



## Alaska Board of Game

P.O. Box 115526

Juneau, AK 99811-5526

(907) 465-4110

[www.boardofgame.adfg.alaska.gov](http://www.boardofgame.adfg.alaska.gov)

**ALASKA BOARD OF GAME**  
**Interior/Northeast Arctic Region Meeting**  
**Fairbanks, Alaska**  
**February 17-25, 2017**

**MEETING SUMMARY**

The Board of Game (board) convened the Interior/Northeast Arctic Region meeting on Friday, February 17, 2017 at Pikes Waterfront Lodge in Fairbanks, Alaska. All seven board members were present: Ted Spraker, Chair, Nate Turner, Vice-Chair, Stosh Hoffman, Teresa Sager Albaugh, Dave Brown, Karen Linnell, and Larry Van Daele.

Following introductions and ethics disclosure statements, the board listened to oral reports from agency representatives. (See the list of oral reports in Record Copy (RC) 1.) This included a discussion with Attorney General Jahna Lindemuth, on the topic of federal acquisition of tribal lands into trust. In addition to the oral reports given on Friday, the board received a presentation on Saturday, February 19, by the representatives from Environment Yukon and the Porcupine Caribou Management Board. On Tuesday, February 21 (0:57:48), U.S. Senator Dan Sullivan addressed the board, speaking on the topics of H.J. Resolution 69, which would overturn U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service regulations, and the newly appointed Secretary of the Department of Interior.

Public testimony began Friday, February 17, 2017 at 4:45 p.m. The board heard from 66 testifiers (see RC 47), 14 of which were advisory committee representatives. Deliberations on proposals began Monday morning.

The board took action on 109 proposals, adopting 42 and deferring four to future meetings. Board Actions are recorded as: C = Carried; F = Failed; CA = Carried as Amended; NA = No Action; D = Deferred; and DA = Deferred as Amended.

The meeting audio, including the audio and all other meeting materials are available online at [www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=gameboard.meetinginfo&date=02-17-2017&meeting=fairbanks](http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=gameboard.meetinginfo&date=02-17-2017&meeting=fairbanks). To listen to the board discussion, the audio log information is provided for each section of proposals.

### **Regional/Multiple Unit Proposals**

*The audio for Board deliberations on this section begins on Monday, February 20 at 0:55:11.*

- C 46 Reauthorize resident brown bear tag fee exemptions in the Interior/Northeast Arctic Region.
- F 47 Change the definition of “edible meat” for game birds.

- C 48 Allow the use of crossbows in restricted-weapons hunts.
- F 71 Allow the use of crossbows in archery hunts in Unit 20 for hunters over 60.
- CA 49 Remove the bag limit restriction for resident relatives accompanying nonresident second degree of kindred. *The board amended the proposal to apply statewide.*
- NA 50 Remove the bag limit restriction for resident relatives accompanying nonresident second degree of kindred for the Interior Region. *The board took no action based on the action taken on Proposal 49.*
- F 51 Prohibit nonresident hunting of any prey species under intensive management in the Interior/Northeast Arctic Region until harvest and population objectives are met.
- F 52 Establish a ten percent nonresident drawing permit allocation cap in the Interior/Northeast Arctic Region for Dall sheep, moose, brown bear, and caribou.
- NA 53 Clarify the resident general and subsistence hunting seasons and the nonresident general hunting seasons for caribou in Interior/Northeast Arctic and the Arctic/Western Regions. *The board took no action due a request from the author of the proposal author to withdraw it.*
- NA 54 Change “general season” to “subsistence hunt” for Interior/Northeast Arctic Region black bear hunts having positive customary and traditional use findings. *The board took no action due a request from the proposal author to withdraw it.*
- NA 55 Clarify the resident general and subsistence hunting seasons and the nonresident general hunting seasons for moose in Units 12, 19, 20, 21, and 24 . *The board took no action due a request from the proposal author to withdraw it.*
- NA 56 Clarify the resident general and subsistence hunting seasons and the nonresident general hunting seasons for Dall sheep for Units 19, 24, 25A, and 26. *The board took no action due a request from the proposal author to withdraw it.*
- F 57 Establish a nonresident sheep harvest cap of 12% for the Interior/Northeast Arctic Region.
- NA 58 Establish a 25% cap on nonresident harvest of Dall sheep and make all general hunts for nonresidents draw hunts in the Interior/Northeast Arctic Region. *The board took no action due to the action on proposal 57.*
- F 59 Establish a ten percent nonresident sheep permit allocation for the Interior/Northeast Arctic Region.
- NA 60 Establish a ten percent nonresident sheep permit allocation for the Interior/Northeast Arctic Region. *The board took no action due to the action on proposal 59.*
- NA 61 Establish a ten percent nonresident sheep permit allocation for the Interior/Northeast Arctic Region. *The board took no action due to the action on proposal 59.*
- NA 62 Establish a ten percent nonresident sheep harvest allocation cap and change all nonresident sheep hunts to drawing permit hunts in the Interior/Northeast Arctic Region. *The board took no action due to the action on proposal 57.*

