

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH & GAME
Boards Support Section
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ALASKA BOARD OF GAME
FALL 2000
NOVEMBER 1 - 9, 2000
JUNEAU, ALASKA

FIRST CLASS MAIL

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O.E.O

**U.S. Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240**

If you are a person with a disability who may need a special accommodation in order to participate in the process on the proposed regulations, please contact Margaret Edens at (907) 465-6098 no later than October 13, 2000 to make any necessary arrangements. To correspond by text telephone (TDD) call 1-800-478-2028.

**ALASKA BOARD OF GAME
FALL 2000 PROPOSAL BOOK**

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PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

REVIEWER LETTER

DEAR REVIEWER:

The attached packet of regulatory proposals will be considered by the Alaska Board of Game at its **Fall 2000** meeting concerning hunting and use of game in the Southeast Region, **November 1 - 9, 2000** at the Westmark Baranof in Juneau, Alaska. The proposals generally concern changes to hunting regulations in Southeast Alaska.

Before taking action on these proposed changes to the regulations, the board would like your written comments and/or oral testimony on any effects the proposed changes would have on your activities.

The proposals in this packet are presented as brief statements summarizing the intended regulatory changes. In some cases, where confusion might arise or where the regulation is complex, proposed changes are also indicated in legal format. In this format, underlined words are additions to the regulation text and capitalized words or letters in square brackets [XXXX] are deletions.

You are encouraged to read all proposals presented in this packet, as some regulations have statewide application and may affect all regions of the state.

After reviewing the proposals, you may send written comments to:

ATTN: BOG COMMENTS
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Boards Support Section
P.O. Box 25526
Juneau, Alaska 99802-5526
FAX - (907)465-6094

Comments may be submitted at any time until the public testimony period for that proposal and/or its subject matter is closed at the meeting and deliberation by the board begins. As a practical matter, you are encouraged to have all written comments presented to the above Juneau address by **October 13, 2000**. Receipt by this date will assure that your written comments will be published in the board workbook. Comments received after October 13 will be presented to board members at the time of the meeting, but will not be printed in the board workbook. Written comments will also be accepted during the board meeting, and of course, public testimony during the meeting is appreciated.

When making comments regarding these proposals, on the first line list the PROPOSAL NUMBER to which your comment pertains and whether you favor or oppose the proposal. This will assure that the comments are noted by the board members in relation to the proper proposal(s).

(continued on next page)

The following guidelines will greatly assist the board in understanding your concerns:

Written comments will be hole-punched and copied to go into the board workbook. Therefore, please use 8 1/2 x 11 paper and leave at least a 1 1/2 inch margin on the left side and a 1-inch margin on the right side, top and bottom. If typed, please make sure the print is dark. If handwritten, use dark ink and write legibly. Briefly explain why you are in favor of or opposed to the proposal.

If you plan to testify, a written copy of your testimony is helpful, but is not required. Again not required, but 25 copies of your written testimony is also helpful.

ADVISORY COMMITTEES: In addition to the above, please make sure the meeting minutes reflect why the committee voted as it did. If the vote was split, include the minority opinion. A brief description--a couple of sentences--will do. Detail attendance, number in attendance (e.g., 12 of 15 members) and what interests were represented (such as guides, hunters, trappers, etc.).

Additional proposal booklets may be obtained at offices of the Department of Fish and Game.

A tentative agenda for the Fall 2000 meeting of the Board of Game is shown on page **ix**. A roadmap showing a tentative order in which proposals will be considered will be available in early October. During the meeting, a recorded telephone message will be available, with current updates on the board's agenda and roadmap. That phone number is 465-8901 (Juneau) or 1-800-764-8901 outside of Juneau.

If you are a person with a disability who may need a special accommodation in order to comment on the proposed regulations, please contact the Boards Support Section at 465-6095 no later than October 13, 2000. To correspond by text telephone (TDD), call 1-800-478-2028.

Sincerely,

BOARDS SUPPORT SECTION

ALASKA BOARD OF GAME
TENTATIVE FUTURE MEETING SCHEDULE
as of December, 1999

	<u>Dates & Location</u>	<u>Topic</u>
FALL 2000	November 1 - 9, 2000 Juneau, AK	Southeast Region
	Proposal Deadline: August 4, 2000 Comment Deadline: October 13, 2000	
SPRING 2001	March 2 - 12, 2001 Anchorage, AK	Southcentral Region
	Proposal deadline: December 8, 2000 Comment deadline: February 16, 2001	

For information about the Board of Game, contact:

Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Boards Support Section
PO Box 25526
Juneau, Alaska 99802-5526
Phone: (907) 465-2027 Fax: (907) 465-6094
Email: margaret_edens@fishgame.state.ak.us

For information on the Board of Game's past, current, and upcoming meetings and actions, including proposal forms, access our web site at:

<http://www.state.ak.us/local/akpages/FISH.GAME/boards/bordhome.htm>

*See Board of Game's meeting cycle on pages v- vi for list of statewide regulations that will be considered during the Winter 2002 meeting.

ALASKA BOARD OF GAME MEETING SCHEDULE

The board meeting cycle generally occurs from October through March. The board considers changes to regulations on a region-based schedule. Each region will be discussed on a two-year cycle. When the regional area is before the board, the following regulations are open for consideration within that region:

- Trapping Seasons and Bag Limits -- All species
- General and Subsistence Hunting Seasons and Bag Limits -- All species
(Except antlerless moose hunts as noted below)
- Identified Big Game Prey Populations and Objectives
- Wolf Predation Control Implementation Plans
- Bag Limit for Brown Bears
- Areas Closed To Hunting
- Closures and Restrictions in State Game Refuges
- Management Areas
- Controlled Use Areas
- Areas Closed To Trapping

Regulations which are specific to an area (e.g., 5 AAC 92.066. Permit for Access to Walrus Islands State Game Sanctuary) will be taken up when the board is scheduled to consider regulations in that region.

Two statewide regulations will be taken up annually, at the spring meeting: Reauthorization of Antlerless Moose Hunts, and Brown Bear Tag Fees. Proposals for changes to these regulations will be considered each spring.

Other statewide regulations will not be taken up every meeting cycle. Statewide regulations are scheduled to be reviewed on a four-year cycle, distributed between winter meetings scheduled to occur every other year. The list of statewide regulations and the associated meeting cycle is attached.

<u>Area</u>	<u>Cycle**</u>		
SOUTHEAST-REGION I Game Management Units: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	Fall 2000	Fall 2002	Fall 2004
SOUTHCENTRAL-REGION II Game Management Units: 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 All GMUs: Brown Bear Tag Fees Reauthorization of Antlerless Moose Hunts	Spring 2001	Spring 2003	Spring 2005
ARCTIC AND WESTERN-REGION V Game Management Units: 18, 22, 23, 26A	Fall 2001	Fall 2003	Fall 2005
INTERIOR-REGION III Game Management Units: 12, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25, 26B, 26C All GMUs: Brown Bear Tag Fees Reauthorization of Antlerless Moose Hunts	Spring 2000	Spring 2002	Spring 2004

****THE MEETING CYCLE REPEATS ITSELF ON TWO-YEAR INTERVALS**
This schedule was adopted October 20, 1995; updated August 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000

Alaska Board of Game Winter Meeting Schedule

STATEWIDE REGULATIONS: 5 AAC 92

CYCLE “A”: Winter 2002, 2006, 2010, 2014, etc.

- .001 Application of this Chapter
- .002 Liability for Violations
- .003 Hunter Education and Orientation Requirements
- .004 Policy for Off-Road Vehicle Use for Hunting and Transporting Game
- .005 Policy for Changing Board Agenda
- .010 Harvest Tickets and Reports
- .011 Taking of Game by Proxy
- .012 Licenses and Tags
- Procedures
- .016 Muskoxen Tag Fees
- .018 Waterfowl Conservation Tag
- .019 Taking of Big Game for Certain Religious Ceremonies
- .020 Application of Permit Regulations and Permit Reports
- .025 Permit for Exporting a Raw Skin
- .028 Aviculture Permits
- .029 Permit for Possessing Live Game
- .031 Permit for Selling Skins and Trophies
- .033 Permit for Sci, Ed, Propagative, or Public Safety Purposes
- .034 Permit to Take Game for Cultural Purposes
- Cranes
- .039 Permit for Taking Wolves Using Aircraft
- .047 Permit for Using Radio Telemetry Equipment
- .104 Authorization for Methods and Means Disability Exemptions
- .106 Intensive Management of Identified Big Game Prey Populations
- .110 Control of Predation by Wolves
- .165 Sealing of Bear Skins and Skulls
- .170 Sealing of Marten, Lynx, Beaver, Otter, Wolf, and Wolverine
- .200 Purchase and Sale of Game
- .210 Game as Animal Food or Bait
- .220 Salvage of Game Meat, Furs, and Hides
- .230 Feeding of Game
- .250 Transfer of Muskoxen for Sci and Ed Purposes
- .450 Description of Game Management Units
- .990 Definitions

STATEWIDE REGULATIONS: 5 AAC 92

CYCLE “B”: Winter 2000, 2004, 2008, 2012, etc.

