

Galena Area Proposals – Units 21B, 21C, 21D & 24

PROPOSAL 57

5 AAC 92.080(4)(A). Unlawful methods of taking game; exceptions.

Allow residents to take game from a boat under power in Unit 21 as follows:

5 AAC 92.080. Unlawful methods of taking game; exceptions

(4)(A) motor-driven boat may be used as follows:...

(iv) for residents in Unit 21

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Middle Yukon Advisory Committee would like to allow residents to shoot from a boat under power in Unit 21. The AC believes that shooting while under power helps keep the boat stable, and is also a safety issue since turning a boat motor off completely while you are in a flowing river is dangerous. The AC believes harvest opportunities will be lost if they are not allowed to shoot from a boat under power.

PROPOSED BY: Middle Yukon Fish & Game Advisory Committee (EG-F19-137)

PROPOSAL 58

5 AAC 92.540(x). Controlled use areas.

Establish a Controlled Use Area for the Kaiyuh Flats area in Unit 21D as follows:

Establish a Kaiyuh Flats Controlled Use Area to exclude the use of aircraft for moose hunting for that portion of Unit 21D that coincides with the boundaries of the RM833 registration hunt area.

Hunt Area: Unit 21D, that portion south of the south bank of the Yukon River, downstream of the up-river entrance of Kala Slough, and west of Kala Creek.

Note: The Middle Yukon Advisory Committee submitted a map with this proposal, which is 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? Local moose hunters accessing the Kaiyuh Flats portion of Unit 21D compete with hunters using boats and airplanes. With an increasing number of moose in the Kaiyuh Flats and low bull:cow ratios in the northern portion of Unit 21D, hunters will likely shift their demand toward the Kaiyuh Flats area. We would like the Board of Game to establish a controlled use area that prohibits the use of aircraft for moose hunters.

PROPOSED BY: Middle Yukon Fish & Game Advisory Committee (EG-F19-107)

PROPOSAL 59

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

Change the winter, any-moose season for residents in Unit 21D as follows

Unit 21D – Moose

Unit 21D, that portion south of the south bank of the Yukon River, downstream of the up-river entrance of Kala Slough and west of Kala Creek.

Residents – 1 bull by registration permit, OR

Residents - 1 bull by drawing permit only, up to 600 permits may be issued in combination with Unit 21D remainder (August 22-August 31, September 5-September 25); OR

*Residents - 1 moose, by registration permit only, up to 15 days during **December. If the harvest quota is not met , then another 15 day season will be announced in March, however, a person may not take a cow accompanied by a calf .** (Winter season to be announced)*

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Western Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council believes the current 15 day to be announced March moose season in Unit 21D, that portion south of the south bank of the Yukon River, downstream of the up-river entrance of Kala Slough and west of Kala Creek, is too late in the winter to use the meat before breakup. If an earlier season were available, the meat could be kept for a longer period of time and feed people during critical winter months. Changing the season may also give hunters safer access to the Yukon River and therefore an increased opportunity to get moose. The Council submitted a similar proposal to the Federal Subsistence Board to reduce regulatory confusion.

PROPOSED BY: Western Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council (EG-F19-061)

PROPOSAL 60

5 AAC 85.045(a)(19). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.

Reauthorize a winter any-moose season during March in a portion of Unit 21D as follows.

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
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(19)

...

(B) on or after July 1, 2018, the hunting seasons and bag limits for moose in Unit 21 are as follows:

...

Unit 21(D), that portion south of the South bank of the Yukon River, downstream of the up-river entrance of Kala Slough and west of Kala Creek

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

...

1 moose, by registration permit only, up to 15 days during March; a person may not take a cow accompanied by a calf

(Winter season to be announced)

...

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Antlerless moose hunting seasons must be reauthorized annually. The goal is to provide additional harvest opportunity and meet harvest objectives. This harvest opportunity of antlerless moose recently emerged because the moose population in the Kaiyuh Flats is increasing rapidly, especially the number of cows in the population. This reauthorization will likely improve or maintain hunting opportunity. If this antlerless moose hunt is not reauthorized, opportunity to utilize a harvestable surplus of cow moose would be lost, and the ability to meet intensive management (IM) harvest objectives could be compromised. In addition, rather than allow the population to go through dramatic rates of expansion and contraction, the Department of Fish and Game believes it is prudent to dampen the current accelerating rate of increase.

The IM harvest objective for Unit 21D is 450–1,000 moose. The 10-year average estimated harvest during 2008–2017 was 412 moose, which includes the reported and estimated unreported harvest. The annual estimated harvest has not met the harvest objective since 2003 when the estimated harvest was 489 moose. Additional harvest from this hunt will help make progress toward achieving the IM harvest objectives without reducing bull-to-cow ratios to low levels. Subsistence hunters will benefit from the opportunity to harvest cow moose.

Analysis of three Trend Count Areas (Squirrel Creek, Pilot Mountain, and Kaiyuh Slough TCAs) within the Kaiyuh Flats in this hunt area showed a significant increase in moose abundance among all age classes, and adult moose abundance increased 57% above the 16-year average by 2017. Geospatial Population Estimate data also showed a statistically significant increase from 1,897 ($\pm 11\%$) moose in 2011 to 4,116 ($\pm 10\%$) moose in 2017. Moose twinning data for the hunt area also showed high and stable twinning rates since 2004.

