



# Analysis & Recommendations

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**2016 Board of Game, Statewide**

**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME**  
**STAFF COMMENTS**  
**STATEWIDE PROPOSALS**  
**ALASKA BOARD OF GAME MEETING**  
**FAIRBANKS, ALASKA**  
**MARCH 18 - 28, 2016**



The following staff comments were prepared by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game for use at the Alaska Board of Game meeting, March 18 - 28, 2016 in Fairbanks, Alaska, and are prepared to assist the public and board. The stated staff comments should be considered preliminary and subject to change, if or when new information becomes available. Final department positions will be formulated after review of written and oral testimony presented to the board.

**PROPOSAL 1 – 5 AAC 92.990(a)(47). Definitions.** Remove hovercraft and airboats from the definition of motorized land vehicles.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Outdoor Council

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal seeks to remove hovercraft and airboats from the definition of motorized land vehicles.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** Hovercraft and airboats are included in the following three places in regulation:

5 AAC 92.990(a)(10) “boat” means a vehicle, vessel, or watercraft operated in or on water deep enough to float it at rest and includes hovercraft, airboats, personal watercraft, and amphibious vehicles;

5 AAC 92.990(a)(47) “motorized land vehicle” means a motorized vehicle operated on land, and includes hovercraft and airboats;

5 AAC 92.990(a)(48) “motorized vehicles” means a motor-driven land, water, or air conveyance;

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If adopted, hovercraft and airboats would no longer be classified as motorized land vehicles, which means they could be used in controlled use areas that prohibit the use of motorized land vehicles. Since both crafts are capable of traveling on land, removing them from the definition of motorized land vehicles would mean the board would have to specifically prohibit their use in each controlled use area they wished to remain closed to vehicles capable of being operated on land.

**BACKGROUND:** Prior to 2001 the Board of Game (board) had a definition for “motorized vehicle” which was a motor-driven land, water, or air conveyance. Effective July 1, 2001, the board adopted a definition of “boat”, which means a vehicle, vessel, or watercraft operated in or on water deep enough to float it at rest and includes hovercraft, airboats, personal watercraft, and amphibious vehicles. At the same time, the board adopted a definition of “motorized land vehicle”, which means a motorized vehicle operated on land and includes hovercraft and airboats.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on whether or not hovercrafts and airboats are included in the definition of “motorized land vehicles”. The adoption of this proposal will allow the use of airboats and hovercrafts in controlled use areas that prohibit the use of motorized land vehicles.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal is not expected to result in additional costs to the department.

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**PROPOSAL 2 – 5 AAC 92.990(a)(5)(A). Definitions.** Modify the definition of ATV.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Outdoor Council

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal seeks to remove the specified weight restriction currently in the definition of ATVs and also removes the words “operated on land”,

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** 5 AAC 92.990(a)(5) “ATV” (A) means a motorized tracked vehicles, or vehicles with four or more wheels, operated on land weighing less than 1,000 pounds dry weight; (B) does not include a snowmachine;

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If adopted, all motorized tracked vehicles and vehicles with 4 or more wheels will be classified as ATVs.

Most state game refuges, which are subject to regulations in 5 AAC 95 and not under the purview of the Board of Game, reference off road vehicles weighing less than 1,000 pounds. Altering 5 AAC 92.990(a)(5)(A) as requested in this proposal will not alter those regulations, so the use of ATVs weighing less than 1,000 pounds will still be prohibited on state game refuges unless there is adequate ground cover.

**BACKGROUND:** In 2005 the board adopted the current definition of ATV and has not altered it since. At the time the definition of ATV was adopted, most ATVs available weighed less than 1,000 pounds. As technology progressed, ATVs have changed into larger, heavier machines. For example, the base model Polaris side-by-side weighs in at approximately 1,200 pounds, and some models with larger engines weigh in at approximately 1,500 pounds.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal is not expected to result in additional costs to the department.

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**PROPOSAL 3 – 5 AAC 92.990. Definitions.** Establish a definition of general hunt.

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

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal seeks to create a definition of “general hunt” as follows:

General hunt means: a hunt is regulated in non-subsistence areas; a regulated hunt that lays outside a non-subsistence area and the game being taken does not have a positive finding of customary and traditional use (C&T); when the harvestable surplus is above the maximum amount necessary for subsistence (ANS) and the board has determined other uses can exist; the nonresident opportunity is a general hunt.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** At the beginning of each species section in Chapter 85, there is a statement saying: “In this section, the phrase ‘General hunt only’ means that there is a general hunt for residents, but no subsistence hunt, during the relevant open season.” There is no definition of a general hunt found under the definition section in Chapter 92. For many game populations with customary and traditional (C&T) uses, subsistence hunting opportunities are provided through regulations that are identical to general hunting regulations.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** There would be a definition for a general hunt. The proposal suggests that this would allow for separation and quantification of subsistence and nonsubsistence use.

**BACKGROUND:** Resident seasons listed in the Alaska Administrative Code currently have three designations: General Hunt Only, Subsistence Hunt Only, or no designation (blank). No designation for resident seasons means the season is the same for general hunting and subsistence hunting. Nonresident hunters also have no designation because these designations only apply to resident hunts. Codified regulations do not always conform to the following guidelines:

“General Hunt Only” is applied to the hunt if the area is a nonsubsistence area, or if the area is outside a nonsubsistence area and there is a negative C&T finding for the game population in the area.

“Subsistence Hunt Only” is applied to the hunt if the area is outside a nonsubsistence area and there is a positive C&T finding for the game population, and there is only enough harvestable surplus available to provide for the amount reasonably necessary for subsistence.

Other hunts have no designation. These hunts generally include all types of use and do not specify the type of use.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal. If the board chooses to adopt a definition of “general hunt”, the definition should not include nonresident hunting because regulations already address nonresident hunting as a category separate from resident hunting (general and subsistence). There are some discrepancies in the designations for some species (such as black bears) that could be clarified. Accurate quantification of effort or harvest by hunt type would require alignment of hunt areas with nonsubsistence area boundaries.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal is not expected to result in additional costs to the department.



**PROPOSAL 4 – 5 AAC 92.990(a)(6). Definitions.** Amend the definition of bag limit.

**PROPOSED BY:** John Frost

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal seeks to change the definition of bag limit by replacing the word “take” with the word “kill”.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** 5 AAC 92.990(6) “bag limit” means the maximum number of animals of any one game species a person make take in a unit or portion of a unit in which the taking occurs; an animal disturbed in the course of legal hunting does not count towards a bag limit;

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If adopted this proposal will replace the word “take” with the word “kill” in the definition of bag limit.

**BACKGROUND:** The proposer suggests the definition of take, as established by the legislature, has too broad of a meaning to be used in the definition of bag limit and suggests the word kill is more appropriate.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal is not expected to result in additional costs to the department.

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**PROPOSAL 5 – 5 AAC 92.990(a)(26). Definitions.** Modify the definition of edible meat for all game birds.

**PROPOSED BY:** Yaquillrit Kelutisti Council

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal seeks to modify the definition of edible meat for all game birds as follows:

92.990(a)(26) "edible meat" means, in the case of a big game animal, except a bear, the meat of the ribs, neck, brisket, front quarters, hindquarters, and the meat along the backbone between the front and hindquarters; in the case of a bear, the meat of the front quarters and hindquarters and meat along the backbone (backstrap); **For all game birds, the meat from the breast, back, thighs, legs, wings, gizzard and heart;** [IN THE CASE OF SMALL GAME BIRDS, EXCEPT FOR CRANES, GEESE AND SWAN, THE MEAT OF THE BREAST; IN THE CASE OF CRANES, GEESE, AND SWAN, THE MEAT OF THE BREAST AND MEAT OF THE FEMUR AND TIBIA-FIBULA (LEGS AND THIGHS);] however, "edible meat" of big game or

small game birds does not include meat of the head, meat that has been damaged and made inedible by the method of taking, bones, sinew, incidental meat reasonably...

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** 5 AAC 92.990(a)(26) “edible meat” means, ... in the case of small game birds, except for cranes, geese, and swan, the meat of the breast; in the case of cranes, geese, and swan, the meat of the breast and meat of the femur and tibia-fibula (legs and thighs); ...

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If adopted, this proposal would require hunters to salvage additional meat from all game birds.

**BACKGROUND:** Effective July 1, 2014, the board created a different definition of edible meat for cranes, geese, and swans in order to require more meat to be salvaged from these larger game birds.

Under the current definition of edible meat the majority of meat is required to be salvaged, and many hunters voluntarily salvage the meat of the legs of smaller game birds.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal but recommends that the board consider differences between each species of game bird when evaluating this proposal. Additionally, the department recognizes that there are different public opinions on the salvage of organs, which are likely salvaged already by hunters who enjoy them.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal is not expected to result in additional costs to the department.

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**PROPOSAL 6 – 5 AAC 92.990(a)(46). Definitions.** Modify the definition of a moose antler.

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

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** The proposal seeks to modify the definition of a moose antler as follows:

92.990(a)(46)(B) "spike-fork antlers" means antlers of a bull moose with only one or two tines on at least one antler, **antler projections originating within two inches of the base of the antler and less than three inches in length will not be counted as a tine**; male calves are not considered spike bulls;

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** Brow tines are currently defined as:

5 AAC 92.990(a)(61) “point” means any antler projection that is at least one inch long, and that is longer than it is wide, measured one inch or more from the tip;

5 AAC 92.990(a)(80) “tine” has the same meaning as point;

Moose antlers are currently defined as:

5 AAC 92.990(a)(46) “moose antler” definitions:

- (A) “50-inch antlers” means the antlers of a bull moose with a spread of 50 inches or more measured in a straight line perpendicular to the center line of the skull;
- (B) “spike-fork antlers” means antlers of a bull moose with only one or two tines on at least one antler; for the purposes of this subparagraph, male calves are not considered spike-fork bulls;
- (C) “spike” means antlers of a bull moose with only one tine on at least one antler; for the purposes of this subparagraph, male calves are not considered spike bulls;

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** Points that originate from the swelling at the base of the antler near the skull, commonly referred to as burr tines, will not count as tines under the definition of “spike-fork antlers”.

**BACKGROUND:** In some cases moose antlers have projections that originate from the swelling at the base of the antler near the skull. These projections vary in length and in some cases meet the definition of a tine. These projections can be difficult to see when evaluating a moose in the field from a distance. If these projections match the definition of a tine on a bull that otherwise appears to have a forked antler, the extra tine, known commonly as a burr tine, will be counted as a third tine, making the moose illegal under the definition of “spike-fork antlers” in a spike-fork hunt area.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal because the change is not anticipated to have implications for sustained yield management of moose populations in Alaska.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal is not expected to result in additional costs to the department.

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**PROPOSAL 7 – 5 AAC 92.990(a)(61). Definitions.** Modify the definition of moose antler.

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

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal seeks to clarify the definition of antler point as follows:

Amend 92.990(a)(61) "point" means any antler projection that is at least one inch long, and that is longer than it is wide[, MEASURED ONE INCH OR MORE FROM THE TIP];

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** Points are currently defined as:

5 AAC 92.990(a)(61) “point” means any antler projection that is at least one inch long, and that is longer than it is wide, measured one inch or more from the tip;

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If adopted, the regulation will make it so points can be measured any distance from the tip.

**BACKGROUND:** The current definition of a point was adopted from instructions published by Boone and Crocket and is the industry accepted definition. Measuring the width of the point at least one inch from the tip and requiring the point to be longer than it is wide distinguishes the point from smaller projections.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal is not expected to result in additional costs to the department.

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**PROPOSAL 8 – 5 AAC 92.085. Unlawful methods of taking big game; exceptions.** Allow the use of lighted sight pins in restricted weapons hunts.

**PROPOSED BY:** Hugh Leslie

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal would allow the use of battery-powered lights on a bow sight in archery-only hunts.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?**

5 AAC 92.085

The following methods and means of taking big game are prohibited in addition to the prohibitions in 5 AAC 92.080:

(10) with the following archery equipment or devices in a restricted weapons hunt that authorizes taking by bow and arrow:

(A) any type of electronic device, or light attached to the bow, arrow, or arrowhead, except a non-illuminating camera or a lighted nock on the end of an arrow;

(B) scopes or other devices attached to the bow or arrow for optical enhancement;

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** This proposal would allow the use of bow sight lights in archery-only hunts.

**BACKGROUND:** 5 AAC 92.080 currently prohibits the use of artificial light as an aid for taking game whether in a general season or a weapons restricted hunt. 5 AAC 92.085 prohibits the use of any type of electronic device or light attached to the bow, arrow, or arrowhead, except a non-illuminating camera or a lighted nock on the end of an arrow.

Technology has advanced and bow sights are constructed with fiber-optics that use natural, external light to illuminate the pins. There are also battery-operated LED lights small enough to fit on a bow sight that will illuminate the sight pins.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal.

If the proposal is adopted, the department recommends that the board also change 5 AAC 92.085 and 5 AAC 92.080 so that battery-powered sight lights that do not project a light or beam be allowed in general season hunts and archery-only restricted weapons hunts.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal is not expected to result in additional costs to the department.

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**PROPOSAL 9 – 5 AAC 92.990(a)(8). Definitions.** Update the definition of barbed arrows to take into account improvements in technology.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish & Game

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** The proposal would change the definition of barbed arrows.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?**

5 AAC 92.990. Definitions.

(8) "barbed" means, in the case of an arrowhead, having any fixed portion of the rear edge of the arrowhead forming an angle less than 90 degrees with the shaft when measured from the nock end of the arrow;

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If the proposal were adopted it would allow the use of broadheads that are currently illegal based on the current regulation.

**BACKGROUND:** The board adopted the definition of a barbed arrowhead prior to 2000. Barbed arrowheads are not allowed for hunting game in Alaska because if a hunter made a non-lethal shot, a barbed arrowhead would not allow the arrowhead to work its way out of the animal. Technology has changed and many of the newer broadheads are technically barbed if the current

definition is applied. However, the broadheads made illegal by applying the current definition are clearly not in the same category of barbed arrow that the board originally intended to prohibit.

The department has had extensive contacts from the bowhunting community over the past few years regarding broadheads. Hunters ask if specific broadheads are legal to use in Alaska, and they want to know why the regulation is so limiting when the broadhead is not legal. The department has spoken with sporting goods store managers and measured a variety of broadheads to develop the updated definition.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department submitted and **SUPPORTS** this proposal.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal is not expected to result in additional costs to the department.

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**PROPOSAL 10 – 5 AAC 92.085(15). Unlawful methods of taking big game; exceptions.**

Modify the requirements for crossbows.

**PROPOSED BY:** Robert Swanson

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** The proposal would increase the peak draw weight from 100 pounds to 150 pounds and decrease the draw length from 14 inches to 13 inches for crossbows used to hunt big game.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?**

5 AAC 92.085. Unlawful methods of taking big game; exceptions The following methods and means of taking big game are prohibited in addition to the prohibitions in 5 AAC 92.080:

15) with a crossbow, unless the

(A) bow peak draw weight is 100 pounds or more;

(B) bow has a minimum draw length of 14 inches from front of bow to back of string when in the cocked position;

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?**

The proposal would make it so that more crossbows that are currently available for sale would be legal for use in Alaska.

**BACKGROUND:** Crossbows have been in existence for a long time and have been used for hunting purposes in Alaska in general area hunts for many years. The board established crossbow requirements during the January 2012 statewide board meeting. The standards were designed to ensure that crossbows manufactured at that time were powerful enough to kill big game and prevent the use of crossbows that were inadequate due to draw weight and draw

length. Today's crossbows have and evolved due to technology, and the current regulations exclude most of the crossbows manufactured today.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department submitted a similar proposal (Proposal 12) regarding crossbow requirements.

The department is **NEUTRAL** regarding the peak draw weight. If the board adopts this proposal, the department recommends that the board takes into consideration older models of crossbows, which are currently legal under the 100 pound or more peak draw weight requirement. These crossbows would become illegal under the 150 pound minimum requirement.

The department is **OPPOSED** to limiting the draw length to 13 inches because that length will still make a number of recently manufactured models illegal. Technology has allowed for smaller crossbows that can still generate energy levels acceptable for use while hunting Alaska's big game. The draw weight and bolt/arrow requirements are more important than draw length for crossbows that are being used to harvest an animal.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal is not expected to result in additional costs to the department.

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**PROPOSAL 11 – 5 AAC 92.080. Unlawful methods of taking game, exceptions; 92.085. Unlawful methods of taking big game, exceptions; and 92.990(a)(11) and (19). Definitions.** Allow the use of crossbows in restricted-weapons hunts and adopt crossbow standards.

**PROPOSED BY:** James Fitzpatrick

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** The proposal would change the definition of a bow to include crossbows so crossbows could be used in restricted weapon hunts that allow the use of bow and arrow and would require certification, similar to what is required for bow hunters.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?**

5 AAC 92.080. Unlawful methods of taking game; exceptions. The following methods of taking game are prohibited:

(11) with the use of a crossbow in any restricted weapons hunt that authorizes taking by bow and arrow;

5 AAC 92.085. Unlawful methods of taking big game; exceptions.

(3) with a longbow, recurve bow, or compound bow, unless the...

5 AAC 92.990. Definitions

(11) "bow" means a long bow, recurve bow, or compound bow that is a device for launching an arrow which derives its propulsive energy solely from the bending and recovery of two limbs, and that is hand-held and hand-drawn by a single and direct pulling action of the bowstring by the shooter with the shooter's fingers or a hand-held or wrist-attached release aid; the energy used to propel the arrow may not be derived from hydraulic, pneumatic, explosive, or mechanical devices, but may be derived from the mechanical advantage provided by wheels or cams if the available energy is stored in the bent limbs of the bow; no portion of the bow's riser (handle) or an attachment to the bow's riser may contact, support, or guide the arrow from a point rearward of the bowstring when strung and at rest; "bow" does not include a crossbow or any device that has a gun-type stock or incorporates any mechanism that holds the bowstring at partial or full draw without the shooter's muscle power;

(19) "crossbow" means a bow, mounted on a stock, which mechanically holds the string at partial or full draw, that shoots projectiles which are generally called bolts or quarrels;

### **WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?**

If the proposal were adopted then the board would need to:

- repeal 5 AAC 92.080 (11),
- revise 5 AAC 92.085 (3) to include crossbows, and
- revise 5 AAC 92.990 to include crossbow specifications in the definition of a bow.

These changes to the regulations would allow crossbows to be used in archery-only hunts. The department would also need to develop a certification program for crossbow hunters.

**BACKGROUND:** The use of bow and arrow for hunting activities has a longstanding history in Alaska. The bowhunting/archery community does not consider crossbows to be archery equipment because of how a crossbow shoots and because the mechanics of a crossbow are very different from long bows, recurve bows, and compound bows.

The board chose not to adopt a similar proposal during the January 2012 statewide meeting. One of the main reasons stated in the 2012 proposal and in the current proposal is that people are unable to use a bow and arrow due to a disability or lack of strength. The board provides opportunities for an individual with disabilities to use a crossbow in an archery-only area through 5 AAC 92.104. This regulation allows for a methods and means exemption, and the form is available from the department.

Technology has improved bowhunting/archery equipment to the point where it is easier to reach the minimum draw weights required to hunt big game in Alaska.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal. There are misperceptions in the public that crossbows can be used in a similar manner to a firearm for hunting purposes because it can be shoulder-mounted, but a crossbow's effective shooting range is less

than a rifle's effecting shooting range. The department encourages education and training for all equipment used to harvest animals.

If this proposal is adopted, the department recommends that the board reviews management areas that currently allow archery-only hunts and evaluate if crossbows are an acceptable weapon in those areas.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal will result in additional costs to the department because the bowhunter education curricula will need to be revised. Department staff and volunteer instructors will also need to receive training on how to instruct hunters about crossbow safety.

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**PROPOSAL 12 – 5 AAC 92.085(15). Unlawful methods of taking big game; exceptions. Modify the current definition of a legal crossbow for taking big game.**

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** The proposal would modify the definition of a legal crossbow for taking big game as follows:

(15) with a crossbow, unless [THE]

(A) **the** bow peak draw weight is 100 pounds or more;

(B) **Repealed** [THE BOW HAS A MINIMUM DRAW LENGTH OF 14 INCHES FROM FRONT OF BOW TO BACK OF STRING WHEN IN THE COCKED POSITION;]

(C) **the arrow** [BOLT] is tipped with a broadhead and is a minimum of 16 inches in overall length and weighs at least 300 grains; and

(D) **the** crossbow has no attached electronic devices, except for a scope or electronic sight that does not project light externally;

**(E) it is a shoulder-mounted crossbow;**

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?**

5 AAC 92.085

The following methods and means of taking big game are prohibited in addition to the prohibitions in 5 AAC 92.080:

(15) with a crossbow, unless the

- (A) bow peak draw weight is 100 pounds or more;
- (B) bow has a minimum draw length of 14 inches from front of bow to back of string when in the cocked position;
- (C) bolt is tipped with a broadhead and is a minimum of 16 inches in overall length and weighs at least 300 grains; and
- (D) crossbow has no attached electronic devices, except for a scope or electronic sight that does not project light externally;

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** The proposal would make it so that more crossbows that are currently available for sale would be legal for use in Alaska.

**BACKGROUND:** Crossbows have been in existence for a long time and have been used for hunting purposes in Alaska in general area hunts for many years. The board established crossbow requirements during the January 2012 statewide board meeting. The standards were designed to ensure that crossbows manufactured at that time were powerful enough for hunting Alaska's big game and to prevent the use of crossbows that were inadequate for hunting purposes due to draw weight and draw length. Today's crossbows have evolved due to technology, and the current regulations exclude most of the crossbows manufactured today.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department submitted and **SUPPORTS** this proposal.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal is not expected to result in additional costs to the department.

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**PROPOSAL 13 – 5 AAC 92.080(11). Unlawful methods of taking game, exceptions; 92.085. Unlawful methods of taking big game, exceptions; and 92.990(a)(11). Definitions.** Allow the use of crossbows in restricted-weapons hunts for hunters 65 years of age or older.

**PROPOSED BY:** William Thomas Sr.

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** The proposal would allow hunters who are 65 years of age or older to use a crossbow in an archery-only restricted weapons hunt.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?**

5 AAC 92.080. Unlawful methods of taking game; exceptions. The following methods of taking game are prohibited:

(11) with the use of a crossbow in any restricted weapons hunt that authorizes taking by bow and arrow;

5 AAC 92.085. Unlawful methods of taking big game; exceptions.

(3) with a longbow, recurve bow, or compound bow, unless the...

5 AAC 92.990. Definitions

(11) "bow" means a long bow, recurve bow, or compound bow that is a device for launching an arrow which derives its propulsive energy solely from the bending and recovery of two limbs, and that is hand-held and hand-drawn by a single and direct pulling action of the bowstring by the shooter with the shooter's fingers or a hand-held or wrist-attached release aid; the energy used to propel the arrow may not be derived from hydraulic, pneumatic, explosive, or mechanical devices, but may be derived from the mechanical advantage provided by wheels or cams if the available energy is stored in the bent limbs of the bow; no portion of the bow's riser (handle) or an attachment to the bow's riser may contact, support, or guide the arrow from a point rearward of the bowstring when strung and at rest; "bow" does not include a crossbow or any device that has a gun-type stock or incorporates any mechanism that holds the bowstring at partial or full draw without the shooter's muscle power;

(19) "crossbow" means a bow, mounted on a stock, which mechanically holds the string at partial or full draw, that shoots projectiles which are generally called bolts or quarrels;

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If the proposal were adopted then hunters who are 65 years of age or older would be able to use a crossbow in archery-only hunts. A person in this age category would no longer need to apply for a methods and means exemption per 5 AAC 92.104 to use a crossbow for these hunts.

**BACKGROUND:** The use of bow and arrow for hunting activities has a longstanding history in Alaska. The bowhunting/archery community has felt that crossbows are not archery equipment because of how a crossbow shoots and because the mechanics of a crossbow are very different from long bows, recurve bows, and compound bows.

The board chose not to adopt a similar proposal during the January 2012 statewide meeting. One of the main reasons stated in the 2012 proposal and in the current proposal is that people are unable to use a bow and arrow due to a disability or lack of strength. The board provides opportunities for an individual with disabilities to use a crossbow in an archery-only area through 5 AAC 92.104. This regulation allows for a methods and means exemption, and the form is available from the department.

Technology has improved bowhunting/archery equipment to the point where it is easier to reach the minimum draw weights required to hunt big game in Alaska.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocation of hunting opportunity to a subset of hunters (those who are 65 years of age or older).

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal will not result in additional costs to the department

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**PROPOSAL 14 – 5 AAC 92.080. Unlawful methods of taking game, exceptions; and 92.085. Unlawful methods of taking big game, exceptions.** Allow the use of crossbows in restricted-weapons hunts.

**PROPOSED BY:** Howard Delo

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** The proposal would allow crossbows to be used in special management hunts that are weapons-restricted hunts (hunts limited to the use of muzzleloader, shotgun, or bow and arrow) and for hunting in specific game management areas or state refuges that have weapons-restricted hunts.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?**

5 AAC 92.080. Unlawful methods of taking game; exceptions. The following methods of taking game are prohibited:

(1) with the use of a crossbow in any restricted weapons hunt that authorizes taking by bow and arrow;

5 AAC 92.085. Unlawful methods of taking big game; exceptions.

(3) with a longbow, recurve bow, or compound bow, unless the...

There are many places in the regulations where weapon-restricted hunts can occur:

- 5 AAC 85. Hunting seasons and bag limits.
- 5 AAC 92.052. Discretionary permit hunt conditions and procedures.
- 5 AAC 92.530. Management areas.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If the proposal were adopted, crossbows would be allowed as a fourth option for special management hunts that are weapons-restricted hunts using muzzleloader, shotgun, or bow and arrow. Crossbows would also be allowed as a fourth option while hunting in specific game management areas or state refuges that have weapons restrictions to use either a muzzleloader, shotgun, or bow and arrow.

**BACKGROUND:** The primary objective of a targeted hunt is to reduce animal-vehicle collisions and allow members of the public to selectively harvest game species that pose a threat to public safety or are likely to die as a result of an injury. Targeted hunts occur near populated areas (AM415 (Palmer), AM550 (Soldotna), and AM751 (Fairbanks)), and the method of take is

limited to specific weapons that do not have long range trajectories. The specific weapons can be used in specific game management areas and state refuges can be found in the regulations under 5 AAC 85 and 5 AAC 92.530.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** regarding the use of crossbows as a fourth type of weapon in a targeted or special management hunt that requires the use of muzzleloader, shotgun, or bow and arrow, but is **OPPOSED** to making the change at a statewide level. The department recommends that the board consider the changes at regularly scheduled regional board meetings so area biologists and the public can comment on the specifics of individual hunts.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal is not expected to result in additional costs to the department.

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**PROPOSAL 15 – 5 AAC 92.003. Hunter education and orientation requirements.** Require certification for all big game hunters in Alaska using crossbows.

*During the 2014–2015 meeting cycle, the Board of Game amended this proposal (Proposal 35) to apply statewide and deferred it to the Statewide Regulations meeting scheduled for March 2016.*

**PROPOSED BY:** John Frost

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal is similar to Proposal 16 and would require the development and implementation of a crossbow-specific education certification course, which all crossbow hunters in the Southeast region (Region I) would need to complete prior to hunting. The proposal also states that it is intended to cover all regions under consideration during the current board cycle.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** There are currently no regulations requiring crossbow hunters to complete a crossbow-specific education certification course.

Crossbows may be used in general season hunts throughout Alaska as long as they meet the following requirements (5 AAC 92.085. Unlawful methods of taking big game; exceptions):

(15) with a crossbow, unless the

(A) bow peak draw weight is 100 pounds or more;

(B) bow has a minimum draw length of 14 inches from front of bow to back of string when in the cocked position;

(C) bolt is tipped with a broadhead and is a minimum of 16 inches in overall length and weighs at least 300 grains; and

(D) crossbow has no attached electronic devices, except for a scope or electronic sight that does not project light externally;

If a crossbow is being used in a general season hunt, hunters need to abide by (5 AAC 92.003. Hunter education and orientation requirements):

(a) Beginning August 1, 2002, a person born after January 1, 1986 that is

(1) required to have a hunting license must have successfully completed a certified hunter education course in order to hunt in Units 7, 13, 14, 15, and 20;

(2) not required to have a hunting license, and who has not successfully completed a certified hunter education course, must, in order to hunt in Units 7, 13, 14, 15, and 20, be under the direct immediate supervision of a licensed hunter who

(A) is 16 years of age or older and has successfully completed a certified hunter education course; or

(B) was born on or before January 1, 1986.

(b) Notwithstanding (a) of this section, a resident hunter who is 10 through 17 years of age at the start of the hunt, and has successfully completed a certified hunter education course, is allowed to hunt on behalf of a permit holder who is at least 16 years of age, under the direct immediate supervision of that permit holder, who is responsible for ensuring that all legal requirements are met.

If a person has a Methods and Means exemption to use a crossbow in an archery-only restricted weapons hunt, the hunter needs to abide by (5 AAC 92.003. Hunter education and orientation requirements):

(k) A hunter using a longbow, recurve bow, or compound bow for any restricted weapons hunt that authorizes taking big game by bow and arrow, must have successfully completed a department-approved bowhunter education course. Beginning July 1, 2016, a hunter using a longbow, recurve bow, or compound bow to hunt big game must have successfully completed a department-approved bowhunter education course.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If the proposal were adopted then the department would need to develop and conduct crossbow-

specific education certification courses. All hunters using a crossbow would need to complete a department-approved crossbow-specific education certification course.

**BACKGROUND:** The use of crossbows for hunting has increased over the past five years nationwide as the crossbow industry has conducted intensive marketing. Some states have instituted crossbow-only seasons in order to open up additional hunting opportunities. The only state that has developed and implemented a crossbow-specific education certification course is the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife.

There are no crossbow-specific education certification course requirements in Alaska. Crossbow mechanics and safety are not discussed in the Alaska hunter education course. In situations where crossbow hunters have a methods and means exemption to use a crossbow in an archery-only restricted weapons hunt, hunters are required to complete a bowhunter education certification course. In addition to completing the pre-coursework for a bowhunter education certification course, the department currently requires a crossbow hunter to complete the crossbow-specific workbook (*Today's Crossbow*) and pass the proficiency shoot with a crossbow.

Crossbows have equipment-specific safety concerns, mechanics, and shooting techniques.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal. If proposal 11 is adopted, the department recommends that this proposal be adopted as well. The differences between the material covered in a crossbow education course and a bowhunter education course would be significant. The skills needed to shoot a crossbow are different than the skills needed to shoot a bow or firearm. Although crossbow-related injuries and accidents in Alaska have not been quantified, the department has received reports of people injuring themselves while handling crossbows in Alaska and has also heard of similar reports from other states during national conferences.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal will result in additional costs to the department because the crossbow-specific education curricula will need to be developed. Department staff have discussed development of the course with their current online education course provider, and would also work closely with the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife and the North American Crossbow Federation since they already have a multitude of crossbow education material developed. Department staff and volunteer instructors will also need to receive training on how to instruct hunters about crossbow safety.



**PROPOSAL 16 – 5 AAC 92.003. Hunter education and orientation requirements. Require successful completion of a crossbow education course for those hunting with crossbows.**

**PROPOSED BY:** The Alaskan Bowhunters Association

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal would require the development and implementation of a crossbow-specific education certification course, which all crossbow hunters would need to complete prior to hunting.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** There are currently no regulations that require crossbow hunters to complete a crossbow-specific education certification course.

Crossbows may be used in general season hunts throughout Alaska as long as they meet the following requirements (5 AAC 92.085. Unlawful methods of taking big game; exceptions):

(15) with a crossbow, unless the

- (A) bow peak draw weight is 100 pounds or more;
- (B) bow has a minimum draw length of 14 inches from front of bow to back of string when in the cocked position;
- (C) bolt is tipped with a broadhead and is a minimum of 16 inches in overall length and weighs at least 300 grains; and
- (D) crossbow has no attached electronic devices, except for a scope or electronic sight that does not project light externally;

If a crossbow is being used in a general season hunt, hunters need to abide by (5 AAC 92.003. Hunter education and orientation requirements)

- (a) Beginning August 1, 2002, a person born after January 1, 1986 that is
  - (1) required to have a hunting license must have successfully completed a certified hunter education course in order to hunt in Units 7, 13, 14, 15, and 20;
  - (2) not required to have a hunting license, and who has not successfully completed a certified hunter education course, must, in order to hunt in Units 7, 13, 14, 15, and 20, be under the direct immediate supervision of a licensed hunter who
    - (A) is 16 years of age or older and has successfully completed a certified hunter education course; or
    - (B) was born on or before January 1, 1986.
- (b) Notwithstanding (a) of this section, a resident hunter who is 10 through 17 years of age at the start of the hunt, and has successfully completed a certified hunter education course, is allowed to hunt on behalf of a permit holder who is at least 16 years of age, under the direct immediate supervision of that permit holder, who is responsible for ensuring that all legal requirements are met.

If a person has a Methods and Means exemption to use a crossbow in an archery-only restricted weapons hunt, the hunter need to abide by (5 AAC 92.003. Hunter education and orientation requirements)

(k) A hunter using a longbow, recurve bow, or compound bow for any restricted weapons hunt that authorizes taking big game by bow and arrow, must have successfully completed a department-approved bowhunter education course. Beginning July 1, 2016, a hunter using a longbow, recurve bow, or compound bow to hunt big game must have successfully completed a department-approved bowhunter education course.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED** If the proposal were adopted then the department would need to develop and conduct crossbow-specific education certification courses. All hunters using a crossbow to hunt in Alaska would need to complete a department-approved crossbow-specific education certification course.

**BACKGROUND:** The use of crossbows for hunting has increased over the past five years nationwide as the crossbow industry has conducted intensive marketing. Some states have instituted crossbow-only seasons in order to open up additional hunting opportunities. The only state that has developed and implemented a crossbow-specific education certification course is the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife.

There are no crossbow-specific education certification course requirements in Alaska. Crossbow mechanics and safety are not discussed in the Alaska hunter education course. In situations where crossbow hunters have a methods and means exemption to use a crossbow in an archery-only restricted weapons hunt, hunters are required to complete a bowhunter education certification course. In addition to completing the pre-coursework for a bowhunter education certification course, the department currently requires a crossbow hunter to complete the crossbow-specific workbook (*Today's Crossbow*) and pass the proficiency shoot with a crossbow.

Crossbows have equipment-specific safety concerns, mechanics, and shooting techniques.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal. If proposal 11 is adopted, the department recommends that this proposal be adopted as well. The differences between the material covered in a crossbow education course and a bowhunter education course would be significant. The skills needed to shoot a crossbow are different than the skills needed to shoot a bow or firearm. Although crossbow-related injuries and accidents in Alaska have not been quantified, the department has received reports of people injuring themselves while handling crossbows in Alaska and has also heard of similar reports from other states during national conferences.

If the proposal is adopted, the department recommends that implementation be postponed in order to develop the course curricula, train staff and volunteers, and offer courses for interested hunters prior to the effective date of the regulation.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal will result in additional costs to the department because the crossbow-specific education curricula will need to be developed. Department staff have discussed development of the course with their current online education course provider, and would also work closely with the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife and the North American Crossbow Federation since they already have a multitude of crossbow education material developed. Department staff and volunteer instructors will also need to receive training on how to instruct hunters about crossbow safety.

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**PROPOSAL 17 – 5 AAC 92.003. Hunter education and orientation requirements.**

**PROPOSED BY:** John Frost

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO** The proposal would allow for an exemption from the bowhunter education requirement for all bowhunters if the hunter was born on or before January 1, 1986, except in the case of archery-only hunts.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?**

5 AAC 92.003. Hunter education and orientation requirements

- (k) A hunter using a longbow, recurve bow, or compound bow for any restricted weapons hunt that authorizes taking big game by bow and arrow, must have successfully completed a department-approved bowhunter education course. Beginning July 1, 2016, a hunter using a longbow, recurve bow, or compound bow to hunt big game must have successfully completed a department-approved bowhunter education course.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED:**

If this proposal is adopted bowhunters who were born on or before January 1, 1986 would not need to complete a bowhunter education course if they are hunting in a non-weapons-restricted area, but would still need to complete a bowhunter education course if they are hunting in an archery-only area.

**BACKGROUND:** The board adopted the proposal requiring statewide bowhunter education regardless of age or hunt location in March 2014. The proposal implementation was delayed

until July 1, 2016 to allow the department to advertise this requirement to nonresidents, offer additional bowhunter education courses, and allow time for bowhunters to complete the bowhunter education certification if they had not done so already.

Many states offer bowhunter education certification courses, and nonresidents are able to obtain bowhunter education certification. Most Alaskan bowhunters, especially longtime residents, have completed the bowhunter education certification course already because it is needed prior to applying for permits that are archery-only weapons restricted hunts. The majority of states have long-running databases containing certification records, so if the hunter lost their certification card they can contact the state for the number or for a new printed copy.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal. Since the current regulation was adopted, the department has added additional bowhunter education courses throughout the state and informed bowhunters nationwide about the bowhunter education certification requirement. The department is meeting the need of bowhunters based on the amount of public inquiries received and anticipates that certification programs can keep up with demand once the regulation goes into effect on July 1, 2016.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal will not result in additional costs to the department.

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**PROPOSAL 18 – 5 AAC 92.085. Unlawful methods of taking big game; exceptions.**  
**Prohibit the use of slingbows.**

**PROPOSED BY:** Bob Ermold

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** The proposal would prohibit the use of slingbows as a method of taking big game in Alaska.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** There are no current regulations regarding slingbows.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If the proposal were adopted, the use of slingbows would not be legal to harvest big game in Alaska.

**BACKGROUND:** Slingbows are slingshots that use rubber tubing to launch an arrow. Slingbows do not meet the definition of a bow, and as such cannot be used during an archery-only weapons restricted hunt.

The department cannot quantify how often slingbows are used in Alaska, but the majority of hunters choose a different weapon for hunting big game (bows, rifles, muzzleloaders, or crossbows).

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal.

The department has concerns about safety, the equipment, and industry standards of slingbows, which are can be used for hunting in Alaska. If this proposal is not adopted, the department recommends that the board adopts a standard for slingbows to prevent wounding loss due to the use of ineffective equipment.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal is not expected to result in additional costs to the department.

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**ANALYSIS  
and  
RECOMMENDATION  
for  
BOARD OF GAME PROPOSAL 19**

*The department is in the process of preparing an analysis and recommendation for Proposal 19, Board Generated Proposals and will provide it in advance of the 2016 Statewide Board of Game meeting.*

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**PROPOSAL 20 – 5 AAC 92.XXX.** Clarify the meaning of “specific location” of wildlife.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** The proposal requests that the board create a regulation that provides guidance to the department on how it is to implement AS 16.05.815(d)(1)(E), which prohibits the release of specific locations of fish and wildlife species.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?**

**AS 16.05.815(d). Confidential nature of certain reports and records.**

(d) Except as otherwise provided in this section, the department shall keep confidential (1) personal information contained in fish and wildlife harvest and usage data; and (2) the records of

the department that concern (A) radio telemetry frequencies of monitored species, (B) denning sites; (C) nest locations of raptors that require special attention; (D) the specific location of animal capture sites used for wildlife research or management; and (E) the specific location of fish and wildlife species.

### **WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?**

A new regulation would be created that clarifies the meaning of “specific location of fish and wildlife species”, which would allow the department to release location data that is no longer deemed to be “specific”. We propose the following new regulation:

**The department shall keep confidential the specific location of wildlife species. For the purposes of this regulation, the specific location of wildlife species is defined as the coordinates for latitude and longitude or equivalent.**

**BACKGROUND:** The department, many other fish and wildlife agencies, and others now radio-tag wildlife with sophisticated instruments that use GPS and other technologies using satellites for both near real time and highly accurate location information. Many organizations post wildlife location information on the web and allow the public to essentially zoom in to the specific location of the animal. Examples include whales, turtles and birds of prey that migrate thousands of miles. This public dissemination of wildlife movement information is useful for conservation and education efforts. The department places instruments on a variety of wildlife for management, research, and education efforts. Examples include many species of marine mammals, big game, birds of prey, and even small birds. In some cases, the location data presented to the Board of Game to aid in decision making could be considered specific, and therefore illegal under the statute. In addition, the department frequently gets requests to share location data with other researchers and industry but it is not clear which data can be released.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department **SUPPORTS** this proposal and requests that the board adopt regulations that implement the statute in a manner that clarifies what is meant by “specific location of fish and wildlife species,” and that allows the release of location data when it is no longer deemed “specific.” Criteria to determine whether a location is a “specific location” could include 1) time since collection, 2) a determination that release of the locations will not cause harm to wildlife, the public, or the ability of the department to carry out its management or research duties and 3) a determination that the release of locations will not increase the likelihood of specific animals being taken by legal methods and means.

There are realistic problems with the release of certain wildlife location data, particularly for some big game such as caribou or Dall sheep. In-season requests for location data could result in take of specific animals, and numerous in-season requests for location data could deter managers from other duties and responsibilities and disrupt hunts. In such cases, it would not be in the interest of the state to release location data.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal is not expected to result in additional costs to the department

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**ANALYSIS  
and  
RECOMMENDATIONS  
for  
BOARD OF GAME PROPOSALS 21–49 & 138**

**REGULATIONS:**

**5 AAC 85.055, Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep;  
5 AAC 92.057. Special provisions for Dall sheep and mountain goat drawing permit hunts;  
5 AAC 92.085, Unlawful methods of taking big game; and  
5 AAC 92.130, Restrictions to bag limits**

**BACKGROUND:** The board received numerous proposals requesting changes to sheep seasons, bag limits, and allocation between residents and nonresidents, but the majority were not adopted. Many of the sheep proposals that were submitted for the 2016 Statewide Board of Game meeting are similar to proposals that were reviewed and discussed at previous board meetings.

The board subsequently created a Dall sheep subcommittee to evaluate the utility of a sheep work group to address the unresolved issues. A working group, consisting of any interested advisory committees, organizations, and the public at large interested in sheep and sheep hunting, was created to make recommendations to the board, department, and other governing bodies. The working group is scheduled to meet throughout the winter and will provide an update and any recommendations it has to the board at the March 2016 Statewide Board of Game meeting.

The department will review the comments and recommendations provided by the workgroup in our final comments to the board.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department will take a **NEUTRAL** stance on proposals 21–28, 30–49, and 138 because they regulate or allocate sustainable hunting opportunity. The department is still developing a definition for “broken horn” and will provide a recommendation to the board at a later date. There are no conservation concerns for sheep at this time, and the management strategies proposed primarily address allocation and user conflicts. The department will wait for any recommendations of the sheep workgroup before making final comments.

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**PROPOSAL 50 – 5 AAC 92.150. Evidence of sex and identity.** Remove the requirement for evidence of sex for hunts with bag limits of only one sex.

**PROPOSED BY:** John Frost

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** The proposal would remove the requirement to leave evidence of sex naturally attached for all species except bears.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** In all hunts limited to one sex, evidence of sex must remain naturally attached to the animal until it has been delivered to the place where it will be processed for human consumption or prepared for storage.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If adopted, hunters would not be able to prove they harvested an animal of the appropriate sex if contacted by enforcement in the field with the animal. The requirement leave the evidence of sex attached to the hide would remain in place for bears, and the naturally attached antlers are considered evidence of sex for deer. For all other species, there would be no requirement to demonstrate evidence of sex.

