



Alaska Board of Game

P.O. Box 115526

Juneau, AK 99811-5526

(907) 465-4110

www.boardofgame.adfg.alaska.gov

Dear Reviewer,

August 2016

The Alaska Board of Game will consider the enclosed regulatory proposals at its two regulatory meetings scheduled in **January and February 2017**. The proposals generally concern changes to hunting and trapping regulations for the Interior, Western, and Arctic Regions of the state. Members of the public, organizations, advisory committees, and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) submitted these proposals. With the exception of minor edits, the proposals are published essentially as they were received.

The proposals are presented as brief statements summarizing the intended regulatory changes. In cases where confusion might arise or where the regulation is complex, proposed changes are indicated in legal format. In this format, bolded and underlined words are **additions** to the regulation text, and capitalized words in square brackets are [DELETIONS].

You are encouraged to read all proposals in this book as some proposals may have statewide application and affect other regions and units. Proposals are grouped by each meeting to which they pertain (see Proposal Index). The proposals are listed in the tentative order in which they are expected to be considered during the meeting. The final order of proposals to be deliberated on, also known as the “roadmap,” will be available at least two weeks prior to the meetings.

Public Comment Requested: Before taking action on these proposed changes to the regulations, the board would like to consider your written comments and/or oral testimony on any effects the proposed changes would have on your activities and interests.

The board relies heavily on written comments and oral testimony explaining the effect of the proposed changes. Public comment, in combination with Advisory Committee comments and ADF&G staff reports provide the board with useful biological and socioeconomic data to form decisions. Written comments can be submitted:

Online: www.boardofgame.adfg.alaska.gov

Fax: 907-465-6094

Mail: ADF&G Boards Support Section
ATTN: Board of Game Comments
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Timely Submission: Written comments are encouraged to be submitted by the set deadline for each meeting, usually two weeks in advance. Comments received by the deadlines are provided to the board and the public on the meeting information website in advance of the meeting. After the deadline but before the meeting, written comments are accepted via fax and mail only, and will be

provided to board members at the meeting. Finally, comments are accepted in person at board meetings by submitting 20 copies. All meeting materials, including written comments, are uploaded to the meeting information website and distributed to board members, agency staff, and the public during the meeting.

Tips for Providing Written Comments:

- Clearly state the proposal number and your position by indicating “support” or “oppose” to the proposal(s). If the comments support a modification in the proposal, please indicate “support as amended” and provide your preferred amendment in writing.
- Include your name and if including graphs or charts, please indicate the source.
- Briefly explain why you support or oppose the proposal. The board benefits greatly from understanding the pros and cons of each issue. Board actions are based on a complete review of the facts involved, not the sum of total comments for or against a proposal.
- Keep comments brief. Clearly stating proposals and one’s position with supporting rationale will be helpful for the board members.
- Page limits: For on-time comments, the board will accept up to 100 single-sided pages from any one individual or organization. For comments received after the on-time period or during the meetings, comment is limited to ten single-sided pages.
- If making comments on more than one proposal, please do not use separate pieces of paper. Simply begin the next set of written comments by listing the next proposal number.
- Write clearly, use dark ink and write legibly. Comments will be scanned and photocopied so please use 8 1/2" x 11" paper and leave reasonable margins.

Advisory Committees: In addition to the above, please make sure Advisory Committee (AC) meeting minutes reflect why the AC voted as it did. If the vote was split, include the minority opinion. A brief description consisting of a couple of sentences is sufficient. Detail the number of members in attendance (e.g., 12 of 15 members) and indicate represented interests such as subsistence, guides, trappers, hunters, wildlife viewers, and others. AC members are strongly encouraged to use the format prescribed by the board, and provided by Boards Support regional coordinators. For more information on providing recommendations on proposals and testimony during board meetings, refer to the AC manual available online and from Boards Support Section.

Meeting information, documents, and a link to the audio is available through the Board of Game website at www.boardofgame.adfg.alaska.gov, or through ADF&G Boards Support Section. Preliminary board actions will also be posted on the website during the meeting, followed by final actions after the meeting.

Persons with a disability needing special accommodations in order to comment on the proposed regulations should contact the Boards Support Section at (907) 465-4110 at least two weeks prior to the schedule meeting to make any necessary arrangements.

Thank you for your interest and involvement with the Board of Game and the regulatory process.

Sincerely,

Kristy Tibbles, Executive Director
Alaska Board of Game

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Guidelines for Testifying at Board Meetings

Persons planning to testify before Board of Game hearings must fill out a blue PUBLIC TESTIMONY SIGN-UP CARD and turn it in to the board's staff. Persons providing written material for the board members must provide at least **20 copies** to the staff, and **submit with your blue testimony card**. Do not wait until it is your turn to testify to submit written material, as it may not be distributed to the board in time for your testimony. **Provide a name and date on the first page of written material and identify the source of graphs or tables, if included in materials.**

When the chair calls your name, please go to the microphone; state your name and whom you represent. At the front table, a green light will come on when you begin speaking. A yellow light will come on when you have one minute remaining. A red light will indicate that your time is up. When you are finished speaking, please stay seated and wait for any questions board members may have regarding your comments.

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

If you are giving testimony for yourself as well as an organization (i.e., yourself plus an advisory committee or other organization), you only need to turn in one sign-up card, listing each group you will be representing. When you begin your testimony, state for the record who you are representing. Keep your individual comments and comments for your organization separate. For example: give comments for the organization you are representing; then, after stating clearly that you are now testifying for yourself, give your individual comments. Each testimony is allotted its own time.

The board chair will announce the length of time for testimony at the beginning of the meeting. Generally, the board allows five minutes for oral testimony for an individual or an organization; Advisory Committees typically have 15 minutes. Time limits on testimony do not include questions the board members may have for you.

Advisory Committee representatives should restrict testimony to relaying the advisory committee's discussions. Testimony should be a brief summary of the minutes of the meeting, and copies of the minutes should be available for the board members. An Advisory Committee representative's personal opinions should not be addressed during Advisory Committee testimony.



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About the Board of Game & Advisory Committees

Alaska Board of Game

The Board of Game is Alaska’s regulatory authority for adopting regulations to conserve and develop the state’s wildlife resources and to allocate uses of those resources. The board consists of seven members, serving three-year terms. Each member is appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Alaska State Legislature.

The board considers regulatory topics on a three-year cycle, with two to three meetings each year to address proposed regulations on a regional basis. Each year, the board solicits proposals for new regulations and changes to existing regulations. Any individual or organization may submit proposals and offer oral and/or written testimony for the board’s consideration. More information about the Board of Game members, process and meeting information is online at: www.boardofgame.adfg.alaska.gov.

Advisory Committees

The local fish and game advisory committees (ACs) play a key role in the regulatory process for both fisheries and wildlife management. While the board makes the final decisions on proposed regulations, they rely heavily on ACs to offer their local knowledge on fish and wildlife issues of interest by submitting proposals and comments on proposals.

There are 84 advisory committees in the state; nearly all actively participate in the state as well as the federal regulatory processes. AC members serve three-year terms, and are elected by local community members. ACs begin meeting as early as September throughout the board meeting cycle to review proposals and submit recommendations to the boards. Meetings are open to the public. Meeting information is online at: <http://www.advisory.adfg.alaska.gov>, or through Boards Support regional coordinators.

Boards Support Regional Coordinators facilitate AC participation with the board process by coordinating meetings and ensuring the ACs have the necessary information to be effective. For information about ACs, contact the Regional Coordinators at:

Interior Region

Nissa Pilcher

907-459-7263

nissa.pilcher@alaska.gov

Arctic Region

Carmen Daggett

907-442-1717

carmen.daggett@alaska.gov

Southeast Region (North)

Frances Leach

907-465-4046

frances.leach@alaska.gov

Southcentral Region

Sherry Wright

907-267-2354

sherry.wright@alaska.gov

Southwest Region

Taryn O’Connor-Brito

907-842-5142

taryn.oconnor-brito@alaska.gov

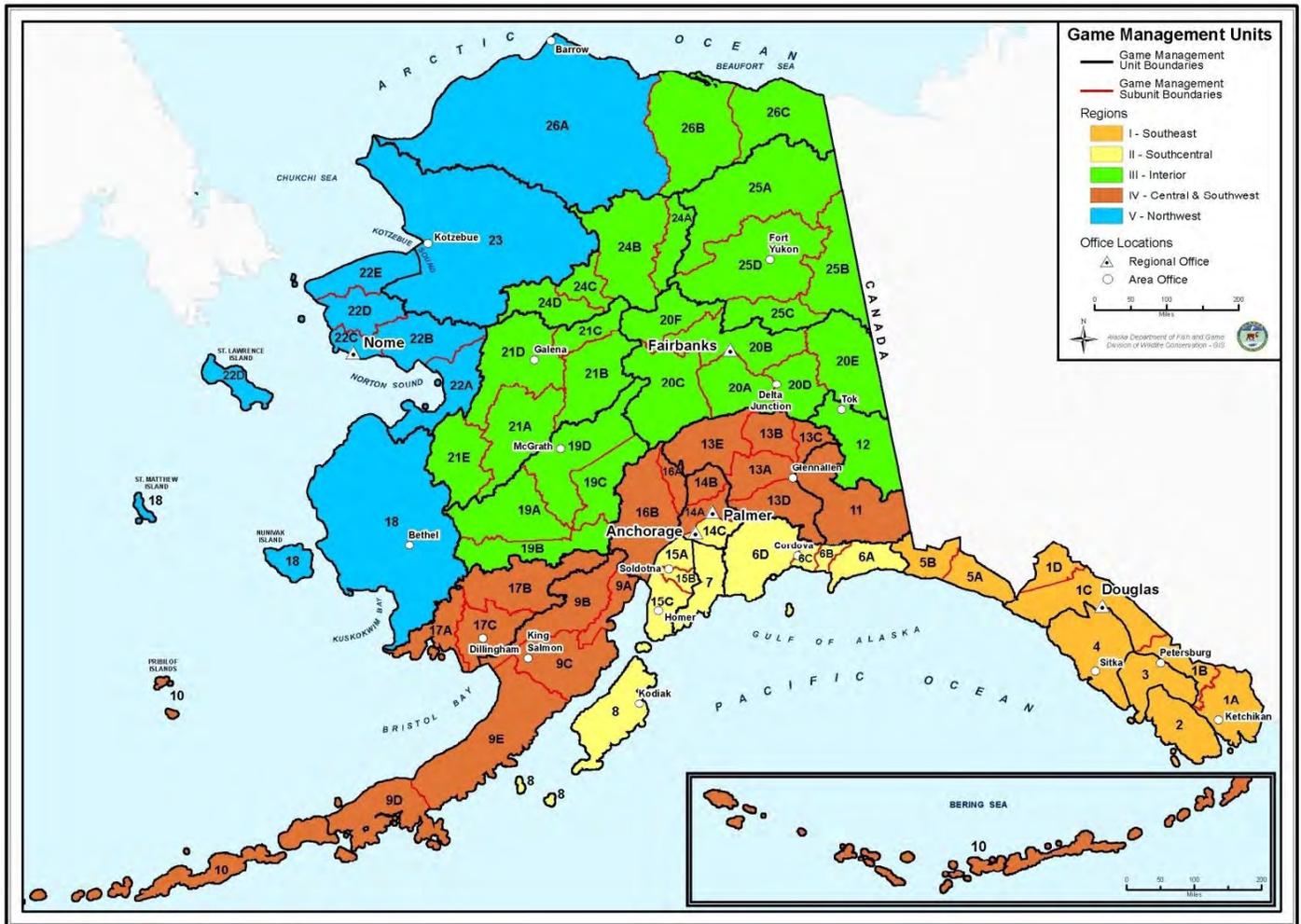
Southeast Region (South)

Jessalynn Rintala

907-465-6097

jessalynn.rintala@alaska.gov

Region and Game Management Unit Boundaries



Commonly Used Acronyms & Terms

AAC	Alaska Administrative Code	DWC	ADF&G, Division of Wildlife Conservation
AC	Advisory Committee	EO	Emergency Order
ADF&G	Alaska Department of Fish and Game	FSB	Federal Subsistence Board
ANS	Amount reasonably necessary for subsistence	GMU/Unit	Game Management Unit
AS	Alaska Statute	IM	Intensive management
AWT	Alaska Wildlife Troopers	NPS	National Park Service
Board	Board of Game	OSM	Office of Subsistence Management, US Dept. of the Interior
Caribou		RY	Regulatory year, July 1—June 30
MCH	Mulchatna caribou herd	RAC	Federal Regional Advisory Council
TCH	Teshkepuq caribou herd	USF&WS	US Fish & Wildlife Service
WAH	Western Arctic caribou herd		
C&T	Customary & Traditional Use		
CUA	Controlled Use Area		



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2016/2017 Tentative Meeting Dates & Locations

Meeting Dates	Topic	Location	Comment Deadline
January 5, 2017 (1 day)	Work Session	Bethel Yupitit Piciryarait Cultural Center	December 22, 2016*
January 6-9, 2017 (4 days)	Arctic & Western Region (Units 18, 22, 23, and 26A)	Bethel Yupitit Piciryarait Cultural Center	December 22, 2016*
February 17-25, 2017 (9 days)	Interior & Northeast Arctic Region (Units 12, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25, 26B, and 26C)	Fairbanks Pike's Waterfront Lodge	February 3, 2017

Total Meeting Days: 14

Agenda Change Request Deadline: Friday, November 4, 2016

2017/2018 Cycle Proposal Deadline: Monday, May 1, 2017

**Note – this comment deadline falls on a Thursday.*



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Long Term Meeting Cycle

(Three-year Cycle)

The Board of Game meeting cycle generally occurs from January through March. The board considers changes to regulations on a region-based schedule that cycle every three years. When the regional regulations are before the board, the following regulations are open for consideration within that region:

- Trapping Seasons and Bag Limits -- All species
- General and Subsistence Hunting Seasons and Bag Limits -- All species
- (Except antlerless moose hunts as noted below)
- Intensive Management Plans
- Closures and Restrictions in State Game Refuges
- Management Areas, Controlled Use Areas, and Areas Closed To Hunting and Trapping
- Changes specific to Units or Regions under 5 AAC Chapter 92

Proposals pertaining to reauthorization of all antlerless moose hunts, 5 AAC 85.045, and all brown bear tag fee exemptions, 5 AAC 92.015, are taken up annually. Changes having statewide applicability to 5 AAC Chapters 92 and 98.005 listed on the following page are considered once every three years at Statewide Regulations meetings.

The proposal deadline is May 1 every preceding year. If May 1 falls on a weekend, the deadline is the Friday before. Boards Support issues a “Call for Proposals” generally in December or January before the May 1 deadline, which will also specify which regulations are open for proposed changes.

Topic & Meeting Schedule	
Southeast Region	Game Management Units: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 <i>Meeting Cycle: 2018/2019 2021/2022 2024/2025</i>
Southcentral Region	Game Management Units: 6, 7, 8, 14C, 15 <i>Meeting Cycle: 2018/2019 2021/2022 2024/2025</i>
Central/Southwest Region	Game Management Units: 9, 10, 11, 13, 14A, 14B, 16, & 17 <i>Meeting Cycle: 2017/2018 2020/2021 2023/2024</i>
Arctic and Western Region	Game Management Units: 18, 22, 23, 26A <i>Meeting Cycle: 2016/2017 2019/2020 2022/2023</i>
Interior/Northeast Arctic Region	Game Management Units: 12, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25, 26B, 26C <i>Meeting Cycle: 2016/2017 2019/2020 2022/2023</i>
Statewide Regulations	(see next page) <i>Meeting Years: 2015/2016 2017/2018 2020/2021</i>

The three-year schedule was adopted at the January 2015 Work Session.

ALASKA BOARD OF GAME
Statewide Regulations ~ 5 AAC Chapters 92 and 98

General Provisions & Definitions:

- 92.001 Application of this Chapter
- 92.002 Liability for Violations
- 92.003 Hunter Education and Orientation Requirements
- 92.004 Policy for Off-Road Vehicle Use for Hunting and transporting game.
- 92.990 Definitions

Licenses, Harvest Tickets, Harvest Reports, Tags, and Fees:

- 92.010 Harvest Tickets and Reports
- 92.011 Taking of Game by Proxy
- 92.012 Licenses and Tags
- 92.013 Migratory bird hunting guide services
- 92.018 Waterfowl Conservation Tag
- 92.019 Taking of Big Game for Certain Religious Ceremonies

Permits:

- 92.020 Application of Permit Regulations and Permit Reports
- 92.028 Aviculture Permits
- 92.029 Permit for Possessing Live Game
- 92.030 Possession of Wolf Hybrid and Wild Cat Hybrids Prohibited
- 92.031 Permit for Selling Skins, Skulls, and Trophies
- 92.033 Permit for Science, Education, Propagative, or Public Safety Purposes
- 92.034 Permit to Take Game for Cultural Purposes
- 92.035 Permit for Temporary Commercial Use of Live Game
- 92.037 Permit for Falconry
- 92.039 Permit for Taking Wolves Using Aircraft
- 92.040 Permit for Taking of Furbearers with Game Meat
- 92.041 Permit to Take Beavers to Control Damage to Property
- 92.042 Permit to Take Foxes for Protection of Migratory Birds
- 92.043 Permit for Capturing Wild Furbearers for Fur Farming
- 92.044 Permit for Hunting Black Bear w/the Use of Bait or Scent Lures
- 92.047 Permit for Using Radio Telemetry Equipment
- 92.049 Permits, Permit Procedures, and Permit Conditions
- 92.050 Required Permit Hunt Conditions and Procedures
- 92.051 Discretionary Trapping Permit Conditions & Procedures
- 92.052 Discretionary Permit Hunt Conditions and Procedures
- 92.057 Special Provisions for Dall Sheep Drawing Permit Hunts
- 92.062 Priority for Subsistence Hunting; Tier II Permits
- 92.068 Permit Conditions for Hunting Black Bear with Dogs
- 92.069 Special Provisions for Moose Drawing Permit Hunts
- 92.070 Tier II Subsistence Hunting Permit Point System
- 92.071 Tier I Subsistence Permits
- 92.072 Community subsistence Harvest Hunt Area and Permit Conditions

Methods & Means:

- 92.075 Lawful Methods of Taking Game
- 92.080 Unlawful Methods of Taking Game; Exceptions
- 92.085 Unlawful Methods of Taking Big Game; Exceptions
- 92.090 Unlawful Methods of Taking Fur Animals
- 92.095 Unlawful Methods of Taking Furbearers; Exceptions
- 92.100 Unlawful Methods of Hunting Waterfowl, Snipe, Crane
- 92.104 Authorization for Methods and Means Disability Exemptions

Intensive Management and Predator Control:

- 92.106 Intensive Management of Identified Big Game Prey Populations
- 92.110 Control of Predation by Wolves
- 92.115 Control of Predation by Bears
- 92.116 Special Provisions in Predation Control Areas

Possession and Transportation:

- 92.130 Restrictions to Bag Limit
- 92.135 Transfer of Possession
- 92.140 Unlawful Possession or Transportation of Game
- 92.141 Transport, Harboring, or Release of Live Muridae Rodents Prohibited
- 92.150 Evidence of Sex and Identity
- 92.151 Destruction of trophy value of game required in specific areas.
- 92.165 Sealing of Bear Skins and Skulls
- 92.170 Sealing of Marten, Lynx, Beaver, Otter, Wolf, and Wolverine
- 92.171 Sealing of Dall Sheep Horns

Use of Game:

- 92.200 Purchase and Sale of Game
- 92.210 Game as Animal Food or Bait
- 92.220 Salvage of Game Meat, Furs, and Hides
- 92.230 Feeding of Game
- 92.250 Transfer of Musk oxen for Science and Education Purposes
- 92.260 Taking Cub Bears & Female Bears with Cubs Prohibited

Emergency Taking of Game:

- 92.400 Emergency Taking of Game
- 92.410 Taking Game in Defense of Life or Property
- 92.420 Taking Nuisance Wildlife

Game Management Units:

- 92.450 Description of Game Management Units

Antlerless Moose Reauthorization:

- 98.005 Areas of Jurisdiction for Antlerless Moose Seasons.



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Board of Game Member List

NAME AND ADDRESS	TERM EXPIRES
Ted Spraker, Chair 49230 Victoria Ave. Soldotna, AK 99669	6/30/2017
Nathan Turner, Vice Chair P.O. Box 646 Nenana, AK 99760	6/30/2019
Stosh (Stanley) Hoffman P.O. Box 2374 Bethel, AK 99559	6/30/2017
Teresa Sager Albaugh HC 72 Box 835 Tok, AK 99780	6/30/2018
David Brown P.O. Box 491 Wrangell, AK 99929	6/30/2017
Kip Fanning P.O. Box 333 Yakutat, AK 99689	6/30/2018
Vacant	6/30/2019

Alaska Board of Game members may also be reached through:

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

Boards Support Section

P.O. Box 115526, Juneau, AK 99811-5526

(907) 465-4110 PHONE

(907) 465-6094 FAX

<http://boardofgame.adfg.alaska.gov>

Kristy Tibbles, Executive Director, Alaska Board of Game

e-mail: kristy.tibbles@alaska.gov

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Tentative Agenda – Arctic/Western Region Meeting

Alaska Board of Game

January 6-9, 2017

Yupiit Piciryarait Cultural Center

Bethel, Alaska

NOTE: This Tentative Agenda is subject to change throughout the course of the meeting. This Tentative Agenda is provided to give a general idea of the board's anticipated schedule. The board will attempt to hold to this schedule; however, the board is not constrained by this Tentative Agenda.

