

Southeast Region

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ALASKA BOARD OF GAME
Southeast Region Meeting
January 11-15, 2019
Sons of Norway Hall
Petersburg, Alaska

TENTATIVE AGENDA

Note: This Tentative Agenda is subject to change throughout the course of the meeting.

This Tentative Agenda is provided to give a general idea of the board's anticipated schedule. The board will attempt to hold to this schedule; however, the board is not constrained by this Tentative Agenda.

Friday, January 11, 8:30 AM

OPENING BUSINESS

Call to Order / Purpose of Meeting

Introductions of Board Members and Staff

Board Member Ethics Disclosures

AGENCY AND OTHER REPORTS

PUBLIC AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE ORAL TESTIMONY upon conclusion of reports

THE DEADLINE TO SIGN UP TO TESTIFY will be announced prior to the meeting.

Public testimony will continue until persons who have signed up before the deadline and who are present when called by the Chair to testify are heard.

Saturday, January 12, 8:30 AM

PUBLIC AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE ORAL TESTIMONY

BOARD DELIBERATIONS upon conclusion of public testimony

Sunday, January 13, 9:00 AM

BOARD DELIBERATIONS continued

Monday, January 14, 8:30 AM

BOARD DELIBERATIONS continued

Tuesday, January 15, 8:30 AM

BOARD DELIBERATIONS

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS, including petitions, findings and policies, letters, and other business

ADJOURN

Agenda Notes

- A. Meeting materials, including a list of staff reports, a roadmap, and schedule updates, will be available prior to the meeting at: www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=gameboard.meetinginfo or by contacting the ADF&G Boards Support Office in Juneau at 465-4110.
- B. A live audio stream for the meeting is intended to be available at: www.boardofgame.adfg.alaska.gov
- C. The State of Alaska Department of Fish and Game complies with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA). Individuals with disabilities who may need auxiliary aids, services, and/or special modifications to participate in this hearing and public meeting should contact 465-4110 no later than December 28, 2018 to make any necessary arrangements.

Regionwide & Multiple Units

Note: The Board of Game deferred this proposal from the 2016 Statewide Regulations Meeting to each regional meeting. It was previously considered by the board for the Arctic/Western Region (Proposal 20), Interior/Northeast Region (Proposal 48), and the Central/Southwest Region (Proposal 71).

PROPOSAL 1

5 AAC 92.080. Unlawful methods of taking game; exceptions.

5 AAC 92.085. Unlawful methods of taking big game; exceptions.

Allow the use of crossbows in restricted-weapons hunts for the Southeast Region as follows:

In order to allow more opportunity for those hunters wishing to use a crossbow while hunting during special hunts like the roadside "targeted hunts" for moose in Southcentral and the Interior, or while hunting in specific game management areas or state refuges around the state where either muzzleloaders or shotguns and bow and arrow are the approved hunting tools, I would ask the Board of Game to include the use of crossbows as a fourth approved hunting tool.

In addition to those wishing to hunt with a crossbow, there are those older or smaller hunters who, for whatever reason, cannot use a bow and arrow that meets the existing requirements. A person who cannot draw and hold a bow and arrow can normally still use a crossbow if that tool was legal for use.

What I am proposing is that the category of crossbow be added to the list of approved hunting tools for those hunts in game management areas, state game refuges, and special hunts where either a muzzleloader or shotgun is legal along with bow and arrow. For areas or hunts that are specified as bow and arrow only, nothing will change.

A crossbow has certain advantages over a bow and arrow and also has some major disadvantages compared to a bow and arrow. However, the two hunting tools are still relatively comparable in power and range. A crossbow does not even come close to a muzzleloader or shotgun in comparison. If a muzzleloader or a shotgun is legal to use, along with bow and arrow, then there are no practical concerns to not allow a crossbow along with bow and arrow in those areas or hunts which also allow a muzzleloader or shotgun.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? There are currently several state game management areas, state refuges, and special hunts statewide which support weapons restricted big game hunts. Most of these hunts prohibit the use of centerfire, high-powered rifles and specify that only muzzleloaders, shotguns using slugs, or bow and arrow (or some combination of the specified implements) are allowed. Hunters choosing to use muzzleloaders or bow and arrow must comply with existing regulation requirements for these hunting tools, i.e., things like muzzleloading caliber or the bow's draw weight.

These restrictions in areas or refuges or special hunts are done largely for safety reasons because all of the approved hunting tools are considered short-range compared to a high-powered rifle.

The Board of Game recently defined crossbows in regulation into their own category with requirements on power, bolt length, etc. This was done because crossbows as hunting tools are gradually increasing in hunting use for big game in Alaska during the general season and have become the fastest growing hunting tool in the Lower 48 for hunting animals like white-tailed deer and black bear. It was felt that a distinction between bow and arrow and crossbow was necessary.

Since crossbows are defined separately from bow and arrow, current regulations allowing the use of bow and arrow exclude the use of a crossbow for hunting during that same hunt.

PROPOSED BY: Howard Delo (EG-C15-037)

PROPOSAL 2

5 AAC 92.230. Feeding of game.

Allow the feeding of deer in the Southeast Region as follows:

Allow food plotting on private property for feeding and harvesting deer in all game units that are applicable.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I would like the board to consider changing the hunting regulations on the restriction of feeding deer, making it possible for hunters to feed deer year-round and to harvest deer, observing all other current hunting regulations while using food plots on private property only.

I believe allowing food plots to be used year-round will give deer more food throughout the winter and help the deer population. I also believe that by using food plotting techniques the hunters will be more apt to want to harvest more mature bucks.

PROPOSED BY: Lucas Shilts (EG-F18-008)

PROPOSAL 3

5 AAC 92.220. Salvage of game meat, furs, and hides.

Modify the salvage requirement for deer in Units 1–5 as follows:

Add an exception to 5 AAC 92.220 stating that salvage of rib meat for Sitka black-tailed deer in Units 1–5 is optional.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Current regulations require the salvage of rib meat off Sitka black-tailed deer. This proposal would make the salvage requirement of rib meat optional for Sitka black-tailed deer in Units 1–5. Listed are the reasons for this proposal:

(1) On many deer, this is really a small amount of meat, between two to five pounds total. Strips of meat are maybe one-half inch in thickness, which is why there's not a lot of meat. The meat that is salvageable is likely less than this as it is mixed in with large amounts of gristle and fat.

(2) If the deer is shot through the ribs, the amount of meat decreases even more. This is especially true because many hunters in Unit 4 (Admiralty, Baranof, Chicagof) are using large caliber rifles due to brown bear presence.

(3) Spending time salvaging rib meat increases the chances of a bear encounter.

(4) Many other western states do not require salvage of rib meat of even larger animals. Such states include: Oregon, Montana, Idaho, Colorado, Wyoming, New Mexico, and Arizona.

PROPOSED BY: Nicholas Orr (EG-F18-036)

PROPOSAL 4

5 AAC 92.085. Unlawful methods of taking big game; exceptions.

Allow the harvest of game from a boat in Units 1–5 as follows:

Remove Section (9):

"from a boat in Units 1–5; however, a person with physical disabilities, as defined in Alaska Statute 16.05.940, may hunt from a boat under authority of a permit issued by the department;"

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I propose allowing harvest of game animals in Southeast Alaska (Units 1–5) from a boat not under power. Southeast Alaska is the only part of Alaska where it is illegal to shoot from a boat that is not under power. This is not due to general concerns over shot placement or hunter ethics, as shooting from a boat is allowed in all other parts of the state. This is also not because of any concerns that are particular to Sitka black-tailed deer or brown/black bears. Prince William Sound has all three species and it is legal to shoot from a boat not under power there. Kodiak has Sitka black-tailed deer and brown bears and it is also legal to shoot from a boat not under power in that unit as well.

It is common for hunters in Units 1–5 to shoot from a boat not under power; each year there are a number of pictures on social media that are highly suggestive of deer harvested from a boat as well as posts on social media/internet from other hunters throughout Southeast Alaska that either admit to or imply shooting from a boat is being used as a harvest method. When combined with the occasional violation charged in the court system, both support that this is happening on a regular basis.

Changing this rule would bring regulations regarding shooting from a boat not under power in Units 1–5 in line with those in the rest of the state. It is unlikely that it would lead to significant increase in the number of deer harvested as it is not uncommon for hunters to harvest deer in this way.

PROPOSED BY: Nicholas Orr (EG-F18-035)

PROPOSAL 5

5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.

Shorten the hunting seasons and change the bag limit for moose in the Southeast Region as follows:

The solution may be to shorten the season to two weeks (October 1 to October 15) and allow “any bull” moose to be legally taken.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I request the Board of Game consider the number of illegal moose being taken in Southeast Alaska.

PROPOSED BY: Harold Martindale (EG-F17-005)

PROPOSAL 6

5 AAC 92.220. Salvage of game meat, furs and hides.

Change the salvage requirement for black bear in Units 1–5 as follows:

Remove the requirement for residents to salvage black bear hides in Units 1–5 and instead require salvage of the meat throughout the season.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Remove the requirement for residents to salvage black bear hides but require meat salvage season-round. I've harvested black bear at all times during the season and find the meat is good any time. Hides often-times have no value. The Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) will say that when bears feed on salmon, the bear meat is not good. This is debatable. Some black bear in Southeast do not feed on salmon, contrary to popular belief.

PROPOSED BY: Mark Freshwaters (EG-F18-033)

PROPOSAL 7

5 AAC 92.165. Sealing of bear skins and skulls.

Eliminate the black bear sealing requirement for resident hunters in the Southeast Region as follows:

Eliminate the sealing requirement of black bear by resident hunters in Southeast.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I would like the Board of Game (board) to eliminate the requirement for resident hunters to seal black bears but harvest reports/tickets would still be required. It's an inconvenience, especially for residents who do not live near Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) locations. ADF&G receives enough data from nonresidents required to seal black bear.

PROPOSED BY: Mark Freshwaters (EG-F18-032)

PROPOSAL 8

5 AAC 85.015. Hunting seasons and bag limits for black bear.

Rescind the guide requirement for nonresidents hunting black bear in the Southeast Region as follows:

Rescind the must-be-guided requirement for black bear for nonresident U.S. citizens in Region I (Southeast).

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?
Must-be-guided requirement for nonresidents hunting black bear.**

Alaska’s must-be-guided law (AS 16.05.407) was enacted based on the rationale that nonresident U.S. citizen hunters needed assistance in judging legality of animals, protections when hunting certain dangerous game such as brown/grizzly bear, or when hunting in dangerous terrain for Dall sheep or mountain goat.

The legislature never intended for the Board of Game to create new must-be-guided species beyond brown bear, Dall sheep, and mountain goat without legislative approval.

But the Board of Game has done just that with black bear in Region I, using “conservation” concerns for black bears to create a new must-be-guided species for nonresidents.

As long as a nonresident hires a licensed guide to hunt black bear in Region I, he or she is granted unlimited opportunity under this new system. But if a nonresident is hunting without a guide, he or she must first draw a permit from a limited allocation.

Instead of equally limiting all nonresident black bear hunters because of conservation concerns, the Board of Game essentially granted yet another state-sponsored subsidy to guides. This is akin to saying there are too many cars on Southeast Alaska roads, but instead of fairly limiting all cars, Toyotas are guaranteed access at all times whereas all other car brands are limited in when they could be on the road. Such a scheme surely helps Toyota dealers, but this is not how the free market system is supposed to work.

There was never an allowance either to allow nonresidents hunting with a resident relative within second degree of kindred to hunt without being required to apply for a draw permit, further going against the intent of the must-be-guided law that allows a resident Alaskan to act as an (unpaid) guide. Alaskans who wanted to hunt black bear with their nonresident relative were denied that opportunity unless the nonresident relative first drew a draw permit.

When there are conservation concerns for any species that center around nonresident harvests, the solution should always be to limit nonresident harvest across the board, equally. The Board of Game should not use the must-be-guided statute as a game management tool, nor be in the business of giving a preference to, or limiting opportunity for, specific nonresident hunters who hunt on their own, with a registered guide, or with a resident relative within second degree of kindred.