- F 63 Remove the restriction on the use of aircraft for spotting Dall sheep in the Interior/Northeast Arctic Region.
- F 64 Restrict the harvest of Dall sheep in the Interior/Northeast Arctic Region to one every five years.
- F 65 Remove the nonresident bag limit restriction of one sheep every four years for the Interior/Northeast Arctic Region.
- F 66 Open an archery-only hunting season for Dall sheep in the Interior/Northeast Arctic Region.
- F 67 Lengthen the season for bear baiting in the Interior/Northeast Region.
- F 68 Change the “any bull” or “one bull” bag limits to “any antlered bull” for all moose hunts in the Interior/Northeast Arctic Region.
- F 69 Lengthen the archery-only hunting seasons for moose in Unit 20 and open an archery-only hunting season for moose in all of Unit 20.
- F 70 Open a resident disabled veteran hunting season for moose in the Interior/Northeast Arctic Region.
- F 72 Allow the harvest of wolf and coyote by land and shoot with a trapping license in the Interior/Northeast Arctic Region.
- CA 73 Allow the use of dogs to hunt coyote in Unit 20. *The board amended the proposal to apply only to Unit 20D and to require hunters to register with ADF&G before hunting. (Deliberation on this proposal also occurred on Saturday, February 25, at 0:01:18)*

#### **McGrath Area Proposals – Units 19, 21A, and 21E**

*The audio log for Board deliberations on this section begins on February 20 at 6:19:54 and continues on February 21 at 0:02:17. Prior to the deliberations, the board received an area overview by ADF&G.*

- F 74 Change the antler restrictions for resident moose hunting in Unit 19B.
- CA 75 Reauthorize the predation control program in Unit 21E. *The board amended the proposal to reauthorize the program for 6 years instead of 9, and changed wording in paragraph 4B to read “population or harvest objectives”*
- C 76 Lengthen the hunting season for moose in Unit 21E.
- C 77 Increase the bag limit for brown bear in Unit 21E.
- F 78 Lengthen the hunting season for brown bear in Unit 19C.
- CA 79 Allow the harvest of brown bear at bear bait stations in Unit 19A. *The board amended the proposal to add Unit 19D.*
- F 80 Remove the restriction on boat horsepower in the Holitna-Hoholitna Controlled Use Area in Unit 19A.
- CA 81 Specify airports allowed for transporting moose hunters within the Upper Kuskokwim Controlled Use Area. *The board amended the proposal so that the CUA is in effect only during moose hunting season.*

- F 82 Change the nonresident sheep season in Unit 19C to a drawing permit hunt with up to 80 permits .
- D 83 Open a nonresident draw hunt for caribou in Units 18 and 19. *The board deferred the proposal to the Central/Southwest meeting scheduled for February 2018.*

