



**ALASKA BOARD OF GAME
Central/Southwest Region Meeting
Lake Lucille Inn, Wasilla, Alaska
February 13-20, 2015**

Meeting Summary

The Board of Game (board) convened the Central/Southwest Region meeting on Friday, February 13, 2015, at the Best Western, Lake Lucille Inn. All seven board members were present (Ted Spraker, Chair, Nate Turner, Vice-Chair, Stosh Hoffman, Teresa Sager Albaugh, Pete Probasco, Bob Mumford, and Dave Brown.)

Following introductions and ethics disclosure statements, the board listened to oral reports from agency representatives (see list of oral reports in Record Copy (RC) 1). Additionally, on February 20 the board received three reports for the Interior Region which are also listed in RC 1. Prior to convening public testimony, the board held an evening, public work session to discuss information on Dall sheep hunting. The audio of the work session is available on the meeting information website provided below. Public testimony began Saturday, February 14, ending Monday, February 16. The board heard from 81 testifiers (see RC 41), 14 of which were advisory committee representatives. Deliberations on proposals followed public testimony on the afternoon of February 16.

The Board took action on 111 proposals, adopting 32 and deferring four to a future meeting. Actions are recorded as: C = Carried; F = Failed; CA = Carried as Amended; NA = No Action; D = Deferred; and DA = Deferred as Amended).

The meeting audio and all other meeting materials are available online at www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=gameboard.meetinginfo&date=02-13-2015&meeting=wasilla. To listen to the board discussion, the audio tracking information is referenced for each section unless otherwise specified.

Arctic/Western Region - Reauthorization Proposals

The board deliberations on this section begin February 16. (See the audio log at 4:19:24.) Prior to the proposal deliberations for this section, the board received an area overview by ADF&G.

- C 39 Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in the Remainder of Unit 18.
- CA 40 Reauthorize the antlerless moose seasons in Unit 22C and the remainder of Unit 22D. *(The board amended the proposal with substitute language, RC 69, which removed the antlerless hunt in Unit 22, and changed the December bag limit in Unit 22D Remainder, from 1 moose to 1 antlered bull.)*

- C 41 Placeholder proposal for reauthorized antlerless moose seasons in Unit 23.
- C 42 Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in western portion of Unit 26A.
- C 43 Reauthorize the current resident tag fee exemptions for brown bear in Units 18, 22, 23 and 26A.

King Salmon Area – Units 9 & 10

Board deliberations on this section begin February 16. (See the audio log at 5:19:37.) Prior to the proposal deliberations for this section, the board received an area overview by ADF&G.

- F 44 Remove the antler restriction for the resident winter moose season in Unit 9B.
- F 45 Increase the resident bag limit for brown bear in Unit 9B.
- C 46 Extend the brown bear season in Unit 10, Unimak Island.

Dillingham Area – Unit 17

Board deliberations on this section begin February 16. (See the audio log at 6:17:27.) Prior to the proposal deliberations for this section, the board received an area overview by ADF&G.

- CA 47 Extend the caribou season in Unit 17 to March 31, with options for early closures. *(The board amended the proposal to include Unit 9B.)*
- NA 48 Extend the resident caribou season in Units 9B and 17B. *(The board took no action due to the action on proposal 47.)*
- C 49 Extend the winter moose season by one month for Unit 17A, restrict the taking of males to antlered bulls, and reauthorize the antlerless hunt.
- F 52 Adjust the nonresident closed area in Togiak National Wildlife Refuge in Unit 17A and extend the season. *(The board reconsidered proposal 52 on 2/19/15; see audio log at 2:41:23 for final action.)*
- F 51 Extend the season dates for the winter moose in Units 17B and 17C with options for early closures.
- F 50 Change the locations for obtaining nonresident moose registration permits for hunting in Unit 17.
- F 53 Allow the use of bait and lures along rivers for taking brown bear in Unit 17 and change the bag limit.
- F 54 Allow the sale of brown bear hides and skulls in Unit 17 by resident hunters.
- F 57 Modify the trapping season dates and bag limit for beaver in Unit 17, and prohibit the taking of beaver with firearm.
- CA 55 Remove the bag limit and salvage requirements for harvesting beaver with a firearm during the trapping season in Unit 17, and allow the harvest with bow and

arrow. *(The board amended the proposal to allow the take of beaver with a firearm or bow December 1 – 4/14; salvage is required for the hide and meat.)*

- NA 56 Remove the bag limit and the requirement to salvage meat for human consumption for beaver taken with a firearm during trapping season in Unit 17. *(The board took no action due to the action on proposal 55.)*

Glennallen Area – Units 11 & 13

Board deliberations on this section begin February 17. (See the audio log at 2:31:52) Prior to the proposal deliberations for this section, the board received an area overview by ADF&G.

