

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH & GAME

Boards Support Section
PO Box 25526
Juneau AK 99802-5526



**ALASKA BOARD OF GAME
SPECIAL MEETING
MAY 18 - 19, 2001
FAIRBANKS, 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 Boards Support

At its Spring 2001 meeting the Board of Game deferred this proposal to its May 2001 meeting. It is printed here for further comment.

PROPOSAL 1 - 5 AAC 85.045(17). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Amend this regulation in Unit 19D as follows:

Unit 19D Remainder:

Residents: 1 bull

Sept. 1—Sept. 20

Nonresidents: 1 bull

Aug. 10—Sept. 30

ISSUE: Request the board to reopen an area known as the remainder of Unit 19D to moose hunting for nonresident hunters. This area was inadvertently closed without proper justification at a previous meeting of the board.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The guides who were displaced from this area are now putting additional pressure on adjacent and other areas.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? It will make the remainder of Unit 19D more consistent with board criteria under an intensive management plan.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Nonresident hunters and guides who operate in this area.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

(HQ-01S-G-029)

PROPOSED BY: Jim Harrower for Alaska's Western Wildlife Alliance (HQ-01-May-G-001)

At its Spring 2001 meeting the Board of Game deferred this proposal to its May 2001 meeting. It is printed here for further comment.

PROPOSAL 2 - 5 AAC 85.045(17). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Amend these regulations in Unit 19D as follows:

RESIDENT HUNTERS: Sept. 1 – Sept. 20

Remainder of Unit 19D

1 bull

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS: Sept. 1 – Sept. 20

Except for a corridor of one mile each side of the Kuskokwim River from the confluence of the Swift River upstream to the Selatna River drainage:

1 bull with 50-inch antlers

or antlers with 4 or more brow tines

on at least one side

ISSUE: The closure of moose hunting to nonresidents in the remainder of Unit 19D.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? This is a loss of hunting opportunity to nonresident hunters, in an area where there is little to no conflict with subsistence or resident hunters.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? This proposal would improve the quality of moose hunting in this area because it would disperse some nonresident moose hunters into an area that is not used by many hunters regardless of their residency status.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All moose hunters in not only this subunit, but in surrounding subunits as well because it will spread out nonresident hunting pressure over a bigger area.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one, because most of the subsistence and local area resident use is along the Kuskokwim River and this one mile corridor would protect that from nonresident use.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? No other solutions were considered.

PROPOSED BY: Rob Jones, Jr. (HQ-01S-G-025)
(HQ-01-May-G-002)

At its Spring 2001 meeting the Board of Game deferred this proposal to its May 2001 meeting. It is printed here for further comment.

PROPOSAL 3 - 5 AAC 85.045(17). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Amend this regulation as follows:

Open the area in Unit 19D located south of the Tatlawisuk River and east of the Swift River, or subdivide Unit 19D south of the Tatlawisuk and east of the Swift River. This will in effect re-open the Cheeneetnuk and Gagaryah Rivers.

ISSUE: The problem is the closure of nonresident moose hunting for the southern portion of Unit 19D, especially those rivers that flow into the Swift River. The moose harvest data shows that resident hunters do not hunt this area Unit 19D, and the moose harvest data also shows a history of nonresident hunting. Nonresident hunters have also hunted caribou and black bear as a by-product of hunting moose in this area of Unit 19D.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? If this problem is not solved in will prevent nonresident moose hunters from hunting moose in this portion of Unit 19D.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Nonresident moose hunters have historically hunted the area in question. These nonresident moose hunters have also hunted and harvested black bears, as a by-product of hunting moose. The reduction of the black bear population in this area could help

the moose population. Hunters also hunt wolves in the area, yet I have never had a hunter harvest a wolf. Any reduction of predators in this area will help moose calf survival rate.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? This decision to re-open this area to nonresident moose hunting will benefit Moose John Outfitters, my company, who pioneered the Cheeneetnuk and Gagaryah Rivers in the late 70s and has been offering float trips to bowhunters on the Cheeneetnuk and Gagaryah Rivers for 18 years. There are other guides that occasionally operate in the area, yet access is difficult and changes occur every year. The result is few nonresident hunters frequent this area besides Moose John Outfitters.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? It is my belief that no persons will suffer if this solution is adopted. The moose harvest data for this area confirms that no one is likely to suffer, including the moose population in the Unit 19D designated wolf control area.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? I did not consider an alternative solution because this is the best solution for all stakeholders. This solution still accomplishes the board’s goal of protecting the resident hunting of moose in Unit 19D, and this solution allows nonresident hunting to continue in an area that has not been historically hunted by resident hunters in Unit 19D. This area of Unit 19D is difficult to access, and the nonresident moose hunting has had a negligible impact on the moose population, especially as it relates to the overall moose harvest percentage.

