

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY
REVIEWER LETTER

August 2003

DEAR REVIEWER:

The Alaska Board of Game will consider the attached book of regulatory proposals at its **Fall 2003** meeting, to be held **November 1 - 4, 2003**, at the Millennium Hotel in Anchorage, Alaska. The proposals generally concern changes to the regulations governing hunting and the use of game in the Arctic and Western regions. Members of the public, organizations, advisory committees, and staff submitted these proposals, which are published essentially as they were received.

The proposals in this book are presented as brief statements summarizing the intended regulatory changes. In cases where confusion might arise or where the regulation is complex, proposed changes are also indicated in legal format. In this format, bolded and 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 book. Some regulations have statewide application and/or may affect other regions of the state. Also, some proposals recommend changes to multiple areas or regions.

In this book proposals are grouped first by the area of the state, and then by the resource to which they pertain (see Table of Contents). This proposal list is not in roadmap order for the meeting. The board will generate a roadmap for deliberations prior to the meeting, which will be made available to the public. The roadmap may be changed up to and during the meeting.

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.

After reviewing the proposals you may send written comments to:

ATTN: BOG COMMENTS
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Boards Support Section
PO Box 25526
Juneau, AK 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 send your written comments to the above Juneau address at least two weeks prior to the meeting to ensure inclusion in the board workbook. All comments received after that time 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 public testimony during the meeting is always appreciated.

When making written comments regarding these proposals, list the PROPOSAL NUMBER to which your comment pertains and state specifically whether you favor or oppose the proposal. This will ensure that your comments are correctly noted for the board members in relation to the proper proposal(s).

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

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

If you plan to testify, a written copy of your testimony is helpful, but not required. Twenty copies of your written testimony are also helpful, but not required. Written testimony must be officially stamped and logged in, and will be distributed by the secretary. See page **ix** for "GUIDELINES FOR PUBLIC TESTIMONY, ADVISORY COMMITTEE TESTIMONY". This document has additional information on presenting oral testimony.

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 consisting of a couple of sentences will do. Detail the number in attendance (e.g., 12 of 15 members) and what interests were represented (such as subsistence, guides, trappers, hunters, wildlife viewers, etc.).

Additional copies of this proposal book may be obtained at most offices of the Department of Fish and Game and on our website at: <http://www.state.ak.us/adfg/boards/gameinfo/boghome.htm>.

You are encouraged to send your written comments to the above Juneau Boards Support Section address. If you send comments directly to a board member, please send a copy to the above Juneau Boards Support Section address so that your comments can be copied and distributed to all board members.

A tentative agenda for the Fall 2003 Board of Game meeting is shown on pages **x - xi**. A roadmap detailing the tentative order in which proposals will be considered will be available in October 2003. During the meeting, a recorded telephone message will be available, with current updates on the board's agenda and schedule. That phone number is (800) 764-8901 (in Juneau, call 465-8901).

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 (907) 465-4110 no later than two weeks prior to the meeting.

ALASKA BOARD OF GAME
FALL 2003 PROPOSAL BOOK

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**ALASKA BOARD OF GAME
TENTATIVE MEETING SCHEDULE
as of August 2003**

	<u>Dates & Location</u>	<u>Topic</u>
Fall 2003	November 1 – 4, 2003 Anchorage, Millennium Hotel Proposal Deadline: Aug. 8, 2003 Comment Deadline: Oct. 16, 2003	Arctic and Western (Region V)
Spring 2004	February 26 – March 10, 2004 Fairbanks, Wedgewood Resort Proposal Deadline: Dec. 5, 2003 Comment Deadline: Feb. 13, 2004	Statewide “B” list and Interior (Region III)
Fall 2004	To be determined Juneau Proposal Deadline: May 20, 2004* Comment Deadline: 2 weeks prior to meeting	Southeast (Region I)
Spring 2005	To be determined Anchorage Proposal Deadline: May 20, 2004* Comment Deadline: 2 weeks prior to meeting	Southcentral (Region II)

*tentative date

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) 465-4110
Fax: (907) 465-6094
Email: Jim_Marcotte@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/adfg/boards/bordhome.htm>

ALASKA BOARD OF GAME MEETING CYCLE

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)
- Wolf 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., Permits for Access to Round Island) 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.

<i>Topic</i>	<i>Cycle</i>		
SOUTHEAST-REGION I Game Management Units: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	Fall 2004	Fall 2006	Fall 2008
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 2005	Spring 2007	Spring 2009
ARCTIC AND WESTERN-REGION V Game Management Units: 18, 22, 23, 26A	Fall 2003	Fall 2005	Fall 2007
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 2004	Spring 2006	Spring 2008
STATEWIDE REGULATIONS (Chapter 92) Cycle "A" and Cycle "B" addressed in alternating two year periods	Winter 2004	Winter 2006	Winter 2008

Alaska Board of Game Winter Meeting Schedule

STATEWIDE REGULATIONS: 5 AAC 92

CYCLE “A”: **Winter 2006, 2010, 2014, 2018, 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
- .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
- .027 Permit for Exporting Big Game Trophies
- .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
- .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 2004, 2008, 2012, 2016, etc.**

- .035 Permit for Temporary Commercial Use of Live Game
- .037 Permit for Falconry
- .040 Permit for Taking of 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 Procedures
- .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, Crane
- .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
- .260 Taking Cub Bears & Female Bears with Cubs Prohibited
- .400 Emergency Taking of Game
- .410 Taking Game in Defense of Life or Property

ALASKA BOARD OF GAME

(Revised August 2003)

NAME AND ADDRESS	TERM EXPIRES
Ron Somerville, Vice-Chair 4506 Robbie Road Juneau, Alaska 99802	3/1/2005
Ben Grussendorf 1221 Halibut Point Rd. Sitka, AK 99835	3/1/2004
Cliff Judkins PO Box 874124 Wasilla, Alaska 99687	3/1/2006
Ted Spraker 33350 Skyline Drive Soldotna, Alaska 99669	3/1/2005
Sharon McLeod-Everette PO Box 81213 Fairbanks, Alaska 99708	3/1/2006
Mike Fleagle, Chair PO Box 33 McGrath, Alaska 99627	3/1/2004
Pete Buist PO Box 71561 Fairbanks, Alaska 99707	3/1/2005

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 2003 board workbook. Written comments regarding the proposals in this proposal booklet may not be published if the comments are sent to individual board members.

Alaska Board of Game members may also be reached at:

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

Boards Support Section
PO Box 25526
Juneau, AK 99802-5526
(907) 465-4110
(907) 465-6094 FAX

Boards Support Section

Alaska Department of Fish and Game

PO Box 25526

Juneau, AK 99802

(907) 465-4110

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HEADQUARTERS

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Art Hughes, Publication Tech. 465-4111

Board of Game

Jim Marcotte, Acting Ex. Director 459-7215

Jean Lowe, Publication Tech. 465-2027

Lori Van Steenwyk, Administrative Assistant 465-6096

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Anchorage, AK 99518-1599

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For updated information on the progress of an ongoing Board of Fisheries or Board of Game meeting, call: Juneau 465-8901; outside Juneau 1-800-764-8901. Website address:

<http://www.state.ak.us/adfg/boards/bordhome.htm>

Note, Bethel area advisory committees were assigned to Boards Support Section staff as follows:

Central Bering Sea A.C. – Dillingham

Lower Kuskokwim A.C. – Dillingham

Central Kuskokwim A.C. – Fairbanks

Lower Yukon A.C. – Anchorage

Kodiak A.C. - Anchorage

Alaska Board of Game

GUIDELINES FOR PUBLIC TESTIMONY ADVISORY COMMITTEE TESTIMONY

If you plan to testify at this hearing, please fill out a blue PUBLIC TESTIMONY SIGN-UP CARD and turn it in to the board's staff. If you have written material for the board members, please provide at least **20 copies** to the staff; and **submit with your blue testimony card. Please be sure to have your name and date on the first page of your written material and if you have graphs, identify the source.**

When we call your name, please go to the table; state your name and whom you represent. When you are finished speaking, please wait, we may have questions regarding your comments.

Please be aware that when you testify you may not ask questions of the board members or of department staff. This is your chance to speak and to bring your issues before the board members. If the board members and/or staff need clarification, they will ask you questions. A person using derogatory or threatening language to the board will not be allowed to continue speaking.

Generally, the board allows five minutes for oral testimony if you testify for yourself. The board chairman will announce the testimony length of time at the beginning of the meeting.

Advisory Committee representatives are usually allowed 15 minutes to testify, and should restrict their testimony to relating what occurred at the advisory committee meeting(s). Testimony should be a brief summary of the minutes of the meeting and copies of the minutes should be available for the board members. Personal opinions should not be addressed during Advisory Committee testimony.

PLEASE NOTE: The time limit on testimony does NOT include questions that the board members may have for you.