**BACKGROUND:** While DNA testing is considered to be a reliable tool for evaluating the sex and identity of an animal, the DNA testing results can be compromised by sampling or administrative errors, and these errors would not be identified in a timely manner due to processing delays. All of the samples would have to be shipped out of state, and the tests could take months to conduct.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **OPPOSED** to the adoption of this proposal. Managing the sex composition of harvest is crucial for sustained-yield management and wise use of the resource. Evidence of sex is only required for ungulate species when populations cannot support the unregulated harvest or either sex. Proof of sex is necessary to regulate and monitor harvests and ensure the sustainability of the hunt. Even though DNA testing can be used to identify the sex of the animal harvested, it would create processing delays, generate additional costs, and introduce potential errors. The ability of law enforcement officers to evaluate cases in the field would also be diminished.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would result in additional costs to the department in staff time and laboratory fees.

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**PROPOSAL 51 – 5 AAC 92.010. Harvest tickets, and reports; and 92.130. Restrictions to bag limit.** Modify bag limits for nonresidents accompanied by a resident relative.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Professional Hunters Association

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** The proposal seeks to regulate nonresidents who are hunting with resident relatives in a manner similar to youth hunts, where the animal harvested counts toward the bag limit of both hunters, and permit hunts where nonresidents could harvest game on behalf of the resident relative.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** Nonresidents hunting with resident relatives instead of registered guides have their own bag limit.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If adopted, the harvest of guide-required species by a nonresident accompanied by a resident relative would count against the bag limit of both the nonresident and the resident. Additionally, the nonresident could harvest a guide-required species on behalf of a resident relative. This proposal has the potential to limit the total number of animals taken by nonresidents accompanied by resident relatives and the resident relatives because each animal harvested would be counted against both of their individual bag limits. Nonresidents accompanied by a resident relative would also be allowed to harvest animals that are part of the resident allocation.

**BACKGROUND:** The board has adopted regulations to allocate hunting opportunity between resident and nonresident hunters and, in some cases, has made additional allocations for guided nonresident hunters and nonresidents hunting with resident relatives. When allocating hunting opportunity, the board has followed the guidelines in the board’s policy (2007-173-BOG).

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** due to the allocative nature of this proposal.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal is not expected to result in additional costs to the department.

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**PROPOSAL 52 – 5 AAC 92.220(i). Salvage of game meat, furs, and hides.** Clarify the requirements regarding retrieval and salvage of wounded game.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Wildlife Troopers

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** The proposal would remove 5 AAC 92.220(i) from the regulation on the salvage of game.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** 5 AAC 92.220(i) a person who has wounded game shall make every reasonable effort to retrieve and salvage that game.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If adopted the debate and legal concerns surrounding what is “reasonable” and what is “lawful” would be ended. Individuals who fail to salvage the edible meat would still be charged under AS 16.30.010(a) for failing to do so.

**BACKGROUND:** This regulation has been in place for 11 years and was created when the board was discussing using a single leashed dog used to track wounded game. There was a lot of discussion at the time regarding the effort hunters expend searching for wounded game. This particular regulation has led to confusion, and brought to light the fact that a hunter’s idea of reasonable may conflict with what the board has outlined as “lawful”.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal but supports the effort to clarify this regulation.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal is not expected to result in additional costs to the department.

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**PROPOSAL 53 – 5 AAC 92.130. Restrictions to bag limit.** Remove the restriction that wounded game counts against the annual bag limit.

**PROPOSED BY:** The Alaskan Bowhunters Association

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** The proposal seeks to remove the restriction that wounded game counts against the annual bag limit for bears in Units 1–5 and 8, and elk in Unit 8.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** Wounded bears in Units 1–5 and 8, and wounded elk in Unit 8 count towards the hunter’s bag limit for the regulatory year.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If adopted, wounded bears in Units 1–5 and 8 and wounded elk in Unit 8 would not be counted against the hunter’s bag limit, and the hunter would be allowed to continue hunting.

**BACKGROUND:** These regulations were created by the board in an attempt to limit wounding loss for these species in units that can be difficult to hunt and as an incentive for hunters to pay close attention to shot placement and to make sound decisions.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal is not expected to result in additional costs to the department.

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**PROPOSAL 54 – 5 AAC 92.130. Restrictions to bag limit.** Establish an additional statewide bag limit for big game species.

**PROPOSED BY:** Aaron Bloomquist

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** The proposal would create a new category of alternate bag limit restrictions for moose, sheep, goats, brown bears, and caribou that are more lenient than the existing bag limits found in regulations and impose administrative penalties if a person harvested one of these animals.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The current bag limits for each of the species listed is found in 5AAC 85. There are no regulations that create alternate bag limit restrictions and penalties.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If adopted hunters could legally harvest animals that do not meet the bag limit requirements found in 5AAC 85 but are considered legal under the new alternate bag limits. If a hunter harvests an animal that is only “legal” under the new proposed regulation, the hunter would not be able to hunt for that species again for a specified period of time with some exceptions stated in the proposal.

**BACKGROUND:** The current bag limits were adopted by the board with consideration given to area-specific information about each individual wildlife population, the management objectives, and social values. Bag limits for each population are periodically reviewed and adjusted to address biological concerns and/or to provide hunting opportunity.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **OPPOSED** to the adoption of this proposal on a statewide basis because there are many populations that cannot support the additional harvest that this regulation would potentially allow. We recommend that the board consider the population and harvest characteristics for each area before adopting an additional bag limit that could potentially increase harvests beyond sustainable limits. The alternate bag limit also adds additional complexity to the regulations and will likely be difficult to enforce.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal is not expected to result in additional costs to the department.

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**PROPOSAL 55 – 5 AAC 92.132. Bag limit for brown bears.** Change the statewide brown bear bag limit to one bear every regulatory year.

**PROPOSED BY:** Nick Steen

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** The proposal would change the bag limit for brown bears statewide to one bear every regulatory year, except in areas where the bag limit is currently two per year.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** There are currently areas in the state where the bag limits for brown bears are two bears every year, one bear every year, and one bear every four years.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If adopted this proposal will change the existing one bear every four regulatory years to one bear every regulatory year.

**BACKGROUND:** When this regulation was originally adopted, the most common bag limit was one brown bear every four regulatory years, and few exceptions had to be made in the regulation. Over time, the board has increasingly adopted a one bear every year bag limit in many areas.

The current bag limits were adopted by the board with consideration given to area-specific information about each bear population, the management objectives, and social values. Bag limits are periodically reviewed and adjusted to address biological concerns and/or to provide hunting opportunity.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **OPPOSED** to changing area-specific hunt-types or bag limits during a statewide board meeting but is **NEUTRAL** on the restructuring of the regulation. We recommend that changes to area-specific bag limits should be made at regional meetings, where information about each individual population and public opinions can be heard and discussed. This regulation could be restructured to eliminate a few lines of regulation; however, this change would have no effect on how the regulations are printed in the hunting regulations produced annually for the public.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal is not expected to result in additional costs to the department.



**PROPOSAL 56 – 5 AAC 92.220(e). Salvage of game meat, furs, and hides.** Prohibit the transport of hide and skull of black or brown bear from the field until edible meat has been salvaged.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Wildlife Troopers

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal would prohibit the transportation of the hide and skull of black and brown bears from the field until the edible meat has been salvaged, much like the existing regulations for animals with horns and antlers.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** When the hide and skull are required to be salvaged when baiting bears, the meat is also required to be salvaged. The order in which the salvage must occur is not specified.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If adopted the salvage requirements for bears would mimic that of animals with horns or antlers.

**BACKGROUND:** Horns and antlers may not be transported from the kill site until all edible meat has been salvaged in accordance with existing regulations. This proposal places a similar requirement on the salvage of bear meat by requiring the edible meat be salvaged and transported out of the field before the hide and skull. There has been at least one case where a person salvaged the hide and skull prior to salvaging the meat, and upon return the meat had spoiled to a point where it was no longer fit for human consumption.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department **NEUTRAL** on this proposal because it does not present or address a biological concern.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal is not expected to result in additional costs to the department.

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**PROPOSAL 57 – 5 AAC 92.200(b). Purchase and sale of game.** Allow the sale of brown bear hides and/or skulls by resident hunters.

**PROPOSED BY:** Nushagak Advisory Committee

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** Allow the sale of brown bear hides with claws attached and brown bear skulls from bears harvested in areas with a bag limit of two or more bears per season.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** Brown bear hides, with claws attached, and skulls can be sold if they were harvested under the conditions of an active brown bear

predator control permit. In previous years the department operated two active brown bear predator control areas. In one area, tanned hides with claws attached could be sold; in the other, untanned hides with claws attached could be sold. Skulls could be sold from both areas.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If adopted, the hides with claws attached and skulls of brown bears harvested in areas with bag limit of two or more bear per year could be sold.

**BACKGROUND:** This proposal does not speak to whether or not tanned or untanned hides could be sold, and specifies per season, not per regulatory year. Black bear hides with claws attached, and skulls can be sold if taken under hunting regulations. Currently, the only brown bear hides and skulls that can be sold are those harvested under the conditions of a predator control permit.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal is not expected to result in additional costs to the department.

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**PROPOSAL 58 – 5 AAC 92.044. Permit for hunting bear with the use of bait or scent lures.** Prohibit the use of chocolate at bear bait stations.

**PROPOSED BY:** Nicholas Humphreys

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal seeks to prohibit the use of chocolate as bait at bear baiting stations statewide.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** 5 AAC 92.044(b)(8) states that only biodegradable materials may be used as bait; if fish or game is used as bait only the head, bones, viscera, or skin of legally harvested fish and game may be used, except that in Units 7 and 15, fish or fish parts may not be used as bait;

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** Chocolate could not be used as bait at bear bait stations. If adopted, this will be the first step toward regulating the type of bait or scent lures allowed at bait stations, with the exception of restrictions on the use of game and fish.

**BACKGROUND:** The proposer noted studies have shown chocolate has a dangerous effect on bears and may kill cubs. The department does not require baiters to report the type of bait used, so it is unknown how widely chocolate is used. In 2014 in New Hampshire, two sows and two cubs died from an overdose of theobromine, a chemical compound found in chocolate that is

toxic to animals. The hunter placed 90 pounds of chocolate and doughnuts as bait, and all four bears were found dead fifty feet from the bait site. A necropsy was done by the University of New Hampshire to determine the cause of death.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal. A high dose of theobromine is required to be lethal and the proposed regulation will be difficult to enforce. The department will inform hunters of this problem during bear baiting clinics and hunter education courses.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal is not expected to result in additional costs to the department.

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**PROPOSAL 59 – 5 AAC 92.044. Permit for hunting bear with the use of bait or scent lures; and 92.990. Definitions.** Clarify and restrict the use of liquids at bear bait stations.

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

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** The proposal seeks to clarify and restrict the use of liquids used as bait at bear bait stations, by amending 5 AAC 92.044(b)(8) to read:

5 AAC 92.044(b)(8) only biodegradable materials may be used as bait; if fish or game is used as bait, only the head, bones, viscera, or skin of legally harvested fish and game may be used, except that in Units 7 and 15, fish or fish parts may not be used as bait;

(A) **A person may not use liquid bait except for:**

- (i) **Pouring over or mixing with other absorbent bait that is contained in a receptacle such as a barrel, pail or drum.**
- (ii) **For this section absorbent bait means, bait that is dry in nature such as commercial dog food, breads, grains, or other biodegradable bait that absorbs liquid.**
- (iii) **Liquid means a biodegradable fluid that readily flows.**

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** 5 AAC 92.044(b)(8) states that only biodegradable materials may be used as bait; if fish or game is used as bait, only the head, bones, viscera, or skin of legally harvested fish and game may be used, except that in Units 7 and 15, fish or fish parts may not be used as bait. All soil contaminated by baiting must also be removed at the end of the bear baiting season.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If adopted, this regulation will prohibit the use of liquids as bait unless mixed with or poured over absorbent

materials contained in a receptacle for liquids. This would reduce the amount of contaminated soil found at bear baiting sites.

**BACKGROUND:** Oil poured onto the ground and spread at bear bait sites constitutes “bait” by definition. Bear baiting has strict regulations to ensure public safety and to ensure that bait stations do not continue to attract bears beyond the period when baiting is permitted. Contaminated soil can continue to serve as an attractant to bears after the season, thus falling under the legal definition of bait which must be removed from the site. Use of oil at a bait site can also kill vegetation and create unsightly “grease pits.”

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal is not expected to result in additional costs to the department.

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**PROPOSAL 60 – 5 AAC 92.044. Permit for hunting bear with the use of bait or scent lures.**

Allow the use of Northern Pike designated as an invasive species as bait.

**PROPOSED BY:** Robert Lane

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** The proposal seeks to allow the use of northern pike, when classified as an invasive species, as bait at bear bait stations.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** 5 AAC 92.044(b)(8) only biodegradable materials may be used as bait; if fish or game is used as bait, only the head, bones, viscera, or skin of legally harvested fish and game may be used, except that in Units 7 and 15, fish or fish parts may not be used as bait;

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If adopted, the regulation would allow the use of northern pike as bait at bear bait stations provided the fish were harvested in areas where they are classified as an invasive species.

**BACKGROUND:** State law prohibits the release of live nonindigenous fish into the waters of the state; however, there are populations of northern pike that have been illegally stocked, or that have found their way into new drainages. There are areas with management plans for invasive northern pike (e.g., Kenai Peninsula, Anchorage Bowl, Knik Arm, Susitna River Drainage), but no specific waters have been so designated.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal is not expected to result in additional costs to the department.

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**PROPOSAL 61 – 5 AAC 92.044(8). Permit for hunting bear with the use of bait or scent lures.** Allow the use of game as bait.

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

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal seeks to allow the use of the meat of legally harvested furbearers as bait.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** 5 AAC 92.044(b)(8) states that only biodegradable materials may be used as bait; if fish or game is used as bait, only the head, bones, viscera, or skin of legally harvested fish and game may be used, except that in Units 7 and 15, fish or fish parts may not be used as bait;

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If adopted the parts of legally harvested furbearers not required to be salvaged will be able to be used as bait at bear baiting stations. This means the entire carcass (everything but the hide) will be able to be used as bait.

A furbearer is defined as a beaver, black bear, coyote, arctic fox, red fox, lynx, fisher, marten, mink, least weasel, short-tailed weasel, muskrat, land otter, red squirrel, flying squirrel, ground squirrel, Alaskan marmot, hoary marmot, woodchuck, wolf, or wolverine; "furbearer" is a classification of animals subject to taking with a trapping license.

**BACKGROUND:** For years the department has unintentionally misled the public by only including the regulations in 5 AAC 92.210(2) which says parts of legally taken animals that are not required to be salvaged as edible meat can be used as animal food or bait. Bear baiting regulations in 5 AAC 92.044 further restricts the use of game as bait by stating that only the head, bones, viscera or skin of legally harvested game may be used as bait at bear baiting stations..

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department **SUPPORTS** this proposal because it authorizes the use of legally harvested game meat that is not required to be salvaged as bait, an activity that was previously thought to be legal under existing regulations. Adoption of this proposal increases the public's ability to utilize the parts of legally harvested game without impacting the sustainable management of game populations in Alaska.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal is not expected to result in additional costs to the department.

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**PROPOSAL 62 – 5 AAC 92.044. Permit for hunting bear with the use of bait or scent lures.**

Remove the requirement to remove all contaminated soil from bear bait stations.

**PROPOSED BY:** The Alaskan Bowhunters Association

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal would remove the requirement to clean up contaminated soil from bear bait stations statewide.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** 5AAC 92.044 (10) requires bear baiting permittees to remove bait, litter, and equipment from the bait station site when hunting activities are complete.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** Hunters would no longer be required to remove contaminated soil from bait stations.

**BACKGROUND:** Oil poured onto the ground and spread at bear bait sites constitutes “bait” by definition. Bear baiting has strict regulations to ensure public safety and to ensure that bait stations do not continue to attract bears beyond the period when baiting is permitted. Contaminated soil can continue to serve as an attractant to bears after the season, thus falling under the legal definition of bait which must be removed from the site. Use of oil and grease at a bait site can also kill vegetation and create unsightly “grease pits.”

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on the adoption of this proposal. The requirement to clean up contaminated soil is a tool to ensure that bears are not attracted to a closed bait station. Because “contaminated soil” is not found in regulation, or on the bait permit, the adoption of the proposal will not change the regulations.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal is not expected to result in additional costs to the department.

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**PROPOSAL 63 – 5 AAC 92.044. Permit for hunting bear with the use of bait or scent lures.**

Amend bear baiting regulations to require specific locations to be given at the time of registration to update the nomenclature of signs.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** The proposal seeks to change the nomenclature of the bait signs to “Bear Bait Station” and requires specific locations be given at the time the bait sites are registered.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** 5 AAC 92.044(b)(7) states that a person using bait or scent lures shall clearly identify the site with a sign reading “black bear bait station” or “black and brown bear bait station” that also displays the person’s hunting license number and permit number;

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** Bear baiters would not have to worry about getting in trouble for harvesting a brown bear at their bait site, which has a sign that says “Black Bear Bait Station”, in areas where baiting is open to both species. Baiters would also be required to provide the specific location of their bait site at the time the site is registered, before the permit was issued.

**BACKGROUND:** When brown bear harvest was initially allowed at black bear bait sites in very limited areas it made sense to try to keep the signage specific to black bears. Brown bear baiting is now allowed in many parts of the state and not everyone baiting bears is targeting black bears. Changing the sign to something less specific will simplify the regulation and alleviate the concern of some hunters.

Locations of bait stations are treated as specific harvest locations and this is the regulation used to capture the location at the time the sites are registered. Some baiters are unwilling to give the department the specific location of their bait station claiming they are not required to do so. The department would like to make it clear in regulation that the location is required at the time the sites are registered. In Units 1–5, GPS locations are required prior to registering bait sites. This tool allows the department to know how many bait sites are in a given area and gives the Alaska Wildlife Troopers the ability to contact hunters who violate permit conditions by using illegal bait or violate other permit conditions.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department submitted and **SUPPORTS** this proposal.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal is not expected to result in additional costs to the department.

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**PROPOSAL 64 – 5 AAC 92.044. Permit for hunting bear with the use of bait or scent lures.**  
Allow the harvest of brown/grizzly bears at black bear bait stations.

**PROPOSED BY:** The Alaskan Bowhunters Association

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** The proposal would allow the harvest of brown bears at bait stations in all areas where black bear baiting is allowed.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** 5 AAC 92.044(b)(1) states that a person may establish a black bear bait station, or a black and brown bear bait station in Units 7, 11, 12, 13, 14B, 15, 16, 20A, 20B, 20C, 20E, 20D, 24C, 24D, and 25D, only if that person obtains a permit under this section;

(13) in Units 7, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14A, 14B, 15, 16, 17, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25, 26B, and 26C, a hunter who has been airborne may take or assist in taking a black bear at a bait station with the use of bait or scent lures under a permit issued by the department, and if the hunter is at least 300 feet from the airplane at the time of taking; in Units 7, 11, 12, 13, 14A, 14B, 15, 16, 20A, 20B, 20C, 20E, and 20D, 24C, 24D, and 25D, a hunter who has been airborne may take or assist in taking a brown bear at a bait station with the use of bait or scent lures under a permit issued by the department, and if the hunter is at least 300 feet from the airplane at the time of taking.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If adopted brown bears would be allowed to be harvested at bait sites in all areas open to black bear baiting, during open brown bear seasons.

**BACKGROUND:** Regulations allowing the harvest of brown bears at bait sites have been adopted for many parts of the state, and brown bear harvest at bait stations has increased steadily as new regulations were adopted. The use of bait is considered to be a good tool for selectively harvesting bears.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **OPPOSED** to making a change of this nature at a statewide meeting and recommends that changes in hunting opportunity that affect harvest should be considered at regularly scheduled regional board meetings, providing the board with additional opportunity to consider the implications for individual bear populations and hear public comments specific to each area.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal is not expected to result in additional costs to the department.

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**PROPOSAL 65 – 5 AAC 92.220. Salvage of game meat, furs, and hides.** Remove the requirement to salvage brown bear meat at bait stations.

**PROPOSED BY:** The Alaskan Bowhunters Association

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal would remove the meat salvage requirement for brown bear taken over bait statewide.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?**

**5 AAC 92.220. Salvage of game meat, furs, and hides.** (a) Subject to additional requirements in 5 AAC 84 - 5 AAC 85, a person taking game shall salvage the following parts for human use:

...

(5) all edible meat of a brown bear taken under a subsistence registration permit in Unit 9B, all drainages in Unit 9E that drain into the Pacific Ocean between Cape Kumliun and the border of Unit 9D and Unit 9E, Unit 17, Unit 18, that portion of Units 19A and 19B downstream of and including the Aniak River drainage, Unit 20D, Unit 22, Unit 23, Unit 24, and Unit 26A shall be salvaged for human consumption; salvage of the hide or skull is optional; all edible meat of a brown bear taken under a permit issued under 5 AAC 92.044 in Units 7, 11, 12, 13, 14B, 15, 16, 20A, 20B, 20C, 20E, 20D, 24C, 24D, and 25D shall be salvaged.

And:

**5 AAC 92.990(a)(26)** “edible meat” means...in the case of a bear, the meat of the front quarters and hindquarters and meat along the backbone (backstrap);

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If adopted hunters would no longer be required to salvage the edible meat from brown bears taken over bait statewide.

**BACKGROUND:** Brown bears can to be harvested at bait stations in Units 7, 11, 12, 13, 14B, 15, 16, 20A, 20B, 20C, 20E, 20D, 24C, 24D, and 25D. Salvage requirements are aligned throughout the state, and specify that the edible meat of brown bears taken over bait must be salvaged in addition to the requirement to salvage the hide and skull for sealing. The only other time hunters are required to salvage the edible meat of brown bears is under the conditions of a subsistence registration permit, which is offered in portions of Units 9, 17, 18, 19, 21, 22, 23, 24, and 26.

At the March 2014 Statewide meeting the board considered a proposal to remove the salvage requirement for brown bears taken over bait at the statewide level. The proposal failed, and the requirement was retained. Proposals to remove the requirement have been received for each regional meeting since the statewide meeting, and almost all have failed. A proposal to remove the requirement in Unit 14B passed; however, the proposal was worded in such a way that the meat of brown bears had to be salvaged only during the same season as black bears, and the only time the brown bear season is open in Unit 14B is when the meat of black bears is required to be salvaged, so adopting the proposal resulted in no changes to the salvage requirements.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal because it does not affect sustained yield management capabilities. Removing the requirement is not

expected to affect hunter participation in brown bear baiting or increase brown bear harvest. As a result, the proposed changes do not present a biological concern for brown bear populations.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal is not expected to result in additional costs to the department.

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**PROPOSAL 66 – 5 AAC 92.080(16). Unlawful methods of taking game; exceptions.** Allow the use of felt soles.

**PROPOSED BY:** Jake Sprankle

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal would allow the use of felt soled waders while hunting.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? 5 AAC 92.080. Unlawful methods of taking game; exceptions.**

...  
(16) On or after January 1, 2013 with the use of footwear with soles of felt, or other absorbent fiber material, while wading in freshwater streams in this state.  
...

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** Felt soled waders would be legal for wading in freshwater streams while hunting.

**BACKGROUND:** In 2012, the board adopted regulations prohibiting the use of felt sole waders and wading boots to emulate regulations adopted by the Alaska Board of Fisheries in 2009. The prohibition on the use of felt sole waders and wading boots is an effort to reduce or prevent the introduction of invasive species and diseases to freshwater bodies in Alaska.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department **OPPOSES** this proposal but supports educating anglers, hunters, and anyone who spends time in aquatic environments about the risk of spreading invasive organisms and effective disinfection procedures. The Alaska Board of Fisheries and the Board of Game have passed regulations banning the use of waders with soles comprised of absorbent material by anglers in freshwaters. Recreational field gear, and specifically felt soles, are recognized as a potential pathway for transmitting invasive species; however, felt soles are not the only means of transmission and decontamination protocols are necessary.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal is not expected to result in additional cost to the department.

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**PROPOSAL 67 – 5 AAC 92.080(1). Unlawful methods of taking game; exceptions.** Prohibit hunting and trapping from highway right-of-ways.

**PROPOSED BY:** Ahtna Tene Nene’ Customary & Traditional Use Committee

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** Hunting and trapping would be prohibited in right-of-ways unless the person has written documentation granting permission from private land owner(s).

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?**

There are no regulations that prohibit hunting or trapping within right-of-ways. The proposal seeks to modify 5 AAC 92.080(1) that prohibits taking game by shooting from, on, or across a highway.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** Hunters and trappers would not be able to hunt or trap in right-of-ways unless they have written permission from the landowner.

**BACKGROUND:** In the current Alaska hunting and trapping regulations, the department provides contact information for hunting on state, federal, and private lands. The Alaska Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) maintain records of public access routes that can be used to reach public lands and waters. The regulations advise hunters and trappers to know who owns the land where they plan to hunt or trap and, if the area they plan to hunt or trap is private land, hunters and trappers must have written permission from the landowner. Use of private lands without the landowner’s permission, other than those legally reserved for public access easements, is trespassing.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal. State hunting and trapping regulations apply to private land, but do not guarantee access.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal is not expected to result in additional cost to the department.

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**PROPOSAL 68 – 5 AAC 92.080(7). Unlawful methods of taking game; exceptions.** Prohibit the use of forward looking infrared (FLIR) devices.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Wildlife Troopers

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** Prohibit the use of forward looking infrared (FLIR) devices.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? 5 AAC 92.080. Unlawful methods of taking game; exceptions.**

...

(7) with the aid of a pit, fire, artificial light, laser sight, electronically enhanced night vision scope, any device that has been airborne, controlled remotely, and used to spot or locate game with the use of a camera or video device, radio communication, cellular or satellite telephone, artificial salt lick, explosive, expanding gas arrow, bomb, smoke, chemical (excluding scent lures), or a conventional steel trap with an inside jaw spread over nine inches.

...

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** This proposal would prohibit the use of forward looking infrared scopes and hand held devices while hunting.

**BACKGROUND:** Currently, the regulation in 5 AAC 92.080(7) only prohibits the use of enhanced night vision scopes, but not the use of FLIR technology. The difference between electronically enhanced night vision and FLIR technology is that FLIR detects infrared radiation emitted from a heat source by using thermal or infrared technology to create a picture instead of amplifying visible light. FLIRs make it possible to detect the heat of animals against cooler backgrounds and use advanced image correction technology. The FLIR technology is available in handheld cameras, cameras that can be attached to a smart phone, goggles, and rifle scopes.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is neutral on methods and means however, the department **SUPPORTS** this proposal to prohibit the use of FLIR devices statewide for the same reasons the board has prohibited electronically enhanced night vision technology and for consistency with the ban on that similar, but less effective technology. If the board wishes to allow the use of FLIR, we strongly suggest that they allow it in a single unit for a single species so the department can determine the increase harvest resulting from the technology.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal is not expected to result in additional cost to the department.

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**PROPOSAL 69 - 5 AAC 92.080. Unlawful methods of taking game; exceptions.** Prohibit hunting with domestic dogs.

**PROPOSED BY:** Guy Fulton

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** Prohibit the use or accompaniment of domestic dogs by hunters. The restriction would apply to all bird hunting and to the permitted use of dogs to track wounded game and to hunt black bears. The only exception would be for ADA service dogs with a certificate of veterinary inspection (CVI commonly called a “health certificate”).

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** Dogs are legal for hunting small game, including hares, upland birds, and waterfowl. Hunting with dogs is prohibited for fur animals, furbearers, and big game. Exceptions are that one leashed tracking dog, under the direct control of the handler, may be used to track wounded big game, and a dog may be used to hunt black bears. The specifics are found in 5 AAC 92.080 Unlawful methods of taking game, 5 AAC 92.085(5) Unlawful methods of taking big game, 5 AAC 92.090(1) Unlawful methods of fur animals, and 5 AAC 92.095(5) Unlawful methods of furbearers.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** Bird hunters would no longer be able to use dogs to flush or retrieve birds, and the use of a dog to locate wounded game would be prohibited. Additionally, dogs could no longer be used to hunt black bears under a department issued permit. Hunters with ADA service dogs would be required to bring the dog to an accredited veterinarian and pay for a physical examination and CVI no more than 30 days prior to hunting.

**BACKGROUND:** The information from the department memorandum that was cited in the proposal was taken out of context and did not include the main points of the memo, which was to encourage preventative tick treatments on all imported dogs and raise awareness among diagnosticians to consider tick-borne diseases in their differential diagnostics.

The department’s disease surveillance program veterinarian along with the state veterinarian have identified numerous instances of importation of dog ticks (species not previously recognized as endemic to Alaska) on dogs arriving from out of state, despite all of the dogs having valid CVIs. The veterinary examination for a CVI does not include an extensive search with magnification that is necessary to identify larva, nymphal and cryptic ticks nor does it include any diagnostic testing for any diseases that dogs might carry but not be overtly ill from currently. Additionally, since adult ticks only feed on the dog for 3–15 days, and ticks spend <2% of their life on the dog, so the likelihood of finding a tick on the dog during a physical exam is small during the 30-day window. The requirements are only a certification that an inspection by an accredited veterinarian found the animal “healthy and apparently free from *symptoms* of contagious, infectious or communicable” at that time. Thus, a dog with a CVI does not pose

significantly less risk of disease or tick transmission than a dog without a CVI that is fit enough to go into the field. Furthermore, the likelihood that a dog with a non-endemic tick-borne disease organism, in its bloodstream, having an adult female tick feed on it for at least 2 days and then drop off while the dog was in the field, and find suitable environmental conditions and hosts to complete the life cycle and feeding requirements for disease transmission during the fall/winter hunting season is extremely remote.

The submitter also lists other potential diseases transmitted by canines, but these diseases are already prevalent in the endemic wild canid populations (wolves, foxes, coyotes). Dogs are only rarely infected with these so the actual concern is the risk to the dog's health and for zoonotic transmission via the dog to humans, rather transmitting it back to wildlife. An example is why Iditarod dogs must be treated for *Echinococcus* (hydatid disease) tapeworms to prevent exposure to village children. Transmission risk of an exotic, especially a tick-borne disease from an Alaskan resident dog used during hunting is not zero, but is extremely low compared to risks of the dog picking up a disease or parasite from wildlife.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department **OPPOSES** this proposal because it would reduce hunting success and retrieval rates for hunters that use dogs unnecessarily because it would not have the desired effect of preventing or reducing transmission of exotic diseases to wildlife. The proposed alternative mechanism, a certificate of veterinary inspection, also would not achieve this aim because the inspection does not include identification, testing or treatment for the parasites/ticks or diseases of concern.

If an action is desired to reduce risk of dog ticks or non-endemic tick-borne disease transmission from domestic dogs to susceptible wildlife, the most effective route would be to encourage and educate the public that a label dose of an ascaricide, prescription-strength medication should be applied to dogs prior to going into the field, whether for hunting, training, or recreation during the spring, summer and early fall.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs to the department.

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**PROPOSAL 70 – 5 AAC 92.085. Unlawful methods of taking big game; exceptions.** Restrict the use of aircraft for spotting and locating big game species while hunting.

**PROPOSED BY:** Fred Harbison

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal restricts the use of aircraft by prohibiting the use of aircraft to locate or spot big game during the open hunting season.

## **WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?**

5 AAC 92.085. Unlawful methods of taking big game; exceptions.

(8) a person who has been airborne may not take or assist in taking a big game animal until after 3:00 a.m. following the day in which the flying occurred, and from August 10 through September 20 aircraft may not be used by or for any person to locate Dall sheep for hunting or direct hunters to Dall during the open sheep hunting season, however, aircraft other than helicopters may be used by and for sheep hunters to place and remove hunters and camps, maintain existing camps, and salvage harvested sheep. Restrictions in this paragraph do not apply to

- (A) taking deer;
- (B) repealed 7/1/92;
- (C) a person flying on a regularly scheduled commercial airline, including a commuter airline;
- (D) taking caribou from January 1 through April 15, in Unit 22 if the hunter is at least 300 feet from the airplane at the time of taking;
- (E) repealed 7/1/2009;
- (F) repealed 7/1/2009;
- (G) a hunter taking a bear at a bait station with the use of bait or scent lures with a permit issued under 5 AAC 92.044, and if the hunter is at least 300 feet from the airplane at the time of taking;

## **WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?**

This proposal expands the prohibition on using aircraft to locate or spot sheep during the sheep hunting season to all big game species. Hunters would still be allowed to use aircraft to access hunting areas and to transport gear, meat, trophies, and any other equipment associated with a hunt for a big game species.

**BACKGROUND:** Aircraft are used by some hunters to locate big game animals before and during the hunting season, and there is both support and opposition to this practice in the hunting community. When discussing this activity, hunters often talk about hunter ethics, hunt quality, user conflicts, and the costs associated with using an aircraft for this purpose.

During the March 2015 Board of Game meeting, the board adopted a proposal that prohibits the use of aircraft to locate or spot sheep during the sheep hunting season.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal because it does not create or address a biological concern.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal is not expected to result in additional costs to the department.

**PROPOSAL 71 – 5 AAC 92.085. Unlawful methods of taking big game; exceptions.** Clarify same day airborne prohibitions.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Wildlife Troopers

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?**

This proposal further defines the prohibition on using an aircraft on the same day of being airborne by specifying that a person may not be assisted in the taking of big game by a person who has been airborne.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?**

5 AAC 92.085. Unlawful methods of taking big game; exceptions.

(8) a person who has been airborne may not take or assist in taking a big game animal until after 3:00 a.m. following the day in which the flying occurred, and from August 10 through September 20 aircraft may not be used by or for any person to locate Dall sheep for hunting or direct hunters to Dall during the open sheep hunting season, however, aircraft other than helicopters may be used by and for sheep hunters to place and remove hunters and camps, maintain existing camps, and salvage harvested sheep. Restrictions in this paragraph do not apply to

- (A) taking deer;
- (B) repealed 7/1/92;
- (C) a person flying on a regularly scheduled commercial airline, including a commuter airline;
- (D) taking caribou from January 1 through April 15, in Unit 22 if the hunter is at least 300 feet from the airplane at the time of taking;
- (E) repealed 7/1/2009;
- (F) repealed 7/1/2009;
- (G) a hunter taking a bear at a bait station with the use of bait or scent lures with a permit issued under 5 AAC 92.044, and if the hunter is at least 300 feet from the airplane at the time of taking;

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?**

This proposal would allow Alaska Wildlife Troopers to consider same day airborne charges in circumstances where a person takes a big game animal after receiving information from a person who was airborne the same day. This proposal makes both individuals responsible for violating the regulation.

**BACKGROUND:**

Use of aircraft to locate and harvest game on the same day can increase hunting success. The current regulation prohibits an individual from taking a big game animal the same day they are airborne; however, the regulation does not prohibit an individual from taking a big game animal using information given to them by another individual who was airborne. If any individual takes a big game animal on the day that they receive information from an individual who was airborne the same day, only the individual who was airborne would be in violation of the current regulation.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department **SUPPORTS** this proposal to clarify the regulation that prohibits the use of aircraft to take game on the same day of being airborne. The department believes that hunters currently think that both the individual supplying information same-day airborne and the hunter taking the game are subject to the regulation. If it becomes known that the person taking big game is not subject to the regulation unless they were personally in the aircraft, the practice will undoubtedly increase. If this proposal is not adopted, the department recommends that the board consider changes in hunting seasons, bag limits, and hunt requirements to ensure the sustainability of hunting opportunity for some populations. User conflicts are also likely to increase.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal is not expected to result in additional costs to the department.

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**PROPOSAL 72 – 5 AAC 92.085. Unlawful methods of taking big game; exceptions.**

Establish a minimum caliber ammunition for moose hunts.

**PROPOSED BY:** Tim Crace

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** The proposal imposes a minimum caliber ammunition requirement (.243 caliber) for hunting moose.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** Big game can be harvested by any caliber rifle or pistol that uses a centerfire cartridge.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If adopted moose would have more strict weapons requirements than other big game species and could only be taken with .243 or larger caliber ammunition.

**BACKGROUND:** The board has established standards for some weapons, and the department in turn educates hunters as to the pros and cons of legal weapons and calibers. The decision as to which legal caliber is used to harvest game is left to the individual hunters and their capabilities.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal. The board has differentiated between big game and small game and set weapon-specific standards accordingly. Creating an additional level of weapons restrictions for individual big game species adds complexity to the regulations and may cause some confusion the public. If a minimum caliber is adopted the department recommends it be adopted for all big game species.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal is not expected to result in additional costs to the department.

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**PROPOSAL 73 – 5 AAC 92.085. Unlawful methods of taking big game; exceptions.**

Establish a minimum caliber ammunition for caribou hunts.

**PROPOSED BY:** Tim Crace

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** The proposal imposes a minimum caliber ammunition requirement (.243 caliber) for hunting caribou.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** Big game can be harvested by any caliber rifle or pistol that uses a centerfire cartridge.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If adopted caribou would have more strict weapons requirements than other big game species and could only be taken with .243 or larger caliber ammunition.

**BACKGROUND:** The board has established standards for some weapons, and the department in turn educates hunters as to the pros and cons of legal weapons and calibers. The decision as to which legal caliber is used to harvest game is left to the individual hunters and their capabilities.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal. The board has differentiated between big game and small game and set weapon-specific standards accordingly. Creating an additional level of weapons restrictions for individual big game species adds complexity to the regulations and may cause some confusion the public. If a minimum caliber is adopted the department recommends it be adopted for all big game species.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal is not expected to result in additional costs to the department.

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**PROPOSAL 74 – 5 AAC 92.085. Unlawful methods of taking big game; exceptions.**

Establish a minimum caliber ammunition for black and brown bear hunts.

**PROPOSED BY:** Tim Crace

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** The proposal imposes a minimum caliber ammunition requirement (.243 caliber) for hunting black and brown bears.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** Big game can be harvested by any caliber rifle or pistol that uses a centerfire cartridge.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If adopted black and brown bears would have more strict weapons requirements than other big game species and could only be taken with .243 or larger caliber ammunition.

**BACKGROUND:** The board has established standards for some weapons, and the department in turn educates hunters as to the pros and cons of legal weapons and calibers. The decision as to which legal caliber is used to harvest game is left to the individual hunters and their capabilities.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal. The board has differentiated between big game and small game and set weapon-specific standards accordingly. Creating an additional level of weapons restrictions for individual big game species adds complexity to the regulations and may cause some confusion the public. If a minimum caliber is adopted the department recommends it be adopted for all big game species.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal is not expected to result in additional costs to the department.

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**PROPOSAL 75 – 5 AAC 92.085. Unlawful methods of taking big game; exceptions.** Allow the use of blackpowder cartridge rifles and crossbows in bison hunts.

**PROPOSED BY:** Howard Delo

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** The proposal seeks to allow the use of blackpowder cartridge rifles and crossbows in bison hunts.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** It is legal to use blackpowder cartridge rifles and crossbows in hunts that are not weapons-restricted. There are minimum requirements for using crossbows, but not for using blackpowder cartridge rifles.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If the proposal were adopted, blackpowder cartridge rifles and crossbows would be legal to be used when hunting bison.

**BACKGROUND:** The department uses its discretionary authority in Unit 20D to restrict the weapons used during the hunt to only rifles that fire a 200 grain bullet or larger, which have 2,000 ft/lbs or more energy retained at 100 yards. Blackpowder cartridge rifles are different from muzzleloaders because the blackpowder cartridge rifle loads from the breech and fires a preloaded cartridge that contains black powder. Blackpowder cartridge rifles cannot be legally used in muzzleloader-only seasons and are closer to modern centerfire rifles than muzzleloaders.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal is not expected to result in additional costs to the department.

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**PROPOSAL 76 – 5 AAC 92.085. Unlawful methods of taking big game; exceptions.** Adopt minimum caliber requirements for use of high-power air rifles to take big game.

**PROPOSED BY:** Zachary Bulacan

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** The proposal seeks to allow the use of air rifles to harvest big game and sets a minimum caliber that can be used. Even though a minimum caliber is not specified, the proposal suggests that the minimum should be a .40 or larger caliber air rifle with a rifled barrel that discharges a single projection.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** There are currently no regulations that specify the caliber of air rifle that may be used to take game. 5 AAC 92.085 limits big game hunting to rifles that use center-fire ammunition, which prohibits the use of air rifles.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If the proposal were adopted standards would be put into regulations that specify which calibers of air rifle would be legal methods of taking game.

**BACKGROUND:** The use of high-powered air rifles is becoming more common, and the technology improved enough that they can be used to harvest very large animals, such as bison. There are some management areas in Alaska that allow the harvest of game by air rifle with rifled barrels, but there are no restrictions based on caliber. The most common caliber for an air rifle is the .177, which is the caliber the board considered when it adopted regulations that allow the use of air rifles in some management areas.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal is not expected to result in additional costs to the department.

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**PROPOSAL 77 – 5 AAC 92.080(7)(C)(i). Unlawful methods of taking game; exceptions.**

Allow the use of artificial light for taking furbearers.

**PROPOSED BY:** William Wertanen

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal would allow the use of artificial lighting on land only in all units to take furbearers during the open trapping season for each unit.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? 5 AAC 92.080. Unlawful taking of game; exceptions.**

(7) with the aid of a pit, fire, artificial light, laser sight, electronically enhanced night vision scope, any device that has been airborne, controlled remotely, and used to spot or locate game with the use of a camera or video device, radio communication, cellular or satellite telephone, artificial salt lick, explosive, expanding gas arrow, bomb, smoke, chemical (excluding scent lures), or a conventional steel trap with an inside jaw spread over nine inches.

(C) artificial light may be used;

(i) for the purpose of taking furbearers under a trapping license during an open season November 1–March 31 in Units 7 and 9–26.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If the regulation was adopted it would change the existing regulation in place for Units 7 and 9–26 to restrict the use of artificial light to land only. It would also expand the regulation to include Units 1–6 and 8.

**BACKGROUND:** The regulation 5 AAC 92.080(7)(C)(i) excludes Units 1–6 and 8 due to the concurrent deer season. There was concern that if the use of artificial light was allowed in these units deer could be harvested incidentally by using a spotlight.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department **NEUTRAL** on this proposal.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal is not expected to result in additional cost to the department.

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**PROPOSAL 78 – 5 AAC 92.095 Unlawful methods of taking furbearers; exceptions.**

Remove all requirements for identification tags on traps and snares.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Trappers Association

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** The proposal would remove the requirement for identification tags on traps and snares.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? 5 AAC 92.095. Unlawful methods of taking furbearers; exceptions.**

(13) in Units 12 and 20E within one-quarter mile of any publicly maintained road, by using a snare with a cable diameter of 3/32 inch or larger that is set out of water, unless the snare has been individually marked with a permanent metal tag upon which is stamped or permanently etched the trapper's name and address, or the trapper's permanent identification number, or is set within 50 yards of a sign that lists the trapper's name and address, or the trapper's permanent identification number; the trapper must use the trapper's Alaska driver's license number or state identification number; if a trapper chooses to place a sign at a snaring site rather than tagging individual snares, the sign must be at least 3 inches by 5 inches in size, be clearly visible, and have numbers and letters that are at least one-half inch high and one-eighth inch wide in a color that contrasts with the color of the sign;

(17) In Units 1–5, by using a trap or snare, unless the trap or snare has been individually marked with a permanent metal tag upon which is stamped or permanently etched the trapper's name and address, or the trapper's permanent identification number, or is set within 50 yards of a sign that lists the trapper's name and address, or the trapper's permanent identification number; the trapper must be use the trappers' Alaska driver's license number or state identification number; if a trapper chooses to place a sign at a snaring site rather than tagging individual snares, the sign must be at least 3 inches by 5 inches in size, be clearly visible, and have numbers and letters that are at least one-half inch high and one-eighth inch wide in a color that contrasts with the color of the sign;

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If the regulation was adopted it would remove the requirement for trappers to mark traps or snares with identification tags in Units 1–5 and within one-quarter mile of publicly maintained roads in Units 12 and 20E.

