

# **Petersburg & Wrangell Area – Units 1B & 3**

## **PROPOSAL 15**

### **5 AAC 92.510(a)(5)(B) Areas closed to hunting.**

Change the description of the Petersburg Road System Closed Area as follows:

5 AAC 92.510(a)(5)

(B) in the Petersburg vicinity, a strip one-fourth mile wide on each side of the Mitkof Highway from mile marker 8.75 of the Mitkof Highway to **mile marker 17.22** [THE CRYSTAL LAKE CAMPGROUND] is closed to the taking of big game, except wolves;

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The current description of the Petersburg Road System Closed Area is inaccurate. The southern most boundary of the closed area is described as the Crystal Lake campground. While the US Forest Service does maintain a public use facility at mile marker 17.22 of the Mitkof Highway, there is no campground present. Additionally, the name of the public use facility is not consistent and varies on currently available maps from “Blind Slough Campground” to “Bind Slough Picnic Area”.

To avoid confusion, the department proposes correcting the boundary description by replacing Crystal Lake campground with mile marker 17.22 of the Mitkof Highway.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F22-056)

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## **PROPOSAL 16**

### **5 AAC 85.030(a)(5). Hunting seasons and bag limits for deer.**

Lengthen the deer season in Unit 3, that portion of Mitkof Island within the Petersburg Management Area as follows:

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

(2) Unit 3, that portion of Mitkof Island within the Petersburg Management Area

2 bucks **Aug 1** [OCT 1] - Dec 15

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Currently the Petersburg Management Area’s deer season runs October 1 - December 15 with a limit of two bucks by bow and arrow only. There are no August/September deer opportunities on Mitkof Island and the Lindenberg Peninsula areas of Unit 3. These areas provide the easiest access to locals. Petersburg residents do have nearby August and September deer opportunities in Unit 1B. However, these hunts take a larger time commitment and are often weather dependent as one needs to cross a sizeable body of water with limited areas to safely store a watercraft. By opening the Petersburg Management Area’s deer season August 1 – December 15, it would allow an early season opportunity for bowhunters with limited time and resources and expand opportunity to an area that was created to minimize deer impacts near town.

**PROPOSED BY:** Kaleb Baird (EG-F22-105)

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**PROPOSAL 17**

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

Establish a fall drawing permit hunt for elk on Zarembo Island in Unit 3 as follows:

**Unit 3, Zarembo Island, October 1 - October 31, one bull elk by drawing permit only, up to 25 permits may be issued.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Establish a drawing hunt on Zarembo Island for elk. Zarembo has become an elk sanctuary with no allowable harvest. Zarembo Island deer population is a valuable food source for local communities and is being displaced by elk populations.

**PROPOSED BY:** Chris Guggenbickler and Jordan Bunes (EG-F22-053)

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**PROPOSAL 18**

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

Establish a fall, drawing permit hunt for elk on Zarembo, Bushy, Shrubby and Kashevarof Islands in Unit 3 as follows:

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

Unit 3, Zarembo, Bushy, Shrubby Islands, and the Kashevarof Islands **UP TO 5 permits will be issued, 1 bull by drawing permit only; Sept. 15 - Oct. 15** [No open season].

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** That portion of Unit 3 that includes Zarembo, Bushy, Shrubby and the Kashevarof Islands is currently closed to elk hunting. Elk dispersed to the area following the Etolin Island introductions and were hunted previously, however numbers were deemed too low to sustain a hunt in 2008. Recently elk sightings and observations in the area have led some to believe the herd is indeed growing and capable of sustaining a limited opportunity bull-only hunt. A limited draw hunt allowing up to five bull permits would allow some opportunity to this resource that is otherwise off limits and in competition for food resources with native deer populations. While a number lower than five permits is the most likely starting place, allowing the department room to adjust up or down on a yearly basis as more is learned about the herd and hunter observations are taken into consideration will be vital to a successful herd and hunt.

