

2024 BOG Regulation Proposals Unit 20D



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Proposal 125, Unit 20D, Moose

Proposal: Require a registration permit to hunt moose instead of a general season harvest ticket for all general season, harvest ticket moose hunts in Game Management Unit 20D, and require that harvest be reported within 14 days from the close of the season

Submitted By: Delta Junction Fish & Game AC

ADF&G Recommendation:
SUPPORT

Delta AC Recommendation:
SUPPORT, 9 – 0



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Proposal 125, Unit 20D, Moose

- **Issues:**

- Harvest Ticket Issues
 - Often not returned: no penalty for not reporting
 - Effort data unclear
- 1 registration permit would be required for all Unit 20D hunts (all HT hunts under 1 registration permit)
- Permits would only be available at ADF&G & online or at vendors that can issue permits digitally

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Proposal 125, Unit 20D, Moose

- **Department Considerations:**

- ADF&G has no biological concerns with this proposal and SUPPORTS it
 - ❖ Would help ADF&G gather better and more accurate data
- Timely and accurate report data would greatly improve the ability to make management decisions
- Would be a big change to Unit 20D moose hunting regulations
- Using a registration permit for these reasons differs from some of the long-standing uses of registration permits

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Proposal 125, Unit 20D, Moose

Current Regulations:

R	20D	south of the north bank of Tanana River and east of the west bank of Johnson River, excluding that portion within Robertson River drainage south of the confluence of east and west forks, and within 1 mile west of the west fork	One bull	HT	Sept 1-Sept 15
R	20D	within the Robertson River drainage south of the confluence of east and west forks, and within 1 mile west of the west fork	One bull	HT	Sept 1-Sept 15
N			One bull with 50-inch antlers, or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on at least one side	HT	Sept 5-Sept 15
R	20D	south of the north bank of the Tanana River and west of the west bank of the Johnson River, excluding the Delta Junction Management Area and the Bison Range Controlled Use Area	One bull with spike-fork or 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on at least one side	HT	Sept 1-Sept 15
N			One bull with 50-inch antlers, or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on at least one side	HT	Sept 5-Sept 15
B	20D	within the Bison Range Controlled Use Area	One bull per lifetime, with spike-fork or 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on at least one side by permit	YM792	Sept 1-Sept 30
R	20D	within the Delta Junction Management Area	One bull with spike-fork or 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on at least one side by permit	DM790	Sept 1-Sept 15
N			One bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on at least one side by permit		
B			One bull every four regulatory years by permit by qualified disabled, Purple Heart veterans only	DM795	
R	20D	within the Healy River drainage	One bull with spike-fork antlers	HT	Aug 15-Aug 28
N			One bull	HT	Sept 1-Sept 20
B	20D	north of the north bank of the Tanana River including the Volkmar River drainage, east to include the Billy Creek drainage, excluding the Healy River drainage.	One bull	HT	Sept 1-Sept 20
B	20D	remainder	One bull	HT	Sept 1-Sept 20

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Proposal 125, Unit 20D, Moose

Proposed Regulations:

- Harvest Ticket "HT" hunts in Unit 20D would become Registration "R" hunts
- Hunters would be required to report harvest within 14 days of the close of the season
- All seasons and bag limits would remain the same

STATE OF ALASKA Moose Registration Permit - OVERLAY
 Department of Fish and Game
 Moose Fall Registration Hunt

PERMIT HUNT CONDITIONS

- 1) WHEN STATE HUNTERS: Alaska residents: Aug. 24 - 28 and Sept. 6 - 17, Nonresidents: Sept. 8 - 17.
- 2) FREQUALLY QUALIFIED SPORTSMEN HUNTERS: Aug. 20 - Sept. 30.
- 3) WILDLIFE: Unit 20D, except that portion of the Middle Fork of the Fortymile River upstream from and including Joseph Creek drainage.
- 4) FREQUALLY QUALIFIED SPORTSMEN HUNTERS: Federal lands in Unit 20D, excluding the Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve and that portion of the Middle Fork of the Fortymile River upstream from and including the Joseph Creek drainage.
- 5) BULL LIMIT: Alaska residents and federally qualified nonresident hunters: One bull moose. Nonresidents: One bull moose with 50-inch antlers or antlers with four or more brow tines on at least one side. Evidence of sex must remain attached to the hindquarter.
- 6) REPORTING: Successful hunters: Report within 14 days of fall by reporting on online (<http://moose.adfg.alaska.gov>) or by phone (907) 485-2973 AND returning completed permit report card in person or by mail (postage required) to Fish AD&FG. Unsuccessful hunters and those who did not hunt: Report no later than 15 days after the close of season by reporting online at <http://moose.adfg.alaska.gov> or by returning completed permit report card in person or by mail to Fish AD&FG.
- 7) PERMITS: You may not possess RCMS (Furtago) caribou permits & RMMS (this permit at the same time). Parts of this hunt area are in the Lachlan River Controlled Use Area and Glacier Mountain Controlled Use Area where methods of transportation are restricted.
- 8) WEND QUALIFIED: Alaska residents and nonresidents.
- 9) PENALTY FOR FAILURE TO REPORT: If you fail to report, you will not be eligible to receive any permits (Drawing, Targeted, Tier II, or Registration, including Tier I include Caribou) during the next regulatory year. In addition, your name will be turned over to the Alaska Wildlife Troopers for enforcement action.
- 10) FREQUENT HUNTING PROHIBITED: Frequent hunting is prohibited in RMMS.
- 11) MOTORIZED VEHICLE USE RESTRICTED: The use of any motorized land vehicle greater than 2,500 lbs. for hunting moose under an RMMS permit, including the transportation of hunters, their hunting gear, and/or parts of game, is prohibited from August 3-September 30, within the portion of the Middle Fork of the Fortymile River drainage between, but not including, the Kechumuck Creek drainage and the drainage of the northern tributary which flows into the Middle Fork at 63° 57' 22" N, 143° 37' 29" W. This restriction does not apply on the Kechumuck Trail, the Square Lake Trail and that portion of the Mitchell Ranch Trail east of the Minto Fork.

You must comply with all permit hunt conditions, additional requirements, and restrictions, as well as what is published in the permit hunt supplements, and Alaska hunting regulations for this regulatory year.

STATE OF ALASKA Department of Fish and Game
 Moose Registration Permit - REPORT

Reg Year: 2023-2024
 Permit: 0120742-39

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Proposal 125, Unit 20D, Moose

Background:

- **Unit 20D is highly accessible and has one of the highest moose densities in Alaska**
- **Has some of the highest hunter effort & harvest for its size in Alaska**
- **During 2018 – 2022 an average of 832 hunters hunted annually with an average harvest of 196 in the general season hunts (24% success)**
- **Positive C&T for moose in Unit 20D outside Fairbanks Nonsubsistence Area**
- **ANS is 15 moose north of the Tanana River & 5 moose south of Tanana River**

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Proposal 125, Unit 20D, Moose

Background continued:

Intensive Management:

- **Population Objective = 8,000 – 10,000 moose**
- **Harvest Objective = 500 – 700 moose**

Moose Population Estimates:

- **2023 southern 20D population estimate = 5,092 moose**
- **2021 Unit 20D north estimate = 3,688**
- **No 20D north estimate post severe winter of 2021 – 2022**
- **Current unitwide population estimate = 7,621 moose**

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Proposal 125, Unit 20D, Moose

Effects of Proposal/Conclusions:

- All Unit 20D Harvest Ticket hunts would become 1 registration hunt
- Adoption of this proposal would help the department gather better effort & harvest data
- ADF&G has no biological concerns with this proposal and **SUPPORTS** it
- If adopted ADF&G would provide educational outreach to ensure hunters are aware of the change to long-standing regulations

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Proposal 125, Unit 20D, Moose

- **Proposal:** Require a registration permit to hunt moose instead of a general season harvest ticket for all general season, harvest ticket moose hunts in Game Management Unit 20D, and require that harvest be reported within 14 days from the close of the season
- **Submitted By:** Delta Junction Fish & Game AC
- **ADF&G Recommendation:**
SUPPORT
- **Delta AC Recommendation:**
SUPPORT, 9 – 0



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Proposal 126, Unit 20D, Moose

- ***Proposal:*** Reauthorize the antlerless moose hunting season in Unit 20D
- ***Submitted by:*** ADF&G
- ***ADF&G Recommendation:***
SUPPORT
- ***Delta AC Recommendation:***
SUPPORT, 10 – 1
- ***Fairbanks AC Recommendation:***
SUPPORT, XX – XX



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Proposal 126, Unit 20D, Moose

- ***Issue:*** The Unit 20D antlerless moose hunts must be reauthorized annually
- ***Department Considerations:***
 - Allow continuation of Southwestern Unit 20D antlerless drawing hunts (~30 permits are awarded annually)
 - Registration hunts retained in codified
 - Department would like BOG to develop an allocation order between the 3 active antlerless drawing hunts in SW Unit 20D
 - BOG will hear 3 additional proposals that seek to make changes to the Unit 20D antlerless hunting structure

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Proposal 126, Unit 20D, Moose

Background:

- **BOG adopted Intensive Management for Unit 20D moose in 1995**
 - Population objective = 8,000 – 10,000
 - Harvest objective = 500 – 700
- **By 2006, population in SW Unit 20D increased to 5.6 moose/sq.mi**
 - Moderately low twinning rate
 - Moderately high browse utilization

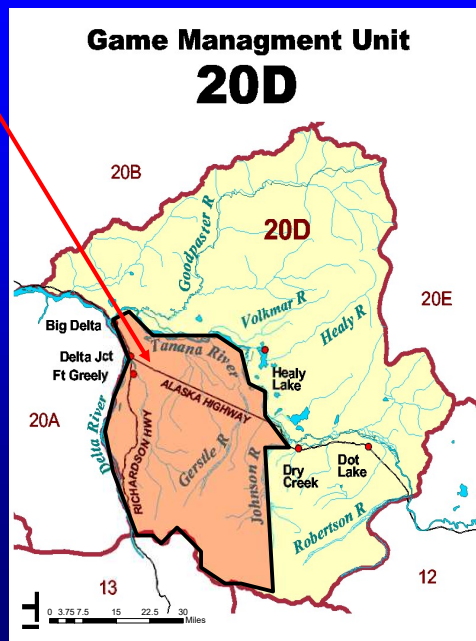
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Proposal 126, Unit 20D, Moose

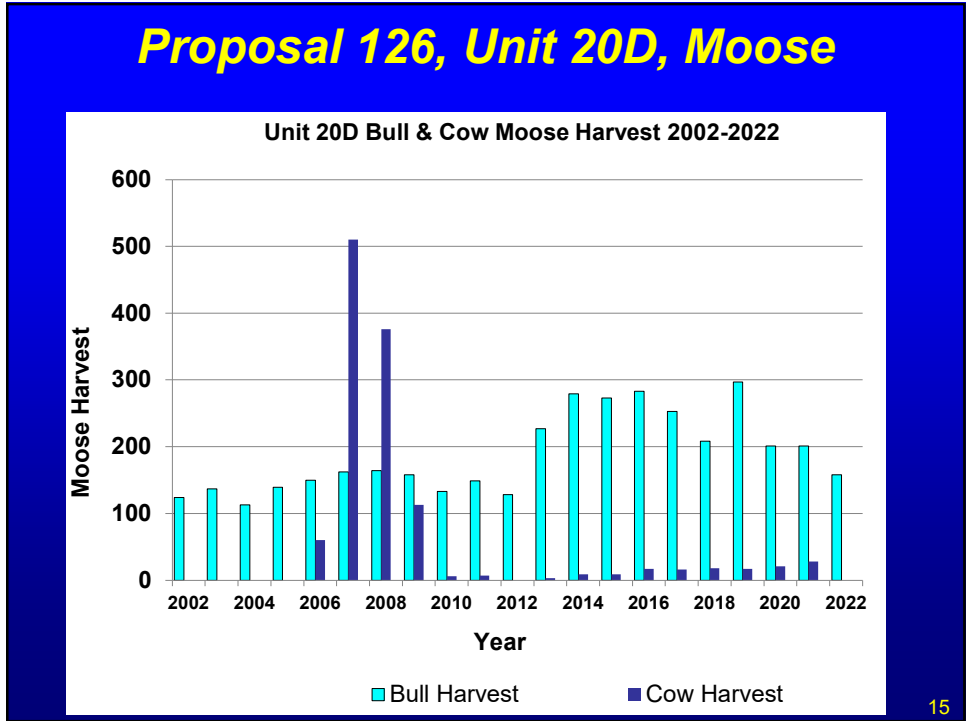
Background cont'd:

- **Southwest Unit 20D**
- **Highest moose density & population growth**
- **Extensive agricultural land clearing & wildfires over last 40 years created abundant high quality moose habitat**
 - Population showed nutritional stress prior to the 2021 – 2022 winter
- **Antlerless hunts continue to be a contentious subject**