The portion of Unit 21D affected by this reauthorization is approximately 21% (2,559 mi²) of Unit 21D (12,093.6 mi²). Moose abundance in this area was estimated at 4,000–4,500 moose, which is approximately 39–44% of the total moose estimated in Unit 21D at 10,305 moose (±1,546) in 2017, the mid-point for the total Unit 21D moose population estimate was above the IM population objective for all of Unit 21D (12,093.6 mi²) of 9,000–10,000 moose.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game. (HQ-F19-177)

PROPOSAL 61

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

Extend the resident moose season within the Kanuti Controlled Use Area of Unit 24B as follows:

Moose Unit 24B....Resident....HT....One bull September 1-25....OR

(new language)

Within the Kanuti Controlled Use Area of GMU 24B....Resident only....One bull....Harvest Ticket....September 1- October 1....OR

One antlered bull by permit online at <http://hunt.alaska.gov> or in person in Hughes, Allakaket, and Fairbanks beginning December 6....RM833....December 15-April 15.

Nonresident....One bull....HT....with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on at least one side....September 5-September 25.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? At the Koyukuk River Advisory Committee meeting in Allakaket on December 11, 2018, several moose hunters testified that only eight bull moose were taken that fall. In recent years moose are staying back in the hills for most of the current season. Moose hunters in Allakaket and Alatna have experienced low success rates with the current season. Moose are moving right at the close of the end of the current season.

Extend the current bull moose season from September 1 – 25, to a new season September 1 – October 1 only within the Kanuti Controlled Use Area (CUA) in Unit 24B.

The bull:cow ratio is more than adequate within the Kanuti CUA to support additional harvest opportunity.

A season extension to October 1 would allow hunters to hunt closer to the villages late in the season, as freeze-up is eminent. It is perceived that most bull moose that would be harvested would be traveling younger bulls that are not competitive with breeding aggregates. Large breeder bulls cannot be called away from their harem.

PROPOSED BY: Koyukuk River Fish & Game Advisory Committee (EG-F19-046)

PROPOSAL 62

5 AAC 92.069(b)(3). Special provisions for moose drawing permit hunts.

Allocate 90 percent of the Unit 21B, Upper Nowitna Corridor moose drawing permits to residents and award remaining available nonresident permits to residents as follows:

All draw hunts should have a 90/10 percent resident/nonresident allocation, and only the legislature should determine must-be-guided species.

5 AAC 92.069(E)(3) is amended to read;

in Unit 21(B), that portion within the Nowitna River drainage upstream from the Little Mud River drainage and within the corridor extending two miles on either side of and including the Nowitna River, the drawing permit hunt is allocated **90 percent** [50 PERCENT] to residents and up to **10 percent** [50 PERCENT] to nonresidents; [THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ISSUE A MAXIMUM OF 75 PERCENT OF THE AVAILABLE NONRESIDENT DRAWING PERMITS TO GUIDED NONRESIDENTS, AND A MINIMUM OF 25 PERCENT OF THE AVAILABLE NONRESIDENT DRAWING PERMITS TO NON-GUIDED NONRESIDENTS; IF THE NUMBER OF NONRESIDENTS APPLYING FOR PERMITS FOR EITHER NONRESIDENT HUNT IS INSUFFICIENT TO AWARD THE REQUIRED PERCENTAGE, THE DEPARTMENT MAY AWARD THE REMAINING AVAILABLE NONRESIDENT DRAWING PERMITS TO THE OTHER NONRESIDENT HUNT;]

AT MINIMUM RESIDENTS SHOULD BE GIVEN A CHANCE AT ANY UNAPPLIED FOR PERMITS

5AAC 92.069 is amended to read;

(E)(3) in Unit 21(B), that portion within the Nowitna River drainage upstream from the Little Mud River drainage and within the corridor extending two miles on either side of and including the Nowitna River, the drawing permit hunt is allocated 50 percent to residents and 50 percent to nonresidents; the department shall issue a maximum of 75 percent of the available nonresident drawing permits to guided nonresidents, and a minimum of 25 percent of the available nonresident drawing permits to non-guided nonresidents; if the number of nonresidents applying for permits for either nonresident hunt is insufficient to award the required percentage, the **department shall award the remaining available nonresident drawing permits to the resident hunt;** [MAY AWARD THE REMAINING AVAILABLE NONRESIDENT DRAWING PERMITS TO THE OTHER NONRESIDENT HUNT]

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

DM 809/810/811 moose draw permit hunt allocation for Upper Nowitna corridor.

Draw-only permit hunts for both residents and nonresidents reflect a need to limit the number of hunters afield for reasons that could be related to conservation, trophy-quality, hunt aesthetics, crowding etc.

Whatever the rationale for a draw-only hunt for all user groups, and whatever label is attached to a moose hunt (e.g. subsistence, sport, trophy), resident hunters should have a clear and substantial priority opportunity to participate in that hunt and put meat in their freezer and antlers on their wall.