ALASKA BOARD OF GAME
Arctic and Western Regions
November 1-4, 2003
Millennium Hotel, Anchorage, AK
TENTATIVE AGENDA

NOTE: This Tentative Agenda is **subject to change** throughout the course of the meeting. This Tentative Agenda is provided to give a general idea to the public of the board's anticipated schedule. The board will attempt to hold to this schedule; however, the board is not constrained by this Tentative Agenda. Those of you who wish to testify must sign-up by the deadline. Public testimony will continue until those present at the meeting are heard; the board will continue working through its agenda immediately upon conclusion of public testimony. The following time blocks are only an estimate. Updated agendas will be posted in the meeting room, or call 1-800-764-8901 for a recorded message on daily progression through the meeting.

Saturday, November 1, 8:30 AM

OPENING BUSINESS

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

STAFF REPORTS

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Oral public testimony, including Advisory Committee Reports

**DEADLINE FOR SIGN-UP TO TESTIFY IS 3:00 PM, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1
(Public testimony will continue until those who are present at the meeting are heard.)**

SUNDAY, November 2, 8:30 AM

Continue public testimony

BOARD DELIBERATIONS ON PROPOSALS, at conclusion of public testimony

Monday, November 3 through Tuesday, November 4

BOARD DELIBERATIONS ON PROPOSALS

BOARD CONSIDERATION OF WESTERN ARCTIC CARIBOU MANAGEMENT PLAN

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS, including petitions, findings, resolutions, letters, other

ADJOURN

(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.)

AGENDA NOTES:

A. This agenda is TENTATIVE and subject to change during the meeting. A list of staff reports and roadmap will be available at the meeting. Scheduled updates can be obtained on the website at:

<http://www.state.ak.us/adfg/boards/gameinfo/boghome.htm> or by calling the board's recorded message phone at **1-800-764-8901** (in Juneau call: 465-8901).

B. Advisory Committee representatives can present their reports either at the beginning or end of the “Oral Public Testimony.” The committee representative should notify the board secretary whether they prefer to present their report at the beginning or end of public testimony.

C. The State of Alaska, Department of Fish and Game complies with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA). Individuals with disabilities who may need auxiliary aids, services, and/or special modifications to participate in this hearing and public meeting should contact 465-4110 no later than 72 hours prior to the meeting, to make any necessary arrangements.

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

The Alaska Board of Game proposes to adopt regulation changes in Title 5 of the Alaska Administrative Code, dealing with the use and taking of game. Regulations subject to board action are in 5 AAC 84, 85, 92, and 99. The subject matter areas to be addressed concern Game Management Units 18, 22, 23, and 26A, and statewide provisions including but not limited to the following.

- A. **TRAPPING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS:** Bag and possession limits and seasons for beaver, mink, muskrat, and weasel, in Game Management Units 18, 22, 23, and 26A.
- B. **HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS:** Bag and possession limits and seasons for brown bear, caribou, moose, musk ox, beaver, and wolf in Units 18, 22, 23, and 26A.
- C. **LICENSES, HARVEST TICKETS, HARVEST REPORTS, TAGS, FEES, AND PERMITS:** Tier II permits and brown bear tag fee exemptions in Units 18, 22, 23, and 26A.
- D. **METHODS AND MEANS:** Use of snowmachine in taking wolves in Units 18, 22, 23, and 26A.
- E. **POSSESSION, TRANSPORTATION, AND USE OF GAME:** Sealing of bear skins and skulls, salvage of moose and caribou in Units 18, 22, 23, and 26A.
- F. **RESTRICTED AREAS:** Controlled use areas in Units 18, 22, 23, and 26A.

You may comment on the proposed regulations, including the potential costs to private persons of complying with the proposed changes, by submitting written comments to the Alaska Board of Game, Boards Support Section at P.O. Box 25526, Juneau, AK 99802-5526. Comments may also be submitted by fax to (907) 465-6094. Written comments received are public records and are subject to public inspection. Written comments may be submitted to the Board of Game any time before the proposal is taken up by the board in deliberations. As a practical matter, written comments should be submitted to the Boards Support Section office, at the above address or fax number, at least two weeks before the scheduled meeting to ensure inclusion in the board workbooks.

Oral or written comments may be submitted at a hearing to be held at the board meeting. The public hearing portion for the meeting will begin immediately after staff reports and continue until everyone has been given the opportunity to be heard. Additional public hearings may be held throughout the meeting just before consideration and adoption of proposed changes in the regulations. An agenda will be posted daily during the meeting. The board will take oral testimony from those who register before the cut-off time announced by the board chair. The length of oral statements may be limited to three to five minutes, or less.

TENTATIVE MEETING SCHEDULE
Millennium Hotel, 4800 Spenard Road, Anchorage, AK 99517-3236
November 1-4, 2003
Arctic and Western Regions

Any changes to meeting locations, dates or times, or rescheduling of topics or subject matter will be announced by news release. Please watch for these announcements in the news media or call (907) 465-4110.

Individuals with disabilities who may need special accommodations in order to participate in this process, should contact Jim Marcotte at (907) 459-7215 no later than two weeks before the applicable meeting is scheduled to begin to ensure that any necessary accommodations can be provided.

For a copy of the proposed regulation changes, contact the Boards Support section at the above address, or visit the website at: <http://www.state.ak.us/adfg/boards/gameinfo/boghome.htm>.

Anyone interested in or affected by resident (subsistence and general) hunting or trapping and nonresident hunting or trapping regulations is hereby informed that, by publishing this legal notice the Board of Game may consider any or all of the subject areas 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 STAFF.** Pursuant to AS 44.62.200, the board may review the full range of activities appropriate to any of the subjects listed in this notice. The board may make changes to the resident and nonresident hunting and trapping regulations as may be required to ensure the subsistence priority in AS 16.05.258.

After the public comment period ends, the Alaska Board of Game may adopt these or other provisions dealing with the same subject, without further notice, or reject, supplement, or decide to take no action on them. The language of the final regulations may be different from that of the proposed regulations. You should comment during the time allowed if your interest could be affected.

Statutory Authority: AS 16.05.255 – AS 16.258

Statutes Being Implemented, Interpreted, or Made Specific: AS 16.05.255 – AS 16.30.030

Fiscal Information: The proposed regulation changes are not expected to require an increased appropriation.

DATE: August 12, 2003

_____/s/
Jim Marcotte, Acting Executive Director
Alaska Board of Game

PROPOSAL 1 - 5 AAC 85.045 (16). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.
 Change hunting seasons and bag limits for moose in a portion of Unit 18, as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
[UNIT 18, THAT PORTION INCLUDING ALL YUKON RIVER DRAINAGES NORTH OF THE SOUTH BANKS OF KWIKLUAK PASS AND THE YUKON RIVER, INCLUDING SLOUGHS, DOWNSTREAM OF MOUNTAIN VILLAGE]	[SEPT. 5—SEPT. 25]	[SEPT. 5—SEPT. 25]
<p>[1 BULL]</p> <p>Unit 18, that portion <u>westerly of a line from the mouth of the Ishkowiik River to the closest point of Dall Lake then to the easternmost point of Takslesluk Lake then along the Kuskokwim River drainage boundary to the Unit 18 border</u> [INCLUDING ALL YUKON RIVER DRAINAGES NORTH OF THE SOUTH BANK OF THE YUKON RIVER, INCLUDING SLOUGHS, UPSTREAM FROM MOUNTAIN VILLAGE]</p>	<p>Sept. 1—Sept. 30 Dec. 1—Feb. 28 (To be announced)</p>	<p>Sept. 1—Sept. 30</p>
[UNIT 18, THAT PORTION SOUTH OF THE SOUTH BANKS OF KWIKLUAK PASS AND THE YUKON RIVER, AND NORTH AND WEST OF A LINE FROM CAPE ROMANZOF TO KUZILVAK		

MOUNTAIN, AND THEN TO
MOUNTAIN VILLAGE]

[1 BULL] [SEPT. 5—SEPT. 25] [NO OPEN SEASON.]

Remainder of Unit 18
1 bull per regulatory year;
during the period Dec. 1—Feb. 28,
a 10-day season may be
announced by emergency order
Sept. 1—Sept. 30
Dec. 1—Feb. 28
(To be announced)
No open season.

