

King Salmon Area – Units 9 & 10

PROPOSAL 125 – 5 AAC 85.025. Seasons and bag limits for caribou. Change the hunting season dates for the Tier II caribou hunt in Unit 9 as follows:

Unit 9 caribou season date: **September 1 to October 10** [AUGUST 10 to SEPTEMBER 20]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Open season dates for TC505 For Ugashik Village and Pilot Point permit holders. Change the current open season of August 10 through September 20 to September 1 through October 10 on the Ugashik River and Dego Creek drainage only.

Due to migration patterns there are not any caribou available for harvest in this area until early September, negating harvest opportunities the first twenty plus days of the season and very limited numbers of caribou the first three weeks of September which is also our moose season, forcing us to pick one or the other. Even though the season reopens for an extended time during the winter migration patterns again dictate our harvest opportunities to the last days of march until season closure on April 30, when weather and breakup conditions make hunting dangerous or impossible.

Shifting the season dates would increase our chances of a successful and safer hunt, it would also relieve hunting pressure on the pregnant cows in the spring.

PROPOSED BY: Brian Cato (EG-F17-104)

PROPOSAL 126 – 5 AAC 85.025. Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou. Increase the bag limit for the Southern Alaska Peninsula caribou herd (SAP) in Unit 9D as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
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(4)

Caribou

Unit 9D

If the harvestable portion is greater than 150:

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

2 caribou [1 caribou]

Aug. 1–Sept. 30
 Nov. 15–Mar. 31

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

2 caribou [1 caribou]

Aug. 1–Sept. 30

If the harvestable portion is greater than 250:

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

3 caribou [1 caribou]

Aug. 1–Sept. 30
Nov. 15–Mar. 31

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

3 caribou [1 caribou]

Aug. 1–Sept. 30

If the harvestable portion is greater than 450:

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

4 caribou [1 caribou]

Aug. 1–Sept. 30
Nov. 15–Mar. 31

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

4 caribou [1 caribou]

Aug. 1–Sept. 30

If the harvestable portion is greater than 550:

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

5 caribou [1 caribou]

Aug. 1–Sept. 30
Nov. 15–Mar. 31

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

5 caribou [1 caribou]

Aug. 1–Sept. 30

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What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The growing SAP herd has likely exceeded 2,200 caribou, has high bull and calf ratios, and low reported harvest under a one caribou bag limit. Historically, the remoteness of the herd and small human population has not provided the harvest necessary to contain the herd within objectives which led to declines in population and habitat quality. Increasing the bag limit will allow the Department of Fish and Game the discretion to proactively manage the rapidly growing population by increasing harvest commensurate with population levels to maintain it at or near the upper end of the objective of 4,000 caribou without having to propose Board of Game changes out of cycle.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F17-038)

PROPOSAL 127 – 5 AAC 85.025. Seasons and bag limits for caribou. Open a resident hunting season for caribou in a portion of Unit 9C as follows:

Open the north bank of the Naknek River drainage to hunting for two caribou by the same permit that is used in Units 9B and 9C, the Alagnak River drainage (RC503),

Resident hunt only, that portion of the north and south bank of the Alagnak to that portion of the north of the north bank of the Naknek River drainage, two caribou by permit RC503

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? That area in Unit 9C that is open on an announced caribou hunt south of the Alagnak River drainage and the north side of the Naknek River drainage. This area was protected for the Northern Alaska Peninsula herd had been crossing the Naknek River, it crashed and needed help and we didn't hunt for many years. It is now open for hunting by permit, and hasn't crossed in a long time so it is time for us to be able to hunt this area again. This area is an area used by the Mulchatna caribou in the winter and should be open to hunt just like the rest of Unit 9C that area draining the south and north Alagnak drainage and Unit 9B Kvichak drainage.

PROPOSED BY: Naknek/Kvichak Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-F17-023)

PROPOSAL 128 – 5 AAC 85.025. Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou. Allow the harvest of any caribou in Unit 10, Adak Island, as follows:

No limit, harvest ticket, no closed season.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Allow any caribou, no closed season, no limit. Remove the bull restriction (no bulls January 1 – August 9). Unnecessarily restricts meat hunters that may harvest younger animals that are harder to determine sex.

PROPOSED BY: John Bush (HQ-F17-005)

PROPOSAL 129 – 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Lengthen the resident hunting season for moose in Unit 9B as follows:

Unit 9(B)

RESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 bull by registration permit only; Sept. 1–Sept. **20** [15]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The moose population in Unit 9B can sustain additional bull harvest, according to the Department of Fish and Game. We would like to increase hunting opportunity by increasing the season by five days. This would align fall seasons for residents with Unit 9C.

PROPOSED BY: Lake Iliamna Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F17-019)

PROPOSAL 130 – 5 AAC 92.052. Discretionary permit hunt conditions and procedures.