- .035 Permit for Temporary Commercial Use of Live Game
- .037 Permit for Falconry
- .040 Permit for Taking Furbearers with Game Meat
- .041 Permit to take Beavers to Control Damage to Property
- .043 Permit for Capturing Wild Furbearers for Fur Farming
- .049 Permits, Permit Procedures, and Permit Conditions
- .050 Required Permit Hunt Conditions and Procedures
- .051 Discretionary Trapping Permit Conditions and
- .052 Discretionary Permit Hunt Conditions and Procedures
- .062 Priority for Subsistence Hunting; Tier II Permits
- .068 Permit Conditions for Hunting Black Bear with Dogs
- .070 Tier II Subsistence Hunting Permit Point System
- .075 Lawful Methods of Taking Game
- .080 Unlawful Methods of Taking Game; Exceptions
- .085 Unlawful Methods of Taking Big Game; Exceptions
- .090 Unlawful Methods of Taking Fur Animals
- .095 Unlawful Methods of Taking Furbearers; Exceptions
- .100 Unlawful Methods of Hunting Waterfowl, Snipe, and
- .130 Restriction to Bag Limit
- .135 Transfer of Possession
- .140 Unlawful Possession or Transportation of Game
- .150 Evidence of Sex and Identity
- .160 Marked or Tagged Game with Cubs Prohibited
- .260 Taking Cub Bears and Female Bears
- .400 Emergency Taking of Game
- .410 Taking Game in Defense of Life or Property
- .550 Areas Closed to Trapping

ALASKA BOARD OF GAME

(Revised December, 1999)

NAME AND ADDRESS	TERM EXPIRES
VACANT Anchorage, AK	
Mike Fleagle P.O. Box 33 McGrath, AK 99627	1/31/02
Lori Quakenbush, CHAIR P.O. Box 82391 Fairbanks, AK 99708	1/31/00
Greg Roczicka, VICE-CHAIR P.O. Box 513 Bethel, AK 99559	1/31/02
Walter Sampson P.O. Box 49 Kotzebue, AK 99752	1/31/01
Greg Streveler P.O. Box 94 Gustavus, AK 99826	1/31/02
Eruk Williamson 12720 Lupine Rd. Anchorage, AK 99516	1/31/01

NOTE: All written comments to proposals published in this proposal booklet must be sent to the ADF&G Boards Support Section at the address below in order to be included and published in the Board of Game's Fall 2000 board workbook. Written comments regarding the proposals in this proposal booklet may not be published if the comments are sent to individual board members.

Board members may also be reached at:

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
Boards Support Section
P.O. Box 25526
Juneau, AK 99802-5526

BOARDS SUPPORT SECTION

ADVISORY COMMITTEE COORDINATORS

SOUTHWEST REGION

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Web site address: www.state.ak.us/local/akpages/FISH.GAME/boards/bordhome.htm

Board Meeting Recording:

Phone: 465-8901 (in Juneau)
1-800-764-8901 (outside of Juneau)

TDD

Phone: 1-800-478-2028

Email address:

margaret_edens@fishgame.state.ak.us

TENTATIVE AGENDA
BOARD OF GAME
November 1 - 9, 2000
WESTMARK BARANOF, JUNEAU, AK

[NOTE: This is a tentative agenda for this meeting of the Board of Game. It is subject to variance throughout the course of the meeting. At the discretion of the chair, additional periods of public testimony may be set. Also, evening sessions may be scheduled as necessary. A more detailed agenda will be available in October.]

Wednesday, November 1

8:30 am

OPENING BUSINESS

Call to Order; Introductions of Board Members and Staff
Purpose of Meeting (overview)

STAFF REPORTS

1:00 pm or at conclusion of staff reports

PUBLIC TESTIMONY BEGINS - This is the primary time for testimony on all issues before the Board of Game. At the chair's discretion, there may be additional sessions.

TO TESTIFY BEFORE THE BOARD ON PROPOSALS BEING CONSIDERED AT THIS MEETING, YOU MUST COMPLETE A BLUE TESTIMONY CARD. PUBLIC TESTIMONY WILL CONTINUE UNTIL ALL THAT SIGN UP HAVE TESTIFIED.

<p>DEADLINE FOR <u>SIGN-UP</u> TO TESTIFY IS: 12 NOON, THURSDAY NOVEMBER 2</p>
--

Thursday, November 2

8:30 am

Continue public testimony

At the conclusion of public testimony the Board will begin deliberation on the proposals.

Friday, November 3 through Thursday, November 9

8:30 am

Continue Board Deliberation on proposals

Miscellaneous Business, if any

(The Board schedule will generally be: 8:30 AM - 12 noon and 1:00 - 5:00 PM with lunch from noon until 1:00 PM. This schedule is subject to change at the discretion of the chair.)

PROPOSAL 1 - 5 AAC 84.270(1). FUR BEARER TRAPPING. Amend this regulation in Unit 1D as follows:

UNIT	OPEN SEASON	BAG LIMIT
(1) Beaver		
Units 1 (except Unit 1(D)), 2, 3 (except Mitkof Island), and 4 (that portion east of Chatham Strait)	Dec. 1–May 15	No limit.
Unit 1D	<u>Dec. 1–May 15</u> [NO OPEN SEASON.]	<u>10 per season.</u>

...

ISSUE: There is currently no Unit 1D beaver trapping season due to historic low numbers. Currently beavers are well established in much of the unit and could provide an opportunity for trappers to harvest a few animals. Beavers are becoming a nuisance in many Unit 1D areas by flooding roads and homesteads, and blocking salmon access to spawning and rearing areas. This proposal would allow trappers an opportunity to trap beavers for personal use or sale while controlling beavers in areas where they are causing flooding problems.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Beavers will continue to thrive in this unit at a harvestable level, but trappers will be prevented from using them. ADF&G will have to work with landowners to alleviate nuisance beaver concerns by issuing trapping permits or developing other methods of decreasing flooding concerns. This puts an unnecessary burden on landowners and ADF&G staff.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? People interested in trapping beavers for sale or personal use.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those who do not want beavers to be harvested.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Open a season with a bag limit of 5 beaver per trapper; this was rejected because it may not be enough incentive to encourage those interested in beaver trapping.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-00F-G-034)

PROPOSAL 2 - 5 AAC 85.015(1). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR BLACK BEAR. Amend this regulation as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
----------------------	---	----------------------------

(1)

Units 1(A), 1(B), 1(D),
2, [3,]and 5

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

2 bears, not more than 1 of
which may be a blue or
glacier bear

Sept. 1–June 30
(General hunt only)

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bear

Sept. 1–June 30

Unit 3

(General hunt only)

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

2 bears, not more than 1 of
which may be a blue or
glacier bear

Sept. 1–June 30
(General hunt only)

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bear

Sept. 15–May 31

Unit 1C...same

ISSUE: The Department, Board of Game, and members of the public are concerned about the increasing Unit 3 black bear harvest, particularly that of Kuiu Island. Harvest data show a consistently increasing harvest in the unit, with a 1998/99 unit-wide harvest of 287 bears (83 percent are males and an average male skull size of 18.6 inches, exceeding both management objectives). In October 1998 the Board requested that the department review the management option of establishing a harvest cap for Kuiu Island black bears. The department has reviewed the Unit 3/Kuiu Island harvest, and a harvest cap is one option that remains viable. Due to the inconvenience this could place on hunters (nonresident hunts are booked and travel plans are arranged months in advance), it was determined that a better option was to restrict a portion of the nonresident season. Nonresidents made up 90 percent of the successful Kuiu Island black bear hunters in 1998/99 and 88 percent in 1999/00. Because this is a general hunt and no permits are required, we do not have effort data.

Season adjustments should accomplish the same goal as a harvest cap. Closing the first two weeks of September and the month of June to nonresident hunters throughout Unit 3 would have reduced the 1998/99 harvest by 61 bears and the 1999/00 harvest by 82 bears. Furthermore a high percentage of female bears are harvested during the first two weeks of September when many are on salmon streams, separated from their cubs, and are mistaken for males. More bears have rubbed hides in June and most nonresident hunters are primarily interested in harvesting a bear with a quality hide. Alaska residents would be able to hunt bears in early September and June, and the federal resident season would still be aligned with the state resident season.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? A potential over-harvest of the Unit 3 black bear population may result.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Those preferring conservation-based black bear management, especially those using the Unit 3 black bear population.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Guides and transporters may perceive a negative impact to their operations by having the nonresident season reduced by six weeks.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: Change the season dates for Kuiu Island only; this was rejected due to potential bootlegging considerations and the fact that what is happening on Kuiu is reflected throughout Unit 3.

Establish a cap for Kuiu Island and close the season by emergency order; this was rejected due to the effect upon nonresident hunters and guides with pre-hunt long range planning necessities, and in-season reporting issues associated with boat-based hunting in remote locations.

Establish a drawing hunt on Kuiu Island only for nonresident hunters; this was rejected due to the lack of bear population data and because a drawing permit hunt in one portion of Southeast Alaska would likely increase effort and harvest on other black bear populations in the region. Furthermore, this would probably be the least preferred option by nonresident hunters and guides.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-00F-G-044)

PROPOSAL 3 - 5 AAC 85.015(1). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR BLACK BEAR. Amend this regulation in Unit 3 as follows:

Initiate a registration hunt for black bears in Unit 3 with a harvest cap to be set by ADF&G biologists. Emergency orders would be used to close the registration hunt if/when the harvest cap was approached. Harvest numbers would be accounted for on a calendar-year basis, beginning with the spring harvest and followed by the fall harvest, in order to minimize the percentage of females harvested each year.