However, that isn't the case with the Upper Nowitna moose draw permit hunt (DM 809/810/811) that allocates 50 percent of the permits to nonresidents. This allocation change happened in 2008 when the Board passed proposal 55, which was submitted by a guide with exclusive guiding privileges within the Nowitna National Wildlife Refuge.

The rationale used by the author of Proposal 55 was that when the Board of Game made this a draw only permit hunt (DM810 – both residents and nonresidents could equally apply) residents were receiving the vast majority of the permits and there was an “inability of local hunting guides, and other historical user groups, to obtain permits for the Upper Nowitna area.” The proposer further stated that “nonresident hunters now have difficulty in obtaining permits due to the sharp increase of applicants, and few of these awarded permits are actually utilized each season.”

It really should go without saying that if and when hunting guides are having difficulty obtaining clientele for moose draw permit hunts due to more residents applying for a draw permit hunt than nonresidents, that's exactly how it should work according to our state constitution.

We also don't believe that where we have draw permit hunts for both residents and nonresidents that allocation to nonresidents should ever be based on how many residents utilize their awarded draw permits. The Department of Fish and Game takes into account that some permits will not be utilized when determining the number of permits to offer.

The author of proposal 55 asked for two things:

1. Allocate 50 percent of the twenty DM810 permits to nonresidents
2. Require most nonresidents to hire a guide for that hunt

It wasn't enough to just increase the nonresident allocation because moose are not a must-be-guided species under AS 16.05.407. Most nonresidents don't hire a guide to hunt moose. By requiring most nonresidents must hire a guide, and jacking up the nonresident allocation, this guide would ostensibly be assured business every year, to the detriment of resident hunting opportunity.

Unbelievably, the Board of Game passed proposal 55 in 2008. The 20 original permits under DM810 were split in half, with ten permits going to residents (DM810), seven going to nonresidents who are required to hire a guide (DM811) and three permits going to nonresidents who are not required to be guided (DM809).

This kind of allocation scenario for a coveted moose draw permit hunt is unconscionable. In the years since the passage of proposal 55, resident hunters have seen their odds of drawing a permit tumble to around 15 percent on average. The DM811 must-be-guided permit is typically 100 percent chance of drawing in the years there are applicants.

During the 2017 draw permit period there were ZERO applications for the 2008 DM811 permit. Meanwhile, 28 nonresidents applied for the three DM809 permits for unguided nonresidents, and 65 Alaskan residents applied for the ten DM810 permits offered to residents. According to the regulation 5AAC 92.069(E)(3), “if the number of nonresidents applying for permits for either nonresident hunt is insufficient to award the required percentage, the department may award the remaining available nonresident drawing permits to the other nonresident hunt”

This implies that the seven DM811 permits not applied for during the permit process were reallocated to the DM809 pool. However, in talking with department staff, somehow similar to Kodiak Island where guides have exclusive guiding privileges, because the regulation in 92.069(E)(3) says “may” instead of “shall,” the department is using other criteria determining that there is no need to actually apply for the DM811 permit during the application period; permits are being given out to guided nonresident hunters who didn’t apply during the permit application period.

We cannot allow nonresidents in any shape or form to have special rights when it comes to draw permits. Alaskans don’t get a do-over if we don’t apply on time. If there are no applications during the draw permit application period, then that hunt (DM811) should be allocated to the resident pool of tags. Everyone should have to apply equally during the draw permit application period.

PROPOSED BY: Resident Hunters of Alaska (EG-F19-128)

PROPOSAL 63

5 AAC 92.530(7). Management areas.

Repeal the Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area as follows:

Repeal 5 AAC 92.530(7) in total. Present language does not mirror all of the restrictions in Alaska Statute 19.40.210 causing confusion among hunters and enforcement. Present language in codified:

- (7) the Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area:
 - (A) the area consists of those portions of Units 20 and 24-26 extending five miles from each side of the Dalton Highway, including the drivable surface of the Dalton Highway, from the Yukon River to the Arctic Ocean, and including the Prudhoe Bay Closed Area.
 - (B) the area within the Prudhoe Bay Closed Area is closed hunting; however, big game, small game, and fur animals may be taken in the area by bow and arrow only, and small game may be taken by falconry;
 - (C) no motorized vehicle may be used to transport hunters, hunting gear, or parts of game, within the Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area, except that
 - (i) licensed highway vehicles may be used on the following designated roads:
 - (1) Dalton Highway,
 - (2) Bettles Winter Trail during periods when the Bureau of Land Management and the City of Bettles announce the trail is open for winter travel,
 - (3) Galbraith Lake Road from the Dalton Highway to the BLM campground at Galbraith Lake, including the gravel pit access road when the gate is open,

- (4) Toolik Lake Road, excluding the driveway to the Toolik Lake Research Facility,
- (5) the Sagavanirktok River access road two miles north of Pump Station 2, and any constructed roadway or gravel pit within one-quarter mile of the Dalton Highway;
- (ii) aircraft and boats may be used
- (iii) a snowmachine May be used to cross the Management area from land outside the management area to access land on the other side of the management area
- (D) any hunter traveling on the Dalton Highway must stop at any check station operated by the department within the Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? REPEAL (7) the Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area. The restrictive regulations codified are unnecessary and confusing to the public and law enforcement. The guiding restrictions are clear in AS 19.40.210. Hunting regulations should refer to the statute. Conflicts arise from federal agency management for federally qualified rural Alaskans to the detriment of Alaskans who are subsistence hunting. The statutory limits prevail so let's use the instead of re-creating some of them.