In addition, I am submitting moose harvest data, provided by the area biologist in McGrath, for the last 5 years. I will have the data formatted in a more user friendly program for the meeting. Also, the area biologist is sending me a 10-year moose harvest report for the area.

(HQ-01S-G-130)

PROPOSED BY: Ernest A. Holland

(HQ-01-May-G-003)

PROPOSAL 4 - 5AAC 85.045(17). HUNTING SEASONS BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Replace general moose hunts with registration permit hunts within the wolf predation control implementation area in Unit 19D.

| Units and Bag Limits | Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts) | Nonresident Open Season |
|---|---|----------------------------|
| (17) ... Unit 19(D), that portion of the Kuskokwim River drainage upstream from [AND INCLUDING] the Selatna River [DRAINAGE], but excluding the Selatna River drainage and the Black River drainage, and except for that portion of the Upper Kuskokwim Controlled Use Area south and east of the Kuskokwim and North Fork Kuskokwim River | Sept. 1-Sept 20 Dec. 1-Dec. 15 | No open season. |

1 bull by registration permit [PER REGULATORY YEAR]

Unit 19(D), that portion of the Upper Kuskokwim River Controlled Use Area south and east of the Kuskokwim River and North Fork Kuskokwim River

1 bull by registration permit Aug. 20-Sept. 20 No open season.
Dec. 1-Dec. 15

Remainder of Unit 19(D)

1 bull per regulatory year Sept. 1-Sept. 20 No open season.
Dec. 1-Dec. 31

ISSUE: The moose population in Unit 19D has been declining since the late 1980s. As part of the moose recovery plan, the Unit 19(D) East Adaptive Management Team recommended a complete closure of moose hunting in a small portion of the predation control implementation area and improved control and harvest reporting for moose hunts in the entire control area. These recommendations could be implemented through a registration permit system. Closure of small portions of the predation control area could be done using ADF&G’s discretionary permit authority. Control of harvest could be improved by better monitoring of hunter activities and moose kill while the season is in progress. Harvest reporting could be improved by better tracking and limited availability of permits. This would be particularly important because ADF&G, Division of Subsistence surveys indicated that 48 percent of the kill currently is not reported. Permits would be made available in every village in the permit hunt area, through ADF&G personnel and/or local vendors. Permits would not be available at locations outside of Unit 19D.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Harvest monitoring and control recommended in the moose recovery plan will be difficult to achieve.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Hunters who want to maximize their opportunity, while increasing the potential for population growth.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Hunters unwilling to accept the additional restrictions required to implement a population recovery program.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-01-May-G-004)

PROPOSAL 5 - 5 AAC 92.085(4)(A). UNLAWFUL METHODS OF TAKING BIG GAME; EXCEPTIONS. Create a fall black bear baiting season within the Unit 19(D) East wolf predation control implementation plan area.

...

(4) with the use of bait for ungulates or bait scent lures for any bear; except that black bears may be taken with the use of bait or scent lures only as follows:

(A) in Unit 14(A) from April 15 through May 25; in Unit 14(B) from April 15 through May 31; in Units 1(A), 1(B), 1(D), 2, 3, 5-7 (except Resurrection Creek and its tributaries), 11, 13, 15, 16(A) (except Denali State Park), and 17 from April 15 through June 15; in Units 12, 16(B), 19-21, 24, and 25 from April 15 through June 30; [AND] in the portion of Units 21(D) and 24 within the Koyukuk Controlled Use Area from September 1 through September 25, and within the Unit 19(D) East wolf predation control implementation plan area as described in 5 AAC 92.125(1) from September 1 through September 30.

...