### **Tok Area Proposals – Units 12 and 20E**

*The audio log for Board deliberations on this section begins on February 21 at 2:55:22. Prior to the deliberations, the board received an area overview by ADF&G.*

- F 84 Lengthen the trapping season for wolf in Units 12 and 20E.
- NA 85 Open a resident drawing hunt for caribou in Unit 20E. *The board took no action based on a request by the author of the proposal.*
- D 86 Close an area ¼ mile on either side of the Taylor Highway to hunting during caribou season, and limit the number of permits. *The board deferred the proposal to the November 2017 Board meeting.*
- C 87 Lengthen the Glacier Mountain Controlled Use Area hunting season.
- C 88 Clarify the boundary of the Unit 12 antler-restricted moose hunting area within the Tok River drainage.
- F 89 Change the antler restrictions for moose in Unit 12.
- D 90 Expand the Copper Basin community subsistence harvest hunt area by adding a part of Unit 12. *The board deferred the proposal to the March 2017 meeting in Glennallen.*
- F 91 Modify the hunting season and bag limits for grouse in Unit 12.

### **Galena Area Proposals – Units 21B, 21C, 21D, and 24**

*The audio log for Board deliberations on this section begins on February 22 at 1:07:16. Prior to the deliberations, the board received an area overview by ADF&G.*

- F 94 Modify the hunting season for moose in Unit 21D.
- C 95 Eliminate the drawing permits DM812 in Unit 21C and DM896 in the remainder of Unit 24C and change the RM834 subsistence registration permit to a general registration permit without the antler destruction requirement. *The board clarified the implementation date would be July 1, 2018.*
- D 93 Remove the Bettles Winter Trail travel exception for public use within the Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area. *The board deferred proposal 93 to the Central/Southwest Region meeting scheduled for February 2018.*
- C 96 Expand the winter hunting season for moose to include all of Unit 24B.
- F 97 Remove the nonresident guide requirement for moose hunts in the Interior/Northeast Arctic Region, and change the permit allocation in Unit 21B.

- C 92 Allow the harvest of brown bear at bear bait stations in Unit 21C. – *The board clarified same day airborne take is allowed provided the hunter is 300 feet from the airplane.*
- NA 98 Eliminate the requirement for a nonresident wolf tag in Unit 21 – *The board took no action because ADF&G has the administrative authority to implement.*
- F 99 Lengthen the hunting seasons for wolf in Units 24-26.
- F 100 Institute no-fly zones for caribou hunting in Units 21D, 22, 23, 24, & 26A.

### **Northeast Alaska Area Proposals - Units 25A, 25B, 25D, 26B, and 26**

*The audio log for Board deliberations on this section begins on February 22 at 4:31:44 and continues on February 23 at 0:03:28. Prior to the deliberations, the board received an area overview by ADF&G.*

- F 101 Create a regulation allowing the harvest of moose under a permit for “celebration of life” events.
- NA 102 Evaluate a separate amount reasonably necessary for subsistence for the Teshekpuk caribou herd. *The board took no action due to their action at the January 2017 meeting.*
- NA 103 Modify the hunt structure of the Western Arctic and Teshekpuk caribou herds. *The board took no action based on previous action at the 2016 Statewide Regulations meeting.*
- CA 105 Change the nonresident bag limit for caribou and resident cow season in Unit 26B. *The board amended the proposal with substitute language (RC 22) which changed the resident bag limit for Unit 26B remainder to two bulls with season dates as August 1-April 30; and the nonresident bag limit for all of Unit 26B to one bull, with season dates of August 1-September 15.*
- CA 104 Expand the bag limits for caribou in Units 24A, 25A, 25D, 26B and 26C. *The board amended the proposal with substitute language (RC 61) to align season dates and bag limits.*
- CA 113 Modify the resident bag limit for Dall sheep in Units 24B, 25A, 26B, and 26C. *The board amended the proposal to apply only to Unit 24B, with a bag limit of 3 sheep; one of which may be a ewe.*
- F 107 Lengthen the hunting seasons for brown bear in Unit 26B, and change the nonresident drawing permit to a registration permit.
- C 106 Open a resident archery season for brown bear in Unit 26B.
- CA 108 Reevaluate the customary and traditional use finding for brown bear in Unit 25D. *The board adopted a positive finding for customary and traditional use for brown bear in Unit 25D.*
- CA 109 Lengthen the brown bear hunting seasons in Units 25 and 26. *The board amended the proposal to change the season opening date for Units 25A, 25B, and 26C to July 25.*
- C 110 Increase the bag limit for black bear in Unit 25B.
- F 111 Open a snaring season for black bear in Unit 25D.
- NA 112 Allow same-day airborne hunting for wolf in Unit 25D. *The board took no action due to the federal Airborne Hunting Act.*

