

## **Proposals Outside the Board of Game's Authority**

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The Board of Game does not have authority to adopt the requested changes in the following proposals. They are included in the book for review, comments, and discussions at the applicable board meeting.

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*Alaska Statute 16.05.407 requires a nonresident brown bear hunter to be accompanied by a guide.*

### **PROPOSAL 201**

As an emergency declaration I propose allowing non-residents to kill a grizzly on an over the counter permit without the requirement of a guide. This proposal would remain in effect until the Grizzly population is adjusted to meet the Department of Fish and Game's population goal.

It is my belief this time sensitive emergency declaration (regulation) change would more expeditiously address the grizzly over population existing in Unit 19C with the increase of moose numbers and increase in age class of both cows and bulls.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Predation Control in Unit 19C; Unit 19C has a major bear and wolf predation problem that is affecting the numbers and age class of moose. As a nonresident I encounter five to ten grizzlies in Unit 19C on every moose hunt for the past 20+ years. I have had multiple issues prior to harvesting a bull along with issues while skinning and while the meat is hanging. Additionally, Without drastic measures to reduce the predation issues; the moose population will decline appreciatively with irreparable harm to the herd.

**PROPOSED BY:** Les Butters

(EG-F23-176)

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*Nonresident license and tag requirements and fees are set in Alaska Statute.*

### **PROPOSAL 202**

If we can make it attractive to nonresidents, I think we can really help get the bear population down or at least help get the numbers to a sustainable level. To make it attractive to nonresidents since they are the number one in hunting and harvesting bears, I propose a non resident purchase two things.

A. A hunting license.

B. A Bear permit for (\$500) Allowing a non-resident to harvest up to 5 black bears on that permit.

In my opinion based on what I have seen this would make it attractive for nonresidents to want to come to Alaska (specifically 19E) to hunt bears in compared to hunting other areas of the world. If we wish to help out the moose population this is probable a really great place to start.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Nonresident black bear tag cost.

It's no secret that Unit 19E has an abundance of bears. It's no secret that the bears that are there are really doing a number on moose calves. Currently as it is a nonresident can harvest up to five black bears in Unit 19E. Over the years we have noticed a couple things in regard to this.

1. If a hunter wants to hunt black bears and has a choice to make as to where he wants to hunt he has lots of options. Alaska and unit 19E usually does not come to the top of that list due to a couple of factors.

a. A hunter can spend a lot less and go somewhere else to harvest bigger black bears.

b. Unit 19E is not known for any really big bears.

c. Benefits of going elsewhere outweigh coming to 19E.

2. If we are lucky enough to get a hunter committed to come, they usually only purchase one tag. They do and have had plenty of opportunity to harvest multiple bears however financially they could only afford harvest one.

3. We have never seen a resident hunting bears in our area so the only populous to help in thinning out the Bear population to help the moose population is nonresidents.

**PROPOSED BY:** Dan Paull

(EG-F23-197)

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*Wildlife population monitoring is an authority of the Department of Fish and Game.*

#### **PROPOSAL 203**

Monitor predator populations carefully and implement more aggressive controls when populations increase beyond a balanced level.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Predator population need to be better managed. It seems the wolf population grows fast when game population increases. Once the wolves have done their damage, game populations take much longer to recover.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alan Horstman

(EG-F23-169)

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*The Board of Game cannot discriminate between Alaskan subsistence hunters based on rural residence.*

#### **PROPOSAL 204**

Make all Unit 23 moose hunts for non-federally qualified subsistence users, archery only.

Unit 23 (all currently only areas for moose)

RM880: One antlered bull by permit available in person at license vendors within Unit 23 August 1-December 31 except **by Bow and Arrow Only for NON-federally qualified subsistence users.**

HT: One bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on at least one side except **by Bow and Arrow Only for NON-federally qualified subsistence users**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The purpose of this proposal is to maintain (or regain) moose hunting opportunity in unit 23, (where an emergency closure was recently enacted to decrease harvest) by utilizing archery as a conservation tool to decrease harvest without decreasing total opportunity for hunters.

