

## **Tok Area - Units 12 & 20E**

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### **PROPOSAL 108**

#### **5 AAC 92.113. Intensive Management Plans III.**

Reactivate wolf control in a portion of Units 12, 20D, and 20E to benefit moose as follows:

Re-implement same day airborne (SDA) wolf control within the portion of Unit 12, within the upper Mansfield Creek drainage, the portion of Unit 20D within the upper Sand Creek, upper Billy Creek and upper Healy River drainages, and the portion of Unit 20E within the Fortymile River Drainage excluding the portions of the North Fork upstream of its confluence with the Middle Fork, the Mainstem downstream of the confluence of the North and South Forks, the Walker Fork and the East Fork of the Dennison. This is an approximate area that is currently being discussed and refined with ADF&G to manage moose primarily within the Tok West and Taylor Corridor moose survey areas.

Allow SDA shooting from private fixed wing aircraft, retrieval of wolves with private rotorcraft and placement of wolf traps and snares with private rotorcraft. In addition, the department may remove wolves using helicopters if necessary to supplement private efforts to meet wolf removal objectives.

Current moose densities in southern Unit 20E offer adequate hunter opportunity and are below the carrying capacity of the habitat. Rather than trying to continue to increase the population to a higher level closer to carrying capacity, we recommend ADF&G manage for a level of wolf removal adequate to maintain this productive population near current levels, the bull:cow ratios above objectives, and moose hunter numbers, harvest and success rates near current levels.

We recommend using moose density thresholds to determine when to turn wolf control on and off, and when to harvest cows, to maintain the moose population near current levels (~1.0 – 1.4 moose/sq. mile). For example, if the moose population falls below 1.0 moose/sq mile in 2 consecutive annual fall moose surveys in the Taylor Corridor moose survey area, the department would activate wolf control (private and possibly department) for several years to reduce wolves in the proposed control area and allow the moose population to rebound. If the moose density increases and exceeds 1.2 moose/sq mile in the Taylor Corridor moose survey area for two consecutive years, suspend wolf control and continue to monitor the moose population in subsequent years. As long as the moose population remains above 1.0 moose/sq. mile keep wolf control suspended. And if the moose population continues to increase and exceeds 1.4 moose/sq mile in the Taylor Corridor moose survey area for two consecutive years, consider issuing a small number of cow moose permits to maintain the moose population between 1.0 – 1.4 moose/sq. mile and keep the bull:cow ratio within objectives. Antlerless moose permits can be issued under Unit 20E antlerless moose regulations adopted by the Board of Game in spring of 2022.

We worked with the department to identify this proposed control area, so wolf removal from this area will not interfere with their wolf study in western Unit 20E, within the Fortymile Caribou calving range or have an effect on the population trend of the Fortymile Caribou Herd, which is currently in decline. This proposal is specifically intended to be used for Intensive Management for moose.

In addition, as part of a holistic moose management program, we recommend ADF&G work with Tok forestry to allow wildland fires to spread and develop and implement prescribed fires in southern Unit 20E and northern Unit 12 where possible and implement a regular program to crush or roller chop ~200

acres each winter in road or trail accessible portions of this area that burned in 2004 and 2005 to maintain moose habitat.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Following the suspension of wolf control to benefit Fortymile Caribou under the Upper Yukon–Tanana Predation Control Program (UYTPCP) in RY2018, we have concerns about being able to maintain moose numbers at an adequate level, in the southeast portion of the UYTPCP area (southern Unit 20E and northern Unit 12), to continue to meet bull:cow ratio objectives, maintain the moose population at current levels and maintain current harvest levels and success rates in this area. Wolf control was conducted in this area under the UYTPCP for 14 years (January 1, 2005 – April 30, 2018) and resulted in substantial progress toward Intensive Management (IM) moose population and harvest objectives and increased success rate among moose hunters in this IM area. Without continued wolf control in this heavily hunted area, we believe the wolf predation on moose will increase and the moose population size and bull:cow ratios will fall below objectives, requiring ADF&G to implement more restrictive moose hunting regulations in the future.