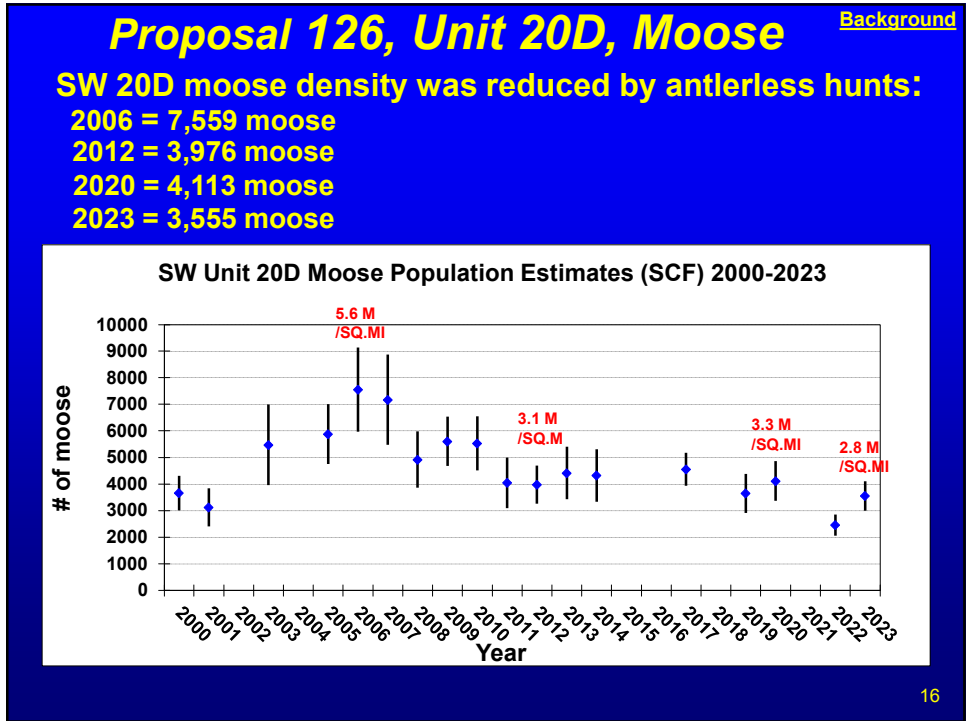


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Proposal 126, Unit 20D, Moose

[Background](#)

- Data collection to determine when antlerless hunts should be used:
 - Twinning rates (2-year avg.)
 - Over 20%, promote pop. growth
 - 11 – 20%, stable pop. growth
 - $\leq 10\%$, reduce pop. growth
 - Weights of 9-month-old calves
 - Overwinter browse utilization



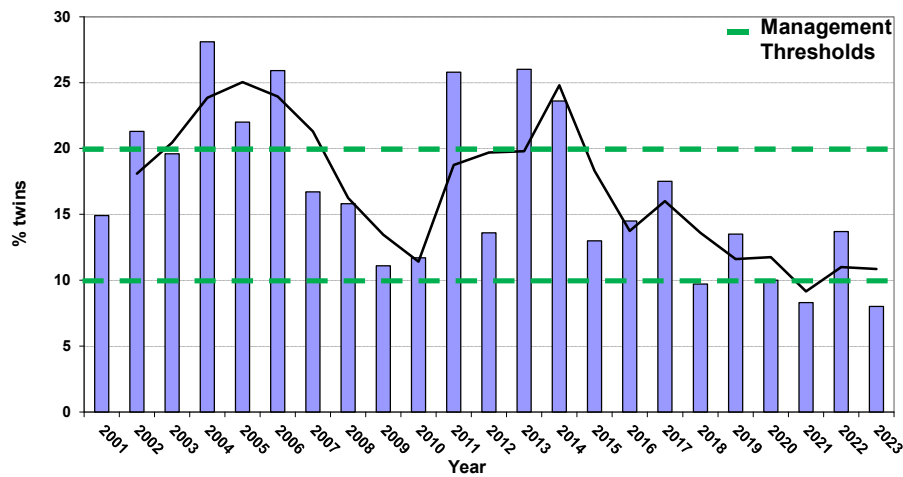
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Proposal 126, Unit 20D, Moose

[Background](#)

Unit 20D Twinning Rate (with 2-year average line)




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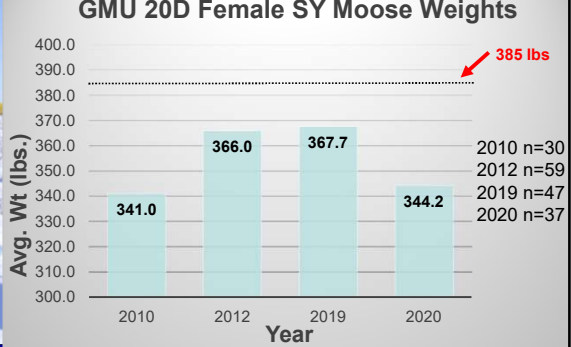
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Proposal 126, Unit 20D, Moose

- Female Short-Yearling Weights



GMU 20D Female SY Moose Weights



Year	Avg. Wt (lbs.)	n
2010	341.0	30
2012	366.0	59
2019	367.7	47
2020	344.2	37

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Proposal 126, Unit 20D, Moose

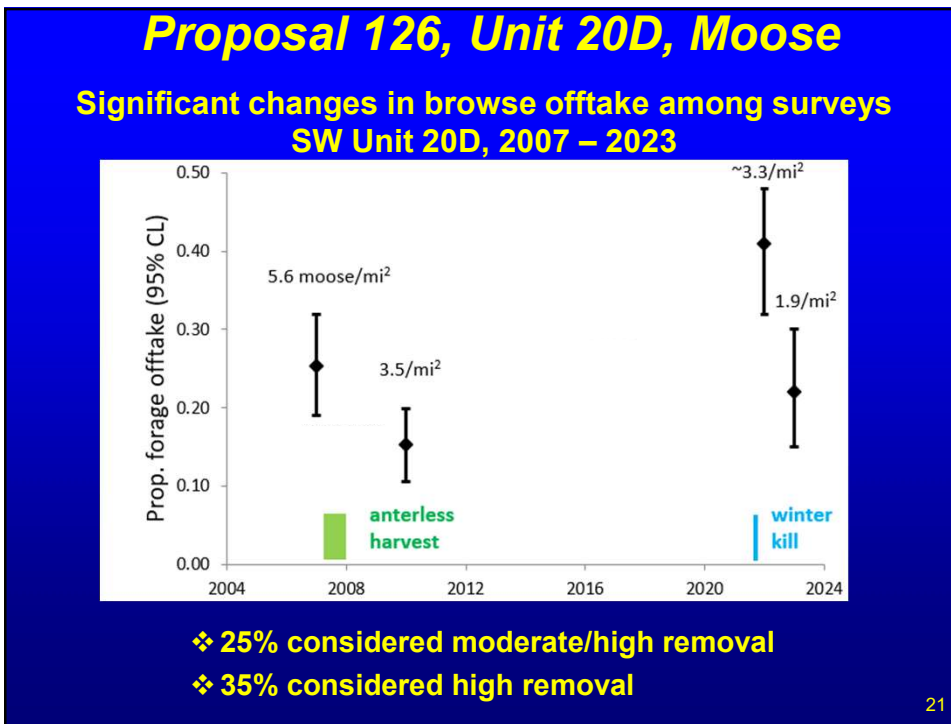
Moose Browse

- Fire, riparian disturbance (flood, ice scour), logging, and land clearing increase deciduous woody forages
- Browse = willows, poplar, aspen, and paper birch




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- ### Proposal 126, Unit 20D, Moose
- Summary:
- SW Unit 20D had high density moose pop. = 5.6 moose/mi²
 - 1,054 cow moose harvested from 2006 – 2009
 - Moose density reduced to 3.1 moose/mi²
 - Since 2009 <30 cow moose harvested per year
 - Permits will only be issued via drawing in special hunts until data collection suggests there is a need for further reduction
 - Board should consider developing an allocation order between the 3 active antlerless drawing hunts in SW 20D
 - Requesting reauthorization as a management tool
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Proposal 126, Unit 20D, Moose

- **Proposal:** Reauthorize the antlerless moose hunting season in Unit 20D
- **Submitted by:** ADF&G
- **ADF&G Recommendation:**
SUPPORT
- **Delta AC Recommendation:**
SUPPORT, 10 – 1
- **Fairbanks AC Recommendation:**
SUPPORT, XX – XX



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Proposal 127, Unit 20D, Moose

- **Proposal:** Expand the hunt area, change the season dates, and change the bag limit to one moose based on the order drawn for the Unit 20D youth moose hunt YM792, and eliminate the DM791 drawing hunt from regulation
- **Submitted By:** Delta Jct. Fish and Game Advisory Committee
- **ADF&G Recommendation:**
SUPPORT with Amendments (2 youth drawing hunts, 1 antlerless & 1 any bull)

NEUTRAL on allocative components
- **Delta AC Recommendation:**
SUPPORT, 11 – 0



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Proposal 127, Unit 20D, Moose

- **Issues:**

- **Currently several draw moose hunts in place for SW Unit 20D that have antlerless as part of their bag limit (YM792, DM791, DM795)**
 - **Under current regulations the department can't have one antlerless hunt and not the others**
 - **Would like the BOG to provide an allocation order for Unit 20D antlerless hunts**
- **YM792 hunt is a more difficult hunt when antlerless component is removed**
- **Current YM792 antler restrictions puts unnecessary stress and burden on youth, which are often first-time hunters**

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Proposal 127, Unit 20D, Moose

- **Issues Continued:**

- **The department needs antlerless hunts to effectively manage the Unit 20D moose population**
 - **Who harvests these moose is allocative**
- **Bull component adds opportunity for youth (up to 10 bull permits)**
 - **Administered as a permit condition for a portion of successful applicants & # of permits determined by ADF&G**
- **Administratively difficult to implement a stacked bag limit within the same drawing hunt**
- **Antlerless hunts continue to be a contentious subject in community**

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Proposal 127, Unit 20D, Moose

• Department Considerations:

- ADF&G has no biological concerns turning this hunt into an any moose hunt as requested
 - Concern about hunting bulls this late in the season
 - Concern about allowing any bull take within the DJMA

- General season moose hunting is prohibited within the BRCUA during the general September 1 – 15 moose season, and associated motorized restrictions are in place

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Proposal 127, Unit 20D, Moose

• Department Considerations (continued):

- Youth hunting opportunity would be expanded & ADF&G would have the tools needed to meet management goals

- Regulations would be simplified

- Department recommends two separate draws to address this proposal (antlerless and bull)

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Proposal 127, Unit 20D, Moose

Current Regulations

R	20D	south of the north bank of Tanana River and east of the west bank of Johnson River, excluding that portion within Robertson River drainage south of the confluence of east and west forks, and within 1 mile west of the west fork	One bull	HT	Sept 1-Sept 15
R	20D	within the Robertson River drainage south of the confluence of east and west forks, and within 1 mile west of the west fork	One bull	HT	Sept 1-Sept 15
N			One bull with 50-inch antlers, or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on at least one side	HT	Sept 5-Sept 15
R	20D	south of the north bank of the Tanana River and west of the west bank of the Johnson River, excluding the Delta Junction Management Area and the Bison Range Controlled Use Area	One bull with spike-fork or 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on at least one side	HT	Sept 1-Sept 15
N			One bull with 50-inch antlers, or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on at least one side	HT	Sept 5-Sept 15
B	20D	within the Bison Range Controlled Use Area	One bull per lifetime, with spike-fork or 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on at least one side by permit	YM792	Sept 1-Sept 30
R	20D	within the Delta Junction Management Area	One bull with spike-fork or 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on at least one side by permit	DM790	Sept 1-Sept 15
N			One bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on at least one side by permit		
B			One bull every four regulatory years by permit by qualified disabled, Purple Heart veterans only	DM795	
R	20D	within the Healy River drainage	One bull with spike-fork antlers	HT	Aug 15-Aug 28
N			One bull	HT	Sept 1-Sept 20
B	20D	north of the north bank of the Tanana River including the Volkmar River drainage, east to include the Billy Creek drainage, excluding the Healy River drainage.	One bull	HT	Sept 1-Sept 20
B	20D	remainder	One bull	HT	Sept 1-Sept 20

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Proposal 127, Unit 20D, Moose

Proposed Regulations:

- Expand the YM792 hunt area to the entirety of SW Unit 20D including the DJMA
- Change the season dates to September 16 – 25
- Change the bag limit to one moose for a portion of the successful applicants and antlerless for the remaining successful applicants per lifetime for the YM792 hunt
 - ❖ Calves or cows accompanied by a calf are prohibited

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Proposal 127, Unit 20D, Moose

Proposed Regulations:

- **Allow ADF&G to issue up to 100 permits for this hunt**
- **Remove DM791 from regulation**
 - ❖ **All other regulations that currently apply to the YM792 hunt structure would remain in place**
 - ❖ **The access & hunting restrictions on the DJBR should also remain in place**

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Proposal 127, Unit 20D, Moose

Proposed Regulations:

- **Proponent requested an any moose bag limit for (up to) the first 10 successful applicants, meaning these 10 applicants would have "bull" as part of their bag limit and then the remaining applicants could only harvest an antlerless moose**
- **Example scenario:**
- **ADF&G has determined approximately 30 antlerless moose should be harvested and determined up to 10 any bulls could be harvested (any moose)**
- **The department would then issue 40 permits and the first 10 could harvest a bull if they desired, the remaining 30 successful applicants could only harvest an antlerless moose**

