

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

REVIEWER LETTER

DEAR REVIEWER:

December, 2010

The Alaska Board of Game will consider the attached book of regulatory proposals at its Spring 2011 meetings. The proposals generally concern changes to the regulations governing hunting, trapping and the use of game in the Southcentral Region (Region II) - Game Management Units 6, 7, 8, 14C, and 15; and the Central/Southwest Region (Region IV) - Game Management Units 9, 10, 11, 13, 14A, 14B, 16, and 17. Proposals concerning other issues are also included. Members of the public, organizations, advisory committees, and Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) staff submitted these proposals. The proposals are published essentially as they were received.

You are encouraged to read all proposals presented in this book. Some regulations have statewide application and some regulations affect other regions of the state so please read all the proposals presented in this book.

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

Proposals are grouped by the meeting to which they pertain (see *Proposal Index* for each meeting) which is not the order they will be considered at the board meeting. Prior to the meeting, the board will generate and make available to the public the order of proposals to be deliberated by the board, also known as the "roadmap." The roadmap may be changed up to and during the meeting.

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.

After reviewing the proposals, please send written comments to:

**ATTN: Board of Game Comments
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Boards Support Section
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526
Fax: 907-465-6094**

Public comment, in combination with Advisory Committee comments and ADF&G staff presentations, provide the Board of Game members with useful biological and socioeconomic data to form decisions.

Timely Submission: You are encouraged to submit written comments by fax or mail at least two weeks prior to the meeting so that they can be included in the board members' workbook. Written comments received after the two-week period will be accepted and submitted to the board the beginning of each meeting. If you provide written comments during a board meeting, submit 20 copies to Board Support Section staff, who will distribute your written comments to board members. If comments are to include graphs or charts, please indicate the source.

Length: Prior to the two week deadline, the board will accept written comment of up to 100 single sided pages in length from any one individual or group related to proposals at any one meeting. After the two week deadline and during the meetings, written comment will be limited to 10 single sided pages in length.

List the Proposal Number: Written comments should indicate the proposal number(s) to which the comments apply. Written comments should specifically state "support" or "opposition" to the proposal(s). This will help ensure written comments are correctly noted for the board members. If the comments support a modification in the proposal, please indicate "support as amended" and provide a preferred amendment in writing.

Do Not Use Separate Pages When Commenting on Separate Proposals: If making comments on more than one proposal, please do not use separate pieces of paper. Simply begin the next set of written comments by listing the next proposal number.

Provide an Explanation: Please briefly explain why you are in support or opposition of the proposal. Board actions are based on a complete review of the facts involved in each proposal, not a mere calculation of comments for or against a proposal. Advisory committees and other groups also need to explain the rationale behind recommendations. The board benefits greatly from understanding the pro and cons of each issue. A brief description consisting of a couple of sentences is sufficient.

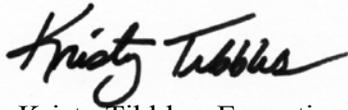
Write Clearly: Comments will be photocopied so please use 8 1/2" x 11" paper and leave reasonable margins on all sides, allowing for binding. Whether typed or handwritten, use dark ink and write legibly.

Advisory Committees: In addition to the above, please make sure the Advisory Committee meeting minutes reflect why the committee voted as it did. If the vote was split, include the minority opinion. A brief description consisting of a couple of sentences is sufficient. Detail the number in attendance (e.g., 12 of 15 members) and indicate represented interests such as subsistence, guides, trappers, hunters, wildlife viewers, etc.

Tentative agendas for each meeting are shown on pages xxii-xxiii. A roadmap detailing the tentative order in which proposals will be made available two weeks prior to each meeting. Meeting information is available through the Boards Support Section website at <http://www.boards.adfg.state.ak.us>.

A link to a live audio broadcast of the meeting is intended to be available at: www.boards.adfg.state.ak.us/gameinfo/ throughout the meeting. This link will not function when the board is not in session. Board actions will also be posted on the website shortly after the meeting.

Persons with a disability needing special accommodations in order to comment on the proposed regulations should contact the Boards Support Section at (907) 465-4110 no later than two weeks prior to the schedule meeting to make any necessary arrangements.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kristy Tibbles". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kristy Tibbles, Executive Director
Alaska Board of Game
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
(907) 465-4110

ALASKA BOARD OF GAME

**Spring, 2011 Proposal Book
Southcentral and Central/Southwest Regions
(Regions II and IV)**

Table of Contents

<u>INTRODUCTION SECTION</u>	<u>PAGE NUMBER</u>
Reviewer Letter.....	i-iii
Table of Contents.....	iv-v
Index of Proposals.....	vi-xv
Guidelines for Public Testimony	xvi
Tentative Meeting Schedules.....	xvii
Board of Game Long-Term Meeting Cycle.....	xviii-xix
Board of Game Membership Roster.....	xx
Boards Support Section Staff.....	xxi
Agendas	xxii-xxiii

<u>PROPOSAL SECTION</u>	<u>PAGE NUMBER</u>
-------------------------	--------------------

Central/Southwest Region (Region IV) - Units 9, 10, 11, 13, 14A, 14B, 16, and 17

King Salmon Area (Units 9 & 10).....	1-31
Dillingham Area (Unit 17).....	33-49
Glennallen Area (Units 11 & 13).....	51-93
Palmer Area (Units 14A, 14B, & 16).....	95-135
Region-wide.....	137-159

Southcentral Region (Region II) - Units 6, 7, 8, 14C, and 15

Cordova Area (Unit 6).....	161-166
Anchorage Area (Unit 14C).....	167-186
Kodiak Area (Unit 8).....	187-190
Kenai Peninsula Area (Units 7 & 15).....	191-223
Region-wide.....	225-232

Southcentral <u>and</u> Central/Southwest (Regions II and IV)	233-244
Interior Region	245-262
Arctic Region	263-272
Southeast Region	273-278
Statewide	279-289
Draft Board of Game Findings	291-304

Central/Southwest Region (Region IV) March 4-10, 2011

King Salmon Area – Units 9 and 10

1. Extend the lynx trapping season in Unit 9B.
2. Extend the wolverine trapping season in Unit 9B.
3. Extend the trapping season for wolverine in Unit 9B.
4. Modify the bag limit for brown bear in Unit 9.
5. Open a spring and fall season for brown bear hunting in Unit 9E.
6. Change the bag limit for brown bear in Units 9A, 9B, 9C, and 9E.
7. Open a resident season for brown bear in Unit 9E.
8. Establish a resident only registration hunt for the Southern Peninsula Caribou Herd.
9. Shift the caribou hunting season dates in Unit 9B.
10. Lengthen the caribou hunting season in Unit 9B.
11. Extend the resident hunting season for caribou in Unit 9B.
12. Establish a registration moose hunt for residents in Unit 9B.
13. Establish a registration moose hunt for residents in Unit 9E.
14. Establish a registration hunt for moose in Unit 9.
15. Limit the harvest of moose in Unit 9.
16. Establish a registration hunt for moose in Unit 9.
17. Extend the moose hunting season 5 days in subunits 9C and 9E.
18. Open a portion of Unit 9E to moose hunting.
19. Modify the Amount Necessary for Subsistence for Wolves in Unit 9.
20. Modify the Amount Necessary for Subsistence for Wolves in Unit 10.
21. Implement predator control for wolves and bear in Unit 9B.
22. Implement predator control for wolves and bear in Unit 9E.
23. Modify the Predator Control Implementation Plan for the Unimak Island Area.

Dillingham Area – Unit 17

24. Delete the requirement for black bear harvest tickets in Unit 17.
25. Modify the brown bear bag limit in Unit 17.
26. Modify the brown bear season and bag limits in Unit 17.
27. Adopt a brown bear control program for Unit 17B.
28. Change the brown bear bag limit and other hunt conditions in Unit 17B.
29. Change the season, bag limit, and salvage requirement for brown bear in Unit 17.
30. Change the caribou seasons in Unit 17

31. Open a nonresident drawing hunt for caribou in Unit 17.
32. Open a nonresident registration hunt for caribou in Unit 17.
33. Change the deadline for nonresidents to apply for certain permit hunts in Unit 17.
34. Establish a nonresident registration hunt in Tokiak National Wildlife Refuge.
35. Change the nonresident registration moose hunt in Unit 17B to a general hunt.
36. Implement a moratorium on nonresident moose hunting in Unit 17B.
37. Make Unit 17 moose registration permits more readily available.
38. Allow the use of radio communication for harvesting wolves in Unit 17.

Glennallen Area – Units 11 and 13

39. Modify the bag limit for ptarmigan in Unit 13.
40. Amend the season and bag limit for brown bear in Unit 13.
41. Allow taking brown/grizzly bears over registered black bear bait stations in Unit 13D.
42. Modify the Unit 13 caribou hunt and change the nonsubsistence area.
43. Remove the hunting restriction for Tier I caribou in Unit 13.
44. Modify the Unit 13 caribou hunt and change the nonsubsistence area.
45. Modify the Unit 13 caribou hunt.
46. Set a number of tags for the caribou draw hunt in Unit 13.
47. Modify the Unit 13 caribou hunt.
48. Modify the Unit 13 caribou hunt.
49. Modify the Amount Necessary Subsistence for Caribou in Unit 13.
50. Review caribou seasons and permit conditions for fall 2011 and spring 2012 hunting seasons.
51. Modify the horn restriction for sheep in Unit 11.
52. Amend bag limit and season for sheep in Unit 11.
53. Modify the horn restriction for sheep in Unit 11.
54. Eliminate the horn sealing requirement for sheep in Unit 13.
55. Add a remote portion of the Tonsina CUA to the RG 580.
56. Open a bull moose season for residents in Unit 13.
57. Limit nonresident moose hunting in Unit 13E.
58. Review the population and harvest objectives for moose in Unit 13.
59. Change the season and antler restrictions for moose in Unit 13.
60. Establish a late moose drawing hunt for Tonsina CUA.
61. Retain the Unit 13 moose hunting regulations from 2009
62. Establish a community harvest hunt for moose hunt in Unit 13.
63. Modify the moose season Unit 13.
64. Modify the bag limit for moose in Unit 13.
65. Modify the Amount Necessary Subsistence for wolves in Unit 13.
66. Modify the Amount Necessary for Subsistence for caribou and wolves in Unit 11.
67. Modify the hunting regulations for Unit 13.
68. Revise the Tier II subsistence permit point system for Unit 13.
69. Modify the Clearwater Control Use Area exceptions.

70. Restrict ATV use on certain trails in Unit 13B.

Palmer Area – Units 14A, 14B, and 16

71. Eliminate the sealing requirement for beaver in Unit 16.
72. Close a portion of the Palmer Hay Flats Wildlife Refuge in Unit 14A to trapping.
73. Raise the bag limit for black bear in Unit 14A.
74. Allow guide-outfitters to have up to ten bait stations in Unit 16.
75. Consider a customary and traditional use finding for bears and moose in Unit 16A.
76. Open a year long season for brown bear in Unit 16.
77. Include brown bear control in the Unit 16 predator management program.
78. Remove brown and black bear harvest authorized in the Unit 16 intensive management implementation plan.
79. Change the goat drawing hunt in Unit 14A (DG866) to a registration hunt.
80. Create a registration hunt for goats in Unit 14A.
81. Change the Unit 14A goat drawing hunt to a registration hunt and establish two separate hunts.
82. Restrict antlerless moose permit holders from hunting antlered moose in Unit 14.
83. Extend the moose season in Unit 14A.
84. Require antlers and jaw bones of bull moose to be provided to the ADF&G for Unit 14A.
85. Provide antlerless moose permits for archery hunts in Unit 14A.
86. Open an antlered moose, fall permit hunt for Unit 14A.
87. Establish a winter antlerless moose, hot-spot hunt in Unit 14A to address vehicle collisions and serious nuisance moose issues in the Matanuska / Susitna Valley areas.
88. Reauthorize the drawing permit hunts for antlerless moose in Unit 14A.
89. Establishes a winter antlerless moose drawing hunt in Unit 14A to address vehicle collisions and serious nuisance moose issues in the Matanuska / Susitna Valley areas.
90. Close the antlerless moose permit hunt in Unit 14A and open a spring brown bear season allowing the use of bait stations.
91. Open a registration hunt for antlerless moose in Units 14A and 14B.
92. Open a bull moose, fall permit hunt in Unit 14B.
93. Delay the moose season date for residents in Unit 16B:
94. Open a nonresident season for moose in Unit 16B:
95. Delay the moose season for residents in Unit 16B.
96. Delay the moose season for residents in Unit 16B.
97. Close moose hunting in Unit 16B except for the Tier II hunt.
98. Change the moose season dates in Unit 16B.
99. Eliminate the winter moose hunts in Unit 16B.
100. Reauthorize the antlerless moose hunt on Kalgin Island in Unit 16(B).
101. Reduce the bag limit for wolves in Unit 16A and close the nonresident season.
102. Modify the Amount Necessary for Subsistence for Wolves in Unit 16.
103. Reauthorize the Intensive Management Plan for Unit 16.

Region-wide and Multiple Units

104. Lengthen the beaver trapping season in Units 9 and 17.
105. Allow the same day airborne hunting of black bear at bait stations in the region.
106. Establish a regional bag limit for black bear in Region IV.
107. Clarify and modify guided black bear baiting requirements in Region 4.
108. Modify the black bear bag limit for Region IV.
109. Remove the brown bear tag fee revocation for certain lands in Units 11, 13 and 16B.
110. Reauthorize the brown bear tag fees for Region IV.
111. Change the bag limit for coyotes in all Region IV Units.
112. Change the coyote hunting season, bag limit and harvest requirement for all Region IV Units.
113. Change the season for coyote in Units 13 and 14.
114. This proposal establishes a registration permit hunt for brown bear throughout Unit 9, and establishes a registration brown bear hunt in communities that can be used to harvest problem bears in a timely manner.
115. Modify the Dall sheep hunts for all Region IV Units.
116. Modify the horn restriction for Dall sheep in Units 13D and 14A..
117. Introduce late season archery registration hunt in all sheep drawing areas in Region 4.
118. Require guide-client agreements for guided goat hunts in Units 13D, 14A & 14C.
119. Implement a predator control plan for the range of the Mulchatna Caribou Herd.
120. Modify the management objective for the Multchatna Caribou Herd.
121. Allow aerial shooting of wolves in Units 9 and 17.
122. Review and potentially repeal discretionary hunt conditions and procedures applied to permit hunts the Central/Southwest Region, Units 9, 10, 11, 13, 14A, 14B, and 16.

Interior Region

202. Reauthorize resident grizzly bear tag fee exemptions throughout Interior and Eastern Arctic Alaska.
203. Reauthorize antlerless moose hunting seasons in Unit 19(D), 20(A), 20(B), and 20(D).
204. Establish a community harvest permit hunt for the Village of Minto.
205. Modify the boundaries for Units 18, 19, and 20.

Arctic Region

206. Reauthorize the current resident tag fee exemptions for brown bear in Units 18, 22, 23 and 26A.
207. Reauthorize the antlerless moose seasons in Unit 18.
208. Reauthorize the antlerless moose seasons in Unit 22C and the remainder of Unit 22D.
209. Reauthorize the antlerless moose seasons in Unit 23.
210. Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in Unit 26A.

Southeast Region

- 211. Reauthorize the existing antlerless moose season in Berners Bay.
- 212. Reauthorize the existing antlerless moose season in the Gustavus area.
- 213. Reauthorize the existing antlerless moose season at Nunatak Bench.

Statewide

- 222. Review the antler destruction requirement for proxy hunts.
- 223. Review the discretionary authority requiring the nullification of trophy value of animals taken under a subsistence permit.

The following proposals will also be considered at the Southcentral meeting.

- 192. Restrict trapping near trails and roads in all Region II and Region IV Units.
- 193. Modify the bag limits for waterfowl in Region II and Region IV
- 194. Change the regulations for waterfowl in Region II and Region IV.
- 195. Modify the salvage requirements for black bear for Regions II and IV:
- 196. Eliminate black bear sealing requirements where harvest tickets or registration permits are required and provide necessary harvest data.
- 197. Allow same day airborne hunting of black bear at bait stations in Region II and Region IV.
- 198. Change the bag limit for coyote in Units 13, 14, and 16.
- 199. Implement various hunt conditions and change hunter education to reduce meat spoilage for Region II and Region IV.
- 200. Modify the time period for harvesting big game after being transported in Units 6-11 and 13-17.
- 201. Modify the time period for harvesting big game after being transported in Units 6-11 and 13-17.
- 214. Establish a statewide requirement for second-degree-kindred relatives taking nonresidents on certain big game hunts.
- 215. Re-adopt regulations to establish a bonus point system

Southcentral (Region II) March 26-30, 2011

Cordova Area – Unit 6

123. Open an archery season for black bear in Unit 6.
124. Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in Unit 6A.
125. Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in Unit 6B.
126. Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in Unit 6C.
127. Establish a bag limit for pheasant and modify the bag limit for grouse and ptarmigan in Unit 6.

Anchorage Area – Unit 14C

128. Close wolverine trapping in Units 6 and 14C.
129. Change trapping regulations to reflect alignment of Fort Richardson Army Installation and Elmendorf Air Force Base into Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (JBER). Provide the additional opportunity for marten, otters and fox to be trapped on JBER lands.
130. Increase the bag limit for black bear in Unit 14C.
131. Increase the bag limit for black bear in Unit 14C.
132. Increase the amount available for black and brown bear harvest in Unit 14C.
133. Modify the Dall sheep hunt in Unit 14C.
134. Close Unit 14C to nonresident sheep hunting.
135. Open a registration goat hunt in Unit 14C.
136. Open a separate goat registration hunt for nonresidents in Unit 14C.
137. Change the harvest objective for moose in Unit 14C.
138. Realign moose hunting on Elmendorf Air Force Base and Fort Richardson Army Installation into the Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (JBER) Management Area, reauthorize the existing antlerless hunt, create a management area for Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (JBER), and update other references to the military reservation.
139. Create a bow only, drawing permit hunt for any bull moose in Edmonds Lake and Mirror Lake Parks (one hunt area) and maintain the ability to create an additional bow only, drawing permit hunt for the rest of the Remainder of Unit 14C.
140. Open a year-round season wolf hunting season and increase bag limit in all of Unit 14C.
141. Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in the Anchorage Management Area in Unit 14C.
142. Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in the Birchwood Management Area and the remainder of Unit 14C.

- 143. Reauthorize the antlerless portion of the any-moose drawing permit in the upper Ship Creek drainage in Unit 14C.
- 144. Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in the Twentymile/Portage/Placer hunt area in Units 7 and 14C.

Kodiak Area – Unit 8

- 145. Lengthen the archery and muzzle loader season for deer in Unit 8:
- 146. Clarify that the bag limit for elk in Unit 8 includes wounded elk that are not recovered.
- 147. Open an archery season for Elk in Unit 8.
- 148. Open an archery and muzzleloader season for goat in Unit 8.

Kenai Peninsula Area - Units 7 and 15

- 149. Change the season date for trapping beaver in Unit 7 and 15.
- 150. Increase the bag limit for black bear in Units 15 and 7.
- 151. Increase the black bear bag limit in Units 7 and 15.
- 152. Increase the number of hunting tags for brown bear in Unit 15.
- 153. Modify the harvest objective for brown bear under intensive management in Unit 15C.
- 154. Establish a registration brown bear hunt in Unit 15:
- 155. Change the season and bag limit for coyote in Units 7 and 15.
- 156. Change the registration permit distribution for goats in Unit 15C.
- 157. Change the moose antler restriction for Unit 15.
- 158. Extend the moose season in Unit 15.
- 159. Change the antler restrictions in Unit 15.
- 160. Change the antler restrictions in Unit 15.
- 161. Require sealing on moose antlers in Unit 15 and 7.
- 162. Establish check stations for moose hunters in areas of Unit 15.
- 163. Modify the population and harvest objectives for moose in Unit 15(A).
- 164. Modify the bag limit for general season moose hunts in Unit 15(A).
- 165. Re-authorize the antlerless moose season in the Skilak Loop Wildlife Management Area of Unit 15A.
- 166. Change the antler restrictions in Unit 15.
- 167. Change the moose season dates in Unit 15C.
- 168. Re-authorize the antlerless moose season in a portion of Unit 15C.
- 169. Change the antler restrictions, close nonresident hunting, and increase predator permits in Units 7 and 15.
- 170. Incorporate controlled burns and crushing program into a management plan for Units 7 and 15.
- 171. Change the bag limit for wolves in Units 7 and 14.
- 172. Allow aerial taking of wolves in Unit 15 under intensive management.
- 173. Apply the following conditions for intensive management in Unit 15A and change the allocation of moose permits.

- 174. Approve a habitat based intensive management plan for Unit 15A.
- 175. Allow the use of artificial light to hunt predators in Units 15 and 7:
- 176. Allow the use of artificial light to hunt predators in Unit 15.
- 177. Close a portion of Unit 7 to trapping:
- 178. Allow the use of motorized vehicles in Unit 15C to retrieve meat.
- 179. Eliminate the Resurrection Creek Closed Area.
- 180. Eliminate the Lower Kenai Controlled Use Area in Unit 15C.
- 181. Eliminate the motor vehicle restriction in Unit 15C.
- 182. Eliminate the motor vehicle restriction in Unit 15C.
- 183. Allow Handicapped individuals to use ATVs in the Lower Kenai CUA.

Region-wide and Multiple Units

- 184. Replace the deer hunter survey with deer harvest reports in Units 6 and 8.
- 185. Modify the black bear bag limit for Region II.
- 186. Allow same day airborne hunting of black bear at bait stations in Region II.
- 187. Establish a black bear trapping bag limit in Region II.
- 188. Change the bag limit for coyote in Region II.
- 189. Implement a no closed season and no bag limit for coyotes in Region II.
- 190. Modify the Dall sheep hunts for all Units in Region II.
- 191. Review and potentially repeal discretionary hunt conditions and procedures applied to permit hunts in the Southcentral Region, Units 6, 7, 8, 14C and 15.

Proposals 192-201 will also be considered at the Central/Southwest meeting.

- 192. Restrict trapping near trails and roads in all Region II and Region IV Units.
- 193. Modify the bag limits for waterfowl in Region II and Region IV
- 194. Change the regulations for waterfowl in Region II and Region IV.
- 195. Modify the salvage requirements for black bear for Regions II and IV:
- 196. Eliminate black bear sealing requirements where harvest tickets or registration permits are required and provide necessary harvest data.
- 197. Allow same day airborne hunting of black bear at bait stations in Region II and Region IV.
- 198. Change the bag limit for coyote in Units 13, 14, and 16.
- 199. Implement various hunt conditions and change hunter education to reduce meat spoilage for Region II and Region IV.
- 200. Modify the time period for harvesting big game after being transported in Units 6-11 and 13-17.
- 201. Modify the time period for harvesting big game after being transported in Units 6-11 and 13-17.

Statewide

214. Establish a statewide requirement for second-degree-kindred relatives taking nonresidents on certain big game hunts. ***(This proposal will also be considered at the Region IV – Central / Southwest meeting)***
215. Re-adopt regulations establishing a bonus point system. ***(This proposal will also be considered at the Region IV – Central / Southwest meeting)***
216. Prohibit the feeding of Dall sheep.
217. Make it unlawful for persons to falsify information on harvest records.
218. Allow Alaska Wildlife Troopers the authority to seize animals under certain circumstances.
219. Prohibit the alteration of Dall sheep horns before sealing.
220. Provide authority to the Alaska Wildlife Troopers to inspect taxidermy businesses.
221. Prohibit the use of Taser-type devices without permits.

**ALASKA BOARD OF GAME
GUIDELINES
FOR
PUBLIC TESTIMONY
&
ADVISORY COMMITTEE TESTIMONY**

Persons planning to testify before Board of Game hearings must fill out a blue PUBLIC TESTIMONY SIGN-UP CARD and turn it in to the board's staff. Persons providing written material for the board members must provide at least **20 copies** to the staff; and **submit with your blue testimony card**. Do not wait until it is your turn to testify to submit written material, as it may not be distributed to the board in time for your testimony. **Provide a name and date on the first page of written material and identify the source of graphs or tables, if included in materials.**

When the chairman calls your name, please go to the microphone; state your name and whom you represent. At the front table, a green light will come on when you begin speaking. A yellow light will come on when you have one minute remaining. A red light will indicate that your time is up. When you are finished speaking, please stay seated and wait for any questions board members may have regarding your comments.

If you wish to give testimony for more than one group (i.e., yourself plus an organization, or advisory committee), you only need to turn in one sign-up card, listing each group you will be representing. When you begin your testimony, state for the record the group you are representing. Keep your comments separate for each group. For example: give comments for the first group you are representing, then after stating clearly that you are now testifying for the second group, give comments for that group.

Please be aware that when you testify you may not ask questions of board members or of department staff. This is your chance to make comments on proposals before the board. If board members and/or department staff need clarification, they will ask you questions. **A person using derogatory or threatening language to the board will not be allowed to continue speaking.**

Generally, the board allows five minutes for oral testimony, whether you testify for yourself or on behalf of an organization. The board chairman will announce the length of time for testimony at the beginning of the meeting.

Advisory Committee representatives are usually allowed 15 minutes to testify, and should restrict testimony to relating what occurred at the advisory committee meeting(s). Testimony should be a brief summary of the minutes of the meeting, and copies of the minutes should be available for the board members. An Advisory Committee representative's personal opinions should not be addressed during Advisory Committee testimony.

PLEASE NOTE: The time limit on testimony does NOT include questions the board members may have for you.

**ALASKA BOARD OF GAME
Meeting Schedule & Deadlines**

Tentative

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Location</u>
March 4-10, 2011 (7 days) Proposal Deadline – October 29, 2010 Written Comments – February 18, 2011	Central/Southwest Region (IV) (Units 9, 10, 11, 13, 14A, 14B, 16, and 17)	Wasilla Best Western Lake Lucille Inn
March 26–30, 2011 (5 days) Proposal Deadline – October 29, 2010 Written Comments – March 11, 2011 *Note – Meeting begins on a Saturday	Southcentral Region (II) (Units 6, 7, 8, 14C, and 15)	Anchorage Coast International Inn
November 11-14, 2011 (4 days) *Proposal Deadline – April 29, 2011 Written Comments – October 28, 2011	Arctic Region (V) (Units 18, 22, 23, and 26A)	Barrow
January 13-17, 2012 (5 days) *Proposal Deadline – April 29, 2011 Written Comments – December 30, 2011	Statewide Regulations (Cycle B)	Anchorage
March 2 – 11, 2012 (10 days) *Proposal Deadline – April 29, 2011 Written Comments – February 17, 2012	Interior Region (III) (Units 12, 19-21, 24, 25, 26B and C)	Fairbanks

*Note: Beginning the 2011/2012 Cycle, the Board of Game will be issuing a annual Call for Proposals. The deadline for submitting proposals for changes for the Interior, Arctic and Statewide regulations – Cycle B, is **5:00 pm, Friday, April 29, 2010.**

 For information about the Board of Game, contact:

Alaska Department of Fish and Game
 Boards Support Section
 P.O. Box 115526
 Juneau, AK 99811-5526
 Phone: (907) 465-4110
 Fax: (907) 465-6094

**ALASKA BOARD OF GAME
Meeting Cycle**

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

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

Regulations specific to an area (e.g., Permits for Access to Round Island) will be taken up when the board is scheduled to consider regulations in that region. Proposals for changes to regulations pertaining to reauthorization of all antlerless moose hunts, 5 AAC 85.045, and all brown bear tag fee exemptions, 5 AAC 92.015, will be taken up annually, at spring meetings.

The Board of Game does not consider proposals to statewide regulations in every meeting cycle. Instead, the Board of Game reviews statewide regulations on a four-year cycle, distributed between winter meetings, every other year. The list of statewide regulations and the associated “Cycle A” and “Cycle B” meeting schedule is set forth on the next page of this publication.

<u>Regulations for:</u>	<u>Will be considered:</u>		
SOUTHEAST REGION (Region I) Game Management Units: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	Fall 2012	Fall 2014	Fall 2016
SOUTHCENTRAL REGION (Region II) Game Management Units: 6, 7, 8, 14C, 15	Spring 2011	Spring 2013	Spring 2015
CENTRAL/SOUTHWEST REGION (Region IV) Game Management Units: 9, 10, 11, 13, 14A, 14B, 15, 16, 17	Spring 2011	Spring 2013	Spring 2015
ARCTIC AND WESTERN REGIONS (Region V) Game Management Units: 18, 22, 23, 26A	Fall 2011	Fall 2013	Fall 2015
INTERIOR REGION (Region III) Game Management Units: 12, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25, 26B, 26C	Spring 2012	Spring 2014	Spring 2016

ALASKA BOARD OF GAME
STATEWIDE REGULATIONS SCHEDULE

CYCLE “A”: 2014, 2018, 2022, 2026

5 AAC Chapter 92 Statewide Provisions:

- .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
- .013 Migratory bird hunting guide services
- .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
- .030 Possession of Wolf Hybrid Prohibited
- .031 Permit for Selling Skins, Skulls, and Trophies
- .033 Permit for Science, Education, Propagative, or Public Safety Purposes
- .034 Permit to Take Game for Cultural Purposes
- .039 Permit for Taking Wolves Using Aircraft
- .042 Permit to Take Foxes for Protection of Migratory Birds
- .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
- .115 Control of Predation by Bears
- .116 Special Provisions in Predation Control Areas
- .141 Transport, Harboring, or Release of Live Muridae Rodents Prohibited
- .165 Sealing of Bear Skins and Skulls
- .170 Sealing of Marten, Lynx, Beaver, Otter, Wolf, and Wolverine
- .171 Sealing of Dall sheep horns
- .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 Musk oxen for Science and Education Purposes
- .450 Description of Game Management Units
- .990 Definitions__

CYCLE “B”: 2012, 2016, 2020, 2024

5 AAC Chapter 92 Statewide Provisions:

- .009 Obstruction or hindrance of lawful hunting or trapping
- .035 Permit for Temporary Commercial Use of Live Game
- .036 Permit for taking a child hunting
- .037 Permit for Falconry
- .040 Permit for Taking of Furbearers with Game Meat
- .041 Permit to Take Beavers to Control Damage to Property
- .043 Permit for Capturing Wild Furbearers for Fur Farming
- .044 Permit for hunting black bear with the use of bait or scent lures
- .049 Permits, Permit Procedures, and Permit Conditions
- .050 Required Permit Hunt Conditions and Procedures
- .051 Discretionary Trapping Permit Conditions & Procedures
- .052 Discretionary Permit Hunt Conditions and Procedures
- .057 Special Provisions for Dall Sheep Drawing Permit Hunts
- .062 Priority for Subsistence Hunting; Tier II Permits
- .068 Permit Conditions for Hunting Black Bear with Dogs
- .069 Special Provisions for Moose Drawing Permit Hunts
- .070 Tier II Subsistence Hunting Permit Point System
- .075 Lawful Methods of Taking Game
- .080 Unlawful Methods of Taking Game; Exceptions
- .085 Unlawful Methods of Taking Big Game; Exceptions
- .090 Unlawful Methods of Taking Fur Animals
- .095 Unlawful Methods of Taking Furbearers; Exceptions
- .100 Unlawful Methods of Hunting Waterfowl, Snipe, Crane
- .130 Restriction to Bag Limit
- .135 Transfer of Possession
- .140 Unlawful Possession or Transportation of Game
- .150 Evidence of Sex and Identity
- .160 Marked or Tagged Game
- .200 Purchase and Sale of Game
- .260 Taking Cub Bears & Female Bears with Cubs Prohibited
- .400 Emergency Taking of Game
- .410 Taking of Game in Defense of Life or Property
- .420 Taking Nuisance Wildlife

ALASKA BOARD OF GAME
Revised April, 2010

MEMBER'S NAME AND ADDRESS	TERM EXPIRES
Cliff Judkins, Chairman PO Box 874124 Wasilla, Alaska 99687	6/30/2012
Ted Spraker, Vice Chairman 49230 Victoria Ave. Soldotna, Alaska 99669	6/30/2011
Ben Grussendorf 1221 Halibut Point Rd. Sitka, AK 99835	6/30/2013
Nate Turner PO Box 646 Nenana, AK 99760	6/30/2013
Lewis Bradley 8200 E. Duchess Dr. Palmer, AK 99645	6/30/2011
Stosh Hoffman P.O. Box 2374 Bethel, AK 99559	6/30/2011
Teresa Sager Albaugh HC 72 Box 835 Tok, AK 99780	6/30/2012

Alaska Board of Game members may also be reached at:
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For updated information on the progress of an ongoing Board of Fisheries or Board of Game meeting, call: Juneau 465-8901; outside Juneau 1-800-764-8901

Website address: <http://www.boards.adfg.state.ak.us/>

ALASKA BOARD OF GAME
Central/Southwest Region Meeting
Game Management Units 9, 10, 11, 13, 14A, 14B, 16, & 17
March 4-10, 2011
Best Western Lake Lucille Inn
300 West Lake Lucille Drive,
Wasilla, Alaska

~TENTATIVE AGENDA~

NOTE: This Tentative Agenda is subject to change throughout the course of the meeting. This Tentative Agenda is provided to give a general idea of the board's anticipated schedule. The board will attempt to hold to this schedule; however, the board is not constrained by this Tentative Agenda. Persons wishing to testify must sign-up by the deadline. Public testimony will continue until those present at the meeting are heard; the board will continue working through its agenda immediately upon conclusion of public testimony. The following time blocks are only an estimate.

Friday, March 4, 8:30 AM

OPENING BUSINESS

Call to Order

Introductions of Board Members and Staff

Board Member Ethics Disclosures

Purpose of Meeting (overview)

STAFF AND OTHER REPORTS

PUBLIC AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE TESTIMONY (upon conclusion of staff reports)

Saturday, March 5, 8:30 AM

PUBLIC AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE TESTIMONY Continued

BOARD DELIBERATIONS (Upon conclusion of public testimony)

THE DEADLINE FOR SIGN-UP TO TESTIFY will be 10:00 am Saturday, March 5. Public testimony will continue until persons who have signed up before the deadline and who are present when called by the Chairman to testify, are heard.

Sunday, March 6-Thurseday, March 10, 8:30 AM

BOARD DELIBERATIONS Continued

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS, including petitions, findings and policies, letters, and other business (Upon conclusion of deliberations)

ADJOURN

Special Notes

- A. This agenda is TENTATIVE and subject to change during the meeting. A list of staff reports and a roadmap will be available at the meeting. Scheduled updates will be available on the Board of Game website.
- B. Meeting materials are available through the website at: www.boards.adfg.state.ak.us/gameinfo or by contacting the ADF&G Boards Support Office in Juneau at 465-4110.
- C. A live audio stream for the meeting is intended to be available at: www.boards.adfg.state.ak.us/gameinfo
- D. The State of Alaska Department of Fish and Game complies with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA). Individuals with disabilities who may need auxiliary aids, services, and/or special modifications to participate in this hearing and public meeting should contact 465-4110 no later than February 18, 2011 to make any necessary arrangements.

ALASKA BOARD OF GAME
Southcentral Region Meeting
Game Management Units 6, 7, 8, 14C and 15
March 26-30, 2011
Coast International Inn
333 West International Airport Road
Anchorage, Alaska

~TENTATIVE AGENDA~

NOTE: This Tentative Agenda is subject to change throughout the course of the meeting. This Tentative Agenda is provided to give a general idea of the board's anticipated schedule. The board will attempt to hold to this schedule; however, the board is not constrained by this Tentative Agenda. Persons wishing to testify must sign-up by the deadline. Public testimony will continue until those present at the meeting are heard; the board will continue working through its agenda immediately upon conclusion of public testimony. The following time blocks are only an estimate.

Saturday, March 26, 8:30 AM

OPENING BUSINESS

Call to Order

Introductions of Board Members and Staff

Board Member Ethics Disclosures

Purpose of Meeting (overview)

STAFF AND OTHER REPORTS

PUBLIC AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE TESTIMONY (upon conclusion of staff reports)

Sunday, March 27, 8:30 AM

PUBLIC AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE TESTIMONY Continued

BOARD DELIBERATIONS (Upon conclusion of public testimony)

THE DEADLINE FOR SIGN-UP TO TESTIFY will be 10:00 am Sunday, March 27. Public testimony will continue until persons who have signed up before the deadline and who are present when called by the Chairman to testify, are heard.

Monday, March 28-Wednesday, March 30, 8:30 AM

BOARD DELIBERATIONS Continued

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS, including petitions, findings and policies, letters, and other business (Upon conclusion of deliberations)

ADJOURN

Special Notes

- E. This agenda is TENTATIVE and subject to change during the meeting. A list of staff reports and a roadmap will be available at the meeting. Scheduled updates will be available on the Board of Game website.
- F. Meeting materials are available through the website at: www.boards.adfg.state.ak.us/gameinfo or by contacting the ADF&G Boards Support Office in Juneau at 465-4110.
- G. A live audio stream for the meeting is intended to be available at: www.boards.adfg.state.ak.us/gameinfo
- H. The State of Alaska Department of Fish and Game complies with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA). Individuals with disabilities who may need auxiliary aids, services, and/or special modifications to participate in this hearing and public meeting should contact 465-4110 no later than October 22, 2010 to make any necessary arrangements.

King Salmon Area – Units 9 and 10

PROPOSAL 1 - 5 AAC 84.270. Furbearer trapping. Extend the lynx trapping season in Unit 9B.

Lynx season open thru March 31.

ISSUE: Lynx season is not open long enough. Lynx season should be open thru March 31.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Trappers.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED:

PROPOSED BY: Randy Alvarez

LOG NUMBER: EG111810242

PROPOSAL 2 - 5 AAC 84.270. Furbearer trapping. Extend the wolverine trapping season in Unit 9B.

Wolverine season open thru March 31.

ISSUE: Wolverine season not open long enough. The season should be open the same as Unit 17 and as Unit 9 hunting season.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Trappers.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED:

PROPOSED BY: Randy Alvarez

LOG NUMBER: EG111810243

PROPOSAL 3 - 5 AAC 84.270. Furbearer trapping. Extend the trapping season for wolverine in Unit 9B.

Extend the wolverine season to March 31. Unit 17 and Unit 19 are both the end of march; align the seasons.

ISSUE: Wolverine season November 10 – February 28. Wolverines are prime until the end of March.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Opportunities to trap wolverine are lost. Most trappers trap wolves until the end of March.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? With little trapping pressure in the area the wolverine numbers will not be affected.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Local trappers who keep wolf sets active in March. Hunting season runs through March, trapping should as well.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED None.

PROPOSED BY: Jim Tilly

LOG NUMBER: EG120610265

PROPOSAL 4- 5 AAC 85.020. Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear; and 92.132. Bag limit for brown bears. Change the bag limit for brown bear in Unit 9.

One bear every two years.

ISSUE: Predator to prey ratio out of balance. Increasing population of brown bear. According to the Department of Fish and Game biologist, 8000 moose to 8000 brown bear. One to one predator to prey ratio.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Further decline of game populations and possible increase in human/bear conflict.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? More bears harvested will increase odds of moose and caribou calf survival.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Subsistence hunters.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? None.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: None.

PROPOSED BY: Kevin Cossairt

LOG NUMBER: EG110410153

PROPOSAL 5- 5 AAC 85.020. Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear; and 92.132. Bag limit for brown bears. Open a spring and fall season for brown bear hunting in Unit 9E.

Season and Bag Limit:

Unit 9E One bear every four regulatory years September 6-October 15

Unit 9E One bear every four regulatory years May 15-May 30

Bear hunts above open only in fall of odd numbered years and spring of even numbered years

ISSUE: Too many brown bear not being harvested during general season. Moving the brown bear season ahead five to ten days in the fall and back five to ten days in the spring will not only provide more opportunity for bear hunters it will also increase the chances of harvesting big bear. Many hunters left the area this spring without filling their bag due to a late spring. Big bear are erasing the ungulate populations in the area. Witnessed a cow moose with two calves killed and consumed spring 2010. Some of the streams this season had up to fifty bear on them this fall moose season. Not advocating a slaughter just a slight change to help hunters do their job a little better. This may be only temporary but the area needs a short term fix.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The continued management of the area for brown bear only will eventually bring on the demise of the moose season in Unit 9 anyone other than local people. The population of caribou and moose will continue to plummet.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? This proposal will indeed improve the quality of hunting for everyone in this Unit. Too many of one species, especially one at the top of the food chain, is not prudent management. This will create more opportunity for hunters but should be looked at in a couple of years with the idea of possibly moving the season back to its original dates if harvest becomes too significant.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Obviously, all bears hunters will benefit from this proposal as well as guides. Villages will benefit with the reduced bear populations in and around the

perimeter of the village. Fisherman, campers, cabin owners will all benefit with a slightly reduced population of bear in the area. Ungulate populations may begin to slowly rebound

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? I cannot think of anyone this proposal would bring hardship to.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: Creating a spring and fall season every year. I think the potential for over harvest would be greater with this proposal.

PROPOSED BY: Gus Lamoureux

LOG NUMBER: EG09251076

PROPOSAL 6- 5 AAC 85.020 Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear; and 92.132. Bag limits for brown bear. Change the bag limit for brown bear in Unit 9.

Establish one bear per year for resident harvest of brown bear in Unit 9A, 9B, 9C, and 9E.

Unit 9A

Resident hunters: 1 bear every year

Nonresident Hunters: 1 bear every 4 years

Unit 9B

Resident hunters: 1 bear every year

Nonresident Hunters: 1 bear every 4 years

Unit 9C Naknek River Drainage

Resident hunters: 1 bear every year

Nonresident Hunters: 1 bear every 4 years

Remainder of Unit 9C

Resident hunters: 1 bear every year

Nonresident Hunters: 1 bear every 4 years

Unit 9E

Resident hunters: 1 bear every year

Nonresident Hunters: 1 bear every 4 years

ISSUE: Moose calf and Northern Alaska Peninsula Caribou (NAPCH) calf survival is being significantly impacted by brown bears. The brown bear calf mortality rates on both moose and caribou is negatively affecting the recovery of the moose and caribou populations in Unit 9.

In Unit 9, the NAPCH is so depressed that currently no harvest opportunity is available for resident subsistence harvest. Yet the Department of Fish and Game considers the habitat to be in good shape and sufficient to support a much larger herd of caribou.

In Unit 9, the moose population is depressed and resident take has not met the Amount Necessary for Subsistence harvest objective since at least 2000. Moose habitat is also not a limiting factor at this time.

For the moose population in Unit 9, the 2008 brown bear management report states: "Brown bear predation on neonatal moose was considered the primary limiting factor of moose in Unit 9".

For the NAPCH, recent department and USF&WS studies indicate that up to 40 percent of calf mortality is due to brown bears.

In Unit 9, both moose and caribou met the criteria to be considered "important for providing high levels of human consumptive use" under the state's intensive management law, AS 16.05.255.

The Amount Needed for Subsistence (ANS) set by the Board of Game is 100 - 140 moose per year. Resident moose harvest from 200 to 2006 averaged just 70 moose per year. Local harvest is a dismal 36 moose per year during this time frame.

Currently 1 bear per year for resident harvest is authorized in 14 of the 26 Unit's. Five Units allow two bears per year.

Unit 9 currently has two authorized Intensive Management plans. There is no reason the Board of Game should continue to deny resident Alaskans their right to be proactive in managing brown bears in Unit 9.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The state will not maximize its management options for increasing the moose and caribou populations in Unit 9 to meet the minimum subsistence needs of resident Alaskans. This is a crisis and we need to use all the tools in the tool box to deal with this particular situation. The need to use all available tools is even more important due to the fact that residents do not have an option to harvest caribou in Unit 9 from the NAPCH. This means the moose population is under increased pressure to meet resident subsistence needs.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, increasing brown bear harvest will decrease calf mortality for both the depleted moose and caribou populations in Unit 9. This will enhance the recovery rate of essential subsistence resources by promoting resident harvest of brown bears using fair chase principles, which should maximize public acceptance. The brown bear population is healthy. The Board of Game cannot allow the commercial hunting industry to impede our ability to manage our state subsistence assets.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Alaskans that depend on subsistence resources in areas with depressed game populations. The department will benefit by having the authorization to promote resident take of brown bears in calving areas for moose and caribou in Unit 9. Managing brown bear population is an important component of an effective adaptive management plan that promotes the recovery of depressed subsistence resources. The Board of Game has authorized significant reductions in the brown bear populations in Unit 13 and Unit 16, both of which are IM

areas. If the board cannot promote resident harvest of brown bears to effectively address low moose and caribou numbers in Unit 9, we have to ask why Unit 9 would be any less important than Units 13 or 16.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? The commercial hunting industry may experience increased competition for trophy brown bears.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: Authorizing one bear every year for nonresidents. We did not feel this was necessary as most nonresidents only hunt brown bear once in a lifetime, so the regulation would likely not increase take. Resident Alaskans however have a vested interest to be proactive in managing predators for the benefit of moose and caribou, both of which have been identified by the Board of Game as preferred species in Unit 9 for high human harvest.

PROPOSED BY: Anchorage Fish and Game Advisory Committee

LOG NUMBER: EG110810196

PROPOSAL 7- 5 AAC 85.020. Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear; and 92.132. Bag limits for brown bear. Open a resident hunting season for brown bear in Unit 9E.

Resident hunting allowed, one bear for every regulatory year. Board of Game can issue, putting in a legislative request from the Board of Game to change the management directive from trophy bears to all game species.

ISSUE: Intensive management to include predator control relaxing the hunting regulations for bears in all of Unit 9E. The issue is the bear populations are increasingly outgrowing their food sources and moving in to the villages to find enough food to get through the winter.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Predator to prey ratios will continue to increase depleting their food supply creating a safety concern in local villages and take from human consumptive use.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Improving the survival and mortality of big game to increase sustainability for human consumption.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All hunters as a result of a more sustainable population.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one. All seasons for the sport and guiding industry change.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED Including community quotas for big game for human consumptive use, community harvest quotas for predators only.

PROPOSED BY: Ugashik Traditional Council

LOG NUMBER: EG120610263

PROPOSAL 8 - 5 AAC 85.025. Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou. Establish a resident only registration for Southern Alaska Peninsula Caribou.

Units and bag limits	Resident	Nonresident
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Unit 9(D) (SAP)

[NO OPEN SEASON]

<u>1 bull by registration</u>	<u>Aug 10- Sept. 20</u>	No open season
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ISSUE: Due to great success in recent predation control programs the SAP is growing at an unprecedented rate. The herd is not at population objectives yet but a herd with this rapid growth may have some surplus bulls available for harvest. It may be too early for harvest of the SAP but establishing a registration hunt will allow the Department of Fish and Game to open a hunt when they are comfortable with harvest rather than waiting 3 years for the next cycle.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Nothing, status quo.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCT PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? NO

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Alaskan hunters that may have the opportunity to harvest a caribou from one of the great management success stories.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? No changes

PROPOSED BY: Aaron Bloomquist

LOG NUMBER: EG113010254

PROPOSAL 9- 5 AAC 85.025. Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou. Shift the caribou hunting season dates in Unit 9B.

Caribou season open August 15 - March 31.

ISSUE: Caribou season not open long enough. Move the season back 15 days.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? We will continue to have difficulty harvesting caribou.

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Those that depend on caribou.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED:

PROPOSED BY: Randy Alvarez

LOG NUMBER: EG111810244

PROPOSAL 10 - 5 AAC 85.025. Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou. Lengthen the caribou hunting season dates in Unit 9B:

Caribou season open thru March 31. Season open from August 1- March 31.

ISSUE: Caribou season is not open long enough. Caribou haven't been migrating through until March.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? We will continue to have difficulty harvesting caribou.

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Those that depend on caribou.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED:

PROPOSED BY: Randy Alvarez

LOG NUMBER: EG111810245

PROPOSAL 11- 5 AAC 85.025. Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou. Extend the resident caribou season in Unit 9B.

Extend the resident caribou season until March 31 in Unit 9B.

ISSUE: Caribou season in Unit 9B is now August 1 through March 15. Extend August 1 to March 31.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The caribou just started showing up in mid-march if at all. Spring traveling and hunting gets better by the day. Chances to hunt are lost.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Spring hunting improves daily and becomes safer with added daylight hours.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Everyone who resides in Unit 9B and who depends on a caribou or two per year.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED None.

PROPOSED BY: Jim Tilly

LOG NUMBER: EG120610266

PROPOSAL 12- 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Establish a registration hunt for residents in Unit 9B.

Unit 9(B)

Resident hunters:

1 bull **by registration permit available in person at Unit 9B villages;** August 20 - September 15.

1bull **by permit;** September 1-September 15.

1 antlered bull **by registration permit and available in Unit 9B villages;** Dec. 15 - January 15.

Nonresident hunters: 1 bull **by harvest ticket** with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side; September 5-September 15.

ISSUE: Moose composition surveys haven't been done since 2003. Moose in Unit 9B have become much more important to local hunters since the decline of caribou in the area. Increasing local demand and localized depletions have caused conflicts and shortages in some areas. Predators, habitat limitations, and low calf recruitment suppressing population's growth.

A registration permit system will allow ADF&G to collect more reliable harvest data, educate hunters on the importance of reporting, and inform the public about the importance of dedicated

bull only harvest in low density areas. Registration hunts can be managed by specific areas and harvest quotas set in heavily hunted areas.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Unit 9B moose will continue to be hunted under the current system. ADF&G will not receive accurate harvest data. Local moose populations will continue to be depleted causing hardships in communities.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? All hunters will benefit through better ADF&G data and eventually higher populations due to proper management.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All hunters as a result of more sustainable populations.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Some hunters may object to a registration permit. Some hunters may be sanctioned if they fail to turn in their permits.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED 1.) Support a wolf and bear predation control program; 2.) Board of Game needs to implement that a priority for ADF&G; 3.) Biologists go in to villages and deliver permits and talk with community members for a day about their observations in the area regarding population. Not rejected; staff limitations are budgetary. 4.) Consider a registration permit system for moose to keep non-local hunters out or to promote community hunting. Board of Game has taken steps for a community harvest quota for caribou; may be time for that to be implemented for moose in Unit 9; (5) Community harvests similar to Nelchina caribou herd is a possibility.

PROPOSED BY: Kokhanok Village Council

LOG NUMBER: EG120610268

PROPOSAL 13- 5 AAC 85.040. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Establish a registration moose hunt for residents in Unit 9E.

In Unit 9E:

Resident hunters:

1 bull **by registration permit available in person Unit 9E villages;** August 20 - September 20.

1 bull **by on line and easier access for regular hunt permit;** September 1 - September 15.

1 antlered bull **by registration permit and available in Unit 9E villages;** Dec. 1 - January 20.

Nonresident Hunters: 1 bull **by harvest ticket** with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side; September 5 - September 15.

ISSUE: Establish a registration hunt for Moose in Unit 9E. Moose composition surveys haven't been done since 2003. Moose in Unit 9 have become much more important to local hunter since the decline of the caribou in the area. Increasing local demand and localized depletions have caused conflicts and shortages in some area. Predators, habitat limitations, and low calf

recruitment surprising population's growth. A registration permit system will allow ADF&G to collect more reliable harvest data, educate hunters on the importance of reporting and inform the public about the importance of dedicated bull only harvest in low density areas. Registration hunts can be managed by specific areas and harvest quotas set in heavily hunted areas.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Unit 9E moose will continue to be hunted under the current system. Local moose populations will continue to be depleted causing hardships in communities.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? All hunters would benefit through better ADF&G data and eventually higher populations due to proper management.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All hunters as a result of a more sustainable moose population

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Some hunters may object to a registration permit. Some hunters may be sanctioned if they fail to turn in their permits.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: 1) Support a wolf and bear predation control program. 2) The Board of Game needs to implement that a priority for ADF&G. 3.) Biologists go into villages and deliver permits and talk with community members for a day about their observations in the area regarding population. Not rejected staff limitations and budgetary. 4.) Consider a registration permit system for moose - to keep non-locals hunters out or to promote community hunting. The board has taken steps for a community harvest quota for caribou maybe time for that to be implemented for moose in Unit 9. 5.) Community harvest similar to the Nelchina Caribou Herd is a possibility.

PROPOSED BY: Chignik Lake Village Council

LOG NUMBER: EG120710271

PROPOSAL 14 - 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose Establish a registration hunt for moose in Unit 9.

(8)

Unit 9(A)

RESIDENT HUNTERS:	1 bull <u>by registration permit</u>	Sept. 1 - Sept. 15
NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:	1 bull <u>by registration permit</u>	Sept. 5 - Sept. 15

Unit 9(B)

RESIDENT HUNTERS:	1 bull <u>by registration permit</u>	Sept. 1 - Sept. 15; or
	1 antlered bull <u>by registration permit</u>	Dec. 15 - Jan. 15
NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:	1 bull <u>by registration permit</u> with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side.	Sept. 5 - Sept. 15

Unit 9(C), that portion draining into the Naknek River

RESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 bull **by registration permit** Sept. 1 - Sept. 15; or
1 antlered bull **by registration permit** Dec. 1 - Dec. 31
NONRESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 bull **by registration permit** with 50-inch antlers or antlers
with 3 or more brow tines on one side. Sept. 5 - Sept. 15

Remainder of Unit 9(C)

RESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 bull **by registration permit** Sept. 1 - Sept. 15; or
1 antlered bull **by registration permit** Dec. 15 - Jan. 15
NONRESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 bull **by registration permit** with 50-inch antlers or antlers
with 3 or more brow tines on one side. Sept. 5 - Sept. 15

Unit 9(D)

RESIDENT HUNTERS 1 antlered bull **by registration permit** Dec. 15 - Jan. 20
NONRESIDENT HUNTERS No open season

Unit 9(E)

RESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 antlered bull **by registration permit**; however, moose taken
Sept. 10 - Sept. 20 must have spike-fork antlers or 50-inch
antlers or antlers with 3 or more brow tines on one side Sept. 10
- Sept. 20 and Dec. 1 - Jan. 20

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 bull **by registration permit** with 50-inch antlers or antlers
with 3 or more brow tines on one side. Sept. 10 - Sept. 20

ISSUE: Moose in Unit 9 have become much more important to local hunters since the decline of caribou in the area. Moose populations are considered stable long term. Increasing local demand and localized depletions have caused conflicts and shortages in some areas. Predators, habitat limitations, and unrecorded cow harvest have contributed to low calf recruitment suppressing population growth. Unreported harvest is thought to be about half of the total harvest.

A registration permit system will allow the Department of Fish and Game to collect more reliable harvest data, educate hunters on the importance of reporting, and inform the public about the importance of dedicated bull only harvest in low density areas. Registration hunts can be managed by specific areas and harvest quotas set in heavily hunted areas.

Points approved by working group members for a registration hunt system:

- Must get permits out to users easily, including internet and local distribution
- Not meant to restrict users in Unit 9
- Will assist in gathering more accurate hunt/harvest data
- This will be simpler than community harvests
- Need funding to make sure ADF&G can get to the communities to distribute permits, increases area biologist's ability to talk to local hunters and gather information and build relationships
- Need support for funding requests

- Consider allowing a village entity to distribute permits
- Need to be able to distribute hunting licenses at same time as permit distribution
- This could be a joint agency effort
- Separate permits for various private lands
- Want result of registration hunt to be better education, better data, better hunting opportunity
- Unit wide hunt
- Strong language to encourage recipient to be aware of private lands and trespass penalties
- Show how this will increase the population to get local support
- Drafting of permit should be based on the Board of Game and area biologist's discretion; bag limit, open season dates, hunter quotas, etc. and the permit is flexible enough that any communities that don't want it won't feel forced into it
- RAC's should tie the suggestions back to proposals being sent to the Federal Subsistence Board in December

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Unit 9 moose will continue to be hunted under the current system. The Department of Fish and Game will not receive accurate harvest data. Local moose populations will continue to be depleted causing hardships in communities.

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All hunters will benefit through better the department's data and eventually higher populations due to proper management.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Some hunters may object to a registration permit. Some hunters may be sanctioned if they fail to turn in their permits.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED:

- Biologists go into villages and deliver permits and talk with community members for a day about their observations in the area regarding population.
- Consider a registration permit system for moose– to keep non locals hunters out or to promote community hunting.
- Community support for more funding to do surveys perhaps from local government or local community groups.
- Allow villagers or community members as passengers in survey planes to see the moose population themselves from the air and be additional eyes in the sky for counting purposes. The USFWS did something like this in the past that was a successful program.
- Togiak Moose Management Plan – the registration hunt was a very good one, but it involved a moratorium on hunting for a time period.
 - Private land specific registration hunt – instead of a fine for trespass, must have a registration permit
 - Look at mistakes made in other areas for input
- Unalakleet – did good work on their registration hunt (2 permit system-state and federal) including a newsletter that was very successful.

- Support a wolf predation control program
- Bear predators – the state could allow local residents to utilize bear parts for sale to increase local desire for take.
- Trophy boar brown bear - change management strategy to increase moose and caribou – liberalize bear hunting.
- Local governments look for alternative funding sources
- Tie research projects into the local community so they can be benefited and invest in the work (i.e. educational outreach in schools)
- Adult education on moose population dynamics along with trapping workshops to get people more involved in managing the resource from their level.
- Build infrastructure of local tribal entities to help with education.
- Put political pressure on USFWS to start the NEPA process for predator control.
- Increase money for surveys through tribal grants.
- Increase funding for ADF&G to be put towards more surveying.
- Increase ADF&G staffing/Unit 9
- Implement predator control plans that have already been approved (predator control plans are in place in 9C and 9E that are pending due to need for federal cooperation)
- Create websites with education on hunting and subsistence with NPS links for all parks. Important to emphasize education of users who don't understand management in Alaska.
- Moratorium on hunting for a period of time such as has been done with success in other areas.
- Newsletter to increase educational outreach.

PROPOSED BY: Unit 9 Moose Working Group

LOG NUMBER: EG110310149

PROPOSAL 15 - 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Limit the harvest of moose in Unit 9.

In all of Unit 9, a hunter may only harvest a total of one moose per year.

ISSUE: Equal opportunity for all residents to harvest moose in Unit 9.

In March 1999, the Board of Game found that moose in Units 9B, 9C, and 9E met the criteria to be considered "important for providing high levels of human consumptive use" under the state's intensive management law: AS 16.05.255.

Moose populations are mandated by law to be prioritized as a subsistence resource for Alaska residents in times of shortage by AS 16.05.255 (13) (d) which states: “the taking of moose, deer, elk, and caribou by residents for personal or family consumption has preference over taking by nonresidents.”

The Alaska Supreme Court in *Shepherd v. State, Department of Fish & Game*, 897 P.2d 33 (Alaska 1995) “the resident preference serves the purpose of conserving scarce wildlife resources for Alaska residents; this unquestionably represents a legitimate state interest.”

Unit 9 (A, B, C, D, & E) have a positive Customary & Traditional determination and combined Amount Necessary for Subsistence of 100 - 140 moose per year.

The current harvestable surplus estimates by the department for moose in Unit 9 are sufficient to meet the harvest needs of Alaska residents while simultaneously actively managing the population to increase the moose population in Unit 9. To address the state constitutional mandate that all Alaskan's have equal access to subsistence moose populations, the Anchorage AC requests that moose harvest in Unit 9 be limited to a total of one moose per hunter / per season.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The equal access clause of the Alaska Constitution will be negatively impacted. Alaska residents that are not local residents will be at a disadvantage to federally qualified subsistence hunters in that they are denied the opportunity to harvest a moose in both the state and federal hunts. Moose are a state asset on all lands in Alaska, and as such, the Alaska constitution mandates that no preference shall be afforded residents unless in a Tier II hunt status. Federally qualified subsistence hunters have an advantage of federal hunting seasons restricted from non local residents on federal lands. This should not be construed to authorize rural residents to "double dip" in both the state and federal hunt to meet their moose subsistence needs. Once a hunter harvests a moose in Unit 9, whether in the state hunt or the federal hunt, that hunter's subsistence needs have been met for the year regarding the take of moose in Unit 9.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, distributing the harvest of moose in Unit 9 equally among all residents ensures the maximum number of moose is harvested to meet local and non local resident's subsistence needs. Historical harvest data clearly shows that non local harvest of moose in Unit 9 is an important state asset. For seven years from 2000 to 2006, non local harvest equaled local harvest in Unit 9.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Alaskans that depend on subsistence resources in areas with depressed game populations. Harvest opportunity will be shared as evenly as possible between both local and non local residents during times when there is a harvestable surplus sufficient to meet both rural and non rural subsistence needs while simultaneously increasing the depressed moose population in Unit 9.

Non residents will benefit by the increased recovery rate of the Unit 9 moose population which in turn will allow for increased nonresident hunting opportunity and larger bulls for trophy harvest in the future.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Nobody. Both rural and non rural subsistence hunters will have the opportunity to meet their subsistence harvest needs while the department manages the moose population for increased growth.

In March 1999, the Board of Game found that moose in Units 9B, 9C, and 9E met the criteria to be considered "important for providing high levels of human consumptive use" under the state's intensive management law: AS 16.05.255.

Moose populations are mandated by law to be prioritized as a subsistence resource for Alaska residents in times of shortage by AS 16.05.255 (13)(d) which states: "the taking of moose, deer, elk and caribou by residents for personal or family consumption has preference over taking by nonresidents."

The Alaska Supreme Court in *Shepherd v. State, Dept of Fish & Game*, 897 P 2d 33 (Alaska 1995) "the resident preference serves the purpose of conserving scarce wildlife resources for Alaska residents; this unquestionably represents a legitimate state interest."

Unit 9 (A, B, C, D, & E) have a positive Customary & Traditional determination and combined Amount Necessary for Subsistence of 100 - 140 moose per year.

The latest Unit 9 Moose Management Report states the total harvest for the RY00 to RY06 reporting period is even more alarming. Nonresidents harvested 656 moose compared to 491 moose by Alaska residents. Local residents only harvested 255 moose during that time. From 2000 - 2006 nonresidents harvested 257 percent more moose than local residents and 278 percent more moose than non local residents.

Resident moose harvest from 2000 to 2006 averaged just 70 moose per year. The Amount Necessary for Subsistence (ANS) is 100 - 140 moose per year and tends to be based on local harvest needs only, which is a dismal 36 moose per year during this time frame.

From 2000 to 2006 nonresident hunters had an average 52 percent success rate, residents, both local and nonlocal, had just a 29 percent success rate. The Department of Fish and Game note the high migratory nature of this moose population. There is no justification to assume nonresident hunter's harvest moose that resident hunters would never harvest. Boat and airplane use is the preferred method of access for residents as well. Residents may be denied traditional or prime hunting locations by the commercial hunting industry.

The Board of Game has consistently abused and ignored the intent of the legislature in AS 16.05.255 (13) (d) to prioritize moose harvest for residents in a time of shortage. What makes this abuse even more alarming is the fact that the NAPCH caribou herd has been closed to harvest in Unit 9, and the Mulchatna herd is also severely depressed with restricted hunting, creating a far more significant need by residents for harvesting moose.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The intent of the Alaska legislature and Alaska law will continue to be ignored by the Board of Game to prioritize limited subsistence moose harvest in Unit 9 for residents. Such continued abuse by the board when such obvious data sets regarding unjustifiable nonresident harvest are known can only be attributed to the overt influence of the commercial hunting industry in the management of Unit 9's ungulate populations. The Unit 9 working group recommendations continue to highlight that continued unjustified influence. For this "group" to recommend that resident hunters accept a registration

hunt while simultaneously continuing nonresident hunting opportunity is beyond any reasonable justification and can only be attributed to the fact that commercial hunting participation level in that department selected group negatively influenced the Unit 9 working groups recommendations. The department did not allow the public to participate by phone, nor did the department broadcast the meeting over the internet.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, reducing nonessential sport and trophy hunting will enhance the recovery rate of essential subsistence resources and prioritize existing depleted resources for resident harvest to meet the ANS harvest objectives, which complies with legislative intent and state law.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Alaskans that depend on subsistence resources in areas with depressed game populations. The department will benefit by having the authorization to limit nonessential human harvest, which is an important component of an effective adaptive management plan that promotes the recovery of depressed subsistence resources.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? In the short term, nonresident hunters will lose the opportunity to hunt in areas where resident's subsistence need exceeds the amount of available game. In the long run, nonresident hunters will benefit from healthy game populations in the region, especially trophy hunters.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: Further restricting resident harvest dates and horn restrictions. This was rejected due to the fact the Anchorage Advisory Committee felt that restricting nonresident harvest will provide the necessary harvest opportunity for residents to meet the ANS harvest objectives established by the Board of Game while simultaneously promoting increasing moose populations in Unit 9.

Restricting nonresident hunting to remote subunits or non-prime hunting dates. This is unacceptable due to the fact that moose are highly migratory in Unit 9. Allowing nonresident harvest in any location will adversely affect resident harvest potential and will reduce the overall recovery rate of the moose population.

PROPOSED BY: Anchorage Fish and Game Advisory Committee

LOG NUMBER: EG110810197

PROPOSAL 17 - 5AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Extend the moose hunting season five days in subunits 9C and 9E.

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

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Unit 9(C), that portion draining
into the Naknek River

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull; or
1 antlered bull

Sept. 1-Sept. 20 [SEPT. 15]
Dec. 1-Dec 31

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

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

Sept. 5-Sept. 20 [SEPT. 15]

Remainder of Unit 9(C)

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull; or
1 antlered bull

Sept. 1- Sept. 20 [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. 20 [SEPT. 15]

Unit 9(D)

1 antlered bull

Dec. 15-Jan. 20

No open season

Unit 9(E)

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 antlered bull; however moose
taken from Sept 10-Sept 20
must have spike-fork antlers, or
50-inch antlers, or antlers with
3 or more brow tines on one
side

Sept. 10-Sept. 25 [SEPT. 20]
Dec. 1-Jan. 20

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

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

Sept. 10-**Sept. 25** [SEPT. 20]

ISSUE: This proposal extends the moose hunting season 5 days in subunits 9C and 9E. Due to declining participation in moose hunts there is additional opportunity to harvest moose in these subunits. Additionally, the warm fall temperatures experienced recently during the moose season limit moose activity, making it difficult to harvest moose in some years. Lengthening the season 5 days is expected to allow people to harvest more moose and aid in meeting local subsistence needs. Department support for this proposal is contingent on meeting management objectives for the bull:cow ratio in these subunits.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Moose will continue to be harvested with reduced success rates in some years, and the additional opportunity offered by this proposal will not be realized.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? This proposal is expected to increase hunter satisfaction and provide additional moose harvest opportunity.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Moose hunters

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? None

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

LOG NUMBER: ADFG113010J

PROPOSAL 18 - 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Open a portion of Unit 9E to moose hunting.