Based on ADF&G staff reports of data collected on moose in the Tok West and Taylor Corridor moose survey areas (that are mostly within the proposed IM area) the calf:cow ratios have declined and the moose population trend has stabilized, or may be starting to decline slightly, since the suspension of the wolf control program in the UYTPCP area in spring of 2018. In addition, the bull:cow ratio has declined and approached the minimum management objective in recent years with increased hunter numbers.

It has taken a lot of years for this moose population to increase to current levels and we don't want to lose the progress made since the early 2000s.

In 2014, when the department removed moose from the existing UYTPCP we were told by department staff that it would be easy to put moose back into the control program if needed in the future. With the substantial increase in hunter use of this area in recent years, bull:cow ratios have declined to levels near the minimum bull:cow ratio objective. Wolf control is needed in this area to maintain the moose population near the current size to ensure the bull:cow ratio remains above the minimum objective to avert the need for additional moose harvest restrictions. More restrictive harvest regulations would result in reduced harvest levels and reverse the progress we have made toward the IM moose population and harvest objectives from the recent wolf control program in this important Intensive Management area.

**PROPOSED BY:** Upper Tanana/Fortymile Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-F23-227)

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*Note: The Board of Game can only allow the take of wolf same day airborne under a predator control plan for which a permit is required.*

## **PROPOSAL 109**

### **5 AAC 92.113. Intensive Management Plans III.**

Allow wolves to be taken in Unit 12 the same day a person has been airborne as follows:

You may hunt wolf in Unit 12 the same day you have flown, provided you are 300 feet from the airplane.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Over the past several years we have seen an increase in predation on sheep and moose due to multiple very large packs of wolves and multiple singles. It is becoming more common to see and hear these packs on a regular basis. A change to liberalize the hunting regulations allowing more opportunity for incidental harvest will help ungulate populations.

**PROPOSED BY:** Jeff Burwell

(EG-F23-220)

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## **PROPOSAL 110**

### **5 AAC 85.045(a)(18). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.**

Reauthorize the antlerless moose seasons in Unit 20E as follows:

<b>Units and Bag Limits</b>	<b>Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)</b>	<b>Nonresident Open Season</b>
(18)		
...		
Unit 20(E), remaining portion of the Ladue River Controlled Use Area		
RESIDENT HUNTERS		
...		
1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only; by youth hunt only; up to 100 permits may be issued in combination with the nonresident drawing hunt; a person may not take a cow accompanied by a calf; or	Aug. 5–Sept. 5 Oct. 15–Nov. 30	
1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only; up	Oct. 15–Nov. 30	

to 400 permits may be issued;  
a person may not take a cow  
accompanied by a calf

#### NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

...

1 antlerless moose by  
drawing permit only; by youth  
hunt only; up to 100 permits  
may be issued in combination  
with the nonresident drawing  
hunt; a person may  
not take a cow accompanied  
by a calf

Aug. 5–Sept. 5  
Oct. 15–Nov. 30

Unit 20(E), that portion outside of  
the Ladue River Controlled Use  
draining into 1) the Ladue River  
upstream of the South Fork of the  
Ladue River, 2) the Dennison Fork of  
the Fortymile River, and 3) the  
Mosquito Fork of the Fortymile River  
drainage.

#### RESIDENT HUNTERS

...

1 antlerless moose by  
drawing permit only; by youth  
hunt only; up to 100 permits  
may be issued in combination  
with the nonresident drawing  
hunt; a person may  
not take a cow accompanied  
by a calf; or

Aug. 5–Sept. 5  
Oct. 15–Nov. 30

1 antlerless moose by  
drawing permit only; up  
to 400 permits may be issued;  
a person may not take a cow  
accompanied by a calf

Oct. 15–Nov. 30

#### NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

...