In April of 2022 the Federal Subsistence Board approved WSA21-01b to close moose hunting to non-Federally qualified subsistence users on Federal public lands in Unit 23. The Subsistence Board stated the closure in Unit 23 provides more subsistence harvest opportunity (by removing the non-subsistence harvest) and is necessary to conserve the moose population, which they state, has declined substantially; and in their words “the harvestable surplus may also be exceeded”. In the ADFG memorandum response to the closure they showed that through 2020, the moose harvest numbers that did not exceed the harvest objective (average harvest of around 110-150 moose with objective harvest higher than that and allowable surplus of over 300 moose) but local resident hunters and local biologists have expressed concern about decreased moose populations in that area since the 2020 season. There is also concern that because the western arctic caribou herd (WCHA) has decreased in recent years and because of changing migration patterns, local hunters who traditionally relied on caribou, have been pushed to hunt moose more frequently. Because of these concerns (emergency closure for non-qualified subsistence users due to population concerns) we should make efforts to decrease harvest in this area by non-federally qualified subsistence users. By transitioning the hunt for non-subsistence users to archery only, opportunity for anyone who wants to hunt will be preserved but due to the more limited shooting range of archery equipment, the harvest will be decreased.

This would maintain opportunity while decreasing the harvest by non-federally qualified hunters in the context of widespread concern for adequate moose numbers in this area.

\*\*\*Of note, in the past there has been some resistance to transitioning existing rifle hunts into archery hunts because of the perception of some that this somehow decreases opportunity. It is, however, well established throughout the United States and in Alaska that all hunters are capable of taking advantage of archery hunts by the simple means of purchasing and layering to shoot a bow. Currently it’s possible to buy an effective hunting bow for less than the cost of most rifles and to learn to shoot accurately in a matter of weeks.

**PROPOSED BY:** Paul Forward

(EG-F23-284)

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*The permit application process is an administrative authority exercised by the Department of Fish and Game.*

## **PROPOSAL 205**

I would ask the boards at large and ADF&G as a whole to consider a change to this practice. For instance, when I log onto my personal GoOutdoorsIdaho page when I apply for permits in Idaho, I can readily see whether I won or did not win a permit. To my knowledge, my personal results are not published elsewhere for others to see. I would ask for the same level of privacy, in my home State of Alaska.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** I would ask the state/board to consider the privacy, in an increasingly competitive hunting environment, of winners of drawing permits in Alaska. I vehemently disagree with publishing in a publicly accessible format, the names of the winners of these permits. There are several, readily identifiable privacy issues with the practice of publishing (online or elsewhere) the names of permit winners.

**PROPOSED BY:** Donald Harold Lee III

(EG-F23-228)

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*The Board of Game does not have authority to regulate guides.*

**PROPOSAL 206**

If such has not already been done, I would ask the boards/ADFG, using science/data on carrying capacity and past harvest and perhaps aerial survey of GUAs to cap the numbers of sheep and moose that can be taken by a guide within their GUA for all GUAs in Alaska. I believe this has been done on a limited basis for certain areas but am unsure. I would ask that this be the practice statewide.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Certain guiding operations within the state of Alaska are well known to overharvest their areas to the detriment of hunting quality, species quality and the population health of the given species within those areas. While this has been looked at in a round about manner with the push from some quarters for Guide Concession Programs, limiting the numbers of guides in Alaska or placing more limits on non-resident opportunity, I feel that much opportunity remains to create/protect robust game populations and to create better opportunity for resident hunters. Sheep, I believe are particularly vulnerable to overharvest. While we would like to believe that guides will self regulate their take within their GUAs, this is not always the case.

**PROPOSED BY:** Donald Harold Lee III

(EG-F23-231)

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