Open that portion of Unit 9E to moose hunting September 1 - 15 for any bull.

ISSUE: That portion of Unit 9E that is accessible by wheelers on the south side of the Naknek River should be open to moose hunting from September 1-15.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Moose are on the move and rutting. Loss of quality of meat for locals.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Moose won't be in the rut so they will taste better.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Local people and meat hunters.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? I don't know any.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: Pull that portion into Unit 9C from Low Point to a line to Heart Hill; redrawing maps.

PROPOSED BY: William Regan

LOG NUMBER: EG110510190

PROPOSAL 19 - 5 AAC 99.025. Customary and traditional uses of game populations.

Modify the Amount Necessary for Subsistence for Wolves in Unit 9.

Amend 5 AAC 99.025 as follows:

(11) Wolves

Unit 9

Amount needed for subsistence: Define an amount based on ADF&G and USF&WS historical subsistence harvest data, village surveys, anecdotal information, and other sources.

In addition the Science Now Project request the board request an opinion from the Department of Law regarding the states management policy to reduce wolf populations up to 100 percent over 9.5 months of the year complies with the states sustained yield principle. Especially when an area is a majority of the land area of a given subunit in Unit 9.

ISSUE: The Board of Game has made a positive customary and traditional (C&T) use determination for wolves in this unit under the authority of AS 16.05.258 (a). Under that authority, when the board has a positive C&T finding it is required to do the following:

AS 16.05.258 (b) states: "The appropriate board shall determine whether a portion of a fish stock or game population identified under (a) of this section can be harvested consistent with sustained yield. If a portion of a stock or population can be harvested consistent with sustained yield, the board shall determine the amount of the harvestable portion that is reasonably necessary for subsistence uses."

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The board will continue to ignore its statutory obligation to protect and allocate limited subsistence resources for resident subsistence harvest.

In Unit 9, the state has authorized two aggressive wolf reduction program designed to reduce the limited number of wolves that exist in the Unit. Both call for up to 100 percent reduction in wolves over thousands of square miles of Unit 9.

The board is required to manage the wolf population in Unit 9 "consistent with sustained yield principles". This clearly states that the Board must strive to maintain a wolf population that provides at minimum the sustained harvest opportunity for wolves needed for subsistence. There is no sustained yield principle in a management mandate that calls for up to 100 percent reduction in the wolf population.

The Science Now Project supports the reduction of up to 100 percent wolves over a short window of time and limited area, such as the initial birthing periods for moose and caribou populations with defined, compact, calving areas. Wolf numbers are only reduced during a very short time period and then allowed to exist at natural levels during the remainder of the year. When justified, this is the best option for effective predator management.

On the other hand, a management mandate such as the one approved for the northern Unit 9 (NAPCH) intensive management plan, which authorizes the sustained, permanent reduction of wolves up to 100 percent from August 10 - May 25, over thousands of square miles does not meet the sustained yield principle the board is required to follow. This is the worst option for effective predator management.

In addition, in Unit 9 the management objective is to maintain a population of wolves that will sustain a 3 year average annual harvest of at least 50 wolves. That means that for three years in a row, wolves could be depleted below the minimum management objective and deprive subsistence harvest of wolves in Unit 9.

The state lacks the resources and staff to conduct any population census or surveys in Unit 9.

Under such limited scientific oversight and such aggressive wolf reduction policies the Board must define an amount needed for subsistence to meet the sustained yield management principles and prioritize harvest of wolves in Unit 9 for subsistence harvest.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, protecting the sustained yield of subsistence resources is one of the highest priorities of Alaska's constitution and legislative intent.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Residents that support the management of wolves based on the sustained yield principle and that support the legislative intent to prioritize important subsistence resources for residents in time of depleted populations

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Nonresident hunters and subsequently the commercial hunting industry may lose opportunity to harvest wolves

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: The Science Now Project agrees with the legislative intent. No other option applies.

PROPOSED BY: Wade Willis, Science Now Project!

LOG NUMBER: EG110910210

PROPOSAL 20 - 5 AAC 99.025. Customary and traditional uses of game populations.

Modify the Amount Necessary for Subsistence for wolves in Unit 10.

Amend 5 AAC 99.025 as follows:

(11) Wolves

Unit 10 (Unimak Island Only)

Amount needed for subsistence: Define an amount based on ADF&G and USFWS historical subsistence harvest data, village surveys, anecdotal information, and other sources.

ISSUE: The Board of Game has made a positive customary and traditional (C&T) use determination for wolves in this unit under the authority of AS 16.05.258 (a). Under that authority, when the Board has a positive C&T finding it is required to do the following:

AS 16.05.258 (b) states: "The appropriate board shall determine whether a portion of a fish stock or game population identified under (a) of this section can be harvested consistent with sustained yield. If a portion of a stock or population can be harvested consistent with sustained yield, the board shall determine the amount of the harvestable portion that is reasonably necessary for subsistence uses."

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The board will continue to ignore its statutory obligation to protect and allocate limited subsistence resources for resident subsistence harvest.

In Unit 10, the state has authorized an aggressive wolf reduction program designed to reduce the limited number of wolves that exist on the island.

In addition, the intensive management plans for Unit 10 calls for the protection of two mating pairs, which must be maintained and cannot be included in the harvestable surplus estimates for the Unit.

The board is required to manage the wolf population in Unit 10 "consistent with sustained yield principles." This clearly states that the Board must strive to maintain a wolf population that provides at minimum the sustained harvest opportunity for wolves needed for subsistence.

It is the opinion of the Science Now Project that the harvestable surplus based on sustained yield principles will only provide for a subsistence harvest of wolves in Unit 10. Accordingly, the Board would be required to restrict nonresident harvest and commercial hunting opportunity.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, protecting the sustained yield of subsistence resources is one of the highest priorities of Alaska's constitution and legislative intent.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Residents that support the management of wolves based on the sustained yield principle and that support the legislative intent to prioritize important subsistence resources for residents in time of depleted populations.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Nonresident hunters and subsequently the commercial hunting industry may lose opportunity to harvest wolves.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: The Science Now Project agrees with the legislative intent. No other option applies.

PROPOSED BY: Wade Willis, Science Now Project!

LOG NUMBER: EG110910206

PROPOSAL 21 - 5 AAC 92.125. Predation control areas implementation programs.

Implement a predator control plan for wolves and bear in Unit 9B.

Under intensive management plan to include predator control in all of Unit 9B, including community quotas for big game for human consumptive use.

ISSUE: Develop a comprehensive and cooperative caribou and moose rebuilding plan under intensive management to include predator control for wolves and bears in all of Unit 9B. Harvests are down to below 5-10 moose per village and community quotas are an option.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Predator to prey ratios will continue to increase and take from human consumptive use

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Improving the survival and mortality of big game to increase the sustainability for human consumption.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All hunters as a result of a more sustainable herd.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED Community harvest quotas only the Board of Game can issue

PROPOSED BY: Kokhanok Village Council

LOG NUMBER: EG120610269

PROPOSAL 22 - 5 AAC 92.125. Predation control areas implementation programs.

Implement a predator control plan for wolves and bear in Unit 9E.

Under an intensive management plan, include predator control for wolves and bear in all of Unit 9E.

ISSUE: Develop a comprehensive and cooperative caribou and moose rebuilding plan under intensive management to include predator control for wolves and bears in all of Unit 9E. Harvests are down to below historical moose harvest; pre-village and community quotas are an option.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Predator to prey ratios will continue to increase depleting their food supply, creating a safety concern in local villages and take from human consumptive use.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Improving the survival and mortality of big game to increase the sustainability for human consumption.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All hunters as a result of a more sustainable herd.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED Including community quotas for big game for human consumptive use; community harvest quotas only the Board of Game can issue; putting in a legislative request from the Board of Game to change the management directive from trophy ears to all game species.

PROPOSED BY: Ugashik Traditional Council and the Chignik Lake Village Council

LOG NUMBER: EG120610262

PROPOSAL 23 - 5 AAC 92.125. Predation control areas implementation plans; 84.270(13).

Furbearer trapping; and 85.056(a)(2); and Hunting seasons and bag limits for wolf.

Modify wolf hunting, trapping, and predation control plan for Unit 10, Unimak Island.

Part A – Wolf hunting and trapping seasons and bag limits:

5AAC 84.270(13). Furbearer trapping.

Species and Units	Open Season	Bag Limit
... (13)		
Units 6, 7, [10,]	Nov. 10 - Mar. 31	No limit

11, 14A, 15, and 18

Unit 10,

Nov. 10 - June 30

No limit

...

5AAC 85.056(a)(2). Hunting seasons and bag limits for wolf.

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open season
Unit[S] 9 [AND 10, UNIMAK IS.]	Aug. 10 - May 25	Aug. 10 - May 25
10 wolves per day		
<u>Unit 10,</u> <u>10 wolves per day</u>	<u>Aug. 10 - June 30</u>	<u>Aug. 10 - June 30</u>

Part B – Predation control plan for Unit 10, Unimak Island:

Modify 5 AAC 92.125. Predation Control Areas Implementation Plans

5 AAC 92.125 is amended by to read:

(1)Unimak Wolf Management Area. Notwithstanding any other provisions in this title, and based on the following information contained in this subsection, the commissioner or the commissioner’s designee may conduct a wolf population reduction or wolf population regulation on Unimak Island in Unit 10:

(1) The Unimak Wolf Management Area is established to reverse the population decline and facilitate population growth of the Unimak caribou herd (UCH) on Unimak Island in Unit 10; the UCH has been identified as an important resource for subsistence and other uses; the Unimak Wolf Management Area includes all of Unimak Island, encompassing approximately 1,571 square miles; active control will be confined to an area that is approximately [900] **800** square miles and includes [57] **50** percent of the lands within the management area;

(2) the discussion of wildlife populations and human use information is as follows:

(A) the UCH population information is as follows:

(i) the UCH has occupied Unimak Island throughout recorded history and was estimated at 5,000 caribou in 1975; the UCH population size was estimated to include 1,200 caribou in 2002 before entering a population decline; the most recent estimate of herd size was 400 caribou based on surveys conducted by Izembek National Wildlife Refuge staff in February 2010; **research studies indicate that the UCH is a unique population that does not have significant interchange with adjacent caribou population;**

(ii) in the cause of the UCH population was not investigated initially; however low caribou calf survival is the primary cause of the decline since currently;

(iii) calf ratios in October averaged 5.5 calves:100 cows during the period of 2005 - 2009 (range 3 - 7);

(iv) bull ratios declined from 45 bulls per 100 cows to 5 bulls per cows during the period of 2005 to 2009; the decreased bull ratio is attributed to the lack of calf recruitment and cannot be explained by caribou harvests;

(v) pregnancy rates of cows that were 24 months of age or older decreased from 85 percent in 2008 (n=113) to 68 percent in 2009 (n=40); the decreased pregnancy rate is attributed to the inability of some reproductive females to find mates for breeding, which is cause by the low bull ratio;

(vi) adult female caribou in the UCH have excellent body condition based on a study conducted in 2009; nutrition and range conditions are not limiting reproduction or caribou survival;

(vii) harvestable surplus is estimated to be 0 caribou based on chronic poor calf recruitment and reduced bull ratio;

(viii) state and federal caribou hunts were closed in 2009 due to the continued population decline and low calf recruitment; the closure remains in place as of 2010;

(B) the predator population and human use information is as follows:

(i) wolves are a major predator of caribou in the Unimak Wolf Management Area;

(ii) research into the causes of caribou calf mortality indicates that wolf predation is a major cause of caribou calf deaths during the first two weeks of life and wolves continue to be a major predator throughout the year; wolf predation was the primary cause of calf deaths in the adjacent Southern Alaska Peninsula caribou herd in Unit 9D; the removal of 20 adult wolves from the caribou calving grounds in Unit 9D during two years of a wolf predation management program increased caribou calf survival from 1 percent to 71 percent;

(iii) wolf density on the Alaska Peninsula is estimated at seven wolves per 1,000 square kilometers; wolf densities in the Unimak Wolf Management Area is thought to be similar based on observations made by biologists during caribou surveys; anecdotal evidence obtained from pilots, hunters, and local residents indicates that wolves are abundant throughout the area;

(iv) no wolf surveys have been conducted in the Unimak Wolf Management Area; **research into the movement of wolves documented the movement of a wolf from the mainland to Unimak Island;** wolves are frequently observed within the UCH calving ground; the Unimak Wolf Management Area is thought to include 15 to 30 wolves and in two to five packs based on ungulate biomass and densities of nearby populations;

(v) an average of two wolves (range of 0 - 4 wolves) have been harvested annually in the Unimak Wolf Management Area;

(vi) brown bears are considered to be an important predator of caribou on the Alaska Peninsula and on Unimak Island; while brown bears have been known to kill adult caribou opportunistically, brown bears are regarded as an effective predator of calves during the first 10 days of life;

(vii) research into the causes of caribou calf mortality indicates that brown bears can be an important predator of caribou calves during the first two weeks of life; brown bear predation was a less important cause of caribou calf mortality than wolf predation in the adjacent Northern Alaska Peninsula caribou herd in Units 9(C) and 9(E) and the Southern Alaska Peninsula caribou herd in Unit 9(D), which have similar ecosystems;

(viii) brown bears are considered abundant on Unimak Island; the brown bear density is 100 bears per 1,000 square kilometers in the Unimak Wolf Management Area;

(ix) brown bear harvests in the Unimak Wolf Management Area have averaged 10 brown bear annually from 2000 - 2008;

(3) predator and prey population levels and objectives and the basis for those objectives are as follows:

(A) the management population objective for the UCH is to maintain a population of 1,000 caribou with a bull ratio of at least 35 bulls:100 cows; the amount necessary for subsistence is 100 - 150 caribou annually and includes caribou harvested from the Southern Alaska Peninsula caribou herd in Unit 9(D); the caribou harvest objective required to meet the amount necessary for subsistence has not been met for 18 years; management objectives were established based on historic information regarding population numbers, habitat limitation, human use, and sustainable harvests; hunting seasons for the UCH were closed March 2009; the UCH population contained a minimum of 400 caribou in February 2010;

(B) the wolf population objective for Unimak Island is to maintain a population of 8 – 15 wolves;

(C) the brown bear population objective for Unit 10 is to maintain a high density bear population with a sex and age structure that can sustain a harvest composed of at least 60 percent males; the brown bear population objective for Unit 10 is currently being met;

(4) justification, objectives, and thresholds for the predator management implementation plan are as follows:

(A) justification for the Unimak Wolf Management Area is based on the board's recognition of the UCH as being important for providing caribou for human consumptive use including subsistence; the board established objectives for population size and composition in Unit 10 consistent with multiple use and principles of sound conservation and management of habitat and all wildlife species in the area;

(B) the objectives of the program are to halt the decline of the UCH and to achieve a sex and age structure that will sustain the population; the goal of this program is to reduce the number of wolves in a specified control area that [DEMONSTRATES A HISTORY OF REPEATED USE BY] **is actively used by** caribou **for calving**; the control area [INCLUDES ALL LANDS ON UNIMAK ISLAND THAT ARE WEST OF THE 164 DEGREE WEST LINE OF LONGITUDE] **will be defined annually by the department based on the distribution of calving**; the control area includes [900] **800** square miles and includes approximately [57] **50** percent of the lands within the Unimak Wolf Management Area; the department and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service are exploring the possibility of transplanting caribou bulls onto the island in order to improve the bull to cow ratio; wolf predation is likely to be necessary in order to afford additional protection to these bulls and resulting calves;

(C) The commissioner may initiate the reduction of wolf numbers in the Unimak Wolf Management Area according to the following thresholds:

- (i) the caribou population is below management objectives established by the board;
- (ii) nutrition is not considered to be the primary factor limiting caribou population growth;
- (iii) calf recruitment is an important factor limiting population growth and calf survival during the first four weeks of life is less than 50;

(D) the commissioner may continue to reduce wolf numbers in the Unimak Wolf Management area until the following thresholds can be met without the benefit of wolf reduction:

- (i) the bull ratio can be sustained within management objectives and the fall calf ratio can be sustained above 25 calves per cows;
- (ii) the population can grow at a sustained rate of five percent annually;
- (iii) harvest objectives can be met;

(E) the commissioner will suspend the wolf reduction program if the following conditions are observed pending further review by the board to determine if the program can be modified to achieve the objectives of this program before reinstating the program, except that hunting and trapping by the public specified in other sections of this title may continue and are not subject to this subparagraph:

(i) caribou nutritional indices such as pregnancy rates, calf and adult body mass, or other condition indices exhibit a declining trend from current values and the bull ratio is greater than 20 bulls:100 cows;

(ii) fall caribou calf ratios remain below 20 calves per 100 cows for three consecutive years of wolf removal from the Unimak Wolf Management Area;

(iii) the bull ratio remains below the caribou population objectives and does not increase for three consecutive years of wolf removal from the Unimak Wolf Management Area;

(iv) the wolf population is reduced to two breeding pairs;

(F) the wolf population objective for the Unimak Wolf Management Area is to reduce wolf numbers in the control area on Unimak Island in Unit 10 to the wolf population objective while maintaining at least two breeding pairs; wolves will not be removed from [43] **50** percent of the lands within the management area that are outside the boundaries of the control area **to maintain the wolf population on Unimak Island**; because wolves will not be removed from all lands within the management area, **wolf movement from the mainland to Unimak Island has been observed**, logistic limitations prohibit public access to the majority of lands within the management area, wolf harvest by the public is low, and only wolves thought to be killing caribou calves will be removed, [ONLY A PORTION OF] the **viability of the** wolf population on Unimak Island [WILL] **should not** be affected by the management activities authorized by this plan; if the wolf population inadvertently declines to fewer than two breeding pairs, wolves may be translocated to the island from an adjacent population;

(G) reduction of predators by humans is necessary to stop the caribou population decline and to promote population recovery;

(H) reduction of wolf numbers in the prescribed control area is expected to increase caribou calf survival and recruitment and increase the caribou bull ratio to management objectives;

(I) reduction of bear numbers remains problematic due to the high density of brown bears in the Unit 10, logistical limitations, and competing management priorities;

(5) the authorized methods and means used to take wolves are as follows:

(A) hunting and trapping of wolves by the public in treatment areas during the term of the management program may occur as provided in the hunting and trapping regulations set out elsewhere in this title;

(B) the commissioner may issue public aerial shooting permits, public land and shoot permits, or ground-based shooting permits, or allow agents of the state or department employees to conduct aerial, land and shoot, or ground-based shooting as a method of wolf removal under AS 16.05.783, including the use of any type of aircraft;

(C) the commissioner may authorize the use of state employees or agents or state owned, privately owned, or charter equipment, including helicopters, as a method of wolf removal under AS 16.05.783;

(6) the anticipated time frame and schedule for update and reevaluation are as follows:

(A) for up to 10 years beginning July 1, 2010, the commissioner may reduce the wolf populations in the Unimak Wolf Management Area;

(B) annually the department shall, to the extent practicable, provide to the board a report of program activities conducted during the preceding 12 months, including implementation activities, the status of caribou and wolf populations, and recommendations for changes, if necessary to achieve the objectives of the plan;

(7) other specifications that the Board considers necessary:

(A) the commissioner shall suspend wolf control activities

(i) when prey population management objectives are obtained;

(ii) predation management objectives are met;

(iii) upon expiration of the period during which the commissioner is authorized to reduce predator numbers in the predator control plan area;

(B) the commissioner shall annually close wolf hunting and trapping seasons as appropriate to ensure that the minimum wolf population objectives are met.

ISSUE: The Unimak Caribou herd is declining and can no longer support use by resource users. The population's sex ratio and calf ratio are extremely low and are not expected to improve without active management of predators.

This proposal extends the wolf hunting and trapping season on Unimak Island and expands the area in which the Department of Fish and Game is authorized to conduct wolf control on the island. The Department will annually select the active control area based on the current caribou calving distribution and limit the size of the active control area to no more than 50 percent of the island. Wolves occupying the remainder of the island will not be removed to aid in protecting and maintaining the wolf population.

Extension of the wolf hunting and trapping seasons will allow for additional harvest by the public at a time crucial for survival of caribou calves. The season extensions will provide the public additional opportunity to, in some measure, compensate for the delayed activation of targeted wolf reduction plan.

The season extensions under normal methods and means will probably not provide the level of mitigation necessary to meet board objectives for caribou calf survival and recruitment. However, the season extensions could serve to mitigate the declining trend in calf survival and recruitment. While normally there would be little expectation of increased wolf harvests under an extended hunting and trapping season, members of the public, including local hunters, have indicated they would undertake such efforts if it would benefit the caribou population.

The recommended changes in the Unimak Wolf Management Program are based on observations made during the 2010 field season. During the 2010 field season a significant number of caribou were observed calving outside of the currently authorized, wolf control area. Caribou calves born outside of the control area would not have received adequate protection if the program had been implemented and would be expected to die at a very high rate. The loss of

these calves from the population increases the amount of time required to achieve the goals of this program and restore hunting opportunity.

The Unimak wolf management program is designed to increase caribou calf survival rates to facilitate herd recovery while simultaneously providing protection to the wolf population on Unimak Island. In this program wolves are selectively removed from calving areas during the period in which calves are most vulnerable to predation to increase calf survival. The method used to increase calf survival does not require the removal of all wolves from the wolf control area. The overall effectiveness of the program and duration of time over which the program must be executed depends solely on the removal of wolves actively preying on calves.

Because the wolf removal method in the management plan is not designed to remove all wolves from the control area, because the active control area will be limited to 50 percent of the island, and because the wolf population Unimak Island does not appear isolated from the adjacent mainland wolf population, authorizing the wolf control area to anywhere within the Unimak Management Area does not jeopardize the wolf population in and of itself. Steps will be taken to assure that the wolves persist on Unimak Island after the program has ended.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? If the boundary is not adjusted caribou calves born outside of the control area will not be protected by this program and their survival rates are expected to remain low. The loss of these calves will increase the amount of time required to achieve the objectives of this program.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Expanding the wolf control area to the entire island is expected to increase the effectiveness of the program and promote herd recovery. Harvest opportunity will be restored when the herd has recovered sufficiently to allow hunting.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Future hunters

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? None

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

LOG NUMBER: ADFG113010L

Dillingham Area – Unit 17

PROPOSAL 24 - 5 AAC 92.010. Harvest tickets and reports. Delete the requirement for black bear harvest tickets in Game Management Unit 17.

5 AAC 92.010. Harvest tickets and reports.

(l) for black bear; a person may not hunt black bear Units 1-7, 11-~~16~~ [17], 19(D), and 20, except when a permit is required, unless the person has in possession a harvest ticket for the species and has obtained a harvest report (issued with the harvest ticket).

ISSUE: At the spring 2009 Board of Game meeting, the board passed a regulation requiring harvest tickets for black bear hunting in many units, including Unit 17. There has been an average of less than 10 black bears per year reported taken in Unit 17 since 2001. There is little to no directed black bear hunting activity in Unit 17, but rather black bears taken in this unit are incidental to other hunting activity. A great deal of time, effort and expense is required of the Department to ensure that black bear harvest tickets and harvest reports are available to hunters in Unit 17, with little expectation of much directed black bear hunting effort information.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Black bear harvest tickets and harvest reports will still be required in Unit 17.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Will have no impact on the quality of the resource harvested. The limited, but not very useful effort information that is now collected will not be obtained.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The Department, in that the expense and effort of providing black bear harvest tickets in Unit 17 will be eliminated. Hunters who have not obtained a black bear harvest card and incidentally see a black bear will not be prevented from harvesting a black bear.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: Keep requirement for black bear harvest card in Unit 17.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

LOG NUMBER: ADFG113010P

PROPOSAL 25- 5 AAC 85.020. Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear, and 92.132. Bag limit for brown bears. Modify the brown bear bag limit in Unit 17.

Allow both resident and nonresident hunters to harvest two brown bears per year.

ISSUE: Increase in brown bear population in Unit 17

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Decrease in moose and caribou populations, more interactions with humans.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All moose and caribou hunters

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED:

PROPOSED BY: Chris Carr

LOG NUMBER: EG102510106

PROPOSAL 26- 5 AAC 85.020. Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear. Amend the brown bear season and bag limits in Unit 17.

Unit 17

(15)

1. Nonresident: 1 bear every 4 years
- 2, Nonresident: October 1 – October 21 (odd years only)
May 10 - May 25 (even years only)

ISSUE: Excessive brown bear harvest opportunity in Unit 17B, an area bordering and including Lake Clark National Preserve that conflicts with the purpose of the preserve. Liberalized brown bear harvest regulations were approved in 2001, 2003, and 2009.

The current state regulations are inconsistent with the federal management standards for NPS areas.

From Regulatory Year (RY) 92/93 to RY 99/00 the average brown bear harvest in just Unit 17B was 36 bears per year. From RY 00/01 to RY 05/06 the average bear harvest in Unit 17B increased to 100 bears per year, an increase of 278 percent in just six years.

During the last three years of published harvest data (RY 03/04 to RY 05/06) the female harvest component has exceeded the management objective of less than 50 percent harvest rate each year.

Nonresident hunters accounted for eight of our ten brown bear harvested from 1991 to 2006.

The increase in harvest in Unit 17B can be attributed to the authorization of liberal brown bear harvest regulations. Another significant factor is the restriction on brown bear harvest in

bordering Unit 9 where alternating fall spring seasons and 1 bear every 4 year restrictions apply for the majority of the Unit.

The discrepancies between management objectives between the two bordering Unit's of 17B and 9B are striking:

Unit 17B Brown Bear Harvest Regulations

Resident & Nonresident
1 bear every year
September 1 - May 31

Unit 9B Brown Bear Harvest Regulations

No Nonresident Hunting
Registration Subsistence Hunt Only
September 1 - May 31

At the spring 2009 Board of Game (BOG) meeting the NPS requested restricting the Unit 17B brown bear hunting regulations. Instead the Board chose to liberalize the regulations on the assumption it would increase moose calf survival, despite the fact that in 2004f, 2006, and 2009 the NPS had opposed liberalizing brown bear hunting seasons and bag limits for NPS managed lands in Unit 17B, especially if based on intensive management principles with no corresponding scientific justification.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Excessive and concentrated harvest will continue to occur in Unit 17B, including the Mulchatna drainage, bordering and within the Lake Clark National Preserve.

In the 2001 brown bear management report the department noted the department's concerns about concentrated harvest in this region of Unit 17B. Yet in 2003 and in 2009 the Board of Game liberalized the harvest opportunity in Unit 17B, further compounding the problem.

On page 115 of the 2001 Brown Bear management report the department state: *"The bear population along the Mulchatna River should be monitored closely to watch for signs of over harvest."*

The recent overharvest of female bears should be a warning.

Artificial manipulation of bear populations on state lands bordering and within National Park Service managed lands may be creating a significant populations "sink". Several bear research biologists, including department area biologist and research staff, have noted that emigration out of bordering NPS managed lands is likely (Units 13 & 23) and subsequently bolstering unstable harvest rates on bordering state lands. The emigration of bears out of NPS managed lands may not be sustainable over time, and may be causing significant impacts to the natural age class composition of bears within MNPS managed lands, which in turn may be creating a public safety risk due to the presence of an unnaturally high density of younger, immature bears on NPS managed lands.

Current DLP rates and estimated unreported kill rates are very high in Unit 17, suggesting the overharvest of the mature male cohort of the bear population may be having a significant negative impact, including within NPS managed lands.

On page 164 of the 2007 Brown Bear Management Report, the ADF&G acknowledge that large male bears are particularly susceptible to harvest during den emergency in March and April. Alternating years with spring hunts is an effective measure for mitigating that vulnerability.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, the proposal will address excessive female harvest of brown bears in Unit 17. The season date amendments will align nonresident hunting opportunity with bordering Unit seasons. These proposed amendments will eliminate the increased hunting pressure in Unit 17B due to excessively liberal harvest regulations in this management unit compared to bordering management units.

The proposal will promote sustainable harvest of brown bears which will correspondingly promote abundance of large, mature boards. In a 1998 department report to the Board of Game the department stated:

"The \$25 tag fee and 1 bear every 4 years standard thus reflected an attitude in which most hunters held brown/grizzly bears in high esteem, to be harvested conservatively as part of a carefully planned hunting experience rather than incidental to other activities. A statewide requirement to salvage brown/grizzly bear hides and skulls, but with no requirement to also salvage the edible meat, further underscored the prevailing attitude that this was a trophy animal."

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Federal land managers are required to manage for natural diversity, including age class composition, and diversity of brown bear populations within the NPS managed lands.

Hunters will also benefit. In a 1998 department report to the Board of Game the department stated:

"The \$25 tag fee and 1 bear every 4 years standard thus reflected an attitude in which most hunters held brown/grizzly bears in high esteem, to be harvested conservatively as part of a carefully planned hunting experience rather than incidental to other activities. A statewide requirement to salvage brown/grizzly bear hides and skulls, but with no requirement to also salvage the edible meat, further underscored the prevailing attitude that this was a trophy animal."

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Nonresident hunters that may want to harvest a brown bear more than once every four years. Yet, if they can always go to another area with a brown bear population that supports a one bear every year limit.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: Closing the harvest opportunity for nonresidents completely, as is the case in Unit 9B. NPCA feels the proposed regulations should accomplish the goal of promoting a more sustainable harvest composition and be effective in spreading hunting effort among bordering Unit's, minimizing the concentrated harvest along the upper Mulchatna River and the need for more restrictive regulations. Restricting resident harvest as well. Unnecessary as 8 out of 10 hunters are nonresidents. Restricting harvest opportunity for nonresidents may be sufficient at this time.

PROPOSED BY: National Park Conservation Association

LOG NUMBER: EG111010216

PROPOSAL 27- 5 AAC 92.125. Predation Control Areas Implementation Plans. Adopt a predator control implementation plan for brown bears in Unit 17B.

Permits will be issued to take brown bears for the purposes of predation control in Unit 17 B.

Adopt a similar brown bear control permit program for Unit 17B that is now implemented for black bear, as of July 1, 2008, in Unit 16 (Control Permit ML 202 and ML 212) and brown bear in Unit 19D (MB 301) and Unit 20E (MB 303).

Permit Conditions:

- Permits will be issued to take brown bears for the purposes of predation control in Unit 17B.
- Local licensed residents may obtain a bear control permit.
- The permit and valid resident Alaska hunting license must be carried while participating in this control program.
- The permit is not transferable and applies only to brown bears.
- Cubs and females accompanied by cubs may not be taken; however there is no closed season, and no limit to the number of brown bears taken by an individual permittee.
- All hides and skulls must be salvaged and sealed by the Department of Fish and Game within 30 days of take.
- After sealing, the department will issue permits allowing permittees to sell untanned hides (with claws attached) and skulls, or tanned hides (with claws attached) and skulls, as long as sale tag remains attached.
- Permittees are required to complete the mail-in report section of the permit. Mail-in reports must be received at the Dillingham department office after completion of control activities. Failure to report on the permit is cause for denial of future control permits.
- Permits will be cancelled if necessary to prevent exceeding the desired predation control quota.

ISSUE: The brown bear population in Unit 17 has skyrocketed in the past few years. Sows with cubs, lots of adolescences, and large males are seen everywhere. The increased numbers of bears are becoming a serious problem to the moose population which local residents rely upon for subsistence food.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? An increase in the number of brown bears is seen by locals in Unit 17B. This increased number of bears prey on moose and especially the moose calves. In Unit 17B the local residents are seeing very few moose calves or even moose calf tracks, but gravel bars, sloughs and creeks are covered with bear tracks. If the brown bear population continues to increase and the problem is not solved very soon, the moose population could reach a critical point of no return.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? This proposal will increase the numbers of brown bears harvested in a controlled manner, to insure a quality subsistence moose harvest for local residents in the future.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All moose hunters would benefit from an increased number of moose that would otherwise be eaten by brown bears. If nothing is done soon, the moose population will decline due to the number of calves taken by brown bears.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one will suffer. The proposal has a safeguard that will cancel the "brown bear control permits" to prevent exceeding the desired predation control quota.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: No closed season on brown bear and no limit in Unit 17. However, this would not have the safeguards to prevent exceeding the desired predation control quota that a control permit would have.

PROPOSED BY: Roger Skogen

LOG NUMBER: EG111510233

PROPOSAL 28- 5 AAC 85.020. Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear; 92.132. Bag limit for brown bears; and 92.165. Sealing of bear skins and skulls. Change the brown bear bag limit and other hunt conditions in Unit 17B.

1. Two (2) brown bears per year may be harvested by residents
2. No locking tag required by residents
3. No closed season for residents
4. Allow brown bears that pull up and destroy subsistence salmon fishing nets to be classified as DLP bears
5. Eliminate the burden of expense local residents must endure to have the hide sealed
6. The above regulations can be cancelled by emergency order, so the brown bear control quota will not be exceeded.

ISSUE: The moose population in the upper Game Management Unit 17B is in a serious decline. This fall, in 2010, during the late hunting season and into the late rut both on the upper Nuyukuk River and upper Nushagak River above Harris Creek the gravel bars and sloughs were nearly void of any moose sign. These areas just ten years ago were abundant with moose and moose sign. The locals are just not seeing the moose or their sign there anymore and are extremely concerned that this important traditional food resource, they depend upon, in upper Game Management Unit 17B will soon be gone if nothing is done.

Predation by brown bear, wolves, and man are decimating the moose population in upper Unit 17B. Both the brown bear and wolf populations are higher than locals have ever seen. Some measures have been taken by the state to decrease the predation of moose and moose calves by the bears and wolves in upper Unit 17B, but the moose population continues to decline. Local

residents want to help decrease the bear population but are hindered because of the tag expense, the bag limit of one bear, and the cost of traveling to Dillingham (\$200) to get the hide sealed.

It may already be too late, but something needs to be done, or this precious moose resource that residents who live on the Nushagak River depend upon to feed their families will soon be gone.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The moose population in upper Game Management Unit 17B will continue to decline until they cannot make a come-back.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? This proposal will empower local residents to help reduce the brown bear predation on the moose in upper Game Management Unit 17 B and allow the moose population to make a come-back.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Everyone. The nonresident brown bear hunt will not change. More moose calves will survive and the moose population will have a chance to rebound. The traditional subsistence supply of moose will make a come-back again.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: Allow local residents of the Nushagak River drainage to shoot, trap or snare brown bear with no limit and no closed season. This idea was rejected because it was too extreme.

PROPOSED BY: Roger Skogen

LOG NUMBER: EG111510234

PROPOSAL 29 - 5 AAC 85.020. Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear; and 92.132. Bag limits for brown bear; and 92.200. Salvage of game meat, furs, and hides. Change the season, bag limit, and salvage requirement for brown bear in Unit 17.

Eliminate the DLP (defense of life and property) salvage requirements of hide and skull for Unit 17; two bears per regulatory year; August 20 - May 30.

ISSUE: Brown bear population - safety concern, and the human/bear interaction has increased; concerns of defense of life and property (DLP), and salvage requirements for brown bear in Unit 17.

- 1.) Salvage requirements have to be eliminated for trouble bears that threaten life and property.
- 2.) Salvage requirements of the hide and skull make it difficult for the average home owner to salvage the hide and skull especially in the spring summer and early fall when the hides are in really horrible shape.
3. Reporting a DLP bear is a cumbersome process when the salvage requirements of the hide and skull are in place no one wants to report. Skin and salvage the hide

and skull for ADF&G. 4.) Population explosion of brown bears and brown bear harvests haven't met that increase. 5.) Human and bear interaction has escalated from a nuisance to a safety concern.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Continued bear and human interaction will increase causing increasing safety concerns.

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Bear hunters, ADF&G staff and budgets that have to deal with ruff hides and skulls; ADF&G managers, the DLP numbers will most likely increase for easier to report on a DLP bear.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one. There is no shortage of bears in Alaska.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED Open the season all year but hides are no good late spring until early fall. Transport bears out of region but they will be going to an already overly dense region.

PROPOSED BY: New Stuyahok Tribal Council

LOG NUMBER: EG120610267

PROPOSAL 30 - 5 AAC 85.025. Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou. Change the caribou seasons in Unit 17.

Unit 17A - Residents allowed two caribou; no more than one bull to be taken August 1- April 15.

Unit 17A - Nonresidents: Closed (due to low bull numbers).

Unit 17B - Residents: Two caribou, no more than one bull to be taken August 1-April 15.

Unit 17B - Nonresidents: Closed (due to low bull numbers).

Unit 17C - Residents: Two caribou, no more than one bull to be taken, August 1- April 15.

Unit 17C - Nonresidents: Closed.

ISSUE: The caribou season for Units 17A, 17B, and 17C; August 1 - March 1.

1. The migration of this herd in the spring is later then the local villages cannot access when the season closes March 15 ever year. So the villages' only option is request for emergency extensions every year which get turned down. The season should be moved back to August 1st to April 15.

2. Close the nonresident hunting to preserve the bull population; the bull to cow ratio is 16.8:100 (Management objective - 35:100).

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The 83 reported harvests of caribou in Unit 17 in 2009 for the 4,703 residents will continue to decline below the .017% caribou share per-resident for human consumption.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Improving the bull to cow ratios to increase the sustainability of this herd.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All hunters as a result of a more sustainable herd. Eventually the nonresident hunter will benefit by sustainability of this herd.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Guided and nonguided users for a limited time, nonresident hunters accessing the area.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED Close the hunt entirely. Unrealistic with the range and number of resident depending on the herd for food.

PROPOSED BY: New Stuyahok Tribal Council

LOG NUMBER: EG120610264

PROPOSAL 31- 5 AAC 85.025. Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou. Open a nonresident drawing hunt for caribou in Unit 17.

The Board of Game can re-open the nonresident season under a drawing permit. The drawing permit can be applied for on-line and the hunters may report online or by phone. The drawing permits may be restricted to “x” number of permits based upon the past success rates for bulls taken by nonresident hunters. The allocation of 25 bulls should be the minimum target since nonresident hunters took that many in 2008. The area biologist may raise the allocation when the bull numbers increase as expected. The season dates would be August 10- November 15.

ISSUE: The Unit 17 nonresident caribou hunting and should now be reopened since the mature bull to cow ratio has improved.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Opportunity to harvest caribou in Unit 17 will be needlessly restricted.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? The proposal increases the quantity of caribou harvested.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Nonresident hunters will now have an opportunity. The state will get revenue from license and tag sales. Guides, transporters and air taxis may benefit if they are hired to provide service. With the costs of transporting meat, the local people will get more caribou meat.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: I considered opening the season to the dates and limit that were in place before the closure. I rejected this because I felt it would be more prudent to allow the area biologist to raise the allocation instead of risking a general season with fixed dates.

I submitted a companion proposal to allow a registration permit. I did not reject that idea but rather submitted it as a separate alternative. The big differences between the drawing permit and registration permit is that under the drawing permit the hunter can make long term plans and be able to know the season will be open upon arrival. This would most likely favor a transporter. On the other hand more people may be able to participate under the registration permit and guides could list caribou as incidental to moose or brown bear hunts. As a guide, I would prefer the registration permit over the drawing permit.

PROPOSED BY: Smokey Don Duncan

LOG NUMBER: EG102710114

PROPOSAL 32- 5 AAC 85.025. Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou. Open a nonresident registration hunt for caribou in Unit 17.

The Board of Game can re-open the nonresident season under a registration permit. The registration can be applied for on-line and the hunters may report online or by phone. The harvest may be restricted to “x” of bulls with any cows taken not counted against the total allowable bull harvest. The allocation of 25 bulls should be the minimum allowed since non-resident hunters took that many in 2008. The area biologist may raise the allocation when the bull numbers increase as expected. The season dates would be August 10- November 15.

ISSUE: The Unit 17 nonresident caribou hunting and should now be re-opened since the mature bull to cow ratio has improved.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Opportunity to harvest caribou in Unit 17 will be needlessly restricted.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? The proposal increases the quantity of caribou harvested.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Nonresident hunters will now have an opportunity. The state will get revenue from license and tag sales. Guides, transporters and air taxis may benefit if they are hired to provide service. With the costs of transporting meat, the local people will get more caribou meat.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: I considered opening the season to the dates and limit that were in place before the closure. I rejected this because I felt it would be more prudent to allow the area biologist to raise the allocation instead of risking a general season with fixed dates.

I submitted a companion proposal to allow a drawing permit. I did not reject that idea but rather submitted it as a separate alternative.

PROPOSED BY: Smokey Don Duncan

LOG NUMBER: EG102710115

PROPOSAL 33- 5 AAC . 92.050. Required permit hunt conditions and procedures. Change the deadline for nonresidents to apply for certain permit hunts in Unit 17.

Any permit, including RM 587, that requires persons to register in person at any Department of Fish and Game (department) office: that any deadline is automatically extended to the next business day when the deadline date falls on a weekend or holiday.

ISSUE: RM 587. The nonresident registration period deadline can fall on a weekend or a holiday. When that occurs; the deadline needs to be extended until the next available day the department is open. The department is only open Monday through Friday 8 am to 5 pm. Registrants must show up on those days and between those hours. In 2011 for example; the last day to sign up is Labor Day on a Monday. The department will be closed. So then the people must be there on Friday September 2, by 5 pm. And given the current flight schedules, they must leave home September 1, which pushes this hunt to two plus weeks which is too long for most people.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? This hunt will be under subscribed and underutilized and those that do partake in it will be needlessly troubled for no real reason.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? This is a house keeping measure.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The hunters that subscribe to the hunt. The hunt is 11 days. Requiring them to show up earlier increases the number of days. The best hunting is the last few days.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? The hotels in Dillingham that would house clients when they have to show up earlier than needed.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: Doing away with the permit entirely. That is what is really needed.

PROPOSED BY: Smokey Don Duncan

LOG NUMBER: EG102510104

PROPOSAL 34 -5 AAC 85.045 Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Establish a nonresident registration hunt in Togiak National Wildlife Refuge in Unit 17A

Units and bag limits:

Unit 17(A)

1 bull per regulatory year, only as follows:

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull by registration Aug. 25- Sept. 20 ; or

(Subsistence hunt only)

1 antlered bull by Dec. 1 - Jan. 31
registration permit; (Subsistence hunt only)
during the period (To be announced)
Dec. 1 - Jan. 31, a season of up to 14 days may be
announced by emergency order

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS: [NO OPEN SEASON.]

That portion within the Togiak National Wildlife Refuge;
One bull with 50 inch, 3 brow tines on one side
September 1-20

ISSUE: Moose populations in the TNWR have been increasing and resident hunting seasons and bag limits are liberal. Most lands close to villages are not included in the TNWR so the refuge boundaries were chosen to minimize conflicts with locals.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Nothing, status quo

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCT PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? NO

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Nonresident hunters that have not had the opportunity to hunt in this area

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Include the Portion of TNWR in unit 18, out of cycle for this meeting

PROPOSED BY: Aaron Bloomquist

LOG NUMBER: EG113010255

PROPOSAL 35 - 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Change the nonresident registration moose hunt in Unit 17B to a general hunt.

The registration permit requirement would be eliminated and the area would revert to a general season hunt.

ISSUE: Eliminate the registration hunt, RM 587. This permit requires nonresident moose hunters to show up at ADF&G between Monday through Friday, 8 am -5 pm in person in Dillingham. The need for RM 587 is no longer present. The permit has never been fully subscribed. The average number issued is 42 and the limit is 75. This permit was originally put in place to be a stop gap and to discourage nonresident hunters. It was effective. But the need for it is no longer there. Guides in the area have been substantially wounded even though they did not create the problem. The fly in, drop off transporters created the problem and brought in unlimited hunters, some with moose tags or harvest tickets. They were mostly after caribou. The attractiveness of the caribou are gone and the issues with the transporters has subsided.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Hunters and ADF&G will continue to be needlessly inconvenienced. Hunters will continue to be discouraged from hunting the area because they cannot dedicate enough time to hunt moose in this area.

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Non-resident moose hunters and nonresident combination moose and brown bear hunters. Guides trying to sell the hunt will benefit since hunters would be able to book shorter moose hunts and not have to show up days before the hunt just to get the permit. The hunters would also not be required to fly into and through Dillingham on the only airline available that has the reputation of leaving all their luggage in Anchorage for days. This has become a serious and costly logistical concern for everyone including the guides. Other airlines that fly direct will benefit

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? The airline that flies from Anchorage to Dillingham will see fewer hunters. The Dillingham B&Bs and hotels will see fewer moose hunters.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: Other solutions considered include the companion proposal to allow permits to be pick up on the first business day after a weekend or holiday. Another good solution is to allow the permit registration to remain open until all 75 have been issued. That solution would be better than nothing but would still leave in place the client's fear that a permit may not be available upon arrival. Another workable solution would be to allow the guide to pick up the permit upon showing the guide client agreement contract. But the best all around solution is to eliminate the permit requirement entirely.

PROPOSED BY: Smokey Don Duncan

LOG NUMBER: EG102510105

PROPOSAL 36 - 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Implement a moratorium on nonresident moose hunting in Unit 17B.

A five year moratorium will be placed on all nonresident hunting of moose on the entire Nushagak River drainage upstream from its confluence with the Nuyukuk River.

A five year moratorium will be placed on all nonresident hunting of moose on the entire Nuyuky River drainage beginning at its confluence with the Nushagak River up to the Nuyukuk Falls.

ISSUE: The moose population in the upper Game Management Unit 17B is in a serious decline. This fall, in 2010, during the late hunting season and into the late rut both on the upper Nuyukuk River and upper Nushagak River above Harris Creek the gravel bars and sloughs were nearly void of any moose sign. These areas that just 10 years ago were abundant with moose and moose sign. The local residents are just not seeing the moose or their sign anymore and are extremely concerned that this important traditional food resource, that they depend on, in upper Unit 17B will soon be gone if nothing is done.

Predation by brown bear, wolves, and man are decimating the moose population in upper Unit 17B. Both the brown bear and wolf population are higher than locals have ever seen. Some measures have been taken by the state to decrease the predation of moose by the bears and wolves but the moose population continues to decline. Compounding the problem is the continued nonresident harvesting of moose and all boat traffic associated with it in upper 17B. It may already be too late, but something needs to be done, or this precious resource that residents who live on the Nushagak River depend upon to feed their families will soon be gone.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The moose population in upper Unit 17B will continue to decline until they cannot make a come-back.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? This proposal will temporarily end the nonresident hunting pressure on the moose and all the traffic associated with it, in upper 17B, allowing the moose population to make a come-back.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The moose population will have a much better chance of increasing so that both resident and nonresident hunters will benefit in the long term.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Nonresident hunters and about six guide/outfitters that can join local hunters in their efforts to reduce the high bear and wolf populations in upper 17B.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: Continue the present course we are on, until there are no more moose left in upper 17B. This idea was rejected because the moose population in upper 17B is already in serious trouble and something needs to be done or everyone will lose.

PROPOSED BY: Roger Skogen

LOG NUMBER: EG111510232

PROPOSAL 37 - 5 AAC 85.045 Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Make the Unit 17 moose registration permits more readily available.

Units and bag limits

Unit 17 B&C

RM 583, 585, 587 will be available in person in designated villages DURING the hunting season, Anchorage, Soldotna, Dillingham and online.

ISSUE: Some Registration moose permits in unit 17 are only available in the village nearest the hunt area 2-3 weeks before the hunt opens. This causes much extra cost (around \$1000 extra from Anchorage) to participate in this hunt for all residents other than those residing in the local village. Non local resident hunters must fly to the village weeks before their hunt to get permits. Most non-local resident moose hunters hunting 17B do not go through Dillingham but rather Illiamna, Lake Clark, or fly directly from Anchorage or Kenai. This is a rural priority designed to keep non-local resident hunters out. Moose are trust property and owned by all Alaskans equally.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Only a small number of people will have a realistic opportunity to hunt moose in these sought after locations without spending extra money and time to go to the village weeks before hunting.

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Alaska resident moose hunters.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Local hunters may see more pressure from non local Alaskans.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Get rid of the registration hunt and make it all drawing, not needed. Make permits available in major cities.

PROPOSED BY: Aaron Bloomquist

LOG NUMBER: EG113010258

PROPOSAL 38- 5 AAC 92.095. Unlawful methods of taking furbearers; exceptions. Allow the use of radio communication for harvesting wolves in Unit 17.

“except in Unit 17 B, the part of the Nushagak River drainage upstream of and including the Nuyukuk River and the area of the Mulchatna River drainage upstream of Old Man Creek, you may use radio communications, cellular or satellite phones and you may assist, if you have been airborne, and you may receive assistance from someone who has been airborne”. For a potential amendment see #7.

ISSUE: Increasing wolf harvest opportunity and efficiency in Unit 17, particularly the northern part of Unit 17. The main cause of low wolf harvests in this area is simple logistics. The area is very remote and is huge with varied terrain. Everything here is very costly. Fuel is \$7/ gallon and freight is over \$1/pound in the nearest village. There are not enough wolf trappers in the northern part of Unit 17. To increase opportunity and harvest beyond traditional methods we need to loosen the methods and means allowed to include same day airborne communication assistance.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Opportunity to harvest wolves in the upper northern part of Unit 17 will be restricted due to logistical and efficiency costs. Caribou numbers will continue to recover very slowly. When the Mulchatna Caribou herd crashed, wolves turned their hungry mouths to moose. The moose population in the northern most reaches of Unit 17 began to decline immediately due to predation and migration to safer areas further south close to the villages where the locals kept the wolves in balance. The moose have generally stayed south. Many of the small creeks and drainages on the upper Nushagak and northern edges of unit 17 remain under-populated concerning moose. Moose numbers have begun to recover slowly in the last two years. Brown bear harvest has increased area wide in the last several years leaving wolves as the only cause of continued slow moose recovery.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? More wolves will be taken during the spring when hides are prime.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Trappers will be able to know there is a real time chance at bagging a wolf before spending lots of money and time.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Trappers who wreck snow machines.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: I considered putting a time limit between being airborne and communication or taking. For example including wording that says “except you may not take a wolf within 1 hour of receiving communication assistance from someone who has been airborne.”

I considered separating this proposal into two proposals by separating the communications and airborne regulations. I rejected because neither proposal, standing alone, would produce tangible results. I considered backing a call for predator control but rejected that because it would take too much time to implement and that time has passed. And because this proposal stays away from the extreme of land and shoot or airborne shooting.

I considered including other areas in Unit 17 and parts of Unit 18 and 19 but rejected them because they are not the large block of state land like 17 B.

PROPOSED BY: Smokey Don Duncan

LOG NUMBER: EG102910133

Glennallen Area – Units 11 and 13

PROPOSAL 39- 5 AAC 85.065. Hunting seasons and bag limits for small game. Modify the bag limit for ptarmigan in Unit 13.

It would be the same as for the rest of Unit 13. Namely, 10 per day, 20 in possession; August 10-March 31.

ISSUE: Lost hunting opportunity for ptarmigan in Unit 13B

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? A continuation of lost hunting opportunity

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All hunters.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: Bag limit 5, 10 in possession August 10-March 31. Rejected because there is no biological evidence. Unit 13B differs from the rest of Unit 13 with regard to ptarmigan population, number of hunters, and harvest.

PROPOSED BY: Andrew Gryska and Dave Stoller

LOG NUMBER: EG102910136

PROPOSAL 40- 5 AAC 85.020. Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear. Amend the season and bag limit for brown bear in Unit 13.

(12)

All of Unit 13

Residents: 1 bear every year; September 1 to May 31;

Nonresidents: 1 bear every four years; September 1 - May 31

ISSUE: Excessive hunting opportunity and unsustainable brown bear harvest rates in Unit 13. No justifiable reason to continue the policy for keeping the brown bear population at artificially low numbers.

The Board adopted a policy of artificially reducing the brown bear population beginning in 1995. Since that time, a steady succession of liberalizations occurred.

At this time, the brown bear harvest season in Unit 13 is the most liberal in the state of Alaska.

Unit 13 Brown Bear Harvest Regulations
Resident & Nonresident
1 bear every year
NO CLOSED SEASON
NO RESIDENT TAG FEE REQUIRED

Both Denali National Park and the Wrangell St. Elias National Park managed lands are within Unit 13 and are restricted to federally qualified subsistence hunters. Sport hunting is allowed on lands in both Denali and Wrangell-St. Elias national preserves and is covered by these regulations. The Unit borders approximately 236 miles of combined NPS park and preserves land. In addition, Denali State Park is found within Unit 13. It is interesting to note that the states liberal hunting regulations for brown bears do not apply to the Denali State Park. NPCA seeks to re-impose both a season limit and require resident tag fees as a way to better manage our brown bears in and around national park units.

Obviously, with the inclusion of three of the most celebrated state and federal parks, Unit 13 offers some of the most unique and stunning wilderness in America. Unfortunately, the state is aggressively attempting to artificially manipulate the wildlife resources in this Unit, creating what is essentially, a game far for an unjustified nonresident hunting opportunity for brown bears and moose in Unit 13.

Harvest rates from 1960 to 1989 averaged 68 brown bears per year. Since 1995, the Board began a sustained, incremental liberalization of brown bear harvest regulations in Unit 13, the brown bear harvest from 1995 to 2006 has averaged 137 bears per year, over a 200 percent increase over historical harvest rates. In the late 1990's, harvest rates as high as 170 bears per year occurred. The harvest rate since 1995 appears to indicate that the brown bear population is being negatively impacted. From RY 95/96 to RY 99/00 harvest rates averaged 143 bears per year. From RY 01/02 to RY 05/06 harvest rates fell to just 130 bears per year, despite the fact that in 2003 the Board authorized a NO CLOSED SEASON on brown bears in Unit 13.

The intent of the Board is clearly defined by the department area biologist:

"The approach adopted by the Board of Game was to reduce the number of brown bears in Unit 13 by increasing human harvest.... As a result of these liberal regulations, brown bear harvests between 1982 and 1987 and since 1995 were high and exceeded the calculated sustainable harvest rates." - 2001 Brown Bear Management Report p. 88

"The average yearly take of 135 bears for the last 11 years (1995 - 2006) results in an estimated harvest rate of 9 – 10 percent, with some years as high as 13 percent. Such high harvest rates exceed all modeled sustainable rates." - 2007 Brown Bear Management Report p 149

The management objective for brown bears is to maintain a minimum population of 350 bears. Yet even after over a decade of the most liberal harvest policies the area biologists admits they really have no idea how many bears are actually left in Unit 13:

"A major problem pertaining to brown bear management is the difficulty in obtaining population data.... Because of this; population data are available for only a limited portion of Unit 13. All unit wide bear estimates are based on extrapolations of estimated densities. The problems associated with this are obvious, particularly given the differences in study area and census techniques." - 2007 Brown Bear Management Report p 148.

If the state prefers to artificially manipulate natural diversity and abundance on state lands over such a long term and significant way the negative impacts to bordering NPS managed wildlife species cannot be underestimated. Game populations do not recognize state and federal boundaries. Prudent scientific wildlife management principles would suggest that this aggressive, unsustainable harvest of brown bears would be limited in scope and duration to the smallest area and shortest time needed to accomplish the states ungulate management objectives. Unfortunately, the state is not taking that approach despite the fact that in 1998, that is exactly what the department recommended to the Board of Game.

"If grizzly bear numbers are reduced below optimum yield to promote population growth in a prey species, such cases will be kept to a minimum, continued for the shortest possible time, and restricted to the smallest area necessary to accomplish the goal." - October 1998 department report to the Board of Game - Resident brown bear bag limits and tag fees.

The area biologist for Unit 13 notes that virtually every liberalization has occurred in Unit 13 already, yet a few unprecedented options can still be considered:

"There are very limited options to further increasing the take of Unit 13 brown bears. One viable option.... would be to allow nonresidents to hunt brown bears with an Alaska resident (revoking the must be guided law)... Opening up Unit 13 to (unguided) nonresidents will provide a large, new pool of hunters looking for an inexpensive opportunity to take any legal brown bear." - 2007 Brown Bear Management Report p 150.

The artificial manipulation of brown bear populations on state lands in Unit 13 bordering National Park Service managed lands may be creating a significant population "sink". Several bear research biologists, including Unit 13 department area biologist and research staff, have noted that emigration out of bordering NPS managed lands is likely (Unit 13 & 23) and subsequently bolstering unsustainable harvest rates on bordering state lands. The emigration of bears out of NPS managed lands may not be sustainable over time, and may be causing significant impacts to the natural age class composition of bears within NPS managed lands, which in turn may be creating a public safety risk due to the presence of an unnaturally high density of younger, immature bears on NPS managed lands.

The area biologist for Unit 13 acknowledges the potential negative impacts to NPS resources:

"Brown bears are fully or partially protected in both Denali and Wrangell-St. Elias National Parks. The large parks are adjacent to Unit 13 and provide a source of migration." - 2001 Brown Bear Management Report p 88.

"Immigration of bears from lightly hunted areas in Unit 13 or from adjacent Denali and Wrangell St. Elias National Parks, may be another reason high harvests of brown bears may not have the predicted impact on bear numbers." - 2007 Brown Bear Management Report p 149

"More bears have been reported harvested from Unit 13E (bordering Denali National Park) over the years than any other subunit (in Unit 13)... There appears to be immigration of young males from surrounding areas." - 2007 Brown Bear Management Report p 145

Currently in Unit 13, virtually every management objective for Unit 13 moose and caribou populations have been met or exceeded.

For the 2010 moose hunting season, the state expanded nonresident hunting opportunity by authorizing an additional 125 permits available only to nonresidents. In addition, the department authorized a liberalization of the horn restrictions for resident hunters and established an additional season to accommodate the liberalized resident hunt for moose. Clearly, the moose population has recovered to the point that significant liberalization of the moose harvest opportunity is occurring for both resident and nonresident and therefore, the need to have such liberal brown bear harvest regulations is clearly diminished.

In addition, at the October 2010 Board of Game meeting, the department warned the board that the Nelchina caribou herd in Unit 13 had exceeded the maximum population objective by approximately 1000 caribou. The department went on to say that due to the lack of predators (both wolf and bear populations have been targeted for reduction) on the winter calving grounds and migration routes within Unit 13, the anticipated winter survival rate is expected to be very high. The department warned the Board that if the caribou population cannot be reduced, there is a risk the herd may over use its winter habitat, which could result in severe population crashes in years with harsh winter weather events. Despite this data, the Board re-authorized the wolf control intensive management plan for another 6 years in Unit 13 with no adjustments.

The state must address its Master Memorandum of Understanding to fully cooperate with the NPS regarding state management objectives to artificially manipulate game populations vs. the federal management mandates to preserve natural diversity and abundance on NPS managed lands. The states mandate cannot be allowed to negatively impact NPS management mandates.

Clearly, the National Park Service managed wildlife resources cannot augment unsustainable harvest opportunity for brown bears in perpetuity.

Current state regulations are inconsistent with the federal management standards for NPS areas in Unit 13.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Unjustifiable and unsustainable brown bear harvest will continue to occur on state lands bordering NPS managed lands creating an unnatural population sink drawing NPS managed bear populations out of the bordering parks to augment the states unsustainable harvest regulations.

Current state regulations will continue to be inconsistent with the federal management standards for NPS areas in Unit 13.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, the proposed regulation promotes brown bear harvest during prime pelt months and returns the season dates to a length of season that promotes sustainable harvest rates. It also improves the resource for the wildlife viewing public that visit Denali State park, and the two National Parks affected by these harvest regulations. The front country of the Denali National Park has the highest visitor level of any park in Alaska.

The bear population in Unit 13 is very important for a wide range of user groups. The aggressive reduction of brown bears for over ten years has resulted in increased moose and caribou populations to the point that management objectives for those species are being met or exceeded. The state can no longer justify negatively impacting the brown bear population to justify increasing nonresident and commercial guiding hunting opportunity, while at the expense of NPS managed brown bear populations.

Artificial manipulation of bear populations on state lands bordering and within National Park Service managed lands may be creating a significant population "sink". Several bear research biologists, including department area biologist and research staff, have noted that emigration out of bordering NPS managed lands is likely (Unit 13 & 23) and subsequently bolstering unsustainable harvest rates on bordering state lands. The emigration of bears out of NPS managed lands may not be sustainable over time, and may be causing significant impacts to the natural age class composition of bears within NPS managed lands, which in turn may be creating a public safety risk due to the presence of an unnaturally high density of younger, immature bears on NPS managed lands.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Every user group that covets abundant brown bear populations. Wildlife viewers will benefit from a more natural distribution of age class of bears. Public safety concerns regarding the effects of unnaturally high numbers of young immature bears on NPS managed lands will be minimized. The hunting community, which prioritizes harvest of large, mature bears, will have a better opportunity of finding such a bear when sustainable harvest rates are implemented that are designed to manage the brown bear population to produce that bear and provide a unique opportunity to hunt in Alaska, instead of promoting an "opportunistic" harvest based on the fact that a hunter simply encounters a bear, regardless of size or quality of fur, while hunting other species.

In a 1998 department report to the Board of Game the department stated:

"The \$25 tag fee and 1 bear every four years standard thus reflected an attitude in which most hunters held brown/grizzly bears in high esteem, to be harvested conservatively as part of a carefully planned hunting experience rather than incidental to other activities. A statewide requirement to salvage brown/grizzly bear hides and skulls, but with no requirement to also salvage the edible meat, further underscores the prevailing attitude that this was a trophy animal."

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those who would prefer that Unit 13 continue to be managed as a game farm, promoting the unnecessarily liberal harvest of moose by nonresident trophy hunters by artificially manipulating the brown bear population.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: More restrictive harvest regulations. The proposed harvest regulations are slightly more liberal than those that were in place prior to the adoption of the states aggressive bear reduction policy for Unit 13 in 1995 - a policy based on decreasing moose hunting opportunity. The proposed brown bear regulations should be effective at limiting harvest rates to sustainable levels now that liberal expansions of moose hunting opportunity are occurring in Unit 13, including nonresident harvest opportunity.

PROPOSED BY: National Park Conservation Association

LOG NUMBER: EG111210218

PROPOSAL 41- 5 AAC 85.020. Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear; and 92.044. Permit for hunting black bear with the use of bait or scent lures. Allow taking brown/grizzly bears over registered black bear bait stations in Unit 13D.

Suggested conditions for the legal take of brown/grizzly bears over registered black bear bait stations in Unit 13D:

- I. Brown/grizzly bears taken over black bear bait stations count against the statewide individual bag limit for bears.
- II. Brown/grizzly bears taken over black bear bait stations must be reported to the Department of Fish and Game within 5 days of the kill.
- III. The department may, by emergency order, suspend taking of brown/grizzly bears over black bear bait stations in Unit 13D.
- IV. Only hunters, and their relatives within second-degree kindred, who have registered active bait stations located in Unit 13D for each of the prior three regulatory years may take brown/grizzly bears over black bear bait stations in Unit 13 D.

ISSUE: Brown/grizzly bears dominating Unit 13 D black bear bait stations: 1.) Create unsafe conditions-particularly for young hunters and observing children; 2.) Severely impair the hunters' opportunity to successfully harvest black bears over registered bait stations. 3.) Are safeguarded from legal hunting by the dense undergrowth and extremely limited visibility common throughout Unit 13 D black bear habitat.

Overwhelming numbers of brown/grizzly bears are dominating previously productive Unit 13D black bear bait stations. This brown/grizzly bear behavior degrades from a formerly enjoyable family recreational outing- and source of prized meat- into an unsafe, stressful, and unproductive task.

Frequent close encounters with brown/grizzly bears create a hazardous condition. These encounters are common while approaching black bear bait stations in Unit 13D. This hazard is compounded when young hunters and observing children participate in the hunt.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? 1.) We will lose an excellent, safe opportunity to introduce young hunters and observing children to outdoor recreation and hunting. (Adult hunters will increasingly exclude young hunters and observing children from black bear hunting). 2.) Hunters will experience limited black bear hunting success. 3.) Hunters will abandon black bear hunting altogether due to frustration over dominating brown/grizzly bears. (Use of bait is the only viable means of consistently harvesting black bears in the densely vegetated black bear habitat common throughout Unit 13 D).

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, allowing the legal take of brown/grizzly bears over registered black bear bait stations will reduce the number of brown/grizzly bears dominating black bear sites. Brown/grizzly bears taken over black bear bait stations will tend to be “problem” bears accustomed to dominating black bear bait stations.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? 1.) Our children- Alaska’s future hunters and outdoor enthusiasts. 2.) Black bear hunters wishing to take black bears rather than feed and observe brown/grizzly bears at their bait stations.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: 1.) Exclude young hunters and observing children from black bear hunting. 2.) Discontinue black bear hunting altogether.

PROPOSED BY: Paul Rude

LOG NUMBER: EG111610235

Note: The Joint Boards of Fisheries and Game have the authority to modify nonsubsistence areas.

PROPOSAL 42- 5 AAC 85.025 Hunting season and bag limit for caribou; and 92.050. Require permit hunt conditions and procedures. Modify the Unit 13 caribou hunt and change the nonsubsistence area.

Repeal the exclusionary language of caribou harvest for Tier I caribou.
We would like to see a nonsubsistence use area for a portion of Unit 13.
Create a draw period for available harvest tags within this nonsubsistence area.

The primary portion of the Nelchina caribou range falls well outside of the federally qualified community boundaries except portions of Cantwell. I would propose center portion of the Unit 13A with the middle fork of the Gulkana as the northern boundary would be the primary hunted

range. The primary area would be the center portion of Unit 13A this area is uninhabited and open to all residents.

Exclude from the non subsistence zone all federal lands and the communities that would be affected, along with the general subsistence areas of the Copper River, lower Gulkana, full eastern side of Unit 13 and allow them to remain subsistence communities. By doing this we will be retaining the subsistence needs along the primary river corridor affected by the Board of Fisheries.

As we all know and I will not insult anyone intelligence these communities also have federal subsistence rights and tags to not only the Nelchina herd but some are allotted some of the Fortymile herd as well. Is this fair to all other Alaskans?

Should an area not be eligible for the federal requirements there are Regional Advisory Committees (RAC) and a federal program that falls outside the states realm and a process for them to follow to get federal subsistence tags. A similar process to the fortymile subsistence permits would allow reporting to the state for harvest data and quota settings. Further, a two part season could be implemented with the choice of fall or winter hunts at the time of the application to the further distribute hunting opportunities, and prevent hunter crowding during each of the season.