1 antlerless moose by  
drawing permit only; by youth  
hunt only; up to 100 permits

Aug. 5–Sept. 5  
Oct. 15–Nov. 30

may be issued in combination  
with the nonresident drawing  
hunt; a person may  
not take a cow accompanied  
by a calf  
...

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Antlerless moose hunting seasons must be reauthorized annually. The Unit 20E antlerless moose hunts were originally adopted by the Board of Game in March 2022 as a proactive management tool with the primary goals to 1) slow population growth to avoid habitat damage, 2) help achieve Intensive Management (IM) harvest objectives, and 3) provide the management flexibility to rapidly respond to changes in nutrition.

The decision framework to initiate antlerless harvest in Unit 20E includes population trend, bull:cow ratios, and nutritional indices. The moose population within a 1,821 mi<sup>2</sup> area along the Taylor Highway in southern Unit 20E approximately doubled from 0.7 moose/mi<sup>2</sup> in 2005 to 1.4 moose/mi<sup>2</sup> in 2018, although the population appears to have stabilized since then. Bull:cow ratio estimates in southern Unit 20E are currently stable above the minimum management objectives. Finally, nutritional indices show that the moose population is currently at healthy nutritional levels. Twinning rates are healthy at 42% (2020-2022, 3-year weighted average), and the department closely monitors these rates given the potential for them to lag as a reflection of population-level nutritional condition. Additionally, the estimated browse removal rate in spring 2022 was 28%, which is below the rate observed in nutritionally stressed populations.

Given the current stable population trend and bull:cow ratios and healthy nutritional indices, the department does not plan to enact antlerless hunts during RY24 but would like to retain the hunts as a proactive management tool. The Unit 20E antlerless harvest framework provides management flexibility to rapidly respond to potential future changes in nutrition and the ability to proactively reduce population growth rates, if necessary, to maintain the current high nutritional levels.

Current Unit 20E moose harvest is below IM harvest objectives; therefore, antlerless harvest, if enacted, would help achieve IM harvest objectives without reducing bull:cow ratios below management objectives. The Unit 20E IM harvest objective is 250–450 moose, and the RY18–RY22 annual average unit wide reported harvest was 199 moose.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish & Game (HQ-F23-045)  
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**PROPOSAL 111**

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

Add an archery only, five-day season for residents and nonresidents in Unit 12 as follows:

Extend the current moose season by five days in Unit 12 Remainder for certified bowhunters only as follows:

Unit 12, remainder

Residents only

Bag limit: One bull total (see details in season dates below)

Season dates: Aug 24 – Aug 28

**OR:**

Sept 8 – Sept 17

**OR:**

**SEPT 18 - SEPT 22 BY BOW AND ARROW ONLY**

Unit 12, remainder

Nonresidents

Bag limit: One bull, with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on at least one side.

Season dates: Sept 8 – Sept 17

**OR:**

**SEPT 18 - SEPT 22 BY BOW AND ARROW ONLY**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** An additional five days for bowhunters in Unit 12 remainder would afford much greater hunting opportunity while at the same time keeping the impact to the resource to a minimum. This extension would be similar to already existing season extensions in the state for bowhunters.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaskan Bowhunters Association

(EG-F23-293)

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## **PROPOSAL 112**

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

Limit nonresident hunting of the Fortymile caribou herd as follows:

Limit nonresident Fortymile caribou hunters to Zone 2 only until the herd is within the Intensive Management (IM) population objective and stabilizes.

#### **RC 860 Fortymile Caribou**

##### **Nonresidents**

**Zone 2 only** [Zones 1, 2, 3, &4]      One bull      Aug 10 – Sept 30

We would also support including parts of Zone 3 off the road system included for nonresidents, such as the Joseph area, and Fortymile River upstream of the South Fork.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The Fortymile caribou herd (FCH) is an identified big game prey population under our Intensive Management (IM) law important for high levels of human harvest by Alaskans. It has an IM population objective of 50,000 - 100,000 animals.

