

Southeast Region

(Region I)

Proposal Index

(Note: Please review the “Regional and Multiple Units” section, which also affect regulations for other units).

Petersburg & Wrangell Area – Units 1B & 3

- 1 Open a fall brown bear season for residents in Unit 3.
- 2 Open a fall brown bear season for residents in Unit 3, Mitkof Island.
- 3 Open a fall brown bear season for residents in Unit 3.
- 4 Clarify the boundaries of the Petersburg Closed Area and the Petersburg Management Area due to changing city boundaries.
- 5 Clarify the boundaries of the Wrangell Road System Closed Area.
- 6 Redefine "broken antler" for Units 1 and 3.
- 7 Define “points” for forked moose antlers for the RM038 registration hunt in Unit 1C.

Sitka Area – Unit 4

- 8 Establish a resident drawing hunt for goats in Unit 4, Sitka area.
- 9 Increase the resident bag limit for deer in Unit 4 Remainder to six deer, of which the last two must be bucks.
- 10 Change "any deer" resident season to October 15 - December 31 for portions of Unit 1C and all of Unit 4.
- 11 Establish separate brown bear registration hunts for nonresident relatives within second-degree of kindred in Unit 4.

Ketchikan Area – Unit 2

- 12 Reduce the bag limit for trapping and hunting wolves in Unit 2, require locking tags and implement registration requirements.

- 13 Change the management level for wolves in Unit 2 to include all causes of mortality for wolves.
- 14 Establish regulations in Unit 2 to allow for appropriate harvest levels and account for unrecovered harvest.
- 15 Allow trappers to take beaver in Unit 2 with a firearm.

Juneau, Haines/Skagway, and Yakutat Areas – Units 1C, 1D, & 5

- 16 Modify the amount reasonably necessary for subsistence uses for deer in Unit 5.
- 17 Increase the resident bag limit for deer in Unit 1C (Lincoln, Shelter & Sullivan Islands) to six deer, of which the last two must be bucks.
- 18 Establish a resident, archery drawing hunt for goats in Unit 1C, Juneau area.
- 19 Create a resident youth hunt for goats in Unit 1D, Tugahgo Mountain area.
- 20 Expand the resident goat season dates for registration permit hunts RGO23 and RGO24 in Unit 1D.
- 21 Delay the use of black bear bait stations in Unit 1D until after the brown bear season is closed.
- 22 Shift the resident moose season two weeks earlier in Unit 5B, Mamby Shore area.
- 23 Reauthorize antlerless moose hunts in Unit 1C.
- 24 Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in Unit 5A, Nunatak Bench.
- 25 Move the resident duck season two weeks earlier in Unit 5.

Regional and Multiple Units

- 26 Modify deer population and harvest objectives, or exempt the Southeast Region from objectives.
- 27 Establish deer hunting seasons for elder hunters and individuals with disabilities in Units 1 - 5.
- 28 Extend the wolverine trapping season in Units 1 - 5.
- 29 Require a time limit for checking traps in Units 1 - 5.
- 30 Remove the reporting requirement for GPS coordinates for bear bait stations in Units 1 - 5.
- 31 Change the bag limit restriction for black and brown bear in Units 1 - 5.
- 32 Allow the transfer of resident harvest tickets to a relative within second-degree of kindred.

- 33 Remove the restriction against using felt sole waders while hunting in Southeast Region Units.
- 34 Require harvest reporting of migratory birds by species in Southeast Region Units.
- 35 Require certification for big game hunters using crossbows.
- 36 Remove the requirement to clean up contaminated soil from bear bait stations for Southeast Region Units.
- 37 Add five days to all resident hunting seasons and allocate 75% of the drawing permits to residents in the Southeast Region.
- 38 Allocate 90% of big game drawing permits to residents for Southeast Region Units.

ALASKA BOARD OF GAME
Southeast Region Meeting
(Game Management Units 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5)
January 9-13, 2015
Westmark Baranof Hotel
Juneau, 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, January 9, 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)

THE DEADLINE TO SIGN-UP TO TESTIFY will be announced prior to the meeting. 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.

Saturday, January 10, 8:30 AM

PUBLIC AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE TESTIMONY Continued

BOARD DELIBERATIONS (Upon conclusion of public testimony)

Sunday, January 11 – Monday, January 12, 8:30 AM

BOARD DELIBERATIONS Continued

Tuesday, January 13, 8:30 AM

BOARD DELIBERATIONS Concludes

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 at: www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=gameboard.meetinginfo 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.boardofgame.adfg.alaska.gov
- 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 December 26, 2014 to make any necessary arrangements.

Petersburg & Wrangell Area – Units 1B & 3

PROPOSAL 1 - 5 AAC 85.020. Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear. Open a fall brown bear season for residents in Unit 3 as follows:

For residents only: One bear (spring or fall) every four regulatory years by permit available in Douglas, Ketchikan, Petersburg, Sitka, and Wrangell, or online or by mail from Petersburg beginning August 17. (September 15 – December 31 season dates.)

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Add a fall brown/grizzly bear hunting season for Unit 3. Hunters will not have an opportunity to hunt brown/grizzly bear in the fall when other hunts (i.e.: deer, bear, moose) are ongoing. Hunters who would prefer hunting in the fall would benefit, possibly in conjunction with a deer or moose hunt. A fall hunt may not improve quality of the resource unless it reduces rubbing, common with spring hunts.

PROPOSED BY: Petersburg Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-C14-194)

PROPOSAL 2 - 5 AAC 85.020. Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear. Open a fall brown bear season for residents in Unit 3, Mitkof Island as follows:

September 15 - December 31, Mitkof Island only:

For residents only one brown bear spring **or fall**, every four regulatory years, by permit available in Douglas, Ketchikan, Petersburg, Sitka and Wrangell, or online or by mail from Petersburg beginning **August 14**.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Provide an opportunity for hunters to take a brown bear in the fall when other hunts (i.e. deer or moose) are ongoing. A fall hunt may provide a superior hide as rubbing can be a problem in the spring.

PROPOSED BY: Petersburg Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-C14-248)

PROPOSAL 3 - 5 AAC 85.020. Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear. Open a fall brown bear season for residents in Unit 3 as follows:

Add a fall hunt that reflects the dates of the nearby game management units (September 15-December 31). This would provide more opportunity at a time of year when bear habitat is more accessible.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Currently, the brown bear season in Unit 3 runs from March 15 to May 31. This time frame provides a very small window of opportunity because access is limited and hunters wishing to pursue bear off of the road systems aren't able to do so due to snow accumulation. Since the season began in 2006, only four

brown bear have been harvested in all of Unit 3. The bears are a resource and also pose an increasing threat to people recreating on the islands.

PROPOSED BY: Wrangell Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-C14-257)

PROPOSAL 4 - 5 AAC 92.510(5)(B). Areas closed to hunting, and 92.530(24)(A).

Management Areas. Clarify the boundaries of the Petersburg Closed Area and the Petersburg Management Area due to changing city boundaries as follows:

5 AAC 92.510. Areas closed to hunting.

(5) Unit 3:

...

(B) in the Petersburg vicinity, a strip one - fourth mile wide on each side of the Mitkof Highway from **mile marker X.X of Mitkof Highway** [THE PETERSBURG CITY LIMITS] to the Crystal Lake campground is closed to the taking of big game, except wolves;

5 AAC 92.530. Management areas.

(24) the Petersburg Management Area:

(A) the area consists of that portion of Unit 3 on Mitkof Island north and west of a line from Frederick Point to the highest point in Section 8, T59S, R90E, to the highest point in Section 7, T59S, R80E, to the highest point in Section 13, T59S, R79E, to the highest point in Section 23, T59S, R79E, then due south to **56° 42' 30''N** [THE PETERSBURG CITY BOUNDARY]; and at least one - quarter mile from any airport property, dwellings, businesses, highways, roads or streets within the corporate city limits;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Borough of Petersburg's recent transition from city limits to expanded borough boundaries has resulted in the need to revise the boundary descriptions for the Petersburg Road System Closed Area and the Petersburg Management Area. The actual physical location of the closed area will not change with this proposal.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (EG-C14-324)

PROPOSAL 5 - 5 AAC 92.510(5)(A). Areas closed to hunting. Clarify the boundaries of the Wrangell Road System Closed Area as follows:

5 AAC 92.510. Areas closed to hunting.

(5) Unit 3:

(A) a strip one - fourth mile wide on each side of the Stikine (Zimovia) Highway from **mile-marker xx.x of the Stikine (Zimovia) Highway** [THE WRANGELL CITY LIMITS] to the Tongass National Forest Boundary is closed to the taking of big game;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The City and Borough of Wrangell’s recent transition from city limits to expanded borough boundaries has resulted in the need to revise the boundary description for the Wrangell Road System Closed Area. The actual physical location of the closed area will not change with this proposal.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (EG-C14-325)

PROPOSAL 6 - 5 AAC 92.150(c). Evidence of sex and identity. Redefine "broken antler" for Units 1 and 3 as follows:

An antler that was broken while growing and is visibly grown around or over is not considered illegal by the broken antler regulation.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The broken antler regulation was put in to stop hunters from making illegal moose antlers legal by breaking antlers. This regulation went too far and protection is taking moose that have a barely noticeable healed or grown-over break.

