Proposal 125

What would the proposal do? This proposal reauthorizes the antlerless moose hunts in Unit 20A

Proposed by: ADF&G

Department Recommendation: SUPPORT

AC votes: Fairbanks AC supports 9-0
Proposal 125

20A/Moose

GMU 20A

6,796mi²
Proposal 125

20A/Moose

Pre-hunt moose population estimates, Unit 20A, 1956-2015

IM Objective
Weight of 10-month old calves:

Used to substantiate low twinning rates
More sensitive index to condition
Threshold = 385 lbs (Boertje et al. 2007)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pounds</th>
<th>Pre-reduction</th>
<th>Post-reduction</th>
<th>Difference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Females</td>
<td>362 (n=191)</td>
<td>372 (n=77)</td>
<td>10 (p=0.08)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Males</td>
<td>364 (n=31)</td>
<td>397 (n=40)</td>
<td>33 (p=0.003)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Unit 20A Cow Harvest

Females

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2010-2011</td>
<td>225</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011-2012</td>
<td>253</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012-2013</td>
<td>177</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013-2014</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014-2015</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015-2016</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
20A Antlerless Harvest Plan

• Conservative harvest of cow moose

• Harvest less than 1% of total population (100 cows)
  – Drawing permits
  – Registration hunt near Nenana (Subsistence requirement)

• Maintain current moose population (approx. 13,000 moose)

• Monitor indicators of moose population health

• Continue targeted hunts when needed
Proposal 125

What would the proposal do? This proposal reauthorizes the antlerless moose hunts in Unit 20A

Proposed by: ADF&G

Department Recommendation: SUPPORT

AC votes: Fairbanks AC supports 9-0
Proposal 126

What would the proposal do? This proposal would shift the muzzleloader drawing permit season in Unit 20A to start 10 days later and end 10 days later.

Proposed by: Public

Department Recommendation: NEUTRAL
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Current season</th>
<th>Proposed Season</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Month</strong></td>
<td>Nov. 1 – Nov. 30</td>
<td>Nov. 10 – Dec. 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Residents</strong></td>
<td>One bull by drawing permit</td>
<td>One bull by drawing permit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Nonresidents</strong></td>
<td>One bull with 50”/4Bt antlers by drawing permit</td>
<td>One bull with 50”/4Bt antlers by drawing permit</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Proposal 126**

20A/Moose
• Current 20A muzzleloader hunt (DM766)
  – 75 Drawing permits issued
  – 2011-2015 = Averaged 28 hunters per year
  – 2011-2015 = Average harvest of 12 moose per year
  – 82% of hunters use snowmachines for access
  – 88% of moose harvested are by hunters using snowmachines
Proposal 126

• Access is sometimes difficult during this moose season
• Access sometimes improves during the later part of this season
• Both snow and ice conditions must be adequate to access this hunting area
• Shifting the season may spread hunters out throughout the season
DM 766    Harvest Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Harvest before Nov. 20</th>
<th>Harvest after Nov. 20</th>
<th>Total Harvest</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Recommended Amendment

- If board adopts this proposal
  - ADF&G recommends extending to Nov 1-Dec 15
  - “Bulls only” hunt
  - Harvest can be controlled by number of permits issued
  - No biological concern
  - Enhance opportunity
Proposal 126

What would the proposal do? This proposal would shift the muzzleloader drawing permit season in Unit 20A to start 10 days later and end 10 days later.

Proposed by: Public

Department Recommendation: NEUTRAL
Proposal 127

What would the proposal do? This proposal seeks to change the moose hunting bag limit in Unit 20A from one bull with spike/fork/50”/3 or 4 browtines antlers to “any bull”.