**BACKGROUND:** The requirement to mark a snare was implemented in RY2001 for Unit 12 and 20E and in RY2003 for Units 1–5.

The requirement to mark a snare in Units 12 and 20E was originally enacted to address local enforcement issues related to snare sets left in the field following the closure of the wolf trapping

season. The original proposal included a sunset clause of 2 years but was reinstated by the board in 2002 without the sunset because of overall positive support from local trappers and law enforcement. Wolf trapping along major roadways is common in Units 12 and 20E. When these animals are caught in sight of the road, the marking requirement has allowed the department and troopers to contact trappers before public complaints escalate.

Past proposals requesting a permanent identification on all traps and snares have passed in some areas of the state where trapping occurs near roads, trails and other public access points, and where conflicts with other user groups have occurred.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal but recommends that board address area-specific issues during regularly scheduled regional board meetings rather than on a statewide basis. Requiring traps and snares to be marked makes enforcement easier, but also could potentially cause problems for otherwise legal trappers. Such a regulation may be unnecessary in most of the state, and may only be appropriate in specific areas with documented issues.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal is not expected to result in additional cost to the department.

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**PROPOSAL 79 – 5 AAC 92.095 Unlawful methods of taking furbearers; exceptions.**

Require traps to be checked every 24 hours.

**PROPOSED BY:** Michelle Anderson and Patricia O'Brien

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** The proposal would require traps to be checked every 24 hours, unless there is a severe weather event.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? 5 AAC 92.095 (a)(16). Unlawful methods of taking furbearers; exceptions.**

(16) in Unit 1C, that portion west of Excursion Inlet and north of Icy Passage, by using

(A) a snare with a cable diameter of 1/32 inch or larger that is set out of water, except under the terms of a registration permit;

(B) a trap or snare, unless the trap or snare is checked at last once every 72 hours.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If the regulation was adopted it would remove section (B) and create a new subparagraph that would require traps or snares to be checked every 24 hours, except in the event of severe weather. It would also require the trapper to document the time and date of when the set was established, the

time and date of each check, and if the traps were not able to be checked due to severe weather, the date and nature of the weather event would be documented.

**BACKGROUND:** Previous proposals to require a specific trap-check time frame were not adopted by the board. The requirement to adhere to mandatory times will likely be impossible to enforce in many cases due to a variety of factors including weather, remote locations, long distances, etc. The trapper code of ethics already requires trappers to check traps regularly and promote trapping methods that reduce the possibility of catching non-target animals. The only area in the state where such a time check exists is a small area near Gustavus, which the board established in response to a number of moose being caught in snares.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **OPPOSED** to making a change of this nature at a statewide meeting and recommends that requirements that potentially limit a trapper's ability to trap and harvest furbearers be considered at regularly scheduled regional board meetings to hear public comments that are specific to each area.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal is not expected to result in additional cost to the department.

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**PROPOSAL 80 – 5 AAC 92.095 Unlawful methods of taking furbearers; exceptions.** Move trapping away from cities with a population of 1,000 or more.

**PROPOSED BY:** Michelle Anderson and Patricia O'Brien

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** The proposal would put restrictions on traps placed near cities with a population of 1,000 or more and would amend 5 AAC 92.095 as follows: new paragraphs (c) and (d) to read:

**(c) In a city with a population of 1,000 or more, unless the city has a more restrictive ordinance, a person may not place a trap or a snare within**

**(1) one-quarter mile of a publicly maintained road; or**

**(2) 200 feet of a publicly maintained trail.**

**(d) Except within a community with a more restrictive ordinance, a person may not place a trap or a snare within one mile of a**

**(1) house or other permanent dwelling, except that a trap or snare may be placed within one mile of a cabin, if the cabin is on the opposite side of a major river system, or the cabin is owned by the trapper for use as a trapping cabin;**

**(2) business; or**

**(3) school; or**

**(4) a developed campground or developed recreational facility.**

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?**

There are currently no regulations that prohibit trapping based on the human population size in the area. There are regulations for specific areas under 5 AAC 92.095, such as Unit 12 and 20E, where trappers are prohibited from using a snare that is set out of water unless it has been marked with trapper identification, and Unit 5A, where trappers are prohibited from using snares or body-gripping traps of a certain size within Yakutat city limits and other specific roads and trails. The regulation in 5 AAC 92.550 closes certain areas to trapping, and the regulation in 5 AAC 92.530 restricts trapping in certain management areas.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** There would be lost trapping opportunity, but also a reduction in user conflicts.

**BACKGROUND:** The intent of this proposal is to minimize user conflicts. The board addresses these individual conflicts through restrictions in management areas, areas closed to trapping or other methods and means restrictions for specific areas.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on the proposed regulation that attempts to reduce conflicts that can occur as a result of trapping activities but is **OPPOSED** to making a change of this nature at a statewide meeting. The department recommends that regulations that restrict trapping and harvest furbearers be considered at regularly scheduled regional board meetings to hear public comments that are specific to each area.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal is not expected to result in additional cost to the department.



**PROPOSAL 81 – 5 AAC 92.095 Unlawful methods of taking furbearers; exceptions.**

Define the term underwater for the purposes of allowing furbearers to be harvested with underwater traps or snares.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game at the request of the Board of Game

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** The proposal would define the term underwater traps and snares as follows:

5 AAC 92.095 (new section):

**In this section, “underwater traps and snares” means the trap or snare must be set below the waterline and a portion the trap or snare must be in the water.**

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?**

Currently there is a not a definition in regulation, but the intent of the proposal is to clarify regulation 5 AAC 92.095 (a):

...

(10) taking beaver in Units 11, 13, and 16 from September 25 through November 9, in the remainder of Unit 20(B) and in Unit 20(D) from September 25 through October 31 and from April 16 through May 31, and in Units 7 and 15 from October 15 through November 9 and from April 1 through April 30, except with underwater traps or snares.

...

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** The regulation would define what exactly is required when placing underwater traps and snares.

**BACKGROUND:** In certain areas of the state beaver seasons have been extended and the board has required traps and snares to be underwater to prevent by catch of non-target species. In the past, the trapping regulations have used the term “submerged”, which has caused confusion among trappers and enforcement because it is not entirely clear how far under the water the trap or snare must be. This proposal seeks to clarify the intent of the existing regulation.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department submitted and **SUPPORTS** this proposal.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal is not expected to result in additional cost to the department.

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**PROPOSAL 82 – 5 AAC 92.012. Licenses and tags.** Amend the requirement to fix a big game locking tag.

**PROPOSED BY:** Bobby Graham

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** The proposal would change the timing of when locking tags are required to be locked on the animal after harvest.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** In any hunt where a numbered, non-transferable locking tag is required, a person taking big game shall immediately affix the locking tag to the portion of the animal required to be salvaged from the field and the person shall keep the tag affixed until the animal is prepared for storage, consumed, or exported.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If adopted successful hunters would no longer be required to immediately affix the locking tag to the

portion of the animal required to be salvaged, but would be required to affix the locking tag to the portion of the animal required to be salvaged prior to leaving the kill site.

**BACKGROUND:** Existing regulations were adopted to prevent people from potentially abusing the system by not claiming the animal they harvested.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal is not expected to result in additional costs to the department.

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**PROPOSAL 83 – 5 AAC 92.010. Harvest tickets and reports.** Eliminate the use of harvest tickets in any hunt requiring a metal locking tag.

**PROPOSED BY:** Aaron Bloomquist

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** The proposal seeks to eliminate the use of harvest tickets in any hunts requiring metal locking tags.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** Harvest tickets are required for general season black bear, caribou, deer, moose, and sheep hunts. Nonresidents and nonresident aliens are required to purchase a metal locking tag for each of these species, in addition to the harvest ticket.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If adopted harvest tickets would not be required of nonresidents and nonresident aliens participating in any hunt requiring a general season harvest ticket. Instead hunters would be required to submit a report online during a specified number of days after taking the bag limit or at the close of the season. Harvest tickets would still be required of all residents, because metal locking tags are not required for residents who participate in any hunts where general season harvest tickets are required.

**BACKGROUND:** For nonresidents and nonresident aliens participating in hunts managed by general season harvest tickets, metal locking tags are currently required in addition to the harvest tickets. Nonresidents and nonresident aliens have this added level of responsibility compared to residents.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **OPPOSED** to the adoption of this proposal because of the potential to lose basic hunt information, including the number of nonresidents participating in each hunt, hunting effort, and success rates. Harvest tickets also provide a physical reminder that a report is needed. Under the current regulations, hunters are

required to obtain the harvest tickets prior to hunting, and they see what information will be collected, regardless of success. Adoption of this proposal differs from only using a locking tag for brown bears because brown bears are required to be sealed; the other species are not. Additionally, the board has adopted permit hunts to capture the information normally documented through the use of harvest tickets in areas where brown bear hunting is monitored closely. For these reasons the department believes adoption of this proposal would be detrimental to the management of these species, and it would create more confusion than it would alleviate.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal is not expected to result in additional costs to the department.

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**PROPOSAL 84 – 5 AAC 92.012(b). Licenses and tags.** Clarify the inspection requirements for licenses, harvest tickets, and permits.

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

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** The proposal seeks to put limitations on the regulation that currently gives department personnel and peace officers the ability to search, at any time, any apparatus designed to be and capable of being used to take game, and any paperwork or tags also required.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** 5 AAC 92.012(b) Upon request from an employee of the department or a peace officer of the state, a person may not refuse to present for inspection any license, harvest ticket, permit, tag, or bowhunter certification card, any game, or any apparatus designed to be, and capable of being, used to take game.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If adopted department personnel and peace officers will not be able to conduct searches of hunting equipment and inspection of licenses, paperwork and tags unless the person is engaged in the act of hunting or trapping, or is in possession of game.

**BACKGROUND:** The department receives few complaints about requests to conduct searches and requests to see applicable licenses, permits, and tags, etc. However, the majority of field contacts and searches are made by Alaska Wildlife Troopers. Other states have a similar regulation, where it is also used as a conservation tool.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal is not expected to result in additional costs to the department.

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**PROPOSAL 85 - 5 AAC 92.010 (g). Harvest tickets and reports.** Remove the exception for harvest tickets and reports for caribou.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Outdoor Council

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** Remove the option for persons to register with the department in place of required harvest tickets and harvest reports if they reside, and hunt caribou in general season hunts, north of the Yukon River. There would be no exceptions to requiring possession of harvest tickets and obtaining harvest reports for all residents hunting caribou in general season hunts north of the Yukon River.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?**

**5 AAC 92.010. Harvest tickets and reports**

...

(g) For caribou, a person may not hunt caribou, except in a permit hunt, unless the person has in possession a harvest ticket and has obtained a harvest report (issued with the harvest ticket); however, a person who resides north of the Yukon River and is hunting north of the Yukon River is not required to use harvest tickets or harvest reports but must register to hunt caribou in the arctic.

...

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** All caribou hunters in general season hunts would need to use harvest tickets, even in the areas north of the Yukon River. Successful hunters would be required to validate the month and date of kill of each animal harvested by notching a harvest ticket and submit hunt reports to the department within 15 days after taking the legal bag limit or within 15 days after the close of the season if unsuccessful or did not hunt. Failure to possess a harvest ticket while hunting would be a wildlife violation.

**BACKGROUND:** The current registration system for caribou hunters was developed primarily to accommodate hunters and harvest monitoring of the Western Arctic caribou herd (WAH) in broad rural areas of northwest Alaska. After the prominent decline of the herd documented in 1976, hunting seasons were initially closed and then reopened as permit hunts for a short time. As the herd increased the permit hunts were replaced with harvest ticket hunts for a few years until it was obvious that harvest tickets were not tracking harvest, especially after higher bag limits were enacted as the herd entered a period of rapid growth. To document harvest patterns

and trends, Community-based Harvest Assessments (CHA) were completed by Division of Subsistence in selected communities within the range of the herd. CHA results demonstrated that harvest tickets reports were surprisingly poor tools to monitor caribou harvest, capturing less than 10% of resident harvest due to low participation in the program. At subsequent discussions during Statewide and Western and Arctic Regional (Region V) board meetings, the registration approach was suggested for residents hunting the WAH in areas north of the Yukon River in Units 18, 22, 23, and 26A. To simplify the regulation and use a common boundary for harvest ticket requirements across the state, the Yukon River was used as the dividing line, even though few WAH caribou occur in the eastern portions of the area north of the Yukon River. The generalized boundary affects the following herds that occur north of the Yukon River:

- WAH and Teshekpuk caribou herds managed by Region V (Arctic and Western regions);
- Central Arctic, Porcupine, Galena Mountain, Hodzana Hills, Wolf Mountain, and Ray Mountains caribou herds managed by Region III (Interior and Northeastern regions).

Recent harvest monitoring in the WAH and Teshekpuk herds has been accomplished through an annual modeling approach of CHA data applied to seasonal distribution of caribou (availability to communities for harvest) and human population within zones where caribou are available for harvest. This was instituted because of continued poor compliance with licensing requirements, low harvest reporting, and the high confidence in CHA data. The harvest model produces an annual range-wide estimate with confidence intervals. Similar results would be very difficult to achieve if based on low use of harvest tickets, accentuated by the fact that in many places typical reporting is a challenge because basic services are reduced or lacking (e.g. postal service, internet).

Transitioning to a harvest ticket approach to reporting for the WAH and Teshekpuk herds is best initiated through involvement of primary participants at the next Arctic and Western Region meeting, which is scheduled for Winter 2017 in Bethel. Compliance with more rigorous monitoring systems will require education, local understanding of procedures, vendor support, and increased presence of department staff involved with herd management. These are feasible objectives for bringing the primary participants into the public process of regulation change affecting WAH and Teshekpuk hunters.

The current registration system primarily accommodates WAH hunters in Units 18, 22, 23, and 26A. Caribou harvest monitoring in Region III (Units 21, 24, 25, 26B, and 26C) is more dependent on immediate harvest reporting due to in-season requirements and the small size of several herds. An accurate account of harvest is essential for these small herds. For example, hunting for Galena Mountain caribou is closed because of conservation concerns, unless the WAH is present. The closely-managed Fortymile caribou herd has also begun to move into Unit 25 north of the Yukon River during the hunting season. The Division of Wildlife Conservation will also derive substantial benefit if all harvest data for the Central Arctic and Porcupine herds

are reported through general season harvest tickets, especially when these herds mix or when discussing Alaskan and Canadian harvest at International Porcupine Caribou Board meetings.

For many years, Region III has been encouraging eligible hunters in Units 21, 24, 25, 26B, and 26C to use general harvest tickets and hunt reports so that harvest data are entered into the statewide harvest database, allowing ADF&G to more closely determine the harvest rate on local herds.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** For Units 18, 22, 23, and 26A, the department recommends **DEFERRING** this proposal to the next scheduled Arctic and Western Regional meeting during the winter of 2017. At present, low participation, sparse vendor support, potential difficulties by hunters managing multiple harvest tickets for multiple daily bag limits, and lack of use of on-line services (e.g. on-line licensing) contribute to the likelihood that an immediate change to harvest tickets will not be very successful. The department will use the time until the next Region V meeting to bring the primary participants into the public process for the Region V meeting.

For the portions of Units 21, 24, 25, 26B, and 26C that are north of the Yukon River, the department **SUPPORTS** modifying the hunt structure by requiring a general season caribou harvest tickets to simplify hunting regulations. It is anticipated that local hunters would be able use the same, long-standing mechanisms for obtaining caribou harvest tickets and reporting on caribou hunts that are currently used for moose. This change would improve the department's ability to obtain an accurate account of harvest for the herds that occupy areas peripheral to the WAH and Teshekpuk herds' range. Hunters are allowed to obtain multiple harvest tickets where the bag limit exceeds 5 caribou and can obtain harvest tickets online if local vendors are not available.

For the interim until the next Arctic and Western Region Meeting, the department **SUPPORTS** an amended regulation preserving the registration option for north of the Yukon River in Units 18, 22, 23, and 26(A):

**5 AAC 92.010. Harvest tickets and reports**

...

(g) For caribou, a person may not hunt caribou, except in a permit hunt, unless the person has in possession a harvest ticket and has obtained a harvest report (issued with the harvest ticket); however, a person who resides **in Unit 18 north of the Yukon River, Unit 22, Unit 23, or Unit 26A and is hunting in these areas** north of the Yukon River [AND IS HUNTING NORTH OF THE YUKON RIVER] is not required to use harvest tickets or harvest reports but must register to hunt caribou [IN THE ARCTIC].

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal is not expected to result in additional costs to the department.

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**PROPOSAL 86 - 5 AAC 92.010 (h). Harvest tickets and reports.** Remove the exception for harvest tickets and reports for sheep.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Outdoor Council

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** Remove the option for persons to register with the department in place of required harvest tickets and harvest reports if they hunt Dall sheep in general season hunts in Gates of the Arctic National Park. There would be no exceptions to requiring possession of harvest tickets and obtaining harvest reports for all persons hunting sheep in Gates of the Arctic National Park.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?**

**5 AAC 92.010. Harvest tickets and reports**

(h) For moose and sheep, a person may not hunt moose or sheep, except in a permit hunt or in the Gates of the Arctic National Park, unless the person has in possession a harvest ticket for the species and has obtained a harvest report (issued with the harvest ticket); however, a person who is hunting Dall sheep in the Gates of the Arctic National Park must register with the department.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** All sheep hunters participating in general season hunts would need to obtain harvest tickets, even in Gates of the Arctic National Park. Successful hunters would be required to validate the month and date of kill of each animal harvested by notching a harvest ticket and submit hunt reports to the department within 15 days after taking the legal bag limit or within 15 days after the close of the season if unsuccessful or did not hunt. Failure to possess a harvest ticket while hunting would be a wildlife violation.

**BACKGROUND:** The current registration system for resident sheep hunters was developed primarily to accommodate rural constituents hunting in Gates of the Arctic National Park. Options to register with the department for sheep hunting were suggested when vendor support was low and familiarity or availability of sheep harvest tickets was minimal. We are uncertain of compliance with licensing requirements and have had few hunters use this method to comply with general season hunting regulations. Transitioning to harvest tickets for reporting is best achieved through involvement of primary participants at the next Arctic and Western Regional (Region V) board meeting scheduled for Winter 2017 in Bethel and the next Interior and Northeast Regional (Region III) board meeting scheduled for March 2017 in Fairbanks.

Compliance with more rigorous monitoring systems will require education, local understanding of procedures, vendor support, and increased presence of department staff involved with sheep management. These are feasible objectives for bringing the primary participants into the public process of regulation change affecting sheep hunters in Gates of the Arctic National Park.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department recommends **DEFERRING** this proposal to the next Arctic and Western Regional (Region V) board meeting in Winter 2017 and the next Interior and Northeast Regional (Region III) board meeting scheduled for March 2017 in Fairbanks. The department will use the time until the next Region III and V meetings to bring the primary participants into the public process for those meetings.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal is not expected to result in additional costs to the department.

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**PROPOSAL 87 – 5 AAC 92.004(a)(4). Policy for off-road vehicle use for hunting and transporting game.** Prohibit the Board of Game from adopting regulations restricting the use of off-road vehicles for declining quality of an outdoor experience.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Outdoor Council

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal would change the board’s policy for restricting off-road vehicle use. The policy, which is found in regulation, would be modified to include the following statement: “The Board of Game may not restrict off-road vehicles used to harvest or transport identified big game prey populations due to a perceived decline in the quality of the outdoor experience.”

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?**

5AAC 92.004. Policy for off-road vehicle use for hunting and transporting game.

- (a) Off-road vehicles are a legitimate method of transporting hunters and game in the state, subject to requirements of federal, state, and local landowners. If the Board of Game, through its public process, finds that off-road vehicle use attributed to hunting activities in a specified area has resulted or is likely to result in one or more of the following conditions, it will in its discretion, take action to avoid or minimize the conditions:
  - (1) Soil erosion or compaction, or vegetative changes, significantly affecting important wildlife habitat, including wildlife food sources such as fish and fish streams, or wildlife distribution or abundance.
  - (2) Harvest of a population, sex, or age class significantly affecting condition, abundance or trophy size relative to area management goals,

- (3) Wildlife disturbance significantly affecting reproductive success, abundance, or condition; movement patterns, distribution, or behavior; or avoidance of important habitats such as mineral licks, birthing sites, wintering habitat, or fish spawning, incubation, and rearing sites, and other wildlife feeding sites and food sources;
- (4) Chronic conflicts with other user groups leading to a decline in the quality of the outdoor experience.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?**

If this proposal is adopted, the new regulation would prohibit the board from basing a decision to restrict off-road vehicle use on a decline in the quality of the outdoor experience.

**BACKGROUND:** Proposals to restrict the use of off-road vehicles for hunting have been before the board in the past and regulations have been adopted for some areas. These restrictions can be contentious among the public with strong support and opposition. The board’s policy provides guidance to the board when making their decisions.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal because it does not address or create a biological concern. If the board chooses to adopt the proposal, the department recommends that that the board also removes the language currently found in 5AAC 92.004(4), which is in direct contradiction with the proposed addition.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal is not expected to result in additional costs to the department.

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**PROPOSAL 88 – 5 AAC 92.029. Permit for possessing live game.** Add sugar gliders to the list of animals allowed to be sold and possessed without a permit.

**PROPOSED BY:** John Hammonds

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** Add sugar gliders to the list of animals allowed to be sold and possessed without a permit.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?**

(b) The following species, not including a hybrid of a game animal and a species listed in this subsection, may be possessed, imported, exported, bought, sold, or traded without a permit from the department but may not be released into the wild:

Common Name	Scientific Name
Dog	<i>Canis familiaris</i>

Cat	<i>Felis catus</i>
Sheep	<i>Ovis aries</i>
Goat	<i>Capra hircus</i>
Cattle	<i>Bos taurus</i>
Oxen	<i>Bos</i> spp.
Horse	<i>Equus caballus</i>
Guinea pig	<i>Cavia porcellus</i>
Reindeer (except feral reindeer)	<i>Rangifer tarandus</i> Var.
Llama	<i>Lama peruana</i>
Alpaca	<i>Lama pacos</i>
One-humped camel	<i>Camelus dromedarius</i>
Ass	<i>Equus asinus</i> Var.
Mule	<i>Equus asinus</i> x <i>caballus</i>
Swine	<i>Sus scrofa</i> Var.
European ferret	<i>Mustela putorius furo</i>
European rabbit	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i> Var.
White rat	<i>Rattus norvegicus</i> Var. <i>albinus</i>
Mice: white, waltzing, singing, shaker, piebald	<i>Mus musculus</i> Var.
Fat-tailed gerbil	<i>Pachyuromys duprasi</i>
Gerbil	<i>Gerbillus</i> spp.
Hamster (golden)	<i>Mesocricetus auratus</i>
Chinchilla	<i>Chinchilla laniger</i>
Cavy	<i>Cavia aperea</i>
Hedgehog, African Pygmy	<i>Erinaceus albiventris</i>
Chicken	<i>Gallus gallus</i> Var.
Pigeon	<i>Columia livia</i> Var.
Any Turkey species	Subfamily <i>Meleagridinae</i>
Any Pheasant, Junglefowl or <i>Coturnix</i> species	Subfamily <i>Phasianidae</i>
Any Guineafowl species	Subfamily <i>Numidinae</i>
Canary	<i>Serinus canaria</i> Var.
Parrot, parakeet, cockatiel, macaw, and other members of the Family <i>Psittacidae</i> not prohibited by federal or international law	Family <i>Psittacidae</i>
Toucan	Family <i>Ramphastidae</i>
Any New World Quail species (including Bobwhite)	Subfamily <i>Odontophoridae</i>

Mynah	<i>Acridotheres</i> spp.
Any Peafowl species	<i>Pavo</i> spp.
Any duck, goose, swan, or other migratory waterfowl which the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service determines does not require a federal permit for private ownership	
Chukar partridge	<i>Alectoris chukar</i>
Button "quail"	Family <i>Turnicidae</i> in the order <i>Gruiformes</i>
Any nonvenomous reptile (crocodile, alligator, snake, turtle, or lizard)	Class <i>Reptilia</i>
Members of the bird families <i>Fringillidae</i> , <i>Turdidae</i> , <i>Zosteripidae</i> , <i>Pycnonotidae</i> , <i>Timaliidae</i> , and <i>Ploceidae</i> of non- Holarctic origin.	
Members of the bird families <i>Columbidae</i> and <i>Trogonidae</i> of non- nearctic origin.	
Elk (except feral and wild elk)	( <i>Cervus elaphus</i> )
Bison (except feral and wild bison)	( <i>Bison bison</i> )
Muskoxen (except feral and wild muskoxen)	( <i>Ovibos moschatus</i> )

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** Sugar gliders could be possessed, imported, exported, bought, sold, or traded without a permit from the department.

**BACKGROUND:** The sugar glider is a small marsupial native to Australia, Indonesia, and Papua-New Guinea. They are omnivorous and nocturnal animals. These animals are capable of entering torpor for up to 13 hours a day, and they will group together to conserve heat and energy during extremely cold spells. It is unknown if they would be capable of surviving a winter in more moderate parts of the state and highly unlikely that they would be able to cause genetic alterations to indigenous Alaskan species because no other marsupial currently exists in Alaska.

It also is unknown if they could cause a significant reduction in indigenous species. As the proposal stated, sugar gliders are capable of carrying and transmitting diseases such as salmonella and leptospirosis to humans, but we also found they may carry cryptosporidia and toxoplasmosis as well. They also commonly carry *Streptococcus anginosus* in their mouths; a

bite to a human could quickly lead to cellulitis or septic tenosynovitis and could potentially become life-threatening.

The sugar glider is listed as a species of Least Concern in its native countries. Due to its small body size, sugar gliders can be kept and maintained in good health indoors.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal. There is perhaps some risk to native species due to the possibility of sugar gliders surviving in the wild in more moderate parts of the state. The risk to native species may not be any greater than for some other mammalian species currently on the “clean list.” Given their growing popularity outside Alaska, and evidence of them currently existing as pets within Alaska, it is likely that they will continue to arrive with families unaware of the state’s “clean list” when they move to Alaska.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal is not expected to result in additional costs to the department.

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**PROPOSAL 89 – 5 AAC 92.029. Permit for possessing live game.** Add sugar gliders to the list of animals allowed to be sold and possessed without a permit.

**PROPOSED BY:** Deanna Thornell

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** Add sugar gliders to the clean list.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?**

(b) The following species, not including a hybrid of a game animal and a species listed in this subsection, may be possessed, imported, exported, bought, sold, or traded without a permit from the department but may not be released into the wild:

Common Name	Scientific Name
Dog	<i>Canis familiaris</i>
Cat	<i>Felis catus</i>
Sheep	<i>Ovis aries</i>
Goat	<i>Capra hircus</i>
Cattle	<i>Bos taurus</i>
Oxen	<i>Bos spp.</i>
Horse	<i>Equus caballus</i>
Guinea pig	<i>Cavia porcellus</i>
Reindeer (except feral reindeer)	<i>Rangifer tarandus</i> Var.
Llama	<i>Lama peruana</i>

Alpaca	<i>Lama pacos</i>
One-humped camel	<i>Camelus dromedarius</i>
Ass	<i>Equus asinus</i> Var.
Mule	<i>Equus asinus</i> x <i>caballus</i>
Swine	<i>Sus scrofa</i> Var.
European ferret	<i>Mustela putorius furo</i>
European rabbit	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i> Var.
White rat	<i>Rattus norvegicus</i> Var. <i>albinus</i>
Mice: white, waltzing, singing, shaker, piebald	<i>Mus musculus</i> Var.
Fat-tailed gerbil	<i>Pachyuromys duprasi</i>
Gerbil	<i>Gerbillus</i> spp.
Hamster (golden)	<i>Mesocricetus auratus</i>
Chinchilla	<i>Chinchilla laniger</i>
Cavy	<i>Cavia aperea</i>
Hedgehog, African Pygmy	<i>Erinaceus albiventris</i>
Chicken	<i>Gallus gallus</i> Var.
Pigeon	<i>Columia livia</i> Var.
Any Turkey species	Subfamily <i>Meleagridinae</i>
Any Pheasant, Junglefowl or <i>Coturnix</i> species	Subfamily <i>Phasianidae</i>
Any Guineafowl species	Subfamily <i>Numidinae</i>
Canary	<i>Serinus canaria</i> Var.
Parrot, parakeet, cockatiel, macaw, and other members of the Family <i>Psittacidae</i> not prohibited by federal or international law	Family <i>Psittacidae</i>
Toucan	Family <i>Ramphastidae</i>
Any New World Quail species (including Bobwhite)	Subfamily <i>Odontophoridae</i>
Mynah	<i>Acridotheres</i> spp.
Any Peafowl species	<i>Pavo</i> spp.
Any duck, goose, swan, or other migratory waterfowl which the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service determines does not require a federal permit for private ownership	
Chukar partridge	<i>Alectoris chukar</i>

Button "quail"	Family <i>Turnicidae</i> in the order <i>Gruiformes</i>
Any nonvenomous reptile (crocodile, alligator, snake, turtle, or lizard)	Class <i>Reptilia</i>
Members of the bird families <i>Fringillidae, Turdidae, Zosteripidae,</i> <i>Pycnonotidae, Timaliidae,</i> and <i>Ploceidae</i> of non- Holarctic origin.	
Members of the bird families <i>Columbidae</i> and <i>Trogonidae</i> of non- nearctic origin.	
Elk (except feral and wild elk)	( <i>Cervus elaphus</i> )
Bison (except feral and wild bison)	( <i>Bison bison</i> )
Muskoxen (except feral and wild muskoxen)	( <i>Ovibos moschatus</i> )

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** Sugar gliders could be possessed, imported, exported, bought, sold, or traded without a permit from the department.

**BACKGROUND:** The sugar glider is a small marsupial native to Australia, Indonesia, and Papua-New Guinea. They are omnivorous and nocturnal animals. These animals are capable of entering torpor for up to 13 hours a day, and they will group together to conserve heat and energy during extremely cold spells. It is unknown if they would be capable of surviving a winter in more moderate parts of the state and highly unlikely that they would be able to cause genetic alterations to indigenous Alaskan species because no other marsupial currently exists in Alaska.

It also is unknown if they could cause a significant reduction in indigenous species. As the proposal stated, sugar gliders are capable of carrying and transmitting diseases such as salmonella and leptospirosis to humans, but we also found they may carry cryptosporidia and toxoplasmosis as well. They also commonly carry *Streptococcus anginosus* in their mouths; a bite to a human could quickly lead to cellulitis or septic tenosynovitis and could potentially become life-threatening.

The sugar glider is listed as a species of Least Concern in its native countries. Due to its small body size, sugar gliders can be kept and maintained in good health indoors.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal. There is perhaps some risk to native species due to the possibility of sugar gliders surviving in the wild in more moderate parts of the state. The risk to native species may not be any greater than for some other mammalian species currently on the “clean list.” Given their growing popularity outside

Alaska, and evidence of them currently existing as pets within Alaska, it is likely that they will continue to arrive with families unaware of the state’s “clean list” when they move to Alaska.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal is not expected to result in additional costs to the department.

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*Note: The Department of Fish and Game revised the staff comment for Proposal 90 which is available online at [www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=gameboard.meetinginfo&date=03-18-2016&meeting=fairbanks](http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=gameboard.meetinginfo&date=03-18-2016&meeting=fairbanks). The original comment is available upon request.*

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**PROPOSAL 91 – 5 AAC 92.029(d)(2). Permit for possessing live game.** Include cow in the definition of feral game.

**PROPOSED BY:** Sean Lund

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** The proposal would include cattle in the definition of feral game.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** Cattle are not classified as any type of game.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If adopted there would be a no closed season, no bag limit on cattle.

**BACKGROUND:** The proposer states there are feral cows in parts of the state and would like a season to be opened so they can be hunted. In practice, it may be difficult to differentiate between feral cattle from free range cattle on an authorized grazing lease.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal is not expected to result in additional costs to the department.

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**PROPOSAL 92 – 5 AAC 92.037. Permits for falconry.** Modify the allocation provisions for nonresident falconry permits.

**PROPOSED BY:** American Falconry Conservation

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** Modify the allocation provisions for nonresident falconry permits. Harvest dates, harvest species and bag limits would become the same for resident and nonresidents. The department would be allowed to establish additional permit requirements and close areas to nonresident take based on justifiable state or public interests through the least prejudicial means available. A valid state falconry permit would be required before submitting an application.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?**

(g) The taking, transporting, or possessing a raptor for falconry by a nonresident is allowed under the following conditions:

(1) a permit and a valid, current nonresident hunting and trapping license is required for submitting an application, taking, transporting, possessing, and transferring a raptor to another state's falconry program;

(2) the nontransferable permit will be issued under standards, procedures and conditions set out in the Alaska Falconry Manual No. 9, dated July 1, 2012; that manual, including its conditions related to nonresident take, is hereby adopted by reference;

(3) take is limited to nonresidents who are citizens of the United States;

(4) only the raptor species listed under (f) of this section are eligible for nonresident take;

(5) up to five permits for taking, transporting, or possessing a raptor for falconry by a nonresident shall be issued annually by the department;

(6) a targeted hunt system will be used to determine permit winners if the number of applicants exceeds the number of permits available;

(7) take is limited to one passage, hatching-year raptor;

(8) the annual nonresident season for acquiring a passage raptor is from August 15 - October 31;

(9) the department shall specify other permit conditions as required to be consistent with the federal falconry laws and regulations, Alaska Falconry Manual, and export requirements;

(10) the department may, in its discretion, establish additional permit conditions necessary to administer this program;

(11) the department may, in its discretion, close areas for nonresident take;

(12) if live birds or mammals are to be imported to assist with trapping raptors, all federal and state import requirements shall be met; including the requirements of [5 AAC 92.029](#); deleterious exotic wildlife and species not listed in [5 AAC 92.029\(b\)](#) may not be imported to Alaska for use in trapping raptors; resident pigeons and starlings, if used as lure birds, shall not be released into the wild;

(13) permits are nontransferable

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** Resident and nonresident falconry harvest dates, species, and bag limits would become the same. Other portions of the regulation would be clarified.

**BACKGROUND:** In 2014, the BOG heard testimony and adopted regulations to allow nonresident take of raptors. Nonresident take was limited to a single passage, hatchling-year raptor per permit per year. The nonresident take season was set from August 15-October 31. The board allowed for up to 5 nonresident take permits; in 2015, 3 nonresident take permits were issued. A strong concern was voiced over allowing nonresidents to take eyas raptors due to their demand from breeders, and therefore, assumed commercial value. At this time, we know of 3 other states that prohibit nonresidents from taking eyas raptors. A single state prohibits take of eyas raptors for all practicing falconers, and yet another state prohibits falconry entirely. Seven states allow nonresident eyas take if reciprocity exists in their home state. Many states currently allowing nonresident take of eyases limit the take to general or master class falconers.

The falcon and raptor population within Alaska remains healthy and able to support a small amount of nonresident take. The State of Alaska also supports unique and highly desirable birds (such as white gyrfalcons); nonresident eyas take at the 2014 BOG meeting was rejected due to the potential of nonresident breeders seeking out these unique eyas birds for purely propagative purposes. However, the board restricted nonresident take due to the lack of a fee structure and administrative complexity.

Furthermore, Alaska restricted nonresident take for roughly 40 years due to a falcon being smuggled out of Alaska in the 60s/70s. This bird was in the possession of a well-known Denver falconer and was confiscated during the preparation to ship the bird to the Middle East. Falconry is popular in the Middle East, although mainly for racing instead of hunting. Recently, falcons used in the Middle East have been sold for a minimum of \$30,000. The unique morphs of birds found in Alaska could attract those wanting to capitalize on Middle Eastern falconry practices.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** due to the allocative nature of this proposal.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal is not expected to result in additional costs to the department.

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**PROPOSAL 93 – 5 AAC 92.037. Permits for falconry.** For nonresidents, allow the take of eyas raptors, increase the allocation for falconry permits, and lengthen the season.

**PROPOSED BY:** Donald Fox

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** Allow the take of eyas raptors, increase the allocation from 5 to 10 nonresident falconry permits, and lengthen the season for nonresidents.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?**

(g) The taking, transporting, or possessing a raptor for falconry by a nonresident is allowed under the following conditions:

(1) a permit and a valid, current nonresident hunting and trapping license is required for submitting an application, taking, transporting, possessing, and transferring a raptor to another state's falconry program;

(2) the nontransferable permit will be issued under standards, procedures and conditions set out in the Alaska Falconry Manual No. 9, dated July 1, 2012; that manual, including its conditions related to nonresident take, is hereby adopted by reference;

(3) take is limited to nonresidents who are citizens of the United States;

(4) only the raptor species listed under (f) of this section are eligible for nonresident take;

(5) up to five permits for taking, transporting, or possessing a raptor for falconry by a nonresident shall be issued annually by the department;

(6) a targeted hunt system will be used to determine permit winners if the number of applicants exceeds the number of permits available;

(7) take is limited to one passage, hatching-year raptor;

(8) the annual nonresident season for acquiring a passage raptor is from August 15 - October 31;

(9) the department shall specify other permit conditions as required to be consistent with the federal falconry laws and regulations, Alaska Falconry Manual, and export requirements;

(10) the department may, in its discretion, establish additional permit conditions necessary to administer this program;

(11) the department may, in its discretion, close areas for nonresident take;

(12) if live birds or mammals are to be imported to assist with trapping raptors, all federal and state import requirements shall be met; including the requirements of [5 AAC 92.029](#); deleterious exotic wildlife and species not listed in [5 AAC 92.029\(b\)](#) may not be imported to Alaska for use in trapping raptors; resident pigeons and starlings, if used as lure birds, shall not be released into the wild;

(13) permits are nontransferable

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** Up to 10 nonresident permits could be issued per year for eyas or passage raptors, and the season would be open from May 15-October 31.

**BACKGROUND:** In 2014, the BOG heard testimony and adopted regulations to allow nonresident take of raptors. Nonresident take was limited to a single passage, hatch-year raptor per permit per year. The nonresident take season was set from August 15–October 31. The board allowed for up to 5 nonresident take permits; in 2015, 3 nonresident take permits were issued. A strong concern was voiced over allowing nonresidents to take eyas raptors due to their demand from breeders and commercial value. At this time, we know of 3 other states that prohibit nonresidents from taking eyas raptors. A single state prohibits take of eyas raptors for all practicing falconers, and another state prohibits falconry entirely. Seven states allow nonresident eyas take if reciprocity exists in their home state. Many states currently allowing nonresident take of eyases limit the take to general or master class falconers.

Raptor populations in Alaska remain healthy and able to support a small amount of nonresident take. The State of Alaska also supports unique and highly desirable birds (such as white gyrfalcons); nonresident eyas take at the 2014 BOG meeting was rejected due to the potential of nonresident breeders seeking out these unique eyas birds for purely propagative purposes. The potential for nonresident eyas take to be purely for propagative purposes has likely increased since the 2014 BOG meeting because prices and demand for falcons globally has increased. However, the board restricted nonresident take due to the lack of a fee structure and administrative complexity.

Recently, demand for these birds and their prices have increased dramatically. The unique morphs of birds found in Alaska will likely attract those wanting to legally or illegally capitalize on Middle Eastern falconry practices.

The take of an eyas bird, unlike a passage bird, necessitates knowing the location of nests, which are often used by raptors repeatedly across years and generations. The State of Alaska has long acknowledged the sensitive nature of raptor nest locations and the importance of keeping locations confidential. The State Constitution specifically protects such information from being shared with the public under AS 16.05.815(d) to prevent intentional or unintentional disturbance at a time when birds are particularly vulnerable to human activity.

Currently, the small number of resident falconers who take an eyas guard nest site location information very closely and recognize the value and importance of keeping such locations private. Allowing nonresident falconers to take eyases will result in more people learning nest locations. Nonresidents who want to take eyases for private breeding purposes and financial gain are likely to be willing to pay substantial sums of money to obtain nest locations, especially for rare species or color morphs. This information could be sold or otherwise provided to subsequent non-resident falconers, eventually causing the nest locations to become known.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** due to the allocative nature of this proposal.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal is not expected to result in additional costs to the department.

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**PROPOSAL 94 – 5 AAC 92.033. Permit for scientific, education, propagative, or public safety purposes; and 92.047. Permit for using radio telemetry equipment.** Require the implementation of state wildlife plans before issuing permits for education or telemetry.

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

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal would prohibit the department from issuing permits to take game for scientific, educational, propagative, or public safety purposes and permits to use radio telemetry equipment to other agencies, organizations, or educational unit until a written statement is received stating that the state can fully implement its wildlife plans and regulations in the game management units or subunit.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?**

The current regulation in 5AAC 92.033 allows the department to issue permits for scientific, educational, propagative, or public safety purposes. While the regulation does encourage the department to look for non-lethal alternatives, it allows the department to issue a general permit for public safety to an individual, including a state, municipal, or federal government official.

The department is also allowed in 5AAC 92.047 to issue permits for the use of radio telemetry provided that there are permit conditions to ensure that animals are not unduly harassed, and the use does not interfere with telemetry and survey operations conducted by the department.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?**

The department would not issue permits to take game for scientific, educational, propagative, or public safety purposes and permits to use radio telemetry equipment to other agencies, organizations, or educational unit until a written statement is received stating that the state can fully implement its wildlife plans and regulations in the game management units.

**BACKGROUND:**

The authority given to the department to issue permits to take game has been beneficial for the Alaskan public and for the advancement of science. There have been many instances where issuing a permit to take game for public safety reasons has been the most efficient way to address problem wildlife issues because it eliminates delays due to response time and it reduces the costs that are incurred due to logistics and staff time. Additionally the use of radio-telemetry by individuals who do not work for the department has enabled many studies that produced publications in peer-reviewed scientific journals or have benefitted wildlife conservation in other ways.

The regulation requiring other agencies to obtain a permit from the department allows the department to review and discuss the proposed activities with the permit requestor. This interaction can be beneficial to both parties and can identify a better course of action.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal is not expected to result in additional costs to the department.

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**PROPOSAL 95 – 5 AAC 92.050(a)(8). Required permit conditions and procedures.** Include targeted permits with the list of those that the Failure-to-Report penalty can be applied to.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** The proposal seeks to include targeted permits in the list of those that the Failure-To-Report penalty can be applied to.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** Failure-To-Report penalties can be applied to all drawing, registration, Tier I, and Tier II permits, and hunters who fail to report on those

permits can be ineligible to receive a drawing, registration, Tier I, or Tier II permit during the following regulatory year.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If adopted Failure-To-Report penalties could be applied to targeted permits, and targeted permits would be included in the permits that hunters on the Failure-To-Report list are ineligible to receive.