ISSUE: The moose population in Unit 19D has been declining since the late 1980s. Black bear predation on moose calves could be a significant source of mortality. In other portions of Interior Alaska black bears kill up to 45 percent of the calves born. Full implementation of a moose recovery plan in Unit 19(D) East will likely require additional harvest of black bears to reduce predation. Estimated harvest is currently 20-30 bears per year. Allowing baiting during the fall should increase the kill.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Black bears will continue to prey on moose calves depressing calf survival and delaying recovery of the moose population.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Local area hunters who are trying to increase black bear harvest to benefit the low moose population.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-01-May-G-007)

PROPOSAL 6 - 5 AAC 92.108. IDENTIFIED BIG GAME PREY POPULATIONS AND OBJECTIVES. Decrease moose population and harvest objectives for Unit 19(D) East according to recommendations of the Adaptive Wildlife Management Team.

| Population | Finding | Population Objective | Harvest Objective |
|----------------|----------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| ... | | | |
| Moose | | | |
| ... | | | |
| GMU 19(D)-East | Positive | <u>3,000-3,500</u> [6,000-8,000] | <u>130-150</u> [300-400] |
| ... | | | |

ISSUE: The Unit 19D East Adaptive Management Team has recommended reducing moose population and harvest objectives. The Board of Game established the objectives based on an estimated maximum sustainable density of 1 moose/mi². The Adaptive Management Team considered the current density estimate of 0.16–0.25 moose/mi² and the potential for increase, with or without predator control. They unanimously recommended more modest objectives of 3000–5000 moose and an annual harvest of 130–150, based upon a maximum density of approximately 0.5 moose/mi². These objectives are more attainable, however, they could still take years to accomplish even with aggressive predator control.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Differences between the population and harvest objectives set by the Board of Game and recommendations of the Adaptive Management Team will exist, creating confusion and doubt as planning proceeds.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The Adaptive Management Team will benefit from Board support for their efforts. People involved in the planning process will benefit from clearer management direction.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-01-May-G-008)

PROPOSAL 7 - 5 AAC 92.125. WOLF PREDATION CONTROL IMPLEMENTATION PLAN. Decrease moose population and harvest objectives for Unit 19D East according to recommendations of the Adaptive Wildlife Management Team.

Wolf predation control implementation plans are established in the following areas:

- (1) a Unit 19(D)-East wolf predation control area is established and consists of those portions of the Kuskokwim River drainage within Unit 19(D)-East upstream from the Selatna River, but excluding the Selatna River drainage and the Black River drainage; notwithstanding any other provision in this title, the commissioner or the commissioner's designee may conduct a wolf population reduction or wolf population regulation program in the Unit 19(D)-East wolf predation control area consistent with the following control objectives, constraints, and requirements:

(A) the objective of the program is, between the years 2000 and 2005, to reverse the decline in the moose population and initiate an increase toward the intensive management moose population objective of **3,000–3,500** [6,000–8,000] moose with a sustainable annual harvest of **130–150** [300–400] moose;

...

ISSUE: The Unit 19D East Adaptive Management Team has recommended reducing moose population and harvest objectives. The Board of Game established the objectives based on an estimated maximum sustainable density of 1 moose/mi². The Adaptive Management Team considered the current density estimate of 0.16–0.25 moose/mi² and the potential for increase, with

or without predator control. They unanimously recommended more modest objectives of 3000–5000 moose and an annual harvest of 130–150, based upon a maximum density of approximately 0.5 moose/mi². These objectives are more attainable, however, they could still take years to accomplish even with aggressive predator control.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Differences between the population and harvest objectives set by the Board of Game and recommendations of the Adaptive Management Team will exist, creating confusion and doubt as planning proceeds.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The Adaptive Management Team will benefit from Board support for their efforts. People involved in the planning process will benefit from clearer management direction.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-01-May-G-009)

PROPOSAL 8 - 5 AAC 92.170. SEALING OF MARTEN, LYNX, BEAVER, OTTER, WOLF, AND WOLVERINE. Modify the sealing requirements for wolves within the Unit 19(D) East wolf predation control implementation area to require sealing within 5 days of kill.

.....

(b) The sealing of marten, lynx, beaver, land otter, wolf, or wolverine must be accomplished as follows:

(1) wolf (in Unit 2) taken by trapping must be sealed on or before the 30th day after the date of taking;

(2) wolf **(except within the Unit 19(D) East wolf predation control implementation plan area as described in 5 AAC 92.125(1))**, wolverine, and lynx taken by hunting must be sealed on or before the 30th day after the date of taking;

(3) marten (Units 1 - 5, 7, 13(E), and 14 - 16 only), wolf (except in Unit **2 and within the Unit 19(D) East wolf predation control implementation plan area as described in 5 AAC 92.125(1)**), wolverine, lynx, beaver, and otter taken by trapping must be sealed on or before the 30th day after the close of the season in the unit where taken;

(4) the radius and ulna of the left foreleg must remain naturally attached to the hide of any wolf taken in Units 1 - 5 until the hide is sealed.