Proposed by: Public

Department Recommendation: OPPOSE
Proposal 127
20A/Moose

**Current regulations:** Sept. 1 -25
One bull with spike/fork/ 50”/ 3 or 4 browntines. Or one bull by drawing permit.

**Proposed change:** Would change the bag limit to “any bull” during the general season.
Proposal 127

20A/Moose
General Moose Season, Unit 20A, 2002-2015

- **Proposal 127**
- **20A/Moose**

- **Graph Title:** General Moose Season, Unit 20A, 2002-2015
- **Y-axis:** Number Hunters/Harvest
- **X-axis:** Year (2002-2014)
- **Graph Legend:**
  - Hunters
  - Harvest
  - Success Rate

- Success Rate:
  - 2002: 22
  - 2003: 16
  - 2004: 20
  - 2005: 28
  - 2006: 30
  - 2007: 26
  - 2008: 24
  - 2009: 22
  - 2010: 20
  - 2011: 18
  - 2012: 16
  - 2013: 14
  - 2014: 12
"Any Bull" Permits and Harvest

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Permits Issued</th>
<th>&quot;Any bull&quot; harvest</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2011-2012</td>
<td>752</td>
<td>207</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012-2013</td>
<td>800</td>
<td>207</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013-2014</td>
<td>1005</td>
<td>198</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014-2015</td>
<td>553</td>
<td>131</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015-2016</td>
<td>777</td>
<td>186</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Success Rate = 24%
Proposal 127

20A/Moose

20A History

- Late 1990’s – early 2000’s Unit 20A had an “any bull” bag limit

- During this time the bull:cow ratio dropped below the objective of 30:100

- The BOG made changes to season lengths and added antler restrictions in small portions of 20A (Ferry Trail Management area) to fix dropping bull:cow ratios
Proposal 127

• In 2002, unitwide antler restrictions were put in place

• Bull:cow ratios recovered is just a few short years. The ratio actually peaked around 38:100

• An “any bull” drawing permit was put into place to maximize harvest

• Drawing permit numbers are adjusted based on survey results (2016 = 1000 permits issued).
Proposal 127

20A/Moose

**Bull:Cow ratios, Unit 20A, 2003-2012**

- **Bull:cow ratio objective**

- **Axes:**
  - Y-axis: Bulls:100 Cows
  - X-axis: Years 2003 to 2015

- Yearly Bull:Cow ratios from 2003 to 2015 are shown, with a dashed line indicating the Bull:cow ratio objective.
Returning to an “any bull” bag limit in Unit 20A.

- Harvest rates would be higher.
- Bull:cow ratios would likely fall in areas with the most access first.
- Unitwide: eventually bull:cow ratios would likely fall below objectives.
- Shorter seasons or drawing permits would likely have to be put in place to protect bull:cow ratios.
- It would likely take several board cycles to adjust season lengths and strategies to maintain these ratios.
Proposal 127

What would the proposal do? This proposal seeks to change the moose hunting bag limit in Unit 20A from one bull with spike/fork/50”/ 3 or 4 browntines antlers to “any bull”.

Proposed by: Public

Department Recommendation: OPPOSE
Proposal 128

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Proposed by: Public

Department Recommendation: OPPOSE
Proposal 128

Current regulations: Sept. 1-25
One bull with spike/fork/ 50”/ 3 or 4 browntines. Or one bull by drawing permit.

Proposed change: Would change the bag limit to “any bull” during the general season.
Proposal 128  

20A/Moose
Proposition 128

20A/Moose

General Moose Season, Unit 20A, 2002-2015

Hunters Harvest Success rate

Number Hunters/Harvest

Success Rate
Proposal 128

"Any Bull" Permits and Harvest

- Success rate = 24%

Permits Issued vs "Any bull" harvest by year:
- 2011-2012: 752 permits issued, 207 harvested
- 2012-2013: 800 permits issued, 207 harvested
- 2013-2014: 1005 permits issued, 198 harvested
- 2014-2015: 553 permits issued, 131 harvested
- 2015-2016: 777 permits issued, 186 harvested
20A History

• Late 1990’s – early 2000’s Unit 20A had an “any bull” bag limit

• During this time the bull:cow ratio dropped below the objective of 30:100

• The BOG made changes to season lengths and added antler restrictions in small portions of 20A (Ferry Trail Management area) to fix dropping bull:cow ratios
Proposal 128

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• Bull:cow ratios recovered is just a few short years. The ratio actually peaked around 38:100.