ISSUE: This proposal changes the current regulations in Unit 18 by extending the moose hunting season in the Yukon River drainage below Mountain Village. The moose population along the Yukon River below Mountain Village has grown and no longer requires separate management from the rest of the Yukon River drainage. Also, the proposal moves the boundary for the nonresident moose hunting area from the Yukon River (current regulation) to the drainage divide with the Kuskokwim River drainage and surrounding areas. Moving the boundary will simplify regulations and avoid confusion for hunters. This proposal achieves significant simplification of the Unit 18 moose hunting regulations with no adverse impact on the Yukon River moose population.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Hunting opportunity on the Yukon River below Mountain Village would be lost and regulations would remain more complicated than necessary.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? This regulation change would have no appreciable impact on the quality of meat harvested.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Hunters in the lower Yukon River drainage would benefit through simplified regulations and increased opportunity to harvest moose. Also, hunting pressure on the upriver moose population of the Yukon River would likely decrease as more opportunity is created below Mountain Village.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Nobody.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? We considered proposing a fall season extension without the winter season, but rejected that option since the moose population in the count area below Mountain Village is higher than that in the count area upriver from Mountain Village where a winter season has been sustained.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-03F-G-016)

PROPOSAL 2 - 5 AAC 85.045 (16). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Close hunting seasons for a portion of Unit 18, as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season	Nonresident Open Season
Unit 18, that portion including all Yukon River drainages north of the south banks of Kwikluak Pass and the Yukon River, including sloughs, downstream of Mountain Village	Sept. 5—Sept. 25	Sept. 5—Sept. 25
Unit 18, that portion including all Yukon River drainages north of the south bank of the Yukon River, including sloughs, upstream from Mountain Village	Sept. 1—Sept. 30 Dec. 1—Feb. 28 (To be announced)	Sept. 1—Sept. 30
1 bull per regulatory year; during the period Dec. 1—Feb. 28, a 10-day season may be announced by emergency order		
Unit 18, that portion south of the south banks of Kwikluak Pass and the Yukon River, and north and west of a line from Cape Romanzof to Kuzilvak Mountain, and then to Mountain Village	Sept. 5—Sept. 25	No open season.
<u>Unit 18, that portion easterly of a line from the mouth of the Ishkowik River to the closest point of Dall Lake then to the easternmost point of Takslesluk Lake then along the Kuskokwim</u>	<u>No open season.</u>	<u>No open season.</u>

River drainage boundary to the Unit 18 border and north of and including the Eek River drainage

Remainder of Unit 18

1 bull per regulatory year; during during the period Dec. 1–Feb. 28, a 10-day season may be announced by emergency order

Sept. 1—Sept. 30
Dec. 1—Feb. 28
(To be announced)

No open season.

ISSUE: Moose habitat along the Kuskokwim River drainage is capable of supporting considerably more moose than currently reside there. Harvest of moose out of season, particularly cows, is the primary reason that a moose population has never become established. This proposal closes moose hunting in the Kuskokwim River drainage and surrounding areas (including Eek River drainage, the areas easterly of Dall Lake and Takslesluk Lake) to encourage the establishment of a moose population capable of supporting annual harvests. The most current estimate of the number of moose in the area is 84, well below the carrying capacity of the area. The remainder of the unit is not changed and retains the previous seasons and bag limits.

The Lower Kuskokwim Advisory Committee (LKAC) has worked with the department, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and area villages to consider approaches to this problem. The preferred solution, modeled after successful efforts on the Yukon River below Mountain Village is to close the season for five years (or until the population grows to 1,000 moose) to allow a moose population to become established and then reopen a bulls-only season. An understanding and commitment to this strategy by local residents is needed for success and considerable efforts have been expended to communicate with village residents regarding this effort.

We have received resolutions of support for this strategy from most of the villages within the affected area giving us reason to believe that this plan would be successful.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The number of moose in the Kuskokwim portion of Unit 18 will likely remain at levels far below what the habitat could support.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? The quality of moose harvested would not change.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? There are roughly 10,000 residents along the Kuskokwim in Unit 18 who would benefit from a moose population capable of supporting a greater harvest. Currently, most of these residents hunt moose upriver in Unit 19 where hunting pressure is intense. After a huntable moose population is established upriver, hunting pressure by Unit 18 residents is likely to diminish, providing a benefit to Unit 19 residents as well.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? There are a substantial number of Unit 18 residents who do not support this proposal because they feel an immediate need for moose meat. Those who support this proposal counter that after five years, more families who need meat will be satisfied. However,

because of the large human population in this area, there will always be unsatisfied local demand for moose meat.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? We considered several options, including:

- 1) leaving the season ‘as is’ but promoting adherence to harvesting bulls only,
- 2) closing the season for three years rather than five years,
- 3) resorting to a permit hunt,
- 4) closing the season for a time determined by the size of the moose population and reopening the season after a target population had been achieved, and
- 5) many other ideas surfaced and were discussed by the LKAC and others.

Ultimately, a strategy with a five-year harvest moratorium at its core was selected by the LKAC largely because it has a track record of success in the area.

PROPOSED BY: The Lower Kuskokwim Advisory Committee, the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge, and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. (HQ-03F-G-015)

PROPOSAL 3 - 5 AAC 85.025 (13). Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou. Change the season and bag limit for caribou in Unit 18 as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(13)		
[UNIT 18 NORTH OF THE YUKON RIVER] [1 CARIBOU PER DAY; HOWEVER, THE COMMISSIONER MAY CLOSE THE SEASON AND IMMEDIATELY REOPEN, BY EMERGENCY ORDER, A SEASON, DURING WHICH THE BAG LIMIT IS 5 CARIBOU PER DAY; COWS MAY NOT BE TAKEN FROM MAY 16 THROUGH JUNE 30]	[JULY 1—JUNE 30]	[JULY 1—JUNE 30]

Unit 18 [SOUTH OF THE YUKON RIVER]

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

5 caribou; however, the commissioner may close and immediately reopen, by emergency order, a season during which the bag limit is less than 5 caribou

Aug. 1—Apr. 15
[AUG. 1—MAR. 31]
(Subsistence hunt only)

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull

Sept. 1—Sept. 30
[SEPT. 1—OCT.1]

ISSUE: The existing caribou seasons and bag limits in Unit 18 are archaic and trace their origin to the time when Alaska had only three game management units. The regulations provided different management for the Kilbuck Caribou Herd (KCH) south of the Yukon River, and the Andreafsky Caribou Herd (ACH) and the Western Arctic Caribou Herd (WACH) north of the Yukon River. In recent years, the KCH has been assimilated by the Mulchatna Caribou Herd (MCH), the ACH is gone, and the WACH rarely ventures into Unit 18. Caribou hunting regulations in Unit 18 currently focus on the MCH. For those times when the WACH does enter Unit 18, the proposed regulation provides sufficient harvest opportunity. Closing the resident season on April 15 aligns the season with Units 17B, 19A and 19B.

This proposal also shortens the nonresident season by one day. Most seasons statewide have ending dates that fall on the end rather than the beginning of the month. These changes are part of an effort to simplify our regulations and are expected to have minimal impact.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The hunting regulations will remain unnecessarily complicated.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? These regulation changes would have no appreciable impact on the quality of meat harvested.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All hunters would benefit through simplified regulations.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Nonresident hunters would have a shorter season by one day.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? We considered leaving the regulations the same, but rejected that idea because we can achieve significant simplification without adverse impact on the caribou in Unit 18.

PROPOSED BY: Orutsarmiut Native Council and
Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-03F-G-013)

PROPOSAL 4 - 5 AAC 85.020(16). Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear. Change hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear Unit 18, as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(16) Unit 18[, THAT PORTION NORTH OF THE SOUTH BANK OF THE KASHUNUK RIVER, INCLUDING ITS SLOUGHS, FROM ITS MOUTH TO THE YUKON RIVER, AND NORTH OF THE SOUTH BANK OF THE YUKON RIVER INCLUDING ITS SLOUGHS.]	Sept. 1—May 31 (Subsistence hunt only)	No open season.
1 bear every 4 regulatory years	Sept. 1—May 31	Sept. 1—May 31
[REMAINDER OF UNIT 18]		
[1 BEAR EVERY REGULATORY YEAR BY REGISTRATION PERMIT]	[SEPT. 1—MAY 31] [(SUBSISTENCE HUNT ONLY)]	[NO OPEN SEASON.]
[1 BEAR EVERY 4 REGULATORY YEARS]	[SEPT. 10—OCT. 10] [MAY 10—MAY 25]	[SEPT. 1— OCT. 10] [MAY 10—MAY 25]

ISSUE: Brown bear hunting regulations in Unit 18 are unnecessarily complicated and general season hunting opportunity can be added with little risk to the bear population. This proposal keeps the general hunt bag limit (1 bear every 4 regulatory years) and expands the split season general hunt for residents and nonresidents to a continuous season Sept. 1-May 31. The general hunt and subsistence hunt would have the same season throughout Unit 18. The US Fish and Wildlife Service is the land manager in most of Unit 18 and limits commercial hunting operators within the refuge system. If this simplification is adopted we expect only a slight increase in harvest because only a few residents or nonresidents hunting within second-degree kindred will be hunting on lands not governed by the refuge harvest quota.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The hunting regulations will remain unnecessarily complicated.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No appreciable impact on the quality of bear hides or meat harvested is expected.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Hunters would benefit through simplified regulations and increased opportunity to harvest bears, particularly during early spring when snow conditions may permit additional access by snowmachine.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Anyone who prefers that the bear season in Unit 18 south of the Yukon River remain closed during the winter would be adversely affected.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? We considered changing the boundary of the longer general season area to the same boundary being considered for a potential moose hunting closure for the Unit 18 portion of the Kuskokwim drainage. This would give hunters only one boundary to consider for several species (if other proposals are adopted) but this was not favored because it did not provide as much simplification or opportunity as desired.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-03F-G-012)

PROPOSAL 5 - 5 AAC 85.020 (16). Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear. Extend the seasons for brown bear harvest in Unit 18 as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(16)		
Remainder of Unit 18		
1 bear every regulatory year by registration permit	Sept. 1—May 31 (Subsistence hunt only)	No open season.
1 bear every [4] regulatory year[S]	<u>Sept. 1—Oct. 10</u> [SEPT 10—OCT. 10] <u>April 15—May 31</u> [MAY 10—MAY 25]	<u>Sept. 1—Oct. 10</u> [SEPT. 10—OCT. 10] <u>April 15—May 31</u> [MAY 10—MAY 25]

ISSUE: Super low spring moose calf survival rate in Unit 18. All predators are part of the problem. Need solutions to super high predation on spring calves by bears. Bear populations are at historical

high and increasing. Even if wolf predation and human harvest is reduced, studies show bears may take over half of the spring calves. The Mulchatna caribou herd is declining significantly. Present spring bear season too late to offer safe access most years. Hunters are forced to try and do dangerous landings when it wouldn't be necessary if the season opened earlier, like it does in all surrounding units (Units 17, 19, and 21).