ISSUE: Resolve the dispute between urban and rural resident hunters of the Nelchina Caribou herd. Allocate a percentage of harvestable surplus to the draw permit... We are expected to draw for an UNKNOWN amount of tags when the Tier I folks could take them all. Create a nonsubsistence area or zone in Unit 13 that will allow equal access to ALL Alaska residents to hunt in portions of Unit 13. Ask to have areas /zones outside of the traditional corridors used for subsistence hunting.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Alaska residents will continue to be punished and discriminated for where they live and or hunt other game animals. Why should a few select people be able to hunt the Nelchina caribou, when all Alaskans pay to use this resource that they cannot use.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? The resource would be unaffected as the harvest plan has been set quotas already in place.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The only thing all Alaskan residents want is fair treatment and opportunity to hunt this resource. Wildlife management will also benefit by the increase in funding from a popular hunting resource in that drawing permit applications and fees would possibly meet or exceed those garnered by the Delta Bison permit application fees.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one, as those that desire the rural preference would still qualify under the federal subsistence program that was not in place when this went under the Tier management program rural subsistence needs can still be met, as there are ample opportunities during the winter months to hunt federal lands.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: Leaving a system in place that is broke i.e. the Tier system and is wildly associated with a group of persons and corporations that are trying to limit state residents hunting opportunities and ability to meet the needs of families throughout the region.

PROPOSED BY: John Winsor

LOG NUMBER: EG102810126

PROPOSAL 43- 5 AAC 92.050. Required permit hunt conditions and procedures. Remove the hunting restriction for Tier I caribou in Unit 13.

There are no restrictions or other hunting opportunities within in the State of Alaska based on Tier I hunting within Unit 13.

ISSUE: The requirements restricting other hunting if you hunt the Tier I caribou hunt in Unit 13. A hunter's other hunt opportunities should not be restricted to Unit 13 for moose and or caribou simply because they hunted for one caribou per family in Unit 13. No family can subsist off a single caribou, and by the hunt's very definition it is called a subsistence hunt. No other caribou for the family can then be taken in Unit 13 or anywhere else in the state. Moose hunting opportunities and therefore chances of a successful hunt are severely limited in Unit 13 due to current herd size and animal restrictions as well as the number of moose hunters then required to only hunt in this area. Those who currently live in the area and have a greater traditional use and need of Unit 13 moose and caribou harvest will have an even greater reduction in opportunities. Restricting hunting opportunity of Alaskan residents as compared to other Alaskan residents is unconstitutional as it does not manage game in the state to the greatest sustainable benefit of all Alaskans.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Moose harvest for local residents of Unit 13 will decrease as the moose harvest by non local residents goes up in response to current restrictions on hunting. Increased pressure on moose harvest may have a negative impact on overall moose herd numbers within Unit 13 thus requiring even greater future restrictions and lost hunting opportunities for all Alaskan residents. Greater concentrations of hunters in Unit 13 may lead to dangerous conditions for hunters, and game in Unit 13. Caribou harvest plans will continue to be contested every year, and fluctuate according to court decisions and politics instead of sound game management.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes hunting opportunity would be more equitably distributed between all Alaskan hunters and their families. Hunting pressure would be more distributed and result in less stress on the herd and the hunting families. The moose herd would be healthier and better able to grow to its maximum sustainable size thus allowing all Alaskan families. local and nonlocal, a greater opportunity to harvest within Unit 13. The hunt would be able to progress with less political and legal controversy.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All hunters in Alaska, their families, and the communities of Unit 13

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? The Tier I and II hunters who apply for caribou may have a little more competition. The hunt would either have to be more closely managed to ensure there was no over harvest, or there would have to be a limit on tier hunting permits.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: Restricting tier hunting to Unit 13 residents, but this is unconstitutional

PROPOSED BY: Andrew Glasgow

LOG NUMBER: EG102910127

Note: The Joint Boards of Fisheries and Game have the authority to modify nonsubsistence areas.

PROPOSAL 44- 5 AAC 85.025. Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou. Modify the caribou hunt in Unit 13 and change the nonsubsistence area.

A portion of Unit 13 would be made a nonsubsistence area with an allocated portion say 35 percent of the harvest being given to draw hunt tags so that all Alaskans have a fair chance at being able to take part in and harvest Nelchina herd caribou out of Unit 13

ISSUE: Lack equal access to caribou in the Nelchina herd in Unit 13. Due to tier hunting status, restrictions, and lack of registration or draw permits in Unit 13 there is not equal access for all state residents to the caribou resource in Unit 13

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Many Alaskan hunters will continue to receive limited or no access to the Nelchina caribou herd Unit 13 as compared to other residents. The Nelchina caribou permits and hunts will continue to be embroiled in court battles and legal disputes.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, the herd would be better managed due to a more equitable harvest plan, and there would be less pressure during opening days due to a more relaxed hunting schedule by hunters who did not have to compete with each other while waiting for a quota to be reached each season.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All Alaskan hunters, their families and the communities surrounding Unit 13.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? There would be a few less permits given out to tier hunters, however due to the fluctuating number of permits given out each year there is no guarantee of a harvest to anyone now anyway.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: Expanding the entry requirements to tier hunts. but this only serves to further segregate Alaskan hunters, and build greater pressure.

PROPOSED BY: Andrew Glasgow

LOG NUMBER: EG102910128

Note: The Joint Boards of Fisheries and Game have the authority to modify nonsubsistence areas.

PROPOSAL 45- 5 AAC 85.025. Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou; and 92.050 Required permit hunt conditions and procedures. Modify the caribou hunt in Unit 13.

1. Repeal the exclusionary language of caribou harvest for Tier hunting for caribou in Unit 13.
2. Allocate a percentage of the caribou harvest to all Alaskan residents that allow non tier permits to be drawn in Unit 13. 40 percent (+/- 10 percent) of the allowed harvest for the overall area quota of Unit 13's caribou harvest would be fair to all Alaskan residents.
3. Create a nonsubsistence area or zone in Unit 13. This area will allow equal opportunity and access to all Alaskan residents to hunt in portions of Unit 13. Request to have the areas/zones outside of traditional hunting corridors used for subsistence hunting (caribou hunting) widened.
4. Take away the Paxton no hunting areas and make them archery only hunting areas for all game species. Make this archery only hunting area available to all Alaskan residents. Require archery certifications for all archery hunters hunting big game. Create this area as a separate drawn area for caribou to all Alaskan residents for archery hunting only.

ISSUE: WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The tier hunting will remain unfair to the Alaskans who wish to hunt in Unit 13

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? This proposal will assist All Alaskans that do not fall under tier hunting for caribou.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one. This will make it fair across the area 13 for all Alaskans to have the opportunity to hunt caribou in area 13.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED I have none.

PROPOSED BY: Douglas Hopper

LOG NUMBER: EG102910135

PROPOSAL 46 - 5 AAC 85.025. Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou. Set a number of tags for the caribou draw hunt in Unit 13.

The Amount Necessary for Subsistence is set at 600-1000 caribou of the Nelchina herd... a predetermined amount of tags need to be allocated to the draw system.

In years that the harvest able surplus exceeds the ANS of 600-1000 animals... XXX tags, based on percentages, will be available for random draw.

ISSUE: Hunters are putting in for unknown draw for caribou in Unit 13. An established percentage of the harvestable surplus needs to be allocated to the draw tags.

At the 2010, October 10 Board of Game meeting, “up to” language of 3000 tags “may” be available, however when the 2011/2012 draw supplement was published, the tags were “to be determined.”

The issue is that the board allocated an unlimited amount of Tier I tags after setting an ANS of 600-1000, and allocating 300 to a community harvest program... only 300-700 should be allocated to subsistence. Yet hunters applying for the draw may spend the money and NOT be issued any tags, or be allowed to hunt if the wide open registration of tier one is widely taken advantage of.

With an estimated harvestable surplus of 3000-4000 caribou in 2011 (per department reports 10/2010) it should be easy to set a minimum amount of harvest dedicated to the drawing tag system.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? 1.) Hunters will pay for an unknown... and end up losing. 2.) Department official will end up refunding income. 3.) Hunters will again be largely dissatisfied with the Department of Fish and Game due to a Board of Game over site and error. 4.) Every year the department will have to wait until Tier I applications are received before they can announce how many tags will have been issued. Revenue will be lost due hunter dissatisfaction

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? It will make resource management easier to track.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All hunters applying for tags.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one. Hunters will know what they are applying for.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: None this should have been done at the October meeting.

PROPOSED BY: Vince Holton

LOG NUMBER: EG102910144

PROPOSAL 47 - 5 AAC 85.025. Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou; and 92.050. Required permit hunt conditions and procedures. Modify the caribou hunt in Unit 13.

One caribou every regulatory year by Tier I subsistence permit. One permit per household. Any caribou, (by discretion of ADF&G) August 10 - September 20 and also October 21 - March 31.

One application per household. All household members must be listed on the application. Successful applicants cannot hunt either moose or caribou in any Unit other than Unit 13. Up to 2000 permits would be issued by random draw (double the current upper ANS range).

A bonus system would apply as follows: for each year an applicant household does not receive a permit, that household would repeat in the draw the following year. (i.e.: applicant name is in the draw one time the first year, two times the second year, three times the third year and so on, until they are successful, then they start over.

Also, one bull by drawing permit; total number of permits to be determined by the Department of Fish and Game using the available surplus after Tier I is satisfied. August 10 - September 20 and October 21 - March 31.

Bonus point system applies as above, successful applicants may also hunt moose / caribou in other Units statewide subject to regulations.

ISSUE: Redundant, confusing Nelchina caribou regulations.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Confusion and conflict.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Possibly - one caribou per household make this animal an important piece in that household's subsistence needs. This can lead to better care in the field and more care in salvaging useable parts of the animal.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Subsistence users.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Probably some primarily recreational hunters, but less so than in current regulations.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: Community harvest; redundant, confusing and difficult to implement. Tier II - unnecessary and unfair to some, does not truly meet subsistence requirements set out in state law. Registration hunt - too many hunters in the field in a very short time. Drawing hunt - does not meet subsistence needs.

PROPOSED BY: John Schandelmeier

LOG NUMBER: EG110410160

PROPOSAL 48 - 5 AAC 85.025. Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou; and 92.074. Community subsistence harvest hunt areas. Modify the Unit 13 caribou hunt.

Repeal the Unit 13 community harvest permit hunt. All subsistence Nelchina caribou hunters would participate in a Tier I registration hunt.

ISSUE: The Unit 13 community harvest permit (CHP) hunt violates State statutes and regulations. When the harvestable surplus of Nelchina caribou exceeds the low end of the amount necessary for subsistence (ANS) a Tier I is implemented under AS 16.05.258(b)(2). The 2006-170-BOG findings used to determine which communities and groups qualify to participate in the Unit 13 CHP unlawfully segregates out two types of Tier I hunters.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The State will remain out of compliance with statutes, AS 16.05.258, and regulations, 5 AAC 99.010 regarding allocation of the Nelchina caribou during years of high harvestable surplus. The Alaska Supreme Court, *State v. Morry*. (Alaska 1992), has already reversed a Superior Court ruling that upheld a Board regulations that distinguished among subsistence users at the Tier I level.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? This is an allocation proposal consistent with the State subsistence law, AS 16.05.258.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The majority of Alaskans who have hunted the Nelchina caribou herd for decades and young Alaskans who would like to have gathering a wild food harvest part of their tradition.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Athna Tene Nene’ leadership who would rather secure a guaranteed allocation of Nelchina caribou when the harvestable surplus is above the low end of the amount necessary for subsistence.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: Maintain a Tier II Nelchina caribou under AS 16.05.258(b)(4) even though the harvestable surplus is above the low end of the ANS. This solution was rejected because removing hunts from a Tier II designation is the law.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Outdoor Council

LOG NUMBER: EG102710120

PROPOSAL 49 - 5 AAC 99.025. Customary and traditional uses of game populations. Change the Amount Necessary for Subsistence for Caribou in Unit 13.

ANS number set at 500 animals.

ISSUE: Poorly researched and ambiguous ANS number.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Inconsistency in caribou regulations.

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Hunters through more consistency in regulations.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: We considered a range of 5-700 animals rather than a fixed number but could see no reason to adopt a range of any kind. The subsistence number should not depend on the size of the herd, but rather on the number of subsistence hunters. That hunter population has been relatively stable over the past ten years and we see no immediate reason for that to change. The current ANS number has been determined by past harvest - from the subsistence division. Our view is that past harvest has had little to do with the number necessary for subsistence. In part, due to many regulation changes over the years and the fact that harvest includes those who are not subsistence users, both federal and state. 500 is a number that can be justified on need and tradition.

PROPOSED BY: Paxson Advisory Committee

LOG NUMBER: EG110410164

Proposal 50 - 5 AAC 85.025. Caribou seasons and bag limits; 5 AAC 92.050. Required permit hunt conditions and procedures; 92.071. Tier I subsistence permits; and 92.072. Community subsistence harvest hunt area and permit conditions. Review caribou seasons and permit conditions for fall 2011 and spring 2012 hunting seasons.

5 AAC 85.025. Caribou seasons and bag limits.

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(8)		
Unit 13		
1 caribou per harvest report per regulatory	Aug. 10 - Sept. 20 (Subsistence hunt	No open season.

year by community harvest permit only; up to 300 caribou may be taken; or	only) Oct. 21 - Mar. 31 (Subsistence hunt only)	
1 caribou every regulatory year by Tier I subsistence permit only; or	Aug. 10 - Sept. 20 (Subsistence hunt only) Oct. 21 - Mar. 31 (Subsistence hunt only)	No open season.
1 bull every regulatory year by drawing permit; up to 3000 permits may be issued	Aug. 20 - Sept. 20 Oct. 21 - Mar. 31	No open season.

5 AAC 92.050. Required permit hunt conditions and procedures.(a) The following conditions and procedures for permit issuance apply to each permit hunt:

...

(I) no more than one Unit 13 Tier I subsistence permit for caribou may be issued per household every regulatory year; the head of household, as defined in 5 AAC 92.071(b), and any member of the household obtaining a Unit 13 Tier I subsistence permit in a regulatory year for caribou may not hunt caribou or moose in any other location in the state during that regulatory year.

5 AAC 92.071. Tier I subsistence permits. (a) If the board has directed that a hunt be administered under a Tier I subsistence permit, permits will be distributed in the same manner as other registration permits, under the same conditions applicable under 5 AAC 92.050 and 5 AAC 92.052, with the following additional conditions:

(1) Unit 13 Tier I subsistence caribou permits will be distributed to heads of households following application;

(b) In this section, "head of household" means a single person within the household who applies for a Tier I subsistence permit on behalf of the entire household in a particular regulatory year.

5 AAC 92.072. Community subsistence harvest hunt area and permit conditions. (a) The commissioner or the commissioner's designee may, under this section and 5 AAC 92.052, issue community-based subsistence harvest permits and harvest reports for big game species where the Board of Game (board) has established a community harvest hunt area under (b) of this section and 5 AAC 92.074.

(b) The board will consider proposals to establish community harvest hunt areas during regularly scheduled meetings to consider seasons and bag limits for affected species in a hunt area. Information considered by the board in evaluating the proposed action will include

- (1) a geographic description of the hunt area;
 - (2) the sustainable harvest and current subsistence regulations and findings for the big game population to be harvested;
 - (3) a custom of community-based harvest and sharing of the wildlife resources harvested in the hunt area by any group; and
 - (4) other characteristics of harvest practices in the hunt area, including characteristics of the customary and traditional pattern of use found under 5 AAC 99.010(b) .
- (c) If the board has established a community harvest hunt area for a big game population, residents of a community or members of a group may elect to participate in a community harvest permit hunt in accordance with the following conditions:
- (1) a person representing a group of twenty five or more residents or members may apply to the department for a community harvest permit by identifying the community harvest hunt area and the species to be hunted, and by requesting that the department distribute community harvest reports to the individuals who subscribe to the community harvest permit; the community or group representative
 - (A) must provide to the department the names of residents or members subscribing to the community harvest permit and the residents or members hunting license number, permanent hunting identification card number, customer service identification number, or birth date for residents under 16 years of age;
 - (B) must ensure delivery to the department of validated harvest reports from hunters following the take of individual game animals, records of harvest information for individual animals taken, and collected biological samples or other information as required by the department for management;
 - (C) must provide the department with harvest information, including federal subsistence harvest information, within a specified period of time when requested, and a final report of all game taken under the community harvest permit within 15 days of the close of the hunting season or as directed in the permit; and
 - (D) must make efforts to ensure that the applicable customary and traditional use pattern described by the board and included by the department as a permit condition, if any, is observed by subscribers including meat sharing; the applicable board finding and condition will be identified on the permit; this provision does not authorize the hunt administrator to deny subscription to any community resident or group member;
 - (2) a resident of the community or member of the group who elects to subscribe to a community harvest permit

(A) may not hold a harvest ticket or other state hunt permit for the same species where the bag limit is the same or for fewer animals during the same regulatory year, however a person may hold harvest tickets or permits for same-species hunts in areas with a larger bag limit following the close of the season for the community harvest permit;

(B) may not subscribe to more than one community harvest permit for a species during a regulatory year;

(C) must have in possession when hunting and taking game a community harvest report issued by the department for each animal taken;

(D) must validate a community harvest report immediately upon taking an animal; and

(E) must report harvest and surrender validated harvest reports within 5 days, or as directed by the department, of taking an animal and transporting it to the place of final processing for preparation for human use and provide information and biological samples required under terms of the permit;

(F) must, if the community harvest hunt area is under a Tier II permit requirement for the species to be hunted, have received a Tier II permit for that area, species, and regulatory year.

(d) Seasons for community harvest permits will be the same as those established for other subsistence harvests for that species in the geographic area included in a community harvest hunt area, unless separate community harvest hunt seasons are established. The total bag limit for a community harvest permit will be equal to the sum of the individual bag limits established for other subsistence harvests for that species in the hunt area. Seasons and bag limits may vary within a hunt area according to established subsistence regulations for different game management units or other geographic delineations in a hunt area.

(e) Establishment of a community harvest hunt area will not constrain nonsubscribing residents of the community or members of the group from participating in subsistence harvest activities for a species in that hunt area using individual harvest tickets or other state permits authorized by regulation, nor will it require any resident of the community or member of the group eligible to hunt under existing subsistence regulations to subscribe to a community harvest permit.

(f) The department may disapprove an application for a community subsistence harvest permit from a community or group who has previously failed to comply with requirements in (c)(1) of this subsection.

(g) A person may not give or receive a fee for the taking of game or receipt of meat under a community subsistence harvest permit.

(h) In this section, "fee"

(l) means a payment, wage, gift, or other remuneration for services provided while engaged in hunting under a community harvest permit;

(2) does not include reimbursement for actual expenses incurred during the hunting activity within the scope of the community harvest permit, or a non-cash exchange of subsistence-harvested resources.

(i) Nothing in this section authorizes the Department to delegate to a community or group representative determination of the lawful criteria for selecting who may hunt, for establishing any special restrictions for the hunt and for the handling of game, and for establishing the terms and conditions for a meaningful communal sharing of game taken under a community harvest permit.

ISSUE: A court ruling in July 2010 invalidated several conditions of the Unit 13 caribou hunting seasons. A special meeting of the Board of Game was held in Anchorage October 8-12 to develop new caribou seasons and bag limits. This proposal documents what was passed by the board at that meeting for seasons and permit conditions during the 2011-2012 hunting seasons, to allow further public review.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The public may not be aware of all changes to the hunting in the area.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, by providing several hunt options, the public can participate in the option they choose.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? People who hunt caribou in Unit 13.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Many alternatives were discussed at the board meeting.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game at the request of the Board of Game

LOG NUMBER: ADFG103010R

PROPOSAL 51- 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep. Change the horn restriction for sheep in Unit 11.

Resident season - one ram with "full curl" horn or larger; August 10 to September 20 in Unit 11.

ISSUE: 3/4 curl sheep in Unit 11. Need to align with the rest of the state.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Continued taking of younger sheep in Unit 11.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes - will improve the average horn size of legal rams in Unit 11.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Resource - hunters that want to hunt bigger sheep.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Hunters that want to shoot smaller sheep.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: None.

PROPOSED BY: Copper Basin Advisory Committee

LOG NUMBER: EG110310152

PROPOSAL 52 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep. Change the bag limit and season for sheep in Unit 11.

Units and bag limits	Resident	Nonresident
Open season (5) Unit 11	Open season	
[1 RAM WITH 3/4 CURL HORN OR LARGER]	[AUG. 10 - SEPT. 20]	
<u>1 ram with full curl horn or larger</u>	<u>Aug. 8 - Sept. 20</u>	
1 ram with full-curl horn or larger		Aug. 10 - Sept. 20

ISSUE: Sub-legal rams taken in walk-in areas in Units 7, 12-15, 20, 25&26 may be claimed as taken in Unit 11. Reports from the hunting public of infractions of this nature usually never make it to Wildlife Troopers. Sheep hunters are often solitary by nature and need only to make it to their car with an illegal sheep.

3/4 curl regulations attract a number of extra hunters to the unit looking for an easier hunt. Some of these hunters will not hunt unit 11 if regulations are standardized, easing pressure on a low population.

Sheep numbers (especially rams) in Unit 11 and surrounding Units are at all-time lows due to many factors. Unit 11 hunts are the most liberal in the state. Retaining 3/4 curl in Unit 11 regulations while creating drawing hunts in Units 13&14 is counter-intuitive.

According to ADF&G decreasing sheep numbers in the Wrangell Mountains in the last 15 years is mostly due to an increase in predators, possible disease, and weather events. Nearly all of Unit 11 sheep habitat is Federal Preserve lands with no potential of predator management and very little trapping pressure.

Unit 11 has an ANS set for sheep and this has long been used as a justification for keeping the liberal size limit. A two day longer season will still provide a small advantage to the resident hunter while protecting younger rams.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Criminals will continue to have an “easy out” if they get out of the field with a sub-full curl sheep. Sheep numbers in unit 11 are likely to remain low with or without this regulation due to lack of management options, $\frac{3}{4}$ curl regulations just compound the problem.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCT PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, most sheep that reach $\frac{3}{4}$ curl will live to be full curl. Most sheep hunters would agree that a full curl ram is a higher quality product.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Sheep hunters, sheep populations, and Wildlife Troopers will benefit.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Criminals and Poachers will no longer have an excuse to possess a sub-legal ram. Some hunters that believe $\frac{3}{4}$ curl rams are easier to take. Hunters may have to wait two years for today’s $\frac{3}{4}$ curls to become legal.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Adding some $\frac{3}{4}$ curl areas in other units- rejected due to dwindling sheep numbers. Drawing hunts- rejected, drawings have already eliminated sheep hunting for many.

PROPOSED BY: Aaron Bloomquist

LOG NUMBER: EG113010259

PROPOSAL 53– 5 AAC . 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep. Change the horn restriction for sheep in Unit 11.

One ram with full curl (like the rest of the surrounding areas).

ISSUE: Resident harvest limit of $\frac{3}{4}$ curl ram or larger in Unit 11.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Increased hunting pressure due to the only place in the surrounding Units that has a smaller than full curl ram harvest limit making it to "APPEAR" to have a healthier sheep population than other surrounding areas. Unit 11 has the potential or the impression the population of sheep is larger than in any other areas which it is not. Why have different regulations in one area than in surrounding Units.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. In other Units with full curl harvest limits, 3/4 to 7/8th curl rams are turned down regularly under the full curl law which allows larger rams to be harvested later. If all residents and nonresidents are all on the same page, then you would not have the worry of less animals available in the future. We have spent nearly 50 years of experience in the area. We have witnessed the lowest sheep numbers in recent years. Maybe there is not a problem now but why create a problem for the future. With the sheep populations lower than we have ever seen. There is a "neon sign" flashing in the regulation book to come hunt Unit 11 over other surrounding areas. Due to the existing regulations, there is an appearance to a general hunter that Unit 11 has higher numbers and more shootable animals than surrounding areas. This is not the case.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Everyone. By spreading the pressure of hunters out equally to the surrounding Units for hunters who would choose Unit 11 specifically due to the smaller horn harvest limit. Road accessible areas are being hit (i.e. Nebesna Road, McCarthy Road, Hubert's Landing, etc.)

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Residents having to judge a full curl ram.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: 3/4 curl in surrounding areas, not a good idea.

PROPOSED BY: Paul and John Claus, Ultima Tuile Outfitters

LOG NUMBER: EG10081094

PROPOSAL 54- 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep; and 92.171. Sealing of Dall sheep horns. Eliminate the horn sealing requirement for sheep in Unit 13.

Follow the recommendations of former Unit 13 biologist; any ram, no sealing, harvest ticket only:
1) 1 ram - license, harvest ticket and tag required (non-resident); 2) 1 ram - license, and harvest ticket required (resident).

ISSUE: Sealing of Dall sheep ram horns. Biologists and Fish & Wildlife officers are not qualified to seal horns due to their subjectiveness on counting annual rings. There is great disagreement amongst guides, veterinaries, biologists, and Fish & Wildlife officers on what a legal ram is and what is not with the present system.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Continued confiscation of legal rams causing overload on the court system as these matters are brought to trial - extremely bad public relations to the nonresident Alaska Dall sheep hunters whose fees bring in over \$600,000 a year.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? All rams taken will be brought in, used and reported - not left in the field because they were possibly too small or young.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All sheep hunters - reduction in cases in the court system and state from sale of tags to nonresident hunters. State biologists would have accurate record of the harvest.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? None.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: Before the current sealing requirements, the former system worked well for over 45 years.

PROPOSED BY: Ray Atkins

LOG NUMBER: EG102710117

PROPOSAL 55 - 5 AAC 85.040. Hunting seasons and bag limit for goat. Add a remote portion of the Tonsina Controlled Use Area to RG580.

Include the area of Unit 13D south of the Uranatina River, east of a line running from the south fork of the Uranatina River thru the pass along the eastern most tributary on the north side of the Tiekel River to its confluence with the Tiekel.

ISSUE: This area of Unit 13D has had little if any harvest in the last ten years of goats under the current draw tag (DG719) although there is a healthy population. This area is very difficult to access. The terrain and weather is some of the worst in Alaska. This area is below Wood Canyon on the Copper River. The rest of the draw area is much easier to access by the Richardson Highway, airstrips in the Chugach Range, and Klutina Road and Lake. This area would be able to sustain a reasonable harvest.

At the 2007 spring Board of Game meeting Proposal 95 was passed to add an area in southeastern unit 13D to the RG580 goat hunt. This portion of the Tonsina "Walk-In" area was amended out of the proposal by the board. ADF&G mistakenly reported this area of the Tonsina Controlled Use Area as one of the areas highly utilized by DG719 goat hunters. In fact there had been only one goat taken in the area in the last 15 years. The new area added in 2007 has proven to be mildly popular and has produced 1-5 goats annually.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Brave souls willing to navigate the Copper River south of Wood Canyon and climb thousands of vertical feet through dense alder jungle will continue to be neglected the opportunity to easily obtain a tag to hunt this under-utilized resource.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCT PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, some product is better than none, the resource will be harvested unlike the current situation where there is virtually no harvest.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Hunters willing to make an effort to hunt in this harsh environment will not have to draw a tag.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Status quo – the worst option, the resource will continue to be untapped. Make all of unit 13 goat hunts registration; now that sheep are a drawing tag this may work, at least for residents, because there is less demand for a multi-species hunt.

PROPOSED BY: Aaron Bloomquist

LOG NUMBER: EG113010256

PROPOSAL 56- 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Open a resident moose season in Unit 13.

1 bull with spike/fork antlers, 3 brow tines on one side or over 50 inches, August 19 - 25

ISSUE: Additional moose hunting opportunity early in season.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? N/A

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Younger hunters able to hunt before school starts.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: Area specific moose tags; difficulty in regulating. Longer early season; concern about too many hunters in the field for less restrictive moose season.

PROPOSED BY: Paxson Advisory Committee

LOG NUMBER: EG110410162

PROPOSAL 57 - 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Limit nonresident moose hunting in Unit 13E.

No open season for nonresident moose hunters in Unit 13E, no emergency opening of moose season in Unit 13E until moose populations meet objectives of the Department of Fish and Game.

ISSUE: Low numbers of moose in Unit 13E. In this falls' proposals to the Board of Game on Nelchina Caribou, the Department of Fish and Game's proposal 31, (log #ADFG090210P) states in number 3B that "Moose population and human harvest are now being met in Unit 13A, **but not**

in Units 13B, 13C, or 13E”. There was no nonresident season in the previous ten years. In 2009 the season was opened to limited nonresident hunters then increased by 150 percent in 2010. Now the Department of Fish and Game proposes increasing predator control measures while increasing hunting pressure by nonresident hunters. The State of Alaska has had numerous land disposal in Unit 13E, and more cabins are being built each year, more people recreating (including hunting), and living in the subunit, increasing resident pressure on the area's resources, including moose. Until the department desired moose population quotas are achieved, nonresident hunting should not be allowed, keep the hunting to only residents. Also, without meeting the desired populations of moose, it is questionable why "emergency openings" like the opening in August 2010 happen; it is not good management practice. The population count are conducted by the department in Glennallen; I have talked to biologists in Glennallen by phone on several occasions and they admit that they don't have the resources to spend much time in Unit 13E, and have limited knowledge to population numbers, but they agree that populations are not increasing in 13E like they are in 13A.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? There will continue to be low numbers of moose available for resident hunters in Unit 13E.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? It allows greater numbers of bull moose to survive, increasing the overall population of moose.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All hunters will benefit in the long run as it will allow moose populations to grow.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? In the short term nonresident moose hunters will suffer as they have in the ten years the season was closed to nonresident hunters in Unit 13E.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: Other solutions are predator control, which should be increased.

PROPOSED BY: Robert Gerlach

LOG NUMBER: EG110410171

PROPOSAL 58 - 5 AAC 92.108. Identified big game prey populations and objectives.

Review the population and harvest objectives for moose in Unit 13.

Population	Findings	Population Objective	Harvest Objective
...			
Moose			
...			
Unit 13(A)	Positive	3,500 – 4,200	210 - 420

Unit 13(B)	Positive	5,300 – 6,300	310 - 620
Unit 13(C)	Positive	2,600 – 3,500	155 - 350
Unit 13(D)	Positive	1,200 – 1,900	75 - 190
Unit 13(E)	Positive	5,000 – 6,000	300 - 600

...

ISSUE: During the October 2010 board meeting dealing with Unit 13 caribou, the Board of Game updated the existing intensive management plan for Unit 13. At that time, the Board asked for a review of the harvest objectives for Unit 13E. This proposal shows the objectives for all of Unit 13 for review purposes.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Population and harvest objectives for moose in Unit 13 will remain unchanged

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All hunters

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Status quo.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

LOG NUMBER: ADFG113010RR

PROPOSAL 59 - 5 AAC 85.045(11). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Add an additional 7 days to the current general moose season in Units 13B, 13C, 13D, and 13E, with a bag limit of one bull with spike-fork or 50-inch antlers or antlers with 3 or more brow tines on at least one side.

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
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5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.

(11)

**Units 13B, 13C,
13D, and 13E**

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

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

**Aug. 19 – Aug. 25
(Subsistence hunt
only)**

No open season

...

ISSUE: In July 2010, due to a legal ruling requiring additional subsistence moose hunting opportunity, an emergency Board of Game regulation for one bull with spike-fork antlers or 50-inch antlers or antlers with 3 or more brow tines on one side was adopted (season 15 Aug. – 25 Aug). The regulation was for all of Unit 13, for resident hunters only. The emergency regulation expired following the 2010 hunt.

This regulation resulted in a limited participation of hunters in the more accessible portions of the unit. The largest impact was on subunit 13A in the Boulder Creek – Eureka area. Preliminary data indicate at least 52 bulls were harvested in this early season in this area. The preliminary harvest figures for 13B, 13C, 13D, and 13E are 23, 5, 2, and 18, respectively. A total of 100 moose have been reported for this early season. These numbers will likely increase as additional harvest reports are tallied. If the same early season was allowed to continue into the 2011 hunting season, it would draw even more interest than in 2010 and the expected harvest would be considerably higher.

Maintaining a healthy balance of bulls to cows is a very important aspect of herd management. For adequate reproduction, the bull to cow ratio should be held above 25 bulls:100 cows. Ratios observed during fall 2009 surveys for Units 13(A), 13(B), 13(C), 13(D), and 13(E) were 27:100, 36:100, 42:100, 79:100, and 34:100, respectively.

Given increasing population trends and healthy bull to cow ratios, additional opportunities to harvest bulls can now be offered for 13B, 13C, 13D, and 13E. The preliminary reported harvest figures for the early season in these subunits should be sustainable. To accomplish this in 2011, the early season should be shortened to seven days. Continuing the early season opportunity in 13A is not recommended at this time due to the low bull to cow ratio.

Current moose hunting opportunities in Unit 13 include (2009/2010 season permit numbers):

- One state unit-wide general hunt for one bull with spike-fork antlers or 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side, 1 – 20 September for residents only
- Five state remote drawing hunts (2 in 13A; 2 in 13B; 1 in 13C) for any bull, 1 – 20 September for residents only (160 to 325 permits)
- Five state drawing hunts (one for each subunit) for one bull with spike-fork antlers or 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side, 1 – 20 September for nonresidents only (50 to 110 permits)

- One federal registration hunt (only on lands designated for federal hunting) for any bull, 1 Aug. – 20 Sept.

Moose harvest objectives and harvest data for GMU 13 by subunit from all state and federal hunts combined for 2000 through 2009 are listed below.

Objective	13A	13B	13C	13D	13E	13Z	A to E Total
	210-420	310-620	155-350	75-190	300-600		1050-2180
2000	115	148	101	77	96	25	562
2001	122	125	63	59	86	13	468
2002	169	163	80	62	90	10	574
2003	175	179	71	71	117	14	627
2004	214	129	62	68	120	23	616
2005	184	149	51	63	109	19	575
2006	225	172	57	68	156	14	692
2007	207	172	63	57	137	12	648
2008	238	188	61	65	169	14	735
2009	268	243	105	80	164	2	862

With an estimated 3,900 – 4,500 bulls in the unit, the current harvest rate on bulls (862 taken in 2009) is roughly 20 percent per year. Due to the current high rate of harvest, additional opportunities to take bulls should be limited and deliberate. In total, 4,380 hunters reported moose hunting in Unit 13 in 2009. This high number of hunters can take an excessive number of moose if the seasons and/or bag limits are liberalized too much.

Although many hunters have requested changing the current 4 brow-tine September season general hunt back to 3 brow-tines, this would not be sustainable for more than a year or two. From 1993 to 2001, the general hunt was one bull with spike-fork antlers or 50-inch antlers or antlers with 3 or more brow tines on one side. The result was a large decline in the number of bulls observed in counts unit-wide.

August hunting opportunities typically result in lower success rates than September hunts, when bulls are closer to the rut and more susceptible. Additionally, moose do not move to traditional rutting areas until September when the temperature cools. Moose movements are minimal during warm weather, and they are difficult to hunt during this period. Allowing a hunt during this time period effectively maximizes opportunity for the largest number of hunters, while reducing the overall effect on the population.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The bull to cow ratios will continue to increase, and additional harvest opportunity will be lost.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes; August moose are preferred by many hunters because of the condition of the animal.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All who would like an additional opportunity to harvest bull moose. This early season will also be beneficial to families wishing to take children hunting prior to the start of the school year.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Additional any-bull drawing hunts were considered, although hunters would continue to be subject to drawing odds. We have also considered harvest opportunities for smaller bull moose, particularly those moose with 1 or 2 brow tines in order to allow take of those moose that may never be legal under general hunt regulations. The main concern with this option is the inherent uncertainty in such a harvest strategy and a risk of taking too many young bulls.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

LOG NUMBER: ADFG103010D

PROPOSAL 60 -5 AAC 85.045 Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Establish a late moose drawing hunt for the Tonsina Controlled Use Area.

Units and bag limits	Resident	Nonresident
<u>Unit 13 D Tonsina</u>		
<u>Controlled use area</u>	<u>Nov 20- Dec 10</u>	No open season
<u>One Bull by permit</u>		
<u>Moose may not be taken within 2 miles of the Edgerton and Richardson Highways.</u>		

ISSUE: Due to vehicle restrictions the TCUA gets very light moose hunting pressure except along the Richardson Highway. No motorized vehicles are allowed during normal fall moose seasons due to restrictions established to protect vulnerable sheep populations. Moose are dying of old age in the more remote areas. The area has a good trail system that will allow for access via ATV or snowmachine.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Nothing, status quo

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCT PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? N.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Those that like to eat moose meat and hunt in an area otherwise off limits to motorized vehicles.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None

PROPOSED BY: Aaron Bloomquist

LOG NUMBER: EG113010257

PROPOSAL 61 - 5 AAC 85.045(a)(9), (a)(10) and (a)(11) Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose; and 92.072. Community subsistence harvest hunt area and permit conditions. Retain the Unit 13 moose hunting regulations from 2009 as follows:

5 AAC 85.045(a)(9)-(11) would remain the same as adopted by the Board of Game in March of 2009 and before the emergency regulations were adopted in August of 2010. Ahtna believes that as a matter of law the regulations in place before the emergency regulations were adopted will again take full force and effect after the emergency regulations expire in November of 2010.

ISSUE: During its October 2010 meeting the Board of Game amended its regulation authorizing community harvest permits, 5 AAC 92.072, in order to make it clear that the regulation as amended complied with issues raised in the superior court order of July 9, 2010 in Case No. 3KN-09-178 CI. The Board amended the regulation to clarify that the authorization for community harvest permits (CHPs) is not residency-based and to make it clear that neither ADF&G nor board authority for administering a CHP may be delegated to a CHP hunt administrator. Pursuant to the board's action, the court's order enjoining the board from "delegating CHP hunt administration authority to private entities or individuals" and from "authorizing an Ahtna CHP that is fundamentally residency-based" is no longer in force.

In amending 5 AAC 92.072, the board satisfied the court's order in respect to both the caribou CHP and the moose CHP authorized by the board in 2009 for eight Ahtna communities. Nothing in the court's Decision on Summary Judgment addressed any aspect of the CHP moose hunt other than its concern that the CHP was fundamentally residency based, a concern satisfied through the board's amendment of 5 AAC 92.072. The court did not address or invalidate the regulations implementing the CHP moose hunt in Units 11 and 13 and parts of Unit 12, 5 AAC 85.045(a)(9), (a)10 and (a)11. These regulations provide for a subsistence only hunt in these Units (the community hunt area identified in 5 AAC 92-074), from August 10th – September 20th for "1 bull per harvest report by community harvest permit only; however no more than 100 bulls that do not meet antler restrictions for other resident hunts in the same area may be taken in the entire community harvest area" (the season in Unit 12 is August 24-28 and September 8-17). The CHP season and bag limit regulations found at 5 AAC 85.045(a)(9)-(11) were enjoined by the court only indirectly and only because of the residency-based issue the court identified in relation to the underlying CHP – the court's decision did not even mention the season and bag limit regulations for the CHP moose hunt. The CHP moose season and bag limit regulations for Units 11, 12 and 13 are thus back in full force and effect since the Board has addressed the issues raised by the court concerning the underlying authorization of the CHP. On July 28, 2010 the Board adopted emergency regulations in response to the superior court's decision, including striking the 2010 CHP moose season and bag limit regulations in 5 AAC 85.045(a)(9)-(11). The emergency regulations adopted by the Board during this emergency telephonic meeting expire on November

29, 2010. The Board's Finding of Emergency makes it clear that the basis for the emergency regulations as related to the subsistence moose hunt was the court decision invalidating the CHP moose hunt because of the court's perception that it was residency based. The emergency no longer exists after the Board's action amending the CHP regulation. When the emergency regulations expire on November 29, the subsistence moose hunting regulations in effect before the emergency regulations were adopted (5 AAC 84.045(a)(9)-(11)) will once again be in full force and effect. These regulations were not challenged in the superior court case and they were not invalidated by the superior court when it ruled on the CHP and the other issues related to the Nelchina caribou herd. The regulations in 5 AAC 85.045 providing for seasons and bag limits for the CHP moose hunt will thus be the status quo when the Board meets in March of 2011.

At this point, Ahtna Tene Nene' does not believe that any action is necessary related to the regulation authorizing the CHP, 5 AAC 92.072, or the regulations setting the seasons and bag limits for the CHP moose hunt, 5 AAC 85.045(a)(9)-(11). However, this proposal is submitted to the board as a place holder in case there is more litigation over the moose CHP and a decision is issued before the March 2011 meeting that requires the board to take further action, or if the amendments to 5 AAC 92.072 that were adopted by the board in October of 2010 do not come into full regulatory effect for other reasons. The proposal is also a place holder in case the Board decides it is necessary to revise upward the limit on taking no more than 100 bulls that do not meet antler restrictions in order to provide for the subsistence uses of those subscribing to the CHP moose hunt

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? There may not be a problem or any need for the board to take action if, as explained above, the amendments to 5 AAC 92.072 adopted by the board in October of 2010 are promulgated as regulations and the season and bag limits established in 5 AAC 85.045(a)(9)-(11) prior to the adoption of emergency regulations are the status quo when the board meets in March of 2011. If this is not the case, or if 100 any bull moose limit set forth in the regulations are not sufficient to meet projected CHP subsistence needs, the Board may need to take action on these regulations in order to provide for the community based pattern of subsistence use recognized in the board's 2006 Findings regarding customary and traditional uses of moose in Unit 13.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Continuing the authorization and implementation of the CHP for moose in the community harvest area established by the board in March of 2009 benefits the resource and the subsistence products produced because the taking, preparation and use will all be consistent with long held practices designed for efficiency and the well being of the community and subsistence resource.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The CHP and the implementing season and bag limit regulations benefit those communities and groups that practice a community based subsistence way of life. Eligible communities will be allowed to harvest in a way consistent with their subsistence way of life and to take amounts necessary to meet the community members' subsistence needs. All Alaskans benefit from subsistence hunting regulations that serve the needs of Alaskan communities and groups which depend on the harvest of subsistence resources to provide for and sustain their way of life and being. Young hunters will benefit because they will be

given the opportunity to participate in subsistence hunting and taking, an opportunity they did not have when the any bull moose hunt was a Tier II hunt.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? The CHP does not have to result in any significant negative impact for other hunters. The Board has the authority to identify the any bull moose populations in the community hunt area as a distinct population, to identify distinct subsistence use patterns for the any bull population, and to provide fairly but differently for each distinct C&T use the board identifies. The board has the authority to identify an amount necessary for subsistence for each distinct subsistence use it identifies for the moose population. The board also has the authority to establish a separate reasonable opportunity (i.e. season, method, means, permit conditions) for each subsistence use it identifies so long as the reasonable opportunity established for each subsistence hunt is consistent with the C&T subsistence use identified by the Board for that hunt. No group of subsistence users will be harmed so long as the Board fairly identifies an amount necessary for subsistence uses, and establishes a reasonable opportunity, for each distinct subsistence use the board identifies for the subsistence moose populations identified by the Board. After fairly providing for the subsistence uses identified by the Board, it can then provide hunting opportunity for other non-subsistence hunters if there is sufficient harvestable surplus.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: Ahtna has also submitted a proposal for revision of the Tier II scoring system. The Tier II scoring system proposed by Ahtna should be adopted if the Board reverts to a Tier II hunt for the any bull moose population in Unit 13.

PROPOSED BY: Ahtna, Inc

LOG NUMBER: EG110310145

PROPOSAL 62- 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Establish a community harvest hunt for moose in Unit 13.

Same as community caribou harvest in 2009: 100 permits, any bull, August 10 - September 20, spike fork, 50 inches, or 4 brow tines.

ISSUE: Moose - community harvest.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Reduced opportunity for subsistence purposes.

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Subsistence hunters.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? None.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: None.

PROPOSED BY: Copper Basin Advisory Committee

LOG NUMBER: EG110410156

PROPOSAL 63 - 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Modify the moose season in Unit 13.

Unit 13 moose permit season as follows: September 21 - 30.

ISSUE: Unit 13 moose seasons for hunters with any bull permits have occurred before or during the general Sept. 1-20 season. This creates additional competition for both moose and hunting areas with the overwhelming majority of hunters limited to harvesting only moose deemed legal under the selective harvest antler regulations.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Hunters with special permits will continue to harvest some of the much smaller number of bull moose that would be legal for hunters hunting under antler restrictions before or during the general hunt. Holding seasons at the same time also creates confusion and poor use of enforcement time investigating illegal antler configuration moose kills, that may be legal, if the harvester has an any bull permit. Hunting areas will continue to be unnecessarily crowded when different hunts are held at the same time. The likely hood of illegal party hunting practices remains higher than with the suggested alternative.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. This proposal seeks to improve the quality of the general season antler restricted moose hunt available to all hunters in Unit 13, at the same time it would provide a separate high quality moose hunt for those lucky enough to get an any bull permit.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? General Unit 13 moose hunters who would gain the opportunity to hunt all legal antler restricted moose before other less restricted hunts were held. Both general season hunters and hunters using any bull permits would gain an opportunity to hunt under less crowded hunting conditions.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Hunters with any bull permits would be restricted to hunting later in the season -- which would have both advantages and disadvantages, but a large number of hunters would likely still apply for this opportunity.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED I considered both shorter and or later season dates for any bull permits. These options could be acceptable as well, but seasons that run through Sept. 30 have traditionally been used when moose populations can support general hunts and have been well accepted in portions of most GMUs that adjoin Unit 13. If ADF&G or the public had better suggested permit season dates, occurring after the general Unit 13 moose hunt, I could concur to those alternate dates as well.

PROPOSED BY: Andy Couch

LOG NUMBER: EG120110260

PROPOSAL 64 - 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Modify the bag limit for moose in Unit 13:

Please change the Unit 13 resident hunter bag limit to: One bull with 50 inch antlers or antlers with 3 brow tines on at least one side. Season remains: September 1 - 20.

ISSUE: Current moose hunting regulations in Unit 13 limit general season moose hunters to harvest of bulls with spike-fork or 50 inch antlers or 4 or more brow tines on at least one side -- yet moose numbers have increased in Unit 13 to where additional surplus bull moose are available for harvest. Many resident hunters who have not been fortunate enough to win a special permit would like to see an expansion of antlered moose that are legal during the general season.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Some hunters will continue to be discouraged with Unit 13 moose hunting opportunities -- in particular resident hunters who do not receive a special any bull moose permit and may see many moose, but are unable to clearly identify a single legal animal under spike/fork/50 inch/ 4 brow tine legal regulations.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. Since moose population numbers in Unit 13 are too low to support harvest of one animal per year per hunter, allowing hunters to harvest more larger bodied moose rather than focusing so much harvest on small yearlings would allow hunters to harvest more meat on an annual basis. This could be accomplished without additional harvest of bulls. According to the ADF&G Unit 13 Area Wildlife Manager, however, there are additional surplus bull moose available for harvest, and adjusting the legal moose to a 3 brow tine bull rather than requiring 4 brow tines would increase the number of bulls available for harvest -- so much so that the manager suggested that maintaining good bull to cow ratios throughout GMU 13 may also be dependent upon eliminating or reducing the harvest of spike-fork antlered bulls from the general hunt.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? General GMU 13 moose hunters who would like more meat when harvesting a moose, and general season hunters who would like an opportunity to possibly see more legal moose during their hunt.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Who is likely to suffer if your solution is adopted? Hunters who prefer harvesting spike-fork antlered moose would be limited to harvesting those moose by any bull moose permits, and permit numbers available may change.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED During the 2010 season an additional short August season was available for hunters to harvest 3 brow tines bull moose within Unit 13, but the 4 brow tine restriction remained during the traditional Sept. 1 - 20 season. I believe most hunters prefer

the later GMU 13 moose season, and also prefer consistent opportunity to harvest a 3 brow tine moose throughout the entire season.

PROPOSED BY: Andy Couch

LOG NUMBER: EG120110261

PROPOSAL 65 - 5 AAC 99.025. Customary and traditional uses of game populations.

Modify the Amount Necessary Subsistence for wolves in Unit 13.

(11) Wolves

Unit 13

Amount needed for subsistence: Define an amount based on ADF&G and USFW&S historical subsistence harvest data, village surveys, anecdotal information, and other sources.

In Unit 13, particular attention needs to be placed on protecting subsistence harvest in high access areas. For that reason, the board needs to set an ANS based strictly on Unit 12's needs.

ISSUE: The Board of Game has made a positive customary and traditional (C&T) use determination for wolves in this unit under the authority of AS 16.05.258 (a). Under that authority, when the board has a positive C&T finding it is required to do the following:

AS 16.05.258 (b) states: "The appropriate board shall determine whether a portion of a fish stock or game population identified under (a) of this section can be harvested consistent with sustained yield. If a portion of a stock or population can be harvested consistent with sustained yield, the board shall determine the amount of the harvestable portion that is reasonably necessary for subsistence uses."

The wolf management objective is to maintain a wolf population of at least 135 to 165 wolves in Unit 13. Yet in 2006, ADF&G amended the management plan to allow Unit wide management instead of managing wolves to maintain specific numbers in each subunit. What this change allowed was the unsustainable harvest of wolves over vast areas of Unit 13 as long as a minimum of 135 wolves was "estimated" to exist somewhere in the 23,368 sq miles of Unit 13.

Alpine areas (conducive to aerial gunning of wolves) and easily accessible regions in Unit 13 may be experiencing dramatic declines in wolf numbers, up to 100 percent would be allowable in specific areas under the state's current management objectives.

In October 2010, despite virtually every management objective for moose and caribou in Unit 13 being met or exceeded, the Board reauthorized the aerial wolf reduction program for another six years. In 2010, the department authorized an addition 125 moose permits for nonresidents only as well as added an addition resident moose hunt with liberalized horn restrictions. The reduction of

wolves now appears to be based solely on increasing nonresident hunting opportunity at the expense of subsistence harvest.

Trapping harvest has suffered the same reductions.

The trapping harvest rate from RY 97/98 to RY 02/03, prior to aerial gunning of wolves, averaged 126 wolves per year.

The trapping harvest rate from RY 03/04 to RY 07/08, after the aerial gunning of wolves, averaged just 53 wolves per year, a 238 percent decline from historical harvest rates.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The board will continue to ignore its statutory obligation to protect and allocate limited subsistence resources for resident subsistence harvest.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, protecting the sustained yield of subsistence resources is one of the highest priorities of Alaska's constitution and legislative intent.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Residents that support the management of wolves and caribou based on the sustained yield principle and that support the legislative intent to prioritize important subsistence resources for residents in time of depleted populations

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Nonresident hunters and subsequently the commercial hunting industry may lose opportunity to harvest wolves or caribou.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: The Science Now Project agrees with the legislative intent. No other option applies.

PROPOSED BY: Wade Willis, Science Now Project!

LOG NUMBER: EG110910209

PROPOSAL 66 - 5 AAC 99.025. Customary and traditional uses of game populations

Modify the Amount Necessary for Subsistence for caribou and wolves in Unit 11.

(4) Caribou

Unit 11 (Mentasta herd)

Amount needed for subsistence: Define an amount based on ADF&G & USFWS historical subsistence harvest data, village surveys, anecdotal information and other sources.

(11) Wolves

Unit 11

Amount needed for subsistence: Define an amount based on ADF&G & USFWS historical subsistence harvest data, village surveys, anecdotal information and other sources.

ISSUE: The Board of Game has made a positive customary and traditional (C&T) use determination for wolves in this Unit under the authority of AS 16.05.258 (a). Under that authority, when the Board has a positive C&T finding it is required to do the following:

AS 16.05.258 (b) states: "The appropriate board shall determine whether a portion of a fish stock or game population identified under (a) of this section can be harvested consistent with sustained yield. If a portion of a stock or population can be harvested consistent with sustained yield, the board shall determine the amount of the harvestable portion that is reasonably necessary for subsistence uses."

For wolves significant harvest is occurring in Unit 11:

Harvest is concentrated along easy access points and using snow machines - Nabesna Road / Copper River.

The overall harvest is 30 percent of the total population estimate. The harvest percentage can only be assumed to be much higher in localized areas with easy access and could be above sustainable levels and negatively impacting subsistence harvest.

Management population objective is for a minimum population level but no scientific estimate of wolf population is known, either before or after the hunting and trapping harvest.

It is important to document historical harvest of the Mentasta herd while the knowledge is still available. Accurately defining the historical subsistence harvest of the Mentasta caribou herd supports the intent of the Alaska legislature to prioritize harvest of a limited caribou population for subsistence.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The board will continue to ignore its statutory obligation to protect and allocate limited subsistence resources for resident subsistence harvest.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, protecting the sustained yield of subsistence resources is one of the highest priorities of Alaska's constitution and legislative intent.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Residents that support the management of wolves and caribou based on the sustained yield principle and that support the legislative intent to prioritize important subsistence resources for residents in time of depleted populations.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Nonresident hunters and subsequently the commercial hunting industry may lose opportunity to harvest wolves or caribou.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: The Science Now Project agrees with the legislative intent. No other option applies.

PROPOSED BY: Wade Willis, Science Now Project!

LOG NUMBER: EG110910207

PROPOSAL 67 - 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose; 85.025. Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou; and 92.074. Community subsistence harvest hunt areas. Modify the hunting regulations for Unit 13.

Outlaw any and all harvest of big game that exceeds the individual harvest rights and one proxy for a family member. Outlaw all community harvest program (CHP) and “hired-hunters” from taking game for another person except for proxy of one species for one family member.

ISSUE: Hunting season and bag limits for all big game: Outlaw all hunters from harvesting more than one proxy hunt for other family members; outlaw all hired-hunter and community harvest (“slaughter”) CHP permits. Stop unlawful “slaughter” permits by community harvest hired-hunters and CHP hunters from harvesting more than one family-proxy of big game species per individual.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The CHP and “slaughter-house” hired-hunter permits destroy traditional family style father-son-daughter customary and traditional hunting of all races. The CHP and hired-hunters that take the harvest quota of more than just one family proxy are destroying opportunities for youth to learn and carry on traditional and customary hunting. The CHP and slaughter permits are not traditional and customary, are not necessary for sharing of subsistence resources, have been illegal since territory days and statehood, and is a disgrace to all true subsistence hunters, as well as recreational and sport hunters.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, by outlawing CHP and hired-hunters slaughter permits will prevent wanton and waste; will bring back respect for traditional family father-son/daughter customary hunting.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? 1) All Alaskans will benefit from family customary and traditional hunting experience, and past use and dependency on subsistence use will be protected and preserved, and customary and traditional subsistence and recreational hunting use will be allowed to continue for generations. 2) All people of Alaska will benefit from the trust resource for the “common use” of the people by protection of the constitution, and case precedents. 3) The Board of Game will benefit by less court litigation by following the state laws, constitution and case precedents.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? 1) Those who prefer the CHP and hired-hunter slaughter permits will suffer because they will have to go out and hunt the old fashioned family traditional

way, instead of using the dollar to hire a hunter to go out and slaughter their village quota for their subsistence meat for them; and those communities who do not have any men who know how to hunt or cannot teach their youth to hunt and claim they will not be able to carry on long-time customs and traditions.nn2) The Native (or Indian) groups who are trying to impose an unconstitutional native-rural-residency based hunting priority and private game management system.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: A) Establishing Tier-11 blocks of eligibility to allow all levels of subsistence hunting with traditional and customary individual hunting rights to continue for decades and generations, allowing only family-proxy hunting for one family member, and protecting past use and dependency. B) Request the legislature to change Alaska Subsistence Law AS 16.05.258 and “methods and means” to prohibit all the CHP and hired-hunter “slaughter” permits; which may take years with uncertain results that may destabilize regulations and change the entire system again.

PROPOSED BY: Kenneth Manning

LOG NUMBER: EG102710113

PROPOSAL 68 - 5 AAC 92.070. Tier II subsistence hunting permit point system. Revise the Tier II subsistence permit point system for Unit 13 if the Board of Game fails to adopt a community harvest permit for caribou and any bull moose.

1. Change the allocation of points between questions that measure Factor (a) “customary and direct dependence for human consumption as a mainstay of livelihood” (5 AAC 92.070(a)) and Factor (b), “the ability of a subsistence user to obtain food if subsistence use is restricted or eliminated” (5 AAC 92.070(b)). Currently, the potential maximum number of points awarded for Factor (a) - (85 points) is 61percent of the total potential points an applicant may receive (140 points). The potential maximum number of points awarded for Factor (b) - (55) points is 39 percent of the total potential points. Increasing the number of points and the percentage of total points awarded for Factor (b) would award higher total scores to applicants who purchase food and gasoline in areas where costs are highest. This would result in younger people living in areas with higher costs of gas and food receiving higher scores on their applications, thereby increasing their chance of getting a permit.

2. Adjust the number of years required in Factor (a) for an applicant to achieve the maximum number of points allocated for “the number of years in which the applicant has hunted on or eaten from the game population” (5 AAC 92.070(a)(1)) and “the number of years in which a member of the applicant’s household has hunted on or eaten from the game population” (5 AAC 92.070(a)(2)). Presently, applicants achieve the maximum number of points at 50 years. If the maximum number of years were reduced below 50, applicants with a shorter history of use would achieve the maximum number of points in a shorter period of time, and would receive the same score on these questions as applicants with longer histories of use. Presently, applicants with 50 years of use of the Tier II population receive 60 points for these two questions (receiving 1 point per year for question 1 and 0.2 points per year for question 2), while applicants with 30 years of use

receive 36 points. In a case where the maximum number of years were changed to 30 years, both applicants with 50 years of use and applicants with 30 years of use would receive the same score of 60 points (receiving 1.66 points per year up to 50 points for question 1 and 0.33 points per year up to a maximum of 10 points for question 2). This change would result in more applicants receiving the same score for these questions, thereby placing more emphasis on questions that measure Factor (b).

3. Change and increase the total points awarded for the relative cost of food at the location where most of the applicant's household's store-bought food was purchased (5 AAC 92.070(b)(2)). If the total points for this question were increased, this change would result in some applicants with higher food costs, but fewer years of use of the Tier II game population receiving higher total scores than applicants with relatively low food costs but more years of use.

4. Change and increase the total points awarded for the relative cost of gasoline at the location where most of the applicant's household's gasoline was purchased. (5 AAC 92.070(b)(3)). This change would result in some applicants with higher gasoline costs, who face higher costs to access alternative game resources, but fewer years of use of the Tier II game population, receiving higher total scores than applicants with relatively low gasoline costs, and hence more access to alternative game resources, but more years of use.

5) Revise the point allocation for 5 AAC 92.070(a)(3) to award less points for less days spent harvesting in the unit and more points for greater time spent harvesting in the unit. For example, 5 points are currently awarded for 1-6 days in the unit. Consider reducing that score to 2 points. Ten points are currently awarded for 7-27 days in the unit. Consider reducing the score for that time in the unit to 7 points. Then add points to the score for those who spend more time harvesting in the unit.

ISSUE: The Tier II point system awards permits more along the lines of a longevity system rather than to those most customarily and directly dependent on subsistence uses of caribou to sustain their subsistence way of life.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The Tier II point system will continue to award permits more along the lines of a longevity system rather than to those most customarily and directly dependent on subsistence uses of caribou to sustain their subsistence way of life.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? This is an allocation decision only – question not really applicable.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Those most dependent on subsistence resources for their nutritional needs and way of life. Young people currently shut out of the Tier II hunt may qualify.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those whose scores may be less under a revised system than what they would score under the current scoring system.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: Ahtna Tene Nene' has proposed that 5 AAC 85(a)(9)-(11) as adopted by the Board in March of 2009 remains the status quo after the emergency regulations adopted by the Board in August of 2010 expire in November of 2010. These regulations are the status quo and the preferred solution is to leave these regulations, and 5 AAC 92.072, the authorizing regulation for community harvest permits, as amended by the Board in October of 2010, unchanged.

PROPOSED BY: Ahtna Tene Nene' Customary & Traditional Use Committee,

LOG NUMBER: EG110310147

PROPOSAL 69 - 5 AAC 92.540(3)(C). Controlled use areas. Modify the exceptions of the Clearwater Creek Controlled Use Area in Unit 13.

Modify the Clearwater Control Use area exceptions to include all drivable surfaces and lodging facilities of the Alpine Creek lodge.

...

5 AAC 92.540. Controlled use areas: In the following areas, access for hunting is controlled as specified: (C) the Clearwater Creek Controlled Use Area:

(i) the area consists of that portion of Unit 13(B) north of the Denali Highway, west of and including the MacLaren River drainage, east of and including the eastern bank drainages of the Middle Fork of the Susitna River downstream from and including the Susitna Glacier, and the eastern bank drainages of the Susitna River downstream from its confluence with the Middle Fork;

ii) the area is closed to the use of any motorized vehicle for hunting, including the transportation of hunters, their hunting gear, or parts of game, except for brown/grizzly bears, wolves, and small game from March 15 through June 30; however, this provision does not prohibit motorized access, or transportation of game, on the Denali Highway **or drivable surfaces, lodging facilities and lands of ALPINE CREEK LODGE located at 68 mile of the Denali Highway within the Clearwater CUA.**

...

ISSUE: Modify the Clearwater Control Use Area for established business on private property adjoining the Denali Highway.

The Alpine Creek Lodge located at milepost 68 of the Denali highway (US SURVEY NO. 5278 ALASKA; located on the north side of the highway at its intersection with Alpine Creek and designation of U.S. location monument no. 5. Geographic location of corner # 1 Latitude 63.02'33.5" north Longitude-147.14.45) consisting of 7.70 acres, is a lodge of business serving

Denali Highway travelers and Alaska hunters and trappers and is located within the Clearwater Control Use Area.

Access to the Alpine Creek Lodge is via the Denali Highway, that travel is unrestricted for the transportation of hunters and equipment. The Alpine Creek Lodge was purchased by the current owners in June 2008 and established as a business within the Mat-Su Borough. On a yearly average the Alpine Creek lodge provides boarding to 250 hunters per year between the months of April-September and also provides lodging to recreational visitors including: animal viewers, snowmobilers, skiers, small game hunters and trappers in the winter months.

The fall September hunting season averages approximately 175 hunters of the 250 yearly average. Alpine Creek Lodge is the currently ONLY place of business within the Clearwater Controlled Use Area. There is no on highway parking for hunters, vehicles or equipment. The average hunter stays at Alpine Creek Lodge is three to five days during the hunting season.

Hunters MAY be in violation of the Control Use Area by transporting personal goods, equipment and meals onto the Alpine Creek Lodge property while staying at the lodge and Hunting the North side of the Denali Highway within the Clear Water Controlled Use Area.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Inadvertent violations of the Control Use Area access may be incurred by hunters traveling to and staying at Alpine Creek Lodge.

Under the current Control Use Area guidelines, technically, a hunter staying at the lodge, must unload all equipment from their personal vehicle onto the roadside of Denali Highway, park their vehicle at the lodge, carry all equipment to the lodge, and reverse the process before beginning the next day's hunting. It could also be argued that any equipment transported by the lodge would be off limits to the use of any person visiting for the purpose of hunting activities.

Residents and visitors of the lodge would be in violation of the Control Use Area, if an otherwise legal animal was harvested within the property lines of Alpine Creek Lodge. Unless all equipment was packed down to the road side, the proximity of the Lodge to the road may make inadvertent criminals of hunters.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? This proposal will not affect any of the resources within the Unit.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All hunters traveling through, visiting, or lodging at Alpine Creek Lodge.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? This proposal should not negatively affect any person or group.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: None. A similar proposal was passed in 2010, Region III, in modification of the Kanuti CUA for private residence access. As submitted: **“(PROPOSAL 94 - 5 AAC 92.540 (8)(B). Controlled use areas:** Modify the boundary of

Kanuti Controlled Use Area in Unit 24B as follows: Move the boundary of the Kanuti Controlled Use Area so that it includes Fish Creek Lake as the..."

The land owners and visitors of the Alpine Creek Lodge are in similar circumstance and would like to avoid any future potential infractions. This proposal is submitted ON BEHALF and with permission of Alpine Creek Lodge, and owners Claude and Jennifer Bondy Alpine Creek Lodge PO Box 121, Cantwell Alaska 99729.

PROPOSED BY: Vince Holton

LOG NUMBER: EG102610108

PROPOSAL 70 - 5 AAC 92.540. Controlled use areas. Restrict ATV use on certain trails in Unit 13B.

For hunting: No ATV use for a 1/4 mile corridor on either side of the Maclaren River for its entirety (with the exception of the lower Maclaren crossing at "Moore's Trail" which begins at milepost 51.5 on the Denali Highway and crosses the Maclaren River approximately 25 miles below the Maclaren River bridge at milepost 42 on the Denali). Also the same 1/4 mile restricted access corridor along the Susitna River upstream of the confluence of the Oshentna River.

ISSUE: Continuing rapid expansion of the ATV trail system in the heavily used areas of Unit 13B. Also the lack of 'safe-haven' areas for moose. Also, we are seeing the beginnings of user conflict.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Continued expansion of the trail system, increasing user conflicts.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, when you consider that the "hunt" itself is part of the resource. Less user conflict.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Moose will benefit with a little less motorized pressure. Some hunters.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? ATV users who also have big river boats.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: Designated trails - rejected due to enforcement issues.

PROPOSED BY: Paxson Advisory Committee

LOG NUMBER: EG110410165

Palmer Area – Units 14A, 14B and 16

PROPOSAL 71 - 5 AAC 92.170. Sealing of marten, lynx, beaver, otter, wolf, and wolverine. Eliminate the sealing requirement for beaver and marten in Unit 16.

Go to an online or mail in report card for beaver and marten sealing.

ISSUE: Eliminate sealing beaver & marten there is no reason the same data cannot be done by report card.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? It will continue to be an unnecessary burden on the trapper and an unneeded expense to the Department of Fish and Game.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? It may get a more accurate count since many who use the furs for personal use do not bother getting them sealed. With a simple reporting system the trappers who use their furs for personal use will be more likely to report their harvest.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Trappers and the Department of Fish and Game; it will lessen an unnecessary expense and burden on both.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: None.

PROPOSED BY: Chuck Lamb

LOG NUMBER: EG102910132

PROPOSAL 72 - 5 AAC 92.550. Areas closed to trapping. Close a portion of the Palmer Hay Flats Wildlife Refuge in Unit 14A to trapping.

I am respectfully requesting the Board of Game to close the area surrounding Reflection Lake in the Palmer Hay Flats Wildlife refuge to trapping.

ISSUE: Recently, the area around Reflection Lake has been cleaned-up and restored to a park like setting. A local non-for-profit organization has established a trail circumventing the lake, placed a boardwalk, a 50 foot span steel bridge, and information kiosk. The State of Alaska has placed a restroom in the area adjacent to the Glenn Highway and is proving the parking area. Next spring, a picnic pavilion will be installed and a viewing tower. The local trail is also handicapped accessible meeting ADA requirements for grating, surface compaction, and width, there is a

significant increase in utilization of the area by families with children and pets and out-of-state visitors.