PROPOSED BY: Fairbanks Fish & Game Advisory Committee (EG-F19-116)

PROPOSAL 64

5 AAC 92.530 Management areas.

Clarify the legal use of highway vehicles, snow machines and off-road vehicles in the Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area (DHCMA) for hunting and trapping. Clarify the use of firearms, and transport of furbearers and trapping bait when trapping in the DHCMA:

- Do hunting restrictions in 5 AAC 92.530(7) allow travelers who exit the DHCMA (e.g. to travel by licensed highway vehicle or other motorized means to Nuiqsut, Anaktuvuk Pass, Bettles, Wiseman, Coldfoot airport, or by snow machine to a homestead outside the corridor) to hunt once they exit the DHCMA?
- Does the definition of “off-road vehicle,” in AS 19.40.210 affect use of a “licensed highway vehicle” and “snow machine” in 5 AAC 92.530(7)?
 - When it is operated off the highway, is a “licensed highway vehicle” in 5 AAC 92.530(7) an “off-road vehicle,” as defined by 19.40.210?
 - Is the prohibition in 5 AAC 92.530(7) on use of motorized vehicles, with exceptions for use of licensed highway vehicles, snow machines, aircraft and boats consistent with restrictions placed on off-road vehicles and snow machines in AS 19.40.210?
- Does the prohibition on hunting in 5 AAC 92.530(7)(B) also prohibit trapping?
 - If 5 AAC 92.530(7)(B) allows use of firearms for trapping in 5 AAC 92.530(7), is this consistent with the prohibition of hunting with firearms in AS 16.05.789?

- May a trapper or hunter crossing the DHCMA with a snow machine, stop to hunt or trap within the DHCMA, or become “parallel to the right-of-way of the highway” without violation of AS 19.40.210?
- May a trapper or hunter use a snow machine to enter the DHCMA from outside the area and trap or hunt within the DHCMA if the trapper does not travel all the way across the DHCMA?

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? This is a placeholder proposal, intended to solicit public and agency input regarding the interpretation of state statutes and regulations pertaining to the Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area (DHCMA). Clarification is needed, as there is confusion within state government and the public regarding which activities and methods of access are legal within the DHCMA and what changes to 5 AAC 92.530(7) the Board of Game could legally undertake.

Although the above list is not a comprehensive list of issues associated with the DHCMA, the department recommends clarification of these issues in order to give the public the ability to correctly follow the restrictions set out in 5 AAC 92.530(7) and statutes AS 19.40.210 and AS 16.05.789, or to recommend changes to 5 AAC 92.530(7).

Federal access permits are also a consideration on federal lands within the DHCMA. For example, on federal lands in the DHCMA, federally-qualified users may use a snowmachine to trap, but cannot use a snowmachine to transport furbearers they catch or parts of game used as bait because of current language in 5 AAC 92.530(7). Additionally, nonfederally qualified users may obtain a permit to cross federal lands in the DHCMA by snowmachine in order to access property outside the DHCMA, but they may not use a snowmachine to trap in the DHCMA or transport game across the DHCMA. Federally-qualified trappers and nonfederally-qualified trappers who obtain such a permit can use snowmachines on federal land, but not state lands such as frozen rivers, and cannot transport game.

To aid the board in their decisions regarding 5 AAC 92.530(7) and possible conflicts this regulation may have with Alaska Statutes, we provide the relevant statutes below. Regulation 5 AAC 92.530(7) prior to the March 2019 Board of Game meeting is also included. The most recent board changes to 5 AAC 92.530(7) will be provided when they are available to the department.

Regulation 5 AAC 92.530. Management areas. The following management areas are subject to special restrictions:

...

(7) the Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area:

(A) the area consists of those portions of Units 20 and 24–26 extending five miles from each side of the Dalton Highway, including the drivable surface of the Dalton Highway, from the Yukon River to the Arctic Ocean, and including the Prudhoe Bay Closed Area;

(B) the area within the Prudhoe Bay Closed Area is closed to the taking of big game; the remainder of the Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area is closed to hunting;

however, big game, small game, and fur animals may be taken in the area by bow and arrow only, and small game may be taken by falconry;

(C) no motorized vehicle may be used to transport hunters, hunting gear, or parts of game, within the Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area, except that

(i) licensed highway vehicles may be used on the following designated roads:

(1) Dalton Highway, (2) Bettles Winter Trail during periods when the Bureau of Land Management and the City of Bettles announce that the trail is open for winter travel, (3) Galbraith Lake Road from the Dalton Highway to the BLM campground at Galbraith Lake, including the gravel pit access road when the gate is open, (4) Toolik Lake Road, excluding the driveway to the Toolik Lake Research Facility, (5) the Sagavanirktok River access road two miles north of Pump Station 2, and (6) any constructed roadway or gravel pit within one-quarter mile of the Dalton Highway;

(ii) aircraft and boats may be used;

(iii) a snowmachine may be used to cross the management area from land outside the management area to access land on the other side of the management area;

(D) any hunter traveling on the Dalton Highway must stop at any check station operated by the department within the Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area;

...