**BACKGROUND:** Current Failure-To-Report regulations were in existence prior to the creation of the targeted permit. This proposal seeks to treat the targeted permit like all other hunting permits.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department submitted and **SUPPORTS** this proposal.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal is not expected to result in additional costs to the department.

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**PROPOSAL 96 – 5 AAC 92.050. Required permit hunt conditions and procedures.**

Establish a point system for drawing permits.

**PROPOSED BY:** Con Bunde

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal would establish a preference point system for drawing hunts where there are more applicants than permits awarded.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?**

5AAC 92.990. Definitions.

...

(25) “drawing permit” means a permit issued to a person who is one of a limited number of people selected by means of a lottery held for people who have submitted a valid application for the permit and who agree to abide by the conditions specified for each hunt.

...

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?**

The department would develop a system to track hunters and hunt applications through time so that it could assign preference points to each hunter who is unsuccessful in their application for a drawing hunt. The department would need 2 years to rewrite the computer program that processes drawing applications and selects winners.

**BACKGROUND:**

Preference point systems are used by many states to allocate the distribution of permits. Preference points differ from bonus points in that a person with more preference points will be drawn before other applicants with fewer preference points. Bonus points also provide an increased chance of drawing a permit, but do not guarantee selection before other applicants with fewer bonus points.

How much a hunter's probability of being drawn in a subsequent year will increase would depend on: (1) the number of applicants, (2) the number of preference points he or she has, and (3) the established rules.

State fish and game agencies that have bonus or preference point systems charge additional fees to maintain these systems, with any additional funds used for big game management and conservation.

To date, Alaska has addressed this issue by limiting individuals to one permit per 4 years, 10 years, or a lifetime.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal because these systems and the way they could be implemented represent a myriad of allocation decisions. A number of state fish and game agencies in the U. S. have preference or bonus point systems for allocating hunting opportunities that vary from moose in Maine to bighorn sheep in many western states. The degree to which the hunting public likes or dislikes these systems varies. Most are expensive and administratively complicated to maintain. All have fees to maintain the respective program apart from other license and tag fees that support wildlife management programs. In addition, changes to preference or bonus systems are problematic if the changes affect the value of previously collected points.

The department remains concerned about the cost of implementing and maintaining a preference point system and would not be able to implement a point system until the 2017 application period. The department is unable to subsidize development and maintenance of this system by taking away hunter dollars from other game management programs. Testimony from proponents of preference points (avid Alaskan hunters) has consistently indicated a willingness to pay a modest increase in application fees to offset the cost of this system. This will require legislation allowing the department to recoup the cost to operate a bonus point system, at which time the department would institute the preference point system. Whether the board adopts preference points for a few or many hunts is largely irrelevant to the computer programming work necessary to implement the system. However, if pursued, the department would prefer starting small, with a few hunts, so that inevitable "bugs" in a new system can be more easily and efficiently identified and addressed.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal will result in significant costs to the department to develop the preference point system.

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**PROPOSAL 97 – 5 AAC 92.050. Required permit hunt conditions and procedures.**

Establish a point system for drawing permits.

**PROPOSED BY:** The Alaska Bowhunters Association

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal would establish a preference point or bonus point system for all drawing hunts.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?**

5AAC 92.990. Definitions.

...

(25) “drawing permit” means a permit issued to a person who is one of a limited number of people selected by means of a lottery held for people who have submitted a valid application for the permit and who agree to abide by the conditions specified for each hunt.

...

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?**

The department would develop a system to track hunters and hunt applications through time so that it could assign preference or bonus points to each hunter who is unsuccessful in their application for a drawing hunt. The department would need 2 years to rewrite the computer program that processes drawing applications and selects winners.

**BACKGROUND:**

Preference point and bonus point systems are used by many states to allocate the distribution of permits. Preference points differ from bonus points in that a person with more preference points will be drawn before other applicants with fewer preference points. Bonus points also provide an increased chance of drawing a permit, but do not guarantee selection before other applicants with fewer bonus points.

How much a hunter’s probability of being drawn in a subsequent year will increase would depend on: (1) the number of applicants, (2) the number of preference points he or she has, and (3) the established rules.

State fish and game agencies that have bonus or preference point systems charge additional fees to maintain these systems, with any additional funds being used for big game management and conservation.

To date, Alaska has addressed this issue by limiting individuals to one permit per 4 years, 10 years, or a lifetime.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal because these systems and the way they could be implemented represent a myriad of allocation decisions. A number of state fish and game agencies in the U. S. have preference or bonus point systems for allocating hunting opportunities that vary from moose in Maine to bighorn sheep in many western states. The degree to which the hunting public likes or dislikes these systems varies. Most are expensive and administratively complicated to maintain. All have fees to maintain the respective program apart from other license and tag fees that support wildlife management programs. In addition, changes to preference or bonus systems are problematic if the changes affect the value of previously collected points.

The department remains concerned about the cost of implementing and maintaining a preference point system and would not be able to implement a point system until the 2017 application period. The department is unable to subsidize development and maintenance of this system by taking away hunter dollars from other game management programs. Testimony from proponents of preference points (avid Alaskan hunters) has consistently indicated a willingness to pay a modest increase in application fees to offset the cost of this system. This will require legislation allowing the department to recoup the cost to operate a bonus point system, at which time the department would institute the preference point system. Whether the board adopts preference points for a few or many hunts is largely irrelevant to the computer programming work necessary to implement the system. However, if pursued, the department would prefer starting small, with a few hunts, so that inevitable “bugs” in a new system can be more easily and efficiently identified and addressed.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal will result in significant costs to the department to develop the point system.

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**PROPOSAL 98 – 5 AAC 92.050. Required permit hunt conditions and procedures.**

Establish a point system for drawing permits with an allocation for residents and nonresidents.

**PROPOSED BY:** John Frost

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal would redesign the drawing permit rules and establish a preference point or bonus point system for all drawing hunts. It also allocates 90% of the drawing permits to resident hunters and 10% to nonresidents.

A \$5 permit entry fee would be charged and could only be drawn for one permit unless a hunt was undersubscribed. Hunters could apply for as many hunts as they wish, but must rank their choices by species and by hunts within a species. No hunter would be allowed to be awarded hunts in the same species in two consecutive years.

Every hunter who applied for a drawing hunt would be assigned a computer-generated, random number. Hunters who did not receive a permit in year one would be given a single preference point and if they applied in a second consecutive year would be assigned a number ahead of any hunter who had drawn a hunt in the preceding year. This process would continue so that, for example, in year four all of the hunters who had not been drawn for any of their hunts for years 1–3 would be at the top of the list of numbers in the year four draw. Failure to apply in consecutive years or winning any hunt would wipe out any preference points.

Starting with the hunter assigned number 1, the computer would award his or her first choice species and hunt.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?**

5AAC 92.990. Definitions.

...

(25) “drawing permit” means a permit issued to a person who is one of a limited number of people selected by means of a lottery held for people who have submitted a valid application for the permit and who agree to abide by the conditions specified for each hunt.

...

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?**

The department would develop a system to track hunters and hunt applications through time so that it could assign preference or bonus points to each hunter who is unsuccessful in their application for a drawing hunt. The department would need to 2 years to rewrite the computer program that processes drawing applications and selects winners to incorporate the new system.

All drawing permit hunts would be allocated between residents and nonresidents. Hunters would pay a \$5 entry fee and could only receive one drawing permit per year.

**BACKGROUND:**

Preference point and bonus point systems are used by many states to allocate the distribution of permits. Preference points differ from bonus points in that a person with more preference points will be drawn before other applicants with fewer preference points. Bonus points also provide an

increased chance of drawing a permit, but do not guarantee selection before other applicants with fewer bonus points.

How much a hunter's probability of being drawn in a subsequent year will increase would depend on: (1) the number of applicants, (2) the number of preference points he or she has, and (3) the established rules.

State fish and game agencies that have bonus or preference point systems charge additional fees to maintain these systems, with any additional funds being used for big game management and conservation.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal because these systems and the way they could be implemented represent a myriad of allocation decisions. However, the board does not have the authority to change the drawing permit application fees, which are established in statute by the legislature, and cannot establish the proposed \$5 entry fee.

A number of state fish and game agencies in the U. S. have preference or bonus point systems for allocating hunting opportunities that vary from moose in Maine to bighorn sheep in many western states. The degree to which the hunting public likes or dislikes these systems varies. Most are expensive and administratively complicated to maintain. All have fees to maintain the respective program apart from other license and tag fees that support wildlife management programs. In addition, changes to preference or bonus systems are problematic if the changes affect the value of previously collected points.

The department remains concerned about the cost of implementing and maintaining a preference point system and would not be able to implement a point system until the 2017 application period. The department is unable to subsidize development and maintenance of this system by taking away hunter dollars from other game management programs. Testimony from proponents of preference points (avid Alaskan hunters) has consistently indicated a willingness to pay a modest increase in application fees to offset the cost of this system. This will require legislation allowing the department to recoup the cost to operate a bonus point system, at which time the department would institute the preference point system. Whether the board adopts preference points for a few or many hunts is largely irrelevant to the computer programming work necessary to implement the system. However, if pursued, the department would prefer starting small, with a few hunts, so that inevitable "bugs" in a new system can be more easily and efficiently identified and addressed.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal will result in significant costs to the department to develop the point system.



**PROPOSAL 99 – 5 AAC 92.050(a). Required permit hunt conditions and procedures.** To apply for a nonresident permit, a registered guide must provide an assigned verification code.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Professional Hunters Association

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal would require nonresidents to provide a unique verification code (UVC), issued by the Alaska Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development (DCCED), on applications for all drawing hunts that require a master or registered guide.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?**

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

5AAC 92.061. Special provisions for brown bear drawing permit hunts.

5AAC 92.069. Special provisions for moose drawing permit hunts.

UVC codes are required for brown bear drawing permit hunts in Units 8 and 10; sheep drawing permit hunts in Units 12, 13B, 13C, 13D, 14A, 14C, 20A, and 20D; goat drawing permit hunts in Units 13D, 14A, and 14C; and moose drawing permit hunts in Units 21B, 21D, 23, and 24.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?**

UVC codes would be required for all nonresident drawing permit hunts for species that require a guide.

**BACKGROUND:**

The board adopted requirements for nonresidents to demonstrate that they were hunting with a registered guide or qualified resident relative within the second degree of kindred in areas with resident-nonresident allocations for drawing hunt opportunity. Because the department does not administer guide licenses or registrations, the department did not have the authority or the resources to review and verify guide registrations, particularly on lands without exclusive guide use areas. Investigations into violations also failed to bring legal action due to the nature of how the guide-client agreement is formed and the fact that a “guide-client agreement” is not defined anywhere in statute or regulation. In 2014, the department announced that it could not administer the guide-client agreement required in regulation, but also told the board that it would work with DCCED to try to find a new feasible alternative. DCCED now plays an active role in verifying that the guide is registered for the hunt area prior to the submission of the nonresident application by providing registered guides with a UVC. Submission of the UVC on the application is presumed to be a demonstration that a guide-client contract has been established.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal. The department has implemented the current regulations to the extent possible under its authority by requiring a UVC code on drawing applications. Because the licensing of guides and the

maintenance of guide records is the responsibility of the DCCED, the department is limited in what it can do to implement these regulations.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal is not expected to result in additional costs to the department provided that the DCCED issues and maintains the UVC list and is responsible for verifying the validity of the codes.

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**PROPOSAL 100 – 5 AAC 92.052(23). Discretionary permit hunt conditions and procedures.** Modify the provision of surplus permits.

**PROPOSED BY:** Jack Reakoff

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** The proposal seeks to change the period in 5 AAC 92.052(23) to a semicolon.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?**

5 AAC 92.052(23) Except as otherwise provided, if a drawing permit is undersubscribed, surplus permits may be made available at the division of wildlife conservation office responsible for management of the applicable hunt. Surplus permits are not subject to the limitations in 5 AAC 92.050(2) and (4)(F).

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If adopted, there would be no substantive change in the regulation.

**BACKGROUND:** Surplus drawing permits are essentially treated as registration permits in that a hunter can hold a drawing permit and a surplus permit for the same species in the same regulatory year. A hunter can also hold a surplus permit for one year and win the drawing hunt for the same hunt the following year. These surplus permits are not subject to the other conditions found in 5 AAC 92.050(2) and (4)(F).

5 AAC 92.050(2) except as provided in 5 AAC 92.061 and 5 AAC 92.069, a person may not

- (A) apply for more than three different drawing permit hunts for the same species per regulatory year, except that a person may apply for up to six moose drawing permit hunts, with no more than three for bull moose hunts;
- (B) submit more than one application for the same drawing permit hunt during a regulatory year;
- (C) apply for more than one moose drawing permit for a nonresident in Unit 23 per regulator year; or
- (D) hold more than one drawing permit for the same species per regulatory year;

In 5 AAC 92.050(4)(F) an individual who is a successful applicant for a specific drawing permit hunt is ineligible for apply for a permit for that specific hunt the following year;

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal. The use of a semi-colon does not change the legal meaning of the regulation. If the board chooses to adopt this proposal the department recommends that the board clarify its intent of the regulation by providing clear guidance on how to implement the regulation.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal is not expected to result in additional costs to the department.

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**PROPOSAL 101 – 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep; 92.057. Special provisions for Dall sheep and mountain goat drawing permit hunts; 92.061. Special provisions for brown bear drawing permit hunts; and 92.069. Special provisions for moose drawing permit hunts.** Limit the amount of drawing permits awarded to nonresidents to a maximum of ten percent.

**PROPOSED BY:** Gary Stevens

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** The proposal seeks to limit the number of permits available to nonresident hunters at a maximum of ten percent.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** In places where the number of permits is allocated between residents and nonresidents the board follows the guidelines in Board findings 2007-173-BOG, which were originally adopted in 2006 and later reviewed and updated in 2007. The findings state the board will look at the historical data on use of the population from the last ten years, and that it will determine the allocation on a case by case basis.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If this proposal is adopted it will set the nonresident permit allocation at a blanket ten percent for all hunts found in the special provisions sections of 5 AAC 92. (5 AAC 92.057, 5 AAC 92.061, and 5 AAC 92.069).

**BACKGROUND:** Some hunters wish to set a cap on the number of permits available to nonresidents at a statewide level rather than allowing the board to follow the guidelines laid out in board findings.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this issue of allocation between resident and nonresident hunters.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal is not expected to result in additional costs to the department.

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**PROPOSAL 102– 5 AAC 92.061. Special provisions for brown bear drawing permit hunts.** Modify provisions to require all nonresident drawing permits be awarded from the permits allocated to nonresidents.

**PROPOSED BY:** Birch Yuknis

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal seeks to require all nonresident drawing permits be awarded from the number of permits allocated to nonresidents.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The board has the authority to issue permits to nonresidents who are hunting with resident relatives within the second-degree of kindred from the number of permits allocated to residents. This is currently only implemented for brown bear hunts in Unit 8.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If adopted, the board would no longer be able to allocate permits from the resident permit allocation to nonresidents.

**BACKGROUND:** This proposal seeks to create a regulation that requires all nonresident permits are issued from the permits allocated to nonresidents, not out of the permits allocated to residents.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this issue of allocation between resident and nonresident hunters.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal is not expected to result in additional costs to the department.

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**ANALYSIS and  
RECOMMENDATIONS  
for  
BOARD OF GAME PROPOSALS 103–105**

**Regulations:**

**5 AAC 92.071. Tier I subsistence permits.**

**5 AAC 92.010. Harvest tickets and reports.**

**5 AAC 92.070(a). Tier II subsistence hunting permit point system.**

*The department is in the process of preparing draft analysis and recommendations for the Proposals 103–105, which address Tier I and Tier II hunts. The department will provide its analysis and recommendations in advance of the 2016 Statewide Board of Game meeting.*

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**PROPOSAL 106 – 5 AAC 92.062. Priority for subsistence hunting; Tier II permits.** Provide for changes in hunt type (Tier I and Tier II) to occur during the regulatory cycle.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** The proposal would allow changes in permit hunt type to only occur during the regular annual cycle for permit hunt applications.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?**

In accordance with AS 16.05.258, the board has developed tiered hunting regulations that restrict or liberalize hunting opportunity based on the current estimate of harvestable surplus for some game populations. These regulations are based on the regulatory year in which the hunt occurs.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?**

If adopted the board will provide a regulation that instructs the department on how it is to implement permit hunts and Tier II hunts in particular. Out of cycle Tier II application periods would not occur. 5AAC 92.050 would be amended to include:

**Implementation of new permit hunts or change from one type of permit hunt to another shall only occur during the normal annual cycle of permit application periods**

**BACKGROUND:** : In accordance with the subsistence statute at AS 16.05.258, the board has adopted tiered hunting regulations that dictate changes in hunt structure based on the number of animals that can be harvested during the regulatory year. These tiered regulations have an advantage in that they do not require further board action, which would normally be delayed due to the amount of time needed to propose regulatory changes and schedule meetings.

The tiered hunt structure presents problems when implementing a Tier II hunt for species which are surveyed in late winter or summer, well after the regular Tier II application and permitting cycle is complete. To implement Tier II for these species, a special out-of-cycle Tier II notice, application, and processing sequence must occur. The time needed to publish the supplement and get the information to subsistence users throughout the state normally takes 1.5 months. The application period is open for 1.5 months and processing takes another few weeks.

This lengthy process conducted out-of-cycle causes several problems for the hunters and for the department. Hunters have come to rely on a consistent process with predictable dates, and changes made outside of this schedule may affect the allocation of permits. Alaska residents are conducting other activities during the summer and are hard to contact. In addition, the notice and application period may have to be reduced. In the case of summer caribou surveys, implementation of Tier II is not possible before the normal season opening or in time to have a hunt at all. This inevitable scenario may preclude all subsistence hunting opportunity during the autumn season because the Tier II hunt could not legally be in place until October.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department **NEUTRAL** on the allocation of hunting opportunity, but supports the adoption of a regulation that conforms with the subsistence law, ensures hunting opportunity is maintained (including reasonable opportunity for subsistence), and provides a consistent process for hunters.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal is expected to reduce the administrative costs to the department that are incurred when the department is required to implement permit hunts outside of the scheduled application periods.

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**PROPOSAL 107 – 5 AAC 92.057. Special provisions for Dall sheep and mountain goat drawing permit hunts; 92.061. Special provisions for brown bear drawing permit hunts; and 92.069. Special provisions for moose drawing permit hunts.** Establish a permit allocation of ten percent for nonresidents.

**PROPOSED BY:** Brad Sparks

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** The proposal seeks to limit the nonresident allocation to ten percent in areas that are open to both residents and nonresidents by drawing hunt.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** In places where the number of permits is allocated between residents and nonresidents the board follows the guidelines in Board findings 2007-173-BOG, which were originally adopted in 2006 and later reviewed and updated in 2007. The findings state the board will look at the historical data of use of the population from the last ten years, and that it will determine the allocation on a case by case basis.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If the proposal were adopted, nonresidents would be allocated ten percent of the permits in areas that are currently open to both residents and nonresidents by drawing permit only.

**BACKGROUND:** Some hunters wish to set a cap on the number of permits available to nonresidents at a statewide level rather than allowing the board to follow the guidelines laid out in board findings.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this issue of allocation between resident and nonresident hunters.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal is not expected to result in additional costs to the department.

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**PROPOSAL 108 – 5 AAC 92.069. Special provisions for moose drawing permit hunts.**  
Remove the nonresident guide requirement for those species not required by Alaska Statute.

**PROPOSED BY:** Brad Sparks

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** The proposal seeks to remove the guide requirement for species that are not guide required.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** Participants in some nonresident hunts for black bears and moose are required to be accompanied in the field by a guide, even though nonresidents hunting those species are not required by statute to have a guide.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If adopted the proposal would undo the regulations adopted by the board that require nonresidents to have guides for species that are not guide-required in statute.

**BACKGROUND:** For allocative purposes, the board has adopted regulations that require nonresidents to be accompanied by registered guides for some hunts that would otherwise not be guide-required.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal is not expected to result in additional costs to the department.

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**PROPOSAL 109 – 5 AAC 98.005. Areas of jurisdiction for antlerless moose hunts.** Add Units 7, 14C, and 15 to the Seward Advisory Committee’s jurisdiction for authorizing antlerless moose hunts.

**PROPOSED BY:** Seward Advisory Committee

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal would “restore” the antlerless reauthorization jurisdiction to the Seward Advisory Committee (AC) for the Homer area hunts, the 20-mile portion of the Units 7 and 14C Placer River/20mile hunt, and any other future antlerless moose hunts in Units 7, 15, and 14C.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** Regulations in 5AAC 98.005 state that:

for the purpose of implementing AS 16.05.780, antlerless moose seasons require approval by a majority of the active local advisory committees for the affected game management unit or subunit. The regulations further identify/clarify that for antlerless hunts in Unit 7 Cooper Landing and Seward ACs have jurisdiction.

The former language stated that:

for the purpose of implementing AS 16.05.780, antlerless moose seasons require approval by a majority of the active local advisory committees *located in, or the majority of members reside in,* the affected game management unit or subunit. Note that the language in italics is the primary difference between old and new regulations is that the old regulation did not specify which committees these were.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If adopted the Seward AC would have jurisdiction to vote on antlerless moose season reauthorizations in Units 14C and 15. The Seward AC currently only has authority to vote on antlerless moose hunts in Unit 7.

**BACKGROUND:** If approved this proposal would allow Seward AC to have jurisdiction over antlerless moose hunts in 15 and 14C in addition to their current jurisdiction in Unit 7. It is anticipated that other ACs may desire reciprocity.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** to this proposal but requests the board clarify their intent with regard to this unique situation. In this instance one of the hunts mentioned by the AC crosses unit boundaries. A strict reading of the regulation would imply that the Seward AC and Cooper Landing AC have jurisdiction over the portion of the hunt that occurs in Unit 7. The board may wish to consider clarifying their intent for situations where hunts cross game management unit boundaries by amending 5AAC 98.005 to allow ACs jurisdiction for those specific hunts. In this case the department would like board clarification and this may be an acceptable approach for antlerless hunts that cross unit boundaries.

When considered at the previous board meeting, the board considered adding adjacent ACs and other interested ACs to jurisdiction but chose to keep the regulation simple and recognized that the ACs within the unit were likely the most affected.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional cost to the department.

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**PROPOSAL 110 – 5 AAC 98.005. Areas of jurisdiction for antlerless moose seasons.** Add Units 13 and 16 to the Matanuska Valley Advisory Committee’s jurisdiction for authorizing antlerless moose hunts.

**PROPOSED BY:** Matanuska Valley Advisory Committee

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal would add the Matanuska Valley Advisory Committee (AC) to the list of ACs with jurisdiction to authorize antlerless moose seasons in Units 13 and 16.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?**

- The majority of active local ACs with jurisdiction for that unit or subunit must vote in the affirmative to authorize an antlerless hunt. . For the purpose of approving antlerless moose seasons, “active” ACs are defined as those that hold a meeting and act on the antlerless moose authorization proposal.

- Based on the current regulation (5 AAC 98.005), ACs that reside within a specified game management unit or subunit have jurisdiction to vote on antlerless hunt reauthorizations.
- Areas of jurisdiction for advisory committees for the purpose of emergency closures on taking fish and game (5 AAC 97.005) provides jurisdiction for the Matanuska Valley AC in Units 13, 14, and 16.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?**

If adopted the Matanuska Valley AC would have jurisdiction to vote on antlerless moose season reauthorizations in Unit 13, along with the Copper Basin, Denali, Paxson, and Tok Cutoff/Nabesna Road ACs. In Unit 16 the Matanuska Valley AC would share jurisdiction with the Mt. Yenlo, Susitna Valley, and Tyonek ACs.

**BACKGROUND:** Antlerless moose season reauthorizations require the approval of the majority of the active ACs within the affected unit or subunit. Matanuska Valley residents accounted for approximately 31% of the hunters that reported hunting moose in Unit 13 during the last five years and accounted for a similar percentage of the moose hunters in Unit 16 (Table 110.1).

Table 110.1. Proportion of resident hunters from the Matanuska Valley who participated in moose hunts in Units 13 and 16, regulatory years 2010–2014.

Year	Unit 13				Unit 16		
	Mat Valley	Total Hunters	Proportion		Mat Valley	Total Hunters	Proportion
2010	1,385	4,809	0.29	402	1,396	0.29	2010
2011	1,259	4,193	0.30	433	1,442	0.30	2011
2012	1,571	4,871	0.32	382	1,272	0.30	2012
2013	1,613	5,094	0.32	436	1,437	0.30	2013
2014	1,423	4,533	0.31	505	1,659	0.30	2014
Total	7,251	23,500	0.31	2,158	7,206	0.30	Total

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocation of jurisdictional authority for antlerless moose hunt reauthorizations. If adopted, this will be the only AC having jurisdiction for antlerless moose authorization in another game management unit from which its’ members reside. The board may want to review jurisdiction for authorizing antlerless moose seasons for all ACs and determine a criteria for expanding AC jurisdiction into other game management units. When considered at a previous board meeting the board considered adding adjacent ACs and other interested ACs to jurisdiction but chose to keep it simple and recognized that the ACs within the unit were likely the most involved.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in significant costs to the department.

**PROPOSAL 111 – 5 AAC 92.450(16). Description of Game Management Units.** Move Kalgin Island from Unit 16 to Unit 15.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** If authorized, Kalgin Island (in Cook Inlet) would be moved from Unit 16B to Unit 15B.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?**

**5AAC 92.450 (16). Unit 16** The drainages into Cook Inlet between Redoubt Creek and the Susitna River, including Redoubt Creek drainage, Kalgin Island, and the drainages on the west side of the Susitna River (including the Susitna River) upstream to its junction with the Chuitna River; the drainages into the west side of the Chuitna River (including the Chuitna River) upstream to the Tokositna River (including the Tokositna River) and drainages into the south side of the Tokositna River upstream to the base of the Tokositna Glacier including the drainage of the Kanikula Glacier and all seaward waters and lands within three (3) miles of these coastlines.

**5AAC 98.005**

For the purpose of implementing AS 16.05.780, antlerless moose seasons require approval by a majority of the active local advisory committees for the affected game management unit or subunit.

5 AAC 98.005 further identifies/clarifies that for implementing antlerless hunts in Unit 16, the Mt. Yenlo, Susitna Valley and Tyonek ACs have jurisdiction.

Most of Unit 15 is part of the Anchorage-Matsu-Kenai Peninsula nonsubsistence area as described by the Joint Boards of Fisheries and Game at 5 AAC 99.015(3). A nonsubsistence area is an area or community where dependence upon subsistence is not a principal characteristic of the economy, culture, and way of life of the area of community. Subsistence hunting will not be adopted by a board for a nonsubsistence area, and the subsistence priority does not apply (5 AAC 99.016).

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If Kalgin Island is included in Unit 15, the ACs with jurisdiction would change to Central Peninsula, Homer, Kenai/Soldotna, and Seldovia. In addition management responsibility within the department would transfer from the Palmer area office to the Soldotna area office.

**BACKGROUND:** Kalgin is a 23 mi<sup>2</sup> island that lies in Cook Inlet approximately 15 miles to the west-southwest of Kenai, and six miles southeast of the mouth of the Drift River. Moose were introduced to the island in the late-1950s to provide additional hunting opportunities and has become a popular moose hunting destination for residents of the Kenai Peninsula.

The primary hunting activity involves a moose registration hunt (RM572). Most hunters that participate are Kenai Peninsula residents and a review of hunter residency for this hunt during

the last 5 years is listed below. None of the hunters were residents of the mainland Unit 16. In the past 20 years only 2 permittees claimed residency (1 successful) in Unit 16 and both claimed residency of Kalgin Island with Kenai Peninsula mailing addresses.

Table 111-1. Residency of Kalgin Island moose registration hunt (RM572) permittees, 2011–2015.

Regulatory Year	Kenai Pen. Residents	% Kenai Residents	Other AK residents	Nonresidents
2011	101	62.3	38	0
2012	67	65.2	34	0
2013	62	68.9	25	3
2014	90	66.3	44	4
2015	81	72.6	47	2

Under 5AAC 99.025 there is a positive customary and traditional use finding with an amount reasonably necessary for subsistence uses of 2 moose.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department **SUPPORTS** this proposal because it would increase managerial efficiency and allow ACs that represent communities with a vested interest to provide input on antlerless reauthorization proposals. Turnover and irregular activity from advisory committees with jurisdiction over Kalgin Island has made it difficult to consistently obtain the necessary reauthorization votes for antlerless hunts. Antlerless hunts on Kalgin Island provide additional mortality on this predator-free island to potentially reduce the moose population to a level at, or slightly below carrying capacity, thereby preventing the degradation of habitat which leads to starvation.

Most of Unit 15 is part of the Anchorage-Matsu-Kenai Peninsula nonsubsistence area. If the board does not want to repeal the existing C&T for Kalgin Island, it will need to amend the proposal to exclude Kalgin Island from the nonsubsistence area.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal will transfer moose management from the Palmer area office to the Soldotna office, which will reduce the costs of moose surveys conducted by the department.

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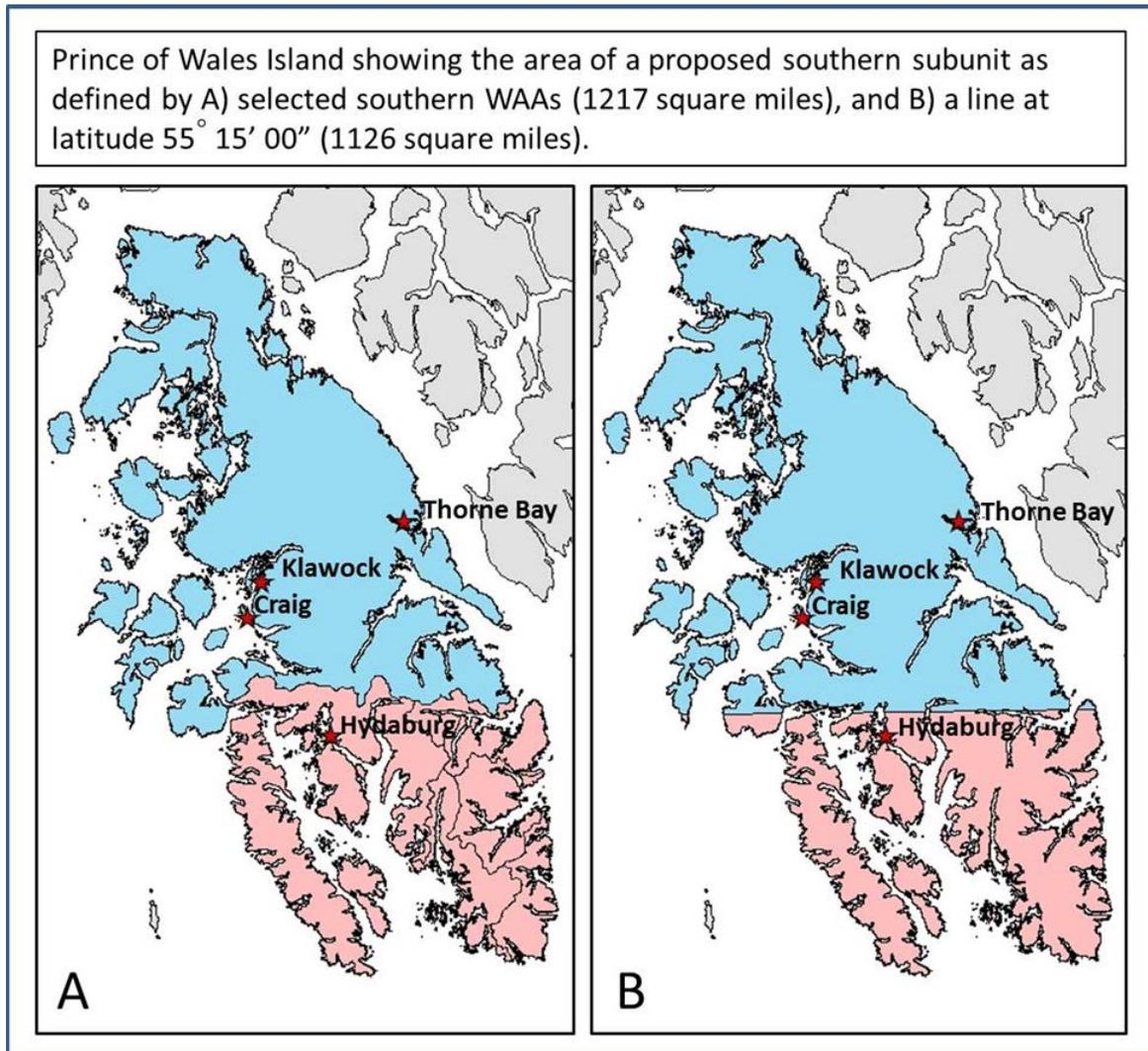
**PROPOSAL 112 – 5 AAC 92.450. Description of Game Management Units.** Divide Unit 2 into two subunits.

**PROPOSED BY:** Robert Jahnke

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal would create two subunits in Unit 2.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** Unit 2 is currently one game management unit with no subunits.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If adopted, the board would have a mechanism to adopt different harvest regulations in each subunit, and this proposal asks the board to review seasons and bag limits for each species.



**BACKGROUND:** This proposal seeks to divide Unit 2 into two subunits with the goal of allowing the Board to adopt more liberal harvest regulations in the southern subunit, particularly for wolves. The proposed subunit boundary is along the line of  $55^{\circ} 15'$  north latitude just north of Hydaburg and would separate northern Unit 2, where there is a high road density, from the southern portion, which has few roads. The proposed southern subunit would encompass about  $1,100 \text{ mi}^2$ , roughly a third of the total land area of Unit 2.

Aside from anecdotal accounts provided by hunters and trappers, the department has no abundance estimates for harvested species specific to the southern portion of Unit 2. Unit-wide wolf population estimates are derived by expanding density estimates calculated for a study area located on the northcentral part of Prince of Wales Island. Those estimates assume wolf density in the study area is similar to average density across the entire unit, but they cannot be used to predict the number of wolves inhabiting the proposed southern subunit.

Since 1997, Unit 2 wolf harvest has been limited to 25%, 30%, and currently 20% of the most recent unit-wide population estimate. The most recent population estimate, calculated using data collected during fall 2014, was 89 wolves. An estimate based on data collected during fall 2015 should be available by April 2016. In response to apparent low wolf numbers the department and federal subsistence managers set a joint RY2015 hunting and trapping harvest quota of nine wolves.

Current harvest regulations for big game and furbearer species in Unit 2 provide ample opportunity and liberal bag limits. Several populations have positive customary and traditional use findings and amounts reasonably necessary for subsistence. Resident hunters may harvest four male deer during a five-month season and two black bears during a ten-month season. Federally qualified residents may harvest a total of five deer including one doe. Trapping seasons run from December 1–February 15 with longer seasons for beaver and wolf and no bag limits. Federal trapping seasons for most species currently align with state seasons. However, the federal beaver season opens and closes about two weeks later than the state season, and the federal wolf trapping season opens two weeks earlier than the state season.

Lack of road access does not appear to inhibit harvest in Unit 2. Resident hunters and trappers commonly use boats as their mode of access. Historically, about one-third of deer harvested in Unit 2 are taken by boat-based hunters. From RY2012–RY2014 boat-based black bear hunters took 52% of all bears harvested in Unit 2. Those years coincide with the first three years a draw permit was required for unguided, nonresident bear hunters, which resulted in fewer nonresidents hunting from roads. Over the past 5 regulatory years (RY2010–RY2014) wolf harvest in southern Unit 2 (including Dall, Long and Sukkwan Islands) has averaged 26% (range: 4– 69%) of the unit-wide total, and boat-based trappers accounted for about half of that harvest.

Similar to Unit 2, other nearby game management units including Units 3 and 4 encompass areas with good road access and large areas only accessible by boat. To date, harvest in those units has been successfully managed without creating subunits. Because most land within Unit 2 is federally managed, creating subunits and adopting different harvest regulations in each subunit would have little effect without similar changes to federal subsistence harvest regulations.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal to subdivide Unit 2. If the board adopts the proposed change, we recommend the subunit boundary follow the northern boundaries of Wildlife Analysis Areas (WAA) 1105, 1107, 1211, and 1213 (Option A

in Figure 112-1). Those boundaries approximate the intent of the proposal and, because they follow watershed boundaries, would be more easily distinguished in the field than a line of latitude. Using WAA boundaries as in Option A would also result in smaller islands falling entirely within a single subunit.

The proposal specifically mentions management of wolves as a reason to create subunits. Genetic information and movements of collared animals indicate that wolves in Unit 2 are a single population and that wolves dispersing from portions of the unit with lower harvest likely play a role in recolonizing areas with higher harvest. The most recent Unit 2 estimate, calculated using data collected during fall 2014, was 89 wolves. In response to apparent low wolf numbers the department and federal subsistence managers set a joint RY2015 hunting and trapping harvest quota of nine wolves. Considering the current low population, low harvest quota, and the role dispersing animals likely play in re-colonizing vacant territories, the department does not recommend liberalizing the wolf harvest regulations until the unit-wide population has recovered.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal is not expected to result in additional costs to the department.

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**PROPOSAL 113 – 5 AAC 85.045(a)(1). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.**

Reauthorize the antlerless moose seasons in Unit 1C.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal would reauthorize the antlerless moose hunts in Unit 1C.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** Two antlerless moose hunts are authorized in Unit 1C. Those hunts are authorized for the Berners Bay drainages during the September 15–October 15 general hunt and in the Gustavus hunt area from November 10–December 10. In Berners Bay a maximum of 30 permits may be issued, and in Gustavus a maximum of 100 permits may be issued. Bag limit in both areas is one moose, and both hunts are open to residents and nonresidents.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** The antlerless hunts in Unit 1C (Berners Bay and Gustavus) would be reauthorized for RY2016. Season dates and bag limits will remain the same as summarized above.

**BACKGROUND:** Under 5 AAC 98.005 a majority of the Juneau-Douglas Advisory Committee must annually vote to reauthorize the Berners Bay antlerless moose hunt and a majority of the

Icy Straits and the Juneau-Douglas advisory committees must annually vote to reauthorize the Gustavus antlerless moose hunt. The advisory committees are scheduled to vote on this proposal at meetings scheduled for December 2015 and January 2016.

Antlerless hunts in Unit 1C were originally adopted as tools to manage relatively small and isolated moose populations nearing or exceeding carrying capacity of the limited winter range available in the Berners Bay and the Gustavus areas. During a December 2014 aerial survey in Berners Bay department staff counted 105 moose (22 bulls, 52 cows, 24 calves, and 7 unknown adults). Correcting for sightability based on radio-marked cows, we estimated the population to be  $109 \pm 6$  moose. In 2013 we estimated the population to be  $90 \pm 13$  moose. Ninety five percent confidence intervals for the 2013 and 2014 estimates overlap, and we believe the population is stable. The antlerless moose hunt in Berners Bay was last open in RY2006.

A March 2015 aerial survey in Gustavus counted 91 moose (24 cows, 12 calves, and 55 unknown). Correcting for sightability based on radio-marked cow moose, the department estimated the population to be  $244 \pm 98$ . The 2013 estimate was  $323 \pm 87$ . Despite the difference in these two surveys, we believe the Gustavus moose population is stable and that fewer moose were seen during the 2015 survey because of poor snow conditions. The antlerless moose hunt in Gustavus was last open in RY2008.

The board made a negative customary and traditional use finding for moose in the Unit 1C Gustavus hunt area, but has not evaluated the Berners Bay hunt area.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department **SUPPORTS** this proposal to reauthorize antlerless moose hunts in the Berners Bay and Gustavus hunt areas.

Based on surveys in recent years both populations appear stable and below carrying capacity of the range. We will continue to monitor both herds using annual aerial surveys as snow conditions allow and to maintain collared animals in both herds to estimate sightability correction factors as funding allows. Antlerless hunts will only be opened when survey data and population estimates suggest a herd is rapidly expanding or that cow harvests can be sustained over time without detrimental effect on the herd.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal is not expected to result in additional costs to the department.



**PROPOSAL 114 – 5 AAC 85.045(a)(3) Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.**

Reauthorize the antlerless moose seasons in Unit 5A, Nunatak Bench.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal would reauthorize take of antlerless moose during registration hunt RM059 in Unit 5A, Nunatak Bench.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** Registration moose hunt, RM059, is authorized for the Nunatak Bench portion of Unit 5A. Season dates are November 15–February 15 with a bag limit of one moose. A maximum of 5 moose may be taken. This hunt is open to residents and nonresidents.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** Take of antlerless moose during registration moose hunt, RM059, in Unit 5A would be reauthorized for RY2016. Season dates and bag limits would remain the same as summarized above.

**BACKGROUND:** Under 5 AAC 98.005 antlerless moose hunts must be reauthorized annually by a majority vote of the local advisory committee.

Because season dates for the Nunatak Bench hunt (RM059) include the period after bulls have dropped their antlers, take of either sex is allowed. Deep snow accumulates in the Nunatak Bench area, greatly limiting habitat accessible to moose. To ensure the small area of available winter habitat can support the number of moose using it, the department manages for relatively low numbers of moose. However, because so few moose have been seen during recent surveys, no registration permits for RM059 have been issued since RY2005. Only 12 moose (10 adults and 2 calves) were seen during the most recent survey (February 2012). Regular surveys in this area are hampered by its remote location, frequently inclement weather, and lack of suitable survey aircraft in Yakutat. However, the department will continue surveys as opportunity allows, and does not plan to issue permits for this hunt until at least 25 moose are counted during a single survey.

The board made a positive customary and traditional use finding for all of Unit 5, with an amount reasonably necessary for subsistence of 50 moose for the entire unit.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department **SUPPORTS** this proposal to reauthorize the antlerless moose hunt in Unit 5A, the Nunatak Bench. This hunt (RM059) is considered an attractive option for hunters who were unsuccessful in the other Yakutat area moose hunts (RM061 & RM062).

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal is not expected to result in additional costs to the department.

**PROPOSAL 115 – 5 AAC 085.045(a)(4) Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.**  
 Reauthorize the antlerless moose seasons in Unit 6C.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** Adoption of this proposal would ensure that the department has the necessary tools to manage the Unit 6C moose population within objectives.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?**

<b>Seasons and Bag Limits</b>	<b>Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)</b>	<b>Nonresident Open Season</b>
(4)		
...		
Unit 6(C)  1 moose by drawing permit only; up to 40 permits for bulls and up to 20 permits for antlerless moose may be issued	Sept. 1–Oct. 31 (General hunt only)	No open season.
1 moose by registration permit only	Nov. 1–Dec. 31	No open season
...		

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?**

This proposal reauthorizes antlerless hunts in Unit 6C as required by statute. Resident hunters would be able to continue to harvest antlerless moose during hunts administered by ADF&G on state-managed lands in Unit 6.

**BACKGROUND:**

Antlerless moose seasons must be reauthorized annually. The population objective is 400–500 moose. A population survey completed during February 2014 yielded an estimate of 610 moose, 25% of which were calves. This population is above its objective and could be negatively impacting habitat. We have managed this hunt cooperatively with the U. S. Forest Service and the available antlerless harvest quota in Unit 6C is currently harvested under a federal subsistence season. We have not held the state antlerless hunt since the 1999–2000 season. In 2013, a registration hunt was established that could be used to harvest moose, including antlerless, if the federal subsistence hunt is not held or it does not result in the desired amount of harvest. At this time, quotas have been raised on both the federal and state side to bring the population to within its objectives. Continuation of the antlerless hunts is necessary to achieve population at objectives.