PROPOSED BY: Wrangell Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-C14-256)

PROPOSAL 7 - 5 AAC 92.990. Definitions. Define “points” for forked moose antlers for the RM038 registration hunt in Unit 1C as follows:

Small points originating from the antler base shorter than the ear will not be counted in making a forked antler moose illegal for the registration hunt, RM038.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Small points that grow from the antler base on moose are almost impossible to see and should not make an antler illegal.

PROPOSED BY: Wrangell Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-C14-255)

Sitka Area – Unit 4

PROPOSAL 8 - 5AAC 85.040 hunting seasons and bag limits for goats. Establish a resident drawing hunt for goats in Unit 4, Sitka area as follows:

Unit 4: One goat by drawing permit, August 1-December 31; residents only.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I propose a drawing hunting season for goats in the immediate area behind Sitka. Unfortunately Sitka does not have a growing population of goat. There has been a decrease in number of goats in the last few years in the Sitka area. Currently, they only allow a few goats to be taken each year because of this. A drawing hunt for the area directly behind Sitka would not increase the harvest, but would increase the experience of the hunt by taking away the derby atmosphere we currently have. The drawing would give ADF&G better control of the harvest number of sheep by controlling the number of hunters in the unit. It is my understanding that this area has not been opened because of the potential for over-harvesting. A bow hunt would also be safer with the number of hiking trails in the area.

PROPOSED BY: Michael Ashton (EG-C14-238)

PROPOSAL 9 - 5 AAC 85.030. Hunting seasons and bag limits for deer. Increase the resident bag limit for deer in Unit 4 Remainder to six deer, of which the last two must be bucks as follows:

Remainder of Unit 4: Six deer total, the last two of which must be bucks.

Retain the current regulations for harvest tickets to be validated in sequential order, and unused tickets must be carried when you hunt, and evidence of sex must remain naturally attached to the meat or antlers must remain naturally attached to the entire carcass, with or without viscera.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? For the Remainder of Unit 4 (that portion that is not Chichagof Island east of Port Frederick and north of Tenakee Inlet including all drainages into Tenakee Inlet), the limit should be increased to six deer total, the last two of which must be bucks.

ADF&G literature states that deer population mortality in the ABC Islands (Admiralty-Baranof-Chichagof) is significantly influenced by how much snow the region receives. In contrast, hunters have very little impact on the population given the size and rugged terrain of the unit. As such, hunters should be allowed to harvest two more deer per hunter (though it is likely most hunters will not harvest these additional deer given the current deer harvest per person is ~2.2). Such a change would also bring this portion of the unit into alignment with federal subsistence regulations.

Additional harvest of bucks will not impact the population and will provide for increased

targeted harvest of bucks in years where heavy snow pushes deer to the beaches. This proposal would have no additional cost to implement due to hunters currently being issued six tags.

PROPOSED BY: Nicholas Orr (EG-C14-294)

PROPOSAL 10 - 5 AAC 85.030. Hunting seasons and bag limits for deer. Change the "any deer" resident season to October 15-December 31 for portions of Unit 1C and all of Unit 4 as follows:

Change the start date for Unit 4 and parts of Unit 1C (open season) of killing "any deer." The "any deer" open season to run from October 15-December 31. The taking of a doe with fawns is not encouraged. If you do take a doe that has fawns it is encouraged that you take the fawn(s) also. Every other deer hunting area in the State of Alaska has a "bucks only" season or the any deer season starts later than September 15.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Stop the legal killing of fawns that still have spots. Hunters can legally kill a doe that has a fawn that still has spots (a very young deer). A fawn whose mother has been shot will not suffer as much. The deer populations will continue to be lower than they should be. It will help the populations of deer recover faster after a bad winter.

The law that makes it legal to shoot a fawn that still has spots is just morally wrong. I have pictures taken of fawns that still have their spots after the September 15 opening of the season. I have pictures and other information to back up what I have said here. I have lived remotely on Shelter Island for over ten years and have hunted deer in Southeast Alaska since the late 1960's.

PROPOSED BY: Jay Beedle (EG-C14-207)

PROPOSAL 11 - 5 AAC 85.020. Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear. Establish separate brown bear registration hunts for nonresident relatives within second-degree of kindred in Unit 4 as follows:

In order to bring the second-degree of kindred hunts back into the Unit 4 Brown Bear Management Strategy (BBMS) framework, establish separate registration hunts for second-degree of kindred nonresident brown bear hunters in Unit 4, as follows:

- Spring hunt inside drainages - 2 permits annually
- Spring hunt outside drainages - 2 permits annually
- Fall hunt - 3 permits annually

The total number of second-degree kindred, nonresident brown bear permits to be seven annually. Although the BBMS suggests four annually, no allowance was made for Chichagof Island in that analysis. Recommend three additional permits to take that island into account.

Recommend that permits be made available online so that individuals have equal opportunity.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Brown bears are managed in Unit 4 under the Unit 4 Brown Bear Management Strategy (BBMS). The BBMS recommended four nonresidents within second-degree of kindred be allowed to hunt brown bears in Unit 4 each year.

Since 2006 the number of second-degree of kindred hunters registering for this type of hunt has increased significantly and ranged from 16 to 30 per year. Brown bear harvest from these hunters has ranged from four to 11 bears per year. Sealing records indicate a high percentage of females and small bears are harvested.

The number of second-degree of kindred hunters in Unit 4, although important to the success of the management system, is currently only a suggestion in the BBMS rather than a regulatory limit. Other nonresident hunters, i.e. those guided by licensed guides, are very strictly controlled. The second-degree of kindred component is the only nonresident group not currently controlled.

PROPOSED BY: Brad Dennison

(EG-C14-211)

Ketchikan Area – Unit 2

PROPOSAL 12- 5 AAC 84.270. Trapping seasons and bag limits, and 85.056. Hunting seasons and bag limits for wolf. Reduce the bag limit for trapping and hunting wolves in Unit 2, require locking tags and implement registration requirements as follows:

1. Issue locking tags that must be placed on the animal at the kill site.
2. When taken by trap or snare, only the person whose name is on the trap or snare may tag that animal, and they must be present at the time when the animal is taken.
3. All trap site locations must be registered with the state. (Similar to bear bait stations. This will allow law enforcement a chance to enforce the rules).

I feel that a total personal bag limit of about five wolves taken by hunting and trapping combined would be appropriate although the state could use past harvest data to come up with a number that would likely hit the season quota with a full season of participation time.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? To impose a personal bag limit on wolves. Current plans are to reduce even further the total harvest limit for Unit 2. This will likely result in a very short season. Many of the hunters and trappers in this unit enjoy pursuing wolves as a winter activity and are satisfied if they only take a couple of wolves per year. To them, it's more about the time spent out pursuing these animals. With a few trappers taking the majority of the quota this enjoyable winter activity will not likely last all winter for most of the recreational hunters and trappers.

PROPOSED BY: James Bauers (EG-C14-287)

PROPOSAL 13 - 5 AAC 92.008. Harvest guideline levels. Change the management level for wolves in Unit 2 to include all causes of mortality for wolves as follows:

Change 5 AAC 92.008(1) to read: “wolves: **(A) the department shall manage the take of Unit 2 wolves so that the total annual human take from all causes (reported, illegal and wounding loss) does not exceed 30% of the Department’s minimum estimate of the unit-wide fall population; and (B) a natural mortality of up to 8% is already accounted for in the 30% limit, but if the department determines that natural mortality may be exceeding that level, it shall adjust its management accordingly.**”

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? This proposal is specific to Unit 2 and concerns Alexander Archipelago wolves, an endemic subspecies (*Canis lupus ligoni*) in Southeast Alaska and the only wolf subspecies known to be found or reproduce there. 5 AAC 92.008(1) states that for Unit 2 wolves, “annual harvest ... should not exceed 30%” of the ADF&G's pre-season population estimate. (Emphasis added).