- CA 114 Lengthen the hunting season for wolverine in Unit 26. *The board amended the proposal to apply to Units 26B and 26C, with a season opening date of August 20.*
- CA 115 Lengthen the trapping season for lynx in Unit 25. *The board amended the proposal to set the season end date as March 15 for Unit 25.*

### **Delta Area Proposals – Unit 20D**

*The audio log for Board deliberations on this section begins on February 23 at 5:20:34. Prior to the deliberations, the board received an area overview by ADF&G.*

- F 116 Reduce the bag and possession limit for ruffed grouse in Unit 20D.
- F 117 Allow the harvest of brown bear at bear bait stations in Unit 20D.
- NA 118 Allow the harvest of brown bear at bear bait stations in Unit 20D. *The board took no action to the action taken on proposals 119 and 117.*
- CA 119 Allow the harvest of brown bear at bear bait stations in Unit 20D. *The board amended the proposal to apply only to Unit 20D North.*
- NA 120 Allow the harvest of brown bear at bear bait stations in Unit 20D. *The board took no action to the action taken on proposals 119 and 117.*
- NA 121 Allow the harvest of brown bear at bear bait stations in Unit 20D. *The board took no action to the action taken on proposals 119 and 117.*
- C 122 Reauthorize antlerless moose hunting seasons in Unit 20D.
- F 123 Lengthen the resident hunting season for moose in Unit 20.D
- NA 124 Require proof of qualifying status prior to awarding disabled veterans' drawing permits in Unit 20D within the Delta Junction Management Area, and implement other changes. *The board took no action because ADF&G has administrative authority to implement.*

### **Fairbanks Area Proposals – Units 20A, 20B, 20C, 20F, and 25C**

*The audio log for Board deliberations on this section begins on February 24 at 1:06:25. Prior to the deliberations, the board received an area overview by ADF&G.*

- C 125 Reauthorize the antlerless moose hunting seasons in Unit 20A
- CA 126 Modify the muzzleloader hunting season for moose in Unit 20A. *The board amended the proposal to set the season dates as November 1 through December 15.*
- F 127 Change the antler restrictions for moose hunting in Unit 20A.
- NA 128 Change the antler restrictions for moose hunting in Unit 20A. *The board took no action to action on proposal 127.*
- NA 129 Change the antler restrictions for moose hunting in Unit 20A. *The board took no action to action on proposal 127.*

- C 130 Reauthorize antlerless moose hunting seasons in Unit 20B, and remove incorrect language for the winter muzzleloader registration hunt for bulls and the targeted antlerless hunts in Unit 20B.
- F 131 Modify the hunting season dates for antlerless moose in Unit 20B.
- F 132 Lengthen the nonresident hunting season for moose in Unit 20B remainder.
- F 133 Restrict waterfowl hunting in the Chena Slough, Unit 20.
- F 134 Create a management area for the Eielson Farm Road area in Unit 20.
- C 135 Lengthen the trapping season for wolverine in Unit 20C.
- CA 136 Reevaluate the intensive management finding for the Delta caribou herd. *The board reversed the positive finding for intensive management for the Delta caribou herd; gave direction to ADF&G for a population objective a 3000-4000 caribou and a harvest objective of 100-150; and increased the number of permits to be issued, up to 500.*
- NA 137 Implement an intensive management program for the Delta caribou herd. *The board took no action due to their action on proposal 136.*
- F 138 Lengthen the hunting season for brown bear in Units 20A and 20B remainder.
- C 139 Allow the harvest of brown bear at bear bait stations in Unit 20F.
- NA 140 Allow the harvest of brown bear at bear bait stations in Unit 20F. *The board took no action due to action on proposal 139.*
- F 142 Close a portion of Unit 20 near Denali National Park to the taking of wolf.
- NA 141 Close a portion of Unit 20C to the taking of wolf – *The board took no action due to the action taken on proposal 142.*

