Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in Unit 17A.

Department Proposal

Department recommendation: SUPPORT

Nushagak AC: Support (12–0)
Togiak AC: Support (11–0)
Lake Iliamna AC: No Action
Naknek/Kvichak AC: No Action
17A Fall Hunting Seasons

**RM573**: Residents only/any bull
   
   *Season dates: Aug 25 – Sept 20*

**DM570**: Nonresidents only/50 inch or 4 or more brow tines on at least one side
   
   *Season dates: Sept 5 – Sept 15 (20 permits issued)*

17A Winter Hunting Seasons

Residents only/two moose

**RM575**: Antlered bull permit - *May be announced*

**RM576**: Antlerless permit - *May be announced*

*(Up to a 31 day season may be announced Dec 1–end of Feb.)*
Unit 17A Moose Management Strategy

- **Moose Management Group (MMG):** Bristol Bay Federal Subsistence RAC, Nushagak and Togiak F&G AC’s, Togiak NWR, ADF&G, and a commercial hunting guide.

- **Unit 17A Moose Management Plan (MMP)**

- **Board recognition of MMG and MMP**
  - In 2013 revision, the board did not adopt plan but adopted regulations consistent with the plan
  - Board provided findings that directed department discretionary authority and has upheld these decisions in subsequent meetings
UNIT 17A MOOSE

Hunt Boundary
Subunits
Restricted Aircraft Access
(fall only)

Fall Hunts
DM570  RM573
Winter Hunts
RM575  RM576

Restricted Aircraft Access
FALL HUNTS ONLY
Relevant Plan Objectives

- **17A Population Objectives**: 800 – 1,200 moose (based on moose habitat studies).

- If moose population is stable or increasing and above 600 animals, allow for a limited winter antlerless hunt.

Number of Moose

Population Objective: (800-1200)

Minimum Counts

GSPE

1,553

2,427
Summary

- Abundance exceeds objectives.

- Management plan recommends antlerless harvest under current population parameters.

- Antlerless hunt is an important management tool in lowering moose density.

- Antlerless hunt provides harvest opportunity for surplus moose.
Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in Unit 17A.

Department Proposal

Department recommendation: SUPPORT

Nushagak AC: Support (12 – 0)
Togiak AC: Support (11 – 0)
Lake Iliamna AC: No Action
Naknek/Kvichak AC: No Action
Proposal 137 Moose/Unit 17A

Shift the fall resident moose season in Unit 17A—beginning and ending 5 days later than the current season.

Togiak Fish and Game Advisory Committee

Department recommendation: NEUTRAL

Nushagak AC: No Action
Togiak AC: No Action
Lake Iliamna AC: No Action
Naknek/Kvichak AC: No Action
17A Fall Hunting Seasons

RM573: Residents only/any bull
   Season dates: Aug 25 – Sept 20
   Season dates: Aug 30 – Sept 25 (Proposed)

DM570: Nonresidents only/50 inch or 4 or more brow tines on at least one side
   Season dates: Sept 5 – Sept 15 (20 permits issued)

17A Winter Hunting Seasons

Residents only/two moose
RM575: Antlered bull permit - May be announced
RM576: Antlerless permit - May be announced
(Up to a 31 day season may be announced Dec 1 - end of Feb.)
UNIT 17A MOOSE

- Hunt Boundary
- Subunits
- Restricted Aircraft Access (fall only)

**Fall Hunts**
- DM570
- RM573

**Winter Hunts**
- RM575
- RM576

Map showing the boundaries and locations for fall and winter hunts in Unit 17A.
Composition and Recruitment

- Fall 2016 GSPE survey composition: 64 bulls, 31 calves:100 cows, (n=259 moose).


- Surveys were conducted without snow, SCF using collared moose was 1.38 in 2016 and 1.40 in 2017.

- Bull composition is likely biased high due to higher sightability of bull moose with antlers.
RM573 Chronological Harvest RY13–RY17

- Period 1: Aug 25 - 30
- Period 2: Aug 31 - Sept 4
- Period 3: Sept 5 - 9
- Period 4: Sept 10 - 14
- Period 5: Sept 15 - 20

Number of Moose

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
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<th>Period 2</th>
<th>Period 3</th>
<th>Period 4</th>
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<td>2017</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Summary

- Abundance exceeds objectives.
- This action would be consistent with the management plan.
- Composition surveys indicate bull:100 cow ratios are high enough to allow for some additional harvest.
- Harvest chronology suggests bull moose harvest could increase substantially under proposed season.
Shift the fall resident moose season in Unit 17A—beginning and ending 5 days later than the current season.