Alaska Statute Sec. 16.05.789. Prohibition on hunting adjacent to highway between Yukon River and Arctic Ocean.

(a) Hunting with firearms is prohibited north of the Yukon River in the area within five miles on either side of the highway between the Yukon River and the Arctic Ocean.

(b) A person who violates this section is guilty of a class A misdemeanor.

Alaska Statute Sec. 19.40.210. Prohibition of off-road vehicles.

(a) Off-road vehicles are prohibited on land within the highway corridor. However, this prohibition does not apply to

(1) off-road vehicles necessary for oil and gas exploration, development, production, or transportation;

(2) a person who holds a mining claim in the vicinity of the highway and who must use land in the highway corridor to gain access to the mining claim;

(3) the use of a snow machine to travel across the highway corridor from land outside the corridor to access land outside the other side of the corridor; this paragraph does not permit the use of a snow machine for any purpose within the corridor if the use begins or ends within the corridor or within the right-of-way of the highway or if the use is for travel within the corridor that is parallel to the right-of-way of the highway; or

(4) a person who must use land in the highway corridor to gain access to private property that

(A) is located outside the corridor; and

(B) has an established history of use as a homestead.

(b) Nothing in this section authorizes a person to access the land of another person unlawfully.

(c) In this section, “highway corridor” or “corridor” means land within five miles of the right-of-way of the highway.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F19-152)

PROPOSAL 65

5 AAC 85.025. Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou.

Establish a new resident, general season for caribou in Unit 20F as follows:

For Residents, the bag limit for Unit 20F caribou, North of the Yukon River (but excluding the Haul Road special use corridor and use areas) is two animals, only one of which may be taken before November 1st.

Residents:	Two caribou	One Caribou	August 10 – March 31
	Total	One Caribou	November 1 – March 31

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Ray Mountain Caribou herd rarely comes into the more accessible hills behind Tanana in winter. In summer and fall smaller bands seem to range there more. In the 1970’s and early 80’s winter ranging there seemed more common. Last winter for the first time since the 1980’s they did this for half the winter and it was a herd of approximately 100 animals. Three caribou were taken. Two of the people were not able to get a moose during the fall season and it would be nice to have a bag limit of two animals if this were to happen again.

We have contacted area managers and they mentioned a carefully thought out increase could be considered. We would be happy to limit this increase to north of the Yukon River in Unit 20F (not including the Haul Road special use corridor and use areas) and even to the dates of after November 1 to the seasons end. These are all things which would limit harvest to times when hunting in the area would likely be minimal and not likely to blossom into a big deal over time.

Currently area managers of this herd (Division of Wildlife Conservation Galena Area Office) consider it to be closely monitored in an effort to ensure they are not over-exploited. Below are selected (by the Tanana Rampart Manley AC) numbers from 63 department surveys taken from 1978 to 2018:

- Average number counted for all surveys - 716
- Average number for last 15 years - 686
- Average number for last 2 years - 732

PROPOSED BY: Tanana Rampart Manley Fish & Game Advisory Committee (EG-F19-104)

PROPOSAL 66

5 AAC 85.025. Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou.

Extend the resident caribou season and reduce the bag limit for Unit 24A Remainder as follows:

Unit 24A Caribou

Reduce the bag limit for caribou in Unit 24A Remainder to five caribou and change the season to July 1 - May 15 for resident hunters.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Currently the hunting regulations for Unit 24A remainder for caribou state for residents, ten caribou from July 1 - April 30. This has been in effect for the last two-three years. Previously the regulations were five caribou from July 1- May 15. I would like the Board of Game to consider changing the regulations back to five caribou from July 1 - May 15. If the board has concerns about the health or population of the herd, the limit could be dropped to two caribou. I don't think there are concerns about the size of the herd because currently the limit is ten caribou. After contacting fish and game many times, nobody was ever able to explain to me why the regulation changed to ten caribou from July 1 - April 30.

PROPOSED BY: Sean Timmons (EG-F19-098)

PROPOSAL 67

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

5 AAC 92.132. Bag limit for brown bears.

Increase the bag limit for brown bear in Unit 21D as follows:

Residents Unit 21D **Two** [ONE] Bear August 10- June 30

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Middle Yukon Advisory Committee would like an increased resident bag limit for grizzly bears in Unit 21D. We believe that there is a surplus of grizzly bears in this area and we would like to be allowed to harvest more. This will also help moose and caribou populations, which we also depend on.

PROPOSED BY: Middle Yukon Fish & Game Advisory Committee (EG-F19-138)

PROPOSAL 68

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

Open a fall bear baiting season in Unit 21C as follows:

Allow harvest of bears at registered bait stations in Unit 21C from 1 August – 30 September. Bear baiting is authorized by a permit and the dates are established through the discretionary authority

of the Department of Fish and Game. I would like the Board of Game to direct the department to establish this proposed fall hunt.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Increase harvest opportunity and allow a bear baiting season in Unit 21C during the fall (August 1 – September 30th). Fall and spring bear baiting and the harvest of brown bears taken over registered bear bait stations is currently allowed in Units 21D, 24C, and 24D. However, black bear and brown bear baiting is currently allowed in Unit 21C only during the spring. I would like to align the fall bear baiting season in Unit 21C with the adjacent Units. Unit 21D has allowed bear brown bear baiting since 2012 and Units 24C and 24D were opened in 2015. Harvest of brown bears at bait sites in Unit 21C was first allowed beginning in 2018. The first fall black bear baiting season was allowed in Unit 21D (KCUA portion) in 2000. Bear baiting and the harvest of brown bears at bait stations is already allowed in the spring from 15 April - 30 June in Unit 21C, and an additional opportunity in the fall would align the seasons with neighboring Units 21D, 24C and 24D.

