

The following proposal was submitted prior to the proposal deadline but was inadvertently excluded from the proposal book. It is scheduled for consideration by the Board of Game at the Statewide Regulations meeting in March 2016.

PROPOSAL 138 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep. Change nonresident, general sheep hunts on state and BLM lands to drawing permit hunts.

We again ask the board to first deal with the unlimited guide numbers and unlimited nonresident opportunity across the state, as a first attempt to conserve sheep, reduce crowding and conflicts, before also limiting resident opportunities. Do not go back on your words and your testimony over the years about what is really causing the bulk of our problems. Harken back to the words of the current chairman who represented the board before the legislature in 2013 and said: *“And we have two major concerns ... one is conservation of the resource and the 2nd concern the Board of Game has – and we’ve addressed this quite a bit – is crowding. And we feel that under the current system where there is no limit to the number of guides that can operate on state and BLM-managed lands, this has resulted in some fairly heavy generally localized overharvest of game and certainly crowding.”*

“And here's something else that I'm really concerned about. Is that, there's a difference in having guides competing with guides, that's one issue, but the way I look at it as a BOG member, and a real state's rights sort of guy, is that this really puts a lot of competition on residents. Because guides are well equipped, they have large camps, wall tents, a string of horses, aircraft, they're set up, I mean this is their business. For your average hunter that goes in there for a long weekend or a week or whatever, those guys, those residents have a tough time dealing and getting game in places where you have a lot of guide competition.” – Board of Game Chairman Ted Spraker, House Resources Committee hearing, March 11, 2013

We don't believe resident sheep hunters currently need to be limited further in any way. That very well may need to happen down the line in some areas, and as our primary concern is the sheep resource we would support some limits on resident opportunity should the need arise. Let's deal with the primary known problems and issues first. As the executive director of the Alaska Professional Hunters Association wrote to the Palin administration back in 2008: "Currently, overcrowding of guides on state lands combined with decreasing wildlife populations is stimulating social disorder between hunter user groups and biological harm to our wildlife which leads to establishment of the restrictive drawing permit hunts." That statement has been echoed by the board ever since.

We propose that all current general season nonresident sheep hunts move to draw-only hunts statewide, excluding USF&WS & NPS lands. That's a first step to determine outcomes for the sheep resource, the crowding issues and conflicts, and whether or not it induces resident hunters to again hunt in areas they have abandoned due to these issues.

We understand the impacts this has on individual guides and their business model and stability, but the bottom line is that there is just no other way around these kind of limits being placed on nonresident sheep hunters (and thus guides).

We are willing to support a higher allocation level than others who have proposed similar nonresident limits. We are not beholden to some strict, low nonresident allocation levels. Currently, nonresident guided sheep hunters take 40% of the total statewide sheep harvest. We can support nonresident allocation levels set so in no subunit on state or BLM lands does nonresident guided

harvest exceed 30% of the total harvest. These types of decisions and allocation levels are best decided on a subunit by subunit basis across the state by the board with input from ADF&G biologists and managers.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Known sheep conservation concerns and negative impacts to resident sheep hunters identified by the Alaska Board of Game and the big game guide industry regarding unlimited big game guide numbers in conjunction with unlimited nonresident sheep hunting opportunities.

For nearly ten years the Alaska Board of Game and the big game guide industry has been aware of, identified, and spoken publicly on the record about their concerns surrounding unlimited big game guiding on state and BLM lands, especially as it relates to Dall sheep conservation and sheep hunting. The board has also publicly testified before the legislature about the negative impacts unlimited guides along with unlimited nonresident sheep hunting opportunity has had, and is having, on the sheep resource and on resident sheep hunters.

The board's (and the guide industry's) preferred solution to these known problems was a state-sanctioned and state-run "Guide Concession Program" (GCP) that would limit the number of big game guides that could operate on state and BLM lands. Limiting the number of guides would also thus limit the number of nonresident sheep hunters who are required by law to hire a guide.

The GCP went through years of contentious hearings and meetings and was never authorized by the 1 legislature and is likely to never come about. When the public continued to submit proposals to the board asking them to use their authority to take care of these known problems by limiting all nonresident sheep hunting opportunity to draw-only hunts, the board backtracked on previous statements and public testimony and claimed they needed more study on the issue.

