedgewood Resort in Fairbanks, Alaska. The proposals were inadvertently left out of the main proposal book. These proposals were timely submitted.

You are encouraged to read all proposals in this packet and in the main proposal book that was distributed in early January. After reviewing the proposals you may send written comments to:

ATTN: BOG COMMENTS
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Boards Support Section
PO Box 25526
Juneau, AK 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 send your written comments to the above Juneau address at least two weeks prior to the meeting to ensure inclusion in the board workbook. All comments received after that time 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 oral public testimony will be taken as scheduled on the meeting agenda.

For additional instruction on presenting your comments on all the proposals, please refer to the Dear Reviewer Letter in the main proposal book.

Additional copies of the proposals may be obtained at most offices of the Department of Fish and Game and on our website at: <http://www.boards.adfg.state.ak.us>.

You are encouraged to send your written comments to the above Juneau Boards Support Section address. If you send comments directly to a board member, please send a copy to the above Juneau Boards Support Section address so that your comments can be copied and distributed to all board members.

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 (907) 465-4110 no later than two weeks prior to the meeting.

PROPOSAL 193 - 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Create drawing permit hunts for moose in Units 21B, 21C, 21D, and 24 as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(19)		
...		
Unit 21(B)[, THAT PORTION WITHIN THE NOWITNA RIVER DRAINAGE]		
RESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 bull, <u>by registration permit only; or</u>	Sept. 5-Sept. 25	
<u>1 bull, by drawing permit only, up to XX permits may be issued</u>	<u>Sept. 5-Sept. 25</u>	
NONRESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side, <u>by drawing permit, up to XX permits may be issued</u>		Sept. 5-Sept. 20
[REMAINDER OF UNIT 21(B)]		
[RESIDENT HUNTERS:] [1 BULL]	[SEPT. 5-SEPT. 25]	
[NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:]		[SEPT. 5-SEPT. 25]
[1 BULL WITH 50-INCH ANTLERS OR ANTLERS WITH 4 OR MORE BROW TINES ON ONE SIDE]		
Unit 21(C)		
<u>RESIDENT HUNTERS:</u> 1 bull, <u>by registration permit only; or</u>	Sept. 5-Sept. 25	[SEPT. 5-SEPT. 25]
<u>1 bull, by drawing permit only, up to XX permits may be issued</u>	<u>Sept. 5-Sept. 25</u>	

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:
1 bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side, by drawing permit, up to XX permits may be issued

Sept. 5-Sept. 25

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; a person may not take a cow accompanied by a calf; or

Aug. 27-Aug. 31
(Subsistence hunt only)

1 bull by registration permit only; or

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 5-day season to be announced by emergency order during the period Feb. 1-Feb. 28; a person may not take a cow accompanied by a calf

(To be announced)
(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 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 **by** **registration permit only**; however, antlerless moose may be taken only from Sept. 21-Sept. 25 and during a 5-day season during the period Feb. 1-Feb. 28; to be announced by emergency order; a person may not take a cow accompanied by a calf; **or**

Sept. 5-Sept. 25
(To be announced)

1 bull by drawing permit only, up to XX permits may be issued

Sept. 5-Sept. 25

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side **by** **drawing permit, up to XX permits may be issued**

Sept. 5-Sept. 25

...

(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

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 **by registration permit only**

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

Aug. 1-Dec. 31

No open season.

1 moose

Unit 24, that portion of the North Fork of
the Koyukuk River drainage within the
Gates of the Arctic National Park

1 moose

Sept. 1-Sept. 25
Mar. 1-Mar. 10

No open season.

Unit 24, all drainages to the north of the
Koyukuk River upstream from the
Henshaw Creek drainage, to and
including the North Fork of the Koyukuk
River, except that portion of the John
River and North Fork of the Koyukuk
River drainages within Gates of the Arctic
National Park

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 moose **by registration permit only**;
however, antlerless moose may be taken
only from Sept. 21-Sept. 25, **or**

Sept. 1-Sept. 25

**1 bull by drawing permit only, up to
XX permits may be issued**

Sept. 5-Sept. 25

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side, **by drawing permit, up to XX permits may be issued**