PROPOSED BY: Resident Hunters of Alaska (HQ-F18-022)

PROPOSAL 9

5 AAC 85.015. Hunting seasons and bag limits for black bear.

Change the nonresident black bear permit hunts for Units 1B, 1C, and 1D to general season hunts as follows:

| Units and Bag Limits | Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts) | Nonresident Open Season |
|---|---|------------------------------------|
| Unit 1(B) RESIDENT HUNTERS: 2 bears, not more than 1 of which may be a blue or glacier bear | Sept. 1—June 30 (General hunt only) | |
| [NONRESIDENT HUNTERS WITH GUIDE: 1 BEAR] | | [SEPT. 1—JUNE 30] |
| [NONRESIDENT HUNTERS WITHOUT GUIDE: 1 BEAR BY DRAWING PERMIT ONLY; UP TO 40 PERMITS MAY BE ISSUED] | | [SEPT. 1—JUNE 30] |
| <u>NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:</u> <u>1 bear</u> | | <u>Sept. 1—June 30</u> |
| Units 1(C), north of Taku Inlet and the north bank of the Taku River | | |
| RESIDENT HUNTERS: 2 bears, not more than 1 of which may be a blue or glacier bear; however, a white-colored bear may not be taken | Sept. 1—June 30 (General hunt only) | |
| [NONRESIDENT HUNTERS: WITH GUIDE: 1 BEAR; HOWEVER, A WHITE-COLORED BEAR MAY NOT BE TAKEN] | | [SEPT. 1—JUNE 30] |
| [NONRESIDENT HUNTERS WITHOUT GUIDE: 1 BEAR BY DRAWING PERMIT ONLY; UP TO 30 PERMITS MAY BE ISSUED; HOWEVER, A WHITE-COLORED BEAR MAY NOT BE TAKEN] | | [SEPT. 1—JUNE 30] |

NONRESIDENT HUNTER:
1 bear; however, a white-colored
bear may not be taken

Sept. 1—June 30

Remainder of Unit 1(C)

RESIDENT HUNTERS:
2 bears, not more than 1
of which may be a blue or glacier
bear; however, a white-colored
bear may not be taken

Sept. 1—June 30
(General hunt only)

[NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:
WITH GUIDE: 1 BEAR; HOWEVER,
A WHITE-COLORED BEAR MAY
NOT BE TAKEN]

[SEPT. 1—JUNE 30]

[NONRESIDENT HUNTERS WITHOUT
GUIDE:
1 BEAR BY DRAWING PERMIT ONLY;
UP TO 30 PERMITS MAY BE ISSUED;
HOWEVER, A WHITE-COLORED BEAR
MAY NOT BE TAKEN]

[SEPT. 1—JUNE 30]

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:
1 bear; however, a white-colored
bear may not be taken

Sept. 1— June 30

Unit 1(D)

RESIDENT HUNTERS:
2 bears, not more than 1
of which may be a blue or glacier
bear; however, a white-colored
bear may not be taken

Sept. 1—June 30
(General hunt only)

[NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:
WITH GUIDE: 1 BEAR; HOWEVER,
A WHITE-COLORED BEAR MAY
NOT BE TAKEN]

[SEPT. 1—JUNE 30]

[NONRESIDENT HUNTERS WITHOUT
GUIDE:
1 BEAR BY DRAWING PERMIT ONLY;
UP TO 20 PERMITS MAY BE ISSUED;

[SEPT. 1—JUNE 30]

HOWEVER, A WHITE-COLORED BEAR
MAY NOT BE TAKEN]

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:
1 bear; however, a white-colored
bear may not be taken

Sept. 1—June 30

Remainder of Unit 3

RESIDENT HUNTERS: Sept. 1—June 30
2 bears, not more than 1 of which (General hunt only)
may be a blue or glacier bear

[NONRESIDENT HUNTERS WITH [SEPT. 1—JUNE 30]
GUIDE: 1 BEAR]

[NONRESIDENT HUNTERS [SEPT. 1—JUNE 30]
WITHOUT GUIDE:

1 BEAR BY DRAWING PERMIT ONLY;
UP TO 50 PERMITS MAY BE ISSUED]

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:
1 bear

Sept. 1—June 30

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? This proposal would remove drawing permit requirements for Unit 1B (DL017), Unit 1C north of Taku River (DL019), Unit 1C Remainder (DL020), and Unit 1D (DL021), creating general season harvest hunts for nonresidents in the above listed units.

In 2010, the Alaska Board of Game (board) required nonresident black bear hunters without a guide to have a drawing permit. During the 2010 board cycle, the board received numerous black bear proposals due to conservation concerns in multiple game management units. The primary conservation concerns are found in the following units: Unit 2, Unit 3 Kuiu Island, Unit 3 Kupreanof Island, and Unit 1C south of the Taku River to Cape Fanshaw. Due to the proximity and ease of access of the remaining Southeast units, the Department of Fish and Game (department) proposed implementing drawing permit requirements to all Southeast units with nonresident black bear seasons except for Unit 5, where the department had no conservation concerns.

In addition to drawing permit requirements, the board, working cooperatively with big game guides, the department, and the U.S. Forest Service established individual guide black bear harvest levels for the period regulatory years (RYs) 2012–2014. Those levels were based on guided black bear harvest data from RYs 2007–2009. The combined effort to require unguided nonresident black bear hunters to have a drawing permit and maintaining guided hunter harvest

levels at RY 2007–2009 achieved the department’s goal of reducing the black bear harvest in Southeast Alaska.

This proposal will not change unguided nonresident drawing hunt requirements for Unit 1C south, Unit 2, Unit 3 Kuiu Island, or Unit 3 Kupreanof Island. As noted above, those units were the original areas of conservation concern, and the department continues to believe harvest by unguided nonresidents in those areas is best managed through drawing permits.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F18-036)

PROPOSAL 10

5 AAC 92.170. Sealing of marten, fisher, lynx, beaver, otter, wolf, and wolverine.

Require sealing of coyote in Units 1–5 as follows:

Coyote must be sealed within 30 days after the close of the season.

You may shoot a coyote on the same day that you have flown in an airplane if the coyote is either caught in a trap or a snare or you are more the 300 feet from the airplane.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Coyote hunting seasons runs from September 1 – April 30. Coyote trapping season runs from November 1 – April 30.

Both hunting and trapping have no limit on the number animals harvested. Coyote distribution and abundance are unknown. Anecdotal information from trappers and observations in the field are that coyote numbers may be increasing but there is no way to tell for certain.

An increase in hunters and trappers in the 2017–2018 season have people wondering if the population can stand the increased pressure. Also, what really is the population and how many can we harvest.

PROPOSED BY: Upper Lynn Canal Fish Game Advisory Committee (EG-F18-045)

PROPOSAL 11

5 AAC 84.270. Furbearer trapping.

Extend the trapping season for beaver in Units 1–5 as follows:

Beaver, Units 1–5.....Nov. 10 – May 15.....No limit

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Return beaver season, Units 1–5, back to the closure of May 15.

PROPOSED BY: Robert Jahnke (EG-F18-024)

PROPOSAL 12

5 AAC 84.270. Furbearer trapping.

Modify the trapping season for beaver in Unit 1 as follows:

We are proposing to make the beaver trapping season in Unit 1 have no closed season so trappers can easily remove problem beavers.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? We would like to be able to trap nuisance beaver year-round without having to obtain a special permit.

PROPOSED BY: Luke Rauscher and Darren Belisle (HQ-F18-018)

PROPOSAL 13

5 AAC 92.095. Unlawful methods of taking furbearers; exceptions.

Require identification tags for traps and snares in Units 1–5 as follows:

I recommend reinstating previous language for trap tag requirement: In Unit 1–5, trappers are prohibited from using a trap or snare unless the trap or snare has been individually marked with a permanent metal tag upon which is stamped or permanently etched the trappers name and address or the trapper’s permanent identification number.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? There is currently no requirement for owners to mark traps, unlike crab pots and similar gear. Marking of traps promotes trapper accountability, encourages ethical trapping throughout the season and closure of traps at the end of the season. Trap marking also allows members of the public to contact proper authorities with trap information, who in turn can contact trappers, in situations where a non-target animal is trapped, or when a hiker comes across an animal that is trapped but not lethally. Wildlife is a public resource, and trappers gain financially through the harvest of this resource, yet at the same time, trapping and snaring present a risk to humans and their dogs and to non-target wildlife. Trapper accountability through trap tag marking and following the Trapper’s Code of Ethics shows conscientious trapping by trappers and helps build public support of trapping into the future. Marking of traps used to be required throughout Southeast Alaska; this was a well-accepted program and was supported by ADF&G, Alaska Wildlife Troopers, and both trappers and non-trappers.

Please consider my experience in 2017: my dog was caught in a snare while I was hiking off-trail; my dog was within five feet of me when snared; it was not ranging off in the distance. I observed a snared wolf, not dead, but instead tethered on about 10 feet of cable, running back and forth, partially choking. Lastly, outside the trapping season, I came across three active snares that were still set on a trail. As an avid hiker and dog owner who also respects that trapping is a legal means of taking furbearers, I ask that you reinstate the requirement of marking traps in Southeast Alaska.

PROPOSED BY: Lauri Jemison (EG-F18-067)

PROPOSAL 14

5 AAC 92.095. Unlawful methods of taking furbearers; exceptions.

Require trappers to post identification signs for traps and snares in Units 1–5 as follows:

In Unit 1–5, trappers are prohibited from using a trap or snare unless a sign is posted within 50 yards that list the trapper’s name and address or the trappers permanent identification; the trapper must use the trapper’s Alaska driver’s license number or state identification card number as the required permanent identification number. Signs at a snaring site must be at least 8.5” x 11” in size, be clearly visible, and have numbers and letters that are at least one inch high and 1/2-inch-wide in a color that contrasts with the background color of the sign. Signs must be placed at both the start and end of a trapline.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? There is currently no requirement for trappers to provide warning or post a sign near traps in an area where trapping occurs. Furbearers are a public resource, used by consumptive and non-consumptive persons, however, trapping and snaring present a risk to humans, their dogs, and to non-target wildlife. As a user of wildlife resources (through wildlife viewing and photography), as well as an avid hiker and dog owner, I feel that trappers should shoulder some responsibility for the danger that their activity poses to other user groups by placing signs within 50 yards of a trap set. Placement of signs will warn recreational user groups of the potential for danger ahead, allowing hikers a choice whether to continue into an area where traps are present. Posting traps and traplines may help to reduce the unintended capture of domestic pets. Placement of signs demonstrates that trappers are actively trying to reduce conflicts with other wildlife users; I believe this action will go a long way toward building public support for trapping. Some trappers have voluntarily taken the initiative to use signs to mark trails where they are trapping; I know this activity is greatly appreciated by dog owners. In most circumstances, especially when hiking only with my dogs (and not a second person), I will avoid an area if I know it is actively being trapped. One consideration is to require signage only for large traps and snares, as these are most likely to injure or kill unintended targets.

PROPOSED BY: Lauri Jemison (EG-F18-068)

PROPOSAL 15

5 AAC 85.065. Hunting seasons and bag limits for small game.

Lengthen the hunting season for waterfowl in the Southeast Region as follows:

Expand the waterfowl hunting season for Southeast Alaska into January and February.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Why does the season for waterfowl in Southeast Alaska end with the calendar year? Many other states hunt into the new year. The birds are not breeding. Depending on the year and how harsh or tame the climate is, we don't even see a decent flush of birds until the end of the season. Why can't the season run through at least January and even February?

PROPOSED BY: Perry Klein (EG-F17-006)

PROPOSAL 16

5 AAC 85.065(4)(A-F)(H) and (I). Hunting seasons and bag limits for small game.

Shift the hunting season for migratory game birds in Units 1–4 as follows:

If adopted, the migratory game bird season for Units 1–4 would be open **Sept. 1—Dec. 16** [SEPT. 16—DEC. 31] for residents and nonresidents.

