GMU 6 Proposals

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Moose

Proposal 140:
Seeks to reauthorize the antlerless moose season in Unit 6C

Department Position: Support

This is a Department proposal

Copper River/Prince William Sound AC- support
Whittier AC- no action
Valdez AC- no action
Antlerless Moose Reauthorization

- Hunt Administration
  - Current hunt structure
    - State drawing permit DM167 for 25% of bull MAH.
    - USFS administers a Federal drawing for 75% of bull MAH and 100% of cow MAH.
  - In 2013, the BOG authorized RM169.
  - High harvest levels RY14 MAH was 48 bulls and 35 cows. RY15 MAH will not change.
Unit 6C was last surveyed at about 610 moose in February 2014. Population above current objectives.

Antlerless Moose Reauthorization

Proposal 140
Recommendation: Support

The department needs all management tools available with a population that is above current objectives.
Goats

Proposal 141:
Seeks to modify goat seasons in Unit 6 as follows:

Add language to the Unit 6 goat regulation for units and bag limits to read: “However, if a nanny is taken, the hunter is prohibited from taking a goat in Unit 6 for five regulatory years.”

Department Position: Neutral

This is an Advisory Committee proposal

Copper River/Prince William Sound AC - support
Whittier AC - support
Valdez AC - Meeting March 6
Reduced nanny take is a goal for the management of all goat populations that are not above population objectives.

- Difficulty distinguishing sex
- Slow to reproduce
- High mortality of young animals
Nanny Goat Harvest Provision

Background

Current strategies

- Biologists attempt to reduce nanny harvest
  - Using Maximum Allowable Harvest (MAH)
    - Nanny = 2 units
    - Billy = 1 unit
    - Unrecovered goat = 1.5 units
  - However, a nanny is truly worth more than two to the population.
- Mandatory goat hunter education in some hunts

Proposal 141
However, some participants purposely harvest nannies and do so year after year.

- Populations declines and prolonged season closures have followed years of high nanny take.
Nanny Goat Harvest Provision  Proposal 141

**Recommendation: Neutral**

- Reduced Nanny take will result in:
  - Hunters that target nannies will lose opportunity
  - More goats harvested within the MAH
  - Longer seasons
  - More individuals participating
  - More reliable hunt opportunities