Proposal #94

Change fall moose season dates in Unit 21D

Proponent – Public

ADFG – OPPOSED

KRAC – OPPOSED

MYAC – OPPOSED
Proposed Change

- Only that portion of 21D outside the KCUA
- RM834 only
- Sept. 1-Sept 30

Changing moose seasons in 21D
Unit 21D – Moose Seasons

- **Koyukuk CUA**
  - Drawing permits
    - Resident/Non-Resident: Sept 5-Sept 25
  - RM832
    - Resident: Sept 1-Sept 25

- **Remainder 21D**
  - Drawing Permits
    - Resident/Non-Resident: Sept 5-Sept 25
  - RM834
    - Resident: Aug 22-Aug 31, (4 days closed), Sept 5-Sept 25

- August season initiated in 2006 in lieu of Dec 1-10 season
Proposal 94 – September Moose Season Change in 21D

**Concerns:**

**Hunt Management**
- Current season addressed hunter conflict issues and meat spoilage concerns
- The climate change effects on hunting are not easily interpreted, therefore the management response is unclear

**Biological**
- 1) Increase harvest, 2) exceed harvestable surplus
- Population estimate ----- 8,749 ↓ ↓ trend ↓ ↓
  - Management Objective (9K-10K)
  - IM objective (7K-10K)
- Proposed change (late Sept) will have uncertain biological impacts on productivity and survival
Unit 21D - Avg. Daily Harvest 1995-2014

(9 days =>>> 10 + 72 = ~82 moose
net increase of 74 moose 14%)

144 moose = 14/day

120 moose = 12/day

17 moose = 3/day

8 moose = 1/day

Change moose seasons in 21D
Proposal 94 – September Moose Season Change in 21D

• This proposal is similar to previous proposals and several emergency requests related to climate change

• PREMISE: Climate change is responsible for affecting fall hunting:

  Direct (weather) response:
  • Temperature?
  • Precipitation?
  • Wind?
  • Water levels?
  • Leaf phenology?

  Indirect (moose) response:
  • Timing of rut?
  • Moose behavior?
  • Bigger bulls?
  • Hunting conditions?

Hunters affected:
• Number of moose harvested?
• Hunter effort?
• Meat spoilage?
• Hunt quality?

Change moose seasons in 21D
Proposal 94 – September Moose Season Change in 21D

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- Moose behavior?
- Bigger bulls?
- Hunting conditions?

Hunters affected:
- Number of moose harvested?
- Hunter effort?
- Meat spoilage?
- Hunt quality?

Change moose seasons in 21D
Change moose seasons in 21D

Trend = +0.086/year; significant at 95% confidence level

Trend not significant at 90% confidence level

Rick Thoman; NWS-Fairbanks Reg.
Temperature and Light Intensity of 3 Habitat Types on the Lower Koyukuk

![Graph showing temperature and light intensity for different habitats.](image)

**Prop 94-9**

**Change moose seasons in 21D**
Number of Days Meat was in the Field
Koyukuk Checkstation (2002-15)
(n=1,856)

Number of Moose

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92% 78%

Change moose seasons in 21D
Nonlocal Harvest by Date and Calling

Nonlocal not called

Date

Nonlocal called

Local Harvest by Date and Calling

Local not called

Number of Moose

Change moose seasons in 21D

Prop 94-11

41% called

11% called
Middle Yukon/Koyukuk - Reported Moose Harvest

2001-2016

- Moose Harvested
- Number of people

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<th>Year</th>
<th>Local Harvest</th>
<th>Total Harvest</th>
<th>Census Data</th>
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Prop 94-12

*Includes communities of Tanana, Ruby, Galena, Koyukuk, Nulato, Kaltag, Huslia, Hughes, Alatna, Allakaket, Bettles, Evansville, Wiseman, and Coldfoot.

Change moose seasons in 21D
## Preliminary Local Resident Reported Moose Harvest 2001-2016

### Data for Years 2001 to 2016

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<thead>
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<th>Galena</th>
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<th>Huslia</th>
<th>Ruby</th>
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<th>Kaltag</th>
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</table>

*Change moose seasons in 21D*

Mysterud et al. (2002): “It is well documented that the presence of males can induce estrus in females, and that male age may also be a factor. In populations with both a skewed sex ratio and a young male age structure, calving is delayed and less synchronous.”

**Peak Breeding Season of Alaskan Moose**

**Fig. 1.** Percentage of mounting sequences and copulations of moose by 2-day intervals observed during the breeding season in central Alaska. (from S. B. Requesnelle (1993))

Change moose seasons in 21D
Proposal #94

Summary

2. No clear direct/indirect weather effects on harvest.
3. Harvest is stable, per capita harvest is increasing.
4. Harvest will increase and exceed harvestable surplus.
5. Accelerate population decline.