• An “any bull” drawing permit was put into place to maximize harvest.

• Drawing permit numbers are adjusted based on survey results (2016 = 1000 permits issued).
Bull:Cow ratios, Unit 20A, 2003-2012

2003 2005 2007g,h 2009 2011 2013 2015

Bull:cow ratio objective
Returning to an “any bull” bag limit in 20A:

- Harvest rates would be higher
- Bull:cow ratios would likely fall in areas with the most access first
- Unitwide: eventually bull:cow ratios would likely fall below objectives
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Department Recommendation: OPPOSE
Proposal 129

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Proposed by: Public

Department Recommendation: OPPOSE

AC Votes:
Proposal 129

Current regulations: Sept. 1 - 25
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Proposed change: Would change the bag limit to “any bull” during the general season.
Proposal 129

20A/Moose

Population estimate (90% CI)

IM Objective
Proposal 129

20A/Moose

General Moose Season, Unit 20A, 2002-2015

- Number Hunters/Harvest
- Success rate

Graph showing the number of hunters, harvest, and success rate from 2002 to 2015.
Proposal 129

20A/Moose

"Any Bull" Permits and Harvest

Permits Issued
"Any bull" harvest

Success rate = 24%

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Permits Issued</th>
<th>&quot;Any bull&quot; Harvest</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2011-2012</td>
<td>752</td>
<td>207</td>
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<tr>
<td>2012-2013</td>
<td>800</td>
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<td>186</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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- During this time the bull:cow ratio dropped below the objective of 30:100

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• Bull:cow ratios would likely fall in areas with the most access first
• Unitwide: eventually bull:cow ratios would likely fall below objectives.
• Shorter seasons or drawing permits would likely have to be put in place to protect bull:cow ratios.
• It would likely take several board cycles to adjust season lengths and strategies to maintain these ratios.
Proposal 129

What would the proposal do? This proposal seeks to change the moose hunting bag limit in Unit 20A from one bull with spike/fork/50”/ 3 or 4 browtines antlers to “any bull”.

Proposed by: Public

Department Recommendation: OPPOSE
Proposal 130

What would the proposal do? This proposal reauthorizes the antlerless moose hunts in Unit 20B and removes incorrect language referring to antlerless hunts in portions of the Salcha River drainage.

Proposed by: ADF&G

Department Recommendation: SUPPORT

Fairbanks AC votes: SUPPORTED (9-1)
Unit 20B (9,196mi²)
Proposal 130

20B Population estimate

IM pop. Obj.

Population estimate

5000 6000 7000 8000 9000 10000 11000 12000 13000 14000 15000 16000 17000 18000 19000 20000 21000 22000
16710 16118 17954 20173 14057 11064
Proposal 130

20B General Season (harvest ticket) Harvest

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Hunters</th>
<th>General Season Bull Harvest</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>2,606</td>
<td>495</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>2,794</td>
<td>518</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>2,885</td>
<td>532</td>
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<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>2,905</td>
<td>654</td>
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<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>3,063</td>
<td>674</td>
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<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>2,940</td>
<td>544</td>
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<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>2,744</td>
<td>603</td>
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<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>3,360</td>
<td>651</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>3,260</td>
<td>457</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>3,070</td>
<td>576</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>3,095</td>
<td>615</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Proposal 130

Unit 20B Total Harvest 2006-2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>573</td>
<td>212</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>585</td>
<td>183</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>723</td>
<td>135</td>
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<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>739</td>
<td>267</td>
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<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>628</td>
<td>272</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>672</td>
<td>373</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>684</td>
<td>396</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>490</td>
<td>331</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>595</td>
<td>176</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>622</td>
<td>139</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Ceremonial Harvest/Cultural Education Harvest