Allow hunters to obtain Unit 9B registration moose permits online and in other locations as follows:

Recommended changes:

One bull by permit available **online at <http://hunt.alaska.gov> or** in person in Unit 9B village or in King Salmon beginning August 16, contact King Salmon for additional information

Or

One bull by permit available in person in Unit 9B village or in person in **Anchorage, Cordova, Fairbanks, Glennallen,** King Salmon, **Palmer, or Soldotna,** beginning August 16, contact King Salmon for additional information

Or a combination of the two:

One bull by permit available **online at <http://hunt.alaska.gov> or** in person in **Anchorage, Cordova, Fairbanks, Glennallen,** King Salmon, **Palmer, or Soldotna,** beginning August 16, contact King Salmon for additional information

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Justification: For 40 years I have hosted fishing and hunting camps during moose season in Unit 9B. The existing requirement to register in the local villages needs to be changed for three primary reasons.

1) It makes the hunt dangerous. The need to fit permit application into the administrative hours of the villages and Lake Clark Park forces hunters to fly only on weekdays and only during business hours to arrive in time to meet the registrar's schedule. Often, the weather during that period is marginal, or worse. We now find that we fly in far worse weather than we historically have. Since we hunt in Unit 9B, we now have to route through Lake Clark Pass even if weather on alternate routes is better. This regulation makes access to the hunt substantially more dangerous than necessary.

2) It disenfranchises working Alaska resident hunters. If a hunter, such as one of our regulars who grew up hunting and fishing the Iliamna region, has only five days to hunt, this rule means he often cannot hunt. (EXAMPLE) One of our party learned to fly in a Cessna, roaming the Iliamna area. He now flies for Alaska Airlines and as a junior officer can only arrange five days off at a time. If he clears his last scheduled flight on a Friday afternoon, but not early enough to get to a registration site during working hours, the earliest he can register is Monday, (can't hunt), and must return on Tuesday evening or Wednesday morning depending on weather. This leaves one day to hunt. If the weather is poor on Monday, it leaves none. He never missed a trip from the time he was ten until this rule took effect. Since, he has missed two out of three years. This scheduling problem has caused every one of us to miss the entire hunt. In order to hunt, you really now need a full week of time off.

3) It is age discriminatory. For older hunters, (four of our group are over 65), the walk from where you can park a plane to the registration in (for example) Pedro Bay is becoming very difficult. With the time constraints at the site, a two or three-mile round trip walk only to find the site has run out of permits, or the person who issues them is not available, is very tough since it means we must find another site and repeat it. Even the walk from the Farm in Port Allsworth to the Park Service is tough on 75-year-old legs.

Some of us have hunted the area for three or four decades. We understand the need to conserve the moose herd. No matter how many we have in hunting camp, we have always maintained a strict maximum limit of two moose. We've collectively discussed the population issues and all agree that the single greatest impact on herd size came when brown bear hunting every fall and spring was eliminated. Before, we used to see equal numbers of bears and moose. Now, or for every moose we see, bull or cow, we see six to ten bears.

PROPOSED BY: Beaver Creek Hunting Group (EG-F17-058)

PROPOSAL 131 – 5 AAC 85.020. Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear. Remove the brown bear bag limit of one bear every four years for residents in Unit 9 as follows:

Remove the “one bear every four regulatory years” requirement for residents hunting under the RB368, RB369, and RB370 registration permits for brown bear in Unit 9.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?
One bear every four regulatory years for resident hunters in Unit 9.**

If there are no conservation concerns for brown bears in Unit 9 under the RB368, RB369, and RB370 registration permit hunts, and we are allowing unlimited nonresident opportunity that results in nonresident hunters taking greater than 80% of the bears, there is absolutely no need for a restriction on resident hunters to only take one bear every four regulatory years.

These registration permits are only available every other regulatory year as it is, so residents already are restricted to one bear every two regulatory years.

PROPOSED BY: Resident Hunters of Alaska (EG-F17-073)

PROPOSAL 132 – 5 AAC 85.020. Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear. Open a resident-only early season for the current registration brown bear hunts in Unit 9, or open resident-only registration or drawing permit hunts as follows:

Solution 1) Create a new registration or draw hunt for resident hunters *only*, mirroring the current RB368, 369, and 370 registration hunts, to allow a spring season on odd numbered years and a fall season on even numbered years.

Unit 9 Alaska Peninsula

Brown/grizzly bear

Units 9A, 9C, 9D, 9E

RBXXX Resident only fall season, even numbered years, October 1–21

RBXXX Resident only spring season, odd numbered years, May 10–31

Unit 9B

RBXXX Resident only fall season, even numbered years, October 1–21

RBXXX Resident only spring season, odd numbered years, May 10–31

Solution 2) Provide a five-day early start to residents for the RB368, 369, and 370 registration hunts.

Unit 9 Alaska Peninsula

Brown/grizzly bear

Units 9A, 9C, 9D, 9E

RBXXX Resident only fall season, odd numbered years, October 1–5

RBXXX Resident only spring season, even numbered years, May 10–15

Unit 9B

RBXXX Resident only fall season, odd numbered years, October 1–5

RBXXX Resident only spring season, even numbered years, May 10–15

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

Resident hunting and harvest opportunity for brown bear in Unit 9.