Togiak Fish and Game Advisory Committee

Department recommendation: **NEUTRAL**
Proposal 138  Moose/Unit 17A

Extend the fall resident moose season in Unit 17A by 5 days.

Togiak Fish and Game Advisory Committee

Department recommendation: NEUTRAL

Nushagak AC: Support (11–1)
Togiak AC: Support (11–0) amended to extend season by 7 days
Lake Iliamna AC: No Action
Naknek/Kvichak AC: No Action
17A Fall Hunting Seasons

RM573: Residents only/any bull
   Season dates: Aug 25 – Sept 20
   Season dates: Aug 30 – Sept 25 (Proposed)

DM570: Nonresidents only/50 inch or 4 or more brow tines on at least one side
   Season dates: Sept 5 – Sept 15 (20 permits issued)

17A Winter Hunting Seasons

Residents only/two moose

RM575: Antlered bull permit - May be announced

RM576: Antlerless permit - May be announced

(Up to a 31 day season may be announced Dec 1– end of Feb.)
UNIT 17A MOOSE

Hunt Boundary
Subunits
Restricted Aircraft Access (fall only)

Fall Hunts
DM570  RM573

Winter Hunts
RM575  RM576

Restricted Aircraft Access
FALL HUNTS ONLY

Population Objective: (800-1200)

Minimum Counts

Number of Moose

GSPE

1,553

2,427

Composition and Recruitment

- Fall 2016 GSPE survey composition: 64 bulls, 31 calves: 100 cows, (n=259 moose).


- Surveys were conducted without snow, SCF using collared moose was 1.38 in 2016 and 1.40 in 2017.

- Bull composition is likely biased high due to higher sightability of bull moose with antlers.
RM573 Effort and Harvest, RY00–RY17

- # Hunters
- # Moose

Number

- 2000 to 2017
RM573 Chronological Harvest RY13–RY17

- Period 1: Aug 25 - 30
- Period 2: Aug 31 - Sept 4
- Period 3: Sept 5 - 9
- Period 4: Sept 10 - 14
- Period 5: Sept 15 - 20
Unit 17A Moose Harvest RY00–RY16

No. Harvested

Regulatory Year

Bull Harvest
Cow Harvest
Total Harvest

Proposal 138
Moose/Unit 17A
Summary

- Abundance exceeds objectives.
- This action would be consistent with the management plan.
- Composition surveys indicate bull:100 cow ratios are high enough to allow for some additional harvest.
- Harvest chronology suggests bull moose harvest could increase substantially under proposed season.
Extend the fall resident moose season in Unit 17A by 5 days.

Togiak Fish and Game Advisory Committee

Department recommendation: NEUTRAL

Nushagak AC: Support (11–1)
Togiak AC: Support (11–0) amended to extend season by 7 days
Lake Iliamna AC: No Action
Naknek/Kvichak AC: No Action
Proposal 139

Lengthen the nonresident moose hunting season in Unit 17A by 9 days.

Public Proposal

Department recommendation: NEUTRAL

Nushagak AC: Oppose (0–12)
Togiak AC: Oppose (0–11)
Lake Iliamna AC: No Action
Naknek/Kvichak AC: No Action
17A Fall Hunting Seasons

**RM573:** Residents only/any bull  
*Season dates: Aug 25 – Sept 20*

**DM570:** Nonresidents only/50 inch or 4 or more brow tines on at least one side  
*Season dates: Sept 5 – Sept 15 (20 permits issued)*  
*Season dates: Sept 1 – Sept 20 (Proposed)*

17A Winter Hunting Seasons

Residents only/two moose

**RM575:** Antlered bull permit - *May be announced*

**RM576:** Antlerless permit - *May be announced*

*(Up to a 31 day season may be announced Dec 1– end of Feb.)*
Lake access is limited in unit, leading to competition for hunting sites during the current 11 day season.