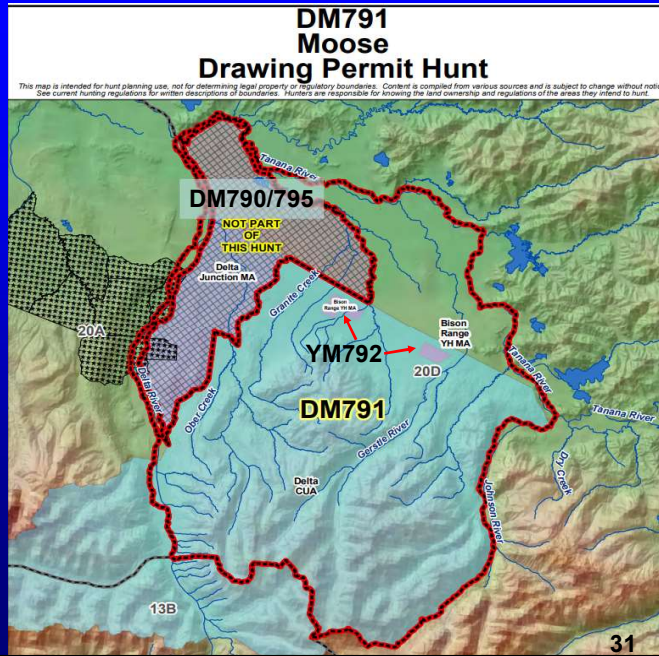
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Proposal 127, Unit 20D, Moose

Affected Areas

Proposal seeks to expand YM792 to geographical footprint of DM791 and add DJMA

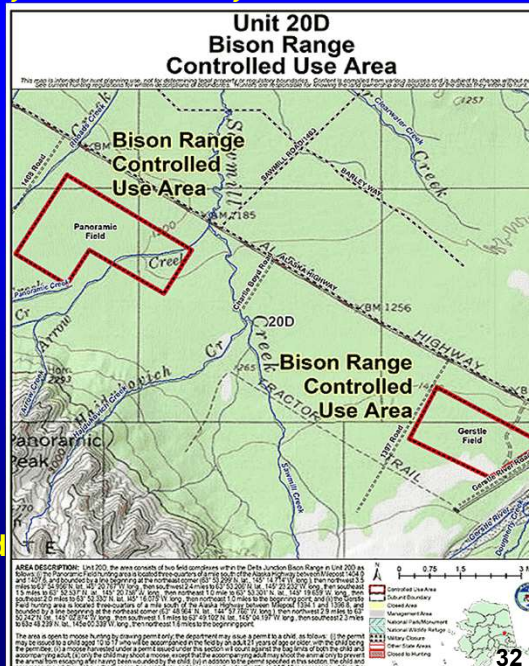


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Proposal 127, Unit 20D, Moose

Background, YM792:

- Hunt created in 2002 to aid in mgmt. of the DJBR as an any bull hunt
- Changed to an antlerless hunt with antler restrictions in 2006
- Hunt is limited to a maximum of 10 draw permits to qualified youth
- ~800 applications received annually for this hunt



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Proposal 127, Unit 20D, Moose

Background Continued YM792:

- **Hunters assigned a 4-day hunting period based on order drawn over a weekend to deconflict with DJBR management activities**

- **Antlerless moose included in bag limit, 2006 to 2021**
 - **Cancelled in 2022 and 2023 after a 40% decline in the SW 20D moose population from the severe winter of 2021 – 2022**
 - **Hunters averaged only 30% success in 2022 and 2023 vs. 75% success in 2006 through 2021**

- **2023 survey showed population rebounding & antlerless component to YM792 will be restored in 2024; 8 tags planned**

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Proposal 127, Unit 20D, Moose

DM791 Background:

- **From 2010 to 2016 when DM791 was created the only antlerless harvest in SW 20D was from YM792 (avg. of 6) & 1 from DM795**

- **Established in 2016 to further aide in antlerless harvest when population again began showing signs of nutritional stress**

- **21 was the highest harvest from this hunt in 2021**

- **Similar harvest levels were planned for 2022 & beyond, but antlerless hunts were cancelled after the severe winter of 2021 – 2022**

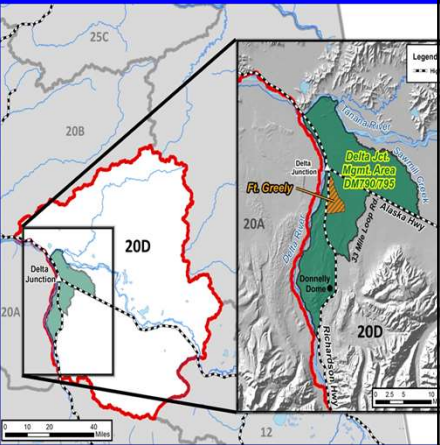
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Proposal 127, Unit 20D, Moose

Delta Junction Management Area Background:

- Established in 1974 at request of Delta AC to close hunting around Delta Jct. when moose pop. low (Delta Junction Closed Area)
- Renamed DJMA in 1996
- DM795 established in 2010
- Avg 20 permits for DM790 bull moose (antler restrictions), avg. harvest of 11
- 6 permits for DM795 any moose (Disabled Veterans), 95% success since establishment



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Proposal 127, Unit 20D, Moose

Background continued:

Intensive Management:

- Population Objective = 8,000 – 10,000 moose
- Harvest Objective = 500 – 700 moose

Moose Population Estimates:

- 2020 southwestern 20D population estimate = 4,113 moose (3.25 moose/mi²)
- 2022 estimate = 2,459 moose (1.94 moose/mi²)
- 2023 estimate = 3,555 moose (2.81 moose/mi²)

- There is a positive C&T for moose in Unit 20D outside of the Fairbanks Nonsubsistence Area, however the area affected by this proposal is all within the FNSA

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Proposal 127, Unit 20D, Moose

Background continued:

- **SW Unit 20D is highly accessible and has one of the highest moose densities in Alaska**
- **Some of the highest hunter effort & harvest for its size in Alaska**
- **Important that the Board consider the prohibition of general season moose hunting and the use of motorized vehicles within the BRCUA stay in effect for bison management**
- **A regulation already exists in codified to allow for a small number of any bull draw permits in SW 20D outside of the BRCUA and the DJMA**

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Proposal 127, Unit 20D, Moose

Summary:

- **Consolidates hunts within Unit 20D, expands the youth hunt/antlerless hunting area, changes the season dates, and make all antlerless hunting in Unit 20D (except for DM795) available only to youth hunters**
- **Deleting DM791 from regulation would help with antlerless allocation order among hunts; allocation order between antlerless hunts is needed**
- **No biological concerns with proposal; however, draw structure and permit allocation as requested would be administratively difficult to implement**
- **Provides a high-quality hunt to youth & antlerless component of proposal helps department meet management goals**

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Proposal 127, Unit 20D, Moose

- **Proposal:** Expand the hunt area, change the season dates, and change the bag limit to one moose based on the order drawn for the Unit 20D youth moose hunt YM792, and eliminate the DM791 drawing hunt from regulation

- **Submitted By:** Delta Jct. Fish and Game Advisory Committee

- **ADF&G Recommendation:**

SUPPORT with Amendments (2 youth drawing hunts, 1 antlerless & 1 any bull)

NEUTRAL on allocative components

- **Delta AC Recommendation:**

SUPPORT, 11 – 0



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Proposal 128, Unit 20D, Moose

- **Proposal:** Change the bag limit for the youth moose hunt YM792 on the Delta Junction Bison Range to one bull moose per lifetime and to allow motorized access on the DJBR when the antlerless portion is removed from the legal bag limit for the YM792 hunt

- **Submitted By:** Public

- **ADF&G Recommendation:**

SUPPORT with amendments, OPPOSED to lifting the motorized restrictions

- **Delta AC Recommendation:**

No Recommendation



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Proposal 128, Unit 20D, Moose

Issues:

- YM792 hunt is a more difficult hunt when antlerless component is removed
- Puts unnecessary stress and burden on youth which are often first-time hunters
- Area adjacent to BRCUA has the same antler restrictions and therefore youth hunters have no advantage other than general season moose hunters can't hunt in this small area
- Proponent suggests that enough ground can't be covered without the aide of a motorized vehicles to find a legal bull on years antlerless hunting isn't authorized

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Proposal 128, Unit 20D, Moose

Department Considerations:

- ADF&G has no biological concerns with turning this hunt into an any bull hunt and would support an any moose hunt
- Bull component of the hunt is a by product of antlerless hunting and community desires
- ADF&G is opposed to lifting the motorized restrictions as restricting motorized vehicles in order to minimize disturbances to bison was a central part in the creation of the BRCUA & associated youth hunt
- Southwestern Unit 20D (excluding the DJMA) already has a regulation in codified that allows for a small number of any bull draw permits

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Proposal 128, Unit 20D, Moose

Current Regulations: 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.

- **Unit 20(D), that portion within the Bison Range Controlled Use Area (YM792)**

RESIDENT AND NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

- **1 bull with SF, 50-inch antlers, or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side; or 1 antlerless moose, per lifetime of a hunter, by youth hunt drawing permit only; up to 10 permits may be issued; a person may not take a calf or a cow accompanied by a calf; September 1 – 30**

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Proposal 128, Unit 20D, Moose

- ***Permit conditions:***
 - ❖ **Each hunter is assigned a 4-day hunt period during these dates based on order drawn**
 - ❖ **Each permittee must be accompanied by a licensed Alaska resident adult at least 21 years old; the nonresident youth's accompanying resident adult must be a parent, stepparent, or legal guardian**
 - ❖ **Bag limit counts against the bag limit of BOTH the youth permittee and the accompanying adult**
 - ❖ **BRCUA open to moose hunting by permit only & closed to motorized vehicles for hunting July 1 – Sept. 30**

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Proposal 128, Unit 20D, Moose

Background Continued:

- **Antlerless component in effect annually for YM792 from 2006 – 2021, cancelled in 2022 & 2023 after a 40% decline in the SW 20D moose population after the severe winter of 2021 – 2022**
 - **Hunters averaged only 30% success in 2022 and 2023 vs. 75% success in 2006 through 2021**
- **2023 moose survey showed pop. rebounding & antlerless component to YM792 will be restored in 2024; 8 tags planned**
- **Positive C&T for moose in Unit 20D outside of the Fairbanks Nonsubsistence Area, however the area affected by this proposal is all with in the FNSA**

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Proposal 128, Unit 20D, Moose

Summary:

- **Turning these 10 permits into any bull bag limit or any moose bag limit will have no substantive effect on the overall Unit 20D moose population**
 - ❖ **Most harvest will likely continue to be antlerless moose which is key to managing the overall high density moose pop. of SW Unit 20D**
- **Regulation already in codified to allow for a small number of any bull draw permits in SW 20D outside of the BRCUA and the DJMA**
- **All other hunting structures including the 4-day hunting periods and the prohibition of motorized vehicles should be left in place to aide in the management of the DJBR and DBH**
- **Likely creates a more stress-free positive hunting experience for youth hunters**

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Proposal 128, Unit 20D, Moose

- **Proposal:** Change the bag limit for the youth moose hunt YM792 on the Delta Junction Bison Range to one bull moose per lifetime and to allow motorized access on the DJBR when the antlerless portion is removed from the legal bag limit for the YM792 hunt
- **Submitted By:** Public
- **ADF&G Recommendation:**
SUPPORT with amendments, OPPOSED to lifting the motorized restrictions
- **Delta AC Recommendation:**
No Recommendation



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Proposal 129, Unit 20D, Moose

- **Proposal:** Change the bag limit for the youth moose hunt YM792 on the Delta Junction Bison Range to one moose (except calves or cows accompanied by a calf) per lifetime
- **Submitted By:** Public
- **ADF&G Recommendation:**
SUPPORT
- **Delta AC Recommendation:**
No Recommendation



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Proposal 129, Unit 20D, Moose

Issues:

- YM792 hunt is a more difficult hunt when antlerless component is removed
- Puts unnecessary stress and burden on youth which are often first-time hunters
- Area outside of BRCUA has the same antler restrictions and therefore youth hunters have no advantage other than general season moose hunters can't hunt in this small area

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Proposal 129, Unit 20D, Moose

Department Considerations:

- ADF&G has no biological concerns turning this hunt into an any moose hunt
- Bull component of the hunt is a by product of need for antlerless hunting and community desires
- Southwestern Unit 20D (excluding the DJMA) already has a regulation in codified that allows for a small number of any bull draw permits

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Proposal 129, Unit 20D, Moose

Current Regulations: 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.