ADF&G reports that only two brown bears (one in Unit 24D, one in Unit 21C) have been harvested at bear bait sites in the Galena Management area since they were first allowed in 2012, so harvest is not expected to increase above what the black or brown bear populations can support. ADF&G also reports that the total harvest of brown bears is low and continually below the sustainable harvest level for Units 21B, C, and D, so additional harvest opportunity is available in this area.

PROPOSED BY: Craig Hill (EG-F19-005)

PROPOSAL 69

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

Allow brown bears to be taken over bait in Unit 21C as follows:

Amend 5 AAC 92.044(1), (13) to include Unit 21C, to allow the opportunity to take grizzly with the use of bait or scent by permit.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? To allow the taking of grizzly bears over bait. Unit 21C is mostly bounded by Units 21D, 24D, and 24C which allow the use of bait to taking grizzly bears by permit. We would like to align Unit 21C, with most of the other units for uniformity and have an opportunity besides spot and stalk. Unit 21C has a lot of vegetation not suitable for spot and stalk. Allowing an opportunity to take grizzly bears over bait would help in achieving meeting subsistence needs, amount necessary for subsistence (ANS) of 20-25 bears. Current harvest of grizzly bears (6-10 bears annually for Unit 21) for subsistence is well below the ANS of 20-25 bears. We see no biological issues if this were passed.

Re: ADF&G Brown Bear Management report from 1 July 2012 – 30 June 2014 (current report we have access to): *“For Units 21B, 21C, and 21D we achieved the management objective to manage for a brown bear population that will sustain a 3-year mean annual harvest of at least 25 bears, with at least 50% males in the reported harvest. The 3-year (RY11–RY13) mean annual reported and unreported harvest of 17.3 bears was below the harvest objective of 25 bears, and the population was probably increasing. With the current conservative population estimate of 350–400 bears, a*

sustainable annual harvest of at least 18–24 brown bears can probably be supported (5–6% of the population). Because males continued to be harvested at more than twice the rate of females and the average age of harvested bears was relatively high, the population was most likely maintaining a high level of reproductive potential with a gradually maturing age-class structure”

Harper, P., and L. A. McCarthy, editors. 2015. Brown bear management report of survey-inventory activities 1 July 2012–30 June 2014. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Species Management Report ADF&G/DWC/SMR-2015-1, Juneau.

PROPOSED BY: Fairbanks Fish & Game Advisory Committee (EG-F19-118)

PROPOSAL 70

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

Change the season start date for taking brown bear in Unit 24A to align with Unit 25A as follows:

Nonresident and resident grizzly bear season in Unit 24A, July 25 - June 30

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Align the grizzly bear season start date in Unit 24A with the season start date in Unit 25A.

- The current start date is August 10.
- It is common for hunters hiking in from the Dalton Highway to hunt both units in the same hunt or even the same day.
- Many sheep hunters hike in several days before sheep season and encounter grizzly bears and the season is open in one unit and not the other.
- If someone was to drive the highway and pursue a bear with archery equipment, they could potentially cross the line and harvest a bear out of season.
- Aligning the start dates would eliminate confusion, entice the otherwise illegal harvest of grizzly bears prior to August 10th and reduce predation on the ungulate population in that area.

PROPOSED BY: Jonah Stewart, Rudy Martinez and Nicholas Muche (EG-F19-008, 009 & 012)

PROPOSAL 71

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

Allow brown bear to be taken over bait in Unit 24A as follows:

Add Unit 24A to the list of units where brown/grizzly bears may be taken on pages 25, 26, and 27 of the hunting regulations.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Brown/Grizzly bear hunting is not allowed over bait stations in Unit 24A. Black bear baiting is allowed in this unit already, there are many brown/grizzly bears in this unit, the area is remote, and there is no apparent reason why baiting for brown/grizzly bears is prohibited. The additional harvest opportunity for taking brown/grizzly bears with bait is sustainable and would be beneficial to the struggling moose

population. Brown/grizzly bear harvest over bait will also help stabilize the declining black bear populations in the unit.

PROPOSED BY: Adam Owen (EG-F19-004)

PROPOSAL 72

5 AAC 85.020 Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear.
5 AAC 92.132. Bag limit for brown bear.

Increase the resident bag limit for brown bear in Unit 24B as follows:

Resident hunters in Anaktuvuk Pass and Unit 24B feel the brown bear population is continuing to grow. The harvest of brown bears in Unit 24B is far below sustained yield. Resident hunters that do take brown bears are low in number and should be afforded additional harvest opportunity with a two brown bear limit. (Companion proposal for Unit 26A)

Suggested: Brown/Grizzly bear, Unit 24B Resident, two bears every regulatory year, August 10 - June 30, but a no closed season would be warranted.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Increase the resident bag limit from one brown bear per regulatory year to two brown bears per regulatory year in Unit 24B.