ADF&G – OPPOSED
KRAC – OPPOSED
MYAC – OPPOSED

Change moose seasons in 21D
Proposal #95

Change DM896 and DM812 hunts and portion of RM834, to a Registration hunt

Proponent – ADF&G

ADF&G – SUPPORT

KRAC – SUPPORT

MYAC – SUPPORT
DM896 = 3,771 mi²
DM812 = 847 mi²

Change 24CD/21C hunts to Registration hunt
Legend
- Game Management Units
- New Registration Hunt RMXXX
- RM834
- Controlled Use Areas

**Prop 95-3**

**Change 24CD/21C hunts to Registration hunt**
Galena Mgt. Area – Moose Management Strategy

- Drawing Permit/Registration Permit system implemented in 2000, 2004, and 2006
- Key Issues: 1) Moose population was below objective or declining, 2) declining bull:cow ratios, 3) declining local hunter success, 4) hunter conflicts, 5) illegal guiding
- Hunter Distribution, Bootlegging, High-grading
- Strategy has been successful

Change 24CD/21C hunts to Registration hunt
Change 24CD/21C hunts to Registration hunt

2007 Results
75 Bulls:100 Cows
14 Yrlg bull:100 Cows
43 calv.:100 Cows
0.36 moose/mi²

2010 Results
64 Bulls:100 Cows
10 Yrlg bull:100 Cows
27 calv.:100 Cows
0.49 moose/mi²
Proposal #95

Harvest

DM812 – est. 2004
- Permits – 31 annually
- Hunters – 74% Did not hunt
- Harvest – avg. 5 moose annually (RM834 - 0.5 moose)

DM896 – est. 2004
- Permits – 52 annually
- Hunters – 51% Did not hunt
- Harvest – avg. 11 moose annually (RM834 – 6 moose)

Change 24CD/21C hunts to Registration hunt
Proposal #95

Summary

- Both areas receive low use
- Remoteness is self-regulating
- Opportunity to reduce restrictive regulations
- Concerns can be closely monitored with registration permit
- The Board may want to consider whether removing antler destruction will affect subsistence opportunity
- No biological concerns

ADF&G – SUPPORT
KRAC – SUPPORT
MYAC – SUPPORT

Change 24CD/21C hunts to Registration hunt
Proposal #93

Eliminate Bettles Winter Trail from DHCMA allowed motorized travel roads

Proponent – ADF&G

ADF&G – TAKE NO ACTION
KRAC – TAKE NO ACTION
• Proposal 93 is a “placeholder” proposal (re: BLM permit for City of Bettles winter road)

• Bettles Winter Trail is one of 6 exemptions for licensed highway vehicle travel in the DHCMA regulation

• The Bettles Winter Trail is the only legal overland egress in Unit 24 from the Dalton Highway for hunters
Eliminate Bettles Winter Trail in DHCMA
Proposal 93 - Bettles Winter Trail

Effect of the proposal

- Historically, State and Federal hunting regulations allowed for public use
- October 2016, the BLM announced a Scoping Period with 7 options; The “No Action” option would limit public access
- BLM EA has not been released as of 02/14/17
- Not addressing the regulation will mislead hunters
Proposal #93

Summary

- This placeholder proposal depends on the final determination of a BLM Environmental Assessment, which has not been completed.
- Regardless of the EA decision, the BLM has changed their interpretation, and use of the Bettles Winter Trail is no longer allowed for the general public.
- Eliminating the road designation in the DHCMA description is needed to prevent confusion for hunters.

ADF&G – TAKE NO ACTION
KRAC – TAKE NO ACTION

Eliminate Bettles Winter Trail in DHCMA
Proposal #96

Expand RM833 winter hunt to the remainder of GMU 24B

Proponent – ADF&G

ADF&G – SUPPORT

KRAC – SUPPORT
Expand RM833 Winter Registration hunt
Expand RM833 Winter Registration hunt
Legend
- GMU 24
- Kanuti CUA
- RM833
- GMU 24B Remainder
- Federal Lands (BLM, NPS, USFWS)
- Bettles Winter Road

Expand RM833 Winter Registration hunt
Proposal #96

Regulation

- December 15 to April 15; antlered bulls only
- Registration permit, residents only, subsistence hunt

Permit Hunt Conditions

- Permits available at vendors or online
- Aircraft not allowed
- 5-day reporting requirement at vendor/ADFG

Expand RM833 Winter Registration hunt
Proposal #96

Moose Management Statistics

24B/C

• Low density moose population (0.20-0.35 moose/mi² ≈ 2,000-4,000 moose)

• High Bull:Cow ratios (50-70 bulls:100 cows)

• Large area (24B + 24C = 16,572 mi²)