Further, the earliest any-weapon season for elk in the state is currently September 25 in Unit 8. Nearby Etolin Island has a bow and arrow only season for elk during the month of September, but any weapon seasons are conducted in October and November. If a Zarembo, Bushy, Shrubby, and Kashevarof Islands season is adopted, there is interest for an earlier season structure including a significant portion of the month of September.

**PROPOSED BY:** Kaleb Baird (EG-F22-109)

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**PROPOSAL 19**

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

Change the hunt structure for elk on Etolin Island in Unit 3 as follows:

Make the following changes to the Etolin Island elk hunting seasons:

Shorten DE318:

DE318            September 1 - **15** [30]            25 tags            Archery Only

Create a new hunt DE319

**DE319**            **Sep. 16 - 30**            **25 tags**            **Residents Only**

Reduce the number of tags for DE321:

DE321            Oct. 1-15            40 tags

Eliminate DE32:

DE323            [OCT16 - 31            50 TAGS]

Start the registration hunt earlier:

RE325            **Nov. 1 - Dec. 1**

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

- The Etolin Island elk hunt consistently produces a low harvest.
- The resource is underutilized.
- The vast majority of hunting effort during the month-long archery season regularly occurs within the first two weeks of the season, leaving the latter half of the month largely un-hunted.
- The number of DE321 tags allotted annually creates crowding in the field, effectively diminishing the quality, productivity and safety of the hunt.
- The season dates of both DE323 and RE325 reduce the productivity of the hunts due to short days and typically inclement weather.

**PROPOSED BY:** Ketchikan Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F22-014)

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**PROPOSAL 20**

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

Split Etolin Island in Unit 3 into two hunt areas for elk as follows:

I would like to recommend Etolin Island be split into two hunt areas. The dividing line would extend from Anita Bay through Burnett Inlet. This would result in a hunt area south of Anita Bay and east of Burnett Inlet which currently attracts the vast majority of effort and harvest. The remainder of Etolin Island north of Anita Bay and West of Burnett Inlet would be a second area. There has been historic harvest in Steamer Bay, Rocky Bay, Three Way Passage and Mosman Inlet.

I would suggest that the archery and registration hunts remain the same, however, the October hunts would include the two new hunt areas. I would also recommend that the current up to maximum of 50 draw permits for DE321 and DE323 would be split with the new subunit to include DE322 and DE324. The split would be determined by the area management biologist.

My suggested split is referenced below.

Unit/Area

### **Hunt Area 1**

**Etolin Island area bounded by a line from Anita Bay to Zimovia Strait, running north to the intersection of Chichagof Passage, west along Chichagof passage to Stikine Strait to the intersection of Clarence Strait, south to Stan Hope Island, east to Fawn Island and north up through Burnett Inlet.**

**One bull by permit DE331, Oct 1st- Oct 15th, up to 10 permits**

**One bull by permit DE 333, Oct 15th-Oct31st, up to 10 permits**

### **Hunt Area 2**

**Etolin Island area bounded by a line from the intersection of Clarence Strait and Ernest Sound, a line running northeast excluding Niblack Islands to the intersection of Zimovia Strait, north to Anita Bay. From Anita Bay south to Burnett Inlet, east of Fawn Island, west to Stan Hope Island, extending to the intersection of Clarence Strait southeast to the intersection of Clarence Strait and Ernest Sound.**

**One bull by permit DE321, Oct 1st – Oct 15th, up to 40 permits**

**One bull by permit DE 323, Oct 16th – Oct 31st, up to 40 permits**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The current October hunt structure and level of participation, particularly from Alaska residents and more specifically from southeast Alaska residents is causing congestion, burdensome competition, a loss of hunt aesthetics, resulting in potentially dangerous situations. I would recommend a change in hunt structure to help alleviate these issues.

The vast majority of effort is isolated to the southern end of Etolin Island from Canoe Pass to McHenry Inlet and the mountain peaks and drainages from Mount Shakes, Navy Peak, McHenry Lake and Mt. Etolin. It isn't uncommon to have multiple hunting parties pursuing elk in the same bowl, drainage, beach, inlet or mountain range.