• April 2015 to December 2015 = 29 permits issued for 68 moose

• January 2016 to November 2016 = 30 permits issued for 38 moose

• Very little reporting on these permits
Antlerless Hunts in 20B in 2016

- **Central/West drawing permits** – 17 hunt areas divided into 3 time frames
- **Youth Hunts** – 16 hunt areas
- **Minto Flats registration hunt** - Hunt closed when quota met
- **FMA hunts** – 3 hunts, provide opportunity and reduce road-kill and nuisance animals
- **Richardson highway any moose hunt** – Provides opportunity and reduces road kill
- **Targeted hunts** – Provide opportunity
2016 Antlerless Harvest in Each Area (87+ moose)

- Minto Harvest = 30
- Central/west drawing hunts = 26
- Youth hunts = 11
- FMA drawing hunts = 14+
- Rich Hwy hunt = 6+
2017 Antlerless plan

• Harvest antlerless moose conservatively

• Only harvest about 1% of the central/west Unit 20B population (approx. 9000 moose) = 90 antlerless moose

• Eliminate the drawing permits this year except FMA and Richardson Hwy hunt

• Continue Minto Flats registration hunt at low level, but break area into zones to target remote portions of Minto
Proposal 130

2017 Projected Antlerless Harvest in each area

- **Minto Harvest**: 30
- **FMA drawing hunts**: 20
- **Rich Hwy hunt**: 8

No other permits issued.
Removing Unintentional language

• House keeping.

• Removal of an unneeded area description with regards to the 20B muzzleloader hunt.

• Removal of language referring to antlerless hunts and targeted hunts in the Salcha River drainage.

• Will not change any hunts or management.
Proposal 130

What would the proposal do? This proposal reauthorizes the antlerless moose hunts in Unit 20B and removes incorrect language referring to antlerless hunts in portions of the Salcha River drainage.

Proposed by: ADF&G

Department Recommendation: SUPPORT

Fairbanks AC votes: SUPPORTED (9-1)
Proposal 131

What would the proposal do? Modify the hunting season dates for antlerless moose in the Minto Flats Management Area portion of Unit 20B.

Proposed by: Public

Department Recommendation: OPPOSE
Proposal 131

20B/Moose

Minto Flats Management Area

953 sq. mi.
Proposal 131

Hunting season

Current seasons

- August 21–27: Any bull
- Sept. 8–25: SF/50”/3BT

Proposed season

- August 21–27: Any bull
- Sept. 8–25: SF/50”/3BT
- Aug. 21–27 and Sept. 8–Feb. 28: One antlerless moose by registration permit.
Minto Flats Management Area

- Population estimate = 2,500-3,000 moose
- Twinning rates in 2015 = 29% and 2016 = 18%
- Moose harvest = 175 moose (102 bulls, 72 cows) under current system (2013-2015)
- Number of moose hunters (2013-2015)
  - Fall = 319 hunters per year
  - Winter = 287 hunters per year
Minto Flats MA Moose Population Estimates
2001-2013

Population Estimate


2271 1636 4171 3554 3296 3009 5746* 4181 2455
MFMA Management Strategy and Objectives

• Maintain a population of about 2,500 moose
• Provide opportunity for hunting bulls in fall
• Harvest cow moose at 1% of total population
  – Maintain current population size
  – Evaluate moose population health (calf weights, twinning)
  – Provide subsistence hunting opportunity
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Cow moose harvest</th>
<th>Closing date of season</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>117</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>Oct. 15 – Dec. 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>Oct 15 – Jan 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>Oct. 15 – Nov. 25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Oct. 15 – Dec. 18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Years</td>
<td>Population</td>
<td>Hunting Seasons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>Moose population growing</td>
<td>Tier II and general season</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>Moose population growing</td>
<td>Limited registration* and general season</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>Moose population peaked</td>
<td>Limited registration and general season</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Moose population being reduced to a more appropriate level</td>
<td>Unlimited registration and general season</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>Population at about 2500 moose</td>
<td>Same as 2012</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Effects of proposal

• **Eliminate the opportunity for harvesting a moose in winter**
  – MFMA has positive finding for C & T uses
  – C&T worksheet has both fall and winter hunting seasons as part of customary and traditional uses

• **Increase the number of hunters in the flats during the fall**
  – The quota of cow moose would likely be taken in the fall
  – Give the department less ability to spread harvest out

