

**This is a summary of changes adopted by the Alaska Board of Game for regulatory year 2016-2017. This is not a comprehensive list of all the detailed changes. It is your responsibility to read the Alaska Hunting Regulations carefully for complete information. These regulations do not become effective until July 1, 2016 so do not affect hunting or trapping seasons that are currently open or that open prior to July 1, 2016 unless specified (such as spring bear seasons and bear baiting).**

## **HUNTING**

### **BAITING CHANGES EFFECTIVE FALL 2016**

**GMUs 1-5**, removed the requirement for GPS location to be provided at the time the bait site is registered.

**All GMUs open to bear baiting**, allowed the use of furbearer carcasses as bear bait. Updated the signs required at bait sites to say “Bear Bait Station” instead of “Black Bear Bait Station” or “Black and Brown Bear Bait Station”. Required the specific locations of the bait sites be given at the time of registration. Removed the requirement to salvage the meat of brown bears taken over bait.

## **BROWN BEAR**

**Unit 22**, increased the number of drawing permits available to nonresidents from 12 to 21.

## **CARIBOU**

**Units 9A, 9C, 17, 18, 19A, and 19B (Mulchatna herd)**, changed the bag limit to allow hunters to take two caribou of either sex, with season dates of August 1 - March 15 in Units 9A, 9C, 18, 19A, and 19B, and allowed hunters to take two caribou of either sex, with season dates of August 1 - March 31 in Units 9B and 17.

**Units 21, 24, 25, 26B, and 26C**, required all residents, including those that live north of the Yukon River, to obtain a general season harvest ticket prior to caribou hunting in those portions of the units north of the Yukon River.

**Unit 22**, created a registration permit for all residents hunting caribou in Unit 22, changed all cow seasons to close March 31, changed bull seasons in all areas of Unit 22 (except for Unit 22B west of Golovin Bay and Unit 22D Pilgrim River) to July 1 - June 30, and decreased the bag limit to 20 caribou total. No changes to nonresident seasons or bag limits, and nonresidents are still required to use a harvest ticket.

## **MOOSE**

**Unit 16B**, extended the youth hunt to end January 31<sup>st</sup> instead of December 15<sup>th</sup>, added a registration hunt with a bag limit of one bull and season dates of December 15 - the last day of

February, and added a drawing hunt with a bag limit of one bull and season dates of December 15 - last day of February. This hunt structure allows the department to manage by registration permit in areas where the population can sustain the additional harvest of bulls without concern, and to manage by drawing permit in areas where there is concern of over harvest.

The definition of “**Spike-fork antlers**” was updated to “antlers of a bull moose with only one or two tines on at least one antler, a point or tine 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.”

## **MOUNTAIN GOAT**

**Unit 14C, Lake George**, changed the nonresident registration goat hunt to a drawing hunt.

## **SHEEP**

**All GMUs**, established a bag limit of one sheep every four years for all nonresident sheep hunters. This applies to all hunts (drawing, registration, and general season harvest tickets).

**All GMUs open to sheep hunting by general season harvest ticket**, created a youth hunt only for residents and nonresidents, season dates August 1 - August 5. The bag limit counts toward both the youth and the accompanying adult.

Defined “**broken**” as it applies to the definition of full-curl sheep as “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.”

## **WOLF**

**Unit 20C within the townships in the Stampede corridor area**, shortened the wolf hunting season to close April 15. Trapping stays open until April 30.

## **CORMORANT(pelagic and double crested only)**

**Units 6, 8, 9, 10, 17, 18, 22, and 23** reduced the season to September 1 - April 1 to comply with federal restrictions.

## **SNOWY OWL**

**Units 17, 18, 22, 23, and 26** reduced the season to September 1 - April 1 to comply with federal restrictions.

## **DELETERIOUS EXOTIC WILDLIFE**

All GMUs, opened a no bag limit, no closed season on Eurasian Collared doves.

## **PERMIT HUNTS**

Required guides to put in for their nonresident clients for all drawing hunts that require a guide, and required guides to submit a UVC for each hunt at the time of application. Implementation of this will occur during the winter 2017 application period.

Applicants for drawing hunts can now apply for six hunts for most species. For moose, applicants may apply for up to 6 moose hunts, however only three of which may be bull hunts. All six may be antlerless hunts. Applicants may apply for the same hunt number as many times as is allowed for that species, but not more than six times on all individual and party applications combined. Specific exemptions to this rule for Kodiak brown bears and moose in the Koyukuk Controlled Use Area, Unit 21E, and Unit 23 remain in effect and unchanged.

Targeted permits are now included with the other permits that can be impacted by a hunter failing to report, and hunters on the failure to report list will be ineligible to receive targeted, drawing, registration (including Tier I Nelchina caribou), and Tier II permits.

The department will implement changes in hunt structure between Tier I and Tier II hunts, and vice-versa, during the next regularly scheduled application period.

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

Brown bears, mountain goats, and sheep taken by nonresidents that are personally accompanied by resident relatives within the second-degree of kindred will count towards the bag limit of both the resident relative and the nonresident. Implementation of this is expected to occur between now and July 1, 2018, the exact implementation date will be noticed in the hunting regulations and other materials.

Prohibited the use of all forward-looking-infrared (FLIR) devices for hunting.

Clarified a person who has been airborne may not take or assist in taking a big game animal and a person may not be assisted by a person who has been airborne in taking a big game animal until after 3:00 am following the day in which the flying occurred. All provisions allowing harvest the same day a person was airborne remain in place and unchanged.

Clarified big game locking tags must be locked on the portion of the animal required to be salvaged prior to leaving the kill site.

Clarified the retrieval and salvage of wounded game must be done by legal methods of take only.

Prohibited the transport of the hide and skull of black and brown bears from the field until the edible meat has been salvaged (when the salvage of the meat is required).

Allowed the sale of raw and tanned brown bear hides (with claws attached) and skulls of legally taken brown bears harvested in areas with a two brown bear bag limit (currently **Units 16B, 17, 19A, 19D, 20E, 22A, and 25D**).

**Units 15B and 16B**, changed the GMU boundaries so Kalgin Island is now in Unit 15B instead of 16B.

## **CROSSBOWS AND ARCHERY EQUIPMENT**

Lighted sight pins are now allowed in restricted weapons hunts, provided no beam is projected from the device.

The definition of **“barbed”** was updated to “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; a notch or space of no more than two millimeters between the base of the blade and the shaft shall not be considered a barb.”

The definition of **“crossbow”** was updated by removing the minimum draw length and by specifying it must be shoulder-mounted.

Beginning July 1, 2018, crossbow certification will be required for all big game hunters using crossbows, and the certification card must be carried with them while hunting in the field.

Bowhunter certification is no longer required for hunters born before January 1, 1986, unless they are hunting in an archery only hunt, in which case the certification card must be carried with them in the field when they are hunting.

Slingbows are not a legal method of taking big game.

## **TRAPPING**

**Units 1-5**, removed the trap ID and sign requirement for all traps.

**Units 12 and 20E**, removed the trap ID and sign requirement.

Defined **“underwater”** to mean “the trap or snare must be placed below the waterline and the restraining portion of the trap or snare must be in the water.”

## **INTENSIVE MANAGEMENT**

**Unit 13**, reauthorized the Unit 13 predator control plan for another ten years. Reauthorization does not mean predator control will occur every year for the next ten years, but gives the department the ability to conduct predator control if necessary.

**Unit 20A**, changed the Intensive Management population and harvest objectives for moose to a population objective of 10,000-15,000 and a harvest objective of 500-900.