After more study and more meetings, the board then did something quite extraordinary; as a body they created their own board-generated sheep proposal that included options to limit resident sheep hunting opportunity that were never before submitted by the public or the guide industry. The board now alludes that if any changes are to be made, there should be a "shared burden" among all user groups. It's like the boards' previous statements and testimony over the years never happened.

Alaska Backcountry Hunters & Anglers has been heavily involved in sheep issues over the years, with proposals to the board along with oral testimony and written comments. We have attended and spoken before Advisory Committee meetings and Big Game Commercial Services Board meetings. All along we have tried to work with the guide industry and guides and AC members and the boards for a workable and fair compromise concerning nonresident allocation levels.

We have continually stated that our primary concern was the sheep resource and that our secondary concern was the fear of losing yet more resident sheep hunting opportunity (as happened in subunits 13D/14A) due to these known issues and problems with unlimited guides and unlimited nonresident sheep hunting opportunity.

We attended the sheep "town hall" meeting in Wasilla in February 2015 with some 167 members of the public present, many of whom stood up to speak to the crowd and the board. There was broad disagreement on solutions to the problems but there was one thing every single person agreed on: sheep populations were down.

The Alaska Department of Fish & Game, in their oral reports at sheep meetings and in their sheep report also stated that sheep populations over the past four decades have diminished. At the same time, nonresident sheep hunter numbers have remained flat, while resident sheep hunter numbers have dropped.

If this problem is not solved, there will be continued localized diminished populations of full-curl rams that threaten population sustainability and resident general open season sheep hunting opportunities, continued user conflicts and crowding, and continued inequitable nonresident sheep harvest rates in some areas.

This proposal addresses improving the quality of the resource harvested. By limiting nonresident sheep hunting opportunities statewide we thus limit the number of guides they must hire, thereby reducing total sheep harvests, better conserving sheep populations, as well as improving the quality of sheep hunts for both guided and unguided hunters by reducing crowding and conflicts afield.

Those who will benefit from this proposal will be ALL those who put the resource first and wish to see our sheep populations conserved and sustained. All resident hunters who want to see their general open season sheep hunting opportunities retained. All guided nonresident hunters who don't want to compete with so many other guided hunters and who favor a more quality sheep hunt.

Those who will suffer will be some guides who will suffer monetarily because of the lower number of nonresident clients. Division of Wildlife Conservation funding would decrease because of a decrease in nonresident sheep tags being sold, and some local economies could see a decrease in nonresident hunting-related tourism, but it's important to emphasize that these same things would happen if the proposed Guide Concession Program, which the board supported, was implemented. Nonresident sheep hunters would lose the guarantee to be able to hunt Dall sheep in Alaska, and would have to take their chances with a draw-only hunt.

Other solutions considered: Continuing to wait for the proposed Guide Concession Program to be implemented. Rejected because we have already waited too long for this proposed concession program to be implemented, and it now appears it will never come about.

Only making some of the known problem areas of the state draw-only for nonresidents. This was rejected because it has the potential to spread the problems to the areas still open to general season nonresident sheep hunting.

Various kinds of limits on resident sheep hunting opportunity statewide in areas still open to general season hunt opportunity, in conjunction with our proposed solution. Rejected because we don't believe we need that at this time, but our primary concern is sheep conservation so that sheep hunting by all can continue, and we do believe it is important that resident sheep hunters are fully cognizant this may be necessary down the line.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Chapter Backcountry Hunters & Anglers (HQ-C15-168)

Note: Proposal 139 was accepted by the Board of Game as an Agenda Change Request for consideration at the Statewide Regulations meeting in March 2016.