Based on department information at this time (April 2023), the 2023 fall quota for the Fortymile caribou hunt RC860 will only be 450-500 caribou, bull only. The current FCH population is well under the IM objective, at about 38,000 animals, yet caribou are showing signs of nutritional stress. We expect 2024 quotas to be even less.

Along with Nelchina caribou herd declines and very little harvest opportunity for that herd now and in the near future, we expect increased hunting pressure on the FCH. Added pressure on FCH will lead to more problems along the Steese and Taylor Highways, especially if the caribou are near the road during hunting season. The quota could be reached very quickly, allowing little opportunity for many residents to put some meat in their freezer. We could also go over the quota, which has happened in the past, resulting in a lower winter subsistence hunt quota or a closure of the resident-only winter subsistence hunt.

Our main emphasis with this proposal is to outline the importance of the FCH to resident Alaskans who want to put food on the table to feed their families. We question whether any nonresident hunting opportunity should exist at all when the population is below the IM objective, or when that additional harvest may lead to a winter subsistence hunt closure or reduced quota.

We have spoken to transporters and understand their concerns with a complete closure to nonresidents. In that light, we'd like to offer a compromise position at this time to restrict nonresident RC860 caribou hunters to Zone 2 only. This will still allow ample nonresident opportunity off the road system, and keep the road systems and other zones available to residents only.

**PROPOSED BY:** Resident Hunters of Alaska

(HQ-F23-014)

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## **PROPOSAL 113**

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

Close caribou hunting within ¼ mile or 100 yards of the Steese Highway above tree line on Eagle and Twelvemile summits in Unit 20 as follows:

Include a hunt provision that closes fall hunting within 1/4 mile of the Steese Highway above treeline on Eagle and Twelvemile Summits. If the board is hesitant to institute a closure of 1/4 mile, a 100 foot area would probably be effective as well. This would decrease the likelihood of an accidental shooting, improve hunt quality by decreasing congestion/chaos, and help ensure that quotas are not exceeded. This approach has been taken on the Taylor Highway to address similar concerns. Since 2017, ADF&G has effectively implemented a no-hunt corridor between mileposts 75 and 117 when the herd approaches/crosses this area during the fall season.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Since the 2020 fall caribou hunt, interest and participation along the Steese Highway has remained high. During the fall hunt, the roadway and immediately adjacent land is heavily used for ATV travel and camping. Public safety is threatened when hunting is also permitted in the same vicinity.

**PROPOSED BY:** Sarah Behr

(EG-F23-313)

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## **PROPOSAL 114**

### **5 AAC 92.011. Taking of game by proxy.**

Allow proxy hunting for caribou in Units 20B, 20D, 20E, 20F, and 24C registration hunts as follows:

You may proxy hunt for caribou in Units 20B, 20D, 20E, 20F, and 25C caribou registration hunts (RC860 and RC867)

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

You may proxy hunt for caribou [except]

- In Units 20B, 20D, 20E, 20F, and 25C caribou (RC860 and RC867)

**PROPOSED BY:** Roy Flemmer

(HQ-F23-020)

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## **PROPOSAL 115**

### **5 AAC 92.220. Salvage of game meat, furs, and hides.**

Require hunters taking Fortymile caribou to gut the animals in the field as follows:

Hunters shall gut their kills in the field. Such a provision would provide Alaska Wildlife Troopers with a kill site, minimize spoilage, improve roadway safety, and improve the image of the hunt.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** While the Fortymile Management Plan does suggest a hunt provision requiring participants to remove viscera from the drivable surfaces of the roadway, this frequently does not happen. Carcasses are also often left in ditches and in the pull outs on top of Eagle and Twelve Mile Summits. This detracts from the hunt, can be unpleasant for people using the pull outs, and also attracts other animals to the roadway and ditches, which can be unsafe for motorists.

