



State of Alaska

Department of Public Safety

Division of Alaska Wildlife Troopers

Sean Parnell, Governor
Joseph A. Masters, Commissioner

February 15th, 2011

Chairman Judkins
Alaska Board of Game
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau Ak, 99811-5526

Dear Chairman Judkins:

The following comments give a brief description of the position that the Department of Public Safety, Division of Alaska Wildlife Troopers has on the proposals that are up for consideration at the March 2011 central/southwest region meeting.

In general, when the board considers seasons and or bag limit changes, the Alaska Wildlife Troopers request that every effort possible be made to align the season dates and bag limits with adjacent game management units and/or sub units. This is mainly due to enforceability of multiple seasons in multiple locations as well as consistency of the regulations for the public. When the board considers proposals having to do with allocation or biological concerns, AWT is generally neutral in position.

AWT recognizes that regulations are developed by the Alaska Boards of Fish and Game through the public process to support management plans. Further, all management plans rely upon public compliance with regulations to achieve success. Enforcement is a crucial element needed to ensure long-term compliance with regulations by the public. The Alaska Wildlife Troopers request the board recognize that the division has limited resources and man power and any new regulation scheme or area restrictions may place an additional burden on AWT.

Comments on specific proposals AWT favors or opposes are included in this letter.

Thank you for your time.

Bernard Chastain

Lieutenant, Alaska Wildlife Troopers
Anchorage Headquarters

Proposal Analysis-

Proposal 29:

AWT has concerns with doing away with the DLP reporting requirements. Taking an animal in defense of life and property is an exception to normal seasons and bag limits. The DLP reporting requirement is imposed consistently throughout the state. If the board decided to eliminate DLP salvage and/or reporting it would be inconsistent with the remainder of the state. AWT seeks consistency with regulations whenever possible.

Proposal 38:

AWT has concerns with allowing radio communication to take wolves in GMU 17. Current statutes and regulations do not allow someone to take a wolf while in radio communication or same day airborne. If the board passes this proposal, AWT asks that the board consider limiting this use to only times when other big game seasons are not open. This is due to concerns about enforceability of these regulations.

Proposal 54:

The sealing of Dall sheep is an important biological and enforcement tool. AWT encourages the board to not eliminate the requirement for sealing Dall sheep in this GMU.

Proposal 69:

AWT supports change that will make understanding the regulations easier. By adding wording that clarifies exceptions to the CUA, it would make the regulation easier to understand.

Proposal 74 and 107:

There are several proposals up for consideration which deal with multiple bear bait sites for guided activity. AWT has no recommendation to the board about the number of sites allowed by licensed guides. However, we bring to the boards attention that as 5 AAC 92.044(6) is currently written, it requires that a guide “personally accompany” the client at the bait site. This issue has been brought up before. If the board passes a regulation that changes the number of bait sites allowed by licensed guides it would need to consider either allowing multiple sites for guided activity and requiring a guide at each site or allowing multiple sites for guided activity and eliminating or amending 5AAC 92.044(6). If the board chose to eliminate the requirement that guides physically accompany the client at the bait site, it is important to note that the guide would still be liable for the violations committed by the client in that situation.