The proposed action would allow hunting pressure to disperse across the lengthened season.

All hunters would benefit from this more predictable situation associated with access and availability of sites.
UNIT 17A MOOSE

Fall Hunts
DM570  RM573

Winter Hunts
RM575  RM576

Restricted Aircraft Access (fall only)
## DM570 Permit History

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Applicants</th>
<th>Permits available</th>
<th>Drawn (%)</th>
<th>Hunted (#)</th>
<th>Harvested (#)</th>
<th>Success (%)</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
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<td>20</td>
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<td>2015</td>
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<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>61</td>
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<td>56%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
RM573 Chronological Harvest RY13–RY17

- Period 1: Aug 25 - 30
- Period 2: Aug 31 - Sept 4
- Period 3: Sept 5 - 9
- Period 4: Sept 10 - 14
- Period 5: Sept 15 - 20
Composition and Recruitment

- Fall 2016 GSPE survey composition: 64 bulls, 31 calves:100 cows, (n=259 moose).


- Surveys were conducted without snow, SCF using collared moose was 1.375 in 2016 and 1.409 in 2017.

- Bull composition is likely biased high due to higher sightability of bull moose with antlers.
Summary

- Harvest chronology from RM573 suggests harvest success could increase substantially under proposed extended season.
- Composition surveys indicate bull:100 cow ratios are high enough to allow for some additional harvest.
- Level of additional harvest with lengthened seasons is difficult to gauge.
- Cumulative effect of resident and nonresident season extension requests and increased harvest should be considered.
Proposal 139

Moose/Unit 17A

Lengthen the nonresident moose hunting season in Unit 17A by 9 days.

Public Proposal

Department recommendation: NEUTRAL

Nushagak AC: Oppose (0 –12)
Togiak AC:  Oppose (0 –11)
Lake Iliamna AC: No Action
Naknek/Kvichak AC: No Action
Open a guide required, nonresident registration moose hunt in Unit 17A.

Public Proposal

Department recommendation: NEUTRAL

Nushagak AC: Oppose (0–12)
Togiak AC: Oppose (0–11)
Lake Iliamna AC: No Action
Naknek/Kvichak AC: No Action
17A Fall Moose Hunting Regulations

RM573: Residents only/any bull
   Season dates: Aug 25 – Sept 20

DM570: Nonresidents only/one bull, 50 inch or 4 or more brow tines on at least one side
   Season dates: Sept 5 – Sept 15

Proposed Nonresident Season
RMXXX: Nonresidents only/one bull, 50 inch or 4 or more brow tines on at least one side
   Season dates: Sept 5 – Sept 15
UNIT 17A MOOSE

- **Hunt Boundary**
- **Subunits**
- **Restricted Aircraft Access** (fall only)

**Fall Hunts**
- DM570  RM573

**Winter Hunts**
- RM575  RM576

Restricted Aircraft Access
FALL HUNTS ONLY
Discussion

- Proposed RMXXX permits would be taken from current allocation to DM570.

- Though we can issue “up to” 50 permits, 20 is the level being issued since the hunt inception.

- DM570 is increasing in popularity and we expect the competition for these permits to increase over time.
# DM570 Permit History

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Applicants</th>
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<td>3</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Summary

- Nonresidents who prefer to hunt without a guide would have a lower chance to secure a moose hunting permit.

- In the four years of this hunt, 4 of 53 DM570 permittees have hunted with a guide.
Proposal 140

Moose/Unit 17A

Open a guide required, nonresident registration moose hunt in Unit 17A.

Public Proposal

Department recommendation: NEUTRAL

Nushagak AC: Oppose (0–12)
Togiak AC: Oppose (0–11)
Lake Iliamna AC: No Action
Naknek/Kvichak AC: No Action
Allocating a portion of the nonresident drawing permits (DM570) for moose in Unit 17A to guided hunters.