Effort is focused in these areas because of historic harvest and access. In the mid 2000's an average of seven to eight elk were harvested per year by about 50 hunters. In the last several years the harvest rate has been similar but with around 75 hunters participating. The majority of the hunters are hunting in October and with the condensed two week draw seasons crowding is often the result.

Management of this small, isolated elk herd is largely done through harvest data due to the significant difficulty in estimating the population due to the thick old growth habitat and forested

drainages of south Etolin. Due to fiscal constraints, weather, time, distance and habitat, it is exceedingly difficult to accurately estimate elk on Etolin.

By splitting Etolin into two hunt areas and dividing the available up to draw permits I believe it will spread out effort (improve aesthetics, limit conflicts), lead to other viable hunt options (increased opportunity) and provide the Department of Fish and Game with valuable information to better manage the herd I would request the Board consider the following changes to the existing hunt structure to reduce crowding, potential conflict and to restore the aesthetics of the hunt.

**PROPOSED BY:** Matt Allen (HQ-F22-015)

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**PROPOSAL 21**

**5 AAC 92.150. Evidence of sex and identity.**

Eliminate the regulation that excludes broken, damaged, or altered antlers from the definition of spike-fork antlers for Units 1B, 1C and 3 as follows:

**5 AAC 92.150. Evidence of sex and identity(a)** Horns of a Dall sheep must be salvaged. (b) If the taking of a big game animal, except sheep, is restricted to one sex, a person may not possess or transport the carcass of an animal unless sufficient portions of the external sex organs remain attached to indicate conclusively the sex of the animal, except that antlers are considered proof of sex for a deer if the antlers are naturally attached to an entire carcass, with or without the viscera; however, this section does not apply to the carcass of a big game animal that has been cut and placed in storage or otherwise prepared for consumption upon arrival at the location where it is to be consumed. (c) If a big game bag limit includes an antler size or configuration restriction, both antlers must be salvaged. A person possessing a set of moose antlers with less than the required number of brow tines on one antler shall leave the antlers naturally attached to the unbroken, uncut skull plate. If antlers or horns must be salvaged, they may not be altered before the completion of all salvage requirements, unless alteration is required under permit conditions. [IN UNIT 1(B), THAT PORTION OF UNIT 1(C) SOUTH OF PORT HOBART, INCLUDING ALL PORT HOUGHTON DRAINAGES, AND UNIT 3, A DAMAGED, BROKEN, OR ALTERED ANTLER IS NOT CONSIDERED A SPIKE-FORK ANTLER AS DEFINED IN 5 AAC 92.990.] (d) In those areas where sealing is required, until the hide has been sealed by a representative of the department, no person may possess or transport the hide of a bear that does not have the penis sheath or vaginal orifice naturally attached to indicate conclusively the sex of the bear. (e) In those areas where sealing is required only for the skull of a bear, a person who possesses or transports the meat of a bear must keep sufficient portions of the external sex organs naturally attached to indicate conclusively the sex of the bear until the skull of the bear has been sealed by a representative of the department.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Remove language [In Unit 1(B), that portion of Unit 1(C) south of Port Hobart, including all Port Houghton drainages, and Unit 3, a damaged, broken, or altered antler is not considered a spike-fork antler as defined in 5 AAC 92.990.] from 5 AAC 92.150 to align spike-fork definition with the rest of the state.

**PROPOSED BY:** Chris Guggenbickler and Jordan Bunes (EG-F22-052)

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*Note: Proposal 22 is a combination of seven submissions all requesting elimination of the restriction for using motorized vehicles for the RM038 moose hunt in Unit 1B.*

**PROPOSAL 22**

**5 AAC 92.052. Discretionary permit hunt conditions and procedures.**

Eliminate the restriction for using motorized vehicles for the RM038 moose hunt in Unit 1B as follows:

Delete this special condition completely, as it is no longer necessary.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Concerning RM038, there is a special condition. "Hunting with the use of a motorized land vehicle is prohibited in Unit 1B, except to retrieve moose, establish camps, or check boats."