The board made a negative customary and traditional use finding for all of Unit 6.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:**

The department **SUPPORTS** this proposal to reauthorize antlerless harvests in Unit 6.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal is not expected to result in additional costs to the department.

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**PROPOSAL 116 – 5 AAC 85.045(a)(5). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.**

Reauthorize the antlerless moose seasons in Units 7 and 14C.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal reauthorizes the antlerless moose season in the Twentymile/Portage/Placer hunt area in Units 7 and 14C.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The current regulations are:

<b>Units and Bag Limits</b>	<b>Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)</b>	<b>Nonresident Open Season</b>
(5) ...		
Unit 7, the Placer River drainages, and that portion of the Placer Creek (Bear Valley) drainage outside the Portage Glacier Closed Area, and that portion of Unit 14(C) within the Twentymile River drainage		

**RESIDENT HUNTERS:**

1 moose by drawing permit only; up to 60 permits

Aug. 20—Oct. 10  
(General hunt only)

for bulls will be issued in combination with nonresident hunts, and up to 70 permits for antlerless moose will be issued

**NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:**

1 bull by drawing permit only; up to 60 permits for bulls will be issued in combination with resident hunts

Aug. 20—Oct. 10

...

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** Antlerless moose seasons must be reauthorized annually. The harvest of antlerless moose provides the department with a management tool to maintain the number of moose in the Twentymile/Portage/Placer area at a population level low enough to reduce over-browsing of winter habitat, moose-vehicle collisions, and starvation during severe winters. The moose population will be healthier and more productive due to decreased stress levels associated with winter food shortages.

**BACKGROUND:** The moose population in the Twentymile/Portage/Placer area has a history of rapid increase following mild winters, and sharp reductions during severe winters. In 2009, antlerless permits were issued for the first time since 2004. The number of permits issued (Table 116-1) depends on the current population estimate and bull:cow ratios, as well as estimated winter mortality. A November 2013 aerial composition count of moose in the Twentymile, Portage, and Placer river drainages found 155 moose with a bull:cow ratio of 23 bulls per 100 cows and a calf:cow ratio of 27 calves per 100 cows.

Table 116-1. Moose harvest in the Twentymile/Portage/Placer hunt area in Units 7 and 14C, regulatory years 2009-2015.

<b>Regulatory Year</b>	<b>Bull Permits</b>	<b>Antlerless Permits</b>	<b>Bulls Harvested</b>	<b>Cows Harvested</b>
2009	40	30	25	17
2010	40	30	15	15
2011	40	30	19	8
2012	25	20	12	7
2013	25	20	10	7
2014	40	30	17	10
2015	30	30	11	8

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department **SUPPORTS** this proposal to maintain antlerless hunts in Units 7 and 14C. These hunts have been successful in creating additional

moose hunting opportunities with little or no controversy. In addition, the harvest of antlerless moose has helped achieve the department’s goal of maintaining moose numbers at a level to avoid die-offs during harsh winters.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal is not expected to result in additional costs to the department.

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**PROPOSAL 117 – 5 AAC 85.045(a)(12). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.**

Reauthorize the antlerless moose seasons in Unit 14C.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** Reauthorize the antlerless moose seasons in Unit 14C.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The current regulations are:

<u>Units and Bag Limits</u>	<u>Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)</u>	<u>Nonresident Open Season</u>
(12)		
...		
Unit 14(C), Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (JBER) Management Area	Day after Labor Day —Mar 31 (General hunt only)	Day after Labor Day —Mar 31
1 moose by regulatory year by drawing permit, and by muzzleloading blackpowder rifle or bow and arrow only; up to 185 permits may be issued		
Unit 14(C), that portion known as the Birchwood Management Area	Day after Labor Day —Sept. 30 (General hunt only)	Day after Labor Day —Sept. 30
1 moose by drawing permit, by bow and arrow only; up to 25 permits may be issued		

Unit 14(C), that portion known as the Anchorage Management Area	Day after Labor Day —Nov. 30 (General hunt only)	No open season
1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only, and by bow and arrow, shotgun, or muzzleloader only; up to 50 permits may be issued		
Unit 14(C), that portion of the Ship Creek drainage upstream of the Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (JBER) Management Area		
1 moose by drawing permit only; up to 50 permits may be issued; or	Day after Labor Day —Sept. 30 (General hunt only)	Day after Labor Day —Sept. 30
1 bull by registration permit only	Oct. 1—Nov. 30 (General hunt only)	Oct. 1—Nov. 30
...		
Remainder of Unit 14(C)		
1 moose per regulatory year, only as follows:		
1 bull with spike-fork antlers or 50-inch antlers or antlers with 3 or more brow tines on one side; or	Day after Labor Day —Sept. 30 (General hunt only)	Day after Labor Day —Sept. 30
1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only; up to 60 permits may be issued; or	Day after Labor Day —Sept. 30 (General hunt only)	No open season
1 bull by drawing permit only, by bow and arrow only; up to 10 permits may be issued	Oct. 20—Nov. 15	No open season
...		

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** Adoption of this proposal is necessary for the hunts to continue. The harvest of antlerless moose provides the department with a management tool to maintain the number of moose in Unit 14C at the desired population objective (1,500 moose). At this population level we have seen reductions in over-browsing of winter habitat, moose-vehicle collisions, moose-human conflicts in urban areas, and starvation during severe winters. At this level, the moose population will be healthier due to decreased stress levels associated with winter food shortages.

**BACKGROUND:** Moose in Unit 14C are managed intensively for a population objective of 1,500–1,800 moose and an annual harvest objective of 90–270 moose (5AAC 92.108). In 2013, we estimated a moose population of approximately 1,533 moose in Unit 14(C) from a combination of population census, composition surveys and extrapolation to unsurveyed areas. At this population level, we have experienced a decline in human-moose conflicts and decreased winter mortalities. Harvesting cow moose is paramount to maintaining the population at the low end of the objective while providing harvest opportunity.

Antlerless moose hunts must be reauthorized annually. The number of antlerless permits issued (Table 117-1) depends on the current population estimate and bull:cow ratios, as well as estimated winter mortality.

Table 117-1. Cow moose harvest in Unit 14C, regulatory years 2003–2014.

<b>Regulatory Year</b>	<b>Either Sex Permits</b>	<b>Antlerless Permits</b>	<b>Cows Harvested</b>
2003	55	60	32
2004	57	80	20
2005	100	46	33
2006	110	46	33
2007	110	40	37
2008	110	35	36
2009	110	25	29
2010	110	23	32
2011	67	23	25
2012	58	23	18
2013	58	23	24
2014	50	26	19

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department **SUPPORTS** this proposal to reauthorize antlerless hunts in Unit 14C. These hunts have been successful in providing additional moose hunting opportunities in the state’s human population center with little controversy. In addition, the harvest of antlerless moose has helped achieve the department’s goal of maintaining moose numbers at the low end of the population objective.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal is not expected to result in additional costs to the department.

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**PROPOSAL 118 - 5 AAC 85.045.(a)(13). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.**  
Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in a portion of Unit 15C.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish & Game

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal would reauthorize the antlerless moose hunt for the Homer benchland and the targeted, antlerless hunt along the Sterling Highway in Unit 15C.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The current regulations as defined in 85.045 are:

<b>Units and Bag Limits</b>	<b>Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)</b>	<b>Nonresident Open Season</b>
(13) ...		
Unit 15(C), that portion south of the south fork of the Anchor River and northwest of Kachemak Bay		
<b>RESIDENT HUNTERS:</b>		
1 bull with spike or 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side; or	Sept. 1—Sept. 25 (General hunt only)	
1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only; the taking of calves, and females accompanied by calves, is prohibited; up to 100 permits may be issued in combination with the nonresident drawing hunt: or	Oct. 20—Nov. 20	
1 moose by targeted permit only,	Oct. 15—Mar. 31	
<b>NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:</b>		
1 bull with 50-inch antlers or		Sept. 1—Sept. 25

antlers with 4 or more brow  
tines on one side; or

(General hunt only)

1 antlerless moose by drawing  
permit only; the taking of  
calves, and females accompa-  
nied by calves, is prohibited;  
up to 100 permits may be issued in  
combination with the resident  
drawing hunt

Oct. 20—Nov. 20

Remainder of Unit 15(C)

#### RESIDENT HUNTERS

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

Sept. 1—Sept. 25  
(General hunt only)

1 moose by targeted permit  
only,

Oct. 15—Mar. 31

#### NONRESIDENT HUNTERS

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

Sept. 1—Sept. 25

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** The  
antlerless moose season for the Homer benchland (DM549) and the targeted hunt (AM550)  
along the Sterling Highway in 15C would be reauthorized for the 2016–2017 hunting season.

**BACKGROUND:** Antlerless moose seasons must be re-authorized annually. The Homer  
benchland in Unit 15C that encompasses the hunt boundary of DM549 often holds high moose  
densities in winters when deep snow pushes the moose down into human populated areas. Even  
without deep snow, a high number of moose die due to malnutrition and negative interactions  
with humans are common as moose become more aggressive in their search for food around  
human residences.

In February 2013, 1,345 moose were counted during a population survey in the northern portion  
of Unit 15C. Fall composition counts in December 2014 provided a bull ratio of 26 bulls:100  
cows and a calf ratio of 31 calves: 100 cows. The number of permits issued for DM549 will

depend on the fall 2015 survey information for this area. Fifty permits were issued in each of the last 10 years resulting in an average harvest of 23 cows per year.

The purpose of AM550 is to allow for the harvest of antlerless moose along the Sterling Highway in Unit 15C during the winter if they pose a threat to highway vehicles. On average 62 known animals are killed each year in vehicle collisions in Unit 15C. The department will decide when and where permits will be issued during the hunt period. The hunt is administered through a registration permit and up to 100 moose may be taken. The number of permits issued each year will depend on conditions, and it is possible no permits will be issued in some years.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department **SUPPORTS** this proposal. Local residents are in favor of a limited antlerless moose harvest that provides additional opportunity and helps to limit habitat degradation and wildlife conflicts.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal is not expected to result in additional costs to the department and is expected to help limit costs to the department associated with nuisance moose.

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**PROPOSAL 119 – 5 AAC 85.045(a)(11). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.**

Reauthorize the antlerless moose seasons in Unit 13.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal reauthorizes the antlerless moose hunts in Unit 13.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The department is authorized to issue up to 200 drawing permits for antlerless moose hunts in Unit 13 for an October 1–31 and March 1–31 season. Hunters are prohibited from taking calves and cows accompanied by a calf.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** This proposal reauthorizes the antlerless moose hunts in Unit 13 and will allow the department to issue antlerless moose permits for the Unit 13A hunt areas during the regulatory year 2016 season.

**BACKGROUND:** The Unit 13 antlerless hunt was established in March 2011, and the first Unit 13 antlerless hunt under this regulation took place in September 2012. Ten permits have been issued annually for a single hunt area in the western portion of Unit 13A. This hunt resulted in the harvest of 4 cow moose during the 2012 season, 2 during the 2013 season, 4 during the 2014 season, and 6 during the 2015 season.

During the 2013 Board of Game meeting in Wasilla, the board adopted a proposal that changed the hunt from September 1–20 to October 1–31 and March 1–31. These new season dates were implemented in the fall of 2014, after which harvest success appears to have increased.

The board has also directed the department to issue antlerless moose permits when the moose population is at or above the midpoint of the population objective with the goal of harvesting up to 1% of the cow moose population.

The board has made a positive customary and traditional use finding for all of Unit 13, with an amount reasonably necessary for subsistence of 300–600 moose for the entire unit.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department **SUPPORTS** this proposal. Antlerless moose hunts must be re-authorized annually by the board to comply with statutory requirements. These hunts are required to regulate the moose population within the established Intensive Management (IM) objectives for population size and harvest.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal is not expected to result in additional costs to the department.

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**PROPOSAL 120 – 5 AAC 85.045(a)(12). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.**

Reauthorize the antlerless moose seasons in Units 14A and 14B.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal reauthorizes the antlerless moose hunts in Units 14A and 14B; these hunts must be re-authorized annually by the Board to comply with statutory requirements.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?**

- The department is allowed to issue up to 1,000 drawing permits to resident hunters in Unit 14A with a bag limit of one antlerless moose. The season is August 25–September 25 for DM400–DM412 and November 1–December 25 for DM413.
- The department may also issue up to 200 permits to resident hunters for the targeted hunt in Unit 14A with a bag limit of one moose during a winter season to be announced by emergency order.

- The department may also issue up to 100 additional permits to resident hunters for a targeted hunt in Unit 14B with a bag limit of one moose during a winter season to be announced by emergency order.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** This proposal reauthorizes the antlerless moose hunts in Units 14A and 14B; these hunts are needed to keep the moose population within management objectives and provide additional hunting opportunity for residents. The targeted hunt also provides managers with a tool to reduce moose-vehicle collisions and address nuisance moose issues.

**BACKGROUND:** Moose surveys conducted in November 2013 resulted in an estimate of 8,500 moose in Unit 14A. This estimate is greater than both the 2011 estimate of 8,000 moose and the population objective of 6,000–6,500 moose. The bull ratio is 21 bulls:100 cows and the calf ratio is 45 calves:100 cows.

Based on current projections, the Unit 14A moose population is expected to grow and continue to exceed population objectives. If the density of moose is allowed to increase, we anticipate an increase in the number of moose-human conflicts, and moose may experience nutritional stress, particularly during severe winters.

The targeted moose hunt in Units 14A and 14B provide an additional tool to address public safety concerns related to moose-vehicle collisions and nuisance management issues.

Moose-vehicle collisions result in property damage and may result in human injury or death. An average of 266 moose per year were killed in the Mat-Su Valley area during the last few years of average snowfall and substantially more were killed during higher snowfall years. The department also receives periodic complaints from the public about crop depredation and aggressive behavior that can be mitigated by this hunt structure.

The department uses the targeted hunts to mitigate public safety concerns by issuing permits to selected hunters and assigning them to hunt areas that correspond with areas of high moose-vehicle collisions or reoccurring nuisance issues.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department **SUPPORTS** this proposal. Cow harvests are warranted to control the moose population's growth and reduce moose-human conflicts in the Mat-Su Valley. These hunts also provide additional moose hunting opportunity in the Mat-Su Valley.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in significant costs to the department.

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**PROPOSAL 121 – 5 AAC 85.045(a)(14). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.**

Reauthorize the antlerless moose seasons on Kalgin Island in Unit 16B.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal reauthorizes the antlerless moose hunts on Kalgin Island in Unit 16B.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** Resident and nonresident hunters with registration permit RM572 are allowed to harvest 1 moose on Kalgin Island in Unit 16B. The hunting season is open from August 20–September 20.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** This proposal reauthorizes the antlerless moose hunts in Unit 16B that must be re-authorized annually by the Board to comply with statutory requirements.

The "any moose" registration hunt provides additional mortality on this predator-free island population to reduce the moose population below carrying capacity thereby preventing the degradation of habitat leading to starvation. The difficult hunting conditions and limited access will minimize the danger of over-harvest.

**BACKGROUND:** Moose were introduced to Kalgin Island in the late 1950s to provide additional hunting opportunities. By 1981, the population was over 140 moose due to an absence of predators. In response to concerns of over-population and potential deteriorating habitat conditions, a drawing permit hunt for cows was initiated in 1995. In an attempt to reduce the population quickly, the board established a registration hunt for any moose for the fall 1999 season. During the fall 2012 survey, 104 moose were observed on Kalgin Island, which was above the objective of 20–40 moose. Since 2000, the population has been over objective in 7 of 8 surveys.

The board has made a positive customary and traditional use finding for moose on Kalgin Island, and found that 2 moose are reasonably necessary for subsistence.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department **SUPPORTS** this proposal. The "any moose" hunt provides a necessary tool to manage the moose population on this predator-free island, and the difficult hunting conditions and limited access minimize the danger of over-harvest. The current level of subsistence opportunity is maintained by the reauthorization as an “any moose” hunt.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in significant costs to the department.

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**PROPOSAL 122 – 5 AAC 85.045(a)(15). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.**

Reauthorize the antlerless moose seasons in Unit 17A.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal reauthorizes the antlerless moose season for the Unit 17A winter moose hunt.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?**

- The current regulations for the Unit 17A moose hunt allow resident hunters a bag limit of two moose per regulatory year.
- A fall hunt during August 25–September 20 for resident hunters is managed under registration permit RM573, with a bag limit of one bull moose.
- The winter hunt is managed through the use of two registration permits: RM575 for one antlered bull moose and RM576 for one antlerless moose. The regulations state that “up to a 31-day season may be announced December 1–the end of February”.
  - The winter hunt is opened by emergency order authority, when good snow conditions exist for winter travel.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** This proposal would reauthorize the antlerless moose hunt in Unit 17A. This antlerless hunt would continue to provide hunters with additional harvest opportunity, while helping managers by decreasing the productivity of the Unit 17A moose population that is already at the upper limit of our population objectives.

Under the present hunt structure hunters can obtain two registration permits for the winter season, RM575 for one antlered bull and RM576 for one antlerless moose. When these hunts are running concurrently hunters will often have both permits and can harvest an antlerless moose and an antlered bull legally. However, when the antlerless season is closed because the quota is met, hunters would be limited to an antlered bull moose.

**BACKGROUND:** Moose are relative newcomers to much of Unit 17A, with only about 35 animals being present along the eastern border in 1980. Since then, moose have continued to increase in population size and expand throughout Unit 17A and west into Unit 18. The most

recent survey in 2011 enumerated 1,166 moose in Unit 17A, but no subsequent surveys have been conducted due to insufficient snowfall and poor survey conditions.

Moose management in Unit 17A has been guided by the Unit 17A Moose Management Group, consisting of members from the Bristol Bay Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Council, the Nushagak and Togiak Fish and Game advisory committees, the Togiak National Wildlife Refuge, and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. This group produced a Unit 17A Moose Management Plan that went through several iterations during 1996–2013, with the 2013 plan being used as the guiding document today. This plan has goals and objectives for hunter opportunity, harvest allocation, habitat mapping and population monitoring.

Per the moose management plan, a drawing hunt for nonresident hunters was adopted by the board in 2013, with fall 2014 being the first year of that hunt. The impetus behind the nonresident hunt was abundant opportunity provided by this growing moose population, and objectives within the plan that provide for the nonresident opportunity when the moose population reaches a certain level. It is this same abundance that allows for the annual bag limit of two moose including up to 10 antlerless animals that residents can take advantage of.

The BOG has made a positive customary and traditional use finding for moose in Unit 17, and has found that 100–150 are reasonably necessary for subsistence. During RY2010-2014, the mean annual moose harvest in Unit 17 was 305 moose.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department **SUPPORTS** this proposal. The moose population in this unit is increasing and is near the upper limit of the population objectives. Allowing a small harvest of antlerless moose will help limit population growth while providing additional harvest opportunity for hunters.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in significant costs to the department.

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**PROPOSAL 123 – 5 AAC 85.045(a)(18). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.**  
**Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.** Reauthorize the antlerless moose seasons in Unit 20A.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish & Game

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** Reauthorize antlerless moose hunting seasons in Unit 20A.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** Antlerless moose hunts are available in Unit 20A by drawing or registration permit only. However, due to a low population estimate in November 2013, antlerless hunts were cancelled in RY2014. In addition, due to inadequate snow conditions for conducting surveys during November 2014, no antlerless permits will be issued during RY2015.

<b>Units and Bag Limits</b>	<b>Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)</b>	<b>Nonresident Open Season</b>
(18)  Unit 20(A), the Ferry Trail Management Area, Wood River Controlled Use Area, and the Yanert Controlled Use Area	Sept. 1–Sept. 25 (General hunt only)	
RESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 bull with spike-fork antlers or 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side; or  1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only; up to 2,000 permits may be issued in combination with the Remainder of Unit 20(A); a person may not take a cow accompanied by a calf; or	Aug. 15–Nov. 15 (General hunt only)	
1 antlerless moose by registration permit only;	Oct. 1–Feb. 28 (General hunt only)	

a person may not take  
a cow accompanied  
by a calf; or

1 bull by drawing permit  
only; up to 1,000 permits  
may be issued in combi-  
nation with the Remainder  
of Unit 20(A); or

Sept. 1–Sept. 25  
(General hunt only)

1 bull by drawing  
permit only; by  
muzzleloader only;  
up to 75 permits  
may be issued in  
combination with  
nonresidents in  
Unit 20(A); or

Nov. 1–Nov. 30  
(General hunt only)

1 moose by targeted  
permit only; by shotgun or  
bow and arrow only; up  
to 100 permits may be issued

Season to be announced  
by emergency order  
(General hunt only)

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

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

Sept. 1–Sept. 25

1 bull with 50-inch  
antlers or antlers  
with 4 or more brow  
tines on one side,  
by drawing permit  
only; by muzzleloader  
only; up to 75 permits  
may be issued in  
combination with  
residents in Unit 20(A);

Nov. 1–Nov. 30

Remainder of Unit 20(A)

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull with spike-fork antlers or 50-inch antlers or antlers with 3 or more brow tines on one side; or

Sept. 1–Sept. 25

1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only; up to 2,000 permits may be issued in combination with Unit 20(A), the Ferry Trail Management Area, Wood River Controlled Use Area, and the Yanert Controlled Use Area; a person may not take a cow accompanied by a calf; or

Aug. 15–Nov. 15  
(General hunt only)

1 antlerless moose by registration permit only; a person may not take a cow accompanied by a calf; or

Aug. 25–Feb. 28

1 bull by drawing permit only; up to 1,000 permits may be issued in combination with Unit 20(A), the Ferry Trail Management Area, Wood River Controlled Use Area, and the Yanert Controlled

Sept. 1–Sept. 25

Use Area; or

1 moose by targeted permit only; by shotgun or bow and arrow only; up to 100 permits may be issued

Season to be announced by emergency order (General hunt only)

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

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

Sept. 1–Sept. 25

...

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** Antlerless hunts will continue to be available to hunters, and the department will continue to have the authority to use antlerless hunts as a tool to regulate the moose populations.

**BACKGROUND:** Antlerless moose hunting seasons must be reauthorized annually. The purpose of antlerless moose hunts in Unit 20A is to regulate population growth, to help meet the Intensive Management (IM) mandate for high levels of harvest, to provide subsistence hunters with a reasonable opportunity for success in obtaining moose for subsistence uses in Unit 20A outside the Fairbanks Nonsubsistence Area (part of the western Tanana Flats), and to use the targeted hunt as a tool to manage moose-vehicle collision and nuisance situations. Overall, the goal is to protect the health and habitat of the moose population over the long term and to provide for a wide range of public uses and benefits.

This reauthorization will allow the department to manage the moose population at the optimum level (i.e., in concert with the available habitat). Additional hunting opportunity will be provided, and harvest will remain high by utilizing a harvestable surplus of antlerless moose. The antlerless harvest will help in meeting IM harvest objectives without reducing bull-to-cow ratios to low levels. Meat and subsistence hunters will benefit from the opportunity to harvest cow moose. The moose population will benefit by having moose density compatible with the habitat. Motorists and residents may benefit from reduced moose-vehicle collisions and moose-human conflicts.

The current objective is to maintain moose numbers within the IM population objective of 12,000–15,000 moose (the IM population objective adopted by the board in 2012). The Unit 20A population was estimated at 8,678–11,633 moose (90% confidence interval) in 2013. As a result, the antlerless hunts were suspended during RY2014. Additionally, because the department was unable to conduct a population estimate in 2014 due to poor survey conditions, the antlerless hunts will also be suspended in RY2015. However, this high-density moose population continues to experience density-dependent effects, including low productivity and relatively light calf

weights. The department plans to conduct a population estimate in 2015 and, if the population estimate exceeds 12,000 moose, the antlerless hunts may need to be reinstated in RY2016 to regulate population growth.

If antlerless moose hunts are not reauthorized, the department will lose the ability to regulate this moose population. Opportunity to hunt a harvestable surplus of cow moose will be lost, and our ability to meet intensive management harvest objectives will be compromised. Subsistence hunters in the portion of Unit 20A outside the Fairbanks Nonsubsistence Area (part of the western Tanana Flats) may not have a reasonable opportunity to pursue moose for subsistence uses. In the portion of Unit 20A outside the Fairbanks Nonsubsistence Area the board has made a positive customary and traditional use finding and set the amount reasonably necessary for subsistence at 50–75 moose.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department submitted and **SUPPORTS** this proposal.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal is not expected to result in additional costs to private parties.

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**PROPOSAL 124 – 5 AAC 85.045(a)(18). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.**

Reauthorize the antlerless moose seasons in Unit 20B.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish & Game

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** Reauthorize antlerless moose hunting seasons in Unit 20B.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** Antlerless moose hunts are available in Unit 20B by drawing or registration permit only.

	<b>Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)</b>	<b>Nonresident Open Season</b>
<b>Units and Bag Limits</b>		

(18)

...

Unit 20(B), that portion  
within Creamer’s Refuge

1 bull with spike-fork or greater antlers, by bow and arrow only; or

Sept. 1–Sept. 30  
(General hunt only)  
Nov. 21–Nov. 27  
(General hunt only)

Sept. 1–Sept. 30  
Nov. 21–Nov. 27

1 antlerless moose by bow and arrow only, by drawing permit only; up to 150 bow and arrow permits may be issued in the Fairbanks Management Area; a recipient of a drawing permit is prohibited from taking an antlered bull moose in the Fairbanks Management Area; or

Sept. 1–Nov. 27  
(General hunt only)

Sept. 1–Nov. 27

1 antlerless moose by muzzleloader by drawing permit only; up to 10 permits may be issued; a recipient of a drawing permit is prohibited from taking an antlered bull moose in the Fairbanks Management Area

Dec. 1–Jan. 31  
(General hunt only)

Dec. 1–Jan. 31

Unit 20(B), remainder of the Fairbanks Management Area

1 bull with spike-fork or greater antlers, by bow and arrow only; or

Sept. 1–Sept. 30  
(General hunt only)  
Nov. 21–Nov. 27  
(General hunt only)

Sept. 1–Sept. 30  
Nov. 21–Nov. 27

1 antlerless moose by bow and arrow only, by

Sept. 1–Nov. 27  
(General hunt only)

Sept. 1–Nov. 27

drawing permit only; up to 150 bow and arrow permits may be issued in the Fairbanks Management Area; a recipient of a drawing permit is prohibited from taking an antlered bull moose in the Fairbanks Management Area; or

1 moose by targeted permit only; by shotgun or bow and arrow only; up to 100 permits may be issued

Season to be announced by emergency order (General hunt only)

No open season.

Unit 20(B), that portion within the Minto Flats Management Area

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull; or

Aug. 21–Aug. 27  
(Subsistence hunt only)

1 bull with spike-fork antlers or 50-inch antlers or antlers with 3 or more brow tines on one side; or

Sept. 8–Sept. 25

1 antlerless moose by registration permit only

Oct. 15–Feb. 28  
(Subsistence hunt only)

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side by drawing permit only; up to 8 permits may be issued

Sept. 8–Sept. 25

Unit 20(B), the drainage of the Middle Fork of the Chena River

1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only; up to 300 permits may be issued; a person may not take a cow accompanied by a calf; or

Aug. 15–Nov. 15  
(General hunt only)

1 antlerless moose by registration permit only; a person may not take a cow accompanied by a calf; or

Oct. 1–Feb. 28  
(General hunt only)

No open season.

1 bull; or

Sept. 1–Sept. 25

Sept. 1–Sept. 25

1 bull, by bow and arrow only; or

Sept. 26–Sept. 30

Sept. 26–Sept. 30

1 bull by registration permit only; by muzzleloader only, in the Salcha River drainage upstream from and including Butte Creek

Nov. 10–Dec. 10  
(General hunt only)

No open season.

Unit 20(B), that portion of the Salcha River drainage upstream from and including Goose Creek

1 bull; or

Sept. 1–Sept. 25

Sept. 1–Sept. 25

1 bull, by bow and arrow only; or	Sept. 26–Sept. 30	Sept. 26–Sept. 30
1 bull by registration permit only; by muzzleloader only, in the Salcha River drainage downstream of Goose Creek and upstream from and including Butte Creek;	Nov. 10–Dec. 10 (General hunt only)	No open season.
Unit 20(B), that portion of the Salcha River drainage downstream of Goose Creek and upstream from and including Butte Creek		
1 bull; or	Sept. 1–Sept. 20	Sept. 5–Sept. 20
1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only; up to 1,500 permits may be issued in combination with the hunt in the Remainder of Unit 20(B); a person may not take a cow accompanied by a calf; or	Aug. 15–Nov. 15 (General hunt only)	No open season.
1 antlerless moose by registration permit only; a person may not take a cow accompanied by a calf; or	Oct. 1–Feb. 28 (General hunt only)	
1 moose by targeted permit only; by shotgun or bow and arrow only; up to 100 permits may be issued; or	Season to be announced by emergency order (General hunt only)	No open season.

1 bull by registration permit only; by muzzleloader only, in the drainage of the Middle Fork of the Chena River and in the Salcha River drainage upstream from and including Goose Creek;

Nov. 10–Dec. 10  
(General hunt only)

No open season.

Unit 20(B), that portion southeast of the Moose Creek dike within one-half mile of each side of the Richardson highway

1 bull; or

Sept. 1–Sept. 20

Sept. 5–Sept. 20

1 moose by drawing permit only; by bow and arrow or muzzleloader only; up to 100 permits may be issued; or

Sept. 16–Feb. 28  
(General hunt only)

No open season.

1 moose by targeted permit only; by shotgun or bow and arrow only; up to 100 permits may be issued

Season to be announced by emergency order  
(General hunt only)

No open season.

Remainder of Unit 20(B)

1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only; by youth hunt only; up to 200 permits may be issued; or

Aug. 5–Aug. 14

No open season.

1 bull; or

Sept. 1–Sept. 20

Sept. 5–Sept. 20

1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only; up to 1,500 permits may be issued in the Remainder of Unit 20(B); a person may not take a cow accompanied by a calf; or

Aug. 15–Nov. 15  
(General hunt only)

No open season.

1 antlerless moose by registration permit only; a person may not take a cow accompanied by a calf; or

Oct. 1–Feb. 28  
(General hunt only)

1 moose by targeted permit only; by shotgun or bow and arrow only; up to 100 permits may be issued

Season to be announced by emergency order  
(General hunt only)

No open season.

...

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** Antlerless hunts will continue to be available to hunters, and the department will continue to have the authority to use antlerless hunts as a tool to regulate the moose populations.

**BACKGROUND:** Antlerless moose hunting seasons must be reauthorized annually. Our goal in Unit 20B is to provide for a wide range of public uses and benefits and to protect the health and habitat of moose populations. Antlerless hunts are important for improving or maintaining the ability of moose habitat to support current populations. They also help regulate moose population growth, provide hunting opportunity, help meet Intensive Management (IM) objectives for harvest of 600–1,150 moose, and provide subsistence hunters with a reasonable opportunity to pursue moose for subsistence uses without reducing bull-to-cow ratios. If antlerless hunts are not reauthorized, subsistence hunters in the portion of Unit 20B outside the Fairbanks Nonsubsistence Area may not have a reasonable opportunity to pursue moose for subsistence uses. In the portion of Unit 20B outside the Minto Flats Management Area the board has made a positive customary and traditional use finding and set the amount reasonably necessary for subsistence at 75–100 moose.

*Fairbanks Management Area (FMA)* – The purpose of this antlerless hunt is to regulate population growth in the FMA and potentially reduce moose–vehicle collisions and nuisance moose problems.

The number of moose-vehicle collisions in the FMA is high and poses significant safety risks to motorists. In addition, moose nuisance issues continue to place significant demands on property owners. To increase hunting opportunity and harvest and to reduce moose–vehicle collisions, the department incrementally increased the number of drawing permits for antlerless moose in the FMA during RY1999–RY2010. Moose-vehicle collisions and moose nuisance problems declined during RY2006–RY2014, presumably, in part due to the consistent antlerless moose harvests during RY2009–RY2014.

*Minto Flats Management Area (MFMA)* – The primary purpose of this antlerless hunt is to provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence uses and to regulate the moose population in the MFMA. In the portion of Unit 20B within the Minto Flats Management Area the board has made a positive customary and traditional use finding and set the amount reasonably necessary for subsistence at 20–40 moose.

The MFMA moose density was high in 2010 (4.1 moose/mi<sup>2</sup>). In order to reduce the moose population, harvest of antlerless moose during RY12 and RY13 was about 2.5% of the population. The fall 2013 estimate shows a more sustainable density in the MFMA (2013 = 2.6 moose/mi<sup>2</sup>). Therefore, to stabilize this population, the antlerless harvest has been reduced to about 1% of the total population to maintain the current population size.

*Targeted Hunt* – The purpose of the targeted hunt is to allow the public to harvest moose that are causing a nuisance or public safety issue. These permits are used sparingly but allow the public to harvest the moose instead of the department dispatching them.

*Unit 20B, drainage of the Middle Fork of the Chena River and the Remainder of Unit 20B* – The antlerless moose harvest in this area is designed to regulate the moose population in this portion of Unit 20B and help meet the IM harvest objectives for Unit 20B. The 2013 population estimate (14,057 moose) indicates the population declined from the 2009 estimate (20,173 moose) and is now at a more appropriate level for the habitat. The antlerless harvest goal will be approximately 1% of the total population to maintain the level of the population estimate.

To mitigate hunter conflicts, we spread hunters out over space and time. Each of 16 hunt areas has permits in four time periods: two before the general hunt, one during, and one after. The earliest of the four hunts is a youth hunt that gives hunting opportunity prior to the start of school. Spreading these hunts out over time maintains a few hunters during each season in each permit area, yet is expected to achieve a harvest of approximately 100 cows.

Finally, extensive burns in northcentral Unit 20B will provide excellent habitat in the future. With improving habitat, continued high predator harvest, and relatively mild winters, we can expect continued high productivity and survival of moose, along with increased yield.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department submitted and **SUPPORTS** this proposal.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal is not expected to result in additional costs to private parties.

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**PROPOSAL 125 – 5 AAC 85.045(a)(18). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.**

Reauthorize the antlerless moose seasons in Unit 20D.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish & Game

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** Reauthorize antlerless moose hunting seasons in Unit 20D.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** Unit 20D currently has antlerless hunts available by drawing permit only, with fewer than 30 permits available. In addition, drawing and registration hunts are retained in the codified regulation should the department determine it is necessary to quickly reduce or maintain the population size by increasing antlerless harvest.

	<b>Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)</b>	<b>Nonresident Open Season</b>
<b>Units and Bag Limits</b>		

(18)

...

Unit 20(D), that portion lying west of the west bank of the Johnson River and south of the north bank of the Tanana River, except the Delta Junction Management Area and

the Bison Range Youth Hunt  
Management Area

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

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

Sept. 1–Sept. 15  
(General hunt only)

1 bull by drawing  
permit; or

Sept. 1–Sept. 15  
(General hunt only)

1 antlerless moose by  
drawing permit only;  
up to 1,000 permits may  
be issued in combination  
with that portion in the  
Delta Junction Management  
Area; a person may not  
take a calf or a cow  
accompanied by a calf; or

Oct. 10–Nov. 25  
(General hunt only)

1 antlerless moose by  
registration permit only;  
a person may not take a  
calf or a cow accompanied  
by a calf

Oct. 10–Nov. 25  
(General hunt only)

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

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

Sept. 5–Sept. 15

Unit 20(D), that portion  
within the Bison Range  
Controlled Use Area

1 bull with spike-fork or  
50-inch antlers or antlers

Sept. 1–Sept. 30  
(General hunt only)

Sept. 1–Sept. 30

with 4 or more brow tines on one side; or 1 antlerless moose, per lifetime of a hunter, by youth hunt drawing permit only; up to 10 permits may be issued; a person may not take a calf or a cow accompanied by a calf;

Unit 20(D), that portion within the Delta Junction Management Area

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 moose every four regulatory years by drawing permit, a person may not take a calf or a cow accompanied by a calf; or

Sept. 1–Sept. 15  
(General hunt only)

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 30 permits may be issued; or

Sept. 1–Sept. 15  
(General hunt only)

1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only; up to 1,000 permits may be issued in combination with that portion lying west of the west bank of the Johnson River and south of the north bank of the Tanana River; a person may not take a calf or a cow accompanied by a calf; or

Oct. 10–Nov. 25  
(General hunt only)

1 antlerless moose by registration permit only; a person may not

Oct. 10–Nov. 25  
(General hunt only)

take a calf or a  
cow accompanied  
by a calf

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 moose every four regulatory  
years by drawing permit only,  
a person may not take a calf or a  
cow accompanied by a calf; or

Sept. 1–Sept. 15

1 bull with 50-inch antlers  
or antlers with 4 or  
more brow tines on one  
side by drawing permit  
only; up to 30 permits may  
be issued

Sept. 1–Sept. 15

...

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** Antlerless hunts in Unit 20D (including hunts by youth-only and disabled veterans) will continue to be available to hunters, and the department will continue to use antlerless hunts as a tool to regulate the moose populations.

**BACKGROUND:** The Board of Game must annually reauthorize antlerless moose hunting seasons in Unit 20D. Our goal is to provide for a wide range of public uses and benefits and to protect the health and habitat of moose populations. Antlerless hunts are important for improving or maintaining the ability of moose habitat to support current populations. They also help regulate moose population growth and help to meet Intensive Management (IM) objectives for high levels of harvest.

The goals of the Unit 20D antlerless moose hunts are to stabilize population growth and to address concerns about range degradation, reduced nutritional condition, and reduced reproductive success, as well as to provide hunting opportunity to youth and disabled veterans. Most of these goals are being met. Moose density was reduced from 5.6 moose/mi<sup>2</sup> before antlerless hunts to 3.2 moose/mi<sup>2</sup> after antlerless hunts were initiated. Overwinter browse utilization decreased from 25% in 2007 to 15% in 2010. The average weight of 9-month-old calves increased from 340 lbs. in 2010 to 366 lbs. in 2012 (K. Seaton, ADF&G, unpublished data, Fairbanks).

The Unit 20D moose population has great potential for growth due to the extensive agricultural land, burns, and high predator harvest. If antlerless moose hunts are not reauthorized, the moose population may increase to unacceptable levels or may need reduction when new data are available and analyzed. Opportunity to hunt a harvestable surplus of cow moose will be lost, and our ability to meet IM harvest objectives will be compromised.

Reauthorization of Unit 20D antlerless moose hunts will likely improve or maintain the ability of moose habitat to support the current moose population. Hunting opportunity and harvest will increase and allow the department to manage these moose populations at optimum levels. The additional harvest will help in meeting IM harvest objectives without reducing bull-to-cow ratios to low levels. Meat hunters may benefit from the opportunity to harvest cow moose. Moose populations will benefit by having moose densities compatible with their habitat. Motorists and residents may benefit from reduced moose–vehicle collisions and moose–human conflicts. Each year since fall 2009, fewer than 30 permits which include antlerless moose (except calves or cows accompanied by calves) as part of the bag limit have been available. These drawing permits are available for the youth-only hunt in the Bison Range Controlled Use Area and (beginning in 2015) the Disabled Veterans-only hunt in the Delta Junction Management Area. Future antlerless hunts are likely needed to maintain the population at the optimal density and will contribute toward meeting the IM harvest objective of 500–700 moose. More permits will be issued only if additional harvest is needed in specific areas to maintain optimal moose densities. Depending on the 2015 survey and population estimate, a low number of antlerless moose (except calves or cows accompanied by calves) drawing permits will likely be offered for 2016, with the total number of antlerless permits for Unit 20D continuing to be less than 30.

In Unit 20D antlerless moose hunts and their effect on moose density and population growth will continue to be evaluated. Future antlerless moose hunts will be implemented as needed based on evaluation of 3 indices of density-dependent moose nutritional conditions in relation to changes in moose density: biomass removal of current annual growth on winter browse, proportion of females with twin calves, and late-winter calf weights.

In the portion of Unit 20D south of the Tanana River the board has made a positive customary and traditional use finding and set the amount necessary for subsistence at 5 moose. In that portion of Unit 20D north of the Tanana River and outside the Fairbanks nonsubsistence area, the board has made a positive customary and traditional use finding and set the amount reasonably necessary for subsistence at 5–15 moose.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department submitted and **SUPPORTS** this proposal.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal is not expected to result in additional costs to private parties.

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**PROPOSAL 126 – 5 AAC 85.045 (a)(16). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.**

Reauthorize the antlerless moose seasons in the Remainder of Unit 18.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal reauthorizes the antlerless moose season in the remainder of Unit 18.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** Antlerless hunting during fall and winter seasons is allowed for resident hunters in the “Remainder of Unit 18”. There are three components to antlerless seasons:

- 1) during August 1–September 30 the bag limit is 2 moose; however, only one antlered bull may be taken and taking calves or cows accompanied by calves is prohibited;
- 2) during October 1–November 30 the bag limit is 2 antlerless moose with no additional restrictions; and
- 3) during December 1–March 15 the bag limit is 2 moose with no additional restrictions.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** The antlerless hunts in the remainder of Unit 18 would be reauthorized for RY2016. Hunters would have the same seasons and bag limits as RY2015 (see Current Regulations above).

**BACKGROUND:** Antlerless moose seasons must be reauthorized annually. The hunt area in the remainder of Unit 18 supports a moose population that has increased to an all-time, high level, reaching an estimated minimum population of 12,000 moose. In all areas surveyed, moose populations have twinning rates at or above 40%. Reported harvest during the past three years has averaged 395 bulls and 160 cows.

Harvests increased approximately 15% in RY2014 (n=624) compared to the previous 3-year average harvest (n=546). In RY2014, the harvest ticket reports from the remainder of Unit 18 included 69 antlerless moose (cows) taken in the fall hunt, along with the harvest of 99 antlerless moose (cows) taken in a winter hunt. The combined harvest for the current the remainder of Unit 18 represented in this reauthorization is well within sustained yield, and the population trajectory has not been affected by antlerless harvests.

The Remainder of Unit 18 has under-utilized moose habitat and is expected to support a growing moose population. Continuing antlerless moose harvest opportunity will benefit hunters and may also help slow the growth rate of the population.

The board has made a positive customary and traditional use finding for moose in Unit 18 and has found that 200–400 moose are reasonably necessary for subsistence (5 AAC 99.025(a)(8)).

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department **SUPPORTS** this proposal to maintain antlerless hunts in areas where moose populations are increasing.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal is not expected to result in additional costs to the department.

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**PROPOSAL 127 – 5 AAC 85.045(a)(21). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.**  
Reauthorize the antlerless moose seasons in Unit 23.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal would reauthorize the antlerless moose season in Unit 23.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** There are two moose hunt areas in Unit 23 and each area has an antlerless moose season from November 1–December 31. The hunt areas are: 1) Unit 23 north of and including the Singoalik River drainage, and 2) Remainder of Unit 23. The bag limit in each area is one moose by registration permit (RM880); however, the taking of calves or cows accompanied by calves is prohibited.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** The antlerless moose hunts in Unit 23 would be reauthorized. Resident hunters would be able to use a registration permit to harvest antlerless moose during November and December on state-managed lands in Unit 23.

**BACKGROUND:** Antlerless moose seasons must be reauthorized annually. The resident registration permit hunt RM880 was implemented in RY2004 as a way to retain antlerless opportunity through substantially shortened seasons limiting antlerless harvest to the months of November and December. Antlerless seasons and bag limits have not changed since RY2004 and the reported harvest of antlerless moose has been less than 15 cows annually over the last 20 years; 14 cows were taken in RY2014. The low antlerless moose harvest rates allow additional harvest opportunity for resident hunters without negatively impacting the moose population.