Public Proposal

Department recommendation: NEUTRAL

Nushagak AC: Oppose (0–12)
Togiak AC: Oppose (0–11)
Lake Iliamna AC: No Action
Naknek/Kvichak AC: No Action
17A Fall Moose Hunting Regulations

**RM573**: Residents only/any bull
  *Season dates: Aug 25 – Sept 20*

**DM570**: Nonresidents only/one bull, 50 inch or 4 or more brow tines on at least one side
  *Season dates: Sept 5 – Sept 15*
  *(Currently 20 permits are issued)*

**Proposed Change**: Up to 50% of the DM570 permits would be issued to guided nonresident hunters.
Proposal Rationale

- Present system is difficult for a guide to work with as it is hard to predict how many potential clients will get drawn.
  - If too many the guide can’t accommodate them all.
  - If too few, the guide loses potential for hunts and income.

- Currently, the proponent is the only guide with a moose hunt concession (4 hunts) on refuge lands in Unit 17A.
Proposal 141

UNIT 17A MOOSE

- Hunt Boundary
- Subunits
- Restricted Aircraft Access (fall only)

Fall Hunts
DM570 RM573

Winter Hunts
RM575 RM576

Restricted Aircraft Access FALL HUNTS ONLY
Discussion

- Proposed RMXXX permits would be taken from current allocation to DM570.

- Though we can issue "up to" 50 permits, 20 is the level acceptable to the MMG.

- DM570 is increasing in popularity and we expect the competition for these permits to increase over time.
### DM570 Permit History

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
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<td>4</td>
<td>25%</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Summary

- Nonresidents who prefer to hunt without a guide would have a lower chance to secure a moose hunting permit.

- In the four years of this hunt, 4 of 53 DM570 permittees have hunted with a guide.
Allocate a portion of the nonresident drawing permits (DM570) for moose in Unit 17A to guided hunters.

Public Proposal

Department recommendation: NEUTRAL

Nushagak AC: Oppose (0–12)
Togiak AC: Oppose (0–11)
Lake Iliamna AC: No Action
Naknek/Kvichak AC: No Action
Shift the resident fall hunting season in a portion of Unit 17C, by starting and ending the season 5 days later than the current season.

Public Proposal

Department recommendation: OPPOSE

Nushagak AC: Oppose (2–9)
Togiak AC: Support (11–0)
Lake Iliamna AC: Support (No Vote)
Naknek/Kvichak AC: Support (No Vote)
17C Fall Hunting Seasons

**RM583:** Residents only/any bull  
*Season dates: Aug 20 – Sept 15*  
*Season dates: Aug 25 – Sept 20 (Proposed for portion of Unit 17C)*

**GM000:** Residents only/one bull, spike-fork, 50 inch or 3 or more brow tines  
*Season dates: Sept 1 – Sept 15*

17C Winter Hunting Season

**RM585:** Residents only/one antlered bull  
*Season dates: Dec 1 – Dec 31*
Proposal Rationale

- Landscape and moose movements west of the Weary River differ from the Nushagak watershed, warranting different season dates.

- Bull moose are not available along rivers in this proposed area until after mid September, limiting harvest opportunities.
Unit 17C Fall Harvest Chronology RY13–RY17
(Except Weary River UCU’s)

Period 1: Aug. 20-25
Period 2: Aug. 26-30
Period 3: Aug. 31-Sept. 4
Period 4: Sept. 5-9
Unit 17C Fall Harvest Chronology for Weary River UCU’s
RY13–RY17

- **Period 1**: Aug. 20-25
- **Period 2**: Aug. 26-30
- **Period 3**: Aug. 31-Sept. 4
- **Period 4**: Sept. 4-9
- **Period 5**: Sept. 10-15

<table>
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<th>Year</th>
<th>Period 1</th>
<th>Period 2</th>
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<td>2017</td>
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</table>
Unit 17C Moose Population Metrics

- Abundance estimates suggest population is stable.
  - ~3,000–3,500 moose, density of 0.6–0.7 mi²

- Productivity is high with 65% twinning rate in 2017.

- Composition survey suggests low recruitment.
  - Bull-to-100 cows: 21
  - Calf-to-100 cows: 16

- Calf mortality in 2017 was 88% at 6 months.

- Fall bull moose harvest is declining over time.
17C Fall Moose Hunter Effort and Success, RY00-RY17
Management Concerns With Proposed Action

- Unit 17C moose management data is not designed for partitioning out small geographic areas.

- Harvest Chronology suggests proposed action would increase harvest.

- Localized increase in harvest may be unsustainable.