Should the Board of Game (board) members find themselves unable to adopt this proposal, I urge them to consider alternating the waterfowl season annually, a September 1 – December 16 season on odd years and a September 16 – December 31 season on even years. This would be a reasonable compromise for all hunters should there continue to be interest in late December hunting opportunities.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? In 2008, the board passed a proposal that changed the waterfowl season opening date for Units 1–4 from September 1 to September 16. I hold some responsibility for the change as I spearheaded the effort by submitting the proposal. The purpose of my proposal was to allow for a couple more weekends of mallard hunting in December as late season hunting in the early 2000s was excellent. At the time, a hunter survey completed by the Department of Fish and Game showed a small preference toward the later start date, however, opinions varied throughout the region.

This proposal is submitted in an effort to return the Southeast Alaska waterfowl season back to a start date of September 1. Following the implementation of the current September 16 start date, there have been several board proposals and public comments supporting a return to the former start date. Reports from the Gustavus area indicate that access to sandhill crane hunting has been reduced by the later start date and folks in the Haines area seem unhappy with the current season structure as well. The loss of opportunities for other hunters was an unintended consequence of the change in season dates and this issue has weighed on me for some time.

My observations, as well as those of others, over the past five or six years have shown good numbers of pintail, teal and wigeon moving down the outer coast in late August and early September and many of these birds have passed through the area prior to the September 16 opener. I have made fewer late season hunting trips recently and have not seen the consistency in those December trips that there was a decade ago. I continue to find myself gravitating more toward opportunities earlier in the season and can no longer advocate for the delayed season.

It is my opinion that the importance of restoring those regional hunting opportunities in early September outweighs any benefit of the later hunting season. I cannot offer any information on current hunter participation levels during the last two weeks of December, but I ask the board to consider upcoming public and advisory committee comments when addressing this issue.

PROPOSED BY: Mike Vaughn

(HQ-F18-015)

Sitka Area – Unit 4

Note: The Board of Game does not have constitutional authority to limit hunting for Alaska residents based on residency.

PROPOSAL 17

5 AAC 92.013. Migratory bird hunting guide services.

Reserve waterfowl hunting areas in the Sitka area for local hunters as follows:

(d) A migratory bird hunting guide operating in the area of Sitka enclosed on the north by a line in Peril Strait at the latitude of Rapids Point, on the northwest by a line from Kruzof Island at 57° 20.50' N. lat., 135° 45.17' W. long. to Chichagof Island at 57° 22. 05' N. lat., 135° 43' W. long., and on the south and west by a line running from the southernmost tip of Sitka Point 56° 59.38' N. lat., 135° 49.57' W. long. to Hanus Point at 56° 51.92' N. lat., 135° 30.50' W. long. to the green day marker in Dorothy Narrows at 56° 49.28' N. lat., 135° 22.75' W. long. to Baranof Island at 56° 49.28' N. lat., 135° 22.60' W. long. may engage in providing migratory bird hunting guide services for sea ducks, goldeneye and bufflehead ducks only.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? This proposal is put forth to reserve waterfowl hunting areas around Sitka for local hunters and preclude new development of guided waterfowl hunting for puddle ducks (mallard, wigeon, teal, pintail, gadwall, and shoveler) and geese in the areas most frequently utilized by local hunters.

Local waterfowl hunters generally utilize a handful of bays within an hour skiff ride from town. A number of these same areas are also popular for stream fishing for fall coho by personal use fishermen and guided and non-guided sport fishermen. The high level of use in these areas can restrict hunter access to hunt locations on days when fishermen are present. Guided waterfowl hunting for puddle ducks in this area could result in additional congestion and increased competition for hunting locations and birds.

According to the 2016 Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) Public Distribution List of Migratory Bird Hunting Guides Registered in Alaska on the ADF&G website, the number of guides registered for waterfowl hunts in this area is low and an internet search finds only one business advertising guided hunts for ducks (sea ducks) in the Sitka area. This proposal does not seek to restrict established guided sea duck (scoter, oldsquaw, harlequin, and merganser) hunting, which generally would not overlap with hunting of puddle ducks on tidal flats. However, expansion of guiding operations for other duck species potentially could bring multiple-day hunting trips to this area, increasing competition and further reducing local opportunities. This proposal does not eliminate the opportunity to establish new guided hunting operations but asserts that this should not come at the expense of local users. This proposal asks that those receiving monetary compensation from this resource be required to travel further from town to avoid conflict. It will be easier to address this issue now than to deal with this situation after new businesses are established.

Though goldeneye and bufflehead are not considered sea ducks, for the purposes of this proposal they would be included in the species that guided hunters could target in this area. These are species that guided hunters may want to harvest and are likely to be encountered while hunting sea ducks.

PROPOSED BY: Mike Vaughn (HQ-F18-019)

PROPOSAL 18

5 AAC 85.030. Hunting seasons and bag limits for deer.

Increase the bag limit for deer in Unit 4 Remainder as follows:

Increase bag limit for deer in Unit 4 Remainder (i.e. the area outside of the area of Chichagof Island east of Port Frederick and north of Tenakee Inlet including all drainages into Tenakee Inlet) from four deer to six deer.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Increase the limit from four deer to six deer in Unit 4 outside of the area of Chichagof Island east of Port Frederick and north of Tenakee Inlet including all drainages into Tenakee Inlet. Doing so would allow for hunters who normally harvest four deer to instead have the opportunity to harvest six. Increasing the limit would increase opportunities for all hunters.

Increasing the limit would have minimal impact on the Unit 4 deer population outside of the area of Chichagof Island east of Port Frederick and north of Tenakee Inlet including all drainages into Tenakee Inlet. Unit 4 hunters averaged 1.9 deer per hunter in 2016. This deer per hunter figure has averaged 1.62 over the past five years with minimal fluctuation.

Increasing the limit would have minimal impact on other communities in Southeast Alaska that already have six deer limits under federal regulations. As there is not much hunting effort in Unit 4 from hunters outside of Southeast Alaska, this change would impact almost exclusively residents of Juneau. Increasing the deer limit would not result in increased Juneau hunter effort near rural communities as the distances traveled by boat between Juneau and surrounding communities are prohibitively long considering the generally inclement weather and short days during which most deer hunting effort is located (November/December). Furthermore, localized marine weather—persistent, strong winds out of Northern Lynn Canal and Taku Inlet—regularly limits Juneau hunters to the area on Admiralty Island between Point Retreat and Point Arden.

This change would not cost the state additional money from a regulatory perspective as hunters are already required to carry six tags. Additionally, this change would bring state deer limits in line with federal deer limits.

PROPOSED BY: Nicholas Orr (EG-F18-034)

PROPOSAL 19

5 AAC 92.510(6). Areas closed to hunting.

Close an area around the Greens Creek Mine road system and mine infrastructure in Unit 4 to hunting as follows:

Recommended solution: Hecla Greens Creek Mining Company recommends closing the Greens Creek road system and associated infrastructure to hunting starting 1/4 mile north of the Greens Creek Hawk Inlet facilities extending to the Greens Creek mine including the "B Road" and an area 1/4 mile on each side of the road and associated infrastructure including the Tailings Storage Facility.

Draft Regulatory Language:

Greens Creek Mine Road System and associated mine infrastructure: The road system and associated mine infrastructure extending from the Greens Creek Hawk Inlet facilities to the Greens Creek Mine including an area 1/4 mile on all sides is closed to hunting.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Hecla Greens Creek Mining Company would like the Board of Game to consider closing a portion of the Greens Creek Mine Access Road and mine infrastructure and an area 1/4 mile on all sides to hunting.

The single-lane dirt road is governed under a U.S. Forest Service (USFS) lease that does not have clear provisions regarding public access. Historically, hunters have utilized the road as walk-in access to northern Admiralty Island between Young Bay and private property located five miles away on the south shore of Hawk Inlet primarily for deer hunting. This section of the road (A Road) is lightly used by mine traffic and interactions between mine and public activities have been minor, however; in the past several years, use of the road by hunters has increased significantly and hunters have begun utilizing bicycles with pull behind carts to access the area. This has allowed hunters to gain access to the road between the Hawk Inlet facilities and the mine site nine miles away (B Road). The B Road section is heavily traveled by haul trucks moving tailings, ore concentrates and supplies between the Hawk Inlet and mine operational areas 24 hours per day, seven days per week and presents a significant public safety hazard to hunters either walking or on bicycles.

The road system consists of a single-lane dirt road with a driving surface that ranges from 14 feet to 23 feet wide. There are turnouts located approximately every 0.3 miles that allows traffic to pass. Traffic is managed by radio communications between vehicles and all equipment that operates on the road has a collision avoidance system installed as a backup safety system. Guardrail runs nearly the entire length of the road and on both sides in numerous areas. The road traverses mountainous terrain, particularly the B Road, and has numerous blind corners. There are strict safety protocols in place for employees utilizing the road as Greens Creek views the road as being a significant safety risk and manages it accordingly.

Several significant safety incidents have occurred between operations personnel and hunters, including:

- In November 2017, a haul truck with a gross vehicle weight of 200,000 pounds nearly ran over a hunter on a bicycle pulling a cart at six-mile B Road. The bicyclist could not get off of the road

with guardrail on both sides before the truck came around a blind corner. The truck could not stop and narrowly missed the bicyclist.

- In November 2017, contractors working on a new building threatened to stop work due to people hunting in the vicinity of their work area.
- In September 2017, an engineer had delivered samples to the Young Bay boat dock and was returning to the Hawk Inlet Operations Area via the A Road. He came around a corner and saw a deer ahead. Some distance past the deer he saw hunters in the road aiming a rifle down the road corridor at the deer which he was now in direct line of sight of. The hunters saw the pickup and did not fire.
- In September 2015, a hunter was asked to stop shooting at deer within the Tailings Disposal Facility while Greens Creek was conducting a family tour with buses full of people driving by the facility.
- In 2000, a contract drilling company supervisor confronted an archery hunter after his employees noticed an arrow pass by their drill rig. A hunter had missed a deer and the arrow traveled through the work area.
- Deer carcasses left around the facility attract bears which has created several near miss incidents with employees over the years.

Mine personnel and Alaska State Troopers are witnessing violations of hunting regulations. The deer along the mine access road are conditioned to the traffic and mine activity making them easy for hunters to harvest. The majority of the hunters simply bike or walk along the road and shoot deer within the road corridor both from and across the road surface, both violations of state law. These activities were documented in Case #AK17082725 where Alaska State Troopers charged four individuals from Juneau for multiple game violations while hunting on the Greens Creek road system. The majority of the deer harvested are within the immediate road corridor when harvested.

In addition to the safety of the public, Hecla is concerned about the safety of its employees. Hunters shooting within or from mine infrastructure puts Greens Creek employees in danger and carcasses left near mine infrastructure draws bears into work areas. Safety is a significant consideration at the site and adding the public and firearms to active work areas is additional cause for concern.

Hecla employees routinely approach hunters to explain the hazards of mining they could be subjected to, but warnings are generally ignored. There are no clear regulations to cite and no enforcement action that can be taken by mine personnel. Conversations with various agencies indicate that they believe the road system is governed by City and Borough of Juneau (CBJ) regulations requiring no hunting within 1/4 mile of the road. The CBJ road restrictions are addressed in Unit 1 regulations and this problem occurs in Unit 4. Greens Creek does fall within the CBJ boundaries but that is not clear in the hunting regulations or CBJ code. If the CBJ road restrictions apply to the Greens Creek road system, they still allow hunters to access the road, which still presents safety concerns for the public and Greens Creek employees. Further, limited enforcement continues to allow members of the public to break the law by shooting from the road, across the roadway, and within 1/4 mile of the road.

This request is meant to put regulations in place that will ensure the safety of the public and employees of Greens Creek. With increased exposure of easy hunting opportunities on the Greens Creek road system through social media has come increased numbers of people and increased safety risk for all involved. If recent incidents are any indication of the future, it is only a matter of time before someone gets hurt.