• Few small villages (Hughes 69, Allakaket 85, Alatna 32, Bettles/Evansville 59, Coldfoot/Wiseman 35 = 280 people)

• RM833 - Since 2010 (7 seasons); 95 permits issued, 35 hunted, 1 moose harvested

Expand RM833 Winter Registration hunt
**Unit 24C, 24D Survey Fall 2007**

- **Legend**
  - GMU
  - 24C 24D Survey 2007
  - Number of Observed Moose
    - 0 / Not Surveyed
    - 1 - 4
    - 5 - 42

- **Results**
  - 4,295 mi²
  - 69.6 Bulls:100 Cows
  - 15 Yrlg bull:100 Cows
  - 45 calv.:100 Cows
  - 562 moose estimate (0.21 moose/mi²) (± 23%)

- **Prop 96-7**
  - Expand RM833 Winter Registration hunt

- **Map**
  - Area 24C highlighted with moose distribution.
2015 Results

62 Bulls: 100 Cows
10 Yrlg bull: 100 Cows
52 calv.: 100 Cows
1,518 moose estimate (0.41 moose/mi²) (± 18%)

Legend
- Moose Groups
- Surveyed Units
- H
- L
- 24B Intensive Management Area
- Kanuti NWR

Expand RM833 Winter Registration hunt
Kanuti Moose Abundance 1999-2015
(90% Confidence Limits)

Number of Moose

Bayesian Trendline
90%_lcl
90%_ucl
Smoothed Estimates
SCF Corrected Moose
Observed Moose

Expand RM833 Winter Registration hunt

Prop 96-9
Proposal #96

Summary

• Align State with Federal Regulation change adopted by FSB in 2016
• Reduce confusion of land status
• Low demand for this hunt
• No biological concerns

ADF&G – SUPPORT
KRAC – SUPPORT

Expand RM833 Winter Registration hunt
Proposal 97
Moose/ Subunit 21B,
Interior–Northeast Arctic Region

Remove nonresident guide requirement for moose drawing hunts in the Interior–Northeast Arctic Region and change the permit allocation in a portion of 21B (Upper Nowitna)

Resident Hunters of Alaska

Recommendation: NEUTRAL

Koyukuk River AC: TNA
Middle Yukon AC: OPPOSE
- DM809, DM810, DM811
- Change allocation of permits between residents and nonresidents to 90/10 instead of 50/50

- DM839: 21E
- DM825: 21D and 24 Kooykuk CUA, late season
- DM823: 21D and 24 Kooykuk CUA, early season
- DM819: 21D Bear Creek Drainage
- DM811: 21B Upper Nowitna River corridor

Hunts:
- Remove nonresident guide requirement for moose drawing

Interior-Northwest Arctic Region
Moose/ Subunit 21B
Proposal 97

Moose/Subunit 21B, Interior—Northeast Arctic Region

Current Regulations

- Nonresident hunters required to contract with a registered guide: DM811, DM819, DM823, DM825, DM839

- Unit 21B, Upper Nowitna corridor
  - 50/50 allocation between residents/nonresidents
  - Among nonresident permits, 75/25 split between guided/nonguided
Proposal 97

Moose/ Subunit 21B, Interior–Northeast Arctic Region

Current Regulations cont’d

- Upper Nowitna Corridor
  - Residents:
    - Registration (RM834)
    - Draw (DM810)
  - Nonresidents
    - Draw (DM809, DM811)

- Outside Nowitna Corridor
  - Residents:
    - Harvest ticket
  - Nonresidents
    - Harvest ticket
Effect of Proposal

Interior-Northwest Arctic Region
Moose/Subunit 21B,

- 90/10 allocation between residents/nonresidents
- Unit 21B, Upper Nowinga permits DM809, DM810, DM811
- Nonresident hunts
  - Permit hunts would be collapsed into existing DM825, DM839
  - DM819, DM819, DM823
- Nonresident hunters would no longer be required to contract with a registered guide: DM811, DM811, DM823

Proposal 97
Based on historic use:

- 2008: 50/50 Resident/Nonresident allocation approved

Permit Allocation Policy (2007-173-BGC)

- Allocation according to Board Nonresident Drawing

Unit 21B, Upper "Growing" corridor allocation:

- Care and meet remanded in area

Proposing argued that requirement led to better meet

- Permit permits to draw permits

- Original requests because of difficulty for guided

- Nonresident guide requirement

Background

Interior-Northwest Arctic Region

Moose/Subunit 21B
Proposal 97  Moose/ Subunit 21B, Interior–Northeast Arctic Region

Remove nonresident guide requirement for moose drawing hunts in the Interior–Northeast Arctic Region and change the permit allocation in a portion of 21B (Upper Nowitna)