PROPOSAL 139 - 5 AAC 85.040(a)(7). Hunting seasons and bag limits for goat. Change the nonresident registration goat hunts in Unit 14C, Lake George area, to drawing hunts as follows:

<u>Units and Bag Limits</u>	<u>Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)</u>	<u>Nonresident Open Season</u>
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(7)

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Remainder of Unit 14(C)

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 goat by registration permit only; however, goats may be taken from Aug. 16 through Aug. 31 by bow and arrow only; the taking of nannies with kids is prohibited	Aug. 16 — Nov. 30 (General hunt only)
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NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 goat by <u>drawing</u> [REGISTRATION] permit only; and by bow and arrow only; the taking of nannies with kids is prohibited; or	Aug. 16 — Aug. 31
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1 goat by <u>drawing</u> [REGISTRATION] permit only; the taking of nannies with kids is prohibited	Sept. 1 — Oct. 15
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WHAT IS THE ISSUE YOU WOULD LIKE THE BOARD TO ADDRESS AND WHY?

The Lake George Area is the most popular goat hunting area in Unit 14C and supports the largest numbers of goats in the unit (e.g., minimum count surveys in 2011 documented 440 goats observed). Historically, most hunting in Lake George has been managed by registration permits. Since 2002 there have been numerous changes to hunting regulations governing the Lake George area to address overharvest while maximizing hunting opportunity.

Beginning in 2002, participation in goat registration hunts in Unit 14C, specifically the Lake George area, increased dramatically following changes to goat hunts on the Kenai Peninsula, with drawing hunts August 10–October 15 and a late season registration hunt November 1–

November 30. As a result, the only early season registration goat hunts available in the area were in Units 14A and 14C. Hunter participation, specifically by guided nonresident hunters, increased rapidly for these registration hunts. By 2005, most registration hunts in the Lake George Area closed within 2 weeks of opening due to harvest quotas being met. In 2005 and 2006, harvest exceeded desired quotas in Unit 14C. As a result, in 2007 the Board of Game approved a department proposal to change the registration goat hunts in Unit 14C to drawing permit hunts, to be followed by late season registration permit hunts if quotas were not met. The new hunts began in the 2008 season, and the Unit 14A goat hunt changed from a registration permit hunt to a drawing permit hunt the same year. In 2009, the board changed the permit hunt in Lake George to a drawing hunt for nonresident hunters and a registration hunt for residents. In 2011, the board converted the nonresident drawing permit hunt back to a registration permit hunt with a separate quota from the resident registration permit hunt.

Under this new harvest regime, the nonresident hunts were closed annually after about a week of harvest, but nonresident hunters continue to exceed their portion of the quota (Table 1). The registration hunt model does not allow for timely management of harvest. The department cannot regulate the nonresident harvest of goats sufficiently to conform to the board’s allocation. The intent of this proposal is to return the nonresident registration goat hunts in the Lake George area to drawing permit hunts to give management biologists a better tool to achieve the board’s allocation for goat harvest.

Table 1.

Regulatory Year	Nonresident Quota	Goat Units Harvested
2012-13	8	10
2013-14	7	10
2014-15	7	12

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-2016-ACR17)

Note: Proposal 140 was accepted by the Board of Game as an Agenda Change Request for consideration at the Statewide Regulations Meeting in March 2016.

PROPOSAL 140 - 5 AAC 85.025(17) Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou. Change the hunting seasons and bag limits in Unit 22 as follows:

5 AAC 85.025(a)(17):

Unit 22(A), that portion north of the Golsovia River drainage

RESIDENT HUNTERS:
5 caribou per day, **up to 20 caribou total**, as follows:

up to 5 caribou [BULLS] per day; however, calves may not be taken;	[JULY 1 - OCT. 14 FEB. 1 - JUNE 30] <u>July 1 - June 30</u>
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[UP TO 5 COWS PER DAY; HOWEVER, [SEPT. 1 - MAR. 31]
CALVES MAY NOT BE TAKEN]

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:
1 bull; however, calves may not be taken

Aug. 1 - Sept. 30

Unit 22(B), that portion west of Golovnin Bay, and west of a line along the west bank of the Fish and Niukluk Rivers to the mouth of the Libby River, and excluding all portions of the Niukluk River drainage upstream from and including the Libby River drainage

RESIDENT HUNTERS:
5 caribou per day, **up to 20 caribou total**, as follows:

up to 5 caribou [BULLS] per day; however, calves may not be taken;	[JULY 1 - OCT. 14 FEB. 1 - JUNE 30] <u>July 1 - June 30</u>
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[UP TO 5 COWS PER DAY; HOWEVER, [SEPT. 1 - MAR. 31]