• **Less conflict during the winter with other users (trappers)**
Things to consider

• Must provide reasonable opportunity for subsistence

• Minto has historically had a winter season

• The long term and cooperative effort that the department (wildlife conservation and subsistence divisions), AC’s, public and BOG did to get to this harvest strategy
Things to consider

- Current strategy works well for managing the moose population
  - Allows for “any bull” season in August
  - Allows for September bull season (SF/50/3BT)
  - Allows for winter opportunity for hunters to harvest cow moose
  - Allows the department to closely monitor antlerless harvest and control where harvest takes place
Proposal 131

What would the proposal do? Modify the hunting season dates for antlerless moose in the Minto Flats Management Area portion of Unit 20B.

Proposed by: Public

Department Recommendation: OPPOSE
Proposal 132

What would the proposal do? This proposal would change the nonresident moose hunting season starting date in the remainder of Unit 20B.

Proposed by: Public

Department Recommendation: NEUTRAL
Proposal 132

Current Season
Remainder of Unit 20B:

Residents: one bull, Sept 1-20

Nonresidents: one bull, Sept 5-20

Proposed Season
Remainder of Unit 20B:

Residents: one bull, Sept 1-20

Nonresidents: one bull, Sept 1-20
Proposal 132

20B/Moose

20B Population estimate

Upper and lower IM population objective

Population estimate

78
Unit 20B Effort and Harvest

• Unit 20B harvestable surplus = Approx. 600 bulls.

• 2011-2015 = an average of 3,122 total hunters harvest of 581 bulls

• 2011-2015 = an average of 191 nonresident hunters harvest of 63 bulls
Considerations

• 20B population has been reduced to the lower end of IM population objective

• The department eliminated some antlerless harvest and reduced opportunity for residents

• 2014 comp count and 2015 GSPE survey showed bull:cow ratios below objectives (26:100)

• Additional nonresident harvest anticipated at 11 bulls

• ANS = 75-100 moose outside MFMA & FNSA
Proposal 132

What would this proposal do? This proposal would change the nonresident moose hunting season starting date in the remainder of Unit 20B.

Proposed by: Public

Department Recommendation: NEUTRAL
Proposal 133

What would the proposal do? This proposal would restrict waterfowl hunting in Chena Slough in Unit 20B.

Proposed by: Public

Department Recommendation: NEUTRAL
• This proposal would restrict waterfowl hunting on Chena Slough to bow and arrow with flu-flu arrows or falconry.

• Currently shotguns are permitted in the area for waterfowl hunting and general waterfowl seasons apply.
**Location**

- Chena Slough (AKA Badger Slough) is a tributary of the Chena River that starts east of North Pole, flows along Badger Road and dumps into the Chena River.

- The majority of the slough flows through residential areas and is outside the city limits, so firearms may be discharged in the area.
Proposal 133

Chena Slough North
Write a description for your map.

Legend
- Badger Road Elementary School
- North Pole

20B/Waterfowl
• The department has no data on waterfowl harvest or hunter effort in this area.

• ADF&G rarely receives complaints from this area.

• AWT regularly fields complaints from this area.
Proposal 133

What would the proposal do? This proposal would restrict waterfowl hunting in Chena Slough in Unit 20B.

Proposed by: Public

Department Recommendation: NEUTRAL
Proposal 134

What would the proposal do? Create a management area for the Eielson Farm Road area in Unit 20B.

Proposed by: Public

Department Recommendation: NEUTRAL
Proposal 134

• Eielson Farm Road is a 14-mile long road that runs through an agriculture area.
• Both large and small tracts of private land exist in the area.
• This proposal would create a management area for hunting and trapping that would close the area to hunting unless permission is granted by landowners.
Proposal 134
Proposal 134
Proposal 134

• Hunting and trapping seasons occur in the area.

• It’s currently the hunters and trappers responsibility to obtain permission to hunt or trap on private land.

• Landowners have the right to post private land and stop people from hunting or trapping on their land.
Proposal 134

What would the proposal do? Create a management area for the Eielson Farm Road area in Unit 20B.