Beavers have set up a lodge right next to the bridge on the trail. Trapping right next to the trail in the area increases the risk of human and pet injuries. I realize in the regulation booklet there is specific instruction for no trapping near high usage areas. However, the meaning of this is left to the individual trapper. Due to the geographical set up of the area, there is no safe area to place traps that would not endanger children and pets. Reflections Lake is bordered by Knik River to the South and Rabbit Slough to the North. The only solid ground in the area is directly around the lake and is occupied by the trail.

The trail is used throughout the year. In the winter, the trail is groomed for skiing the skjoring. In January for the past four, a Family Fun Day is planned where volunteers set up ice skating, sledding, skiing trails, bon fires, and snowshoeing. Similarly in the summer time, a Summer Fun Day is organized for kayaking, hiking, fishing, etc. Larger turn outs have been occurring each year; last year over 450 people attending the Family Winter Fun Day. For the past five years, I have organized education days for local school children at the Palmer Hay Flats Wildlife area. This includes 12-15 volunteer presenters from archeology, wildlife biologists, wet land retrievers, birders, plant identification, etc. Several hundreds of elementary age children from kindergarten to 5th grade rotate through these presenters and enjoy our local wildlife area. This spring, I am planning an education day at Reflections Lake due to its' ideal access and wildlife viewing opportunities. Traps and the high usage of this area is a disaster waiting to happen.

Several local school groups are interested in preserving this area to study wildlife ecology. The close placement of the beaver lodge has provided a very unique viewing and teaching opportunity to local school children. To date, local volunteer children, parents, and teachers will be placing wire around the bigger birch and cottonwood trees to preserve them from beaver chews. Local teachers and parents are interested in participating in the wildlife ecology opportunities this area provides due to easy access, nice trail, clean setting, and bathroom availability.

The area surrounding Reflection Lake that I am requesting closed to trapping is miniscule in comparison to the area that is open in the Palmer Hay Flat Wildlife Area. I ask the board to please close this small area to trapping to increase safety and provide a unique education opportunity to our local youth.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? It will increase the chance of human traffic exposure and decrease wildlife study opportunities.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? It will improve the opportunity for students and visitors to view and study wildlife.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The public and local students.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? The trappers who will no longer be able to trap in that area.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: No.

PROPOSED BY: Cynthia Neubauer

LOG NUMBER: EG120710274

PROPOSAL 73 - 5 AAC 85.015. Hunting seasons and bag limits for black bear. Raise the bag limit for black bear in Unit 14A.

Raising the bag limit in sub-unit 14A to three bears per year. While this has been done in other units with no great increase in bear harvest, it does allow greater opportunity. Most hunters will only take one bear a year at most. This will allow that rare hunter who by luck and skill get the chance to take a real nice bear even though they may have already harvested a bear that year.

ISSUE: Black bear bag limits that undermine utilization of the resource, where a harvestable surplus is not being fully utilized.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? A continued waste of under harvest.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. It allows a person to harvest a bear in the Unit even if they have taken one in another Unit. Often this will be a trophy bear which the hunter will talk about and enjoy the rest of their life.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Those with that rare opportunity and those who may need to harvest a bear to augment their food need with the take of an additional bear.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those who wish to have bear habituated to allow easy viewing. Those who oppose bear hunting or hunting in general.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: Regional bag limits. We did not reject them but felt giving the board more options was a prudent move.

PROPOSED BY: Anchorage Fish and Game Advisory Committee

LOG NUMBER: EG110410177

PROPOSAL 74 - 5 AAC 92.044. Permit for hunting black bear with the use of bait or scent lures. Allow guide-outfitters to have up to ten bait stations in Unit 16.

5 AAC 92.044 (4) a person may not have more than two bait stations established with bait present at any one time, **except in Units 12, 16, 19, 20, 21, 24, and 25, a registered guide-outfitter may**

register up to 10 bait station sites at a time and may either personally or through licensed class-A assistant or assistant guides, establish and maintain those sites simultaneously, if a signed guide-client agreement is used for each hunter that uses any of the sites;

or just apply the regulation state wide

5 AAC 92.044 (4) a person may not have more than two bait stations established with bait present at any one time, **except a registered guide-outfitter may register up to 10 bait station sites at a time and may either personally or through licensed class-A assistant or assistant guides, establish and maintain those sites simultaneously, if a signed guide-client agreement is used for each hunter that uses any of the sites;**

[5 AAC 92.044 (11) IN THE UNIT 16 PREDATION CONTROL AREA DESCRIBED IN 5 AAC 92.125(D), EXCEPT FOR A LICENSED GUIDE-OUTFITTER, A PERSON MAY NOT GIVE OR RECEIVE REMUNERATION FOR THE USE OF A BAIT STATION, INCLUDING BARTER OR EXCHANGE OF GOODS; A LICENSED GUIDE-OUTFITTER AND THE GUIDE-OUTFITTER'S CONTRACTED ASSISTANT GUIDES MAY REGISTER UP TO AN AGGREGATE OF 10 BAIT STATION SITES PER YEAR, AND A SIGNED GUIDE-CLIENT AGREEMENT IS REQUIRED FOR EACH HUNTER THAT USES ANY OF THE SITES.]

ISSUE: Add Unit 16 to the list of Game Management Units in 5 ACC 92.044 (4) in which a guide-outfitter may register up to 10 bait stations. Eliminate 5 ACC 92.044 (11).

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? To properly and effectively hunt black bear for multiple clients a guide-outfitter needs to be able to utilize more than two bait sites. In Unit 16, the two site restriction is further complicated by section (11) of the same regulation which provides for additional bait stations under the Predator Control Program. Only residents may hunt under a predator control program. A Unit 16 guide has the unique conflict as to which two of his ten sites is he going to designate for nonresident clients. If Unit 16 were added to the list of Units in Section (4), the unique conflict as well as Section (11) could be eliminated.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. The unique Unit 16 conflict is eliminated.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Unit 16 guides and their clients.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: PROPOSED BY: Joe Schuster

LOG NUMBER: EG102910130

PROPOSAL 75- 5 AAC 99.025. Customary and traditional uses of game populations.
Consider a customary and traditional use finding for bears and moose in Unit 16A.

Amend 5AAC 99.025 as follows:

(2) Black Bears

Unit 16A

Consider a C&T determination: If positive, define an ANS Amount needed for subsistence: Define an amount based on Department of Fish and Game and USFWS historical subsistence harvest data, village surveys, anecdotal information, and other sources.

In Unit 16A, particular attention needs to be placed on protecting subsistence harvest in high access areas. For that reason, the board needs to set an ANS based strictly on Unit 16's needs.

(3) Brown Bears

Unit 16A

Consider a C&T determination: If positive, define an ANS Amount needed for subsistence: Define an amount based on Department of Fish and Game and USFWS historical subsistence harvest data, village surveys, anecdotal information, and other sources.

(8) Moose

Unit 16A

Consider a C&T determination: If positive, define an ANS Amount needed for subsistence: Define an amount based on Department of Fish and Game and USFWS historical subsistence harvest data, village surveys, anecdotal information, and other sources.

ISSUE: The Board of Game has made a positive customary and traditional (C&T) use determination for wolves in this unit under the authority of AS 16.05.258 (a). Under that authority, when the board has a positive C&T finding it is required to do the following:

AS 16.05.258 (b) states: "The appropriate board shall determine whether a portion of a fish stock or game population identified under (a) of this section can be harvested consistent with sustained yield. If a portion of a stock or population can be harvested consistent with sustained yield, the board shall determine the amount of the harvestable portion that is reasonably necessary for subsistence uses."

The board has not addressed customary and traditional use for black bear, brown bear and moose in Unit 16A as required by AS 16-05.255 (a), despite the fact that the board has approved policies to aggressively reduce both black and brown bear populations in Unit 16. In addition, the board has not addressed customary and traditional use for moose in Unit 16A as required by AS 16.05.258 (a). Despite the fact that the moose population has been depressed for many years in Unit 16A

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The board will continue to ignore its statutory obligation to protect and allocate limited subsistence resources for resident subsistence harvest.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, protecting the sustained yield of subsistence resources is one of the highest priorities of Alaska's constitution and legislative intent.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Residents that support the management of bear and moose based on the sustained yield principle and that support the legislative intent to prioritize important subsistence resources for residents in time of depleted populations.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Nonresident hunters and subsequently the commercial hunting industry may lose opportunity to harvest bear or moose.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: The Science Now Project agrees with the legislative intent. No other option applies.

PROPOSED BY: Wade Willis, Science Now Project!

LOG NUMBER: EG111010213

PROPOSAL 76 - 5 AAC 85.020. Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear. Open a year long season for brown bear in Unit 16.

To have a year round season for brown bears in Unit 16. The new regulation would simply say "no closed season."

ISSUE: To change the season for brown bears in Unit 16 to read "no closed season."

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Hunters will continue to have missed opportunities to harvest brown bears.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, it would provide hunters added opportunities to take brown bears in a unit where they are a problem.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Hunters who wish to have more opportunities to harvest brown bears in Unit 16.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: N/A

PROPOSED BY: Matanuska Valley Fish and Game Advisory Committee

LOG NUMBER: EG110510184

PROPOSAL 77 - 5 AAC 92.125. Predation Control Area Implementation Plans. Include brown bear control in the Unit 16 predator management program.

To include brown bears into our present predator management program, to include but not limited to the following:

1. Taking sows with cubs
2. Taking brown bear over bait
3. No closed season
4. Snaring of brown bears
5. Possibly designating a limited test area at the departments discretion

ISSUE: Brown bear predation of moose and moose calves.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Continued decline of moose numbers in Unit 16.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Not directly, but it would increase moose and moose calf numbers which would greatly enhance that resource.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Resident hunters who hunt moose.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Possibly professional guides for brown bears in Unit 16.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: To do nothing which is why we find ourselves in this position.

PROPOSED BY: Matanuska Valley Fish and Game Advisory Committee

LOG NUMBER: EG110510185

PROPOSAL 78- 5 AAC 92.125 (d). Predation Control Implementation Plans. Remove brown and black bear harvest authorized in the Unit 16 intensive management plan.

1. NPCA asks the Board of Game to request a formal opinion from the Department of Law regarding legislative intent at any time to exclude all bears from all intensive management plans authorized under the authority of AS 16.05.255 (e-g).
2. Amend 5 AAC 92.125 (d) to remove all brown and black bear harvest authorized in the Unit 16 intensive management implementation plan.

ISSUE: The inclusions of brown and black bear harvest in the Unit 16 intensive management plan, 5 AAC 92.125 (d). We are concerned because Unit 16 includes parts of both Denali and Lake

Clark national preserves. While formal intensive management does not occur on national preserve lands, the bordering state lands soon become a population 'sink'. This can cause significant emigration of bear out of NPS managed lands that border the states intensive management areas. Such outmigration may have unacceptable consequences on park resources by artificially manipulating natural age class composition of bears within the park or preserve.

Historical legislative debate records clarify that under no circumstance are bears to be authorized under the state's intensive management regulations AS 16.05.255 (e-g), also known as the Intensive Management Law.

Many Alaskan's continue to hold bears in high esteem and question whether it is appropriate to implement aggressive and scientifically risky intensive management techniques such as unlimited individual hunter bag limits, same day aerial harvest of bears, landing and shooting of bears, use of helicopters by private citizens, wanton waste of game meat, snaring of bears, harvest of sows and cubs and 100 percent reduction management objectives - all of which are currently authorized for the harvest of bears in either Unit 16's or Unit 19's intensive management plans. The National Parks Conservation Association considers the current intensive management plans in Unit 16 and 19 lack adequate scientific justification and department oversight.

Currently, over 10 percent of state lands in Alaska are being managed under the authority of an intensive management plan. The total area of state lands under intensive management is increasing dramatically, with three additional approved intensive management plans waiting to be implemented.

The Department of Fish & Game lacks adequate information on population size and the ecological effects of reducing the overall population density or the mature cohort age class in black and brown/grizzly bear populations. Because of the difficulty and high costs of estimating bear density and conducting composition assessments, it is unlikely the department will be able to gather such information on a wide scale in the foreseeable future. Without such information, it is inappropriate to conduct intensive management on bears, a species with a substantially lower reproductive potential compared to wolves.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The Board of Game will continue to ignore the intent of the Alaska legislature when they authorized AS 16.05.255 (e - g). The intention to not include bears in an intensive management implementation plan was discussed in depth by the legislature. The debate record indicates bears were never intended by the legislature to be included in the intensive management plans authorized under AS 16.05.255 (e-g).

In addition, state lands bordering NPS managed lands soon become a population 'sink'. This can cause significant emigration of bears out of the parks that border the states bear reduction areas.

"Brown bears are fully or partially protected in both Denali and Wrangell St. Elias National Parks. The large parks are adjacent to Unit 13 and provide a source of migration." - 2001 Brown Bear Management Report p 88.

"Immigration of bears from lightly hunted areas in Unit 13 or from adjacent Denali and Wrangell St. Elias National Parks, may be another reason high harvests of brown bears may not have the predicted impact on bear numbers." 2007 Brown Bear Management Report p 149

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? This recommendation supports widely recognized scientific bear management principles that promote the long term conservation of bears in North America.

Artificial manipulation of bear populations on state lands bordering National Park Service managed lands may be creating a population 'sink'. Several bear research biologists, including department area biologist and research staff, have noted that emigration out of bordering NPS managed lands is likely (Unit 13 & 23) and subsequently bolstering unsustainable harvest rates on bordering state lands. The emigration of bears out of NPS managed lands may not be sustainable over time, and may be causing significant impacts to the natural age class composition of bears within NPS managed lands, which in turn may be creating a public safety risk due artificially manipulated natural age class composition of bears within the park or preserve.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Alaska residents that prefer bears to be managed to the highest of scientific standards. Alaska residents that prefer to manage our wildlife assets on an ecosystem wide scale, promoting the long term integrity and maximum resiliency of one of our states greatest assets, intact natural ecosystems. Native Alaska communities that oppose the baiting and snaring of bears (Minto Flats / Tanana AC comments, March 2010 Board of Game meeting). Federal land managers that are mandated to protect natural diversity of wildlife, including natural population composition densities, on federal lands.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those that oppose management of Alaska's wildlife resources using prudent and recognized scientific wildlife management principles. Those that prefer to reject effective human harvest regulations as essential management tools to maintain healthy ungulate populations in preference for artificially manipulating an ecosystem to allow immediate and unsustainable human harvest levels, including trophy hunting.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: NPCA agrees with the legislative intent to exclude bears from AS 16.065.255(e-g).

PROPOSED BY: National Parks Conservation Association

LOG NUMBER: EG111210220

PROPOSAL 79 - 5 AAC 85.040. Hunting seasons and bag limits for goat. Change the goat drawing hunt in Unit 14A to a registration hunt.

Change DG866 back to registration hunt limited to residents only.

ISSUE: Draw goat hunt 866 has produced an under-harvest.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Continued under-harvest and loss of opportunity.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. This was tried, thinking it would be more manageable than the registration hunt. Instead, the goal has not been met. The easiest solution is to return to the registration hunt.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Those residents who really wish to hunt here.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one, except the very few non-residents who might put in for this hunt.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: Issue more tags, but the area biologist suggest this is unlikely to bring the benefit we hope for.

PROPOSED BY: Anchorage Fish and Game Advisory Committee

LOG NUMBER: EG110510191

PROPOSAL 80 - 5 AAC 085.040(7). Hunting seasons and bag limits for goat. Amend this regulation as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(7)		
Unit 14A		
1 goat by drawing permit only; up to 50 permits may be issued; the taking of nannies with kids prohibited	Sept. 1 – Oct. 31 (General hunt only)	Sept. 1 – Oct. 31
<u>1 goat by registration permit only; the taking of nannies with kids prohibited</u>	Oct. 1 – Oct. 31	<u>No open season.</u>

ISSUE: Since the registration goat hunt in Unit 14A was changed to a draw hunt two years ago the number of goats harvested has decreased while the population has increased. An additional registration hunt will allow resident hunters a second chance to take a goat in years when the population appears to be doing well and when it appears that the quota of seven goat units will not be achieved through the regular draw season. Timing the hunt after the sheep hunts in the area,

having a seven day window that the registration hunt is valid, and a short reporting period requirement will prevent overharvesting of the resource.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The harvest quota for goats in 14A would likely not be achieved.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes; adding a registration hunt in October will allow greater hunter opportunity.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Hunters with a desire to specifically target goats

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Increasing the number of draw permits available.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

LOG NUMBER: ADFG1030100

PROPOSAL 81- 5 AAC 85.040 Hunting seasons and bag limits for goat. Change the Unit 14A goat drawing hunt to a registration hunt and split it into two hunts.

This hunt should be returned to a registration hunt. The area should be split into two smaller areas to better distribute the harvest. There should be four hunts, two for residents and two for nonresidents. Unit 14A east would include all of the drainages of Grasshopper Valley and Marcus Baker Glacier. This is where most of the hunting pressure occurred in the past. Unit 14A west would include the rest of hunt Unit 866 including off of Metal Creek drainage. This area is much harder to access. Metal Creek drainage has a good population of mature billies that virtually never get hunted because of the very difficult access. I'm not going to suggest harvest goals in these areas but leave it to the Department of Fish and Game and the Board of Game.

ISSUE: For the last three years mountain goats in Unit 14A (hunt #DG866) have been on a draw permit and the harvest goal has not been met. The majority of the people that draw these permits simply did not go goat hunting. With sheep going to draw the same year, the overall hunting pressure has been greatly reduced.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Keeping the drawing format will result in lost opportunity to hunt mountain goats for those that really desire to hunt them, while keeping the total harvest well below the goal.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Under this proposal the harvest goals can be met and the hunting pressure will be more evenly distributed.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All hunters that want to hunt mountain goats in these areas will have the opportunity to do so. Having separate hunts for residents and nonresidents will assure that no group takes more than their fair share.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Nobody suffers. It is a win/win for all goat hunters.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: Status-quo means that harvest goals do not get met and hunt opportunities are unnecessarily limited.

PROPOSED BY: Dan Montgomery

LOG NUMBER: EG110410167

PROPOSAL 82- 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Restrict antlerless moose permit holders in Unit 14 from hunting antlered moose.

To change current regulation in Unit 14 to say "antlerless moose permit holders can only hunt for antlerless moose and not antlered moose in the same season that the permit was issued in."

ISSUE: To prevent double dipping of moose, we would like antlerless moose draw permit recipients to only be able to hunt antlerless moose.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Antlerless moose permit hunters will continue to have added advantage to also harvest antlered moose in the same unit and season.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? It helps fairly distribute antlered moose amongst non-permit holders. To provide a more level playing field for all hunters.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Non-permit holders.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: None.

PROPOSED BY: Matanuska Valley Fish & Game Advisory Committee

LOG NUMBER: EG111010214

PROPOSAL 83 - 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Extend the moose season in Unit 14A.

A season extension for spike/fork only bulls from October 1 to October 15.

ISSUE: The under harvest of available moose in sub-unit 14A due to antler restrictions. The Department of Fish and Game and the Board of Game have developed the strategy to raise bull numbers and in theory improve the genetics of the herd by allowing the take of spike/fork bulls and protecting yearlings (18 month) with i.e. bulls with fewer than 10 points. While this may be beneficial, we have no area where any conducive study of the effect has been done or even could be studied. So by developing a season which would allow a greater reduction of the number of spike/fork bull could yield an abundance of data.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Continued under-harvest of undesirable bulls and the breeding of said bulls will continue.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, we believe so for many reasons. It will allow residents to harvest a larger portion of moose. It will give the department an area to study the effects of reducing spike/fork numbers on a long term effect because 14A will be subjected to heavy pressure concentrated on the undesirable genetics. We will get a real feeling if this strategy is helpful to the herd. It is unlikely any other unit could get both the pressure and the law enforcement necessary to conduct such a hunt and study. It should help reduce the illegal take because many won't take unsure shots knowing there will be another chance at spike/forks when the leaves are off the trees. The goal here would be to attempt to eliminate as much of the undesirable genetics as possible, while giving a greater opportunity. The strategy of spike/fork 50 inch rule requires a test sometime, somewhere and given the area and opportunity it is unlikely any other place in the state could sustain it. You would need to set a realistic number of bulls to be taken so that the hunt will not end up in an over-harvest which there is a possibility.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Everyone who wished to test the theory no matter which side of the theory you are on. Those who are lucky enough to be successful in the harvest. The department will benefit from the ability to see the long term effects and to manage the herd better.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those who look at subunit 14A as their own - you can't please everyone.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: Status quo and any bull permits are both rejected because one doesn't do anything - the other just creates another drawing with unknown results.

PROPOSED BY: Anchorage Fish and Game Advisory Committee

LOG NUMBER: EG110510189

PROPOSAL 84- 5 AAC 92.052. Discretionary permit hunt conditions and procedures.
Require antlers and jaw bones of bull moose to be provided to the Department of Fish and Game for Unit 14A.

Require that all moose hunters who harvest a bull moose in Unit 14A bring the lower jaw and antlers to an ADF&G office for aging and measuring within 10 days of killing the animal. This regulation could sunset after two years- unless the department was interested in further data collection.

ISSUE: The area wildlife manager has indicated he would like accurate data concerning bull moose age, antler width, and configurations in Unit 14A.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Many Unit 14A hunters believe that a significant number of the annual reported bull moose harvested in this area may in fact have illegal antler configuration or widths. Some also feel that a significant portion of bull moose from this area may never grow legal antlers under the current spike/fork/50 inch/3 brow tines legal regulations required in this area. Without verified data these concerns cannot be adequately addressed.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Maybe. It would help the department manager to more accurately determine how well the current antler configuration regulations matches the bull moose being harvested from the Unit 14A moose population and at what ages moose in the population become antler legal. Results of this data collection may justify the current selective harvest regulations or suggest a better alternative that more closely matches the antler configurations present in the Unit 14A moose population.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All Unit 14A moose hunters could benefit from better knowledge of moose antler configuration present in the population.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? All successful Unit 14A hunters who harvested a bull moose would be required to submit their specimens for aging and measurement for at least a couple of years.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: A) I considered a requirement aimed at aging and measuring just moose larger than spike/fork, but a discussion with the area wildlife manager indicated that information about the smaller bulls harvested within the Unit 14A population would be valuable as well. B) In discussion with the wildlife manager we considered other time requirements, and another time requirement would be acceptable, however we found 10 days to be more consistent with other moose specimen reporting requirements already in place throughout Alaska.

PROPOSED BY: Andy Couch

LOG NUMBER: EG111810239

PROPOSAL 85- 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Provide antlerless moose permits for archery hunts in Unit 14A.

I request the Board of Game take a few antlerless permits from the general Unit 14 moose hunt and multiply them into a much higher, biologically sound, number of antlerless moose permits usable only during the Unit 14A archery season. The shorter season and lower success rate of archery hunting would allow a higher number of antlerless moose permits to be issued. The area wildlife manager has indicated 20 permits, taken throughout Unit 14A antlerless hunt areas could be multiplied to create 100-120 archery permits.

ISSUE: Moose hunters in Unit 14A may hunt all or most of the season and not see, or be able to tell if they saw a legal moose the entire season, unless they are fortunate enough to draw an antlerless moose permit. The chances of drawing an antlerless moose permit in Unit 14A are unnecessarily miniscule, with a drawing success ranging from 1-4 percent of applicants for each Unit 14A antlerless permit area in 2007.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The number of antlerless moose permits given for Unit 14A will continue to be unnecessarily restricted, and consequently, some hunters will continue to be discouraged with Unit 14A moose hunting opportunities- in particular those hunters who may see many moose, but are unable to clearly identify a single legal animal.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No and yes. Quality of moose harvested would likely remain the same. Quality of moose hunt, however, would improve as more hunters would draw antlerless permits and enjoy opportunities to see clearly legal animals during Unit 14A moose hunts. If significant numbers of hunters chose to apply for one or more archery permit(s), rather than general permits, drawing success rates would increase for all Unit 14A antlerless moose permit hunts.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? I have never bow hunted for moose, however I believe all Unit 14A moose hunters who apply for antlerless permit hunts would enjoy higher drawing success rates. More hunters could win better hunting opportunities, while maintaining the resource at the same level.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Hunters who prefer Unit 14A antlerless moose permits remain available ONLY for the general hunt, could gain an increased chance to win a permit if this proposal were adopted, but a SHARE of available permits would go to hunters who applied for the archery option.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: A) If the board has any concerns about this proposal, it could be adopted on a trial basis, with a sunset clause causing the archery permits to go away, after two or four years, if not readopted by the board. This is a logical way to measure public opinion of the concept after a short trial. B) The board could simply adopt an antlerless moose season that allowed permit winners to hunt during the archery season without any increase in permit numbers. While solution B would better maximize benefit from the resource than current regulations (as required by the Alaska Constitution), I believe allowing more permits to be issued as outlined above would even further maximize benefit.

PROPOSED BY: Andy Couch

LOG NUMBER: EG111810240

PROPOSAL 86- 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Open a bull moose permit hunt for Unit 14A.

In addition to the current Unit 14A moose seasons and bag limits I request that the Board of Game add: **One antlered moose by drawing permit, September 26-30. Up to 100 permits may be issued.** Proposal intent is that any antlered moose permits only be issued for portions of Unit 14A where the Department of Fish and Game has recorded bull to cow ratios exceeding 20:100.

ISSUE: Moose hunters in Unit 14A may hunt all or most of the season and not see, or be able to tell if they saw a legal moose the entire season, unless they are fortunate enough to draw a permit for some type of hunt other than spike/fork/50 inch/3 brow tine bulls. The chances of drawing a moose permit in Unit 14A are unnecessarily miniscule, with a drawing success ranging from 1-4 percent of applicants for each Unit 14A antlerless permit are in 2007.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The number of drawing moose permits given for Unit 14A will continue to be unnecessarily restricted, and consequently, some hunters will continue to be discouraged with Unit 14A moose hunting opportunities- in particular those hunters who many see many moose, but are unable to clearly identify a single legal animal under spike/fork/50 inches/3 brow tine legal regulation.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, yes and yes. Under an any antlered bull permit all bulls with antlers would be legal, so illegal animals shot and left to rot would be almost entirely eliminated during this season. Quality of Unit 14A moose hunts would improve as more hunters would draw moose permits and enjoy opportunities to see clearly legal animals. If significant numbers of Unit 14A hunters chose to apply for any antlered bull permits(s), rather than antlerless permits, drawing success rates would also increase for Unit 14A antlerless moose permits.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Unit 14A hunters would like an opportunity to hunt for bull moose where most animals could be quickly and easily identified as legal or illegal.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Hunters who prefer that all bull moose hunting in Unit 14A remain entirely spike/fork/50 inch/3 brow tines only. However, this proposal seeks to reduce impacts on general season hunters by scheduling an any bull drawing hunt after the general season, and for only a short period of time. The area wildlife manager has indicated that the short duration of this proposed hunt could allow for a higher number of permits than a longer hunt. The hunt timing also corresponds with a time traditionally hunted for moose in Unit 14A, and currently open for moose hunting in Unit 14C.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: Other changes in legal antlered bull moose allowed in Unit 14A. I have not rejected this option, but have yet to get one of these proposals adopted by the Board of Game.

PROPOSED BY: Andy Couch

LOG NUMBER: EG111810241

PROPOSAL 87 - 5 AAC 85.045(12). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Establish a winter antlerless moose hot-spot hunt in Unit 14A to address vehicle collisions and serious nuisance moose issues in the Matanuska/Susitna Valley areas.

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

Unit 14A

1 moose per regulatory year,
only as follows:

...

<u>1 antlerless moose by hot-spot permit only; and by shotgun only; up to 200 permits may be issued</u>	<u>Winter season to be announced (General hunt only)</u>	<u>No open season</u>
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ISSUE: Registration hunts are an effective tool for addressing high moose populations and related management issues. During November 2008, the population of moose in Unit 14A was surveyed and estimated at 6,614 which was slightly more than the post-hunt objective of 6,000 – 6,500 moose. A composition survey in 2009 produced 25 bulls and 49 calves:100 cows. Snow depth accumulations in the subunit during the last 4 winters overall were average and survival of calves and adults was good.

Winter moose mortality from vehicle collisions and the resulting cost in human injury, vehicle damage, insurance costs, and lost worker productivity takes a toll on local residents and the communities of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough. Recent years have shown higher numbers of moose-vehicle collisions even in average or moderate snow depths. An average of 266 moose was killed in the Mat-Su Valley area during the last 5 years. Providing an alternative moose management option to reduce the probability of moose-vehicle collisions in specific areas during the darkest months of the season should result in a few more moose killed by hunters instead of motor-vehicles. The department's intent with this proposal is to have hunters target moose in potential collision areas in order to reduce vehicle accidents and human-moose conflicts and provide additional hunter opportunity. Potential hunters would be selected from a list of pre-registered hunters that are prioritized by random selection. Hunters will need to respond

quickly (i.e. within 24 hours) to harvest a moose from specifically defined “hot-spot” moose-vehicle collision area.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Portions of the Unit 14A moose subpopulation will continue to be killed on the roads and highways of the Matanuska – Susitna Valley area. Increasing conflicts with humans and vehicle collisions will occur as the human population of the Mat-Su Borough continues to grow.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes; moose harvested under hunting regulations will generally be better quality meat than that provided through the state’s road kill program.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All who wish to have a healthy, productive moose population in the Matanuska-Susitna valleys, reduced motor-vehicle/moose collisions, and provide antlerless moose for human consumption.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those who disagree with the harvest of antlerless moose and/or winter moose hunts.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Winter drawing antlerless moose hunts

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

LOG NUMBER: ADFG103010M

PROPOSAL 88 - 5 AAC 85.045(12). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Reauthorize the drawing permit hunts for antlerless moose in Unit 14A.

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(12)		
Unit 14(A)		
1 moose per regulatory year, only as follows:		
...		
1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only; up to 500 antlerless moose permits may be issued	Aug. 20-Sept. 25 (General hunt only) Nov. 1-Nov. 15 (General hunt only)	No open season

...

ISSUE: Antlerless moose hunts must be re-authorized annually by the Board. During November 2008, the subpopulation of moose in Unit 14A was surveyed and estimated at 6,614 which was slightly more than the post-hunt objective of 6,000 – 6,500 moose. A composition survey in 2009 produced 24.7 bulls and 48.9 calves:100 cows. Snow depth accumulations in the subunit during the last 4 winters overall were average and survival of calves and adults was good.

During 1999 and 2000, we issued no permits because the subpopulation estimate remained below objective levels. In 2001 we resumed the antlerless hunts because the population had recovered and actually exceeded objectives. The 14A population is currently above the upper end of management objectives. Our strategy for harvesting cows from 8 different permit hunt areas within the subunit was to concentrate antlerless moose permits in those areas where moose densities were highest. Minor adjustments to permit numbers and drawing areas were made in 2007 to address areas with numerous nuisance moose calls. Also, the addition of a youth antlerless moose hunt in the Point MacKenzie area was began in 2007 (DM412). The permits for this hunt were allocated from the existing antlerless permit hunt area (DM402).

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Portions of the Unit 14(A) moose subpopulation could grow beyond the ability of the habitat to sustain that population level. Increased cases of starvation, conflicts with humans and vehicle collisions will occur.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes; excessively high moose density can lead to nutritionally stressed animals in the harvest.

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? Those who disagree with the harvest of antlerless moose.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

LOG NUMBER: ADFG103010Z

PROPOSAL 89 - 5 AAC 85.045(12). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Establish a winter antlerless moose drawing hunt in Unit 14A to address vehicle collisions and serious nuisance moose issues in the Matanuska / Susitna Valley areas.

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

(12)

Unit 14A

1 moose per regulatory year,
only as follows:

...

**1 antlerless moose by
drawing permit only; up to 200
permits may be issued**

**Dec. 1-Feb. 25
(General hunt only)**

No open season

...

ISSUE: Antlerless hunts are an effective tool for addressing high ungulate populations and related management issues. During November 2008, the subpopulation of moose in Unit 14A was surveyed and estimated at 6,614 which was slightly more than the post-hunt objective of 6,000 – 6,500 moose. A composition survey in 2009 produced 24.7 bulls and 48.9 calves:100 cows. Snow depth accumulations in the subunit during the last 4 winters overall were average and survival of calves and adults was good.

Winter moose mortality from vehicle collisions and the resulting cost in human injury, vehicle damage, insurance costs, and lost worker productivity takes a toll on local residents and the communities of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough. Recent years have shown higher numbers of moose-vehicle collisions even in average or moderate snow depths. An average of 266 moose were killed in the Mat-Su Valley area during the last 5 years. Providing an alternative moose management option to reduce the probability of moose-vehicle collisions in specific areas during the darkest months of the season should result in a few more moose killed by hunters instead of motor-vehicles. The Department's intent is to focus strategies (seasons and areas) that target well-known and consistent high moose-collision areas in order to reduce the potential for moose-vehicle collisions and provide additional hunter opportunity.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Portions of the Unit 14A moose subpopulation will continue to be killed on the roads and highways of the Matanuska – Susitna Valley area. Increasing conflicts with humans and vehicle collisions will occur as the human population of the Mat-Su Borough continues to grow.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes; moose harvested under hunting regulations will generally be better quality meat than that provided through the state's road kill program.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All who wish to have a healthy, productive moose population in the Matanuska-Susitna valleys, reduced motor-vehicle/moose collisions and antlerless moose for human consumption.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those who disagree with the harvest of antlerless moose and/or winter moose hunts.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Winter registration antlerless moose hunts

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

LOG NUMBER: ADFG103010N

PROPOSAL 90- 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose; and 85.020. Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear. Close the antlerless moose permit hunt in Unit 14A and open a spring brown bear season allowing the use of bait stations.

No cow moose permit drawing in Unit 14A. Grizzly bears may be taken in spring bear season from bear bait stations.

ISSUE: Stop the cow moose drawing hunt in Unit 14A. Too many grizzly bears are taking moose down. Increase grizzly hunting to spring also from bait stations.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The population is really low and the hunting is down because of over kill on cows. Also allow grizzly in spring bear hunt to help the herd grow and prosper.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? More moose calves and maybe better size of the bulls in the herd.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The hunters, the tourists who want to see them.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: Make moose season one week longer to October 1.

PROPOSED BY: David Demboski

LOG NUMBER: EG102710119

PROPOSAL 91- 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Open a registration hunt for antlerless moose in Units 14A and 14B.

A mid-winter registration antlerless moose hunt in Unit 14A and 14B to be administered to the Palmer office specifically to be used by the area biologist to reduce the number of moose in the corridor. An individual would sign up and would be called by the area biologist when the area biologist decided to do a surgical reduction of moose in the corridor to reduce the number of animals ending up on the grills of vehicles.

ISSUE: Too many moose hit on the road system between Anchorage and Cantwell and on the rail system.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? People will keep getting hurt or killed when striking moose with automobile. Waste of the resources on the Alaska railroad track.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. Moose taste better when not marinated in anti-freeze.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? People who drive the corridor and insurance companies.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Body shops that rely on moose car collisions as part of their income.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: None.

PROPOSED BY: Anchorage Fish and Game Advisory Committee

LOG NUMBER: EG110410168

PROPOSAL 92 - 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Open a bull moose permit hunt in Unit 14B.

In addition to the current Unit 14B moose season and bag limits, I request the Board of Game to add: **One antlered bull by permit - up to 100 permits may be issued; September 26-30.**

ISSUE: Moose hunters in Unit 14B may hunt all or most of the season and not see, or be able to tell if they saw a legal moose the entire season, unless they are fortunate enough to draw a permit for some type of hunt other than spike/fork/50 inch/3 brow tine bulls. The chances of drawing a moose permit in Unit 14B are currently nonexistent, yet the area wildlife manager has indicated there is currently harvestable surplus bull moose available.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Some hunters will continue to be discouraged with Unit 14B moose hunting opportunities- in particular those hunters who may see many moose, but are unable to clearly identify a single legal animal under spike/fork/50 inch/3 brow tine legal regulations.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, and yes. Under an any antlered bull permit all bulls with antlers would be legal, so illegal animals shot and left to rot would be almost entirely eliminated during this season. Quality of Unit 14B moose hunts would improve as hunters could draw any antlered moose permits and enjoy opportunities to hunt clearly legal surplus bull moose.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Unit 14B hunters who would like an opportunity to hunt for bull moose where most animals could be quickly and easily identified as legal or illegal.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Hunters who prefer that all bull moose hunting in Unit 14B remain entirely spike/fork/50 inch/3 brow tine- even when extra harvestable surplus bull moose are available. However, this proposal seeks to reduce impacts on general season hunters by scheduling an any bull drawing hunt after the general season, and for only a short period of time. The area wildlife manager has indicated that a short season duration could allow for a higher number of participants than a longer hunt. The hunt timing also corresponds with a time traditionally hunted for moose in Unit 14A and Unit 14B, and currently open for moose hunting in Unit 14C.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: Changes in legal antlered bull moose allowed in the general Unit 14B moose hunt. I have not rejected this option, but have yet to get one of these proposals adopted by the board.

PROPOSED BY: Andy Couch

LOG NUMBER: EG111810238

PROPOSAL 93 - 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Delay the moose season date for residents in Unit 16B.

Postpone opening date; shorter season will work.

ISSUE: Delay moose season in Unit 16B to start September 1-25. Too early for hunting; animals are not in rut, it's too hot, they are not moving around.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Meat spoilage if weather is bad; wasteful.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Absolutely. Less chance of meat spoilage; better chance of successful hunt.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Everyone.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Possibly students that need to go to school?

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: None.

PROPOSED BY: Kevin Doyle

LOG NUMBER: EG10041087

PROPOSAL 94 - 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Open a nonresident moose hunt in Unit 16B.

Resident and **nonresidents**: Open season - August 20- September 20.

ISSUE: Article VIII of the Alaska State Constitution requires the utilization, development, and conservation of all natural resources for the MAXIMUM benefit of its people. Current management of the moose resource in Unit 16B is not meeting this requirement. Much of the available surplus of bull moose is being managed for the benefit of scavengers and maggots. It is a well known management axiom that you cannot stockpile wildlife surpluses. If bull surpluses are not harvested in the fall many will die during the winter of malnutrition. This is especially true of the young and the old bulls which are targeted during fall seasons. Surplus bulls competing for limited food resources with cows during the winter can only have negative biological effects on cow survival. Department of Fish and Game regulations allow for a non-resident season when surplus bulls, available for harvest, reaches 240 moose. This regulation has historically been utilized to trigger changes in moose regulations regarding participants in moose hunting in Unit 16B. The department has historically utilized the computer program 'moose pop' to calculate bull surpluses. The surplus bull population has been well above the 240 moose which allows for nonresident seasons for several years. Current season length and elimination of nonresident hunters allow much of the surplus to remain un-harvested and in the field to die of malnutrition during the winter. It would seem to me the Maximum benefit to the people of Alaska would require the Maximum amount of meat for residents; the Maximum amount of money brought into the State economy; and the Maximum amount of money for ADF&G to conserve and manage the resource.

The benefits: Resident only season Value Nonresident season Value Resident License \$25
Non-resident License \$485 - \$585 500 lbs. meat \$1,500 90 percent of 500lbs. meat \$1,350 Likely
additional value Guide \$5,000-\$10,000 Air Taxi \$500 - \$1,000 Airline tickets \$500 - \$1,000
Urban Lodging \$300 - \$600 Taxidermy \$1000- \$5000 Bear tags \$225- \$650 Historically during
the 1990's about 100 non-resident hunters hunted moose in Unit 16B and about half were guided.
This small number of non- resident hunters would currently provide between \$50,000 and
\$100,000 to ADF&G for wildlife management. It would take 2000 resident hunters in Unit 16B to
provide \$50,000 in revenue to ADF&G. Just 50 guided non-resident hunters could add over half a
million dollars to the State economy. Predator control in Unit 16B is justified necessary to provide
more moose for the people of Alaska to consume. Non-resident hunters usually leave all the meat
from harvested moose for Alaskans to consume. They leave money in the State and usually take
inedible bone away. Allowing non-resident hunters is compatible with the goals of providing more
meat for Alaskans. Actually non-resident hunting will provide additional revenue to ADF&G,
which can be used to accomplish predator control objectives.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Poor management and loss of income and food for the people of Alaska.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, It maximizes the value of the resource for the people of Alaska.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? ADF&G and the people of Alaska.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Individual resident sport hunters and subsistence hunters who hunt moose in Unit 16B and are unwilling to share the resource for the benefit of the moose population and to maximize the value of the resource. These individuals would rather see surplus moose end up as scavenger and maggot food than to allow non-resident hunters to harvest some of them.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: None.

PROPOSED BY: David McHoes

LOG NUMBER: EG10061089

PROPOSAL 95 - 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Delay the moose season for residents in Unit 16B.

Change the opening date to September 1st and close it September 20th or 25th.

ISSUE: Change the moose hunting dates in Unit 16B from August 20 – September 20, to September 1 – 25.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? August 20th it is too warm. Sometimes meat gets spoiled because it cannot be transported to Kenai or other destinations because of weather.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes; the weather is cooler so there would be less chance of meat spoiling.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All hunters.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: None.

PROPOSED BY: James Doyle

LOG NUMBER: EG10061091

PROPOSAL 96 - 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Delay the moose season for residents in Unit 16B.

Change the opening date to September 1 – 30.

ISSUE: Change moose hunting dates in Unit 16B from August 20 – September 20, to September 1 – 30.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Weather has been too warm in August. A good possibility of meat spoiling due to weather.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes; weather is cooler and there will be less chance of spoilage.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All the hunters.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Nobody that I know about.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: None.

PROPOSED BY: James Boatright

LOG NUMBER: EG10061092

PROPOSAL 97- 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Close all moose hunts in Unit 16B except the Tier II moose hunt.

Continue subsistence-Tier II ONLY moose harvest only in area until moose aerial counts supports proper bull/cow ratios and higher animal count.

ISSUE: Close Unit 16B-Yetna/565, to moose hunting in the 2011-2012 regular open season, due to low animal counts, slow reproduction rates and return of moose normal population's ratios.

Currently area 565, (west of the Kahiltna River and north of Skwentna), hasn't had an aerial count in a few years. No aerial survey was planned for this year (fall 2010) and it wasn't done last year, in the north area of 16B Yentna/565, but it is scheduled for the southern two area,(16B/567 and 569). According to the Palmer Area Biologist, the southern areas have higher ratios than the north (Yentna/565 section. During the 2010 hunting season, and into late October 2010, (10/23/10), I flew (7 different times) the Chelatna Lake, and Sunflower areas and saw very little sign of moose. No calves, very few cows and even fewer bulls. (During October 2010, I flew the Sunflower basin four separate times since October 1, 2010 and didn't see any moose or moose tracks, even when snow was on the ground.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The moose population will continue a slow recovery.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? If the regular season is closed, it would reduce the hunting pressure and allow the moose population, in Unit 16B Yentna/565 area, to recover to higher animal ratios.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Everyone in the future, when the moose population recovers.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those who might normally hunt moose in this area during the regular 2011 hunting season.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: Continue hunting, but have seen very little increase or improvement in the past three years. Would like the Department of Fish and Game to complete a fall or winter surveys of Unit 16B-Yentna/565, before opening the area for further regular hunting seasons to insure it has good animal ratios in all area of Yentna/565.

PROPOSED BY: Ross Clement

LOG NUMBER: EG102610110

PROPOSAL 98 – 86 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Change the season for moose in Unit 16B.

Open dates - September 1 to September 25.

ISSUE: Change moose season to September-1 to September- 25.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? It is warmer in August so there is a better chance that moose meat will spoil before it gets to the cooler.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. Cooler weather in September makes it easier to cool moose meat in the field.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All moose hunters.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: Extend season until September 30. I think 25 days is long enough for moose season in this Unit.

PROPOSED BY: TJ Hinkle

LOG NUMBER: EG102810121

PROPOSAL 99 - 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Eliminate the winter moose hunts in Unit 16B.

Eliminate these winter hunts entirely.

ISSUE: There are still moose Tier II winter draw permit hunts (TM 565, 567, 569) in Unit 16B. At their Spring 2009 meeting, the Board of Game passed a harvest ticket hunt that runs

August 20 to September 20 but did not eliminate the winter hunts. Currently the depressed resident moose population in these areas is hunted for a total of 138 days, the majority of which is in the middle of winter, from November 15 until February 28.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? This is already a distressed moose population, and to continue these hunts will only make it harder and take longer for them to rebound. To continue to hunt bull moose all winter long, November 15 until February 28 when they are on their winter range, makes no sense to me.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Eliminating the winter hunt will mean more bulls will be taken in the early hunt in coming years, and they won't be stressed and run off their winter range by hunters when they are at their most vulnerable.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The hunters who hunt the general season will have more moose to hunt and the moose population will rebound faster.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Hunters who have drawn the winter permits in the past will have to work a lot harder to get a bull by hunting during the early season.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: Status-quo would keep unwarranted pressure on an already distressed moose population in a predator control area.

PROPOSED BY: Dan Montgomery

LOG NUMBER: EG110410166

PROPOSAL 100 - 5 AAC 085.045(14). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.
Reauthorize the antlerless moose hunt on Kalgin Island in Unit 16B.

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, by registration permit only	Aug. 20 - Sept. 20	Aug. 20 - Sept. 20
...		

ISSUE: Antlerless moose hunts must be re-authorized annually. The population objective for this predator-free, 23-mi² island is 20-40 moose a density of 1-1.75 moose/mi². Following a

November 2007 survey, we counted 118 moose which is approximately 4.74 moose/mi².

Because of concerns of over-population and deteriorating habitat conditions, a drawing permit hunt for cows was initiated in 1995. In an attempt to reduce the population quickly, the Board established a registration hunt for any moose for the fall 1999 season. The population of moose on Kalgin Island is high at this time and remains well above the objective of 20-40.

The "any moose" registration hunt is recommended to provide additional mortality on this predator-free island population. A registration hunt also allows the department to continue gathering biological information from specimens provided by successful hunters. The difficult hunting conditions and limited access will minimize the danger of over-harvest. Allowing the continued harvest of calves provides an additional management tool needed to reduce population productivity.

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

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? If the island population size is kept at or near objective levels, moose will have adequate available forage and therefore, show less sign of being nutritionally stressed.

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Seasonal residents of Kalgin Island have been concerned about hunters trespassing on their land and cabins. The current season dates concentrate hunter activity when most seasonal residents are present.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? A general season for any moose will also work to lower moose densities, but would diminish the ability to collect biological information.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

LOG NUMBER: ADFG113010HH

PROPOSAL 101 - 5 AAC 85.056. Hunting seasons and bag limits for wolf. Reduce the bag limit for wolves in Unit 16A and close the nonresident season.

Amend 5 AAC 85.056 as follows:

(1)

Unit 16A

1 wolf

Nonresident: No open season.

Resident: August 10 - April 30

ISSUE: In Unit 16A, the management objective is for as few as seven wolves to exist in the entire subunit. This dramatically low number significantly calls into question whether the Board of Game is prioritizing harvestable surplus for subsistence take, if any harvestable surplus even exists with a management population objective so low.

Currently the board allows nonresident harvest and citizen aerial gunning of wolves in Unit 16A. In addition nonresidents are not even required to buy a tag.

But the real amazing fact is that a nonresident hunter, with no wolf tag, could legally harvest up to 10 wolves in one day. Three more wolves than the management objective wants to even exist Unit 16A total. If a nonresident hunter found the one pack of seven wolves in Unit 16A, they could legally wipe them out.

The Denali State Park is found within Unit 16A. This is level of disregard for the wolf populations in a Unit with one of the most celebrated state parks in Alaska, is astonishing.

In addition, the department has not conducted any population survey or census for wolves since authorizing the aerial gunning of wolves in Unit 16A. They rely exclusively on anecdotal information and nonscientific estimates.

This is simply unacceptable for a subunit which contains Denali State Park.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Unsustainable harvest opportunity for wolves will exist in Unit 16A.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, protecting the sustained yield of subsistence resources is one of the highest priorities of Alaska's Constitution and legislative intent.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Residents that support the management of wolves, caribou based on the sustained yield principle and that support the legislative intent to prioritize important subsistence resources for residents in time of depleted populations.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Nonresident hunters and subsequently the commercial hunting industry may lose opportunity to harvest wolves or caribou.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: The Science Now Project agrees with the legislative intent. No other option applies.

PROPOSED BY: Wade Willis, Science Now Project!

LOG NUMBER: EG110910205

PROPOSAL 102 - 5 AAC 99.025. Customary and traditional uses of game populations.

Modify the Amount Necessary for Subsistence for Wolves in Unit 16.

(11) Wolves

Unit 16

Amount needed for subsistence: Define an amount based on ADF&G and USFWS historical subsistence harvest data, village surveys, anecdotal information, and other sources.

In Unit 16, particular attention needs to be placed on protecting subsistence harvest in high access areas. For that reason, the board needs to set an ANS based strictly on Unit 16's needs.

ISSUE: The Board of Game has made a positive customary and traditional (C&T) use determination for wolves in this unit under the authority of AS 16.05.258 (a). Under that authority, when the board has a positive C&T finding it is required to do the following:

AS 16.05.258 (b) states: "The appropriate board shall determine whether a portion of a fish stock or game population identified under (a) of this section can be harvested consistent with sustained yield. If a portion of a stock or population can be harvested consistent with sustained yield, the board shall determine the amount of the harvestable portion that is reasonably necessary for subsistence uses."

In Unit 16A, the management objective is for as few as 7 wolves to exist in the entire subunit. This dramatically low number significantly calls into question whether the board is prioritizing harvestable surplus for subsistence take, if any harvestable surplus even exists with a management population objective so low.

Currently the board allows nonresidents harvest and citizen aerial gunning of wolves in Unit 16A. In addition nonresidents are not even required to buy a tag.

But the real amazing fact is that a nonresident hunter, with no wolf tag, could legally harvest up to 10 wolves in one day. Three more wolves than the management objective wants to even exist in Unit 16A total. If a nonresident hunter found the one pack of seven wolves in Unit 16A, They could legally wipe them out.

Trapper harvest rates from RY 01/02 to RY 03/04, prior to intensive management of wolves, averaged 17 wolves per year.

Trapper harvest rates from RY 04/05 to RY 07/08, after aerial gunning of wolves, averaged just 6 wolves per year, a 283 percent reduction in trapping harvest.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The board will continue to ignore its statutory obligation to protect and allocate limited subsistence resources for resident subsistence harvest.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, protecting the sustained yield of subsistence resources is one of the highest priorities of Alaska's Constitution and legislative intent.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Residents that support the management of wolves based on the sustained yield principle and that support the legislative intent to prioritize important subsistence resources for residents in time of depleted populations.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Nonresident hunters and subsequently the commercial hunting industry may lose opportunity to harvest wolves

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: The Science Now Project agrees with the legislative intent. No other option applies.

PROPOSED BY: Wade Willis, Science Now Project!

LOG NUMBER: EG111010211

PROPOSAL 103 – 5 AAC 92.125. Predation control areas implementation plans.

Reauthorize the Intensive Management Plan for Unit 16.

5 AAC 92.125. Predation control areas implementation plans.

(d) **Unit 16 Predation Control Area:** the Unit 16 Predation Control Area is established, which is focused primarily on mainland Unit 16(B), and consists of all lands within the mainland portion of Unit 16(B) and that portion of Unit 16(A) west of a line beginning at the confluence of the Yentna and Susitna Rivers, then northerly along the western bank of the Susitna River to the confluence with the Dëshka River, then northerly to 61° 48.80' N. lat., 150° 21.77' W. long., then west to 62° 01.47' N. lat., 150° 24.06' W. long., then north to the northern end of Trapper Lake at 62° 01.47' N. lat., 150° 16.67' W. long., then west to 62° 01.47' N. lat., 150° 24.06' W. long., then north to 62° 09.65' N. lat., 150° 24.06' W. long., then west to the southwestern end of Amber Lake at 62° 09.65' N. lat., 150° 33.42' W. long., then north to 62° 18.03' N. lat., 150° 33.42' W. long., then west to 62° 18.03' N. lat., 150° 51.04' W. long., then north to 62° 27.97' N. lat., 150° 51.04' W. long., then west to the Denali National Park boundary at 62° 27.97' N. lat., 151° 09.22' W. long., encompassing approximately 11,105 square miles; this predator control program does not apply within National Park Service lands unless approved by the federal agencies; notwithstanding any other provision in this title, and based on the following information contained in this section, the commissioner or the commissioner's designee may conduct a wolf population reduction or wolf population regulation program in the Unit 16 Predation Control Area, and conduct a black bear population reduction or black bear population regulation program in the Unit 16 Predation Control Area:

(1) the discussion of wildlife population and human use information is as follows:

(A) prey population information is as follows:

(i) the moose population for mainland Unit 16(B) was estimated in **fall 2010 to be 3,421 – 4,392 moose, based on aerial surveys in 2004 – 2008** [FALL 2005 TO BE 3,193 - 3,951 MOOSE,

BASED ON AERIAL SURVEYS IN 2003 – 2005] in the unit; this population is composed of subpopulations that reside wholly in the unit; however, a subpopulation from the flanks of Mount Yenlo and in the upper Lake Creek drainage mixes in winter with moose from Unit 16(A) in the Kahiltna River drainage, and a subpopulation from the flanks of Mount Susitna and the drainages of Alexander Creek and lower Yentna River winters with moose from Units 14(A), 14(B), and 16(A) in the lower Yentna and Susitna Rivers;

(ii) habitat does not appear to be limiting the moose population, or a factor in calf survival, and is not expected to limit the moose population at objective levels; while the majority of the unit is covered with mature forests, moose habitat has changed little since the high moose densities of the early 1980s; prescribed burning has been the only economically viable option for improving moose habitat and opportunities to conduct controlled burns are limited by climate, access, and privately-owned lands with structures dispersed throughout the unit; the minimum moose density objective is 1.0 moose per square mile for mainland Unit 16(B) based on the intensive management objective of 6,500 - 7,500 moose; there are approximately 6,500 square miles of available moose habitat; presently, mainland Unit 16(B) moose population estimates place the moose density at **0.60** [.55] moose per square mile;

(iii) the age structure of the population is believed to have shifted towards the older age classes in the 1990s as the moose population declined; **recent surveys and ongoing research data show that calf survival and recruitment is likely improving;** the number of spike-fork bulls estimated in the mainland Unit 16(B) survey data from **2003 - 2008** [1999 – 2005], which is approximately the same as the number of yearling bulls in the population, showed ratios of **four** [THREE] to **eleven** [EIGHT] yearling bulls to 100 cows; assuming these numbers to be half of the year's cohort, this indicates an approximate recruitment rate of **8 – 22** [6 – 16] percent; given estimated moose mortality rates **for** [IN] the mainland Unit 16(B) population, **the low** [DECLINE IN] **moose** numbers and lack of recovery is expected to continue without active predation control activities;

(iv) the bull-to-cow moose ratio for mainland Unit 16(B) in **fall 2004 – 2008 was estimated to be 30 – 58 bulls per 100 cows; this is higher than the** [FALL 2003 - 2005 WAS ESTIMATED TO BE 23 - 35 BULLS PER 100 COWS; THIS IS SIMILAR TO] average bull-to-cow ratios of 24 - 44 observed in the unit in the mid-1990s; thus, the herd is presently above the management objective for this parameter;

(v) limited flights to count newborn calves and natality data from radio collared moose indicated that 80 percent of adult cows gave birth, with 50 percent of these having twins; together, these data indicated a birth rate of 122 calves per 100 cows;

(vi) the calf-to-cow moose ratio during fall moose surveys from **2008 to 2009 ranged from 12 to 19 calves per 100 cows** [2003 TO 2005 RANGED BETWEEN 14 AND 23 CALVES PER 100 COWS, WITH ESTIMATED OVER-WINTER CALF MORTALITY OF 40 PERCENT, RESULTING IN A RECRUITMENT RATE OF 8 - 14 MOOSE PER 100 COWS]; information collected from radio collared moose in **November** [DECEMBER] following parturition indicate **an 5 year average** calf survival rate of **fifteen** [EIGHT] percent and a calf-to-cow ratio of **19:100** [10:100, WHICH IS LOWER THAN THE RATIO OF 14 CALVES PER 100 COWS COUNTED DURING THE NOVEMBER SURVEY OF THE POPULATION IN THE STUDY AREA]; the reason for the difference between natality and recruitment appears to be largely due to predation;

(vii) the harvestable surplus for **2010** [2008] is estimated to be **508** [171] bulls, **above** [WELL UNDER] the minimum of 199 - 227 harvestable moose needed to meet the amount necessary for subsistence; **this number is a reflection of the bull to cow ratios that have been above**

objective for several years [THIS NUMBER IS A REFLECTION OF THE OVERALL DECLINE OF THE MOOSE POPULATION EVEN THOUGH BULL-TO-COW RATIOS HAVE BEEN CONSISTENTLY AT OR ABOVE OBJECTIVE; AS A RESULT,] **likely due to the** [THE MOOSE HERD HAS PROVIDED ONLY] limited resident-only harvest **since 2001** [FOR SEVERAL YEARS] **and higher bull survival due to wolf predation control since 2005;**

(viii) the intensive management population objective established by the board for the mainland Unit 16(B) moose population is 6,500 - 7,500 moose, and the intensive management harvest objective is 310 - 600 moose;

(ix) the decline in the mainland Unit 16(B) moose population is attributed to poor calf survival, high adult mortality, and the inability of the population to recover from the impacts of recurring deep snow winters; snow depths below the 1,000-foot elevation have exceeded 35 inches in **15 of 25** [21 OF 35] winters; the mainland Unit 16(B) moose population is considered to be reduced substantially from the early 1980s when estimates ranged from 8,500 - 10,000 moose, and is currently at **a little more than** half of the intensive management population objective;

(x) without **the continuation of** an effective wolf predation control program and an effective bear predation control program, moose in the mainland Unit 16(B) are likely to persist at low numbers or continue to decline; results from moose mortality studies, and predator and prey studies, conducted throughout Alaska and similar areas in Canada indicate that reducing the number of wolves and bears in Unit 16(B) can reasonably be expected to increase survival of calves as well as older moose, particularly yearlings;

(B) the human use information for prey population is as follows:

(i) reported subsistence harvest has varied from 30 to over 120 moose, and some additional subsistence harvest occurs within the general fall hunting season (Tier I) when one is held; during the regulatory year **2006 – 2007** [2003 – 2004], Tier II subsistence harvest was **104** [80] moose [AND TIER I HARVEST WAS 83]; in regulatory year **2007 – 2008** [2004 – 2005] the Tier II subsistence harvest was **103** [79] moose [AND TIER I HARVEST WAS 85]; in regulatory year **2008 – 2009** [2005 – 2006] the combined subsistence harvest was **117** [138] moose; in regulatory year **2009 – 2010** [2006 – 2007] the combined subsistence harvest was **184** [109] moose;

(ii) high demand for subsistence moose is demonstrated by the 750 - 1,100 applicants who annually apply for the up to 400 Tier II permits available for mainland Unit 16(B); additional subsistence demand exists within the unit and is captured by the limited general resident-only hunting opportunity that has occurred in September in recent years;

(iii) all general season and fall Tier II moose bag limits were reduced in 1993 to one bull with a spike or fork or 50-inch antlers or antlers with three or more brow tines on one side; nonresident moose hunting opportunity was first reduced to a portion of Unit 16(B) in 1993 and completely eliminated in 2001; all general season hunting was closed in 2001 and 2002 and only a limited Tier I subsistence (resident-only) season was allowed in 2003 – 2005 **and 2009 – 2010**; the average general season harvest was 388 from 1983 - 1989 and declined to 168 from 1990 - 1999;

(iv) there is a small, limited demand for moose to provide for rural federal subsistence hunting on federal lands within mainland Unit 16(B); there is some interest in moose for viewing opportunities in portions of the unit where guides and other operations provide services that promote wildlife viewing;

(v) it is unlikely that the demand in mainland Unit 16(B) for moose for subsistence and general hunting opportunity will decline; given the increasing human population in the nearby Anchorage and Matanuska-Susitna Valley areas, as well as historic local subsistence use, it is probable that

demand will match any increase in harvestable surplus gained through active management of the moose herd;

(C) the predator population information is as follows:

(i) the fall **2010** [2005] wolf population in mainland Unit 16(B) was estimated to be **40 - 79** [85 - 114] wolves in **8 - 9** [10 - 12] different packs; a density of approximately **0.6 - 1.2** [0.82 - 1.1] wolves per 100 square miles; the spring **2007** [2006] population estimate for black bears in Unit 16(B) was **2,000-2,500** [1,500 - 2,000]; the estimate for brown bears in Unit 16(B) was 625 - 1,250;

(ii) habitat carrying capacity for wolves and bears is dependant on prey and food availability and competition from other predators; carrying capacity for wolves and bears in mainland Unit 16(B) has not been determined; however, harvest from sealing records, supplemented by reports from trappers, hunters, and others, have indicated that the wolf population had increased and the black bear and brown bear populations had stabilized or increased; the average annual harvest from sealing records for wolves during 1984 - 1988 was 6.6 wolves compared to a single year harvest in 2002 - 2003 of 60 wolves **the average annual harvest from sealing records of wolves from 2005 - 2009 was 28.4**; the average annual harvest from sealing records of black bears during 1990 - 1994 was 85.6 compared to **319 during 2005 - 2009** [124.6 DURING 2000 - 2004]; the average annual harvest from sealing records of brown bears during 1990 - 1994 was 50.6 compared to **99 during 2005 - 2009** [83.2 DURING 2000 - 2004];

(iii) in mainland Unit 16(B), the current **moose-to-wolf** [WOLF-TO-MOOSE] ratio is between **43 and 110** [28 AND 46] moose per wolf; the pre-control estimated ratio for 2003 was as low as 17:1; historically, estimates have ranged as high as 250 moose per wolf in this unit;

(iv) alternate prey include caribou, sheep, beaver, and hare; for most wolves in mainland Unit 16(B), there are few options for alternate prey; small populations of caribou and sheep exist in the higher elevations of the western side of the unit; however, pack territorial structure probably prohibits most wolves from accessing this resource, thus, limiting them to smaller prey such as beaver and hare; black and brown bears typically feed on salmon when available and forage on a variety of vegetation throughout the summer and fall; moose and caribou calves are often prey during the spring when inexperience with predators and limited mobility makes them particularly vulnerable; the limited numbers and distribution of caribou make them unavailable to most predation in mainland Unit 16(B); brown bears also take black bears as prey and this has been reported in numerous observations by hunters, trappers and others in mainland Unit 16(B);

(v) the number of moose that are killed by wolves in any given year in this area is highly dependent on the depth of winter snowfall, competition with other predators, and the abundance of alternate prey; in Alaska and areas of Canada where moose are the primary prey of wolves, studies documented kill rates ranging from four to seven moose per wolf per winter; using this range with our current population estimate of wolves in mainland Unit 16(B), wolves are estimated to be capable of taking between **160-553** [340 AND 798] moose per winter; research elsewhere in Alaska has indicated that up to 52 percent of neonate moose calves were killed by brown bears; other work has shown significant increases in calf survival following black bear removal and population reduction;

(vi) mortality factors affecting wolves in mainland Unit 16(B) include human harvest, other wolves, and disease; harvest of wolves in the unit has increased from a low of two wolves in the winter of 1990 - 1991 to 50 wolves in the winter of 2003 - 2004; the total wolf take for 2004 - 2005 was 115 wolves, with 91 of those wolves taken in the predator control program that was initiated in January 2005; **the average take of wolves from 2006 to 2009 is 24.8 wolves**;

(vii) it is the intent of this plan to maintain wolves and bears as part of the natural ecosystem within the geographical area described for the plan; however, studies in Alaska and elsewhere have repeatedly concluded that large, annual reductions in wolf populations are required to reduce wolf population levels and predation on their prey; wolf harvest objectives in mainland Unit 16(B) have been set in order to achieve a reduction of at least 60 - 80 percent of the pre-control wolf population estimate of 175 - 180 wolves; to achieve the desired reduction in wolf predation, but ensure that wolves persist within the plan area, the wolf population objective for mainland Unit 16(B) is set at between 22 and 45 wolves; **maintenance of the wolf population at this level through wolf predation control will prevent a rapid repopulation of wolves and aid in the recovery of the 16(B) moose population;** reductions in brown and black bear populations that have resulted in increased calf survival have been shown in other parts of Alaska and Canada; harvest objectives for black and brown bears in mainland Unit 16(B) were set with consideration for maintaining stable but lower populations of both species and reducing predation on moose calves;

(viii) without a predation control program in the mainland Unit 16(B), it can be expected that the wolf and black bear populations will increase to numbers at or above historic high levels; current trends in fuel prices, low fur prices, and low quality of wolf pelts in the unit due to the louse infestation, have resulted in a decrease in the wolf hunting and trapping effort in the area; thus, removing the major cause of wolf mortality; difficult access, thick cover, and the availability of other bear hunting opportunities have resulted in a failure to meet harvest objectives in the general season **prior to the start of control activities;** continuing the predator control programs [AND EXPANDING IT TO INCLUDE BLACK BEARS] is expected to reduce the predator populations and subsequently allow the moose population to increase toward the intensive management population objective;

(D) the human use information for predator population is as follows:

(i) annual harvest of wolves in mainland Unit 16(B) with a firearm, excluding same-day-airborne take, has been highly variable since the early 1980s and has ranged from 0 - 27 wolves; from **2005 to 2009** [2000 TO 2004], firearms have accounted for an average of **5** [18] wolves annually, or **16** [36] percent of the harvest; harvest of wolves with the use of a snare or trap has similarly been highly variable and has ranged from 1 - 48; from **2005 to 2009** [2000 to 2004], traps and snares have accounted for **6** [23] wolves annually, or **20** [44] percent of the harvest;

(ii) mainland Unit 16(B) receives less trapping pressure than some other areas of the state; the hunter harvest of wolves has always been opportunistic, and is difficult to predict; the trapper harvest of wolves is limited by the number of trappers willing to spend the time targeting this furbearer amidst variable winter travel conditions; winters have begun later, and have been highly variable in temperature and snowfall in recent years creating hazardous conditions for winter hunters and trappers; in addition to open creeks and regular overflow, many large rivers in the area have stayed open until late-winter, or even year-round, completely eliminated trapping pressure from remote areas of the unit;