CALVES MAY NOT BE TAKEN]

[UP TO 5 CARIBOU PER DAY;
HOWEVER, CALVES MAY NOT
BE TAKEN; DURING
THE PERIOD MAY 1 - SEPT. 30,
A SEASON MAY BE ANNOUNCED BY
EMERGENCY ORDER; HOWEVER,
COW CARIBOU MAY NOT BE
TAKEN APRIL 1 - AUG 31;
BULL CARIBOU MAY NOT BE TAKEN
OCT. 15 - JAN 31]

[(SEASON TO BE
ANNOUNCED BY
EMERGENCY ORDER)]

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull; however, calves may not be taken;
during
the period Aug. 1 - Sept. 30,
a season may be announced by
emergency order

(Season to be
announced by
emergency order)

Remainder of Unit 22(B)

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

5 caribou per day, **up to 20**
caribou total, as follows:

up to 5 **caribou** [BULLS] per day;
however, calves may not be taken;

[JULY 1 - OCT. 14
FEB. 1 - JUNE 30]
July 1 - June 30

[UP TO 5 COWS PER DAY; HOWEVER, [SEPT. 1 - MAR. 31]
CALVES MAY NOT BE TAKEN]

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull; however, calves may not be taken

Aug. 1 - Sept. 30

Unit 22(D), that portion in the
Pilgrim River drainage

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

5 caribou per day, **up to 20**
caribou total, as follows:

up to 5 **caribou** [BULLS] per day;

[JULY 1 - OCT. 14

however, calves may not be taken;

FEB. 1 - JUNE 30]
Oct. 1 - Apr. 30

[UP TO 5 COWS PER DAY; HOWEVER, CALVES MAY NOT BE TAKEN] [OCT. 1 - MAR. 31]

[UP TO 5 CARIBOU PER DAY; HOWEVER, CALVES MAY NOT BE TAKEN; DURING THE PERIOD MAY 1 - SEPT. 30, A SEASON MAY BE ANNOUNCED BY EMERGENCY ORDER; HOWEVER, COW CARIBOU MAY NOT BE TAKEN APRIL 1 - AUG. 31]

[(SEASON TO BE ANNOUNCED BY EMERGENCY ORDER)]

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull; however, calves may not be taken ; during the period Aug. 1 - Sept. 30, a season may be announced by emergency order

(Season to be announced by emergency order)

Unit 22(D), that portion in the Kuzitrin River drainage (excluding the Pilgrim River drainage) and the Agiapuk River drainage, including the tributaries

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

5 caribou per day, **up to 20 caribou total**, as follows:

up to 5 **caribou** [BULLS] per day; however, calves may not be taken;

[JULY 1 - OCT. 14
FEB. 1 - JUNE 30]
July 1 - June 30

[UP TO 5 COWS PER DAY; HOWEVER, CALVES MAY NOT BE TAKEN] [SEPT. 1 - MAR. 31]

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull; however, calves may not be taken

Aug. 1 - Sept. 30

Unit 22(E), that portion east of
and including the Sanaguich River
drainage

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

5 caribou per day, **up to 20**
caribou total, as follows:

up to 5 **caribou** [BULLS] per day;
however, calves may not be taken;

[JULY 1 - OCT. 14
FEB. 1 - JUNE 30]
July 1 - June 30

[UP TO 5 COWS PER DAY; HOWEVER, [SEPT. 1 - MAR. 31]
CALVES MAY NOT BE TAKEN]

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull; however, calves may not be taken

Aug. 1 - Sept. 30

Remainder of Unit 22

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

5 caribou per day, **up to 20**
caribou total, as follows:

(Season to be
announced by
emergency order)

up to 5 caribou [BULLS] per day;
however, calves may not be taken;
COW CARIBOU MAY NOT BE
TAKEN APR. 1 - AUG. 31;
BULL CARIBOU MAY NOT BE TAKEN
OCT. 15 - JAN. 31]

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull; however, calves may not be taken;
during the period Aug. 1 - Sept. 30

(Season to be
announced by
emergency order)

...