Friday January 6, 2017, 8:30 AM

OPENING BUSINESS

Call to Order / Purpose of Meeting

Introductions of Board Members and Staff

Board Member Ethics Disclosures

AGENCY AND OTHER REPORTS

PUBLIC AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE ORAL TESTIMONY upon conclusion staff reports

THE DEADLINE TO SIGN UP TO TESTIFY will be announced prior to the meeting.

Public testimony will continue until persons who have signed up before the deadline, and who are present when called by the Chair to testify, are heard.

Saturday, January 7, 2017, 8:30 AM

PUBLIC AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE ORAL TESTIMONY

BOARD DELIBERATIONS upon conclusion of oral public testimony

Sunday, January 8, 2017, 9:00 AM

BOARD DELIBERATIONS continued

Monday, January 9, 2017, 8:30 AM

BOARD DELIBERATIONS continued/concluded

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

ADJOURN

Agenda Notes

- A. Meeting materials, including a list of staff reports, a roadmap, and schedule updates, will be available at: www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=gameboard.meetinginfo or by contacting the ADF&G Boards Support Office in Juneau at 465-4110.
- B. A live audio stream for the meeting is intended to be available at: www.boardofgame.adfg.alaska.gov
- C. The State of Alaska Department of Fish and Game complies with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA). Individuals with disabilities who may need auxiliary aids, services, and/or special modifications to participate in this hearing and public meeting should contact 465-4110 no later than December 22, 2016 to make any necessary arrangements.

Regional/Multiple Unit Proposals

Note: This proposal is scheduled for the Arctic/Western Region meeting as proposal 1 and the Interior/Northeast Arctic Region meeting as proposal 102.

PROPOSAL 1 - 5 AAC 99.025. Customary and traditional uses of game. Evaluate a separate amount reasonably necessary for subsistence for the Teshekpuk caribou herd as follows:

The recommendation is to evaluate a separate amount reasonably necessary for subsistence (ANS) figures for the Western Arctic and Teshekpuk caribou herds. Updated caribou population data is warranted in the consideration due to the recent dramatic declines of both herds. More recent harvest data for the North Slope communities may also be included in the evaluation at this time. Proposed regulations change as follows:

5 AAC 99.025 Customary and traditional uses of game populations (a) - Species and Unit: Caribou, Units 21, 22, 23, 24, and 26 (Western Arctic caribou herd, [TESHEKPUK LAKE HERD])

Finding: positive

Amount Reasonably Necessary for Subsistence Uses: 8,000 – 12,000

Species and Unit: Caribou, Units 26A and 24B (Teshekpuk Herd)

Finding: positive

Amount Reasonably Necessary for Subsistence Uses: To be determined

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The North Slope Subsistence Regional Advisory Council (Council) held public meetings on November 3–4 and December 14, 2015 and reviewed, discussed at length, and made recommendations on conservation management strategies for the Western Arctic and Teshekpuk caribou herds which have been in decline for several years. At these meetings the Council also discussed its concern for the management of the smaller Teshekpuk herd and formally approved submission of a request to the Alaska Board of Game (board) to reconsider the evaluation of a separate ANS for the Teshekpuk caribou herd.

The Council requests the board re-evaluate and establish a separate ANS for the Teshekpuk caribou herd. Currently both the Western Arctic caribou herd and the Teshekpuk caribou herd are combined together with a single ANS that was originally established by the board in 1992 for just the Western Arctic herd. In 2014 the board deliberated on the findings of customary and traditional uses that led to a positive determination for the Teshekpuk herd and that there was a harvestable surplus of that caribou population. The board was then presented with options for establishing an ANS and voted to forego establishment of a separate ANS for the Teshekpuk herd.

The Council is very concerned that the combined ANS has created a range that is too high for the Teshekpuk herd to sustain and has resulted in hunting regulations that may be too liberal with respect to this herd. The Teshekpuk herd is much smaller than the Western Arctic herd and if not addressed may be susceptible to overharvest under the current combined ANS. In light of the recent declines of both the Western Arctic and Teshekpuk herds, and recognizing the importance of the Teshekpuk herd as a primary food source of subsistence caribou for several North Slope

communities, the Council feels it is necessary to re-evaluate managing the two herds separately in order better protect the smaller Teshekpuk herd.

The Council recognizes the complexity of managing for overlapping caribou herds; however, the recent dramatic declines of both Western Arctic and Teshekpuk caribou herds warrants a closer evaluation for management of the smaller, more vulnerable Teshekpuk herd. Thank you for your consideration.

PROPOSED BY: North Slope Subsistence Regional Advisory Council (EG-F16-095)

Note: This proposal is scheduled for the Arctic/Western Region meeting as proposal 2 and the Interior/Northeast Arctic Region meeting as proposal 103.

PROPOSAL 2 - 5 AAC 92.010. Harvest tickets and reports; and 85.025. Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou. Modify the hunt structure of the Western Arctic and Teshekpuk caribou herds as follows:

The Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) recommends that the Board of Game (board) modify the hunt structure for the Western Arctic caribou herd (WAH) and Teshekpuk caribou herd (TCH) in Units 21, 23, 24, and 26 by establishing registration permit hunts within the range of these herds. For Unit 22, also within the range of these herds, the board adopted regulations that include a registration permit hunt structure during the March 2016 statewide meeting. Registration permit hunts provide additional tools to monitor harvest and manage caribou herds above what is offered by the registration system that is currently employed.

In preparation for upcoming regulatory years, ADF&G anticipates needing flexibility to actively manage harvest over a very large area of the state if either the WAH or TCH decline to the point that the current hunt management structure is no longer practical for one or both herds. For example, a registration permit allows flexibility to open and close seasons and areas based on seasonal access to caribou, without the need for further board action. Transition from the current harvest registration system to a registration permit hunt would be a significant change to increase ADF&G's ability to monitor harvest and allow for more responsive management.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The 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, with a population projection of approximately 200,000 as of 2015. The intensive management harvest objectives for the WAH are 12,000–20,000, with a population objective of over 200,000. Prior to regulatory year 2015 (RY2015 = July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016), harvests were estimated at 12,000 caribou per year based on data and patterns available through community harvest assessments. ADF&G is concerned that cow harvest has exceeded 2% since RY2011, but does not have the tools to evaluate the sex composition of the harvest efficiently.

The TCH was estimated at approximately 39,000 in 2013, and 41,500 in 2015. Given confidence limits associated with both estimates, herd growth is implied to have been stable between 2013

and 2015. Minimum counts in those two years were 32,000 and 35,000, respectively. Prior to RY2015, harvests have been estimated at approximately 2,300 per year, through the use of community harvest assessments. If the herd remains stable, these harvests are likely to be near sustainable levels, but additional capability to monitor harvest and adjust seasons, particularly in areas of herd mixture, is increasingly important. The intensive management harvest objectives for the TCH are 900–2,800, with a population objective of 15,000–28,000.

The combined amounts reasonably necessary for subsistence for the WAH and TCH is a range of 8,000–12,000. The combined harvestable surplus in 2015 for the two herds, based on a 6% harvest rate, would be approximately 14,500.

Establishing registration permit hunts for these herds will provide managers with additional tools to ensure that harvest levels do not exceed allowable rates for the WAH, which could further depress this population. In addition to providing additional information on harvest levels, the registration permit system will provide annual information on the timing and sex of harvest throughout the herd's range, which is becoming increasingly important to evaluate the effects of harvest on the herd's population status. Another benefit to a registration permit is the ability for the board to require mandatory reporting so harvest can be monitored more closely to prevent overharvest, while maximizing opportunity relative to what is available.

There are no proposed changes to bag limits or seasons; the only change ADF&G is requesting at this time is a change in hunt structure to a registration permit hunt. Restrictions to limit harvest with seasonal quotas, annual bag limits for one or both sexes, or changes to hunting seasons may be necessary for future hunt management. If changes to seasons and bag limits become necessary in the future, the changes would be more easily implemented under the registration permit hunt structure proposed.

ADF&G will present an overview of WAH and TCH hunt management during the January 2017 Board of Game meeting to discuss the potential for changes to seasons and geographic opportunity with the board. The board adopted regulations during the March 2016 meeting that changed bag limits and reporting mechanisms in Unit 22 that we anticipate will allow ADF&G to evaluate initial implementation of a registration permit hunt and annual bag limit in a portion of the WAH range.

ADF&G is seeking public input through this proposal related to regulatory options for ensuring the continued viability of these herds. ADF&G intends to actively engage state and federal advisory committees, effected communities, local governments, and the Western Arctic Herd Working Group in formulating refinements to this proposal. ADF&G also anticipates collecting new information on abundance and herd demographics in the interim before the January 2017 Board of Game meeting. Given the potential for falling below intensive management objectives, ADF&G will prepare an intensive management feasibility assessment for the January 2017 Board of Game meeting.

The public is encouraged to evaluate this proposal, and to provide advice on means for reducing harvest, while minimizing impacts to hunters and users of caribou throughout the ranges of both herds.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F16-135)

Note: The Board of Game deferred this proposal from the 2016 Statewide Regulations Meeting with the intent that it apply to the Arctic and Western Region Units. It was previously numbered proposal 85.

PROPOSAL 3 - 5 AAC 92.010(g). Harvest tickets and reports. Remove the exception to harvest tickets and reports for caribou as follows:

Delete the exception in 5 AAC 92.010(g) that allows the harvest of caribou without requiring a harvest ticket or harvest report for residents residing north of the Yukon River. All persons hunting caribou north of the Yukon River must have a harvest ticket in possession and have obtained a harvest report.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Both the Western Arctic and the Teshekpuk caribou herds are in decline. Alaska's State Constitution Article VIII, Section 4 Sustained-yield requires the ADF&G to manage the herd on a sustainable basis. Of the three major known factors, weather conditions, habitat, and predation, limiting the herds' size, only harvest by predators can be regulated. Accurate harvest data is essential in order for the Board of Game to make sound decisions regarding caribou bag limits on herds in steep decline. There is a lack of accurate resident caribou harvest reporting north of the Yukon River. Requiring residents living north of the Yukon River to register with ADF&G does not provide accurate caribou harvest data.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Outdoor Council (EG-C15-072)

Note: This proposal is scheduled for the Arctic/Western Region meeting as proposal 4 and the Interior/Northeast Arctic Region meeting as proposal 100.

PROPOSAL 4 - 5 AAC 92.085. Unlawful methods of taking big game; exceptions. Institute no-fly zones for caribou hunting in Units 21D, 22, 23, 24, & 26A as follows:

Aircraft restricted to only Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday. This will leave Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday to a no-fly zone allowing local villagers to have quiet hunting times and no aircraft noises. This proposal will affect Units and Subunits of 21D, 22, 23, 24 and 26A. Hunters in this area because of weather will need to be prepared to carry with them three days of provisions in case aircraft can't get in to get them out of the area.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Western Arctic caribou herd (WAH) declining population numbers. During the WAH meeting in December 2015 and the Regional Advisory Council meetings March of 2016 in Anchorage, information released to the public shows numbers going from 495,000 to 235,000 animals. Local people think aircraft are part of the reason. They attempted to try a correction with proposal WSA16-01.

PROPOSED BY: Neil DeWitt (EG-F16-013)

Note: This proposal is scheduled for the Arctic/Western Region meeting as proposal 5 and the Interior/Northeast Arctic Region meeting as proposal 54.

PROPOSAL 5 - 5 AAC 85.015. Hunting seasons and bag limits for black bear. Change “general season” to “subsistence” for Arctic/Western Region black bear hunts having positive customary and traditional use findings as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open season	Nonresident Open season
Units 12, 18, 19, 20 outside the Fairbanks nonsubsistence area, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25,	No closed season. [GENERAL SEASON] <u>Subsistence</u>	No closed season. (General hunt only)

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Change the resident “general season” status in codified to subsistence for residents taking black bears. Black bears in all these units have a positive finding of customary and traditional use, with one exception, and that is the bears that are within the Fairbanks nonsubsistence area.

PROPOSED BY: Al Barrette (EG-F16-083)

Note: This proposal is scheduled for the Arctic/Western Region meeting as proposal 6 and the Interior/Northeast Arctic Region meeting as proposal 53.

PROPOSAL 6 - 5 AAC 85.025. Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou. 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 as follows:

	Resident Open season	Nonresident Open season
...		
Unit 12, that portion west of the Glenn Highway (Tok Cutoff) and south of the Alaska Highway within the Tok River drainage	Sept. 1—Sept. 20 <u>Subsistence</u>	No open season.
1 bull		
Unit 12, that portion west of the Glenn Highway (Tok cutoff) and south of the Alaska Highway, excluding the Tok River drainage		
1 bull by registration	Aug. 10—Sept. 30	No open season.

permit only; up to 100 bulls may be taken in combination with Unit 20(D), in that portion south of the Tanana River

Subsistence

Remainder of Unit 12

1 caribou may be taken by registration permit only during a winter season to be announced by emergency order

(Winter season to be announced)
Subsistence

No open season.

...

Unit 18

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

2 caribou by registration permit only; however, no more than 1 bull may be taken and no more than 1 caribou may be taken from Aug. 1—Jan. 31

Aug. 1—Mar. 15
Subsistence

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

No open season.

(14)

Unit 19(A), that portion within the Lime Village Management Area

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

2 caribou by registration permit only; however, no more than 1 bull may be taken and no more than 1 caribou may be taken from Aug. 1—Jan. 31

Aug. 1—Mar. 15
Subsistence

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

Units 19(A) and 19(B) within the Nonresident Closed Area

No open season.

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

2 caribou by registration permit only; however, no more than 1 bull may be taken and no more than 1 caribou may be taken from Aug. 1—Jan. 31

Aug. 1—Mar. 15
Subsistence

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:
Remainder of Units 19(A) and 19(B)

No open season.

RESIDENT HUNTERS:
2 caribou by registration permit
only; however, no more than 1 bull
may be taken and no more than 1
caribou may be taken from
Aug. 1—Jan. 31

Aug. 1—Mar. 15
Subsistence

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:
Unit 19(C)
1 bull

Aug. 10—Sept. 20
Subsistence

No open season.
Aug. 10—Sept. 20
General season

Unit 19(D), except the drainages of
The Nixon Fork River
1 bull; or

Aug. 10—Sept. 20
Subsistence

Aug. 10—Sept. 20
General season

1 caribou; or

Nov. 1—Jan. 31
Subsistence

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

(Season to be
announced)
(Subsistence hunt only)

No open season.

Remainder of Unit 19(D)
1 bull

Aug. 10—Sept. 20
Subsistence

Aug. 10—Sept. 20
General season

20(F), those portions south of
the Yukon River, and north and
east of a line formed by the
Richardson Highway from the
Unit 20(D) boundary to its
Intersection with the Steese
Highway, north along the
Steese Highway to its intersection
with the Elliot Highway, then
northwest along the Elliot
Highway to its intersection with
the Dalton Highway, then north
along the Dalton Highway to the
Yukon River, and Unit 20(D) that

portion north of the south bank of the Tanana River

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 caribou, per lifetime of a hunter, by youth hunt drawing permit; up to 30 total permits may be issued; or

Aug. 10—Aug. 21
General season

1 caribou by registration permit only; or

Aug. 10—Sept. 30
Subsistence
Dec. 1—Mar. 31
Subsistence

1 caribou by targeted permit only, during a season that may be announced by emergency order within a portion of the area during Dec. 1—Mar. 31

(Season to be announced by emergency order)

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 caribou, per lifetime of a hunter, by youth hunt drawing permit only; up to 30 total permits may be issued; or

Aug. 10—Aug. 21
General season

1 bull by registration permit only

Aug. 10—Sept. 20
General season

Remainder of Unit 20(B) **that lays outside the Fairbanks non-Subsistence area**

Aug. 10—Sept. 20
Subsistence

Aug. 10—Sept. 20
General season

1 bull

Unit 20(C)

No open season.

No open season.

Unit 20(D), that portion south of the Tanana River

No open season.

No open season.

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull by registration permit only; up to 100 bulls may be taken in combination with Unit 12 in that portion west of the Glenn Highway (Tok Cutoff) and south of the Alaska Highway, excluding the Tok River drainage

Aug. 10—Sept. 30
Subsistence

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

No open season.

Unit 20(E)

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 caribou, per lifetime of a hunter, by youth hunt drawing permit only; up to 30 total permits may be issued; or

Aug. 10—Aug. 21
General season

1 caribou by registration permit only; or

Aug. 10—Sept. 30
Subsistence
Dec. 1—Mar. 31
Subsistence

1 caribou by registration permit only, during a season for up to three days that may be announced by emergency order within a portion of the area during the period Oct. 20—Nov. 30; or

(Season to be announced by emergency order)

1 caribou by targeted permit only, during a season that may be announced by emergency order within a portion of the area during Dec. 1—Mar. 31

(Season to be announced by emergency order)

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 caribou, per lifetime of a hunter, by youth hunt drawing permit only; up to 30 total permits may be issued; or

Aug. 10—Aug. 21
General season

1 bull by registration permit only

Aug. 10—Sept. 20
General season

Unit 20(F) south of the Yukon River and west of the Dalton Highway

Aug. 10—Sept. 20
Subsistence
[(GENERAL HUNT ONLY)]

Aug. 10—Sept. 20
General season

1 bull

Unit 20(F), north of the Yukon River

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 caribou

Aug. 10—Mar. 31
Subsistence

[(GENERAL HUNT ONLY)]

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:
1 caribou Aug. 10—Sept. 30
General season

(16)

Unit 21(A) Aug. 10—Sept. 20
1 bull **Subsistence** Aug. 10—Sept. 20
General season

Unit 21(B), that portion north No open season.
of the Yukon River and No open season.
downstream from Ukawutni Creek

Remainder of Unit 21(B) Aug. 10—Sept. 30
1 caribou **Subsistence** Aug. 10—Sept. 30
General season

Unit 21(C), that portion within No open season.
the Dulbi River drainage and that No open season.
portion within the Melozitna
River drainage downstream from
Big Creek

Remainder of Unit 21(C) Aug. 10—Sept. 30
1 caribou **Subsistence** Aug. 10—Sept. 30
General season

Unit 21(D), that portion north of (Winter season to
the Yukon River and east of the be announced)
Koyukuk River No open season.
2 caribou;

Remainder of Unit 21(D)

RESIDENT HUNTERS:
5 caribou per day; as follows:

up to 5 bulls per day; however, July 1—Oct. 14
calves may not be taken; **Subsistence**

Feb. 1—June 30
Subsistence

up to 5 cows per day; however, Sept. 1—Mar. 31
calves may not be taken **Subsistence**

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:
1 bull; however, calves may not
be taken

Aug. 1—Sept. 30
General season

Unit 21(E) Aug. 10—Sept. 30 Aug. 10—Sept. 30

1 caribou; however, 2 additional caribou may be taken during a winter season to be announced

(17)

Unit 22(A), that portion north of the Golsovia River drainage

RESIDENT HUNTERS:
5 caribou per day; as follows:

up to 5 bulls per day; however, calves may not be taken;

up to 5 cows per day; however, calves may not be taken

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:
1 bull; however, calves may not be taken

Unit 22(B), that portion west of Golovnin Bay, and west of a line along the west bank of the Fish and Niukluk Rivers to the mouth of the Libby River, and excluding all portions of the Niukluk River drainage upstream from and including the Libby River drainage

RESIDENT HUNTERS:
5 caribou per day; as follows:

up to 5 bulls per day; however, calves may not be taken;

up to 5 cows per day; however, calves may not be taken;

up to 5 caribou per day; however, calves may not be taken; during the period May 1—Sept. 30, a season

Subsistence

(Winter season to be announced)

General season

July 1—Oct. 14

Subsistence

Feb. 1—June 30

Subsistence

Sept. 1—Mar. 31

Subsistence

Aug. 1—Sept. 30

General season

Oct. 1—Oct. 14

Subsistence

Feb. 1—Apr. 30

Subsistence

Oct. 1—Mar. 31

Subsistence

(Season to be announced by emergency order)

may be announced by emergency order; however, cow caribou may not be taken April 1—Aug. 31; bull caribou may not be taken Oct. 15—Jan. 31

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull; however, calves may not be taken during the period Aug. 1—Sept. 30, a season may be announced by emergency order

(Season to be announced by emergency order)

Remainder of Unit 22(B)

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

5 caribou per day as follows:

up to 5 bulls per day; however calves may not be taken;

July 1—Oct. 14

Subsistence

Feb. 1—June 30

Subsistence

up to 5 cows per day; however, calves may not be taken

Sept. 1—Mar. 31

Subsistence

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull; however, calves may not be Taken

Aug. 1—Sept. 30

General season

Unit 22(D), that portion in the Pilgrim River drainage

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

5 caribou per day, as follows:

up to 5 bulls per day; however, calves may not be taken

Oct. 1—Oct. 14

Subsistence

Feb. 1—Apr. 30

Subsistence

up to 5 cows per day; however, calves may not be taken

Oct. 1—Mar. 31

Subsistence

up to 5 caribou per day; however, calves may not be taken; during the period May 1—Sept. 30, a season may be announced by emergency order; however, cow caribou may not be taken April 1—Aug. 31

(Season to be announced by emergency order)

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:
1 bull; however, calves may not
be taken; during the period Aug.
1—Sept. 30, a season may be
announced by emergency order

(Season to be announced
by emergency order)

Unit 22(D), that portion in the
Kuzitrin River drainage
(excluding the Pilgrim River
drainage) and the Agiapuk
River drainage, including the
Tributaries

RESIDENT HUNTERS
5 caribou per day, as follows:

up to 5 bulls per day; however,
calves may not be taken;

July 1—Oct. 14

Subsistence

Feb. 1—June 30

Subsistence

up to 5 cows per day; however,
calves may not be taken

Sept. 1—Mar. 31

Subsistence

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:
1 bull; however, calves may not be
taken

Aug. 1—Sept. 30
General season

Unit 22(E), that portion east of and
including the Sanaguich River
drainage

RESIDENT HUNTERS:
5 caribou per day, as follows:

up to 5 bulls per day; however,
calves may not be taken;

July 1—Oct. 14

Subsistence

Feb. 1—June 30

Subsistence

up to 5 cows per day; however,
calves may not be taken

Sept. 1—Mar. 31

Subsistence

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:
1 bull; however, calves may not be
taken

Aug. 1—Sept. 30
General season

Remainder of Unit 22

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

5 caribou per day; however calves may not be taken; cow caribou may not be taken Apr. 1—Aug. 31; bull caribou may not be taken Oct. 15—Jan. 31

(Season to be announced by emergency order)

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:
1 bull; however, calves may not be taken; during the period Aug. 1—Sept. 30

(Season to be announced by emergency order)

(18)

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

RESIDENT HUNTERS:
5 caribou per day, as follows:

up to 5 bulls per day; however, calves may not be taken;

July 1—Oct. 14
Subsistence
Feb. 1—June 30
Subsistence

up to 5 cows per day; however, calves may not be taken

Jul. 15—Apr. 30
Subsistence

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:
1 bull; however, calves may not be taken

Aug. 1—Sept. 30
General season

Remainder of Unit 23

RESIDENT HUNTERS:
5 caribou per day, as follows:

up to 5 bulls per day; however, calves may not be taken;

July 1—Oct. 14
Subsistence
Feb. 1—June 30
Subsistence

up to 5 cows per day; however, calves may not be taken

Sept. 1—Mar. 31
Subsistence

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:
1 bull; however, calves may not be taken

Aug. 1—Sept. 30
General season

(19)

Unit 24(A), that portion south of the south bank of the Kanuti River, and that portion of Unit 25(D) drained by the west fork Of the Dall River west of 150 W. long.