Proposed by: Public

Department Recommendation: NEUTRAL
Proposal 135

What would this proposal do? This proposal would lengthen the trapping season for wolverine in the western portion of Unit 20C west of the Toklat River.

Proposed by: Public

Department Recommendation: NEUTRAL
Proposal 135  20C/Wolverine

• The current season is Nov. 1—Feb. 29 in all of Unit 20C.

• It’s unclear whether the proponent wants to extend the season west of the Parks Highway or west of the Toklat River.

• We interpreted the proposal to change the season to Nov. 1—Mar. 31 in Unit 20C west of the Toklat River.
• Average wolverine harvest in all of Unit 20C during 2011-2015 was 12 wolverine per year.

• Average wolverine harvest in Western Unit 20C west of the Toklat during 2011-2015 was 5 wolverine per year.

• A 2010 study by Gardner et al. that looked at wolverine occurrence in Interior Alaska showed regular occurrence in Unit 20C.
• Majority of harvest occurs in Eastern Unit 20C where access is better.

• Increased harvest due to a longer season will not likely cause a biological concern.

• Denali National Park borders this area to the south and provides a huge area of refugia.
Proposal 135

**What would this proposal do?** This proposal would lengthen the trapping season for wolverine in the western portion of Unit 20C west of the Toklat River.

Proposed by: Public

Department Recommendation: **NEUTRAL**
Proposal 136

What would the proposal do? This proposal would reevaluate the IM finding for the Delta Caribou Herd.

Proposed by: Fairbanks Advisory Committee

Department Recommendation: NEUTRAL
Proposal 136

20A/Caribou

Delta Caribou Herd Annual Range
Delta Caribou Herd

- IM population objective = 5,000-7,000
- IM harvest objective = 300-700
- Current Population size = 2,000-3,000 Caribou
- Average harvest 2011-2015 = 55 bulls
- 150 drawing permits issued annually
Delta Caribou Herd (2011-2015)

• Bull:Cow ratio = ranges 38-67 bulls:100 cows
  – Indicates herd is lightly harvested

• Calf:Cow ratio = ranges 10-30 calves:100 cows
  – Low production and predation

• 10 month old calf weights = range 112lbs – 126lbs
  – Issues with habitat. Range limited
Proposal 136

Delta Caribou Herd
Harvest and Permits Issued

- Harvest
- Permit issued


Harvest and permits issued over the years.
Issues Related to the Delta Caribou Herd

• Difficult to estimate population size
  – Weather conditions have not been favorable
  – Mixing and emigration with Nelchina Herd

• Herd size likely limited by range and predation
  – Calf weights are low, calf:cow ratios are low

• Managing herd in combination with a high density moose population
  – Conducting predation control to increase caribou when the goal is to keep the moose population stable
Delta Caribou Options

• Change the IM determination
  – The BOG determines if the Delta Caribou Herd meets the requirements in 5 AAC 92.106
  – If not, change finding from Positive to Negative.
5AAC 92.106

Consider when Identifying IM populations:

• Harvest size: average annual historic harvest = 100?
• Accessibility
• Utilization for meat = primarily used for food?
• Level of hunter demand?
5AAC 92.106

Consider when establishing pop. and harvest objectives:

• Weather, habitat, disease and parasites
• Maintenance of predators
• Maintenance of habitat
• Effects of subsistence users
• Feasibility
• Land ownership
• Accessibility
• Other factors (i.e. moose population effects)
Delta Caribou Options Cont.

• Change the IM Population and harvest objectives

• Do a feasibility assessment of the Delta Caribou Herd (Proposal 173)
Proposal 136

What would the proposal do? This proposal would reevaluate the IM finding for the Delta Caribou Herd.

Proposed by: Fairbanks Advisory Committee

Department Recommendation: NEUTRAL
Proposal 137

What would this proposal do? This proposal would implement an intensive management program for the Delta Caribou Herd.