WHAT IS THE ISSUE YOU WOULD LIKE THE BOARD TO ADDRESS AND WHY? We
would like to see each resident hunter issued 20 either-sex caribou harvest tags, with a daily limit
of five caribou, and the resident hunting seasons in Unit 22 revert to those similar to the 2014
standard seasons.

Regulations enacted in 2015 encourage the harvest of breeding female caribou in a time of declining population levels. The unanticipated result of the separation of the bull and cow season has resulted in numerous violations by hunters who mistakenly shot the wrong sex caribou. Some animals were wasted when the hunter realized their mistake and did not want to take responsibility. The current harvest is estimated using community survey methods which are believed to yield poorer quality harvest estimates.

The board will note there are several subunits with discretionary seasons. The reindeer herds in these areas present special management issues which require coordination with wildlife managers and reindeer owners. On the years when the caribou do not migrate to the subunits, there is not action needed.

This would address the confusion and waste issue and the concerns mentioned in proposal 85 on page 71 of the board's proposal book.

PROPOSED BY: Charles Lean

(HQ-2016-ACR19)

Note: Proposal 141 was accepted by the Board of Game as an Agenda Change Request for consideration at the Statewide Regulations Meeting in March 2016.

PROPOSAL 141 - 5 AAC 85.056 Hunting seasons and bag limits for wolf. Change the wolf hunting season dates near Denali National Park as follows:

Change the season for hunting of wolves on lands in Unit 20C in the Stampede Corridor (Wolf Townships), adjacent to Denali National Park, from August 10 – May 31 to August 10 – April 15 to eliminate the overlap between the bear baiting and wolf hunting seasons.

WHAT IS THE ISSUE YOU WOULD LIKE THE BOARD TO ADDRESS AND WHY?

The recent change in hunting regulations allowing for the taking of brown bears at bait stations along with the lengthening of the wolf hunting season to May 31 has exposed wolves that are attracted to bait stations to increased and unforeseen harvest pressure in the Stampede Corridor within Unit 20C.

In early May 2015, Denali National Park and Preserve staff learned that a collared male wolf from the East Fork pack (1507GM) and an un-collared and reportedly pregnant female wolf were legally shot by a hunter outside of the park near the Stampede Trail. GPS data provided by 1507GM's collar indicated that he had spent most of the prior week at a location within a mile of the location where he was shot. Upon investigation, park staff learned that there was a bear baiting station within a quarter of a mile from where the two wolves were shot and the bait station was the same location where GPS data indicated the collared wolf had been the prior week.

There was no evidence that the East Fork pack denned in 2015. The loss of the pregnant female thus may have represented a loss of the reproductive potential for this pack and potentially represents the first time that the East Fork pack has not produced pups in over 28 years of continuous monitoring of this pack.

Although it was known that the open season for bear baiting in the Stampede area (April 15-June 30) overlaps the hunting season for wolves this was the first time that we had evidence that a bear baiting station attracted wolves and increased their vulnerability to hunting. Park staff shared the information gathered from our investigation with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Soon after, the Commissioner issued an emergency order closing the wolf hunting season in the area two weeks early, stating that: *"The department has received new information that has led to the decision to close wolf hunting in the area of Game Management Unit 20C along the Stampede Trail near Denali National Park. Trapping seasons are already closed for this regulatory year. The normal hunting season for wolves ends on May 31 in this area. There are no conservation concerns for wolves in Game Management Unit 20C, which includes a large portion of the park. However, changes in bear hunting regulations have increased the chances of wolves that primarily inhabit the park being taken as they venture on to adjacent lands. On average, this general area has a harvest of about four wolves per year and, prior to this year, little of that harvest had occurred in May. The controversy regarding the so-called "wolf buffer" is centered around the allocation of wolves between harvest through trapping and hunting and wildlife viewing opportunities for Park visitors. Allocation issues are the purview of the Board of*

Game. This temporary closure will allow the board to revisit the issue in light of the new information without additional take of wolves this May adding to the controversy

Although wolf populations may be able to compensate for losses from low levels of harvest through increases in reproduction or immigration or reductions in emigration, at low densities, the ability for the wolf population to compensate through movement in or out of the population is limited by fewer wolves available. The wolf population in Denali National Park and Preserve is currently low and the effect of additional harvest, particularly during the season when females are pregnant, can remove the reproductive capacity of for entire packs as seen this previous spring. Thus, the timing of this unforeseen additional harvest (which overlaps with the whelping and nursing period) combined with the current population status indicate the potential for population level impacts and present a legitimate conservation concern.