Mortality of Unit 2 wolves from all causes and their substantially declining population have been ongoing issues. In managing wolf populations that are in decline it is important that all causes of mortality be taken into account, including natural mortality, reported harvest, illegal take, and wounding loss. In combination, regulation 5 AAC 92.008 itself and the ADF&G's application of that regulation in managing Unit 2 wolves take into account only the number of legally harvested wolves and the natural mortality. This management has, to date, ignored illegal take and wounding mortality. Past radio collar studies in Unit 2 indicate that illegal take is likely on par with reported legal harvest; that is roughly 50% of the total take. ("The Alexander Archipelago wolf: a conservation assessment", Person et al. 1996; "Correlates of mortality in an exploited wolf population", Person & Russell 2008; "Developing a method to estimate abundance of wolves in Southeast Alaska, progress report", Person & Larson 2013). Recent research by ADF&G indicates that total annual mortality may now have reached 80% of the population, at least in the central part of Unit 2 (Person & Larson 2013).

For Alexander Archipelago wolf populations it has been estimated that if total mortality exceeds 30-35%, a population decline will result (Person et al. 1996), more recently revised to an estimated threshold of 38% (Person & Russell 2008). Natural mortality is estimated at 5-8% of the population (Person et al. 1996). Therefore, the 30% harvest cap in 5 AAC 92.008 has allowed adequately for natural mortality, 8%.

However, in setting its harvest cap for Unit 2 wolves (60 wolves in recent years) ADF&G has failed entirely to take into account the known substantial illegal take or any wounding loss. For 2013-2014 ADF&G based its management on a population of 200, arbitrarily picked from ADF&G's estimated range of 150-250. It picked 200 simply because it is the midpoint of the range (Personal communication with ADF&G). Then, ADF&G applied the 30% factor in establishing a "harvest" cap of 60 wolves, as measured by the number of sealed skins. An emergency order closing the season two weeks early was issued on March 13, 2014 when the reported harvest (sealed skins) had reached 52 wolves. The closure was effective six days later, at which time it was anticipated the reported harvest would reach 60.

This means that ADF&G construed the 30% cap in 5 AAC 92.008 to apply only to reported "harvest," while ignoring entirely the substantial telemetry-estimated illegal take. The arithmetic that demonstrates this is incontrovertible ($200 \times 0.30 = 60$), and ADF&G has admitted this was the case.

Moreover, the Unit 2 population ADF&G used in its calculation (200) may have been an overestimate of the actual population, which ADF&G has estimated could be as low as 150. It is possible, however, that the population was less than 150 – no one knows, and ADF&G's field observations have shown scant trace of wolves in the substantial part of the unit it has investigated. (Recordings of the November 2010 Board of Game meeting; Person & Larson 2013; several other documents).

The word "harvest" in 5 AAC 92.008(1) has misled ADF&G concerning the crucial need to include illegal take and wounding loss in setting the harvest cap of Unit 2 wolves. Further, the regulation does not require management based on a conservative estimate of population. In short, the regulation is incapable of assuring sustainable management of a wolf population that is in

notable decline, and as written the regulation is misleading to the public as well as the ADF&G. Both shortcomings in the regulation (not explicitly incorporating illegal take and wounding loss, and not basing management on the minimum estimated population) need to be remedied.

PROPOSED BY: Greenpeace, Center for Biological Diversity and The Boat Company
(EG-C14-320)

PROPOSAL 14 - 5 AAC 92.008. Harvest guideline levels and 5 AAC 92.130. Restrictions to bag limit. Establish regulations in Unit 2 to allow for appropriate harvest levels and account for unrecovered harvest as follows:

5 AAC 92.008. Harvest guideline levels.

- (1) wolves: the annual harvest of wolves in Unit 2 should not exceed **20** [30] percent of the unitwide, preseason population as estimated by the department;

5 AAC 92.130. Restriction to bag limit.

- (h) In Unit 2, a wolf wounded by a person counts against that person's bag limit for the regulatory year in which the wolf is taken.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? In Unit 2, ADF&G currently manages wolf harvest at 30% of the estimated fall wolf population; emergency order authority is used to close the season when the harvest reaches the guideline harvest level (e.g., 60 wolves in RY2013). Currently, only wolves presented for sealing are applied to the annual guideline harvest level. This harvest level was the result of research conducted on Prince of Wales Island during 1991- 1995 and 2000 - 2004.

In studies of numerous wolf populations, human-caused mortality of approximately 28% has been shown to be sustainable. On Prince of Wales, it has been suggested that unreported harvest may be substantial. The ADF&G believes that reduced harvest is appropriate until updated population and harvest information become available and is therefore proposing to reduce the harvest rate in 5 AAC 92.008 from 30% to 20% of the most recent population estimate.

ADF&G will also seek to evaluate unreported human-caused mortality. Numbers of wounded, lost, or otherwise unaccounted wolves are difficult to estimate but have an effect on overall harvest. While it may be impossible to account for 100% of the previously unreported take, ADF&G believes that a more realistic number than is currently available can be attained through the cooperation of local trappers and hunters and with a mandatory reporting requirement for unrecovered wolves. In the past these animals have not been included in harvest totals because there was no mechanism to account for them (unlike those reported through the department's Furbearer Sealing Certificates).

When a trapper or hunter believes he/she has wounded a wolf with a firearm used for hunting; or detects evidence indicating a wolf has escaped from a trap, or removed a trap from a set location, the trapper/hunter shall report this animal to the department. Where there is an annual bag limit, wounded/lost wolves will count against the trapper and/or hunter's bag limit.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (EG-C14-323)

PROPOSAL 15 - 5 AAC 92.095. Unlawful methods of taking furbearers; exceptions. Allow trappers to take beaver in Unit 2 with a firearm as follows:

In means and methods, insert “the use of firearms” to take beaver in Unit 2.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Allow the taking of beaver with a firearm. There are several of us in this unit that pursue river otter by shooting. Allowing shooting for beaver would allow those who prefer this method to trapping a chance to harvest beaver. Beaver populations are high enough that this additional take would not be significant. It would also aid in controlling beavers causing road damage.

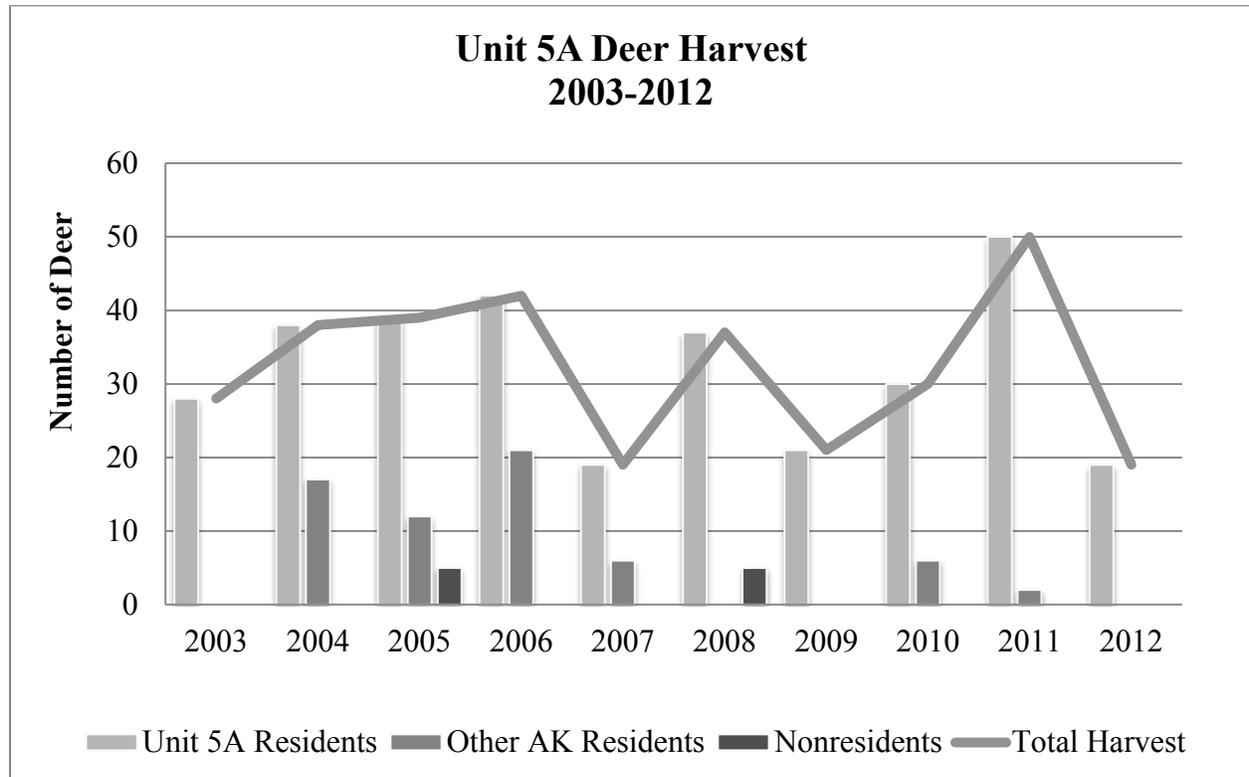
PROPOSED BY: James Bauers (EG-C14-288)