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Moose population will not improve, and may decline even further because of almost no recruitment. Bear population may continue to rise even more and have more and more impact on calf mortality. Subsistence hunters will have a hard time providing meat that is needed for families. All hunters will lose opportunity. The Department of Fish and Game will have less funding. Bear hunts will continue to be forced to take chances that aren't necessary. Good opportunities will be lost. Over-harvest of brown bears by nonresidents would not be a problem; they are required to have a guide and almost all of Unit 18 is in refuge which has "exclusive use" guide areas with only one guide allowed in an area. Guides are required to adhere to their "Operations Plan" which indicates how many bears and has to be approved by manager/National Wildlife Refuge Service.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, it will improve quality and quantity of moose resource, quality of bear hides and size of bears harvested, increase wolf harvest opportunities by putting bear hunters in field during spring wolf season. It has the potential to increase state revenues a little.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Moose and caribou resource and all hunters who hunt them, especially subsistence hunting families. Increased opportunity and safety for bear hunters and bear guides. Increased revenue for the department from nonresident tag sales. Benign and easily accepted method of harvesting a few more wolves in spring.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Unconventional methods of controlling bears similar to wolf reduction methods, but many of these are less socially acceptable. Allow brown bear bait stations in Unit 18.

PROPOSED BY: George Siavelis (HQ-03F-G-003)

PROPOSAL 6 - 5 AAC 92.080 (4). Unlawful methods of taking game; exceptions. Allow the taking of wolves using snowmachines in Unit 18 as follows:

....

(4) unless otherwise provided in this chapter, from a motor-driven boat and a snowmachine unless the motor has been completely shut off and the progress from the motor's power has ceased, except that a motor-driven boat may be used to take caribou in Units 23 and 26, a snowmachine may be used in Units 22 and 23 to position caribou to select individual caribou for harvest, provided that

animals are not shot from a moving snowmachine, and a snowmachine may be used to take wolves in wolf control implementation areas specified in 5 AAC 92.125(2), (3), (5), and (6); in Units **18 and 19**, a snowmachine may be used to take wolves provided that animals are not shot from a moving snowmachine;

ISSUE: Wolf numbers have increased in Unit 18 and local hunters believe that increased wolf harvest is necessary in order to protect moose populations. Also, using snowmachines is common in Unit 18 and adopting this proposal would allow this locally accepted practice to occur legally.

Wolves produce an annual surplus through high birth rates that would more fully be utilized if this method were legal. Wolf populations are not threatened by this method because refuges from this type of hunting method exist in space, vegetation, topography, and weather.

Support for a moose hunting moratorium on the Kuskokwim was given by some villages only on the condition that the restrictions governing snowmachine hunting for wolves be lifted. Adopting this proposal would significantly help garner public acceptance for the moose hunting moratorium.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The wolf population would continue to grow and may grow to the point where it could threaten continued growth of caribou, moose, and muskox populations in Unit 18. Wolf hunting opportunity would be curtailed and a harvestable surplus would not be fully utilized.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? There would be little effect on the quality of the resource.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Benefits would go to hunters who believe that maintaining a high harvest on wolves is necessary to fully utilize the wolf resource itself and to better utilize potential larger ungulate populations. Those who advocate compliance with the moose moratorium would be better able to persuade others to comply with the regulations. The practice of using snowmachines is common and this regulatory change would legalize a method that is accepted locally. By these three reasons, Unit 18 wolf trappers and hunters as well as Unit 18 moose hunters would benefit.

Adopting this proposal would help moose numbers increase in Unit 18 through compliance with a moose hunting moratorium on the Kuskokwim, and through a decrease in wolf predation unitwide. As Unit 18 moose numbers increase, hunting pressure in adjacent Units 19 and 21E would diminish. Public planning efforts to address user conflicts are taking place in both these areas and this proposal has the potential to ease those conflicts. Therefore, Unit 19 and 21E hunters (including subsistence hunters, sport hunters, and their guides and transporters) would also benefit.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those opposed to this method would cite the potential to eliminate wolves from an area. This is clearly not the case in Unit 18 because the wolf population has grown even though some hunters use snowmachines now. Others might oppose this proposal because it is not a fair chase method by urban standards, but it is acceptable to Unit 18 residents and if others want to manage their wolves without using snowmachines, fine, but they shouldn't dictate to us how we should manage ours, especially when there is no biological concern.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Lower Yukon and Lower Kuskokwim Advisory Committees (HQ-03F-G-006)

PROPOSAL 7 - 5 AAC 92.220 (d)(1). Salvage of game meat, furs and hides. Expand salvage requirement for moose and caribou in Unit 18 south of the Yukon River, as follows:

...

(d) A person taking game not listed in (a) of this section shall salvage for human consumption all edible meat, as defined in 5 AAC 92.990. In addition,

(1) for moose and caribou taken before October 1 in Unit 9(B), Unit 17, Unit 18 [SOUTH OF THE YUKON RIVER], those portions of Unit 19(A) within the Holitna/Hoholitna Controlled Use Area, Unit 19(B), and Unit 23, the edible meat of the front quarters and hindquarters must remain naturally attached to the bone until the meat is transported from the field or is processed for human consumption.

...

ISSUE: The regulation requiring meat to remain on the bone south of the Yukon River originated in 2001 with a proposal to open a nonresident caribou season in Unit 18. The meat on the bone requirement in Unit 18 provided consistency with the meat on the bone regulations in adjacent Units 17 and 19. However, within Unit 18 the boundary of south of the Yukon River is awkward for hunters and enforcement officers, particularly for those who hunt along the Yukon River. This proposal simplifies the hunting regulations by extending the meat on the bone requirement unit-wide.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The Unit 18 meat on the bone requirement would remain unnecessarily complicated.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? This regulation change would improve the quality of meat harvested because there would be fewer cuts in the meat.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Most local residents would benefit since they prefer the meat on the bone requirement as a tool to address waste and Yukon River hunters would not have different meat on the bone requirements depending on which side of the river they took a moose. Law enforcement personnel would benefit by being able to more easily identify whether hunters were salvaging all the meat required and by not having to deal with a meat on the bone requirement that varies depending upon which side of the river a moose was salvaged on. All hunters would benefit from simplified regulations.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Any hunters, particularly airborne hunters, who prefer to bone-out meat.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? A proposal has been submitted to remove the Yukon River boundary for caribou regulations. If adopted, the Yukon River meat on the bone boundary becomes obsolete for caribou hunters. If the board chooses not to extend the meat on the bone requirement unit-wide, a preferred boundary would be the one described in the proposal to change the Unit 18 moose season.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-03F-G-014)

PROPOSAL 8 - 5 AAC 85.045 (20). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Reduce seasons and bag limits for moose in Unit 22A, as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
Unit 22(A), <u>that portion north of Junction Creek</u> RESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 [BULL] <u>antlered moose</u> NONRESIDENT HUNTERS: [1 BULL WITH 50-INCH ANTLERS OR ANTLERS WITH 4 OR MORE BROW TINES ON ONE SIDE]	Aug. 1—Sept. 30 [DEC. 1—JAN. 31]	[AUG. 1—SEPT. 30] <u>No open season</u>
Unit 22(A), <u>that portion north of Golsovia River and south of Junction Creek</u> RESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 [BULL] <u>antlered moose</u>	Aug. [1] 15 —Sept. 30 [DEC. 1—JAN. 31]	[AUG. 1—SEPT. 30] <u>No open season</u>
Unit 22(A), <u>that portion south</u>		

of Golsovia River

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 [BULL] **antlered moose** Aug. 1—Sept. 30
Dec. 1—Jan. 31

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 [BULL WITH 50-INCH ANTLERS OR ANTLERS WITH 4 OR MORE BROW TINES ON ONE SIDE] **antlered moose** Aug. 1—Sept. 30

ISSUE: Drastic reduction of surveyed moose in Unit 22A.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Number of moose in Unit 22A may continue to drop to a point where all harvest may be eliminated.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? It shortens the harvest season and reduces the number of hunters.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Resident hunters and the moose population in Unit 22A.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Nonresident hunters and guide operations.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Southern Norton Sound Advisory Committee (HQ-03F-G-008)

PROPOSAL 9 - 5 AAC 85.045 (20). Hunting seasons and bag limit for moose. Shorten the nonresident moose season in Unit 22A as follows:

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

Unit 22(A),

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull Aug. 1—Sept. 30
Dec. 1—Jan. 31

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull with 50-inch antlers
or antlers with 4 or more brow
tines on one side

Sept. 1—Sept. 30
[AUG. 1—SEPT. 30]

ISSUE: Moose availability in Unit 22A.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? I personally do not see a problem in moose numbers but rather early availability to residents only.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? By eliminating nonresident hunters from the month of August. This gives residents the “first shot” at the resource when the meat is still good before the rut.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Local residents.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Big game guides like myself and nonresident hunters.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Jerry Austin (HQ-03F-G-005)

PROPOSAL 10 - 5 AAC 85.045 (a) (20). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Change the ‘to be announced’ winter season to a regular winter season by registration permit for bull moose in the Remainder of Unit 22B, as follows:

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

(20)

...