(5) wolf within the Unit 19(D) East wolf predation control implementation plan area as described in 5 AAC 92.125(1) taken by hunting or trapping must be sealed on or before the 5th day after the date of taking.

(c) The sealing periods in (b) of this section may be temporarily reduced by an authorized employee of the department.

.....

PROBLEM: Moose recovery plans for Unit 19(D) East call for reduction of wolf populations to low levels in some areas. Currently, wolves taken by hunting must be sealed within 30 days of kill, and wolves taken by trapping must be sealed within 30 days of the close of the trapping season. Although this standard requirement is adequate in most regions of the state, it provides insufficient safeguards to protect the viability of the Unit 19(D) East population during the planned reduction program. Closer monitoring of the harvest is necessary to ensure that a minimum of 20 wolves remain in the population.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The viability of the wolf population may be threatened by over harvest.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? People who fear that trapping will remove more than the maximum allowable number of wolves in Unit 19(D) East.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Hunters and trappers who will have to make special trips into town to seal their wolf hides.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Create a 5-day reporting requirement in person or by phone for all wolves taken in Unit 19(D).

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-01-May-G-010)

PROPOSAL 9 - 5AAC 92.540(7). CONTROLLED USE AREAS. Expand the Upper Kuskokwim Controlled Use Area and simplify the controlled use area boundary description as follows:

....

(7) Unit 19

(A) the Upper Kuskokwim Controlled Use Area:

(i) the area consists of that portion of Unit 19(D) upstream from the mouth of the Selatna River, but excluding the Selatna and Black River drainages, to a line extending from Dyckman Mountain on the northern Unit 19D boundary southeast to the 1,610 foot crest of Munsatli Ridge, then south along the crest of Munsatli Ridge to the 2981 foot peak of Telida Mountain, then northeast to the intersection of the western boundary of Denali National Preserve with the Minchumina-Telida winter trail, then south along the western boundary of Denali National Preserve to the southern boundary of Unit 19D; [THE MOUTH OF BIG RIVER, INCLUDING THE DRAINAGES OF THE BIG RIVER, MIDDLE FORK, SOUTH FORK, EAST FORK, AND TONZONA RIVER, AND BOUNDED BY A LINE FOLLOWING THE WEST BANK OF THE SWIFT FORK (MCKINLEY FORK) OF THE KUSKOKWIM RIVER TO 152 50' W. LONG., THEN NORTH TO THE BOUNDARY OF DENALI NATIONAL PRESERVE, THEN FOLLOWING THE WESTERN BOUNDARY OF DENALI NATIONAL PRESERVE NORTH TO ITS INTERSECTION WITH THE MINCHUMINA-TELIDA WINTER TRAIL, THEN WEST TO THE CREST OF TELIDA MOUNTAIN, THEN NORTH ALONG THE CREST OF MUNSATLI RIDGE TO AN ELEVATION OF 1,610 FEET, THEN NORTHWEST TO DYCKMAN MOUNTAIN AND FOLLOWING THE CREST OF

THE DIVIDE BETWEEN THE KUSKOKWIM RIVER AND THE NOWITNA DRAINAGE, AND THE DIVIDE BETWEEN THE KUSKOKWIM RIVER AND THE NIXON FORK RIVER TO LOAF BENCH MARK ON HALFWAY MOUNTAIN, THEN SOUTH TO THE WEST SIDE OF BIG RIVER DRAINAGE, THE POINT OF BEGINNING;]

(ii) the area is closed to the use of aircraft for hunting moose, including the transportation of moose hunters, their hunting gear, or parts of moose; however, this provision does not apply to the transportation of moose hunters, their hunting gear, or parts of moose by aircraft to or from a publicly owned airport;

....

ISSUE: The moose population in the Upper Kuskokwim drainage has been declining since the late 1980s. The Governor appointed a six-member Adaptive Wildlife Management Team to develop possible solutions to reverse the decline in Unit 19D East. Those solutions will require additional restrictions on all hunters. Expansion of the existing Upper Kuskokwim Controlled Use Area will provide part of those additional restrictions and will result in slightly reduced harvest, primarily among nonlocal hunters, and will reduce competition between locals and nonlocals.

The Upper Kuskokwim Controlled Use Area was originally established in 1981 to reduce competition between nonlocal hunters using aircraft and local hunters who do not use aircraft. At the time, healthy moose populations in the area were attracting an increasing number of hunters, including those using commercial guiding services. When implemented, local hunters believed the controlled use area reduced competition as intended, and they believe it continues to do so today.