Juneau, Haines/Skagway, and Yakutat Areas – Units 1C, 1D, & 5

PROPOSAL 16 - 5 AAC 99.025. Customary and traditional uses of game populations. Modify the amount reasonably necessary for subsistence uses for deer in Unit 5 as follows:

Species & Unit	Finding	Amount Reasonably Necessary for Subsistence
(5) Deer		
Unit 5	Positive	[100 PERCENT OF THE ALLOWABLE HARVEST] xx-xx

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? There is a positive customary and traditional use finding for deer in Unit 5 and the current amount reasonably necessary for subsistence (ANS) is 100% of the allowable harvest. However, there is currently a nonresident hunt opportunity in Unit 5A for one buck from November 1–30 (there is no state or federal open season in Unit 5B). The department has no conservation concerns for deer in Unit 5, and so this proposal provides the Alaska Board of Game an opportunity to re-evaluate the ANS range. The recent ten-year average harvest by residents of Unit 5A is 25 deer and by all Alaska residents is 31 deer.



PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(EG-C14-351)

PROPOSAL 17 - 5 AAC 85.030. Hunting seasons and bag limits for deer. Increase the resident bag limit for deer in Unit 1C (Lincoln, Shelter & Sullivan Islands) to six deer, of which the last two must be bucks as follows:

Lincoln, Shelter and Sullivan Islands: Six deer total, the last two of which must be bucks.

Retain the current regulations for harvest tickets to be validated in sequential order, and unused tickets must be carried when you hunt, and evidence of sex must remain naturally attached to the meat or antlers must remain naturally attached to the entire carcass, with or without viscera.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? For the portion of Unit 1C that consists of Lincoln, Shelter and Sullivan Islands, the limit should be increased to 6 deer total, the last 2 of which must be bucks.

ADF&G literature states that deer population mortality in the ABC islands (Admiralty-Baranof-Chichagof) as well as other maritime influenced islands such as Lincoln, Shelter and Sullivan Islands, is significantly influenced by how much snow the region receives. In contrast, hunters have very little impact on the population given the brushy and rugged terrain of the unit. In 2008 and 2009, 13 and 23 deer were harvested on Lincoln and Shelter Islands. These are not large numbers and it's unlikely that allowing hunters to harvest two more bucks will have any significant impact. Such a change would also bring this portion of the unit into alignment with federal subsistence regulations.

Additional harvest of bucks will not impact the population and will provide for increased targeted harvest of bucks in years where heavy snow pushes deer to the beaches. This proposal would have no additional cost to implement due to hunters currently being issued six tags.

PROPOSED BY: Nicholas Orr

(EG-C14-296)

PROPOSAL 18 - 5 AAC 85.040. Hunting season bag limits for goat. Establish a resident, archery drawing hunt for goats in Unit 1C, Juneau area as follows:

Unit 1C, Juneau area: One goat by drawing permit August 1 - December 31, residents only.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I propose the Board of Game adopt an archery drawing hunt for goats for the area directly around Juneau, similar to the drawing hunt in Ketchikan (except that hunt is open to rifle hunting).

The justification for this hunt is the close proximity to the population center of Juneau, and the high number of hiking trails with recreational climbers makes the use of a bow much safer to the public. The high number of goats in this area supports some kind of harvest. An archery drawing

hunt seems like the next step in keeping with the ADF&G's mandate of providing hunting opportunities for the residents where a harvestable population of animals exist.

PROPOSED BY: Michael Ashton (EG-C14-237)

PROPOSAL 19 - 5 AAC 85.040. Hunting seasons and bag limits for goat. Create a resident youth hunt for goats in Unit 1D, Tukgahgo Mountain area as follows:

We would like to reserve the Tukgahgo Mountain goat hunt area for youth only by creating a youth goat hunt. The Tukgahgo Mountain area is close to Haines and can be accessed by trail thus accessible to youth. We will defer to ADF&G to decide the details of this hunt such as drawing versus registration, dates, number of goats and points.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Upper Lynn Canal Advisory Board requests a youth goat hunt in Game Unit 1D to encourage youth to hunt. We would like to maximize youth hunting opportunity. Youth continue to compete with adults for goats in an area that is relatively easy to access from Haines.

Another solution we considered was outlining the hunt as a registration and have only one goat every four regulatory years so the same youth doesn't get the goat every year. We decided to defer such details to ADF&G since they are more familiar with the design of successful youth hunts.

PROPOSED BY: Upper Lynn Canal Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-C14-45)

PROPOSAL 20 - 5 AAC 85.040. Hunting seasons and bag limits for goat. Expand the resident goat season dates for registration permit hunts RGO23 and RGO24 in Unit 1D as follows:

The Upper Lynn Canal Advisory Board is requesting the Board of Game to include registration permit hunts RGO23 and RGO24 into RGO26 so that the goat hunting season in Unit 1D will be open from August 1 - December 31. This will allow hunters more time harvest the quota of goats allowed by ADF&G through the established point system.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? We would like to expand dates for the RGO23 and RGO24 goat hunt to allow for more goat hunting opportunity. RGO23 and RGO24 are divided into approximately eight areas that are assigned a certain number of allowed harvest points. A billie killed counts as one point and Nanny as two. A point is allocated for every 100 adult goats that are sighted on aerial survey. This excellent management system of points has prevented too many goats from being harvested from a certain area or herd. Our goat population appears healthy and stable in RGO23 and RGO24. This regulation change will not affect areas from being closed early once the number of allotted points is obtained. We feel that extension of these dates will not adversely affect the goat population, yet will allow more hunting opportunities.

What will happen if not changed: Areas will continue to close before the number of allowable points is obtained.

What other solutions: We could include either RGO23 or RGO24 into RGO26 but not both. We could simply change the open season dates of RGO23 and RGO24.

PROPOSED BY: Upper Lynn Canal Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-C14-46)

PROPOSAL 21 - 5 AAC 85.015. Hunting seasons and bag limits for black bear. Delay the use of black bear bait stations in Unit 1D until after the brown bear season is closed as follows:

This proposal recognizes that the conflict only exists in subunit 1D and not the rest of Unit 1. The brown bear spring hunting season in subunit 1D ends on May 31. The black bear spring hunting season extends through the month of June. The simplest solution to a huge problem is to separate the two seasons, by restricting the placing of bait at a registered black bear bait station that is located in subunit 1D until after the brown bear hunting season is closed.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Subunit 1D surrounds the town of Haines, where three separate guiding companies, as well as a local population base of approximately 2,700 people intensely compete for the same game animals in easily accessible, relatively narrow river-bottom corridors.

Haines is actually one of the most rugged and mountainous hunting areas of the state, and almost all of the upper reaches of the local drainages are inaccessible by boat or even airplane.

Brown bears are concentrated in specific areas relative to game trails which parallel the rivers in subunit 1D and almost all access for hunting bears is gained by short hops with river boats, or driving the few roads that parallel the rivers for short distances relative to the size of subunit 1D. This concentrates all bear hunters to small areas and the competition between some hunting guides and between some locals is intense and often problematic.