- **Unit 20(D), that portion within the Bison Range Controlled Use Area (YM792)**

RESIDENT AND NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

- **1 bull with SF, 50-inch antlers, or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side; or 1 antlerless moose, per lifetime of a hunter, by youth hunt drawing permit only; up to 10 permits may be issued; a person may not take a calf or a cow accompanied by a calf; September 1 – 30**

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Proposal 129, Unit 20D, Moose

- ***Permit conditions:***
 - ❖ **Each hunter is assigned a 4-day hunt period during these dates based on order drawn**
 - ❖ **Each permittee must be accompanied by a licensed Alaska resident adult at least 21 years old; the nonresident youth's accompanying resident adult must be a parent, stepparent, or legal guardian**
 - ❖ **Bag limit counts against the bag limit of BOTH the youth permittee and the accompanying adult**
 - ❖ **BRCUA open to moose hunting by permit only & closed to motorized vehicles for hunting July 1 – Sept. 30**

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Proposal 129, Unit 20D, Moose

Proposed Regulations:

- Change the bag limit to one moose (except calves or cows accompanied by a calf) per lifetime for the YM792 hunt
- The proponent requests that the hunt at minimum be changed to any bull
- All other regulations would remain the same

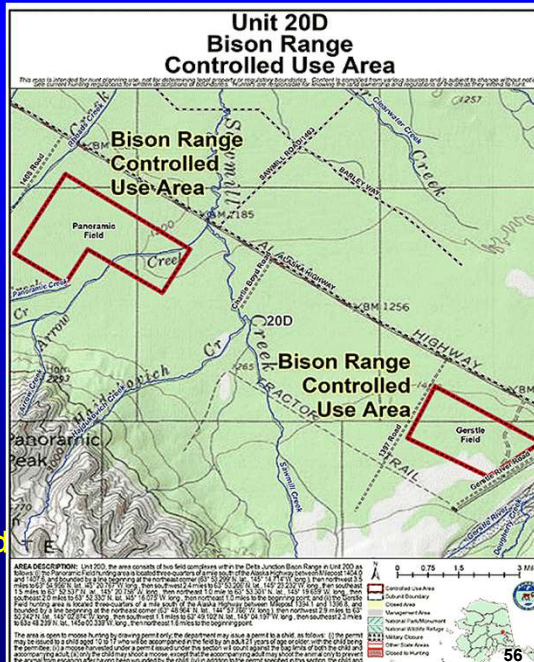
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Proposal 129, Unit 20D, Moose

Background, YM792:

- Hunt created in 2002 to aide in mgmt. of the DJBR as an any bull hunt
- Changed to an antlerless hunt with antler restrictions in 2006
- Hunt is limited to a maximum of 10 draw permits to qualified youth
- ~800 applications received annually for this hunt



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Proposal 129, Unit 20D, Moose

Background Continued:

- Antlerless component in effect annually for YM792 from 2006 through 2021, cancelled in 2022 & 2023 after a 40% decline in the SW 20D moose population after the severe winter of 2021 – 2022
 - Hunters averaged only 30% success in 2022 and 2023 vs. 75% successful in 2006 through 2021
- 2023 moose survey showed population rebounding and antlerless component to YM792 will be restored in 2024 with 8 tags planned
- There is a positive C&T for moose in Unit 20D outside of the Fairbanks Nonsubsistence Area, however the area affected by this proposal is all within the FNSA

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Proposal 129, Unit 20D, Moose

Effects of Proposal/Conclusions:

- Turning these 10 permits into any bull tags or any moose tags will have no substantive effect on the overall Unit 20D moose population
 - ❖ Most harvest will likely continue to be antlerless moose which is key to managing the overall high density moose pop. of SW Unit 20D
- Regulation already in codified to allow for a small number of any bull draw permits in SW 20D outside of the BRCUA and the DJMA
- All other hunting structures including the 4-day hunting periods and the prohibition of motorized vehicles should be left in place to aid in the management of the DJBR and DBH
- Would become a more stress-free positive hunting experience for youth hunters

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Proposal 129, Unit 20D, Moose

- **Proposal:** Change the bag limit for the youth moose hunt YM792 on the Delta Junction Bison Range to one moose (except calves or cows accompanied by a calf) per lifetime
- **Submitted By:** Public
- **ADF&G Recommendation:**
SUPPORT
- **Delta AC Recommendation:**
No Recommendation

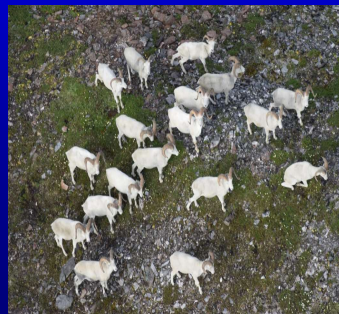


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Proposal 130, Unit 20D, Sheep

- **Proposal:** Award up to 10% of Delta Controlled Use Area sheep permits (DS203 and DS204) to nonresidents, and remove the allocation between guided and nonguided nonresidents
- **Submitted By:** Delta Jct. Fish and Game Advisory Committee
- **ADF&G Recommendation:**
NEUTRAL on allocative components
SUPPORT clarifying discrepancies under 95.057 (5) and (6)
- **Delta AC Recommendation:**
SUPPORT, 9 – 0



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62

Proposal 130, Unit 20D, Sheep

Issues:

- Resolve unintended consequences of the passage of proposal 149 at the 2022 statewide BOG meeting
- Current regulation gives a segment of nonresident sheep hunters a higher probability of drawing a sheep permit than residents
- 2023 was the most nonresident sheep permits ever awarded in the DCUA and the most to guided hunters
- Proposal 131 asks for the opposite of this proposal by requesting 10% always be awarded to nonresidents

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Proposal 130, Unit 20D, Sheep

Department Considerations:

- No biological concerns with current DCUA population and regulations
- No biological concern with proposed changes
- Allocative proposal, but regulations under 92.057 (5) and (6) should be addressed
- Precedent existed prior to Proposal 149 to have set allocations between guided nonresidents and 2DK nonresidents
 - TMA: 10% of permits to nonresidents, and a max of 50% nonresident permits to 2DK; subsection 1 was omitted and TMA remained unchanged with the passage of proposal 149

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Proposal 130, Unit 20D, Sheep

Current Regulations: 5 AAC 92.057. Special provisions for Dall sheep and mountain goat drawing permit hunts.

- (b) The department shall issue Dall sheep permits as follows:
 - (5) Units 13(B), 20(A) and 20(D), those portions within the Delta Controlled Use Area: the department shall issue a maximum of 10 percent of the drawing permits to nonresidents and a minimum of 90 percent of the drawing permits to residents; in the Delta Controlled Use Area
 - “(6) The department shall issue a maximum of 20 percent of the drawing permits allocated to nonresidents in (2), (3), (4), and (5), of this subsection to nonresidents accompanied by a resident over 19 years of age who is the spouse or other relative of the applicant within the second degree of kindred
- **Negative C&T**

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Proposal 130, Unit 20D, Sheep

Proposed Regulations:

- Follow subsection (5) under 92.057 by allowing “up to” 10% of the Delta Controlled Use Area sheep permits to be issued to nonresidents
- Omit subsection (5) from section 6 which would remove the allocations between guided nonresidents and 2DK nonresidents for the DCUA

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Proposal 130, Unit 20D, Sheep

Background:

- **Proposal 149 passed at statewide BOG meeting creating the separate allocation for 2DK nonresidents**
- **Department system (prior to passage of 149) of including both residents and nonresidents in the same drawing pool is no longer possible**
- **For the 2023 – 2024 draw the department created two new hunts for the DCUA; one for guided nonresidents and one for 2DK nonresident hunters**
 - ❖ **10% of available permits were awarded to nonresidents**
 - ❖ **20% of nonresident permits were awarded to 2DK nonresidents**
 - ❖ **Up to language under subsection 5 could no longer be used and the newly created subsection 6 was followed**

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Proposal 130, Unit 20D, Sheep

Background Continued:

- **13-year average (2009 – 2022) number of permits allocated to nonresidents preceding proposal 149 was 5.1%**
- **2023 had 73 applicants for the single 2DK permit & 1 qualified guided nonresident application for the 7 available permits**
 - ❖ **1% draw probability for 2DK nonresidents**
 - ❖ **100% draw probability for guided nonresidents**
 - ❖ **1% probability for residents on both DS203 & DS204 (75 permits)**
- **From 2009 – 2022, the percentage of 2DK applicants among all nonresidents ranged from 29.3% to a high of 97.1% and averaged 72.8% annually**
- **Number of licensed guides within the DCUA went from 2 to 4 after proposal 149 was adopted**

68

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Proposal 130, Unit 20D, Sheep

Summary:

- **Proposal 149** changed the RES/NR draw rates
- **Would clear up regulation discrepancies under 92.057**
- **2DK nonresident hunters have a greater history of participation in DCUA sheep hunts than guided nonresidents do**
- **Guide usage increased after the adoption of 149 in the DCUA**
- **Proposal seeks to eliminate nonresident allocation between guided nonresidents and 2DK nonresidents**

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Proposal 130, Unit 20D, Sheep

- **Proposal:** Award up to 10% of Delta Controlled Use Area sheep permits (DS203 and DS204) to nonresidents, and remove the allocation between guided and nonguided nonresidents
- **Submitted By:** Delta Jct. Fish and Game Advisory Committee
- **ADF&G Recommendation:**
NEUTRAL on allocative components
SUPPORT clarifying discrepancies under 95.057 (5) and (6)
- **Delta AC Recommendation:**
SUPPORT, 9 – 0



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Proposal 131, Unit 20D, Sheep

- **Proposal:** Allocate 10% of Delta Controlled Use Area sheep permits (DS203 and DS204) to nonresidents
- **Submitted By:** Public
- **ADF&G Recommendation:**
NEUTRAL on allocative components
SUPPORT clarifying discrepancies under 95.057 (5) and (6)
- **Delta AC Recommendation:**
OPPOSE, 0 – 9



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Proposal 131, Unit 20D, Sheep

- **Issues:**
 - Discrepancies under 92.057 regulation
 - Current regulation gives a segment of nonresident sheep hunters a higher probability of drawing a sheep permit than residents
 - 2023 was the most nonresident sheep permits ever awarded in the DCUA and the most to guided hunters
 - This proposal is opposite of proposal 130

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Proposal 131, Unit 20D, Sheep

- **Department Considerations:**
 - No biological concerns with current DCUA population and regulations
 - No biological concern with proposed changes
 - Allocative proposal, but regulations under 92.057 (5) and (6) should be addressed

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Proposal 131, Unit 20D, Sheep

Current Regulations: 5 AAC 92.057. Special provisions for Dall sheep and mountain goat drawing permit hunts.

- (b) The department shall issue Dall sheep permits as follows:
 - (5) Units 13(B), 20(A) and 20(D), those portions within the Delta Controlled Use Area: the department shall issue a maximum of 10 percent of the drawing permits to nonresidents and a minimum of 90 percent of the drawing permits to residents; in the Delta Controlled Use Area
 - “(6) The department shall issue a maximum of 20 percent of the drawing permits allocated to nonresidents in (2), (3), (4), and (5), of this subsection to nonresidents accompanied by a resident over 19 years of age who is the spouse or other relative of the applicant within the second degree of kindred, as described in AS 16.05.407(a).”
- **Negative C&T**

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Proposal 131, Unit 20D, Sheep

Proposed Regulations:

- **Subsection (5) would now read:**
Units 13(B), 20(A) and 20(D), those portions within the Delta Controlled Use Area: the department shall issue 10 percent of the drawing permits to nonresidents and 90 percent of the drawing permits to residents; in the DCUA
 - **Up to language is removed and the department will always issue 10% of the permits to nonresidents**
 - **The allocations between guided nonresidents and 2DK nonresidents for the DCUA would remain in effect (max. of 20% nonresident permits awarded to 2DK hunters)**

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Proposal 131, Unit 20D, Sheep

Background:

- **Proposal 149 passed at statewide BOG meeting creating the separate allocation for 2DK nonresidents**
- **Departments system (prior to passage of 149) of including both residents and nonresidents in the same drawing pool is no longer possible**
- **For the 2023 – 2024 draw the department created two new hunts for the DCUA, one for guided nonresidents, and one for 2DK nonresident hunters**
 - ❖ **10% of available permits were awarded to nonresidents**
 - ❖ **20% of nonresident permits were awarded to 2DK nonresidents**
 - ❖ **Up to language under subsection 5 could no longer be used and the newly created subsection 6 was followed**

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Proposal 131, Unit 20D, Sheep

Background Continued:

- 13-year average (2009–2022) number of permits allocated to nonresidents preceding proposal 149 was 5.1%
- 2023 had 73 applicants for the single 2DK permit & 1 qualified guided nonresident application for the 7 available permits
 - ❖ 1% draw probability for 2DK nonresidents
 - ❖ 100% draw probability for guided nonresidents
 - ❖ 1% probability for residents on both DS203 & DS204 (75 permits)
- From 2009–2022, the percentage of 2DK applicants among all nonresidents ranged from 29.3% to a high of 97.1% and averaged 72.8% annually
- Number of licensed guides within the DCUA went from 2 to 4 after Proposal 149 was adopted

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Proposal 131, Unit 20D, Moose

Effects of Proposal/Conclusions:

- Effects of statewide Proposal 149 takes away from resident hunting opportunity; if proposal 131 is adopted these changes become permanent
- Guide usage increased after the adoption of 149 in the DCUA
- Would clear up regulation discrepancies under 92.057

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Proposal 131, Unit 20D, Sheep

- **Proposal:** Allocate 10% of Delta Controlled Use Area sheep permits (DS203 and DS204) to nonresidents
- **Submitted By:** Public
- **ADF&G Recommendation:**
NEUTRAL on allocative components
SUPPORT clarifying discrepancies under 95.057 (5) and (6)
- **Delta AC Recommendation:**
OPPOSE, 0 – 9



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Proposal 132, Unit 20D, Sheep

- **Proposal:** Allocate 20% of the resident only late season Delta Controlled Use Area sheep drawing hunt permit DS204 to archery only
- **Submitted By:** Public
- **ADF&G Recommendation:**
NEUTRAL
- **Delta AC Recommendation:**
OPPOSE, 0 – 9



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Proposal 132, Unit 20D, Sheep

- **Issues:**

- If adopted 20% fewer permits would be available to hunters wishing to hunt sheep with a rifle during the DS204 hunt
- Overall hunter numbers in the field would remain the same
- Proponent cites using this as a management tool to maintain permit numbers under lower population cycles, since archery hunters will be less successful
 - Full-curl regulations, no biological concern
- Sheep harvest would likely decrease
- Hunters can already use archery equipment under existing regulations if they choose

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Proposal 132, Unit 20D, Sheep

- **Department Considerations:**
- No biological concerns with current management structure & permit allocations; Full-curl regulations
- Allocative proposal
- No biological concerns with the proposed regulations

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Proposal 132, Unit 20D, Sheep

Current Regulations:

- Sheep hunting in DCUA conducted under 2 drawing hunts
 - Use of motorized vehicles and pack animals not allowed in the DCUA August 5–25
 - DS203 = Aug 10–25, no motorized vehicles
 - DS204 = Aug 26–Sep 20, motorized vehicles allowed
 - Up to 150 total permits may be issued between the two hunts
 - Use of archery equipment is currently allowed
 - Nonresidents must be accompanied by a licensed guide or a second-degree of kindred resident relative
 - Aircraft may not be used to locate sheep or direct hunters to sheep during the open sheep hunting season
- Negative C&T