ISSUE: Increasing black bear harvest in Unit 3 and increased harvest of female black bears in Unit 3 is a growing concern. Over crowding of hunters in the field has resulted in increased numbers of unwanted encounters between hunters.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Continued increases in black bear hunting pressure will eventually lead to an overharvest of the resource with younger, smaller bears being taken and an overall deterioration in the quality of the black bear hunting experience.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Health of the resource will stabilize the black bear hunting opportunities in Unit 3 for both resident and nonresident black bear hunters.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Some nonresident hunters will face rescheduling of vacations and airplane tickets if emergency orders close their hunt.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Shortened season: no guarantee of harvest reduction. Alternate years: potential overharvest in Unit 2.

PROPOSED BY: Dale Adams, Brad Dennison (HQ-00F-G-031)

PROPOSAL 4 - 5 AAC 85.015(1). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR BLACK BEAR. Amend this regulation in Unit 3 as follows:

To slow the harvest down some until a comprehensive black bear management plan can be developed the following regulations should be adopted:

Unit 3 – All islands north of Clarence and Sumner Straits

Residents: one bear	Sept. 1 – June 15
Nonresidents: one bear every four regulatory years by permit. Registration Permit	Sept. 15 – May 31
Remainder of Unit 3	
Residents: Two bears, not more than one may be a glacier bear	Sept. 1 – June 30
Nonresidents: one bear	Sept. 1 – June 30

(Note: I included all islands north of Clarence and Sumner Straits because if we restrict just Kuiu Island, emphasis will shift to Kupreanof and Mitkof Islands. The elimination of the June open season is necessary because in 1998/1999 50 percent of the bears harvested in Unit 3 were sows during this period.)

ISSUE: The sustainability of the black bear harvest in northern Unit 3, particularly Kuiu Island. Kuiu Island supports 55 percent of the total harvest (1998/1999). Kuiu is well known for its trophy bears, current state record came from there in 1998. The average skull size has declined, 18 percent of bears harvested were sows 1998/1999.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The size of bears harvested will continue to decline. In 1998/1999, 90 percent of bears harvested on Kuiu were by nonresidents, this trend is likely to continue. Studies are now underway to determine Kuiu’s bear population.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Hunters looking for large bears will benefit.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? The nonresident hunter that comes to this area annually.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Closing the roads to bear hunting, 82 percent of hunters 1998/1999 came by boat. Requiring a guide for nonresidents, outside board’s authority.

PROPOSED BY: Dave Helmick (HQ-00F-G-009)

PROPOSAL 5 - 5 AAC 85.015. HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR BLACK BEAR and 5 AAC 85.020. HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR BROWN BEAR. Amend these regulations in Unit 1-5 to include the following:

While hunting bear in Game Management Units 1 - 5, a wounded bear not recovered is considered taken for purposes of that calendar year bag limit. Brown bear wounded and not recovered will not count toward four regulatory year bag limit and the hunter may hunt again the

next calendar year. Wounded is defined as any blood spoor, or any indication of the bear having been hit by the hunter's weapon projectile.

ISSUE: Unaccounted loss of wounded bear in Units 1 - 5. Wounded and not recovered bear harvest is significant. In some areas unreported unrecovered bears may approach reported harvest. Most wounded bear do not recover. Rarely is a bear skinned with evidence of previous hunting wounds, despite the significant number of wounded and not recovered bear.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Continued potential of overharvest due to killed, but unaccounted for bear in Units 1 - 5. Black bear unaccounted harvest may be 80 percent of recorded harvest and brown bear unrecovered harvest 30 percent of recorded harvest. Dense and wet vegetation preclude normal follow up of a wounded animal.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All bear hunters by insuring regulatory harvest bag limits are adhered too.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? The hunter who makes poor shot placement and assumedly kills but does not recover a bear.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? North America is the only area on the planet that allows a hunter to wound and assumedly kill an animal and continue to hunt for another animal. Africa, Asia, South America and South Pacific all consider an animal to be taken if wounded and not recovered.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Bear Foundation (Jimmie C. Rosenbruch) (HQ-00F-G-010)

PROPOSAL 6 - 5 AAC 85.020(1). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR BROWN BEAR and 5 AAC 92.132. BAG LIMIT FOR BROWN BEARS. Amend these regulations in Unit 1D as follows:

A resident or nonresident may take one brown bear every year or every two years.

ISSUE: Underharvest of coastal brown bear in Unit 1D due to bag limit one bear every four years.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The brown bears will continue to overpopulate and continue to kill moose calves in numbers directly proportionate to the bears exponential growth of population.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Moose calves, moose hunters, property owners who are affected by brown bears due to loss of property and or life.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Craig S. Loomi and Cody Loomi (HQ-00F-G-004)

PROPOSAL 7 - 5AAC 85.020(1). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR BROWN BEAR. Amend this regulation in Unit 1 as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(1)		
Unit 1	Sept. 15–Dec. 31 (General hunt only) Mar. 15–May 31 (General hunt only)	Sept. 15–Dec. 31 (General hunt only) Mar. 15– May 20 [MAY 31] (General hunt only)

1 bear every 4 regulatory years by registration permit only

...

ISSUE: Although estimates of Unit 1 brown bear numbers suggest that harvests remain within sustainable limits, the growing number of guide/outfitters in the region is of concern to ADF&G wildlife managers. Guide/outfitters are increasingly mobile and willing to go to “new” areas to fill client demand for brown bear hunts. The U.S. Forest Service is working on plans to implement a moratorium on guide/outfitters at recent years levels. This action may take some time to implement and a full analysis and permanent decisions associated with permitting guide/outfitters will require a full National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process. Wildlife managers are concerned that even in areas where guide/outfitters are willing to voluntarily hold themselves to a low number of clients, harvests may approach or exceed what the population is able to support. Aligning the Unit 1 season with that of Unit 4 will prevent guides from extending their work season to hunt Unit 1 after Unit 4 closes.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The Unit 1 brown bear population may be overharvested.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Brown bear managers, hunters, guide/outfitters, and any others interested in better long-term sustained-yield management of the Unit 1 brown bear population.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Nonresident brown bear hunters and guide/outfitters using Unit 1 would have their season shortened by 11 days. Portions of Unit 1 have a later chronology of melting snow, vegetation green-up and brown bear use of lowland habitat types than other portions of Unit 1 and Unit 4. Experienced guide/outfitters book some of their hunts near the end of the current season to optimize the number of brown bears they encounter and they would suffer by not having this period available.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

1. Status quo. With the growing number of guide/outfitters looking for Region I locations to work, and the pending USFS moratorium on the number of guides in Unit 4, we feel many displaced guides may seek opportunities in other parts of Southeast Alaska.

2. Restrict both resident and nonresident seasons. This was considered and dismissed because the portion of brown bears harvested by nonresidents has increased in the past decade with a concurrent increase in the number of guided brown bear hunts in some subunits. Harvest by residents has been generally static over the past decade.

3. Restrict nonresident hunting seasons by subunit because all portions of Unit 1 are probably not experiencing an overharvest of brown bears at this time. If seasons are open in some areas and closed in others, some guides have the ability to move to a location where the season would remain open. This piecemeal approach was dismissed because it lacks a comprehensive approach to managing the harvest of brown bears in Unit 1.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-00F-G-042)

PROPOSAL 8 - 5 AAC 85.020(2). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR BROWN BEAR. Amend this regulation in Unit 3 to provide the following:

Brown/Grizzly bear	Open season
Wrangell, Etolin and Deer Islands only	Sept. 1 – Dec. 31
	Mar. 15 – May 31

ISSUE: I would like to see the brown bear closed season changed to open a season for Wrangell, Deer and Etolin Islands. I believe the number of years that brown bear have been known to be in these places, plus the number of people seeing the bears around support this opening.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The Department of Fish and Game will have no numbers on the bears and no money from hunters to look into it. People who kill brown bears just to watch them drop will go unchecked. If law abiding hunters are out there hunting it would stop a lot of illegal shooting. Pressure on mainland hunts will continue while Wrangell, Etolin and Deer Islands brown bears go unchecked.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Brown bears on mainland. U.S. Forest Service and ADF&G would have numbers of sightings and killings on record. Brown bear would benefit from having law abiding hunters keeping an eye on others to make sure the hunt is done by the law. Right now people shoot them unchecked. The number of bears has been unchecked, this would give records.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those people who shoot brown bears just to watch them drop, by baving law abiding hunters out there.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? A) More research on these areas. But there is no money for that and why put money into something that has no money coming in for. B) No open season but no one benefits from this. There are bears there now. Mainland bear hunts are receiving more pressure every year. This hunt would use a resource that is there now and has been for years to help spread hunter pressure.

PROPOSED BY: Marlin E. Benedict (HQ-00F-G-012)

PROPOSAL 9 - 5 AAC 85.020(2). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR BROWN BEAR. Amend this regulation in Unit 3 as follows:

Unit 3 – Brown/Grizzly bear....	Sept. 15 – Dec. 31
Residents and nonresidents	Mar. 15 – May 31
one bear every four regulatory years	
by permit on Wrangell, Etolin and	
Deer Islands.	

ISSUE: Brown bear closed season on Wrangell, Etolin and Deer Islands. I believe that these Islands have a good number of brown bears.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Brown bear are hunted and killed on Wrangell and Etolin Islands every year by people who care little for animals or the law. The bear suffer because law following hunters and guides are not there to help ADF&G by keeping an eye on others. It is a fact, if there is no season why would we hunt it and why would ADF&G be there?