**PROPOSED BY:** Sarah Behr

(EG-F23-312)

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## **PROPOSAL 116**

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

Implement a non-intensive management predator control plan within the Tok Management Area to benefit Dall sheep as follows:

Implement a non-intensive management predator control plan within the Tok Management Area (TMA) via aerial coyote and wolf control. Aerial coyote and wolf shooting would be allowed via private fixed wing aircraft and retrieval of coyotes and wolves would be allowed via private rotorcraft. In addition, the Department could remove coyotes and wolves using helicopters if necessary to supplement private efforts to meet removal objectives.

Our goal for predator control is to help the sheep population recover to historic averages more quickly than if intervention did not occur. We propose predator control be conducted until the sheep population recovers to the long-term (2006–2019) averages. Alternatively, we propose predator control cease following five years if there are no signs that the control is positively impacting population growth.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The Tok Management Area (TMA) sheep population, like many sheep populations throughout Alaska, is currently at a historic low. The total number of sheep observed by the department during their 2022 survey within the TMA survey area was 457, which is 60% fewer than the 2006–2019 average of 1145 sheep. Furthermore, the number of sheep observed in 2022 was 45% fewer than the previous low number of sheep observed in 2014, which followed the very late spring in 2013. The current population decline resulted in a historic low number of draw sheep permits awarded during fall 2022 and fall 2023. Prior to these years, the lowest number of permits awarded was 60, while only ten permits were issued annually during 2022 and 2023.

Although we recognize that weather was likely the primary contributing factor to the current decline, predation is likely an additional contributing factor. According to department sheep research conducted in Unit 20A during the early 2000s, coyotes are one of the primary predators of lambs, while wolf predation also occurs albeit at a lower level. We believe managing predation could help the TMA sheep population recover.

**PROPOSED BY:** Upper Tanana/Fortymile Fish and Game Advisory Committee

(EG-F23-224)

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## **PROPOSAL 117**

### **5 AAC 92.057. Special provisions for Dall sheep and mountain goat drawing permit hunts.**

Allocate Tok Management Area sheep drawing permits as follows:

10% of the total number of Dall sheep permits in the Tok Management Area are guaranteed to nonresidents. If there are less than ten permits issued, there will be none issued to nonresidents. No more than 20% of the nonresident permits will be issued to second degree of kindred nonresidents with a separate draw permit number.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** I want to clarify that 10% of the drawing permits for Dall sheep in the Tok Management area are guaranteed to nonresidents. I think they already are but I'm not positive. Also remove the language that states up to 50% of the nonresident permits may be issued to second degree of kindred hunters. Instead apply the language from Proposal 149 from the Statewide meeting in March of 2021 of no more than 20% of the nonresident permits will be issued to second degree of kindred nonresidents with their own draw permit number.

**PROPOSED BY:** Dan Montgomery

(EG-F23-324)

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## **PROPOSAL 118**

### **5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep.**

### **5 AAC 92.057. Special provisions for Dall sheep and mountain goat drawing permit hunts.**

Allocate a portion of the Tok Management Area sheep drawing permits to archery only, or create a new archery only hunting the area as follows:

Allocate 20% of the total DS102 tag allotment each year to a separate tag that is archery only for the same area. If managers see fit, this archery hunt could take place during the same time as the general DS102 hunt or could take place during a separate time period.