(iii) most Unit 16(B) trappers will continue to pursue wolves in the unit regardless of same-day-airborne wolf control efforts; trappers in the unit pursue many different furbearers and do not consider the control program a detriment to their opportunities; if the wolf control program were to be discontinued trapper harvest would likely increase to some extent; hunters that take wolves in mainland Unit 16(B) do so opportunistically and would not be seriously affected by the status of the wolf control program;

(iv) annual harvest of black bears in mainland Unit 16(B) has been variable but consistently **above the objective of a minimum harvest of 225 bears since 2006** [BELOW THE OBJECTIVE OF A MINIMUM HARVEST OF 225 BEARS]; average annual harvest 1980 - 1989 was 103.0 bears, from 1990 - 1999 it was 92.0 bears, from 2000 - 2004 it was 124.6 bears, **and from 2005 – 2009 it was 319**; annual harvest of brown bears in mainland Unit 16(B) has increased and [RECENTLY] reached the objective of allowing human use to result in a three-year average harvest of 28 females older than two years for all of Unit 16 **since 2005** ; [FROM 2002 - 2004 THE AVERAGE HARVEST WAS 23.3 BEARS; SINCE 1961, THE ONLY THREE-YEAR AVERAGE HARVEST REPORTED WITH GREATER THAN 27 FEMALES TAKEN WAS IN 1999 - 2001 WITH AN AVERAGE OF 28 FEMALES AND 2003 - 2005 WITH 32 FEMALES REPORTED;]

(v) most Unit 16(B) bear hunters will continue to hunt bears in the unit regardless of bear control efforts; in fact, many hunters have reported hunting in the unit due to recently increased opportunities to take black and brown bears; guide use and resident hunter effort has not shown a decline since the board has authorized increased bag limits for brown bears, more black bear bait-hunting opportunities, and expanded seasons;

(2) the predator and prey population levels and population objectives, and the basis for those objectives, are as follows:

(A) the fall **2010** [2005] moose population was estimated to be **3421 – 4392** [3,193 - 3,951] moose, compared to the intensive management objective of 6,500 - 7,500 moose; the intensive management objective was developed by the board based on historical moose population size and trends, habitat condition, sustainable harvest levels, and human use;

(B) the pre-control population of wolves in the fall of 2003 was 160 - 220 wolves; studies in Alaska and elsewhere have repeatedly concluded that large, annual reductions of wolves are required to diminish wolf population levels and predation by wolves on their prey; consistent with scientific studies and department experience, the objectives of this plan **were** [is] to substantially reduce wolf numbers compared to the pre-control level in order to relieve predation pressure on moose and allow for improved recruitment to the moose population; **through maintenance of the wolf population objective level, progress towards moose composition, population, and harvest objectives will be realized**; this plan also has as a goal to maintain wolves as part of the natural ecosystem within the described geographic area; to achieve the desired reduction in wolf predation, but ensure that wolves persist within the plan area, the wolf population in mainland Unit 16(B) will be reduced to no fewer than 22 wolves;

(C) the spring (late winter) wolf population objective for Unit 16(B) was set at 22 - 45 wolves based on prior estimates of the wolf population size in the area when the moose population achieved high densities in the past;

(D) in spring 2006, the brown bear population for mainland Unit 16(B) was 625 - 1250 bears; the black bear population for mainland Unit 16(B) was **2,000-2,500** [1,500 - 2,000] bears; significant reductions in the brown bear population would reduce the amount of predation on moose while being consistent with the management goal of reaching a desirable predator-to-prey ratio by allowing the brown bear population to decline; the human-use objective for black bear in Unit 16(B) was for a three-year average annual harvest of greater than 225 bears with greater than 30 percent being female; the average annual harvest for Unit 16(B) between **2006 and 2009** [2002 AND 2005] was **358** [129] bears and the average annual percentage of females was **30.7** [26.2] percent;

(E) based on research in Alaska and Canada, up to a 60 percent reduction in the bear population within the predation control area specified in this program is expected to result in an increase in

moose survival; to achieve the desired reduction in bear predation, but ensure that bears persist within the predation control area, the minimum black bear population objective for the control area is 600 black bears, which represents 60 percent reduction from the pre-control minimum estimated population of 1,500 black bears;

(3) the justifications for predator control implementation plan are as follows:

(A) the board determined that the moose population in mainland Unit 16(B) is important for providing high levels of human consumptive use; the board established objectives for population size and annual sustained harvest of moose is consistent with multiple use and principles of sound conservation and management of habitat and all wildlife species in the area; the objectives of the predation control program are to halt the decline of the moose population within the predation control area and to increase the fall (post-hunt) moose population to the intensive management objective of 6,500 - 7,500 moose, providing a sustainable annual harvest of 310 - 600 moose;

(B) the population objectives for moose in mainland Unit 16(B) are not being met, largely due to high predator numbers and the inability of the moose population to recover given the high predation rates;

(C) a reduction in predator numbers is necessary to enhance survival of mainland Unit 16(B) moose, to halt the population decline, and to achieve population objectives in the predation control area; during the 1970s and 1980s, same-day-airborne hunting of wolves by the public, at little or no cost to the department, effectively kept the wolf population at levels well below present levels, both black and brown bear densities were low, and moose populations were increasing or stable; trapper and hunter harvests in the last 10 years have averaged less than 2.5 wolves per trapper and hunter;

(D) moose population objectives are not being met, although trapper and hunter harvests of wolves and harvests of black and brown bears have increased over the last 10 years for mainland Unit 16(B); maximum harvest opportunity appears to have been provided although the wolf numbers have been above the population objective since the early 1990s; the current spring population objective in the control area is 22 - 45 wolves in 3 - 5 packs, and the **fall 2010 wolf population estimate is 40 – 79 wolves in 8 – 9 packs;** [FALL 2005 WOLF POPULATION ESTIMATE IS 85 - 114 WOLVES IN 10 - 12 PACKS;] the current population objective in the control area is 600 black bears and 250 brown bears;

(E) previous programs utilizing same-day-airborne hunting of wolves effectively kept the wolf population at levels well below present levels, and moose populations were increasing or stable; airplane-based control of wolf populations is necessary to reduce numbers over short periods of time and allows for a more timely recovery of the moose population; during moderate to severe winters wolves and moose congregate in river corridors; expansion of the control program into **portions of** Unit 16(A) **was** [IS] necessary to effectively reduce wolves that occupy these corridors;

(F) multiple measures have been taken to improve survival of moose within mainland Unit 16(B); general predator hunting and wolf trapping seasons alone have failed to result in sufficient reductions of predators and increased numbers of moose; liberalization of seasons, bag limits, and other restrictions on harvest for bears and wolves have shown no detectable effect on the moose population in the unit; [CURRENTLY] there **has been** [IS] a year-round season for black bear with a three bear limit and no tag required for brown bear with a two bear limit;

(G) presently known alternatives to predator control for reducing the number of predators are ineffective, impractical, or uneconomical in the Unit 16(B) situation; hunting and trapping conducted under authority of ordinary hunting and trapping seasons and bag limits is not an

effective reduction technique in sparsely populated areas such as Unit 16(B); numbers of hunters and trappers are relatively low and so far have been unsuccessful in increasing the harvest of wolves or bears to the extent of having a positive effect on the moose population; the inherent wariness of wolves, difficult access, and relatively poor pelt prices also explain low harvest rates; application of the most common sterilization techniques, including surgery, implants, or inoculation, are not effective reduction techniques because they require immobilization of individual predators, which is extremely expensive in remote areas; relocation of wolves or bears is impractical because it is expensive and it is very difficult to find publicly acceptable places for relocated predators; habitat manipulation is ineffective because it may improve the birth rate of moose in certain circumstances, but it is poor survival, not poor birth rate that keeps moose populations low in rural areas of mainland Alaska; supplemental feeding of wolves and bears as an alternative to predator control has improved moose calf survival in experiments; however, large numbers of moose carcasses are not available for this kind of effort and transporting them to remote areas of Alaska is not practical; stocking of moose is impractical because of capturing and moving expenses; any of the alternatives to a predation control program are not likely to be effective in achieving the desired level of predator harvest;

(4) the permissible methods and means used to take predators are as follows:

(A) hunting and trapping of wolves by the public in the Unit 16 Predation Control Area during the term of the program will occur as provided in the hunting and trapping regulations set out elsewhere in this title, including use of motorized vehicles as provided in 5 AAC 92.080;

(B) the commissioner may issue public aerial shooting permits or public land and shoot permits as a method of wolf removal under AS 16.05.783;

(C) hunting of black and brown bears by the public in the Unit 16 Predation Control Area during the term of the program will occur as provided in the hunting regulations set out elsewhere in this title, including use of motorized vehicles as provided in 5 AAC 92.080;

(D) the commissioner may reduce the black bear population within the Unit 16 Predation Control Area by means and direction included in the Board of Game Bear Conservation and Management Policy (2006-164-BOG), dated May 14, 2006, and incorporated by reference, including the following methods and means under a department developed control permit:

(i) legal animal is any black bear, including sows and cubs;

(ii) no bag limit;

(iii) same-day-airborne taking of black bears if the permittee is at least 300 feet from the aircraft, including the use of any type of aircraft to access black bear baiting stations from April 15 through June 30 and August 10 through October 15; , except that helicopters may not be used from August 5 through September 25;

(iv) sale of unmounted, tanned black bear hides if the sale tag remains attached;

(v) April 15 through October 15 baiting season for black bears; up to four black bear bait stations per permittee; black bear baiting allowed along the Unit 16 shorelines of the Susitna River, Yentna River below the confluence with the Skwentna River, the Deshka River (Kroto Creek) below the confluence with Trapper Creek, and Alexander Creek outside a 100-yard buffer on each side of the river; black bear baiting within one mile of a cabin if the cabin is on the opposite side of a major river system from the black bear baiting station and other permit conditions are met; control permittees must possess a valid Alaska hunting license, except that a resident who is 10 - 15 years of age at the start of the season and has successfully completed a certified hunter education course and a department orientation for predator management, is allowed to hunt on behalf of a permit

holder who is at least 16 years of age, under the direct immediate supervision of that permit holder, who is responsible for ensuring that all legal requirements are met; a control permittee may maintain and use another control permittee's bait station with written permission from the other control permittee;

(vi) same-day-airborne taking of black bears if the permittee is at least 300 feet from the aircraft, including the use of any type of aircraft, such as a fixed-wing aircraft and helicopter, to access black bear foot-snaring camps from April 15 through October 15, except that a helicopter may not be used from August 5 through September 25; a helicopter may be used only to transport resident permittees, gear, and harvested bears and parts of bears directly to and from a foot-snaring camp; up to 10 helicopter permits may be issued at the discretion of the department and a permittee must attend a department-approved orientation course;

(vii) taking of black bears by foot snaring by permit only from April 15 through October 15; if foot snaring is based out of remote camps, no more than five foot snaring camps may be in operation at any time, and at least two permittees must be present in each camp when foot snares are in the field; foot snaring permits will be issued at the discretion of the department based on previous trapping experience, ability to help train other participants, and length of time available for participation in a snaring program; a selected foot snaring permittee must successfully complete a department-approved training program, must be a resident 16 years of age or older, and report all animals taken by the permittee to the department within 48 hours of taking;

(viii) foot snares may only be placed on the ground or in buckets and must be checked by the permittee at least once each day;

(ix) all brown bears incidentally snared must be immediately reported to the department; if practicable, an incidentally snared brown bear will be released by department staff; no more than 10 incidentally snared brown bears may be killed each year by all snaring permittees in the aggregate; hides and skulls of incidentally snared brown bears are the property of the state and must be salvage and delivered to the department;

(E) the board finds that recent liberalizations in hunting regulations for brown bear appear to be achieving the board's reduction objectives for the present;

(5) the anticipated time frame and schedule for update and reevaluation are as follows:

(A) for up to six [FIVE] years beginning on July 1, 2011 [2007], the commissioner may reduce the wolf and black bear populations in the Unit 16 Predation Control Area;

(B) annually, the department shall to the extent practicable, provide to the board at the board's spring board meeting, a report of program activities conducted during the preceding 12 months, including implementation activities, the status of moose, wolf, and bear populations, and recommendations for changes, if necessary, to achieve the objectives of the plan;

(6) other specifications that the board considers necessary are as follows:

(A) the commissioner will suspend wolf control activities

(i) when wolf inventories or accumulated information from permittees indicate the need to avoid reducing wolf numbers below the management objective of 22 - 45 wolves specified in this subsection;

(ii) when spring conditions deteriorate to make wolf control operations infeasible; or

(iii) no later than April 30 in any regulatory year;

(B) the commissioner will suspend black bear control activities

(i) when black bear population inventories or accumulated information from permittees indicate the need to avoid reducing black bear numbers below the management objective of 600 black bears specified in this subsection;

- (ii) no later than June 30 during any regulatory year;
- (C) predator control activities will be terminated
- (i) when prey population management objectives are attained; or
- (ii) upon expiration of the period during which the commissioner is authorized to reduce predator numbers in the predator control plan area;
- (D) the commissioner will annually close wolf hunting and trapping seasons and bear hunting seasons as appropriate to ensure that the minimum population objectives are met.

ISSUE: The current Intensive Management Plan for Unit 16 (5 AAC 92.125(d)) which was authorized for and been in effect since July 1, 2005, requires reauthorization by the Board of Game in order for the program to continue.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Intensive management activities including wolf predation control will be suspended, the moose populations will likely fail to recover, and may even possibly decline. This will result in lost opportunity for subsistence hunters throughout the state that rely on moose from this game management unit to feed their families.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, there will be more moose available to subsistence hunters for harvest.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Those who want to reduce predator numbers in order to boost moose numbers to benefit subsistence hunting opportunities.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those opposed to predation control and predator removal.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

LOG NUMBER: ADFG113010Q

Region-wide and Multiple Units

PROPOSAL 104- 5 AAC 84.270. Furbearer trapping. Lengthen the beaver trapping season in Units 9 and 17.

Change the season in Units 9 and 17 from October 10 – March 31 to **October 10 – May 31.**
The April 15 – May 31 firearm season with a limit of two per day could remain.

ISSUE: A March 31 closure to beaver trapping, due to their abundance season could be extended until May 31.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Beaver are abundant in Units 9 & 17 and the current season closure of March 31 precludes trappers from an economic opportunity.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Extension of the season allows for the harvest of additional beaver providing economic benefit to trappers. Currently the only opportunity for harvesting beavers after March 31 is with firearms from April 15 to May 31 with a bag limit of two per day. This is not an efficient method of harvesting beavers. The use of traps will provide an efficient and economical means of harvesting this abundant furbearer. The firearm season can remain in place for those that choose to participate.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Trappers

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: I originally considered an extension of the season until April 31, but the date of May 31 is in alignment with other Units in the Central and Southwest section of the regulation book. I also considered proposing the season change for only Unit 17, however Unit 9 has an abundance of beavers and including Unit 9 would keep regulations in alignment.

PROPOSED BY: Craig Schwanke

LOG NUMBER: EG102010101

PROPOSAL 105- 5 AAC 92.044. Permit for hunting black bear with the use of bait or scent lures. Allow the same day airborne hunting of black bear at bait stations in Region IV.

Allow the same day airborne hunting of black bear at bait stations in the region.

ISSUE: Residents using airplanes to access remote sites for black bear baiting stations loss of productive hunting time.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Because it has the effect of limiting the hunters time, it will continue to force black bear hunters into more accessible areas where planes are not a requirement. This causes crowding of hunting pressure and keep bear harvest high in those areas, while areas with large populations of black bear are not fully utilized.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. This would allow a more even harvest across the region, therefore decreasing pressure on some heavily used areas, while increasing pressure on under-utilized populations of a very abundant wildlife resource.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Black bear hunters who have access to airplane transportation because they will be able to hunt in little used areas. Black bear hunters who do not have access to planes because of less competition in areas they hunt. The bears and department by allowing a more even distribution of harvest. Those people who wish to view bears naturally because humans are natural predators of bear. So like the moose fear the bear, bear should fear humans.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those people who wish to have bears habituated to the presence of human beings in order to make a fast buck for bear viewing only. Those who oppose hunting and use emotional arguments to stop it.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED:

PROPOSED BY: Anchorage Fish and Game Advisory Committee

LOG NUMBER: EG110410173

PROPOSAL 106 - 5 AAC 84.270. Furbearer trapping. Establish a bag limit for trapping black bear in all Region IV Units.

Establish a trapping bag limit of ten black bear with traditional methods of trapping being limited to the use of "bucket snares, gun, bow and arrow, muzzle loader, or spear with a season in each area to correspond with the hunting season for black bear. Snares to be checked every 72 hours.

ISSUE: Establish a trapping bag limit for black bear in areas not covered by intensive management.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? This will continue to be a gray area.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. We have an under-utilized resource being the furbearer black bears. This establishes a guideline and a place to start in the region.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Those wishing to trap black bears. Prey populations which should rise slightly from decreased population of black bear. Crafts people who with the availability of bear hides will discover new use for the art media and increase commerce.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those who wish to see black bear habituated to human interaction. Those who wish to see an end to trapping and hunting.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED:

PROPOSED BY: Anchorage Fish and Game Advisory Committee

LOG NUMBER: EG110410176

PROPOSAL 107 - 5 AAC 92.044. Permit for hunting black bear with the use of bait or scent lures. Clarify and modify guided black bear baiting requirements in Region IV.

Option 1: (PREFERRED SOLUTION) “Wyoming System” A registered guide-outfitter may register and maintain up to two bait stations per contracted client annually. A licensed guide must accompany a client to the bait station and remain in contact (radio or otherwise) at all times.

Option 2: A person may contract with a Registered Guide-Outfitter to establish and maintain their bait stations (up to 2). All responsibility for clean up and registration will be of the guide. The guide will register the station with the contracted client’s name and sign for all registration requirements. A licensed guide must accompany a client to the bait station and remain in contact (radio or otherwise) at all times.

Option 3: Remove the language: [“A PERSON MAY NOT GIVE OR RECEIVE REMUNERATION FOR THE USE OF A BAIT STATION, INCLUDING BARTER OR EXCHANGE OF GOODS; HOWEVER, THIS PARAGRAPH DOES NOT APPLY TO A LICENSED GUIDE-OUTFITTER WHO PERSONALLY ACCOMPANIES A CLIENT AT THE BAIT STATION SITE;”]

The remuneration portion is already statute that prohibits compensation for hunting activities without a guide license. The accompanying portion effectively eliminates Alaskan guides from competing with those from Canada and the Lower 48.

Option 4: A registered guide may maintain up to 10 bait stations and may maintain stations for his assistants, his assistants may maintain stations for the registered guide. This regulation was passed for Region III last year but does not address the requirement of a guide to be present in the stand at all times (the main issue keeping Alaska guides non-competitive in the North American market).

ISSUE: Alaska has the most stringent laws, by far, in North America for guided hunting of black bears over bait. No other state or province, that allows bear baiting, requires a guide to babysit

hunters in the tree stand, **even a resident hunter.** All other states and provinces researched allow guides to maintain bait stations for their clients or allow guides a greater number of bait stations.

Guides in Alaska are regulated by the Legislature and the Big Game Commercial Services Board. The provision that states “a person may not give or receive remuneration for the use of a bait station, including barter or exchange of goods; however, this paragraph does not apply to a licensed guide-outfitter who personally accompanies a client at the bait station site;”

is unique in board of game regulation in that it specifically dictates a guide’s action. No other ADF&G or Board of Game regulation mandates a specific practice for guides (all other guide required laws are statute). It requires a guide to personally accompany a client (providing compensation), at a bait station. The Department of Law interprets this as; a guide (assistant or registered) must remain at the bait station at all times with the client. The first part of the regulation: “a person may not give or receive remuneration for the use of a bait station, including barter or exchange of goods;” is redundant, compensation for hunting services is already covered by guiding statutes.

Baited black bear hunting is the most controlled method of hunting any species of game in Alaska. Hunters have the distinct advantage of observing their quarry at close range before making a shot. A guide is not required to hunt black bears by any method. A non-resident is not required to hire a guide to hunt black bears over bait, but if he chooses to hire a guide they must be accompanied.

Black bears are one of the most widespread and abundant game animals in south central Alaska. Many of these areas have too much vegetation to allow for spot and stalk hunting. Baited black bear hunting allows bears in these areas to be harvested. Bait hunting also provides a great opportunity for hunters with limited mobility.

Guided bait hunts in Canada and lower 48 are generally conducted with one guide per 3-5 hunters. Guides drop hunters off at stands with a radio or arrange a pick-up time. When a bear is shot the guide tracks and recovers the bear. Hunts costs range from \$900-\$3000. With Alaska’s guide regulation registered guides cannot compete in the marketplace. Assistant guides cost from \$150-\$200 per day before payroll taxes and workers compensation insurance. Guides must also have additional staff to register bait stations and bait their specific stations. Guides are not allowed to bait stations for their own employees.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Harvestable surpluses of black bear will continue to be left under-utilized. Alaskan guide-outfitters will miss out on tourism dollars that will go to Canada or other States. Guides that do offer baited hunts will lose money, barely scrape by (pun intended), or be forced to hunt other species. ADF&G will continue to fail to reach management objectives in many areas.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCT PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? The quantity of black bears taken may be increased. Guides will have another option to make a living and may take some pressure off of ungulate resources, especially in areas that allow fall bear baiting.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Bear hunters, Guides, and other game populations.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Canadian and lower-48 outfitters that will now be competing with bear hunts from Alaska.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Apply Statewide: Rejected, Southeast Alaska may have dwindling bear populations and may benefit from guides present in stands to select only male bears.

PROPOSED BY: Aaron Bloomquist

LOG NUMBER: EG113010253

PROPOSAL 108 - 5 AAC 85.015. Hunting seasons and bag limits for black bear. Establish a regional bag limit for black bear in Region IV.

It would establish a regional bag limit where you could take five bears in a region, but you would still have to obey the unit bag limit. Example: You take a black bear in the spring in Unit 14B where the bag limit is three bears a year. Then in the fall you had an opportunity to take a bear in Unit 14A. Today's regulation would prohibit you from taking it. If adopted, our regulation change would allow you to harvest it. Reporting of your success would become the only problem as we now hand out harvest tags with only three tags, but we could easily change those tags to five and you could get more if you took five bears by hunting. All other requirements to seal or salvage would remain the same for the units.

ISSUE: Under utilization of the resource black bear. Because of the way we run the limit on black bear which says if you have taken a bear in one game unit, it counts against your bag limit in another unit, we under harvest black in much of the state.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Continued loss of harvestable surplus.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. It allows a greater option for the few hunters who would like to take a few more bear. While in the long run it would not amount to a lot of bear, it would allow for more flexibility by hunters and the Department of Fish and Game to harvest the second largest big game population in the state.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Black bear hunters, area biologist, the state.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those opposed to bear hunting.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: No bag limit, rejected. We feel a slower approach is more prudent.

PROPOSED BY: Anchorage Fish and Game Advisory Committee

LOG NUMBER: EG110410170

PROPOSAL 109 - 5 AAC 92.015. Brown bear tag fee exemptions. Remove the brown bear tag fee revocation for certain lands in Units 11, 13, and 16B.

Remove the tag fee revocation found in 5AAC 92.015 in all of Unit 13 and NPS managed lands in Units 11 & 16B. At minimum, exclude the resident tag fee revocation found in 5AAC 92.015 from all NPS managed lands in Unit 11, 13 and 16B.

ISSUE: Unjustified and inappropriate resident brown bear tag fee revocations in all of Units 11 & 13, including National Park Service (NPS) managed lands, and NPS managed lands within Unit 16B.

These tag fee revocations are inconsistent with the federal management standards for NPS management lands.

Justifications for revoking tag fees are based on the premise of promoting opportunistic harvest of brown bears with the resulting increase in overall harvest rates. These tag revocation regulations inevitably are justified to increase moose or caribou calf survival at the expense of natural abundance of brown bears. A management policy that is inconsistent with NPS management mandates.

In 1998 the ADF&G submitted a report to the Board of Game titled "RESIDENT BROWN BEAR BAG LIMITS AND TAG FEES". Submitted as an RC document. In that report the ADF&G stated:

"The \$25 tag fee and 1 bear every 4 years standard thus reflected an attitude in which most hunters held brown/grizzly bears in high esteem, to be harvested conservatively as part of a carefully planned hunting experience rather than incidental to other activities. A statewide requirement to salvage brown/grizzly bear hides and skulls, but with no requirement to also salvage the edible meat, further underscored the prevailing attitude that this was a trophy animal."

"If grizzly bear numbers are reduced below optimum yield to promote population growth in a prey species, such cases will be kept to a minimum, continued for the shortest possible time, and restricted to the smallest area necessary to accomplish the goal."

The 1998 ADF&G report goes on to add: *"This recommendation implied that increased bear harvests to reduce predation would be judiciously applied, infrequent, and small in scale."*

"The Department lacks adequate information on brown/grizzly population numbers in most areas of the state to manage harvest intensively on an annual basis. Because of the difficulty and high costs of estimating bear density, it is unlikely the Department will be able to gather such information on a wide scale in the foreseeable future. Thus the Department relies heavily on accurate harvest information to assess effects of hunting and will continue to do so. The Board has previously recognized that inconsistent regulations can provide incentives for hunters to misrepresent locations of their kills. Inaccurate reporting in units with longer seasons, tag fee

waivers, and/or 1 bear/year limits has been documented and can cause biologists to misinterpret trends in sex ratio and mean age used to assess population status."

"Overestimates of harvest in units where harvest is falsely reported and underestimates in units where harvest actually takes place make it difficult to determine effectiveness of management strategies and could even put some bear populations at risk."

In the most recent brown bear management report, the ADF&G area biologist confirms the findings:

"A major problem pertaining to brown bear management is the difficulty in obtaining population data ... Because of this; population data are available for only a limited portion of Unit 13. All unit wide bear estimates are based on extrapolations of estimated densities. The problems associated with this are obvious, particularly given the differences in study area and census techniques"
-2007 Brown Bear Management Report pg. 148.

-Overall, the 1998 ADF&G report defined decade's old policy and made prudent recommendations based on science. The report recognized brown/grizzly bears have low population density and low recruitment. It is very difficult and expensive to estimate population size and trend, and bears may take many years to recover from population reductions. It also stressed that revoking tag fees was not to be institutionalized for long term and indiscriminate use. The report concludes:

"These recommendations set a standard for conservative management of brown/grizzly bears over most of the state, with relatively few exceptions in specific areas where increased bear harvests would reduce predation on stressed moose or caribou populations."

The Unit 13 moose population has met virtually every management objective set by the department. It is far from being categorized as a "stressed" moose population.

For the 2010 moose hunting season, the state expanded nonresident hunting opportunity by authorizing an additional 125 permits available only to nonresidents. In addition, the ADF&G authorized a liberalization of the horn restrictions for resident hunters and established an additional season to accommodate the liberalized resident hunt for moose. Clearly, the moose population has recovered to the point that significant liberalization of the moose harvest opportunity is occurring for both resident and nonresident.

The board has a negative finding for customary and traditional use of brown bears in Unit 11 & 13. Thus, there is no justification to provide a subsistence tag revocation for brown bear harvest as a food source.

Unit 11 is virtually all NPS managed lands. There is no justification for any tag fee revocations in Unit 11.

The National Park Service has requested in writing to the Board of Game, that NPS managed lands be excluded from every "no brown bear tag fee required" regulations a total of four times since 2003, two of those requests were specifically for Units 11, 13, 16B.

The most compelling argument though is how can the Board justify excluding Denali State Park from brown bear tag fee revocations in Unit 13 and 16B and not exclude National Parks and Preserves?

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The board will continue to apply these tag fee restrictions beyond a point that prudent and scientific bear management principles would apply. Even beyond the ADF&G's own policy that has been in place for over two decades. Continuing tag fee revocations will be inconsistent with federal management standards for NPS managed lands and board standards established for Denali State Park.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, following recognized scientific bear management principles and the guiding policy of the ADF&G will promote the long term integrity and ecological resiliency of the bear population in all of Unit 11 & 13 and on NPS managed lands in Unit 16B. Precedence has been set when the board excluded Yukon Charley Rivers Preserve from brown bear tag fee revocations in Unit 20E.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Everybody, especially the ADF&G which obtain significant funding from bear tag fees.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Nobody.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED The National Parks Conservation Association feels there are no alternatives to the wise management of Alaska's bear populations. Management principles based on recognized scientific brown bear management principles leave the board no choice but to reinstate the brown bear tag fees.

PROPOSED BY: National Parks Conservation Association

LOG NUMBER: EG111810246

PROPOSAL 110 - 5 AAC. 92.015 Brown bear tag fee exemption. Reauthorize the brown bear tag fees for Region IV.

(a) A resident tag is not required for taking a brown bear in the following units:

- (1) Unit 11;
- (2) Units 13 and 16(A), that portion outside of Denali State Park;
- (3) Unit 16(B);

(b) In addition to the units as specified in (a) of this section, if a hunter obtains a subsistence registration permit before hunting, that hunter is not required to obtain a resident tag to take a brown bear in the following units:

- (1) Unit 9(B);
- (2) Unit 9(E), that portion including all drainages that drain into the Pacific Ocean between Cape

Kumliun and the border of Unit 9(D) and Unit 9(E);
(3) Unit 17

ISSUE: Brown bear tag fee exemptions must be reauthorized annually.

In March of 2003 the Board liberalized brown bear hunting regulations including the tag fee exemption to increase the harvest of brown bears. In addition brown bear tags are not required for subsistence brown bear hunting in parts of Unit 9 and Unit 17. Continuation of the exemption is necessary to encourage hunters to take brown bears in these units.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? If the Board does not reauthorize the tag fee exemption the fee will be reinstated and hunters will not be able to legally harvest a bear unless they had purchased the tag. This action may likely reduce the incidental harvest of bears by other hunters (i.e. moose, caribou, and sheep hunters) and direct potential brown bear hunters to other units.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? The goal by both the Board and the Department is to increase the harvest of brown bears to decrease the predation on moose calves. A tag fee exemption will help to achieve this goal.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Hunters who incidentally encounter bears in these units that may be interested in harvesting one.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

LOG NUMBER: ADFG103010NN

PROPOSAL 111 - 5 AAC 85.060. Hunting seasons and bag limits for fur animals. Change the bag limit for coyotes in all Region IV Units.

In Region IV, change the bag limit from 10 coyotes per day to "no limit" for hunting. The season should remain the same.

ISSUE: Inconsistent bag limits between Regions II, IV and Region III for hunting coyotes.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? An unnecessary difference in bag limits will continue between regions.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, to reduce confusion the Board of Game should adopt a change in regulation to make Region IV the same bag limit as Region III for coyote hunting.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Individuals interested in hunting coyotes will benefit from consistent season and bag limits. However, no increase in harvest is anticipated.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one should be negatively impacted by this change unless they oppose hunting coyotes.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: None

PROPOSED BY: Kenai Peninsula Trappers Association

LOG NUMBER: EG102910141

PROPOSAL 112 - 5 AAC 85.060. Hunting seasons and bag limits for fur animals. Change the coyote hunting season, bag limit and harvest requirement for all Region IV Units.

Coyote would have no bag limit and no season limit in Region IV. In addition, there would be no requirement to harvest anything more than the skull unless it had been destroyed in the taking.

ISSUE: Continued over abundance of coyote which are impacting martin, red fox, lynx, sheep and other prey populations.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? We could find ourselves in the unsavory position of having to implement intensive management for animals who were thought would never need it. Coyote while being a valuable fur in their own right, out strip their competitors and prey in almost every respect. Their cunning and adaptability lends this predator to almost any thinkable niche in nature. The diseases that would naturally curb their numbers with the efforts of man are not something we would like to deal with (i.e. rabies, distemper). The natural affect of a predator is to kill any other predator when the opportunity arises. Man is the ultimate predator and we rarely exercise this rule, but with the expansion of the coyote numbers in the state and the impact it is causing on sheep is a prime example we must consider liberal bag and season limits to help reduce numbers of this adaptive animal.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. In the bigger scheme of life it would help restore more balance in respect to other predators and prey animal, while there is no biological concern on the additional take of coyote.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Everyone has a better balance may be struck in the ecosystem. Sheep and sheep hunters, red fox who are being displaced.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those opposed to hunting in general, some trappers who prefer targeting coyote and that are less wary.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: No ending trapping season- less selective by catch would be the result.

PROPOSED BY: Anchorage Fish and Game Advisory Committee

LOG NUMBER: EG110410180

PROPOSAL 113 - 5 AAC 85.060. Hunting seasons and bag limits for fur animals. Change the season for coyote in Units 13 and 14.

Coyotes Unit 13 and 14; no closed season.

ISSUE: Change coyote season to a no closed season.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? This will allow hunters to perform predator control especially in alpine sheep habitat.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes this would bring the coyote season in line with current black bear seasons.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Predator hunters will have added opportunity. This will also allow for summer harvest of coyotes in sheep lambing areas.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Trappers who may have less animals available due to the increased take.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: Allowing the use of tracking and coursing dogs to hunt coyotes. I rejected it because it is unlikely to pass.

PROPOSED BY: Jon Freeman

LOG NUMBER: EG102910143

PROPOSAL 114 - 5AAC 85.020. Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear. This proposal establishes a registration permit hunt for brown bear throughout Unit 9, and establishes a registration brown bear hunt in communities that can be used to harvest problem bears in a timely manner.

**Resident
Open season**

Units and Bag Limits	(Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open season
(8)		
Unit 9(A)		
1 bear every 4 regulatory years <u>by registration permit only</u>	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)
Unit 9(B)		
1 bear every 4 regulatory years by registration permit only	Sept. 1-May 31 (Subsistence hunt only)	No open season
1 bear every 4 regulatory years <u>by registration permit only</u>	Sept 20-Oct. 21 (Odd years only) May 10-May 25 (Even years only)	Sept 20-Oct. 21 (Odd years only) May 10-May 25 (Even years only)
<u>1 bear every regulatory year by registration permit only within 5 miles of the communities of Port Alsworth, Nondalton, Iliamna Newhalen, Pile Bay, Pedro Bay, Pope Vanoy Landing, Kakhonak, Igiugig, and Levelock</u>	<u>July1-June 30 (General hunt only)</u>	<u>No open season</u>
[UNIT 9(C), NAKNEK RIVER DRAINAGE]	[SEPT. 1-OCT. 31 (GENERAL HUNT ONLY)]	[SEPT. 1-OCT. 31 (GENERAL HUNT ONLY)]
[1 BEAR EVERY 4 REGULATORY YEARS BY REGISTRATION PERMIT ONLY]	[MAY 1-JUNE 30 (GENERAL HUNT ONLY)]	[MAY 1-JUNE 30 (GENERAL HUNT ONLY)]
[REMAINDER OF] Unit 9C		
1 bear every 4 regulatory years <u>by registration permit only</u>	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)
<u>1 bear every regulatory year by registration permit only within 5 miles of the communities of King</u>	<u>July1-June 30 (General hunt only)</u>	<u>No open season</u>

Salmon, Naknek, and South Naknek

[UNIT 9(D), SOUTH AND WEST OF A LINE FROM MOFFETT POINT TO THE EASTERN SIDE OF THE EASTERN ENTRANCE OF KINZAROF LAGOON, AND NORTH OF A LINE FROM THE BASE OF CAPE GLAZENAP TO FROSTY PEAK TO THE MOUTH OF OLD MAN'S LAGOON]

[OCT. 1-OCT. 21
(GENERAL HUNT ONLY)
MAY 10-MAY 25
(GENERAL HUNT ONLY)]

[OCT. 1-OCT. 21
(GENERAL HUNT ONLY)
MAY 10-MAY 25
(GENERAL HUNT ONLY)]

[1 BEAR EVERY 4 REGULATORY YEARS BY REGISTRATION PERMIT ONLY; THE SEASON WILL BE CLOSED BY EMERGENCY ORDER WHEN THE ALLOWABLE HARVEST IS REACHED]

[REMAINDER OF] Unit 9D

1 bear every 4 regulatory years
by registration permit only

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)

1 bear every regulatory year by registration permit only within 5 miles of the communities of Cold Bay, King Cove, Sand Point, and Nelson Lagoon

**July 1-June 30
(General hunt only)**

No open season

Unit 9(E), that portion including all drainages into the Pacific Ocean between Cape Kumlium and the border of Units 9(E) and 9(D)

1 bear every regulatory year
by registration permit only

Nov. 1-Dec. 31
(Subsistence hunt only)

No open season

1 bear every 4 regulatory years
by registration permit only

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)

1 bear every regulatory year

July 1-June 30

No open season

by registration permit only within 5 miles of the communities of Chignik Lake, Chignik Lagoon, Chignik Bay, Perryville, and Ivanof Bay

(General hunt only)

Remainder of 9(E)

1 bear every 4 regulatory years
by registration permit only

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)

1 bear every regulatory year by registration permit only within 5 miles of the communities of Egegik, Pilot Point, Ugashik, Port Heiden, and Port Moller

July1-June 30 (General hunt only)

No open season

(9)

Unit 10 (Unimak Island Only)

Oct. 1-Dec. 31
(General hunt only)
May 10-May 25
(Even years only)

Oct. 1-Dec. 31
May 10-May 25

1 bear every 4 regulatory years by drawing permit only; up to 15 permits will be issued

1 bear every regulatory year by registration permit only within 3 miles of the community of False Pass

July1-June 30 (General hunt only)

No open season

ISSUE: Two of the challenges facing brown bear management in Units 9 and 10 are the need to collect additional information to better manage the brown bear population and the need to foster greater social acceptance of the management goal of maintaining a high density brown bear population.

Nuisance problems are among the chief concerns expressed by communities about brown bear in Units 9 and 10. Each year an unknown number of bears are killed by residents trying to prevent or reduce the loss of property, livestock, or pets and to increase public safety. These bear-human conflicts often detract from many residents' appreciation of this unique resource.

The intent of this proposal is to address one of the negative consequences of maintaining a high density brown bear population. Brown bears on the Alaska Peninsula are a valued species that provide recreational and economic opportunities for many people. While there are many inherent values to maintaining this resource, bear-human conflict is inevitable in some cases. This proposal

establishes a registration brown bear hunt in communities that can be used to harvest problem bears in a timely manner to reduce the anxiety and tension associated with this unique resource.

If adopted, the Department will tailor the community registration hunt areas to meet the needs of each community listed in the proposed language through the use of discretionary authority to stipulate conditions of registration permits. Defining the hunt areas based on geographical landmarks will assist hunters in complying with this regulation and allow the Department to address the concern of commercial operators that this allowance could have a negative impact on their economic opportunity.

This proposal also establishes a registration permit hunt throughout Unit 9 that will allow the Department to collect information from both successful and unsuccessful hunters to aid in the management of this resource.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Residents will continue to kill bears that are suspected of being responsible for property loss or damage. Most of the bears will not be reported because of the amount of effort and time it takes to comply with defense of life and property regulations and forfeit the hide and skull to the state.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? This proposal will help resolve an inherent challenge facing brown bear management in Units 9 and 10 - to maintain a high density, high quality bear population while simultaneously providing the public with a safe environment to live in.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? People occupying communities in Units 9 and 10

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? People who believe that it is not appropriate to shoot bears to resolve nuisance bear issues, and people who fail to comply with reporting requirements for the registration permit hunts.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Brown bear harvest ticket

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

LOG NUMBER: ADFG113010K

PROPOSAL 115 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep. Modify the Dall sheep hunts for all Region IV Units.

No harvest of ewe. Bag limit would be full curl ram only. All permit hunts would be reduced by 1/3. All sheep permit drawings with fewer than 10 available permits (by permit number, not in aggregate) would be residents only with the sole exception of the "Governor's Tag" in order to give that tag more value.

ISSUE: The drastic decline of sheep in the region.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Continued decline in sheep numbers.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. In a declining population there is no need to take any females where human consumption is not the priority. This area is most accessible to Alaska resident hunters who have a much lower success rate. Since we have real concern about sheep populations in these areas and our priority is resident we must reduce the nonresident component of the hunt to insure more opportunity to residents while still limiting the harvest.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Sheep and resident sheep hunters, those who wish to see the park Dall sheep numbers return to a higher level. Those who want to view sheep.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? The guides who operate in the Unit. While this is unfortunate, the record is very pervasive in the fact that guided nonresidents have a higher success rate and must be curtailed before residents who are more often under time and financial constraint and every other state in the union restricts nonresident opportunity far greater than we do.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: Closing all nonresident to hunting in Region IV, while attractive, this would preclude the incentive to some to help the sheep rebound in the state, as when we have more animals we can give out more permits.

PROPOSED BY: Anchorage Fish and Game Advisory Committee

LOG NUMBER: EG110510188

PROPOSAL 116 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep. Change the horn restriction for Dall sheep to in Units 13D and 14A.

All sheep drawing permits should be issued under the current full curl regulations.

ISSUE: At present draw sheep hunts in part of Unit 13D (DS160 & DS260) and all of Unit 14A are any ram hunts. This regulation has been in place for three years, during which time hunters have almost exclusively harvested less than full curl sheep and some very young rams that have not yet reached breeding age, taking them out of the gene pool before they can reproduce. The number of permits offered has been reduced by half because of the increased harvest potential.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Continued harvest of young rams before breeding age will mean their genetics are not reaching the gene pool. Every year that this continues, more mature rams are dying of old age or winter kill without being harvested. The any ram regulation means decreased overall hunting opportunity as the total number of permits has been cut in half.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? All harvested rams would be mature, breeding rams that have already had a chance to pass their genetics on. Young, immature rams would have more of a

chance to live long enough to breed. The number of permits offered could be increased significantly, maybe doubled.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Anyone seeking a permit to hunt a mature ram will have more opportunity to draw one.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? The hunter who isn't willing to do the work to harvest a mature ram might not be successful.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: Status-quo means more mature rams will die without being harvested and hunter opportunity will continue to be limited.

PROPOSED BY: Loren Karro

LOG NUMBER: EG110410158

PROPOSAL 117 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep. Introduce a late season archery registration hunts in all sheep drawing areas in Region IV.

Units and bag limits	Resident Open season	Nonresident open season
<u>13D east</u> 1 ram with full-curl horn or larger by permit	Aug. 10 - Sept. 20	Aug. 10 - Sept. 20
<u>1 ram with full-curl horn or larger by archer only Registration</u>	<u>Sept. 7- Oct. 10</u>	<u>Sept. 7- Oct. 10 (up to 2 rams may be taken by non residents)</u>
<u>13 D West</u> 1 ram by permit	Aug. 10 - Sept. 20	Aug. 10 - Sept. 20
<u>1 ram with full-curl horn or larger by archery only Registration</u>	<u>Sept. 7- Oct. 10</u>	<u>Sept. 7- Oct. 10 (1 ram may be taken by nonresidents)</u>
<u>14 A South of the Matanuska River</u> 1 ram by permit	Aug. 10 - Sept. 20	Aug. 10 - Sept. 20
<u>1 ram with full-curl horn or larger by archery only Registration</u>	<u>Sept. 7- Oct. 10</u>	<u>Sept. 7- Oct. 10 (up to 2 rams may be taken by nonresidents)</u>

ISSUE: Sheep hunting opportunities are dwindling with the creation of new drawing areas. Archery hunts can provide opportunity for hundreds of hunters with very little harvest increase. Late archery seasons have proven to have very low success rates in 14 C. Sheep are the single most difficult North American big game animal to harvest with archery equipment. A registration hunt may be held in these areas if the area biologist feels there are enough rams to justify the season. Area managers should have a good idea of how the season went by early September because most people hunt in August. If the weather was great and many sheep were taken the first couple weeks of the season the hunt can be EO closed. Non-Resident take is limited because Non-resident archery hunters are many times more successful than resident hunters. Season dates were chosen based on the 14C archery hunt to eliminate confusion.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Only a small number of people will have the opportunity to hunt sheep in these sought after locations.

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Sheep hunters. Those willing to take the time to use archery gear and brave the weather of late sheep season.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Drawing hunts, unnecessary due to low success rates. Late Bow hunts in all open sheep areas.

PROPOSED BY: Aaron Bloomquist

LOG NUMBER: EG113010252

PROPOSAL 118 - 5 AAC 85.040. Hunting seasons and bag limits for goat. Require guide-client agreements for goat hunts in Units 13D, 14A & 14C.

The Board of Game should require a guide-client agreement for all mountain goat drawing permits in 13D, 14A, and 14C, if the applicant will have to hire a guide to hunt.

ISSUE: Nonresidents can draw a goat permit without having a guide lined up to guide them. After drawing, they sometimes decide a guided hunt is too expensive and they never use their permit.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Some permits issued to nonresidents will continue to be wasted, unnecessarily limiting hunting opportunities to other nonresidents and residents. The Department of Fish & Game harvest goals are not being met.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Requiring a guide-client agreement will create more opportunities for the nonresident mountain goat hunter that is serious about hunting goats.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Nonresident hunters who really want to hunt goats and have a guide-client contract signed as well as resident applicants will have more opportunities by weeding out the unserious non-resident applicants.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: Status-quo leads to wasted permits and opportunities and unmet harvest quotas.

PROPOSED BY: Dan Montgomery

LOG NUMBER: EG110410163

Note: The range of the Mulchatna Caribou Herd includes Units 9, 17, 18 and 19. Units 18 and 19 are not in Central/ Southwest Region.

PROPOSAL 119 - 5 AAC 92.125. Predation control areas implementation programs. Implement a predator control plan for the range of the Mulchatna Caribou Herd.

Develop a comprehensive and cooperative Mulchatna Caribou Herd rebuilding plan under Intensive Management. Under Intensive Management, adoption of a predator control plan throughout the range and across multiple Units of the Mulchatna caribou herd would be implemented.

ISSUE: Adopt a predator control plan throughout the range and across multiple Units of the Mulchatna Caribou Herd. The Mulchatna Caribou Herd is currently at the lower management objective of 30,000 animals and the herd has out migrated from its initial range in Unit 17. The current bull/cow ration of 16.8 bulls per 100 cows is well below the management objective of 35 bulls per 100 cows.

- 1.) 2010 fall composition counts indicate that the calf/cow ratios are lower than in 2009; 19.5 / 100 in 2010 compared to 31/100 in 2009.
- 2.) The 2010 composition counts also indicate that the bull cow ratios are lowest in the past 3 years. And are below the management objective. 2010 count of 16.8/100 is below the management objective of 35/100.
- 3.) Radio tracking data indicates that there is less herd mixing throughout the range of the Mulchatna Caribou Herd with others than in the past.
- 4.) There is no current population estimate for the Mulchatna herd. The last one was done by photo census three years ago.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The Mulchatna herd will continue to decline.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Improving calf survival and reducing predation mortality would allow bull to cow ratios to increase and improve the sustainability of this herd.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All hunters as a result of a more sustainable herd.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED Close the hunt entirely, this is unrealistic with the range and number of residents depending on the herd for food.

PROPOSED BY: Frank Woods

LOG NUMBER: EG120710272

PROPOSAL 120 - 5 AAC 92.108. Identified big game prey populations and objectives.
Modify the management objective for the Mulchatna Caribou Herd.

Mulchatna Caribou Herd management objective to be 100,000 to 150,000.

ISSUE: The Mulchatna Caribou Herd management objective numbers are moved back to the 100,000 - 80,000 management objective. There is no current population estimate for the Mulchatna herd. The last one was done three years ago. 1) Harvest numbers are so low that 83 Mulchatna caribou were reported in unit 17 in 2009. Harvest report Woolington ADF&G Alaska population digest 2009 estimates, (Dept. of Labor and workforce development) Unit 17 communities total is 4703 so leaves .017 of a caribou per person. 2) The 2010 composition counts also indicate that the bull/cow ratios are lowest in the past three years. And are below the management objective 2010 count of 16.8/100 is below the management objective of 35/100. 3) 2010 Fall composition counts also indicate that the calf/cow ratios are lower than in 2009. 19.5/100 in 2010 compared to 31/100 in 2009.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The Mulchatna caribou herd will continue to decline.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? The Mulchatna herd is currently at the low end of the management objective of 30,000 animals and the herd has out-migrated its initial range in Unit 17. Unit 17 harvests of caribou are embarrassingly low and it is unacceptable to decrease the management objective numbers to meet the herds decline to justify limiting harvests for consumptive use.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All hunters as a result of a more sustainable herd.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? no one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED Close the hunt entirely. Unrealistic with the range and number of residents depending on the herd for food

PROPOSED BY: Frank Woods

LOG NUMBER: EG120710273

Note: Alaska Statute 16.05.783 prohibits aerial shooting outside of an existing predator control plan.

PROPOSAL 121 - 5 AAC 92.125. Predation control areas implementation plans. Allow aerial shooting of wolves in Units 9B and 17.

The solution I am proposing is to implement aerial shooting of wolves in Units 17B, 17C, 9B. The success of this program in Unit 16 and others speaks for itself. Moose and caribou populations have rebounded in these areas to allow users to bag animals in areas previously closed or with limited seasons. Regulation would read as follows and mirror other Units that allow aerial taking of wolves. Wolf- This unit is within a predator control area and special regulations apply.

ISSUE: Moose and caribou populations are extremely low in Unit 17B, 17C, and 9B. I would like to see an aerial wolf control project to mirror the one used in Unit 16.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Moose and caribou populations will continue to decline and there will be no game for subsistence hunters/ resident hunters/non-residents to harvest. Eventually hunting seasons will have to be closed or restricted.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Moose and caribou populations will increase, therefore allowing an increase in general harvest. More trophy quality animals will become available to harvest also which will benefit Units 17 and 9 big game guides, air taxis as well as subsistence hunters, and other resident/non-resident hunters that utilize this unit.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? People who will benefit include residents of Alaska, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (the Mulchatna herd in the past was a great source of income for the state-license and tag sales will benefit the department). Big game guides - a lot of guides have had to move to other areas due to low animal populations. Air taxies - for years air taxies have made a large portion of their income from the moose and caribou in these Units. Residents of all local villages in units 17, and 9, and in surrounding areas.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: None.

PROPOSED BY: Doug Brewer

PROPOSAL 122 -- 5 AAC 92.052. Discretionary permit hunt conditions and procedures.

Review and potentially repeal discretionary hunt conditions and procedures applied to permit hunts the Central/Southwest Region, Units 9, 10, 11, 13, 14A, 14B, and 16.

5 AAC 92.052. Discretionary permit hunt conditions and procedures. The department may apply any or all of the following additional conditions to a permit hunt, when necessary for management of the species hunted:

- (1) a permittee shall register at a designated station before entering, and upon leaving, the field; except as authorized under AS 16.05.405, a person may not hold more than one permit for the same species in a hunt area at one time;
- (2) a permittee shall demonstrate
 - (A) the ability to identify the species hunted;
 - (B) the ability to identify the permit hunt area;
 - (C) a knowledge of weapon safety and use;
- (3) a permittee shall attend an orientation course;
- (4) a permittee shall carry an operative radio while in the field;
- (5) a permittee who takes an animal under a permit shall deliver specified biological specimens to a check station or to the nearest department office within a time set by the department; the trophy value of an animal taken under a subsistence permit may be nullified by the department;
- (6) a permittee must be accompanied by a department representative;
- (7) only a specified number of permittees may hunt during the same time period, and a permittee may hunt only in a specified subdivision within the permit hunt area;
- (8) a permittee may not use specified mechanized vehicles for hunting big game or for transporting meat from the hunting area;
- (9) a permittee who cancels his or her plan to hunt shall notify the department at an office, and within a time limit, specified by the department;
- (10) a permittee may use only weapons and ammunition specified by the department;
- (11) before receiving a permit, the permittee shall acknowledge in writing that he or she has read, understands, and will abide by, the conditions specified for the hunt;
- (12) a permittee may hunt only during specified time periods;
- (13) a permit applicant must be at least 10 years old;
- (14) a permittee shall submit, on a form supplied by the department, information requested by the department about the hunt; the permittee shall submit this form to the department within the time limit set by the department;
- (15) the permit applicant must hold a valid Alaska hunting license; however, this does not apply to a resident under the age of 16; an applicant's hunting license number must be entered on the permit application; a resident under the age of 16 shall enter his or her age instead of a license number;
- (16) a hunter participating in a permit hunt that allows only the use of a bow and arrow must have completed a department - approved bowhunter education course;
- (17) a permittee may take only an animal of a sex specified by the department;
- (18) a person with physical disabilities, as defined in AS 16.05.940 , with a special permit to hunt with a motorized vehicle, must be accompanied by another hunter who has a valid hunting license and is capable of assisting the permittee in retrieving game taken by the permittee;

- (19) a person may be limited to one big game registration permit at a time in Units 1, 17, 20(E), 22 and 23;
- (20) the number of registration permits that may be issued per household for a specified big game hunt may be limited;
- (21) the permit hunt area authorized by the Board of Game may be subdivided into smaller permit hunt areas;
- (22) a permittee may transfer the permittee's Unit 13 subsistence permit to a resident member of the permittee's family, within the second degree of kinship; a person may not receive remuneration for the transfer of a permit under this paragraph;
- (23) except as otherwise provided, if a drawing permit hunt is undersubscribed, surplus permits may be made available at the division of wildlife conservation office responsible for management of the applicable hunt. Surplus permits are not subject to the limitations in 5 AAC 92.050(2) and (4)(F).

ISSUE: The Board of Game has requested a review of the discretionary conditions the Department of Fish and Game applies to permit hunts. Use of these permit conditions allows the department to manage hunts to provide for maximum opportunity, and still provide protection of the resource.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The department will continue to use discretionary authority to manage game populations in permit hunts.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Loss of some of the authority may result in more conservative management and seasons.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Hunters who do not wish to comply with permit conditions established by the department.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Hunters who are willing to comply with permit conditions in order to enjoy more hunting opportunity.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: The Board of Game

LOG NUMBER: ADFG113010SS

Cordova Area - Unit 6

PROPOSAL 123 - 5 AAC 85.015 Hunting seasons and bag limits for black bear. Open an archery season for black bear in Unit 6.

Unit 6D black bear season dates September 1 - 9, archery only; September 10 - June 10, general season.

ISSUE: Recent changes in the season dates for black bear hunting in PWS eliminated the peak period of opportunity for bow hunters pursuing bear in this area. There are very few archery only seasons or areas in Alaska. Passing this change would provide for a limited archery only season prior to the general season with minimal impact to the resource.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Archery hunters will have limited opportunity to effectively hunt black bear in this unit.

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Archery hunters that target black bear in unit 6D. Rifle/pistol hunters that see a lower density of hunters in the field during the general season.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: Return the general season dates to September 1 - June 10. Rejected because of the significantly larger impact to the resource.

PROPOSED BY: Roark Brown

LOG NUMBER: EG09151073

PROPOSAL 124 - 5 AAC 085.045.(4) Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in Unit 6A.

Seasons and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(4)		

Unit 6 A, all drainages into the Gulf of Alaska from Cape

Suckling to Palm Point

1 moose per regulatory year,
only as follows:

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull by registration permit only; up to 30 bulls may be taken; or

Sept. 1-Nov. 30
(General hunt only)

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

Sept. 1-Nov. 30
(General hunt only)

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

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

Sept. 1- Nov. 30

Remainder of Unit 6(A)

1 moose per regulatory year,
only as follows:

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

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

Sept. 1- Nov. 30
(General hunt only)

1 antlerless moose by registration permit only; up to 20 antlerless moose may be taken

Nov. 15-Dec. 31
(General hunt only)

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

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

Sept. 1- Nov. 30

1 antlerless moose by registration permit; up to 20 antlerless moose may be taken

Nov. 15-Dec. 31

...

ISSUE: Antlerless moose seasons must be re-authorized 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 completed during January 2008 yielded a population estimate of 230 moose with 17 percent calves. The antlerless hunt has not been open since 2005.

The desirable post-hunt population size in Unit 6A east of Cape Suckling is 300 to 350 moose. A census completed during February 2008 yielded a population estimate of 245 moose with 8 percent calves. No antlerless hunts were held because of previous poor calf survival and population level below the management objective. However, if recruitment does improve, antlerless hunts may be needed to hold the moose population at objective levels.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? If antlerless hunts are eliminated in Unit 6(A), hunting opportunity will be needlessly lost.

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

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

LOG NUMBER: ADFG113010W

PROPOSAL 125 -5 AAC 085.045.(4) Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in Unit 6B.

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:		
1 antlered moose by registration permit only; up to 30 antlered moose may be taken; or	Aug. 27- Oct. 31 (General hunt only)	No open season
1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only; up to 30 drawing permits may be	Aug. 27- Oct. 31 (General hunt only)	No open season

issued for antlerless moose;

...

ISSUE: Antlerless moose seasons must be re-authorized annually. Desirable post-hunt population size is 300-350. A survey completed during January 2008 indicated a population of 180 moose with 11 percent calves. Antlerless hunts have not been held during recent years because of continued poor calf survival and population level below the management objective. However, if the population increases to the desired level, antlerless hunts may be needed to hold the population at objective levels.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? If the moose population in Unit 6(B) increases and a season is possible, antlerless hunts will provide additional hunting opportunity.

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

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

LOG NUMBER: ADFG113010X

PROPOSAL 126 - 5 AAC 085.045.(4) Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in Unit 6C.

Seasons and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(4)		
...		
Unit 6C	Sept. 1-Oct. 31 (General hunt only)	No open season.
1 moose by drawing permit only; up to 40 permits for bulls and up to 20 permits for antlerless moose may be issued		

...

ISSUE: Antlerless moose seasons must be re-authorized annually. The population objective is 400 moose. A census completed during January 2009 yielded an estimate of 360 moose, 19 percent of which were calves. Because the available antlerless harvest quota in Unit 6(C) is currently harvested under a federal subsistence season administered by the U. S. Forest Service, we have not held the antlerless hunt since the 1999-2000 season. We recommend re-authorizing the state antlerless hunt in the event that the federal subsistence hunt is cancelled. If recruitment improves, continuation of the antlerless hunts will be necessary to hold the population at objective levels.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Hunting opportunity will be lost, and the population may exceed the objective, which is based on the availability of adequate habitat during severe winters.

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

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

LOG NUMBER: ADFG113010Y

PROPOSAL 127 - 5 AAC 85.075. Hunting season and bag limits for deleterious exotic wildlife; and 85.065. Season and bag limits for small game. Establish a bag limit for pheasant and modify the bag limit for grouse and ptarmigan in Unit 6.

15 grouse per day 30 in possession,
10 pheasant per day 20 in possession,
10 ptarmigan per day ten in possession

ISSUE: It's not really a problem, just a simple idea. There are several islands down in the Prince William Sound that are full of lush green vegetation and every year thousands of hunters go to those islands to kick back and spend money in your cabins hunting on state land. So why not make those hunts a little more interesting and plant game birds in select areas. Like Montague Island for instance: it has suitable weather for grouse, ptarmigan, pheasants etc. Planting these birds would help raise interest in these places and would also be beneficial for Deer because they would help agent dispersal of certain shrubs and small berry plants that deer could feed on in the cold winter

months. Grouse would also help a small portion of the grizzly population by providing a separate food source for them and cubs.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Nothing, but without a doubt it would help in plenty of small things, would be extremely easy to do and enough little things can make a huge impact and wild game populations and state cabin revenue.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Introducing more popular game birds would help to sustain deer and bear populations and would bring in more hunters.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Residents, nonresidents, big game hunters, bird hunters, wildlife conservationist and bird farmers.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? People allergic to grouse?

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: PROPOSED BY: The Stephen Forman and Family

LOG NUMBER: EG09251077

Anchorage Area - Unit 14C

PROPOSAL 128- 5 AAC 84.027. Furbearer Trapping. Close wolverine trapping in Units 6 and 14C.

The Board of Game should close trapping of wolverine in that part of Unit 14C where wolverine trapping is currently authorized by regulation, and should close that part of Unit 6 on the west side of Wells Passage north of Blackstone Bay to wolverine trapping. To accomplish this 5AAC 84.270(14) should be amended to include a provision closing that part of Unit 6 on the west side of Wells Passage and north of Blackstone Bay to wolverine trapping.

ISSUE: Trapping wolverine in Chugach State Park was closed by the board's action in 2009, but trapping in the remainder of Unit 14(C) and in that portion of Unit 6 adjoining Unit 14C was not closed. The two area biologists in 2009 provided substantial evidence to the board that recent increased trapping of wolverine in this area of the state was unsustainable, and that closing Chugach State Park to wolverine trapping would not be sufficient to maintain a healthy population in this part of the state.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Wolverine numbers in this part of the state may fall so low as to almost eliminate them from this part of the state, to the detriment of the species, wildlife viewers, nature lovers, and the ecosystem.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Survival of a healthy population of wolverine in this part of the state is the issue.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Alaskans who care about the survival of a healthy population of wolverine in this part of the state.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Trappers who wish to continue trapping wolverine in the vicinity of Girdwood, Portage, and Whittier.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: A reduced bag limit and a shortened season were also considered. They were rejected because the geographic area covered by the proposal is small and trappers wishing to target wolverine can go elsewhere in Unit 6, and either south to the Kenai Peninsula or north to Units 14(A) and (B)

PROPOSED BY: Kneeland Taylor

LOG NUMBER: EG110510195

PROPOSAL 129 - 5AAC 92.550 (3). Areas closed to trapping. Change trapping regulations to reflect alignment of Fort Richardson Army Installation and Elmendorf Air Force Base into Joint

Base Elmendorf-Richardson (JBER). Provide the additional opportunity for marten, otters and fox to be trapped on JBER lands.

5 Unit 14C (Anchorage Area):

.....

(F) the **Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (JBER)** Management Area, [FORT RICHARDSON] except for beaver, muskrat, mink, weasel, **marten, otter, fox,** and coyote [ON FORT RICHARDSON, AND EXCEPT FOR BEAVER AND COYOTE ON ELMENDORF AIR FORCE BASE] **in areas designated by the Commander;**

.....

ISSUE: As of 1 October 2010, Elmendorf Air Force Base (EAFB) and Fort Richardson Army Installation joined to become Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (JBER). Previously, Fort Richardson was a special management area, while EAFB was located within the Remainder of 14C. Incorporating EAFB into the Fort Richardson Management Area and renaming the area to reflect the current status of the joint base realignment will streamline administration of trapping opportunity on military lands. Since no biological concern exists for marten, otter, and fox within Unit 14(C), these species have been added to the list of species open to trapping.

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

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Trapping will be within old military base boundaries that no longer exist, and the species available to trapping will not be aligned across the JBER boundary, making identification of open trapping areas and species difficult.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Trappers

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Leaving the management area to not include EAFB. Not open marten, otter, and fox to trapping on JBER property.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (JBER)

LOG NUMBER: ADFG113010F

PROPOSAL 130 - 5 AAC 85.015. Hunting seasons and bag limits for black bear. Increase the bag limit for black bear in Unit 14C.

Raising the bag limit in sub-unit 14C to three bears per year. While this has been done in other Units with no great increase in bear harvest, it does allow greater opportunity. Most hunters will only take one bear a year at most. This will allow that rare hunter who by luck and skill get the chance to take a real nice bear even though they may have already harvested a bear that year.

ISSUE: Black bear bag limits that undermine utilization of the resource, where a harvestable surplus is not being fully utilized.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? A continued waste of under harvest.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. It allows a person to harvest a bear in the Unit even if they have taken one in another Unit. Often this will be a trophy bear which the hunter will talk about and enjoy the rest of their life.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Those with that rare opportunity and those who may need to harvest a bear to augment their food need with the take of an additional bear.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those who wish to have bear habituated to allow easy viewing. Those who oppose bear hunting or hunting in general.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: Regional bag limits. We did not reject them but felt giving the BOG more options was a prudent move.

PROPOSED BY: Anchorage Advisory Committee

LOG NUMBER: EG110410178

PROPOSAL 131 - 5 AAC 85.015. Hunting seasons and bag limits for black bear. Increase the bag limit for black bear in Unit 14C.

Unit 14C "Remainder": Three bears; no closed season.

ISSUE: Increase Unit 14C "Remainder" black bear bag limit from one to three.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Hunters in this area will miss out on harvest opportunity in an area that has plenty of animals to support an increase.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, it offers increase opportunity to the hunters that get back into the predominantly remote and hard to access area

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? This proposal is likely to help both moose and sheep hunters by helping to reduce the number of predators in that area as well as provide more opportunity for bear hunters.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: None.

PROPOSED BY: Jonathan Freeman

LOG NUMBER: EG102910134

PROPOSAL 132 - 5 AAC 85.015. Hunting seasons and bag limits for black bear; and 85.020. Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear. Increase the amount available for black and brown bear harvest in Unit 14C.

The Board of Game should raise the amount available for harvest in every part of the Anchorage bowl to include all Chugach State Park land and the military land by at least 100 bears instructing the Department of Fish and Game to liberalize the methods and means to whatever is needed to complete the job. This will have a double effect of reducing bear numbers and teaching those bears which remain to return to their natural state of fearing man. This proposal is intended for both bear species.

ISSUE: Public safety issues with bears and bear/human interaction leading to destruction of property, injury or death. Many bear have lost their fear of humans, which has always proved to be disastrous.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? More injuries, property destruction, bear attacks which will culminate in the inevitable loss of life. Even though the board and department have attempted to curb the problem by garbage laws they have proved ineffective. Bear / human interaction has been on the rise and the recent genetic studies have found we have far more bears than previously thought in the bowl area.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. It will provide an educated bear population in the fact that they will have a healthy fear of man, which will result in longer life as they learn to avoid contact with man.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Bear hunters for opportunity, the public in general has life around bears which fear humans will be safer for both.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Bear viewers who wish habituated bears which tolerate closer human contact. Those opposed to hunting in general.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: The board, the department and the Advisory committee have tried a slow measured approach only to have bear problems continue, the time has come to take stronger measures to insure the safety of the public.

PROPOSED BY: Anchorage Advisory Committee

LOG NUMBER: EG110910199

PROPOSAL 133 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep. Modify the Dall sheep hunt in Unit 14C.

No harvest of ewe. Bag limit would be full curl ram only. All permit hunts would be reduced by 1/3. All sheep permit drawings with fewer than 10 available permits (by permit number, not in aggregate) would be residents only with the sole exception of the "Governor's Tag" in order to give that tag more value.