Sept. 5-Sept. 25

Unit 24, all drainages to the north of the Koyukuk River between and including the Alatna River and Henshaw Creek drainages, except that portion of the Alatna River drainage within Gates of the Arctic National Park

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 moose **by registration permit only**; however, antlerless moose may be taken only from Sept. 21-Sept. 25 and Mar. 1-Mar. 10, **or**

Sept. 1-Sept. 25
Mar. 1-Mar. 10

1 bull by drawing permit only, up to XX permits may be issued

Sept. 5-Sept. 25

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side, **by drawing permit, up to XX permits may be issued**

Sept. 5-Sept. 25

Unit 24, that portion in the Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull by drawing permit; up to 70 permits may be issued in combination with Unit 25(A), that portion within the Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area

Sept. 1-Sept. 25

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side by drawing permit only; up to 70 permits may be issued in combination with Unit 25(A), that portion within the Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area

Sept. 5-Sept. 25

Remainder of Unit 24

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull by registration permit only; or

Sept. 1-Sept. 25

1 bull by drawing permit only, up to XX permits may be issued

Sept. 5-Sept. 25

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side, by drawing permit, up to XX permits may be issued

Sept. 5-Sept. 25

...

ISSUE: Increased hunting restrictions in the well known hunting area of the Lower Koyukuk River has displaced hunters into much of the surrounding areas of the Middle Yukon, Koyukuk, and Nowitna Rivers. Increased competition among users for the limited moose resource is occurring at the same time that the moose population throughout the area is decreasing. Many local subsistence users that are unsuccessful during the fall hunting season are forced to try and harvest a moose during the winter seasons. A majority of the moose harvested during that time are cow moose, which probably accelerates the decline of the moose population. Some areas like the Kateel River, Gisasa River, Nowitna River, or Hogatza River are under general hunt regulations and have seen large increases in the number of hunters. Harvest in those areas has exceeded sustainable levels. Harvest in the much lower density areas surrounding the Koyukuk Controlled Use Area (KCUA) has definitely increased, but some hunters are "bootlegging" moose harvested in the KCUA to avoid the increased regulations there (i.e. destroying the trophy value of bulls), which nullifies the effectiveness of those regulations. Because of increased regulations on the Lower Koyukuk, as well as most of Alaska, and because of the decrease in moose populations in the absence of predator management, the Galena Management Area needs to implement areawide limited drawing hunts. It is the only solution to truly regulate the increased conflict of more hunters and fewer moose. Implementing these regulations now will avoid the situation of the state having to spend several hundred thousand dollars to implement predator control programs and moratoriums on moose hunting once the moose are almost gone. This proposal will result in a better distribution of hunters and avoid overharvest in some localized areas like the Kateel or Nowitna Rivers. The size of the area included in this proposal is a key element of the proposal if the regulations are to have the desired effect. A smaller area of expanded drawing permit areas will simply push hunters to the edge of that area, resulting in increased hunter numbers on the periphery.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Conflicts among users will increase. Moose will be overharvested in some areas that are not protected by regulation.

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Subsistence hunters whose families depend on a reliable source of moose on a year-to-year basis. Trophy hunters who want to have a population that is not overharvested to a point where there are no more large moose. Law enforcement agents trying to stop “bootlegging” of moose.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? People that want to shoot a trophy moose every year.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Leave things the same. Require all moose to have antlers sawed off. Limited drawing hunts in portions of the Kateel, Gisasa, Dulbi, Huslia, Dakli and Hogatza River drainages.

PROPOSED BY: Fred L. Bifelt (Huslia), Tom Huntington (Galena), (I-04S-G-072)
John Stam (Ruby)

PROPOSAL 269 - 5 AAC 85.020(24). Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear.
Replace the drawing permit hunt with a registration permit hunt for brown bear in a portion of Unit 26B as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
...		
Unit 26(B) that portion within the Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area		
1 bear every 4 regulatory years by <u>registration hunt</u> [DRAWING PERMIT] only; [UP TO 10 PERMITS MAY BE ISSUED]	Sept. 1—May 31	Sept. 1—May 31
...		