We are continually receiving reports from resident brown bear hunters in Unit 9 that guides have many areas locked-up to access by residents, and guides are claiming areas as their own when resident hunters do manage to fly or boat into areas. There are many conflicts between guides on state lands and conflicts between guides and residents on both federal and state lands.

Both the spring (even numbered years only) and fall (odd numbered years only) registration permit hunts (RB368, 369, 370) are unlimited. After the Board of Game (board) went to a registration hunt in 2012, the harvests by nonresidents has been over 80 percent (see table below). These high nonresident (mostly guided) harvests reflect some of what is going on in Unit 9 with resident access problems and conflicts between guides and residents.

Department of Fish and Game Data

Unit 9 Brown Bear Harvest

<u>REGYEAR</u>	<u>Resident</u>	<u>Nonresident</u>	<u>Total Harvest</u>
2013	89	415	506
2014	6	0	7
2015	88	369	462
2016	6	1	8

Most of the harvest takes place the first week of both the spring and fall hunt according to the Department of Fish and Game (department) data. The department has no conservation concerns for brown bears in Unit 9 at this time.

We would like the board to consider two solutions to provide better resident hunter access and opportunity and success in Unit 9. Institute a resident-only early season for the RB 368, 369, 370 registration permit hunts, or allow a resident-only registration or draw hunt for brown bears in Unit 9 during the even and odd years the current RB 368, 369, and 370 hunts have no open season. The current level of competition from guides and guided nonresident hunters is overwhelming and causing too many conflicts, access and opportunity issues for resident hunters.

PROPOSED BY: Resident Hunters of Alaska (EG-F17-072)

PROPOSAL 133 – 5 AAC 85.020. Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear. Change the nonresident brown bear registration hunt in Unit 9E to drawing permit hunt as follows:

Unit 9E brown bear:

Nonresidents: One brown bear every four regulatory years;

(Five permits by drawing), state land south of Cinder River to Mud Creek

(Five permits by drawing), state land south of Mud Creek to Meshik River

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The over-harvest of brown bears by guides and their nonresident clients. The resource cannot handle the unlimited number of guides and nonresident hunters on state land between Cinder River and the Meshik River.

PROPOSED BY: Lance Kronberger (EG-F17-011)

PROPOSAL 134 – 5 AAC 85.065. Hunting seasons and bag limits for small game. Shorten the season for ptarmigan and reduce the bag limit in Unit 9 as follows:

Ptarmigan (rock, willow, and white-tailed)

**Resident
Open Season**

**Nonresident
Open Season**

Units 8, 10, 17, 19,
21, 24, 25 (except 25(C)),
And the Dalton Highway Corridor
and Prudhoe Bay Closed
Area in Unit 26(B)

Aug. 10–Apr. 30
(General hunt only)

Aug. 10–Apr. 30

20 per day, 40 in possession

Unit 9

Aug. 10–Mar. 1
(General hunt only)

Aug. 10–Mar. 1

10 per day, 20 in possession

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Ptarmigan numbers are extremely low in Unit 9. We believe that the bag limit and season should be reduced to conserve remaining birds and allow the population to grow.

PROPOSED BY: Lake Iliamna Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F17-020)

PROPOSAL 135 – 5 AAC 85.065. Hunting seasons and bag limits for small game. Close the season for Alaska hares in Unit 9 as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(2)		
Snowshoe and Alaska hares		
Units 1–5	Sept. 1–Apr. 30 (General hunt only)	Sept. 1–Apr. 30
Units 6–26, except 14(A) and 14(C), <u>and</u> <u>Alaska hares in Units 9(C),</u> <u>9(D), and 9(E)</u>	No closed season (General hunt only)	No closed season
No limit		
<u>Units 9(C), 9(D) and 9(E)</u> <u>Alaska hares only</u>	<u>No open season</u>	<u>No open season</u>
Unit 14(A) 5 per day	No closed season (General hunt only)	No closed season
Unit 14(C) 5 per day	Day after Labor Day –Apr. 30 (General hunt only)	Day after Labor Day –Apr. 30
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What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Even though snowshoe hares remain abundant in Unit 9, the once abundant Alaska hare population is now at a very low density and has a patchy distribution in the southern portion of the Alaska Peninsula. Very little is known about the Alaska hare, but the apparent decrease in abundance may have been caused by changes in habitat or predation. A small Alaska hare population has been observed Unit 9D and there are infrequent observations of Alaska hare sign near King Salmon. Although there are no estimates of abundance, hunting seasons should be closed in Units 9C, 9D and 9E to address the low density, and biological concern as a precaution for this species. While the closure of the Alaska hare season would result in a slight decrease in hunting opportunity, snowshoe hare hunting opportunity would remain open in the area. If climatic or habitat conditions favorable to Alaska hares return to the southern Alaska Peninsula, a low hunter harvest could protect localized populations for quicker recovery and recolonization.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F17-039)