- Population metrics suggest this proposed action is not warranted at this time.
Summary

- Understanding moose in Units 17B&C is a regional priority.

- Research and S&I efforts are being employed to provide basic information on population dynamics.

- Currently, the data suggests the harvestable surplus of bull moose in Unit 17C is declining.
Shift the resident fall hunting season in a portion of Unit 17C, by starting and ending the season 5 days later than the current season.

**Public Proposal**

**Department recommendation: OPPOSE**

*Nushagak AC: Oppose (2–9)*  
*Togiak AC: Support (11–0)*  
*Lake Iliamna AC: Support (No Vote)*  
*Naknek/Kvichak AC: Support (No Vote)*
Proposal 143

Moose/Unit 17C

Change the structure of the winter moose hunting season in a portion of Unit 17C.

Public Proposal

Department recommendation: OPPOSE

Nushagak AC: Oppose (0–12)
Togiak AC: No Action
Lake Iliamna AC: No Action
Naknek/Kvichak AC: No Action
17C Fall Hunting Seasons

**RM583:** residents only/any bull  
*Season dates: Aug 20 – Sept 15*

**GM000:** residents only/one bull, spike-fork, 50 inch or 3 or more brow tines on at least one side  
*Season dates: Sept 1 – Sept 15*

17C Winter Hunting Season

**RM585:** residents only/one antlered bull  
*Season dates: Dec 1 – Dec 31*

*Proposed for a portion of Unit 17C:*

*Season dates: Dec 1 – last day of Feb; a season of up to 31 days may be announced by emergency order.*
Proposal Rationale

- Change the season structure to allow the department to open the season by emergency order when the snow conditions are most suitable for snowmachine travel.

- The current season is a fixed 31 day period that may or may not align with favorable snow conditions for hunting.
Management Concerns With Proposed Action

- Popularity of winter hunt and associated hunting pressure.

- Offset season may intensify hunt pressure in this small area.
  - Hunters may shift to this area after other portion of unit closes

- Increased harvest of bull moose in small portion of unit may be unsustainable.
Proposal 143

Moose/Unit 17C

Map of the region with Game Management Subunits indicated.
Unit 17C Moose Population Metrics

- Abundance estimates suggest population is stable.
  - ~3,000–3,500 moose, density of 0.6–0.7 mi²
- Productivity is high with 65% twinning rate in 2017.
- Composition survey suggests low recruitment.
  - Bull-to-100 cows: 21
  - Calf-to-100 cows: 16
- Calf mortality in 2017 was 88% at 6 months.
- Fall bull moose harvest is declining over time.
Summary

- Current winter season provides opportunity, but may not maximize harvest potential.

- Increased opportunity/efficiency in hunt may not be sustainable, especially for small geographic area.

- Moose population metrics suggest this proposed action is not warranted at this time.
Proposal 143  Moose/Unit 17C

Change the structure of the winter moose hunting season in a portion of Unit 17C.

Public Proposal

Department recommendation: OPPOSE

Nushagak AC: Oppose (0–12)
Togiak AC: No Action
Lake Iliamna AC: No Action
Naknek/Kvichak AC: No Action
Allow the use of motorized vehicles for moose hunting in the Upper Mulchatna Controlled Use Area.

_Public Proposal_

_Department recommendation: NEUTRAL_

-Nushagak AC: Oppose (1–10)
-Togiak AC: Oppose (0–11)
-Lake Iliamna AC: No Action
-Naknek/Kvichak AC: No Action
Proposal 144

CUA/Unit 17B
CUA History and Rationale

- Adopted into regulation in 1990
- Two proposals were submitted to request this action
  - ADF&G proposal
    - Increasing hunting pressure was a concern
    - ORV use was increasing
    - Conflicts between local and non-local hunters
    - Habitat will be impacted
  - Nushagak Advisory Committee Proposal
    - Hunt quality will deteriorate with ATV use
    - Habitat will be impacted
(5) Unit 17:

(A) the Upper Mulchatna Controlled Use Area:

(i) the area consists of Unit 17(B);
(ii) the area is closed to the use of any motorized vehicle for hunting big game, including transportation of big game hunters, their gear or parts of big game from August 1 through November 1, except that the use of an aircraft or a boat is not prohibited, and a motorized vehicle in a legally permitted hunting camp is not prohibited;

....
Proposal Rationale

- Subsistence hunters are unfairly restricted to the river corridor while guides and others who can fly into sites have access to adjacent areas off the river.