1 caribou

Aug. 10—Mar. 31
Subsistence

Aug. 10—Sept. 30
General season

Remainder of Unit 24(A), and
Remainder of Unit 24(B)

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

5 caribou per day, as follows:
up to 5 bulls per day; however,
calves may not be taken;

July 1—Oct. 14
Subsistence
Feb. 1—June 30
Subsistence

up to 5 cows per day; however,
calves may not be taken

Jul. 15—Apr. 30
Subsistence

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull; however, calves may not
be taken

Aug. 1—Sept. 30
General season

Unit 24(B), that portion south of the south bank of the Kanuti River, upstream from and including that portion of the Kanuti-Kiloitna River drainage, bounded by the southeast bank of the Kodosin-Nolitna Creek, then downstream along the east bank of the Kanuti-Kilolitna River to its confluence with the Kanuti River

1 caribou

Aug. 10—Mar. 31
Subsistence

Aug. 10—Sept. 30
General season

Units 24(C) and 24(D)

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

5 caribou per day, as follows:

up to 5 bulls per day; however,
calves may not be taken;

July 1—Oct. 14
Subsistence

	Feb. 1—June 30 <u>Subsistence</u>	
up to 5 cows per day; however, calves may not be taken	Sept. 1—Mar. 31 <u>Subsistence</u>	
NONRESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 bull; however, calves may not be taken		Aug. 1—Sept. 30 <u>General season</u>
(20)		
Units 25(A), those portions east of the east bank of the East Fork Chandalar River extending from its confluence with the Chandalar River upstream to Guilbeau Pass, Unit 25(B), and Unit 25(D), excluding the drainage of the west fork of the Dall River west of 150_ W. long.		
RESIDENT HUNTERS: 10 caribou	July 1—Apr. 30 <u>Subsistence</u>	
NONRESIDENT HUNTERS: 2 bulls		Aug. 1—Sept. 30 <u>General season</u>
Remainder of Unit 25(A)		
RESIDENT HUNTERS: 10 caribou; however cow caribou may not be taken from May 16—June 30	July 1—June 30 <u>Subsistence</u>	
NONRESIDENT HUNTERS: 2 bulls		Aug. 1—Sept. 30 <u>General season</u>
Remainder of Unit 25(A)		
RESIDENT HUNTERS: 10 caribou; however cow caribou may not be taken from M ay 16—June 3	July 1—June 30 <u>Subsistence</u>	
NONRESIDENT HUNTERS: 5 caribou; however cow caribou may not be taken		July 1—June 30 <u>General season</u>

from May 16—June 30

Unit 25(C)

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 caribou, per lifetime of a hunter, by youth hunt drawing permit only; up to 30 total permits may be issued; or

Aug. 10—Aug. 21
General season

1 caribou by registration permit only; or

Aug. 10—Sept. 30
Subsistence
Dec. 1—Mar. 31
Subsistence

1 caribou by targeted permit only, during a season that may be announced by emergency order within a portion of the area during Dec. 1—Mar. 31

(Season to be announced emergency order)

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 caribou, per lifetime of a hunter, by youth hunt drawing permit only; up to 30 total permits may be issued; or

Aug. 10—Aug. 21
General season

1 bull by registration permit only

Aug. 10—Sept. 20
General season

(21)

Unit 26(A), that portion of the Colville River drainage upstream from the Anaktuvuk River, and drainages of the Chukchi Sea south and west of, and including the Utukok River drainage

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

5 caribou per day, as follows:

up to 5 bulls per day; however, calves may not be taken;

July 1—Oct. 14
Subsistence
Feb. 1—June 30
Subsistence

up to 5 cows per day; however, calves may not be taken

Jul. 15—Apr. 30
Subsistence

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:
1 bull; however, calves may not be taken

July 15—Sept. 30
General season

Remainder of Unit 26(A)

RESIDENT HUNTERS:
5 bulls per day; however, calves may not be taken;

July 1—July 15
Subsistence

5 caribou per day; however, no more than 3 cows per day; cows accompanied by calves and calves may not be taken;

July 16—Oct. 15
Subsistence

3 cows per day; however, calves may not be taken;

Oct. 16—Dec. 31
Subsistence

5 caribou per day; however, no more than 3 cows per day; calves may not be taken;

Jan. 1—Mar. 15
Subsistence

5 bulls per day; however, calves may not be taken;

Mar. 16—June 30
Subsistence

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:
1 bull; however, calves may not be taken

July 15—Sept. 30
General season

Unit 26(B), that portion north of 69° 30' N. lat. and west of the east bank of the Kuparuk River to a point at 70° 10' N. lat., 149° 04' W. long., then west approximately 22 miles to 70° 10' N. lat. and 149° 56' W. long., then following the east bank of the Kalubik River to the Arctic Ocean

RESIDENT HUNTERS:
5 caribou per day; however, cow caribou may not be taken
May 16—June 30

July 1—June 30
Subsistence

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

5 caribou

July 1—Apr. 30
General season

Unit 26(B), that portion south of 69° 30' N. lat. and west of the Dalton Highway

5 caribou; however, cow caribou may be taken only from July 1—Oct. 10

July 1—Oct. 10
Subsistence
May 16—June 30
Subsistence

July 1—Oct. 10
General season
May 16—June 30
General season

Unit 26(B), that portion south of 69° 30' N. lat. and east of the Dalton Highway

5 caribou; however, cow caribou may be taken only from July 1—May 15

July 1—July 30
Subsistence

July 1—June 30
General season

Remainder of Unit 26(B)

5 caribou

July 1—Apr. 30
Subsistence

July 1—Apr. 30
General season

(22)

Unit 26(C)

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

10 caribou; however, only bull caribou may be taken June 23—June 30

July 1—Apr. 30
Subsistence
June 23—June 30
Subsistence

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

2 bulls

Aug. 1—Sept. 30
General season

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Amend the resident “general season” status in codified to subsistence for residents on caribou populations that have a positive customary & traditional use (C&T) finding. The statutory definition of subsistence hunting makes all Alaskan residents eligible to take, hunt, and possess game with a positive C&T.

General seasons apply to nonresident seasons, seasons in nonsubsistence areas, drawing hunts, and season on game species that do not have a positive finding of C&T.

PROPOSED BY: Al Barrette

(EG-F16-085)

Note: This proposal is scheduled for the Arctic/Western Region meeting as proposal 7 and the Interior/Northeast Arctic Region meeting as proposal 56.

PROPOSAL 7 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep. Clarify the resident general and subsistence hunting seasons and the nonresident general hunting seasons for Dall sheep as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open season	Nonresident Open season
...		
Unit 19(A), 19(B), and 19(D) 1 ram with full curl horn or larger	Aug. 10—Sept. 20 <u>Subsistence</u>	Aug. 10—Sept. 20 <u>General season</u>
Unit 19(C) 1 ram with full curl horn or larger; or 1 sheep with 3/4 curl horn or less; the take of rams with both horns broken, lambs or ewes with lambs, is prohibited; by registration permit only	Aug. 10—Sept. 20 <u>Subsistence</u> Oct. 1—April 30 (Subsistence hunt only)	Aug. 10—Sept. 20 <u>General season</u> No open season
Unit 24(B), that portion with the John River drainage upstream from Till Creek, and that portion within the Glacier River drainage 3 sheep	Aug. 1—Apr. 30 <u>Subsistence</u>	No open season.
Remainder of Unit 24(B) 1 ram with a full-curl horn or larger	Aug. 10—Sept. 20 <u>Subsistence</u>	Aug. 10—Sept. 20 <u>General season</u>
Unit 25(A) RESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 ram with a full-cull horn or larger may be taken only from Aug. 10 through Sept. 20; up to 3 sheep may Be taken by registration permit	Aug. 10—Sept. 20 <u>Subsistence</u> Oct. 1—Apr. 30 <u>Subsistence</u>	

only Oct. 1—April 30

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 ram with a full-curl horn or larger.

Aug. 10—Sept. 20
General season

Remainder of Unit 25

1 ram with a full-curl horn or larger

Aug. 10—Sept. 20
Subsistence

Aug. 10—Sept. 20
General season

Unit 26(A), that portion west of the Etivluk River drainage

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 sheep by registration permit only

No open season.
(Subsistence hunt only)

ALL HUNTERS:

1 ram with full-curl horn or larger by drawing permit only provided that the harvestable surplus is greater than 9 in combination with that portion of Unit 23 in the DeLong Mountains

No open season.

No open season.

Unit 26(A), that portion east of and including the Etivluk River drainage, excluding Gates of the Arctic National Park

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

3 sheep by registration permit only

Aug. 1—Apr. 30
(Subsistence hunt only)

ALL HUNTERS:

1 ram with full-curl horn or larger

Aug. 10—Sept. 20
Subsistence

Aug. 10—Sept. 20
General season

Unit 26(A), that portion within The Gates of the Arctic National Park

3 sheep Aug. 1—Apr. 30 No open season.
Subsistence

Unit 26(B), that
portion within the
Gates of the Arctic
National Park

3 sheep Aug. 1—Apr. 30 No open season
Subsistence

Remainder of Units 26(A) and
(26B) Aug. 10—Apr. 30 Aug. 10—Sept. 20
1 ram with a full-curl horn or
Subsistence **General season**
larger

Unit 26(C)

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 ram with a full-curl
horn or larger may
be taken only from
Aug. 10 through Sept.
20; up to 3 sheep may be
Taken by registration
permit Oct. 1—April 30

Aug. 10—Sept. 20
Subsistence
Oct. 1—Apr. 30
Subsistence

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 ram with a full-curl
horn or larger Aug. 10—Sept. 20
General season

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Amend the resident “general season” status in codified to subsistence for residents on sheep populations that have a positive customary and traditional use (C&T) finding. The statutory definition of subsistence hunting makes all Alaskan residents eligible to take, hunt, and possess game with a positive C&T.

General seasons apply to nonresident seasons, seasons in nonsubsistence areas, drawing hunts, and season on game species that do not have a positive finding of C&T.

PROPOSED BY: Al Barrette (EG-F16-088)

PROPOSAL 8 - 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose; and 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou. Prohibit nonresident hunting of any prey species under intensive management in the Arctic/Western Region until harvest and population objectives are met as follows:

Nonresident hunting shall not be allowed for any prey species in the Arctic/Western Region under an intensive management (IM) predation control plan until the minimum intensive management population and harvest objectives for that prey species have been reached.

This solution will benefit resident hunters and the prey populations the Board of Game and the Department of Fish & Game are trying to increase for Alaskan consumptive uses.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Nonresident hunting opportunity in areas under IM predation control plans. IM predation control implementation plans to restore the abundance of prey species as necessary to achieve human consumptive use goals are intended to benefit resident Alaskans. Resident Hunters of Alaska supports IM efforts to achieve these goals.

We would like to see the Board of Game adopt regulations that match the intent of our IM law. No nonresident hunting should be allowed in any area of the Arctic/Western for a prey species that is under a formal IM predation control plan to increase populations for the benefit of resident consumptive uses when the minimum IM population and harvest objectives for that prey species has not been reached.

PROPOSED BY: Resident Hunters of Alaska (EG-F16-097)

PROPOSAL 9 - 5 AAC 92.057. Special provisions for Dall sheep and mountain goat drawing permit hunts. Establish a ten percent nonresident sheep permit allocation for the Arctic/Western Region Units as follows:

A 90/10 allocation should be put in place for sheep. A maximum of 10% the resource should go to nonresidents but 10% is not guaranteed and a minimum of 90% should go to Alaska residents. All nonresidents will be put on permits and can apply to get a permit out of the 10% pool.

All general hunts that require permits due to low game numbers should follow this 90/10 rule. All sheep should be on this 90/10 rule. This should be a statewide regulation but since the Board of Game rejected this request we will have to start with Interior/Northeast Region and the Arctic/Western Regions until the next statewide meeting.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? A 90/10 percent sheep allocation needs to be adopted in the Arctic/Western Region. Other states have similar policies in place and the Board of Game (board) seems to feel comfortable ignoring resident requests for this preference. A minimum of 90% of the resource would go to residents and a maximum of 10% would go to nonresidents but 10% is not guaranteed.

The number of sheep hunters (resident and nonresident) from the past three years should be averaged and nonresidents would be allowed to apply for permits on 10% of that total number.

EXAMPLE: If the average of those hunters (**hunters that actually hunted sheep**) was 1,500, then the Department of Fish and Game should issue 150 permits for nonresidents. 10% of 1,500 =150 This 10% would apply to guided hunts and next of kin - all nonresidents. Instead of listening to the requests for resident preferences the board makes sure the guiding industry loses nothing. The sheep numbers have diminished, the experience has diminished, and the success has diminished for residents. Nonresidents harvested 45% of the sheep statewide last year! Who is responsible for this?

PROPOSED BY: Jeff Barney (EG-F16-098)

PROPOSAL 10 - 5 AAC 92.057. Special provisions for Dall sheep and mountain goat drawing permit hunts. Establish a ten percent nonresident sheep permit allocation for the Arctic/Western Region as follows:

Establish a 90/10 percent resident/nonresident sheep permit allocation. The Board of Game should only allow 10% of sheep permits to be purchased by nonresidents with 10% being the ceiling and not guaranteed. This 10% allocation should be calculated on an average of resident and non-resident sheep hunters from the previous three years. This 10% allocation should include both next of kin and guided hunts.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Board of Game (board) needs to address the overcrowding issue for sheep hunters, declining ram numbers (especially quality rams), and most especially, the over-harvest of Dall sheep by nonresidents. **In 2015, nonresidents harvested 45% of the total rams harvested statewide.** This is not acceptable, nor is it sustainable, and the board should implement allocation rules that give Alaska residents a minimum of 90% of the resource.

There have been two sheep surveys conducted by Dr. Brinkman of the University of Alaska per request and funding by the board: a random survey and a non-random survey. These Brinkman surveys overwhelmingly showed that nonresident hunters are the problem —100% on the non-random survey and 77% on the random survey expressed this. These incredibly high percentages were both ignored and disregarded. Instead of listening to the people, the Board of Game produced its own proposal (207)—one that was never asked for by the public in the proposal process, is completely unenforceable, hampers numerous Alaskans and helps the guides and their clients.

Members of the board have been quoted saying that Alaska residents need to “*share the burden*” with nonresidents if they are to reduce the numbers of sheep hunters. This is unreasonable and inappropriate when **45% of the rams harvested statewide are by nonresidents.** The board needs to value residents over nonresidents and manage our resources according to our state constitution which clearly and distinctly states that our game resources will be managed sustainably and for the benefit and use by and for Alaskans. These sheep, and all fish and game resources within the state, are owned collectively by the residents of the State of Alaska. They are not owned by any specific group, by guides, or by residents of other states. They are owned by us—the residents of Alaska, and we expect them to managed for our benefit and those of future Alaskans. Nowhere in our state constitution does it state that our game populations will be managed for residents of other states. Nowhere does it state that our game populations will be managed so that individuals or organizations can make money or a living off of our game resources. Nowhere does it state that

the State of Alaska owes anybody a job. And nowhere does our constitution state that residents need to “*share the burden*” of management with nonresidents. Our Alaska State Constitution does state, however, that our resources will be managed sustainably “*for the maximum benefit of its people.*” We, the residents of Alaska, are “*its people.*” Having a 90/10 allocation so residents are a higher priority would help meet this mandate and edict.

This 90/10 concept has been presented to the board numerous times and by a variety of people, yet the board has always favored nonresidents and opposed giving residents a higher allocation. This is simply not right. Nor is it acceptable. The board should listen to what was expressed in its surveys, should listen to the concerns brought forward by residents who do not have financial interests in the management of this resource, and should manage our game resources as mandated by our Alaska state constitution—for its people. If the board is unsure of how that would work or what that actually looks like, any other state in the union could be used as a model or example.

PROPOSED BY: Jake Sprankle (EG-F16-068)

Note: The Board of Game deferred this proposal from the 2016 Statewide Regulations Meeting. It was previously numbered proposal 86.

PROPOSAL 11 - 5 AAC 92.010(h). Harvest tickets and reports. Remove the exception to harvest tickets and reports for sheep as follows:

Delete the exception in 5 AAC 92.010(h) that allows hunting of Dall sheep in the Gates of the Arctic National Park without possessing a harvest ticket or obtaining a harvest report. Accurate sheep harvest data gathered from mandatory harvest tickets and reports is essential for managing game populations that are declining rapidly.

Since moose populations are currently not in peril within the Gates of the Arctic National Park, the Alaska Outdoor Council cannot make the same argument to remove the harvest ticket/report exception for moose on grounds of conservation concerns, but if the Board of Game should choose to delete the entire section (h) of 5 AAC 92.010 that would be fine.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Dall sheep populations are also in decline in the Western Brooks Range. The Alaska Board of Game closed Dall sheep hunting to all hunters in Units 23 and 26A west of the Etivluk River drainage during their spring 2015 meeting. The Gates of the Arctic National Park is considering taking over Dall sheep management and allocation due to declining sheep populations. Accurate sheep harvest is critical in order for the ADF&G to manage the sheep herds on the sustained-yield bases as required by state law Alaska Statute 16.05.255. Regulations of the Board of Game; management requirements.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Outdoor Council (EG-C15-073)

PROPOSAL 12 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep; and 92.008. Harvest guideline levels. Establish a ten percent nonresident sheep harvest allocation cap and change all nonresident sheep hunts to draw permit hunts in the Arctic/Western Region as follows:

Amend 92.008 by adding a new subsection to read:

(5) Dall sheep: the annual harvest of Dall sheep by nonresident hunters in the Arctic/Western Region shall be managed so that in any given three-year period the average annual harvest does not exceed 10 percent of the total sheep harvest.

Or:

(5) Dall sheep: the annual harvest of Dall sheep by nonresident hunters in the Arctic/Western Region shall be managed so that in any given three-year period the average annual sheep harvest does not exceed XX sheep.

All nonresident sheep hunts in the Arctic/Western Region will be draw-only hunts with an allocation set subunit by subunit under 5 AAC 92.008 so that harvest levels do not exceed 10% of the total Arctic/Western Region sheep harvest based on using the last three years of historical nonresident participation and harvest data for each subunit.

This solution is preferable to a nonresident draw-only participation allocation because much lower levels of participation for nonresident guided sheep hunters still may lead to harvests of up to 30%, which we firmly believe contradicts the intent of our constitution for a maximum benefit to resident Alaskans.