Greens Creek has considered many options to address this issue:

- Talk to hunters individually: Mine personnel continue to try to educate hunters on the hazards of mining, but they are largely ignored.
- Add signage along the road discussing the hazards: This is an option but still only warns of the hazards; it does little to deter the public from utilizing Greens Creek infrastructure for hunting which continues to put the public and employees in danger.
- Evaluate options to restrict public access through the USFS lease agreement: There is no clear language in agreements that specifically address public access.
- Request enforcement from ADF&G, USFS and AK State Troopers: All have expressed interest, but site access is somewhat difficult and those agencies have limited resources.
- Request the Board of Game close all infrastructure and 1/4 mile on all sides to hunting: Greens Creek respects the rights of the public to access public lands. The risks to the public and employees on the road between Young Bay and Hawk Inlet are low so Greens Creek chose to leave that request out of the Board of Game proposal instead requesting a closure to heavily used infrastructure which poses a high risk to the public and employees.

PROPOSED BY: Hecla Greens Creek Mining Company (EJ-F18-757)



Juneau, Haines, Skagway, & Yakutat Areas – Units 1C, 1D, & 5

PROPOSAL 20

5 AAC 85.030. Hunting seasons and bag limit for deer.

Change the bag limit for deer on Douglas Island in Unit 1C as follows:

| Units and bag limits | Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts) | Nonresident Open Season |
|---|---|------------------------------------|
| (1) | | |
| Unit 1 (C), that portion including [DOUGLAS,] Lincoln, Shelter, and Sullivan Islands | Aug. 1—Dec. 31 | Aug. 1—Dec. 31 |
| 4 deer; however, only bucks may be taken before Sept. 15 | | |
| <u>Unit 1(C), Douglas Island</u> | <u>Aug. 1—Dec. 31</u> | <u>Aug. 1—Dec. 31</u> |
| <u>4 deer total, only one of which may be a doe, and only bucks may be taken before Sept. 15</u> | | |

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Douglas Island offers the greatest road-accessible opportunity to hunt deer in the Juneau area and harvest from the island usually accounts for over 70% of deer harvested in Unit 1C. In recent years, hunters have expressed concern over the return of wolves to Douglas Island and a perceived increase in effort required to harvest deer. During regulatory years (RY) 2012–2016, deer harvest on Douglas Island ranged from 192 to 272 and averaged 245 deer per year, slightly below the ten-year average of 258 (RY2007–2016). Hunter success ranged from a low of 21% in 2014 to a high of 30% in 2015 with an average of 26%, which was similar to the ten-year average of 27%. The days of hunting effort required to harvest a deer ranged from 6.8 days in RY2015 to 10.7 days in 2014 (average 8.7 day).

Following a decade of absence or use by only individual wolves, a breeding pack is thought to have occupied the Douglas Island in 2013. At about 77 square miles Douglas Island is smaller than wolf pack territories documented elsewhere in Southeast Alaska (average. ~125 square miles), suggesting that Douglas Island is part of a pack territory and that pack members likely move between the island and mainland. The number of wolves using Douglas Island is unknown. During RY2016, the Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) closed the wolf hunting and trapping seasons on Douglas Island following harvest of three wolves in accordance with the

Douglas Island Management Area (5 AAC 92.530(23)). Despite considerable effort, during the RY2017 hunting and trapping seasons only one wolf has been harvested on Douglas Island.

In addition to harvest statistics, ADF&G monitors the Douglas Island deer population using annual spring pellet group surveys. Because pellet survey results can be influenced by snow fall patterns, pellet persistence, deer distribution, and timing of leaf-out, they are only considered reliable indicators of substantial ($\geq 30\%$) changes in the population. Deer pellet group counts on Douglas Island have been below the ten-year average since 2013. From RY2008–2017, pellet group counts averaged 1.37 groups/plot on the north side of Douglas Island and 1.59 groups/plot on the west side of Douglas Island. In RY 2014, pellet group counts declined by 47% on north Douglas Island and 36% on the west side compared to 2013. Pellet group counts fell to a ten-year low in RY2016 when 0.77 groups/plot were observed on northern Douglas Island and 1.01 groups/plot were found on the west side of Douglas Island. Although the number of pellet groups/plot increased slightly from 2016 to 2017, pellet group counts during 2017 remained 37% lower on north Douglas Island and 52% lower on the west side of Douglas Island compared to counts in 2013.

Winters with little snow can result in low pellet group counts because deer remain dispersed, rather than concentrating in low elevation wintering habitat. From 2014 through 2016, winters were mild to very mild with little snow. Lower pellet group counts in recent years are consistent with anecdotal reports that deer numbers have declined but could also result from deer remaining dispersed during mild winters.

Because the Douglas Island deer population is important to Juneau hunters, wolves are again using the island, a new pioneer road has increased access for hunters, and there is some uncertainty over the current status of the population, ADF&G believes more conservative harvest management is warranted. Current regulations allow harvest of four deer including does. Rather than reducing the overall bag limit, we propose keeping the bag limit at four deer, but limiting hunters to harvest of one doe. Historically, 30–40% of the deer harvested from Douglas Island have been does. Until more is known about the status of the Douglas Island deer population, we believe this modest change will still allow ample harvest opportunity while conserving does for reproduction.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F18-040)

PROPOSAL 21

5 AAC 92.510. Areas closed to hunting.

Amend the area closed to hunting along the Douglas Highway in Unit 1C as follows:

5 AAC 92.510(3) is amended to read:

Unit 1(C):

(B) in the Juneau area, that area between the coast and a line one-fourth mile inland of the following road systems is closed to the taking of big game:

(ii) Douglas Highway from the Douglas city limits to [MILEPOST 7] **the northeast bank of Fish Creek.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Current regulations use “Milepost 7” as the landmark to identify the boundary of the area adjacent to the Douglas Highway closed to big game hunting. The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities recently relocated mile markers on the Douglas Highway. That change resulted in confusion about the boundary of the closed area. The current mapped boundary for the closed area is close to Fish Creek. Changing the legal description of the closed area boundary to a fixed and readily identifiable geographic feature like Fish Creek will clarify the location of the boundary.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F18-070)

PROPOSAL 22

5 AAC 92.530(23). Management areas.

Eliminate the Douglas Island Management Area in Unit 1C as follows:

Remove the Douglas Island Management Area in Unit 1C from regulation.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? This proposal would remove the Unit 1C Douglas Island Management Area from current regulation. There is no science or data that suggests this management area is necessary or effective, particularly as it applies to wolf management. While wolves certainly play an important part in the ecosystem, they are apex predators and must be managed as such. Wolves are transient to and from Douglas by either swimming the channel at high tide or crossing overland at low tide. It is very hard to manage and set a quota for a population of any species, especially one that is very wide-ranging. Wolf predation has reduced the deer population on the island which is solely estimated using the Department of Fish and Game’s (ADF&G) annual deer pellet survey at two locations on the north end of the island. Douglas Island is specifically used by deer hunters who don't have a boat and is a commonly used area where youth and new hunters have relatively easy access to deer hunting areas. The current data shows that the deer pellet survey samples increased when wolves were actively trapped. Removing this management area from regulation will allow for wolf management using hunters and trappers during the allowed seasons without a quota system while creating less of a burden to ADF&G staff and will increase deer populations for sport hunting and wildlife viewing. This is how the rest of the state manages wolf numbers, with the exception of Prince of Wales Island. Wolves will continue to be wolves and travel back and forth between the mainland and Douglas as they have for many years. If no change is made, wolves will continue to suppress the deer population on Douglas Island and further decrease the sport hunting and wildlife viewing opportunities.

PROPOSED BY: Jesse Ross (EG-F18-060)

PROPOSAL 23

5 AAC 85.040(a)(1). Hunting seasons and bag limits for goat.

Expand the archery-only registration permit hunt area for goat in Unit 1C as follows:

5 AAC 85.040(a)(1) Seasons and bag limits for goat in Unit 1C: That portion of Unit 1C to include all mainland areas between the south bank of the Mendenhall River and the Mendenhall Glacier and south to the western bank of Taku Inlet and Taku Glacier. 1 goat by permit and bow and arrow only. The taking of nannies with kids is prohibited Aug. 1–Nov. 30.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Expand the Unit 1C archery-only registration permit (RG014) hunt area to include all mainland areas between the south bank of the Mendenhall River and the Mendenhall Glacier and south to the western bank of Taku Inlet and Taku Glacier.

During the last Southeast Region Board of Game (board) cycle, the board voted to expand this area to include a small portion of Blackerby Ridge. This new area is described as follows: "That portion between the south side of Blackerby Ridge and the north side of Salmon Creek Reservoir, above the 1,000 ft contour and east to Observation Peak."

Expanding this hunt area using the above boundary lines would open up a large area to hunting opportunity that has not previously been open, to my knowledge. This area would include Mount Bullard, Thunder Mountain, Heintzelman Ridge, all of Blackerby Ridge, Mount Juneau, Mount Roberts and areas in between.

Adopting this new boundary area would also simplify the boundary areas for this hunt, making it dramatically easier to understand for hunters from the current boundaries.

Juneau is an area that is fortunate to have a relatively large population of goats that could be accessed via the road system without the need to charter an aircraft or use a boat. Based on my own observations, it appears that there is an ample population of goats that could sustain some level of harvest. I believe the Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) could manage this hunt utilizing their point system, as to allow harvest while still allowing other user groups (hikers, tourism industry) the ability to enjoy and view these animals. This hunt would also be self-limiting to some degree since it is an archery-only hunt and does not experience the same level of effort that any weapon hunts generally do. With the exception of the Blackerby Ridge area, which currently has a harvest objective of 1–2 points, the current registration area has rarely, if ever, met the maximum harvest objective. This is, in part, due to the difficulty in accessing the current area.

In short, I believe the current archery only registration area in Unit 1C (permit hunt RG014) could be expanded to include all areas between the Mendenhall River/Glacier and Taku Inlet/Glacier. This would allow hunters who do not own a boat or cannot afford to charter a plane the ability to have more hunting opportunities for goats.

PROPOSED BY: Jake Abbott

(EG-F18-004)

PROPOSAL 24

5 AAC 85.040. Hunting seasons and bag limits for goat.

Clarify the boundary description for the RG014 mountain goat hunt area in Unit 1C as follows:

| Units and Bag Limits | Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts) | Nonresident Open Season |
|---|---|------------------------------------|
| <p>(1)</p> <p>Unit 1 (C), that mainland portion draining into the south bank of Little Sheep Creek, Gastineau Channel south of Little Sheep Creek, Stephens Passage, and Taku Inlet between the mouth of Little Sheep Creek and Taku Glacier, including that portion <u>on the south side of Blackerby Ridge encompassed by a line from Observation Peak west along the ridgeline down to the 1,000-foot contour, east along that contour to the north shore of Salmon Creek Reservoir, north of the main drainage into the head of reservoir following that drainage south and east up to the ridgeline and east to Olds Mountain</u> [BETWEEN THE SOUTH SIDE OF BLACKERBY RIDGE AND THE NORTH SIDE OF SALMON CREEK RESERVOIR, ABOVE THE 1,000 FOOT CONTOUR AND EAST TO OBSERVATION PEAK]</p> <p>1 goat by registration permit Only, and by bow and arrow</p> | <p>Aug. 1—Nov. 30 (General hunt only)</p> | <p>Aug. 1—Nov. 30</p> |

only; the taking of nannies
with kids is prohibited

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The current description of the portion of the boundary for mountain goat registration hunt RG014 between the head of Salmon Creek Reservoir and Olds Mountain lacks detail, resulting in uncertainty among hunters. The suggested changes add landmarks to help hunters locate the boundary.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F18-069)

Note: The Board of Game does not have constitutional authority to limit hunting for Alaska residents based on residency.

PROPOSAL 25

5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.

Restructure the moose hunt in Unit 5A Remainder to align with the federal subsistence regulations as follows:

Unit 5A, except Nunatak Bench, west of the Dangerous River – 1 bull by joint state/federal registration permit only, October 8 – November 15. From October 8 – October 21, federal public lands are closed to harvest of moose except by residents of Unit 5A.