In the Stampede Corridor, black bear baiting has been legal for some time, but has not been commonly practiced as black bears are not common in the area. The regulation change in 2012 to allow the take of brown bears over bait likely increased the use of bait stations in this area. Current regulations allow bear baiting to occur from April 15-June 30. A concurrent change to the wolf hunting season extended wolf hunting through the end of May. Wolves are known to be attracted to bear baiting stations (Bump et al 2013) but the effect of these bear hunting regulations on wolf take (legal until May 31 under existing regulations) was unforeseen when the bear hunting regulations were adopted. The take of at least two wolves from the East Fork pack on state lands north of Denali National Park in May 2015, described above, was likely the result of more hunters being in the field to hunt brown bears at bait stations from April 15-June 30, under regulations adopted for this area (GMU 20C) by the Board of Game in 2012. This unexpected take led to an Emergency Closure by the Director of the Division of Wildlife Conservation on May 15, 2015.

There are several unforeseen consequences of additional wolf take in the Stampede corridor. First, take of wolves from April 15-May 31 coincides with the period when females are pregnant or nursing young pups. As seen this spring, loss of a pregnant female can remove the reproductive potential of a pack. This could have significant impacts to the local population of wolves. Second, wolf packs that travel onto state lands in the Stampede corridor adjacent to Denali National Park are typically the wolves observed by bus passengers along the Denali Park Road. The potential for hunting to affect viewable packs that den in eastern areas of Denali during mid-April and May, makes it advisable for the Board of Game to consider this proposal for a change in the wolf hunting season. Third, this take, when pelts are not in prime condition reduces opportunities for trappers in the area.

PROPOSED BY: Denali National Park and Preserve (HQ-2016-ACR20)

Note: Proposal 142 was accepted by the Board of Game as an Agenda Change Request for consideration at the Statewide Regulations Meeting in March 2016.

PROPOSAL 142 - 5AAC 92.108 Identified big game prey populations and objectives and 92.121. Intensive Management Plan V. Review and modify the Unit 13 predation control plan as follows:

5AAC 92.108. Identified big game prey populations and objectives.

Population	Finding	Population Objective	Harvest Objective
...			
Moose			
...			
GMU 13(A)	Positive	3,500 – 4,200	210 – 420
GMU 13(B)	Positive	5,300 – 6,300	310 – 620
GMU 13(C)	Positive	2,000 – 3,000	155 – 350
GMU 13(D)	Positive	1,200 – 1,900	75 – 190
GMU 13(E)	Positive	5,000 – 6,000	300 – 600
...			

5 AAC 92.121. Intensive Management Plan V. (a) is entirely deleted and replaced by the following.

- ...
- (a) **Plan established. The intensive management plan for the Unit 13 Wolf Predation Control Area is established in this section;**
 - (b) **Unit 13 Wolf Predation Control Area: the Unit 13 Predation Control Area is established and consists of all lands within Units 13(A), 13(B), 13(C), and that portion of Unit 13(E) east of the Alaska Railroad, except National Park Service and other federal lands where same-day-airborne take of wildlife is not allowed, encompassing approximately 15,413 square miles;**
 - (1) **This is a continuing control program that was first authorized by the board in 2000 for wolf control; it is currently designed to increase moose numbers and harvest by reducing predation on moose by wolves and is expected to make a contribution to achieving the intensive management (IM) objectives in Unit 13;**
 - (2) **Moose and wolf objectives are as follows:**
 - (A) **Moose IM objectives for Units 13(A), 13(B), 13(C), and 13(E) as established in 5 AAC 92.108 are 3,500 – 4,200, 5,300 – 6,300, 2,000 –**

3,000, and 5,000 – 6,000 moose respectively; these objectives are below the maximum moose numbers estimated in these areas between 1987 and 1989 and are likely attainable given the history of productivity and survival patterns in this area; the bull-to-cow objective is 25:100 for Unit 13;