The local spring brown bear hunting season is presently concurrent with the black bear baiting season. Black bear bait stations have been historically problematic in subunit 1D because they are all located where intense spring brown bear hunting takes place by both locals and guides. Black bear bait stations near Haines have historically been abused by some locals and some disreputable guides, and it is well documented by wildlife troopers that many brown bears have been illegally taken over local bait stations for a very long time.

A small portion of the past and recent abuse of black bear bait stations proximate to Haines, and the illegal taking of brown bears at bait stations, can be best appreciated by viewing internet information related to: "Operation Bruin, Haines, Alaska." Or: "International Wildlife Investigation, Haines, Alaska". Operation Bruin was a joint three-year-long investigation between the State of Alaska, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Canadian authorities. In November of 2011 it culminated in one of the largest busts in the history of wildlife law enforcement in Alaska, and it is presently on-going. To date, two past Haines hunting guides

have been convicted of felony charges as a result of Operation Bruin, and an assistant hunting guide escaped charges by testifying against his employers.

The Haines Advisory Committee voted to separate the black bear bait season from the brown bear hunting season, but the proposal was poorly worded and therefore did not properly identify the depth of the problem.

Additionally, the proposal was mistakenly submitted by a past member of the local advisory committee during the board's statewide cycle for proposals, as opposed to being relative to subunit 1D, which is only a very small portion of Unit 1 in Southeast Alaska. It was not surprising that the past Board of Game previously declined the proposal as it was written and in the manner it was submitted.

One local hunter publically and locally vehemently opposed changing the baiting season for black bears during the comment period on the above mentioned proposal on the grounds that baiting black bears is a form of subsistence hunting, and that it also easily allows the mentoring of young hunters. Changing the season for baiting black bears does not close the black bear hunting season, and such a proposal is not designed to be a back-door to stopping the baiting of black bears.

If the black bear baiting season in subunit 1D was restricted to the month of June, hunting black bears would still be allowed through the entire months of May and June, which is ample time to mentor a youth while hunting black bears for two complete months, the second of which could be over bait.

When bait stations exist, either legal or illegally, dominant brown bears will naturally gravitate to the bait stations where a legal hunter cannot hunt them, and in a congested, geographically restricted hunt area such as Haines, the problem is compounded for obvious reasons of terrain and accessibility. That situation then becomes even more problematic for a legitimate commercial guiding company to legally conduct business, because of the question regarding if a brown bear was accidentally or purposefully killed over bait, or how close the brown bear was to a bait station, no matter who the bait station was registered to.

As a Master Guide operating in the Haines area for well over 20 years, I can truthfully say that black bear bait stations, both legal and illegal, have very nearly put me out of business during the spring guiding season. Consider that a black bear bait station can legally be registered at any time leading to or during the spring hunting season. Also, a bait station can be registered next to a commercial registered base camp for a guide/outfitter, at his spike-camp location, or right in the middle of his historic guiding area...and everyone is competing for the best turf.

Additionally, it has been noted by a wildlife trooper and also, (to my understanding, relayed by them to biologist), that some Haines individuals have likely historically abused their bait permits by registering a black bear bait station in order to gain an exclusive brown bear hunting location by not actually putting out bait.

All legal bait stations in subunit 1D are identified on a large public wall-map at the local Haines ADF&G office, and in all cases bait stations are located proximate to where commercial brown bear guiding operations take place. The black bear bait station map at the Haines Fish and Game office has therefore inadvertently evolved into a declaration of areas open or closed to hunting brown bears by anyone who first registers a black bear bait site, even if they have no intention of ever hunting there during the brown bear season.

This proposal has nothing to do with being against baiting black bears, but it does have a lot to do with the common-sense management of our hunting resources while supporting the guiding industry. Therefore it should not be lumped together with, or confused with, any anti-bear baiting sentiments or any anti-bear baiting proposals.

PROPOSED BY: Al Gilliam (EG-C14-251)

PROPOSAL 22 - 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Shift the resident moose season two weeks earlier in Unit 5B, Mamby Shore area as follows:

Change the open season for moose in Unit 5B (Mamby Shore area) from September 1-December 15 to August 15- December 1.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? We feel that moving the season back 2 weeks on both ends will allow for a safer, more productive hunting experience. August hunts are not unheard of throughout the state. We do not expect that this will adversely affect anyone, or any game. It is a harder area to get to, (boat or small plane only) so the historic harvest numbers are fairly low. We don't expect there will be that many people who want to hunt in August. We considered moving it back a full month, but thought 2 weeks would be better.

PROPOSED BY: Yakutat Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-C14-88)

PROPOSAL 23 - 5 AAC 85.045(1). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Reauthorize antlerless moose hunts in Unit 1C as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(1)		
...		
Unit 1(C), Berners Bay drainages	Sept. 15 - Oct. 15 (General hunt only)	Sept. 15 - Oct. 15

1 moose by drawing permit only; up to 30 permits may be issued

...

Unit 1(C), that portion west of Excursion Inlet and north of Icy Passage

1 moose per regulatory year, only as follows:

...

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

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?

Berners Bay

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 ten bull permits and ten antlerless permits to seven bull permits and no antlerless permits. Harvest of bull moose averaged seven during this period, and in years where antlerless permits were issued, an average of four cows were harvested. 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 2007-2013.

The number of moose counted during the fall aerial surveys determines the number of drawing permits issued. The mean number of moose observed during aerial counts from 1990 to 2006 was 77 moose (range: 59-108). Severe winter weather in 2006, 2007 and 2008 resulted in this population decreasing. The number of moose counted in replicate aerial surveys between 2007 and 2009 ranged between 33-62 moose. Surveys conducted in 2010 and 2011 detected 73 moose including 10 calves each year. In 2012, under excellent survey conditions, 102 moose were detected (21 bulls, 81 cows, and 14 calves). Based on the 2012 survey and sightability data from collared moose, the Berners Bay moose population is estimated to be 113 ± 11 moose. In 2013, under fair to good survey conditions, 73 were detected (18 bulls, 47 cows, and 8 calves). Based on the 2013 survey data and sightability data from collared moose, the Berners Bay moose population is estimated to be 90 ± 13 moose. While the Berners Bay moose population is not

increasing rapidly the population has reached management objectives for overall number of moose and bull to cow ratios.

As a result of the severe winters and the impacts they have had on this moose herd, we did not issue any permits between 2007 and 2013. Five bull only permits have been issued for fall 2014. We would prefer to keep the antlerless hunt available so we have this tool in the future if needed.

Gustavus

The Gustavus moose population (Unit 1C) increased rapidly from just a few animals during the 1980's and 1990's peaking at 404 moose observed 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% of the current annual growth of willow twigs available to moose had been consumed.

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. Between 2002 and 2008, hunters harvested 11 to 67 antlerless moose annually depending on the number of permits made available. A hunt was not held in fall 2007 due to high winter-related moose mortalities. Antlerless hunts have not been held in the Gustavus area between 2009 and 2014.

A goal of the Gustavus antlerless moose hunts is to control the number of moose on the available winter range to ensure the available habitat is adequate to support the animals utilizing it. Based on aerial survey data and the use of collared moose to determine sightability estimates it appears this strategy is working. During the period 2000-2009 aerial survey counts ranged from 207-404 moose; surveys in 2010, 2011 and 2012 counted 165, 136 and 274 moose, respectively. In 2012, the Gustavus area moose population was estimated to be 317 ± 37 moose. In 2013, under good survey conditions, 186 moose were detected (25 bulls, 121 cows, and 40 calves). Based on the survey and sightability data from marked moose the 2013 moose population estimate is 323 ± 87.

In 2008, Gustavus calf survival decreased significantly to >10%. Surveys in 2009 through 2011 indicate calf survival is increasing (range: 18%-37%). The moose calf survival estimate for 2012 was 28% (2013 data not yet available). The annual adult female survival estimate is 90% for the period 2004-2012. Improving calf numbers and stable adult female survival suggests the Gustavus moose population has the potential to increase.