Proposed by: Fairbanks Advisory Committee

Department Recommendation: NEUTRAL
Proposal 136

Delta Caribou Herd Annual Range
Delta Caribou Herd

- IM population objective = 5,000-7,000
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  – Low production and predation

• 10 month old calf weights = range 112lbs – 126lbs
  – Issues with habitat. Range limited
Delta Caribou Minimum Count

- Year 1989: 10690
- Year 1990: 4646
- Year 1991: 3661
- Year 1992: 3829
- Year 1994: 2985*
- Year 1995: 2067*
- Year 1996: 2007
- Year 1997: 2008
- Year 1998: 2009
- Year 1999: 2010
- Year 2000: 2011

* Indicates minimum herd size
Delta Caribou Herd
Harvest and Permits Issued

- Harvest
- Permit issued
Issues related to the Delta Caribou Herd

• Difficult to estimate population size.
  – Weather conditions have not been favorable
  – Mixing and emigration with Nelchina Herd

• Herd size likely limited by range and predation.
  – Calf weights are low, calf:cow ratios are low

• Managing herd in combination with a high density moose population.
  – Conducting predation control to increase caribou when the goal is to keep the moose population stable
Proposal 137

**What would this proposal do?** This proposal would implement an intensive management program for the Delta Caribou Herd.

Proposed by: Fairbanks Advisory Committee

Department Recommendation: **NEUTRAL**
Proposal 138

What would this proposal do? This proposal would lengthen the hunting season for brown bear in Units 20A and remainder of 20B.

Proposed by: Fairbanks Advisory Committee

Department Recommendation: OPPOSE
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current Season</th>
<th>Proposed Season</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Sept. 1-May 31</td>
<td>• Sept. 1- June 30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 1 bear every reg. year</td>
<td>• Align with black bear baiting season</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Hunting over bait legal Apr. 15- May 31</td>
<td>• 1 bear every reg. year</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Proposal 138

20A, 20B/Brown bear
Proposal 138  

• Unit 20A
  – 2009-2013 = Harvest averaged 23 bears per year
  – 2014-2015 (with baiting) = harvest averaged 28 bears per year

• Unit 20B
  – 2009-2013 = averaged 10 bears per year
  – 2014-2015 (with baiting) = harvest averaged 20 bears per year
Registered Bait Stations

- Unit 20B
  - 2011-2015 = 549 per year

- Unit 20A
  - 2011-2015 = 93 per year
Population Status

• No recent surveys or estimates
  – Attempted a distance sampling survey in 2016

• 1980s and 1990s research estimated
  – 20A sustainable harvest = 12 bears
  – 20B sustainable harvest = 9 bears
  – These numbers are based on an 8% harvest rate of the population estimates at the time (20A = 150 bears, 20B = 113 bears)
Harvest Data

• 20A, 2011-2015 = 49% of harvest was females
  – Objective = less than 45% females in harvest

• Skull size and age data show no indications of population change
Concerns

• Dept. has biological concerns about sustainability of additional harvest.
• Lack scientific data on population and harvest rates.
• Tag fee exemptions, lengthening season, liberalized bag limits and allowing bears to be harvested over bait.
• Risk of over harvest is high
  – High volume of bear bait stations and bear hunters
  – Excellent access
Proposal 138

What would this proposal do? This proposal would lengthen the hunting season for brown bear in Units 20A and remainder of 20B.

Proposed by: Fairbanks Advisory Committee

Department Recommendation: **OPPOSE**
Proposal 139

What would the proposal do? This proposal would allow the harvest of brown bears at bait stations in Unit 20F.

Proposed by: Public

Department Recommendation: NEUTRAL
Proposal 139

20F/Brown Bear

Unit 20F 6,267 sq mi
Proposal 139

20F/Brown Bear

• 20F Brown Bear season = August 10–June 30

• Current Baiting season = April 15–June 30

• Black Bears only

• 2011–2015 = 84 bait stations registered per year in Unit 20F

• 2011–2015 = harvest 28 black bears per year (25 per year over bait)

• 2011-2015 = harvest 3 brown bears per year
Population status

• No surveys have been conducted in 20F

• Egan (1995) classified Tozitna River drainage and Ray Mountains as medium density (13-26 bears/1000mi²)

• Remainder of 20F = low density (3-8 bears/1000/mi²)

• Extrapolated estimate for 20F = 38-84 bears
  – Very conservative estimate
Things to consider

- Most of bait stations are along the road system.