Resident Hunters of Alaska

Recommendation: NEUTRAL

Koyukuk River AC: TNA
Middle Yukon AC: OPPOSE
Proposal 92
Brown Bear / Subunit 21C

Allow harvest of brown bears at bear bait stations in Unit 21C

Public Proposal

Recommendation: NEUTRAL

Koyukuk River AC: TNA
Middle Yukon AC: SUPPORT
Current black bear baiting season in 21C:
April 15–June 30

Harvest of brown bears allowed at bait sites in 21D, 24C, & 24D:
August 1–September 30
April 15–June 30
Proposal 92

Brown Bear / Subunit 21C

[Map of the area with labeled locations and subunits 21B, 21C, 24B, 24C, 24D, Huslia, Galena, Ruby, Hughes, Tanana, and the Yukon River.]
Background

• Brown bear harvest at bait sites approved for:
  • 21D in 2012
  • 24C & 24D in 2014

• RY 2012-2016*, 21D, 24C, & 24D:
  • 2 brown bears have been harvested at bait sites
  • 22 bait stations have been registered
• 21C brown bear harvest
  • RY 2012–2016: 8 bears total
  • Positive C&T finding for Unit 21 & 22 combined
  • ANS = 21–25 bears (21 & 22)

• If approved for 21C, unlikely that harvest would increase to unsustainable levels
Allow harvest of brown bears at bear bait stations in Unit 21C

Public Proposal

Recommendation: NEUTRAL

Koyukuk River AC: TNA
Middle Yukon AC: SUPPORT
Proposal 98

Eliminate the requirement for a nonresident wolf tag in Unit 21

Middle Yukon Advisory Committee

Recommendation: TAKE NO ACTION

Koyukuk River AC: TNA
Middle Yukon AC: TNA
Change the hunting season for wolves in Units 24, 25, 26B, and 26C to July 31–April 20

Public Proposal

Recommendation: NEUTRAL

Koyukuk River AC: OPPOSE
Middle Yukon AC: TNA
Current regulations
Residents and Nonresidents
- Units 24 & 25: August 10–May 31, 10 wolves
- Units 26B & 26C: August 10–April 30, 10 wolves

Effect of Proposal
- Shift season to open earlier and close earlier
  - Units 24 & 25: decrease in season length of 30 days
  - Units 26B & 26C: no change
- Increase opportunity in late summer/fall
- Reduce general and subsistence opportunity in spring
Issues/Background

• Proposer seeking to increase opportunity for hunters who are in the field during fall seasons
• Pelt quality less important than opportunity

• Average annual harvest RY2012–2016:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>GMU</th>
<th>Harvest</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>25</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>26B &amp; 26C</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>26B &amp; 26C</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>24 &amp; 25</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

 Proposal 99
Wolves / Units 24,25,26B & 26C
Change the hunting season for wolves in Units 24, 25, 26B, and 26C to July 31–April 20

Public Proposal

Recommendation: NEUTRAL

Koyukuk River AC: OPPOSE
Middle Yukon AC: TNA
Institute flight restriction days for caribou hunting in Units 21D, 22, 23, 24 and 26A

Public Proposal

Recommendation: NEUTRAL

Koyukuk River AC: TNA
Middle Yukon AC: SUPPORT
Effect of Proposal:

- Aircraft could not be used to transport hunters on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, & Thursdays
- Year-round restriction as written

- Could reduce number of fly-in hunters and harvest if remaining days are limiting

- Unclear how it would apply to fly-in hunters holding both moose and caribou permits
Proposal 100  Caribou / Units 21,22,23,24,26

- Western Arctic Caribou Herd Range
- Existing No-Fly CUAs (caribou)
- Proposed No-Fly Game Management Units
  - Region 3
  - Region 5

Legend:
- Western Arctic Caribou Herd Range
- Existing No-Fly CUAs (caribou)
- Proposed No-Fly Game Management Units
  - Region 3
  - Region 5
Issues:

• Conflicts between user groups are common within the range of the WAH, less severe in 21D and 24

• The areas with the most persistent user conflicts are near Anaktuvuk Pass in 26A, and the Noatak River in Unit 23

• Existing CUAs prohibit access by aircraft for caribou hunting only during the fall season
Proposal 100  Caribou / Units 21,22,23,24,26

![Bar chart showing the number of hunters or caribou by regulatory year. The chart includes data for 2011 to 2015 for units 21D, 24A, 24B, 24C, 24D, and total harvest.]
Institute flight restriction days for caribou hunting in Units 21D, 22, 23, 24 and 26A

Public Proposal

Recommendation: NEUTRAL

Koyukuk River AC: TNA
Middle Yukon AC: SUPPORT
The End

Galena Mgt. Area
2017