- Motorized vehicles can be used for hunting small game, berry picking, fishing, etc. but if a moose presents itself you can not harvest it.
Are 1990s Concerns Still Valid?

- Declining Mulchatna herd has led to fewer hunters.
- Moose hunting for nonresidents has been restricted on rivers, but still unlimited in adjacent areas.
- Popularity of motorized vehicles suggests use could still be high.
- Habitat would likely be impacted in popular areas.
Summary

- Local depletions of moose could occur in areas accessible to motorized vehicles.

- Impacts to habitat: largely dependent on level of use and type of habitat motorized vehicles are used in.

- User conflicts: could occur in areas that become popular for motorized vehicle use.
Proposal 144

Allow the use of motorized vehicles for moose hunting in the Upper Mulchatna Controlled Use Area.

Public Proposal

Department recommendation: NEUTRAL

Nushagak AC: Oppose (1–10)
Togiak AC: Oppose (0–11)
Lake Iliamna AC: No Action
Naknek/Kvichak AC: No Action
Proposal 145  Caribou/Units 9 & 17

Open a nonresident registration hunt for caribou in Units 9A, 9B, 9C (portion of) and Unit 17.

Public Proposal

Department recommendation: NEUTRAL

Nushagak AC: Oppose (0–10)
Togiak AC: No Action
Lake Iliamna AC: Oppose (0–5)
Naknek/Kvichak AC: Oppose (0–8)
## Proposal 145

### Caribou/Units 9 & 17

#### Current regulations for Mulchatna caribou: residents only

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Regulation</th>
<th>Bag Limit</th>
<th>Season dates:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RC503</td>
<td>2 caribou</td>
<td>Aug 1– Mar 31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17*, 9(B)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9A, 9C**, 18, 19(A,B)</td>
<td>2 caribou</td>
<td>Aug 1– Mar 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RC501</td>
<td>2 caribou</td>
<td>May be announced</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17(portion of)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RC504</td>
<td>1 caribou</td>
<td>May be announced</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9C (portion of)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Portions of 17A&C are managed under a federal hunt*

**Portions of 9C are considered MCH, others NAP**

#### Proposed season: nonresidents only

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Regulation</th>
<th>Bag Limit</th>
<th>Season dates:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RCXXX</td>
<td>1 Bull</td>
<td>Sept 1– Sept 30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit 17 &amp; Units 9(A,B,C)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Up to 200 permits (only issue 50 initially)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Management Considerations

- Active wolf control program in Units 17B&C, 19B, and 9B to enhance Mulchatna caribou calf survival.

- Mulchatna herd is below IM population objective.
  - 27,242 vs objective of 30,000–80,000

- Mulchatna herd is below IM harvest objective.
  - 256 avg. during RY12–RY16 vs objective of 2,400–8,000

- Harvestable surplus ~1,200 is below amount necessary for subsistence: 2,100–2,400.
Mulchatna Population and Harvest Levels

Graph showing the population and reported harvest levels over time. The x-axis represents the years from 1974 to 2016, and the y-axis represents the number of caribou. The graph includes data points indicating the number of harvested caribou and the population levels. Notable events such as NR season ends and IM began are marked on the graph.

Reported Harvest
Population

NR season ends
IM began
MCH Composition: Bull:100 Cow Ratios

Objective (35 bulls:100 cows)

West Caribou
East Caribou
Combined

MCH Composition: Calf: 100 Cow Ratios

Objective (30 calves: 100 cows)

- West Caribou
- East Caribou
- Combined
Summary

- Active intensive management program is in place to increase calf survival and recruitment for herd recovery.
  - Predation control area was expanded to better address calving and post calving survival in specific areas.

- Abundance, harvest, and composition ratios are below IM objectives.

- Reported harvest and available harvest are well below ANS.

- Proposed season may lead to competition for a limited bull resource.
Proposal 145  Caribou/Units 9 & 17

Open a nonresident registration hunt for caribou in Units 9A, 9B, 9C (portion of) and Unit 17.