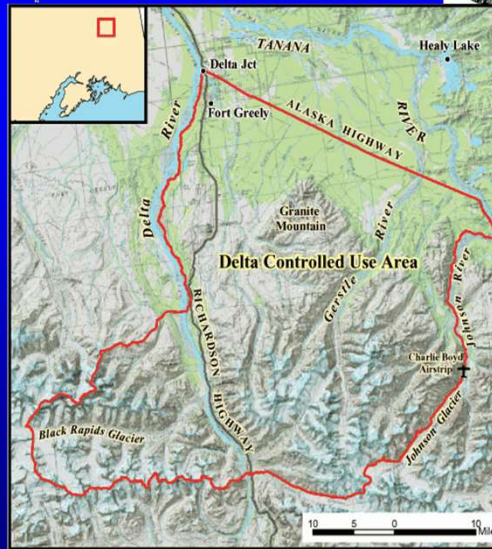
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Proposal 132, Unit 20D, Sheep

Background:

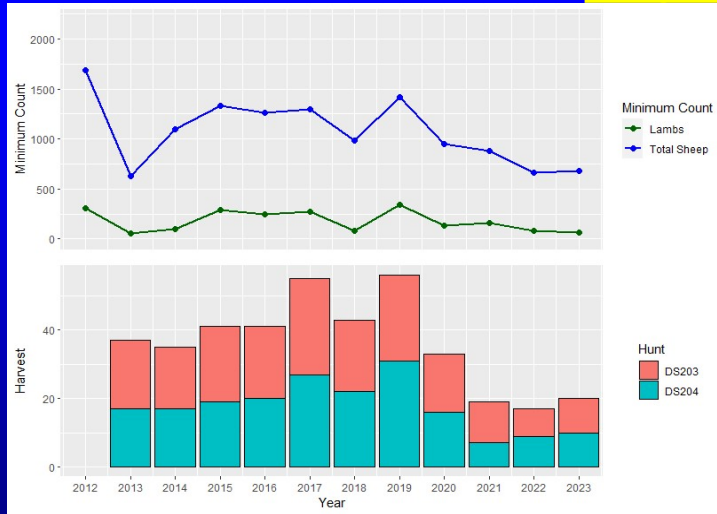
- 1,680 mi² in 20D, 20A, & 13B
- Established in 1971 to meet sheep hunter interest/request for aesthetically pleasing hunting, uncrowded, walk-in hunting
- **Management Objectives**
 - Manage for a population of approximately 1,800 sheep
 - Manage for a mean annual harvest of ≥ 35 -full curl rams with a mean horn length of ≥ 36 inches
 - Manage for a mean age of harvested rams ≥ 8 -years old



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Proposal 132, Unit 20D, Sheep Background Cont'd:

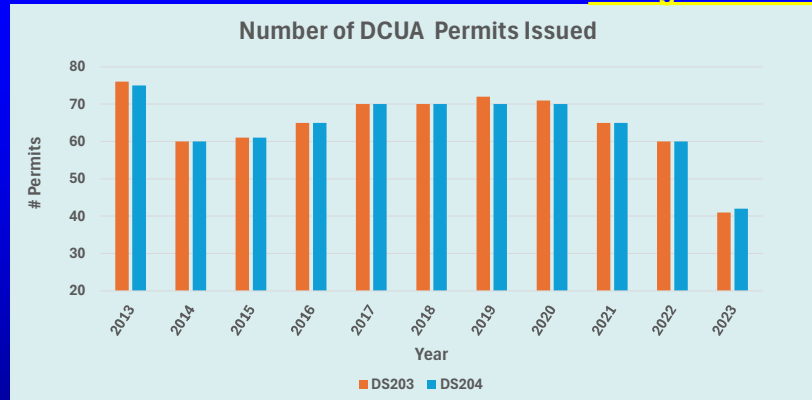


- 10-year avg. success rate is 39%, 25% in 2022, 35% in 2023
- No successful archery DS204 hunt reports in last 20-years

84

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Proposal 132, Unit 20D, Sheep Background Cont'd:



- Number of permits has historically averaged around 70 permits for each hunt
- Have been slowly reducing permit numbers annually since 2021 reflecting sheep declines and reduced success
- 2023 had biggest reduction in permit numbers ever
- Current draw odds of 1% for each hunt (residents)

85

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Proposal 132, Unit 20D, Sheep

Background Continued:

- **DCUA sheep hunting is conducted under a draw as well as full-curl regulations:**
 - male only harvest
 - older males only
 - very small segment of the overall population
 - compensatory component
- **Average horn size has not decreased in past 10 years; average of 35"**
- **Average age over last 10-years = 8.2; high of 9.1 in 2018, and low of 7 in 2022, 7.4 in 2023**

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Proposal 132, Unit 20D, Sheep

Summary:

- **Allocative proposal**
- **As proposed opportunity is reduced for hunters wishing to hunt sheep with a firearm, 99.9% of hunters report using a firearm**
- **Sheep harvest would likely be reduced if adopted**
- **No biological concerns with DCUA sheep using full-curl regulations**
- **Recent permit reductions are a reflection of hunter satisfaction not biological concern**
- **This proposal does not address hunter crowding complaints**

87

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Proposal 132, Unit 20D, Sheep

- **Proposal:** Allocate 20% of the resident only late season Delta Controlled Use Area sheep drawing hunt permit DS204 to archery only
- **Submitted By:** Public
- **ADF&G Recommendation:**
NEUTRAL
- **Delta AC Recommendation:**
OPPOSE, 0 – 9



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Proposal 133, Unit 20D, Sheep

- **Proposal:** Allocate 20% of the resident only late season Delta Controlled Use Area sheep drawing hunt permit DS203 to archery only
 - Season to be held during the existing DS203 season August 10 – 25 or from August 1 – 10
- **Submitted By:** Public
- **ADF&G Recommendation:**
NEUTRAL
- **Delta AC Recommendation:**
OPPOSE, 0 – 9



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Proposal 133, Unit 20D, Sheep

- **Issues:**

- If adopted 20% fewer permits would be available to hunters wishing to hunt sheep with a rifle during the DS204 hunt
 - Overall hunter numbers in the field would remain the same
 - Proponent cites using this as a management tool to maintain permit numbers under lower population cycles, being archery hunters will be less successful
 - Full-curl regulations, no biological concern
- Sheep harvest would likely decrease
- Hunters can already use archery equipment under existing regulations if they choose

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Proposal 133, Unit 20D, Sheep

- **Department Considerations:**
- No biological concerns with current management structure & permit allocations; Full-curl regulations
- Allocative proposal
- No biological concerns with the proposed regulations

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Proposal 133, Unit 20D, Sheep

Current Regulations:

- **Sheep hunting in DCUA conducted under 2 drawing hunts**
 - Use of motorized vehicles and pack animals not allowed in the DCUA August 5–25
 - DS203 = Aug 10–25, no motorized vehicles
 - DS204 August 26–September 20, motorized vehicles allowed
 - Up to 150 total permits may be issued between the two hunts
 - Use of archery equipment is currently allowed
 - Nonresidents must be accompanied by a licensed guide or a second-degree of kindred resident relative
 - Aircraft may not be used to locate sheep or direct hunters to sheep during the open sheep hunting season
- **Negative C&T**

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Proposal 133, Unit 20D, Sheep

Proposed Regulations:

- **Allocate 20% of the DS203 permits to archery only hunters, during the existing DS203 hunt or August 1 – 10**
- **All other regulations would remain the same**

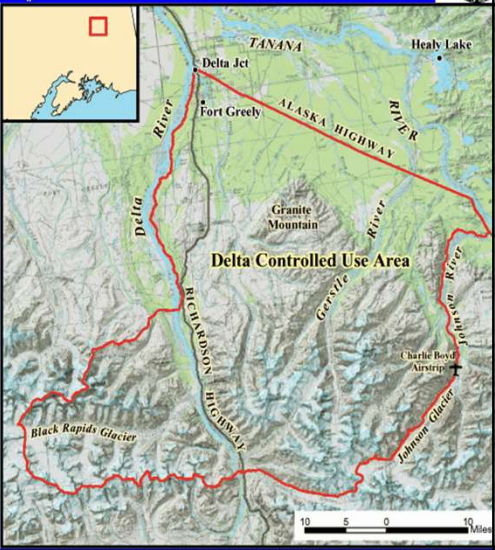
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Proposal 133, Unit 20D, Sheep

Background:

- 1,680 mi² in 20D, 20A, & 13B
- Established in 1971 to meet sheep hunter interest/ request for aesthetically pleasing hunting, uncrowded, walk-in hunting
- **Management Objectives**
 - Manage for a population of approximately 1,800 sheep
 - Manage for a mean annual harvest of ≥ 35 -full curl rams with a mean horn length of ≥ 36 inches
 - Manage for a mean age of harvested rams ≥ 8 -years old

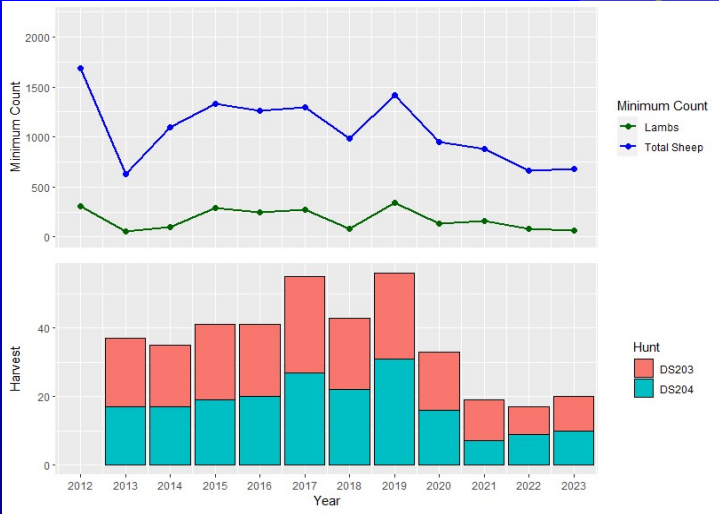


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Proposal 133, Unit 20D, Sheep

Background Cont'd:



Minimum Count

Year	Lams	Total Sheep
2012	350	1700
2013	100	650
2014	100	1100
2015	300	1350
2016	250	1250
2017	300	1300
2018	100	1000
2019	350	1450
2020	150	950
2021	150	900
2022	100	700
2023	100	700

Harvest

Year	DS203	DS204
2012	20	18
2013	20	18
2014	18	18
2015	22	18
2016	22	18
2017	25	28
2018	20	22
2019	22	30
2020	18	18
2021	12	8
2022	10	8
2023	10	10

- 10-year avg. success rate is 39%, 25% in 2022, 35% in 2023
- No successful archery DS204 hunt reports in last 20-years

95

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Proposal 133, Unit 20D, Sheep

Background Cont'd:

Year	DS203	DS204
2013	75	75
2014	60	60
2015	61	61
2016	65	65
2017	70	70
2018	70	70
2019	72	70
2020	71	70
2021	65	65
2022	60	60
2023	41	42

- Number of permits has historically averaged around 70 permits for each hunt
- Have been slowly reducing permit numbers annually since 2021 reflecting sheep declines and reduced success
- 2023 had biggest reduction in permit numbers ever
- Current draw odds of 1% for each hunt (residents)

96

97

Proposal 133, Unit 20D, Sheep

Background Continued:

- DCUA sheep hunting is conducted under draw and full-curl regulations:
 - male only harvest
 - older males only
 - very small segment of the overall population
 - compensatory component
- Average horn size has not decreased in past 10 years; average of 35"
- Average age over last 10-years = 8.2; high of 9.1 in 2018, and low of 7 in 2022, 7.4 in 2023

97

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Proposal 133, Unit 20D, Sheep

Effects of Proposal/Conclusions:

- Allocative proposal
- As proposed opportunity is reduced for hunters wishing to hunt sheep with a firearm, 99.9% of hunters report using a firearm
- Sheep harvest would likely be reduced if adopted
- No biological concerns with DCUA sheep using full-curl regulations
- Recent permit reductions are a reflection of hunter satisfaction not biological concern
- This proposal does not address hunter crowding complaints

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Proposal 133, Unit 20D, Sheep

- **Proposal:** Allocate 20% of the resident only late season Delta Controlled Use Area sheep drawing hunt permit DS203 to archery only
 - Season to be held during the existing DS203 season August 10 – 25 or from August 1 – 10
- **Submitted By:** Public
- **ADF&G Recommendation:**
NEUTRAL
- **Delta AC Recommendation:**
OPPOSE, 0 – 9



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100

Proposal 134, Unit 20D, Sheep

- **Proposal:** Change the time frame for which a person can be awarded a Mt. Harper DS206 drawing permit to one permit every four regulatory years or once per lifetime
- **Submitted By:** Public
- **ADF&G Recommendation:**
NEUTRAL
- **Delta AC Recommendation:**
No Recommendation



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Proposal 134, Unit 20D, Sheep

- **Issues:**
 - All hunters regardless of residency status would only be allowed to receive a DS206 permit every 4 years or once per lifetime
 - Overall hunter numbers in the field would remain the same
 - Very difficult permit to obtain with the maximum of 4 permits ever given out
 - Already very limited amount of people drawing this permit more than once
 - Would not reduce harvest