Option 1:

20% of the total number of DS102 tags that would currently be allotted will be re-allocated to a new drawing hunt. **One full-curl ram by bow and arrow only 8/10-9/20.**

Option 2:

20% of the total number of DS102 tags that would currently be allotted will be re-allocated to a new drawing hunt. **One full-curl ram by bow and arrow only 8/1-8/10.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** This proposal is one of several written this year with the intention of **maintaining hunting opportunity for all hunters while decreasing harvest on sheep populations.**

The current tag allotment for DS102 is adjusted each year to accommodate the estimated harvestable surplus of sheep in this area. This proposal is intended to maintain that number of tags but to allocate 20% of them each year to archery only. Because of the increased difficulty of archery hunting this will shield

an overall decrease in harvest which, over time, may result in more sheep being available for harvest in future year. Similarly, in the event that sheep population does decline, wildlife managers may be able to maintain the number of tags because of the overall decrease harvest rate of tag holders (due to 20% of them being archery hunters who will have lower success rates.) Over time this could demonstrate the effectiveness of using archery as an effective management tool for sheep hunting in Alaska.

Overall, this will maintain opportunity while decreasing harvest and thereby enhancing the overall resource for future generations of hunters.

\*\*\*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-F23-292)

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## **PROPOSAL 119**

### **5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep.**

Set the sheep bag limit in Unit 12 for resident hunters based on the age of the ram harvested as follows:

Ideally the below regulation would also apply to hunting guides who would have to skip a season or more of guiding if their clients kill a ram under 8-years of age.

Unit 12 Resident:

Harvest of a ram 8-years-old or older and hunter will be eligible to hunt sheep the next season.

Harvest a 7-year-old ram, the hunter will be ineligible to hunt sheep for the next two seasons.

Harvest a 6-year or younger ram, and the hunter will be ineligible to hunt sheep for the next three seasons.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** In recent years there has been widespread concern raised about the harvesting of young rams during full-curl management (FCM) sheep hunts throughout Alaska. During the emergency meeting last October and during my multiple conversations with sheep biologists both in Alaska and BC, consistent concerns have been raised that harvesting younger rams has an adverse affect on the sheep population. Alaska's sheep population has been noted to be on a steady decline and it's time for hunter/conservationists to take some responsibility to do everything possible to conserve sheep.

Because of this decrease the Board of Game (BOG) adopted Proposal 204 in at the 2022/2023 meeting cycle which imposes a five year moratorium on nonresident hunters in this area. This is a step in the right direction but our biologists are telling us that due to climate change, the conditions that have led to this sheep decline will not be changing in a meaningful way. Unlike previous sheep declines which bounced back after a decade or two, this decline is very likely only the beginning of an essentially irreversible trend. It is up to us to find ways to conserve the sheep population with a focus on long term, sustainable practices.

Because of this we need to look at other creative options to maintain our sheep population. One area of improvement could be to focus more on harvesting older rams. Unfortunately, in recent years there is a concerning trend toward younger rams being killed. In Unit 19C the average age of rams killed was under 8-years-old and if a few old outliers are removed from the from then ~50 or so rams killed when calculating, the average age of a sheep killed is under 7.5 years with a concerning number of 6 and even a 5-year-old ram having been killed. (In Unit 12 recent harvest statistics show an average age of around 7.2-years-old in 2022.) This suggests that a large number of the total mature ram population is being killed, potentially leaving a much smaller potential breeding population.

Of note, this regulation does not change FCM regulation. Shooting a full curl 7-year-old ram, for example, will not be illegal but will only result in some suspended hunting privileges. This is akin to some of the laws proposed and adopted in some places for shooting nannies instead of billy mountain goats.

**PROPOSED BY:** Paul Forward

(EG-F23-286)

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### **PROPOSAL 120**

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

Increase the brown/grizzly bear bag limit for residents in a portion of Unit 12 as follows:

Within Wrangell St Elias National Preserve in Unit 12, east of the Nabesna River, south of the winter trail, southeast from Pickerel Lake to U.S./Canadian border:

Increase the resident bag limit for brown bears to two bears per regulatory year.

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

Unit 12 east of the Nabesna River, south of the winter trail, southeast from Pickerel Lake to U.S./Canadian border

Resident

[ONE BEAR] **Two bears** every regulatory year

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Interior grizzly bears are an important food source for many resident hunters. There are abundant grizzly bears in Unit 12, and we'd like more harvest opportunity to put meat in our freezers.