- F 58 Change the wolf population trigger for intensive management in Unit 13.
- F 199 Modify the intensive management plan for the Unit 13 wolf predation control area for Unit 13.
- F 59 Reduce the population and harvest objectives for moose in Unit 13B.
- F 200 Modify the moose population and harvest objectives for Unit 13
- CA 60 Reauthorize the antlerless moose drawing permit hunts in Unit 13. *(The board amended the proposal with substitute language, RC 87, which allows ADF&G to issue permits of up to 1% of the cow population when the moose population is above mid-point of the population objective. See audio log at 2/19, 3:09:16 for final action.)*
- F 198 Modify the cow moose drawing hunt for Unit 13.
- F 61 Change the Unit 13D moose drawing hunts (DM335-DM339) to registration hunts.
- F 62 Open a nonresident caribou drawing hunt in Unit 13.
- F 63 Limit the drawing permits for Nelchina caribou (DC480-483) to two permits per household.
- F 64 Divide the resident fall caribou hunt (RC566) into late and early seasons.
- F 86 Divide the annual harvest quota for Nelchina caribou.
- CA 65 Bring the community subsistence hunt and general season hunts into closer alignment. *(The board amended the proposal to set the season dates as August - September 20. See audio log at 2/19, 2:15:02 for final action.)*
- C 66 Require participants in the community subsistence harvest (CSH) program to commit to participation for a period of two years or more. *(The board clarified the change would be effective July 1, 2016.)*
- NA 67 Limit the areas where community subsistence harvest hunters may hunt outside of Unit 11, 12 and 13. *(The board took no action due to the action on proposal 66.)*
- F 68 Change the CSH group size definition to “25 or more households.”

- F 69 Include “individuals, households, or families” in the moose subsistence hunt when the harvestable surplus exceeds the Amount Necessary for Subsistence (ANS), and change the hunt start date to September 1 (from August 10).
- CA 70 Add definitions of “Community” and “Individuals, Families, or Other Social Groups” to 5 AAC 92.072. *(The board amended the proposal with substitute language, RC 78 as amended to define community as “a group of people linked by a common interest in, and participation in uses of, an area and the wildlife populations in that area, that is consistent with the customary and traditional use pattern of that wildlife population and area as defined by the board.”)*
- DA 71 Implement a system to ensure communities or groups approved to participate in the moose and caribou CSH meet the intent of the Board of Game findings for the CSH program. *(The board reconsidered the proposal on 2/19/15 and deferred it as amended with substitute language, RC 83 to the March 2015 meeting. See audio log at 2/19, 1:29:45 for final action.)*
- F 72 Follow same basic guidelines as old Tier II system (points to each community based on past use of resource).
- F 73 Require hunters to be engaged in a pattern of subsistence uses of Nelchina caribou for the Tier I hunt.
- F 74 Require direct approval by the Board of Game of groups applying to join the Copper Basin Community Hunt.
- F 75 Implement reporting and antler destruction requirements for community subsistence hunt harvested moose in the Unit 13 area hunt.
- F 76 Require that antlers taken through the CSH hunt be turned in to ADF&G.
- C 77 Establish a quota for each subarea in Unit 13 for the “any bull” moose hunt.
- CA 78 Require more rapid harvest reporting of moose taken under the “any bull” hunt in Unit 13. *(The board amended the proposal to remove the request for a 12 hour reporting period, and retained the 24 hour period.)*
- F 79 Direct ADF&G to open and close the “any bull” moose season on certain days in Unit 13.
- F 80 Modify the community subsistence moose hunt season dates and restrict all hunters from using motorized vehicles Units 13, 11, and portions of 12, during the periods August 18-22 and August 25-28.
- F 81 Restrict community subsistence harvest hunters in Units 13, 11 and portions of Unit 12 from hunting within 24 hours of using off-road vehicles.
- C 82 Manage the Unit 13 community subsistence harvest caribou hunt through the set season as long as the overall harvest quota is not exceeded.
- F 83 Discontinue the community subsistence harvest (CSH) program when the harvestable surplus exceeds the minimum Amount Necessary for Subsistence (ANS), and replace it with a weighted drawing permit for Alaska residents only.