Remainder of Unit 22(B)

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 antlered bull by
registration permit only; or

Aug. 10—Sept. 23

1 bull by registration permit
only; DURING THE PERIOD
JAN. 1 - JAN. 31, A SEASON
MAY BE ANNOUNCED BY

Jan. 1—Jan. 31
[(TO BE ANNOUNCED)]

EMERGENCY ORDER]

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

No open season.

...

ISSUE: This proposal changes the ‘To Be Announced’ winter season to a permanent winter season for the registration moose hunt in the Remainder of Unit 22B. For the last two regulatory years, the department has reserved a portion of the annual harvest quota for the winter season. This procedure of using separate fall and winter harvest quotas follows recommendations made by user-groups when registration hunts were first considered prior to the November 2001 Board meeting. Since the department uses a separate minimum harvest quota for the winter season, it is not necessary to require that the season be announced by emergency order.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The public will continue to be unnecessarily confused about whether there will be a winter season in the Remainder of Unit 22B. Department staff will continue to waste time writing and distributing an unnecessary emergency order.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Not applicable

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Department staff will not be required to write and distribute an unnecessary emergency order. The public will not be misled into thinking the winter season is uncertain.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-03F-G-017)

PROPOSAL 11 - 5 AAC 85.045 (20). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Close nonresident season for moose in Units 22B, 22C, and 22D, as follows:

Close Units 22B, 22C, and 22D to hunting by nonresidents.

ISSUE: Competitive moose hunts that are diminishing subsistence and local harvest opportunities in Units 22B, 22C, and 22D. While it may be that nonresident harvest is small it is never the less affecting subsistence users in a negative way. Recently enacted moose hunting regulations have restricted harvests by nearly 50 percent. In Unit 22C it is apparent that the subsistence priority is not being regulated for, as nonresident seasons equal resident seasons. Nonresident harvest, no matter how small, should be eliminated totally, as its impacts on a drastically reduced harvest opportunity can be measured in terms of the competitive aspects of equal seasons.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? If the problem is not solved then subsistence and local hunters will be faced with competing uses. Resident and subsistence harvest is at a higher priority legally and must be protected, particularly when it is apparent harvests have fallen dramatically.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? My proposal will improve the quality of resident moose harvest, which is the privilege of Alaskan residents.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Nome, Teller, Brevig Mission, White Mountain, and Golovin residents are likely to benefit substantially. A small segment of urban hunters may benefit.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Nonresidents are likely to be negatively impacted, as well as any guides.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Other solutions I have considered are totally eliminating nonresident harvest in Units 22A and 22E.

PROPOSED BY: Austin Ahmasuk (HQ-03F-G-002)

PROPOSAL 12 - 5 AAC 85.045 (a) (20). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Establish a registration hunt for bull moose in Unit 22C, as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(20)		
...		
Unit 22(C)		
RESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 bull <u>by registration permit only</u>	Sept. 1—Sept. 14	
1 antlerless moose by registration permit only[; UP TO 20 ANTLERLESS MOOSE MAY BE TAKEN]	Sept. 15—Sept. 30	
NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:		Sept. 1—Sept. 14

1 bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers
with 4 or more brow tines on one side
by registration permit only

...

ISSUE: This proposal is primarily intended to simplify permit/harvest ticket requirements for moose hunters in the Nome area. Most Nome-area hunters hunt moose along the Nome road system which begins in Unit 22C, and extends into western Unit 22B and the Kuzitrin River drainage in Unit 22D. To be eligible to hunt along the entire road system, hunters currently need a general season harvest ticket to hunt in Unit 22C and registration permit RM847 to hunt in Units 22B and 22D. By changing the Unit 22C general season moose hunt to a registration hunt, all these road accessible areas can be combined into one registration hunt, simplifying permit requirements for hunters and license vendors. Added benefits would be more timely harvest reports from Unit 22C and less confusion and double reporting on harvest reports. We do not intend to make any additional changes in Unit 22C hunting regulations at this time.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Hunters will continue to be burdened and confused by the need to obtain both harvest tickets and registration permits to hunt moose along the Nome road system. Moose taken by registration permit will continue to be double reported on harvest tickets, wasting department time to sort out the duplicate records.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Not applicable

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Moose hunters in the Nome area will benefit by having simplified permit and reporting requirements. Local vendors will be less confused by moose permit and harvest ticket requirements. Department staff will no longer need to spend time correcting double reports on permits and harvest tickets.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-03F-G-018)

PROPOSAL 13 - 5 AAC 85.050 (2). Hunting seasons and bag limits for musk oxen. Change musk ox bag limits in Units 22 and 23 to bulls only, as follows:

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

(2)

Unit 22(D) Southwest, that portion west of the Tisuk River drainage, west of the west bank of the unnamed creek originating at the unit boundary opposite the headwaters of McAdam's Creek to its confluence with Canyon Creek, and west of the west bank of Canyon Creek to its confluence with Tuksuk Channel

1 bull [1 MUSK OX] per regulatory year by Tier II subsistence hunting permit only; [HOWEVER, COWS MAY BE TAKEN ONLY DURING THE PERIOD JAN. 1-MAR. 15;] up to 9 musk oxen may be taken; [HOWEVER, NOT MORE THAN 4 COWS MAY BE TAKEN; TOTAL HARVEST MAY NOT EXCEED 9 MUSK OXEN IN UNIT 22(D) SOUTHWEST]

Sept. 1—Mar. 15
(Subsistence hunt only)

No open season.

Unit 22(D),
the Pilgrim River drainage

1 bull [1 MUSK OX] per regulatory year by Tier II subsistence hunting permit only; [HOWEVER, COWS MAY BE TAKEN ONLY DURING THE PERIOD JAN. 1-MAR. 15;] up to **30** [41] musk oxen may be taken in combination with the remainder of Unit 22(D); [HOWEVER, NOT MORE THAN 17 COWS MAY BE TAKEN AND TOTAL HARVEST MAY NOT EXCEED 41 MUSK OXEN IN UNIT 22(D),] excluding Unit 22(D) Southwest

Nov. 1—Mar. 15
(Subsistence hunt only)

No open season.

Remainder of Unit 22(D)

1 bull [1 MUSK OX] per regulatory

Aug. 1—Mar. 15

No open season.

year by Tier II subsistence hunting permit only; [HOWEVER, COWS MAY BE TAKEN ONLY DURING THE PERIOD JAN. 1-MAR. 15;] up to **30** [41] musk oxen may be taken in combination with Unit 22(D), the Pilgrim River drainage; [HOWEVER, NOT MORE THAN 17 COWS MAY BE TAKEN AND TOTAL HARVEST MAY NOT EXCEED 41 MUSK OXEN IN UNIT 22(D),] excluding Unit 22(D) Southwest

(Subsistence hunt only)

Unit 22(E)

1 bull [1 MUSK OX] per regulatory year by Tier II subsistence hunting permit only; [HOWEVER, COWS MAY BE TAKEN ONLY DURING THE PERIOD JAN. 1-MAR. 15;] up to **40** [50] musk oxen may be taken; [HOWEVER, NOT MORE THAN 25 COWS MAY BE TAKEN; THE TOTAL HARVEST MAY NOT EXCEED 50 MUSK OXEN IN UNIT 22(E)]

Aug. 1—Mar. 15
(Subsistence hunt only)

No open season.

...

Unit 23, Southwest, that portion on the Seward Peninsula west of and including the Buckland River drainage

1 bull [1 MUSK OX] per regulatory year by Tier II subsistence hunting permit only; [HOWEVER, COWS MAY BE TAKEN ONLY DURING THE PERIOD JAN. 1-MAR 15;] up to 17 musk oxen may be taken; [HOWEVER, NOT MORE THAN 7 COWS MAY BE TAKEN; THE TOTAL HARVEST MAY NOT EXCEED 17 MUSK OXEN IN UNIT 23 SOUTHWEST]

Aug. 1—Mar. 15
(Subsistence hunt only)

No open season.

ISSUE: Maintaining healthy musk ox populations has become more important following the

precipitous decline in Seward Peninsula moose numbers and reduced moose hunting opportunity. There are no indications that the Seward Peninsula moose population will recover in the foreseeable future and we should avoid overharvesting musk oxen in the meantime.

Population modeling shows that many more animals can be harvested from the musk ox population with a bulls only hunt than in a hunt taking both cows and bulls. There is no justification for hunting cow musk oxen at this time and bull harvest quotas in Units 22D and 22E are too high.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Hunters will have greatly reduced musk ox harvesting opportunity compared to a bulls only hunt. Tier II restrictions will be prolonged for many years.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? People who want to harvest musk oxen.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one will suffer.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Continuing to hunt cows but this cannot be defended on the basis of relational sustained yield management.