Unit 5A, except Nunatak Bench, east of the Dangerous River – 1 bull by joint state/federal registration permit only, September 16 – November 15. From September 16 – September 30, federal public lands are closed to harvest of moose except by residents of Unit 5A.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Currently, the area in Unit 5A west of the Dangerous River receives heavy hunting pressure during the first few days of the subsistence season, resulting in a rapid harvest and multiple animals taken out of localized areas. In recent years, the quota has been met and the season closed within about 4–5 days of the opening. The area east of the Dangerous River is less accessible than the west side, including minimal to no local air taxi service after September, and receives less pressure (the harvest quota is not usually met in this area). By opening up the east side of the Dangerous River earlier, access will be improved for subsistence users (longer days, potentially better weather conditions, and greater availability of local air taxi), allowing additional opportunities for subsistence users and potentially reducing the hunting pressure during the opening days of the subsistence season on the west side.

We also considered and discussed proposing a draw hunt for the west side of the Dangerous River, but since that would leave some subsistence users without any opportunity in that area, we decided not to pursue this option as a proposal.

This change will allow additional harvest opportunities (increased season length) on the east side of the Dangerous River, potentially resulting in an increased number of animals harvested. The harvest is managed by a quota, however, so overharvest is not anticipated to be a concern. This

change may reduce and/or redistribute hunting pressure on moose on localized areas on the west side.

This change will allow additional opportunities for subsistence users, allowing additional time for harvesting and during a time when the harvest area is more accessible. It may also provide a longer, safer, more enjoyable and less competitive harvest opportunity on the west side.

PROPOSED BY: Yakutat Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F18-006)

PROPOSAL 26

5 AAC 85.045(a)(3). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.

Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in Unit 5A, Nunatak Bench, as follows:

| Units and Bag Limits | Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts) | Nonresident Open Season |
|--|---|------------------------------------|
| (3) Unit 5(A), that portion south of Wrangell - Saint Elias National Park, north and east of Russell and Nunatak Fiords, and east of the east side of East Nunatak Glacier to the Canadian Border (Nunatak Bench) | Nov. 15—Feb. 15 | Nov. 15—Feb. 15 |
| 1 moose by registration permit only; up to 5 moose may be taken | | |

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Nunatak Bench (Unit 5A) hunt area is managed as a separate population because it is generally isolated from other moose populations by fiords and glaciers. The area is subject to severe winters and has low capability to support moose relative to other moose habitat in Unit 5A. The purposes of this hunt are to provide opportunity as the population allows and to maintain the number of moose within a level the limited habitat can support. This hunt opens after other moose hunts in the unit have closed, and it is a popular alternative for hunters who were unsuccessful during those hunts. Because much of the open season for this hunt takes place after bulls have dropped their antlers, either sex may be harvested.

The Nunatak Bench strategic moose management plan calls for a post-hunt population of no more than 50 moose. During an aerial survey in 2001, 52 moose were seen. From 2005 through 2012, only 11–14 moose with one or two calves were seen during surveys. The decline in moose numbers following the 2001 survey may be related to the 68-foot rise of Russel Fiord flooding and damaging habitat when it was blocked by the surging Hubbard Glacier during 2003. Due to poor weather and the remoteness of the location, this area was not surveyed again until December 2015 when a total of 14 moose (three bulls, two cows, three calves, and six unknown) were seen. A series of severe winters from 2006 through 2012 may have inhibited recovery of the population. Anecdotal reports from hunters indicate that wolves in the area may also be inhibiting recovery of this small population.

From 1997 through 2004, an average of 12 either sex permits were issued annually with an average of four people hunting each year. During that period a total of 15 moose (nine bulls, six cows) were harvested for an average of about two moose per year. No permits have been issued and no moose have been harvested in this area since 2004.

The Department of Fish and Game (department) believes it is important to retain the ability to implement an antlerless hunt in this area to prevent habitat damage should the population increase. The department will continue to monitor this population as conditions allow, but we do not plan to issue hunt permits until the population reaches at least 25 moose.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F18-051)

PROPOSAL 27

5 AAC 85.045(a)(1). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.

Reauthorize the antlerless moose seasons in Unit 1C as follows:

| Units and Bag Limits | Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts) | Nonresident Open Season |
|--------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| Unit 1C, Berners Bay drainages | Sept. 15—Oct. 15 (General hunt only) | Sept. 15—Oct. 15 |

1 moose by drawing permit only; up to 30 permits may be issued

...

Unit 1C, that portion west of Excursion Inlet and north of Icy Passage

1 moose per regulatory year,
only as follows:

...

1 antlerless moose by drawing
permit only; up to 100 permits
may be issued

Nov. 10—Dec. 10
(General hunt only)

Nov. 10—Dec. 10

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Antlerless moose hunts have been authorized for the Berners Bay and Gustavus moose populations in Unit 1C for over a decade. Those hunts were instituted as tools that could be used to manage both populations to within carrying capacity of the limited habitat in each area and to offer additional harvest opportunity as warranted. Antlerless hunts have been periodically and successfully used in both areas but must be reauthorized each year.

Berners Bay: The Berners Bay (Unit 1C) strategic moose management plan calls for a post-hunt population of 90 moose based on the area’s estimated carrying capacity. The Department of Fish and Game (department) has been successful at maintaining the Berners Bay population close to the post-hunt population objective by implementing both bull and cow hunts.

From 1998–2006, the number of drawing permits for Berners Bay moose ranged from ten bull and ten antlerless permits to seven bull permits and no antlerless permits. The average annual harvest of bulls during that period was seven moose, and in years when antlerless permits were issued, the annual harvest averaged four cow moose. Although the department has authorization to issue a total of 30 permits each year, no more than 20 total permits have been issued during a single year. Several severe winters from 2006–2009 resulted in overwinter mortality and population declines. No Berners Bay moose permits were issued from 2007–2013.

The number of drawing permits issued annually for Berners Bay is based on the number of moose observed during winter aerial surveys. The mean number of moose seen during aerial surveys conducted from 1990–2006 was 77 (range: 59–108). The number of moose seen on surveys declined during consecutive severe winters from 2006–2009 and with only 33–62 moose seen during surveys from 2007–2009. Since 2010, most winters have been moderate to mild and the population has recovered. Under ideal survey conditions in 2012, 102 moose were observed, including 21 bulls, 81 cows, and 14 calves. Adjusted for sightability based on collared moose, the 2012 population was estimated at 113 +/- 11 moose. During the most recent survey in December 2016, a total of 115 moose were observed, including 18 bulls, 31 cows, 27 calves, and 39 adult moose of unknown sex. Based on that survey and sightability of collared moose, the population was estimated to be 141 +/- 25 moose. The winter of 2017–18 was relatively snow-free until mid-February, and we were unable to survey this population. However, survival of radiocollared moose was high and we believe the population continues to slowly grow. The Berners Bay population now exceeds the population and bull:cow objectives in the management plan. However, more recent habitat data suggests habitat in Berners Bay can support a higher post-hunt population than previously thought.

The department plans to manage the population by harvesting bulls. Five bull permits were issued in 2014 and 2015, and in response to growing population estimates, seven bull permits were issued in 2016 and 2017. However, the department would like to retain the ability to implement an antlerless moose hunt should the population or habitat conditions warrant that type of management.

Gustavus: The Gustavus moose population (Unit 1C) rapidly expanded from just a few animals in the 1980s and early 1990s to a peak of about 400 animals in 2003. In 2002, the department estimated the density of moose on the Gustavus Forelands winter range exceeded five moose per km² despite only a small proportion of the area consisting of productive (abundant willow) winter habitat. In response to concerns about moose damaging the winter habitat, the department initiated spring browse surveys in 1999 and determined that an unsustainable level (85% – 95%) of the current annual growth of willow twigs had been consumed by moose.

To conserve winter habitat, the department requested the Board of Game authorize an antlerless moose hunt and the first antlerless hunt was held in the fall of 2000. From 2002–2008, hunters harvested between 11 and 67 antlerless moose annually, depending on the number of permits issued. No hunt was held in fall 2007 due to high moose mortality during the severe winter of 2006–2007 and no antlerless hunts have been held since 2009.

The objective of antlerless moose hunts in Gustavus is to maintain the moose population using the winter range to levels commensurate with habitat capability. Based on aerial surveys corrected for sightability and annual browse surveys, management of the population using antlerless hunts has been successful. In 2013, under favorable survey conditions, 186 moose (25 bulls, 121 cows, and 40 calves) were observed. The population estimate corrected for sightability was 323 +/- 87 moose. Under poor late winter survey conditions in March 2014, 91 (24 cows, 12 calves, and 55 unknown) moose were seen yielding a sightability corrected population estimate of 244 +/- 98 moose. Due to exceptionally mild winter weather, at the time of this survey, a number of radiocollared moose had already transitioned to forested summer range outside the survey area. There was little snow cover during the winter of 2014–15, so no survey was attempted. The most recent survey under moderate conditions in March 2018 resulted in a population estimate of 230 ± 30 moose.

Severe winters from 2006 through 2009 reduced calf survival, but since then calf survival has improved. Even during severe winters, survival of adult females remained high at about 89%. Given the improved survival rate of calves during successive mild winters and stable cow survival, the potential exists for the Gustavus moose population to rapidly increase.

The Gustavus moose population is currently at a level the department believes is appropriate for the available winter habitat. However, we believe it is important to retain the ability to implement antlerless hunts should the population increase to a level that is detrimental to the habitat.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F18-049)

PROPOSAL 28

5 AAC 92.044. Permit for hunting bear with the use of bait or scent lures.

Issue permits for using bait or scent lures to hunt black bear in Unit 1C as follows:

Either compel the Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) to issue black bear baiting permits for Unit 1C or adopt a new subsection under 5 AAC 92.044 that states that ADF&G shall issue these permits so that they may not make an arbitrary decision on a method and means without public input.

5 AAC 92.044. Permit for hunting bear with the use of bait or scent lures.

(e) Notwithstanding 5 AAC 92.052, the department shall issue a permit under this section.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Currently, even though technically legal under 5 AAC 92.044 - Permit for hunting bear with the use of bait or scent lures, ADF&G refuses to issue permits to hunters wishing to hunt black bears over bait in Unit 1C.

This practice is out of line from the majority of the state and either adopting a regulatory change or compelling ADF&G to issue these permits would bring Unit 1C methods and means regulations in line with the majority of the rest of the state.

If this change is not adopted, ADF&G will continue to not issue bear baiting permits in Unit 1C, thereby denying hunters of a lawful method of harvesting black bears for no apparent reason even though this method is allowed in more populated areas of the state such as the Mat-Su Valley.

Adopting this regulatory change or compelling ADF&G to issue permits for Unit 1C would allow archery hunters better opportunities for harvesting black bears while insuring they have time to take quality animals and make effective shots. This change would also allow more harvest opportunity to hunters who do not have access to boats to participate in spring “beach hunting.”

PROPOSED BY: Jake Abbott

(EG-F18-009)

PROPOSAL 29

5 AAC 85.065. Hunting seasons and bag limits for small game.

Shift the hunting season for waterfowl in Unit 1C as follows:

Waterfowl season starts September 1 and ends on December 16.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Change the waterfowl season in the Juneau-Douglas area (or whatever the corresponding federal area is for Juneau-Douglas) back to a September 1 opening day with closure on December 16. The switch from September 1 to December 16 to a September 16 to December 31 season resulted in the

equivalent of 15 fewer days to hunt and much lower probability to harvest teal in Juneau area. During September 1–16 there are 13–14 hours of daylight during shooting hours while during December 16–31 there are about only six hours of shooting light. Thus, 15 fewer days to hunt. Green-winged teal, considered by many the best duck to eat in the Juneau area, are pretty much gone by late September. During December, mostly sea ducks and resident mallards and Canada geese are available and often low-quality table fare. In contrast to the September 16 opening, the traditional September 1 opening also allows hunters to hunt before and after school and/or work.