Aerial censuses indicate low moose densities prevail throughout Unit 23; however, the probable take of a few antlerless moose is not expected to be detrimental to the population.

The board has made a positive customary and traditional use finding for moose in Unit 23, and has found that 325–400 moose are reasonably necessary for subsistence (5 AAC 99.025(a)(8)).

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department **SUPPORTS** this proposal to reauthorize antlerless harvests in Unit 23.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal is not expected to result in additional costs to the department.

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**PROPOSAL 128 - 5 AAC 85.045(a)(24). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.**  
Reauthorize the antlerless moose seasons in Unit 26A.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal reauthorizes the antlerless moose season in the western portion of Unit 26A.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** Antlerless moose hunts for residents are allowed in the portion of Unit 26A west of 156° 00' W. longitude, excluding the Colville River drainage, where antlerless hunting through a 1 moose bag limit is allowed July 1–September 14.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** The portion of Unit 26A west of 156° 00' W. longitude and north of the Colville drainage would have the antlerless moose season reauthorized.

**BACKGROUND:** Antlerless moose seasons must be reauthorized annually. The moose population is low in Unit 26A and has declined since 2008. The minimum population count was 1,180 in 2008, then declined to 610 moose in 2011. The population grew slowly from 2011–2013, but declined to 294 moose in 2014. No count was completed in 2015. Reported moose harvest in recent years has remained low: 13 moose in RY2010, 5 in RY2011, 9 in RY2012, 6 in RY2013, and 2 in RY2014.

Because of the population decline, previous seasons and hunt areas have been closed, including Unit 26A fall drawing hunts (DM980/981) and winter hunts in portions of the Colville River drainage and in Remainder of Unit 26A. Only the western portion of Unit 26A has a hunt affected by this proposal.

The portion of Unit 26A west of 156° 00' W longitude and north of the Colville drainage does not have a year-round moose population. Animals occasionally disperse away from the major river drainages to the coastal plain during summer months. These are the only moose available for harvest in this northwestern portion of Unit 26A. The small number of antlerless moose harvested under this reauthorization proposal will have very little impact on the size of the population. To date, after several years of hunting opportunity in this area, three antlerless moose have been harvested: one cow in 2006, one in 2008, and one in 2014. Keeping an antlerless

moose season in this portion of Unit 26A is a way to provide opportunity in a portion of the state that does not generally have moose.

The board has made a positive customary and traditional use finding for moose in Unit 26, and has found that 21–48 moose are reasonably necessary for subsistence, including 15–30 in Unit 26A (5 AAC 99.025(a)(8)).

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department **SUPPORTS** this proposal because antlerless harvests in the western section of Unit 26A are anticipated to be very low and have little impact on the population.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal is not expected to result in additional costs to the department.

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**PROPOSAL 129 – 5 AAC 92.015. Brown bear tag fee exemptions.** Reauthorize the brown bear tag fee exemptions for the Central/Southwest Region.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal will reauthorize the brown bear tag fee exemptions in Units 9, 11, 13, 16, and 17.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The following regulations are currently in effect for Region IV brown bear hunts:

5AAC 92.015. Brown bear tag fee exemption

(a) A resident tag is not required for taking a brown bear in the following units:

- (1) Unit 11;
- (2) Units 13 and 16A;
- (3) Units 16B and 17;

...

(11) Unit 9, within the following areas, unless a smaller area is defined by the department in an applicable permit:

(A) Unit 9B, within five miles of the communities of Port Alsworth, Nondalton, Iliamna, Newhalen, Pile Bay, Pedro Bay, Pope Vanoy Landing, Kakhonak, Igiugig, and Levelock;

(B) Unit 9C, within five miles of the communities of King Salmon, Naknek, and

South Naknek;

(C) Unit 9D, within five miles of the communities of Cold Bay, King Cove, Sand Point, and Nelson Lagoon;

(D) Unit 9E, within five miles of the communities of Egegik, Pilot Point, Ugashik, Port Heiden, Port Moller, Chignik Lake, Chignik Lagoon, Chignik Bay, Perryville, and Ivanof Bay;

(12) Unit 10, within three miles of the community of False Pass, unless a smaller area is defined by the department in an applicable permit.

(b) In addition to the units as specified in (a) of this section, if a hunter obtains a subsistence registration permit before hunting, that hunter is not required to obtain a resident tag to take a brown bear in the following units:

(1) Unit 9B;

(2) Unit 9E, that portion including all drainages that drain into the Pacific Ocean between Cape Kumliun and the border of Units 9D and 9E;

(3) Unit 17;

...

### **WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?**

Hunters will not be required to purchase a brown bear locking tag before hunting brown bears in Units 11, 13, 16, and 17. In addition, brown bear tag fees will not be required for subsistence hunts in Units 9 and 17 or for permit hunts near communities in Unit 9.

**BACKGROUND:** Brown bear tag fee exemptions must be reauthorized annually or the fee will be automatically reinstated.

General Season Hunts: The Board liberalized brown bear hunting regulations, including the tag fee exemption, to increase the opportunity to take brown bears in Units 11, 13, and 16 during the March 2003 Board of Game meeting and in Unit 17 during the March 2011 Board of Game meeting. The tag fee exemption in these Units provides greater opportunity to harvest brown bears by allowing opportunistic take.

The board also exempted brown bear tag fees for bear hunts near communities in Unit 9 to address public safety concerns in communities during the March 2011 Board of Game meeting. Brown bears are abundant in Unit 9 and are managed as a trophy species. Brown bears are frequently observed in communities destroying property in search of food or garbage and

occasionally killing pets. The liberalized bear seasons and bag limits along with the elimination of the tag fee is intended to allow people to take bears before they destroy property, to promote a greater acceptance of the unit's bear population, and to resolve some of the compliance issues associated with the take of DLP bears.

Subsistence Brown Bear Hunts: The Board waived the brown bear tag fee requirement for subsistence brown bear hunts in Unit 17 and portions of Unit 9. There is a positive customary and traditional use finding for brown bears in those portions of Units 17A and 17B that drain into the Nuyakuk and Tikchik lakes, with an amount reasonably necessary for subsistence of 5. There is a positive customary and traditional use finding for brown bears in the remainder of Unit 17B, and in Unit 17C, with an amount reasonably necessary for subsistence of 10–15 bears.

There is a positive customary and traditional use finding in Unit 9B, with an amount reasonably necessary for subsistence of 10–20, and a positive customary and traditional use finding in 9E, with an amount reasonably necessary for subsistence of 10–15. The remainder of Unit 9 has a negative customary and traditional use finding.

Subsistence brown bear harvest rates are low and well within sustainable limits. Exempting the resident tag fee has not caused an increase in subsistence harvest in these units. Continuation of the exemption accommodates cultural and traditional uses of brown bears in these units and provides an alternative for hunters who take brown bears primarily for their meat.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department **SUPPORTS** this proposal because it provides greater harvest opportunity in Units 11, 13, 16, and 17; addresses public safety concerns in Unit 9; and provides subsistence harvest opportunity in portions of Units 9 and 17.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in significant costs to the department.

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**PROPOSAL 130 – 5 AAC 92.015(a)(4). Brown bear tag fee exemptions.** Reauthorize the brown bear tag fee exemption throughout Interior and Eastern Arctic.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** Reauthorize brown bear tag fee exemptions for all resident hunters in Interior and Eastern Arctic Alaska (Region III).

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The \$25 locking tags are not required for residents to take brown bears in Units 12, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25, 26B, and 26C.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** The tag fee exemption would continue, and residents would not need to purchase a \$25 brown bear tag in order to hunt brown bears in Units 12, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25, 26B, and 26C.

**BACKGROUND:** The Board of Game must annually reauthorize all resident tag fee exemptions. Resident brown bear tag fees were put in place statewide during the mid-1970s to discourage incidental harvest, elevate the status of brown bears to trophies, and to provide revenue. Today, Region III populations are healthy, brown bears are highly regarded as trophies, and season dates and bag limits effectively regulate harvest. Reauthorizing these tag fee exemptions would allow residents who are unable to purchase the \$25 tag before hunting, due to lack of vendors or economic reasons, to opportunistically and legally harvest brown bears.

Eliminating all resident brown bear tag fees throughout Region III simplifies regulations, increases resident hunter opportunity, and is not likely to cause declines in these brown bear populations. This reauthorization would assist with our objective of managing Region III brown bear populations for hunter opportunity and would continue to allow hunters to take brown bears opportunistically. During regulatory years 2006–2014 about 31% of brown bears harvested by resident hunters in Region III were taken incidentally to other activities, compared with 13% statewide.

We estimate that a kill rate of at least 6%, composed primarily of males, is sustainable. Human-caused mortality in most of Region III has been consistently less than 6% of the population. Where harvests are elevated (i.e., Units 20A, 20B, 20D, and portions of 26B), brown bear populations are managed through changes in seasons and bag limits. Resident tag fees that were in place prior to 2010 appeared to have no effect on harvest rates in these areas.

As part of this request to reauthorize exemption of resident brown bear tag fees throughout Region III, we recommend that the board, at a minimum, continue to reauthorize the tag fee exemptions for subsistence registration permit hunts in Units 19A and 19B (downstream of and including the Aniak River drainage), 21D, and 24. The customary and traditional use findings and amounts reasonably necessary for subsistence are presented in Table 130-1:

Table 130-1: Customary and traditional uses of brown bear populations, Units 12, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25, 26B, and 26C:

Unit	Finding	Amount reasonably necessary for subsistence
Unit 12	Negative	

Units 19A and 19B upstream of and excluding the Aniak River drainage, and Unit 19D	Positive	10–15
Units 19A and 19B downstream of and including the Aniak River drainage	Positive	5
Unit 19C	Negative	
Unit 19D	Positive	2–6
Units 20A and 20B outside the boundaries of the Fairbanks Nonsubsistence Use Area and Unit 20C	Positive	1–3
Unit 20D, outside the boundaries of the Fairbanks Nonsubsistence Area	Positive	1–2
Unit 20E	Negative	
Units 21 and 22	Positive	20–25
Units 23, 24, and 26	Positive	25–35
Unit 25	Negative	

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**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department submitted and **SUPPORTS** this proposal.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal is not expected to result in additional costs to private parties.

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**PROPOSAL 131 – 5AAC 92.015. Brown bear tag fee exemptions.** Reauthorize the brown bear tag fee exemption for Units 18, 22, 23, and 26A.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** The proposal would reauthorize the current resident tag fee exemptions for brown bears in Units 18, 22, 23 and 26A.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** Brown bear tag fees are not required for residents in general season hunts and subsistence registration permit hunts in Units 18, 22, 23, and 26A. The \$25 locking tag for residents is not required in general season hunts. The subsistence hunt for residents with no tag requirement is managed through a registration permit in each unit.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** The \$25 resident tag fee would not be required in general season hunts for brown bears in Units 18, 22, 23, 26A. Subsistence hunts would not have a \$25 tag fee, although a subsistence registration permit would be required.

**BACKGROUND:** The Board of Game must reauthorize brown bear tag fee exemptions annually or the fee automatically becomes reinstated. General season hunts have had fees exempted in Unit 18 for 4 years, Unit 22 for 14 years, Unit 23 for 9 years, and Unit 26A for 4 years. Exemptions have been implemented to allow: 1) incremental increases in harvest, 2) additional opportunity for residents, and 3) harvest by a wide range of users. Increased harvest is allowable because portions of these units have high bear populations. General season harvests are within sustained yield limits and previous exemptions of the resident tag fee have not caused dramatic or unexpected increases in overall harvest.

In subsistence season hunts, reauthorizations are needed for Units 18, 22, 23, and 26A where brown bear subsistence hunt requirements include: 1) a registration permit; 2) a tag fee exemption; 3) salvaging meat for human consumption; 4) no use of aircraft in Units 22, 23 and 26A; 5) no sealing requirement unless hide and skull are removed from subsistence hunt area; and 6) if sealing is required, the skin of the head and the front claws must be removed and retained by the department at the time of sealing. Continuing the tag fee exemption helps facilitate participation in the associated brown bear harvest programs maintained by the department for subsistence hunts. In all units, subsistence brown bear harvest rates are low and well within sustained yield limits and exempting the resident tag fee has not caused an increase in subsistence harvest.

Table 131-1: Customary and traditional uses of brown bear populations, Units 18, 22, 23 and 26A:

Unit	Finding	Amount reasonably necessary for subsistence
Unit 18	Positive	20–30
Units 21 and 22	Positive	20–25
Units 23, 24, and 26	Positive	25–35

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department **SUPPORTS** this proposal. Brown bear numbers are stable or increasing and the increased harvests that result from the tag fee exemption do not present a conservation concern.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal is not expected to result in additional costs to the department.

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**PROPOSAL 132 – 5 AAC 85.070(5). Hunting season and bag limits for unclassified game.**  
Modify the hunting season for snowy owls.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** The proposal would modify the hunting season for snowy owls to comply with the federal framework as legally required.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** In Units 17, 18, 22, 23, and 26 there is no limit and no closed season for residents. There is no open season for nonresidents.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If adopted the snowy owl season for residents would change to September 1–April 1. Limits would not be affected.

**BACKGROUND:** The department has determined that it is no longer legal, under Federal Regulations 50 CFR part 20.132, to allow for the harvest of snowy owls on a “no closed season” basis. Following amendments to the Migratory Bird Treaty Act in 1997, a regulated spring/summer subsistence season for the harvest of migratory birds was established in 2003 in portions of rural Alaska. From April 2–August 31, federal regulations allow the harvest of snowy owls by permanent residents of areas included in the spring/summer subsistence harvest. This is an update to state of Alaska regulations so they comply with federal regulations enacted in 2003.

The board has not made a finding of customary and traditional uses of snowy owls under AS 16.05.258 to cover the fall season regulated by the board. The department will provide the customary and traditional use worksheet developed for other migratory bird species for the board’s consideration.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department submitted and **SUPPORTS** this proposal. The department recommends the board address customary and traditional uses of snowy owls under AS 16.05.258.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal is not expected to result in additional costs to the department.

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**PROPOSAL 133 – 5 AAC 85.070(3). Hunting season and bag limits for unclassified game.**  
Modify the hunting season for cormorants.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** The proposal would modify the hunting season for cormorant to comply with the federal framework as legally required.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** In Units 10, 17, 18, 22, and 23 there is no limit and no closed season for residents. There is no open season for nonresidents. These regulations apply to all cormorants and do not distinguish between species.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If adopted the cormorant season for residents would change to September 1–April 1, with no limit, and a season would be opened in Unit 6 and Unit 8. The season would be open to Pelagic and Double-Crested cormorants only. The season would be closed to Red-faced cormorants.

**BACKGROUND:** The department has determined that it is no longer legal, under Federal Regulations 50 CFR part 20.132, to allow for the harvest of cormorants on a “no closed season” basis. Following amendments to the Migratory Bird Treaty Act in 1997, a regulated spring/summer subsistence season for the harvest of migratory birds was established in 2003 in portions of rural Alaska. From April 2 to August 31 federal regulations allowed the harvest of cormorants to only permanent residents of areas included in the spring/summer subsistence harvest. This is an update to state of Alaska regulations so they comply with federal regulations enacted in 2003. Units 6 and 8 have been added to the current regulations due to historical use of cormorants in these areas. Red-faced cormorants have been removed due to population level concerns.

The board has not made a finding of customary and traditional uses of cormorants under AS 16.05.258 to cover the fall season regulated by the board. The department will provide the customary and traditional use worksheet developed for other migratory bird species for the board’s consideration.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department submitted and **SUPPORTS** this proposal but recommends that the creation of new seasons be addressed during the scheduled board meeting for each area. The department recommends the board address customary and traditional uses of cormorants under AS 16.05.258

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal is not expected to result in additional costs to the department.

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**PROPOSAL 134 – 5 AAC 85.025. Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou.** Increase the bag limits for Mulchatna caribou in Units 17, 18, 19A&B, and 9A,B,&C.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal liberalizes the bag limit for Mulchatna caribou to 2 caribou from August 1–March 31 in Units 17 and 9B and from August 1–March 15 in Units 18, 19A&B, and 9A&C.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?**

Mulchatna caribou harvest is managed across multiple game management units using a single registration permit (RC503).

In Units 9A, 9C, 18, 19A and 19B, resident hunters are allowed to harvest 2 caribou by registration permit August 1–March 15; however, no more than 1 bull may be taken and no more than 1 caribou may be taken from August 1–January 31.

In Units 9B, 17B, and portions of 17A and 17C, resident hunters are allowed to harvest 2 caribou by registration permit August 1–March 31; however, no more than 1 bull may be taken and no more than 1 caribou may be taken from August 1–January 31.

There is no nonresident season for Mulchatna caribou.

The board has made a positive customary and traditional use finding for the Mulchatna caribou herd in GMUs 9A, 9B, 17, 19A south of the Kuskokwim River, and 19B. The amount reasonably necessary for subsistence uses is 2,100–2,400 caribou.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If adopted, the bag limit for Mulchatna caribou would be liberalized by allowing hunters to harvest 2 caribou during the entire hunting season, and it would allow hunters to harvest more than 1 bull caribou during the hunting season.

**BACKGROUND:** The Mulchatna caribou herd ranges across game management units 17A,B,&C, 18, 19A&B, and 9A,B,&C. During the mid-1990s this Mulchatna herd reached a peak population size of 200,000 caribou and had a bag limit of 5 caribou per year. However, since that time, the herd has declined. During the decline, hunting restrictions were progressively implemented through a hunting closure for nonresidents and reduced seasons and bag limits for resident hunters.

The Mulchatna caribou herd is currently believed to be increasing slowly and was estimated to include approximately 31,000 caribou in June 2015. The population is now meeting the objectives for the bull:cow ratio (35 bulls:100 cows) and moderate levels of calf recruitment have been observed.

The 1997 Quailnguut (Kilbuck) Caribou Herd Cooperative Management Plan considered and recommended more liberal hunt opportunities when the Mulchatna caribou herd was present in Unit 18. With the movement of the Mulchatna caribou herd into Unit 18, and its prior absorption of the Quailnguut (Kilbuck) caribou herd, the department noted that the board has not made a customary and traditional finding for Mulchatna caribou in Unit 18. The department has prepared a customary and traditional use worksheet for the board's consideration in this unit.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department **SUPPORTS** this proposal. The current bag limit, which was designed to limit bull harvests, was established in 2007 at a time when the bull:cow ratio estimates were consistently below the management objective. However, the restrictions are no longer necessary. During the fall 2014 and 2015 composition surveys the Mulchatna herd achieved the objective of 35 bulls:100 cows, suggesting that we no longer need to limit hunters to a single bull caribou. Additionally the reported caribou harvest is well below what we consider sustainable for this herd while allowing herd growth. It is no longer necessary to limit hunters to a single bull or restrict the bag limit to a single caribou from August 10–January 31.

Changing the bag limit to allow hunters to take 2 caribou of either sex and removing the restriction that only allows the harvest of 1 caribou prior to January 31 will simplify the caribou regulations. The bag limit increase is also thought to be sustainable based on the most current information about the Mulchatna herd.

The department recommends the board consider customary and traditional uses of the Mulchatna caribou herd in Unit 18.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in significant costs to the department.

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**PROPOSAL 135 – 5 AAC 85.020 (a) (20). Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear.** Increase the number of nonresident drawing permits for brown bear in the Remainder of Unit 22.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** Proposal 135 would increase the number of nonresident drawing permits in the Remainder of Unit 22 from 12 permits to 21 permits.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The hunt area defined as ‘Remainder of Unit 22’ includes the entire portions of Units 22D and 22E. In all hunts, cubs or sows accompanied by cubs may not be taken. Resident hunting is during a season from August 1–May 31 with a bag limit of one bear every regulatory year. Residents may participate by using registration permit RB699 in a subsistence hunt with special requirements and no sealing, or by general season with sealing required. In both hunt types for residents, tag requirements and fees are currently waived by annual reauthorization. The nonresident hunt is by drawing permit for up to 12 permits during a season from August 1–May 31 with a bag limit of one bear every regulatory year in hunt DB690. To participate in the hunt, permit winners must comply with tag requirements and fees, as well as registered guide or resident kindred requirements. If the drawing is undersubscribed, permits would be available at the Nome ADF&G office following announcement by the department.

There is a positive customary and traditional use finding for brown bears in Units 21 and 22 combined with an amount reasonably necessary for subsistence of 20–25 for both units combined.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If this proposal is adopted, it will increase the number of DB690 nonresident drawing permits by 9 permits. The result will produce increased opportunity to harvest a brown bear, and the department anticipates there will be an increased harvest of brown bears in Remainder of Unit 22.

**BACKGROUND:** The nonresident hunt in the Remainder of Unit 22 has been managed through hunt DB690 for more than 20years and has been fully subscribed at 12 permits since 2010. The current season and bag limit (see above) is the same as for resident hunters and has not changed since RY1998. The hunt area includes remote areas of the Seward Peninsula with limited access.

For all hunters, the average annual harvest in this hunt area has been 20 bears per year (range 12–26), with residents taking 75% (n=261) and nonresidents taking 25% (n=88). Average annual harvest by nonresidents (Hunt DB690) during the same period has been 5 bears per year (range 2–8). Regulations were liberalized in 1997 resulting in increased harvests in all units. Average harvests increased by 89% in Unit 22D and 67% in Unit 22E compared to pre-liberalization average total harvests (residents and nonresidents) of 9 bears per year in Unit 22D and 3 bears per year in Unit 22E. These increases parallel the 74% increase in average harvest for Unit 22 (all subunits). During this period of increased harvest, 62% of the bears harvested were males in Unit 22D and 78% in Unit 22E, which is above the management objective to maintain a 3-year average >50% males. The high proportion of males in the harvest suggests additional sustainable harvest is available to hunters.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department **SUPPORTS** the proposal to increase the number of nonresident drawing permits from 12 permits to 21 permits. Based on trends in harvest data and proportions of harvested males the department believes additional harvest is sustainable and this provides opportunity to expand the brown bear hunt in Units 22D and 22E.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal is not expected to result in additional costs to private parties. Adoption of this proposal is not expected to result in additional costs to the department.

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**PROPOSAL 136 – 5 AAC 85.045(a)(14). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.**

Establish a winter draw and registration hunts for moose in Unit 16B.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Dept. of Fish & Game

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** Establish winter draw and registration hunts for one bull moose in Unit 16B to supplement the existing hunt structure when the harvestable portion of the moose population is greater than 240 moose.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?**

If the harvestable portion of the population is greater than 240 moose:

- The general season moose hunting opportunity for residents occurs from August 20–September 25 with a bag limit of one bull moose with spike-fork antlers, or 50-inch antlers, or 3 or more brow tines on one side.
- The Tier II subsistence hunting opportunity occurs from December 15–March 31 and provides up to 260 permits with a bag limit of one bull.

If the harvestable portion of the population is greater than 310 moose:

- The draw permit moose hunting opportunity for adult residents can consist of up to 75 percent (300 permits) of the combined drawing permits and occurs from August 20–September 25 with a bag limit of one bull.
- The draw permit moose hunting opportunity for youth can consist of up to 25 percent (100 permits) of the combined drawing permits occurs from August 20–September 25 and November 15–December 15 with a bag limit of one bull.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?**

The additional winter hunting opportunity should increase harvest to the Intensive Management (IM) harvest objective (310–600), and the permit system will allow managers to distribute the harvest to areas with the greatest surplus of moose.

**BACKGROUND:**

The moose population in Unit 16B has increased slowly as a result of intensive management activities and restricted harvest opportunities. The population is currently estimated to contain 7,400 moose, which is above the mid-point of the population objective (7,000 moose), and the

department estimates that there is a surplus of approximately 600–700 bulls unit-wide (Table 136.1). However, moose harvests, although increasing, remain below the intensive management objectives despite liberalizations in fall hunting opportunities that have occurred since 2009. Between 2010 and 2014 hunters harvested an average of 208 moose compared to the mainland harvest objective of 310–600 (Table 136.2).

Table 136.1. Population size and composition of the moose population in Unit 16B relative to management objectives based on the most recent survey results.

Survey Unit	IM Population Objective proportional to area (midpoint)	Moose Population Estimate	Percent Recovery to Objective Midpoint	Bull:100 Cow Ratio
16(B)-North	1,820–2,100 (1,960)	1,587	81%	60
16(B)-Middle	3,120–3,600 (3,360)	3,458	103%	46
16(B)-South	1,560–1,800 (1,680)	2,372	141%	52
Unit 16(B)	6,500–7,500 (7,000)	7,418	106%	-

Table 136.2. Annual moose harvest in Unit 16B by hunt, regulatory years 2009 through 2014.

Year	General						Total
	Season	DM540	YM541	TM565	TM567	TM569	
2014	139	35	9	28	12	9	232
2013	139	-	-	44	37	11	231
2012	85	-	-	38	35	19	177
2011	109	-	-	37	33	20	199
2010	97	-	-	44	37	22	200

In most years, there are more Tier II permit applications than Tier II permits awarded each year in the three Tier II hunts the board has authorized for moose in Unit 16B (TM565, 567, and 569). The ANS and 2014 Tier II results are as follows:

1. Unit 16B, Redoubt Bay drainages: ANS = 10. Most closely aligns with TM569. Applications received = 104. Permits available: 80 (88% awarded).
2. Unit 16B south of the Beluga River and north of Redoubt Bay: ANS = 29–37. Most closely aligns with TM567. Applications received = 226. Permits available = 80 (35% awarded).
3. Unit 16B north of the Beluga River: ANS = 160–180. Most closely aligns with TM565. Applications received = 284. Permits available = 100 (35% awarded).

It should be noted that although Winfonet data overall may show more harvest in February, in the communities of Susitna/Alexander in 2012, out of 7 bulls harvested, 6 were harvested in December. In Skwentna, out of 8 bulls harvested in 2012, 2 were in January, 4 in February, one in September, and one in December.

In Tyonek in 2006 there were 9 moose harvested in September, 4 in November, 3 in December, 2 in January, and 1 in February. A more recent harvest assessment (2013), however, shows a majority harvested in September. Survey respondents report that this is mainly due to snow conditions. Winter hunting opportunity is highly varied from year to year based on snow conditions for travel. A more liberal season may mean fewer adjustments inseason or having to extend the season by emergency order.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department **SUPPORTS** the liberalization of moose hunting opportunity in Unit 16B to achieve the intensive management harvest objectives and regulate the moose population to avoid exceeding the habitat's capacity. To meet the mid-point of the harvest objective, hunters will need to harvest an additional 120–150 moose each year. This amount of additional harvest is sustainable if the harvest is distributed among all segments of the moose population in Unit 16B. While the liberalization of the existing general season and drawing permit hunts could be used to increase harvest, liberalizing fall hunting opportunities will not distribute the harvest to segments of the moose population that reside in relatively inaccessible areas, which is necessary to achieve the harvest and keep it within sustainable limits. During winters with normal amounts of snow accumulation, segments of the moose population migrate from higher elevation terrain and become more accessible to hunters. This movement, combined with the ability of hunters to use snowmachines to access hunt areas, makes a winter hunt the best option for achieving the harvest objective in Unit 16B. However, increasing the number of available Tier II winter permits would also potentially increase harvest in relatively inaccessible areas with a surplus of moose.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in significant costs to the department or public.

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**PROPOSAL 137 – 5 AAC 92.108. Identified big game prey populations and objectives.**

Modify the Intensive Management population and harvest objectives for moose in Unit 20A.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish & Game.

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** Change Intensive Management population and harvest objectives for moose in Unit 20A.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?**

<b>Population</b>	<b>Finding</b>	<b>Population Objective</b>	<b>Harvest Objective</b>
...			
Moose			
...			
GMU 20(A)	Positive	12,000–15,000	900-1,100
...			

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?**

This proposal would set the population and harvest objectives at levels that population and harvest parameters suggest are more in line with the carrying capacity of the habitat and sustainable harvest over the long term.

<b>Population</b>	<b>Finding</b>	<b>Population Objective</b>	<b>Harvest Objective</b>
...			
Moose			
...			
GMU 20(A)	Positive	<u>10,000–12,000</u> [12,000–15,000]	<u>500–720</u> [900–1,100]
...			

**BACKGROUND:** At the February 2015 Board of Game (board) meeting in Wasilla, the board directed the department to provide an updated Unit 20A Feasibility Assessment in 2016 and recommended that the Intensive Management (IM) population and harvest objectives for moose in Unit 20A be revisited at that time. The current IM population and harvest objectives are 12,000–15,000 and 900–1,100 moose, respectively. We recommend the IM population objective in Unit 20A revert to 10,000–12,000 moose, the population objective prior to 2012.

The number of moose in Unit 20A was estimated at 17,768 ( $\pm 13\%$  @ 90% Confidence Interval [CI]) in 2003. Research indicated this high-density moose population was experiencing density-dependent effects, including low productivity, relatively light calf weights, and high removal rates of winter forage. Beginning in regulatory year 2004–2005 (RY04) our objective was to reduce moose numbers to the population objective of 10,000–12,000 and stabilize the population at that level, unless indicators of moose condition showed signs of improvement at higher densities. The Unit 20A population was estimated at 12,193 ( $\pm 13\%$  @ 90% CI) moose in 2012. However, at that lower population level, we did not detect any improvements in the nutritional status of the moose population based on annual twinning rates.

In 2013 the Unit 20A population was estimated at 10,156 ( $\pm 11\%$  @ 90% CI) moose, although we speculate that that estimate may have been biased low due to poor sightability. Unfortunately, we were unable to conduct a population estimate in 2014 due to the lack of sufficient snow. At this lower population level, we have detected only minor improvements in the nutritional status of the moose population (i.e., 5%–6% increases in 10-month-old body mass). If nutritional status does not show further improvement, the department proposes to stabilize the population at 10,000–12,000 moose, while continuing to monitor nutritional status. Overall, our goal is to sustain the health and habitat of the moose population over the long term.

We also recommend lowering the harvest objective from 900–1,100 moose (~9% harvest rate) to 500–720 moose (5%–6% harvest rate). We observed a population decline during 2004–2008 with reported harvest rates of approximately 6%–7% of the population and predict population stability at reported harvest rates of 4%–6% (harvest rates of males at 4–5% and of females at <2%). Additionally, during RY04–RY08 when reported harvests were roughly 900–1,100 moose annually, complaints from the public indicated that social thresholds may have been exceeded.

There is a positive customary and traditional use finding for moose in Unit 20A outside the Fairbanks nonsubsistence area, and an amount reasonably necessary for subsistence of 50–75 moose.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department submitted and **SUPPORTS** this proposal.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal is not expected to result in additional costs to private parties.

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*The following staff comment was prepared by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game for use at the Alaska Board of Game meeting, March 18 - 28, 2016 in Fairbanks, Alaska, and is prepared to assist the public and board. The stated staff comments on all proposals should be considered preliminary and subject to change, if or when new information becomes available. Final department positions will be formulated after review of written and oral testimony presented to the board.*

**PROPOSAL 19 – 5 AAC 92.XXX. Board generated proposals.** Establish a regulation for board-generated proposals.

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

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** The proposal seeks to establish a regulation to provide criteria for the board to follow when creating a board-generated proposal (BGP) and specifies 65-days public notice.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The process for developing BGPs is not in regulation. The Joint Board of Fisheries and Game policy #2013-34-JB sets criteria for the development of board generated proposals. The Administrative Procedures Act (AS 44.62) requires all regulatory making boards and agencies provide a 30-day legal notice for proposed regulatory changes.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If the proposal is adopted, the process for creating, submitting, and hearing board-generated proposals will be established in regulation similar to the board’s agenda change request policy, 5 AAC 92.005. The proposal closely matches the language in policy #2013-34-JB except for the requirement to provide 65-day public notice period. If adopted, a 65-day public notice period would be required for all proposals created by the board. This requirement would delay any board action until a future board meeting, which could be the following meeting cycle.

**BACKGROUND:** Under the current process, the board is required to provide a minimum, 30-day legal notice to the public in accordance with the Administrative Procedures Act prior to acting on proposed changes to regulations. During board meetings, the board has the flexibility to amend proposals, adopt substitute language that captures the intent of a proposal in regulatory language, and create and act upon new proposals (BGPs) if the subject matter has been adequately covered in the legal notice. The board can also create BGPs to address new topics not covered in the legal notice, but is required to schedule them at future meetings to ensure the 30-day legal notice requirement is met.

Both the Board of Game and Board of Fisheries utilize BGPs to reach solutions unforeseen through existing proposals. BGPs can be technical or substantive. Technical BGPs amount to corrections in regulations that represent an efficient use of time and resources. Substantive BGPs

however, can be highly controversial and deserve adequate vetting by the affected public and advisory committees.

Both boards also utilize “agenda change request” (ACR) policies which allow the boards to consider requests for proposed regulatory changes outside the board’s published schedule provided specific criteria are met. Under the Board of Game ACR policy, a request must be sent to the board’s executive director at least sixty days before the first regularly scheduled meeting of that year. Sixty days allows for the board sufficient time to meet to review the ACRs and then provide the minimum 30 days public notice of any that are accepted and scheduled for a meeting that cycle.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal. If the board chooses to adopt a regulation to guide future development and consideration of BGPs, the board should address the following considerations:

- If adopted, a definition for board generated proposals is needed to clarify whether it includes in cycle or out of cycle proposals, new proposals properly noticed at regular meetings used to address technical and substantive issues, and substitute language or substantive amendments to proposals developed during board meetings.
- The board needs to determine what amount of time is adequate for providing public notice for proposed regulatory changes and if it finds it should be greater than the existing 30 day requirement, should that also be consistent in the ACR policy?
- Depending on how the board chooses to define BGPs, adherence to a 65 day public notice requirement will limit the board’s flexibility to address time sensitive concerns by extending proposals beyond an existing meeting cycle unless the board calls for a special meeting. It may further limit the board’s ability to make technical corrections to regulations which are adequately noticed.
- The current Joint Board’s policy is also utilized by the Board of Fisheries. Creating a regulation for the Board of Game and not the Board of Fisheries could lead to confusion among the public. It may be more appropriate for the Joint Board to consider incorporating the policy under Chapter 96, which includes the process for developing fish and game regulations and the Joint Board Petition Policy.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Approval of this proposal is expected to result in additional costs to the department if special BOG meetings are needed to comply with the 65-day public notice requirement before the board to consider a BGP.



*The following staff comments were prepared by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game for use at the Alaska Board of Game meeting, March 18 - 28, 2016 in Fairbanks, Alaska, and are prepared to assist the public and board. The stated staff comments should be considered preliminary and subject to change, if or when new information becomes available. Final department positions will be formulated after review of written and oral testimony presented to the board.*

**PROPOSAL 21 - 5 AAC 92.085, Unlawful methods of taking big game; exceptions.** Modify the restrictions on the use of aircraft for sheep hunting.

**PROPOSED BY:** Daniel Jirak

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** The proposal modifies the restrictions on using aircraft for sheep hunting by allowing aircraft to be used to locate sheep from August 9–September 20 and only prohibiting the use of aircraft to assess the legal status and trophy value of Dall sheep rams.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The current regulations regarding the use of aircraft for Dall sheep hunting were passed in March 2015 by the Board of Game.

From August 10–September 20, aircraft may only be used by and for sheep hunters to place and remove hunters and camps, maintain existing camps, and salvage harvested sheep. A person may not use or employ an aircraft to locate sheep or direct hunters to sheep during the open sheep hunting season.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If this proposal is adopted, aircraft could be used to locate sheep, provided there was no attempt to assess the rams to determine trophy value or legal size, from August 9–September 20.

**BACKGROUND:** Over the last few years there has been increasing pressure on the board to make changes to sheep regulations for various reasons. During the 2015 board cycle, the board adopted a proposal to restrict aircraft use. The regulation allows for hunters to use an aircraft to establish and maintain sheep hunting camps, but prohibits the use of aircraft to spot or locate sheep during the hunting season. The board received seven proposals that address the new regulation for the 2016 Statewide Board of Game meeting. Proposals 21 and 22 modify the current regulation regarding the use of aircraft for sheep hunting, Proposals 23–26 repeal the new regulation entirely, and Proposal 70 expands the regulation to apply to all big game.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on allowing this type of aircraft use during sheep hunts because it does not create or address a biological concern.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

**PROPOSAL 22 - 5 AAC 92.085. Unlawful methods of taking big game; exceptions.** Modify the restrictions on the use of aircraft for sheep hunting.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Professional Hunters Association

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** The proposal modifies the restriction on the use of aircraft for sheep hunting by deleting the current regulatory language and replacing it with regulatory language used by the Big Game Commercial Services board. It prohibits the use of aircraft in any manner to spot Dall sheep for the purpose of taking a specific sheep.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The current regulations regarding the use of aircraft for Dall sheep hunting were passed in March 2015 by the Board of Game.

From August 10–September 20, aircraft may only be used by and for sheep hunters to place and remove hunters and camps, maintain existing camps, and salvage harvested sheep. A person may not use or employ an aircraft to locate sheep or direct hunters to sheep during the open sheep hunting season.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** The proposal would prohibit the use of aircraft in any manner to spot a Dall sheep for the purpose of harvesting the animal.

**BACKGROUND:** Over the last few years there has been increasing pressure on the board to make changes to sheep regulations for various reasons. During the 2015 board cycle, the board adopted a proposal to restrict aircraft use. The regulation allows for hunters to use an aircraft to establish and maintain sheep hunting camps, but prohibits the use of aircraft to spot or locate sheep during the hunting season. The board received seven proposals that address the new regulation for the 2016 Statewide Board of Game meeting. Proposals 21 and 22 modify the current regulation regarding the use of aircraft for sheep hunting, Proposals 23–26 repeal the new regulation entirely, and Proposal 70 expands the regulation to apply to all big game.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on allowing this type of aircraft use during sheep hunts because it does not create or address a biological concern.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

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**PROPOSAL 23 - 5 AAC 92.085. Unlawful methods of taking big game; exceptions.** Repeal the restrictions on the use of aircraft for sheep hunting.

**PROPOSED BY:** Mat Valley Fish and Game Advisory Committee

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal would repeal the regulation that restricts certain uses of aircraft during the sheep hunting season.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The current regulations regarding the use of aircraft for Dall sheep hunting were passed in March 2015 by the Board of Game.

From August 10–September 20, aircraft may only be used by and for sheep hunters to place and remove hunters and camps, maintain existing camps, and salvage harvested sheep. A person may not use or employ an aircraft to locate sheep or direct hunters to sheep during the open sheep hunting season.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** Hunters would be able to use aircraft to locate and evaluate Dall sheep rams during the sheep hunting season.

**BACKGROUND:** Over the last few years there has been increasing pressure on the board to make changes to sheep regulations for various reasons. During the 2015 board cycle, the board adopted a proposal to restrict aircraft use. The regulation allows for hunters to use an aircraft to establish and maintain sheep hunting camps, but prohibits the use of aircraft to spot or locate sheep during the hunting season. The board received seven proposals that address the new regulation for the 2016 Statewide Board of Game meeting. Proposals 21 and 22 modify the current regulation regarding the use of aircraft for sheep hunting, Proposals 23–26 repeal the new regulation entirely, and Proposal 70 expands the regulation to apply to all big game.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on allowing this type of aircraft use during sheep hunts because it does not create or address a biological concern.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

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**PROPOSAL 24 - 5 AAC 92.085. Unlawful methods of taking big game; exceptions.** Repeal the restrictions on the use of aircraft for sheep hunting.

**PROPOSED BY:** Kevin Asher and Adam St. Onge

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal would repeal the regulation that restricts certain uses of aircraft during the sheep hunting season.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The current regulations regarding the use of aircraft for Dall sheep hunting were passed in March 2015 by the Board of Game.

From August 10–September 20, aircraft may only be used by and for sheep hunters to place and remove hunters and camps, maintain existing camps, and salvage harvested sheep. A person may not use or employ an aircraft to locate sheep or direct hunters to sheep during the open sheep hunting season.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** Hunters would be able to use aircraft to locate and evaluate Dall sheep rams during the sheep hunting season.

**BACKGROUND:** Over the last few years there has been increasing pressure on the board to make changes to sheep regulations for various reasons. During the 2015 board cycle, the board adopted a proposal to restrict aircraft use. The regulation allows for hunters to use an aircraft to establish and maintain sheep hunting camps, but prohibits the use of aircraft to spot or locate sheep during the hunting season. The board received seven proposals that address the new regulation for the 2016 Statewide Board of Game meeting. Proposals 21 and 22 modify the current regulation regarding the use of aircraft for sheep hunting, Proposals 23–26 repeal the new regulation entirely, and Proposal 70 expands the regulation to apply to all big game.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on allowing this type of aircraft use during sheep hunts because it does not create or address a biological concern.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

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**PROPOSAL 25 - 5 AAC 92.085. Unlawful methods of taking big game; exceptions.** Repeal the restrictions on the use of aircraft for sheep hunting.

**PROPOSED BY:** John Frost

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal would repeal the regulation that restricts certain uses of aircraft during the sheep hunting season.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The current regulations regarding the use of aircraft for Dall sheep hunting were passed in March 2015 by the Board of Game.

From August 10 to September 20, aircraft may only be used by and for sheep hunters to place and remove hunters and camps, maintain existing camps, and salvage harvested sheep. A person

may not use or employ an aircraft to locate sheep or direct hunters to sheep during the open sheep hunting season.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** Hunters would be able to use aircraft to locate and evaluate Dall sheep rams during the sheep hunting season, which was allowed prior to the 2015 sheep hunting season.

**BACKGROUND:** Over the last few years there has been increasing pressure on the board to make changes to sheep regulations for various reasons. During the 2015 board cycle, the board adopted a proposal to restrict aircraft use. The regulation allows for hunters to use an aircraft to establish and maintain sheep hunting camps, but prohibits the use of aircraft to spot or locate sheep during the hunting season. The board received seven proposals that address the new regulation for the 2016 Statewide Board of Game meeting. Proposals 21 and 22 modify the current regulation regarding the use of aircraft for sheep hunting, Proposals 23–26 repeal the new regulation entirely, and Proposal 70 expands the regulation to apply to all big game.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on allowing this type of aircraft use during sheep hunts because it does not create or address a biological concern.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

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**PROPOSAL 26 - 5 AAC 92.085. Unlawful methods of taking big game; exceptions.** Repeal the restrictions on the use of aircraft for sheep hunting.

**PROPOSED BY:** Wayne Kubat

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal would repeal the regulation that restricts certain uses of aircraft during the sheep hunting season.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The current regulations regarding the use of aircraft for Dall sheep hunting were passed in March 2015 by the Board of Game.

From August 10 to September 20, aircraft may only be used by and for sheep hunters to place and remove hunters and camps, maintain existing camps, and salvage harvested sheep. A person may not use or employ an aircraft to locate sheep or direct hunters to sheep during the open sheep hunting season.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** Hunters would be able to use aircraft to locate and evaluate Dall sheep rams during the sheep hunting season, which was allowed prior to the 2015 sheep hunting season.