ISSUE: The drastic decline of sheep in 14C

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Continued decline in sheep numbers.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. In a declining population there is no need to take any females where human consumption is not the priority. This area is mostly the park, which in its legislative intent in part was meant to keep a place where urban Alaska resident hunters were always able to go. Since that is part of the park's legislative intent, it should be reflected by the Board of Game in setting the availability of permits to nonresidents.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Sheep and resident sheep hunters, those who wish to see the park Dall sheep numbers return to a higher level. Those who want to view sheep.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? The guides who operate in the Unit. While this is unfortunate, the legislative intent on the record is very pervasive and if we continue to give so many permits to nonresidents then those who argue for no hunting in the park have a stronger argument, sighting the conflict with the intent suggesting that the reason for the allowance is no longer necessary and should be discontinued.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: Closing all nonresident to hunting in Unit 14C, while attractive, this would preclude the incentive to some to help the sheep rebound in the state, as when we have more animals we can give out more permits.

PROPOSED BY: Anchorage Advisory Committee

LOG NUMBER: EG110510186

PROPOSAL 134 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep. Close Unit 14C to nonresident sheep hunting.

Unit 14C closed to nonresidents for sheep hunting; residents only.

ISSUE: Hunting season bag limits for Dall sheep in Unit 14C; make all of Unit 14C a resident only hunt, except for the Governor's tag.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Alaska residents will continue to lose out on this highly prized tag to nonresident hunters. This amounted to a total of 17 tags going to nonresidents in 2010. As it is now, with the no more than 10 percent rule begin applied to all the hunts in the Unit 14C area, that percentage runs from 11 percent to 33 percent of available tags going to nonresidents, except for the two archery hunts where it's 5.6 percent for nonresidents.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. This proposal not only addresses improving the chances / odds of Alaskan sheep hunters who applied for the 186 tags for the 2010 season, but should lead to more mature rams surviving due to the success rate of the guided hunters over non-guided hunters, which could/should lead to more tags being available/opportunities for resident hunters in future years.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The 5,549 Alaskans who applied for the 2010 season. This hunt area is one of only a few in the state that the average Alaskan can afford, and have access to one of the most prized trophies in Alaska. It is within the road system, making it accessible and affordable to all Alaskans, including father/sons or daughters who hunt together. In 2010, 17 of those tags went to nonresidents with the current “no more than 10 percent” rule in place. Most of Unit 14C falls within the boundary of Chugach State Park lands.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? The Department of Fish and Game would lose the five dollar per permit fee. There was 608 out of state applications for Unit 14C this year (2010). Nonresidents would have to direct their attention to the other limited entry areas in the state, which for the most part they are doing in addition to their Unit 14C hunt application. The guides could suffer, having said that, the guides have access to more remote areas in the state in which to take their clients sheep hunting.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: None. This is State Park lands and we believe the hunting opportunities should be set aside for the residents of Alaska when the demand by far exceeds the available resource.

PROPOSED BY: Anchorage Advisory Committee

LOG NUMBER: EG110910201

PROPOSAL 135 - 5 AAC . 85.040. Hunting seasons and bag limits for goat. Open a registration goat hunt in Unit 14C.

Offer a registration goat hunt for Unit 14C, perhaps a limited quota; first-come first-serve permit similar to the Ship Creek (RM435) for moose. Proposed new regulation: One goat by permit available in person in Anchorage beginning October 28 for RG852-858; open season to be November 1-30.

ISSUE: Not enough opportunities for serious hunters to pursue goats without involving exorbitant transportation costs and/or difficult access to the resource.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Continued extremely limited opportunities for serious hunters.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Not sure, possibly help maintain a healthy goat population by ensuring that the carrying capacity of the Unit is not exceeded.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Those hunters that are serious. I am aware of a lot of people that apply for goats and either have no intention of hunting or are not physically able to. I've drawn goat tags in the past and contacted the other successful tag holders to find out most of them won't hunt.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: None.

PROPOSED BY: David Mirka

LOG NUMBER: EG102010102

PROPOSAL 136 - 5 AAC 85.040. Hunting seasons and bag limits for goat. Open a separate goat registration hunt for nonresidents in Unit 14C.

I propose having a separate registration hunt for nonresidents, to coincide with the resident season of September 1 to October 15, starting with an eight goat, males only, bag limit. They would have 48 hours to report a kill by phone. Their permits would only be good for seven days, but an unused permit could be turned in for another seven day permit if the harvest quota hasn't been reached. The harvest quota could go up in coming years if the resident take stays low and/or a goat survey leads to an increased total harvest limit. With eight goats going to nonresidents, this would leave a harvest of up to 15 goats for residents, more than they have harvested in any of the past 20 years with an open registration hunt. During the last 10 years of an open registration hunt, nonresidents took 57 percent of the goats. An eight goat limit would be 35 percent of the harvest goal. In 2010 residents had a 46 day season and only took 10 goats.

ISSUE: There is an under harvest of mountain goats in Lake George hunt area, DG 869. Even with a registration hunt for residents and a limited draw for nonresidents, there was a very low harvest again this year. We still ended up with a registration hunt in November because of under harvest.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Mountain goats will continue to be under harvested and nonresidents will have very limited access to them. A November registration hunt

held because the harvest quota hasn't been met, means the male goats will be harvested during the rut, when the meat is inedible.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? This would hopefully meet the harvest quota (presently 21 to 23 goat units) when the meat is edible, before the November rut. In 2009 the Board of Game had stated that this was their goal.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Nonresidents could book a hunt with a guide or hunt with family without having to draw a permit. The money paid in tag, license and guide fees helps the Department of Fish & Game do their surveys and manage the resources and boosts the local economy.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one would suffer. Residents had a registration hunt from September 1 to October 15 in 2010, and only took 10 goats. Residents will still have the same long season.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: I considered going back to a single registration hunt for everyone but wanted to make sure residents had continued good access to this resource.

PROPOSED BY: Dan Montgomery

LOG NUMBER: EG110410169

PROPOSAL 137 - 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Change the harvest objective for moose in Unit 14C.

The harvest objective for the Anchorage Bowl would be increased from around 110 to at least 210 in order to begin to decrease the number of moose and thus the number of moose automobile accidents.

ISSUE: Public safety, too many moose in Anchorage, Eagle River and the Girdwood area.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? There are too many traffic accidents which result in property damage, human injury, and death involving too many moose in the Anchorage Bowl. This problem will only get worse as the 20/20 community plan continues and there is less winter range every year. The current harvest objective for Unit 14C will not start reducing the moose herd size, but is meant only to keep the status quo, so the problem will continue to get worse.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, it is impossible to bank these animals for a later date so the harvest will be used to feed Alaskans. We have left the distribution of the harvest to the area biologist (AB), expecting the Department of Fish and Game to spread the harvest over all of the bowl in order to reduce the herd size. The AB is free to create new hunts with the support of this

Advisory Committee. The city and the military lands have wide as the department can. The city has pledged cooperation in this regard and the military has always cooperated. We expect this to be done with the use of many more cow permits and so opportunity for any bull hunts. Some hunts should be designed to coincide with the rut, with the intention of disrupting breeding and a study to gauge the effect.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All who take part as these hunts should be designed to have a high success rate. The moose who will survive to be a stronger herd with better winter graze. The people who will have safer streets to drive. The children who will not get stomped by moose while waiting at the bus stop because the Anchorage bowl moose will once again fear humans and try to stay away. The gardener who won't find a cow and calf have taken up residency in their yard. Moose are supposed to fear human that is a natural reaction, the moose that dumpster dive and reside in people's front yards are not natural events.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? People who believe that they should see moose in their yard every day. People who are opposed to hunting and human consumption of wildlife.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: This Advisory Committee has put forward many proposals through the years to reduce the over population of moose in the bowl only to find the Board of Game and the department unable to come up with any solution or to agree to those we provided. We are hoping by raising the harvest objective and the board requiring the department to do what they are paid to do, which is to manage game, not people. While giving the latitude they need to create hunting opportunity. Some progress will at least be made.

PROPOSED BY: Anchorage Fish and Game Advisory Committee

LOG NUMBER: EG110910200

PROPOSAL 138 - 5AAC 85.045 (12). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose, and 5AAC 92.530. Management areas. Realign moose hunting on Elmendorf Air Force Base and Fort Richardson Army Installation into the Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (JBER) Management Area, reauthorize the existing antlerless hunt, create a management area for Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (JBER), and update other references to the military reservation.

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(12)		
...		
Unit 14(C), <u>Joint Base</u>	Day after Labor Day	Day after

Elmendorf-Richardson
(JBER) [FORT
RICHARDSON]
Management Area

—Mar 31
(General hunt only)

Labor Day
—Mar 31

1 moose by regulatory year by drawing permit, and by muzzleloading blackpowder rifle or bow and arrow only; up to **185** [160] permits may be issued

[UNIT 14(C), ELMENDORF
AIR FORCE BASE]

[DAY AFTER
LABOR DAY
-MAR 31

[DAY AFTER
LABOR DAY
-MAR 31]

[1 MOOSE BY DRAWING PERMIT,
AND BY BOW AND ARROW ONLY; UP
TO 25 PERMITS MAY BE ISSUED]

(GENERAL HUNT ONLY)]

...

5AAC 92.530 (1). Management areas.

(1) The **Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (JBER)** [FORT RICHARDSON] Management Area:

(A) the area consists of the **Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (JBER)** [FORT RICHARDSON] Military Reservation;

(B) the area is open to the taking of big game by permit only; and small game and fur animals **in areas designated by the Base Commander**; the department will set conditions under 5AAC 92.050;

.....

(3) the Anchorage Management Area:

(A) the area consists of all Cook Inlet drainages south of the **Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (JBER)** [ELMENDORF AND FORT RICHARDSON] military reservation[S] and north of and including Rainbow Creek, but excluding the Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge;

...

(11) the Birchwood Management Area:

(A) the area consists of all land bounded on the south and west by Eagle River and the **Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (JBER)** [FORT RICHARDSON] Military Reservation, on the east by the old Glen Highway, and on the north by Peters Creek;

ISSUE: As of 1 October 2010, Elmendorf Air Force Base (EAFB) and Fort Richardson Army Installation joined to become Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (JBER). Previously, Fort Richardson was a special management area, while EAFB was located within the Remainder of 14C. Incorporating EAFB into the Fort Richardson Management Area and renaming the area to reflect the current status of the joint base realignment will streamline administration of hunting opportunity on military lands. This proposal combines both areas into the JBER Management Area, combines the potential moose permits available to 185, reauthorizes the antlerless hunt and updates other references to the military reservation.

Antlerless moose seasons must be re-authorized annually. A late November 2008 aerial census on Fort Richardson, Elmendorf Air Force Base (currently Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson) and upper Ship Creek yielded a population estimate of 474 moose with a bull:cow ratio of 48 bulls per 100 cows and a calf:cow ratio of 15 calves per 100 cows. At that time the population was slightly below the population objective of 500 moose; however, this population has a history of rapid increase following mild winters. Historically, moose on Elmendorf Air Force Base were part of a resident wintering population that also occupied Fort Richardson. During September, up to 100-150 of these moose frequented lands managed by Elmendorf. A majority of these animals moved to Fort Richardson during late fall and winter, many into areas where hunting is not allowed.

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

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Confusion by having hunts within boundaries of military reservations that no longer exist.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Moose hunters and wildlife managers.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Status quo.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game and JBER

LOG NUMBER: ADFG113010G

PROPOSAL 139 - 5AAC 85.045(12). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.

Create a bow only, drawing permit hunt for any bull moose in Edmonds Lake and Mirror Lake Parks (one hunt area) and maintain the ability to create an additional bow only, drawing permit hunt for the rest of the Remainder of Unit 14C.

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

(12)

...

Remainder of Unit 14(C)

1 moose per regulatory year,
only as follows:

1 bull with spike-fork antlers or 50-inch antlers or antlers with 3 or more brow tines on one side; or	Day after Labor Day -Sept. 30 (General hunt only)	Day after Labor Day -Sept. 30
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1 antlerless moose by season drawing permit only; up to 60 permits may be issued, or	Day after Labor Day -Sept. 30 (General hunt only)	No open
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1 bull by drawing permit only; by bow and arrow only; up to 10 permits may be issued

Oct. 20-Nov 15

No open season

ISSUE: Moose harvest within GMU 14C occurs primarily within Chugach State Park, Chugach National Forest and other state lands. The predominance of private property, including large parcels owned by the Alaska Railroad and Eklutna Inc., restrict hunting opportunity within certain areas of GMU 14C. Many of these areas, such as the Anchorage Bowl and the Eagle River/Chugiak area are characterized by moose-human conflicts and moose-vehicle collisions are frequent. Allowing for limited harvest of moose in municipal parks would provide additional hunting opportunity and may help reduce moose conflicts and collisions.

We recommend initially opening the combined area of Mirror Lake and Edmonds Lake parks for a limited archery only drawing permit hunt. We anticipate initially issuing two permits in 2012 for this area. Our intent would be to create an additional archery only, drawing permit hunt for the rest of the Remainder of 14C to accommodate up to 8 additional permits, depending on bull-cow ratios for the area. To reduce potential conflicts with other user groups of municipal park lands, we would regulate the Edmonds/Mirror Lakes hunt with the following hunt conditions:

- Permit winners would be required to pass a mandatory proficiency exam and attend a hunter orientation class. In addition, permit winners must possess IBEP or equivalent certification and Hunter Education certification.
- Hunting would occur only during hours when the parks were open and only Monday through Friday, to avoid weekends when other users may be more prevalent.
- Construction of permanent tree stands or hunting platforms will be prohibited.

- Buffers would be established around Anchorage School District Property, Mirror Lake picnic grounds, private in holdings, and Mirror lake trails where hunting would be prohibited.
- The entire moose carcass, including guts, must be removed immediately.
- Kill location must be marked with GPS and reported to ADF&G and Chugiak/Eagle River Parks and Recreation staff immediately. Kill site may be inspected by ADF&G or Parks staff to ensure carcass removal.

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

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? An additional opportunity to harvest moose to help reduce moose-vehicle collisions and moose-human conflicts will be lost.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Moose hunters. People who live in or drive through the area who would benefit from decreased moose conflicts and vehicle collisions.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? People opposed to moose hunting or hunting in municipal parks.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Archery-only drawing permit hunt for bull moose in Beach Lake Park

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

LOG NUMBER: ADFG113010I

PROPOSAL 140 - 5 AAC 85.056. Hunting seasons and bag limits for wolf. Open a year-round season for wolf hunting and increase bag limit in all of Unit 14C.

Open season up in all of Unit 14C to wolves with no closed season and a bag limit of two per day.

ISSUE: The disturbing number of wolf/human interaction occurring in subunit 14C.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? A human will end up being attacked and possibly killed. If the events of the last few years have not taught us anything else, we know habituated wolves eventually think of humans as food.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. It will teach these urban packs to avoid people again by allowing some take, but not the wholesale destruction by keeping the limit down.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? People with small children who wait at school bus stops; people who walk their dogs in the parks and trails.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those who believe that we should not hunt wolves and should allow them to move freely among us.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: Decimation of all wolves in Unit 14C.

PROPOSED BY: Anchorage Fish and Game Advisory Committee

LOG NUMBER: EG110510193

PROPOSAL 141 - 5 AAC 85.045(12). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.
 Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in the Anchorage Management Area in Unit 14C.

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(12)		
...		
Unit 14C, that portion known as the Anchorage Management Area	Day after Labor Day -Nov. 30 (General hunt only)	No open season
1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only, and by bow and arrow, shotgun, or muzzleloader only; up to 50 permits may be issued		
...		

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. One hundred sixty-one moose (41 bulls, 90 cows, 30 calves) were counted in fall 2001 and 117 moose (21 bulls, 79 cows, 17 calves) were counted in fall 2003. Most of these moose move into the metropolitan area during December or January, where high densities of moose cause severe overbrowsing in some areas, and lead to increased incidences of collisions with motor vehicles and adverse conflicts with humans.

Eight antlerless permits were issued for the upper Campbell Creek and McHugh Creek drainages in 2008 and 10 antlerless permits were issued in 2009 and 2010. Hunters took 5 cows in 2008 and

2009.

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.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. Moose populations that are not stressed by winter food shortages are healthier and more productive.

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

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

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None. This hunt has been successful in creating additional moose hunting opportunity in the state’s most heavily populated area with little or no controversy. It may also ameliorate overbrowsing the limited winter range and reduce vehicle collisions and conflicts with residents in nearby urban areas.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

LOG NUMBER: ADFG113010CC

PROPOSAL 142 - 5 AAC 085.045(12). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.

Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in the Birchwood Management Area and the remainder of Unit 14C.

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(12)		
...		
Unit 14(C), that portion known as the Birchwood Management Area	Day after Labor Day -Sept. 30 (General hunt only)	Day after Labor Day -Sept. 30
1 moose by drawing permit, by bow and arrow only; up to 25 permits may be issued		

...

Remainder of Unit 14(C)

1 moose per regulatory year,
only as follows:

1 bull with spike-fork antlers or 50-inch antlers or antlers with 3 or more brow tines on one side; or	Day after Labor Day -Sept. 30 (General hunt only)	Day after Labor Day -Sept. 30
1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only; up to 60 permits may be issued	Day after Labor Day -Sept. 30 (General hunt only)	No open season

...

ISSUE: Antlerless moose seasons must be re-authorized annually. Composition counts are not 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. Ten bull and 5 antlerless permits were issued in 2007 and 5 bull permits in 2008, 2009, and 2010. Archers took 1 bull in 2007, 2 bulls in 2009, and 1 bull in 2010. Very little public land exists in this management area and most of it is city parkland closed to discharge of weapons. Large parcels of land owned by Eklutna Native Corporation could not be hunted by permittees because no access permits were issued, and this land is quickly turning into subdivisions. Despite the warning in the permit supplement that cautions hunters about the private property and low success rates, hunters are increasingly frustrated when they obtain one of these permits and cannot find a place to hunt. The one large block of public land remaining in this hunt area is Beach Lake Park, where discharge of firearms and bows is not allowed by city park ordinance. A management plan for this park is currently underway, and the department hopes to gain permission to allow hunting in the park.

Composition counts are seldom flown in the remainder of Unit 14(C) due to lack of funding. One hundred thirty-nine cows were counted during the fall 2001 trend counts in Knik/Hunter and Peters Creek count areas. The moose populations in these areas appeared to be at or above carrying capacity; however, to manage the moose population conservatively, lacking recent trend data, the number of antlerless permits was reduced from 20 to 10 in 2007, and then to 5 permits in 2010. Hunters in Knik/Hunter took 2 cows and 1 antlerless bull in 2007, 1 cow in 2008, 1 cow in 2009, and 1 cow in 2010. Permittees in Peters Creek took no cow moose in 2007, 2008, 2009, and 1 cow in 2010.

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

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS

PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. Moose populations that are not stressed by winter food shortages are healthier and more productive.

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

LOG NUMBER: ADFG113010DD

PROPOSAL 143 - 5AAC 85.045(12). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.

Reauthorize the antlerless portion of the any-moose drawing permit in the upper Ship Creek drainage in Unit 14C.

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(12)		
...		
Unit 14(C), that portion of the Ship Creek drainage upstream of the <u>Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (JBER)</u> [FORT RICHARDSON] Management Area		
1 moose by drawing permit only; up to 50 permits may be issued; or	Day after Labor Day --Sept. 30 (General hunt only)	Day after Labor Day --Sept. 30
1 bull by registration permit only	Oct. 1—Nov. 30 (General hunt only)	Oct. 1—Nov. 30
...		

ISSUE: Moose use the upper Ship Creek drainage throughout the year. However, the highest

density appears to be in fall and early winter when rutting and post-rut concentrations occur. In most years, accumulated snow packs force most of the moose out of the upper Ship Creek drainage in December. The moose move to lower-elevation wintering areas on Fort Richardson, Elmendorf AFB, and other portions of the Anchorage Bowl. A late November 2008 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 48 bulls per 100 cows and a calf:cow ratio of 15 calves per 100 cows. Fifty either-sex drawing permits were issued for upper Ship Creek drainage in 2008, and 2009, and 40 permits were issued in 2010. Hunters took 6 bulls and 4 cows in 2008, and 10 bulls and 5 cows in 2009, and 8 bulls and 1 cow in 2010 (preliminary). An additional 11 and 7 bulls were taken in an any-bull registration hunt after the drawing hunts in 2008 and 2009, respectively.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. Moose populations that are not stressed by winter food shortages are healthier and more productive. An either-sex drawing moose hunt should allow greater harvests in an area with limited access.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Moose will continue to be under-harvested, with concomitant problems in nearby urban areas and occasional large die-offs during severe winters.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Moose hunters.

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

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None. A late-season registration hunt for any bull was held in 2007, 2008, and 2009 to harvest additional moose from upper Ship Creek drainage.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

LOG NUMBER: ADFG113010EE

PROPOSAL 144 - 5 AAC 085.045(12). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.

Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in the Twentymile/Portage/Placer hunt area in Units 7 and 14C.

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
<p>(5)</p> <p>...</p> <p>Unit 7, the Placer River drainages, and that portion of the Placer Creek</p>		

(Bear Valley) drainage
outside the Portage
Glacier Closed Area, and
that portion of Unit 14(C)
within the Twentymile
River drainage

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 moose by drawing permit only; up to 60 permits for bulls will be issued in combination with nonresident hunts, and up to 70 permits for antlerless moose will be issued	Aug. 20—Oct. 10 (General hunt only)
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NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull by drawing permit only; up to 60 permits for bulls will be issued in combination with resident hunts	Aug. 20—Oct. 10
--	-----------------

...

ISSUE: Antlerless moose seasons must be re-authorized annually. A mid-November 2008 aerial composition count of moose in the Twentymile, Portage, and Placer river drainages found 191 moose with a bull:cow ratio of 33 bulls per 100 cows and a calf:cow ratio of 25 calves per 100 cows. This is the second-highest composition count for this hunt area, and this population has a history of rapid increase following mild winters; consequently, antlerless permits were issued for the first time since 2004. Thirty antlerless permits were issued for 2009 and 2010, and the number of bull permits were increased from 20 to 40. Harvests for 2008, 2009, and 2010 were 13 bulls, 25 bulls and 17 cows, and 14 bulls and 11 cows, respectively.

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.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. Moose populations that are not stressed by winter food shortages are healthier and more productive.

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

LOG NUMBER: ADFG113010AA

Kodiak Area – Unit 8

PROPOSAL 145 - 5 AAC 85.030(6). Hunting seasons and bag limits for deer. Lengthen the archery and muzzleloader season for deer in Unit 8:

Kodiak Island "Road System"

One deer by bow and arrow or muzzleloader only.

November 1-December 31 for hunters 18 and under.

[NOVEMBER 1 - NOVEMBER14]

ISSUE: The amount of time that school kids have to hunt for deer. Between weather, school and "committed" school activities, the kids have very little opportunity to hunt. Especially for the smaller kids, the early part of the hunting season is especially difficult when the vegetation is taller than they are. After all opportunity to hunt on the "road system" closes on November 14, it is nearly impossible without extreme expense and time commitment to do any hunting with the kids.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The opportunity to hunt with our children and expose them to the hunting and outdoors will continue to be lost for the majority of the season.

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The young school kids/

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: Allow the kids to use any means to hunt. I rejected that option figuring that the Board of Game or the Department of Fish and Game would not support the kids using modern rifles during the late season. I do think that would be best though.

PROPOSED BY: Bruce Schactler

LOG NUMBER: EG101510100

PROPOSAL 146 - 5 AAC 85.035 Hunting seasons and bag limits for elk; and 92.130. Restrictions to bag limit. Modify the bag limit for elk in Unit 8.

Clarify the regulation on Unit 8 elk bag limit as follows: Any elk wounded and not recovered in Unit 8 is considered "taken" by the hunter. The hunter must validate his/her permit and will not be eligible for another elk during that regulatory year. Wounded is defined as any blood or sign of being hit by a hunting projectile.

ISSUE: A clean kill is the goal of a skillful hunter. When an animal is wounded, the code of ethics mandates that, THAT animal is now the focus of the hunt. The persistence of the responsible hunter in recovering a wounded animal is the hallmark of a quality sportsman, and Afognak/Raspberry elk hunts are the only place in Alaska where hunters can pursue Roosevelt elk. We feel that if an elk is wounded it should be considered the same as an elk that is killed (filling the bag limit of the hunter).

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Continued unaccounted harvest and herd shooting of elk in Unit 8.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? An undetermined amount of wounding loss occurs with elk in Unit 8. The proposed change will also improve the quality of hunter and the hunting experience for Kodiak elk. It would also increase the number of elk available for other hunters.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? People who respect the sport of hunting and the elk they pursue.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Hunters who wish to continue to hunt after wounding an elk.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: Including all big game animals in this proposal instead of just elk. This was rejected because we wanted to start with bear hunting, move to elk hunting and possibly expand it to other big game later.

PROPOSED BY: Andy Christofferson

LOG NUMBER: EG102710118

PROPOSAL 147 - 5 AAC 85.035. Hunting seasons and bag limits for elk. Open an archery season for elk in Unit 8.

Archery only elk hunt, September 1- September 30; Raspberry and Afognak Islands.

ISSUE: Elk population decline and high mortality from wounded animals as well as the Department of Fish and Game not using archery as a management tool.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? No user group will benefit from the resource.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Lower success by archers allows herds to build while more hunters are afield.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All hunters, bow and rifle, by sustaining a healthy stable elk herd.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: Decrease tags- not anyone's objective.

PROPOSED BY: Chris Kostelecky

LOG NUMBER: EG111810237

PROPOSAL 148 - 5 AAC 85.040. Hunting seasons and bag limits for goat. Open an archery and muzzleloader season for goats in Unit 8.

One goat by permit available October 4-15 in person as follows:

Permit RG471-474 - Port lions;

RG476 - Old Harbor;

RG478-479 (bow and arrow or muzzleloader only) - Kodiak.

No aircraft access except state maintained airports and saltwater.

ISSUE: The Kodiak road system registration goat hunt (RG478-479) is currently open only to bow hunters. I propose that the Board of Game consider opening this same hunt to all certified primitive weapon hunters (muzzleloaders & bow hunters).

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? This hunt will remain open to only bow hunters.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? RG478-479 has a higher goat population than preferred by the Department of Fish and Game. Allowing muzzleloaders into this registration hunt will slightly increase the harvest and therefore the herd quality but still allow tight control by wildlife managers.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The certified muzzleloaders will benefit as well as all Kodiak retailers that offer products or services for these hunters.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Bow hunters may notice a slight increase in hunting pressure from muzzleloaders.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: Opening this same registration hunt to all hunters was considered and rejected because of potential for over-harvest. Allowing only muzzleloaders and bow hunters will keep the harvest numbers and total number of hunters low, yet increase the ability of the department to properly manage the goat population in RG478-479.

PROPOSED BY: Kerry Felton

LOG NUMBER: EG10041086

Kenai Peninsula Area - Units 7 and 15

PROPOSAL 149 - 5 AAC 84.270. Furbearer trapping. Change the season date for trapping beaver in Units 7 and 15.

Change the season date for beaver trapping in Unit 7 and Unit 15 so that it begins October 10th.

ISSUE: Lack of open water trapping opportunity for beaver.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Trappers will only have the opportunity to trap under ice once the conditions are safe enough to do so. As it stands, there is typically always a small amount of ice at the start of the beaver season which may not yet be thick enough to access via aircraft, snow machine, or on foot. For many this pushes the start of their beaver season even farther back. An earlier opening would provide an earlier start as well as open water trapping opportunities.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, it provides additional trapping opportunities for both an earlier start and for open water trapping. When assessing the pelt quality in other units that allow beaver trapping this early, the quality is just fine.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Trappers that would like an earlier start, as well as those that enjoy open water trapping. Likewise, many trappers use beaver meat as a food source for themselves and/or dogs, while others use it for trapping bait when targeting other species. This would enable those users to have one month of trapping time to stock up on beaver meat before the other seasons open.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Individuals that do not approve of trapping.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: N/A

PROPOSED BY: Kenai Peninsula Trappers Association

LOG NUMBER: EG102910139

PROPOSAL 150- 5 AAC 85.020 Hunting seasons and bag limits for black bear. Increase the annual bag limit for black bear in Units 15 and 7.

The new regulation should allow five black bears to be harvested every regulatory year. Means and methods of harvesting the black bears should be obtained through the same methods as currently allowed. No sows with cubs should be allowed to be harvested.

ISSUE: Current moose populations on the Kenai Peninsula are at an alarmingly low rate. Contributing to this low rate is the black bear population on the Peninsula. Black bears are associated with the demise of many of the newly born moose calves.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? If left in the current state of affairs, the moose population in Units 15 and 7 will continue to decline. The Board of Game needs to increase the yearly harvest limit of black bears from two to five.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? This proposal will aid in improving the overall moose population on the Peninsula. With fewer black bears being in the general population of wildlife, survival rates for moose calves will increase.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Everyone. With a higher moose population, hunters and non-hunters will be able to enjoy viewing and harvesting a healthier population on the peninsula.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? I can think of no one group suffering from this proposal moving to a regulation.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: N/A

PROPOSED BY: Loren Reese

LOG NUMBER: EG10021083

PROPOSAL 151 - 5 AAC 85.015. Hunting seasons and bag limits for black bear. Increase the black bear bag limit in Units 7 and 15.

Increase the black bear bag limit to three per year in Units 7 & 15.

ISSUE: The moose population is low and declining. The harvestable surplus of legal bulls is low and declining. The cow/calf ratio is low and declining. The bull/cow is low and declining. There are no indicators that this declining trend will reverse itself under the current management practices. It is time for intensive management practices and increasing the black bear bag limit is one tool to use. The black bear population is increasing.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The moose population, the harvest of legal bulls, the cow/calf ratio and the bull/cow ratio will continue to decline.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? It will help increase the moose population.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Everyone.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: Increase the black bear bag limit to more than three, have no closed season. These are still options to consider.

PROPOSED BY: Central Peninsula Advisory Committee

LOG NUMBER: EG111210224

PROPOSAL 152 - 5 AAC 85.020. Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear. Increase the number of hunting tags for brown bear in Unit 15.

Allow more tags for hunting brown bear in Unit 15C.

ISSUE: To split up hunt Unit to 15A, B, & C instead of all of Unit 15 for brown bear. There are too many bears in Unit 15C. To be more liberal on permits.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Someone will get hurt. We have been charged at least twice a year for the last five years. Bears now come to calls and thrashing tree's with scapulas. We saw 10 different bears in one creek off of Deep Creek.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Fewer charges, less lost meat.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All cabin owners and moose hunters, the moose. Very low calf to cow ratio. Have been hunting the same spot for 42 years this season. See about 500 sightings; one out of 20 have calves.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? The bears.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED:

PROPOSED BY: William Bunch

LOG NUMBER: EG111510227

PROPOSAL 153 - 5 AAC 85.020. Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear. Modify the harvest objective for brown bear under intensive management in Unit 15C.

The intensive management objective is to harvest 100 or more brown bears in Unit 15C.

ISSUE: The moose population is low and declining in Unit 15C. The harvestable surplus of legal bulls is low and declining in Unit 15C. The cow/calf ratio is low and declining in Unit 15C.

The bull/cow is low and declining in Unit 15C. There are no indicators that this declining trend will reverse itself under the current management practices. The brown bear population is high and the harvest is low. Brown bear predation on moose is high. We need intensive management on brown bears to decrease their predation on moose and decrease the population to a sustainable level to allow high abundance management for moose.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Brown bear predation on moose is very high and will remain so if the population is not decreased to sustainable levels to allow the moose population to increase.

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Everyone.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: None. Only intensive management practices will reduce predation enough to allow the moose population to rebound to levels of high production.

PROPOSED BY: Central Peninsula Advisory Committee

LOG NUMBER: EG111210225

PROPOSAL 154- 5 AAC 85.020. Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear. Establish a registration brown bear hunt in Unit 15.

Institute a registration brown bear hunt and set the quota at 30 brown bears on the Central Peninsula from Homer to the sterling flats encompassing all areas including the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge. Have a spring season where a maximum of 20 bears could get shot from April 15th to May 31st, and then have a fall season from September 1st to October 1st where the remaining quota could be harvested.

The main reason for the fall season being that moose hunters could shoot a brown bear while out moose hunting if they see one. I can honestly estimate there are at least 500 brown bears on the Kenai Peninsula, so if the harvest is set at 30 for the registration hunt, and count the average of 20 DLP's per year into that harvest would mean around 50 brown bear a year would be harvested on the peninsula. That would be around 10 percent of the population per year, and it has been shown that bear harvests under 10 percent of the total population shows no negative effects on the population. It actually has positive effects on the population because it removes the big boars that eat the cubs, and chase the smaller bears and sows with cubs away from the best feeding areas to populated areas where these bears get into trouble. Then make it so that no more than 20 reproductive females can be harvested, and once that harvest is reached then the hunt can be shut down, so that way hunters are encouraged to select the male bears to harvest.

I would suggest the registration hunt, but expanding the drawing hunt could also work. The problem is right now so few permits are awarded that the serious brown bear hunters can't even draw a permit because the odds to draw are so low. The current draw system allows for basically no bears to be harvested. One main fault with why there is no bears harvested under the current draw system is that the best areas like the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge (including the areas of Tustumena Lake, Tustumena Ridge, and Caribou Hills) only 3 permits are awarded. The problem with only 3 permits being awarded, is that it's a well known fact in drawing hunts that half of the people that get permits don't even hunt, and half of the people that do hunt, don't hunt very hard, or don't know anything about the area they're hunting. Leaving only about 25 percent of the drawing permits awarded going to serious hunters that have the best chance of harvesting an animal. Giving only 3 permits for what would be one of the best brown bear areas on the Kenai Peninsula, just doesn't allow for any bears to be harvested. I would suggest giving out at least 50 permits for the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge, which would produce a harvest of 10 to 15 brown bears annually. I'll restate the problem with the drawing hunt and why I prefer the registration hunt; is because the draw odds are low enough, and not enough permits are awarded, so the serious hunters that would stand the best chance of harvesting a brown bear are never allowed too.

ISSUE: The brown bear population on the Kenai Peninsula has increased drastically over the last 10 to 15 years, and the population is now high enough that it is extremely hard on the moose. Cow to calf ratios are horrible for areas like the Caribou Hills and Tustumena Ridge, even along the road system and populated areas cow to calf ratios aren't great. The cow to calf ratio is a little better along the highways and populated areas, but should still be higher in order to support a growing/stable moose population. This last hunting season I spent 13 days hunting the Caribou Hills in the area bordering and on the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge, and I can honestly estimate the cow to calf ratio there is about 8 or 10 cows to one calf. That ratio is unsustainable and eventually the moose will become a threatened species on the Peninsula and no one will be able to hunt them.

With so much concern about the brown bear population, indicated by virtually no/limited hunting seasons over the last 20 years because they're determined a "genetically isolate" population. I want to know why then moose don't receive more attention and concern? They live in the same areas as these same brown bears, and if the brown bears are considered "genetically distinct" on the Kenai Peninsula then the moose should also be considered genetically distinct. This reasoning should lead to more attention and better management practices being applied to ensure moose herd health and good population dynamics.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The brown bears aren't just taking a toll on the calves, but also on the adults. Every year over the last 5 or 6 years I've come across a fresh bear kill (less than 2 to 3 weeks old) on an adult moose while moose hunting. The brown bears and wolves have basically eaten all the moose up on the Tustumena Ridge to where there aren't much moose left there anymore. I fear if the brown bear population is allowed to grow and progress at its current rate the Caribou Hills and Trophy Lake area will become just like the Tustumena Ridge, where it's hard to even find a moose while hunting.

This last moose hunting season (2010) over the course of 13 days I saw ten **different** brown bears, in an area not much bigger than one square mile. The area I saw those bears in, I can say

definitively would not encompass 2 square miles. That ratio is way too high, say even 3 or 4 brown bears per square mile in areas like the Caribou Hills is too much to support a healthy moose population, and it's no wonder why the moose are struggling in many areas on the Kenai Peninsula. Kalgin Island has a denser moose population than area Fish and Game biologists want, and there's lower quality cover, habitat, and browse for the moose than on the mainland Kenai Peninsula, but there are no brown bears or other predators on Kalgin Island. That piece of evidence shows how much of a toll bears and wolves can take on moose populations.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, it improves the brown bear population by removing some of the big boars that eat the cubs and chase the lesser bears away from the best food sources, and cause those bears to get into trouble around people's homes. By having less bears around houses and populated areas, less DLP bears will get shot, less bears will get shot by people who don't report them, and residents of the peninsula will be more tolerate of bears knowing that there is a brown bear hunt. Not only would it improve brown bear population dynamics and keep bears out of trouble, but it will undoubtedly help out the moose population and allow for the moose population to grow back to better numbers like they were 10 to 15 years ago. With more moose, more residents will be able to harvest meat necessary for getting them through the long Alaskan winters.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All moose hunters on the peninsula, along with potential brown bear hunters that would love to shoot some of the big male brown bears roaming the Kenai Peninsula.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? The only people who might suffer are the bear lovers who want to see only bears, and never care if they see a moose.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: None, because I believe we've come to the point in time that a substantial brown bear hunt is absolutely necessary in order to have both healthy moose and bear populations on the peninsula. If the annual brown bear harvest isn't increased during this board of game cycle, and instead gets pushed off to some other cycle two or four years down the road, it may be too late for the moose on the Kenai Peninsula. The moose herd I believe is at its most unhealthy point it has been in at least the last 60 years, and if something isn't done to help the moose that eventually their numbers will get so low that moose hunting will be made into a drawing hunt or have to be completely shut down for a few years. I will say the moose are still at decent enough numbers that if the right changes are made during this cycle, like increasing the brown bear harvest the moose population should recover back to good/sustainable numbers in a relatively short time. If nothing is done now, the population may reach such dynamics that it could be 20 or 30 years before a healthy population will again be reached.

PROPOSED BY: Brian Blossom

LOG NUMBER: EG10031084

PROPOSAL 155 - 5 AAC 85.060. Hunting seasons and bag limits for fur animals. Change the season and bag limit for coyote in Units 7 and 15.

No closed hunting season or bag limit on coyotes.

ISSUE: The moose population is low and declining in Unit 7 & 15. The harvestable surplus of legal bulls is low and declining in Unit 7 & 15. The cow/calf ratio is low and declining in Unit 7 & 15. The bull/cow is low and declining in Unit 7 & 15. There are no indicators that this declining trend will reverse itself under the current management practices. The coyote population is high and the harvest is low. Coyote predation on new born calves is substantial. The coyote population will remain sustainable.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Predation on new born moose calves will remain high. The moose population will remain low along with a low moose harvest.

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Everyone.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: None.

PROPOSED BY: Central Peninsula Advisory Committee

LOG NUMBER: EG111210223

PROPOSAL 156- 5 AAC 85.040. Hunting seasons and bag limits for goat. Change the registration permit distribution for goats in Unit 15C.

Allow for up to 10 registration permits (5 to Nanwalek and 5 to Port Graham) for nonresident goat hunters for hunt area RG365 for the August 10-September 20 season.

ISSUE: The goat hunt areas RG364 (Seldovia) and RG365 (English Bay) were reassessed for the Amount Necessary for Subsistence (ANS) in 2007. The Board of game decreased the ANS to 7-10 goats which was deemed adequate by the Division of Subsistence. According to local Department of Fish and Game staff, the current sustainable harvest in both areas combined is about 20 goats. The three years (2007-2009) has shown an average harvest in these areas to be nine goats/year. Therefore there is an underutilization of the yearly sustainable harvest.

In order to allow for a greater harvest within sustainable guidelines and ensure the subsistence need is fully met, this proposal would allow for limited registration permits (up to 10) for nonresidents for the English Bay (RG365) area. Almost all of the land in this hunt area is owned by the Nanwalek and Port Graham Native Corps. Nonresident goat permits for this area would be

made available through the Port Graham and Nanwalek Native Corp. office just like the current registration (subsistence) hunt for residents. If the sustainable harvest ever decreased, the department staff could not allow any nonresident goat permits to be issued to ensure that the resident (subsistence) harvest opportunity would be protected.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? There will be a continued loss of hunting opportunity for nonresidents.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? This proposal would ensure subsistence hunting opportunity exists and would not jeopardize sustainable harvest.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The communities of Port Graham and Nanwalek in selling land access permits to nonresident hunters and revenue for the required guide.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Nobody.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: None.

PROPOSED BY: Paul Brand, Alaska Safari Unlimited

LOG NUMBER: EG111510231

PROPOSAL 157- 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Moose. Change the moose antler restriction for Unit 15.

Eliminate the 3 brow tine rule on the Kenai Peninsula. Too many bulls are being harvested in the 30 to 49 inch range with 3 tines and it's reducing the amount of big mature bulls available to successfully breed cows.

Another problem with the rule is that too many bulls are being shot by people claiming they have 3 tines. In other words, people are shooting illegal moose and using the 3 tine rule as an excuse to shoot them. I've been hunting on the Kenai Peninsula now for 14 years and me personally or someone I've been hunting with is yet to harvest a 30 to 49 incher with 3 brow tines. Yet every year I hear groups of hunters claim they shoot 40 inchers with 3 tines, and I'm even hearing groups of hunters claim they shot multiple 40 inchers with three tines in the same year. For me or someone I've been hunting to not shoot a 30 to 49 incher with three tines in 14 years, but for the same groups of hunters to claim every year they shoot a 40 incher with 3 tines I just don't believe it. I flat out have even hardly seen a 30-49 incher with 3 brow tines over those 14 years, and I've seen bulls of all sizes from spike/fork to 65 inches.

The 3 brow tine rule is being abused on the Kenai Peninsula, and because of this it takes away from honest hunters that appreciate the chance to harvest, watch, and pass up on big mature 50 inch plus bulls. Every year it is becoming increasingly apparent that there are less 50 plus inch bulls around on the Kenai Peninsula, and because of less big mature bulls around it is having negative impacts

on the moose population. By taking away the 3 brow tine rule it eliminates the opportunity for people to use the 3 brow tine rule as an excuse to shoot a sub-legal bull and claim it has 3 brow tines. It also eliminates some of the honest 30 to 49 inchers with 3 brow tines that get shot. With the spike/fork harvest taking such a high percentage of yearling bulls, the bulls that do survive need to be able to grow past the 30 to 49 inch range, and become big mature breeding bulls that can successfully breed more cows than a young bull.

ISSUE: The decreasing bull population on the Kenai Peninsula and the effect it is having on the moose population. Too many bulls are getting shot before they are able to reach mature breeding status, and with less big bulls around not as many cows are being bred successfully. With a higher portion of cows not being bred and higher numbers bears on the Kenai Peninsula it is causing the moose population to decrease.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The bull population will continue to decline to the point that moose hunting on the Kenai Peninsula will become a draw hunt, and the moose population will get to a point where future generations won't be able to enjoy moose hunting on the peninsula.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, it improves the moose population by allowing more cows to be bred successfully, and also gives honest hunters more opportunities to take legal moose. By removing the 3 brow tine rule it removes the excuse people have to shoot sub-legal bulls and claim they have 3 brow tines. By reducing the take of these sub-legal bulls it increases the number of 50 inch bulls that can be harvested, and also increases the number of big mature bulls around that can breed more cows. Having enough big bulls around is necessary so the overwhelming majority of cows on the Kenai Peninsula can be bred, which in turn produces more calves and eventually yearling moose for spike/fork meat hunters to harvest.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All honest Kenai Peninsula hunters, because they won't have the dishonest hunters taking away their opportunities to successfully harvest a bull moose. Right now all honest hunters are suffering with every sub-legal bull that gets shot by an unethical hunter.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? All unethical hunters that shoot illegal 30-49 inch bulls.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: Other possible solutions I believe are to have the spike/fork with 3 brow tine season shortened to 15 days. So the season would run from August 20th to September 4th. Then after September 5th only 50 inch plus bulls would be allowed to be harvested. This form of splitting up the size restrictions worked very well in Unit 13 this year, so there is no reason why Unit 15 couldn't adopt this same form of 2 separate size restrictions on bull harvests. Too many young bulls are being harvested and it's preventing bulls to reach mature status to breed more cows successfully, and it's gotten to the point that something must be changed to allow more young bulls to grow up to be big mature bulls.

Another possible solution would be to make the spike/fork harvest an every other year system. For instance on even years spike/fork bulls plus 3 brow tine or 50 inch are allowed to be harvested, whereas on odd years just 3 brow tine and 50 inch bulls are allowed to be harvested.

There is also the possibility of making every hunter who shoots a moose on the Kenai Peninsula to have to seal their horns at a local Fish and Game office which would help to keep hunters honest. If Fish and Game can seal 500 plus black bears then there should be the availability and resources to seal the approximate 300 moose shot on the Kenai Peninsula (this number I believe would actually be much less because the illegal harvest is probably around 1/3 of the moose shot on the peninsula now).

If nothing is done soon to increase the bull population eventually the whole Kenai Peninsula will have to go to a draw hunt and all hunters will suffer. Any of these suggestions I believe would help curtail unethical hunters from taking illegal moose.

PROPOSED BY: Brian Blossom

LOG NUMBER: EG10121098

PROPOSAL 158 - 5 AAC 85.045 Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Extend the moose season in Unit 15.

The moose season could start on August 25 and go until September 25 or possibly September 30.

ISSUE: I would like to see the moose season extended in Unit 15 to September 25, as is already the case in some other Units. I believe this change is warranted, because the climate seems to be warming and the rut seems to be later than in previous decades. Due to warm temperatures, bull moose do not move around as much, making them more difficult to hunt, and additionally, when a moose is harvested there is a greater possibility for the meat to spoil due to warmer temperatures. Extending to the 25th or even the 30th, or possibly making the hunt later both for August and September dates may enhance the possibility of hunter success.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Less moose will be taken. More meat will be spoiled.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? The targeted bulls will be more available to hunters. There will be less chance of meat spoiling before it can be processed.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All moose hunters who use firearms will benefit. Bow hunters could have a longer season.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those whose window of opportunity for hunting is at the end of August.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: I rejected a winter season after the rut because the meat is not as prime

PROPOSED BY: Steve Peterson

LOG NUMBER: EG09261078

PROPOSAL 159- 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Change the antler restrictions in Unit 15.

The new regulation would read 50 inches or 3 brow tines only.

ISSUE: The need to eliminate the spike-fork moose for being legal - 50 inches or 3 brow tines only.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The bull cow ratio is in critical condition and more bulls need to reach maturity.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? This will produce more bulls and increase the resource.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The bull moose population.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? There will be less moose harvested until these bulls reach the approved antler specifications.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: Close the moose season.

PROPOSED BY: Doug Blossom

LOG NUMBER: EG110410157

PROPOSAL 160- 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Change the antler restrictions for moose in Unit 15.

Unit 15: 50 inches or 3 brow tines only.

ISSUE: Close the spike-fork hunting for moose in Unit 15

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? There is a serious problem of not enough bull moose in Unit 15.

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED:

PROPOSED BY: Central Peninsula Advisory Committee

LOG NUMBER: EG110410159

PROPOSAL 161- 5 AAC.92.XXX. Sealing of moose antlers. Require sealing on moose antlers in Unit 15 and 7.

The antlers of a moose harvested in Unit 15 and 7 shall be taken to the Department Fish & Game office in Homer or Soldotna to be sealed and plugged within 10(?) days of the kill, or within 3 days of transporting the moose on the road system.

ISSUE: Because of the lack of enforcement in Units 7 & 15 every year there is an increasing number of illegal bull moose killed because they are able to get away with it. There are no check stations or antler requirements to curtail illegal hunting. The odds are in the illegal hunters favor, because the odds of getting checked by enforcement in the field are slim. Along with high predation this illegal killing is contributing to keeping to low of a bull/cow ratio.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The illegal bull killing will continue and likely increase. The bull/cow ratio will continue to decline.

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All hunters by curtailing the growing number of illegal bull moose kills. The reputation of hunting will be less tarnished.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those unethical hunters who knowingly kill illegal moose.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: This in one solution that will help. Other solutions are more enforcement officers and manned check points like we use to have on roads leading to hunting areas. We need all three solutions to maximize the effort.

PROPOSED BY: Central Peninsula Advisory Committee

LOG NUMBER: EG111210219

PROPOSAL 162- 5 AAC.92.XXX. Check station requirements. Establish check stations for moose hunters in areas of Unit 15.

Check stations shall be set up and manned on Deep Creek Road, False Creek Road, Mystery Creek Road, East End Road, and any other road deemed necessary.

ISSUE: Because of the lack of enforcement and check stations there is an increasing number of illegal bull moose killed that is lowering the bull/cow ratio in Unit 15. We need to get ahead of this problem and have the board, the department and public request appropriate funding from the state to manage our moose for high abundance and finance check stations. This is nothing new; we used to have these check stations.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The illegal bull moose killing will continue and likely increase. The bull/cow ratio will continue to decline.

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All hunters.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those unethical hunters who knowingly kill illegal moose.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: We also need to seal the antlers.

PROPOSED BY: Central Peninsula Advisory Committee

LOG NUMBER: EG111210221

PROPOSAL 163 - 5 AAC 92.108. Identified big game prey populations and objectives. Modify the population and harvest objectives for moose in Unit 15A.

Population	Findings	Population Objective	Harvest Objective
Moose			
...			
GMU 15(A)	Positive	<u>1,950-2,600</u> [3,000-3,500]	<u>150-325</u> [180-350]
...			

ISSUE: Unit 15A encompasses about 1300 mi² of the north western portion of the Kenai Peninsula. Historically, the moose population and harvest in Unit 15A has fluctuated due to habitat induced changes from large wildfires and, more recently, with differences in winter severity. In the last 65 years, there have been two large fires, one in 1947 (over 300,000 acres) and

the other in 1969 (over 73,000 acres), in Unit 15A. Generally, moose densities and harvests peaked 15-20 years after each fire and steadily decreased after these peaks with the continued reduction of the availability and quality of moose browse due to succession.

The current Intensive Management population objective for Unit 15A is 3000-3500 moose. The upper end of this range approximates the point estimate (3430) of a census conducted in February of 1991 (22 years after the 1969 burn). This objective was chosen based on what past population densities were in relation to what the habitat could support when the quality of the post-fire habitat was good. While these objectives were achieved periodically in the past, managers recognize that without another large scale fire, the habitat cannot sustain a moose population at this level.

The most recent population size estimate, conducted in 2008, showed a density of 1.3 moose/mi² (and was likely over 1.5 moose/mi² considering a sightability correction). While this density represents a 50 percent decline in point estimates between 1991 and 2008, it is still a density that would be within the range of most management objectives in south-central Alaska.

Given the growth of the human population, expansion of residences and seasonal cabins, increased infrastructure associated with gas and oil facilities, and proximity to Anchorage, the probability of a large scale fire occurring in Unit 15A is minimal. To illustrate this point, during May 2010, a lightning strike started a fire in an area that was designated limited suppression (let burn). However, given the dry conditions, weather patterns, and the number of fires burning in other portions of the State (lack of support crews and equipment to suppress the fire if needed), the decision was made to extinguish the fire. Without periodic (every 20-30 years) major fires (50,000 acres or more), expecting to maintain a population of 2.5-3.0 moose/mi² is not realistic in Unit 15A. To confirm this, nutritional indices (pregnancy rates and rump fat depth) from captures conducted in 2006-2008 showed that cow moose in Unit 15A were in poor condition relative to those in an adjacent study area in Unit 7, and this is at a density estimate of 1.3-1.5 moose/mi². Since the management objectives were set in 2000, all of the subsequent population estimates have been below the Intensive Management population objective. We believe that a more reasonable management objective would be 1.5-2.0 moose/mi² (or 1950-2600 moose).

The harvest objectives should be adjusted accordingly. We believe that if we manage for a healthy productive population that it would be feasible to harvest the lower objective at 7.5 percent or 150 moose and the higher objective at 12.5 percent or 325 moose.”

In summary, the Department recommends a review of population and harvest objectives for Unit 15A that takes into account long-term changes in habitat quantity and quality for moose, and the potential to have large scale habitat changes in the future.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Managers will be required to achieve population size objectives that would exceed the carrying capacity of the habitat and, without a major fire event, are likely not sustainable over long periods.

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Managers and the public will benefit by having objectives that are obtainable.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No negative effects are anticipated.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Modify the structure of 5AAC 92.108 to incorporate population objectives that play a role in producing an estimate of harvest potential such as the population's sex ratios, cow productivity, nutritional indices, etc.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

LOG NUMBER: ADFG113010B

PROPOSAL 164 - 5 AAC 85.045(13). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Modify the bag limit for general season moose hunts in Unit 15A.

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(13)		
...		
Unit 15(A), that portion east of the Mystery Creek Road and the Pipeline Road, and north of the Sterling High- way		
1 bull with spike [-FORK] antlers or 50-inch antlers or antlers with 3 or more brow times on one side, by bow and arrow only; or	Aug. 10—Aug.17	Aug. 10—Aug.17
1 bull with spike [-FORK] antlers or 50-inch antlers or antlers with 3 or more brow times on one side,	Aug. 20—Sept. 20	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	Oct. 10—Nov. 10 (General hunt only)	Oct. 10—Nov. 10

by drawing permit only;
up to 25 permits may be
issued in combination with
Unit 7, that portion west of
the Resurrection Creek Trail,
north of the Sterling Highway
and outside the Resurrection
Creek Closed Area

Remainder of Unit 15(A)

1 bull with spike [-FORK]
antlers or 50-inch antlers
or antlers with 3 or more brow
times on one side,
by bow and arrow only; or

Aug. 10—Aug.17

Aug. 10—Aug.17

1 bull with spike [-FORK]
antlers or 50-inch antlers
or antlers with 3 or more brow
times on one side

Aug. 20—Sept. 20

Aug. 10—Aug.17

ISSUE: The moose population and harvest in Unit 15A has declined significantly in the past two decades primarily due to a lack of habitat induced changes from large wildfires. There has not been a large fire to improve moose habitat in Unit 15A since 1969. Due to the lack of a recent large scale fire, the moose habitat has declined in quality resulting in a decline of the moose population and harvest. Along with this population decline, there has also been a decline in the bull:cow ratio in several areas in Unit 15A.

Due to the decline in the moose population and a decline in bull:cow ratios, we propose a reduction in the bag limit through the elimination of the fork-antlered bull from the legal bag limit. This will likely reduce the harvest by about 50 percent, but will increase the recruitment of males into the population.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? We will continue to see a low number of bulls recruited into the population.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Unknown at this time, but we believe the quality of the resource will be improved if we see more bulls recruited into the population.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Hunters and viewers who want to see more bull moose.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Hunters who would like to harvest fork-antlered bulls.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Reduce the season date so the Archery season would be August 25-31 and the General season September 1-20

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

LOG NUMBER: ADFG113010C

PROPOSAL 165 - 5 AAC 085.045.(13) Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.
 Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in the Skilak Loop Wildlife Management Area of Unit 15A.

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

...

ISSUE: Antlerless moose seasons must be 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 last counted during December 2005 and yielded a count of 79 moose, the lowest count in over 20 years. The ratios observed were 12 bulls/100 cows and 9 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. The Department recommends maintaining the hunt, but not issuing permits for the fall 2011 season.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The SLWMA is a wintering area for moose. In the past, during moderate to severe winters, this area supported 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.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Since this is a proposal to re-authorize an existing hunt, no resource or product improvements are expected.

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Individuals opposed to hunting.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Habitat treatments to increase moose carrying capacity of the area. During 2010 the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge clear cut 123 acres and burned 17 acres of the clear cut, but additional treatments will be needed to before we can expect a significant increase in moose carrying capacity.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service

LOG NUMBER: ADFG113010FF

PROPOSAL 166 - 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Change the antler restrictions for moose in Unit 15.

No spike fork moose; three brow tines or 50 inches only.

ISSUE: Get rid of spike fork antler restrictions.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? For the last 42 years there are less bigger bulls in Unit 15C.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Try it for four or five years in Unit 15C.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Most meat hunters, but if they were meat hunters 800 pounds is better than 300.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Most hunters that do not get out and really hunt hard and road hunters.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED:

PROPOSED BY: William Bunch

LOG NUMBER: EG102610107

PROPOSAL 167 - 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting season and bag limits for moose. Change the moose season dates in Unit 15C.

The new regulation would replace the current opening period of August 10 to September 10, with **August 25 to September 30.**

ISSUE: We believe the season needs to be moved forward because of the moose not showing during the first part of the open period because it has been so warm during the last two seasons.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? We believe that we will continue to have to request extensions to the season and the four moose permits will not be harvested.

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The four people who receive the Tier II permits in Unit 15C from Nanwalek and Port Graham will benefit along with the village residents they share with.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Since this just changes the opening and closing dates for the hunt we do not think anyone is likely to suffer.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: We considered requesting September 1 to October 15th, but in talking with the Homer Department of Fish and Game biologist this was rejected due to the rutting period.

PROPOSED BY: Patrick Norman; Port Graham Village Council

LOG NUMBER: EG110310151

PROPOSAL 168 - 5 AAC 085.045.(13) Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in a portion of Unit 15C.

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(13)		
...		

Unit 15(C), that portion south of the south fork of the Anchor River and northwest of Kachemak Bay

1 bull with spike-fork antlers or 50-inch antlers or antlers with 3 or more brow tines on one side; or	Aug. 20—Sept. 20 (General Hunt only)	Aug. 20-Sept. 20
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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
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...

ISSUE: Antlerless moose seasons must be re-authorized annually. The Homer benchland in Unit 15(C) often holds high moose densities in winters when deep snow pushes the moose down into human populated areas. Even without deep snow, a high number of moose die due to malnutrition and negative interactions with humans are common as moose become more aggressive in their search for food around human residences.

In the fall of 2005, 441 moose were counted in the permit area and 26 percent were calves. Winters since the last count have been mild and moose numbers remain high. Fifty permits were issued in each of the last 9 years resulting in an average harvest of 22 cows per year. We recommend re-authorization of the antlerless hunt and anticipate issuing 50 permits for the fall 2011 hunt.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Deep snow winters will result in a high number of moose deaths due to malnutrition and continued conflicts between aggressive moose and humans.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? A limited antlerless moose hunt may improve overall browse quality.

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

LOG NUMBER: ADFG113010GG

PROPOSAL 169 - 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Change the antler restrictions, close nonresident hunting, and increase predator permits in Units 7 and 15.

50 inches or 3 brow tines for a legal bull moose;
No spike-fork hunting - with a sunset clause;
A closed moose season for all nonresidents;
Increase predator permits for bears and wolves; and
Enhance moose habitat, prescribed burns, clear cutting, etc..

ISSUE: The current state of the moose population on the Kenai Peninsula. (Low numbers of moose).

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The continued decline of the moose population.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Allows more bull moose to be recruited into the population.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All hunters would benefit in the long term.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? At first people use to harvesting spike-fork bulls. Eventually more quality hunting would prevail.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: None.

PROPOSED BY: Thomas Netschert

LOG NUMBER: EG111510230

PROPOSAL 170 - . Predation Control Areas Implementation Plans. Incorporate controlled burns and crushing program into a management plan for Units 7 and 15.

Incorporate into a management plan, for high moose abundance under intensive management for improved moose habitat, controlled burns and crushing programs.

ISSUE: The moose population is low and declining in Units 7 & 15. The harvestable surplus of legal bulls is low and declining in Units 7 & 15. The cow/calf ratio is low and declining in Units 7 & 15. The bull/cow ratio is low and declining in Units 7 & 15. There are no indicators that this declining trend will reverse itself under the current management practices. We must incorporate intensive management practices. Improved moose habitat practices must be incorporated to manage moose populations to high abundance. State and federal funding needs to be requested.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The moose population will remain low and not be managed for high abundance.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No, but it will improve moose abundance and harvest.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Everyone.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: None.

PROPOSED BY: Central Peninsula Advisory Committee

LOG NUMBER: EG111210217

PROPOSAL 171 - 5 AAC 85.056. Hunting seasons and bag limits for wolf. Change the bag limit for wolves in Units 7 and 15.

Change the bag limit to five wolves for all of Unit 7 and Unit 15 (including the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge lands.)

ISSUE: A confusing regulation concerning the bag limit of wolves when hunting on the Kenai Peninsula.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Hunters will continue to be confronted with unnecessary and confusing regulations. With similar bag limits reporting of kill location will improve.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, it reduces confusion and increases potential opportunity at little cost to the resource.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? People that hunt both on and off the Refuge lands.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Individuals that do not approve of hunting wolves.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: N/A

PROPOSED BY: Kenai Peninsula Trappers Association and the Kenai / Soldotna Advisory Committee

LOG NUMBER: EG102910137

PROPOSAL 172 - 5 AAC. Predation Control Areas Implementation Plans. Allow aerial taking of wolves in Unit 15 under intensive management.

Under intensive management practices aerial wolf hunting shall be allowed in all of Unit 15.

ISSUE: The moose population is low and declining in Unit 15. The harvestable surplus of legal bulls is low and declining. The cow/calf ratio is low and declining. The bull/cow is low and declining. There are no indicators that this declining trend will reverse itself under the current management practices. The wolf population is high and the harvest is low. Current wolf harvest practices are not sufficient to decrease the wolf population. Unit 15 needs intensive management and aerial wolf hunting to decrease the wolf population and manage the moose for high abundance.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The moose population and harvest will remain low. The wolf population and predation on moose will remain high.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No. It will increase the moose population and harvest.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Everyone who relies on moose for food or recreational hunting will benefit from high moose abundance management practices.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one will suffer. The wolf population will be at manageable levels

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: No other solution will accomplish the goal of decreasing the wolf population under intensive management practices.

PROPOSED BY: Central Peninsula Advisory Committee

LOG NUMBER: EG111210226

PROPOSAL 173 - 5 AAC 92.125. Predation control areas implementation plans; and 85.045 Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Implement certain conditions for the Unit 15A intensive management plan and change the allocation of moose permits.

The following conditions should be included as part of the intensive management plan for subunit 15A:

- A moose hunting closure to nonresidents and a reduction in bag limit to bulls with 50 inches or larger antlers, or with three brow tines on at least one side for residents. The hunting dates should remain the same. This reduction in harvest opportunity should only be adopted if accompanied by an active predator management program that addresses both black bears and

wolves. The hunting closure for nonresidents and reduced bag limit for residents should include a sunset clause that terminates this action after two years (March 2013).

The predator management plan should include the following:

- Change black bear hunting in Unit 15A to a predator control program that mirrors the current program in Unit 16B for residents. Nonresident black bear hunting would remain the same.
- Allow same day airborne and aerial shooting of wolves.
- This Advisory Committee encourages the Department of Fish and Game to issue permits for the following moose hunts in an effort to increase moose harvest opportunity in light of the restriction listed above.
 - Allow up to 25 permits in the late season Mystery Creek hunt (DM522). Although the moose population, and more specifically, the bull to cow ratio in Unit 15A is of great concern, the Mystery Creek area of Unit 15A holds a much higher bull to cow ratio (40+ bulls/100 cows) than the remainder of Unit 15A. The five year reported average harvest for DM522 is two bulls.
 - Allow ten permits in the late season hunt for Unit 15B east. This would include two permits each for the following hunts: DM531, DM533, DM535, DM537, and DM539.
 - Add a new drawing hunt for a total of ten any-bull permits, five each in Units 7 and 15 during the regular season.
- Although this AC recognizes that the Board of Game does not hold authority over land management issues, we would like it to go on record that we highly encourage the state to work in conjunction with the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge to develop and continue ongoing habitat enhancement programs in this sub-unit.

ISSUE: We have been experiencing a continuous decline in the moose population in Unit 15A for approximately the past decade, in which there has been failure to meet population objectives, failure to meet the harvest objectives, and lack of adequate calf recruitment. The current Intensive Management plan only addresses habitat enhancement issues but does not take action to stop the continuous decline in the moose population.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The moose population will continue to decline. As a result, consumptive and non-consumptive opportunities will continue to decrease. In the event of a crisis such as a harsh winter, there would potentially be a drastic drop in the moose population, resulting in a population that could take many years to recover.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, if actions are taken to decrease the hunter harvest of young bulls, in conjunction with implementation of a predator management plan, the bull to cow ratio should increase, which in turn should increase the cow pregnancy rates and calf production, as well as increase calf recruitment. Further, as these younger bulls mature, they will then become available for harvest opportunity in the future and also provide additional viewing opportunities for non-consumptive users in the interim.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All users, both consumptive and non-consumptive will benefit in the long term. There may not be an immediate benefit, but if nothing is done, our moose population will continue to decline, resulting in lost opportunities for all users.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Hunters will continue to suffer lost harvest opportunities until the bull to cow ratio and overall population improves.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: Eliminate only the fork regulation and allow the harvest of spike-antler bulls. This would allow some additional harvest opportunity, but would not be as effective and swift as a recovery effort. This would also be likely to be confusing to hunters in adjoining subunits in discerning multiple regulations.

PROPOSED BY: Kenai/ Soldotna Fish and Game Advisory Committee

LOG NUMBER: EG110310146

PROPOSAL 174 - 5 AAC 92.125(o). Predation control areas implementation plans.

Approve a habitat based intensive management plan for the Unit 15A Northern Kenai Intensive Management Area.

Unit 15(A) encompasses 1314 square miles (840,960 acres) and includes all of unit 15A.

Approximately 80 percent of the land mass in Unit 15(A) is managed by the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge. Notwithstanding any other provisions in this title, and based on the following information contained in this section, the commissioner or the commissioner's designee may conduct an intensive management program on the Kenai Peninsula in Unit 15(A):

(1) the discussion of wildlife population and human use information is as follows:

(A) the Northern Kenai Peninsula moose population information is as follows:

(i) the most recent moose population peak occurred in 1971; the near absence of wolves from 1913-1968, and the increased moose productivity following the 1947 wildfire (approx. 309,000 acres) were two events that led to increased moose numbers throughout the 1950's and 1960's; although harvest seasons were long and either-sex harvest was allowed, the moose population increased beyond carrying capacity and extensive over-browsing occurred by the late 1960's,

(ii) a wildfire in 1969 (approx. 79,000 acres) that initially reduced moose habitat in Unit 15(A), coupled with harsh winters in 1971-1974, caused the moose population in Unit 15(A) to decrease by 59 percent (from 5298 to 2175) by 1975; after the low number in 1975, new habitat created by the 1969 burn and more favorable winter conditions allowed the Unit 15(A) moose population to grow until the mid-1990's; the ADF&G conducted moose censuses in Unit 15(A) during February of 1991, 2001, and 2008 with respective point estimates of 3432, 2068, and 1670;

(iii) since 1991 moose harvests followed a similar pattern, with annual variations; the peak reported harvest during this period (1991-2008) was 271 animals in 1998 and the 2008 reported harvest was 113 moose.