The sheep resource and all resident sheep hunters will benefit if this solution is adopted.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Future nonresident sheep hunting opportunity in the Arctic/Western Region. When/if sheep hunting opportunity is again allowed in the Arctic/Western Region for both residents and nonresidents, if we do not place strict limits on nonresident sheep harvests it can lead to more closures and loss of opportunity to residents.

Reasons for sheep declines can be many, but whenever the Board of Game or the Department of Fish & Game restricts or shuts down sheep hunting opportunity it means that sheep hunters can play a role in the continued decline of our sheep resource.

If sheep populations rebound in the Arctic/Western Region and sheep hunting is again allowed for residents and nonresidents in Units 23 and 26A, nonresident sheep hunters should be limited to no more than 10% of the total harvest.

PROPOSED BY: Resident Hunters of Alaska (EG-F16-099)

PROPOSAL 13 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep; and 92.008. Harvest guideline levels. Establish a 25% cap on nonresident harvest of Dall sheep and make all general sheep hunts for nonresidents draw hunts in the Arctic/Western Region as follows:

Establish a maximum cap of 25% total harvest for Dall Sheep by nonresident hunters participating in units currently open for general season harvest in the Arctic/Western Region. Additionally, make all general season sheep hunts for nonresidents drawing only.

This 25% harvest cap would be on a unit by unit basis. That is, no unit will have a nonresident harvest that exceeds 25% of the total Dall sheep harvest for that particular unit. For example, if the average harvest of Dall sheep in Unit 19C is ~100 rams, then the maximum harvest for nonresidents in that particular unit would be no greater than ~25 rams.

The 25% harvest would be based off of the previous five years average total harvest of Dall sheep in each particular unit. For example: Unit 19C has seen an average total harvest of ~82 rams/year for (2010-2014). Thus, the total nonresident harvest would be restricted to no more than 20 rams (25% of 82).

Additionally, all general season hunts open to nonresidents would become “drawing hunts.” Each unit with a general season hunt would become a drawing for nonresidents only. (Current regulations would not change for resident hunters). The amount of tags available to nonresidents would be based off of two things; A: The nonresident harvest cap for each particular unit, and B: The nonresident success rate for that particular unit. For example: If Unit 19C has a maximum allowable nonresident harvest of 20 rams and the nonresident success rate for that unit is 65%. Then this would allow for 31 nonresident tags to be available for that particular unit. Drawings would be available for all units which currently have open non-resident general season hunts for Dall sheep.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Currently, Alaska resident hunting opportunities for Dall sheep have diminished due to diminished populations of Dall sheep and less areas/units open to general harvest of Dall sheep. This has led to increased competition/crowding from guided nonresident hunters due to a lack of available legal full curl Dall rams. As a result, it is necessary for the Board of Game to decrease the number of Dall sheep harvested by nonresident hunters. Additionally, the amount of nonresident hunters present in the field need to be reduced in order to mitigate the increased crowding and competition during sheep season.

PROPOSED BY: Luke Graham (EG-F16-023)

PROPOSAL 14 - 5 AAC 92.008. Harvest guideline levels. Establish a nonresident sheep harvest cap of 12% for the Arctic/Western Region as follows:

I am asking the board to put a cap on nonresidents being allowed to hunt each year for sheep in the Arctic/Western Region at 12% of the total harvest looking at a three-year average.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Nonresident hunting opportunity for Dall sheep.

As an Alaska resident, I would like to see the Board of Game show preference towards their fellow Alaskans when sheep numbers are down like they are now.

PROPOSED BY: Jacques Etcheverry (EG-F16-062)

PROPOSAL 15 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep; and 92.050. Required permit hunt conditions and procedures. Restrict the harvest of Dall sheep in the Arctic/Western Region to one every five years as follows:

I'm asking the Board of Game to mirror the Unit 7 and 15 mountain goat guidelines on harvest but re-word for Dall sheep for the Arctic/Western Region:

If a hunter harvests a sub-legal ram (determined by ADF&G horn sealing) that hunter is prohibited from hunting Dall sheep (harvest or permit) for five years. (I think this is fair, based on the four-year wait for anyone after harvesting a Tok Management Area ram).

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Sub-legal Dall sheep harvest. Statewide sub-legal harvest is about ten percent of the total harvest; this needs to be addressed. Hunters (myself included) need to take the time and make sure the ram in front of us is 110 percent legal before pulling the trigger (no more iffy ones). I see this as a good thing for our sheep herds.

PROPOSED BY: Jacques Etcheverry (EG-F16-055)

PROPOSAL 16 - 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; 92.069. Special provisions for moose drawing permit hunts; and 85.025. Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou. Establish a 90/10 percent permit allocation for resident and nonresident drawing permits for sheep, moose, caribou, and brown bear as follows:

Where we currently have or in future may have draw-only permit hunts for both residents and nonresidents in the Arctic/Western Region for Dall sheep, moose, brown/grizzly bear and caribou, the nonresident allocations should reflect constitutional intent to maximize the benefit to resident Alaskans and be no more than **“up to 10% maximum”** of the available number of permits.

All resident hunters will benefit if this solution is adopted by being given their constitutionally mandated maximum benefit to our game resources.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? **Arctic/Western Region nonresident draw permit allocations.** We would like the Board of Game to ensure that any draw-only hunts for both residents and nonresidents in Arctic/Western Region will have a clear and substantial resident preference opportunity to draw and to hunt.

Draw-only permit hunts for both residents and nonresidents reflect a need to limit the number of hunters afield for reasons that could be related to conservation, trophy-quality, hunt aesthetics, crowding etc.

Whatever the rationale for a draw-only hunt for all user groups, and whatever the species, resident hunters should have a clear and substantial constitutional preference to draw a permit and an opportunity to hunt.

PROPOSED BY: Resident Hunters of Alaska (EG-F16-096)

Note: This proposal is scheduled for the Arctic/Western Region meeting as proposal 17 and the Interior/Northeast Arctic Region meeting as proposal 47.

PROPOSAL 17 - 5 AAC 92.990(26). Definitions. Change the definition of “edible meat” for game birds as follows:

"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;** [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 is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Define edible meat for all game birds in Units 12, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26A, 26B, and 26C to reduce or eliminate wanton waste of migratory birds.

During the spring 2015 Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management Council (AMBCC) meeting wanton waste language was adopted similar language for the spring/summer subsistence harvest season defining edible meat “human consumption” as: the meat from the breast, back, thighs, and legs. We would like to place the wings, gizzard and heart in the category of “human use” which would allow these part to be used by humans for non-edible purposes, e.g., trapping. However, the head, neck, feet, other internal organs and skin are optional.

The Central Kuskokwim Advisory Committee would like the fall hunt to be as consistent as possible with the spring/summer subsistence regulations proposed by the AMBCC for the 2016 season. This is the customary and traditional practices in our region and all the included areas addressed in this proposal.

PROPOSED BY: Central Kuskokwim Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-F16-092)

PROPOSAL 18 - 5 AAC 92.015. Brown bear tag fee exemptions. Reauthorize resident tag fee exemptions for brown bear in Units 18, 22, 23 and 26A as follows:

(a) A resident tag is not required for taking a brown bear in the following units:

...

- (4) Units... 26;
- ...
- (8) Unit 22;
- (9) Unit 23;
- ...
- (13) Unit 18;
- ...

(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:

- ...
- (4) Unit 18;
- ...
- (7) Unit 22;
- (8) Unit 23;
- ...
- (10) Unit 26(A).

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Board of Game must reauthorize brown bear tag fee exemptions annually or the fee automatically becomes reinstated. We recommend continuing resident tag fee exemptions for the general season and subsistence season hunts in the Arctic/Western Region (Units 18, 22, 23, and 26A).

General Season Hunts: Reauthorizations are needed for: Unit 18, where the tag fee has been exempted for 4 years; Unit 22, where the tag fee has been exempted for 14 years; Unit 23, where the tag fee has been exempted for nine years; and Unit 26A, where the tag fee has been exempted for four years. Tag fee exemptions are desired to allow: 1) incremental increase in annual harvest, 2) opportunistic harvest by resident hunters, and 3) harvest by a wide range of users. Increased harvest is allowable because portions of these units have high bear populations.

General season brown bear harvest rates are within sustained yield limits and previous exemptions of the resident tag fee have not caused dramatic or unexpected increases in overall harvest. In Units 18 and 26A, tag exemptions were authorized for regulatory year 2012 and harvest has remained within sustained yield and continues to be similar to the preceding ten-year period. In Unit 22, the 14-year tag-free period for residents has had an average annual harvest of 50 brown bears (range 41–63 bears). In Unit 23, general harvests have been increasing slowly since 1961 primarily in response to increases in human population rather than regulatory changes, although harvests are annually quite variable due to effects of weather on hunting conditions. Harvest data for Unit 23 show no trend in the sex ratio, age or size of bears harvested under all types of hunts.

Subsistence Season Hunts: Reauthorizations are needed for Units 18, 22, 23, and 26A where brown bear subsistence hunt requirements include: 1) registration permit, 2) 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 front claws must be removed and retained by the Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) at the time of sealing. Continuing the tag fee exemption helps facilitate

participation in the associated brown bear harvest programs maintained by ADF&G 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. In Unit 18, we estimate one to three bears are taken annually in subsistence hunts. In Unit 22, subsistence harvest by permit is quite low, averaging less than one bear per year (less than 1% of the total brown bear harvest). In Unit 23, subsistence permit harvest is less than five bears annually since 1992 (less than 10% of the total brown bear harvest). In Unit 26A, between one and five bears are taken annually by subsistence hunters.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F16-134)

Note: This proposal is scheduled for the Arctic/Western Region meeting as proposal 19 and the Interior/Northeast Arctic Region meeting as proposal 49.

PROPOSAL 19 - 5 AAC 92.130. Restrictions to bag limit. Remove the bag limit restriction for resident relatives accompanying nonresident second degree of kindred as follows:

This new regulation does not solve any issues in the Arctic, Western, Interior or Eastern Arctic Regions and Units 12, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26A, 26B, and 26C should be excluded from this regulation.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The new regulation, 5 AAC 92.130, adopted during the 2016 Statewide Regulation meeting is strictly allocative in nature and lacks a conservation basis. The regulation from the proposal reads as follows:

A guide required species under AS 16.05.407(a) taken by a nonresident personally accompanied by a resident relative under AS 16.05.407(a)(2) will count as the bag limit of both the nonresident and the resident relative who accompanies the nonresident.

This regulation was adopted without viable data on the number of nonresident second degree of kindred hunters and their harvest from the Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) for the Arctic, Western, Interior and Eastern Arctic Region units. ADF&G presented data that was admittedly limited and inaccurate, and this data was used as a basis for carrying the amended proposal 51 during the 2016 board meeting cycle.

The Alaska legislature took deliberate steps to provide for the second degree of kindred exemption. This was presumably done to allow residents to share their hunting experiences with close family, rather than to require residents to act as guides who are not allowed to take game while with a client.

This regulation allocates additional harvest to nonresident hunters by preventing a resident from harvesting game and as such is punitive to resident hunters. Additionally, the board recognized at the time that this regulation was based on choosing what was more valuable, a guided nonresident or a resident sharing a hunt with a family member, but unfortunately chose to side with the guiding industry.

Note: The Board of Game deferred this proposal from the 2016 Statewide Regulations Meeting. It was previously numbered proposal 14. This proposal is scheduled for the Arctic/Western Region as proposal 20 and the Interior/Northeast Arctic Region meeting as proposal 48.

PROPOSAL 20 - 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 as follows:

In order to allow more opportunity for those hunters wishing to use a crossbow while hunting during special hunts like the roadside "targeted hunts" for moose in Southcentral and the Interior, or while hunting in specific game management areas or state refuges around the state where either muzzleloaders or shotguns and bow and arrow are the approved hunting tools, I would ask the Board of Game to include the use of crossbows as a fourth approved hunting tool.

In addition to those wishing to hunt with a crossbow, there are those older or smaller hunters who, for whatever reason, cannot use a bow and arrow that meets the existing requirements. A person who cannot draw and hold a bow and arrow can normally still use a crossbow if that tool was legal for use.

What I am proposing is that the category of crossbow be added to the list of approved hunting tools for those hunts in game management areas, state game refuges, and special hunts where either a muzzleloader or shotgun is legal along with bow and arrow. For areas or hunts that are specified as bow and arrow only, nothing will change.

A crossbow has certain advantages over a bow and arrow and also has some major disadvantages compared to a bow and arrow. However, the two hunting tools are still relatively comparable in power and range. A crossbow does not even come close to a muzzleloader or shotgun in comparison. If a muzzleloader or a shotgun is legal to use, along with bow and arrow, then there are no practical concerns to not allow a crossbow along with bow and arrow in those areas or hunts which also allow a muzzleloader or shotgun.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? There are currently several state game management areas, state refuges, and special hunts statewide which support weapons restricted big game hunts. Most of these hunts prohibit the use of centerfire, high-powered rifles and specify that only muzzleloaders, shotguns using slugs, or bow and arrow (or some combination of the specified implements) are allowed. Hunters choosing to use muzzleloaders or bow and arrow must comply with existing regulation requirements for these hunting tools, i.e., things like muzzleloading caliber or the bow's draw weight.

These restrictions in areas or refuges or special hunts are done largely for safety reasons because all of the approved hunting tools are considered short-range compared to a highpowered rifle.

The Board of Game recently defined crossbows in regulation into their own category with requirements on power, bolt length, etc. This was done because crossbows as hunting tools are gradually increasing in hunting use for big game in Alaska during the general season and have

become the fastest growing hunting tool in the Lower 48 for hunting animals like white-tailed deer and black bear. It was felt that a distinction between bow and arrow and crossbow was necessary.

Since crossbows are defined separately from bow and arrow, current regulations allowing the use of bow and arrow exclude the use of a crossbow for hunting during that same hunt.

PROPOSED BY: Howard Delo (EG-C15-037)

Bethel Area Proposals

PROPOSAL 21 - 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Open a winter hunting season for moose in Unit 18 as follows:

The current moose regulation says: Unit 18, south of and including the Goodnews River drainage, one antlered bull by permit available in person in Goodnews Bay and Platinum, August 1–25. Season closes by emergency order when 20 bulls are taken. Permit number RM620, open season from September 1–30.

Add: by emergency order by the Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) and/or U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service announcing the opening of a 21-day winter moose hunting season in Unit 18, south of and including the Goodnews River Drainage by permit only, permit number RMXXX. The permits will be available in person only at Goodnews Bay and Platinum. The hunt will open on January 1–31, with a bag limit of one moose, with a quota of ten moose to be harvested. Once ten moose are harvested ADF&G will close the winter hunt by emergency order. Hunters who harvested a moose during the regulatory year are not eligible to participate in this hunt. All hunters are required to possess a valid Alaska hunting license and one state registration permit, permit number RMXXX.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Native Village of Goodnews Bay hereby proposes a winter hunt of moose in Unit 18, in Goodnews River drainage. During the open season, from September 1–30, not all hunters are successful in their fall hunt since most of the moose are within inaccessible area(s) where there are thick brushes or are too far inland, away from the river. The main transportation is the boat during the hunt and at fall time, when there is lack of rain, the river gets really low thus hampering the hunters' ability to go further upriver where most of the moose are. Not all hunters have jet outboards that they can utilize and by the time the season closes these hunters are left out and without much needed moose meat for their families over the winter. The winter hunt will not have a great effect on the population of moose in our area since the population of moose increases each year regardless of our hunt each year. We are seeing more cows with twin calves and with this trend we feel that the winter hunt is sustainable. Subsistence is our fabric of our lives and we cannot live on fish alone.

PROPOSED BY: Native Village of Goodnews Bay (EG-F16-049)

PROPOSAL 22 - 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Open a winter nonresident hunting season for moose in Unit 18 remainder as follows:

Add an additional nonresident season to the Unit 18 remainder area starting on December 1 and ending March 15.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Have a nonresident winter moose season added to the Unit 18 remainder area. The area currently has an extremely high moose population that is still growing extremely fast despite the liberal season and limits for residents. This would create an opportunity to get a winter meat moose for people who have recently moved into the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Region. Being that it is a winter season and most of the bulls

have dropped antlers early on in the season, nonresident sport hunting is a non-issue. I would suggest an additional nonresident season added to the Unit 18 remainder area starting on December 1 and ending March 15.

PROPOSED BY: Jon LaValle (EG-F16-053)

PROPOSAL 23 - 5 AAC 85.045(16). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Reauthorize the antlerless moose hunting seasons in the Remainder of Unit 18 as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
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(16)
 ...

Remainder of Unit 18

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

2 moose; of which only 1 may be an antlered bull; a person may not take a calf or a cow accompanied by a calf; or	Aug. 1—Sept. 30
-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------

2 antlerless moose; or	Oct. 1—Nov. 30
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2 moose	Dec. 1—Mar. 15
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NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 antlered bull ...	Sept. 1—Sept. 30
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What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? To be retained, the antlerless moose seasons in the Remainder of Unit 18 must be reauthorized annually. The current antlerless hunts were adopted at the January 2014 Board of Game meeting in Kotzebue and were reauthorized for regulatory year (RY) 2016 at the March 2016 Board of Game meeting in Fairbanks. This proposal requests reauthorization for RY2017.

Implementation of antlerless hunts began in 2007 and has continued each year due to increased moose abundance, productivity, and population growth along the Yukon River drainage in Unit

18. Based on the steady growth in moose populations and productivity, the Department of Fish & Game proposes continued antlerless moose hunts in the Remainder of Unit 18.

Within the areas near the Yukon River, the moose population is estimated at a minimum of 12,000 animals with calf:cow ratios ranging from 37:100 to 69:100, and twinning rates close to 50% for all areas. Population growth continues to be strong in this portion of Unit 18 and anecdotal evidence suggests that calf survival rates remain high. The population is expected to continue to grow as animals move into under-utilized habitat.

Although the current year harvest data in the Remainder of Unit 18 has not been finalized, we expect harvest to be similar to the past three years and well within sustained yield for this robust population. Allowing antlerless harvest will benefit hunters through increased opportunity, and any increases in harvest may help slow the growth rate of the population in this portion of Unit 18.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F16-126)

PROPOSAL 24 - 5 AAC 92.044. Permit for hunting bear with the use of bait or scent lures.

Allow the harvest of brown bear at bear bait stations in Unit 18 as follows:

Simply add Unit 18 to the list of units that can take a brown bear at a black bear bait station. In Units 7, 11, 12, 13, 14B, 15, 16, **18**, 20A, 20B, 20C, 20E, 21D, 24C, 24D, and 25D brown/grizzly bears may be taken at a black bear bait station subject to the same restrictions as black bear. Hunters who take brown bears over bait in these areas are required to salvage the edible meat in addition to the hide and skull. Hunters must comply with seasons, bag limits, and sealing requirements for brown/grizzly bears (registration permits and locking-tags may be required in some areas, contact the Department of Fish & Game for details).

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I would like the Board of Game to allow brown bear taken over black bear baits in Unit 18. We have a harvestable number of brown bear in the unit. Brown bears are more frequently breaking into fish camps during times of limited salmon harvest. Would allow a better opportunity to harvest some brown bears in the heavily wooded river corridor and area of highest bear/human interaction takes place. There is precedence in other units throughout the state.

PROPOSED BY: Jaimie Kassman (EG-F16-108)

Note: This proposal is scheduled for the Arctic/Western Region meeting as proposal 25 and the Interior/Northeast Arctic Region meeting as proposal 83.

PROPOSAL 25 - 5 AAC 85.025. Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou. Open a nonresident draw hunt for caribou in Units 18 and 19 as follows:

Units 18, 19A, and 19B - Nonresidents:
One bull caribou by drawing permit September 1-30

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? As of the drafting of this proposal, ADF&G states: "The harvest of Mulchatna caribou is well below sustainable levels." The Mulchatna caribou herd has started to grow and all indicators are that it is healthy. Unfortunately, it has recently resided predominantly in areas that are difficult to access. A nonresident hunt, limited by drawing should be well within the sustainability of this herd that is currently underutilized. I would suggest a limit of up to 50 tags and ask ADF&G to initially only issue 20 across the entire range of the herd. It is desirable to see this herd continue to grow. Communities within the region have had a difficult time taking the harvestable surplus due to the locations of the animals. Providing a nonresident hunt will result in light harvest and most meat will be left in the communities within the region as is the case in all remote nonresident hunting opportunities. This proposal is submitted for both the Arctic and Western (Unit 18) and the Interior and Eastern Arctic (Unit 19A & B) meetings. This proposal will also be submitted for Units 9 and 17 when in cycle.

PROPOSED BY: Aaron Bloomquist

(EG-F16-010)

Nome Area Proposals

PROPOSAL 26 - 5 AAC 85.045(a)(20). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Lengthen the hunting season for moose in Unit 22A as follows:

Change the ending date for the moose season to September 20 for permit RM841.

5 AAC 85.045(a)(20) Unit 22A that portion in the Unalakleet River drainage and all drainages flowing into Norton Sound north of the Golsovia River drainage and south of the Tagoomenik and Shaktoolik River drainages: 1 antlered bull by registration permit only Sept. 1—**Sept. 20** [SEPT. 14]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Changing the closure date for moose permit RM841 would better align regulation with current Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) practice. Currently the moose season closes for permit RM841 on September 14 and has a quota of 22 antlered bull moose. The harvest quota has not been harvested by the closing date of September 14 since it was increased to 22 moose. Each year ADF&G has extended the season until September 20 at the request of residents. When the season has been extended, the quota has been harvested on or before the 20.