101

102

Proposal 134, Unit 20D, Sheep

- **Department Considerations:**
- **No biological concerns with the current Mt. Harper management structure and permit allocations**
 - Full-curl regulations in place
 - Population has historically existed at low abundance
- **Allocative proposal**
- **No biological concerns with the proposed regulations**
- **Precedent exists for 1 sheep every 4 regulatory years**
 - ❖ Tok Management Area

102

103

Proposal 134, Unit 20D, Sheep

Current Regulations:

- **DS206 – Portions of Unit 20D and 20E north of the AK HWY and north and west of the north bank of the Middle Fork of the Fortymile River, including the Joseph Creek drainage.**
 - ❖ Residents – One ram with full-curl horn or larger by draw permit
 - ❖ Nonresidents – One ram with full-curl horn or larger every 4 regulatory years by drawing permit, & must be accompanied by a licensed guide or 2DK resident relative
 - ❖ No applicant may win the same hunt two years in a row
 - ❖ Aircraft may not be used to locate sheep or direct hunters to sheep during the open sheep hunting season
- **Hunting allowed outside of the DS206 draw area with a HT**
- **Negative C&T for sheep in Unit 20D within DCUA and TMA; NO C&T finding in Mt. Harper draw area**

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Proposal 134, Unit 20D, Sheep

Proposed Regulations:

- Allow residents and nonresidents to be eligible to receive the DS206 draw permit either once every four regulatory years or once per lifetime

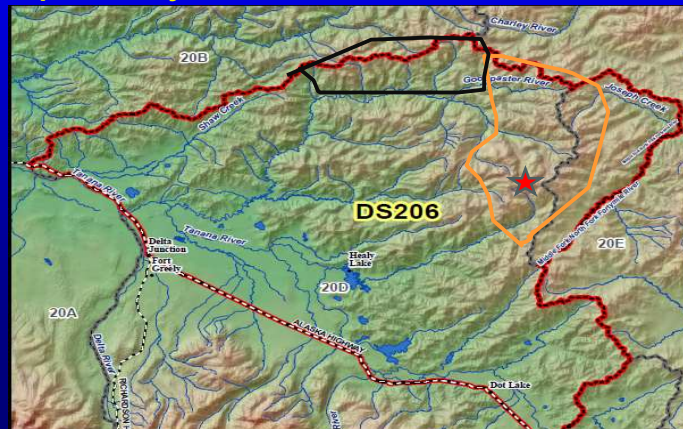
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Proposal 134, Unit 20D, Sheep

Background:

- Hunt established in 1984
- ~240 mi² of sheep habitat on boundary of Units 20D, 20B, & 20E, bordered by Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve to the north
- Population is comprised of numerous small, discrete groups of sheep separated by areas of unsuitable habitat



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Proposal 134, Unit 20D, Sheep

Background Continued:

- **Management Goals and Objectives**
 - **Maintain a harvestable population of Dall sheep fluctuating within historic levels of abundance and the carrying capacity of available sheep habitat**
 - **Provide opportunity for up to 50 hunters annually to harvest mature rams in the Mt. Harper drawing area, Glacier Mountain Controlled Use Area, and the Tanana Hills general hunting season area**

106

107

Proposal 134, Unit 20D, Sheep

Background Cont'd:

Mt. Harper/Tanana Hills Sheep Minimum Counts

Year	Total # of Sheep
2010	-
2011	108
2012	60
2013	-
2014	80
2015	55
2016	105
2017	70
2018	110
2019	-
2020	52
2021	-
2022	-
2023	28

- **Area has long averaged approximately 100 sheep during surveys**
 - ❖ **Numbers have declined in recent years, with 52 sheep observed in 2020 and 28 sheep in 2023**

107

108

Proposal 134, Unit 20D, Sheep
Background Cont'd:

Harvest Statistics (2013-2023):

- **1.5 rams harvested per year**
- **50% Success Rate**
- **Average sheep age: 9.4**
- **Average Horn Length: 37.5"**

108

109

Proposal 134, Unit 20D, Sheep
Background Continued:

- **Mt. Harper/DS206 sheep hunting is conducted under draw and full-curl regulations:**
 - **male only harvest**
 - **older males only**
 - **very small segment of the overall population**
 - **compensatory component**

109

110

Proposal 134, Unit 20D, Sheep

Summary:

- Allocative proposal
- Drawing multiple permits currently very unlikely; subsequent years currently prohibited
- Sheep harvest would remain the same if adopted
- No biological concerns with using the full-curl management strategy with current permit distribution or as proposed
- Recent permit reductions are a reflection of hunter satisfaction not biological concern
- This proposal does not address hunter crowding complaints

110

111

Proposal 134, Unit 20D, Sheep

- **Proposal:** Change the time frame for which a person can be awarded a Mt. Harper DS206 drawing permit to one permit every four regulatory years or once per lifetime

- **Submitted By:** Public

- **ADF&G Recommendation:**
NEUTRAL

- **Delta AC Recommendation:**
No Recommendation



111

112

Proposal 135, Unit 20D, Sheep

- **Proposal:** Permanently close the Mt. Harper DS206 sheep draw hunt to nonresidents
- **Submitted By:** Public
- **ADF&G Recommendation:**
NEUTRAL
- **Delta AC Recommendation:**
No Recommendation



112

113

Proposal 135, Unit 20D, Sheep

- **Issues:**
 - Nonresidents would no longer be able to participate in this hunt
 - Overall hunter numbers in the field would remain the same
 - Very difficult permit to obtain with the maximum of 4 permits ever given out
 - Full-curl regulations, no biological concern
 - Would not reduce harvest

113

114

Proposal 135, Unit 20D, Sheep

- **Department Considerations:**
- **No biological concerns with the current Mt. Harper management structure and permit allocations**
 - Full-curl regulations in place
 - Population has historically existed at low abundance
- **Allocative proposal**
- **Very limited number of nonresidents drawing this permit; 4 permits ever awarded to nonresidents and they were all prior to 2012**
- **No biological concerns with the proposed regulations**

114

115

Proposal 135, Unit 20D, Sheep

Proposed Regulations:

- **Nonresidents would no longer be able to apply for and receive the DS206/Mt. Harper drawing permit**

116

116

Proposal 135, Unit 20D, Sheep


Effects of Proposal/Conclusions:

- Allocative proposal
- Unique sheep habitat
- Nonresident opportunity would be eliminated if adopted
- Currently very little nonresident participation
- Statistically if adopted residents would have a higher probability of drawing a permit
- Sheep harvest would remain the same if adopted
- Population estimates are lower in recent years
- No biological concerns with using full-curl regulations with current permit distribution or as proposed
- Recent permit reductions are a reflection of hunter satisfaction not biological concern
- This proposal does not address hunter crowding complaints 122

117

Proposal 135, Unit 20D, Sheep

- **Proposal:** Permanently close the Mt. Harper DS206 sheep draw hunt to nonresidents
- **Submitted By:** Public
- **ADF&G Recommendation:**
NEUTRAL
- **Delta AC Recommendation:**
No Recommendation



123

118

Proposal 136, Unit 20D, Brown Bear

- **Proposal:**
Allow brown/grizzly bear harvest at bait in Unit 20D South, during current baiting season, & require a registration permit

- **Submitted by:** Public

- **ADF&G Recommendation:**
SUPPORT increase in opportunity
NEUTRAL on baiting as a method

- **Delta AC Recommendation:**
SUPPORT, 9 – 0



124

119

Proposal 136, Unit 20D, Brown Bear

Issues & Department Considerations:

- Grizzly bear harvest is currently stable
 - Overall harvest is near current upper limit of management objective
 - Female harvest near upper limit of management objective

- No Unit 20D-specific population data

125

120

***Proposal 136, Unit 20D, Brown Bear
Issues & Department Considerations:***

- Unit 20D harvest objective is 5 – 15 bears
 - 10-year average harvest of 12 bears = 6% harvest rate based off of extrapolated densities

- Recent research suggests stable grizzly bear populations can be harvested at a higher rate of ~10%

- Harvest could still exceed sustainable limits, especially for females

125

121

***Proposal 136, Unit 20D, Brown Bear
Issues Continued & Department Considerations:***

- Bait stations concentrated in highly accessible areas in proposed area

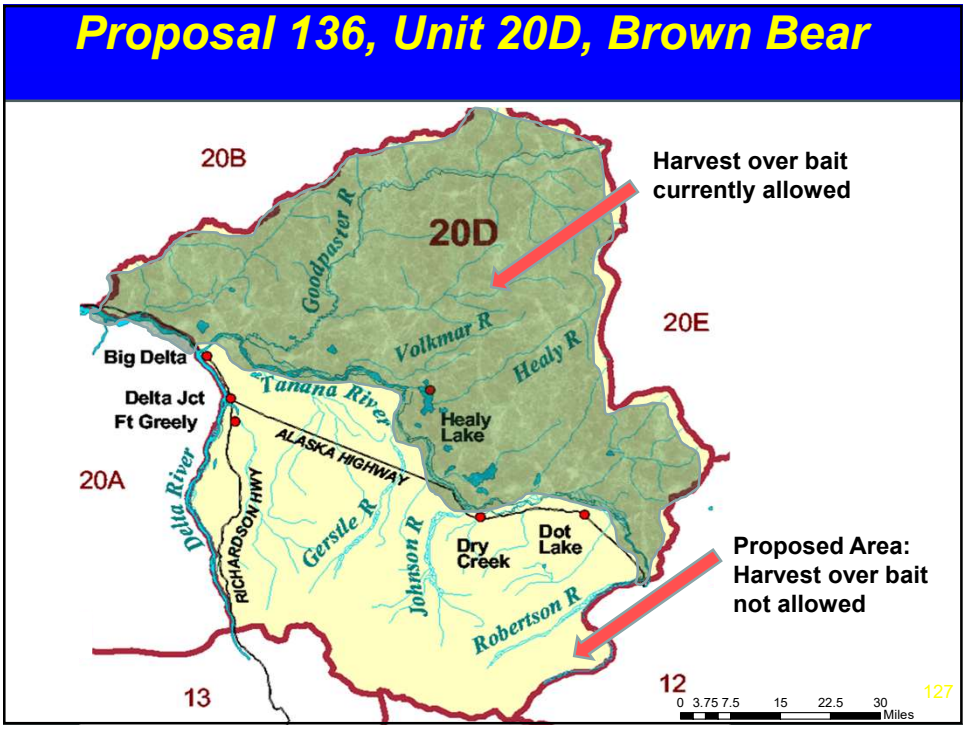
- Possible strategies to ensure bears are not over-harvested:
 - Shorter grizzly bear hunting season
 - Reduction in baiting season
 - Spring hunting/baiting via registration permit, with quota

- Unit 20D south currently has different grizzly bear hunting regulations from all surrounding Units, including 20D north

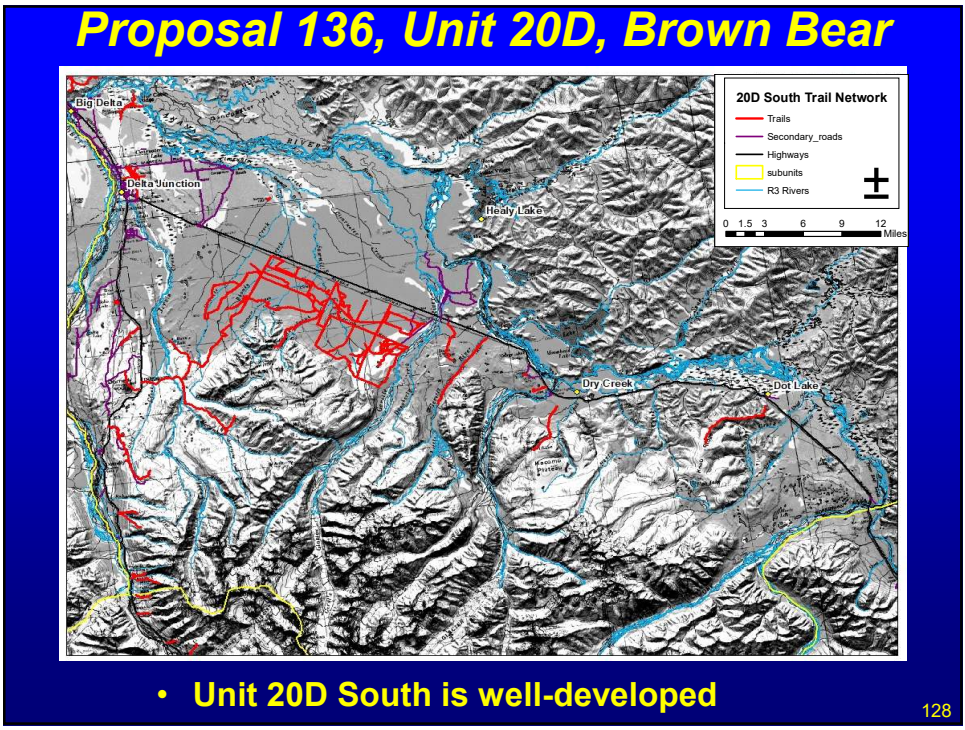
- Next 2 proposals ask for grizzly bear baiting in this area without a registration permit through current baiting season

126

122



123



124

Proposal 136, Unit 20D, Brown Bear

[Background](#)

Current Regulations:

- Resident and nonresident hunters: One brown/grizzly bear per year, August 10 – June 30
- Harvesting a brown/grizzly bear over bait and same-day-airborne allowed in Unit 20D north only
- Bear baiting season in Unit 20D is April 15 – June 30
- Grizzly bear sealing required

129

125

Proposal 136, Unit 20D, Brown Bear

[Background](#)