The population is now at a level the department believes is sustainable with the available habitat. Although an antlerless hunt will not be held in 2014, biologists believe it is important to keep this tool available to implement should the moose population increase to a point where there is detrimental impacts to available habitat.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (EG-C14-334)

PROPOSAL 24 - 5 AAC 85.045(3). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in Unit 5A, Nunatak Bench as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(3) Unit 5(A), that portion south of Wrangell - Saint 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 ...	Nov. 15 - Feb. 15	Nov. 15 - Feb. 15

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? 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. A high of 52 moose were counted on the Nunatak Bench in 2001, after which a decline in moose numbers was observed. During the period 2005-2011 (no survey in 2010, 2012 and 2013) the number of moose counted has ranged from 11 to 14, with only one to two calves observed on each flight. The decline in moose numbers may be related to the 68 foot rise in water level that flooded this area in 2003 when the advancing Hubbard Glacier created a dam flooding, and killing, preferred willow browse stands. Moose are able to emigrate from the area and have largely abandoned Nunatak Bench due to the lack of forage. Local hunters also suggest the presence of wolves is a factor keeping moose numbers low in the area.

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 two moose. Six cows and nine bulls made up the total harvest during this period. No moose have been harvested since 2004 and ADF&G has not issued any permits for this area since then.

Although the moose numbers at this time do not support a harvest, ADF&G would like to keep this antlerless authorization active should the moose numbers again reach a harvestable level (25 moose). To date, moose have not re-colonized the area as quickly as they did in the past, and it is unknown if moose numbers will increase sufficiently to provide hunting opportunity. ADF&G will continue to monitor this moose population and again allow a harvest when the survey counts reach or exceed 25 moose.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (EG-C14-335)

PROPOSAL 25 - 5 AAC 85.065. Hunting seasons and bag limits for small game. Move the resident duck season two weeks earlier in Unit 5 as follows:

Adjust the season duck hunting in Unit 5A from September 1 - December 16, to August 15 - December 1.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The thought of moving the season back two weeks is, some years the cold gets the birds moving south at different times. An early frost pushes a lot of the ducks passed Unit 5A before September 1, amounting to lost hunting opportunity for hunters. Adoption of this proposal would benefit hunters by having the season open ahead of the migration. We don't feel anyone will be negatively impacted, or there would be any harm to the resource.

We considered other times, but decided that two weeks should be adequate. We considered just moving it back two weeks and leaving it open until December 16, we like the idea, but didn't want to appear to be asking for more of a season, just an adjustment of when it takes place. If the board decided a season from August 15 - December 16 was acceptable, we don't feel the first two weeks of December are going to add that much extra harvest of waterfowl in Unit 5A, the pressure seems pretty light. We would be agreeable to this as well.

PROPOSED BY: Yakutat Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-C14-89)

Regional and Multiple Units

PROPOSAL 26 - 5 AAC 92.108. Identified big game prey populations and objectives. Modify deer population and harvest objectives, or exempt the Southeast Region from objectives as follows:

5 AAC 92.108 sets deer population and harvest objectives for Units 1 through 5, for each unit individually. We recommend that at this meeting the Board of Game take a two-step solution to the problems we have described. (1) Vote to invalidate all of these objectives, because they are outdated and spurious; (2) then deliberate on what range or specific value should be put into the regulations for each objective; and (3) decide whether to recommend to the legislature that it exempt Unit 1 through 5 deer from the requirement that the board set population and harvest objectives.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Board of Game set population objectives and harvest objectives for deer in Units 1 through 5 in 2000, and those objectives need to be revised downward.

Audio tapes of that board meeting establish clearly that the understanding of both ADF&G's staff and the board was that the objectives would be reviewed and reconsidered every one or two board cycles. Nonetheless, 14 years later that has never been done. Moreover, the current objectives are excessively high and can be expected to lead to regulatory decisions by the board and management decisions by ADF&G that are non-optimal at best and in some cases harmful. This situation can lead to outcomes that are contrary to the obligations of the board and AFG&G under Article VIII of the Alaska State Constitution.

The audio tapes also reveal that at the 2000 board meeting the board considered the setting of objectives to be a pro-forma, useless exercise that could have no consequences – an exercise it was undertaking only because the Intensive Management Act (IM Act) required it to enact objectives as regulations. The board believed Southeast deer were a poor fit for intensive management and should have been excluded from the IM Act. But the board was stuck, and was required by law to pick objective numbers, even though it had to do so blindly. In fact, the board believed that the lack it was confronted with even precluded it from picking a range for the objectives – a situation unique among Alaska Game Management Units – so single values were set, and they were set at high levels.

However, those levels were even higher than the 2000 board recognized at the time. As is now known, the actual then-current deer populations and harvest figures were at a substantial peak. Also, the U.S. Forest Service modeling for deer habitat carrying capacity that the 2000 board relied upon in part in making its decisions on objectives was based on 1997 methods that substantially overestimated carrying capacity, in comparison to the Forest Service's current modeling. This is in part due to the misapplication of a conversion factor, corrected in 2007, that the modeling uses. This error resulted in an automatic 30% overestimation of carrying capacity. In addition, the forest quality dataset used in the 1997 method was later found to be uncorrelated to habitat quality, giving spurious results that almost always caused further overestimation of

carrying capacity. As examples, the modeled carrying capacity relied upon by the board in 2000 was too high by 40% in Unit 1A and by 20% in Unit 3.

Because of the IM Act, deer population and harvest objectives in Units 1 through 5 have become keystone drivers of deer and predator management, so far in certain places and perhaps in the future in others. If the objectives are set too high, regulations and management decisions that are adverse to deer and predator stocks and the users of those stocks will be made. The current objectives are unrealistic and excessive, and are long past their shelf-life. An immediate downsizing of the objectives is necessary, and that should be done at this meeting.

Further, as a 2000 board member noted after much discussion by the board among itself and with ADF&G staff, the IM Act “was framed for conditions that are totally different than Southeast Alaska.” Therefore we believe that in addition to deliberating on new objectives, the board should recommend that the Alaska Legislature exempt Units 1 through 5 deer from the requirement that the board set population and harvest objectives.

PROPOSED BY: Greenpeace, Center for Biological Diversity and The Boat Company
(EG-C14-321)

PROPOSAL 27 - 5 AAC 85.030. Hunting seasons and bag limits for deer. Establish deer hunting seasons for elder hunters and individuals with disabilities in Units 1 - 5 as follows:

Persons 60 years or older and or persons with a debilitating disability or disabilities, which are recognized by any government board of compensation or doctor, can hunt for deer starting June 15 and ending July 31. Identification showing age and forms or prescription showing disability must be carried by hunters during the hunt.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I would like for the board to approve an elder and disability hunt for deer in Units 1 - 5 starting on June 15 and ending July 31. I should point out that bucks have antlers then and are easily identifiable.

This hunt should make it possible for disadvantaged people to more easily get their harvest level. The deer are at lower elevations and allow a person who has disabilities or is of age, that don't allow them to walk far to get deer. This hunt would allow them better means of a successful hunt and by them providing for their family will give them a sense of pride.

During this time of year the deer seem to be more relaxed and not so skittish like they are when identifying their area, choosing their mating partners and defending them. The deer appear to be in better shape as they are in a grazing state and have less fat.

PROPOSED BY: Ronald Leighton (EG020713735)

PROPOSAL 28 - 5 AAC 84.270. Trapping seasons and bag limits. Extend the wolverine trapping season in Units 1 - 5 as follows:

Extend the wolverine trapping season in Units 1 - 5 to align with the wolf season, November 10 to April 30.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Trappers are catching wolverine in wolf sets November 10 to April 30, so may as well make it legal instead of turning a cripple loose or having to kill it to get it out of the trap.

PROPOSED BY: Nick Yurko (EG-C14-192)

PROPOSAL 29 - 5 AAC 92.095. Unlawful methods of taking furbearers; exceptions. Require a time limit for checking traps in Units 1 – 5 as follows:

A trapper will check his/her traps within a specified time frame of three to five days.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Currently there are no limits in time between checking traps or limits to numbers of traps. Animals may unnecessarily suffer and fur will be ruined. The animals, the fur trapper and fur buyer will all benefit. Some trappers may need to work harder.

As the law now stands, a trapper can have unlimited traps and can leave said traps forever without checking them. I propose that a set time limit for checking traps be considered based on the environment and challenges of any particular area of Alaska. This proposal would do a number of positive things. Not only would animals suffer less in traps but their fur would not be ruined by time and predators. The only downside of this would be that trappers would be in the field more often and therefore be present to harvest the fur that they are there to get. A little more field time for more profit, that is what Americans stand for. We're a hardworking country, full of hardworking people. In Alaska we are blessed with fur, fish and fowl.