This "rule" was added in 1978, when the area was logged. "Road" hunting afforded easy access to the moose moving into the area. The area has since grown back, providing a lot of cover for the moose, and "road" hunting no longer would provide such easy access to moose.

The area allows for the use of motorized land vehicles for hunting of all other game species. So you may drive a vehicle in this area to hunt deer during moose season.

**PROPOSED BY:** Kris Thynes

(EG-F22-077)

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I recommend that the current no motorized land vehicle hunt stipulation in Unit 1B be discarded. There is absolutely no scientific reason behind the regulation and there is no reason why we shouldn't be allowed to moose hunt the exact same way as everywhere else in the state. Being as this is currently a unique hunt condition, I don't think anything even needs to be worded, just get rid of it and state in the new books that Unit 1B is now open to hunting by any legal means as any other unit.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Special condition for general moose hunt in Unit 1B, the prohibition of motorized land vehicles for hunting, except for getting to camp, checking boat, and retrieving a moose once harvested. This regulation is out of date and makes it unfair for certain hunters. Currently there are several moose camps at various pull-offs on the logging roads in the area. Only one of the camps is owned by a resident of Point Agassiz. Frankly the rest of us can't afford to buy campers and move them up the road so we can hunt on foot or on bicycle. I am a resident of Point Agassiz and I am a disabled Veteran. I have a messed up neck, two bad shoulders, a messed up back and cannot ride a bike, or hike far enough up the valley to hunt moose. I spent ten years in the interior where I harvested a moose every year on the remote lake I lived on. Here in Unit 1B I don't have a chance because I can't ride an ATV up the road system to hunt, or my truck. This is the only place in the state where you can't use an ATV or truck. Frankly it is dangerous for me to try to hunt as I can't carry weight on my back because of my disability so I can't carry survival gear.

The area biologist just explained at the last board meeting that this stipulation was created because of a group of drunk driving, night shooting hunters in the 80s' that is a non-issue out here now. Now most the cabin owners and moose hunters are elderly, and they should have just as much of chance to hunt as anyone in the rest of the state. For all those who don't have a moose camper, we can't get to an area of moose, on foot or bike from our residence without hiking or biking all day. How would we be able to turn around and get all the way home to grab a truck or ATV and a winch to safely recover our moose if we could manage to harvest one? That would be wanton waste!!

**PROPOSED BY:** Cody Ledoux

(EG-F22-083)

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The solution would be to allow hunters to use motorized vehicles in regards to hunting moose.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The hunt condition regarding moose hunting in Unit 1B saying we can't use motorized vehicles to hunt. It's an out-of-date condition based on events that occurred between individuals decades ago. The scenarios that brought about this hunting condition are obsolete and currently only cause difficulty due to territory hoarding among current hunters, and the inability to travel to better hunting grounds without an established and maintained camp. I am requesting this hunt condition be removed.

**PROPOSED BY:** Faith Nelson

(EG-F22-085)

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The solution is to eliminate the "special conditions" for the Unit 1B's moose hunt. I propose no new regulations regarding the game Unit 1B

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The issue is the "special condition" rule prohibiting the use of motorized land vehicles in all of game Unit 1B. I would like the board to eliminate this "special condition" rule for the Unit 1B moose hunt. As a long time moose hunter in game Unit 1B. I find this "special condition" rule in a non-controlled use area a rule that serves no purpose other than to limit access for hunters. The fact that this is the only game unit in Southeast Alaska that has this "special condition" makes no sense. In order for me to hunt from my cabin I have to either walk or use a bicycle and travel many miles on a logging road to access the spots I choose to hunt. I can drive my truck on these roads and hunt any other animal in season, but a moose is ruled illegal.

**PROPOSED BY:** Mark Hofstad

(EG-F22-090)

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Legalize the use of motorized vehicles to hunt moose in Unit 1B.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** I would like to address the no driving of motorized vehicles while hunting moose on the Thomas Bay road system in Unit 1B. The point of it, years ago, was because of it's a small area and lots of hunters used to go there.