PROPOSED BY: Tim Smith (HQ-03F-G-004)

PROPOSAL 14 - 5 AAC 84.270 (1). Fur bearer trapping and 5 AAC 85.060 (6) Hunting seasons and bag limits for fur animals. Increase trapping and hunting seasons and bag limits for beaver in Unit 22, as follows:

5 AAC 84.270 (1). Fur bearer trapping.

UNIT	OPEN SEASON	BAG LIMIT
(1) Beaver		
Unit 22	<u>No closed season.</u> [NOV. 1—JUNE 10]	<u>No limit.</u> [50 PER SEASON]

5 AAC 85.060 (6). Hunting seasons and bag limits for fur animals.

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

(6) Beaver

...

Unit 22

No limit
[20 PER SEASON]

No closed season.
[AUG. 1—JUNE 10]

No closed season.
[AUG. 1—JUNE 10]

ISSUE: I would like the board to address beaver bag limits and seasons for hunting and trapping in Unit 22. Increasing beaver numbers in Unit 22 have been identified via testimony from subsistence users as a cause of concern to the Board of Fisheries and the Board of Game. Increasing the bag limit under the hunting and trapping regulations, and availability during the summer months will allow persons who harvest beaver the ability to do so without fear of citation, and to take advantage of a resource that has increased dramatically in recent years.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? If not solved, subsistence hunters will be stuck with regulations that will not allow fuller utilization of a resource that has increased dramatically over the years, nor will trappers of beaver in Unit 22 be able to profitably gain from the beaver population increases.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Increasing the bag limit to no limit should improve the products that can be produced from the beaver population.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Subsistence hunters and trappers should benefit positively.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Wildlife viewing opportunities may be impacted negatively.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Another consideration may be increasing trapping regulations to the level I propose while only making incremental (smaller) changes to the hunting regulation.

PROPOSED BY: Austin Ahmasuk (HQ-03F-G-001)

PROPOSAL 15 - 5 AAC 85.045 (a) (21). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Restrict resident and nonresident seasons and bag limits for moose throughout Unit 23, as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
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(21)

Unit 23, that portion north of and including the Singoalik River drainage

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 moose; **however, antlerless moose may be taken only from Nov. 1-Dec. 31**; a person may not take a calf or a cow accompanied by a calf

July 1 - Dec. 31
[JULY 1—MAR. 31]

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull with [SPIKE-FORK OR] 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side **by drawing permit only; up to 70 permits may be issued in combination with the remainder of Unit 23**

Sept. 1—Sept. 20

[UNIT 23, THAT PORTION IN THE NOATAK DRAINAGE]

[RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 MOOSE; HOWEVER ANTLERLESS MOOSE MAY BE TAKEN ONLY FROM NOV. 1 THROUGH DEC. 31; A PERSON MAY NOT TAKE A CALF OR A COW ACCOMPANIED BY A CALF]

[AUG. 1—SEPT. 15]
[OCT. 1—DEC. 31]

[NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:]

[1 BULL WITH SPIKE-FORK OR 50-INCH ANTLERS OR ANTLERS WITH 4 OR MORE BROW TINES ON ONE SIDE]

[SEPT. 6—SEPT. 15]

Remainder of Unit 23

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 moose; **however, antlerless moose may be taken only from Nov. 1-Dec. 31**; a person may not take a calf or a cow accompanied by a calf

Aug. 1—Dec. 31
[AUG. 1—MAR. 31]

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull with [SPIKE-FORK OR]

50-inch antlers or antlers

with 4 or more brow tines on

one side **by drawing permit only;**

up to 70 permits may be issued

in combination with Unit 23,

that portion north of and including

the Singoalik River drainage

Sept. 1—Sept. 20

ISSUE: Recent moose censuses conducted in large portions of the lower Noatak River drainage (spring 2001), northeastern Seward Peninsula (spring 2002) and upper Kobuk River drainage (spring 2003) revealed densities of 0.10-0.30 moose/mi² and calf:adult ratios of 7-12:100. These results are consistent with reports of low numbers of moose and poor calf survival from residents of these areas, Department of Public Safety staff and some commercial operators. During recent years poor survey conditions and low numbers of moose have prevented us from estimating bull:cow ratios in Unit 23; however, our observations and reports from the public suggest bull:cow ratios are currently not a biological problem. Although harvest is not the primary cause of the declining moose populations, moose numbers are now so low that we want to reduce harvest levels to prevent hunting from contributing to the decline. Numbers of moose hunters who reside outside of Unit 23 have steadily increased since at least the early 1980s. Declining moose populations and increasing numbers of hunters cannot be sustained indefinitely.

This proposal attempts to balance restrictions between resident and nonresident hunters. In most of the Unit it would:

1. shorten the resident antlerless moose season 6 months (~75 percent);
2. shorten the resident bull moose season 3 months (~40 percent);
3. establish drawing permit hunts for nonresident hunters throughout the unit; and
4. make moose hunting regulations in the Noatak drainage consistent with most of the rest of the unit.

This proposal would shorten the resident antlerless moose season to November 1-December 31 throughout the unit. It would also shorten the resident bull moose season to August 1-December 31 in most of the unit. The bull moose season in the northwest portion of Unit 23 would open 1 month earlier than the remainder of the unit because July is the only time residents of Point Hope have access to moose.

This proposal would establish drawing permit hunts for nonresident moose hunters with up to 70 permits available throughout Unit 23 each year. This approximates the average annual nonresident moose harvest during 1998-1999 through 2002-2003 (mean harvest=69 bulls). Permits would be allocated among drainages or portions of drainages based on the biological status of moose and hunting patterns to prevent nonresident hunters from concentrating in specific areas. We anticipate the harvest from drawing permits will average 25-40 bulls annually based on hunter success rates in recent years. The proposed drawing permit hunt would reduce the number of nonresident moose

hunters in Unit 23 approximately 60 percent. This reduction in hunters, besides conserving moose, would improve the quality of hunting in Unit 23. During the last 5 years an average 30 nonresident moose hunters reported using a guide, 110 reported using some other type of commercial service (e.g. transporter or lodge) and 30 either provided no information or reported using no commercial services. Allocating 70 permits to nonresident hunters should provide a reasonable opportunity for guides' clients to draw permits despite larger numbers of nonresident hunters who use 'other' or 'no' commercial services.

To maximize regulatory consistency throughout Unit 23, this proposal would eliminate the 2-week resident moose season closure during September 16-30 and reinstate the Sept. 1-20 nonresident season in the Noatak drainage.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Hunting may contribute to the decline of moose in at least portions of Unit 23. In those portions of Unit 23 where intense trophy hunting occurs and moose habitat is limited to riparian corridors, the sex/age structure of a low and declining population could quickly be skewed against large, mature bulls.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. The primary purpose of this proposal is to prevent hunting from reducing the density or skewing the sex/age structure of moose populations in Unit 23. A secondary benefit of this proposal is that the quality of hunting could improve if hunting pressure declines. However, because the decline of moose is probably being caused primarily by natural factors, restricting hunting will not guarantee this population will quickly rebound to previous levels.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? In the long term all hunters will benefit from conserving moose when the population is depressed. All hunters will benefit from reduced crowding as well.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? In the short term, all hunters will have less opportunity to harvest moose in Unit 23. Commercial operators, especially guides with large investments in Unit 23, may experience losses in revenue.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

1. Propose no change. Although hunting does not currently appear to be depressing moose in Unit 23, we rejected this alternative because moose numbers are very low and we want to prevent hunting from doing so.
2. Propose regulations modeled after the Koyukuk Moose Management Area. We rejected this because we need more time to contact other users, e.g. commercial operators and trophy hunting groups. If the proposed regulation is not passed or is passed but ineffective, we may propose regulations similar to those in the Koyukuk Moose Management Area.
3. Restrict or eliminate only nonresident hunters. We rejected this because nonresident hunters have already been substantially restricted throughout Unit 23 and this would have a devastating effect on most guides. Also, we wanted to restrict antlerless hunting to protect cow moose.
4. Close the resident antlerless season completely. We rejected this because in years or areas where caribou are not available, harvest of cow moose during winter is important to a few subsistence users. This harvest has always been very low in previous years.

5. Restrict moose hunting only in areas where we have recent census data (i.e., the upper Kobuk River drainage and the northeastern portion of the Seward Peninsula). We rejected this because we wanted to avoid displacing moose hunters to other portions of Unit 23 and to keep regulations as consistent as possible throughout the Unit.