PROPOSED BY: Tom Rutecki

(EG-F18-023)

PROPOSAL 30

5 AAC 92.520(a). Closures and restrictions in state game refuges.

Create a youth hunt for waterfowl in the Unit 1C Mendenhall Wetlands State Game Refuge as follows:

Mendenhall Wetlands State Game Refuge Youth Hunt Area: Unit 1C; the area is open to waterfowl hunting from September 16 through September 18 by a child aged 10 to 17 years of age who has successfully completed a Department of Fish and Game-approved hunter education class and who is accompanied by a licensed resident adult aged 21 years of age or older.

*A permit may be issued to a child aged 10 to 17 who will be accompanied in the field by a resident adult 21 years of age or older, with the child being the permittee. Both the adult and child will need the Mendenhall Waterfowl Permit (WU001).

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? We propose to create a three-day youth-only hunt on the Mendenhall Wetlands State Game Refuge to occur during the first three days of the waterfowl season (September 16 through September 18). Open to a child 10 to 17 years of age who has successfully completed a Department of Fish and Game-approved hunter education class and who is accompanied by a licensed resident adult aged 21 years of age or older, this hunt would be the first of its kind in Alaska.

As national organizations like Delta Waterfowl, Ducks Unlimited, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have found, waterfowl hunter numbers in the US have been on a steady decline for the last several decades (see especially <https://deltawaterfowl.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/LoomingCrisis.pdf>). Important efforts are in place to recruit underrepresented groups like women (Becoming an Outdoors Woman) and youth (hunter education courses), and there are efforts to engage with lapsed and new adult hunters, too, but these educational opportunities are not always met with adequate youth-friendly access to hunting opportunity.

There is significant interest in shooting sports among the younger generations in Juneau—the Juneau Youth Trap Shooting Team saw significant growth over the last few years, for example. The key to this program’s success lies in dedicated youth-only time at the Juneau Gun Club and appropriate adult supervision and coaching. Not all of these shooters have made the transition to field shooting, however, as the Mendenhall Wetlands State Game Refuge can be intimidating.

The majority of Juneau road-system waterfowl hunting effort takes place on the Mendenhall Wetlands (ADF&G reports that over 2,000 hunter days result in over 3,000 ducks taken annually on the Refuge), so even with 13 access points and approximately 3,800 acres, the good hunting spots accessible without a boat get crowded, especially early in the season. Without this dedicated youth hunt the barriers to entry for next generation of waterfowl hunters will remain high.

Although we are requesting a three-day youth hunt, we considered requesting both a single day and a week-long hunt. The latter would ensure that weekend opportunities would be available for all interested youth and their adult mentors, while the shorter hunt might not allow all young hunters the chance to get out due to school or mentor work obligations. We think a three-day hunt will create access for youth without adversely impacting adult access to the resource.

The Juneau-Douglas Fish and Game Advisory Committee was consulted on this drafting of proposal, as was the leadership of the local chapter of Ducks Unlimited, and there is general support for the idea among these organizations.

Finally, we feel that this proposal is consistent with the Mendenhall Wetlands State Game Refuge Management Plan's goal of enhancing public use, as the change would directly enhance opportunity for "public use of fish, wildlife, and refuge lands" (http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/lands/protectedareas/management_plans/mendenhall.pdf).

PROPOSED BY: Kevin Maier (EG-F18-054)

PROPOSAL 31

5 AAC 92.550(1)(F). Areas closed to trapping.

Allow the use of submerged traps in the Juneau closed area in Unit 1C as follows:

AREAS CLOSED TO TRAPPING

Unit 1C, (Juneau Area)

A strip within 1/4 mile of the following trails as designated on 1962 U.S. Geographical Survey maps and revisions: Herbert Glacier Trail, Windfall Lake Trail, Peterson Lake Trail, Spalding Meadows Trail, (including the loop trail), Nugget Creek Trail, Outer Point Trail, Dan Moller Trail, Perseverance Trail, Granite Creek Trail, Mount Roberts Trail, Nelson Water Supply Trail, (off of Mt. Roberts Trail), Sheep Creek Trail, Point Bishop Trail, Amalga Trail, Auke Nu/John Muir Trail, Eagle Glacier Trail, Point Bridget Trail, Treadwell Ditch Trail, and Salmon Creek Trail; however **traps that are completely submerged, and** traps with an inside spread of five inches or less which are set at least five feet above the ground and snow are allowed if more than 50 yards from the trail.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Areas closed to trapping in Unit 1C, Juneau area. Specifically, trail area closures and set-backs.

There are currently 19 trails that require 1/4 mile set-backs for trapping, with the exception of small traps that are elevated at least five feet above ground/snow. Many of these trails follow water courses to some extent. The Juneau area also is closed to all trapping within 1/4 mile of the coast along the entire road system. This severely restricts the ability to harvest water-oriented furbearers such as mink, otter, and beaver. While this area has an abundance of these species, for the most part they are not available to local trappers.

To compound the issue, the area is experiencing a large increase in the beaver population, resulting in an increase of complaints regarding personal property damage, flooding, and roads and culverts being compromised.

The ability for local trappers to make submerged sets and under-ice sets would allow the safe harvest of these animals, increase opportunity (which is severely limited under current regulation), and aid the Department of Fish and Game in managing damage complaints.

PROPOSED BY: Juneau Trappers Association (EG-F18-010)

PROPOSAL 32

5 AAC 92.550. Areas closed to trapping.

Modify the regulations to close trapping and restrict the use of certain traps near roads and trails within the Skagway Borough in Unit 1D as follows:

The Municipality of Skagway recommends that the Board of Game (board) adopt regulations on trapping within the boundaries of the Skagway Borough as detailed in Skagway Municipal Code (SMC) Chapter 9.04. Per SMC 9.04.015(B), the established trails are those detailed in Resolution No. 15-02R.

The Municipality recommends that the board adopt the regulations as additions to 5 AAC 92.550, Areas closed to trapping, to add certain areas within the game management unit that encompasses the Skagway Borough as closed to trapping and/or to establish limitations in these areas on the use of certain kinds of extremely dangerous traps. The areas and traps of particular concern to the municipality are set out in Attachments A and B: SMC Chapter 9.04 and Resolution No. 15-02R.

Note: The attachments submitted with this proposal are available on the Board of Game proposal book webpage at www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=gameboard.proposalbook or by contacting the ADF&G Boards Support Section at (907) 465-4046.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Municipality of Skagway would like the board to address the issue of trapping within certain distances of public roads, rights-of-way, and established trails located within the boundaries of the Skagway Borough as set out in Chapter 9.04 of the Skagway Municipal Code (SMC). The established trails are further described in Resolution No. 15-02R.

The Municipality of Skagway has an extensive road and trail system in a relatively consolidated area. All of the road and trail system is within what was the city limits for Skagway before Skagway became a borough. Trapping on trails frequented by hikers and skiers with their pets creates a serious public safety risk to the hikers and skiers and pets. These trails are not wilderness trails or seldom used trails. Complaints from hikers and skiers reached the borough assembly and a compromise between user groups was in the works for over 18 months with little success. Recreational trail use has increased dramatically in recent years and is only expected to increase. Traps should not be set in areas of high public use within the Skagway City limits (now borough limits) and certain kinds of extremely dangerous traps should have limitations on how they are used within the borough limits, in the manner currently established in SMC Chapter 9.04.

PROPOSED BY: Municipality of Skagway

(HQ-F18-003)



Ketchikan Area & Prince of Wales Island – Units 1A & 2

PROPOSAL 33

5 AAC 85.040. Hunting seasons and bag limits for goat.

Open a drawing hunt for mountain goat on the Cleveland Peninsula in Units 1A and 1B as follows:

Open to both residents and nonresidents. Unit 1A, 1B Cleveland Peninsula south of the divide between Yes Bay and Santa Anna Inlet. Bag limit: one male goat by permit only. Create new drawing permit area offering two permits, bag limit: one billy, August 1 – December 31.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? No open season for mountain goat in Unit 1A, 1B on the Cleveland Peninsula, south of the divide between Yes Bay and Santa Anna Inlet. This proposal is intended to provide trophy class hunt for mature billies; harvest of billies only. This will allow hunters to utilize a harvestable population of mature trophy class billies that would otherwise be missed. Those who are likely to benefit if the proposal is adopted will be hunters interested in harvesting a trophy class mountain goat and nobody is likely to suffer.

PROPOSED BY: Ed Toribio

(HQ-F18-033)

PROPOSAL 34

5 AAC 85.040. Hunting seasons and bag limits for goat.

Open a registration hunt for mountain goat on the Cleveland Peninsula in Units 1A and 1B as follows:

Open to both residents and nonresidents. Unit 1A, 1B Cleveland Peninsula south of the divide between Yes Bay and Santa Anna Inlet. Bag limit: one male goat by permit only. Create new registration hunt requiring hunters to register for ten-day period subject to emergency closure by the Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) after two goats have been harvested. Season: August 1 – December 31.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? No open season for mountain goat in Unit 1A, 1B on the Cleveland Peninsula, south of the divide between Yes Bay and Santa Anna Inlet. If area is not opened, an opportunity for hunters to utilize a harvestable population of mature trophy class billies is missed. This proposal will improve the quality of the resource by allowing the harvest of billies only. Those who are likely to benefit if the proposal is adopted will be hunters interested in harvesting a trophy class mountain goat and nobody is likely to suffer.

PROPOSED BY: Ed Toribio

(HQ-F18-034)

PROPOSAL 35

5 AAC 85.040. Hunting seasons and bag limits for goat.

Change the hunt structure for Revillagigedo Island mountain goat in Unit 1A as follows:

For Unit 1A, eliminate the mountain goat drawing hunt DG007 and add that hunt area to the RG001 hunt area, Remainder of Revillagigedo Island, and increase the allowable number of drawing permits that may be issued on Revillagigedo Island from 25 to 50 permits.

| Units and Bag Limits | Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts) | Nonresident Open Season |
|---|---|------------------------------------|
| (1) | | |
| Unit 1(A), Revillagigedo Island, except that portion [WEST OF CARROLL INLET AND CREEK, WEST OF THE DIVIDE BETWEEN CARROLL CREEK AND THE SOUTH FORK OF ORCHARD CREEK, SOUTH OF ORCHARD CREEK, ORCHARD LAKE, SHRIMP BAY, AND GEDNEY PASS] <u>south and west from Donnelly Point to Naha Bay, Roosevelt Lagoon, Naha River, and Heckman Lake, the divide between Heckman Lake and the head of Salt Lagoon and the western shores of Salt Lagoon and George Inlet to Mountain Point</u> | Aug. 1—Dec. 31 (General hunt only) | Aug. 1—Dec. 31 |
| 1 goat by registration permit only; the taking of nannies with kids is prohibited | | |
| Unit 1(A), remainder of Revillagigedo Island | Aug. 1—Dec. 31 | Aug. 1—Dec. 31 |
| 1 goat by draw permit only; up to [25] <u>50</u> permits will be issued; the taking of nannies with kids is prohibited | | |

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Despite the Department of Fish and Game (department) steadily increasing the number of drawing permits available, the mountain goat population on northern Revillagigedo Island continues to increase. Mild winters, limited predation, and good habitat conditions likely account for this growth. However, additional growth of this population could risk damage to fragile alpine habitat. The department believes this portion of Revillagigedo Island can support more goat hunting and harvest than allowed under the current maximum number of draw permits (25) that may be issued. To better manage this population and provide additional hunting opportunity, we propose eliminating draw hunt DG007, adding the DG007 hunt area to the RG001 hunt area, and increasing the maximum number of drawing permits that may be issued from 25 to 50 permits. These changes will enable the department to conserve goat habitat and provide additional hunting opportunity when goat numbers are high, while still controlling goat hunting effort in more easily accessed areas near Ketchikan through drawing permits.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F18-068)

PROPOSAL 36

5 AAC 85.030. Hunting seasons and bag limits for deer.

Increase the bag limit for deer in Unit 1A as follows:

Deer

Unit 1A: Cleveland Peninsula south of the divide between Yes Bay and Santa Anna Inlet

Four bucks, August 1 – November 30

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Deer – Return the southern part of the Cleveland Peninsula to four bucks, August 1 – November 30 in Unit 1A.