In Haines there were incidents of animals being caught in traps, three dogs and a moose. The moose, whose nose was caught, was put down. Two of the dogs were rescued right away. One of the dogs was my three-month-old puppy, Taffy. She survived for 12 days in temperatures of seven to 14 below zero and only came home from this wire trap when the trapper, after 12-plus days of not checking, finally checked his traps. I am sure this man was horrified that he trapped a puppy and did not intend for that to happen. However, it did, and illustrates the flaw in the trapping laws now on the books. The wildlife trooper could not find this person so this trapper was not well regulated since he could not be found based on the markings on his traps.

Please consider this proposal for the many positive aspects of changing the law and almost no downside to this change. Not only would the land and people of Alaska benefit, you as board members would only appear as reasonable, caring people with no one mad at you for your actions. I am a bush woman in Porcupine, Alaska. I look forward to hearing on my local public

radio station that board members are considering this valid and humane proposal. Thank you for your time.

PROPOSED BY: Anne Robbins-Shuder (EG-C14-246)

PROPOSAL 30 - 5 AAC 92.044. Permit for hunting black bear with the use of bait or scent lures. Remove the reporting requirement for GPS coordinates for bear bait stations in Units 1 - 5 as follows:

Eliminate 5 ACC 92.044(12): “In Units 1 – 5, before a person establishes a black bear baiting station and laces bait at the baiting station, that person shall, at the time of registration, provide the department the location, in a global position system (GPS) format of the latitude and longitude of the baiting station on a form provided by the department.”

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Anyone wishing to bait bear in Units 1-5 must first provide, at a designated ADF&G office, the GPS coordinates of the bait location before a baiting permit will be issued. This creates an undue hardship for hunters wishing to bait. In order to scout and establish a bait station a hunter will have to travel to the hunting area, locate a bait site, obtain GPS coordinates, then travel to the designated ADF&G office, apply for a bait permit during office hours, and then travel back to the bait location before a bait can be established. Please understand, Units 1-5 are large, remote and hard to access. Much of the area is accessible only by boat or airplane.

Hunters are being subjected to unreasonable expense and time. The multiple trips between the hunting area and an ADF&G office may cost upwards of \$2000 or more and two to three travel days. Also, the hunter will have to repeat the process if they wish to change bait site locations. There was a case where hunters made the trip into Craig during business hours for their permits only to find the office closed due to a sick employee.

Since this regulation was implemented four years ago, bear baiting and baiting permits have dropped to a fraction of the historic averages, thus reducing hunting opportunities. There is no biological reason to support such an action.

The GPS regulation was first implemented at the request of the Alaska State Troopers largely due to nonresident baiting issues on Prince of Wales Island. Since then, hunting pressure has dropped dramatically, due in part to draw hunt requirements. While enforcement issues must be considered, wildlife enforcement issues are no more difficult in Southeast than other remote parts of Alaska.

PROPOSED BY: Michael Ashton (EG-C14-236)

PROPOSAL 31 - 5 AAC 92.130. Restrictions to bag limit. Change the bag limit restriction for black and brown bear in Units 1 - 5 as follows:

Two possible solutions either one would be acceptable:

- 1) Simply eliminate the regulation that states in Units 1-5, bear wounded by a hunter must count as the bag limit for the year; or 2) Insert the word "mortally" in front of wounded in the regulation. Where mortally could be defined as "any big game animal hit with a hunting projectile which dies or is reasonably expected to die as a result of the wound."

(Note: This proposal was also submitted for the Southcentral meeting scheduled for March 2015.)

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The regulation which applies only to Units 1-5 & 8 that any bear showing any sign of being hit with a hunting projectile must be considered "taken" as part of a hunter's bag limit is not a good one. It is an attempt to legislate ethics and to assist guides who do not want to put maximum effort into a hunt. It is very difficult to enforce. It discriminates against ethical hunters, who knowing the law will abide by it. It does not limit unethical hunters and guides who may continue to hunt after superficially wounding an animal because they know that their chances of being caught are very remote. There is no other state which has this regulation. Several dilemmas are created by this regulation:

- 1) If a hunter wounds an animal this year and counts it against his bag limit but the animal survives and that hunter kills the same animal in a subsequent year does he NOT need to count it against his bag limit since he already did in the first year?
- 2) If a hunter superficially wounds an animal and considers it taken can he be charged with wanton waste because he was unable to salvage the meat?
- 3) Will a guide be tempted to tell a hunter to shoot a reasonable shot while a hunter wants to wait until he has a 100% certain shot. Thus being at odds with each other in their final goal and reducing the enjoyment of the hunt.
- 4) Will a guide allow a hunter who has superficially wounded an animal to keep hunting for only that animal AND use every resource at his disposal to recover the wounded animal as is required by the guide regulations? Keeping in mind that every resource at his disposal may include bringing other assistant guides and their hunters in to help look for the wounded animal.

PROPOSED BY: John Frost

(EG-C14-297)

PROPOSAL 32 - 5 AAC 92.010. Harvest tickets and reports. Allow the transfer of resident harvest tickets to a relative within second-degree of kindred as follows:

In Units 1, 2, and 3 allow resident black bear hunters to transfer one of their two harvest tickets to a relative within second-degree of kindred. Only one bear of which may be a glacier bear. The resident hunter who transferred the harvest ticket would be required to accompany the nonresident relative in the field.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? At the November 2010 Board of Game meeting in Ketchikan, a new management system for Southeast Alaska black bears was established which requires nonresident hunters who are not accompanied by a registered guide to draw a permit. The system was put into place to control the significant growth in numbers of unguided nonresident black bear hunters in Southeast with attendant overharvest of black bears and other issues involving conflicts with other user groups. Numbers of resident black bear hunters and guided nonresident black bear hunters had held steady during this time period and were not seen as the problem. In order to make the new system work, however, guides would be held to their 2007-2009 use levels.

There was not a special provision made for second degree of kindred nonresident hunters in the new system. Black bear is not a "guide required" species and so such a provision was not discussed. Since that time, however, there have been resident hunters express unhappiness with their inability to take relatives within second-degree of kindred on a black bear hunt in Southeast without them first drawing a permit.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Professional Hunter's Association (EG-C14-210)

PROPOSAL 33 - 5 AAC 92.080. Unlawful taking of game; exceptions. Remove the restriction against using felt sole waders while hunting in Southeast Region Units as follows:

People hunting in Alaska can legally wear whatever they want while pursuing game, including their choice of foot wear and/or any other personal protective equipment that they deem will make their hunt more safe.

(Note: This proposal was also submitted for the Central/Southwest meeting scheduled for February 2015 and the Southcentral meeting scheduled for March 2015.)

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Board of Game's (board) ban on wearing felt soles while hunting, making wading and rafting while hunting unsafe and dangerous for people. Anyone who has spent much time in the field—or worse, had unexpected “swims”—knows how dangerous our cold waters are and how quickly one could lose their life. Even a quick dunk can be unforgiving and have dire consequences. The difference between wearing felt and wearing rubber or caulked boots is like night and day. Unfortunately, there are no alternatives, regardless of what you are told. If you personally are unaware of this fact, then you have little experience wading rivers or streams and need to better educate yourself on the issue. Safety wise, it is the same as driving without a seat belt, or running a chainsaw

without a pair of chaps. Sure you may get by without them, but do you want to get into an accident without your seat belt on? In essence, that's what the board's (and the Board of Fisheries) ban does. The ban states loud and clear that our safety, our lives and that of our children and loved ones, is unimportant.

If you do not lift this ban, people will die, drown and perish while hunting, due to our cold water temperatures. It's as simple as that. While the attempt to thwart the spread of invasive plants and animals is noteworthy, the board's lack of adequate analysis of the scientific data on this subject is both troubling and reckless. Can felt soles transport invasive plants and animals? Unfortunately, yes they can. But please look at the research—which is extremely limited at best. This small amount of research, much which has not been peer reviewed, has indicated that felt soles can spread such invasive species as Didymo (rock snot), possibly whirling disease, and one New Zealand mudsnail was proven to be transported by a felt boot. One! Research has also proven that these invasive species can be carried and transported to other waters on shoe laces, socks, inside the wading boots themselves, on the wading material itself and even on rubber wading boots. Furthermore, research has also proven invasive species can be transported from one water body to another by boat trailers and through bilge water of boats and float planes traveling to and from different water bodies. Even Darwin wrote many years ago, about migrating waterfowl transporting plants and animals from one water body to another, both internally and externally. Why not ban all of these vectors then?