- CA 84 Change the “any bull” hunt in Unit 13 to a drawing hunt. *(The board amended the proposal to substitute the language with a resident drawing permit hunt in Unit 13 with five permits for any bull, 9/1-9/20.)*
- F 85 Modify the community subsistence harvest permit system for caribou.
- F 87 Remove the exclusive hunting restriction for caribou in Unit 13.
- F 88 Change the method for determining the Amount Necessary for Subsistence in Unit 13.
- F 89 Change the eligibility criteria for all Tier II subsistence hunts in Unit 13.
- F 90 Change Unit 13D goat drawing hunt (DG720) to a registration hunt.
- F 91 Add all of Unit 13D to mountain goat registration hunt RG580.
- CA 92 Lengthen the goat permit season in Unit 13D to align with the registration hunt. *(The board amended the proposal to set the season end date at 11/30.)*
- C 93 Allow the taking of brown bear over bait in Unit 11 and 13.
- F 94 Open a fall season for hunting brown and black bear over bait in Unit 13D.
- F 95 Reduce the bag limit for ptarmigan, shorten the season, and add a no-hunt corridor along the roads in Unit 13B.

Palmer Area – Units 14A, 14B & 16

Board deliberations on this section begin February 18. (See the audio log at 4:22:57.) Prior to the proposal deliberations for this section, the board received an area overview by ADF&G.

- C 96 Reauthorize the antlerless moose hunts in Units 14A and 14B.
- F 97 Establish a resident, late-season archery hunt for moose in Units 14A and 14B.
- F 98 Open a late-season archery-only hunt for moose in Unit 16.
- D 99 Reauthorize the antlerless moose hunt on Kalgin Island in Unit 16B. *(The board deferred the proposal to the March 2015 meeting.)*
- CA 100 Allow brown bear to be taken over bait in Unit 14B. *(The board amended the proposal to establish a season for taking brown bear over bait as 4/15-5/31, with sealing and salvaging requirements.)*
- CA 101 Review and modify the Unit 16 predation control plan. *(The board amended the proposal with updated information found in RC 84.)*
- C 102 Establish a fall season for hunting black and brown bear over bait in Unit 16.
- C 103 Establish the Hatcher’s Pass Youth Management Area in Unit 14A, for small game hunting.
- F 104 Open a general hunt with no closed season and no bag limit for beaver in Unit 16B.

- C 105 Expand the Palmer Hay Flats State Game Refuge. *(The board agreed to write a letter to the legislature supporting the expansion.)*

Sheep Hunting for the Central/Southwest and Interior Regions

Board deliberations on this section begin February 19. (See the audio log at 3:19:39.)

- F 106 Change the Dall sheep hunts in Units 13D and 14A to full curl rams with limited permits.
- F 107 Change the bag limit for Dall sheep in Units 13D and 14A to full curl.
- F 109 Allow a maximum of 10% of sheep hunt participation for nonresidents in the Central/Southwest Region.
- NA 110 Limit sheep harvest by nonresidents to 10% of total harvest in Units 11, 13, 14, and 16. *(The board took no action due to the action taken on proposal 109.)*
- NA 137 Allocate 10% sheep harvest for nonresidents in Central/Southwest Region Units. *(The board took no action due to the action taken on proposal 109.)*
- F 116 Limit nonresident sheep hunting in the Central/Southwest Region by having shorter seasons, drawing permits, or other methods.
- NA 117 Limit allocation of nonresident sheep permits to 10% for the Central/Southwest Region Units. *(The board took no action due to the action taken on proposal 116.)*
- F 118 Begin resident sheep hunting seven days earlier than nonresidents in Units 9, 11, 13, 14, and 16.
- NA 119 Establish earlier season date openings for resident sheep hunting in the Central/Southwest Region. *(The board took no action due to the action taken on proposal 118.)*
- F 120 Open a nine day, resident archery season in August for Dall sheep in the Central/Southwest Region.
- CA 108 Reinstate language regarding proof of guide-client contract for Dall sheep, mountain goat and moose drawing hunts. *(The board amended the proposal by extending the sunset date to July 1, 2017.)*
- NA 111 Change the nonresident general sheep hunts to draw hunts for the Interior region, and cap the number of permits based on sheep density. *(The board took no action due to a request by the author to withdraw it.)*
- NA 112 Change the nonresident sheep hunts to drawing permit hunts and limit permit distribution to 10% of the annual ten-year average for the Interior Region. *(The board took no action due to action on proposal 109.)*
- F 114 Change all nonresident general season Dall sheep hunts in Unit 20 with a 75% distribution of nonresident permits.
- F 121 Modify the season dates for Dall sheep in the Interior Region.