PROPOSED BY: Kotzebue Sound, Noatak/Kivalina, Upper Kobuk, Lower Kobuk and Northern Seward Peninsula Advisory Committees; and
 Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-03F-G-021)

PROPOSAL 16 - 5 AAC 85.045 (21). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Decrease resident season and bag limit for moose in portion of Unit 23, as follows:

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

Unit 23, that portion drained by the Buckland, Kiwalik, Kugruk, and Goodhope rivers

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 antlered bull [MOOSE]

Aug. 1—Sept. 15
Nov. 1—Dec. 30
 [AUG. 1—MAR. 31]

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull with spike-fork or
 50-inch antlers or antlers with
 4 or more brow tines on one
 side

Sept. 1—Sept. 20

ISSUE: Increasing numbers of nonresident moose hunters in an area that is already dealing with the problem of low moose calf recruitment from predators.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The moose population will continue to be stressed and will not be given the opportunity to increase to more stable numbers. The current season in Unit 22B has already yielded excellent results for local subsistence hunts in the Koyuk River.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? This proposal would align the moose seasons on the Seward Peninsula. The current season in Unit 22B has created a very good system for both subsistence and sport hunters.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The immediate benefit will be to local subsistence hunters who will not have to compete with nonresident sports hunters in August and September when the meat is at its best.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Initially this will impact some commercial operators, especially guides who take large numbers of combination package hunters (i.e. grizzly, moose and caribou) in these drainages.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? A drawing permit system is also being considered to address this problem. These date changes could be coupled with a permit system.

PROPOSED BY: Bob Hannon (HQ-03F-G-007)

PROPOSAL 17 - 5 AAC 85.025 (a) (18). Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou. Increase resident bag limit for caribou in Unit 23, as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
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(18)

Unit 23

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

10 [5] caribou per day; however
 cow caribou may not be taken
 May 16-June 30

July 1—June 30

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

5 caribou; however, cow caribou
 may not be taken May 16-June 30

July 1—June 30

ISSUE: The purposes of this proposal are to 1) provide resident hunters additional opportunity to harvest caribou from the Western Arctic Herd and 2) standardize state and federal caribou bag limits in Unit 23. Caribou are the most important terrestrial wildlife species for subsistence users who live in Unit 23. During some years, depending on the distribution and movements of this herd, hunters must travel long distances by boat or snowmachine to access caribou. When this happens, hunters would like to have the option of taking up to 10 caribou/day. The Western Arctic Herd is still very large and there is currently no biological reason to restrict the resident bag limit to 5 caribou/day. This is a companion proposal to one submitted to the Federal Subsistence Board. The federal proposal requests the caribou bag limit on federal public lands in Unit 23 be reduced from

15 to 10 caribou/day to make state and federal caribou regulations consistent.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Resident hunters will be unable to take more than 5 caribou/day in Unit 23 and state-federal caribou regulations will be more confusing than necessary.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Residents hunting caribou in Unit 23, especially those who access hunting areas only by boats or snowmachines.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Kotzebue Sound, Noatak/Kivalina, Upper Kobuk, Lower Kobuk and Northern Seward Peninsula Advisory Committees; and
Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-03F-G-019)

PROPOSAL 18 - 5 AAC 85.020(a) (21). Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear and 5 AAC 92.165 (a) (6). Sealing of bear skins and skulls. Add 10 nonresident brown bear drawing permits and remove restrictive sealing requirements in Unit 23, as follows:

5 AAC 85.020 (a) (21). Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear.

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

(21)

Unit 23, that portion in the Northwest Alaska Brown Bear Management Area

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bear every regulatory year by registration permit

Aug. 1—May 31
(subsistence hunt only)

1 bear every regulatory year

Aug. 1—May 31

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bear every regulatory year by drawing permit only; up to **58** [48] permits may be issued in combination with the remainder of Unit 23

Sept. 1—Oct. 10
Apr. 15—May 31

Remainder of Unit 23

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bear every regulatory year

Aug. 1—May 31

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bear every regulatory year by drawing permit only; up to **58** [48] permits may be issued in combination with that portion of Unit 23 in the Northwest Brown Bear Management Area

Sept. 1—Oct. 10
Apr. 15—May 31

...

5 AAC 92.165 (a) (6). Sealing of bear skins and skulls.

[(6) IN UNIT 23, BROWN BEAR TAKEN MAY NOT BE TRANSPORTED FROM THE UNIT, EXCEPT TO BARROW, FAIRBANKS, GALENA, OR NOME, UNTIL SEALED;]

...

ISSUE: Subsistence and recreational hunters began requesting more opportunity to harvest brown bears for food and recreation in the late 1980s. Residents of Unit 23 have complained of increasing bear-human conflicts here since the early 1990s. Concurrently, moose populations throughout most of Unit 23 have declined. Adding 10 drawing permits continues the incremental liberalization of brown bear regulations in Unit 23 that began in 1990 to address all of these issues.

Removing the sealing restrictions in Unit 23 is a housekeeping proposal to eliminate a regulation that has not been needed in Unit 23 for many years. For the general season hunt, there is no reason for nonresidents or residents who live outside of Unit 23 to have their bear sealed in Unit 23, Barrow, Fairbanks, Galena, or Nome before traveling home elsewhere in the State.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Nonresident hunters will have fewer opportunities to hunt brown bear in Unit 23.

Successful brown bear hunters who live outside Unit 23 and transport their bear from this unit before having it sealed could be unnecessarily cited. If the current unit-specific sealing requirement is

enforced it would create a bottleneck for hunters because only a few Department of Fish and Game and Department of Public Safety employees are available to seal bears.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Resident and nonresident hunters that want to hunt brown bear in Unit 23. Changing the sealing requirement will benefit successful brown bear hunters who live outside Unit 23 and many guides who operate here.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? People who want to view brown bears may have somewhat fewer opportunities to do so if harvest levels increase.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None

PROPOSED BY: Kotzebue Sound, Noatak/Kivalina, Upper Kobuk, Lower Kobuk and Northern Seward Peninsula Advisory Committees; and
Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-03F-G-024)

PROPOSAL 19 - 5 AAC 92.015 (b). Brown bear tag fee exemptions. Eliminate the brown bear resident tag requirement in Unit 23, as follows:

(b) A resident tag is not required for taking a brown bear in that portion of Unit 13 outside of Denali State Park, in Units 11, 16(B), 19(D), and 20(D), in that portion of Unit 20(E) outside of Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve, in Unit 22, **in Unit 23**, or in Unit 25(D).

ISSUE: Subsistence and recreational hunters began requesting more opportunity to harvest brown bears for food and recreation in the late 1980s. Residents of Unit 23 have complained of increasing bear-human conflicts in Unit 23 since the early 1990s. During this time moose populations throughout most or all of Unit 23 have declined. This continues the process begun in 1990 of incrementally liberalizing brown bear regulations in Unit 23 to address all of these issues. This change would make brown bear regulations consistent with those in Unit 22.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Resident hunters will continue to have to purchase a \$25.00 tag to harvest a brown bear under the general hunt in Unit 23.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Resident hunters who want to hunt brown bears in Unit 23. This change may benefit moose hunters if it slightly increases harvests of brown bears and reduces predation on moose.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? People who enjoy seeing bears may suffer if bear harvests increase somewhat.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Kotzebue Sound, Noatak/Kivalina, Upper Kobuk, Lower Kobuk and Northern Seward Peninsula Advisory Committees (HQ-03F-G-011)

PROPOSAL 20 - 5 AAC 85.056 (a) (2). Hunting seasons and bag limits for wolf. Increase hunting bag limit for wolf in Unit 23, as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(2)		
...		
Unit 23		
10 wolves <u>per day</u>	Aug. 10—Apr. 30	Aug. 10—Apr. 30
...		

ISSUE: The Unit 23 wolf population is capable of sustaining a higher hunting bag limit. Most wolves are taken in Unit 23 by residents under trapping regulations by shooting, thus blurring the distinction between trapping and hunting. In fact, many Unit 23 hunters purchase a trapping license only to enjoy the more liberal bag limit compared to hunting regulations. For nonresidents, annual harvests are consistently small and increasing the bag limit is presented solely as a means to simplify seasons and bag limits for all hunters in Unit 23. As moose populations decline in this unit, liberalizing the hunting bag limit may reduce wolf numbers and prevent intensive management actions. The proposed bag limit is the same as a department proposal to change the bag limit in Unit 26A.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Resident hunters will continue to purchase a trapping license for the sole purpose of increasing their bag limit. Wolf predation on moose may be somewhat higher than if the wolf hunting bag limit is increased.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Resident hunters in Unit 23 who have no intention of trapping wolves but want to harvest more than 10 wolves per year. Moose hunters may benefit if this change reduces wolf predation on moose.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Kotzebue Sound, Noatak/Kivalina, Upper Kobuk, Lower Kobuk and Northern Seward Peninsula Advisory Committees (HQ-03F-G-010)

PROPOSAL 21 - 5 AAC 84.270 (7). Fur bearer trapping. Lengthen trapping season for mink and weasel throughout Unit 23, as follows:

UNIT	OPEN SEASON	BAG LIMIT
(7) Mink and weasel		
...		
Units 22[, 23,] and 26	Nov. 1—Jan. 31	No limit.
<u>Unit 23</u>	<u>Nov. 1—Apr. 15</u>	<u>No limit.</u>

ISSUE: Few people specifically trap mink or weasel in Unit 23. Lengthening this trapping season to be consistent with season closures for most other furbearers and fur animals in this unit would simplify trapping regulations and eliminate the problem that occurs when someone inadvertently traps a mink or weasel in a set made for other species. This change will likely have no effect on the harvest of mink or weasel in Unit 23.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Regulations will be more confusing than necessary.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All trappers who would like to simplify regulations.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Kotzebue Sound, Noatak/Kivalina, Upper Kobuk, Lower Kobuk and Northern Seward Peninsula Advisory Committees; and Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-03F-G-020)