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? ADF&G, the U.S. Forest Service and brown bear hunters. The benefits would be records showing numbers of bear spotted and killed. More people who care for the bears out there making sure the hunt is done by the law.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those who choose to hunt brown bears in closed areas, who care little if it is a sow with cubs or if the animal gets away after being shot.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? More research on the numbers of brown bear and more patrolling the areas. This takes money, people and time, something that the state nor the U.S. Forest Service wants to give.

PROPOSED BY: Marlin E. Benedict (HQ-00F-G-011)

PROPOSAL 10 - 5AAC 85.020(4). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR BROWN BEAR. Amend this regulation in Unit 5 as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(4)		
Unit 5	Sept. 1–May 31	Sept. 1–May 31

1 bear every 4 regulatory years
by registration permit only

ISSUE: Unit 5 brown bear hunters are not required to have a permit; all other Region I brown bear hunts are administered under a registration permit. Thus we have no effort data for Unit 5 brown bear hunters, and the only hunters who report are those sealing bears. We are unable to collect data from unsuccessful hunters on services used, location of hunt, number of days hunted, etc. A registration permit would allow us to contact all hunters and collect information from

unsuccessful hunters. With the growing number of guide/outfitters in Region I, effort data is increasingly valuable for brown bear managers. Cooperative efforts between Alaska Department of Fish & Game, U.S. Forest Service, and guide/outfitters to establish a moratorium on the number of Southeast Alaska brown bear guides require effort data.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? We will continue to make management decisions without important data on total hunting effort.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Brown bear managers, hunters, guide/outfitters, and any others interested in better management of the Unit 5 brown bear population.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? There would be a slight inconvenience to hunters who would be required to get registration permits before they hunt.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Status quo; this was rejected because of growing interest in brown bear hunting throughout the region. With the growing number of brown bear guide/outfitters looking for Region I locations for hunts, and the pending moratorium on the number of guides in Unit 4 by U.S. Forest Service land managers, we feel many displaced guides may seek opportunities in other parts of Southeast Alaska to work. We believe effort data will help the department better manage the Unit 5 brown bear population.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-00F-G-045)

PROPOSAL 11 - 5 AAC 85.030(1). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMIT FOR DEER.
Amend this regulation in Unit 1 as follows:

Close Horse Island to all hunting.

ISSUE: Hunting on Horse Island located in Game Management Unit 1. Horse Island is a small island approximately ¼ mile long and ¼ mile wide. The island has been completely subdivided into private lots with forty cabins now in place with many more planned for the future. The small size of the island plus the increase in cabins and people creates a dangerous hunting situation.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Continued risk to the residents of Horse Island.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Horse Island residents.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Hunters.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Jim Harper (HQ-00F-G-005)

PROPOSAL 12 - 5 AAC 85.030(2). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR DEER.
Amend this regulation in Unit 3 to provide the following:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(2)		
<u>Unit 3, Mitkof Island, west of the Sandy Beach/Cabin Creek road, southeast of a line extending from Frederick Sound to Wrangell Narrows and southeast of the City Creek drainage, Kupreanof Island on the Lindberg Peninsula east of Portage Bay-Duncan Canal portage outside the Kupreanof city limits and Woewodski and Butterworth Islands</u>	<u>Aug. 1 – Sept. 14</u> <u>Nov. 1 – Nov. 30</u>	<u>Aug. 1 – Sept. 14</u> <u>Nov. 1 – Nov. 30</u>

1 buck by bow and arrow only

ISSUE: Establish archery-only, antlered deer seasons on Mitkof, Kupreanof, Woewodski and Butterworth Islands in August 1 – Oct. 14 and Nov. 1 – Nov. 30. (Note: We also submitted a proposal for an either sex archery-only season. If that proposal is rejected we would like this proposal to be considered.)

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Bow hunting opportunities independent of general rifle seasons will continue to be very limited.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Bowhunters.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Unknown.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Status quo. A November only season was also considered but we would also like to have an early season opportunity in “better” weather. However, if two seasons are rejected we would like to have the November hunt approved.

PROPOSED BY: Devil’s Thumb Archers (HQ-00F-G-025)

PROPOSAL 13 - 5 AAC 85.030(2). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR DEER.
Amend this regulation in Unit 3 to include the following:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunt)	Nonresident Open Season
(2)		

Unit 3

1 bull by bow and arrow only

Nov. 1 - Nov. 30

Nov. 1 - Nov. 30

ISSUE: Establish an archery-only antlered moose season on Mitkof, Kupreanof, Woewodski and Butterworth Islands Nov. 1 – Nov. 30. This season would coincide with the November deer season proposals that we have also submitted.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Bow hunting opportunities independent of general rifle seasons will continue to be very limited.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Bow hunters.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Unknown.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Status quo. We also considered maintaining the spike-fork or 50 inch antlers or antlers with 3 or more brow tines restriction, but felt that the small number of moose that are likely to be taken during this season would not constitute a conservation problem. However, if this proposal is rejected we would at least like to have an archery-only season with the antler restriction.

PROPOSED BY: Devil’s Thumb Archers (HQ-00F-G-027)

PROPOSAL 14 - 5 AAC 85.030(2). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR DEER. Amend this regulation in Unit 3 to provide the following:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(2)		
<u>Unit 3, Mitkof Island, south and west of the Sandy Beach/Cabin Creek road, southeast of a line extending from Frederick Sound to Wrangell Narrows and southeast of the City Creek drainage, Kupreanof Island on the Lindberg Peninsula east of Portage Bay-Duncan Canal portage outside the Kupreanof city limits and Woewodski and Butterworth Islands</u>	<u>Aug. 1 – Sept. 14</u> <u>Nov. 1 – Nov. 30</u>	<u>Aug. 1 – Sept. 14</u> <u>Nov. 1 – Nov. 30</u>

1 deer by bow and arrow only

ISSUE: Establish archery-only, either sex deer seasons on Mitkof, Kupreanof, Woewodski and Butterworth Islands in August 1 – Oct. 14 and Nov. 1 – Nov. 30.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Bow hunting opportunities independent of general rifle seasons will continue to be very limited.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Bowhunters.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Unknown.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Status quo. Archery-only buck season proposal was also submitted. Either sex season is preferred. A November only season was also considered but we would also like to have an early season opportunity in “better” weather. However, if two seasons are rejected we would like to have the November hunt approved.

PROPOSED BY: Devil’s Thumb Archers (HQ-00F-G-024)

PROPOSAL 15 - 5 AAC 85.030(2). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR DEER.
Amend this regulation in Unit 3 as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunt)	Nonresident Open Season
(2)		
Unit 3 <u>Mitkof Island</u> , that portion of Kupreanof Island on the Lindenburg Peninsula east of the Portage Bay-Duncan Canal Portage outside the Kupreanof city limits, and Woewodski and Butterworth Islands	Oct. 15-Oct. 31	Oct. 15-Oct. 31

ISSUE: Allow deer hunting on Mitkof Island in areas consistent with the hunting seasons of other species. Deer hunting is currently not allowed within the Petersburg city limits while the hunting of all other legally hunted species is allowed within this area. The Petersburg Municipal Code (PMC 10.020) currently allows for the discharge of a firearm in a portion of the Petersburg city limits.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Areas open for deer hunting on Mitkof Island will continue to be inconsistent with open areas for other big game.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Deer hunters.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Residents of Mitkof Island who oppose hunting in this area.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Status quo.

PROPOSED BY: Devil’s Thumb Archers (HQ-00F-G-026)

PROPOSAL 16 - 5 AAC 85.030(2). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR DEER.
Amend this regulation as follows:

Unit 3, Mitkof Island south of the City of Petersburg lawful discharge of firearms limit. (Ordinance No. 805)

ISSUE: I would like the board to consider changing the restriction on deer hunting within the City of Petersburg city limits to coincide with all other game restrictions in place for Mitkof Island. Other game animals can be hunted within the city limits as the city has a lawful discharge of firearms law (Ordinance No. 805). This ordinance allows the legal discharge of firearms within the city limits.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Deer hunting will continue to be confined to the south end of Mitkof Island.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Hunters. Hunting efforts will be more dispersed as more area would be open to deer hunting. Hunters would be able to hunt without endangering life or property of others, as this area is nonresidential. Mitkof Island has an adequate and growing deer population.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Ralph E. Duddles (HQ-00F-G-001)

PROPOSAL 17 - 5 AAC 85.035(1). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR ELK.
Amend this regulation to provide the following:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(1)		
<u>Unit 3, Etolin and Zarembo islands only, including all islets within 1 mile</u>		
1 bull by drawing permit only as follows; up to <u>120</u> [70] permits will be issued.		
1 bull by bow and arrow only	Sept. 15–Sept. 30	Sept. 15–Sept. 30
or		
1 bull	Oct. 1–Oct. 31 (General hunt only)	Oct. 1–Oct. 31
<u>Units 1, 2, and the remainder of Unit 3</u>		
<u>1 elk</u>	<u>Aug. 1–Dec. 31</u>	<u>Aug. 1–Dec. 31</u>

ISSUE: This proposal would increase the number of drawing permits for bull elk on Etolin and Zarembo islands as well as provide for a general season hunt in other Region I locations.