(iv) 75 percent of the collared adult cows in Unit 15(A) were pregnant in March 2007, as identified from blood samples; this compares to pregnancy rates of 85-90 percent in the sub-alpine portion of Unit 7 which is adjacent to Unit 15(A); lower pregnancy rates in the lower elevations indicate habitat may be the limiting the growth of the population;

- (v) the percent calves measured from fall surveys in the moose population for Unit 15(A) is about half of what it was during the 1990's (down from 20 percent in 2001 to 12 percent in 2008)
- (vi) over-all bull ratios have been consistent since the 1990's.
- (vii) the intensive management objectives for moose are as follows: moose population objective of 3,000—3,500 moose; harvest objective of 180-350 moose.
- (2) the predator population and human use information is as follows
 - (A) wolves are a major predator of moose on the Kenai Peninsula;
 - (i) the wolf population in Unit 15(A) is believed to be stable; anecdotal evidence obtained from biologists, pilots, trappers, and local residents indicates that the wolf population is healthy throughout the area;
 - (ii) an average of 8 wolves (range of 2 to 16 wolves) have been harvested annually in Unit 15(A) since 1991/92;
 - (B) brown bears are also considered to be a predator of moose on the Kenai Peninsula,
 - (i) the extent of their predation has not been documented; while brown bears have been known to kill adult moose opportunistically, brown bears are regarded as an effective predator of calves during the first 6 weeks of life;
 - (ii) anecdotal information combined with available data indicate the Northern Kenai Peninsula supports a healthy brown bear population.
 - (iii) human caused brown bear mortalities in Unit 15(A) have averaged 7 (range, 1--16) brown bear annually from 2000 to 2008;
 - (C) black bears are also an important predator of moose calves during the first 6 weeks of life;
 - (i) black bears are considered abundant in Unit 15(A) with a 1991 population estimate of 205 black bears/1000km² in the area of the 1947 burn and 265 black bears/1000km² in the area of the 1969 burn,
 - (ii) black bear harvests have averaged 44 bears annually during 1991/92 – 2007/08; this compares to an annual average of 27 bears from 1973/74-1977/78;
- (3) the prey population and human use information is as follows
 - (A) moose habitat information is as follows:
 - (i) the history of fire on the Kenai Peninsula has generally involved human caused fires. Natural fires from lightning strikes are rare, but have increased in frequency in recent years.
 - (ii) the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge initiated a fire management program in 1985 based in part from the objectives set in their moose habitat management plan.
 - (a) since 1970, wildfires have only burned about 10,000 acres in Unit 15(A);
 - (b) since 1995, controlled burns have encompassed 1795 acres in Unit 15(A);
 - (B) moose population objectives for Unit 15(A) are to maintain 3,000-3,500 moose; the moose population objective for Unit 15(A) is not currently being met;
- (4) the commissioner may initiate a habitat enhancement program with the concurrence of relevant land owners to increase the moose population to meet the following objectives:
 - (A) the post hunting bull-to-cow ratio can be sustained within management objectives of at least 20 bulls per 100 cows.
 - (B) the fall calf-to-cow ratio can be sustained above 30 calves per hundred cows; or
 - (C) pregnancy rates above 85-90 percent for adult cows ;
 - (D) the population can grow at a sustained rate of 5 percent annually until intensive management objectives are met;
- (5) the anticipated time frame and schedule for update and reevaluation are as follows:
 - (A) for up to 10 years beginning July 1, 2010,

(B) annually the Department shall, to the extent practicable, provide to the board a report of program activities conducted during the preceding 12 months, including implementation activities, the status of the moose population, and recommendations for changes, if necessary to achieve the objectives of the plan.

ISSUE: The Unit 15A moose population and harvest has been below Intensive Management objectives since 1999.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The Unit 15A moose population and harvest will likely stay below Intensive Management objective.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. The moose population should increase and more moose should be available for harvest.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Hunters and wildlife viewers who would like more moose in Unit 15A.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Potentially motorists and home owners. If the population grows considerably, we will likely see an increase in moose/vehicle collisions and have more nuisance moose issues.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Reducing moose hunting opportunities in Unit 15A.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game at the request of the Board of Game

LOG NUMBER: ADFG113010QQ

PROPOSAL 175 - 5 AAC 92.080. Unlawful methods of taking game; exceptions. Allow the use of artificial light to hunt predators in Units 15 and 7.

I would like the Board of Game to adopt a policy that would enable hunting of predators with artificial lighting. This policy would allow predator hunters to use artificial light to aid in harvesting black bear, coyote, and wolves in 15 and 7. Artificial lighting would be made legal for predator calling on the peninsula during all night hours.

ISSUE: Predators are causing a severe decline in the moose population on the Kenai. Wolf, coyote, and black bear all contribute to the decline of the calf population. Current methods of harvesting these predators is not having a significant impact on their population. Currently we are allowed to bait black bear under a permit for a specified period of time. As hunters we can hunt wolves and coyote through "predator calling" during day light hours for a specified period of time.

The Board of Game has to address the impact of the predator population on the Kenai. Failure to do so is irresponsible on their part.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? If the Board of Game ignores this problem, current moose populations will continue to decline to even more alarmingly low numbers. Thus, a healthy and viable moose population will not be possible for future generations.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? My proposal does address improving the harvest rate of predators. Many predators are active during the night hours. If predator hunters were allowed to hunt with artificial light, it would aide in the harvesting more predators.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All people. Hunters and non-hunters will have the ability to view and harvest more moose as a result of more predators being taken on the peninsula.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? I can't think of no one suffering from this proposal moving forward to policy. It will help in the overall promotion of a healthy moose population for generations to come.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED:

PROPOSED BY: Loren Reese

LOG NUMBER: EG10021082

PROPOSAL 176 - 92.080. Unlawful methods of taking game; exceptions. Allow the use of artificial light for hunting predators in Unit 15.

When hunting predators at night a hunter may use an artificial light to spot them in Unit 15.

ISSUE: Make it legal to use artificial lights to hunt predators at night - wolves, coyotes.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Wolves and coyotes are killing moose and caribou. In winter there is 19 hours of darkness, making it very difficult to hunt them.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Wolf and coyote hides for sale.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Moose and caribou, especially calves.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Wolves and coyotes.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED:

PROPOSED BY: Gary Deiman

LOG NUMBER: EG110310148

PROPOSAL 177 - 5 AAC 92.550. Areas closed to trapping. Close a portion of Unit 7 to trapping.

Close Portage Valley floor south of Portage Creek to all trapping.

ISSUE: I would like the Board of Game to close trapping in Portage Valley, south of Portage Creek to the toe of the mountain slope (the valley floor south of portage creek). This request is made because of the increase in public use during the trapping season and the increase in the numbers of traps seen close to popular trails. The Forest Service has constructed a trail from Portage Lake to about 1.5 miles in from the Seward Highway that is becoming more popular as a ski trail. Many people feel their dogs should be able to be on voice control while they recreate, and trap often have odors that entice dogs...then a dog gets trapped, the people get mad, trapping gets a bad rap. There are plenty of places where there are no trails for trappers to trap, where people with pets will not normally be.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Dogs will continue to be caught, and people may get injured trying to deal with them. Potential for children to get caught as well.

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Non-trapping recreationist in Portage Valley.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Trappers that like the easy "drive-in" trapping available to them in Portage.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: 1.) Close all trapping statewide - I doubt this would go very far; 2.) Close all trapping within 1/2 mile of any trail - too hard to enforce; 3.) Require trappers to post exactly where they have traps, require this info be posted at all trailheads in Portage during the trapping season - trappers probably do not want other people to know exactly where their traps are, enforcing this would require additional work, but if it is possible, then go for it!

PROPOSED BY: Alison Rein

LOG NUMBER: EG10071093

PROPOSAL 178- 5 AAC 92.540. Controlled use areas. Allow the use of motorized vehicles in Unit 15C to retrieve meat.

No motorized vehicles except to retrieve meat (moose).

ISSUE: Not being able to retrieve meat. There are not any trees that you can hang meat from. Also the brown bears get the meat before we can pack it out (moose).

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? There will be wanton waste to the meat.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, it will keep the meat from going to waste and the bears come to the shot. Kind of like Kodiak.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All of the hunters.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? The bears and the flies.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: None.

PROPOSED BY: William Bunch

LOG NUMBER: EG111510229

PROPOSAL 179- 5 AAC 92.510(8)(D). Areas closed to hunting. Eliminate the Resurrection Creek Closed Area.

Eliminate the Resurrection Creek Closed Area in Unit 15C.

ISSUE: Open the Resurrection Creek Closed Area to moose hunting. The area has been closed since 1980, for no biological reason. Opening the area to moose hunting would be in line with Division of Wildlife Conservation's (DWC) AS strategy to "maintain and enhance opportunities to hunt, trap, and view wildlife."

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Those moose hunters willing to hunt moose in a wilderness setting with minimal motorized access will be denied a chance.

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All moose hunters willing to paddle or float a moose out of the field.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? In the past residents of Hope have objected to the hunting of moose close to town. In light of the fact that many hunts take place near suburban areas in Palmer/Wasilla and even the Anchorage hillside without incident, it seems unlikely that the hunters who might participate would have any negative effect.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: Weapons restriction hunt with muzzleloaders- rejected because it would favor a user group; Drawing hunt- rejected as impractical, much easier to eliminate the closure.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Backcountry Hunters and Anglers

LOG NUMBER: EG110510182

PROPOSAL 180- 5 AAC 92.540(4)(B). Controlled use areas. Eliminate the Lower Kenai Controlled Use Area in Unit 15C.

Eliminate the Lower Kenai Controlled Use area from regulation.

ISSUE: The Lower Kenai Controlled Use Area. Not being able to use motorized vehicles (trucks, 4-wheelers, Argos, etc.) for any activity associated with moose hunting from September 11-14 and September 17-20.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Moose hunter will continue to be restricted while anyone else can use motorized vehicles in this area during the closed periods. Due to weather conditions there is the potential for meat going bone sour (meat spoilage). Loss of opportunity to harvest moose meat from this area during the closure, especially for those hunters who rely on a 4-wheeler while moose hunting. This will keep a regulation in effect that is very difficult to enforce.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, you will be able to get your moose meat out of the field quickly to help assure high quality moose meat going into the freezer.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All moose hunters who rely on motorized transportation for harvesting quality meat.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED:

PROPOSED BY: Joe Bazan

LOG NUMBER: EG102810125

PROPOSAL 181- 5 AAC 92.540(4)(B). Controlled Use Areas. Eliminate the motor vehicle restriction in Unit 15C.

Allow the use of motorized vehicles, either highway or off-road vehicles or both to transport hunters and gear and moose meat into and out of the area. This restriction currently applies only to moose hunting.

ISSUE: Eliminate the motor vehicle restriction completely or at least the later one that runs to the end of hunting season for moose.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? If the weather is very warm, as it was this year the last week of the season, there is a risk of meat spoilage while waiting for the motorized vehicle restriction to end and leave the hunting area.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? As stated above, it would reduce the risk of meat spoilage which could be considered illegal wanton waste of the meat.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Everyone who hunts this area and uses a motorized vehicle. This rule change would especially benefit the elderly hunter or those with physical handicaps.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? I do not believe anyone would suffer.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: This is an out-dated restriction and the only solution is to eliminate it.

PROPOSED BY: Rolland Grosdidier

LOG NUMBER: EG110310150

PROPOSAL 182 - 5 AAC 92.540. Controlled use areas. Eliminate the motor vehicle restriction in Unit 15C.

No motorized restrictions.

ISSUE: Get rid of “No Drive Days”.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? It is discrimination against people that cannot schedule their vacation at that time. It is wanton waste to the meat (that is one of your rules). It discriminates against older people (like me, 70 yrs and have hunted 42 years in same place).

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? It prevents wanton waste of meat. With no trees to hang meat and all of the bears we will at least be able to have good clean meat.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All hunters.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Horseback hunters, but most of them hunt off of wildlife refuges anyway.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: None.

PROPOSED BY: William Bunch

LOG NUMBER: EG111510228

PROPOSAL 183 - 5 AAC 92.540. Controlled Use Areas. Allow disabled hunters to use ATVs in the Lower Kenai Controlled Use Area.

Allow moose hunters with valid Alaska handicapped card and (military) disabled hunters to use ATVs to hunt moose during the September 11-14 and 17-20 seasons.

ISSUE: The Lower Kenai Controlled Use Area should allow handicapped and disabled hunters to use ATVs during closed periods.

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: Ray Walsh

LOG NUMBER: EG120110262

Region-wide and Multiple Units

PROPOSAL 184 – 5 AAC 92.010. Harvest tickets and reports. Replace the deer hunter survey with deer harvest reports in Units 6 and 8.

....

(f) For deer, a person may not hunt deer, except in a permit hunt, unless the person has in possession a deer harvest ticket and has obtained a harvest report in Units 1-**6 and 8** [5.] (issued with the harvest ticket). In Units 1 - 6, and 8, a person must

- (1) have in possession that person's unused deer harvest tickets while hunting deer; and
- (2) validate the deer harvest tickets in sequential order, beginning with harvest ticket number one.

ISSUE: Since 1980 the department has used a deer hunter survey to estimate deer harvest in Alaska. The harvest survey is a stratified random sampling survey that is sent to approximately 33 percent of those people who obtain harvest tickets. Approximately 60 percent of these are returned by hunters. When the hunter survey was first initiated, it was less expensive than administration of a harvest ticket system, and was considered superior in acquiring reliable harvest data. However, with modern technology that allows hunters to obtain their harvest tickets via the internet, as well as report via the internet, the cost is much lower than in the past, and the reporting level is much higher. Assuming action by the board at the November meeting will authorize this system in Southeast, the Department recommends a statewide approach and inclusion of GMUs 6 and 8.

A harvest ticket system will:

- allow us to integrate the deer database with other species. At present that is not possible.
- allow us to store all deer harvest data statewide in the same location.
- reduce the laborious manual processing that we require for the deer survey.
- Will allow hunters to utilize the same process as other big game species.
- Eliminates the delay between season closure and hunters receiving the deer survey, which can provide more accurate reporting.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The department will continue to assess deer harvest with the hunter survey even though a better method (harvest report) is available. This may come at a cost of personnel time as well as more easily accessible statewide deer harvest data.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. By going to a harvest report, we will be getting harvest data which will benefit our management of deer and enable deer managers to more easily access, manipulate, and analyze harvest data for specific needs.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All people interested in having better harvest information to be used in managing deer populations in Alaska.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Status Quo.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

LOG NUMBER: ADFG113010E

PROPOSAL 185 - 5 AAC 85.015. Hunting seasons and bag limits for black bear. Modify the black bear bag limit for Region II.

It would establish a regional bag limit where you could take five bears in a region but you would still have to obey the Unit bag limit. Example: You take a black bear in the spring in Unit 14B where the bag limit is three bears in a year. Then in the fall, you had an opportunity to take a bear in Unit 14A. Today's regulation would prohibit you from taking it. If adopted, our regulation change would allow you to harvest it. Reporting of your success would become the only problem as we now hand out only three harvest tags, but we could easily change those tags to five and you could get more if you took five bears by hunting. All other requirements to seal or salvage would remain the same for the units.

ISSUE: Underutilization of the resource black bear. Because of the way we run the limit on black bear which says if you have taken a bear in one game unit, it counts against your bag limit in another unit we under harvest black bear in much of the state.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Continued loss of harvestable surplus.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. It allows a great option for the few hunters who would like to take a few more bear. While in the long run it would not amount to a lot of bear, it would allow for more flexibility by hunters and the Department of Fish and Game to harvest the second largest big game population in the state.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Black bear hunters, area biologists, the state.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those opposed to bear hunting.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: No bag limit, rejected, we feel a slower approach is more prudent.

PROPOSED BY: Anchorage Fish and Game Advisory Committee

LOG NUMBER: EG110410172

PROPOSAL 186 - 5 AAC 92.044. Permit for hunting black bear with the use of bait or scent lures. Allow same day airborne hunting of black bear at bait stations in Region II Units.

Allow the same day airborne hunting of black bear at bait stations in the region.

ISSUE: Residents using airplanes to access remote sites for black bear baiting stations loss of productive hunting time.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Because it has the effect of limiting the hunter's time it will continue to force black bear hunters into more accessible areas where planes are not a requirement. This causes crowding of hunting pressure and keep bear harvest high in those areas, while the areas with large populations of black bear are not fully utilized.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. This would allow a more even harvest across the region therefore decrease pressure on some heavily used area, while increasing pressure on underutilized populations of a very abundant wildlife resource.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Black bear hunters who have access to airplane transportation because they will be able to hunt in little used areas. Black bear hunters who do not have access to planes because of less competition in areas they hunt. The bears and Department of Fish and Game by allowing a more even distribution of harvest. Those people who wish to view bears naturally because humans are natural predators of bear. So like moose fear bear, bear should fear humans.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those people who wish to have bears habituated to the presence of human beings in order to make a fast buck for bear viewing only. Those who oppose hunting and use emotional arguments to stop it.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED:

PROPOSED BY: Anchorage Fish and Game Advisory Committee

LOG NUMBER: EG110410174

PROPOSAL 187 - 5 AAC 84.270. Furbearer trapping. Establish a trapping bag limit for black bear in Region II.

Establish a trapping bag limit of ten black bear with traditional methods of trapping being limited to the use of "bucket snares, gun, bow and arrow, muzzle loader, or spear with a season in each area to correspond with the hunting season for black bear. Snares to be checked every 72 hours.

ISSUE: Establish a trapping bag limit for black bears in areas not covered by intensive management.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? This will continue to be a gray area.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. We have an underutilized resource being the furbearer black bears. This establishes a guideline and a place to start in the region.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Those wishing to trap black bears. Prey populations which should rise slightly from decreased population of black bear. Crafts people who with the availability of bear hides will discover new use for the art media and increase commerce.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those who wish to see black bear habituated to human interaction. Those who wish to see an end to trapping and hunting.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED:

PROPOSED BY: Anchorage Fish and Game Advisory Committee

LOG NUMBER: EG110410175

PROPOSAL 188 - 5 AAC 85.060. Hunting seasons and bag limits for fur animals. Change the bag limit for coyote in Region II.

In Region II, change the bag limit from 10 coyotes per day to "no limit" for hunting. The season should remain the same.

ISSUE: Inconsistent bag limits between Regions II, IV and Region III for hunting coyotes.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? An unnecessary difference in bag limits will continue between regions.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, to reduce confusion the Board of Game should adopt a change in regulation to make Region II the same bag limit as Region III for coyote hunting.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Individuals interested in hunting coyotes will benefit from consistent season and bag limits. However, no increase in harvest is anticipated.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one should be negatively impacted by this change unless they oppose hunting coyotes.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: None

PROPOSED BY: Kenai Peninsula Trappers Association

LOG NUMBER: EG102910140

PROPOSAL 189 - 5 AAC 85.060. Hunting seasons and bag limits for fur animals.

Implement a no closed season and no bag limit for coyotes in Region II.

Coyote would have no bag limit and no season limit in Region II. In addition, there would be no requirement to harvest anything more than the skull unless it had been destroyed in the taking.

ISSUE: Continued over abundance of coyote which are impacting martin, red fox, lynx, sheep and other prey populations.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? We could find ourselves in the unsavory position of having to implement intensive management for animals that we thought would never need it. Coyote while being a valuable fur in their own right, out strip their competitors and prey in almost every respect. Their cunning and adaptability lends this predator to almost any thinkable niche in nature. The diseases that would naturally curb their numbers with the efforts of man are not something we would like to deal with (i.e. rabies, distemper). The natural affect of a predator is to kill any other predator when the opportunity arises. Man is the ultimate predator and we rarely exercise this rule, but with the expansion of the coyote numbers in the state and the impact it is causing on sheep is a prime example we must consider liberal bag and season limits to help reduce numbers of this adaptive animal.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. In the bigger scheme of life it would help restore more balance in respect to other predators and prey animal, while there is no biological concern on the additional take of coyote.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Everyone has a better balance may be stuck in the ecosystem. Sheep and sheep hunters, red fox who are being displaced.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those opposed to hunting in general, some trappers who prefer targeting coyote and that are less wary.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: No ending trapping season- less selective by catch would be the result.

PROPOSED BY: Anchorage Fish and Game Advisory Committee

LOG NUMBER: EG110410179

PROPOSAL 190 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep. Modify the Dall sheep hunts for all Units in Region II.

No harvest of ewe. Bag limit would be full curl ram only. All permit hunts would be reduced by 1/3. All sheep permit drawings with fewer than 10 available permits (by permit number, not in

aggregate) would be residents only with the sole exception of the "Governor's Tag" in order to give that tag more value.

ISSUE: The drastic decline of sheep in Region II.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Continued decline in sheep numbers.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. In a declining population there is no need to take any females where human consumption is not the priority. This area is mostly the park, which in its legislative intent in part was meant to keep a place where urban Alaska resident hunters were always able to go. Since that is part of the park's legislative intent, it should be reflected by the Board of Game in setting the availability of permits to nonresidents.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Sheep and resident sheep hunters, those who wish to see the park Dall sheep numbers return to a higher level. Those who want to view sheep.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? The guides who operate in the Unit. While this is unfortunate, the record is very pervasive and if we continue to give so many permits to nonresidents then those who argue for no hunting in the park have a stronger argument, sighting the conflict with the intent suggesting that the reason for the allowance is no longer necessary and should be discontinued.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: Closing all nonresident to hunting in Region II, while attractive, this would preclude the incentive to some to help the sheep rebound in the state, as when we have more animals we can give out more permits.

PROPOSED BY: Anchorage Fish and Game Advisory Committee

LOG NUMBER: EG110510187

PROPOSAL 191 - 5 AAC 92.052. Discretionary permit hunt conditions and procedures.

Review and potentially repeal discretionary hunt conditions and procedures applied to permit hunts in the SouthCentral Region, Units 6, 7, 8, 14C and 15.

5 AAC 92.052. Discretionary permit hunt conditions and procedures. The department may apply any or all of the following additional conditions to a permit hunt, when necessary for management of the species hunted:

- (1) a permittee shall register at a designated station before entering, and upon leaving, the field; except as authorized under AS 16.05.405, a person may not hold more than one permit for the same species in a hunt area at one time;
- (2) a permittee shall demonstrate
 - (A) the ability to identify the species hunted;
 - (B) the ability to identify the permit hunt area;

- (C) a knowledge of weapon safety and use;
- (3) a permittee shall attend an orientation course;
 - (4) a permittee shall carry an operative radio while in the field;
 - (5) a permittee who takes an animal under a permit shall deliver specified biological specimens to a check station or to the nearest department office within a time set by the department; the trophy value of an animal taken under a subsistence permit may be nullified by the department;
 - (6) a permittee must be accompanied by a department representative;
 - (7) only a specified number of permittees may hunt during the same time period, and a permittee may hunt only in a specified subdivision within the permit hunt area;
 - (8) a permittee may not use specified mechanized vehicles for hunting big game or for transporting meat from the hunting area;
 - (9) a permittee who cancels his or her plan to hunt shall notify the department at an office, and within a time limit, specified by the department;
 - (10) a permittee may use only weapons and ammunition specified by the department;
 - (11) before receiving a permit, the permittee shall acknowledge in writing that he or she has read, understands, and will abide by, the conditions specified for the hunt;
 - (12) a permittee may hunt only during specified time periods;
 - (13) a permit applicant must be at least 10 years old;
 - (14) a permittee shall submit, on a form supplied by the department, information requested by the department about the hunt; the permittee shall submit this form to the department within the time limit set by the department;
 - (15) the permit applicant must hold a valid Alaska hunting license; however, this does not apply to a resident under the age of 16; an applicant's hunting license number must be entered on the permit application; a resident under the age of 16 shall enter his or her age instead of a license number;
 - (16) a hunter participating in a permit hunt that allows only the use of a bow and arrow must have completed a department - approved bowhunter education course;
 - (17) a permittee may take only an animal of a sex specified by the department;
 - (18) a person with physical disabilities, as defined in AS 16.05.940 , with a special permit to hunt with a motorized vehicle, must be accompanied by another hunter who has a valid hunting license and is capable of assisting the permittee in retrieving game taken by the permittee;
 - (19) a person may be limited to one big game registration permit at a time in Units 1, 17, 20(E), 22 and 23;
 - (20) the number of registration permits that may be issued per household for a specified big game hunt may be limited;
 - (21) the permit hunt area authorized by the Board of Game may be subdivided into smaller permit hunt areas;
 - (22) a permittee may transfer the permittee's Unit 13 subsistence permit to a resident member of the permittee's family, within the second degree of kinship; a person may not receive remuneration for the transfer of a permit under this paragraph;
 - (23) except as otherwise provided, if a drawing permit hunt is undersubscribed, surplus permits may be made available at the division of wildlife conservation office responsible for management of the applicable hunt. Surplus permits are not subject to the limitations in 5 AAC 92.050(2) and (4)(F).

ISSUE: The Board of Game has requested a review of the discretionary conditions the Department of Fish and Game applies to permit hunts. Use of these permit conditions allows the department to manage hunts to provide for maximum opportunity, and still provide protection of the resource.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The department will continue to use discretionary authority to manage game populations in permit hunts.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Loss of some of the authority may result in more conservative management and seasons.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Hunters who do not wish to comply with permit conditions established by the department.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Hunters who are willing to comply with permit conditions in order to enjoy more hunting opportunity.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: The Board of Game

LOG NUMBER: ADFG113010TT

Southcentral and Central/Southwest Regions

(Note: Proposals under this section will be considered at both Spring meetings.)

PROPOSAL 192 - 5 AAC 92.095. Unlawful methods of taking furbearers; exceptions.
Restrict trapping near trails and roads in all Region II and Region IV Units.

No trapping within 50 feet of state roads and trails.

ISSUE: Dogs being caught/killed in traps and the possibility of it occurring with a child.

On November 8, 2008 my lead dog was killed in a conibear 330 trap while pulling me on skis with another dog on a 15 foot towline. The trap was set a couple of feet off the snare lake road, formally Hatchery Road, in front of the culvert. A Fish and Wildlife Trooper responded and surprised me with the information that there are not restrictions on how close to a road or trail a trap can be set.

I have several friends who trap and they tell me they wouldn't consider trapping close to roads and trails for fear their animal would be stolen by a passerby. If a trap is set close enough to a road or trail to catch a dog on a lead, there is a very real possibility it's close enough to catch a curious child. Please help prevent this from happening. I chose a 50 foot trapping restriction because that's about the length of an Iditarod size dog team towline. This should also be far enough away from the curious eyes of a child. Please make it illegal for dogs being walked or run on state roads and trails on a rope to be trapped.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? More dogs in traps and possibly a child. A greater dislike of trapping by the public.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? It could help to improve fur prices.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Pet owners, children and their parents. The image of trapping could improve.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Trappers will have to walk an additional 17 paces to trap along state roads and trails.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: None.

PROPOSED BY: Richard Luzitano

LOG NUMBER: EG10041085

PROPOSAL 193 - 5 AAC 85.065. Hunting seasons and bag limits for small game. Modify the bag limits for waterfowl in Region II and Region IV.

Units:

Gulf Coast Units 5, 6, 7, 9, 10 (Unimak Island Only), 14, 15 and 16;

Kodiak – Unit 8; and

Pribilof Aleutian Unit 10 (except Unimak Island):

Bag limits for ducks would remain the same of 7, 8, or 10 depending on Unit but:

Special Restrictions

1 Ducks (except sea ducks)- General duck limits may include no more than 1 canvasback per day, 3 in possession and **no more than 2 goldeneye per day, 6 in possession.**

Other ideas:

- 1.) Remove Goldeneyes from the general bag and insert them into the sea duck bag limit to allow the state to properly regulate our local waters to manage with "due regard to the zones of temperature, distribution, abundance, breeding habits, and times of migratory flight."
- 2.) Form a Board of Birds (BOB) made up of ornithologists to flesh out these disparities to report to the Board of Game.
- 3.) Form separate commercial guided hunting regulations separate from personal regulations to regulate commercialized hunting on declining species without impacts on the general hunter hunting for food.
- 4.) Only address Gulf Coast Zone or narrow it down further to where 1/3 of birds are harvested which is Kachemak Bay. But I felt it important for hunters to understand some of the disparities of these birds as compared to the dabblers or other divers.

ISSUE: Goldeneyes (Genus Bucephala) are taxonomically classified as a sea duck (Tribe Mergini), yet these birds have inadvertently been added to the more plentiful and resilient ducks of the general duck bag. These birds have a much lower population density, more sensitive reproductive strategy, and susceptible behavioral traits that make them more vulnerable to mortality than most of the other ducks in the general duck bag. Goldeneye species are not separated in surveys or regulations. So management is obscure.

The population of the ducks in this aggregate general duck hunt averages approximately 40 million birds in North America. Goldeneyes are at the bottom of the abundance densities and have shown susceptibility to overexploitation.

Tribe Anatini, (dabble ducks)

Mallard population - 8.4 million; Blue - winged teal - 6.3 million; Northern Shoveler - 4.1 million; Green - winged teal - 3.5 million; Northern Pintail - 3.5 million; Gadwall - 3 million; American Widgeon - 2.4 million

Tribe Anthyini (Bay ducks, divers)

Lesser scaup / greater scaup - 4.2 million combined; Redhead - 1.1 million; Canvasback - 600,000

Tribe Mergini (sea ducks)

Common goldeneye - 1 million; Barrows goldeneye - 225,000

Barrows goldeneye have the lowest population densities of any of the other hunted "ducks" in this general duck bag limit, yet in Alaska Game Management Units the take on these birds is not differentiated and is still set at 7 - 10 per day, 21 - 30 in possession for 107 days, for the 5000 waterfowl hunters in Alaska as if their numbers were in the millions of ducks.

There is an east coast and west coast population of Barrows goldeneye. In the state of Maine, Barrows goldeneye are a threatened species under the Maine Endangered Species Act, so the season is closed. In Eastern Canada, Barrows are on the list of Conservation concern. There are indicators of vulnerability.

The status of the Alaska Yukon Waterfowl breeding population estimate show goldeneye species to be down -42 percent from the 10 year mean and down -42 percent from the long term mean.

Conservation bag limits have been applied by State and Provinces within the Pacific Flyaway:

Washington State - 2 goldeneye per day, 4 goldeneye in possession;

British Columbia - not more than 2 may be goldeneye, 4 in possession.

Yet,

State of Alaska

Gulf Coast Units 5-7, 9, 10 (Unimak Island Only) 14 - 16 - 8 goldeneye per day, 24 goldeneye in possession;

Kodiak Unit 8 - 7 goldeneye per day, 21 in possession;

Pribolof / Aleutian Unit 10 (except Unimak Island) - 7 goldeneye per day, 21 in possession.

Canvasback in Alaska with well over double the population density of the Barrows goldeneye is logically and prudently set at no more than 1 canvasback per day, 3 in possession.

With the smallest population size of any of these birds in this bag, Barrows goldeneye at 225,000 +/- individuals on earth, warrant our consideration under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 USC 703-712 and the four bilateral conventions which require "due regard to the zones of temperature, distribution, abundance, breeding habits, and times of migratory flight." (16 USC 704) We do not need them slipping through the cracks from lack of oversight.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Cumulative localized

depletions: Satellite telemetry research in Prince William Sound is documenting links among annual cycle stages of Barrows goldeneye to quantify the degree of demographic connectivity at various geographic scales. Site fidelity appears to be strong on the breeding, molting as well as the wintering grounds for these birds. How does localized depletion affect their population structure?

The biological differences between Tribes of family Anatidae is profound. Mergini is the most K-selected of our waterfowl: *"Barrows Goldeneye is generally monogamous and form pairs while on wintering grounds. Because males and females molt in different areas, they likely have different fall staging areas, but re-unite on wintering areas."* (SDJV) Goldeneyes have elaborate mating rituals.

Monogamy is not the norm with Dabblers. *"Dabblers like mallards usually form pairs only until the female lays eggs, at which time she is left by the male. When they pair off with mating partners, often one or several drakes will end up "left out". This group will sometimes target an isolated female duck: chasing, pestering and pecking at her until she weakens, at which point each male will take turns copulating with the female." Lebrecht (1961) calls this behavior "attempted rape flight" (ARF) and Cramp & Simmons (1977) speak of 'rape-intent flights.'*

"Female goldeneyes do not breed until their third year or later, but younger birds will return to their natal area during the breeding season to prospect for future nest sites." (SDJV)

Most other ducks in this aggregate bag, breed within the first six months to a year. This early breeding age of dabblers, and their r-selected reproductive strategy (along with promiscuous behavior), aids them to compensate for hunting mortality and recover losses to population faster than the K-selected sea ducks who do not invest in reproduction but longevity.

The breeding range of Barrow's goldeneyes is generally restricted to areas west of the Rocky Mountains from Montana to Alaska. The core of the western Barrow's breeding population is in interior areas of British Columbia. Their primary breeding range extends northward through southern Yukon into Southcentral Alaska. Elsewhere within their western range, they are found locally or in lower densities. Wintering areas are restricted primarily to the west coast." (SDJV)

Mallards on the other hand breed throughout the temperate and sub-tropical America, Europe, Asia, New Zealand (where it is currently the most common duck species) and Australia. Most dabblers enjoy generally an unrestricted (as long as there is rainfall) range trans-continentially across North America.

And then there is the problem of crippling. goldeneyes bunch tightly together in a raft. The former waterfowl manager in Alaska for the Department of Fish and Game estimated that with jump shooting and pass shooting, the crippling rate is 60 percent (Gunning for Green Heads in the New Millenium). This number is not counted in the harvest estimates.

This disparity of mixing Tribes of ducks in one bag limit has been recognized by other states and provinces with the Pacific Flyaway. Alaska, with the responsibility to migratory birds may want to consider some of the discrepancies of this general duck bag limit.

With goldeneye harvest going up over 150 percent in recent years, it is certain that duck hunters would want to be aware of the problems before they occur to assure species are not unwittingly put at risk and seasons closed completely.

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: See above.

PROPOSED BY: Sea Ducks Unlimited, Inc

LOG NUMBER: EG110910202

PROPOSAL 194 - 5 AAC 85.065. Hunting seasons and bag limits for small game. Change the regulations for waterfowl in Region II and Region IV.

I would like to see a framework in our regulations where if there is a conflict between users of the resource, declining species, or localized depletion, that separate hunting regulations can be applied to commercialized guided bird hunting for profit and sport so that those who are hunting for food in their areas will not be impacted by regulation changes.

ISSUE: Commercialized migratory or resident bird hunting for profit and sport, removing the biomass bay by bay along coastlines and in front of people's homes, creating localized depletions where the average Alaskan going out hunting for food would not have this impact and should not have to pay with restrictions when they are not the cause of the problems.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Everyone, especially Alaskan waterfowl hunters who hunt for food since the resource won't be wasted, flocks will be allowed to grow back in depleted bays. Birds won't be in such a froth from being chased around by shooters who really do not understand the tradition of water-fowling. Everyone will also benefit because I will be able to stop putting in these proposals trying to find solutions. Landowners like me will benefit because

possibly the rafts of birds that were depleted for 18 years ago by commercial guided hunting parties in front of my home will be allowed to grow back in the remote bay I have lived in for the past 32 years and I will once again be able to see them, hear them, and enjoy them in my front yard which is why I live remote.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one. Logical regulations separate from the local water-fowler will address the special needs for commercial guided sport hunting like trophy hunting and sport shooting. It will not cut off opportunity, it will simply provide a more sane hunt that addresses the problems caused by money motivated or cast and blast hunting that causes wanton waste, excessive crippling and depletion of birds.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED:

PROPOSED BY: Nancy Hillstrand

LOG NUMBER: EG110910204

PROPOSAL 195- 5 AAC 92.220(a)(4). Salvage of game meat, furs, and hides. Modify the salvage requirements for black bear for Regions II and Region IV.

Adopt language as passed in the Interior Region III meeting (see proposal 10, passed during Region III, Spring 2010) as written on page 25 in current 2010 regulation pamphlet that allows:

January 1-June 30 the hunter must salvage the hide, skull and edible meat (as defined by 5AAC.92.990) and that June 30-December 31 the hunter must salvage the skull, and must salvage either the meat, or the hide (or both if chosen). Except in sub/units where the biological necessity to monitor black bear populations and harvest through the sealing of hide and skull as determined by the department.

ISSUE: Modify black bear salvage requirements to the same as Interior Region III. Many hunters in the south, central and western regions would like the same opportunity to harvest a meat bear and not be required to salvage the hide off a summer or fall bear, harvested for meat.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? 1.) The regulation book will be increasingly complex, and 2.) Hunters in one region of the state will have to meet requirements other regions do not have to meet.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? It does; many hunters wish to harvest a bear for table fare only, and do not wish to deal with the salvage and care of a hide that is required under salvage and transporting requirements; though the hides may legally be disposed of after the hunter has met the requirement to salvage and maintain in a condition until it has reached the place of processing for human use or consumption..

Care of a hide in the field to prevent wanton waste penalties is an arduous task many wish not to take for a meat bear with a summer lower quality hide.

The state has adopted state wide harvest tags for the taking of black bears and removed sealing requirement in many units,

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All hunters wishing to hunt solely for meat, as well resource managers may see an increase in hunter activity in management of predator species.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Bears.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: None.

PROPOSED BY: Vince Holton

LOG NUMBER: EG10121095

PROPOSAL 196- 5 AAC 92.165. Sealing of bear skins and skulls. Eliminate black bear sealing requirements where harvest tickets or registration permits are required and provide necessary harvest data.

In Units 5 - 7, 11, 13 - 17, black bear sealing will no longer be required where a harvest tag is required.

a) Sealing is required for brown bear taken in any Unit in the state and black bear of any color variation taken in Units 1 – 5 [6-17], 19(D), and 20. A seal must remain on the skin until the tanning process has commenced. A person may not possess or transport the untanned skin or skull of a bear taken in a Unit where sealing is required, or export from the state the untanned skin or skull of a bear taken anywhere in the state, unless the skin and skull have been sealed by a department representative within 30 days after the taking, or a lesser time if requested by the department, except that

...

ISSUE: Both harvest tickets and sealing are required in the Central / Southwest and Southcentral Regions and however been removed as of July 1 2010 in Interior Region III due to action taken by the Board of Game during the spring 2010 regular meeting, excluding a portion of Unit 20 [20B] in that skull sealing is still required due to harvest composition and relatively high harvest rate of that Unit.

Retaining both harvest reporting and sealing requirements is redundant in any unit not identified by Department of Fish and Game staff as needing closer monitoring. If this proposal is adopted only hides and/or skulls of black bears must be sealed that have been harvested from units/sub

identified by the department as those that warrant the continued monitoring of harvest composition.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Hunters will continue to be burdened by unnecessary sealing requirements in some units.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes the Department of Fish and game will be able to provide a more stream lined hunt report system.

Hunters will be able to report on line and not be required to transport bear parts to the Department of Fish and Game for sealing.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All hunters.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: None, this regulation has already been passed in the Interior Region III, along with salvage requirement modifications at the Spring Board of Game meeting in Fairbanks 2010.

PROPOSED BY: Vince Holton

LOG NUMBER: EG10121097

PROPOSAL 197 - 5 AAC 92.044. Permit for hunting black bear with the use of bait or scent lures. Allow same day airborne hunting of black bear at bait stations in Region II and Region IV.

Same day airborne hunting would be allowed for black bear baiting in Regions II and IV (Units 6,7,8,9,10,11,13,14,15,16, & 17).

ISSUE: Unfairness to the hunter who would like to use an aircraft to access a black bear bait stand. Overcrowding of black bear bait stands along road system and easily accessible areas.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Unfairness to, and loss of opportunity for the hunter who would like to use aircraft to access a black bear bait stand. A hunter who uses an aircraft to get to a bait stand must wait until 3 am the following day.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. This change would spread bait stations out and allow for more selective hunting, thus take larger and higher quality bears.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Everyone. Even non-aircraft users will benefit from spreading out bait stations. Will not significantly increase harvest.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Nobody. Using an aircraft to access a bait stand does not cause a bear to come to the bait any sooner, or more often than when accessed by walking or using a car. A bear comes to bait whenever it pleases, regardless of hunter access method, thus it is only fair to not restrict one method.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: None.

PROPOSED BY: Joel Doner

LOG NUMBER: EG110510192

PROPOSAL 198 - 5 AAC 85.060. Hunting seasons and bag limits for fur animals; and 84.270. Furbearer trapping. Change the bag limit for coyote in Units 13, 14, and 16.

Changing the bag limit for coyotes to read "unlimited."

ISSUE: The limited number of coyotes that hunters and trapper can harvest.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Coyotes will continue to expand in both number and territory.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? It will give added opportunity for hunters and trappers to take more coyotes when their pelts are prime.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Moose, sheep, geese, and trappers.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Coyote numbers.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: No closed season- wasting of usable pelts.

PROPOSED BY: Stephen Darilek

LOG NUMBER: EG111010215

PROPOSAL 199 - 5 AAC 92.220. Salvage of game meat, furs, and hides; and 92.003. Hunter education and orientation requirements. Implement various hunt requirements and change hunter education to reduce meat spoilage for Region II and Region IV.

1. Hunter education classes must include meat processing care information and
2. Hunts delayed if temperature to reach a maximum of 70 degrees Fahrenheit in the field;
3. Timing of hunts changed for cooler temperatures;

4. Wanton waste laws to include spoiled meat not cared for properly to give an incentive for people to take better care of their meat;
5. Requirement of rented satellite phone for remote hunts to call a plane to get meat out of the field in time to protect meat from spoilage;
6. Regulation books to have detailed instructions and warning on care of meat; and
7. Higher fines for offenders/

ISSUE: The amount of wasted meat to spoilage. The unacceptable spoilage of hunted animals meat is a slap in the face when the state has bent over backwards to build the herds with predator control and spending time, money, and effort on building common property herds of ungulates. This intolerable spoilage of meat is not acceptable and must hold consequence, required education and correction.

September Alaska Magazine states: 10 percent of all moose brought in to one meat packer - 10 moose out of 100 or "5000 pounds of wasted meat last year at their shop alone."

25 - 30 moose turned away from another processor "because the meat wasn't fit for consumption."

We have seen this same trend in our processing plant, especially if the meat is off the bone.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Everyone since the resource won't be wasted.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? All hunters who will get a bad name because of the neglectful ones that do not care for their meat or time their hunt right to assure proper care.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: NA

PROPOSED BY: Nancy Hillstrand

LOG NUMBER: EG110910203

PROPOSAL 200 - 5 AAC 92.085 Unlawful methods of taking big game; exceptions. Modify the time period for harvesting big game after being transported for Units 6-11 and 13-17.

It is unlawful to harvest a big game animal on the same day the animal was / is located or spotted while begin transported by a licensed transporter.

ISSUE: Illegal pursuit of big game by clients of transporters. It is illegal for a transporter to pursue game with a client. This would make it illegal for the client to pursue game with a transporter. This would be much easier for protection to enforce.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Clients are hunting with transporters. This has caused a dramatic increase in harvest levels of black bears and deer. If not solved, seasons and bag limits will be closed / lowered.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. Populations would increase allowing for a more selective harvest of quality animals.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All legal user groups of the resource including wildlife viewers and enforcement.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those individuals who are already violating the intent of present statutes.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: Total ban on harvest located with a transporter. Too restrictive. The suggested regulation allows for movement as same day airborne does.

PROPOSED BY: Brian Peterson

LOG NUMBER: EG102810124

PROPOSAL 201- 5 AAC 92.085 Unlawful methods of taking big game; exceptions. Modify the time period for harvesting big game after being transported in Units 6-11 and 13-17.

It is unlawful to harvest any big game species spotted, located, seen while being transported until 3 pm the day following the day game was located, spotted, or seen while being transported.

ISSUE: Illegal guiding by transporters. Transporter clients pursuing game with transporters. Putting the responsibility on the client. Making the law easier to enforce for protection.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Continued violations; illegal harvest and overharvest of certain species.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? It would increase populations and allow for more selective harvest in the future.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All user groups including viewers, protection and the Department of Law due to easier enforcement.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those who violate current statute. Transporter clients who currently have no responsibility for the violation.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: Unlawful to harvest any big game seen while being transported. Too restrictive, proposed regulation will be effective enough.

PROPOSED BY: Brian Peterson

LOG NUMBER: EG102810123

Interior Region

PROPOSAL 202 – 5 AAC 92.015. Brown bear tag fee exemptions. Reauthorize resident grizzly bear tag fee exemptions throughout Interior and Eastern Arctic Alaska.

(a) A resident tag is not required for taking a brown bear in the following units:

...

(4) Units 12, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25, 26(B), and 26(C);

...

ISSUE: Resident brown bear tag fees were put in place statewide during the mid 1970s to discourage incidental harvest, elevate the status of brown and grizzly bears to trophies, and to provide revenue. Today, Region III populations are healthy, grizzly bears are highly regarded as trophies, and revenue can be generated from non-tag fee sources. The board must annually reauthorize all resident tag fee exemptions, and legislative action is needed to change this requirement.

Eliminating resident grizzly bear tag fees throughout Interior and Eastern Arctic Alaska (Region III) simplifies regulations, increases hunter opportunity, and is not likely to cause declines in these grizzly bear populations. This proposal would assist with our objective of managing Region III grizzly bear populations for hunter opportunity and would allow more hunters to take grizzlies opportunistically. During regulatory years 2006–2009, 36 percent of grizzlies harvested by resident hunters in Region III were taken incidentally to other activities (compared to 12 percent incidental take in regions I and II).

We estimate that a kill rate of at least 6 percent, composed primarily of males, is sustainable. Human-caused mortality in most of Region III has been consistently below this level, indicating that possible increased harvest in most units can be accommodated with little effect on grizzly bear populations. Where harvests are elevated (i.e. Units 20D, 20B, 20A, and portions of 26B), grizzly populations are managed through changes in seasons and bag limits. Tag fees appear to have little effect on harvest in these areas.

As part of this request to reauthorize exemption of grizzly tag fee throughout Region III, we recommend that the board, at a minimum, continue to reauthorize the tag fee exemptions for subsistence registration permit hunts in Units 19A and 19B (downstream of and including the Aniak River drainage), 21D, and 24.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Harvest opportunity will be lost and hunters will be required obtain the \$25 resident tag. Subsistence users in areas where tag fees are currently exempt will find it more difficult to harvest grizzly bears for food.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS

PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Residents who are unable to purchase the \$25 tag before hunting, due to lack of vendors or economic reasons, will be able to opportunistically and legally harvest grizzly bears.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? People who believe the \$25 resident tag fee is useful in managing grizzly bear populations and those who believe grizzly bears should not be harvested to provide food for subsistence hunters.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Decrease the Region III grizzly tag fee to \$10. This would require legislative action.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

LOG NUMBER: ADFG11301000

PROPOSAL 203 - 5AAC 85.045(a)(17) and (18). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.
Reauthorize antlerless moose hunting seasons in Unit 19D, 20A, 20B, and 20D.

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
...		
(17)		
...		
Unit 19(D), that portion in the Upper Kuskokwim Controlled Use Area		
1 antlered bull by registration permit; or	Sept. 1 - Sept. 25	No open season.
1 moose by registration permit; during the period Feb. 1 - Feb. 28, a	(To be announced)	No open season.

season may be announced by emergency order

Unit 19(D), that portion between and including the Cheeneetnuk and Gagaryah River drainages, excluding that portion within 2 miles of the Swift River

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 antlered bull; or	Sept. 1 - Sept. 20	
1 antlered bull by registration permit; or	Sept. 1 - Sept. 25	
1 moose by registration permit; during the period Feb. 1 - Feb. 28, a season may be announced by emergency order	(To be announced)	No open season.

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side		Sept. 1 - Sept. 20
Remainder of Unit 19(D)		
1 antlered bull; or	Sept. 1 - Sept. 20	No open season.
1 antlered bull by registration permit; or	Sept. 1 - Sept. 25	No open season.
1 moose by registration	(To be announced)	No open season.

permit; during the period Feb. 1 – Feb. 28, a season may be announced by emergency order

(18)

Unit 20(A), the Ferry Trail Management Area, Wood River Controlled Use Area, and the Yanert Controlled Use Area

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

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

Sept. 1 - Sept. 25
(General hunt only)

1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only; up to 1,000 permits may be issued; a person may not take a calf or a cow accompanied by a calf; a recipient of an antlerless drawing permit is prohibited from taking a bull moose in Unit 20(A); or

Aug. 25 - Oct. 31
(General hunt only)

1 antlerless moose by registration permit only; a person may not take a calf or a cow accompanied by a calf; or

Jan. 10 - Feb. 28
(General hunt only)

1 bull by drawing permit

Sept. 1 - Sept. 25

only; up to 1,000 permits
may be issued; or

(General hunt only)

1 bull by drawing
permit only; by
muzzleloader only;
up to 75 permits
may be issued

Nov. 1 - Nov. 30
(General hunt only)

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull with 50-inch
antlers or antlers
with 4 or more brow
tines on one side;
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
muzzleloader only;
up to 75 permits
may be issued

Nov. 1 - Nov. 30

Remainder of Unit 20(A)

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

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

Sept. 1 - Sept. 25

1 antlerless moose by
drawing permit only;
up to 1,000 permits
may be issued; a
person may not take
a calf or a cow
accompanied by a
calf; a recipient
of an antlerless
drawing permit is

Aug. 25 - Oct. 31
(General hunt only)

prohibited from taking a bull moose in Unit 20(A); or

1 antlerless moose by registration permit only; a person may not take a calf or a cow accompanied by a calf; or

Aug. 25 - Feb. 28

1 bull by drawing permit only; up to 1,000 permits may be issued; or

Sept. 1 - Sept. 25

1 bull by drawing permit only; by muzzleloader only; up to 75 permits may be issued

Nov. 1 - Nov. 30
(General hunt only)

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side; 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 muzzleloader only; up to 75 permits may be issued

Nov. 1 - Nov. 30

Unit 20(B), that portion within Creamer's Refuge

1 bull with spike-fork or greater antlers, by bow and arrow only; or

Sept. 1 - Sept. 30
(General hunt only)
Nov. 21 - Nov. 27
(General hunt only)

Sept. 1 - Sept. 30
Nov. 21 - Nov. 27

1 antlerless moose by bow and arrow only, by drawing permit only; up

Sept. 1 - Nov. 27
(General hunt only)

Sept. 1 - Nov. 27

to 150 permits may be issued in the Fairbanks Management Area; a recipient of a drawing permit is prohibited from taking an antlered bull moose in the Fairbanks Management Area; or

1 antlerless moose by muzzleloader by drawing permit only; up to 10 permits may be issued; a recipient of a drawing permit is prohibited from taking an antlered bull moose in the Fairbanks Management Area

Nov. 21 - Nov. 27
(General hunt only)

Nov. 21 - Nov. 27

Unit 20(B), remainder of the Fairbanks Management Area

1 bull with spike-fork or greater antlers, by bow and arrow only; or

Sept. 1 - Sept. 30
(General hunt only)
Nov. 21 - Nov. 27
(General hunt only)

Sept. 1 - Sept. 30
Nov. 21 - Nov. 27

1 antlerless moose by bow and arrow only, by drawing permit only; up to 150 permits may be issued; a recipient of a drawing permit is prohibited from taking an antlered bull moose in the Fairbanks Management Area

Sept. 1 - Nov. 27
(General hunt only)

Sept. 1 - Nov. 27

Unit 20(B), that portion within

the Minto Flats
Management Area

1 moose by registration
permit only; or

Sept. 1 - Sept. 25
(Subsistence hunt
only)
Jan. 10 - Feb. 28
(Subsistence hunt
only)

No open season.

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

Sept. 11 - Sept. 25

No open season.

Unit 20(B), the
drainage of the
Middle Fork of
the Chena River

1 antlerless moose by
drawing permit only;
up to 300 permits
may be issued; a
person may not take
a calf or a cow
accompanied by a
calf; or

Aug. 15 - Nov. 15
(General hunt only)

No open season.

1 bull; or

Sept. 1 - Sept. 20

Sept. 1 - Sept. 20

1 bull, by bow
and arrow only; or

Sept. 21 - Sept. 30

Sept. 21 - Sept. 30

1 moose by drawing
permit only; by
muzzleloader only;
up to 60 permits
may be issued; a
person may not take
a calf or a cow
accompanied by a
calf

Nov. 1 - Nov. 30
(General hunt only)

No open season.

Unit 20(B), that

portion of the
Salcha River
drainage upstream
from and including
Goose Creek

1 bull; or
1 bull, by bow and
arrow only; or

Sept. 1 - Sept. 20
Sept. 21 - Sept. 30

Sept. 1 - Sept. 20
Sept. 21 - Sept. 30

1 moose by drawing permit
only; by muzzleloader
only; up to 60 permits
may be issued; a
person may not take
a calf or a cow
accompanied by a
calf

Nov. 1 - Nov. 30

No open season.

Unit 20(B), that
portion southeast
of the Moose
Creek dike within
one-half mile of
each side of the
Richardson highway

1 moose by drawing
permit only; by
bow and arrow or
muzzleloader only;
up to 100 permits
may be issued

Sept. 16 - Feb. 28
(General hunt only)

No open season.

Remainder of Unit 20(B)

1 bull; or

Sept. 1 - Sept. 15

Sept. 5 - Sept. 15

1 antlerless moose by
drawing permit only;
up to 900 permits may
be issued; a person
may not take a calf or
a cow accompanied
by a calf

Aug. 15 - Nov. 15
(General hunt only)

No open season.

...

Unit 20(D), that
portion lying
west of the west
bank of the
Johnson River and
south of the
north bank of the
Tanana River,
except the Delta
Junction
Management Area
and the Bison
Range Youth Hunt
Management Area

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

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

Sept. 1 - Sept. 15
(General hunt only)

1 bull by drawing permit; or

Sept. 1 - Sept. 15
(General hunt only)

1 antlerless moose
by drawing permit
only; up to 1,000
permits may be issued
in combination with
that portion in the
Delta Junction
Management Area; a
person may not take
a calf or a cow
accompanied by a
calf; or

Oct. 10 - Nov. 25
(General hunt only)

1 antlerless moose by
registration permit only; a
person may not take a calf
or a cow accompanied by
a calf

Oct. 10 - Nov. 25
(General hunt only)

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

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

Sept. 5 - Sept. 15

Unit 20(D), that portion
within the Bison Range Youth
Hunt Management Area

1 bull with spike-fork
or 50-inch antlers or
antlers with 4 or more
brow tines on one
side; or 1 antlerless
moose, per lifetime of
a hunter, by drawing
permit only; up to 10
permits may be issued;
a person may not take
a calf or a cow
accompanied by a calf

Sept. 1 -Sept. 30
(General hunt only)

Sept.1 - Sept. 30

Unit 20(D), that
portion within
the Delta
Junction
Management Area

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull with spike-fork or 50-
inch antlers or antlers
with 4 or more brow
tines on one side
by drawing permit
only; up to 30
permits may be
issued; or

Sept. 1 - Sept. 15
(General hunt only)

1 antlerless moose by
drawing permit only;
up to 1,000 permits
may be issued in
combination with

Oct. 10 - Nov. 25
(General hunt only)

that portion lying west of the west bank of the Johnson River and south of the north bank of the Tanana River; a person may not take a calf or a cow accompanied by a calf; or

1 antlerless moose by registration permit only; a person may not take a calf or a cow accompanied by a calf

Oct. 10 - Nov. 25
(General hunt only)

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 30 permits may be issued

Sept. 5 - Sept. 15

...

ISSUE: Antlerless moose hunting seasons must be reauthorized annually. Our goal is to provide for a wide range of public uses and benefits, and to protect the health and habitat of moose populations. These antlerless hunts are important for improving or maintaining the ability of moose habitat to support current populations. They also help regulate moose population growth, help to meet Intensive Management (IM) objectives for high levels of harvest, and provide subsistence hunters with a reasonable opportunity to pursue moose for subsistence uses without reducing bull-to-cow ratios.

Unit 19D

A February any moose hunt will be announced as needed to keep the moose population in the Upper Kuskokwim Villages Moose Management Area (MMA, specified in 5 AAC 92.125 (f)(2)(A)) at healthy levels and to provide additional hunting opportunity. The decision to hold this to-be-announced season will be based on 2-year average twinning rates and other available biological information. We will establish the hunt area and harvest quota under discretionary permit authority based on the best population information available and September harvest data.

Permits will be available in Unit 19D throughout the February season and a 2-day reporting requirement will be imposed so the harvest quota is not exceeded.

The moose population in the MMA has approximately doubled since 2003 and annual browse removal by moose has increased to approximately 41 percent of available browse, a relatively high rate. Although 2-year average twinning rates in Unit 19D remain above 25 percent, it may become necessary in the near future to harvest cows to either slow population growth or reduce the number of moose in the MMA.

We did not open the winter season during 2010–2011 because twinning rates were above 25 percent, but the upward trend of the moose population in this area makes it prudent to maintain this season so we will be able to respond if we observe a decline in twinning rates. If the hunt is opened, it will increase opportunity for hunters and help achieve intensive management objectives.

Unit 20A

The purpose of antlerless moose hunts in Unit 20A is to regulate population growth, to meet the IM mandate for high levels of harvest, and to provide subsistence hunters with a reasonable opportunity to pursue moose for subsistence uses in Unit 20A outside the Fairbanks Nonsubsistence Area (part of the western Tanana Flats). The number of moose in Unit 20A was estimated at 16,000–18,000 (3.2–3.6 moose/mi²) in 2003. Research indicated this high-density moose population was experiencing density-dependent effects, including low productivity, relatively light calf weights, and high removal rates of winter forage.

Our objective beginning in regulatory year 2004 (RY begins 1 July and ends 30 June, e.g., RY04 = 1 July 2004 through 30 June 2005) was to reduce moose numbers to the population objective of 10,000–12,000 moose (2.0–2.5 moose/mi²). The fall 2009 population estimate was 15,500 (13,772–17,583; 90 percent Confidence Interval) moose. We recommended a harvest of 350 antlerless moose in RY10, an estimated harvest rate of 2.3 percent of the prehunt moose population. This harvest rate is expected to result in population stability, based on harvest rates and population trends observed between RY96 and RY09.

Unit 20B

Fairbanks Management Area (FMA) – The purpose of this antlerless hunt is to provide opportunity to harvest surplus antlerless moose in the FMA and potentially reduce moose–vehicle collisions and nuisance moose problems.

Based on our November 2008 survey, the moose population in the FMA is approximately 505 moose (1.7 moose/mi²). The number of moose–vehicle collisions in the FMA are high and pose significant safety risks to motorists. In addition, moose nuisance issues continue to place significant demands on property owners. Moose–vehicle collisions and moose nuisance problems declined during RY06–RY08, presumably, due in part to the higher antlerless moose harvests. However, the DM788 harvest fell to 14 in RY08 after permits were reduced by 50 percent and the bag limit was restricted to cows without calves. In RY09 the bag limit and 150 permits was restored and the harvest rebounded to 52.

Minto Flats Management Area (MFMA) – The primary purpose of this antlerless hunt is to provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence uses. In 2004, the board replaced the Tier II subsistence hunt TM785 (100 permits with a bag limit of one moose during September 1–20 and January 10–February 28) with 2 registration hunts, RM775 and RM785 (bag limit of one moose during September 1–25 and January 10–February 28). In addition, a 15-day general hunt (September 11–25) for bulls (with spike, forked or 50” antlers, or antlers with 4 or more brow tines) provides hunting opportunity and helps to meet IM harvest objective of 600–1500 moose in Unit 20B.

Population estimation surveys indicate the moose density within the MFMA is high (>3.0 moose/mi²). The reported harvest of antlerless moose taken during subsistence hunt TM785 averaged 24 during regulatory years RY96–RY03. The reported harvest for hunts RM775 and RM785 averaged 52 antlerless moose (range 32–71) during RY04–RY08. This represents 1 to 2 percent of the MFMA moose population and is likely sustainable.

The drainage of the Middle Fork of the Chena River and the Remainder of Unit 20B – The antlerless moose harvest in this area is designed to curb growth of this population that has surpassed the upper limit of the IM population objective of 12,000–15,000 moose and helps to meet IM harvest objectives for Unit 20B.

These drawing permit hunts were approved by the board in 2006 to take advantage of relatively high and increasing moose numbers in central Unit 20B. To mitigate hunter conflicts, we spread hunters out over space and time. Population estimates (from 12,313 in 2001 to 20,173 in 2009) and calf:cow ratios (37–43:100 during 2003–2009) indicate numbers are increasing. Moreover, moose densities are relatively high (2.2 moose/mi²) in central Unit 20B surrounding Fairbanks.

The overall Unit 20B moose population is still growing at four percent per year, despite significant road kill and harvest of more than 200 cows annually (258 by permit in 2009), representing 1.2 percent of the prehunt population estimate of 21,105 moose.

The reported harvest for the central Unit 20B drawing hunts (outside the FMA) averaged 92 antlerless moose (range 83–101) during RY06 and RY07, but fell to 48 when permits were reduced by 50 percent and the bag limit was restricted to cows without calves in RY08. Harvest increased to 168 in 2009 when the number of permits increased.

Mortality from vehicle and train collisions has been high, with an average of 149 moose killed annually by motor vehicles in Unit 20B. By focusing harvest in the more heavily roaded central Unit 20B, road kill may be reduced.

Finally, extensive burns in northcentral Unit 20B will provide excellent habitat in the future. With improving habitat, continued high predator harvest, and relatively mild winters, we can expect continued high productivity and survival of moose, along with increased yield.

Adding the September 21–30 bull season by bow and arrow only in the middle fork of the Chena River is a housekeeping issue to correct a typographical error. The board approved this season in

2002 and it appeared in the codified until the most recent edition.

Unit 20D

Reauthorization of the permit hunts for cow moose without calves is necessary in southwest Unit 20D (south of the Tanana River and west of the Johnson River) to stabilize the population and contribute toward meeting the IM harvest objective of 500–700 moose. We expect that, in most years when antlerless permits are needed, only drawing permits will be issued. Registration permits will be issued in combination with drawing permits to obtain additional harvest only in years and areas where additional harvest is needed to maintain optimal moose densities.

The density of moose in Unit 20D reached the IM population objective of 8,000–10,000 moose in about 2005. The highest density of moose was in southwest Unit 20D at 5.6 moose/mi² during 2006. The moose population in this area was demonstrating the effects of increased competition for food, with a moderately low level 2-year average twinning rate of 14 percent. Also, browse surveys indicated that moose are consuming moderately high quantities (25 percent) of available browse over winter. Antlerless moose hunts during 2006–2009 helped reduce the density of moose in southwest Unit 20D to 3.9 moose/mi². Continued antlerless hunts are likely needed to maintain the population at the optimal density. Extensive management and research data to guide antlerless hunt decisions were collected in 2010, including calf weights, twinning rates, a population estimate, an extensive browse utilization survey, and aerial survey sightability information. These data are currently being analyzed to determine the continued need for antlerless hunts in southwest Unit 20D.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? These moose populations may increase to unacceptable levels or may need further reduction when new data is available and analyzed. Opportunity to hunt a harvestable surplus of cow moose will be lost and our ability to meet intensive management harvest objectives will be compromised. In central Unit 20B and the FMA in particular, moose–vehicle collisions and nuisance moose problems will likely remain high or increase. Subsistence hunters may not have a reasonable opportunity to pursue moose for subsistence uses.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. Passage of this proposal will improve or maintain the ability of moose habitat to support current moose populations and allow the department to manage the moose populations in these units at optimum population levels. It will also allow hunters to harvest moose toward meeting the intensive management harvest objectives without reducing bull-to-cow ratios to low levels.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The moose populations will benefit by having population densities compatible with their habitat. Meat and subsistence hunters will benefit by increased moose harvest. Urban residents may benefit from reduced moose–vehicle collisions and moose–human conflicts.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? People who are opposed to intensive management harvest strategies.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? No antlerless permits or more antlerless permits.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

LOG NUMBER: ADFG113010JJ

Note: This proposal was deferred by the Board of Game from the Spring 2010 meeting. It was previously listed as Proposal 46.

PROPOSAL 204 - 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose; and 92.074. Community subsistence harvest hunt areas. Establish a community harvest permit hunt for the Village of Minto as follows:

One, any-moose permit per household with a maximum of 50 moose for the village.

ISSUE: There are plenty of moose around Minto, but the people of Minto do not want to stand in line for any moose registration permits with non-Minto people. Because of this the people in Minto are not getting the moose they need to fill their subsistence needs.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? People in Minto continue to not have their subsistence needs met.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. Because the people will take only the number of moose they need.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All of the people of Minto.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one because there are enough moose that others can harvest moose as well.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Return to Tier II, but the board has already rejected this option

PROPOSED BY: Village of Minto

LOG NUMBER: I-10S-G-020

Note: This proposal was deferred by the Board of Game from the Statewide, 2010 meeting. It was previously listed as Proposal 44.

PROPOSAL 205 - 5 AAC 92.450. Description of Game Management Units. Modify the boundaries for Units 18, 19 and 20 as follows:

Create new boundary language for Unit 18 to read: That area draining into the Yukon River downstream from the ‘down river’ boundary of ; and that area draining into the Kuskokwim River downstream from the ‘down river’ boundary of Dick Nash’s fish camp, on the South bank of the river and the ‘down river’ boundary of Sam Savage’s fish camp on the North side of the river (both located five miles downriver of Lower Kalskag); and that area draining into Crooked Creek (also know as Johnson River) downstream from the northern terminus of the Mud Creek to Crooked Creek (also know as Johnson River) tramway (also known as Mud Creek to Johnson River Portage).

Create new boundary language for Unit 19 to read: That area draining into the Kuskokwim River upstream from the ‘down river boundary of Dick Nash’s fish camp, on the South bank of the river and the ‘down river’ boundary of Sam Savage’s fish camp, on the North bank of the river; and that area draining into Crooked Creek (also known as Johnson River) upstream from the northern terminus of the Mud Creek to Crooked Creek (also known as Johnson River) tramway (also know as Mud Creek to Johnson River Portage).

Create new boundary language for Unit 21 to read: That area draining into the Yukon River upstream from the “down river” boundary of .

(Note: All of the above-mentioned land marks are well known to all hunters in Units 18, 19, and 21. They are also very easy to locate on “up-to-date” maps. It would also make it easier for the “map makers” to draw in the affected drainages.)

ISSUE: The confusing boundary dividing Units 18, 19, and 21

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Many hunters would still not know where the real boundary is. There is no definite language explaining where the “straight line” begins or ends. Does the line start as the “down river,” the “center of” or the “up river” boundary of or Lower Kalskag?