ISSUE: The grizzly bear drawing in Unit 26B, that portion within the Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area (DHCMA), is unnecessary. There is no biological reason to require a drawing permit for grizzly bear in the DHCMA. There is no drawing for grizzly bear in the remainder of Unit 26B, which means the same bear you see inside the DHCMA can be hunted by residents with only a grizzly/brown bear tag. During the fall of 2003, several hunters encountered problem bears in their camps, and bear sightings were frequent. This indicates that a healthy population of grizzly bear exists inside the DHCMA. This drawing hunt was established during the March 2002 Board of Game meetings to reduce “opportunistic hunting and wounding loss”. Up to 10 permits were to be issued allowing reductions by the department if biologically necessary. Only six permits were issued for the 2002/2003 and 2003/2004 regulatory seasons. Official wounding studies have never

been performed in the DHCMA, so any presumptions made on wounding in this area are generally hearsay and should not be used to manage Alaskan wildlife as was done in this case. The reason of “opportunistic” bear hunting does not account for closing the spring bear hunt, as May is only open to bear hunting. With this logic, the spring portion of this hunt should never have been made into a drawing permit hunt, as it is not an “opportunistic” type hunt.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Continued loss of hunting opportunities inside the DHCMA. The grizzly population is healthy, and current bears that are becoming nuisances in the DHCMA may be harvested.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, this will aide in the reduction of common nuisance bears that will have to be destroyed either by the department or eventually by bowhunters or campers under Defense of Life or Property (DLP). Several bears inside the Prudhoe Bay Closed Area have been killed over the last two years under DLP. Several of these DLP killings could have been harvested by bowhunters had there not been a drawing permit requirement as these bears often travel outside the Prudhoe Bay Closed Area into the DHCMA. This will become a problem with all users of the Dalton Highway as these problem bears cannot be harvested legally by bowhunters, with exception of the few that draw permits, and actually hunt the area. Establishing a registration hunt would allow the department to close the area for grizzly bear once a certain number of bears have been taken. A registration hunt would also allow the department to monitor how many hunters are in the area focusing on grizzly bear. Upon picking up the registration permit, informational material would be included. This informational material would include the differences between regulations for hunting grizzly bear compared to caribou, and include tips on shooting distances, shot placement, bear anatomy and so on.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All bowhunters along the DHCMA who would like to hunt grizzly bears, but are unable unless they draw one of the few permits offered. All users of the Dalton Highway, as problem bears could be harvested.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those that oppose bear hunting in general.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? (1) Considered the following restriction: Eliminate the brown/grizzly drawing from Mar. 1 through May 31, such as drawing permit DB997 (nonresident, remainder of 26B). This would allow hunters to target grizzly bear in the spring while caribou hunting is generally not popular with bowhunters, May is not open to caribou hunting. This still eliminates the majority of “opportunistic hunting,” yet still affords all bowhunters a grizzly hunting opportunity during the spring in the DHCMA; (2) Drawing hunt during fall, and registration hunt during spring portion of season. Allow the department to control the amount of grizzly bear being taken out of the area, leaving them the ability to close the area to grizzly hunting once a certain number of bears have been taken. This would also allow bowhunters the opportunity to hunt grizzly bear during the spring when caribou hunting is not as popular and the department could close the season if the maximum number of bears have been taken. This would also help eliminate opportunistic hunters (the original goal) as the drawing and registration will require hunters to obtain a permit prior to hunting; and (3) Eliminate the drawing hunt completely. With no biological

reason to create a drawing hunt, this area can sustain the amount of bears taken out of the area by bowhunters.

PROPOSED BY: The Alaskan Bowhunters Association

(HQ-04S-G-116)

PROPOSAL 270 - 5 AAC 92.530. Management areas; and 5 AAC 92.510. Areas closed to hunting. Require annual registration for Dalton Highway bow hunt and repeal North Slope Closed Area in Unit 26B as follows:

92.530. Management areas.

(7) Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area

(A) the area consists of those portions of Units 20, and 24-26 extending five miles from each side of the Dalton Highway, including the drivable surface of the Dalton Highway, from the Yukon River to the Arctic Ocean, and including the Prudhoe Bay Closed Area.