During regulatory years 1995–1999, 1–6 hunters (1.5–8.0 percent) reported using aircraft for transportation during moose hunts within the proposed expansion area. Of those hunters, one was a local, and the remainder were nonlocals. All hunters using aircraft within the proposed expansion area harvested an average of 1.4 moose/year, with locals averaging 0.2 moose/year and nonlocals averaging 1.2 moose year. Expansion of the area will not significantly restrict or alter the current hunting transportation patterns, but it could reduce some competition between local and nonlocal hunters.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Nonlocal hunters using aircraft will continue to harvest moose as population the population declines.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Local residents through decreased competition for a limited resource.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Resident hunters who want to gain access to Unit 19(D) east by the use of aircraft.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-01-May-G-005)

PROPOSAL 10 - 5 AAC 92.165. SEALING OF BEAR SKINS AND SKULLS and 5 AAC 92.220. SALVAGE OF GAME MEAT, FURS, AND HIDES. Amend these regulations within the Unit 19(D) East wolf predation control implementation area as follows:

....

(9) the skin and skull of a black bear taken in Unit 19(D) outside of the wolf predation control implementation plan area as described in 5AAC 92.125(1) need not be sealed, however the skin of a black bear taken anywhere in Unit 19(D) from January 1 through May 31 may not be transported from Unit 19 until it has been sealed.

....

5 AAC 92.220. SALVAGE OF GAME MEAT, FURS, AND HIDES. (a) Subject to additional requirements in 5 AAC 84 - 5 AAC 85, a person taking game shall salvage the following parts for human use:

....

(3) from January 1 through May 31, the hide, skull, and edible meat as defined in 5 AAC 92.990, and from June 1 through December 31, the hide and skull of a black bear taken in a game management unit in which sealing is required, except that either the hide or the edible meat as defined in 5 AAC 92.990 may be salvaged in Unit 19(D) outside of the wolf predation control implementation plan area as described in 5AAC 92.125(1) from January 1 through December 31;

....

ISSUE: Black bear harvest in the Unit 19D East wolf predation control implementation area is expected to increase as black bear hunting regulations are liberalized. Estimated harvest is currently 20–30 bears per year. The anticipated increase in harvest will require more accurate harvest data to aid in evaluating status and trend of the black bear population.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Actual harvest of black bears will continue to be unknown.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? People concerned about over harvest of black bears in Unit 19D East.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Hunters who presently do not bring the hide and skull out of the field when hunting black bears.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-01-May-G-006)

PROPOSAL 11 - 5 AAC 92.510. AREAS CLOSED TO HUNTING; 5 AAC 92.550. AREAS CLOSED TO TRAPPING; 5 AAC 92.095. UNLAWFUL METHODS OF TAKING FUR BEARERS; EXCEPTIONS.

5 AAC 92.510. AREAS CLOSED TO HUNTING. (a)...

(16) Unit 20(C): The area bounded by a line beginning at the point of intersection of the boundary of Denali National Park and the Savage River, **north on the eastern bank of the Savage River to [ALONG A STRAIGHT LINE NORTHWEST TO A POINT ON THE PARK BOUNDARY TWO MILES SOUTH OF] the Stampede trail, then west on the Stampede trail to the national park boundary, then** south and east along the park boundary to the point of beginning, is closed to the taking of wolves[; THE PROVISIONS OF THIS PARAGRAPH DO NOT APPLY AFTER JUNE 30, 2002].

5 AAC 92.550. AREAS CLOSED TO TRAPPING. (a)...

(7) Unit 20(C): The area bounded by a line beginning at the point of intersection of the boundary of Denali National Park and the Savage River, **north on the eastern bank of the Savage River to [ALONG A STRAIGHT LINE NORTHWEST TO A POINT ON THE PARK BOUNDARY TWO MILES SOUTH OF] the Stampede trail, then west on the Stampede trail to the national park boundary, then** south and east along the park boundary to the point of beginning, is closed to the taking of wolves[; THE PROVISIONS OF THIS PARAGRAPH DO NOT APPLY AFTER JUNE 30, 2002].

5 AAC 92.095. UNLAWFUL METHODS OF TAKING FUR BEARERS; EXCEPTIONS. (a)
The following methods and means of taking furbearers under a trapping license are prohibited, in addition to the prohibitions in 5 AAC 92.080:

...

(14) using a snare in the closed area defined in 5 AAC 92.550 (7).