The 1985 elk management plan for Southeast Alaska called for a hunt when the estimated population reached 250 elk and a minimum harvest of 20 bulls could be justified. We estimated that elk had reached that level by 1997. A total of 29 permits (drawing and raffle permits) were issued for the fall 1997 season, when 8 bull elk were harvested by 25 hunters for a success rate of 32 percent. Thirty-one permits were issued for the 1998 fall season, and 20 hunters hunted and harvested 9 elk for a success rate of 45 percent. At the fall 1998 Board of Game meeting a proposal was adopted to increase the number of drawing permits to 70, and in fall 1999 a total of 71 permits were issued and 55 hunters killed 16 elk for a success rate of 29 percent. We believe the elk population could number 400 animals by summer 2001. In accordance with the management plan, the proposed increase in permits would accommodate more hunters and help achieve the desired harvest level.

Wildlife biologists are concerned about the effects of introduced elk on native Sitka black-tailed deer and their habitat. An elk season coinciding with much of the deer seasons in areas adjacent to Etolin and Zarembo islands will provide deer hunters with the opportunity to hunt for elk as well. Such a season would help minimize the dispersal of elk until it is determined that elk either should be allowed to disperse or should be restricted to Etolin and Zarembo indefinitely. We recommend adopting a sealing requirement similar to that in use for black bears (See companion proposal 30.)

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? There will be a greater possibility that elk will disperse from Etolin and Zarembo islands. If elk populations become established in other locations, such as Prince of Wales Island, removing them would likely be unachievable. Science-based decisions about prohibiting or allowing the widespread dispersal of elk will not be possible.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Those wishing to pursue a conservative course with elk management in Southeast Alaska.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those who prefer to see elk disperse across Southeast Alaska at this time.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

1. Change Etolin and Zarembo islands' bag limit from 1 bull to 1 elk; this was rejected due to lack of hunter support and management plan direction to institute cow seasons only when necessary to maintain the population below carrying capacity.
2. Open a no closed season, no bag limit hunt in Units 1, 2, and the remainder of Unit 3; this was rejected due to lack of hunter support.
3. Open a harvest ticket hunt in Units 1, 2, and the remainder of Unit 3 rather than a general hunt; this was rejected due to our desire to maximize hunter participation.
4. Open a registration permit hunt in Units 1, 2, and the remainder of Unit 3; this was rejected due to our desire to maximize hunter participation.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-00F-G-036)

PROPOSAL 18 - 5 AAC 85.035(1). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR ELK.
Amend this regulation in Unit 3 to provide the following:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
Unit 3		
1 bull by drawing permit only as follows: up to <u>120</u> [70] permits will be issued.		
1 bull	Oct. 1 – Oct. 31 (General Hunt only)	Oct. 1 – Oct. 31
1 bull by bow and arrow only	Sept. <u>1</u> [15] – Sept. 30	Sept. <u>1</u> [15] – Sept. 30

ISSUE: Allow an archery-only season for elk in Unit 3 from Sept. 1 – Sept. 30. Note: We also submitted a proposal for an either sex season. If that proposal is rejected we would like this proposal to be considered.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Additional hunting time during the rut will not be permitted. Starting the archery season on Sept. 1 would increase the archery-only hunting season by 14 days and would increase opportunities and the probability of a successful hunt.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Bowhunters.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? If there is a high success rate during the archery-only season the population could be reduced for the general season. However, this would be very unlikely.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Status quo.

PROPOSED BY: Devil’s Thumb Archers (HQ-00F-G-022)

PROPOSAL 19 - 5 AAC 85.035(1). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR ELK.
Amend this regulation in Unit 3 to provide the following:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
Unit 3		
1 bull by drawing permit only as follows: up to <u>120</u> [70] permits will be issued.		

1 bull	Oct. 1 – Oct. 31 (General Hunt only)	Oct. 1 – Oct. 31
1 elk [BULL] by bow and arrow only	<u>Sept. 1 – Sept. 30</u>	<u>Sept. 1 – Sept. 30</u>

ISSUE: Allow an either sex, archery only elk hunt in Unit 3.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Additional bow hunting opportunities will continue to be very limited.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Bowhunters.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Unkown.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Status quo.

PROPOSED BY: Devil’s Thumb Archers (HQ-00F-G-021)

PROPOSAL 20 - 5 AAC 85.035(1). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR ELK.
Amend this regulation in Unit 3 as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
Unit 3		
1 bull by drawing permit only as follows: up to <u>120</u> [70] permits will be issued.		
1 bull	Oct. 1 – Oct. 31 (General Hunt only)	Oct. 1 – Oct. 31
<u>1 bull by bow and arrow only by drawing permit only; up to 60 permits will be issued</u>	Sept. <u>1</u> [15] – Sept. 30	Sept. <u>1</u> [15] – Sept. 30

ISSUE: Establish archery-only permits for elk in Unit 3 in addition to and independent of the general rifle season permits. Although there is currently an archery-only elk hunt in Unit 3 it is possible that no bow hunters could be drawn under the current system.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Bowhunters will continue to be included in the general season permit drawing and hunting opportunities for bow hunters will continue to be very limited.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Bowhunters.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Unknown.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? We considered setting a specific number of permits. However, the percentage system we are proposing will allow an automatic decrease/increase in all permits when warranted by conservation concerns or increases in elk abundance.

PROPOSED BY: Devil’s Thumb Archers (HQ-00F-G-023)

PROPOSAL 21 - 5 AAC 85.035(1). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR ELK.
Amend this regulation in Unit 3 as follows:

Allow a registration archery hunt Sept. 15 – Sept. 30. Permittees must register with ADF&G prior to and after the hunt. If the target of, for example, 10 animals is reached, close the hunt.

ISSUE: The target harvest of 25 bulls is not being reached. Sixteen animals killed with 70 permits issued for one month of general rifle hunting in 1999.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Nothing – except the excess bull population dies out. Two large 6 x 6’s found in McHenry Inlet on opening day 1999 within a half mile of each other. A 9 x 7 shot in 1999 was gored and shoulder infected.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? I will – it would be a hunting opportunity to hunt trophy elk during the rut with archery.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Kenneth R. Kemmeru (HQ-00F-G-013)

PROPOSAL 22 - 5 AAC 85.040(1). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR GOAT.
Amend this regulation in Unit 1C as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(1)		
...		
Unit 1(C), that portion draining into Lynn Canal and Stephens Passage between Antler River and Eagle Glacier and River [, AND ALL DRAINAGES OF THE CHILKAT RANGE SOUTH OF THE SOUTH BANK OF THE ENDICOTT RIVER]	Oct. 1–Nov. 30	Oct. 1–Nov. 30 (General hunt only)

1 goat by registration permit only

Unit 1(C), that portion including all drainages of the Chilkat Range south of the south bank of the Endicott River

Sept. 1–Nov. 30

Sept. 1–Nov. 30

1 goat by registration permit only

...

ISSUE: At its fall 1996 meeting the Board of Game adopted a department proposal to reopen goat hunting in the Chilkat Range south of the Endicott River, which had been closed for 10 years due to population concerns but had been determined to support a huntable population of goats. During 1997–1999 hunting seasons only 6 people hunted this area, and no goats were harvested. The opening date of October 1 probably discourages hunters from participating in this hunt due to inclement weather that hampers boat access. By opening this area to goat hunting on September 1 when better weather is the norm, we believe more hunters will take advantage of the area for goat hunting. We have shortened the reporting period for all Region I goat permit hunts from 10 to 5 days, which allows us to better manage for established guideline harvest levels.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Hunters will continue to overlook this area and hunting pressure will continue to be concentrated in a few other select areas. Biologically allowable harvest in the Chilkat Range will be foregone.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? People interested in hunting goats in the Chilkat Range.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

1. Opening the season on September 15; this was rejected because it may not have an appreciable effect on hunter participation and harvest.
2. Opening the season on August 1 to coincide with the remainder of the Chilkat Range; this was rejected because of concerns for early season effort and appurtenant overharvest.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-00F-G-041)

PROPOSAL 23 - 5 AAC 85.045(1). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Amend this regulation in Unit 1A as follows:

No moose hunting on Unuk River for 24 hours after being airborne on Unuk River drainage.

ISSUE: Over the past few years competition for moose on the Unuk River has gotten harder. The Unuk River valley is a valley approximately 3 to 5 miles wide by 30 miles long (U.S.) The main mode of transportation is by boat.

Since approximately 1995, those with access to airplanes have had a better success rate. Last year was the topper for most two days before the season was to open. I went upriver looking for sign by boat and walking. I watched two different planes fly upriver watching them circle known moose spots. The day before the season I watched one of the same planes leave for town and pickup a third partner. When they got back to the river they flew up river to scout again. On their way back to their cabin, I saw them circle three or more times the meadows behind the

cabins they landed at their cabin. Next morning one of the people in the plane shot a bull moose in the spot that was circled. I do believe that they had spotted this moose from the air. I myself was headed to that same area after seeing the plane circled. But there is no prize for second place.

There has been other years at different places on the river where people know exactly where to be opening day or thereabouts. What is happening is not illegal, but it's not fair to the rest of the hunters.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Growing frustration for hunters that cannot afford or own airplanes. This gets talked over many times during the hunting season. I have surveyed about 25 hunters, with 20 of them agreeing that a 24-hour wait would help. I did not ask the people with planes. Some of the five that did not agree did not want anymore regulations in the area.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The hunt would become an equal hunt for all in an area of limited opportunity. (Fair chase)

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one. These that fly can still spot game from air. They just have to wait 24 hours before hunting.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? No fly zone. Safety if trouble.