(B) the area within the Prudhoe Bay Closed Area is closed to the taking of big game; the remainder of the Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area is closed to hunting; however, big game, small game, and fur animals may be taken in the area by bow and arrow only; hunters must mark their bowhunter education certification card number in permanent ink on the fletching or shaft of each arrow in possession; **All hunters north of the Atigun Pass at mile marker 344.7 must register annually with the Department of Fish and Game and demonstrate an understanding of informational materials provided at the time of registration; a person convicted of a hunting violation within the DHCMA is not eligible to register to hunt in the area the following three years. A hunter in the DHCMA shall present in the field, upon request, proof of registration;** no motorized vehicle, except licensed....

92.510. Areas closed to hunting.

(16) Unit 26:

[(B) THE NORTH SLOPE CLOSED AREA IS CLOSED TO THE TAKING OF BIG GAME; THIS CLOSED AREA CONSISTS OF THE AREA WITHIN ONE-QUARTER MILE FROM EACH SIDE OF THE DALTON HIGHWAY, INCLUDING THE DRIVABLE SURFACE OF THE DALTON HIGHWAY, FROM THE UNIT 26(B) BOUNDARY AT ATIGUN PASS NORTH TO THE SOUTHERN BOUNDARY OF THE PRUDHOE BAY CLOSED AREA;]

ISSUE: The new North Slope Closed Area is too restrictive and has eliminated big game hunting opportunities for many along the Dalton Highway. This closed area was created to help eliminate several concerns along the highway, but has had little effect in resolving any issues. In fact, it has created yet another concern, which is hunting within a closed area due to inability to determine the border between legal and non-legal hunting areas. This inability to determine if an animal was shot within a legal hunting area has created an enforcement problem and caused unnecessary expenditures of budget-limited Fish and Wildlife Protection (FWP) man-hours. This has been shown by FWP officers having to investigate numerous calls of animals that were being transported through the closed area. With this area being in the Arctic and prone to winter blizzards, and other low visibility conditions such as heavy fog, a distance restriction during the winter months effectively closes the entire area as hunters cannot see one-quarter mile to locate stalkable game.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Continued loss of large hunting areas as anti-hunting groups try to use this area as a precedent for the entire state. Ethical and law abiding hunters will continue to unknowingly break laws in areas where they cannot determine if they are hunting in a closed area or not. Several areas of the Dalton Highway don't allow a hunter to properly determine if he/she is within the legal hunting area due to extremely limited visibility, hills, valleys, riverbeds and so on that block the line of sight to the highway. If a hunter approaches the road from outside the closed area, they have no way of determining when they have entered the closed area. A Global Positioning System (GPS) reading cannot give you the distance to the nearest point of the road if that point is not one of your waypoints. The hunter could be further than one-quarter mile from his waypoint, but not one-quarter mile from the nearest point of the road.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, by requiring education and informing individuals of the concerns and issues along the Dalton Highway we believe there will be less unethical behavior in the DHCMA, which will result in lower wounding rates due to a decline in risk taking along the highway. We also believe that unethical/law breaking hunters will strongly reconsider their actions inside the Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area (DHCMA) since the repercussions will restrict them from hunting in that area for three years if they are convicted of a wildlife violation inside the DHCMA. By eliminating a closed corridor, the opportunities are improved, the enforcement is manageable, and the possibility for law abiding, ethical hunters to unknowingly break the law is eliminated. In addition, the risk is eliminated of having an animal die within the closed area, and instead of harvesting the meat, leaving it to avoid possible prosecution.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? (1) All hunters, local residents, wildlife viewers, tourists, truckers, and all other Dalton Highway users will benefit because all hunters on the Dalton Highway will be more educated, including education about the issues that caused the creation of the North Slope Closed Area. Also, any hunter that has been convicted in this area will be restricted from hunting there, eliminating problem users; (2) Handicapped, elderly and young hunters who have lost the ability to hunt the Dalton Highway due to the North Slope Closed Area (because of the inability to access grounds outside of the closed area) will benefit; (3) The 29 percent of hunters that were polled that stated they would not hunt Unit 26B DHCMA due to the North Slope Closed Area; (4) Musk ox and grizzly bear drawing permit winners that were not considered during the inception of the North Slope Closed Area; and (5) Protection officers who have a hard time enforcing a closed corridor. Seventy-five percent of all calls received regarding hunting within the closed area were not confirmed, however they all required officer time and effort that could have been spent elsewhere.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Unethical people who feel they don't need further education, and don't care about the bowhunters' image. It is possible that the Federal Subsistence Board will see this as a threat to their hunting area and may pursue other restrictions on the federal lands. However, these federal lands are only a third of the distance of the closed area.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? (1) Considered the following restriction: It shall be unlawful for any person, after alighting from a motor vehicle being driven on, or stopped on or along the Dalton Highway, to shoot at any big game animal while the person doing the shooting is within (25, 50, 100) yards of that vehicle. We feel this will be very difficult to enforce unless