Unit 20D Grizzly Bear Population:

- 185 – 220 total bears
 - 76 – 86 Unit 20D South (extrapolated from 20A)
 - 109 – 134 Unit 20D North (extrapolated from 20E)

130

126



127

Proposal 136, Unit 20D, Brown Bear

Background

- **Unit 20D baiting season is 1 month longer than Units 20A & 20B; overall hunting season is nearly 2 months longer**
 - An August 10 opener and June 30th closure with no restrictions may be unsustainable
- **Grizzly bear harvest initially spiked when baiting was allowed in neighboring GMU's, but later leveled off**
- **Bait station registration increased when grizzly bear baiting was allowed**
- **Unit 20D south bait station locations could shift to target grizzly bears if baiting is legalized**

132

128

Proposal 136, Unit 20D, Brown Bear
Background

- **Some additional harvest would be sustainable based on recent studies, but harvest could still go beyond these guidelines**
- **Anecdotal reports suggest more grizzly bears in Unit 20D than current estimates reflect**
- **ANS of 1 – 2 bears outside of the Fairbanks Non-Sub. Area**

133

129

Proposal 136, Unit 20D, Brown Bear
Background

- **~75% of Unit 20D bait stations are south of the Tanana River**
- **Most baiting occurs along developed roads and trails or along river corridors**
- **Some residents currently travel to adjacent units to bear bait where grizzly bear baiting is legal**
 - **May shift to Unit 20D South if grizzly bear baiting is legalized**
- **Persistent Issue:**
 - **5 proposals in 2017 to allow grizzly bear baiting in Unit 20D, and 1 in 2020, 3 proposals in 2024**
 - **1 proposal amended to allow baiting in 20D North only in 2017**
 - **Adjacent areas (Fairbanks & Tok) also have similar proposals**

134

130

Proposal 136, Unit 20D, Brown Bear

Summary:

- More harvest appears to be sustainable based on recent research, but caution still needs to be used especially for female harvest
- Limited grizzly bear population data
 - Recommend conservative harvest strategy due to the uncertainties of this population
- 20D south is well-developed with good access
- High public interest in grizzly bear baiting and increased hunting opportunity
 - Registration permit would be most conservative mgmt. approach, but a spring grizzly bear baiting season with a closure date of May 31 would also likely be sustainable

135

131

Proposal 136, Unit 20D, Brown Bear

- **Proposal:**
Allow brown/grizzly bear harvest at bait in Unit 20D South, during current baiting season, & require a registration permit
- **Submitted by:** Public
- **ADF&G Recommendation:**
SUPPORT increase in opportunity
NEUTRAL on baiting as a method
- **Delta AC Recommendation:**
SUPPORT, 9 – 0



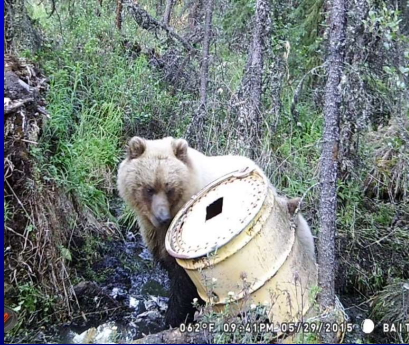
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136

132

Proposal 137, Unit 20D, Brown Bear

- **Proposal:**
Allow brown/grizzly bear harvest at bait in Unit 20D South, during the current baiting season
- **Submitted by:** Public
- **ADF&G Recommendation:**
SUPPORT with amendments
Neutral on baiting as a method
- **Delta AC Recommendation:**
SUPPORT, 9 – 0



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137

133

Proposal 137, Unit 20D, Brown Bear

Issues & Department Considerations:

- Grizzly bear harvest is currently stable
 - Overall harvest is near current upper limit of management objective
 - Female harvest near upper limit of management objective
- No Unit 20D-specific population data

125

134

***Proposal 137, Unit 20D, Brown Bear
Issues & Department Considerations:***

- Unit 20D harvest objective is 5 – 15 bears
 - 10-year average harvest of 12 bears = 6% harvest rate based off of extrapolated densities

- Recent research suggests stable grizzly bear populations can be harvested at a higher rate of ~10%

- Harvest could still exceed sustainable limits, especially for females

125

135

***Proposal 137, Unit 20D, Brown Bear
Issues Continued & Department Considerations:***

- Bait stations concentrated in highly accessible areas in proposed area

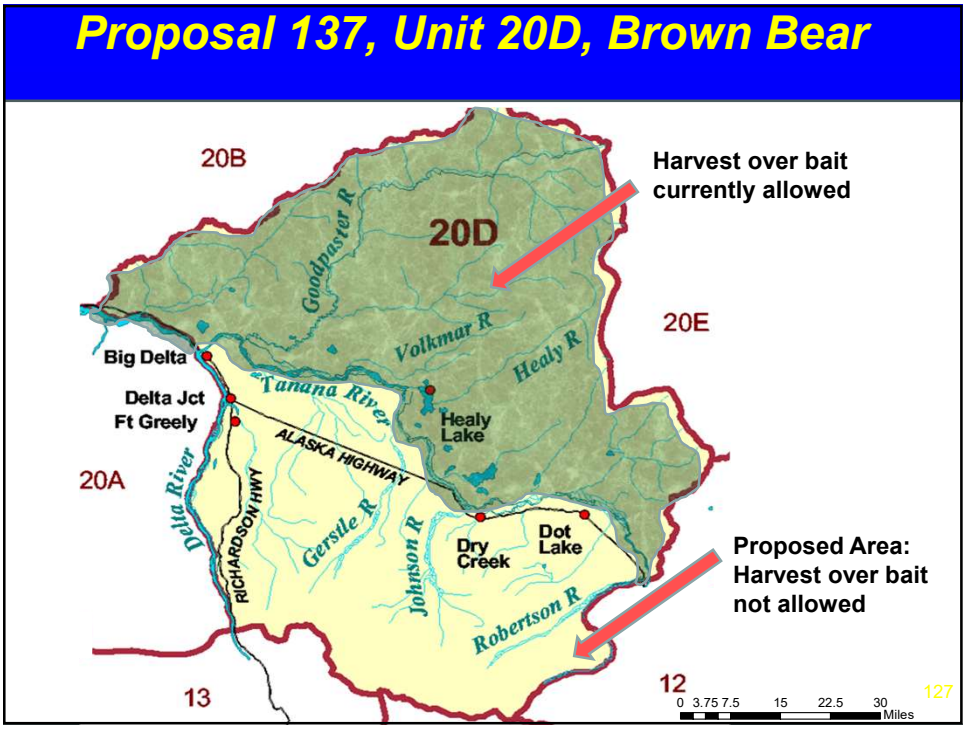
- Possible strategies to ensure bears are not over-harvested:
 - Shorter grizzly bear hunting season
 - Reduction in baiting season
 - Spring hunting/baiting via registration permit, with quota

- Unit 20D south currently has different grizzly bear hunting regulations from all surrounding Units, including 20D north

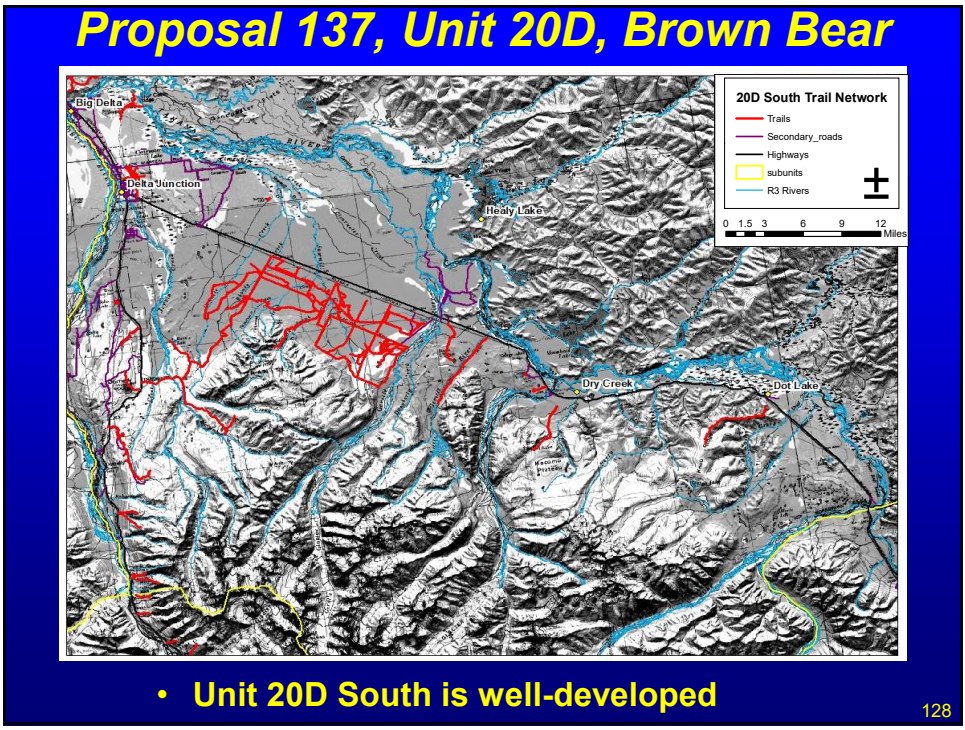
- Next 2 proposals ask for grizzly bear baiting in this area without a registration permit through current baiting season

126

136



137



138

Proposal 137, Unit 20D, Brown Bear

[Background](#)

Current Regulations:

- Resident and nonresident hunters: One brown/grizzly bear per year, August 10 – June 30
- Harvesting a brown/grizzly bear over bait and same-day-airborne allowed in Unit 20D north only
- Bear baiting season in Unit 20D is April 15 – June 30
- Grizzly bear sealing required

129

139

Proposal 137, Unit 20D, Brown Bear

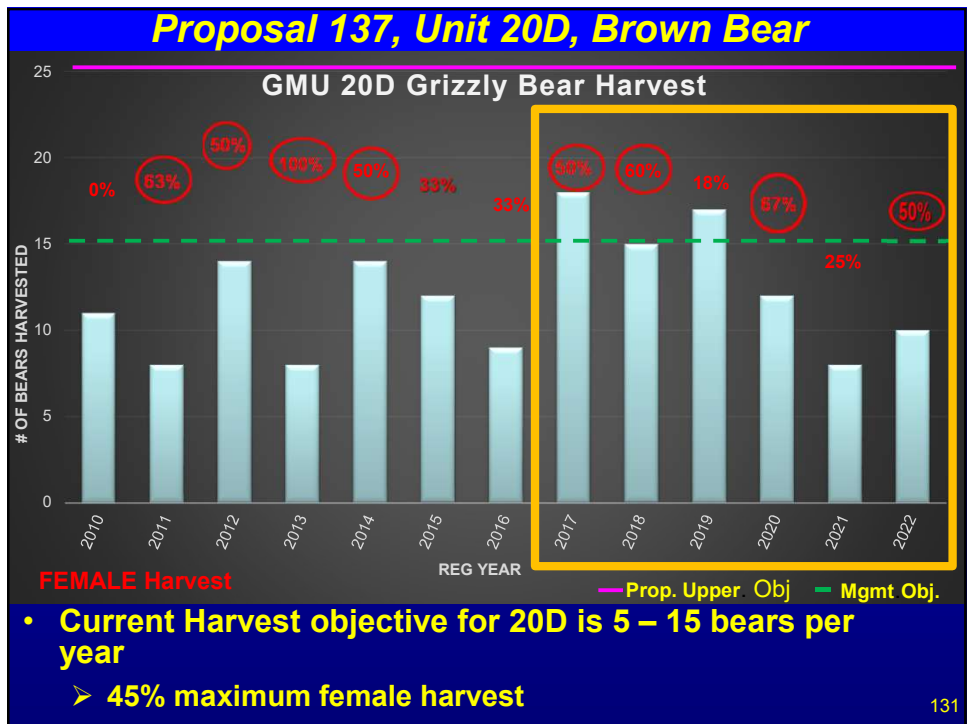
[Background](#)

Unit 20D Grizzly Bear Population:

- 185 – 220 total bears
 - 76 – 86 Unit 20D South (extrapolated from 20A)
 - 109 – 134 Unit 20D North (extrapolated from 20E)

130

140



141

Proposal 137, Unit 20D, Brown Bear

Background

- **Unit 20D baiting season is 1 month longer than Units 20A & 20B; overall hunting season is nearly 2 months longer**
 - An August 10 opener and June 30th closure with no restrictions may be unsustainable
- **Grizzly bear harvest initially spiked when baiting was allowed in neighboring GMU's, but later leveled off**
- **Bait station registration increased when grizzly bear baiting was allowed**
- **Unit 20D south bait station locations could shift to target grizzly bears if baiting is legalized**

132

142

Proposal 137, Unit 20D, Brown Bear
Background

- **Some additional harvest would be sustainable based on recent studies, but harvest could still go beyond these guidelines**
- **Anecdotal reports suggest more grizzly bears in Unit 20D than current estimates reflect**
- **ANS of 1 – 2 bears outside of the Fairbanks Non-Sub. Area**

133

143

Proposal 137, Unit 20D, Brown Bear
Background

- **~75% of Unit 20D bait stations are south of the Tanana River**
- **Most baiting occurs along developed roads and trails or along river corridors**
- **Some residents currently travel to adjacent units to bear bait where grizzly bear baiting is legal**
 - **May shift to Unit 20D South if grizzly bear baiting is legalized**
- **Persistent Issue:**
 - **5 proposals in 2017 to allow grizzly bear baiting in Unit 20D, 1 in 2020, and 3 proposals in 2024**
 - **1 proposal amended to allow baiting in 20D North only in 2017**
 - **Adjacent areas (Fairbanks & Tok) also have similar proposals**

