



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MICHAEL J. DUNLEAVY

Department of Fish and Game

DIVISION OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION
Headquarters

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An Agenda Change Request (ACR 2) has been submitted to the Alaska Board of Game requesting to change 5 AAC 92.085 unlawful methods of taking big game, exceptions. The proponent is asking the board to allow the use of air guns of at least .457 caliber for all big game.

With respect to the board's Agenda Change Request (ACR) acceptance criteria (5 AAC 92.005):

- A. The department is unaware of any error in regulation.
- B. The department is unaware of any effects of regulations that were unforeseen when the regulation was adopted.
- C. The department is unaware of any biological concerns.
- D. The department is unaware of any unforeseen or unexpected events that would otherwise restrict or reduce a reasonable opportunity for customary and traditional wildlife uses as defined in AS 16.05.258(f).
- E. The department is unaware of any unexpected resource situation that would cause a biologically allowable resource harvest to be precluded by delayed regulatory action.

At the Statewide Board of Game meeting in 2022 the board adopted a proposal that allowed the use of air rifles at least .35 caliber or larger for taking caribou and deer. The department does not collect caliber or firearm specific information in hunt reports and as a result does not know if people are using high-powered large bore air rifles to take caribou or deer.

The next regularly scheduled board meeting for Statewide regulations is in winter/spring of 2024/2025. The Department opines that this is the most appropriate time to have this discussion that has statewide implications. It is the Department's opinion that delaying action to this meeting would not result in a serious conservation concern but could limit opportunities to use this type of firearm if the Board chose to approve it.

If the board accepts this ACR, the department recommends the proposal come before the board at its March 2024 meeting in Fairbanks to allow for more public input.

Sincerely,

Ryan Scott

Ryan Scott
Acting Director

Division of Wildlife Conservation