**PROPOSED BY:** Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committee

(EG-F23-218)

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## **PROPOSAL 121**

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

Increase the brown/grizzly bear bag limit for residents in a portion of Unit 12 as follows:

Unit 12. East of the Nabesna River and south of the winter trail running southeast from pickerel Lake to the U.S/Canada border.

Resident:                    2 Bear   every regulatory year.                    Aug 10-Jun 30

Nonresident:                1 Bear   every regulatory year.                    Aug 10-Jun 30

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** I am asking the board to allow residents to harvest two grizzly bears per year in this unit/area. My family has been going into the area since the 70s and it has always held a healthy population of bears. We really enjoy bear meat (to the point my kids prefer over moose.) We salvage the whole bear when a harvest is made, and frankly, a second allowable bear would provide extra meat to be enjoyed over the winter (we make roasts, breakfast sausage, chorizo, kielbasa, smoked hams and meat sticks). Not to leave out the bear fat that gets rendered down for baking and frying.

**PROPOSED BY:** Jacques Etcheverry (EG-F23-203)

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## **PROPOSAL 122**

### **5 AAC 85.056. Hunting seasons and bag limits for wolf.**

Lengthen the wolf hunting season in Units 12 and 20E by approximately six weeks to end on June 15 as follows:

Unit 12 and 20E wolf hunting season, Aug 1- June 15th.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Extend the wolf hunting season in Units 12 and 20E to June 15th. This would give the option to harvest wolves during a portion of the spring bear season. This would also provide for additional sustainable wolf hunting opportunity for those interested in harvesting wolves during spring and early summer.

**PROPOSED BY:** Upper Tanana/Fortymile Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-F23-226)

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## **PROPOSAL 123**

### **5 AAC 85.056. Hunting seasons and bag limits for wolf.**

Lengthen the wolf hunting season by approximately six weeks as follows:

Currently:

Wolf- Ten Aug 1- April 30

Proposed:

Wolf- Ten Aug 1- June 15

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Over the past few years we have seen an increase in predation on moose and sheep by several very large packs of wolves and multiple singles. A change to the wolf season dates allowing for more opportunity while hunting other species will help increase ungulate populations.

**PROPOSED BY:** Jeff Burwell

(EG-F23-221)

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## **PROPOSAL 124**

### **5 AAC 84.270. Furbearer trapping.**

Lengthen the marten trapping season in Units 20E and 25B by two weeks, to close March 15 as follows:

Amend 5 AAC 84.270 (6) as follows:

(6) Marten

....

Units 12, 19[ -], 21, and 24 [AND 25] Nov. 10 – Last day of Feb. No Limit

**Unit 20(E) Nov. 10 – Mar. 15 No Limit**

**Remainder of Unit 20 Nov. 10 – Last day of Feb. No Limit**

**Unit 25(B) Nov. 10 – Mar. 15 No Limit**

**Remainder of Unit 25 Nov. 10 – Last day of Feb. No Limit**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Extend marten trapping season by 15 days to align with the closure of Lynx trapping regulations in Unit 20E and 25B.

This will also align state and federal regulations to allow marten trapping until March 15.

With climate change and the prolonged length of spring, marten are staying prime longer. This will allow a small number of local trappers the opportunity to keep marten traps operational until lynx season closes and allow potential for modest income increase opportunity.

Extend marten trapping season by 15 days to align with the closure of Lynx trapping regulations in Units 20E and 25B.

This will also align state and federal regulations to allow marten trapping until March 15.

With climate change and the prolonged length of spring, marten are staying prime longer.

This will allow a small number of local trappers the opportunity to keep marten traps operational until lynx season closes and allow potential for modest income increase opportunity.

**PROPOSED BY:** Eagle Fish and Game Advisory Committee

(EG-F23-215)

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