- A large portion of Unit 20F is remote with little access.

- ADF&G has no biological concern
  - Additional harvest will likely be minimal
  - Likely no measurable population effect
Proposal 139

What would the proposal do? This proposal would allow the harvest of brown bears at bait stations in Unit 20F.

Proposed by: Public

Department Recommendation: **NEUTRAL**
Proposal 140

What would the proposal do? This proposal would allow the harvest of brown bears at bait stations in Unit 20F.

Proposed by: Public

Department Recommendation: NEUTRAL
Proposal 140

20F/Brown Bear

20F 6,267 sq mi
• Current Baiting season = April 15–June 30

• Black Bears only

• 2011-2015 = 84 bait stations registered per year

• 2011-2015 = harvest 28 black bears per year (25 per year over bait)

• 2011-2015 = harvest 3 Brown bears per year
Population status

- No surveys have been conducted in 20F

- Egan (1995) classified Tozitna River drainage and

- Ray Mountains as medium density (13-26 bears/1000mi²)

- Remainder of 20F = low density (3-8 bears/1000/mi²)

- Extrapolated estimate for 20F = 38-84 bears
Things to consider

• Most of bait stations are along the road system

• A large portion of Unit 20F is remote with little access

• ADF&G has no biological concern
  – Additional harvest will likely be minimal
  – Likely no measurable population effect
Proposal 140

What would the proposal do? This proposal would allow the harvest of brown bears at bait stations in Unit 20F.

 Proposed by: Public

Department Recommendation: NEUTRAL
Proposals 142

This proposal closes portions of Unit 20 near Denali National Park to the taking of wolves.

Proposed by: Alaska Wildlife Alliance

Department Recommendation: Neutral
Proposal 142

20C/20A Wolves

Map of proposed closed area
The red line encloses a proposed buffer or area closed to the take of wolves on state lands in the Wolf Townships and along the Nenana River in Units 20C and 20A.
Unit 20A and 20C wolf densities

• **Unit 20A**
  – Most recent estimate 2015 = **22.3 wolves/1000 mi²**

• **Unit 20C**
  – Most recent estimate 2012 = **10.7 wolves/ 1000 mi²**
Proposal 142 Area harvest

- Difficult to estimate where all harvest occurs

- Proposed area in 20A crosses small portions of 4 UCUs.

- Year 2011-2015

- Total of 19 wolves harvested

- Average = 3.8 wolves per year
• This proposal is an allocation issue.

• The department has no biological concerns with wolf populations or harvest in these areas.
Proposals 142

This proposal closes portions of Unit 20 near Denali National Park to the taking of wolves.

Proposed by: Alaska Wildlife Alliance

Department Recommendation: Neutral
Proposal 141

This proposal close portions of Unit 20C to the taking of Wolves.

Proposed by: The National Park Service.

Department Recommendation: Neutral
Current seasons:
Hunting = Aug 10-April 15
Trapping = Nov 1-April 30

Proposed Seasons:
Hunting = Aug 10-Jan 31
Trapping = Nov 1-Jan 31
Unit 20A and 20C wolf densities

• Unit 20A
  – Most recent estimate 2015 = 22.3 wolves/1000 mi2

• Unit 20C
  – Most recent estimate 2012 = 10.7 wolves/1000 mi2
Wolf harvest in proposed area

• Years 2011-2015

• Total of 16 wolves harvested

• Average = 3.2 wolves per year

• 7 of 16 wolves were harvested after January 31 (Feb, Mar, April or May)
• This proposals is an allocation issue.

• The department has no biological concerns with wolf populations or harvest in this area.
Proposal 141

This proposal close portions of Unit 20C to the taking of Wolves.

Proposed by: The National Park Service.

Department Recommendation: Neutral