- F 122 Open resident sheep hunting seasons seven days before nonresident seasons in the Interior Region.
- NA 123 Open resident sheep hunting seasons ten days before nonresident seasons in the Interior Region. *(The board took no action due to action on proposals 122 and 123.)*
- NA 124 Open resident sheep seasons one week prior to nonresidents in Units 25 and 26. *(The board took no action due to action on proposals 122 and 123.)*
- F 113 Open a bowhunting-only season for Dall sheep in the Interior Region.
- F 115 Create a youth Dall sheep hunt in Unit 20 Remainder.
- D 207 Modify sheep hunting opportunities statewide. *(The board deferred this proposal to the March 2015 meeting.)*
- D 208 Review and potentially modify sheep hunting opportunities statewide. *(The board deferred this proposal to the March 2015 meeting.)*

Regional and Multiple Units

Board deliberations on this section begin February 20. (See the audio log at 0:01:02.)

- F 125 Open a seven day moose season for bowhunting following the general season hunts in Units 11, 13, 14A, 14B, 16, and 17.
- C 126 Reauthorize the brown bear tag fee exemptions for the Central/Southwest Region.
- F 127 Remove the meat salvage requirements for brown bear taken over bait in the Central/Southwest Region.
- NA 128 Remove meat salvage requirements for brown bear taken over bait in the Central/Southwest Region. *(The board took no action due to the action on proposal 127.)*
- F 129 Remove the requirement to clean up contaminated soil from bear bait stations in the Central/Southwest Region.
- NA 130 Allow same-day airborne hunting of wolves and coyotes. *(The board took no because statute prohibits same-day airborne taking of wolves, and regulation already allows the taking of coyotes same-day airborne.)*
- F 132 Require harvest reporting of migratory birds by species in Central/Southwest Region Units.
- F 133 Remove the restriction against using felt sole waders while hunting in Central/Southwest Region Units.
- F 134 Require certification for big game hunters using crossbows in the Central/Southwest Region.
- F 135 Add five days to all resident hunting seasons and allocate 75% of the drawing permits to residents for the Central/Southwest Region.

- F 136 Allocate 90% of big game drawing permits to residents for Central/Southwest Region Units.

Interior Region - Reauthorization Proposals

Board deliberations on proposals and reports for this section begin on February 20. (See the audio log at 0:03:30.)

- C 138 Reauthorize the antlerless moose seasons in Units 20A, 20B, and 20D.
- C 139 Reauthorize resident grizzly bear tag fee exemptions throughout Interior and Eastern Arctic Alaska.

Statewide Regulations

Board deliberations on this section begin on February 20. (See the audio log at 3:10:20.)

- C 204 Remove the requirement for residents and nonresidents to have a trapping license to submit an application, take, transport, transfer to another state's falconry program, or possess a raptor for falconry, or for practicing falconry in this state.
- F 201 Clarify the language regarding retrieval and salvage of wounded game.

Cordova Area – Unit 6

Board deliberations on proposals for this section begin on February 20. (See the audio log at 4:01:19.)

- F 209 Change the bag limit for black bears in Unit 6D to one bear every three years.
- C 210 Change the black bear hunt in Unit 6D to a registration hunt.
- F 211 Modify the season dates for hunting black bear in Unit 6D
- CA 212 Change the Unit 6B Controlled Use Area. *(The board amended the proposal with substitute language from the ADF&G comments on proposal 212, which clarify the boundary of the Controlled Use Area.)*

Miscellaneous Issues

- 1.) The board scheduled two board generated proposals for the Southcentral Region meeting scheduled in March 2015. The topics of the proposals are:
 - Modify the board's Agenda Change Request Policy in 5 AAC 92.005 (RC 34).
 - Repeal the Unit 8 bison hunt and clarification of the definition of free ranging animals (RC 35).

The audio log for this discussion begins the afternoon on February 13, at 0:02:05.

- 2.) The board approved a letter of opposition (RC 37) to the National Park Service concerning the agency's proposed regulations. *The audio log for this discussion begins February 15, at 0:01:14.*
- 3.) The board approved the 2015-2020 Management Plan for the Release of Wood Bison. *The audio log for this discussion begins February 15, at 0:01:14.*
- 4.) The board adopted a resolution (RC 92) for a standing delegation of authority to the Commissioner of the Department of Fish and Game for Emergency Regulations. *The audio log for this discussion begins February 20 at 05:02:35*