PROPOSED BY: Steve Huffine (HQ-00F-G-029)

PROPOSAL 24 - 5 AAC 85.045(1). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Amend this regulation in Unit 1B as follows:

A drawing permit hunt for any bull/moose shall be established to run concurrently with the registration permit. The number of drawing permits shall be determined by the area management biologist annually.

ISSUE: Expanding the number of bull/moose harvested in Unit 1B.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Moose from a healthy and growing population will not be harvested.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Users of the resource.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Changing the antler restriction but this would reduce opportunity.

PROPOSED BY: Wrangell Advisory Committee (HQ-00F-G-016)

PROPOSAL 25 - 5 AAC 85.045(1). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Amend this regulation to extend the season in Units 1B and 3 as follows:

The moose hunting season in Units 1B and 3 shall be open from Sept. 1 to Oct. 31 each year.

ISSUE: Length of moose hunting season in Unit 1B and Unit 3.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Opportunity to hunt will be limited when the moose population is healthy.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Local hunters.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Eliminating the antler restriction but this would require a shorter season and would limit opportunity.

PROPOSED BY: Wrangell Advisory Committee (HQ-00F-G-014)

PROPOSAL 26 - 5 AAC 85.045(1). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Amend this regulation in Unit 1C as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(1)		
...		
Unit 1(C), that portion south of Point Hobart, including all Port Houghton drainages	Sept. 15–Oct. 15 (General hunt only)	Sept. 15–Oct. 15
1 bull with spike-fork or 50-inch antlers or antlers with 3 or more brow tines on one side by registration permit only		
<u>Unit 1(C), that portion west of Excursion Inlet and north of Icy Passage</u>	<u>Sept. 15–Oct. 15</u> (General hunt only)	<u>Sept. 15–Oct. 15</u>
<u>1 bull by registration permit only</u>		
<u>1 cow by drawing permit only; up to 20 permits may be issued</u>	<u>Oct. 8–Oct. 15</u> (General hunt only)	<u>Oct. 8–Oct. 15</u>
...		

ISSUE: Moose became common in the Gustavus area in the early 1980s, and the first legally taken moose was killed there in 1988. The harvest increased steadily over the years, and the fall 1998 harvest was 47 animals. In 1999 the department set a harvest guideline of 40 bull moose

and 41 were harvested. ADF&G biologists conducted an aerial survey in February 1999 and enumerated 185 animals on the forelands. We estimated the population at that time to be 250–300 animals. During the past two winters, the high moose density on the Gustavus Forelands has caused concern that the herd may soon exceed the carrying capacity of the habitat. ADF&G biologists conducted browse surveys in April 2000 and documented that nearly 90 percent of willow twigs available to moose were eaten. This indicates that moose numbers are exceeding the winter habitat’s carrying capacity. By initiating a limited cow hunt we hope to decrease herd productivity, thus preventing overuse of critical winter browse.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The moose population will probably continue to grow and exceed the carrying capacity of the winter habitat. This will eventually result in a decline in moose numbers as well as the condition of the habitat.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All persons interested in keeping the Gustavus Forelands moose herd at a healthy level.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those people who do not want to see female moose harvested.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

1. Increase the harvest of bull moose; this was rejected as it will have little or no effect on the productivity of the moose population.
2. Open cow season concurrently with bull season; this was rejected to further the harvest of the allowable cow guideline harvest level.
3. Open registration permit cow hunt; this was rejected because of the difficulty in controlling the harvest for a small desired guideline harvest level.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-00F-G-037)

PROPOSAL 27 - 5 AAC 85.045(1). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Amend this regulation in Unit 1C as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(1)		
...		
Unit 1(C), Berners Bay drain- ages	Sept. 15–Oct. 15 (General hunt only)	Sept. 15–Oct. 15
1 moose by drawing permit only; up to <u>30</u> [20] permits may be issued		
...		

ISSUE: In November 1999 ADF&G biologists counted 108 moose in Berners Bay, 18 higher than the post-hunt population objective of 90 animals. This proposal would increase the number

of drawing permits for the Berners Bay hunt from 20 to 30, to enable biologists to control the size of the moose herd which is near the estimated carrying capacity for the Berners Bay moose habitat. We currently issue the maximum number of permits allowed. Increasing the allowable harvest to “up to” 30 permits would provide more management flexibility for this introduced moose population.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The moose population in Berners Bay may exceed the estimated carrying capacity of the habitat, resulting in habitat degradation and a decline in moose numbers.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? People interested in hunting moose in Berners Bay, and anyone interested in the long-term health of this herd.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Status quo; this was rejected because the moose herd now exceeds the estimated long-term carrying capacity.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-00F-G-035)

PROPOSAL 28 - 5 AAC 85.065(4). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR SMALL GAME. Change waterfowl seasons in Unit 4 as follows:

Units 1 - 4

Season: Oct. 8 - Jan. 22 [SEPT. 1 - DEC. 16]

ISSUE: Waterfowl season in Unit 4 opens before migratory flights of geese and ducks pass through the Sitka area. Sitka area waterfowlers do not encounter large waterfowl migrations during the first month of Unit 4 migratory bird season and miss migrations of some waterfowl species which arrive after the season closes.

Sea ducks, especially old squaw, bluebill, and scaup as well as Canada geese do not arrive until December in the Sitka area. The present migratory bird season does not give Sitka area hunters a chance to harvest these waterfowl species. The proposed change in regulation will allow hunters to harvest species that they presently have minimal opportunity to harvest.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Sitka area waterfowl hunters will continue to experience poor waterfowl hunting during the present season dates.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Sitka area waterfowl hunters.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Unkown.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Separate Unit 4 from the Southeast migratory bird hunting zone and change season date to Oct. 8 - Jan. 22 [SEPT. 1 - DEC. 16]

(HQ-98F-G-004)

PROPOSED BY: Jody Lozori

(HQ-00F-G-030)

PROPOSAL 29 - 5 AAC 85.065(4). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR SMALL GAME. Amend this regulation for Tribe Mergini (Seaducks) in Units 1-5 as follows:

Units and Bag Limits

(4)
Migratory game birds

(A) Ducks [(EXCEPT SEA DUCKS)]

Units 1-4

7 per day and 21 in possession;
however, not more than 1 per day
and 3 in possession may be
canvasbacks, oldsquaw, or
harlequin; and not more than
3 per day 6 in possession may be
eider, scoter, goldeneye or scaup

[(B) SEA DUCKS, EIDER, SCOTER,
OLD SQUAW, HARLEQUIN AND MERGANSERS...]

[(i) KING AND COMMON EIDER, SCOTERS,
OLD SQUAW, AND MERGANSER...]

[(iii) HARLEQUIN DUCK...]

Options for Consideration:

- Include all species of seaducks in the general duck bag limit, (7 per day), no more than 3 of which may be seaducks.
- Implement a comprehensive plan for Tribe Mergini which considers climatic and oceanic oscillations and all critical annual life stages. Fall/Winter time period in particular.
- Designate no take refugia in critical wintering areas to minimize localized depletion and disturbance of sub-populations with strong site fidelity especially near urban areas.
- Execute emergency closure of declined seaducks like oldsquaw.
- Lower bag limit to one or close sensitive species like harlequin.
- Design an automatic closure mechanism if a chemical spill occurs.
- Recognize Barrows Goldeneye range, lower bag to two as in BC.

This conservative management will biologically:

1. reflect K-selected reproductive strategies
2. recognize high latitude often harsh oceanic/ice environment
3. indicate declining status not “perceived” harvest
4. define fidelity to critical wintering areas
5. reflect fall re-pairing behavior
6. acknowledge uncertainty of climatic oscillation interaction
7. recognize piecemeal bag reductions put pressure on remaining species
8. recognize the 50% cripple and loss rate from open water hunting
9. educate harvesters, by regulatory example

10. consider larger fleet of boats
11. consider superior boat, firearm, and marketing technology
12. take into account the increased human populations
13. remove mallards as the model for seaduck biology
14. realize failed breeding behavior (K-selected reproductive strategy)
15. utilize the system of tribes instead of broad waterfowl classification
16. reduce wanton waste, as many are not retrieved or eaten
17. clarify and simplify regulation in line with Pacific Flyway

ISSUE: Sea duck bag limits are biologically outdated and confusing. Clarify regulation by repealing special sea duck bag limit and place these species in the general duck bag with “not more than” restrictions to reflect K-selected reproductive strategy, oceanic and ice conditions, winter philopatry, etc.

Several species of North American seaducks have declined significantly at regional or continental levels since 1977. Regulations have remained relatively rigid and inflexible during this time of climatic regime shifts and the gained knowledge of sensitive reproductive strategy. Sustainability of these species requires conservative biological management, which reduces additive mortality.

Knowledge of population status, winter philopatry, the critical nature of molting and wintering life stages, reproductive strategy, and climatic interaction, is advancing in literature showing that caution is needed on these animals. Harvest rate, 50% crippling rate and disturbance factors in the critical wintering life stage plays an additive role to mortality, which has not been adequately considered.