However, the habitat has changed the days of driving and hunting. The clear cuts are over, the habitat has grown up, and very few hunters go there anymore because hunting isn't as good as it used be with the lack of moose habitat. Yet jet boats are allowed to drive and hunt the rivers in the same area while road access isn't allowed. Use of vehicles to hunt moose would be beneficial for the residents that live there, as well as anyone else hunting Unit 1B

**PROPOSED BY:** Austin Sollars

(EG-F22-099)

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I recommend deleting the hunt condition, special stipulation that prohibits the use of motorized land vehicles in Unit 1B. There is no scientific reason behind it and it is an unfair rule. There doesn't need to be a new regulation, just make it the same as every other place in the state.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** There is currently a hunt condition for moose hunting in Unit 1B that doesn't allow land-based motor vehicles for hunting. This is the only place in the state that has this stipulation, and it is ridiculous. This is in Southeast Alaska, in a rainforest where people can die from hypothermia in a day. To not be able to provide enough meat for our family, due to the risks of not being able to carry proper survival gear is just plain stupid. I have lived in Unit 1B, remotely since 2003. I have never been able to moose hunt because the moose live 5 miles from my home, and I have a bad back so I cannot ride a bicycle. We should have the same rights as everyone else in the state.

**PROPOSED BY:** Steve Nelson

(EG-F22-106)

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I recommend that the restrictions on motorized land vehicles, for moose hunting in Unit 1B, be lifted to allow everyone a fair chance at harvesting a moose.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Hello, My name is Sidney Nelson. My family lives, off-grid, out at Point Agassiz in Unit 1B. We live on the coast. There is currently a special rule, that only applies to Unit 1B that states you cannot use a motorized land vehicle for moose hunting, until after you shoot the moose. This is an unfair law to anyone who isn't either young and in shape (who can either hike or bike 10 miles to shoot a moose and then back to get a vehicle in time to salvage it before it spoils) or for the 6 or 8 people who are fortunate enough to have a moose camp set up. As anyone who lives out here knows, there are only so many places for a moose camp, those spots have been in use by the same people for dozens of years. There was no new places for our boys to hunt when we moved here in 2003 and there still isn't. The only option would be to hunt with ATVs which should be allowed. We are low income and cannot afford a riverboat, but we do own ATVs. Everywhere else in Alaska you are allowed to hunt using an ATV, here should be no different. Some people are talking about suggesting using e-bikes, that would only allow the rich who can afford a \$1500-\$3000 bike to have another advantage over us. We just want a fair chance to provide for our families.

**PROPOSED BY:** Sidney Nelson

(EG-F22-108)

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**PROPOSAL 23**

**5 AAC 92.085. Unlawful methods for taking big game.**

Allow the use of electric bikes for the RM038 moose hunt in Unit 1B as follows:

**"The use of "E-bikes" with 750 watts or less are permitted for hunting."**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Concerning RM038, there is a special condition. "Hunting with the use of a motorized land vehicle is prohibited in Unit 1B, except to retrieve moose, establish camps or check boats."

I would like to allow the use of "E-bikes" in this area . "E-bikes" below 750 watts are considered in many areas of the state and federally to be non-motorized vehicles.

This was presented to the local advisory committee at a public meeting on April 25, 2022 and after discussion the committee voted 7 Yeas, 1 Nay and 3 members abstained.

**PROPOSED BY:** Kris Thynes (EG-F22-075)

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**PROPOSAL 24**

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

**5 AAC 92.510. Areas closed to hunting.**

Open the Petersburg Creek drainage of Kupreanof Island in Unit 3 to black bear hunting as follows:

5 AAC 92.510(a)(5)(C)

That portion of Kupreanof Island that includes the Petersburg Creek drainages is closed to black bear hunting **except that: black bears may be taken by resident certified bowhunters who obtain a limited registration permit**