Public Proposal

Department recommendation: NEUTRAL

Nushagak AC: Oppose (0–10)
Togiak AC: No Action
Lake Iliamna AC: Oppose (0–5)
Naknek/Kvichak AC: Oppose (0–8)
Open a guide-required nonresident drawing hunt for caribou in Unit 17B.

Public Proposal

Department recommendation: NEUTRAL

Nushagak AC: No Action
Togiak AC: No Action
Lake Iliamna AC: No Action
Naknek/Kvichak AC: No Action
Proposal 146

Caribou/Unit 17B

[Map showing the Caribou/Unit 17B area with various regions and labels.]
Current season for 17B caribou: residents only

RC503  Bag Limit   Season dates:
       17B         2 caribou     Aug 1–Mar 31

Proposed season to be added: nonresidents only

DCXXX  Bag Limit   Season dates:
       Unit 17B   1 Bull     Aug 10–Aug 19
       14 permits would be available
       Issued by lottery for $1,000.00 each
Summary

- This proposal requests a special tag fee for caribou that the board does not have the authority to address.

- There is an active intensive management program in portions of the Mulchatna range to increase calf survival and herd growth.

- The Mulchatna herd is below IM objectives for abundance, harvest, and composition ratios.

- The reported harvest and available harvest are well below the ANS.
Open a guide-required nonresident drawing hunt for caribou in Unit 17B.

Public Proposal

Department recommendation: NEUTRAL

Nushagak AC: No Action
Togiak AC: No Action
Lake Iliamna AC: No Action
Naknek/Kvichak AC: No Action
Open a nonresident draw permit hunt for caribou in Units 18, 19A, and 19B.

Public Proposal

Department recommendation: **NEUTRAL**

**Proposal 147**  
**Caribou/Units 18 & 19(A,B)**

- **Nushagak AC:** Oppose (0–10)
- **Togiak AC:** No Action
- **Lake Iliamna AC:** No Action
- **Naknek/Kvichak AC:** No Action
### Current regulations for Mulchatna caribou: residents only:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RC503</th>
<th>Bag Limit</th>
<th>Season dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>17*, 9B</td>
<td>2 caribou</td>
<td>Aug 1– Mar 31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9A, 9C**, 18, 19(A,B)</td>
<td>2 caribou</td>
<td>Aug 1– Mar 15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RC501</th>
<th>Bag Limit</th>
<th>Season dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>17A&amp;C (portion of)</td>
<td>2 caribou</td>
<td>May be announced</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RC504</th>
<th>Bag Limit</th>
<th>Season dates</th>
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<td>9C (portion of)</td>
<td>1 caribou</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Portions of 17A&C are managed under a federal hunt

**Portions of 9C are considered MCH, others NAP

### Proposed added season: nonresidents only:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DCXXX</th>
<th>Bag Limit</th>
<th>Season dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Units 18, 19(A,B)</td>
<td>1 Bull</td>
<td>Sept 1– Sept 30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Up to 50 permits (only issue 20 initially)
Summary

➢ There is an active intensive management program in portions of the Mulchatna range to increase calf survival and herd growth.

➢ The Mulchatna herd is below IM objectives for abundance, harvest, and composition ratios.

➢ The reported harvest and available harvest are well below the ANS.
Open a nonresident draw permit hunt for caribou in Units 18, 19A, and 19B.

Public Proposal

Department recommendation: NEUTRAL

Nushagak AC: Oppose (0–10)
Togiak AC: No Action
Lake Iliamna AC: No Action
Naknek/Kvichak AC: No Action
Proposal 148  Caribou, wolf & wolverine/Unit 17

Allow the use of a snowmachine for positioning caribou, wolf, or wolverine in Unit 17.

Public Proposal

Department recommendation: NEUTRAL

Nushagak AC: Support (7–2)
Togiak AC: No Action
Lake Iliamna AC: Support (5–0)
Naknek/Kvichak AC: No Action
Associated Regulations in Unit 17

- Currently a snowmachine can be used to position a hunter to select individual wolves for harvest.
- Wolves may be shot from a stationary snowmachine.
- It is not legal to use a snowmachine to position any game for harvest including a caribou, wolf, or wolverine.
Proposed Changes

- This proposal would add Unit 17 to a list of Game Management Units where a snowmachine could be used to position a caribou, wolf, or wolverine for harvest.