Changing the season closure date to September 20 has several benefits. One, the community will no longer have the concern if ADF&G will extend the season. Second, ADF&G will not have to issue an emergency order (EO) to extend but will continue the practice of issuing EO's to close prior to the September 20 if it is forecasted to reach the allocated limit of 22 moose.

PROPOSED BY: Southern Norton Sound Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-F16-020)

PROPOSAL 27 - 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Lengthen the nonresident hunting season for moose in Unit 22A as follows:

Nonresident moose hunting season, Unit 22A "north of and including the Tagoomenik and Shaktoolik River drainages: September 1-**20** [14], one bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with four or more brow tines on at least one side." Harvest ticket.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? A date change for the non-resident moose hunting season in Unit 22A "north of and including the Tagoomenik and Shaktoolik river drainages" from September 1-14 to September 1-20.

The moose in this area have recovered to a healthy population because of the mild winters and increased grizzly harvest. This is also a very remote area with poor access making moose retrieval difficult and time consuming. There would be very little increased harvest but would allow for cooler temps while recovering moose meat.

PROPOSED BY: Lance Kronberger (EG-F16-040)

PROPOSAL 28 - 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Eliminate the nonresident moose hunt in Units 22E and 22D remainder as follows:

Eliminate nonresident moose hunting in Units 22E and 22D remainder until low moose density and the relationship between changing population distribution and population growth or decline between subunits is better understood.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Rural users in Units 22E and 22D remainder are finding it increasingly difficult to harvest moose in their region. In 2013 and 2014, a total of only seven moose were harvested by local subsistence users (Teller, Brevig Mission, Wales and Shishmaref) in Units 22D and 22E. The moose population in these units is extremely low and there are not enough moose for resident hunters.

The Alaska Department of Fish & Game provided a report on moose populations in Unit 22 to the Seward Peninsula Subsistence Regional Advisory Council at its October 14-15, 2015 public meeting in Nome. This report indicated that while the moose population in Unit 22E is considered stable or increasing, moose populations in Unit 22D are decreasing.

The 2014 spring Geospatial Population Estimator moose survey in Unit 22D remainder showed a 14% annual rate of decline from the 2011 spring moose survey. The nonresident moose season in Unit 22D remainder was closed by emergency order in 2015 when the quota of three moose was reached.

It is plausible that the modest increases documented in Unit 22E may reflect a redistribution of the moose from Unit 22D remainder versus any increases or decreases in the respective populations of those subunits. This suggests that moose in Unit 22D remainder and Unit 22E should be managed as one population.

Regardless, the moose population in both subunits remains very low at less than 0.5 moose per square mile. We do not believe it should be sustaining any non-resident harvest at this time.

PROPOSED BY: Seward Peninsula Subsistence Regional Advisory Council (EG-F16-035)

PROPOSAL 29 - 5 AAC 85.025. Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou. Open a hunting season for caribou in Unit 22A by emergency order only as follows:

Unit 22A Golsovia River Drainage and South
Caribou hunt open by emergency order only
Residents – five caribou per day; season may be announced.
Nonresidents – five caribou total; season may be announced.
No change to other portions of Unit 22A

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Individuals illegally hunting privately owned reindeer in Units 22A, Golsovia River Drainage and South. Reindeer herders continually lose private property, time and money. The Western Arctic caribou herd (WAH) has not migrated south of the Unalakleet River in 15-20 years. Having an opening for caribou by emergency order (EO) only will save many reindeer and reindeer herders time and money. Have

an opening for caribou by EO only in Unit 22A Golsovia River Drainage and South will save time and money for other residents in the area when the WAH are present.

PROPOSED BY: Theodore Katcheak (HQ-C15-901)

PROPOSAL 30 - 5 AAC 85.020. Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear. Lengthen the hunting season for brown bear in Unit 22C as follows:

Unit 22C brown/grizzly bear
1 bear every regulatory year
April 1—May 31 [MAY 1—MAY 31]
Aug. 1—Oct. 31

Other game subunits in Unit 22 have the standard brown bear season of August 1 to May 31. Unit 22C currently allows for a fall season of August 1 to October 31 and a spring season of May 1 to May 31. The intent of this proposal, spring season of April 1 to May 31, is to lengthen the window for the spring hunt. The date when bears emerge from hibernation is variable and tied to snow condition. The end of the spring hunt is determined by timing of snow disappearance more than a calendar date. By increasing the spring hunt window, the two- or three-week period of adequate snow cover should be consistently contained in the season dates. Opportunity from year to year will be more uniform regardless on dates of break-up.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The recent Seward Peninsula brown/grizzly bear assessment survey conducted by the Alaska Department of Fish & Game with support from the National Park Service indicates the number of brown bears have increased. Local residents note increased human/bear encounters which supports the technical conclusions. On the other hand, climate change has shifted the spring snow melt timing which has had the effect of limiting bear hunting opportunity especially on the south slope of the Seward Peninsula. Given the abundant and increasing number of bear an increase in length of harvest opportunity should be allowed.

The previously mentioned human/bear encounters along with predation on other game species may be reduced if bear harvest is allowed to increase. In recent years, muskoxen have been driven into the city limits and on to the airports, in large part by a need to escape bear predation on calves. The Unit 22C moose population is depressed again due in part to bear eating calves. The local reindeer herds are also feeling the effects of predation. More bears are being taken as defense of life and property culls. A spring harvest is a better use of this abundant resource than the control measures used currently.

PROPOSED BY: Kawerak, Inc., Nome Eskimo Community (HQ-F16-111)

PROPOSAL 31 - 5 AAC 85.020. Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear. Increase the bag limit for brown bear in Unit 22B as follows:

Unit 22B brown/grizzly bear

Two bears every regulatory year

Aug. 1 - May 31

[ONE BEAR EVERY REGULATORY YEAR]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The recent brown/grizzly bear assessment survey by the National Park Service and the Alaska Department of Fish & Game conducted in 2015 compared to the old survey for the Seward Peninsula 20+ years ago indicates that the bear population is on the rise. With the increasing number of bears more cabins are being broken into as well as drying racks being raided. More opportunity to harvest bears from an increasing population. The Unit 22B moose population crashed 20 years ago and has shown almost no recovery. Survival of moose calves is the poorest in the region. Bears are implicated due to the seasonality of the mortality. Bear harvest rates are thought to be quite low. The managers have expressed concern that predation is holding the moose population below threshold required for the moose population to grow. Bear densities are the greatest in local memory. A significant increase in harvest is sustainable. The harvest is small in relation to the population and doubling the limit will not yield a doubling of harvest rate. This is a measure that will address multiple game populations and can be reversed in a board cycle or two if the impact is greater than expected.

PROPOSED BY: Kawerak, Inc., Nome Eskimo Community (HQ-F16-110)

PROPOSAL 32 - 5 AAC 85.020. Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear. Lengthen the hunting season for brown bear in Unit 22A as follows:

Unit 22A brown/grizzly bear

Residents, two bears every regulatory year, August 1—**June 15** [MAY 31]

Nonresidents, one bear every regulatory year, August 1—**June 15** [MAY 31]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Brown/grizzly bear season ending date south of and including the Golsovia River drainage ending date of 31 May. The remainder of Unit 22A ends on 15 June. The wind has blown the pack ice from the Bering Sea against the shore in 2005–2010 and 2012 so it is not possible to get there by boat until after 1 June. The bag limit for residents is two bears per year. The season should be the same for all of Unit 22A.

PROPOSED BY: John Wilson (EG-F16-078)

Barrow Area Proposals

PROPOSAL 33 - 5 AAC 85.045(24). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Reauthorize the antlerless moose hunting season in the western portion of Unit 26A as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(24) ...		
Unit 26(A), that portion west of 156° 00' W. longitude and excluding the Colville River drainage.		
1 moose; a person may not take a calf or a cow accompanied by a calf ...	July 1—Sept. 14	No open season.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? To be retained, the antlerless moose season in the portion of Unit 26A west of 156° 00' W longitude and excluding the Colville drainage must be reauthorized annually.

The moose population in the western portion of Unit 26A north of the Colville drainage is somewhat unique compared to the unit-wide population, and the distribution is very sparse because there is very little moose habitat in the coastal plain. However, each year a small number of bulls and cows migrate into the area from the major river drainages in the central and southern parts of the unit. So far, the marginal habitat in this portion of Unit 26A has not allowed moose to establish a population, but these moose provide the only opportunity to harvest a moose in the northwestern portion of Unit 26A.

Unit 26A moose population estimates fluctuated between 294 and 609 moose between 2011 and 2014. More recently, staff counted 145 moose in 2015 and 158 moose in 2016. The number of moose in the antlerless hunt area is difficult to estimate, but is likely around ten moose per year. Harvest reports indicate two antlerless moose have been harvested since 2005, and the annual harvest rate of antlerless moose is less than 1% of the total population. Due to the low harvest rate the department recommends reauthorization of the antlerless moose season in this area to provide additional hunting opportunity for the small number of hunters to opportunistically harvest antlerless moose in this remote portion of Unit 26A.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F16-131)

Note: This proposal is scheduled for the Arctic/Western Region meeting as proposal 34 and the Interior/Northeast Arctic Region meeting as proposal 114.

PROPOSAL 34 - 5 AAC 85.057. Hunting seasons and bag limits for wolverine. Lengthen the hunting season for wolverine in Unit 26 as follows:

Units & Bag limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresidents Open Season
(1)		
Units 1 - 5 (General hunt only) 1 wolverine	Sept. 10 - Feb. 15	Sept. 1—Feb. 15
Units 6 - 10, 12, 15, 16(B) and 17 – 25 [26] 1 wolverine;	Sept. 1 - Mar. 31 (General hunt only)	Sept. 1 - Mar. 31
Units 11, 13, 14, and 16(A) 1 wolverine	Sept. 1 - Jan. 31 (General hunt only)	Sept. 1 - Jan. 31
<u>Unit 26</u>	<u>July 15 - March 31</u> <u>(General hunt only)</u>	<u>July 15—Mar. 31</u>

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Hunters in Unit 26 (all subunits) almost never get a chance to take a wolverine while hunting in the fall because the season opens after they are likely done hunting. The wolverine season opens September 1, and it is common practice to be off the north side of the Brooks Range by September 1 to avoid being caught by approaching winter. Wolverine hides are acceptable in the arctic in the summer for most hunters (as opposed to trappers). Most hunters will have very few opportunities to take a wolverine in their lifetime and would be thrilled with slightly less underfur on an otherwise very good specimen. Starting wolverine season July 15 is much more reasonable. Another alternative would be August 1. Another alternative would be to include all Arctic Units (22-26) This proposal is submitted to both the Arctic and Western Region and the Interior and Eastern Arctic Region meetings to cover all subunits in Unit 26.

PROPOSED BY: Aaron Bloomquist (EG-F16-006)

Note: This proposal is scheduled for the Arctic/Western Region meeting as proposal 35 and the Interior/Northeast Arctic Region meeting as proposal 99.

PROPOSAL 35 - 5 AAC 85.056. Hunting seasons and bag limits for wolf. Lengthen the hunting seasons for wolf in Units 24-26 as follows:

Units 24-26 wolf season: July 1—April 20

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Wolf hunting seasons in the arctic actually open later in the fall than some areas much farther to the south. Many caribou and bear hunters hunt before the wolf season is open and sheep hunters are in the field a few days before the season opens in most areas. The opportunity to harvest a wolf is not being realized by these hunters. It is quite common for hunters to hunt in late July in these units and the option to harvest a wolf would be appreciated. Take is relatively low by hunters on wolf even with long seasons (as opposed to trapping). The opportunity to take a wolf is much more important to most hunters than the quality of the pelt. Trappers depend on the quality of the pelt for monetary value, conversely, most hunters will only take a couple wolves in their life and the opportunity is much more important than the monetary value of a good pelt. Most hunters would be more than satisfied with the quality of a late July wolf to hang in their home. Other considerations: Open Season August 1; apply this proposal only in Unit 26 where seasons are drastically shortened by weather. This proposal is submitted to both the Arctic and Western and Interior and Eastern Arctic meetings.

PROPOSED BY: Aaron Bloomquist (EG-F16-007)

Kotzebue Area Proposals

PROPOSAL 36 - 5 AAC 85.045(21). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Reauthorize the antlerless moose hunting seasons in Unit 23 as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(21) Unit 23, that portion north of and including the Singoalik River drainage	July 1—Dec. 31	Sept. 1—Sept. 20
RESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 moose by registration permit only; however, antlerless moose may be taken only from Nov. 1–Dec. 31; a person may not take a calf or a cow accompanied by a calf; or	Sept. 1—Sept. 20	
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 125 permits may be issued in all of Unit 23		Sept. 1—Sept. 20
Remainder of Unit 23		
RESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 moose by registration permit only; however, antlerless moose may be taken only from Nov. 1 - Dec. 31; a person may not take a calf or a cow accompanied by a calf; or	Aug. 1—Dec. 31	

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

Sept. 1—Sept. 20

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 125 permits
may be issued in all of Unit 23

Sept. 1—Sept. 20

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? To be retained, antlerless moose seasons must be reauthorized annually. Moose densities have been low (0.03–0.44 moose/mi²) in surveyed portions of Unit 23 since 2010. To address this issue, the board restricted moose hunting for resident and nonresident hunters during the November 2003 board meeting. These restrictions substantially shortened the resident antlerless moose season and limited hunting opportunity through a registration permit hunt structure (RM880) during the months of November and December. There have not been any additional changes to moose hunting seasons in Unit 23, and the antlerless seasons have been reauthorized annually by the Board of Game.

The reported harvest of antlerless moose averages 13 moose per year and is less than 1% of the total population, which is sustainable. As a result, the Department of Fish & Game recommends reauthorizing the antlerless moose hunt to provide additional hunting opportunity for the small number of hunters who opportunistically harvest antlerless moose in this area.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F16-130)

PROPOSAL 37 - 5 AAC 85.020. Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear. Lengthen the nonresident fall hunting season for brown bear in Unit 23 as follows:

Unit 23 nonresident brown bear permit hunts DB761 through DB767 and RB761 through RB767, open season **August 1** [SEPTEMBER 1] through October 31.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Lengthen the nonresident brown bear season for drawing and registration permit hunts (DB761-767 and RB 761-767). Change opening date from September 1st to August 1st. This will align non-resident season with the resident season. This will allow for additional opportunity to harvest bears in hunts that are already under-subscribed and harvest goals are not being met (per the area biologist).

Harvest is already regulated by permit numbers so over-harvest is not a concern. In addition, Western Arctic caribou numbers are at an all-time low and moose calf survival rates in this area are extremely low.

PROPOSED BY: Stan Parkerson (EG-F16-004)

PROPOSAL 38 - 5 AAC 85.020. Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear. Lengthen the nonresident fall hunting season for brown bear in Unit 23 as follows:

New Season Dates:

Unit 23, nonresident brown/grizzly bear draw hunts DB761 –DB767 and registration hunts, RB761-RB767: **August 20** [SEPTEMBER 1] through October 31.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Modify the brown/grizzly bear season in Unit 23 for the fall season nonresident draw, and registration hunts. Change the season opening date for nonresident hunters by 12 days. Current season date is September 1 to October 31. New season would be August 20 through October 31. This would allow for more opportunity to harvest the growing grizzly population. Would help with some of the hunting congestion with caribou hunters by starting the bear season earlier, and spreading out some of the hunting pressure over the longer season. Would help with calf recruitment for both the caribou and moose populations. Would not impact or conflict with the current resident season which starts August 1.

PROPOSED BY: Anchorage Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-F16-017)

PROPOSAL 39 - 5 AAC 85.020. Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear. Lengthen the nonresident fall hunting season for brown bear in Unit 23 as follows:

This would be a very easy fix. On page 117 of the 2015-2016 Hunting Regulations, replace September 1 with August 25.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? In Unit 23 the current season for grizzly bear is: September 1 through October 31 for nonresident grizzly bear hunters. I would like to propose opening the nonresident grizzly bear season a week earlier on August 25. The resident season begins August 1, so there no conflict or negative impact to resident hunters. However I would say that most people hunting grizzly bear are out of the area before the end of September. I am out of there by choice by the September 15, and another guide in Guide Use Area 23-02 is out of there around September 23 or 24.

Winter can come to stay by the end of September. The only access to the Upper Noatak, for instance, is by small plane, like a Super Cub or Cessna 180/206. When you get snow and ice on the ground, it can be unsafe to operate on wheels. The 600-foot gravel bar that was very workable when you could see the rocks, becomes a totally different situation when it is white with snow and ice. So from a safety standpoint it is a much shorter season than it looks like as hardly anybody hunts in October for grizzlies. The big bears are mostly heading for their dens by the first part of October anyway. I have been hunting there over 30 years and have always been out of there by the middle of September for safety reasons. Another aspect of this change would be that it would allow a few more bears to be taken and increase the harvest.

Another factor is that the bears don't really care, their coats are already in their prime and they are ready for harvest. In my humble opinion, a few more bears taken would help a few more moose to make it to maturity. We would all like to see a few more moose. Last year for the two weeks that I was there, we saw zero moose in our area. I was very surprised at that. The Noatak National Park Service is also on board with this proposal. Even though this proposal is really a small change to

the current regulations, it would make a significant and positive difference. Thank you for considering this proposal.

PROPOSED BY: E. Mont Mahoney (EG-F16-015)

PROPOSAL 40 - 5 AAC 85.020(21). Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear. Increase the resident bag limit for brown bear in Unit 23 as follows:

Unit 23, two bear limit per regulatory year.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? We would like the Alaska Department of Fish & Game to change the limit on brown/grizzly bears to two per year rather than the one per year in an attempt to help sustain the moose and caribou populations which are in decline due to the predator population.

PROPOSED BY: James Bourquin and the Kotzebue Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-F16-056)

Note: At the 2016 Statewide Regulations Meeting, the Board of Game adopted requirements for all nonresidents and nonresident aliens hunting with a registered or master guide which will be implemented for the winter 2017 drawing hunt application period. Please review the ADF&G comments for this proposal for additional information.

PROPOSAL 41 - 5 AAC 92.050. Required permit hunt conditions and procedures. Require a guide-client agreement to apply for a nonresident brown bear drawing permit in Unit 23 as follows:

In the next Alaska Drawing Permit Hunt Supplement, under brown/grizzly bear, page 3 under Unit 23 nonresidents only, implement the requirement and "Show the Handshake Symbol."

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Unit 23 nonresident drawing hunts for grizzly bear are all guided hunts except for next of kin applicants. Right now there is no requirement for any one putting in for these drawing hunts to even contact a guide before putting in for the drawing. It is conceivable for a number of people to apply for the drawing hunt, and draw the permit and then trash-can the permit without even intending to use it, thus negating the purpose of the drawing process. The other problem is that there is really no commitment on the part of the drawing applicant to go on the hunt since he does not even have to know or contact a guide before putting in for the drawing permit. If a handshake agreement with a guide was required it would be much better and pretty much eliminate both problems.

1. A handshake agreement with a guide would narrow the drawing applicants to those with real intent on coming on the hunt. It would weed out most of those who would abuse the system.
2. A handshake agreement with a guide would most likely entail a deposit along with the written agreement thus resulting on more actual hunts taking place as people who have put down deposits are more prone to fulfill their part of the contract to actually come on the hunt as they have put something into it and don't want to lose their deposit.

3. It is a matter of good, better and best. It may be good to have a draw. It is better and best to have the requirements that a handshake agreement entail to eliminate abuse of the system, and have more hunts take place. It brings integrity to the drawing process and would most likely increase the number of bears taken, which is what the Alaska Department of Fish and Game biologist in Kotzebue hopes for. Thank you for considering this proposal.

PROPOSED BY: E. Mont Mahoney (EG-F16-026)

PROPOSAL 42 - 5 AAC 92.044. Permit for hunting bear with the use of bait or scent lures.

Allow the use of bait for black and brown bear hunting in Unit 23 as follows:

Allow baiting in Unit 23, April 15—October 15 for black and grizzly bears, otherwise same regulation as in other units.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Bear baiting is not allowed in Unit 23. Unit 23 is on the radar for intensive management. I would think this could help with predator numbers.

PROPOSED BY: Jared Cummings (EG-F16-018)

PROPOSAL 43 - 5 AAC 92.080(4-5). Unlawful methods of taking game; exceptions. Allow the use of snowmachines to position and harvest brown bears and furbearers in Unit 23 as follows:

A snowmachine may be used to position a caribou, wolf, wolverine, **grizzly bear or furbearers** for harvest, and a caribou, wolf, wolverine, **grizzly bear or furbearers** may be shot from a stationary snowmachine in Unit 23.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Include grizzly bears and furbearers to the language allowing an exception to the use of snowmachines to position caribou, wolves, and wolverines for harvest in Unit 23. These animals are hunted and harvested in the same way as caribou, wolves, and wolverines in Unit 23, but the focus for the original proposal was on the caribou, wolves, and wolverines, which are the most commonly harvested and most sought-after species in the region by the greatest number of people (although many proposal supporters, including Tribes in Unit 23, requested a broader application of the use of snowmachine hunting at the time of the original proposal). However, it would be beneficial for all the same reasons expressed during the consideration of the original snowmachine use proposal to include grizzly bears and furbearers and have consistency for hunters in Unit 23 while pursuing all these species. No increase in harvest, or abuse of the use of snowmachines for hunting, has been noted since the implementation of the allowance of snowmachine use for hunting caribou, wolves, and wolverines, as was the main concern expressed by the opposition at the time of the original proposal.