134

144

Proposal 137, Unit 20D, Brown Bear

Summary:


- More harvest appears to be sustainable based on recent research, but caution still needs to be used especially for female harvest
- Limited grizzly bear population data
 - Recommend conservative harvest strategy due to the uncertainties of this population
- 20D south is well-developed with good access
- High public interest in grizzly bear baiting and increased hunting opportunity
 - Registration permit would be most conservative mgmt. approach, but a spring grizzly bear baiting season with a closure date of May 31 would also likely be sustainable

135

145

Proposal 137, Unit 20D, Brown Bear

- **Proposal:**
Allow brown/grizzly bear harvest at bait in Unit 20D South, during the current baiting season
- **Submitted by:** Public
- **ADF&G Recommendation:**
SUPPORT with amendments
Neutral on baiting as a method
- **Delta AC Recommendation:**
SUPPORT, 9 – 0



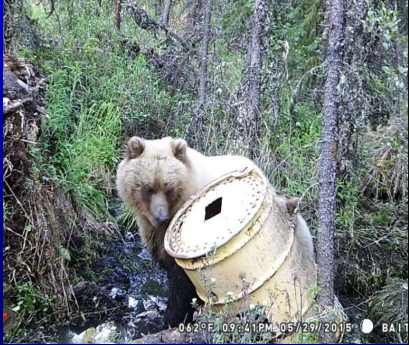
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149

146

Proposal 138, Unit 20D, Brown Bear

- **Proposal:**
Allow brown/grizzly bear harvest at bait in Unit 20D South, during the current baiting season
- **Submitted by:** Delta Jct. Fish & Game Advisory Committee
- **ADF&G Recommendation:**
SUPPORT with amendments
Neutral on baiting as a method
- **Delta AC Recommendation:**
SUPPORT, 9 – 0



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147

Proposal 138, Unit 20D, Brown Bear
Issues & Department Considerations:

- Grizzly bear harvest is currently stable
 - Overall harvest is near current upper limit of management objective
 - Female harvest near upper limit of management objective
- No Unit 20D-specific population data

125

148

***Proposal 138, Unit 20D, Brown Bear
Issues & Department Considerations:***

- Unit 20D harvest objective is 5 – 15 bears
 - 10-year average harvest of 12 bears = 6% harvest rate based off of extrapolated densities

- Recent research suggests stable grizzly bear populations can be harvested at a higher rate of ~10%

- Harvest could still exceed sustainable limits, especially for females

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149

***Proposal 138, Unit 20D, Brown Bear
Issues Continued & Department Considerations:***

- Bait stations concentrated in highly accessible areas in proposed area

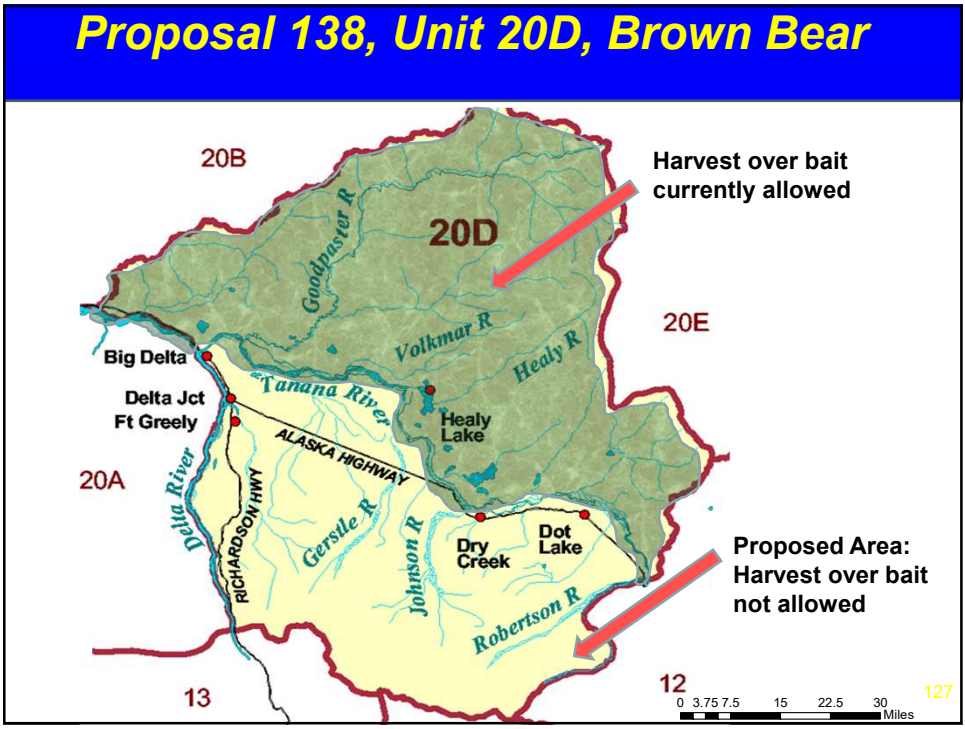
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 - Reduction in baiting season
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- Unit 20D south currently has different grizzly bear hunting regulations from all surrounding Units, including 20D north

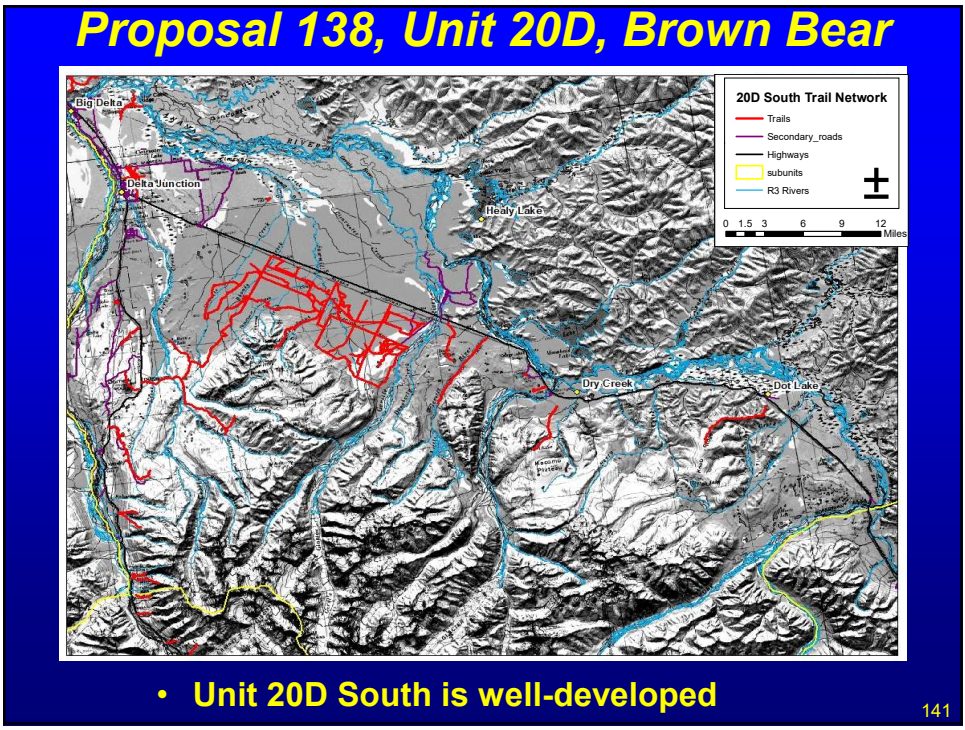
- Next 2 proposals ask for grizzly bear baiting in this area without a registration permit through current baiting season

126

150



151



152

141

Proposal 138, Unit 20D, Brown Bear

[Background](#)

Current Regulations:

- Resident and nonresident hunters: One brown/grizzly bear per year, August 10 – June 30
- Harvesting a brown/grizzly bear over bait and same-day-airborne allowed in Unit 20D North only
- Bear baiting season in Unit 20D is April 15 – June 30
- Grizzly bear sealing is required

142

153

Proposal 138, Unit 20D, Brown Bear

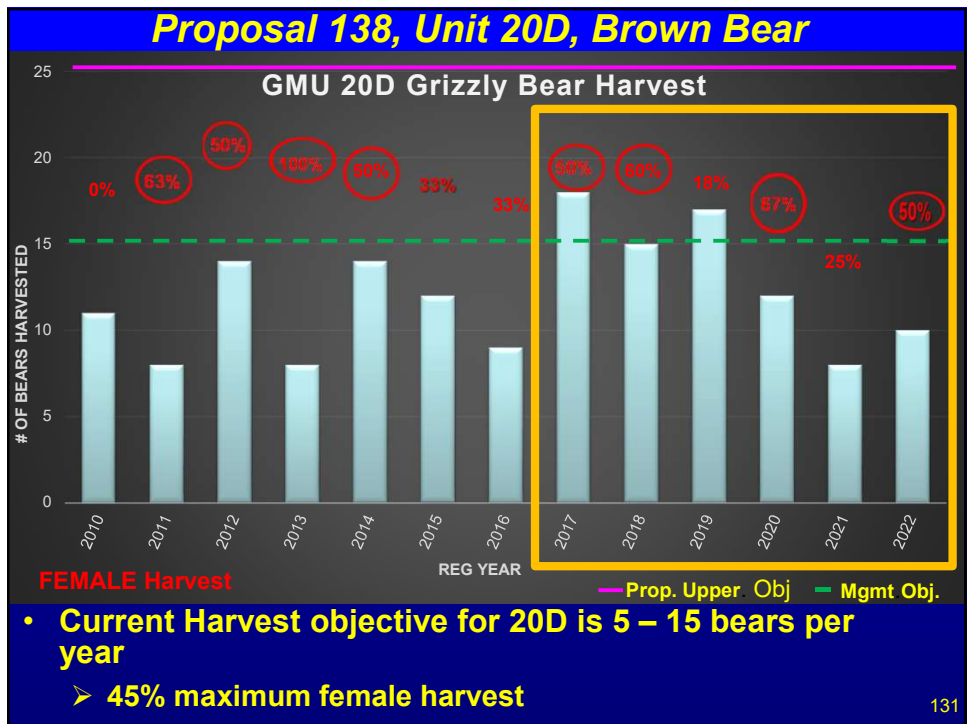
[Background](#)

Unit 20D Grizzly Bear Population:

- 185 – 220 total bears
 - 76 – 86 Unit 20D South (extrapolated from 20A)
 - 109 – 134 Unit 20D North (extrapolated from 20E)

130

154



155

Proposal 138, Unit 20D, Brown Bear

Background

- **Unit 20D baiting season is 1 month longer than Units 20A & 20B; overall hunting season is nearly 2 months longer**
 - An August 10 opener and June 30th closure with no restrictions may be unsustainable
- **Grizzly bear harvest initially spiked when baiting was allowed in neighboring GMU's, but later leveled off**
- **Bait station registration increased when grizzly bear baiting was allowed**
- **Unit 20D south bait station locations could shift to target grizzly bears if baiting is legalized**

145

156

Proposal 138, Unit 20D, Brown Bear Background

- Some additional harvest would be sustainable based on recent studies, but harvest could still go beyond these guidelines
- ANS of 1 – 2 bears outside of the Fairbanks Non-Sub. Area
- ~75% of Unit 20D bait stations are south of the Tanana River
- Most baiting occurs along developed roads and trails or along river corridors
- Many locals travel to adjacent units to bear bait where grizzly bear bating is legal
 - May shift to Unit 20D South if grizzly bear baiting is legalized

146

157

Proposal 138, Unit 20D, Brown Bear Background

- Anecdotal reports suggest more grizzly bears in Unit 20D than current estimates reflect
- 5 proposals in 2017 to allow grizzly bear baiting in Unit 20D, 1 in 2020, and 3 proposals in 2024
 - 1 proposal amended to allow baiting in 20D North only in 2017
- Surrounding areas (Fairbanks & Tok) also have current proposals in to make changes to grizzly regulations

147

158

Proposal 138, Unit 20D, Brown Bear
Background

- **Some additional harvest would be sustainable based on recent studies, but harvest could still go beyond these guidelines**
- **Anecdotal reports suggest more grizzly bears in Unit 20D than current estimates reflect**
- **ANS of 1 – 2 bears outside of the Fairbanks Non-Sub. Area**

133

159

Proposal 138, Unit 20D, Brown Bear
Background

- **~75% of Unit 20D bait stations are south of the Tanana River**
- **Most baiting occurs along developed roads and trails or along river corridors**
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- **Persistent Issue:**
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 - **Adjacent areas (Fairbanks & Tok) also have similar proposals**

134

160

Proposal 138, Unit 20D, Brown Bear

Summary:


- More harvest appears to be sustainable through recent research, but caution still needs to be used especially for female harvest
- Limited grizzly bear population data
 - Recommend conservative harvest strategy due to the uncertainties of this population
- 20D south is well-developed with good access
- High public interest in grizzly bear baiting and increased hunting opportunity
 - Registration permit baiting would be most conservative mgmt. approach, but a spring grizzly bear bating season with a closure date of May 31 would also likely be sustainable

148

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Proposal 138, Unit 20D, Brown Bear

- **Proposal:**
Allow brown/grizzly bear harvest at bait in Unit 20D South, during the current baiting season
- **Submitted by:** Delta Jct. Fish & Game Advisory Committee
- **ADF&G Recommendation:**
SUPPORT with amendments
Neutral on baiting as a method
- **Delta AC Recommendation:**
SUPPORT, 9 – 0



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