**BACKGROUND:** Over the last few years there has been increasing pressure on the board to make changes to sheep regulations for various reasons. During the 2015 board cycle, the board adopted a proposal to restrict aircraft use. The regulation allows for hunters to use an aircraft to establish and maintain sheep hunting camps, but prohibits the use of aircraft to spot or locate sheep during the hunting season. The board received seven proposals that address the new regulation for the 2016 Statewide Board of Game meeting. Proposals 21 and 22 modify the current regulation regarding the use of aircraft for sheep hunting, Proposals 23–26 repeal the new regulation entirely, and Proposal 70 expands the regulation to apply to all big game.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on allowing this type of aircraft use during sheep hunts because it does not create or address a biological concern.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

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**PROPOSAL 27 - 5 AAC 92.990(30). Definitions.** Amend the definition of legal Dall sheep ram.

**PROPOSED BY:** Atlin Daugherty

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** Change the definition of legal Dall sheep ram from: full-curl or eight years old or both horns broken at the tip to: full-curl or **nine years old** or both horns broken at the tip.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** Definition of “full-curl horn” of a male (ram) Dall sheep means:

- 1) the tip of at least one horn has grown through 360 degrees of a circle viewed from the side, or
- 2) both horn tips are broken, or
- 3) the sheep is at least eight years of age as determined by horn growth annuli.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** Fewer rams that are not full-curl or broken would be legal, and it would become more difficult for hunters to determine legality of rams at a distance based on age because horn growth between annuli is progressively smaller.

**BACKGROUND:** The “full-curl horn” regulation has been in place in most of the state since 1989. The bag limit of “one ram with full-curl horn or larger” is the standard bag limit for all of

the state's general season sheep hunts. The definition also includes rams that are 8 years of age or older and rams with both horn tips broken.

The full-curl regulation has allowed for unlimited annual participation during general harvest hunting seasons in most sheep hunting areas of the state with no negative effect on lamb production or recruitment. The main concern expressed by the public has to do with the evaluation and determination of the legality of rams under the current definition. To achieve greater consistency in evaluating full-curl, the department has started a review process with the goal of recommending specific techniques and guidelines for determining the legality of rams under the full-curl horn definition. This process was used by staff across the state this last fall with the results of these efforts to be presented on at the board during the March 2016 Statewide meeting.

Some sheep hunts have bag limits that provide a reasonable opportunity for success in harvesting a sheep for subsistence uses. The department has prepared a report on the status, by Game Management Unit, of sheep hunts on populations with positive customary and traditional use findings. The report is posted on the Board of Game website.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal because it does not create or address a biological concern for sheep populations. The department can manage sheep harvest under either an 8-years of age or 9-years of age minimum requirement if the horns are not full-curl or broken.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs to the department.

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**PROPOSAL 28 - 5 AAC 92.130. Restrictions to bag limit; and 92.990(a)(30). Definitions.**

Modify seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep statewide. Provide additional bag limit definitions for male (ram) Dall sheep.

**PROPOSED BY:** Steve Untiet and Cary Bloomquist

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** Amend bag limit definitions of full-curl to include "full-curl (-)" and "full-curl (+)". "Full-curl (-)" would include rams that are legal under the current definition of full-curl. "Full-curl (+)" would include rams that have a horn length of at least 38 inches or are at least 10 years of age

The amended full-curl bag limit would allow for the following:

**Only one “Full Curl (-)” (Full Curl Minus) ram may be taken every four regulatory years by resident hunters; one every ten years by nonresident hunters;**

**One “Full Curl (+)” (Full Curl Plus) ram may be taken every regulatory year.**

**If a second “Full Curl (-)” ram is taken in a four year period, the hunter may not hunt sheep for the next five years anywhere in the state.**

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** Definition of “full-curl horn” of a male (ram) Dall sheep means:

- 1) the tip of at least one horn has grown through 360 degrees of a circle viewed from the side, or
- 2) both horn tips are broken, or
- 3) the sheep is at least eight years of age as determined by horn growth annuli.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** This proposal would reduce the number of hunters in the field due to the more restrictive bag limit; however, the number of trophy rams available for harvest is not expected to increase significantly.

**BACKGROUND:** The full-curl bag limit has allowed unlimited annual participation during general season sheep hunts with no negative effect on lamb production or recruitment. Attempts to increase the number of 38 inch rams available for harvest by limiting hunting opportunity have had mixed result. One possible reason for this is that these management strategies attempt to increase the number of older rams in the population; rams that are approaching the end of their natural life span in the wild. Because older rams more susceptible to dying during periods of nutritional stress (e.g. poor habitat or extreme winter weather events), they have a lower probability of surviving until future hunting seasons when compared to prime-aged animals.

In Unit 13D, where hunting opportunity was decreased from an average of 182 hunters per year (RY2000–RY2007) to an average of 77 hunters per year (RY2008–2013; 60% decrease) through a drawing permit hunt structure, the number of 38 inch rams harvested decreased from an average of 52 per year to 19 per year (64% decrease). During the same time period, the success rates of nonresident hunters increased from an average of 61% per year to 73% per year, and resident hunter success remained relatively unchanged (an average of 17% per year compared to 15% per year). The Unit 13D hunts help illustrate the trade-offs between managing for hunting opportunity versus hunt quality.

Some sheep hunts have seasons and bag limits that provide a reasonable opportunity for success in harvesting a sheep for subsistence uses. The department has prepared a report on the status, by

unit, of sheep hunts on populations with positive customary and traditional use findings. The report is posted on the Board of Game website.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal because it does not create or address a biological concern for sheep populations.

If adopted, the record should show that the board has determined the new regulations to continue to provide a reasonable opportunity for success in customary and traditional uses of Dall sheep in units with positive customary and traditional use findings.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs to the department.

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**PROPOSAL 29 - 5 AAC 92.990(a)(30). Definitions.** Define the term broken as it applies to the definition of full-curl horn of male (ram) Dall sheep.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** Provide a definition for the term “broken” that can be used in the description of the “full-curl horn” bag limit as it applies to male (ram) Dall sheep.

**Broken, as it applies to the horn tips of male (rams) Dall sheep, means:**

- 1) **The lamb tip is completely absent; horn tips that are chipped or cracked are not broken if any portion of the lamb tip is present;**
- 2) **Characteristics of the lamb tip include:**
  - a. **a length of less than four inches,**
  - b. **the inside surface of the lamb tip is distinctly concave when compared to the remainder of the horn, and**
  - c. **The lamb tip is the section of a horn that is grown during the first 6 months of a sheep’s life and is the section of horn distal of the first annulus, which is the swelling of the horn that forms during the first winter of life.**

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The regulatory definition of “full-curl horn” of a male (ram) Dall sheep is:

- 1) the tip of at least one horn has grown through 360 degrees of a circle viewed from the side, or
- 2) both horn tips are broken, or
- 3) the sheep is at least eight years of age as determined by horn growth annuli.

There is no definition in regulation of the term “broken”.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** This proposal requests a definition of the term “broken” for the benefit of the public and law enforcement. The proposed definition is based on the physical characteristics of horns that are missing at least one annulus. If both horns of the ram are missing the first annulus then, regardless of the number of remaining annuli, they would be considered “broken”, and the ram would be legal.

**BACKGROUND:** The term broken is used in the regulation that defines a “full-curl horn” of a male (ram) Dall sheep. The department is currently in the process of reviewing methods of determining the legality of sheep based on minimum horn size and/or characteristics of the horn under the full-curl horn regulation. Through this process “broken” was identified as a term that should be clarified in regulation.

Current harvest data shows that there are very few rams taken where both horns are considered broken, particularly for sheep that were less than 8 years of age. Since 2011, a total of 3,600 rams have been harvested. Of those rams, 13.4% (n=482) were classified as having both horns broken, and 0.9% (n=42) were less than 8 years of age and less than full curl.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department submitted and **SUPPORTS** this proposal to define “broken” as it applies to the regulatory definition of “full-curl horn” of a male (ram) Dall sheep. If a definition for “broken” is not adopted, another option for the board to consider is removing “broken horn tips” from the definition of “full-curl”.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs to the department.

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**PROPOSAL 30 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep.** Establish a nonresident bag limit for sheep of one every four years.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Professional Hunters Association

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal would limit nonresident hunters to harvesting no more than one sheep every three or four years.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** All general season Dall sheep hunts and most permit hunts have a bag limit that applies to a single regulatory year. The Tok Management Area (TMA) drawing permit hunts (DS102 and DS103) are the only hunts with a bag limit of one ram every four regulatory years.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** This proposal would affect successful nonresident sheep hunters who are interested in hunting sheep in Alaska more often than once every three or four years.

**BACKGROUND:** The full-curl bag limit can be used to provide unrestricted annual participation in sheep hunts and has not been linked to any negative effects on the sheep population or lamb production.

Since 2005, a total of 3,295 nonresidents successfully hunted sheep in Alaska. Of these, 136 nonresidents (4.5%) returned to Alaska to hunt sheep within 4 years of successfully harvesting a sheep.

The survey conducted by Dr. Todd Brinkman at University of Alaska Fairbanks showed that the majority of users surveyed (74%) favored a waiting period of 3 years before sheep hunting again. All three groups surveyed, those identifying themselves as resident hunters, guides and nonresident hunters, supported this option.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocation of sheep hunting opportunity for residents and nonresidents.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs to the department.

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**PROPOSAL 31 - 5 AAC 92.057. Special provisions for Dall sheep and mountain goat drawing permit hunts.** Allow one sheep or goat draw permit per hunter every three years.

**PROPOSED BY:** Dan Montgomery

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal would limit resident and nonresident hunters to drawing no more than one Dall sheep or mountain goat draw permit every three years.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The current regulation that limits hunters to drawing sheep or goat permits is described in regulation (**5 AAAC 92.050**) as follows:

(4)(F) an individual who is a successful applicant for a specific drawing permit hunt is ineligible to apply for a permit for that specific hunt the following year.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** This proposal affects hunters who successfully draw a permit to hunt sheep or goats more often than once every three years. If this proposal is adopted, hunters would still be able to participate in general season and registration hunts for sheep or goat annually. It is anticipated that the number

of valid applications for sheep and goat drawing permits received annually would decrease, but drawing success rates for applicants would not increase significantly. It is also unlikely to result in any detectable change in the number of sheep or goats available for harvest, or the number of either species harvested annually.

**BACKGROUND:** The department adjusts the number of drawing permits issued to achieve harvest objectives. If permits are not used, the number of permits issued is increased to compensate for the average number of unused permits. If permit usage rate were to increase and there is a concurrent increase in harvest, the department would issue fewer permits to keep the harvest within the objectives of each hunt.

Of the 6,023 sheep drawing permits that have been issued since 2005, 30% of the permits were not used, and of the 8,459 goat drawing permits, 48% were not used. The average rate at which drawing permits are not used is 34% (all species combined) and ranges from 11% for bison to 60% for elk. Permit usage did not change for bison after the board adopted a regulation limiting residents to one permit every 10 years in 2008 (10% unused during the 4 years prior to 2008 and 11% unused during the 4 years after 2008).

Some sheep hunts have season dates and bag limits that provide a reasonable opportunity for success in harvesting a sheep for subsistence uses. All of these hunts are harvest ticket or registration permit. The department has prepared a report on the status, by Game Management Unit, of sheep hunts on populations with positive customary and traditional use findings. The report is posted on the Board of Game website.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal because it is an allocative issue, and there are no biological concerns. If the proposal has the desired effect of increasing the usage rate of permits, the department would likely reduce the number of permits issued for hunts that are managed with a quota system.

If adopted, the record should show that the board has determined the new regulations to continue to provide a reasonable opportunity for success in customary and traditional uses of Dall sheep in units with positive customary and traditional use findings.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs to the department.

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**PROPOSAL 32 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep.** Change all sheep hunts to drawing or registration permit hunts.

**PROPOSED BY:** Demitrios Deoudes

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal would convert all Dall sheep hunts to draw permit hunts from August 10–September 10 and registration permit hunts from September 11–20 if the harvest objective has not been met.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The current sheep hunting regulations can be found in 5 AAC 85.055 and in the Alaska Hunting Regulations. No sheep hunts are managed under the proposed permit hunt structure.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** This proposal converts all sheep hunts to drawing permit hunts from August 10–September 10 and registration hunts from September 11–September 20. It is not clear how this proposal affects existing drawing permit hunts, which the proposal indicates are “working well” under current regulations.

**Background:** The majority of Alaska’s sheep hunts have a full-curl bag limit, which restricts the harvest to older-age rams while protecting younger rams and ewes, and allows hunts to be managed through the harvest ticket system that does not limit hunting opportunity. Because of the restrictions imposed by the bag limit, legal harvest cannot reduce ram numbers to level that would reduce reproductive success. As a result the full-curl bag limit effectively eliminates the potential for overharvest that could affect the status of the sheep population or significantly reduce future harvest potential by keeping the harvest within sustainable limits. In addition, because older-age rams have higher rates of mortality it is reasonable to assume that a portion of the annual harvest is compensatory.

Some sheep hunts have season dates and bag limits that provide a reasonable opportunity for success in harvesting a sheep for subsistence uses. All of these hunts are harvest ticket or registration permit. The department has prepared a report on the status, by Game Management Unit, of sheep hunts on populations with positive customary and traditional use findings. The report is posted on the Board of Game website.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal because sheep harvests are kept at sustainable levels by the full-curl bag limit, and sheep can be managed under the proposed permit hunt structure.

If adopted, the record should show that the board has determined the new regulations to continue to provide a reasonable opportunity for success in customary and traditional uses of Dall sheep in units with positive customary and traditional use findings.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs to the department.



**PROPOSAL 33 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep.** Extend the sheep hunting season statewide; provide a timeframe for resident-only and nonresident-only hunting and establish a statewide registration season.

**PROPOSED BY:** Steve Untiet and Cary Bloomquist

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal would extend the sheep hunting season statewide in general harvest season hunt areas by adding 8 days to the beginning of the season and creating a resident-only registration permit hunt from August 2–9, a nonresident only registration hunt from August 10–17 and a combined resident/nonresident registration hunt from August 18–20. Auction tag purchasers would be able to participate in all hunt periods. In addition, the first two weeks of the registration hunt would alternate as follows: Residents before nonresidents for the first two years, then nonresidents before residents, then residents before nonresidents, and so forth.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The following regulations would be affected by this proposal.

#### **Region II**

- Unit 7 and portions of Unit 15
  - residents and nonresidents: August 10–September 20, one full-curl ram

#### **Region III**

- Unit 24B, John River drainage upstream from Till Creek, and in the Glacier River Drainage
  - residents: August 1–April 30, 3 sheep.
- Remainder of Units 12, 19, 20, 24, 25, 26B and 26C
  - residents and nonresidents: August 10–September 20, one full-curl ram.

#### **Region IV**

- Units 9, 11, 16 and portions of Unit 13
  - residents and nonresidents: August 10–September 20, one full-curl ram

#### **Region V**

- Unit 23 - CLOSED -
- Unit 26A, east of and including Etivluk River drainage excluding Gates of the Arctic National Park
  - Residents: August 1–April 30, three sheep.
  - Residents and nonresidents: August 10–September 20, one full-curl ram.
- Unit 26A and 26B, Private lands within the Gates of the Arctic National Park
  - Residents: August 1–April 30, three sheep.

- Unit 26A, remainder
  - Residents and nonresidents: August 10–September 20, one full-curl ram.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If adopted, this proposal would convert general season harvest hunts to registration hunts and adds an additional week to the start of the current seasons. Existing registration hunts would also be modified to include the proposed seasons, but drawing hunts would not be affected by this proposal.

The proposal would separate resident and nonresident sheep hunters during the first two weeks of the season and restricts the frequency in which hunters can participate in the dedicated seasons. After the first two weeks, both residents and nonresidents could register to hunt for the remainder of the season.

The proposal call for expanded “governor’s” permit hunting opportunity by allowing the successful winner of the permit to hunt all of the available registration seasons.

**BACKGROUND:** Most of the hunt structures for sheep hunts in Alaska have been in place since the 1990s; however, there have been changes, including the creation of new drawing hunts in Units 14A and 13D in 2008 and a registration hunt in Unit 19C in 2013.

Some sheep hunts have season dates and bag limits that provide a reasonable opportunity for success in harvesting a sheep for subsistence uses. All of these hunts are harvest ticket or registration permit. The department has prepared a report on the status, by Game Management Unit, of sheep hunts on populations with positive customary and traditional use findings. The report is posted on the Board of Game website.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocation of sheep

If adopted, the record should show that the board has determined the new regulations to continue to provide a reasonable opportunity for success in customary and traditional uses of Dall sheep in units with positive customary and traditional use findings.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not to result in additional costs to the department.

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**PROPOSAL 34 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep.** Extend the sheep hunting season statewide; provide a timeframe for resident-only and nonresident-only hunting; and establish a statewide registration season; and limit methods and means.

**PROPOSED BY:** Steve Untiet and Cary Bloomquist

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal would extend sheep hunting seasons statewide in general harvest season hunt areas by adding 8 days to the start of each season and creating a resident-only, registration permit hunt from August 2–9 that is “walk-in only”. The second week would allow residents and nonresidents to hunt with a registration permit from August 10–17 in a restricted weapons hunt that does not allow the use of modern rifles. The third period from August 18–September 20 would be open to both residents and nonresidents through a registration permit hunt structure in open areas, statewide, with no access or weapon restrictions.

Auction tag purchasers would be able to participate in all hunt periods with any weapon (modern firearm, muzzleloader or archery).

This proposal would also convert existing sheep draw hunts to registration hunts except for Chugach State Park (Unit 14C) and the Tok Management Area.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The current sheep hunting regulations can be found in 5 AAC 85.055 and in the Alaska Hunting Regulations. There are no sheep hunts managed under the proposed permit hunt structure.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** Similar to Proposal 33, this proposal converts the majority of sheep hunts in Alaska to registration hunts. The first week of the sheep season (which would start a week earlier) would be limited to resident hunting opportunity. In addition, this proposal proposes access restrictions during the first week and limiting the use of weapons to shotgun, muzzleloader, handgun and archery during the second week.

The proposal would convert some of the existing sheep draw hunts (e.g., Unit 13D, Delta Controlled Use Area) to registration hunts with permits available on-line and on a first-come, first-served basis.

**BACKGROUND:** Most of the hunt structures for sheep hunts in Alaska have been in place since the 1990s; however, there have been changes, including the creation of new drawing hunts in Units 14A and 13D in 2008 and a registration hunt in Unit 19C in 2013.

Some sheep hunts have season dates and bag limits that provide a reasonable opportunity for success in harvesting a sheep for subsistence uses. All of these hunts are harvest ticket or registration permit. The department has prepared a report on the status, by Game Management Unit, of sheep hunts on populations with positive customary and traditional use findings. The report is posted on the Board of Game website.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocation sheep hunting opportunity.

If adopted, the record should show that the board has determined the new regulations to continue to provide a reasonable opportunity for success in customary and traditional uses of Dall sheep in units with positive customary and traditional use findings.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs to the department.

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**PROPOSAL 35 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep.** Establish statewide sheep hunting seasons for residents and nonresidents based on last names.

**PROPOSED BY:** Wayne Kubat

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** If adopted, this proposal would divide sheep hunter opportunity for the first 10 days based on the first letter of the hunter's last name. Hunters with a last name that begin with the letters A through M (or wherever the halfway point falls in the alphabet) can harvest a ram from August 10–19 on odd numbered years, and hunters with last names starting with letters N through Z can harvest a ram from August 10–19 in even number years. All hunters could harvest a ram from August 20–September 20.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The current sheep hunting regulations can be found in 5 AAC 85.055 and in the Alaska Hunting Regulations.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** This proposal restricts hunting opportunity during the first 10 days based on the first letter of the hunter's last name.

**BACKGROUND:** Most of the hunt structures for sheep hunts in Alaska have been in place since the 1990s; however, there have been changes, including the creation of new drawing hunts in Units 14A and 13D in 2008 and a registration hunt in Unit 19C in 2013. The proposed hunt structure is also listed as an alternative in Proposal 48, which reviews and potentially modifies sheep hunting opportunities statewide.

Some sheep hunts have season dates and bag limits that provide a reasonable opportunity for success in harvesting a sheep for subsistence uses. All of these hunts are harvest ticket or registration permit. The department has prepared a report on the status, by Game Management Unit, of sheep hunts on populations with positive customary and traditional use findings. The report is posted on the Board of Game website.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocation of sheep hunting opportunity.

If adopted, the record should show that the board has determined the new regulations to continue to provide a reasonable opportunity for success in customary and traditional uses of Dall sheep in units with positive customary and traditional use findings.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs to the department.

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**PROPOSAL 36 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep.** Modify resident and nonresident sheep hunting seasons.

**PROPOSED BY:** Tom Lamal

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** Open the nonresident sheep season 7 days after the resident season for all hunts statewide.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The current sheep hunting regulations can be found in 5 AAC 85.055 and in the Alaska Hunting Regulations.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** All nonresident sheep hunting season starting dates would change from August 10 to August 17, unless there is a different starting date for a permit hunt.

**BACKGROUND:** Board policy (2007-173-BOG) indicates that allocations for specific hunts will be decided individually, based upon historical patterns of nonresident and resident use over the past 10 years. Proposals 36-45 would reduce nonresident hunting opportunity. Similar requests for broad changes in allocation of sheep hunting opportunity have been addressed previously by the board at meetings covering Regions III, IV, and V.

Some sheep hunts have season dates and bag limits that provide a reasonable opportunity for success in harvesting a sheep for subsistence uses. All of these hunts are harvest ticket or registration permit. The department has prepared a report on the status, by Game Management Unit, of sheep hunts on populations with positive customary and traditional use findings. The report is posted on the Board of Game website.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocation of sheep hunting opportunity between resident and nonresident hunters.

If adopted, the record should show that the board has determined the new regulations to continue to provide a reasonable opportunity for success in customary and traditional uses of Dall sheep in units with positive customary and traditional use findings.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not to result in additional costs to the department.

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**PROPOSAL 37 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep.** Modify resident and nonresident sheep hunting seasons.

**PROPOSED BY:** Jake Sprankle

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** Open the nonresident sheep season 10 days after the resident season in all hunts statewide that currently begin on August 10. If there is a split season, nonresidents would start 10 days later than residents for the second portion of the season.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The current sheep hunting regulations can be found in 5 AAC 85.055 and in the Alaska Hunting Regulations.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** There would be a reduction in nonresident sheep hunting opportunity.

**BACKGROUND:** Board policy (2007-173-BOG) indicates that allocations for specific hunts will be decided individually, based upon historical patterns of nonresident and resident use over the past 10 years. Proposals 36-45 would reduce nonresident hunting opportunity. Similar requests for broad changes in allocation of sheep hunting opportunity have been addressed previously by the board at meetings covering Regions III, IV, and V.

Some sheep hunts have season dates and bag limits that provide a reasonable opportunity for success in harvesting a sheep for subsistence uses. All of these hunts are harvest ticket or registration permit. The department has prepared a report on the status, by Game Management Unit, of sheep hunts on populations with positive customary and traditional use findings. The report is posted on the Board of Game website.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocation of sheep hunting opportunity between resident and nonresident hunters.

If adopted, the record should show that the board has determined the new regulations to continue to provide a reasonable opportunity for success in customary and traditional uses of Dall sheep in units with positive customary and traditional use findings.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not to result in additional costs to the department.

**PROPOSAL 38 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep.** Modify resident and nonresident sheep hunting seasons.

**PROPOSED BY:** Brad Sparks

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** Open the general nonresident sheep hunting season 10 days after the general resident sheep season.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The current sheep hunting regulations can be found in 5 AAC 85.055 and in the Alaska Hunting Regulations.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** There would be a reduction in nonresident sheep hunting opportunity.

**BACKGROUND:** Board policy (2007-173-BOG) indicates that allocations for specific hunts will be decided individually, based upon historical patterns of nonresident and resident use over the past 10 years. Similar requests for broad changes in allocation of sheep hunting opportunity have been addressed previously by the board at meetings covering Regions III, IV, and V.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocation of sheep hunting opportunity between resident and nonresident hunters.

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**PROPOSAL 39 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep.** Shorten the nonresident sheep hunting seasons statewide.

**PROPOSED BY:** Mike McCrary

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** Open all nonresident sheep hunting seasons on September 1.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The current sheep hunting regulations can be found in 5 AAC 85.055 and in the Alaska Hunting Regulations.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** There would be a reduction in nonresident sheep hunting opportunity.

**BACKGROUND:** Board policy (2007-173-BOG) indicates that allocations for specific hunts will be decided individually, based upon historical patterns of nonresident and resident use over the past 10 years. Proposals 36-45 would reduce nonresident hunting opportunity. Similar requests for broad changes in allocation of sheep hunting opportunity have been addressed previously by the board at meetings covering Regions III, IV, and V.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocation of sheep hunting opportunity between resident and nonresident hunters.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs to the department.

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**PROPOSAL 40 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep.** Restrict nonresident sheep hunting to a limited number of drawing opportunities.

**PROPOSED BY:** Steve Landa

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** If adopted, the first part of this proposal would restrict all nonresident sheep hunting in Alaska to draw permits. The proposal also states that sheep hunting guide services would be reserved for licensed Alaska residents only.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The current sheep hunting regulations can be found in 5 AAC 85.055 and in the Alaska Hunting Regulations.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** This proposal would create nonresident drawing permit hunts, and the department would limit the number of permits issued each year.

There would be no changes to commercial guide requirements because the board does not have the authority to change guide requirements.

**BACKGROUND:** Board policy (2007-173-BOG) indicates that allocations for specific hunts will be decided individually, based upon historical patterns of nonresident and resident use over the past 10 years. The board has allocated hunting opportunity previously between resident and nonresident hunters by modifying season dates or by allocating permits. Proposals 36-45 would reduce nonresident hunting opportunity. Similar requests for board changes in allocation of sheep hunting opportunity have been addressed previously by the board at meetings covering Regions II, III, IV and V.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocation of sheep hunting opportunity between resident and nonresident hunters. If the board adopts the proposed nonresident allocation, the department will need guidance from the board on how to determine the number of nonresident permits issued annually.

The board does not have the authority to restrict nonresident guide services in Alaska.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs to the department.

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**PROPOSAL 41 - 5 AAC 92.057. Special provisions for Dall sheep and mountain goat drawing permit hunts; and 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep.** Establish a 10% nonresident sheep permit allocation.

**PROPOSED BY:** Tom Lamal

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal would limit nonresident sheep hunting opportunity to 10% of what is available statewide. The 10% nonresident allocation would include nonresidents hunting with resident relatives or guides.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The current sheep hunting regulations can be found in 5 AAC 85.055 and in the Alaska Hunting Regulations.

The board has previously established allocations for the following hunts:

- Delta Controlled Use Area (portions of Units 20D, 20A and 13B)
  - residents and nonresidents: August 10–25 or August 26–September 20, one full-curl ram.
  - Nonresidents are limited to 10% of permits.
- Tok Management Area (Unit 12 and portions of Units 13C and 20D)
  - residents and nonresidents: August 10–25 or August 26–September 20, one full-curl ram every 4 years.
  - Nonresidents are limited to 10% of permits.
- Unit 13D (Tazeast)
  - residents and nonresidents: August 10–25 or August 26–September 20, one full-curl ram.
  - Allocation: 80% resident and 20% nonresident
- Unit 13D (Tazwest)
  - residents and nonresidents: August 10–25 or August 26–September 20, one full-curl ram.
  - Allocation: 80% resident and 20% nonresident
- Unit 14A
  - residents and nonresidents: August 10–25 or August 26–September 20, one full-curl ram.
  - Allocation: 90% resident and 10% nonresident

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If this proposal is adopted, the department would attempt to limit nonresident sheep hunters to 10% of the available hunting opportunity. The board would need to create new nonresident sheep draw

hunts and/or limited registration hunts to regulate nonresident hunting opportunity. Achieving a 10% nonresident allocation would also require the creation of draw or registration permits for residents. If resident participation is not regulated through a permit system, the department would rely on historical averages to estimate the anticipated resident participation rate and approximate the number of nonresident permits that should be issued annually to achieve the 10% allocation

**BACKGROUND:** Board policy (2007-173-BOG) indicates that allocations for specific hunts will be decided individually, based upon historical patterns of nonresident and resident use over the past 10 years. The board has allocated hunting opportunity previously between resident and nonresident hunters by modifying season dates or by allocating permits. Proposals 36-45 would reduce nonresident hunting opportunity. Similar requests for board changes in allocation of sheep hunting opportunity have been addressed previously by the board at meetings covering Regions II, III, IV and V.

If adopted, the allocation of sheep hunting opportunity for nonresidents for some of the existing draw hunts with an allocation such as the central Chugach draw hunts would decrease (e.g., Unit 13D would go from 20% to 10% nonresident allocation) and nonresident participation in sheep hunts statewide would decrease by about half from approximately 19% to 10% of the total sheep hunters.

Nonresident sheep hunters accounted for an average of 19% of the sheep hunters statewide between RY2010 and RY2014 with 448 nonresidents participating annually. To achieve the 10% allocation during the same period, the number of nonresidents would have been reduced to 190 nonresidents. Limiting nonresidents to 10% or a similar percentage of the available sheep permits may increase the number of legal rams available to residents and may increase resident success rates in some cases.

Some sheep hunts have season dates and bag limits that provide a reasonable opportunity for success in harvesting a sheep for subsistence uses. All of these hunts are harvest ticket or registration permit. The department has prepared a report on the status, by Game Management Unit, of sheep hunts on populations with positive customary and traditional use findings. The report is posted on the Board of Game website.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocation of sheep hunting opportunity between resident and nonresident hunters.

If adopted, the record should show that the board has determined the new regulations to continue to provide a reasonable opportunity for success in customary and traditional uses of Dall sheep in units with positive customary and traditional use findings.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs to the department.

**PROPOSAL 42 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep.** Change nonresident sheep hunts to drawing permit hunts with a 12% allocation.

**PROPOSED BY:** Jacques Etcheverry

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal would limit nonresident sheep hunting opportunity to 12% of what is available statewide.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The current sheep hunting regulations can be found in 5 AAC 85.055 and in the Alaska Hunting Regulations.

The board has previously established allocations for the following hunts:

- Delta Controlled Use Area (portions of Units 20D, 20A and 13B)
  - residents and nonresidents: August 10–25 or August 26–September 20, one full-curl ram.
  - Nonresidents are limited to 10% of permits.
- Tok Management Area (Unit 12 and portions of Units 13C and 20D)
  - residents and nonresidents: August 10–25 or August 26–September 20, one full-curl ram every 4 years.
  - Nonresidents are limited to 10% of permits.
- Unit 13D (Tazeast)
  - residents and nonresidents: August 10–25 or August 26–September 20, one full-curl ram.
  - Allocation: 80% resident and 20% nonresident
- Unit 13D (Tazwest)
  - residents and nonresidents: August 10–25 or August 26–September 20, one full-curl ram.
  - Allocation: 80% resident and 20% nonresident
- Unit 14A
  - residents and nonresidents: August 10–25 or August 26–September 20, one full-curl ram.
  - Allocation: 90% resident and 10% nonresident

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If this proposal is adopted, the department would attempt to limit nonresident sheep hunters to 12% of the available hunting opportunity. The board would need to create new nonresident sheep draw hunts and/or limited registration hunts to regulate nonresident hunting opportunity. Achieving a 12% nonresident allocation would also require the creation of draw or registration permits for residents. If resident participation is not regulated through a permit system, the department would rely on historical averages to estimate the anticipated resident participation rate and approximate the number of nonresident permits that should be issued annually to achieve the 12% allocation

**BACKGROUND: BACKGROUND:** Board policy (2007-173-BOG) indicates that allocations for specific hunts will be decided individually, based upon historical patterns of nonresident and resident use over the past 10 years. The board has allocated hunting opportunity previously between resident and nonresident hunters by modifying season dates or by allocating permits. Proposals 36-45 would reduce nonresident hunting opportunity. Similar requests for board changes in allocation of sheep hunting opportunity have been addressed previously by the board at meetings covering Regions II, III, IV and V.

If adopted, the allocation of sheep hunting opportunity for nonresidents for some of the existing draw hunts with an allocation such as the central Chugach (Unit 13D) draw hunts would decrease (e.g., Unit 13D would go from 20% to 12% nonresident allocation) and the allocations for most other drawing permit hunts that have been allocated would increase from 10% to 12%.

Nonresident sheep hunters accounted for an average of 19% of the sheep hunters statewide between RY2010 and RY2014 with 448 nonresidents participating annually. To achieve the 12% allocation during the same period, the number of nonresidents would need to have been reduced to 230 nonresidents. Limiting nonresidents to 12% or a similar percentage of the available sheep permits may increase the number of legal rams available to residents and may increase resident success rates in some cases.

Some sheep hunts have season dates and bag limits that provide a reasonable opportunity for success in harvesting a sheep for subsistence uses. All of these hunts are harvest ticket or registration permit. The department has prepared a report on the status, by Game Management Unit, of sheep hunts on populations with positive customary and traditional use findings. The report is posted on the Board of Game website.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocation of sheep hunting opportunity between resident and nonresident hunters.

If adopted, the record should show that the board has determined the new regulations to continue to provide a reasonable opportunity for success in customary and traditional uses of Dall sheep in units with positive customary and traditional use findings.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs to the department.

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**PROPOSAL 43 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep.** Establish a 10% nonresident sheep permit allocation.

**PROPOSED BY:** Greg Origer

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal would limit nonresident sheep hunting opportunity to 10% of what is available statewide. The proposal also states that sheep hunting guide and assistant guides would need to be full-time Alaska residents. The proposal also recommends that the management of wildlife should be based on scientific data.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The current sheep hunting regulations can be found in 5 AAC 85.055 and in the Alaska Hunting Regulations.

The board has previously established allocations for the following hunts:

- Delta Controlled Use Area (portions of Units 20D, 20A and 13B)
  - residents and nonresidents: August 10–25 or August 26–September 20, one full-curl ram.
  - Nonresidents are limited to 10% of permits.
- Tok Management Area (Unit 12 and portions of Units 13C and 20D)
  - residents and nonresidents: August 10–25 or August 26–September 20, one full-curl ram every 4 years.
  - Nonresidents are limited to 10% of permits.
- Unit 13D (Tazeast)
  - residents and nonresidents: August 10–25 or August 26–September 20, one full-curl ram.
  - Allocation: 80% resident and 20% nonresident
- Unit 13D (Tazwest)
  - residents and nonresidents: August 10–25 or August 26–September 20, one full-curl ram.
  - Allocation: 80% resident and 20% nonresident
- Unit 14A
  - residents and nonresidents: August 10–25 or August 26–September 20, one full-curl ram.
  - Allocation: 90% resident and 10% nonresident

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If this proposal is adopted, the department would attempt to limit nonresident sheep hunters to 10% of the available hunting opportunity. The board would need to create new nonresident sheep draw hunts and/or limited registration hunts to regulate nonresident hunting opportunity. Achieving a 10% nonresident allocation would also require the creation of draw or registration permits for residents. If resident participation is not regulated through a permit system, the department would rely on historical averages to estimate the anticipated resident participation rate and approximate the number of nonresident permits that should be issued annually to achieve the 10% allocation

**BACKGROUND:** Board policy (2007-173-BOG) indicates that allocations for specific hunts will be decided individually, based upon historical patterns of nonresident and resident use over the past 10 years. The board has allocated hunting opportunity previously between resident and

nonresident hunters by modifying season dates or by allocating permits. Proposals 36-45 would reduce nonresident hunting opportunity. Similar requests for board changes in allocation of sheep hunting opportunity have been addressed previously by the board at meetings covering Regions II, III, IV and V.

If adopted, the allocation of sheep hunting opportunity for nonresidents for some of the existing draw hunts with an allocation such as the central Chugach draw hunts would decrease (e.g., Unit 13D would go from 20% to 10% nonresident allocation) and nonresident participation in sheep hunts statewide would decrease by about half from approximately 19% to 10% of the total sheep hunters.

Nonresident sheep hunters accounted for an average of 19% of the sheep hunters statewide between RY2010 and RY2014 with 448 nonresidents participating annually. To achieve the 10% allocation during the same period, the number of nonresidents would have been reduced to 190 nonresidents. Limiting nonresidents to 10% or a similar percentage of the available sheep permits may increase the number of legal rams available to residents and may increase resident success rates in some cases.

Some sheep hunts have season dates and bag limits that provide a reasonable opportunity for success in harvesting a sheep for subsistence uses. All of these hunts are harvest ticket or registration permit. The department has prepared a report on the status, by Game Management Unit, of sheep hunts on populations with positive customary and traditional use findings. The report is posted on the Board of Game website.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocation of sheep hunting opportunity between resident and nonresident hunters.

If adopted, the record should show that the board has determined the new regulations to continue to provide a reasonable opportunity for success in customary and traditional uses of Dall sheep in units with positive customary and traditional use findings.

The board does not have the authority to restrict nonresident guide services.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs to the department.



**PROPOSAL 44 - 5 AAC 92.057. Special provisions for Dall sheep and mountain goat drawing permit hunts; and 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep.** Allocate 10% or less of sheep permits to nonresidents.

**PROPOSED BY:** Brian Bagley

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal allocates 10% of the sheep permits issued annually to nonresidents and 90% to residents.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The current sheep hunting regulations can be found in 5 AAC 85.055 and in the Alaska Hunting Regulations.

The board has previously established allocations for the following hunts:

- Delta Controlled Use Area (portions of Units 20D, 20A and 13B)
  - residents and nonresidents: August 10–25 or August 26–September 20, one full-curl ram.
  - Nonresidents are limited to 10% of permits.
- Tok Management Area (Unit 12 and portions of Units 13C and 20D)
  - residents and nonresidents: August 10–25 or August 26–September 20, one full-curl ram every 4 years.
  - Nonresidents are limited to 10% of permits.
- Unit 13D (Tazeast)
  - residents and nonresidents: August 10–25 or August 26–September 20, one full-curl ram.
  - Allocation: 80% resident and 20% nonresident
- Unit 13D (Tazwest)
  - residents and nonresidents: August 10–25 or August 26–September 20, one full-curl ram.
  - Allocation: 80% resident and 20% nonresident
- Unit 14A
  - residents and nonresidents: August 10–25 or August 26–September 20, one full-curl ram.
  - Allocation: 90% resident and 10% nonresident

The board has not allocated sheep hunting opportunity for the Mount Harper sheep hunt (portions of Units 20D and 20E) or for any registration sheep hunts.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If this proposal is adopted, the department would issue 10% of the sheep permits to nonresidents and the remainder to residents.

**BACKGROUND:** Board policy (2007-173-BOG) indicates that allocations for specific hunts will be decided individually, based upon historical patterns of nonresident and resident use over the past 10 years. The board has allocated hunting opportunity previously between resident and nonresident hunters by modifying season dates or by allocating permits. Proposals 36-45 would

reduce nonresident hunting opportunity. Similar requests for board changes in allocation of sheep hunting opportunity have been addressed previously by the board at meetings covering Regions II, III, IV and V.

If adopted, the allocation of sheep hunting opportunity for nonresidents for some of the existing draw hunts with an allocation such as the central Chugach draw hunts would decrease (e.g., Unit 13D would go from 20% to 10% nonresident allocation).

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocation of sheep hunting opportunity between resident and nonresident hunters. If this proposal is adopted, the department will need additional guidance on allocation for hunts with small numbers of permits, such as the Mt. Harper drawing permit.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs to the department.

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**PROPOSAL 45 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep.** Establish a 10% nonresident sheep permit allocation.

**PROPOSED BY:** Amy Cooper

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal allocates 10% of the sheep permits issued annually to nonresidents and 90% to residents.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The current sheep hunting regulations can be found in 5 AAC 85.055 and in the Alaska Hunting Regulations.

The board has previously established allocations for the following hunts:

- Delta Controlled Use Area (portions of Units 20D, 20A and 13B)
  - residents and nonresidents: August 10–25 or August 26–September 20, one full-curl ram.
  - Nonresidents are limited to 10% of permits.
- Tok Management Area (Unit 12 and portions of Units 13C and 20D)
  - residents and nonresidents: August 10–25 or August 26–September 20, one full-curl ram every 4 years.
  - Nonresidents are limited to 10% of permits.
- Unit 13D (Tazeast)
  - residents and nonresidents: August 10–25 or August 26–September 20, one full-curl ram.
  - Allocation: 80% resident and 20% nonresident
- Unit 13D (Tazwest)

- residents and nonresidents: August 10–25 or August 26–September 20, one full-curl ram.
- Allocation: 80% resident and 20% nonresident
- Unit 14A
  - residents and nonresidents: August 10–25 or August 26–September 20, one full-curl ram.
  - Allocation: 90% resident and 10% nonresident

The board has not allocated sheep hunting opportunity for the Mount Harper sheep hunt (portions of Units 20D and 20E) or for any registration sheep hunts.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If this proposal is adopted, the department would issue 10% of the sheep permits to nonresidents and the remainder to residents.

**BACKGROUND:** Board policy (2007-173-BOG) indicates that allocations for specific hunts will be decided individually, based upon historical patterns of nonresident and resident use over the past 10 years. The board has allocated hunting opportunity previously between resident and nonresident hunters by modifying season dates or by allocating permits. Proposals 36-45 would reduce nonresident hunting opportunity. Similar requests for board changes in allocation of sheep hunting opportunity have been addressed previously by the board at meetings covering Regions II, III, IV and V.

If adopted, the allocation of sheep hunting opportunity for nonresidents for some of the existing draw hunts with an allocation such as the central Chugach draw hunts would decrease (e.g., Unit 13D would go from 20% to 10% nonresident allocation).

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocation of sheep hunting opportunity between resident and nonresident hunters. If this proposal is adopted, the department will need additional guidance on allocation for hunts with small numbers of permits, such as the Mt. Harper drawing permit.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs to the department.

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**PROPOSAL 46 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep.** Establish a statewide archery season for sheep, August 1– 9.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaskan Bowhunters Association

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** Add a sheep hunt for bowhunters in all general season sheep hunting areas statewide during August 1–9. The bag limit would be one full-curl ram. International Bowhunter Education Program (IBEP) certification would be required.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The current sheep hunting regulations can be found in 5 AAC 85.055 and in the Alaska Hunting Regulations. No sheep hunts are managed under the proposed season dates.

The only archery-only hunting seasons for sheep in Alaska occur in Unit 14C. There are limited archery-only areas in the state (e.g., regulations for the Dalton Highway corridor restrict big game hunting, including sheep, to bow and arrow only within 5 miles on either side of the road).

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** Bowhunters would have the opportunity to hunt Dall sheep for 9 days without competition from rifle hunters. All bowhunters who pursue Dall sheep in the new August 1–9 general season hunts would be required to obtain International Bowhunter Education Program (IBEP) certification.

**BACKGROUND:** Approximately 3,700 sheep were harvested in Alaska from RY2010–RY2014, and 60 sheep (less than 2%) were taken by bowhunters. Hunting methods used by unsuccessful hunters are not recorded; therefore, the extent to which this proposal would spread out hunting pressure is unknown.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocation of hunting opportunity to bowhunters.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs to the department.

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**PROPOSAL 47 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep.** Establish a statewide youth hunting season for Dall sheep, August 1 through 5.

**PROPOSED BY:** Jake and Tanner Sprankle

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** Add a statewide youth sheep hunt for in all general season sheep hunting areas statewide during August 1–5. Dall sheep taken during the youth hunt would count against the bag limits of both the child and the adult, parent, stepparent, or legal guardian who accompanies the child.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The current sheep hunting regulations can be found in 5 AAC 85.055 and in the Alaska Hunting Regulations.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** Youth hunters would have the opportunity to hunt Dall sheep for 5 days without competition from other hunters. All youth hunters who pursue Dall sheep in these hunts would be required to be accompanied by a licensed adult who is 21 years of age or older.