5 AAC 85.015

Kupreanof Island RESIDENT HUNTERS: **Petersburg Creek drainage, one bear by bow and arrow only, April 15 - June 30, UP TO 10 permits will be issued on a first come first serve basis at Petersburg ADF&G office, limit one bear per hunter**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Currently the Petersburg Creek drainage of Kupreanof Island is closed to the taking of black bears. Hunters and anglers are allowed to participate in all other forms of recreation in the area. This includes opportunities for moose, deer, wolves, waterfowl, and various fish species, though black bears remain protected. There is some desire from local bear hunters to access this area due to proximity of town and the seemingly high population. A limited access and weapon restricted hunt could provide the necessary opportunity to harvest some bears with minimal interference of and considerations towards other common user groups in the area (sport fishing, fall bear watching, sightseeing, etc.) A spring-only season for certified bowhunters with a limited number of permits (only available at the Petersburg ADF&G office) would allow for a unique opportunity to hunt bears and keep hunter interactions with other user groups at a minimum.

**PROPOSED BY:** Kaleb Baird (EG-F22-107)

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**PROPOSAL 25**

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

**5 AAC 92.510. Areas closed to hunting.**

Allow black bear hunting in the Petersburg Creek Drainage area, with season dates to align with Unit 3 as follows:

I would like it to say you can kill black bear in the Petersburg Creek drainage with the season matching the rest of Unit 3.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** I would like to allow hunting of black bear in the Petersburg Creek drainage.

**PROPOSED BY:** Max Worhatch

(EG-F22-142)

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**PROPOSAL 26**

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

Reduce the permit allocation and bag limit for nonresident, nonguided black bear hunters on Kuiu and Kupreanof Islands in Unit 3 as follows:

DL029 - DL030

Nonresident hunters NOT using a registered guide, not accompanied by resident second-degree of kindred. Reduce nonresident, non-guided draw allocation from 75 to 35 annually.

Nonresident hunter NOT using a registered guide, not accompanied by a resident second-degree of kindred. One black bear every four (or set by Board of Game) regulatory years.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Reduce nonresident, non-guided draw from 75 to 35 annually due biological concerns for the black bear population on Kuiu and Kupreanof Island. As well as crowding, interactions and 'conflicts' in the field. Over the last 20 years, there has been a marked, steady, dramatic decline of population and age of bears on the island. Increased harvest and the lack of any substantive population study for the bear population is causing harm to the long-term viability of the island resource. The last population study regarding the black bear resource on Kuiu island was done in the early 2000s by a graduate student. The study, while possibly effective in the areas that it covered, was extrapolated over the entire island that most certainly does not provide equal quality habitat for bears, providing false data that has been relied on for harvest management by ADF&G. Habitat alteration, prolonged high harvest, and wolf predation have caused substantial reductions in the population that have not been addressed or even acknowledged by the managing agency.

At the last southeast Board of Game meeting ADF&G increased available draw limit from 50 to 75 with no new study of bear population. DL029 - DL030 has an extremely high field participation rate. Kuiu has around 18 huntable bays on the island. Kupreanof has six huntable bays. These islands also have around 14 guide outfitters with US Forest Service hunt permit allocation that vary in location of hunts. Over the years hunt draw application service companies and booking agents have been providing hunt services from maps, gear list and local service providers assisting

in the hunt from outside of State of Alaska. Some application service company has been known to accompany their draw application clients successful in the draw on the hunt acting in the capacity of a "Hunt Advisor". This has increased hunters' interest and success in these areas in providing logistical service.

**PROPOSED BY:** Todd Boughner (HQ-F22-001)  
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**PROPOSAL 27**

**5 AAC 92.550. Areas closed to trapping.**

Require 100-yard trapping setbacks along hiking trails and drivable surfaces on Wrangell Island in Unit 3 as follows:

I recommend that a 100-yard no-trapping buffer be implemented around all established hiking trails and drivable surfaces on Wrangell Island.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Trapping along highly trafficked roads on Wrangell Island has led to many user conflicts. Implementing a road setback would resolve these conflicts with minimal disturbance to trappers.

**PROPOSED BY:** Tyler Riberio (EG-F22-136)  
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