This proposal seeks to open the issue of seaduck regulations as well as create a conservative Mergini management plan. This would biologically distinguish diverse characteristics, behavior and unique ecological aspects of the eight genus included in this tribe of ducks.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The cumulative effect of localized depletions from relatively few harvesters targeting possible sub-populations. These species have strong site fidelity and K-selected reproductive strategies. Once keyed into, rafts of seaducks are easily decimated over a short time.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Everyone. Conservative management aids sustainability to serve all Alaskans. Regulation, is the essential educator. It alerts the public of unperceived wildlife problems.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those who do not understand the significant biological impact we are having on K-selected species while tremendous uncertainty surrounds estimates, oceanic/ice processes, and climatic shifts, the harsh environment of Tribe Mergini.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Treat seaduck species as seabirds and remove the additive mortality of harvest until populations stabilize.

PROPOSED BY: Pioneer Alaskan Fisheries Inc. (HQ-00F-G-028)

PROPOSAL 30 - 5 AAC 92.XXX. SEALING OF ELK. Establish a new regulation to allow sealing of elk.

(a) Any person who takes an elk in Units 1-5 where a drawing or registration permit is not required shall report the date of kill, harvest location, and sex of animal to an ADF&G Wildlife Conservation representative in Petersburg within five days of harvest.

ISSUE: This proposal creates a method to enumerate any elk taken under terms of the new season in the companion proposal. It provides a method to collect hunt-based data, such as kill locations, harvest dates, and sex of animals taken. Such data would be used in management decisions.

The 1985 Elk Management Plan for Southeast Alaska called for a hunt when the estimated Unit 3 population reached 250 elk and a minimum harvest of 20 bulls could be justified. The first Unit 3 hunt was held in fall 1997, and subsequently seasons have been held each fall. We believe the Etolin/Zarembo elk population may reach 400 animals by the summer of 2001.

Wildlife biologists are concerned about the effects of introduced elk on native Sitka black-tailed deer and their habitat. An elk season that coincides with much of the deer season in areas adjacent to Etolin and Zarembo islands will provide deer hunters with the opportunity to hunt for elk as well. Such a season would minimize the dispersal of elk until such time it is determined that elk should either be allowed to disperse or should be restricted to Etolin and Zarembo indefinitely. We recommend the use of a sealing requirement similar to that in use for black bears to allow maximum hunter participation and allow for the collection of elk distribution and hunter harvest data.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Hunters will not be required to report elk taken from areas not requiring a registration or drawing permit and department biologists will not have information on the extent of harvest or elk distribution.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Hunters who wish to incidentally take an elk while they are deer hunting. Department biologists will gain information on the harvest and distribution of elk.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Fish and Wildlife Protection officers may have problems with bootlegging of elk taken illegally from Etolin and Zarembo islands.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED:

1. Require anyone taking an clk in an area where a registration or drawing permit is not required to submit biological samples; this was rejected because we believe we can collect important biological samples from most successful hunters on a voluntary basis
2. Require anyone taking an elk in an area where a registration or drawing permit is not required to obtain a harvest ticket before hunting elk; this was rejected in order to encourage hunter participation
3. Require anyone taking an elk in an area where a registration or drawing permit is not required to obtain a registration permit before hunting elk; this was rejected in order to encourage hunter participation.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-00F-G-040)

PROPOSAL 31 - 5 AAC 92.008. HARVEST GUIDELINE LEVELS. Amend this regulation as follows:

For purposes of management of the named species, the department shall manage harvest by hunting and trapping as follows. The annual harvest of wolves in Unit 2 should not exceed 30 [25] percent of the unit-wide, pre-season population as estimated by the department.

ISSUE: After two years of management of the Unit 2 wolf population under the terms of a 25 percent guideline harvest level, the department believes that the harvest restriction can be slightly liberalized. Research has suggested that wolves can sustain total annual mortality of 35 percent if prey species are abundant. In Unit 2, natural mortality (deaths unrelated to trapping or hunting) of wolves was previously estimated at 9–10 percent, thus a harvest guideline of 25 percent would result in total mortality of about 35 percent. Current research indicates that natural mortality in Unit 2 may be less than 5 percent. Consequently, a harvest guideline of 30 percent would still result in total annual mortality of wolves less than or equal to 35 percent. Although the winter 2000 hunting and trapping season was closed 1 month early because the 25 percent guideline harvest level was being approached, population estimates and demographic information collected by wildlife biologists indicates that a slightly larger portion of the population can be made available for human harvest. Mortality due to non-human harvest is lower than previously estimated.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The Unit 2 wolf guideline harvest level will be kept lower than what the population can provide for human harvest.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Those who hunt and/or trap wolves in Unit 2.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those who believe we should continue with the more conservative 25 percent guideline harvest level.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Status quo. This was discarded in favor of providing a slightly higher percentage of the Unit 2 wolf population for human harvest.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-00F-G-043)

PROPOSAL 32 - 5 AAC 92.012. LICENSES AND TAGS. Amend this regulation in Units 1-4 to include the following:

All deer harvested in Units 1 – 4 shall have a tag attached to the animal after it is killed. The state will supply tags that are weatherproof.

ISSUE: Deer harvested in Southeast Alaska not being tagged.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Deer will continue to not be tagged when they are harvested. If this is adopted, it will be easy for other hunters to see if animals are tagged.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Hunters currently following the regulations.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Hunters who do not tag animals now.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Wrangell Advisory Committee

(HQ-00F-G-015)

PROPOSAL 33 - 5 AAC 92.108. IDENTIFIED BIG GAME PREY POPULATIONS AND OBJECTIVES. Amend this regulation to include population and harvest objectives for deer in Units 1-4.

For purposes of implementing AS 16.05.255(e)-(g), the Board of Game has identified the following populations or portions of populations as important for providing high levels of harvest for consumptive use and establishes the following population and harvest objectives:

Population		Population Objective	Harvest Objective
Deer			
Unit 1A	Positive	<u>5,900</u>	<u>725</u>
Unit 1C	Positive	<u>3,300</u>	<u>450</u>
Unit 2	Positive	<u>26,400</u>	<u>2,725</u>
Unit 3	Positive	<u>6,200</u>	<u>850</u>
Unit 4	Positive	<u>63,100</u>	<u>7,800</u>

ISSUE: The board is directed by AS 16.05.255 (e)-(g) to adopt regulations providing for the intensive management of big game prey populations important for providing high levels of harvest for human consumptive use. The board identified the five deer populations above as important for providing high levels of human consumptive use.

At the fall 1998 Board of Game meeting the department presented the board with historical harvest data on intensive management population identification worksheets. For the purpose of establishing the harvest and population goals we have suggested here, we have based our recommendations on data from 1994-1998 hunter survey reports.

To help the board fulfill the requirements of the intensive management law, we have established harvest goals by rounding up the 1994-1998 reported average harvests by about 5 percent, based on our estimates that all the populations are at levels that can sustain more harvest than they have exhibited. We took into consideration that there are some significant differences between these deer populations:

- Unit 4 has no wolf population and natural mortality is undoubtedly lower there than in the other populations. We believe a more aggressive harvest goal may be desired there to keep the population below the carrying capacity so severe winters will not have such drastic effects on parts of the population.
- Unit 2, and to a lesser degree Unit 3, is highly roaded and we believe that a large portion of the human harvest goes unreported. We believe that a more conservative harvest goal may be desired in Unit 2 to account for poaching loss.
- Units 1A and 1C have lower deer densities than Units 2, 3, and 4, and lower wolf densities than Units 2 and 3.

Finally, we next set population goals by estimating population levels that would be needed to support natural as well as human caused mortality. We used a figure of 30 percent allowable total mortality at maximum sustained yield.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The board will not have population or harvest objectives for the five affected deer populations in Southeast Alaska and will continue to make decisions on intensive management without measurable goals. The department will not have measurable goals to achieve. Board decisions will be inconsistent and subject to legal challenge.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Everyone will benefit by understanding what the population and harvest goals are for these populations. Establishing these objectives will enable the board and department to develop long-term management plans, with public involvement, to ensure attainment of intensive management goals.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: None

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game at the request of the Board of Game.
(HQ-00F-G-039)

PROPOSAL 34 - 5 AAC 92.550. **AREAS CLOSED TO TRAPPING.** Amend this regulation in Unit 1A (Ketchikan area) as follows:

No trapping within ½ mile of a road, ¼ mile of a trail, or ½ mile of a public beach. (Pretty much the same rules Juneau has.)

ISSUE: The problem of trappers setting their traps too close to roads, trails, schools and residential areas and recreation areas.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Pets and children will be in danger of being injured or killed in these traps.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Children and adult hikers, pets using any area that is not private property.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? The trappers who do not wish to move far away from their cars or off the trails to check their traps.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Having the areas posted to warn people of the traps, but why should the entire public have to watch their step to accommodate a few trappers?

PROPOSED BY: Lea Harris (HQ-00F-G-002)

PROPOSAL 35 - 5 AAC 92.550(7). **AREAS CLOSED TO TRAPPING.** Amend this regulation to close specific areas to trapping in the Ketchikan area as follows:

...

- (7) Unit 1A (Ketchikan Area)
 - (A) a strip within one-quarter mile of any road (including closed logging roads) originating from Revilla road, Brown Mountain road, or the Harriet Hunt road;
 - (B) a strip within one-quarter mile of all designated Forest Service hiking trails originating on the Ketchikan road system.