PROPOSED BY: Gates of the Arctic Subsistence Resource Commission (EG-F19-088)

PROPOSAL 73

5 AAC 85.020. Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear.
5 AAC 92.165. Sealing of bear skins and skulls.
5 AAC 92.220. Salvage of game meat, furs, and hides.

Eliminate the RB601 brown bear subsistence registration permit for Unit 21D and Unit 24A, B, C, & D as follows.

	Resident Open Season	Nonresident Open Season
5 AAC 85.020 (a)		
...		
(19)		
Unit 21(D)		
[1 BEAR EVERY REGULATORY YEAR BY REGISTRATION PERMIT]	[AUG. 10—JUNE 30 (SUBSISTENCE HUNT ONLY)]	[NO OPEN SEASON]
1 bear every regulatory year	Aug. 10—June 30	Aug. 10—June 30

....

(22)

Unit 24

[1 BEAR EVERY REGULATORY YEAR BY REGISTRATION PERMIT] [AUG. 10—JUNE 30] [NO OPEN SEASON] (SUBSISTENCE HUNT ONLY)

1 bear every regulatory year Aug. 10—June 30 Aug. 10—June 30

5AAC 92.165(a)(3) Sealing of bear skins and skulls.

(a)

...

(3) in Unit 9(B), all drainages in Unit 9(E) that drain into the Pacific Ocean between Cape Kumliun and the border of Unit 9(D) and Unit 9(E), Unit 17, Unit 18, that portion of Units 19(A) and 19(B) downstream of and including the Aniak River drainage, [UNIT 21(D),] Unit 22, Unit 23, [UNIT 24,] and Unit 26(A), brown bear taken by a resident hunter under a subsistence registration permit is not required to be sealed unless removed from the area described in the permit or presented for commercial tanning within that area; before a brown bear skin or skull is removed from the area described in the permit or presented for commercial tanning within that area, the skin or skull must first be sealed by an ADF&G representative.

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

(a)

...

(5) all meat of the ribs, neck, brisket, front quarters, hindquarters, and the meat along the backbone between the front and hindquarters of a brown bear taken under a subsistence registration permit in Unit 9(B), all drainages in Unit 9(E) that drain into the Pacific Ocean between Cape Kumliun and the border of Unit 9(D) and Unit 9(E), Unit 17, Unit 18, that portion of Units 19(A) and 19(B) downstream of and including the Aniak River drainage, [UNIT 21(D),] Unit 22, Unit 23, [UNIT 24,] and Unit 26(A) shall be salvaged for human consumption; salvage of the hide or skull is optional; all edible meat of a brown bear taken under a permit issued under 5AAC 92.044 in Units 7, 11, 12, 13, 14(B), 15, 16, 20(A), 20(B), 20(C), 20(E), 21(D), 24(C), 24(D), and 25(D) shall be salvaged.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Eliminate the RB601 brown bear subsistence registration permit for Unit 21D and Unit 24A, B, C, & D.

Because the brown bear tag fee exemption exists in these areas under the general hunt, there is no longer a need for the RB601 subsistence permit. The RB601 permit is no longer used, it inconveniently requires subsistence hunters to obtain the permit in advance, it requires salvage of the meat, and it requires destruction of the hide. The only benefit it potentially provided was the sealing exemption, but the area biologist has always accommodated getting hides and skull sealed.

In order to make sure bears sealing was convenient, the Galena area biologist has traveled to remote villages, had hides shipped to him (freight collect), had local sealers do the sealing, or sent temporary sealing forms to the hunter. Regardless, of those accommodations, most hunters chose to hunt under the general hunt conditions and the last bear harvested under the RB601 permit was in 2010.

According to ADF&G reports, the RB601 subsistence brown bear season is no longer utilized by residents of Units 21D and 24 and creates confusion in the regulations. Although bag limits, salvage, and sealing requirements were important distinctions between the RB601 subsistence hunt and the general season brown bear hunts originally, the elimination of the tag fee requirement appears to be the most important factor for local and non-local resident hunters choosing the general season hunt. Only one bear was harvested during regulatory years 2009 through 2018 on the RB601 permit by local residents (in RY10), but 226 bears were harvested under the general season hunt during that period. Only five bears have been harvested on the RB601 permit since it was created in RY04. ADF&G reports that 96 hunters obtained the RB601 during RY09–RY19 due to confusion over the permit requirement, with the intent of hunting under the general harvest regulations. Current general hunt regulations accommodate subsistence harvest.

The RB601 permit was created in RY04 when the Northwest Brown Bear Management Area was repealed. ADF&G has provided broad flexibility for sealing hides for all hunters in order to accommodate limited access to sealers in rural communities.