PROPOSED BY: Jake Sprankle (EG-C14-298)

PROPOSAL 34 – 5 AAC 92.010. Harvest tickets and reports. Require harvest reporting of migratory birds by species in Southeast Region Units as follows:

For more accurate data, create a harvest ticket with opportunity of reporting harvest by species for migratory birds to gain information presently limited to ADF&G.

Use the system already in place for other species like deer, moose etc.

If reported electronically:

- Once filed online a certified receipt for your report will be returned by email. This receipt is proof that report has been filed.
- Harvest tickets and registration permits are good for a regulatory year, not a calendar year. For example, a harvest ticket for 2013 would be valid from July 1, 2013 - June 30, 2014.
- If ADF&G does not receive a hunt report, hunters will not be eligible for future hunts. Online reporting allows hunters to determine which reports have filed and which you have not.

If reported by mail:

Hunt reports will come with harvest tickets attached to them. The report portion need not be carried in the field but must be completed and returned within 15 days of the close of the season even if you did not hunt or did not take an animal. Reports of personal harvest location are confidential.

(Note: This proposal was also submitted for the Central/Southwest meeting scheduled for February 2015 and the Southcentral meeting scheduled for March 2015.)

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Electronic online or mail in harvest tickets and reporting required for migratory birds by species.

PROPOSED BY: Sea Ducks Unlimited (EG-C14-235)

PROPOSAL 35 - 5 AAC 92.003, Hunter education and orientation requirements. Require certification for big game hunters using crossbows in the Southeast Region as follows:

All hunters pursuing big game with a crossbow in Southeast Region units must have passed a certification course presented by ADF&G and carry their certification card in the field. This regulation to be effective starting July 2016.

(Note: This proposal was also submitted for the Central/Southwest meeting scheduled for February 2015 and the Southcentral meeting scheduled for March 2015.)

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Board of Game passed a regulation stating that all hunters hunting with bow and arrow for big game must pass the IBEP Certification and carry their certification card while hunting starting in July 2016. The board did NOT include hunters who hunt with a crossbow in this regulation. There are safety issues involved with use of a crossbow which are unique to crossbows and do not apply to regular archery equipment or firearms. A crossbow is a different implement than bow and arrow but kills in the same fashion with sharp cutting of vital structures rather than shock as with a firearm. Firearms hunters who pick up a crossbow need to learn the limitations of the weapon, acceptable shot angles and target anatomy. In addition they need to learn appropriate follow-up and recovery techniques which may differ significantly from their experience with firearms. Crossbow hunters who wound animals may leave a visible projectile in the animal which can reflect poorly on not only crossbow hunters but also on bowhunters and impact on all hunters. I believe that all hunters who use a crossbow for hunting big game in Alaska should be required to pass a crossbow certification course developed and presented by ADF&G and should be required to carry their certification card while hunting big game with crossbow. The course should include a field day in which the student demonstrates knowledge of safe use of the crossbow and a minimum level of shooting proficiency.

Nothing in this should be interpreted to imply that crossbows are the same as archery equipment. The course must be separate from the IBEP Certification and taught by instructors knowledgeable in use of crossbows and certified to teach the course. Also, nothing in this proposal should imply that crossbows are acceptable for use in special archery only areas or hunts.

This proposal is to cover all regions open for proposals for consideration by the Board of Game during their 2015 meetings. It is my intention to make the same proposal next year to apply to the Interior and Arctic/ Western Regions. This proposal is to be effective starting in July 2016

which would align it statewide with the recently passed regulation for bowhunters and would also give ADF&G time to implement the education programs.

PROPOSED BY: John Frost (EG-C14-293)

PROPOSAL 36 - 5 AAC 92.044. Permit for hunting bear with the use of bait or scent lures. Remove the requirement to clean up contaminated soil from bear bait stations for Southeast Region Units as follows:

Eliminate the requirement for the Southeast Region to "remove all contaminated soil" from a bear bait site at the conclusion of the baiting season.

(Note: This proposal was also submitted for the Central/Southwest meeting scheduled for February 2015 and the Southcentral meeting scheduled for March 2015.)

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? At bear bait stations the requirement to remove all soil contaminated by the baiting at the end of the season is an excessive nuisance and is perceived by hunters to be a form of harassment by regulators who may be personally opposed to baiting bear in spite of the fact that bear baiting is a legal and accepted means of hunting bear and is often the only practical means of hunting bear in certain areas. This, combined with the requirement to provide accurate GPS locations before a permit is obtained, sends a message to hunters that they are potentially subject to prosecution if an enforcement officer comes into the bait site with a trowel and samples some dirt which may have an increased sugar or fat content by lab analysis. From a practical perspective it is virtually impossible to remove all contaminated soil. Anything that is used for bait is biodegradable and will rapidly be removed by organisms from bacteria to bears. Anything not removed will go to fertilize the soil. There is no guidance with what should be done with the "contaminated soil". Alternatives would be to spread it out, carry it any given distance and throw it out, transport it back to town, and take it to a public dump.

Nothing in this discussion should be interpreted as wanting to change the regulation requiring removal of all trash, litter, bait barrels and other artificial structures at the end of the baiting season.

PROPOSED BY: John Frost (EG-C14-299)

PROPOSAL 37 - 5 AAC Chapter 85. Seasons and bag limits. Add five days to all resident hunting seasons and allocate 75% of the drawing permits to residents in the Southeast Region as follows:

For the benefit of all Alaska residents change current regulations in all Southeast units so the residents of the State of Alaska receive preference in regard to all hunting opportunities.

For all harvest ticket hunts: Allow state residents to start the hunting seasons five days early, or allow state residents to hunt for five additional days after the season has closed for nonresident hunters.

For drawing hunts: change allocation systems to ensure Alaskan residents have been allocated 75% of any drawing hunt opportunity. If state residents do not use that percentage of the pool, then the unallocated portion may be used by nonresident hunters.

(Note: This proposal was also submitted for the Central/Southwest meeting scheduled for February 2015 and the Southcentral meeting scheduled for March 2015.)

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I am hopeful that the board will address the inequalities in resident hunter preference. For many years a significant portion of the large game species has been taken by nonresidents. This is due to several factors, as managers of a state resource, the Board of Game should be morally and ethically obligated to ensure that resident hunting opportunities and resident hunting preference are a priority.

PROPOSED BY: Kevin Secor (EG-C14-227)

PROPOSAL 38 - 5 AAC Chapter 85. Seasons and bag limits. Allocate 90% of big game drawing permits to residents for Southeast Region Units as follows:

I'd like to see the Board of Game adopt a new allocation schedule for all big game draw permits in the Southeast Region: 90% to residents and the remainder plus any undersubscribed to nonresidents.

(Note: This proposal was also submitted for the Central/Southwest meeting scheduled for February 2015 and the Southcentral meeting scheduled for March 2015.)

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? At issue is allocation of big game draw permits. Currently a nonresident hunter has equal chance in the lottery as resident meat hunters. Nonresidents, albeit supporting the guide industry, have historically much better success rates no doubt due to the work of their guides. The end result is that more of the real harvest goes to nonresidents, many of whom don't even want the meat; rather than Alaskans who will respect the harvested animal all year long every tasty bite of the way. This is in direct contradiction to our mandate by Alaska's Constitution Article 8 section 3 stating that meat belongs to the residents. Most other states currently allocate only 10% of their draw permits to nonresidents, and guiding is still big business there. A real tragedy to the continuation of hunting tradition will befall us as our kids potentially will lose future opportunities to hunt this great land.

Considered was action to establish a point/preference system like most states to more directly and effectively tackle the issue, but this appears to be a legislative issue and would also take many years to implement. Also considered was a shorter season for nonresidents, but to be fair

especially to mountain hunters, an equal number of weather windows should be provided for both. This would also promote mad-dash boating and bush flying, a dangerous and disrespectful practice. If nothing is done about this issue, meat will continue to be mis-allocated, Alaskan youth may see future opportunities lost, and game resources will decline.

Thank you for considering this 90/10 draw permit allocation, Alaskans appreciate it.

PROPOSED BY: Douglas Malone (EG-C14-240)