- (C) a strip within one-quarter mile of Revilla Island coast between the north side of Settlers Cove south and including Herring Cove,
- (D) a strip within one-quarter mile of all roads and trails in the Ward Cove Recreation Area,
- (E) a strip within one-quarter mile of the Ketchikan Pulp Company pipeline trails,
- (F) a strip within one-quarter mile of a paved road on Revilla Island,
- (G) the area within one-quarter mile of any school or neighborhood
- (H) a strip within one-quarter mile of the following trails as designated on United States Geological Survey maps: the trail including the Lookout area that runs between the University and the overpass, the trail starting at the end of South Point Higgins road ending at the Coast Guard Beach, the trail starting at the end of North Point Higgins road and ending at the Coast Guard Beach, Perseverance Trail, and the Whitman Lake Trail;
- (I) a strip within one-quarter mile of the snowmachine road leading to Jag and Wolf Lakes,
- (J) a strip within one-quarter mile of the snowmachine trail going from the back side of Harriet Hunt Lake to George Inlet, the Deer Mountain Trail,
- (K) the area within one-quarter mile of Carlanna Lake,
- (L) the area within one-quarter mile of Harriet Hunt Lake,

ISSUE: Currently the trapping season is open with no specific areas closed near Ketchikan in Unit 1A. Several pets have been either injured or killed near popular recreation areas after encountering traps set to target furbearers. This regulation change would close trapping close to town, near recreation areas, and along public hiking and skiing trails.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Several pets have been killed or injured by traps in the past couple years. Children and pets will continue to be at risk from traps and trapping efforts close to town, near recreation areas, and along public hiking and skiing trails.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? People who want to use recreation areas and trails for personal activities. Responsible pet owners will have places they feel safe taking their pets outside of mandatory leash areas. Search and Rescue dogs are trained near town on these popular trails and the dogs are at risk when traps are set near the trails.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? A few local trappers.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-00F-G-038)

PROPOSAL 36 - 5 AAC 92.540. CONTROLLED USE AREAS. Establish a controlled use area in Unit 3 as follows:

Unit 3 – Black Bear	Sept. 1 – June 30
2 bears, no more than 1 may be a blue or glacier bear	
<u>No wheeled vehicles may be used for hunting black bear on Kuiu Island at any time during the open season</u>	

ISSUE: There is a logging camp located in Rowan Bay, on Kuiu Island, many of the loggers are not Alaska residents and may or may not have hunting licenses and shoot deer from their work trucks or personal trucks. The Rocky Pass Lodge is anchorage in Saginaw Bay and has cars, trucks and all terrain vehicles (ATVs) available for their hunting clients to use on the many Forest Service roads on Kuiu Island. If the roads are closed by the Forest Service, the lodge rents out ATVs to their clients to get past the barriers. Both the loggers and hunters use their vehicles for shooting deer and black bear on Kuiu Island.

All Native customary and traditional hunters and non-native personal users have commented on the big reduction of black bears that they usually see in their gathering and viewing areas on Kupreanof and Kuiu Islands. Right in the Kake area the reduction of black bears has been noticed around the homes, hatchery and landfill. On Kuiu Island we used to have our pick of black bears for customary and traditional use (subsistence). Now we have to look ten times as long.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The proposed regulation will have a positive effect on subsistence users by making black bear more available to the Kake customary and traditional users.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Samuel Jackson (HQ-00F-G-007)

PROPOSAL 37 - 5AAC 92.540. CONTROLLED USE AREAS. Establish a controlled use area in Unit 3 as follows:

Unit 3 – Deer

Unit 3 – remainder – 2 antlered deer Aug. 1 – Nov. 30

No wheeled vehicles may be used for deer hunting on Kuiu Island at any time during the open season

ISSUE: There is a logging camp located in Rowan Bay, on Kuiu Island, many of the loggers are not Alaska residents and may or may not have hunting licenses and shoot deer from their work trucks or personal trucks. The Rocky Pass Lodge is anchorage in Saginaw Bay and has cars, trucks and all terrain vehicles (ATVs) available for their hunting clients to use on the many Forest Service roads on Kuiu Island. If the roads are closed by the Forest Service, the lodge rents out ATVs to their clients to get past the barriers. Both the loggers and hunters use their vehicles for shooting deer and black bear on Kuiu Island.

The Kake area finally had a deer hunting open season in the past 5 years, it was closed to all hunting of deer for 17 years. Deer hunting should be open to Kake residents only. Kake people have seen a substantial increase of out of town, out of state, and out of mind hunters coming into Kake by ferry, charter boats and air within the past five years. The State Fish and Game manage a resource until the resource is in distress, then close the resource down to everyone or go to

limited entry. The amount of sport fishing and hunting permits sold in Kake has multiplied fourfold.

Our elders and hunters and non-native personal users have commented on the poor population of deer and the poor population of deer and the poor recovery of deer. The recovery could be compared to other islands throughout Southeast Alaska, granted that we have had bad snow and cold weather and wolf predation. What helped the population of deer stay down was the presence of the Clear Creek Logging Co. that had a logging camp of 210, from 1961 to 1986. The 210 loggers all had vehicles that had rifle racks in their trucks, and we know of all kinds of wanton waste of birds and animals that occurred around Kake at that time.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The proposed regulation will have a positive effect on subsistence users by making deer more available to the Kake customary and traditional users.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Samuel Jackson (HQ-00F-G-006)

Note: Proposal #38 (formerly proposal 80 from the March 2000 Board of Game meeting) was amended and deferred to the Fall 2000 board meeting. It is published here for further comment.

PROPOSAL 38 - 5 AAC 85.056(2). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR WOLF and 5 AAC 84.270(13). FUR BEARER TRAPPING. Amend these regulations in Units 13 and 20 as follows:

All hunting and trapping of wolves would cease on that portion of state land adjoining Denali National Park and Preserve on the northeast side whose boundaries would include the far northeast corner of Denali National Park and Preserve (at approximately 64(00'00" N, 149(13'00" W), due east to Elsie Creek (at approximately 64(00'00" N, 148(53'00" W), southeastward to the top of Dora Peak (at approximately 63(49'20" N, 148(41'00" W), southeastward to Yanert Fork, westward (downstream) along the north side of Yanert Fork to its confluence with the east park boundary.

ISSUE: The Toklat/East Fork and Sanctuary wolf packs are extremely valuable to the State of Alaska's tourism industry and world wide scientific studies. The Alaska Wildlife Alliance has formally offered to pay trappers that have a recorded history of trapping in the described area, not to trap. These wolves have been studied since 1930 and their home range is now well known. Each year, thousands of visitors to Alaska's Denali National Park view these wolves up close as they travel on and along the park road.

In December 1998, the Toklat/East Fork pack had been reduced to only two adults and four puppies, making it extremely likely that the ability to pass on this trait would be eliminated by a single saturation snare set. The Toklat/East Fork pack that consisted of 28 wolves in the early 1990s had been reduced to these two adults and four puppies, indicating the need to provide special protection.

The standard wildlife management assumption that if one wolf pack is eliminated, another will replace it should not be used for these two packs. Replacement management does not provide for recognition of the economic value of these two packs to Alaska's tourist economy. The removal of the last member of the Headquarters Pack in 1992, and current lack of establishment of a new pack demonstrates flaws in the replacement philosophy.

No other location in the world has the combination of circumstances provided on the home range of these two packs. The Denali National Park Wilderness area currently closes 90% of the Toklat/East Fork pack home range and 70% of the Sanctuary packs home range to hunting and trapping. The Park's visitor restrictions to bus access and enforcement of wildlife watching ethics and standards for all visitors assures the wolves see consistent actions from humans.

Visitors to Denali National Park now consider seeing a wolf as more desirable than seeing brown bears. The Alaska Board of Game acted to close hunting of the Denali Caribou Herd as it ranges outside Denali Park, demonstrating management of a home range works in Alaska. Closing the trapping and hunting of wolves that follow this herd will help fulfill the objectives of the caribou closure by providing for holistic management. Wolf predation on moose or caribou, especially by these two packs, has not been recorded or documented as concern for management in the area.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? A single saturation snare set could take the entire Toklat/East Fork pack, which will destroy the ability of tourists to have a reasonable expectation to see wolves in Denali National Park.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The State of Alaska benefits by demonstrating that wolf elimination is not the only management goal in the state. Trappers benefit by receiving their recorded income from wolf pelts from the Alaska Wildlife Alliance in place of trapping this area. This will allow them to increase total income by focusing trapping efforts in other areas or on other species. The scientific community will benefit by enabling the studies of a single wolf pack initiated in 1930 to continue. Alaska's tourism industry will benefit from visitors telling of their wolf sightings and encouraging more visitors to Alaska. The studies and management of the natural fluctuations of the Denali Caribou Herd, including natural wolf predation, will benefit management of both caribou and wolves throughout the state.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Hunters that may capitalize on the "happenstance" encounter and opportunity to shoot a wolf will be required to hunt in other portions of the area if they want to be able to take a wolf while hunting caribou or moose.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Banning domestic and working dogs in the park and surrounding area as a means to prevent spreading of Pavor Virus and other diseases was considered as an impossible approach to helping protect these wolves.

(HQ-00W-G-059)

(HQ-00S-G-009)

(HQ-00F-G-048)

PROPOSED BY: Dorothy and Leo Keeler