PROPOSED BY: Kotzebue Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F16-112)

PROPOSAL 44 - 5 AAC 92.540(9)(A). Controlled use areas. Modify the area of the Noatak Controlled Use Area in Unit 23 as follows:

Noatak Controlled Use Area

(i) The area consists of that portion of Unit 23 in a corridor extending five miles on either side of, and including, the Noatak River, including the river, beginning at the mouth of the Noatak River and extending upstream to the mouth of the **Cutler River** [SAPUN CREEK].

(ii) The area is closed from August 15 through September 30 to the use of aircraft in any manner for big game hunting, including the transportation of big game hunters, their hunting gear, or parts of big game; however, this provision does not apply to the transportation of big game hunters, their hunting gear, or parts of big game to and between publicly owned airports.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? There are increased conflicts between local and non-local hunters at the head boundary of the Noatak Controlled Use Area, that are reducing caribou hunter success in the fall time.

PROPOSED BY: Noatak/Kivalina & Kotzebue Fish and Game Advisory Committees
(EG-F16-065)

PROPOSAL 45 - 5 AAC 92.540(9)(A). Controlled use areas. Require big game hunting camps to be three miles apart within and near the Noatak Controlled Use Area as follows:

(iii). Big game hunting camps are required to be spaced at least three miles apart on the Controlled Use Area and along the Agasisuak, Eli, and Squirrel Rivers. This would allow the caribou to migrate with less disruption.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The disruption of big game hunting in the fall time on the Squirrel, Agasisauk, and Eli Rivers due to the increased density of hunters creating a barrier to the migration.

PROPOSED BY: Noatak/Kivalina & Kotzebue Fish and Game Advisory Committees
(EG-F16-082)

Tentative Agenda – Interior/Northeast Arctic Region Meeting

Alaska Board of Game

February 17-25, 2017

Pike's Waterfront Lodge, Fairbanks, Alaska

Note: This Tentative Agenda is subject to change throughout the course of the meeting.

This Tentative Agenda is provided to give a general idea of the board's anticipated schedule. The board will attempt to hold to this schedule; however, the board is not constrained by this Tentative Agenda.

Friday, February 17, 8:30 AM

OPENING BUSINESS

Call to Order / Purpose of Meeting

Introductions of Board Members and Staff

Board Member Ethics Disclosures

AGENCY AND OTHER REPORTS

PUBLIC & ADVISORY COMMITTEE TESTIMONY upon conclusion staff reports

THE DEADLINE TO SIGN UP TO TESTIFY will be announced prior to the meeting.

Public testimony will continue until persons who have signed up before the deadline, and who are present when called by the Chair to testify, are heard.

Saturday, February 18, 8:30 AM

PUBLIC AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE ORAL TESTIMONY

Sunday, February 19, 9:00 AM

PUBLIC AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE ORAL TESTIMONY continued/concludes

BOARD DELIBERATIONS upon conclusion of public testimony

Monday, February 20, 8:30 AM – Friday, February 24, 8:30 AM

BOARD DELIBERATIONS continued

Saturday, February 25, 8:30 AM

BOARD DELIBERATIONS continued/conclude

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS, including petitions, findings and policies, letters, and other business

ADJOURN

Agenda Notes

- A. Meeting materials, including a list of staff reports, a roadmap, and schedule updates, will be available prior to the meeting at: www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=gameboard.meetinginfo or by contacting the ADF&G Boards Support Office in Juneau at 465-4110.
- B. A live audio stream for the meeting is intended to be available at: www.boardofgame.adfg.alaska.gov
- C. The State of Alaska Department of Fish and Game complies with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA). Individuals with disabilities who may need auxiliary aids, services, and/or special modifications to participate in this hearing and public meeting should contact 465-4110 no later than February 3, 2017 to make any necessary arrangements.

Regional/Multiple Unit Proposals

PROPOSAL 46 - 5 AAC 92.015(a)(4). Brown bear tag fee exemptions. Reauthorize resident brown bear tag fee exemptions in the Interior/Northeast Arctic Region as follows:

(a) A resident tag is not required for taking a brown bear in the following units:

(4) Units 12, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25, 26(B), and 26(C)

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Brown bear tag fee exemptions must be reauthorized annually. Reauthorizing the exemption allows residents, who have not purchased the \$25 brown bear tag, to take bears opportunistically.

Interior/Northeast Arctic Region (Region III) brown bear populations are healthy, and harvest is monitored through the brown bear sealing requirement. 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, 31% of brown bears harvested by resident hunters in Region III were taken incidentally to other activities compared with 13% statewide.

The Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) estimates that brown bear harvest accounts for approximately 6% of the bear populations. It is composed primarily of males and is sustainable. Where harvests are elevated (i.e., Units 20A, 20B, 20D, and portions of 26B), brown bear populations are managed by adjusting seasons and bag limits. The resident tag fees that were in place prior to 2010 appeared to have little effect on harvest rates in these areas.

ADF&G also recommends that 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 should also be reauthorized to provide additional subsistence opportunity in these areas.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F16-132)

Note: This proposal is scheduled for the Arctic/Western Region meeting as proposal 17 and the Interior/Northeast Arctic Region meeting as proposal 47.

PROPOSAL 47 - 5 AAC 92.990(26). Definitions. Change the definition of “edible meat” for game birds as follows:

"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;** [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 is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Define edible meat for all game birds in Units 12, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26A, 26B, and 26C to reduce or eliminate wanton waste of migratory birds.

During the spring 2015 Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management Council (AMBCC) meeting wanton waste language was adopted similar language for the spring/summer subsistence harvest season defining edible meat "human consumption" as: the meat from the breast, back, thighs, and legs. We would like to place the wings, gizzard and heart in the category of "human use" which would allow these part to be used by humans for non-edible purposes, e.g., trapping. However, the head, neck, feet, other internal organs and skin are optional.

The Central Kuskokwim Advisory Committee would like the fall hunt to be as consistent as possible with the spring/summer subsistence regulations proposed by the AMBCC for the 2016 season. This is the customary and traditional practices in our region and all the included areas addressed in this proposal.

PROPOSED BY: Central Kuskokwim Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-F16-092)

Note: The Board of Game deferred this proposal from the 2016 Statewide Regulations Meeting. It was previously numbered proposal 14. This proposal is scheduled for the Arctic/Western Region meeting as proposal 20 and the Interior/Northeast Arctic Region meeting as proposal 48.

PROPOSAL 48 - 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 as follows:

In order to allow more opportunity for those hunters wishing to use a crossbow while hunting during special hunts like the roadside "targeted hunts" for moose in Southcentral and the Interior, or while hunting in specific game management areas or state refuges around the state where either muzzleloaders or shotguns and bow and arrow are the approved hunting tools, I would ask the Board of Game to include the use of crossbows as a fourth approved hunting tool.

In addition to those wishing to hunt with a crossbow, there are those older or smaller hunters who, for whatever reason, cannot use a bow and arrow that meets the existing requirements. A person who cannot draw and hold a bow and arrow can normally still use a crossbow if that tool was legal for use.

What I am proposing is that the category of crossbow be added to the list of approved hunting tools for those hunts in game management areas, state game refuges, and special hunts where either a muzzleloader or shotgun is legal along with bow and arrow. For areas or hunts that are specified as bow and arrow only, nothing will change.

A crossbow has certain advantages over a bow and arrow and also has some major disadvantages compared to a bow and arrow. However, the two hunting tools are still relatively comparable in power and range. A crossbow does not even come close to a muzzleloader or shotgun in comparison. If a muzzleloader or a shotgun is legal to use, along with bow and arrow, then there are no practical concerns to not allow a crossbow along with bow and arrow in those areas or hunts which also allow a muzzleloader or shotgun.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? There are currently several state game management areas, state refuges, and special hunts statewide which support weapons restricted big game hunts. Most of these hunts prohibit the use of centerfire, high-powered rifles and specify that only muzzleloaders, shotguns using slugs, or bow and arrow (or some combination of the specified implements) are allowed. Hunters choosing to use muzzleloaders or bow and arrow must comply with existing regulation requirements for these hunting tools, i.e., things like muzzleloading caliber or the bow's draw weight.

These restrictions in areas or refuges or special hunts are done largely for safety reasons because all of the approved hunting tools are considered short-range compared to a highpowered rifle.

The Board of Game recently defined crossbows in regulation into their own category with requirements on power, bolt length, etc. This was done because crossbows as hunting tools are gradually increasing in hunting use for big game in Alaska during the general season and have become the fastest growing hunting tool in the Lower 48 for hunting animals like white-tailed deer and black bear. It was felt that a distinction between bow and arrow and crossbow was necessary.

Since crossbows are defined separately from bow and arrow, current regulations allowing the use of bow and arrow exclude the use of a crossbow for hunting during that same hunt.

PROPOSED BY: Howard Delo (EG-C15-037)

Note: This proposal is scheduled for the Arctic/Western Region meeting as proposal 19 and the Interior/Northeast Arctic Region meeting as proposal 49.

PROPOSAL 49 - 5 AAC 92.130. Restrictions to bag limit. Remove the bag limit restriction for resident relatives accompanying nonresident second degree of kindred as follows:

This new regulation does not solve any issues in the Arctic, Western, Interior or Eastern Arctic regions and Units 12, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26A, 26B, and 26C should be excluded from this regulation.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The new regulation, 5 AAC 92.130, adopted during the 2016 Statewide Regulation meeting is strictly allocative in nature and lacks a conservation basis. The regulation from the proposal reads as follows:

A guide required species under AS 16.05.407(a) taken by a nonresident personally accompanied by a resident relative under AS 16.05.407(a)(2) will count as the bag limit of both the nonresident and the resident relative who accompanies the nonresident.

This regulation was adopted without viable data on the number of nonresident second degree of kindred hunters and their harvest from the Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) for the Arctic, Western, Interior and Eastern Arctic Region units. ADF&G presented data that was admittedly limited and inaccurate, and this data was used as a basis for carrying the amended proposal 51 during the 2016 board meeting cycle.

The Alaska legislature took deliberate steps to provide for the second degree of kindred exemption. This was presumably done to allow residents to share their hunting experiences with close family, rather than to require residents to act as guides who are not allowed to take game while with a client.

This regulation allocates additional harvest to nonresident hunters by preventing a resident from harvesting game and as such is punitive to resident hunters. Additionally, the board recognized at the time that this regulation was based on choosing what was more valuable, a guided nonresident or a resident sharing a hunt with a family member, but unfortunately chose to side with the guiding industry.

PROPOSED BY: Kyle Jones (EG-F16-080)

PROPOSAL 50 - 5 AAC 92.130. Restrictions to bag limit. Remove the bag limit restriction for resident relatives accompanying nonresident second degree of kindred for the Interior Region as follows:

Everyone who wishes to hunt in a nonsubsistence area should have equal opportunity to pursue the "guided" species of Alaska.

While I believe that proposal 51 should be repealed statewide, in the setting of an Interior board meeting, I propose that recently passed proposal 51 should not apply to this region.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Recently passed proposal 51, limiting residents along with their nonresident second degree of kindred, to a shared bag limit of one for any "guided" species, is an inappropriate reallocation of tags in favor of the guiding industry. Taking away an opportunity from only those do-it-yourself hunters of Alaska who enjoy hunting with nonresident family is not appropriate. Long-distance family bonds are hard enough to maintain without this extra burden, which may preclude some hunting trips from taking place. The real benefactors in this new regulation are clearly the guides, who are trying to cut out a larger portion of the resources for their own benefit.

PROPOSED BY: Chris Harper (EG-F16-037)

PROPOSAL 51 - 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose; and 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou. Prohibit nonresident hunting of any prey species under intensive management in the Interior/Northeast Arctic Region until harvest and population objectives are met as follows:

Nonresident hunting shall not be allowed for any prey species in the Interior/Northeast Arctic Region under an intensive management (IM) predation control plan until the minimum IM population and harvest objectives for that prey species has been reached.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Nonresident hunting opportunity in areas under Intensive Management Predation Control Plans. IM predation control implementation plans to restore the abundance of prey species as necessary to achieve human consumptive use goals are intended to benefit resident Alaskans. Resident Hunters of Alaska supports IM efforts to achieve these goals.

We would like to see the Board of Game adopt regulations that match the intent of our IM law. No nonresident hunting should be allowed in any area of Region III for a prey species that is under a formal IM predation control plan to increase populations for the benefit of resident consumptive uses when the minimum IM population and harvest objectives for that prey species has not been reached.

PROPOSED BY: Resident Hunters of Alaska (EG-F16-102)

PROPOSAL 52 - 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; 92.069. Special provisions for moose drawing permit hunts; and 85.025. Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou. Establish a ten percent nonresident drawing permit allocation cap in the Interior/Northeast Arctic Region for Dall sheep, moose, brown bear, and caribou as follows:

Where we currently have or in future may have draw-only permit hunts for both residents and nonresidents in the Interior/Northeast Arctic Region for Dall sheep, moose, brown/grizzly bear and caribou, the nonresident allocations should reflect constitutional intent to maximize the benefit to resident Alaskans and be no more than **“up to 10 percent maximum”** of the available number of permits.

All resident hunters will benefit from this solution by being given their constitutionally-mandated maximum benefit and opportunity to our game resources.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Nonresident draw permit allocations in the Interior/Northeast Arctic Region. We would like the Board of Game to ensure that all current draw-only hunts for both residents and nonresidents, and any such hunts in the future, will have a clear and substantial resident preference opportunity to draw and to hunt.

Draw-only permit hunts for both residents and nonresidents reflect a need to limit the number of hunters afield for reasons that could be related to conservation, trophy quality, hunt aesthetics, crowding etc.

Whatever the rationale for a draw-only hunt for all user groups, and whatever the species, resident hunters should have a clear and substantial constitutional preference to draw a permit and an opportunity to hunt. Resident hunters don't currently have that preference, which is evident in the number of draw-only hunts for moose in the Interior/Northeast Arctic Region that give equal opportunities to nonresidents to draw a permit.

If this issue is not addressed, we will continue to see unconstitutionally high and unfair nonresident allocations for draw-only hunts in the Interior/Northeast Arctic Region that negatively affect resident hunter opportunity.

PROPOSED BY: Resident Hunters of Alaska (EG-F16-101)

Note: This proposal is scheduled for the Arctic/Western Region meeting as proposal 6 and the Interior/Northeast Arctic Region meeting as proposal 53.

PROPOSAL 53 - 5 AAC 85.025. Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou. 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 as follows:

	Resident Open season	Nonresident Open season
...		
Unit 12, that portion west of the Glenn Highway (Tok Cutoff) and south of the Alaska Highway within the Tok River drainage	Sept. 1—Sept. 20 <u>Subsistence</u>	No open season.
1 bull		
Unit 12, that portion west of the Glenn Highway (Tok cutoff) and south of the Alaska Highway, excluding the Tok River drainage		
1 bull by registration permit only; up to 100 bulls may be taken in combination with Unit 20(D), in that portion south of the Tanana River	Aug. 10—Sept. 30 <u>Subsistence</u>	No open season.
Remainder of Unit 12		
1 caribou may be taken by	(Winter season to be	No open season.

registration permit only during a winter season to be announced by emergency order

announced)
Subsistence

...

Unit 18

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

2 caribou by registration permit only; however, no more than 1 bull may be taken and no more than 1 caribou may be taken from Aug. 1—Jan. 31

Aug. 1—Mar. 15
Subsistence

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

No open season.

(14)

Unit 19(A), that portion within the Lime Village Management Area

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

2 caribou by registration permit only; however, no more than 1 bull may be taken and no more than 1 caribou may be taken from Aug. 1—Jan. 31

Aug. 1—Mar. 15
Subsistence

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

Units 19(A) and 19(B) within the Nonresident Closed Area

No open season.

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

2 caribou by registration permit only; however, no more than 1 bull may be taken and no more than 1 caribou may be taken from Aug. 1—Jan. 31

Aug. 1—Mar. 15
Subsistence

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

Remainder of Units 19(A) and 19(B)

No open season.

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

2 caribou by registration permit only; however, no more than 1 bull may be taken and no more than 1 caribou may be taken from

Aug. 1—Mar. 15
Subsistence

Aug. 1—Jan. 31

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

Unit 19(C)
1 bull

Aug. 10—Sept. 20
Subsistence

No open season.
Aug. 10—Sept. 20
General season

Unit 19(D), except the drainages of
The Nixon Fork River
1 bull; or

Aug. 10—Sept. 20
Subsistence

Aug. 10—Sept. 20
General season

1 caribou; or

Nov. 1—Jan. 31
Subsistence

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

(Season to be
announced)
(Subsistence hunt only)

No open season.

Remainder of Unit 19(D)
1 bull

Aug. 10—Sept. 20
Subsistence

Aug. 10—Sept. 20
General season

20(F), those portions south of
the Yukon River, and north and
east of a line formed by the
Richardson Highway from the
Unit 20(D) boundary to its
Intersection with the Steese
Highway, north along the
Steese Highway to its intersection
with the Elliot Highway, then
northwest along the Elliot
Highway to its intersection with
the Dalton Highway, then north
along the Dalton Highway to the
Yukon River, and Unit 20(D) that
portion north of the south bank of
the Tanana River

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 caribou, per lifetime of a hunter,
by youth hunt drawing permit;
up to 30 total permits may be
issued; or

Aug. 10—Aug. 21
General season

1 caribou by registration permit only; or

Aug. 10—Sept. 30
Subsistence
Dec. 1—Mar. 31
Subsistence

1 caribou by targeted permit only, during a season that may be announced by emergency order within a portion of the area during Dec. 1—Mar. 31

(Season to be announced by emergency order)

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 caribou, per lifetime of a hunter, by youth hunt drawing permit only; up to 30 total permits may be issued; or

Aug. 10—Aug. 21
General season

1 bull by registration permit only

Aug. 10—Sept. 20
General season

Remainder of Unit 20(B) **that lays outside the Fairbanks non-Subsistence area**

1 bull

Aug. 10—Sept. 20
Subsistence

Aug. 10—Sept. 20
General season

Unit 20(C)

No open season.

No open season.

Unit 20(D), that portion south of the Tanana River

No open season.

No open season.

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull by registration permit only; up to 100 bulls may be taken in combination with Unit 12 in that portion west of the Glenn Highway (Tok Cutoff) and south of the Alaska Highway, excluding the Tok River drainage

Aug. 10—Sept. 30
Subsistence

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

No open season.

Unit 20(E)

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 caribou, per lifetime of a hunter, by youth hunt drawing permit only; up to 30 total permits may be issued; or

Aug. 10—Aug. 21
General season

1 caribou by registration permit only; or

Aug. 10—Sept. 30

Subsistence

Dec. 1—Mar. 31

Subsistence

1 caribou by registration permit only, during a season for up to three days that may be announced by emergency order within a portion of the area during the period Oct. 20—Nov. 30; or

(Season to be announced by emergency order)

1 caribou by targeted permit only, during a season that may be announced by emergency order within a portion of the area during Dec. 1—Mar. 31

(Season to be announced by emergency order)

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 caribou, per lifetime of a hunter, by youth hunt drawing permit only; up to 30 total permits may be issued; or

Aug. 10—Aug. 21

General season

1 bull by registration permit only

Aug. 10—Sept. 20

General season

Unit 20(F) south of the Yukon River and west of the Dalton Highway

Aug. 10—Sept. 20

Subsistence

[(GENERAL HUNT ONLY)]

Aug. 10—Sept. 20

General season

1 bull

Unit 20(F), north of the Yukon River

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 caribou

Aug. 10—Mar. 31

Subsistence

[(GENERAL HUNT ONLY)]

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 caribou

Aug. 10—Sept. 30

General season

(16)

Unit 21(A)
1 bull

Aug. 10—Sept. 20

Subsistence

Aug. 10—Sept. 20

General season

Unit 21(B), that portion north of the Yukon River and downstream from Ukawutni Creek	No open season.	No open season.
Remainder of Unit 21(B) 1 caribou	Aug. 10—Sept. 30 <u>Subsistence</u>	Aug. 10—Sept. 30 <u>General season</u>
Unit 21(C), that portion within the Dulbi River drainage and that portion within the Melozitna River drainage downstream from Big Creek	No open season.	No open season.
Remainder of Unit 21(C) 1 caribou	Aug. 10—Sept. 30 <u>Subsistence</u>	Aug. 10—Sept. 30 <u>General season</u>
Unit 21(D), that portion north of the Yukon River and east of the Koyukuk River 2 caribou;	(Winter season to be announced)	No open season.
Remainder of Unit 21(D)		
RESIDENT HUNTERS: 5 caribou per day; as follows:		
up to 5 bulls per day; however, calves may not be taken;	July 1—Oct. 14 <u>Subsistence</u>	
	Feb. 1—June 30 <u>Subsistence</u>	
up to 5 cows per day; however, calves may not be taken	Sept. 1—Mar. 31 <u>Subsistence</u>	
NONRESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 bull; however, calves may not be taken		Aug. 1—Sept. 30 <u>General season</u>
Unit 21(E)	Aug. 10—Sept. 30 <u>Subsistence</u>	Aug. 10—Sept. 30 <u>General season</u>
1 caribou; however, 2 additional caribou may be taken during a winter season to be announced	(Winter season to be announced)	

(17)

Unit 22(A), that portion north of

the Golsovia River drainage

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

5 caribou per day; as follows:

up to 5 bulls per day; however,
calves may not be taken;

July 1—Oct. 14

Subsistence

Feb. 1—June 30

Subsistence

up to 5 cows per day; however,
calves may not be taken

Sept. 1—Mar. 31

Subsistence

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull; however, calves may not be
taken

Aug. 1—Sept. 30

General season

Unit 22(B), that portion west of
Golovnin Bay, and west of a line
along the west bank of the Fish
and Niukluk Rivers to the
mouth of the Libby River, and
excluding all portions of the
Niukluk River drainage upstream
from and including the Libby
River drainage

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

5 caribou per day; as follows:

up to 5 bulls per day; however,
calves may not be taken;

Oct. 1—Oct. 14

Subsistence

Feb. 1—Apr. 30

Subsistence

up to 5 cows per day; however,
calves may not be taken;

Oct. 1—Mar. 31

Subsistence

up to 5 caribou per day; however,
calves may not be taken; during the
period May 1—Sept. 30, a season
may be announced by emergency
order; however, cow caribou may
not be taken April 1—Aug. 31; bull
caribou may not be taken Oct.
15—Jan. 31

(Season to be announced
by emergency order)

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull; however, calves may not be
taken during the period Aug.