(B) The moose harvest objectives for Units 13(A), 13(B), 13(C), and 13(E) as established in 5 AAC 92.108 are 210 – 420, 310 – 620, 155 – 350, and 300 – 600 moose respectively; with the harvest of bulls and cows, the current harvest objectives can be met in Unit 13(A) and are likely attainable in Units 13(B) and 13(C) given the history of harvest patterns in these areas; the harvest objectives for Unit 13(E) may not be attainable and will be re-evaluated; in the early 1990s;

(C) The department adopted a range of 135 – 165 wolves as the late winter objective. Maintaining this population size will allow for sustained yield of wolves and will ensure that wolves persist in the control area;

(3) Board findings concerning populations and human use are as follows:

(A) Moose harvest has been consistently below IM objectives in Units 13(B), 13(C), and 13(E);

(B) predation by wolves is an important cause of the failure to achieve population and harvest objectives;

(C) a reduction in wolf predation in Unit 13 can reasonably be expected to make progress toward achieving the Unit 13(A), 13(B), 13(C), and 13(E) IM objectives for moose;

(D) reducing predation is likely to be effective and feasible using recognized and prudent active management techniques and based on scientific information;

(E) reducing predation is likely to be effective given land ownership patterns, and;

(F) reducing predation is in the best interest of subsistence users; Unit 13 has long been an important hunting area for subsistence by local area residents and much of the state's population in Anchorage, the Matanuska-Susitna Valley, as well as Fairbanks and other communities around the state; it is recognized under the state's intensive management law as an area where moose are to be managed for high levels of human consumptive use.

(4) Authorized methods and means are as follows:

(A) hunting and trapping of wolves by the public in the Unit 13 Predation Control Area during the term of the program will occur as provided in the hunting and trapping regulations set out elsewhere in this title, including the use of motorized vehicles;

(B) notwithstanding any other provisions in this title, the commissioner may issue public aerial permits or public land and shoot permits as a method for wolf removal under AS 16.05.783;

(5) Time frame is as follows:

(A) through July 1, 2027, the commissioner may authorize the removal of wolves in the Unit 13 Predation Control Area;

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

(6) The commissioner will review, modify or suspend program activities as follows:

(A) when the mid-point of the IM population and harvest objectives for the moose population are achieved;

(B) when wolf inventories or accumulated information from permittees indicate the need to avoid reducing wolf numbers below the management objective of 135 wolves specified in this subsection;

(C) if after 3 years, the harvest of wolves is not sufficient to make progress towards the intensive management population objectives for wolves;

(D) predation control activities may be suspended:

i. if after 3 years, there is no detectable increase in the total number of moose in the control area;

ii. if after three years, any measure consistent with significant levels of nutritional stress in the moose population are identified;

iii. when the moose population and harvest objectives within Unit 13 predation control area have been met.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Unit 13 Intensive Management Plan will expire on October 31, 2016. IM objectives for Unit 13 have not been achieved. To comply with protocol for intensive management plans, ADF&G is introducing new regulatory language for the intensive management plan for the Unit 13 predation control area and will present an operational plan to guide the implementation of the program during the March 2016 Board of Game meeting. These documents incorporate guidance the board gave to ADF&G after the board reviewed the intensive management plan for the Unit 13 predation control area during the February 2013 Board of Game meeting. This proposal also allows the board to modify the program's objectives and give further guidance to ADF&G if warranted.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-2016-ACR16)

Note: During the January 22, 2016 teleconference, the Board of Game requested this proposal be scheduled for the Statewide Regulations meeting in March 2016.

PROPOSAL 143 - 5 AAC 92.990(21). Definition of deleterious exotic wildlife.

Include Eurasian Collared Doves in the definition of deleterious exotic wildlife.

WHAT IS THE ISSUE YOU WOULD LIKE THE BOARD TO ADDRESS AND WHY?

Eurasian Collared Doves are a non-native species and there is no open season for them. By including them in the definition of deleterious exotic wildlife there will be no closed season and no bag limit on the birds. These doves are starting to arrive in Alaska and there is little information regarding the extent of their distribution in Alaska. This topic was brought to the board's attention at their January 22, 2016 teleconference.

PROPOSED BY: Board of Game

(HQ-2016-BGP1)