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? The boundaries would be clear, definite and visible. There would be no more confusion about where the boundaries begin and end. Hunters would know exactly what Unit they are in. All these Units have different seasons and bag limits. This would clarify when, where and what may be hunted and harvested. (No more confusion means no more “citations.”)

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All hunters traveling upriver on the Kuskokwim and Yukon Rivers to Units 19 and 21. Hunters from Lower Kalskag and Kalskag would benefit the most, because they would be gaining additional hunting areas in Units 18, 19 and 21, which is their customary and traditional hunting area.

This would clarify the issue of the land north of Lower Kalskag and Kalskag and south of the High Portage Ridge. High Portage Ridge divides the Yukon and Kuskokwim drainages. All drainages north of the ridge flowing into the Yukon River would be in Unit 21, and all drainages south of the ridge flowing into the Kuskokwim River would be in Unit 19, not in Unit 21 as shown in the current regulation map.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one would suffer if this solution is adopted.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Starting the boundary at the mouth of Paimiut Slough, up the slough to the upper end of Twelve Mile Slough, following the slough to the mouth of Anvik Creek, following the creek to its head, crossing over to the head of Hooking Creek that drains into “Big Lake”, north of Kalskag, following it down to Big Lake, following the north shore of Big Lake to the head of Crooked Creek (also known as Johnson River), following it to the north terminus of the Mud Slough to Johnson River Portage, then south on the Portage to Mud Creek, down to its confluence with First Slough, following its north bank to its mouth, then to the “down river” boundary of Sam Savage’s fish camp on the north shore of the Kuskokwim River, then across the river to Dick Nash’s fish camp on the south bank of the river. This may vividly clarify the issue, but it was rejected because it is too wordy and cumbersome.

PROPOSED BY: Central Kuskokwim Fish and Game Advisory Committee

LOG NUMBER: HQ-10W-G-016

Arctic Region

PROPOSAL 206 – 5 AAC 92.015(a) (8) & (9) and 92.015 (b) (4), (7), (8) & (10) Brown bear tag fee exemptions. Reauthorize the current resident tag fee exemptions for brown bear in Units 18, 22, 23 and 26A.

(a) A resident tag is not required for taking a brown bear in the following units:

- ...
- (8) Unit 22;
- (9) Unit 23;
- ...

(b) In addition to the units as specified in (a) of this section, if a hunter obtains a subsistence registration permit before hunting, that hunter is not required to obtain a resident tag to take a brown bear in the following units:

- ...
- (4) Unit 18;
- ...
- (7) Unit 22;
- (8) Unit 23;
- ...
- (10) Unit 26(A).

ISSUE: The Board must reauthorize brown bear tag fee exemptions annually or the fee automatically becomes reinstated. We recommend continuing resident tag fee exemptions for the general season and subsistence season hunts in Region V (Units 18, 22, 23, and 26A).

General Season Hunts: Reauthorizations are needed for: Unit 22, where the tag fee has been exempted for 9 years, and Unit 23, where the tag fee has been exempted for 5 years. Tag fee exemptions are desired to allow: 1) incremental increase in annual harvest, 2) opportunistic harvest by resident hunters, and 3) harvest by a wide range of users. Increased harvest is allowable because portions of these units have high bear populations.

General season brown bear harvest rates are within sustained yield limits and exempting the resident tag fee has not caused dramatic or unexpected increases in overall harvest. In Unit 22, during the tag-free period resident harvest has a 9-year average annual harvest of 48 brown bears. In Unit 23, general harvests have increased slowly since 1961 although there has been substantial annual variability in harvest levels. The increasing trend in overall harvest is probably most influenced by the increasing human population in Alaska rather than the result of regulatory changes. Annual variability in harvests is probably most affected by weather. Harvest data for Unit 23 show no trend in the sex ratio, age or size of bears harvested under all types of hunts.

Subsistence Season Hunts: Reauthorizations are needed for Units 18, 22, 23, and 26(A) where

brown bear subsistence hunt requirements include: 1) registration permit, 2) tag fee exemption, 3) salvaging meat for human consumption, 4) no use of aircraft in Units 22, 23 and 26(A), 5) no sealing requirement unless hide and skull are removed from subsistence hunt area, and 6) if sealing is required, the skin of the head and front claws must be removed and retained by the department at the time of sealing. Continuing the tag fee exemption helps facilitate participation in the associated brown bear harvest programs maintained by the department for subsistence hunts.

In all GMUs, subsistence brown bear harvest rates are low and well within sustained yield limits and exempting the resident tag fee has not caused an increase in subsistence harvest. In Unit 18, we estimate 1-3 bears are taken annually in subsistence hunts. In Unit 22, 6 bears have been reported harvested during the previous 10-year period and this is less than one percent of the total brown bear harvest in the unit. In Unit 23, an average of less than five bears have been harvested annually since 1992 and this is less than or equal to 10 percent of the total brown bear harvest. In Unit 26(A), very few bears are taken annually by subsistence hunters.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The tag fee exemption will lapse and hunters will be required to purchase \$25 tags for general season and subsistence hunts. The brown bear harvest will decline.

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

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

LOG NUMBER: ADFG113010PP

PROPOSAL 207 - 5 AAC 85.045(a)(16). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.
Reauthorize the antlerless moose seasons in Unit 18, as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
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(16)

...

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

LOG NUMBER: ADFG113010II

PROPOSAL 208 - 5 AAC 85.045(a)(20). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.

Reauthorize the antlerless moose seasons in Unit 22C and the remainder of Unit 22D, as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(20)		
...		
Unit 22(C)		
RESIDENT HUNTERS:		
1 bull by registration permit only, or	Sept. 1-Sept. 14	
1 antlerless moose by registration permit only; or	Sept. 15-Sept. 30	
1 antlered bull by registration permit only; during the period Jan. 1 – Jan. 31, a season may be announced by emergency order	Jan. 1 – Jan. 31 (to be announced)	
NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:		
1 bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side by registration permit only		Sept. 1-Sept. 14
...		
Remainder of Unit 22(D)		
RESIDENT HUNTERS:		
1 moose; however, antlerless moose may be taken only from Dec. 1—Dec. 31; a person may	Aug. 10 - Sept. 14 Oct. 1 - Jan. 31	

not take a calf or a cow
accompanied by a calf; only antlered
moose may be taken from
Jan. 1—Jan. 31

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull with 50-inch antlers
or antlers with 4 or more brow
tines on one side, by registration
permit only.

Sept. 1 - Sept. 14

...

ISSUE: To be retained, antlerless moose seasons must be reauthorized annually. Two areas in Unit 22 require reauthorization: Unit 22(C), and the Remainder of Unit 22(D).

In October 1999, the Board authorized a registration hunt for antlerless moose in Unit 22(C) and the department manages this hunt with a quota of up to 30 permits annually. The intent of the hunt is stabilization of the Unit 22(C) moose population, which is believed to be at or near carrying capacity of its winter range.

The Unit 22(C) moose population grew steadily throughout the 1990s and the current population is estimated at 663 moose, which exceeds the departments' management goal of 450–525 moose. Calf crop and yearling recruitment is high and generally exceeds 20 percent annually. However, the bull:cow ratio is low, varying between 10–20 bulls:100 cows. The low bull:cow ratio makes additional bull harvest ill-advised. The Unit 22(C) moose population experienced 2 percent annual growth from 2001- 2010, and there was no statistically significant population increase between moose censuses completed in 2007 and 2010. It appears the antlerless hunt has helped stabilize moose numbers in Unit 22(C) and we recommend reauthorizing the antlerless moose hunt to achieve the moose population objectives for this unit.

In most other parts of Unit 22, low recruitment rates are believed to be causing moose population declines. However, in the Remainder of Unit 22 (D) we recommend continued authorization of antlerless moose hunting where moose populations are stable and hunting pressure is low. This portion of Unit 22(D) is relatively remote with difficult access and these factors contribute to limited hunting pressure in the area. The estimated number of moose has been stable since 1997 and composition surveys typically show higher calf:cow and calf:adult ratios than other parts of Unit 22, except Unit 22(C). A 2006 geo-spatial population estimation process completed in Unit 22(D) Remainder estimated the population at 599 moose with a calf:adult ratio of 35 calves:100 adults. The reported cow harvest in this area has been low, averaging 1 cow moose per year since 2000. Village harvest survey data (collected only in 2000-2001) shows 5 cow moose were harvested from Unit 22(D) Remainder, which is a more realistic estimate of annual cow harvest compared to harvest ticket reports. Low harvest rates of antlerless moose support our recommendation to reauthorize antlerless moose seasons in the Remainder of Unit 22(D).

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Hunting opportunity for antlerless moose

in portions of Unit 22 will be needlessly lost.

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

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

LOG NUMBER: ADFG113010KK

PROPOSAL 209 - 5 AAC 85.045(a)(21). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.
Reauthorize the antlerless moose seasons in Unit 23, as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(21)		
Unit 23, that portion north of and including the Singoalik River drainage		
RESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 moose by registration permit only; however, antlerless moose may be taken only from Nov. 1-Dec. 31; a person may not take a calf or a cow accompanied by a calf; or	July 1 - Dec. 31	
1 bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side	Sept. 1 - Sept. 20	
NONRESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines		Sept. 1 - Sept. 20

on one side by drawing permit only; up to 125 permits may be issued in all of Unit 23

Remainder of Unit 23

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

Aug. 1 - Dec. 31

1 moose by registration permit only; however, antlerless moose may be taken only from Nov. 1-Dec. 31; a person may not take a calf or a cow accompanied by a calf; or

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

Sept. 1 - Sept. 20

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

Sept. 1 - Sept. 20

1 bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side by drawing permit only; up to 125 permits may be issued in all of Unit 23

ISSUE: To be retained, antlerless moose seasons must be reauthorized annually. Moose density is currently low in large portions of Unit 23. As a result, in November 2003 the BOG restricted moose hunting for resident and nonresident hunters. These restrictions substantially shortened the resident antlerless moose season and limited the harvest of antlerless moose to hunters who register for registration permit hunt RM880. In November 2005, 2007 and 2009 the BOG considered public proposals and made no changes to the moose hunting seasons in Unit 23. Historically, the reported harvest of cow moose has been low throughout Unit 23 despite liberal antlerless seasons. We do not think maintaining an antlerless season during November and December, when moose harvests tend to be low, will endanger Unit 23 moose populations.

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

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Resident hunters who need to harvest an antlerless moose when caribou or other game is unavailable.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

LOG NUMBER: ADFG113010LL

PROPOSAL 210 5 AAC 85.045(a)(24). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.
Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in Unit 26(A), as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(24)		
Unit 26(A), that portion in the Colville River drainage up-stream from and including the Anaktuvuk River drainage		
1 bull; or	Aug. 1 – Sept. 14	No open season.
1 bull by drawing permit only; up to 40 permits may be issued; up to 20 percent of the permits may be issued to nonresident hunters; or	Sept 1 – Sept. 14	Sept 1 – Sept. 14
1 moose; a person may not take a calf or a cow accompanied by a calf.	Feb. 15 – Apr. 15	No open season.
Unit 26(A), that portion west of 156° 00' W. longitude excluding the Colville River drainage		
1 moose; a person may not take a calf or a cow accompanied by a calf.	July 1 – Sept 14	No open season.

...

ISSUE: To be retained, antlerless moose seasons must be reauthorized annually. Two areas in Unit 26(A) are considered by this proposal: 1) the Colville River drainage upstream from and including the Anaktuvuk River drainage; and 2) the portion of Unit 26(A) west of 156 00' W longitude and north of the Colville drainage.

Within the 'upstream' portion of the Colville River drainage, a winter hunt was established by the Board in November 2005 and opened in the 2005-2006 regulatory year to provide more hunting opportunity in an area where the moose population is increasing in Unit 26(A). Since most bull moose shed their antlers before the established season opening of February 15, the bag limit for this hunt is one moose, except a calf or cow accompanied by a calf may not be taken. In this antlerless hunt area, the moose population is currently decreasing. However, a low number of cows have been harvested in the winter season: 2 cows in 2006, 3 cows in 2007, 1 cow in 2008, and 1 in 2009. A similar low harvest is anticipated for the current regulatory year. Low harvests of antlerless moose (<5 per year) in the Colville River drainage should not prevent the population from recovering and we recommend reauthorization of the antlerless moose season in this area.

The portion of Unit 26(A) west of 156 00' W longitude and north of the Colville drainage has a sparse distribution of moose. Each year a small percentage of moose (primarily bulls and cows without calves) disperse away from the major river drainages and across the coastal plain. These moose provide the only opportunities for harvest in the northwestern portion of Unit 26(A). The Unit 26A moose population is currently declining, but the small number of dispersing cow moose that could be harvested under this reauthorization proposal will have very little impact on the size of the population. To date, after several years of hunting, few antlerless moose have been harvested in this portion of the unit. One cow was harvested in 2006, none in 2007, 1 in 2008, and none in 2009 or 2010 during this hunt. We recommend reauthorization of the antlerless moose season in this portion of Unit 26(A).

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

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Resident hunters who need to harvest an antlerless moose when caribou or other game is unavailable.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

LOG NUMBER: ADFG113010MM

Southeast Region

PROPOSAL 211--5 AAC 085.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Reauthorize the existing antlerless moose season in Berners Bay.

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(1)		
...		
Unit 1(C), Berners Bay drain- ages	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: Antlerless moose hunts must be reauthorized annually by the Board. The Berners Bay strategic moose management plan calls for a post-hunt count of 90 moose, based on the estimated moose carrying capacity of this area. ADF&G has been very successful at maintaining this population level through the harvest of both bull and cow moose.

During 1998–2006, the number of drawing permits issued by the department for this herd ranged from 10 bull permits and 10 antlerless permits to 7 bull permits and 0 antlerless permits. The average annual harvest of bull moose during this period was seven, while cow harvests in years we issued antlerless permits was 4. Although we have the latitude of issuing up to 30 permits annually, we haven’t issued more than 20 permits annually during any of the past 10 years; and no permits were issued during the period 2007-2010.

The number of moose counted during the fall aerial surveys determines the number of drawing permits issued. Aerial counts during 1990–2006 ranged from a high of 108 moose in 1999 to a low of 59 in 2002. The fall 2006 count of 76 moose was just one lower than the mean annual count of 77 during 1990–2006. During the winter of 2006-07, Berners Bay experienced extreme amounts of snowfall, and the following winters of 2007-08 and 2008-09 were nearly as severe. This cumulative effects of this weather pattern resulted in a dramatic decline in moose. The number of moose counted in replicate aerial surveys in 2007 and 2008 ranged between 33-62 moose. Aerial surveys conducted in 2009 resulted in 55 and 51 total moose. Population estimates based on sight-ability data collected during aerial surveys resulted in 83±15 and 78±14 moose, respectively.

Estimated overwinter survival for cow moose during the period 2006-2009 was 85 percent, 87 percent 94 percent, and 94 percent, respectively, suggesting that mortality rates have declined since the severe winter of 2006/2007.

As a result of the severe winters and the impacts they have had on this moose herd, we did not issue any permits in 2010 and do not anticipate issuing any permits for either bull or cow moose during the next few years. We will continue to monitor this population through annual composition surveys, and use these numbers to decide whether or not we will issue any permits. In addition we will be collecting information on moose survival, mortality, and recruitment. If we begin to detect an increasing trend in moose numbers, and determine that this population is recovering, we can then decide whether a few permits can be issued. Very likely this would be only bull permits for the foreseeable future. In spite of this, we would prefer to keep continue the antlerless authorization so we have this tool in the future when needed.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The population could increase and exceed the carrying capacity of the habitat as it has done in the past. The Berners Bay moose harvest will be restricted to bulls thereby limiting opportunity for hunters.

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

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

LOG NUMBER: ADFG113010T

PROPOSAL 212- 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Reauthorize the existing antlerless moose season in the Gustavus area.

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
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(1)

...

Unit 1(C), that portion west

of Excursion Inlet and north
of Icy Passage

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 registration
permit only; or

Sept. 15–Oct. 15
(General hunt only)

Sept. 15–Oct. 15

1 antlerless moose
by drawing permit
only; up to 100 permits
may be issued

Nov. 10–Dec. 10
(General hunt only)

Nov. 10–Dec. 10

ISSUE: Antlerless moose hunts must be reauthorized annually by the Board. The Gustavus moose population (Unit 1C) increased rapidly from just a few animals during the 1980's to a count of 185 animals in 1998, to a subsequent count of 404 animals in 2003. By 2002 ADF&G estimated the winter range moose density at Gustavus exceeded 5 moose per km², with only a small portion of that area being productive winter range as identified by abundant stands of willow. Because of concerns with these high moose numbers, ADF&G biologists began conducting spring browse utilization surveys in 1999, and documented 85–95 percent of the current annual growth of willow twigs available to moose had been consumed. ADF&G biologists are convinced that the moose densities seen prior to implementing an antlerless hunt were not sustainable.

Based on the browse utilization data and overall moose densities at Gustavus, an antlerless hunt was first authorized for the Gustavus area by the BOG in fall 2000. Since that time, hunters have harvested 10, 30, 54, 67, 11 and 10 cow moose during the period 2002-2006, and 2008 respectively. The fall 2007 antlerless hunt was cancelled after nearly 20 percent of radio-collared cow moose (n=33) died from natural causes presumably linked to the severe winter of 2006/2007. A conservative number of antlerless drawing permits were awarded for fall 2008 after a less severe winter in 2007/2008. No permits were awarded for fall 2009 or fall 2010 due to concerns with persistent snow during winter 2008/2009 and affects this may have on the moose herd in future years.

ADF&G biologists have been able to collect rump fat measurements as an index of body condition as well as collect pregnancy and twinning rate data from the reproductive tracts from the majority of the harvested animals. The rump fat index has been very low in comparison to similar measurements taken during early winter from moose in other populations throughout Alaska; 2009 and 2010 rump fat measurements indicate improving body condition. Prior to spring 2010, the percent of females that were pregnant and the percent carrying twins was also below that found in many other populations, and below thresholds expected for a healthy moose population. Spring 2010 pregnancy rates were 96 percent, representing a significant increase over previous years. In addition to these data collected from harvested cow moose, capture operations conducted during

spring and fall from 2003 through 2009 accounted for approximately 20-30 cow moose per capture session being measured for rump fat and assessed for pregnancy. Body condition indices are slowly improving for Gustavus cow moose; however, these indices are still below those of other coastal herds that have been sampled.

Although an antlerless hunt was not held in 2010, biologists believe it is important to keep this tool available to implement if needed. Strong pregnancy rates in 2010 and improving body condition indices suggest the Gustavus moose herd has the potential to grow. By closing the antlerless hunt in fall 2007, 2009, and 2010 biologists have shown that they will use the antlerless hunt with caution and utilize this harvest strategy only in the case where they believe it is necessary or justified. Biologists will continue to monitor this herd using radio collars to collect data on cow survival, calf survival, twinning rates, recruitment as well as using the radio collars for sightability to get more precise survey information. These data will assure biologists have up to date population information to present to the public at Gustavus to keep them informed of the status of this population.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? This moose population could persist at a density too high for the habitat to support, thereby continuing the overutilization of winter browse. Ultimately biologists are concerned that the long range carrying capacity of this range could be compromised due to this over utilization of preferred winter browse species.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All persons interested in having a healthy moose population, and one that does not compromise the health of the habitat they depend on. Also, an antlerless hunt can provide additional opportunity for those people interested in harvesting a moose.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

LOG NUMBER: ADFG113010U

PROPOSAL 213 - 5 AAC 85.045. 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
(3)		
Unit 5(A), that portion south of Wrangell-Saint	Nov. 15 - Feb. 15	Nov. 15 - Feb. 15

Elias National Park,
north and east of
Russell and Nunatak
Fiords, and east of
the east side of East
Nunatak Glacier to
the Canadian
Border (Nunatak Bench)

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

...

ISSUE: Antlerless moose hunts must be reauthorized annually by the Board. The Nunatak Bench (Unit 5A) hunt area is separated from adjacent moose habitat by fiords and glaciers, allowing for little immigration or emigration by moose. Therefore we manage this population separately from the remainder of Unit 5A, with a much longer and later running hunting season that spans the period of November 15-February 15. Because of the isolated nature of Nunatak Bench and the limited amount of moose habitat, we have traditionally allowed maximum hunter opportunity through an either sex hunt, thereby aiding in our goal of limiting herd growth to stay within the carrying capacity of this area. The either sex hunt strategy accommodates the timing of this hunt given that much of the hunt period occurs post antler drop making sex differentiation difficult.

The Nunatak Bench strategic moose management plan calls for a post-hunt population of a maximum of 50 moose. During a February 2001 survey 52 moose were counted in this area followed by 25 in December 2003. However, since that time the moose population at Nunatak Bench has declined dramatically, with counts of 14, 11, 14, and 14 moose in 2005, 2006, 2007, and 2009 respectively. An aerial survey of the Nunatak Bench area was not completed in 2008. The decline in moose numbers is almost certainly related to the 68 foot rise in water level that flooded this area in 2003 when the advancing Hubbard Glacier created a dam. A similar situation occurred in 1986 that caused a similar decline in moose numbers. The cause of the moose declines post flooding appears to be due to the decimation of preferred willow browse by the high water, causing emigration of moose from the area. In addition to flooding, three consecutive severe winters in the Yakutat area may prolong the period needed for the Nunatak Bench moose herd to reach harvestable levels.

During 1997-2004 hunting seasons an average of 12 permits were issued, with only four people actually hunted each season. An average of 8 days of hunting was expended each year to kill 0-4 moose, with an average annual harvest of about 2 moose. Six cows and 9 bulls made up the total harvest during this period. No moose have been harvested since 2004 and the department has not issued any permits for this area since then.

Although the moose numbers at this time do not support a harvest, the department would like to keep this antlerless authorization active should the moose numbers again reach a harvestable level (25 moose). After the 1986 flood, this population rebounded within 8 years from 10 to 25 moose and again supported a hunt. If this herd follows a similar pattern, we may see an opportunity to harvest moose here in a few more years. The department will continue to monitor this moose population and again allow a harvest when the survey counts reach or exceed 25 moose.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The harvest of moose at Nunatak Bench will be limited to bulls without any biological reason to do so. In addition, since much of the season occurs post antler-drop restricting the harvest to bulls would make it difficult for hunters to select a legal animal. Moose habitat is not abundant in this area and if herd growth is not restricted by a limited cow harvest, carrying capacity of winter range may be exceeded.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Adopting this proposal will provide more moose hunting opportunity.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Hunters will continue to 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

LOG NUMBER: ADFG113010V

Statewide

Note: The Board of Game deferred this proposal with amended language during the Southeast Region meeting in November 2010; it was previously listed as Proposal 44.

PROPOSAL 214–5 AAC 92.012. Licenses and tags.; and 92.990. Definitions. Establish a statewide requirement for second-degree-kindred relatives taking nonresidents on certain big game hunts.

Amended language by the Board of Game:

5 AAC 92.012. Licenses and tags. ...

....

(d) In any hunt requiring that nonresidents be personally accompanied by a registered guide or resident second-degree-kindred relative while hunting, pursuing, or taking big game, if a nonresident hunter chooses to be accompanied by a resident second-degree-kindred relative, the resident second-degree-kindred relative must have in possession a valid Alaska big game hunting license.

5 AAC 92.990. Definitions.

“personally accompany” means staying within close enough proximity to the person being accompanied to communicate by natural conversation at the point where an attempt to take game is made.

Original language:

5 AAC 92.050 (A)(4)(ii). Permits, permit procedures, and permit conditions. Modify the 2nd degree of kindred approval procedures for nonresidents in Southeast Region Units:

A nonresident must apply to the Department of fish and Game in advance of his hunt to pre-approve the 2nd degree relative that will accompany him for brown bear, sheep or goats. To qualify the relative must be 19 years or older, must have hunted in Alaska for big game for the past 5 years, and must agree to personally accompany the nonresident hunter at all times that the hunter is in the field.

ISSUE: Nonresident hunters may currently be accompanied in the field by an Alaska resident 19 years age or older that is within 2nd degree of kindred for brown bear, sheep and mountain goat. This provision is being abused.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Some non-residents will continue to abuse the 2nd degree of kindred hunting provision.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Proposal will reduce abuses of the 2nd degree relative provision for non-resident hunters.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The resource and other hunters. 2nd degree relatives will be more appropriately qualified to accompany their relatives on hunts for brown bear, sheep, or goats, resulting in a potentially safer hunt, better quality of animal harvested, and reduced wounding loss.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Any nonresident hunter who would otherwise abuse the 2nd degree relative provision currently in the hunting regulations.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED:

PROPOSED BY: Brad Dennison and amended by the Board of Game

LOG NUMBER: EG08131036

Note: The Board of Game deferred this proposal from the Southeast Region, 2010 meeting. It was previously listed as proposal 46.

PROPOSAL 215 - 5 AAC 92.050. Required permit hunting conditions and procedures.
Re-adopt regulations establishing a bonus point system for some drawing hunts.

(4) permit issuance:

(A) the department shall issue registration permits in the order applications are received and drawing permits on a lottery basis: **the department may issue drawing permits on a bonus point system as follows:**

1. **An applicant for a bonus drawing hunt must have a current license to apply for the hunt and complete the appropriate drawing application. Since the application period will be Nov. - Dec. the dept will implement a requirement to purchase the next year's license.**
2. **An applicant must use consistent hunter identification each year when applying for a hunt. This permanent customer ID will be provided by the department the first time the applicant applies.**
3. **Applications and accompanying fees, that include nonresidents, shall only be made online.**
4. **The applicant will accumulate 1 point for the first year that he/she is unsuccessful in obtaining a permit for that species when included in the draw; after the first year of inclusion in the bonus point pool, points will be doubled each year thereafter : year 1 = 1 point, year 2 = 2 points, year 3 = 4 points, year 4 = 8 points, etc.**
5. **An applicant may choose to not apply for a species-specific bonus point system for two consecutive years and not lose her/his bonus points. All bonus points will be lost if the applicant fails to apply for each species-specific bonus point system after a two-year grace period.**

6. An applicant may submit an application and accompanying fee and choose to not hunt for a species-specific bonus point system for a given year. The application and fee shall allow the applicant to accrue points for that year without being part of the draw.
7. Once an applicant receives a permit to hunt a species that he/she has been applying for under a bonus point system, his/her total points return to zero and they must start over to accumulate new points.
8. Drawings under the bonus point system:

(A) Available permits for the specific hunt will be allocated on a 50%/50% basis..

- 1) 50% shall be available for everyone who applies for the hunt
- 2) 50% shall be allocated to those who choose to participate in the species-specific bonus point system.
- 3) Points accrue for each bonus point species and cannot be interchanged between species.
- 4) If the applicant has bonus points for a species, those available points are added to each hunt the applicant chooses.
- B. Party hunt applications under the bonus point system shall only be allowed for Dall sheep
 - 1) For party hunts, the average (.5 rounded up), of all points among applicants shall be used as the number of bonus points in the pool.
- C. Points are accumulated by the individual and cannot be transferred.
- D. The department will apply the bonus point system to the following hunts:
 - (i) All bison drawing permits.
 - (ii) All Dall sheep drawing permits.

ISSUE: The Board of Game adopted the regulatory language above at the Spring, 2009 board meeting to establish a bonus point drawing system. The Department of Fish and Game informed the board that the regulations would not be filed with the Lt. Governor because legislation is required to establish a fee structure for the system. The public notice for the adopted regulations is valid for only one year and would now be deemed “stale” by the regulations attorney with the Department of Law. Knowing this, the Board of Game requested at a prior meeting that this proposal be included in the Southeast Region proposal book.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The regulations will go away and the board will need to take action at a future date to adopt regulations for the bonus point system.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? If implemented, a bonus system will have no change on the resources, only the odds of certain hunters in obtaining a drawing permit.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Hunters who participate in certain hunts annually and maintain their drawing hunt records according to the rules of the program.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Hunters who fail to participate annually and who fail to carefully follow the application rules. If a bonus point hunt is cancelled or changed after a few years some hunters might suffer if they are previously “invested” in that particular hunt with a number of bonus points.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: Status quo.

PROPOSED BY: Board of Game

LOG NUMBER: BOG1

The Board of Game added this proposal to the meeting agenda through an Agenda Change Request.

PROPOSAL 216 - 5 AAC 92.230. Feeding of game. Prohibit the feeding of Dall sheep.

The language we request to be added would look something similar to: 5AAC 92.230 ...A person may not negligently feed a Dall sheep... .

ISSUE: Currently, this regulation identifies the species of animals that a person is not allowed to feed in Alaska without a permit. Dall sheep are not one of these listed animals. AWT has had problems with feeding of game through the use of salt licks being placed out on the Seward highway near bird point to attract sheep to the area for photographs. Vehicles stopping in this area create public safety hazards and cause traffic to slow or stop. By adding Dall sheep to this list, it will assist the Alaska Wildlife Troopers in dealing with these problems.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? If this is not solved, Dall sheep will be allowed to be fed.

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The public will benefit through enforcement of this regulation.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? People likely to suffer will be ones that break the law.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Wildlife Troopers

The Board of Game added this proposal to the meeting agenda through an Agenda Change Request.

PROPOSAL 217 - 5 AAC 92.010 (c) Harvest tickets and reports. Make it unlawful for persons to falsify information on harvest records.

5 AAC 92.010(c) " No person may falsify any fact on an application or **harvest record** required by the department".

ISSUE: Under current regulation, a person can falsify information submitted on a harvest record without consequence.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Hunters will be allowed to falsify data that they turn in to Alaska Department of Fish and Game without legal consequences.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. By assuring that the harvest data received from hunters is accurate, ADF&G will be more equipped to manage the resources.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Everyone will benefit from honest responses.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? The only people who will suffer are the ones who falsify the information on the harvest card to cover up other crimes.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Wildlife Troopers

The Board of Game added this proposal to the meeting agenda through an Agenda Change Request.

PROPOSAL 218- 5 AAC 92.140(a). Unlawful possession or transportation of game. Allow Alaska Wildlife Troopers the authority to seize animals under certain circumstances.

The language we request to be added would look something similar to: 5AAC 92.140(a) No person may possess, transport, give, receive, or barter game or parts of game that the person knows or should have known were taken in violation of AS 16 or a regulation adopted under AS 16 or AS 11.46.230 or AS 11.61.210.

ISSUE: 5AAC 92.140(a) deals with illegal possession and transportation. AWT would like to request that two additional statutes be added to (a) at the end. The first is AS 11.46.230 (trespassing). Currently, the simple act of trespassing and shooting an animal would not necessarily result in seizure of that animal. By adding AS 11.46.230 to this regulation, it would allow AWT to seize the animal that someone shot while trespassing under 5AAC 92.140. The second is AS 11.61.210 (misconduct involving weapons). Currently it is illegal for someone to discharge a weapon while intoxicated or shoot on, from or across a highway. If someone took an

animal while intoxicated, we may not have the ability to seize that animal. By adding AS 11.61.210 to this regulation we would have that tool.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? If this is not solved, it will restrict our ability to seize illegally taken recourses.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, it keeps hunters on a fair playing field does not reward hunters for taking an animal while trespassing or legally intoxicated.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The public will benefit through enforcement of this regulation.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? People likely to suffer will be ones that break the law.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED None

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Wildlife Troopers

LOG NUMBER: EG112410247

The Board of Game added this proposal to the meeting agenda through an Agenda Change Request.

PROPOSAL 219- 5 AAC 92.171. Sealing of Dall sheep horns. Prohibit the alteration of Dall sheep horns before sealing.

The regulation would look something similar to: "A person may not alter, possess, transport or export from the state, the horns of a Dall sheep ram taken in any hunt where there is a horn configuration bag limit... unless the horns have been permanently sealed by a department representative within 30 days after the taking, or a lesser time if designated by the department."

ISSUE: 5AAC 92.171, sealing of Dall sheep horns. AWT would like to add language to this regulation that would prohibit "altering" sheep horns before sealing. AWT has seen cases recently where hunters and guides are intentionally altering Dall sheep horns so they conform to the requirements of a legal animal. By adding the word "alter" to this regulation, it will give AWT a tool to deal with this problem.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? If this is not solved, People will be able to alter sheep horns before they are sealed, possibly making an otherwise illegal animal legal by definition.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, it keeps hunters on a fair playing field does not reward hunters for taking an illegal animal and making it legal.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The public will benefit through enforcement of this regulation.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? People likely to suffer will be ones that break the law.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED None

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Wildlife Troopers

LOG NUMBER: EG112410248

The Board of Game added this proposal to the meeting agenda through an Agenda Change Request.

PROPOSAL 220- 5 AAC 92.XXX. Provide authority to the Alaska Wildlife Troopers to inspect taxidermy businesses.

The new regulation would be similar to; “Representatives of the Department of Public Safety shall have free and unobstructed access to all taxidermy businesses licensed through the department to inspect fish, game, sealing paperwork and operational compliance with AS 16, AS 08 and regulations promulgated there under”.

ISSUE: New regulation in 5AAC 92 that would give authority to enforcement personnel to inspect Taxidermy businesses for compliance with Title 16, Title 08 and 5AAC. The addition to regulation would not extend our enforcement authority above what we are already granted through the Board of Fish. Currently, 5AAC 39.140(a) grants enforcement authority to inspect commercial fishing establishments and businesses. This regulation states in part... “Representatives of the Department of Public Safety shall have free and unobstructed access to all fishing vessels, canneries, salteries and other land based or floating processing establishments to inspect catch, equipment, gear and operational compliance with AS 16 and regulations promulgated there under”.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? If this is not solved, AWT will continue to have difficulty inspecting fish and game and compliance with regulations at licensed taxidermy businesses.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, Taxidermists are required to be licensed in the state if they are going to conduct taxidermy work. Regulations governing what taxidermists can and cannot do are very limited. AWT has dealt with cases where the taxidermist is "laundering" animals through their business. In some cases, Taxidermists use their business to seal illegal animals and forward them on to clients out of state. AWT has an interest in making sure this type of activity does not occur. This will benefit all resource users and ADF&G by making sure illegal animals do not have a venue to disappear.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The public will benefit through enforcement of this regulation.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? People likely to suffer will be Taxidermists who are using their business to break the law.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED None

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Wildlife Troopers

LOG NUMBER: EG112410249

The Board of Game added this proposal to the meeting agenda through an Agenda Change Request.

PROPOSAL 221–5 AAC 92.080. Unlawful methods of taking game; exceptions: Prohibit the use of Taser-type devices without permits.

(2) with the use of **an Electronic Control Device (ECD) Taser-type device except under permit through the Department of Fish and Game,** a poison or substance that temporarily incapacitates game, except with the written consent of the board; however, the use of a poison for taking deleterious exotic wildlife within a building, vessel, port, vehicle, or aircraft, is authorized without board approval when using Department of Environmental Conservation registered pesticides in their approved manner under 18 AAC 90;

ISSUE: Electronic Control Device (ECD) Taser-type device use and carry by the general public for the purposes of personal protection is legal in Alaska and the units are relatively easy to obtain and affordable. Many state and federal law enforcement personnel also carry ECD for arrest-related human restraint. Due to the recent rise in both substantiated and unsubstantiated reports of ECD use on wildlife, and the subsequent public and wildlife safety concerns relating to this use, the Department of Fish and Game requests this amendment to current regulation.

ADF&G Division of Wildlife Conservation is currently authorizing some members of its research and management staff to carry ECD for wildlife work and has an industry standard training program, field-use protocols and Standard Operating Procedures (SOP iii-735). DWC is continuing to research and field test ECD equipment to further refine the equipment and its use under field conditions. It is conceivable that ECD use could someday be authorized for properly trained non-ADF&G agency and organization personnel under permit through the department.

A prohibition of unauthorized use will:

- allow ADF&G to further study the effects of ECD usage on wildlife without encouraging use by the general public and outside agency personnel unfamiliar with wildlife behavior, hazing protocols and procedures.
- reduce the risk of improper and/or unethical use of ECD on wildlife by the public and other agency personnel unfamiliar with wildlife behavior and hazing methodology.

- not affect use by anyone for emergency taking of game under Defense of Life or Property 5 AAC 92.410 in emergency situations.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Electronic control device technology has been and will continue to be utilized by the public and agency personnel unfamiliar with ECD use and an exposed animal's behavior post-application. New technology used for new and innovative uses for the taking of game that may create unnecessarily high levels of risk for the user, the public at large and the animal.

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All people interested in having safe and effective technology and methodology for control of nuisance wildlife.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Status Quo.

PROPOSED BY: Department of Fish and Game

LOG NUMBER: ADFG113010S

PROPOSAL 222 - 5 AAC 92.011. Taking of game by proxy. Review the antler destruction requirement for proxy hunts.

5 AAC 92.011

...

(j) A proxy participating in a proxy hunt must remove at least one antler from the skull plate or cut the skull plate in half, on an antlered animal, for both the proxy's animal and the beneficiary's animal before leaving the kill site, unless the department has established a requirement that complete antlers and skull plates must be submitted to the department.

...

ISSUE: The Board of Game has requested a review of all hunts requiring antler destruction. Proxy hunters are required to destroy the antlers of animals taken while proxy hunting, so this proposal has been submitted to allow public comment.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Proxy hunters will continue to be required to destroy the antlers of animals taken while proxy hunting.

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Hunters who choose to proxy hunt for other hunters.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: The Board of Game

LOG NUMBER: ADFG113010S

PROPOSAL 223 -- 5 AAC 92.052. Discretionary permit hunt conditions and procedures.

Review the discretionary authority requiring the nullification of trophy value of animals taken under a subsistence permit.

5 AAC 92.052

...

(5) ... the trophy value of an animal taken under a subsistence permit may be nullified by the department;

...

ISSUE: The Board of Game has requested a statewide review of all hunts requiring antler destruction. Antler destruction is currently used in for some muskoxen hunts in Unit 22 and 23 and some moose hunts in Units 12, 21, and 24. This proposal has been submitted to allow public comment on the use of this practice in managing hunts.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Hunters will continue to be required to destroy the trophy value of horns and antlers of animals taken while subsistence hunting when deemed necessary by the Board and the department.

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Hunters who believe it is wrong to destroy trophy value of any animal.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: The Board of Game

LOG NUMBER: ADFG113010S

The Board of Game requested the following three policies be included in the proposal book for the public review and comment.

~DRAFT~
**Findings of the Alaska Board of Game
2011-XXX-BOG**

**Game Management Unit 13
Caribou and Moose Subsistence Uses**

These findings supplement 2006-170-BOG as to uses of Nelchina caribou. In the 2006 finding, the Board indentified the specific pattern of subsistence uses upon which the positive customary and traditional use finding for Nelchina caribou, set forth in 5 AAC 99.025, was based. This pattern of uses originated within the communities of the indigenous Ahtna Athabascan inhabitants of the Copper River Basin. Among other things, the findings emphasized the “community-based” nature of this traditional pattern of use. As described in those findings, this community-based subsistence pattern:

- Links families in widespread networks of sharing that are shaped by traditional norms of behavior;
- Provides a context in which skills, knowledge, and values are passed across generations; is accomplished efficiently with thorough, non-wasteful use of the harvested game and often by hunters who specialize in harvesting meat for the community; and
- Occurs within a broader pattern of use of and dependence upon a variety of locally-harvested wild foods that is a key element of the way of life of the local area.

The board has also noted that this community-based pattern as established by the Ahtna has been adopted and modified by other local settlers and, to a more limited degree, by other Alaska residents. This community-based, local use pattern was contrasted to a largely nonlocal, Rail belt based pattern that was probably most properly characterized as a non-subsistence use pattern. Thus, the 2006 findings addressed and discussed two basic use patterns for Nelchina caribou.

The Board finds that there is need to recognize the range of uses within the previously-described subsistence use pattern that have developed as individuals, families, and other social groups, both within and outside the local area, have adapted to changing economic, demographic, and cultural conditions. Differences have developed concerning the level of organization of subsistence uses of Nelchina caribou, such that the traditional uses are practiced among households and families in addition to the community-based pattern established by the Ahtna. The Ahtna community-based pattern persists within close-knit communities that are also widespread both within and outside the basin. Other basin residents and some nonlocal residents who are not part of the traditional Ahtna community engage in subsistence uses at a more individual, household, or extended family level. Both sub-patterns exhibit, with some variation, most of the criteria listed in 5 AAC 99.010(b), but different regulatory options may be necessary to provide reasonable opportunities for each. The range of uses that characterize these sub-patterns are as follows.

Since the beginning of the towns and settlement areas within the range, or with easy access to, the Nelchina Caribou Herd, individuals, households, and families from those towns and settlements have hunted the herd to provide for their basic necessities of life, especially food, and not just for recreational or trophy purposes. This relatively small use is not community based in nature, in that these individuals, households, and families are not linked to extensive networks of cooperation and sharing or are not part of larger social groups that organize and promote traditional knowledge and behavior, but is focused primarily on procuring food and has, as of the date of these findings, existed now for at least three generations in some of these areas. As set forth in greater detail below, this use has at least a few identifiable characteristics which separate it from the larger Rail belt based, non-subsistence use patterns.

Since at least the early 1930's, hunting of the Nelchina Caribou Herd has been regulated by season and bag limits. Nonlocal hunters interviewed in the 1980's by the Subsistence Division of ADF&G confirmed that most hunt in the fall, with fewer participating in winter hunts. All hunters currently tend to focus their harvest efforts during the late summer and early fall, when caribou are in their best physical condition and relatively accessible from the road system. Winter hunts have been an important back-up opportunity for the community based subsistence use pattern described in the 2006 findings, and may also be relied on by other subsistence users, to a somewhat lesser extent. The winter hunts do not appear to be important to non-subsistence users.

Regarding efficiency of hunting effort, the Board has not been presented with any information that would distinguish non-local subsistence users from other users based primarily from the Rail belt. Compared to community-based and other local users who hunt close to home, non-local users tend to travel greater distances (typically 200-300 miles), thereby incurring greater costs, to harvest Nelchina caribou, making their use less efficient. However, data from the 1980's illustrates that even non-local subsistence users tend to hunt in the areas most accessible to their communities. Thus, Fairbanks-area hunters tended to hunt near the Denali Highway, and Anchorage-area hunters tended to hunt near the Glenn Highway. Also, efficiency by non-community based subsistence users may be fostered to some extent by limiting hunting to a few well-known areas year after year, within relatively easy, and predictably economical, reach of participants.

Non-local subsistence users of the Nelchina Caribou Herd and others who are not organized at the community-level have testified, and Board members know from experience, that they prefer to return year-by-year to one or more well-known and long-established camping/hunting sites. These are traditional "caribou" or "caribou and moose" camps for these individuals and their families. If caribou are not obtained during these forays, chances are they will not be obtained at all because subsistence users, unlike non-subsistence users, tend not to travel around the state to experience a wide variety of hunting opportunities. Unlike subsistence users who are organized at the community level, many other users tend to travel further into the backcountry, away from major roads and rivers, often using off-road vehicles to get to the remotest locations possible.

The Board has not been presented with any information that would distinguish the handling, preparing, preserving, and storing techniques used by individuals, households, families outside the traditional community-based context to distinguish them from their neighbors who hunt for recreation. Most users of Nelchina caribou based along the Rail belt freeze their harvested meat and use modern methods of handling, preparing, preservation, and storage. Compared to those who follow traditions established by the Ahtna and adopted by some other users, there is less use of organ meats, and almost no use of the hide and bones; and the roles in handling and preparing harvested animals are less formal and not based on longstanding, widely-understood rules of proper behavior towards the animals taken, as is the case for those who follow the Ahtna, community-based traditions.

Because households and families engaged in subsistence uses tend to hunt from long-established, multi-generational camps, lore about how and where to hunt is handed down from generation to generation. This intergenerational transmission of knowledge is less formalized than the way knowledge is passed on within the Ahtna community based use pattern, but it is more apparent and traditional than is the case for non-subsistence uses, in which knowledge is clearly passed from one generation to the next but very little in the way of a formal and traditional transmission system exists, and knowledge is not necessarily tied to any particular location.

All subsistence users tend to share their harvests within their families and with close friends and, to some extent, this sharing is expected from year to year, and plays parts in traditional meals and celebrations. Non-local hunters interviewed by the Division of Subsistence in the 1980's confirmed that they shared mostly within their own households, while approximately 1/3 also said they shared with friends. Sharing among nonlocal hunters, as well as among some hunters who live in the local area, is less formal than is true under the community based use pattern as practiced by the Ahtna and some other local residents, and community and peer pressure to share is far less pronounced, but it is greater than is generally the case for the non-subsistence uses of Nelchina caribou. Some long-established families living in close proximity to, and with a well-established history of hunting the Nelchina Caribou Herd, do expect that, if a family member successfully harvests a Nelchina caribou, the meat will be shared.

Some nonlocal hunters have testified that, as is generally the case in a subsistence use pattern, they prefer to consume wild foods over purchased foods, and often obtain the majority of their protein needs from Alaska's fish and game resources, as well as pick berries and harvest other wild foods. These preferences are sometimes expressed non-subsistence hunters as well. Such users often travel to different, favored locations to harvest fish and game and other wild foods, but many of these locations are outside of the range of the Nelchina Caribou Herd. Most non-local residents interviewed by the Division of Subsistence in the 1980's reported that moose was more important than caribou in their harvesting priorities, and often travelled to other locations to obtain moose. Locally-based users, on the other hand, tend to concentrate all of their wild food harvests in close proximity to the herd's range, and often try to harvest more than one resource per trip. Non-subsistence users tend to rely on wild foods to a much lesser degree, or not at all, compared to both groups of subsistence users.

Based on public testimony provided during the Board's last several meetings addressing the Nelchina Caribou Herd, on the Board's own experience, and on the above finding and 2006-170-BOG, the Board, applying its expertise and judgment, concludes that, at most, a few thousand people use the Nelchina Caribou Herd in accordance with the identified subsistence use patterns, and that, therefore, a range of 600-1000 caribou are necessary to provide a reasonable opportunity for both identified subsistence uses of this herd. This finding may be updated as appropriate and as additional data on the uses is gathered.

Vote: _____

[Date]

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Cliff Judkins, Chairman
Alaska Board of Game

**Findings of the Alaska Board of Game
2011-XXX-BOG**

**BOARD OF GAME WOLF MANAGEMENT POLICY
(Policy duration: Date of finding through 30 June, 2016.
This policy supersedes BOG policy 82-31-GB)**

Background and Purpose

Alaskans are proud that wolves occur throughout their historic range in Alaska. Wolves are important to people for a variety of reasons, including as furbearers, big game animals, competitors for ungulate prey animals, and as subjects of enjoyment, curiosity, and study. Wolves are important components in the natural functioning of northern ecosystems. Over time, many people have come to appreciate wolves as exciting large carnivores that contribute significantly to the quality and enjoyment of life in Alaska.

The primary purpose of this policy is to provide guidance to the public, the Department, and the Board of Game on wolf management issues as the Board and the Department implement constitutional and statutory direction and respond to public demands and expectations. The Board recognizes the need for ongoing responsible wolf management to maintain sustainable wolf populations and harvests, and to help maintain sustainable ungulate populations upon which wolves are largely dependent. The Board also recognizes that when conflicts arise between humans and wolves over the use of prey, wolf populations may have to be managed more intensively to minimize such conflicts and comply with existing statutes (e.g. AS 16.05.255). Under some conditions, it may be necessary to greatly reduce wolf numbers to aid recovery of low prey populations or to arrest undesirable reductions in prey populations. In some other areas, including national park lands, the Board also recognizes that non-consumptive uses of wolves may be considered a priority use. With proper management, non-consumptive and consumptive uses are in most cases compatible but the Board may occasionally have to restrict consumptive uses where conflicts among uses are frequent.

Wolf/Human Use Conflicts

Conflicts may exist between wolves and humans when priority human uses of prey animals cannot be reasonably satisfied. In such situations, wolf population control will be considered. Specific circumstances where conflicts arise include the following:

1. Prey populations or recruitment of calves into populations are not sufficient to support existing levels of existing wolf predation and human harvest;
2. Prey populations are declining because of predation by wolves or predation by wolves in combination with other predators;
3. Prey population objectives are not being attained; and

4. Human harvest objectives are not being attained.

Wolf Management and Wolf Control

The Board and the Department have always distinguished between wolf management and wolf control. Wolf management involves managing seasons and bag limits to provide for general public hunting and trapping opportunities. These seasons provide for both subsistence and other traditional economic harvest opportunities and, as a side benefit, allow for participants to directly aid in mitigating conflicts between wolves and humans or improving ungulate harvest levels. In most cases, seasons will be kept to times when wolf hides are prime. However, some hunters are satisfied to take wolves during off-prime months including August, September and April, and opportunity may be allowed for such harvest.

Wolf control is the planned, systematic regulation of wolf numbers to achieve a temporarily lowered population level using aerial shooting, hiring trappers, denning, helicopter support, or other methods which may not normally be allowed in conventional public hunting and trapping. The purpose of wolf control is not to eradicate wolf populations. Under no circumstances will wolf populations be eliminated or reduced to a level where they will not be able to recover when control efforts are terminated, and wolves will always be managed to provide for sustained yield.

In some circumstances it may be necessary to temporarily remove a high percentage (>70%) of wolf populations to allow recovery of prey populations. In other situations, it may be necessary to temporarily remove a smaller percentage of wolf populations (40-70%) to allow prey populations to increase or meet human harvest objectives. Once prey population objectives have been met, wolf populations will generally be allowed to increase to or above pre-control levels.

During the 1997 review of predator control in Alaska by the National Research Council of the National Academy of Sciences (National Research Council 1997), only two clearly successful cases were found where increased harvests of ungulates resulted from control in the Yukon and Alaska. In the last 13 years since that review, several other programs have been successful, including programs in GMUs 9, 13, 16 and 19. In addition, there is now a thirty year history of intensive wolf and moose management and research, including 2 periods of wolf control in GMU 20A. It is clear, and well documented, that periodic wolf control has resulted in much higher harvests of moose than could be realized without control (Boertje et al., 2009). Biologists now have considerable experience successfully managing moose at relatively high density (Boertje et al., 2007). The GMU 20A case history has provided a great deal of information on what biologists can expect from intensive management programs and these programs are scientifically well founded. However, GMUs are different ecologically and new information on which areas are best suited to intensive management programs will continue to be gathered.

Decisions by the Board to Undertake Wolf Control

Generally, there are two situations under which the Board will consider undertaking wolf control (implementing extraordinary measures outside normal hunting and trapping). In rare cases, control may be implemented where sustained yield harvests of ungulates cannot be maintained or where extirpation of ungulate populations may be expected. More commonly, the Board may implement wolf control to comply with Alaska Statutes (AS 16.05.255) where ungulate populations are

declared “depleted” or where ungulate harvests must be significantly reduced and these populations have been found by the Board to be important for “high levels of human harvest”. In most cases when wolf control is implemented, the Board will favor and promote an effective control effort by the public. Experience has shown that often a joint effort by the public and the Department has been most effective. However, the Board recognizes that there are areas and situations where the public cannot effectively or efficiently control predation and that the Department may, under its own authority and responsibilities, conduct the necessary wolf population control activities. Such situations arise in part because public effort to take wolves tends to diminish before an adequate level of population control is achieved. In areas where wolf reduction is being conducted, ungulate and wolf surveys should be conducted as frequently as necessary to ensure that adequate data are available to make management decisions and to ensure that wolf numbers remain sufficient to maintain long-term sustained yield harvests.

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Methods the Board Will Consider When Implementing Wolf Control Programs

- 1) Expanding public hunting and trapping into seasons when wolf hides are not prime.
- 2) Use of baiting for hunting wolves.
- 3) Allowing same-day-airborne hunting of wolves when 300 ft from aircraft.
- 4) Allowing land-and-shoot by the public.
- 5) Allowing aerial shooting by the public.
- 6) Allowing use of Department staff and helicopters for aerial shooting.
- 7) Encouraging the Department to hire or contract with wolf trappers and other agents who may use one or more of the methods listed here.
- 8) Allowing denning by Department staff and use of gas for euthanasia of sub-adults in dens.

Terminating Wolf Control

Depending on the response to wolf control and ungulate population and harvest objectives, control may either be of short or long duration. In some cases, control may last less than five years. In other cases it may be an ongoing effort lasting many years. As ungulate harvest objectives are met, the Board will transition from a wolf control program to a wolf management program, relying to a greater extent on public hunting and trapping. In cases where ungulates respond very well and hunting is ineffective at controlling ungulate numbers for practical reasons, it may be necessary for the Board to restrict the taking of predators.

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Cliff Judkins, Chairman
Alaska Board of Game

**Findings of the Alaska Board of Game
2011-XXX-BOG**

**BOARD OF GAME BEAR CONSERVATION, HARVEST,
AND MANAGEMENT POLICY**

Expiration Date: 30 June, 2016

Purposes of Policy

1. To clarify the intent of the Board and provide guidelines for Board members and the Department of Fish and Game to consider when developing regulation proposals for the conservation and harvest of bears in Alaska, consistent with the Alaska Constitution and applicable statutes.
2. To encourage review, comment, and interagency coordination for bear management activities.

Goals

1. To ensure the conservation of bears throughout their historic range in Alaska.
2. To recognize the ecological and economic importance of bears while providing for their management as trophy, food, predatory, and furbearer species.
3. To recognize the importance of bears for viewing, photography, research, and non-consumptive uses in Alaska.

Background

The wild character of Alaska's landscapes is one of our most important natural resources and the presence of naturally abundant populations of brown/grizzly bears (*Ursus arctos*) and black bears (*Ursus americanus*) throughout their historic range in Alaska is important to that wild character. Bears are important to Alaskans in many ways, including as food animals, predators of moose, caribou, deer and muskox, trophy species for nonresident and resident hunters, furbearers, problem animals in rural and urban settings, and as objects of curiosity, study, awe, and enjoyment. Bears are also important components of naturally functioning Alaskan ecosystems.

Bear viewing is a rapidly growing industry in selected areas of the state. The interest exceeds the opportunities provided now by such established and controlled sites as McNeil River, Pack Creek, Anan Creek, Wolverine Creek and Brooks Camp. In most areas, hunting and viewing are compatible uses but the Board may consider bear viewing as a priority use in some small areas, especially where access for people is good and bears are particularly concentrated. The Board and the Department will continue to discourage people from feeding bears to provide viewing opportunities.

Bears are frequently attracted to garbage or to fish and hunting camps, and can be a nuisance where they become habituated to humans and human food sources. Dealing with problem bears

has been especially difficult in Anchorage, Juneau, and the Kenai Peninsula. The department has worked hard, and successfully, with municipalities to educate people and solve waste management problems. The department's policy on human food and solid waste management (<http://www.wc.adfg.state.ak.us/index.cfm?adfg=bears.bearpolicy>) provides guidance on reducing threats to humans and the resulting need to kill problem bears.

Bears can pose a threat to humans in certain situations. Statewide, an average of about six bear encounters a year result in injuries to people. Most attacks now occur in suburban areas and do not involve hunters. About every two or three years, one of the attacks results in a human fatality. The Department and the Board will continue to educate people about ways to minimize threats to humans and the resulting need to kill problem bears.

Alaska is world-renowned as a place to hunt brown bears, grizzly bears and black bears. Alaska is the only place in the United States where brown and grizzly bears are hunted in large numbers. An average of about 1,500 brown and grizzly bears is harvested each year. The trend has been increasing, probably because of both increased demand for bear hunting and increasing bear numbers. Many of the hunters are nonresidents and their economic impact is significant to Alaska. Hunters have traditionally been the strongest advocates for bears and their habitat, providing consistent financial and political support for research and management programs.

Because bears can be both prey and predator, their relationship with people is complex. Throughout much of Interior Alaska and in some areas of Southcentral Alaska, the combined predation by bears and wolves keeps moose at relatively low levels. Bear predation on young calves has been shown to contribute significantly to keeping moose populations depressed, delayed population recovery, and low harvest by humans. People in parts of rural Alaska (e.g. Yukon Flats) have expressed considerable frustration with low moose numbers and high predation rates on moose calves in hunting areas around villages. The Board and the Department have begun to take a more active role in addressing bear management issues. Because the Constitution of the State of Alaska requires all wildlife (including predators) to be managed on a sustained yield basis, the Board of Game and the Department will manage all bear populations to maintain a sustained yield, but the Board recognizes its broad latitude to manage predators including bears to provide for higher yields of ungulates (West vs State of Alaska, Alaska Supreme Court, 6 August 2010).

Brown and grizzly bears

Although there is no clear taxonomic difference between brown and grizzly bears, there are ecological and economic differences that are recognized by the Board and Department. In the area south of a line following the crest of the Alaska Range from the Canadian border westward to the 62nd parallel of latitude to the Bering Sea, where salmon are important in the diet of *Ursus arctos*, these bears are commonly referred to as brown bears. Brown bears grow relatively large, tend to be less predatory on ungulates, usually occur at high densities, and are highly sought after as trophy species and for viewing and photography. Bears found north of this line in Interior and Arctic Alaska; where densities are lower and which are smaller in size, more predatory on ungulates, and have fewer opportunities to feed on salmon; are referred to as grizzly bears. Brown and grizzly bears are found throughout their historic range in Alaska and may

have expanded their recent historic range in the last few decades into places like the Yukon Flats and lower Koyukuk River.

Although determining precise population size is not possible with techniques currently available, most bear populations are estimated to be stable or increasing based on aerial counts, Capture-Mark-Resight techniques (including DNA), harvest data, traditional knowledge, and evidence of expansion of historic ranges. Throughout most coastal habitats where salmon are abundant, brown bears are abundant and typically exceed 175 bears/1,000 km² (450 bears/1,000 mi²). A population in Katmai National Park on the Alaska Peninsula was measured at 550 bears/1,000 km² (1,420 bears/1,000 mi²). In most interior and northern coastal areas, densities do not exceed 40 bears/1,000 km² (100 bears/1,000 mi²). Mean densities as low as 4 grizzly bears/1,000 km² (12 bears/1,000 mi²) have been measured in the eastern Brooks Range but these density estimates may be biased low and the confidence intervals around the estimates are unknown. Extrapolations from existing density estimates yielded statewide estimate of 31,700 brown bears in 1993, but the estimate is likely to be low.

Although some northern grizzly bear populations have relatively low reproductive rates, most grizzly bear and brown bear populations are capable of sustaining relatively high harvest rates comparable to moose, caribou, sheep, goats, and other big game animals that exist in the presence of natural numbers of large predators in most areas of Alaska. In addition, grizzly bears and brown bears have shown their ability to recover relatively quickly (<15 years) from federal poisoning campaigns during the 1950s and overharvest on the Alaska Peninsula during the 1960s. Biologists were previously concerned about the conservation of brown bears on the Kenai Peninsula and brown bears there were listed by the state as a “species of special concern”. The Department implemented a conservation strategy there through a stakeholder process. In recent years it has become apparent that brown bears remain healthy on the Kenai and the Board and the Department no longer believes there is a conservation concern.

In some areas of the state (e.g. Unit 13) where the Board has tried to reduce grizzly bear numbers with liberal seasons and bag limits for over 15 years, there is no evidence that current increased harvests have affected bear numbers, age structure, or population composition. In areas of Interior Alaska, where access is relatively poor, long conventional hunting seasons and bag limits of up to 2 bears per year have not been effective at reducing numbers of grizzly bears. In these areas, most biologists believe that as long as sows and cubs are protected from harvest it will not be possible to reduce populations enough to achieve increases in recruitment of moose.

Black bears

American black bears (*Ursus americanus*) are generally found in forested habitats throughout the state. Like brown and grizzly bears, black bears also occupy all of their historic ranges in Alaska and are frequently sympatric with grizzly and brown bears. Because they live in forested habitats it is difficult to estimate population size or density. Where estimates have been conducted in interior Alaska, densities ranged from 67 bears/1,000 km² (175 bears/1,000 mi²) on the Yukon Flats to 289 bears/1,000 km² (750 bears/1,000 mi²) on the Kenai Peninsula. In coastal forest habitats of Southeast Alaska’s Alexander Archipelago black bear densities are considered high. A 2000 estimate for Kuiu Island was 1,560 black bears/1,000 km² (4,000 black bears/1,000 mi²).

In most areas of the state, black bears are viewed primarily as food animals, but they are also important as trophy animals, predators of moose calves, and for their fur. The Board recently classified black bears as furbearers, recognizing the desire of people to use black bear fur as trim on clothing, to enhance the value of black bears, and to enable the Board and the Department to use foot-snares in bear management programs. The classification of black bears as a furbearer has legalized the sale of some black bear hides and parts (except gall bladders), and has thus made regulations in Alaska similar to those in northern Canada in this regard.

Black bears exhibit higher reproductive rates than brown and grizzly bears. In all areas of the state black bear populations are healthy and can sustain current or increased harvest levels. However, hunting pressure on black bears in some coastal areas like Game Management Unit (GMU) 6 (Prince William Sound), GMU 2 (Prince of Wales Island) and parts of GMU 3 (Kuiu Island) may be approaching or have exceeded maximum desired levels if trophy quality of bears is to be preserved, and are the subjects of frequent regulatory adjustments.

In some other parts of the state, deliberately reducing black bear numbers to improve moose calf survival has proven to be difficult or impossible with conventional harvest programs. The Board has had to resort to more innovative regulations promoting baiting and trapping with foot snares. The Department has also tried an experimental solution of translocating bears away from an important moose population near McGrath (GMU 19D) to determine if reduced bear numbers could result in significant increases in moose numbers and harvests. The success of the McGrath program has made it a potential model for other small areas around villages in Interior Alaska, if acceptable relocation sites are available.

Guiding Principles

The Board of Game and the Department will promote regulations and policies that will strive to:

1. Manage bear populations to provide for continuing sustained yield, while allowing a wide range of human uses in all areas of the state.
2. Continue and, if appropriate, increase research on the management of bears and on predator/prey relationships and methods to mitigate the high predation rates of bears on moose calves in areas designated for intensive management.
3. Continue to provide for and encourage non-consumptive use of bears without causing bears to become habituated to human food.
4. Favor conventional hunting seasons and bag limits to manage bear numbers.
5. Encourage the human use of bear meat as food.

6. Employ more efficient harvest strategies, if necessary, when bear populations need to be substantially reduced to mitigate conflicts between bears and people.
7. Primarily manage most brown bear populations to maintain trophy quality, especially in Game Managements 1 through 6, and 8 through 10.
8. Work with the Department to develop innovative ways of increasing bear harvests if conventional hunting seasons and bag limits are not effective at reducing bear numbers to mitigate predation on ungulates or to deal with problem bears.

9. Simplify hunting regulations for bears, and increase opportunity for incidental harvest of grizzly bears in Interior Alaska by eliminating resident tag fees.
10. Recognize the increasing value of brown bears as a trophy species and generate increased revenue from sales of brown bear tags.
11. Review and recommend revision to this policy as needed.

Conservation and Management Policy

The Board and the Department will manage bears differently in different areas of the state, in accordance with ecological differences and the needs and desires of humans. Bears will always be managed on a sustained yield basis. In some areas, such as the Kodiak Archipelago, portions of Southeast Alaska and the Alaska Peninsula, brown bears will generally be managed for trophy-hunting and viewing opportunities. In Southeast Alaska and Prince William Sound, black bears will generally be managed as a trophy species, food animals, or for viewing opportunities. In Interior and Arctic Alaska, black bears and grizzly bears will be managed primarily as trophy animals, food animals, and predators of moose and caribou. However in some parts of Interior Alaska, the Board may elect to manage populations of black bears primarily as furbearers.

Monitoring Harvest and Population Size

The Board and the Department recognize the importance of monitoring the size and health of bear populations on all lands in Alaska to determine if bear population management and conservation goals are being met. In areas where monitoring bear numbers, population composition, and trophy quality is a high priority, sealing of all bear hides and skulls will be required. At the present time, all brown and grizzly bears harvested under the general hunting regulations must be inspected and sealed by a Department representative. Where monitoring bear numbers and harvests is a lower priority, harvest may be monitored using harvest tickets or subsistence harvest surveys.

Harvest of black bears will generally be monitored either with harvest tickets or sealing requirements. Where harvests are near maximum sustainable levels or where the Department and the Board need detailed harvest data, sealing will be required.

Large areas of the state have subsistence brown/grizzly bear hunts with liberal seasons and bag limits, mandatory meat salvage, and relaxed sealing requirements. The Department will continue to accommodate subsistence needs.

Bear viewing also is an important aspect of bear management in Alaska. Increasing interest in watching bears at concentrated feeding areas such as salmon streams and sedge flats, and clam flats is challenging managers to find appropriate levels and types of human and bear interactions without jeopardizing human safety. Bear hunting and viewing are compatible in most situations.

Nothing in this policy affects the authority under state or federal laws for an individual to protect human life or property from bears (5 AAC 92.410). All reasonable steps must be taken to protect life and property by non-lethal means before a bear is killed.

Managing Predation by Bears

In order to comply with the intensive management law (AS 16.05.255) the Board and Department may implement management actions to reduce bear predation on ungulate populations that are important for high levels of human use. The Board may elect to work with the Department to remove individual problem bears or temporarily reduce bear populations in Game Management Units, Subunits, or management areas. The Board and the Department may also need to reduce bear predation on ungulates to provide for continued sustained yield management or conservation of ungulates. In addition, it may be necessary for the Department to kill problem bears to protect the safety of the public under AS 16.05.050 (a) (5). In some cases the Board may direct the Department to prepare a Predation Control Areas Implementation Plan (5 AAC 92.125) or in other cases the Board may authorize extensions of conventional hunting seasons, or implement trapping seasons to aid in managing predation on ungulates.

To comply with AS 16.05.255 (“Intensive Management Law”), to maintain sustained yield management of wildlife populations, or to prevent populations of ungulates from declining to low levels, the Board may selectively consider changes to regulations allowing the public to take bears, including allowing the following:

- Baiting of bears
- Trapping, using foot-snares, for black bears under bear management or predator control programs.
- Incidental takes of brown or grizzly bears during black bear management or predator control programs.
- Use of communications equipment between hunters or trappers.
- Sale of hides and skulls as incentives for taking bears.
- Diversionary feeding of bears during ungulate calving seasons.
- Use of black bears for handicraft items for sale, except gall bladders.
- Use of grizzly bears for handicraft items for sale, except gall bladders.
- Taking of sows accompanied by cubs and cubs.
- Same-day-airborne taking.
- Aerial shooting of bears by department staff in moose and caribou calving areas
- Suspension or repeal of bear tag fees.
- Use of helicopters for transporting hunters and their equipment.

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Cliff Judkins, Chairman
Alaska Board of Game