- Caribou, wolves, or wolverine could be shot from a stationary snowmachine.

- This proposed change would replicate the regulations for this method and means that have previously been adopted for Units 22, 23, and 26A.
  - At that time the board specifically omitted Unit 18 from this list due to differences between MCH and WAH.
Background

- Two caribou herds reside in Unit 17, the Mulchatna caribou herd (MCH), and the Nushagak Peninsula caribou herd (NPCH).

- Local harvest on both herds is most effective during winter using snowmachines for access.

- When travel conditions are good, hunting pressure on accessible groups can occur repeatedly.
Management Considerations

- Concern for the impact positioning could have on groups of caribou, where many members could be disturbed in a single event.

- Most of the successful hunting by snowmachine takes place in late winter when caribou may already be nutritionally stressed.

- The spatial distribution of the Nushagak Peninsula herd, and at times the Mulchatna herd predisposes groups to repeated disturbances.
Summary

- The positioning of caribou though better for hunting success, could negatively affect caribou condition and survival.

- Increased effectiveness in harvesting wolves from snowmachines could help meet IM objectives for the Mulchatna caribou herd.
Proposal 148  Caribou, wolf & wolverine/Unit 17

Allow the use of a snowmachine for positioning caribou, wolf, or wolverine in Unit 17.

Public Proposal

Department recommendation: NEUTRAL

Nushagak AC: Support (7–2)
Togiak AC: No Action
Lake Iliamna AC: Support (5–0)
Naknek/Kvichak AC: No Action
Proposal 149

Beaver/Units 9&17

Liberalize the season and methods and means for trapping beaver in Units 9 and 17.

Public Proposal

Department recommendation: NEUTRAL

Nushagak AC: Oppose (0–9)
Togiak AC: Support (11–0)
Lake Iliamna AC: No Action
Naknek/Kvichak AC: Oppose (0–9)
5 AAC 84.270. Furbearer Trapping.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species and Units</th>
<th>Open Season</th>
<th>Bag Limit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beaver</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Units 9 and 17</td>
<td>Oct 10–May 31</td>
<td>No limit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Apr 15–May 31*</td>
<td>2 per day</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*During April 15–May 31 firearms may be used to take up to 2 beaver per day if the meat is salvaged for human consumption; and in Unit 17 a firearm or bow and arrow may be used to harvest beaver from December 1–April 14, provided that the meat is salvaged.*
Proposed Regulatory Changes

- No closed season.

- May shoot up to the established bag limit of beaver with either a firearm or bow and arrow throughout the season provided that either the meat or hide is salvaged.

- From June 1 to October 9, taking beaver by any other means other than a firearm or bow and arrow is prohibited.

- Beaver taken only need to be sealed if they are to be sold as raw fur.
Proposal 149

Beaver/Units 9&17
Status of Beaver Populations

- Beaver are widespread and relatively abundant throughout Units 9 and 17.

- Beaver regulations have been liberalized substantially over the past 30 years because of this abundance.

- Harvest and effort have declined during this same period.

- The department does not currently have any concerns with beaver conservation at the GMU level.
Effect of Proposed Changes

- There could be some local depletion of beaver in easily accessible areas.

- Wounding loss may result with firearm harvest.

- The revised sealing requirement would render our sealing program in southwest Alaska ineffective.

  - ADF&G Trapper Questionnaire (2013) indicates about 41% of fur across state is not sold commercially – 59% in SW Alaska.
Summary

- The department does not currently have any concerns with beaver conservation at the GMU level.

- Proposed changes could lead to some wounding loss as well as local depletions of beaver.

- Change in sealing requirements would impact departments ability to monitor beaver harvest.
Proposal 149  

Beaver/Units 9&17

Liberalize the season and methods and means for trapping beaver in Units 9 and 17.

Public Proposal

Department recommendation: **NEUTRAL**

Nushagak AC: Oppose (0–9)  
Togiak AC: Support (11–0)  
Lake Iliamna AC: No Action  
Naknek/Kvichak AC: Oppose (0–9)