(Season to be announced
by emergency order)

1—Sept. 30, a season may be announced by emergency order

Remainder of Unit 22(B)

RESIDENT HUNTERS:
5 caribou per day as follows:

up to 5 bulls per day; however calves may not be taken;

July 1—Oct. 14
Subsistence

Feb. 1—June 30

Subsistence

up to 5 cows per day; however, calves may not be taken

Sept. 1—Mar. 31

Subsistence

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:
1 bull; however, calves may not be Taken

Aug. 1—Sept. 30
General season

Unit 22(D), that portion in the Pilgrim River drainage

RESIDENT HUNTERS:
5 caribou per day, as follows:

up to 5 bulls per day; however, calves may not be taken

Oct. 1—Oct. 14

Subsistence

Feb. 1—Apr. 30

Subsistence

up to 5 cows per day; however, calves may not be taken

Oct. 1—Mar. 31

Subsistence

up to 5 caribou per day; however, calves may not be taken; during the period May 1—Sept. 30, a season may be announced by emergency order; however, cow caribou may not be taken April 1—Aug. 31

(Season to be announced by emergency order)

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:
1 bull; however, calves may not be taken; during the period Aug. 1—Sept. 30, a season may be announced by emergency order

(Season to be announced by emergency order)

Unit 22(D), that portion in the Kuzitrin River drainage (excluding the Pilgrim River

drainage) and the Agiapuk River drainage, including the Tributaries

RESIDENT HUNTERS
5 caribou per day, as follows:

up to 5 bulls per day; however, calves may not be taken;

July 1—Oct. 14
Subsistence

Feb. 1—June 30
Subsistence

up to 5 cows per day; however, calves may not be taken

Sept. 1—Mar. 31
Subsistence

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:
1 bull; however, calves may not be taken

Aug. 1—Sept. 30
General season

Unit 22(E), that portion east of and including the Sanaguich River drainage

RESIDENT HUNTERS:
5 caribou per day, as follows:

up to 5 bulls per day; however, calves may not be taken;

July 1—Oct. 14
Subsistence

Feb. 1—June 30
Subsistence

up to 5 cows per day; however, calves may not be taken

Sept. 1—Mar. 31
Subsistence

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:
1 bull; however, calves may not be taken

Aug. 1—Sept. 30
General season

Remainder of Unit 22

RESIDENT HUNTERS:
5 caribou per day; however calves may not be taken; cow caribou may not be taken Apr. 1—Aug. 31; bull caribou may not be taken Oct. 15—Jan. 31

(Season to be announced by emergency order)

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:
1 bull; however, calves may not

(Season to be announced

be taken; during the period Aug. 1—Sept. 30

by emergency order)

(18)

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

RESIDENT HUNTERS:
5 caribou per day, as follows:

up to 5 bulls per day; however, calves may not be taken;

July 1—Oct. 14
Subsistence
Feb. 1—June 30
Subsistence

up to 5 cows per day; however, calves may not be taken

Jul. 15—Apr. 30
Subsistence

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:
1 bull; however, calves may not be taken

Aug. 1—Sept. 30
General season

Remainder of Unit 23

RESIDENT HUNTERS:
5 caribou per day, as follows:

up to 5 bulls per day; however, calves may not be taken;

July 1—Oct. 14
Subsistence
Feb. 1—June 30
Subsistence

up to 5 cows per day; however, calves may not be taken

Sept. 1—Mar. 31
Subsistence

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:
1 bull; however, calves may not be taken

Aug. 1—Sept. 30
General season

(19)

Unit 24(A), that portion south of the south bank of the Kanuti River, and that portion of Unit 25(D) drained by the west fork Of the Dall River west of 150 W. long.

1 caribou

Aug. 10—Mar. 31

Aug. 10—Sept. 30

Remainder of Unit 24(A), and
Remainder of Unit 24(B)

Subsistence

General season

RESIDENT HUNTERS:
5 caribou per day, as follows:
up to 5 bulls per day; however,
calves may not be taken;

July 1—Oct. 14

Subsistence

Feb. 1—June 30

Subsistence

up to 5 cows per day; however,
calves may not be taken

Jul. 15—Apr. 30

Subsistence

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:
1 bull; however, calves may not
be taken

Aug. 1—Sept. 30

General season

Unit 24(B), that portion south of
the south bank of the Kanuti
River, upstream from and
including that portion of the
Kanuti-Kilolitna River drainage,
bounded by the southeast bank
of the Kodosin-Nolitna Creek,
then downstream along the east
bank of the Kanuti-Kilolitna
River to its confluence with the
Kanuti River

1 caribou

Aug. 10—Mar. 31

Subsistence

Aug. 10—Sept. 30

General season

Units 24(C) and 24(D)

RESIDENT HUNTERS:
5 caribou per day, as follows:

up to 5 bulls per day; however,
calves may not be taken;

July 1—Oct. 14

Subsistence

Feb. 1—June 30

Subsistence

up to 5 cows per day; however,
calves may not be taken

Sept. 1—Mar. 31

Subsistence

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:
1 bull; however, calves may not
be taken

Aug. 1—Sept. 30

General season

(20)

Units 25(A), those portions east of the east bank of the East Fork Chandalar River extending from its confluence with the Chandalar River upstream to Guilbeau Pass, Unit 25(B), and Unit 25(D), excluding the drainage of the west fork of the Dall River west of 150° W. long.

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

10 caribou

July 1—Apr. 30

Subsistence

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

2 bulls

Aug. 1—Sept. 30

General season

Remainder of Unit 25(A)

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

10 caribou; however cow caribou may not be taken from May 16—June 30

July 1—June 30

Subsistence

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

2 bulls

Aug. 1—Sept. 30

General season

Remainder of Unit 25(A)

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

10 caribou; however cow caribou may not be taken from May 16—June 3

July 1—June 30

Subsistence

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

5 caribou; however cow caribou may not be taken from May 16—June 30

July 1—June 30

General season

Unit 25(C)

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 caribou, per lifetime of a hunter, by youth hunt drawing permit only; up to 30 total permits may be issued; or

Aug. 10—Aug. 21

General season

1 caribou by registration permit only; or

Aug. 10—Sept. 30

Subsistence

Dec. 1—Mar. 31

Subsistence

1 caribou by targeted permit only, during a season that may be announced by emergency order within a portion of the area during Dec. 1—Mar. 31

(Season to be announced emergency order)

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 caribou, per lifetime of a hunter, by youth hunt drawing permit only; up to 30 total permits may be issued; or

Aug. 10—Aug. 21

General season

1 bull by registration permit only

Aug. 10—Sept. 20

General season

(21)

Unit 26(A), that portion of the Colville River drainage upstream from the Anaktuvuk River, and drainages of the Chukchi Sea south and west of, and including the Utukok River drainage

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

5 caribou per day, as follows:

up to 5 bulls per day; however, calves may not be taken;

July 1—Oct. 14

Subsistence

Feb. 1—June 30

Subsistence

up to 5 cows per day; however, calves may not be taken

Jul. 15—Apr. 30

Subsistence

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull; however, calves may not be taken

July 15—Sept. 30

General season

Remainder of Unit 26(A)

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

5 bulls per day; however, calves may not be taken;

July 1—July 15
Subsistence

5 caribou per day; however, no more than 3 cows per day; cows accompanied by calves and calves may not be taken;

July 16—Oct. 15
Subsistence

3 cows per day; however, calves may not be taken;

Oct. 16—Dec. 31
Subsistence

5 caribou per day; however, no more than 3 cows per day; calves may not be taken;

Jan. 1—Mar. 15
Subsistence

5 bulls per day; however, calves may not be taken;

Mar. 16—June 30
Subsistence

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull; however, calves may not be taken

July 15—Sept. 30
General season

Unit 26(B), that portion north of 69° 30' N. lat. and west of the east bank of the Kuparuk River to a point at 70° 10' N. lat., 149° 04' W. long., then west approximately 22 miles to 70° 10' N. lat. and 149° 56' W. long., then following the east bank of the Kalubik River to the Arctic Ocean

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

5 caribou per day; however, cow caribou may not be taken
May 16—June 30

July 1—June 30
Subsistence

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

5 caribou

July 1—Apr. 30
General season

Unit 26(B), that portion south of 69° 30' N. lat. and west of the Dalton Highway

5 caribou; however, cow caribou may be taken only

July 1—Oct. 10
Subsistence

July 1—Oct. 10
General season

from July 1—Oct. 10	May 16—June 30 <u>Subsistence</u>	May 16—June 30 <u>General season</u>
Unit 26(B), that portion south Of 69° 30' N. lat. and east of the Dalton Highway		
5 caribou; however, cow caribou may be taken only from July 1—May 15	July 1—July 30 <u>Subsistence</u>	July 1—June 30 <u>General season</u>
Remainder of Unit 26(B)		
5 caribou (22)	July 1—Apr. 30 <u>Subsistence</u>	July 1—Apr. 30 <u>General season</u>
Unit 26(C)		
RESIDENT HUNTERS: 10 caribou; however, only bull caribou may be taken June 23—June 30	July 1—Apr. 30 <u>Subsistence</u> June 23—June 30 <u>Subsistence</u>	
NONRESIDENT HUNTERS: 2 bulls		Aug. 1—Sept. 30 <u>General season</u>

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Amend the resident “general season” status in codified to subsistence for residents on caribou populations that have a positive customary & traditional use (C&T) finding. The statutory definition of subsistence hunting makes all Alaskan residents eligible to take, hunt, and possess game with a positive C&T.

General seasons apply to nonresident seasons, seasons in nonsubsistence areas, drawing hunts, and season on game species that do not have a positive finding of C&T.

PROPOSED BY: Al Barrette (EG-F16-085)

Note: This proposal is scheduled for the Arctic/Western Region meeting as proposal 5 and the Interior/Northeast Arctic Region meeting as proposal 54.

PROPOSAL 54 - 5 AAC 85.015. Hunting seasons and bag limits for black bear. Change “general season” to “subsistence hunt” for Interior/Northeast Arctic Region black bear hunts having positive customary and traditional use findings as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open season	Nonresident Open season
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Units 12, 18, 19, 20 outside the Fairbanks nonsubsistence area, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25,

No closed season.
[GENERAL SEASON]
Subsistence

No closed season.
(General hunt only)

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Change the resident “general season” status in codified to subsistence for residents taking black bears. Black bears in all these units have a positive finding of customary and traditional use, with one exception, and that is the bears that are within the Fairbanks nonsubsistence area.

PROPOSED BY: Al Barrette (EG-F16-083)

PROPOSAL 55 - 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Clarify the resident general and subsistence hunting seasons and the nonresident general hunting seasons for moose in Units 12, 19, 20, 21, and 24 as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open season	Nonresident Open season
-----------------------------	---------------------------------	------------------------------------

...

Unit 12, that portion including all drainages into the west bank of the Little Tok River, from its headwaters in Bear Valley at the intersection of the unit boundaries of Units 12 and 13 to its junction with the Tok River, and all drainages into the south bank of the Tok River from its junction with the Little Tok River to the Tok Glacier

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull per harvest report by community harvest community harvest permit only; however, no more than 100 bulls that do not meet antler restrictions for other resident hunts in the same area may be taken in the entire community harvest area during the Aug. 24—Aug. 28 and Sept. 8—Sept. 17 seasons; or

Aug. 24—Aug. 28
Sept. 8—Sept. 17
Dec. 1—Dec. 31
(Subsistence hunt only)

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

Aug. 24—Aug. 28

General season

Sept. 8—Sept. 17

General season

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

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

Sept. 8—Sept. 17

General season

Unit 12, remainder of that portion in the Tok River drainage upstream from the Tok Cutoff Bridge

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

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

Aug. 24—Aug. 28

Subsistence

Sept. 8—Sept. 17

Subsistence

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

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

Sept. 8—Sept. 17

General season

Unit 12, that portion lying East of the Nabesna River and south of the winter trail running southeast from Pickerel Lake to the Canadian border

Sept. 1—Sept. 30

Subsistence

Sept. 1—Sept. 30

General season

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

Unit 12, that portion within the Nabesna River drainage west of the east bank of the Nabesna River upstream from the southern boundary of the Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

12 bull with spike-fork antlers or 50-inch antlers or antlers with 3 or more brow tines on one side, by registration permit only

Aug. 20—Sept. 17
Subsistence

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:
1 bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 3 or more brow tines on one side, by registration permit only

Aug. 20—Sept. 17
General season

Remainder of Unit 12

RESIDENT HUNTERS:
1 bull

Aug. 24—Aug. 28
Sept. 8—Sept. 17
Subsistence

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:
1 bull with 50-inch antlers or Antlers with 4 or more brow on one side

Sept. 8—Sept. 17
General season

...

Unit 19(A), that portion within the Lime Village Management Area

2 bulls per regulatory year; up to 28 bulls may be taken by Tier II subsistence hunting permit only; up to 14 permits may be issued

Aug. 10—Sept. 25
(Subsistence hunt only)

No open season.

Nov. 20—Mar. 31
(Subsistence hunt only)

Unit 19(A), that portion downstream from and including the George River drainage, and downstream from and excluding the Downey River drainage

RESIDENT HUNTERS:
1 antlered bull by Tier II permit only; up to 300 permits may be issued

Sept. 1—Sept. 20
Subsistence

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS		No open season.
Remainder of Unit 19(A)	No open season.	No open season.
Unit 19(B) within the Nonresident Closed Area		
RESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 bull with spike-fork or 50- inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines one side	Sept. 1—Sept. 20 <u>Subsistence</u>	
NONRESIDENT HUNTERS: Remainder of Unit 19(B)		No open season
RESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 bull with spike-fork or 50- inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side	Sept. 1—Sept. 20 <u>Subsistence</u>	
NONRESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side		Sept. 5—Sept. 20 <u>General season</u>
Unit 19(C)		
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. 20 <u>Subsistence</u>	
1 bull by registration permit only	Feb. 1—Feb. 28 <u>Subsistence</u>	
NONRESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 bull with 50-inch antlers or with 4 or more brow tines on one side		Sept. 1—Sept. 20 <u>General season</u>
Unit 19(D), that portion in the Upper Kuskokwim Controlled Use Area		
1 antlered bull by registration	Sept. 1—Sept. 25	No open season.

permit

Subsistence

Unit 19(D), that portion between and including the Cheeneetnuk and Gagaryah River drainages, excluding that portion within 2 miles of the Swift River

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 antlered bull; or

Sept. 1—Sept. 20

Subsistence

1 antlered bull by registration permit

Sept. 1—Sept. 25

Subsistence

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

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

Sept. 1—Sept. 20

General season

Remainder of Unit 19(D)

1 antlered bull; or

1 antlered bull by registration

Sept. 1—Sept. 20

Sept. 1—Sept. 25

Subsistence

No open season.

No open season.

(18)

...

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

Subsistence

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

Sept. 8—Sept. 25

General season

tines on one side by drawing permit only; up to 8 permits may be issued

.....

Unit 20(C)

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull

Sept. 1—Sept. 25

Subsistence

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

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

Sept. 1—Sept. 25

General season

Unit 20(D), that portion lying south of the north bank of the Tanana River and east of the west bank of the Johnson River, except that portion within the Robertson River drainage south of the confluence of the east and west forks, and within one mile west of the west fork

1 bull

Sept. 1—Sept. 15

Subsistence

No open season.

Unit 20(D), that portion within the Robertson River drainage south of the confluence of the east and west forks, and within one mile west of the west fork

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull

Sept. 1—Sept. 15

Subsistence

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

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

Sept. 5—Sept. 15

General season

...

Unit 20(D), that portion within the Healy River drainage

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 spike-fork bull or;
1 bull

Aug. 15—Aug. 28
Sept. 1—Sept. 20
Subsistence

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull

Sept. 1—Sept. 20
General season

Unit 20(D), that portion lying north of the north bank of the Tanana River and draining into the Volkmar River east to include the Billy Creek drainage, excluding that portion within the Healy River drainage

Sept. 1—Sept. 20
Subsistence

Sept. 1—Sept. 20
General season

1 bull

Remainder of Unit 20(D)
1 bull

Sept. 1—Sept. 15
Subsistence

Sept. 1—Sept. 15
General season

Unit 20(E), that portion within the Ladue River Controlled Use Area

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull per regulatory year; only as follows:

1 bull by registration permit only; or 1 bull by drawing permit only; up to 100 permits may be issued

Aug. 24—Aug. 28 **Subsistence**
Sept. 8—Sept. 17 **Subsistence**
Nov. 1—Dec. 10
(General hunt only)

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

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

Sept. 8—Sept. 17
General season

Unit 20(E), that portion

draining into the Middle Fork
of the Fortymile River
upstream from and including the
Joseph Creek drainage

RESIDENT HUNTERS:
1 bull

Aug. 24—Aug. 28 **Subsistence**
Sept. 8—Sept. 17 **Subsistence**

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

Sept. 8—Sept. 17
General season

Remainder of Unit 20(E)

RESIDENT HUNTERS:
1 bull by registration
permit only

Aug. 24—Aug. 28 **Subsistence**
Sept. 8—Sept. 17 **Subsistence**

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

Sept. 8—Sept. 17
General season

Unit 20(F), that portion
drained by the Yukon River
downstream from, but
not including, the Hess Creek and
Tanana River drainages

1 bull per regulatory year

Sept. 5—Sept. 25
Subsistence
Dec. 1—Dec. 15
Subsistence

No open season.

Unit 20(F), that portion drained
by the Tanana River
1 bull

Sept. 5—Sept. 25
Subsistence

No open season.

Remainder of Unit 20(F)
1 bull

Sept. 1—Sept. 15
Subsistence

No open season.

(19)

Unit 21(A)

RESIDENT HUNTERS:
1 antlered bull

Sept. 5—Sept. 25

Subsistence

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

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

Sept. 5—Sept. 25
General season

Unit 21(B), that portion within the Nowitna River drainage upstream from the Little Mud River drainage and outside a corridor extending two miles on either side of and including the Nowitna River

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull

Aug. 22—Aug. 31 **Subsistence**
Sept. 5—Sept. 25 **Subsistence**

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

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

Sept. 5—Sept. 25
General season

Remainder of Unit 21(B)

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull by registration permit only; or

Aug. 22—Aug. 31
Sept. 5—Sept. 25
(Subsistence hunt only)

1 bull by drawing permit only; up to 300 permit may be issued in Unit 21(B)

Sept. 5—Sept. 25
General season

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 300 permits may be issued in Unit 21(B)

Sept. 5—Sept. 25
General season

Unit 21(C)

Unit 21(C) that portion within the Dulbi River drainage

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull, by registration permit only; or

Sept. 5—Sept. 25
(Subsistence hunt only)

1 bull, by drawing permit only; up to 100 permits may be issued in Unit 21(C)

Sept. 5—Sept. 25
General season

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 100 permits may be issued in Unit 21(C)

Sept. 5—Sept. 25
General season

Remainder of Unit 21(C)

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull

Sept. 5—Sept. 25
Subsistence

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

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

Sept. 5—Sept. 25
General season

Unit 21(D), that portion within the Koyukuk Controlled Use Area

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull by registration permit only; or

Sept. 1—Sept. 25
(Subsistence hunt only)

1 bull by drawing permit only; up to 320 permits may be issued in combination with Unit 24, that portion within the Koyukuk Controlled Use Area

Sept. 5—Sept. 25
General season

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side by drawing permit; up to 80 permits may

Sept. 5—Sept. 25
General season

be issued in combination with Unit 24, that portion within the Koyukuk Controlled Use Area

Remainder of Unit 21(D)

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull by registration permit only; or

Aug. 22—Aug. 31
Sept. 5—Sept. 25
(Subsistence hunt only)

1 bull by drawing permit only; up to 600 permits may be issued in Unit 21(D) outside the Koyukuk Controlled Use Area; or

Sept. 5—Sept. 25
General season

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 600 permits may be issued in Unit 21(D) outside the Koyukuk Controlled Use Area

Sept. 5—Sept. 25
General season

Unit 21(E)

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 antlered bull by registration permit only

Sept. 5—Sept. 25
Subsistence

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 100 permits may be issued; up to 30 percent of the permits may be issued to hunters using a registered guide

Sept. 5—Sept. 25
General season

...