PROPOSED BY: Robert Jahnke (EG-F18-025)

PROPOSAL 37

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

Reduce the harvest objective for deer in Unit 1A from 700 to 350–400 as follows:

| Population | Finding | Population Objective | Harvest Objective |
|-------------------|----------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Deer | | | |
| GMU 1 (A) | Positive | 15,000 | <u>350–400</u> [700] |

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? For the purposes of implementing AS 16.05.255(e) – (g), in 2000 the Alaska Board of Game (board) established intensive management (IM) population and harvest objectives for deer in Unit 1A at 15,000 deer and 700 deer, respectively (5 AAC 92.108). The IM population objective was developed by

assessing the deer habitat carrying capacity within the unit and the local Area Biologist's subjective assessment of where the unit's deer population stood relative to carrying capacity at that time. The IM deer harvest objective was developed using the unit's average estimated annual deer harvest from 1994-1998 plus an additional 10%.

Since the 1994–1998 period, significant declines in carrying capacity for deer, primarily resulting from transition of productive young clearcuts to closed canopy second-growth forest, have occurred. In years with deep snow loss of old-growth forest, wintering habitat can also result in high overwinter mortality. Wolves and black bears are present throughout the unit. Harvest of both species has remained fairly constant over the last two decades and we believe changes in habitat play a far greater role than predation in regulating deer abundance.

Although the Department of Fish and Game (department) does not have a reliable way to estimate deer abundance in the entire unit, trends in deer pellet-group counts suggest deer numbers have declined. Mean annual harvest for the last 20 years (regulatory year (RY) 1997 – RY2016) is only 294 deer with a peak of 508 deer in RY1998; well below the current 700-deer harvest objective. A decline in the number of hunters may also influence harvest. In 1993, there were an estimated 2,335 deer hunters in Ketchikan. That number dropped to 1,575 in 2001 and by 2003 it was only 1,167. This decline was influenced by the closing of the pulp mill in 1997 and changes in demographics for the Ketchikan area. Hunter effort in Unit 1A has also declined because more Ketchikan hunters are focusing their effort on nearby Prince of Wales Island. That island has more deer, greater road access, and daily ferry service from Ketchikan.

Currently, there is no viable way to significantly improve the value of second-growth forest as habitat for deer, particularly as winter habitat. Without higher deer numbers it is unlikely that hunters will make greater effort in Unit 1A. Consequently, it is also unlikely that the current harvest objective will be met in the foreseeable future. The department suggests that in such cases harvest objectives should be reasonably attainable and recommends reducing the annual harvest objective for deer in Unit 1A to 350–400 deer. Harvest exceeded 350 deer twice during RY2007 – RY2016.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F18-038)

PROPOSAL 38

5 AAC 84.270. Furbearer trapping.

Extend the trapping season for beaver in Unit 1A as follows:

The beaver season in Unit 1A continues two weeks into May.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I would like for the trapping season for beaver to be extended two additional weeks going into May. There are many remote locations made inaccessible by winter snow and ice but would be opened up by the end of April and into May. We are missing out on a lot of good beaver trapping. There are many areas overpopulated with beaver that can be hazardous to their population and hazardous to the ecosystem. All trappers in Unit 1A will benefit if this solution is adopted. As for those who

would suffer – my wife, because then I can trap two more weeks. Other solutions considered: We could add two more weeks in November, however, at that time the beaver kits are big enough to trigger a trap. In May, all the beaver are at least one year old or still in the den.

PROPOSED BY: Chad Crittenden (HQ-F18-007)

PROPOSAL 39

5 AAC 85.030. Hunting seasons and bag limits for deer.

Shorten the hunting season for deer in Unit 2 as follows:

The deer season will be August 1 to **November 30.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The deer population in Unit 2 is low at the present time and we feel that reducing the season length will help. Record deer hunter numbers, a very high wolf population and extensive old growth logging are all contributing factors to our low deer numbers.

PROPOSED BY: Craig Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F18-028)

PROPOSAL 40

5 AAC 85.030. Hunting seasons and bag limits for deer.

Decrease the nonresident bag limit for deer in Unit 2 as follows:

The limit for nonresident deer will be restricted to two buck deer annually.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Lower nonresident deer harvest to two antlered deer annually in Unit 2. The deer population is declining, so limiting the nonresident harvest will help some.

The advisory committee considered lowering the resident bag limit, but because of federal subsistence bag limits, it would result in inconsistent limits between state, private, and federal lands.

In consideration of other states’ nonresident deer bag limits, we felt that a four-deer bag limit for nonresidents is excessive. Looking to the future, having such a high bag limit for nonresidents burdens resident harvesters of the resource in the end. We believe that current guiding operations would not suffer due to lowering the nonresident bag limit from four to two bucks.

PROPOSED BY: Craig Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F18-029)

PROPOSAL 41

5 AAC 92.010. Harvest tickets and reports.

In Unit 2, require harvest tickets for deer be attached at the time of harvest as follows:

Deer tags (harvest tickets) must be attached to the animal (either on the antlers or hocks) at the time of harvest and stay there until the point of processing.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? We feel that too many deer are being taken and the tag (harvest ticket) not filled out. We would like to see the tags have to be attached to the deer (either on the antlers or hock) when the deer is harvested and stay attached until it is at the location of processing. Harvest tickets are difficult to enforce and requiring them to be attached to the animal upon harvest would assist in enforcement.

PROPOSED BY: Craig Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F18-030)

PROPOSAL 42

5 AAC 92.008(1). Harvest guideline levels.

Increase the annual harvest of wolves in Unit 2 as follows:

5 AAC 92.008(1) would be modified to read:

"(1) wolves: the annual harvest of wolves in Unit 2 should not exceed 30 [20] percent of the most recent unit-wide, preseason population estimated by the department;"

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Southeast Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council (Council) seeks to increase the allowable take of wolves in Unit 2. The Council is concerned that previous quotas implemented have been too conservative and that the reductions in those harvest quotas during the 2015–2016 and 2016–2017 hunting and trapping seasons were not reflective of the actual wolf population for Unit 2.

PROPOSED BY: Southeast Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council (EG-F18-016)

PROPOSAL 43

5 AAC 84.270(13). Furbearer trapping.

5 AAC 85.056(1). Hunting seasons and bag limits for wolf.

5 AAC 92.008. Harvest guideline levels.

5 AAC 92.170(b). Sealing of marten, fisher, lynx, beaver, otter, wolf, and wolverine.

Change the harvest management strategy for wolf in Unit 2 as follows:

5 AAC 84.270(13) is amended to read:

| Species and Units | Open Season | Bag Limit |
|-------------------|-------------|-----------|
| (1) Wolf | | |

...

| | | |
|--------|----------------|--|
| Unit 2 | Dec. 1—Mar. 31 | No limit; <u>season may be closed by emergency order.</u> |
|--------|----------------|--|

5 AAC 85.056(1) is amended to read:

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

(1)

...

| | | |
|--------|----------------|----------------|
| Unit 2 | Dec. 1—Mar. 31 | Dec. 1—Mar. 31 |
|--------|----------------|----------------|

5 wolves

5 AAC 92.008 is amended to read:

(1) Wolves: The annual harvest of wolves in Unit 2 should **be managed to maintain the unit-wide population within a range of XXX to XXX wolves** [NOT EXCEED 20 PERCENT OF THE UNITWIDE, PRESEASON POPULATION ESTIMATE AS ESTIMATED BY THE DEPARTMENT];

5 AAC 92.170 is amended to read:

(b) The sealing of marten, fisher, lynx, beaver, land otter, wolf, or wolverine must be accomplished as follows:

(1) [IN UNIT 2, WOLF TAKEN BY TRAPPING MUST BE SEALED ON OR BEFORE THE 14TH DAY AFTER THE DATE OF TAKING] **Repealed**;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Following a fall 2014 unit-wide population estimate of 89 wolves and concurrent Endangered Species Act Species Status Assessment, in January 2015 the Board of Game (board) adopted a 20 percent Harvest Guideline Level (HGL) for Unit 2 wolves as a conservation measure that would continue to provide some harvest opportunity while allowing the population to recover. By fall 2016, the population had grown to an estimated 231 wolves, rendering this harvest restriction unnecessary. The 20 percent HGL now inhibits the Department of Fish and Game’s (department) ability to manage growth of the Unit 2 wolf population and is unpopular with trappers and deer hunters. Further, even with the current 14-day sealing requirement, the department has been unsuccessful at limiting harvest to within the HGL. A new approach is needed.

The department proposes to no longer manage this population using a percentage-based HGL. Instead we propose managing the population within a desired range (i.e. population objective) with population thresholds that trigger changes in season length. Wolf abundance will be monitored relative to the desired range using periodic (every 2–4 years) population estimates. During years between population estimates, indicators of population trend including harvest, documented reproduction, and anecdotal information on wolf abundance and distribution will inform harvest management.

The department is reaching out to stakeholders to determine appropriate population objectives and other details for a new harvest strategy. Those details will be presented in the department’s analysis and recommendation prior to the board meeting.

Implementing this new strategy requires amending the current HGL, and because it does not depend on in-season harvest management, the 14-day sealing requirement in Unit 2 is no longer needed.

There is a positive customary and traditional use finding for wolves in Unit 2 and the board will need to determine if the proposed management plan will continue to provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F18-056)

PROPOSAL 44

5 AAC 84.270. Furbearer trapping.

Extend the trapping season for wolf in Unit 2 as follows:

We would like to change the starting date for wolf trapping season on state and private lands in Unit 2 to align with the starting date for wolf trapping season on federal land.

Wolf season shall be [DECEMBER1] (same date as wolf trapping on Unit 2 federal lands) – March 31.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Unit 2 includes federal, state and private lands with different starting dates for wolf trapping season. The federal season currently starts two weeks earlier than state and private lands, which results in the harvest of more wolves on federal land than state and private lands. With the wolf season being so short, few wolves are taken on state or private lands before the season closes. It is also unfair to trappers who trap on state lands only. With very little harvest on state and private lands, the wolf population is proportionally increasing in these areas.

If the starting date of trapping season on state and private lands do not match the federal opener, harvests on state and private lands will continue to be lower than federal land. With trapping seasons being the same on all lands in Unit 2, enforcement will also be easier.

PROPOSED BY: Craig Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F18-031)

Petersburg & Wrangell Areas – Units 1B & 3

PROPOSAL 45

5 AAC 85.030. Hunting seasons and bag limits for deer.

Extend the resident deer season on Mitkof, Woewodski, and Butterworth Islands in Unit 3 as follows:

Deer season: October 15 to **November 15** [OCTOBER 31]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Hunting season on Mitkof Island, Woewodski, and Butterworth Islands. To allow more hunting opportunities for residents.

PROPOSED BY: Steven Burrell (EG-F18-006)

PROPOSAL 46

5 AAC 85.030. Hunting seasons and bag limits for deer.

Extend the resident deer season on Kupreanof Island in the Lindenberg Peninsula area in Unit 3 as follows:

Deer season: October 15 – **November 15** [OCTOBER 31]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Hunting season on Kupreanof Island on the Lindenberg Peninsula east of Portage Bay-Duncan Canal Portage. Extend season to give more hunting opportunity for residents.

PROPOSED BY: Steven Burrell (EG-F18-007)

PROPOSAL 47

5 AAC 85.035. Hunting seasons and bag limits for elk.

Eliminate the general season elk hunt in Units 1–3 as follows:

| Units and Bag Limits | Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts) | Nonresident Open Season |
|---|---|------------------------------------|
| [UNITS 1, 2, AND REMAINDER OF UNIT 3.] | | |
| [1 ELK] | [AUG. 1—DEC. 31] | [AUG.1—DEC. 31] |
| <u>Units 1, 2, and the remainder of Unit 3</u> | <u>No open season.</u> | <u>No open season.</u> |

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? In 1987, 33 Roosevelt and 17 Rocky Mountain elk were successfully transplanted from Oregon to Etolin Island in Unit 3. Due to concerns about the potential for disease transmission and interspecific competition with native Sitka black-tailed deer, the Department of Fish and Game's (department) elk management plan called for restricting the distribution of introduced elk to Etolin Island. Despite a desire to restrict elk to Etolin Island, not long after the initial release a group of elk swam to and colonized neighboring Zarembo Island. At the time, a decision was made to allow elk to occupy both Etolin and Zarembo islands.