**BACKGROUND:** Currently, there are no youth hunting seasons for sheep in Alaska. There are limited youth hunting opportunities for moose and caribou, all of which are offered through registration and draw permits.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocation of hunting opportunity to youth hunters.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs to the department.

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**PROPOSAL 48 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep. and 5 AAC 92.057. Special provisions for Dall sheep and mountain goat drawing permit hunts.** Review and potentially modify sheep hunting opportunities statewide.

**PROPOSED BY:** The Alaska Board of Game

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** The proposal lists several different potential hunt structure alternatives that allocate resident and nonresident sheep hunting opportunities.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The current sheep hunting regulations can be found in 5 AAC 85.055 and in the Alaska Hunting Regulations.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** The effect of this proposal would depend on which, if any, of the alternatives were adopted. Most of the alternatives would result in reduced resident and nonresident hunting opportunity. Generally, the alternatives listed would result in less early season opportunity. Most of the proposed strategies focus on crowding issues in general season harvest ticket hunt areas by managing hunter distribution over time through registration and draw permit hunts. One alternative, which is similar to Proposal 35, allocates season opportunity over time with registration hunts based on the first letter of the last name.

**BACKGROUND:** This proposal was generated by the board and reviewed during the 2015 board cycle. The board has received numerous proposals requesting changes to sheep seasons statewide in recent years, and this proposal offers several alternatives to the current hunt structures.

The Department of Fish and Game contracted the University of Alaska to survey members of the public who could be impacted by the proposed changes, including sheep hunters, guides, transporters and air taxi operators. The survey attempted to learn more about sheep hunter characteristics and behaviors, to quantify the extent of hunter satisfaction or dissatisfaction with current sheep hunting opportunities, and to quantify the extent of hunter approval or disapproval of potential changes to sheep hunting regulations and management. The department also put together a report on trends in sheep populations and in the hunting and harvest of sheep in Alaska. The department has also prepared a report on the status, by Game Management Unit, of sheep hunts on populations with positive customary and traditional use findings. These reports have been referred to and discussed by board members, users, guides, and others in many of the earlier sheep proposals deliberations. The reports and project summaries are available on the Board of Game website at <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=gameboard.main>. The public is encouraged to review the results of the University of Alaska Fairbanks survey and the ADF&G sheep reports and provide comments to the board by March 4 for the March 18-28, 2016 meeting in Fairbanks.

Some sheep hunts have season dates and bag limits that provide a reasonable opportunity for success in harvesting a sheep for subsistence uses. All of these hunts are harvest ticket or registration permit.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocation of hunting opportunity between residents and nonresidents.

If adopted, the record should show that the board has determined the new regulations to continue to provide a reasonable opportunity for success in customary and traditional uses of Dall sheep in the units with positive customary and traditional use findings.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of one or more of the alternatives would not result in significant additional costs to the department.

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**PROPOSAL 49 – 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep.**

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Outdoor Council.

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** Restrict the bag limit for sheep to one ram in Units 19C (subsistence hunt only for RS380), 14C, 24B (within the John River drainage upstream from Till Creek, and that portion within the Glacier River drainage), 25A (east of Middle Fork of Chandalar River), 26C (RS595), and 26B (on private lands within the Gates of the Arctic National Park).

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?**

Unit	Customary and traditional use finding?	Amount reasonably necessary for subsistence?	Current bag limit
19C	Positive, all of Unit 19	1–5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One sheep with ¾ curl or smaller; excluding rams with both tips broken, lambs and ewes with lambs (RS380).</li> </ul>
14C	No (inside Anchorage–Mat-Su–Kenai Peninsula nonsubsistence area)	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One ram by bow and arrow only (DS140–141/240/241).</li> </ul>
24B, 25A, 26B, 26C	Positive, all of 23, 24, 25A, and 26 (Brooks Range)	75–125 combined	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 24B within the John River drainage upstream from Till Creek, and that portion within the Glacier River drainage: three sheep (harvest ticket).</li> <li>• 25A east of Middle Fork of Chandalar River: three sheep (RS595)</li> <li>• 26B private lands within the Gates of the Arctic National Park: three sheep (bag limit also applies to 26A; harvest ticket)</li> <li>• 26C: three sheep (RS595)</li> </ul>

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** The bag limit changes would decrease hunter success rates and reduce the number of sheep that can be harvested by an individual hunter in most of the affected hunts.

**BACKGROUND:** Sheep populations in the Chugach Mountains and populations in the Alaska Range near Unit 19C are stable, and sheep populations in the Brooks Range are decreasing. The total number of sheep hunters has been declining over the last 20 years, and the total harvest has also been declining over the last 20 years.

Table 49-1. Harvests of Dall sheep in Unit 19 by place of residents based on Winfonet data and harvests of Dall sheep by local communities in Alaska based on household surveys.

Community	Harvests reported in Winfonet <sup>1</sup>											Estimated community harvests from the CSIS <sup>2,3</sup>										
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	10-yr avg	1983	1984	2002	2003	2004	2005	2007	2009	2011	Best data <sup>4</sup>	Average CSIS
Aniak	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0				0	0	0		0		0	0.0
Chuathbaluk	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0			0	0	0		0		0	0.0
Crooked Creek	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0				0	0	0		0		0	0.0
Georgetown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0											
Lime Village	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0							0			0	0.0
Mcgrath	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0.3		6							0	0	3.0
Napaimute	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0											
Nikolai	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0.3		3	0						0	0	1.0
Red Devil	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0				0	0	0		0		0	0.0
Sleetmute	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0			0	0	0		0		0	0.0
Stony River	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0				0	0	0		0		0	0.0
Takotna	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0									0	0	0.0
Telida	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0											
Upper Kalskag	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0				0	0	0		0		0	0.0
Total for area communities	0	0	0	3	0	2	1	0	0	0	<b>0.6</b>	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>4.0</b>
Total unit 19 all AK residents	24	26	20	21	17	25	19	12	26	27	<b>21.7</b>											<i>data unavailable</i>
Total unit 19 non-residents	45	46	47	45	59	42	49	70	59	54	<b>51.6</b>											<i>data unavailable</i>

<sup>1</sup> Only includes GMU 19 harvests reported in Winfonet.

<sup>2</sup> May include some Dall sheep from outside GMU 19.

<sup>3</sup> Empty cells indicate no data available because no survey was conducted.

<sup>4</sup> Best data is the most recent survey year, regardless of historical results.

Table 49-2. Harvests of Dall sheep in Unit 24 by place of residents based on Winfonet data and harvests of Dall sheep by local communities in Alaska based on household surveys.

Community	Harvests reported in Winfonet <sup>1</sup>											Estimated community harvests from the CSIS <sup>2,3,5</sup>													
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	10-yr avg	1982	1983	1984	1992	1994	1996	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2011	Best data <sup>4</sup>	Average CSIS
Allakaket/Alatna	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	6		2								4	4	4.0	
Anaktuvuk Pass <sup>6</sup>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0				37	27	6.7	10	9.2	5	4.7	16	75	75	21.2
Bettles/Evansville	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	3		1								0	0	1.3	
Coldfoot	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.3											0			
Hughes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0												0.0	
Huslia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0		0											0.0	
Wiseman	6	3	7	4	1	1	2	1	0	0	2.5											2	2	2.0	
Total for area communities	6	4	8	5	1	1	2	1	0	0	<b>2.8</b>	9		3								81	<b>81</b>	<b>28.5</b>	
Total unit 24 all AK residents	16	13	14	14	19	13	17	13	10	9	<b>13.8</b>														
Total unit 24 non-residents	9	9	14	11	14	14	12	12	12	9	<b>11.6</b>														

<sup>1</sup> Only includes GMU 24 harvests reported in Winfonet.

<sup>2</sup> May include some Dall sheep from outside GMU 24.

<sup>3</sup> Empty cells indicate no data available because no survey was conducted.

<sup>4</sup> Best data is the most recent survey year, regardless of historical results.

<sup>5</sup> CSIS estimates include estimates developed by the North Slope Arctic Borough.

<sup>6</sup> Anaktuvuk Pass also summarized in the GMU 26 comparison. At least 22% of the estimated harvest for this community occurred outside of GMU 24.

Table 49-3. Harvests of Dall sheep in Unit 25 by place of residents based on Winfonet data and harvests of Dall sheep by local communities in Alaska based on household surveys.

Community	Harvests reported in Winfonet <sup>1</sup>											Estimated community harvests from the CSIS <sup>2,3</sup>					
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	10-yr avg	1984	1985	1987	2011	Best data <sup>4</sup>	Average CSIS
Arctic Village	0	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.4					
Beaver	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0		0	0	0.0
Birch Creek	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0					
Canyon Village	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0					
Central	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0					
Chalkyitsik	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0					
Circle	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0					
Circle Hot Springs Station	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0					
Fort Yukon	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0			0	0	0.0
Stevens Village	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0			0	0.0
Venetie	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0					
Total for area communities	0	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0.4</b>	0		0	0	<b>0.0</b>
Total unit 25 all AK residents	22	36	51	53	60	54	63	55	47	37		<b>47.8</b>	<i>data unavailable</i>				
Total unit 25 non-residents	36	40	42	45	38	39	31	47	26	33		<b>37.7</b>	<i>data unavailable</i>				

<sup>1</sup> Only includes GMU 25 harvests reported in Winfonet.

<sup>2</sup> May include some Dall sheep from outside GMU 25.

<sup>3</sup> Empty cells indicate no data available because no survey was conducted.

<sup>4</sup> Best data is the most recent survey year, regardless of historical results.

Table 49.4. Harvests of Dall sheep in Unit 26 by place of residents based on Winfonet data and harvests of Dall sheep by local communities in Alaska based on household surveys.

Community	Harvests reported in Winfonet <sup>1</sup>											Estimated community harvests from the CSIS <sup>2,3,5</sup>																		
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	10-yr avg	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2011	2012	Best data <sup>4</sup>	Average CSIS
Anaktuvuk Pass <sup>6</sup>	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0.4						37		27		6.7	10	9.2	5	4.7	16	75		75	21.2
Atqasuk	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0																			
Barrow	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	0.4			12	12	9	2							3.6	1.7				9	6.7
Deadhorse	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0																			
Kaktovik	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	47	17			44			30.3							18		44	31.3	
Nuiqsut	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0					0												0	0.0
Point Lay	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0			0														0	0	0.0
Prudhoe Bay	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0.1																			
Wainwright	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0				0	0													0	
Total for area communities	2	0	1	0	1	1	2	2	1	0	1.0	47	17	12	12		83	0	27	30.3	6.7	10	9.2	8.6	6.4	34		0	128	59.2
Total unit 26 all AK residents	46	44	37	69	70	68	86	101	91	77	68.9																			
Total unit 26 non-residents	47	43	37	60	58	62	46	42	43	37	47.5																			

<sup>1</sup> Only includes GMU 26 harvests reported in Winfonet.

<sup>2</sup> May include some Dall sheep from outside GMU 26.

<sup>3</sup> Empty cells indicate no data available because no survey was conducted.

<sup>4</sup> Best data is the most recent survey year, regardless of historical results.

<sup>5</sup> CSIS estimates include estimates developed by the North Slope Arctic Borough.

<sup>6</sup> Anaktuvuk Pass also summarized in the GMU 24 comparison. At least 22% of the estimated harvest for this community occurred outside of GMU 26.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocation of sheep hunting opportunity.

If adopted, the record should show that the board has determined the new regulations to continue to provide a reasonable opportunity for success in customary and traditional uses of Dall sheep in those GMUs with positive customary and traditional use findings.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs to the department.

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**PROPOSAL 138 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep.** Change nonresident sheep hunting opportunities on state and BLM land to drawing permit hunts.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Chapter Backcountry Hunters and Anglers

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** If adopted, the proposal would convert all general season nonresident sheep hunting opportunity on state and BLM lands to draw permits.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** The current sheep hunting regulations can be found in 5 AAC 85.055 and in the Alaska Hunting Regulations.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** This proposal would convert all general-season nonresident sheep hunting on state and BLM lands to drawing permit hunts, and the department would limit the number of permits issued each year.

The proposal briefly mentions establishing harvest allocations for nonresidents, which would not exceed 30% of the total harvest in any area; however the regulation for establishing a harvest allocation (5 AAC 92.008) was not on the call for proposals and cannot be acted on during this meeting.

**BACKGROUND:** Board policy (2007-173-BOG) indicates that allocations for specific hunts will be decided individually, based upon historical patterns of nonresident and resident use over the past 10 years. The board has allocated hunting opportunity previously between resident and nonresident hunters by modifying season dates or by allocating permits. Proposals 36-45 would reduce nonresident hunting opportunity. Similar requests for board changes in allocation of sheep hunting opportunity have been addressed previously by the board at meetings covering Regions II, III, IV and V.

Some sheep hunts have season dates and bag limits that provide a reasonable opportunity for success in harvesting a sheep for subsistence uses. All of these hunts are harvest ticket or registration permit. The department has prepared a report on the status, by Game Management

Unit, of sheep hunts on populations with positive customary and traditional use findings. The report is posted on the Board of Game website.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocation of sheep harvest between resident and nonresident hunters. If the board adopts the proposed nonresident hunt structure, the department will need guidance on how to determine the number of nonresident permits to issue annually.

If adopted, the record should show that the board has determined the new regulations to continue to provide a reasonable opportunity for success in customary and traditional uses of Dall sheep in units with positive customary and traditional use findings.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs to the department.

The following **revised** staff comment was prepared by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game for use at the Alaska Board of Game meeting, March 18 - 28, 2016 in Fairbanks, Alaska, and is prepared to assist the public and board. The stated staff comments on all proposals should be considered preliminary and subject to change, if or when new information becomes available. Final department positions will be formulated after review of written and oral testimony presented to the board.

**PROPOSAL 90 – 5 AAC 92.029. Permit for possessing live game.** Eliminate domestic sheep (*Ovis aries*) and goats (*Capra hircus*) from the “Clean List” and require a permit for possession with stipulations if located within 15 air miles of all sheep habitat.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Wild Sheep Foundation

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** Eliminate domestic sheep and goats from 5 AAC 92.029 (b) and require a permit for possession with stipulations if located within 15 air miles of all Dall sheep habitat.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?**

AS 16.05.940. Definitions (19) Game means any species of bird, reptile, and mammal, including a feral domestic animal, found or introduced in the state, except domestic birds and mammals; and game may be classified by regulation as big game, small game, furbearers or other categories considered essential for carrying out the intention and purposes of AS 16.05–AS 16.40;

5 AAC 92.029(b) The following species, not including a hybrid of a game animal and a species listed in this subsection, may be possessed, imported, exported, bought, sold, or traded without a permit from the department but may not be released into the wild:

Common Name	Scientific Name
Dog	<i>Canis familiaris</i>
Cat	<i>Felis catus</i>
Sheep	<i>Ovis aries</i>
Goat	<i>Capra hircus</i>
Cattle	<i>Bos taurus</i>
Oxen	<i>Bos spp.</i>
Horse	<i>Equus caballus</i>
Guinea pig	<i>Cavia porcellus</i>
Reindeer (except feral reindeer)	<i>Rangifer tarandus</i> Var.
Llama	<i>Lama peruana</i>
Alpaca	<i>Lama pacos</i>
One-humped camel	<i>Camelus dromedarius</i>
Ass	<i>Equus asinus</i> Var.
Mule	<i>Equus asinus x caballus</i>

Swine	<i>Sus scrofa</i> Var.
European ferret	<i>Mustela putorius furo</i>
European rabbit	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i> Var.
White rat	<i>Rattus norvegicus</i> Var. <i>albinus</i>
Mice: white, waltzing, singing, shaker, piebald	<i>Mus musculus</i> Var.
Fat-tailed gerbil	<i>Pachyuromys duprasi</i>
Gerbil	<i>Gerbillus</i> spp.
Hamster (golden)	<i>Mesocricetus auratus</i>
Chinchilla	<i>Chinchilla laniger</i>
Cavy	<i>Cavia aperea</i>
Hedgehog, African Pygmy	<i>Erinaceus albiventris</i>
Chicken	<i>Gallus gallus</i> Var.
Pigeon	<i>Columia livia</i> Var.
Any Turkey species	Subfamily <i>Meleagridinae</i>
Any Pheasant, Junglefowl or <i>Coturnix</i> species	Subfamily <i>Phasianidae</i>
Any Guineafowl species	Subfamily <i>Numidinae</i>
Canary	<i>Serinus canaria</i> Var.
Parrot, parakeet, cockatiel, macaw, and other members of the Family <i>Psittacidae</i> not prohibited by federal or international law	Family <i>Psittacidae</i>
Toucan	Family <i>Ramphastidae</i>
Any New World Quail species (including Bobwhite)	Subfamily <i>Odontophoridae</i>
Mynah	<i>Acridotheres</i> spp.
Any Peafowl species	<i>Pavo</i> spp.
Any duck, goose, swan, or other migratory waterfowl which the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service determines does not require a federal permit for private ownership	
Chukar partridge	<i>Alectoris chukar</i>
Button "quail"	Family <i>Turnicidae</i> in the order <i>Gruiformes</i>
Any nonvenomous reptile (crocodile, alligator, snake, turtle, or lizard)	Class <i>Reptilia</i>

Members of the bird families

*Fringillidae, Turdidae, Zosteripidae,  
Pycnonotidae, Timaliidae,* and

*Ploceidae* of non- Holarctic origin.

Members of the bird families

*Columbidae* and *Trogonidae* of  
non- nearctic origin.

Elk (except feral and wild elk) (*Cervus elaphus*)

Bison (except feral and wild bison) (*Bison bison*)

Muskoxen (except feral and wild muskoxen) (*Ovibos moschatus*)

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** Domestic sheep and goats will no longer be on the “clean list”, which would institute a requirement for a permit to possess sheep and goats. It is important to note the board does not have statutory authority to regulate domestic animals.

**BACKGROUND:** Domestic sheep and goats carry strains of pneumonia proven to be deadly to bighorn sheep populations in the lower 48. These pneumonia transmissions have resulted in major die-offs to both large and small populations of wild sheep.

Due to the remoteness of Dall sheep habitat and its unsuitability for human use, Dall sheep have mostly been protected from contact with domestic sheep and goats in the past. An expansion of human settlement (and consequently, livestock) could lead to increased contact between Dall sheep and disease-carrying livestock.

Studies have shown transmission has occurred between domestic sheep or goats and Dall sheep for bacterial, viral, and protozoal agents, as well as a few helminths. These include major pneumonia strains (*Mannheimia haemolucida*, *Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae*, *M. spp.*, *Pastuerella multocida*, *Bibersteinia (P.) trehalosi*), epizootic hemorrhagic disease, and *Toxoplasma gondii*, to name a few.

As transmission between domestic sheep, goats, and wild sheep is often nose-to-nose, prohibiting direct contact is often the primary goal of agencies managing wild sheep. Double fences, outrigger fences, or a combination of both around domestic sheep and goats are all accepted and proven forms of preventing contact.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department’s recommendation is to **TAKE NO ACTION** on this proposal because the board’s statutory authority is limited to game and feral animals. It does not have the authority to regulate domestic animals.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs to the department or the public.

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*The following staff comments were prepared by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game for use at the Alaska Board of Game meeting, March 18 - 28, 2016 in Fairbanks, Alaska, and are prepared to assist the public and board. The stated staff comments should be considered preliminary and subject to change, if or when new information becomes available. Final department positions will be formulated after review of written and oral testimony presented to the board.*

**PROPOSAL 103 – 5 AAC 92.071. Tier I subsistence permits.** Require Tier I subsistence permit holders to report harvest information.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Outdoor Council

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** Require Tier I subsistence permit holders who participated in subsistence hunts for bison, black bears, brown bears, caribou, deer, elk, goats, moose, muskoxen, Dall sheep, wolves, wolverines, fur animals, and unclassified game (5 AAC 85.005–5 AAC 85.070) to submit a written report, on a form provided by the department, describing their effort to observe a customary and traditional use pattern as organized by eight elements.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** There are reporting requirements established in statute for subsistence and other harvests based upon data needs (AS 16.05.370). In addition, regulatory reporting requirements for the game species encompassed by the proposal vary widely and are based on sustained yield, management, and enforcement needs. However, except for general requirements for reporting of all permit hunts as specified under 5 AAC 92.010. *Harvest tickets and reports*, there are no regulations specific to Tier I subsistence permit reporting. Most of the species listed are not managed under Tier I permits because of a lack of conservation concerns, thus providing for all uses including nonresidents.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** In addition to complying with hunt conditions as specified by the board, Alaskans who hunted under a Tier I permit would also be required to write a report describing their efforts. The department would be required to develop and distribute a form, and to capture, analyze, report, and maintain the data provided on the form by hunters.

**BACKGROUND:** The department agrees that harvest and hunter effort data pertaining to subsistence and other uses is important for allocation, sustainable resource management, and enforcement. The department invests significant resources in the collection of accurate, up-to-date harvest, use, and effort information. The department continually reviews its harvest monitoring research programs for accuracy and efficiency.

Harvest reporting and other requirements, such as sealing, evidence of sex, and trophy destruction vary according to management needs, which are often linked to the status of the game population. Options include harvest tickets, registration permits, community harvest permits, and Tier I and Tier II permits. Subsistence harvest estimates are supplemented periodically by face-to-face surveys conducted by the department, often in partnership with local governments or regional organizations. Through these efforts, the department provides the board with the best available data on subsistence effort, harvest, and customary and traditional patterns of use. In addition, the board relies on its own expertise to gather such data, as well as extensive oral and written testimony from user groups.

Tier I means the circumstance where the board has identified a game population that is customarily and traditionally used for subsistence and where it is anticipated that a reasonable opportunity can be provided to all residents who desire to engage in subsistence uses, but resource abundance is insufficient to provide for nonsubsistence uses. For example, as required by law, in order to differentiate between uses so as to provide a preference for subsistence uses, the board has adopted permit conditions for RC566 (Unit 13 Tier I caribou hunt) that provide for a particular customary and traditional use pattern, such as a late summer- or fall-only season; offering this permit only for a few well-known and long-established areas; and no hide and organ meat salvage requirements. The board has also adopted regulations to provide for another customary and traditional use pattern of Unit 13 caribou with different hunt conditions and additional reporting requirements for CC001 (Unit 13 community caribou hunt). The board has explained their rationale for RC566 and CC001 hunt conditions both on the record, in court documents, as well as in a board finding (2011-184-BOG).

In RY2014, 5,596 RC566 permits were issued, and 2,172 caribou were harvested.

To estimate the number of Alaska residents likely to participate in Tier I hunts as well as the amount of the harvestable surplus reasonably necessary for subsistence uses, the board is presented with the best available information by the department, from both the Division of Wildlife Conservation and the Division of Subsistence. In addition, the board relies on its own expertise, as well as extensive oral and written testimony from user groups.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocative aspects of this proposal and because the information would not be used to address a biological concern or for making allocation decisions. The department is **OPPOSED** to this proposal: current reporting requirements are adequate to manage game populations for sustained yield, beneficial uses, enforcement, and orderly hunts

The board has already adopted hunt conditions to provide an opportunity to participate in customary and traditional use patterns of Tier I permit opportunities currently offered. The department would incur significant expense in developing, distributing, and analyzing over 5,000

RC566 hunt reports, in addition to any reports for future Tier I opportunities. Adding this unnecessary reporting requirement would also be burdensome to hunt participants.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal is expected to result in significant costs to the department in staff time and administration. Adoption of this proposal may result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in subsistence hunts: Alaskans would need to obtain a reporting form and then return the form to the department, which may necessitate travel to pick up the form, as well as mailing expenses.

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**PROPOSAL 104 – 5 AAC 92.010. Harvest tickets and reports.** Require hunters to submit a subsistence hunt report.

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

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** Require Alaskans who participated in subsistence hunts for bison, black bears, brown bears, caribou, deer, elk, goats, moose, muskoxen, Dall sheep, wolves, wolverines, fur animals, and unclassified game (5 AAC 85.005–5 AAC 85.070) to submit a written report, on a form provided by the department, describing their effort to observe a customary and traditional use pattern as organized by eight elements.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** There are reporting requirements established in statute for subsistence and other harvests based upon data needs (16.05.370). In addition, regulatory reporting requirements for the game species encompassed by the proposal vary widely and are based on sustained yield, management, and enforcement needs. They range from no reporting requirements (such as for hares and feral non-native game) to return of a harvest ticket (such as in many moose and caribou hunts) to physical sealing of harvested fur animals.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** In addition to complying with hunt conditions as specified by statute and the board, Alaskans would also be required to write a report describing their efforts; the department would be required to develop and distribute a form, and to capture, analyze, report, and maintain the data given on the form.

**BACKGROUND:** The department agrees that accountable data pertaining to subsistence and other uses is important for allocation, subsistence users, and enforcement. The department invests significant resources in the collection of accurate, up-to-date harvest, use, and effort information. The department continually reviews its harvest monitoring research programs for accuracy and efficiency.

Reporting requirements vary according to management needs, which are often linked to the status of the game population. Options include harvest tickets, registration permits, community

harvest permits, and Tier I and Tier II permits. Subsistence harvest estimates are supplemented periodically by face-to-face surveys conducted by the department, often in partnership with local governments or regional organizations. Through these efforts, the department provides the board with the best available data on subsistence effort, harvest, and customary and traditional uses. In addition, the board, relies on its own expertise to gather such data, as well as extensive oral and written testimony from user groups.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocative aspects of this proposal, and because the information would not be used to address a biological concern.

The department is **OPPOSED** to a harvest reporting program as proposed because it would be in addition to existing reporting requirements, would be new to many hunts, and would be costly to implement. Considerable effort would need to be invested in over 200 communities to develop an effective system and encourage compliance, which may take years to accomplish, since many hunts currently do not have permits or reporting requirements. Without this effort, the results of the proposed system may be incomplete and inaccurate, and inferior to data currently available from multiple sources. The department would incur significant expense in developing, distributing, and analyzing hundreds of thousands of hunt reports for all the species encompassed by the proposal. Current reporting requirements are adequate to manage game populations for sustained yield, beneficial uses, enforcement, and orderly hunts. Adding this unnecessary reporting requirement would also be extremely burdensome to hunt participants.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal is expected to result in significant additional costs to the department in staff time and administration. Adoption of this proposal may result in an additional direct cost for a private person to participate in subsistence hunts: Alaskans would need to obtain a reporting form and then return the form to the department, which may necessitate travel to pick up the form, as well as mailing expenses.

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**PROPOSAL 105 – 5 AAC 92.070(a). Tier II subsistence hunting permit point system.**

Modify the qualification under the Tier II subsistence hunting permit point system.

**PROPOSED BY:** Rod Arno

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** Modify the qualification under the Tier II subsistence permit point system by deleting the three current measurements of an applicant's customary and direct dependence on the specific game population and replacing them with a single measurement, which would be the number of consecutive years in which the applicant has spent over 180 days per year in the noncommercial harvesting and preservation of wild fish and game within all of Alaska. Five points would be given for each year, up to 85 points.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** To measure an applicant’s customary and direct dependence on a Tier II game population, as is required by AS 16.05.258 (b)(4), the board has adopted into regulation three indicators and points:

1) the number of years in which the applicant has hunted on or eaten from the game population, plus the number of years in which the applicant would have hunted on or eaten from the game population but did not because state regulations canceled the hunt on the game population during a given year or years, or because the state did not issue the applicant a permit to hunt on the game population for which the applicant applied; one point is given for each year, up to 50 points;

2) the number of years in which a member of the applicant's household has hunted on or eaten from the game population, plus the number of years in which that member of the applicant's household would have hunted on or eaten from the game population but did not because state regulations canceled the hunt on the game population during a given year or years, or because the state did not issue that member of the applicant's household a permit to hunt on the game population for which that member of the applicant's household applied; .2 points are given for each year, up to 10 points; and

3) the amount of time during the year the applicant spends in the noncommercial harvesting of wild fish and game within the hunt area boundary:

(A) 0 days = 0 points;

(B) 1 to 6 days = 5 points;

(C) 7 to 27 days = 10 points;

(D) 28 to 48 days = 15 points;

(E) 49 to 69 days = 20 points; and

(F) 70 days or more = 25 points.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** Removing the focus on the Tier II population is likely not in compliance with AS16.05.258(b)(4)(B)(i), which states the board must distinguish among subsistence users through limitations based on “the customary and direct dependence on the fish stock or game population by the subsistence user for human consumption as a mainstay of livelihood.”

**BACKGROUND:** Current Tier II regulations measure an application according to two factors. Factor A is up to 85 points, applies to all Tier II hunts, and measures the applicant’s “customary and direct dependence on the game population for human consumption as a mainstay of livelihood” Specific questions are 1) the number of years the applicant has eaten from or hunted the Tier II population (up to 50 points); 2) the number of years a member of the applicant’s

household has eaten from or hunted the Tier II population (up to 10 points); and 3) the number of days the applicant has hunted or fished in the Tier II hunt area (up to 25 points).

Factor B is up to 55 points, applies to all Tier II hunts, and measures the “ability of a subsistence user to obtain food if subsistence use [of the Tier II population] is restricted. Specific questions are 1) the availability of food to purchase (up to 25 points); and 2) the availability of gasoline to purchase (up to 30 points).

The board has addressed the Tier II permit point system on multiple occasions since the first regulations were adopted in 1985. The Tier II permit point system has also been the focus of court challenges.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocative aspects of this proposal and is **OPPOSED** to this proposal because it is unlikely that the new regulation, if adopted, would be in compliance with AS 16.05.258(b)(4)(B)(i).

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal is not expected to result in additional costs to the department.



*The following staff comments were prepared by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game for use at the Alaska Board of Game meeting, March 18 - 28, 2016 in Fairbanks, Alaska, and are prepared to assist the public and the board. The stated staff comments should be considered preliminary and subject to change, if or when new information becomes available. Final department positions will be formulated after review of written and oral testimony presented to the board.*

**PROPOSAL 139 – 5 AAC 85.040(a)** Hunting seasons and bag limits for goat, Unit 14C.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal changes the hunt structure for nonresident goat hunts in Unit 14C from a registration hunt to a drawing hunt.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?** Nonresidents are allowed to hunt goats in Unit 14C with a registration permit from August 16–October 15; however nonresident hunters are restricted to archery only from August 16–August 31.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?**

Nonresident hunting opportunity would occur under a drawing permit hunt structure. This hunt structure would give management biologists a better tool to achieve the harvest allocation for residents and nonresidents, which was prescribed by the board.

**BACKGROUND:** During the 2015 season, the nonresident portion of the hunt was closed after being open for three days, and the nonresident harvest quota was exceeded. In years prior, the nonresident portion of the hunt was also closed after very short seasons (less than a week) because the nonresident harvest quota was exceeded. Based on this pattern, the department has concluded that the registration hunt structure does not allow for timely management of harvest to achieve the allocation prescribed by the board and to keep the harvest within the prescribed quotas.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department **SUPPORTS** this proposal.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal is not expected to result in additional costs to the department.

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**PROPOSAL 140 – 5 AAC 85.025 (17).** Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou.

**PROPOSED BY:** Charles Lean

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal would modify Unit 22 caribou regulations by: 1) lengthening hunting seasons for resident hunters, and 2) establishing an annual bag limit of 20 caribou per year for resident hunters. Current (RY15) daily bag limit for resident hunters, and seasons and bag limits for nonresident hunters remain unchanged.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?**

**Resident Hunting Seasons and Bag Limits**

<u>Area</u>	<u>Resident Bag Limit</u>	<u>Season Dates</u>
22A north of Golsovia	5 caribou/day, calves may not be taken	
	Bulls	Jul. 1- Oct. 14 Feb. 1- Jun. 30
	Cows	Sep. 1- Mar. 31
22A remainder	5 caribou/day, calves may not be taken	may be announced*
22B west of Golovnin Bay	5 caribou/day, calves may not be taken	
	Bulls	Oct. 1- Oct. 14 Feb. 1- Apr. 30
	Cows	Oct. 1- Mar. 31
22B remainder	5 caribou/day, calves may not be taken	
	Bulls	Jul. 1- Oct. 14 Feb. 1- Jun. 30

	Cows	Sep. 1- Mar. 31
22C	5 caribou/day, calves may not be taken	may be announced*
22D Kougarak, Kuzitrin, Agiapuk	5 caribou/day, calves may not be taken	
	Bulls	Jul. 1- Oct. 14
		Feb. 1- Jun. 30
	Cows	Sep. 1- Mar. 31
22D Pilgrim	5 caribou/day, calves may not be taken	
	Bulls	Oct. 1- Oct. 14
		Feb. 1- Apr. 30
	Cows	Oct. 1- Mar. 31
22D Remainder	5 caribou/day, calves may not be taken	may be announced*
22E east of and including Sanaguich	5 caribou/day, calves may not be taken	
	Bulls	Jul. 1- Oct. 14
		Feb. 1- Jun. 30
	Cows	Sep. 1- Mar. 31
22E remainder	5 caribou/day, calves may not be taken	may be announced*

\* In areas with a season that “may be announced”, bulls may not be taken October 15–January 31, and cows may not be taken April 1–August 31.

Nonresident hunting is authorized during fall seasons, which are listed in the *2015-2016 Alaska Hunting Regulations* summary booklet.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** The proponent suggests the following resident bag limit for all Unit 22 hunt areas:

**For residents, 5 caribou per day, 20 caribou per year, calves may not be taken**

<u>Area</u>	<u>Season Dates</u>
22A north of Golsovia	Jul. 1- Jun. 30
22A remainder	may be announced
22B west of Golovnin Bay	Jul. 1- Jun. 30
22B remainder	Jul. 1- Jun. 30
22C	may be announced
22D Kougarak, Kuzitrin, Agiapuk	Jul. 1- Jun. 30
22D Pilgrim	Oct. 1- Apr. 30
22D Remainder	may be announced
22E east of and including Sanaguich	Jul. 1- Jun. 30
22E remainder	may be announced

**BACKGROUND:** The Western Arctic Caribou Herd (WAH) peaked at 490,000 caribou in 2003. In 2013 the herd was estimated at 235,000 indicating a ~7% annual rate of decline between 2003 and 2011; the rate increased to an estimated ~15% annually between 2011 and 2013. The 2015 census failed due to poor photography conditions; however, other metrics suggest the herd is currently declining at a reduced rate, estimated at ~7% annually. Prior to RY15, local Alaskan harvests have been estimated at 12,000 caribou per year based on data and patterns available through community harvest assessments. Range-wide, the department is concerned that we have gradually been exceeding a 2% cow harvest since RY2011.

Compliance with the provision that Alaska residents living north of the Yukon River and that hunt in that area do not need harvest tickets/reports, but must register with ADF&G or an authorized representative within the area is low. The department has not had a reporting mechanism or follow-up with those few who register. The exception is in Nome, where harvests have been documented through a harvest report system that requires hunt reports to be submitted within one month of the end of a regulatory year and follow-up has occurred. Other Alaskan and nonresident harvests are largely documented by the harvest ticketing reporting system.

The unusual availability of caribou along the Nome road system in fall 2015 will likely continue the trend and contribute to total cow harvests above the management objective of 2% cow harvest during RY15 due to recent changes in bull and cow seasons. Current year harvests and harvests by sex are not known but increased availability of caribou along the Nome road system in Unit 22 in future years would likely increase conservation concerns due to the declining condition of the herd.

In the smaller communities outside Nome in Unit 22 subsistence household survey data indicate that between 1998-2014, sex of caribou harvest is approximately 31% cows and 55% bulls and 14% of harvested animals of unknown sex. In small communities outside Nome in Unit 22 where harvest by sex and month of harvest is known, sex of caribou harvest is approximately 26% cows, 64% bulls, and 10% of harvested animals of unknown sex. There is potential for high harvests of cows in the future. Keeping harvest at sustainable levels will be important during a time when the WAH is declining. Increased information on harvest levels, timing and sex of harvest is also becoming increasingly important.

The department has primarily relied upon permits in the Nome area, and community based harvest assessment surveys outside the Nome area to understand WAH caribou harvests. The proponent suggests a harvest ticket system with an annual bag limit of 20 caribou that if adopted would likely provide more information about Unit 22 annual caribou harvests. If the WAH continues to decline, understanding harvest at a level that allows for responsive hunt management will become increasingly important. Increased harvest report data from Unit 22, even if not matched in Units 23 or 26A, would help manage the WAH. Considering Unit 22's longer regulatory history related to registration and Tier II hunts, this area of Region 5 seems the likely candidate to institute a more intensive harvesting reporting program, and evaluate the success for harvest reporting options in other areas of Region V.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department **SUPPORTS** this proposal if it is **AMENDED** to convert the hunt structure in Unit 22 to a registration permit hunt and the current

season closure dates are retained. The department is opposed to the change in season dates and instead recommends Unit 22 seasons close March 31 to continue with recent rangewide efforts to reduce cow harvests by reducing spring opportunity, while protecting maternal caribou during calving and responding to reindeer herding interests.

The department recommends transition to a registration permit to provide hunt managers with additional tools to achieve more timely and accurate harvest reporting. **Amended Seasons and Bag Limits for Residents**

<u>Area</u>	<u>Resident Bag Limit</u>	<u>Season Dates</u>
22A north of Golsovia	Bulls	Jul. 1- Jun. 30
	Cows	Jul. 1- Mar. 31
22A remainder		may be announced
22B west of Golovnin Bay	Bulls	Oct. 1- Apr. 30
	Cows	Oct. 1- Mar. 31
22B remainder	Bulls	Jul. 1- Jun. 30
	Cows	Jul. 1- Mar. 31
22C		may be announced
22D Kougarok, Kuzitrin, Agiapuk	Bulls	Jul. 1- Jun. 30
	Cows	Jul. 1- Mar. 31
22D Pilgrim	Bulls	Oct. 1- Apr. 30
	Cows	Oct. 1- Mar. 31
22D Remainder		may be announced
22E east of and including Sanaguich	Bulls	Jul. 1- Jun. 30
	Cows	Jul. 1- Mar. 31
22E remainder		may be announced

**COST ANALYSIS:** Approval of this proposal may result in additional costs to the department to reach out to communities currently without the requirement.

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**PROPOSAL 141 – 5 AAC 85.056.** Hunting seasons and bag limits for wolf.

**PROPOSED BY:** Denali National Park and Preserve

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal shortens the wolf hunting season in the Stampede Corridor in Unit 20C and adjacent to Denali National Park from Aug. 10–May 31 to Aug. 10–April 15.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?**

**5 AAC 85.056 (a)(2). Hunting seasons and bag limits for wolves**

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
...		
Units 12, 20, and 25(C)	Aug. 1–May 31	Aug. 1–May 31
...		

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** If adopted, this proposal would shorten the wolf season by 47 days in the affected portion of Unit 20C to eliminate the overlap with the bear baiting season in that area. The wolf hunting season would overlap with the bear baiting season for one day on April 15, and trappers would still be allowed to take wolves until April 30 with a trapping license.

**BACKGROUND:** The current low population of wolves may be unprecedented for Denali National Park, but it is not unprecedented in the Interior Alaska ecosystem. The low wolf population is commensurate with the low population of ungulates in the park on which wolves depend for food. This does not constitute a threat to the wolf population, and is well aligned with the NPS management philosophy of allowing natural processes to occur. In Unit 20A immediately adjacent to the east side of the park, the moose population is high, resulting in a wolf population density approximately four times higher than in the park. This provides ample opportunity to compensate for the loss of wolves residing primarily within the park, particularly on the east side, through dispersal of wolves from Unit 20A.

In general, wolf populations in Alaska are regulated by prey abundance and availability, natural mortality, and emigration. There is consensus among ADF&G and DNP biologists that the take of wolves that spend much of their lives inside the park by hunters and trappers outside the park is not sufficiently large to regulate the Denali Park wolf population. Thus, neither approval nor denial of the requested closure is likely to appreciably affect the Denali Park wolf population.

The board has recognized trade-offs among viewing and consumptive uses in this area in the past. Those concerns led to the previously approved “buffer” area closed to the taking of wolves. The board may want to consider whether the changes in bear hunting regulations will affect wolf harvest patterns and the allocation between viewing and hunting and trapping opportunities. The new bear hunting regulations may increase the probability of take of wolves right before the summer visitor viewing season. This timing of take may preclude wolves re-colonizing those areas in time for the summer visitor season and affect the allocation between viewing and hunting and trapping.

ADF&G has no conservation concerns regarding wolves in Unit 20C, including the area closed by Emergency Order (EO) in May 2015. This area was closed in order to allow the Board of Game time to revisit the issue of wolf hunting seasons and bag limits without additional take of

wolves adding to the controversy. We believe the controversy regarding the so-called “wolf buffer” centers around the allocation of wolves between harvest through trapping and hunting and wildlife viewing opportunities for Park visitors. Allocation issues are the purview of the Board of Game.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal. There are no biological concerns for wolf population or associated with the wolf harvest in this area.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal is not expected to result in additional costs to the department.

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**PROPOSAL 142 – 5 AAC 92.108.** Identified big game prey populations and objectives. **5 AAC 92.121(b)** Intensive Management Plan, Unit 13 wolf predation control area.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal reauthorizes the Unit 13 IM program and provides new regulatory language that conforms to the department’s protocol for IM regulations.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?**

The Unit 13 IM program is described in 5 AAC 92.121(b), which is scheduled to expire on October 31, 2016.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** The Unit 13 IM program would be reauthorized, and predator control activities would be authorized until June 30, 2027. The new regulatory language conforms to the department’s protocol for IM plans and does not change how the control activities would be conducted.

**BACKGROUND:** Unit 13 is an important area for producing high levels of moose for human consumptive use and to help meet subsistence needs. The Unit 13 IM program has been in place since 2001. During this time, the moose populations have generally increased, and moose hunting opportunities have been liberalized. The department recommends that this program continue with the goal of reaching the IM objectives established by the board.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department **SUPPORTS** this proposal.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal is not expected to result in additional costs to the department

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**PROPOSAL 143 – 5AAC 92.990(21).** Definition of deleterious exotic wildlife.

**PROPOSED BY:** The Board of Game

**WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?** This proposal adds Eurasian collared doves to the definition of deleterious exotic wildlife.

**WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?**

5 AAC 92.990(a)(21) “deleterious exotic wildlife” includes

- (A) English sparrow;
- (B) Raccoon;
- (C) Starling
- (D) Unconfined or unrestrained;
  - i. Belgian hare;
  - ii. Muridae rodent;
  - iii. Rockdove;
- (E) Feral
  - i. Ferret;
  - ii. Swine;

There is no open season or bag limit for Eurasian collared doves.

**WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?** Including Eurasian collard doves in the definition of deleterious exotic wildlife would result in a no closed season and no bag limit for the birds.

**BACKGROUND:** Eurasian collared doves were accidentally introduced to North America in the 1980s. Collared doves are not migratory, but they are strong dispersers. The first populations were established in Florida, and they had spread across the US by 2004. In Alaska, they have been sighted in the Interior, Central, and Southwest portions of the state.

Eurasian collared doves compete with other dove species for resources, but their impacts are not well studied.

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The department **SUPPORTS** this proposal.

**COST ANALYSIS:** Adoption of this proposal is not expected to result in additional costs to the department.