### **Other Regional Proposals**

*The audio for Board deliberations on this section begins on February 24 at 5:55:38.*

- C 143 Reauthorize the antlerless moose hunting seasons in Unit 1C.
- C 144 Reauthorize the antlerless moose hunting season in Unit 5A, the Nunatak Bench hunt.
- C 145 Reauthorize the antlerless moose hunting season in Unit 6C.
- C 146 Reauthorize the antlerless moose hunting season in the Twentymile/ Portage/ Placer hunt area in Units 7 and 14C.
- C 147 Reauthorize the antlerless moose hunting seasons in Unit 13.
- C 148 Reauthorize the antlerless moose hunting season on Kalgin Island in Unit 15B.
- C 149 Reauthorize the antlerless moose hunting season and targeted moose season in a portion of Unit 15C.
- C 150 Reauthorize the antlerless moose hunting season in Unit 17A.
- C 151 Reauthorize the antlerless moose hunting seasons in Units 14A and 14B.
- C 152 Reauthorize the antlerless moose hunting seasons in Unit 14C.

- C 153 Reauthorize resident brown bear tag fee exemptions in the Central/Southwest Region.
- C 159 Require hunters on the Kenai Peninsula to take an ADF&G approved hunter orientation course for identifying legal moose.

### **Additional Actions**

On February 23, the board adopted a finding of emergency for caribou hunting in Unit 13 in response to a petition submitted by ADF&G (RC 57). The board adopted temporary emergency regulations (RC 59) to increase the caribou bag limit for the Tier I and Community Subsistence Harvest hunts, and to give ADF&G authority to open a registration hunt by emergency order. (*Audio log 3:46:34*).

On February 25, 2017, the board took the following actions under miscellaneous business: (*The audio log for this section begins at 0:18:17*)

1. The board discussed the topic of intensive management of identified big game prey populations (5 AAC 92.106) and whether illegal harvest or road and train mortalities should count towards the harvest objectives. The board did not take any action on the topic.
2. The board approved findings (RC 45) providing recommendations to ADF&G during the Interior/Northeast Arctic Region meeting.
3. Member Linnell was assigned to work with ADF&G to review the ADF&G policies for issuing cultural and educational permits.
4. The board reviewed draft changes to the Agenda Change Request Policy (RC 67). ADF&G intends to submit a proposal for the 2017 Statewide Regulations meeting.
5. The board discussed the Board of Game seat on the Big Game Commercial Services Board (BGCSB). The board did not assign a member to fill the seat but will address it again at a future meeting.
6. The board changed the location for the February 2018 Central/Southwest Region meeting from Wasilla to Dillingham.
7. The board discussed a request from the public to increase testimony time for representatives providing oral comment for organizations. Currently, organizations are allowed five minutes and advisory committees and regional advisory councils are allotted 15 minutes. No action was taken.
8. The board reviewed a packet of legislative bills (RC 72) related to the Board of Game. No action was taken.
9. The board reviewed a draft letter (RC 70) urging Congress to repeal the recent US Fish and Wildlife Service rulemaking per HJR 69. Member Sager Albaugh was assigned to finalize the letter by incorporating the concepts and edits expressed during the discussion.

The meeting adjourned February 25, 2017 at approximately 12:00 p.m.