Brown Bear Regulation	Required for General Hunt	Required for RB601
Sealing	Yes	No (unless leaves GMU or Commercial Tanning)
Hide Salvage	Yes	No (unless sealed)
Skull Salvage	Yes	No (unless sealed)
Meat Salvage	No (unless baited)	Yes
Permit	No	Yes
Tag Fee	No	No
Trophy Destruction	No	Yes (if leaves GMU or Commercial Tanning)
Aircraft	Yes	No
Season	Aug 10–June 30	Aug 10–June 30
Bag limit	1 bear per Regulatory Year	1 bear per Regulatory Year

PROPOSED BY: Jack Reakoff

(EG-F19-036)

Note: This proposal is also scheduled for the Western Arctic/Western Region meeting as Proposal 31.

PROPOSAL 74

5 AAC 85.050. Hunting seasons and bag limits for muskoxen.

Establish a registration permit hunt for muskox in Units 21D, 22A, and 24D as follows:

Establish a limited quota muskoxen season; Unit’s 21D, 22A, 24D; up to 5 bulls; February 1 – April 30.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Muskoxen have occurred in Units 21D, 22A, and 24D for many years, but there is no open season in these units.

Muskoxen are frequently observed in the Nulato Hills during the winter and during spring bear hunting and have been observed near the villages of Galena, Ruby, Nulato, Kaltag, and Huslia. Dispersing muskoxen have had to be killed under defense of life and property (DLP) conditions and near Ruby, Galena, Nulato and the Kateel River during the fall moose season. Muskoxen in the Nulato Hills would provide an additional hunting opportunity that is not being utilized and could provide an additional source of meat for Alaskan hunters.

PROPOSED BY: Middle Yukon Fish & Game Advisory Committee (EG-F19-108)

PROPOSAL 75

5 AAC 92.111. Control of predation by wolves.

5 AAC 92.115. Control of predation by bears.

Develop a feasibility assessment for intensive management of wolves and bears in Units 21D and 24 as follows:

Establish an intensive management plan to control predation by wolves and bears in Unit 21D and Unit 24. Local residents are concerned about the high numbers of wolves and bears in Units 21D and 24 and their impact on the availability of moose for local customary and traditional subsistence uses and ceremonial uses for certain Alaska Native religious ceremonies.

In the absence of state predator control plan development, the Board of Game should develop regulations that assist local hunters in better managing wolf and bear populations in Units 21D and 24 in order to support continued sustainable moose populations and to decrease human-animals conflicts as a human safety concern.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Because of public concerns about the impact of high wolf and bear numbers on moose in Units 21D and 24, the board should direct ADF&G to develop an intensive management feasibility assessment to evaluate the benefits

of a predation control plan for wolves and bears to increase the moose population for high levels of human used in these areas and to decrease negative human-predator interactions.

PROPOSED BY: Darrell Vent Sr.

(HQ-F19-181)

PROPOSAL 76

5 AAC 92.126. Non-Intensive Management Predator Control Plans.

Establish a non-intensive management predator control plan in Unit 21 for bears and wolves as follows:

Establish a non-intensive management predator control plan (5AAC 92.126) to address the conservation concerns for the Galena Mountain (GMH) and Wolf Mountain (WMH) caribou herds.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The GMH and WMH are very low, they have declined in recent years, and their low abundance represents a conservation concern. ADF&G estimates less than 150 caribou remain in the GMH and only 300-500 caribou remain in the WMH. A minimum count of 313 caribou was reported for the GMH in 1998 and a minimum count of 595 caribou was reported for the WMH in 1992. Alaska's State Constitution Article VIII, Section 4 Sustained Yield, requires ADF&G to manage populations (herds) on a sustainable basis. The GMH and WMH are identified as distinct populations in 5 AAC 92.108 and 5AAC 99.025, therefore the state has a responsibility to manage these distinct herds for sustainability. A non-intensive management predator control plan (5 AAC 92.126), should be established for these two herds that encompasses the Kokrine Hills in Units 21B north of the Yukon River, all of 21C, and the eastern portion of 21D. At a minimum, the plan should have three components: 1) department predator control; 2) habitat enhancement, and 3) public predator control.

The abundance of these two herds has been in decline and predators (black bears, grizzly bears and wolves) are likely the primary limiting factors. Although the GMH and WMH do not have a positive finding for intensive management, they are managed to provide hunting opportunities. ADF&G is not meeting these management objectives. All seasons were closed in the area of the Galena Mountain caribou herd beginning in 2004, and harvest from the WMH has never achieved the management harvest objective of up to 35 caribou.

Habitat enhancement along with predator control should be included in a non-intensive predator control plan. The habitat that the caribou travel through on their way to calving grounds, has been encroached by dense spruce and birch forest which provides cover for predators. Fire suppression and the elevational advancement of spruce and birch vegetation in these travel corridors, has reduced visibility for caribou cows and increased risk of predation for them and their newborn calves. In addition, reducing the number of bears and wolves and reducing the cover in these important travel corridors would improve caribou survival, and result in an increase of these populations.

I believe that conservation of these herds should not be contingent upon the biological issue of whether the GMH and WMH are or are not part of Alaska's caribou metapopulation, because these two herds have already been designated in regulation as distinct manageable populations by the Board of Game and ADF&G. The state must not neglect its responsibility to manage these herds by making the metapopulation claim [Native Village of Elim vs. State of Alaska (1999); Koyukuk River Basin Moose Co-Management Team vs. Board of Game (2003); West vs. State of Alaska (2010)].

PROPOSED BY: Craig Hill

(EG-F19-006)