PROPOSAL 22 - 5 AAC 84.270 (8). Fur bearer trapping. Liberalize seasons and bag limit for muskrats in Unit 23, as follows:

UNIT	OPEN SEASON	BAG LIMIT
(8) Muskrat		
...		
Units 19, 20 (except 20(E)), [AND] 21, 22, and 24 -26	Nov. 1—June 10	No limit.
<u>Unit 23</u>	<u>No closed season.</u>	<u>No limit.</u>

ISSUE: Few people now harvest large numbers of muskrats in Unit 23. When muskrats are harvested, they are taken for food as well as for their fur (as with beaver harvests). There is no population-based reason for closing muskrat trapping at any time of year in Unit 23. This would simplify regulations and provide the few people who want to harvest muskrats for food during summer the opportunity to do so.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Regulations will be more confusing than necessary.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The few people who want to harvest muskrats for food during summer.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Kotzebue Sound, Noatak/Kivalina, Upper Kobuk, Lower Kobuk and Northern Seward Peninsula Advisory Committees (HQ-03F-G-009)

PROPOSAL 23 - 5 AAC 85.045 (a) (24). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose and 5 AAC 92.540(10) (A) (ii). Controlled use areas. Add a summer moose season in northwestern Unit 26A and extend aircraft restriction for moose hunting in the Unit 26A Controlled Use Area, as follows:

**Resident
Open Season**

Units and Bag Limits	(Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(24)		
Unit 26(A), that portion in the Colville River drainage downstream from and including the Chandler River:		
1 bull	Aug. 1—Sept. 14	No open season.
<u>Unit 26(A), that portion west of 156° 00' W. longitude and north of 69° 20' N. latitude</u>		
<u>1 moose; a person may not take a calf or a cow accompanied by a calf; or</u>	<u>July 1—Aug 31</u>	<u>No open season</u>
<u>1 bull</u>	<u>Sept. 1—Sept. 14</u>	<u>No open season</u>
Remainder of Unit 26(A)		
1 bull	Sept. 1—Sept. 14	No open season

...

(10) Unit 26

(A) The Unit 26(A) Controlled Use Area:

- (i) The area consists of Unit 26(A);
- (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 from **July 1** [AUGUST 1] through September 14 and from January 1 through March 31; however, this provision does not apply to the transportation of moose hunters, their hunting gear, or parts of moose by aircraft between publicly owned airports in the areas.

ISSUE: Each year a small percentage of the moose population in Unit 26A disperses away from the major river drainages and across the coastal plain. This summer dispersal period represents the only opportunity to hunt and harvest moose is northwestern Unit 26A. During the proposed season in July and August, harvest will be low because access is extremely limited and we recommend expanding the Unit 26A Controlled Use Area aircraft restriction to match the expanded moose season.

Dispersing moose on the coastal plain are seen only once every two or three years and the number

of moose that would be harvested under this proposal would be small. The moose population in Unit 26A is increasing and the small number of moose that would be harvested under this proposal would have very little impact on the growth of the population. Currently, there is a similar regulation in northern Unit 23 that allows people from Point Hope to harvest moose during the summer.

This proposal also extends the time period for aircraft restriction in the Unit 26A Controlled Use Area to match the season in northwestern Unit 26A. We recommend eliminating aircraft access for any moose hunting for any seasons in Unit 26A prior to September 14 (the current ending date for aircraft restrictions). If aircraft-use is allowed for moose hunting in northwestern Unit 26A, it is possible that overharvest would occur.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Opportunity for summer harvest of dispersing moose will be lost. If Controlled Use Area aircraft restriction is not expanded to match the early moose season, aircraft could be used to hunt moose in July which could lead to overharvest.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Most people in North Slope villages because moose that are harvested will be shared. Aircraft restriction will benefit all hunters because it avoids overharvest.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Leave the moose season as it is. Rejected because it needlessly deprives residents the opportunity to harvest dispersing moose.

PROPOSED BY: North Slope Borough Fish and Game Management Committee, and Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-03F-G-023)

PROPOSAL 24 – 5 AAC 92.132(1) and (5). Bag limit for brown bears. Change the brown bear bag limit in Unit 26A to ‘does not count’ against the one bear per four year bag limit in other units, as follows:

5 AAC 92.132(1) Bag limit for brown bears. A person may not take more than one brown bear every four regulatory years, except that

- (1) the bag limit for brown bears in Units 6 (except Unit 6(D)), 11, 12, 13 (except in the Denali State Park Management Area), 16(B), 17, 19(C), 19(D), 20(D) east of the east bank of the Gerstle River or north of the Tanana River, 20(E), 21(D), 22 (except Unit 22(C)), 23, 24, [AND] 25(D), **and 26(A)** is one bear per regulatory year; a bear taken in these units does not count against the one bear every four regulatory years’ bag limit established for brown bears in other units;

...

(5) [THE BAG LIMIT FOR BROWN BEAR IN UNIT 26(A) IS ONE BEAR PER REGULATORY YEAR; A BEAR TAKEN IN UNIT 26(A) WILL COUNT AGAINST THE ONE BEAR EVERY FOUR REGULATORY YEARS' BAG LIMIT ESTABLISHED FOR BROWN BEARS IN OTHER UNITS;]

ISSUE: The bag limit for brown bear in Unit 26A is one bear per year and this bear does count against the one bear every four regulatory year's bag limit established for brown bears in other units. However, in most units, with a one bear per year bag limit, a bear taken does not count against the one bear every four regulatory year's bag limit in other units. This inconsistency in regulations creates a confusing situation for hunters. Because the brown bear harvest in unit 26A remains low, there is no biological reason to maintain the current regulation. At a 5 percent harvest rate we could harvest 45-56 bears per year in unit 26A, and we have harvested fewer than 20 per year since 1998.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Some hunters will fail to note that a bear harvested in Unit 26A does count against the one bear every four regulatory year's bag in other units and be prevented from harvesting another bear for four years in another unit.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Hunters who would like to harvest a bear in Unit 26A and would like to harvest a bear in a one bear per four years bag limit area during the next three years.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Hunter competition could cause lower hunter satisfaction.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? No regulatory change was considered but rejected because it would be advantageous to make regulations more consistent.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-03F-G-022)

This summary of the Western Arctic Caribou Herd Cooperative Management Plan, dated March 2003, is included in the proposal book for further public review. The plan is being presented to the Board of Game for their endorsement.

WESTERN ARCTIC CARIBOU HERD COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT PLAN

MARCH 2003

This cooperative management plan was written by the Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group. The Working Group is a broad spectrum of stakeholders with direct interest, knowledge and concern in the care and management of the Western Arctic Caribou herd. Subsistence hunters

from rural communities, sport hunters, conservationists, hunting guides, reindeer herders and hunter transporters are represented.

Copies of the plan can be obtained from ADF&G offices in Nome and Anchorage, or by calling (907)-267-2191 or toll-free (866)-467-2191 (outside of Anchorage). The plan may also be downloaded as a PDF file at:

http://www.state.ak.us/adfg/wildlife/geninfo/planning/Caribou_web.pdf

The plan includes sections on purpose, guiding principles, background, range maps, general land status maps, plan elements showing goals and management actions, implementation, signatures, resource agency mandates and glossary. The heart of the plan is the statement of **‘Purpose’** and seven **‘Plan Elements: Cooperation, Population Management, Habitat, Regulations, Reindeer, Knowledge and Education’**. In the plan, each Plan Element includes a goal statement, one or more strategies for attaining the goal and a list of proposed management actions or similar activities. Only the Purpose and Plan Element Goals are presented in this summary.

PURPOSE

“The purpose of the plan is to work together to ensure the long-term conservation of the Western Arctic Caribou Herd and the ecosystem on which it depends, to maintain traditional and other uses for the benefit of all people now and in the future.”

PLAN ELEMENTS GOALS

“**1. Cooperation:** Encourage cooperative management of the herd and its habitats among state, federal and local entities and all users of the herd.”

“**2. Population Management:** Recognizing that caribou herds naturally fluctuate in numbers, manage for a healthy population using strategies adapted to population levels and trends.”

“**3. Habitat:** Assess and protect important habitats of the Western Arctic herd.”

“**4. Regulations:** Promote consistent, understandable and effective state and federal regulations for the conservation of the Western Arctic herd.”

“**5. Reindeer:** Seek to minimize conflict between reindeer herders and the Western Arctic herd.”

“**6. Knowledge:** Integrate scientific information, traditional ecological knowledge of Alaska Native users, and knowledge of all users into management of the Western Arctic herd.”

“**7. Education:** Increase understanding and appreciation of the Western Arctic herd through use of scientific information, traditional ecological knowledge of Alaska Native users, and knowledge of all other users.”

The Caribou Working Group understands that herd management will be based on these broad decision-making guidelines as herd dynamics, user demands, management needs, and other

situations change in the future. Ultimately, the success of this new plan will be determined by its usefulness to all those who use, value or manage the herd.