ISSUE: Although the current area closed to the taking of wolves is based on East Fork pack home range data, the northern boundary is impractical and hard to find because it does not follow recognizable landmarks. Additionally, with the area remaining open to snaring there is the possibility or at least the perception that the area fails to protect wolves because they could be caught incidentally. This proposal would tie the closed area boundary to the Savage River and the Stampede Trail so that all users would clearly know their location relative to the area, and would close the area to the use of snares to eliminate any potential for incidental take. The closed area is expanded from about 19 square miles to approximately 72 square miles by this action, and the sunset provision is eliminated.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The current closed area boundary will continue to be difficult to find on the ground and the potential that wolves could be caught incidentally in snares will continue to generate controversy.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? People interested in protecting wolves that provide high nonconsumptive use values within Denali National Park. The establishment of a recognizable boundary to the closed area will benefit all.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Some additional trapping opportunity will be foregone.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-01-May-G-011)

NOTICE OF PROPOSED CHANGES IN THE REGULATIONS
OF THE ALASKA BOARD OF GAME

Notice is given that the Alaska Board of Game, under the authority of Title 16, Alaska Statutes proposes to adopt, amend, or repeal regulations in Title 5 of the Alaska Administrative Code, dealing with the use or taking of game, in order to implement, interpret or make specific the provisions of Title 16.

Regulations to be the subject of board action are found in 5 AAC 84, 85, 92. The subject matter areas to be addressed by the board concern Game Management Units 19 and 20.

Subject areas to be addressed by the board concern: hunting seasons and bag limits for moose; areas closed to hunting and trapping; unlawful methods of taking game; unlawful methods of taking furbearers, identified big game prey populations; sealing of marten, lynx, beaver, otter, wolf and wolverine; sealing of bear skins and skulls; controlled use areas; wolf predation control implementation plans.

Further subject areas to be addressed by the board concern antlerless moose seasons in Unit 24.

In addition to the above regulatory subjects, the Board of Game may take action on administrative matters, and may delegate authority to respond to petitions, or develop findings, letters or resolutions.

Copies of the proposed regulations may be obtained by writing to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Boards Support Section, PO Box 25526, Juneau, AK 99802-5526 or by calling Boards Support Section at 907-465-4110.

The meeting will begin at 8:30 a.m. on May 18, at the Wedgewood Hotel in Fairbanks, Alaska. The public hearing portion of the meeting will begin at 1:00 p.m. on May 18 or immediately after staff reports. The board will hear oral testimony only from those who register before the cutoff time for sign up to testify which is 1:00 p.m. on Friday, May 18. Oral comments may be limited to 3 minutes for individuals, 5 minutes for groups and 10 minutes for advisory committees. An agenda will be posted during the meeting.

The Board of Game may consider any or all of the subjects covered by this notice: THE BOARD IS NOT LIMITED BY THE SPECIFIC LANGUAGE OR CONFINES OF THE ACTUAL PROPOSALS THAT HAVE BEEN SUBMITTED BY THE PUBLIC OR THE STAFF. The Board of Game may adopt the proposed regulatory changes without further notice, or it may amend, repeal, supplement, or take no action on them. In addition the board may adopt, amend, or repeal other regulations on the same subject matter incidentally affected by the proposals adopted.

This action is not expected to require an increased appropriation.

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) 465-4110 no later than May 10, 2001 to ensure that any necessary accommodations can be provided.

DATE: April 4, 2001

/S/

Margaret Edens, Executive Director
Alaska Board of Game

ALASKA BOARD OF GAME
May 2001 PROPOSAL PACKET

The attached packet of regulatory proposals will be considered by the Alaska Board of Game at its meeting concerning hunting and use of game in Units 19 and 20 on May 18 – 19, 2001 at the Wedgewood Hotel in Fairbanks, 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. 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
E-mail: margaret_edens@fishgame.state.ak.us

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 May 11, 2001. Comments received after May 11 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.

A roadmap showing the order in which proposals will be considered will be available at 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 May 11, 2001. To correspond by text telephone (TDD), call 1-800-478-2028.

TENTATIVE AGENDA
BOARD OF GAME
WEDGEWOOD HOTEL
FAIRBANKS, ALASKA

[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.]

Friday, May 18

8:30AM

OPENING BUSINESS
Call to Order; Introduction of Board Members and Staff
Purpose of Meeting (overview)
STAFF REPORTS
PUBLIC TESTIMONY BEGINS.

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.

DEADLINE FOR SIGN-UP TO TESTIFY IS:
1:00 p.m. Friday, May 18

Saturday, May 19

8:30 AM

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