To prevent dispersal of introduced elk from the Etolin and Zarembo island complex to other parts of the region, in 2000, the Board of Game (board) authorized a general season elk hunt (August 1 – December 31, one elk) for elk that dispersed outside of the Etolin and Zarembo island complex. While the department occasionally receives reports of elk having been harvested outside of the Etolin and Zarembo island complex, none of the reported kill locations has ever been verified. And while the department occasionally receives reports of elk having been observed or heard on other islands in Unit 3 and Unit 2, and on the Unit 1 mainland, none of these reports have been verified and no elk harvest has been reported outside the bounds of Unit 3.

The department believes that the general season hunt for elk outside of the Etolin and Zarembo island complex is being abused to facilitate taking elk from Etolin and Zarembo islands outside the current bull-only drawing and registration permit hunts. In the 31 years since elk were introduced to Etolin Island and soon after occupied adjacent Zarembo Island, elk have not established additional populations. Consequently, the department is now less concerned that introduced elk will colonize other areas of Southeast Alaska and potentially transmit diseases or parasites or compete with native deer.

This proposal rescinds the general season elk hunt in Units 1, 2, and the remainder of Unit 3. The department believes this change will have little effect on hunter opportunity because we have never been able to verify that an elk was lawfully harvested under this hunt. Should the presence of elk be confirmed outside the Etolin and Zarembo island complex, and should it remain desirable to limit the distribution of elk to those islands, the department will propose a new registration hunt.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F18-048)

PROPOSAL 48

5 AAC 85.020. Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear.

Change the bag limit and open a fall season for brown bear hunting in Unit 3 as follows:

Unit 3: One brown bear **every regulatory year**, by permit, from March 15 – May 31 AND **September 15 – December 31**.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The population of brown bear is increasing in Unit 3. Historically, there have not been brown bears in this unit. Unit 3

includes Mitkof, Wrangell, Zarembo, Kupreanof, and Kuiu Islands and the communities of Wrangell, Petersburg, Kupreanof, and Kake. The unit is utilized by sport fishermen, hunters, mushroom pickers, berry pickers, etc. As the population of bears grows there will be an increase of bear encounters. In the fall, when most of the aforementioned activities are taking place, there is a greater chance of people encountering a brown bear.

On Mitkof Island, there are people who live very near to places that brown bear are already being observed. Chickens, garbage, and other human activities are known to attract bears, and it is only a matter of time before brown bears become a public safety problem.

PROPOSED BY: Max Worhatch (EG-F18-062)

PROPOSAL 49

5 AAC 85.015. Hunting seasons and bag limits for black bear.

Increase the “up to number” for drawing permits (DL029) for nonresident black bear hunters without a guide on Kuiu Island in Unit 3 as follows:

| Units and Bag Limits | Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts) | Nonresident Open Season |
|--|---|------------------------------------|
| Unit 3 Kuiu Island NONRESIDENT HUNTERS WITHOUT A GUIDE: 1 bear by drawing permit only; up to [50] <u>75</u> permits may be issued; the season will be closed by emergency order when the harvest guideline has been reached | | Sept. 1—June 30 |

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? At its fall 2010 meeting in Ketchikan, the Board of Game (board) adopted a proposal requiring nonresident black bear hunters who do not enlist the services of a registered hunting guide to obtain a drawing permit prior to hunting black bears in Units 1–3. Implementation of the new regulation was delayed until fall 2012 to allow guides time to adjust and the Department of Fish and Game (department) time to implement the new drawing permit requirement for nonresident black bear hunters without a guide.

During deliberations on the original proposal, the board asked the department to provide estimates of black bear numbers, bear densities, and to determine sustainable harvest levels for geographical areas of concern and/or areas that were believed to constitute discrete management areas. The board then used department figures to establish the allowable number of bears to be taken by nonresidents without a guide and guided hunters within each of ten distinct geographic areas identified by the department. Based on the department’s estimates of sustainable harvest

levels within each geographic area, the board established the number of drawing permits available for nonresident hunters without a guide on Kuiu Island at 40 permits. In order to provide the department with some flexibility regarding the exact number of drawing permits to be issued on an annual basis, the board authorized the department to issue “up to” a maximum of 50 drawing permits annually on Kuiu Island (DL029).

From regulatory year (RY) 2012 to RY2016, the department offered 40 drawing permits annually for nonresident black bear hunters without a guide on Kuiu Island. After five years, the department evaluated hunt statistics associated with the drawing permit requirement, including the level of hunter participation, effort, success rate, and total harvest of black bears taken annually on the island. Based on hunt data obtained during the initial five years of implementation, beginning with the fall 2017 season, the department increased the number of drawing permits available to nonresidents hunting black bear without a guide on Kuiu Island up to the maximum allowable 50 permits.

Given that the maximum number of allowable drawing permits established by the board has been reached on Kuiu (DL029), the department requests that the board increase the number of permits that may be issued to nonresident black bear hunters without a guide on Kuiu Island from the current 50 to 75 permits annually. Such action will allow the department to provide additional hunting opportunity should it determine a harvestable surplus of bears exists on the island.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F18-066)

PROPOSAL 50

5 AAC 85.015. Hunting seasons and bag limits for black bear.

Increase the “up to number” for drawing permits (DL030) for unguided nonresident black bear hunters on Kupreanof Island in Unit 3 as follows:

| Units and Bag Limits | Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts) | Nonresident Open Season |
|--|---|------------------------------------|
| Unit 3 Kupreanof Island NONRESIDENT HUNTERS WITHOUT A GUIDE 1 bear by drawing permit only; up to [100] 125 permits may be issued | | Sept. 1—June 30 |

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? At its fall 2010 meeting in Ketchikan, the Board of Game (board) adopted a proposal requiring nonresident black bear hunters who do not enlist the services of a registered hunting guide to obtain a drawing permit prior to hunting black bears in Units 1–3. Implementation of the new regulation was delayed

until fall 2012 to allow guides time to adjust and the department time to implement the new drawing permit requirement for nonresident black bear hunters without a guide.

During deliberations on the original proposal, the board asked the Department of Fish and Game (department) to provide estimates of black bear numbers, bear densities, and to determine sustainable harvest levels for geographical areas of concern and/or areas that were believed to constitute discrete management areas. The board then used department figures to establish the allowable number of bears to be taken by nonresidents without a guide and guided hunters within each of ten distinct geographic areas identified by the department. Based on the department's estimates of sustainable harvest levels, the board established the annual number drawing permits available for nonresident hunters without a guide on Kupreanof Island at 80 permits. To provide the department with some flexibility regarding the exact number of drawing permits issued each year, the board authorized the department to issue up to a maximum of 100 drawing permits annually on Kupreanof Island (DL030).

From regulatory year (RY) 2012 to RY2016, the department offered 80 drawing permits annually for nonresident black bear hunters without a guide on Kupreanof Island. After five years, the department evaluated hunt statistics associated with the drawing permit requirement, including the level of hunter participation, effort, success rate, and total harvest of black bears taken annually on the island. Based on that evaluation, beginning with the fall 2017 season, the department increased the number of drawing permits available to nonresidents hunting black bear without a guide on Kupreanof Island up to the maximum allowable 100 permits.

Given that the maximum number of allowable drawing permits established by the board has been reached on Kupreanof (DL030), the department requests that the board increase the "up to" number of available permits for nonresident black bear hunters without a guide on Kupreanof from the current 100 to 125 permits annually. Such action will allow the department to provide additional hunting opportunity should it determine a harvestable surplus of bears exists on the island.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F18-067)

PROPOSAL 51

5 AAC 92.165(a)(1). Sealing of bear skins and skulls.

Modify the black bear sealing requirement for nonresident hunters in Unit 3 as follows:

Unit 3

Nonresidents must report black bear harvest to Petersburg at (907) 772-3801 within five days of taking black bear on Kuiu Island and seal the bear within **30** [14] days after harvest.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Sealing of black bear in Unit 3 on Kuiu is required at 14 days after harvest. This is inconsistent with the rest of Unit 3. This adds to confusion and unintended consequences.

PROPOSED BY: Zach Decker (EG-F18-017)

PROPOSAL 52

5 AAC 92.010(j). Harvest tickets and reports.

5 AAC 92.165(1). Sealing of bear skins and skulls.

Repeal the shorter harvest reporting and sealing requirements for black bears taken by nonresidents on Kuiu Island in Unit 3 as follows:

5 AAC 92.010(j). Harvest tickets and reports

[FOR BLACK BEAR, A NONRESIDENT HUNTER WHO TAKES A BLACK BEAR ON KUIU ISLAND IN UNIT 3 SHALL REPORT THE SEX AND LOCATION OF THE KILL TO THE DEPARTMENT’S DIVISION OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION OFFICE IN PETERSBURG WITHIN FIVE DAYS OF HARVEST.]

5 AAC 92.165(1). Sealing of bear skins and skulls.

[IN UNIT 3, KUIU ISLAND, A BLACK BEAR TAKEN BY A NONRESIDENT HUNTER MUST BE SEALED WITHIN 14 DAYS AFTER THE TAKING AND MAY NOT BE TRANSPORTED FROM UNITS 1–4 UNTIL SEALED;]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? In response to conservation concerns related to a rapidly escalating harvest of black bears by nonresidents during the late 1990s and early 2000s, in regulatory year (RY) 2001 the Board of Game (board) established an annual nonresident harvest guideline level (HGL) of 120 bears for Kuiu Island. To facilitate harvest management and implementation of the 120-bear HGL, the board also imposed a five-day notification of kill requirement and a 14-day sealing requirement for black bears taken by nonresidents on Kuiu Island.

To better regulate harvest, in November 2010 the board adopted a public proposal requiring a drawing permit for nonresident black bear hunters in Units 1–3 who do not enlist the services of a registered hunting guide. As a further conservation measure, the board and guides agreed to limit total guided nonresident harvest of black bears to the mean annual harvest level during RYs 2007–2009.

As a result of these measures, the harvest of Kuiu Island black bears by guided and unguided nonresidents has fallen from a mean of 85 bears per year during RYs 2007–2009 to a mean of 43 bears per year during RYs 2014–2016; well below the 120-bear HGL. Therefore, the Department of Fish and Game (department) feels the five-day notification of kill requirement and requirement to seal a bear within 14 days in Units 1–4 are no longer necessary to manage nonresident harvest of Kuiu Island black bears.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F18-071)

PROPOSAL 53

5 AAC 95.530(24). Management areas.

Modify the hunting area description within the Petersburg Management Area in Unit 3 as follows:

Replace the Petersburg Management Area description shown on page 47 of the 2017/2018 Alaska Hunting Regulations with the following:

Petersburg Management Area: that portion of Unit 3 on Mitkof Island, north and west of a line from Frederick Point to the highest point in Section 8, T59S, R80E; to the highest point in Section 7, T59S, R80E; to the highest point in Section 13, T59S, R79E; to the highest point in Section 23, T59S, R79E; then due south to Petersburg city boundary; and at least [1/4 MILE] **100 yards** from an airport property, dwelling, business, highway, road or street within the corporate city limits is open to hunting with bow and arrow only. International Bowhunter Education Program (IBEP) certification required for big game; small game hunting by falconry is allowed.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Modify the legal hunting area description within the Petersburg Management Area (PMA) from “at least 1/2 mile from an airport property...” to “at least 100 yards from an airport property...” The original idea behind creating the PMA for certified archery hunting was to help control the unusually high abundance of deer in Petersburg residential area using certified archers as an effective wildlife management tool. There have been a few deer harvested within the Petersburg Management Area annually by archers since the hunt was established around 2000/2001, but it doesn’t appear to have decreased the in-town population; in fact, it appears to have grown. This proposal would offer more land within the Petersburg Management Area to help control the deer population near town. The requirement to restrict hunters within the Petersburg Management Area to certified archers would remain in place.

PROPOSED BY: Dan McMahon

(HQ-F18-017)