witnessed or videoed. However, we believe that this would be the most reasonable restriction involving a closed area that would allow handicapped, elderly, and young hunters a better opportunity. This would also allow all hunters to easily determine if they are within the closed area and eliminate the potential for a hunter to unknowingly stalk an animal back into the closed area from a legal area. The precedence for this is set by the same day airborne law requiring a person to be 300 feet from the aircraft before being able to shoot; (2) Reducing the North Slope Closed Area from one-quarter mile from each side of the Dalton Highway to (25, 50, 100) yards from each side of the highway, and limiting the closure to caribou during the current bull only season (July 1 – Sept. 30). No significant advantage as the current closed area has not mitigated the concerns and has created an enforcement problem. A smaller corridor, however, limited to the bull only season, appears to be a more reasonable restriction than the existing one-quarter mile for the entire 10-month season. The seasonal restraint could be justifiable as this is when the vast majority of hunting occurs, and hunting is already extremely limited during the remainder of the season due to a lack of daylight. The reduced closed area would allow handicapped, elderly, and young hunters a better opportunity. This would also allow all hunters to more easily determine if they are within the closed area and eliminate the potential for a hunter to unknowingly take an animal in the closed area while believing they are in a legal area. Several areas along the Dalton Highway restrict viewing of animals outside the North Slope Closed Area, thus eliminating any spotting opportunities from the road in those areas. With this area being in the Arctic and prone to winter blizzards, and other low visibility conditions such as heavy fog, a distance restriction during the winter months effectively closes the entire area as hunters cannot see one-quarter mile to locate stalkable game; (3) Limiting the closed area to the taking of caribou, not big game. The education requirement and removal of a closed zone would eliminate the problems created for the few hunters who have drawn musk ox and bear tags or have the rare opportunity to take a wolf or wolverine from near the road. If any closed zone were to remain, it would be suggested that that zone be only to the taking of caribou; and (4) Registration hunt - no advantage without required education.

PROPOSED BY: The Alaskan Bowhunters Association (HQ-04S-G-117)

PROPOSAL 271 - 5 AAC 92.085(1)(B). Unlawful methods of taking big game; exceptions.
Restrict use of muzzle-loading rifles less than .50 caliber statewide as follows:

Simply require a minimum of .50 caliber when using a muzzleloader to take big game.

ISSUE: Current regulation is unnecessarily confusing. Some calibers of muzzleloaders, with some bullets, are not legal for taking some species of big game. There is actually no significant difference between two bullets with a difference of only .04 inches. Many other variables would have much more effect on performance.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Situation will remain confusing and virtually unenforceable, with no benefit to hunters or the resource. It is not practical for an officer to “pull” a load in the field and weigh the projectile; it has probably never happened.

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Muzzleloader hunters and law enforcement personnel.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Attorneys and gadgeteers who generally enjoy having life more complicated.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Jason Buist (HQ-04S-G-118)

PROPOSAL 272 - 5 AAC 92.080(7). Unlawful methods of taking game; exceptions. Modify the size restriction on killer-type (conibear) traps statewide as follows:

(7)

...

the **“killer”** [“CONIBEAR”] style trap with a jaw spread of less than **13** [11] inches,

...

ISSUE: Unnecessary limitation of jaw-spread on killer-type traps. Apparently when the regulation was originally passed, there was only one type of larger killer-type trap available and the regulation was designed to accommodate only that trap.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Trappers will not be able to utilize some of the new, more humane killer-type traps that are more efficient.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. This change would allow trappers to use more efficient and humane devices coming on the market.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Trappers, fur bearers, and animal rights activists who want more humane devices used.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Removing all reference to jaw spread. Rejected because a 20-30” spread might be dangerous to humans.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Trappers Association (HQ-04S-G-119)