(22)

Unit 24(A), that portion in the Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area

RESIDENT HUNTERS:
1 bull, by drawing permit up to 70 permits may be issued in combination with Unit 25(A), that portion within the Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area

Sept. 1—Sept. 25
General season

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 70 permits may be issued in combination with Unit 25(A), that portion within the Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area

Remainder of Unit 24(A)

RESIDENT HUNTERS:
1 bull

Sept. 1—Sept. 25
Subsistence

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:
1 bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side,

Sept. 5—Sept. 25
General season

Unit 24(B) all drainages of the Koyukuk River upstream from the Henshaw Creek drainage, excluding the North Fork of the Koyukuk River drainage

RESIDENT HUNTERS:
1 bull

Sept. 1—Sept. 25
Subsistence

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

Sept. 5—Sept. 25
General season

Remainder of Unit 24(B)

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull; or
1 antlered bull
by registration permit only

Sept. 1—Sept. 25
Dec. 15—Apr. 15
(Subsistence hunt only)

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS

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

Sept. 5—Sept. 25
General season

Unit 24(C), that portion within
the Koyukuk Controlled Use Area

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull by registration permit
only; or

Sept. 1—Sept. 25
(Subsistence hunt only)

1 bull by drawing permit only;
up to 320 permits may be
issued in combination with
Units 21(D) and 24(D), those
portions within the Koyukuk
Controlled Use Area; or

Sept. 5—Sept. 25
General season

1 antlered bull
by registration permit only

Dec. 15—Apr. 15
(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 80 permits may be
issued in combination with
Units 21(D) and 24(D), those
portions within the Koyukuk
Controlled Use Area

Sept. 5—Sept. 25
General season

Remainder of Unit 24(C)

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull by registration
permit only; or

Sept. 5—Sept. 25
(Subsistence hunt only)

1 bull by drawing permit only;
up to 450 permits may be

Sept. 5—Sept. 25
General season

issued in combination with
Unit 24(D) outside the Koyukuk
Controlled Use Area; or

1 antlered bull by
registration permit only

Dec. 15—Apr. 15
(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;
up to 450 permits

Sept. 5— Sept. 25
General season

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Amend the resident “general season” status in codified to subsistence for residents on moose population that have a positive customary and traditional use (C&T) finding. The statutory definition of subsistence hunting makes all Alaskan residents eligible to take, hunt, and possess game with a positive C&T.

General seasons apply to nonresident seasons, seasons in nonsubsistence areas, drawing hunts, and seasons on game species that do not have a positive finding of C&T.

PROPOSED BY: Al Barrette (EG-F16-115)

PROPOSAL 56 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep. Clarify the resident general and subsistence hunting seasons and the nonresident general hunting seasons for Dall sheep as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open season	Nonresident Open season
...		
Unit 19(A), 19(B), and 19(D) 1 ram with full curl horn or larger	Aug. 10—Sept. 20 <u>Subsistence</u>	Aug. 10—Sept. 20 <u>General season</u>
Unit 19(C) 1 ram with full curl horn or larger; or 1 sheep with 3/4 curl horn or less; the take of rams with both horns broken, lambs or ewes with lambs, is prohibited; by registration permit only	Aug. 10—Sept. 20 <u>Subsistence</u> Oct. 1—April 30 (Subsistence hunt only)	Aug. 10—Sept. 20 <u>General season</u> No open season
Unit 24(B), that portion		

with the John River drainage upstream from Till Creek, and that portion within the Glacier River drainage

Aug. 1—Apr. 30
Subsistence

No open season.

3 sheep

Remainder of Unit 24(B)
1 ram with a full-curl horn or larger

Aug. 10—Sept. 20
Subsistence

Aug. 10—Sept. 20
General season

Unit 25(A)

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 ram with a full-curl horn or larger may be taken only from Aug. 10 through Sept. 20; up to 3 sheep may be taken by registration permit only Oct. 1—April 30

Aug. 10—Sept. 20
Subsistence
Oct. 1—Apr. 30
Subsistence

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 ram with a full-curl horn or larger.

Aug. 10—Sept. 20
General season

Remainder of Unit 25
1 ram with a full-curl horn or larger

Aug. 10—Sept. 20
Subsistence

Aug. 10—Sept. 20
General season

Unit 26(A), that portion west of the Etivluk River drainage

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 sheep by registration permit only

No open season.
(Subsistence hunt only)

ALL HUNTERS:

1 ram with full-curl horn or larger by drawing permit only provided that the harvestable surplus is greater than 9 in combination with that portion

No open season.

No open season.

of Unit 23 in the DeLong Mountains

Unit 26(A), that portion east of and including the Etivluk River drainage, excluding Gates of the Arctic National Park

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

3 sheep by registration permit only Aug. 1—Apr. 30
(Subsistence hunt only)

ALL HUNTERS:

1 ram with full-curl horn or larger Aug. 10—Sept. 20 Aug. 10—Sept. 20
Subsistence **General season**

Unit 26(B), that portion within the Gates of the Arctic National Park

3 sheep Aug. 1—Apr. 30 No open season
Subsistence

Remainder of Units 26(A) and 26(B)
1 ram with a full-curl horn or larger

Aug. 10—Apr. 30 Aug. 10—Sept. 20
Subsistence **General season**

Unit 26(C)

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 ram with a full-curl horn or larger may be taken only from Aug. 10 through Sept. 20; up to 3 sheep may be Taken by registration permit Oct. 1—April 30 Aug. 10—Sept. 20
Subsistence
Oct. 1—Apr. 30
Subsistence

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 ram with a full-curl horn or larger Aug. 10—Sept. 20
General season

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Amend the resident “general season” status in codified to subsistence for residents on sheep populations that have a positive

customary and traditional use (C&T) finding. The statutory definition of subsistence hunting makes all Alaskan residents eligible to take, hunt, and possess game with a positive C&T.

General seasons apply to nonresident seasons, seasons in nonsubsistence areas, drawing hunts, and season on game species that do not have a positive finding of C&T.

PROPOSED BY: Al Barrette (EG-F16-088)

PROPOSAL 57 - 5 AAC 92.008. Harvest guideline levels. Establish a nonresident sheep harvest cap of 12% for the Interior/Northeast Arctic Region as follows:

I am asking the board to put a cap on nonresidents being allowed to hunt each year for sheep in the Interior/Northeast Arctic Region at 12% of the total harvest looking at a three-year average.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Nonresident hunting opportunity for Dall sheep.

As an Alaska resident, I would like to see the Board of Game show preference towards their fellow Alaskans when sheep numbers are down like they are now.

PROPOSED BY: Jacques Etcheverry (EG-F16-062)

PROPOSAL 58 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep; and 92.008. Harvest guideline levels. 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 as follows:

Establish a maximum cap of 25% total harvest for Dall sheep by nonresident hunters participating in units currently open for general season harvest in the Interior/Northeast Arctic Region. Additionally, make all general season sheep hunts for nonresidents drawing only.

This 25% harvest cap would be on a Unit by unit basis. That is, no unit will have a nonresident harvest that exceeds 25% of the total Dall sheep harvest for that particular unit. For example, if the average harvest of Dall sheep in Unit 19C is ~100 rams, then the maximum harvest for nonresidents in that particular unit would be no greater than ~25 rams.

The 25% harvest would be based off of the previous five years average total harvest of Dall sheep in each particular unit. For example: Unit 19C has seen an average total harvest of ~82 rams/year for (2010-2014). Thus, the total nonresident harvest would be restricted to no more than 20 rams (25% of 82).

Additionally, all general season hunts open to nonresidents would become “drawing hunts.” Each unit with a general season hunt would become a drawing for nonresidents only. (Current regulations would not change for resident hunters). The amount of tags available to nonresidents would be based off of two things; A: The nonresident harvest cap for each particular unit, and B: The nonresident success rate for that particular unit. For example: If Unit 19C has a maximum

allowable nonresident harvest of 20 rams and the nonresident success rate for that unit is 65%. Then this would allow for 31 nonresident tags to be available for that particular unit. Drawings would be available for all units which currently have open non-resident general season hunts for Dall sheep.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Currently, Alaska resident hunting opportunities for Dall sheep have diminished due to diminished populations of Dall sheep and less areas/units open to general harvest of Dall sheep. This has led to increased competition/crowding from guided nonresident hunters due to a lack of available legal full curl Dall rams. As a result, it is necessary for the Board of Game to decrease the number of Dall sheep harvested by nonresident hunters. Additionally, the amount of nonresident hunters present in the field need to be reduced in order to mitigate the increased crowding and competition during sheep season.

PROPOSED BY: Luke Graham (EG-F16-023)

PROPOSAL 59 - 5 AAC 92.057. Special provisions for Dall sheep and mountain goat drawing permit hunts. Establish a ten percent nonresident sheep permit allocation for the Interior/Northeast Arctic Region as follows:

A 90/10 allocation should be put in place for sheep. A maximum of 10% the resource should go to nonresidents but 10% is not guaranteed and a minimum of 90% should go to Alaska residents. All nonresidents will be put on permits and can apply to get a permit out of the 10% pool.

All general hunts that require permits due to low game numbers should follow this 90/10 rule. All sheep should be on this 90/10 rule. This should be a statewide regulation but since the Board of Game rejected this request we will have to start with Interior/Northeast Region and the Arctic/Western Regions until the next statewide meeting.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? A 90/10 percent sheep allocation needs to be adopted in the Interior/Northeast Region. Other states have similar policies in place and the Board of Game (board) seems to feel comfortable ignoring resident requests for this preference. A minimum of 90% of the resource would go to residents and a maximum of 10% would go to nonresidents but 10% is not guaranteed.

The number of sheep hunters (resident and nonresident) from the past three years should be averaged and nonresidents would be allowed to apply for permits on 10% of that total number. **EXAMPLE:** If the average of those hunters (**hunters that actually hunted sheep**) was 1,500, then the Department of Fish and Game should issue 150 permits for nonresidents. 10% of 1,500 = 150. This 10% would apply to guided hunts and next of kin - all nonresidents. Instead of listening to the requests for resident preferences the board makes sure the guiding industry loses nothing. The sheep numbers have diminished, the experience has diminished, and the success has diminished for residents. Nonresidents harvested 45% of the sheep statewide last year! Who is responsible for this?

PROPOSED BY: Jeff Barney (EG-F16-098)

PROPOSAL 60 - 5 AAC 92.057. Special provisions for Dall sheep and mountain goat drawing permit hunts. Establish a ten percent nonresident sheep permit allocation for the Interior/Northeast Arctic Region as follows:

Establish a 90/10 percent resident/nonresident sheep permit allocation. The Board of Game should only allow 10% of sheep permits to be purchased by nonresidents with 10% being the ceiling and not guaranteed. This 10% allocation should be calculated on an average of resident and nonresident sheep hunters from the previous three years. This 10% allocation should include both next of kin and guided hunts.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Board of Game (board) needs to address the overcrowding issue for sheep hunters, declining ram numbers (especially quality rams), and most especially, the over-harvest of Dall sheep by nonresidents. **In 2015, nonresidents harvested 45% of the total rams harvested statewide.** This is not acceptable, nor is it sustainable, and the board should implement allocation rules that give Alaska residents a minimum of 90% of the resource.

There have been two sheep surveys conducted by Dr. Brinkman of the University of Alaska per request and funding by the board: a random survey and a non-random survey. These Brinkman surveys overwhelmingly showed that nonresident hunters are the problem—100% on the non-random survey and 77% on the random survey expressed this. These incredibly high percentages were both ignored and disregarded. Instead of listening to the people, the Board of Game produced its own proposal (207)—one that was never asked for by the public in the proposal process, is completely unenforceable, hampers numerous Alaskans and helps the guides and their clients.

Members of the board have been quoted saying that Alaska residents need to “*share the burden*” with nonresidents if they are to reduce the numbers of sheep hunters. This is unreasonable and inappropriate when **45% of the rams harvested statewide are by nonresidents.** The board needs to value residents over nonresidents and manage our resources according to our state constitution which clearly and distinctly states that our game resources will be managed sustainably and for the benefit and use by and for Alaskans. These sheep, and all fish and game resources within the state, are owned collectively by the residents of the State of Alaska. They are not owned by any specific group, by guides, or by residents of other states. They are owned by us—the residents of Alaska, and we expect them to be managed for our benefit and those of future Alaskans. Nowhere in our state constitution does it state that our game populations will be managed for residents of other states. Nowhere does it state that our game populations will be managed so that individuals or organizations can make money or a living off of our game resources. Nowhere does it state that the State of Alaska owes anybody a job. And nowhere does our constitution state that residents need to “share the burden” of management with nonresidents. Our Alaska State Constitution does state, however, that our resources will be managed sustainably “for the maximum benefit of its people.” We, the residents of Alaska, are “its people.” Having a 90/10 allocation so residents are a higher priority would help meet this mandate and edict.

This 90/10 concept has been presented to the board numerous times and by a variety of people, yet the board has always favored nonresidents and opposed giving residents a higher allocation. This is simply not right. Nor is it acceptable. The board should listen to what was expressed in its surveys, should listen to the concerns brought forward by residents who do not have financial interests in the management of this resource, and should manage our game resources as mandated

by our Alaska state constitution—for its people. If the board is unsure of how that would work or what that actually looks like, any other state in the union could be used as a model or example.

PROPOSED BY: Jake Sprankle (EG-F16-068)

PROPOSAL 61 - 5 AAC 92.057. Special provisions for Dall sheep and mountain goat drawing permit hunts. Establish a ten percent nonresident sheep permit allocation for the Interior/Northeast Arctic Region as follows:

I would like the Board of Game to establish an allocation system for all Dall sheep drawing permit hunts. Residents would get 90% of the permits, with non-residents up to 10%, but not guaranteeing that 10%.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Board of Game needs to address the problems resident hunters have with sheep hunting opportunities. Over the years our sheep populations and hunting areas have been declining or at best staying the same. This has created a situation that has disenfranchised the resident hunter and actually decreased their numbers. If nothing is done now, the future does not look good for resident hunters. We must start now to insure the resident hunter has the opportunity to hunt Dall Sheep. This can be done by starting an allocation system on all drawing permit hunts. This has been proposed before and it has always been opposed or delayed waiting to address it in the future. Well now is the future.

PROPOSED BY: Leonard Jewkes (EG-F16-086)

PROPOSAL 62 - 5 AAC 92.008. Harvest guideline levels. 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 as follows:

Amend 92.008 by adding a new subsection to read:

(5) Dall sheep: the annual harvest of Dall sheep by nonresident hunters in the Interior/Northeast Arctic Region shall be managed so that in any given three-year period the average annual harvest does not exceed 10 percent of the total sheep harvest.

Or:

(5) Dall sheep: the annual harvest of Dall sheep by nonresident hunters in the Interior/Northeast Arctic Region shall be managed so that in any given three-year period the average annual harvest does not exceed XX sheep.

All nonresident sheep hunts in the Interior/Northeast Arctic Region will be draw-only hunts with an allocation set subunit by subunit under 5 AAC 92.008 so that harvest levels do not exceed 10% of the total the Interior/Northeast Arctic Region sheep harvest based on using the last three years of historical nonresident participation and harvest data for each subunit.

This solution is preferable to a nonresident draw-only participation allocation because much lower levels of participation for nonresident guided sheep hunters still may lead to harvests of up to 30%,

which we firmly believe contradicts the intent of our constitution for a maximum benefit to resident Alaskans. The sheep resource and all resident sheep hunters will benefit if our solution is adopted.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Unlimited nonresident sheep hunting opportunity and high nonresident sheep harvest rates in the Interior/Northeast Arctic Region. Nonresident guided sheep hunters take 60-80% of the Dall sheep harvest in some areas of the Interior/Northeast Arctic Region and 40% of the harvest statewide.

Concurrently, we have known sheep population declines and trends over the past 30 years that show decreased sheep hunting success rates and fewer rams harvested for all user groups, along with average age of harvested rams going down in some areas.

Unlimited nonresident sheep hunting opportunity is causing a wide array of problems, from lost opportunity for residents (e.g. Units 13D/14A) to conflicts and crowding afield due to substantial nonresident guided sheep hunter competition.

The Board of Game (board) tends to focus on the crowding and conflict concerns surrounding sheep hunting, which is all well and good, except the board emphasizes misleading statistics in determining just what user group is causing the bulk of the problem. One such statistic often heard from board members is that nonresident guided sheep hunters are “only 20%” of total sheep hunters statewide, implying that it is resident sheep hunters causing the bulk of the crowding and conflicts.

But if you look at what is really happening in the field, these “statistics” don’t match reality. When two resident sheep hunters go hunting they are considered two sheep hunters. When a nonresident guided sheep hunter goes hunting, he or she is considered as one hunter. But when we actually see that nonresident guided hunter in the field, we don’t just see one person, we see a guide and often a packer with the guided hunter. We see base camps and aircraft, cook tents etc.

In certain areas of the Interior, nonresident guided hunters also make up much more than 20% of the total number of hunters. In Unit 19C nonresident guided hunters make up more than 50% of the total sheep hunters. In Unit 20A nonresident guided sheep hunters make up 30% of the total sheep hunters. Looking at sheer numbers in the field, it is clear that nonresident guided sheep hunters and their associated guides and packers and other guide staff comprise the bulk of the crowding in these areas.

Unlimited nonresident sheep hunting opportunity also limits the availability of access for resident unguided hunters in many areas. Commercial air carriers often will not fly a resident unguided hunter into areas where that carrier services guides and their clients.

If this issue is not addressed, we will continue to see unconstitutionally high nonresident sheep harvest and participation rates and unfair competition with resident sheep hunters, as well as access limitations for resident sheep hunters.

PROPOSED BY: Resident Hunters of Alaska (EG-F16-100)

PROPOSAL 63 - 5 AAC 92.085. Unlawful methods of taking big game; exceptions. Remove the restriction on the use of aircraft for spotting Dall sheep in the Interior/Northeast Arctic Region as follows:

Repeal the regulation passed by board-generated proposal #207 for the Interior/Northeast Arctic Region (Units 12, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25, 26B and 26C).

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The board-generated proposal #207 restricting use of aircraft for sheep hunting was a bad one. It has added a regulatory pollution to sheep hunting. It has discriminated against resident sheep hunters disproportionately compared to guided nonresident hunters. It has increased crowding at the beginning of sheep season. It has affected the safety of flying in sheep country. It has not solved the problem of declining sheep numbers. It is difficult to enforce. It is unnecessary because there is a federal law against the activity (disturbing wildlife with an aircraft), which the Board of Game (board) has sought to prohibit. The regulation has prompted a large volume of antagonism toward the board because of their arrogance in passing this regulation over the considerable objections of many of the larger advisory committees and many resident hunters. The board in their statement of intent (record copy #38 from the March 2016 Fairbanks meeting) did not mitigate the effect of the anxiety produced in ethical resident pilot/sheep hunters by #207. The regulation still reads the same and any pilot charged with violating this regulation is assumed guilty until he proves his innocence.

PROPOSED BY: John Frost (EG-F16-106)

PROPOSAL 64 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep; and 92.050. Required permit hunt conditions and procedures. Restrict the harvest of Dall sheep in the Interior/Northeast Arctic Region to one every five years as follows:

I'm asking the Board of Game to mirror the Unit 7 and 15 mountain goat guidelines on harvest but re-word for Dall sheep for the Interior/Northeast Arctic Region:

"If a hunter harvests a sub-legal ram (determined by ADF&G horn sealing) that hunter is prohibited from hunting Dall sheep (harvest or permit) for five years. (I think this is fair, based on the four-year wait for anyone after harvesting a Tok Management Area ram).

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Sub-legal Dall sheep harvest. Statewide sub-legal harvest is about ten percent of the total harvest; this needs to be addressed. Hunters (myself included) need to take the time and make sure the ram in front of us is 110 percent legal before pulling the trigger (no more iffy ones). I see this as a good thing for our sheep herds.

PROPOSED BY: Jacques Etcheverry (EG-F16-055)

PROPOSAL 65 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep. Remove the nonresident bag limit restriction of one sheep every four years for the Interior/Northeast Arctic Region as follows:

As long as newly-passed proposal 30 from the 2016 Statewide Regulations meeting is not amended or repealed entirely, I propose that for the Interior/Northeast Arctic Region: Any nonresident who is in a waiting period for hunting Dall sheep may apply for a Dall sheep permit and hunt for Dall sheep, as long as that person voluntarily gives up the opportunity to hunt any other species of big game in Alaska during that regulatory year.

The advantages of this proposal are:

- 1 - Those few nonresident sheep hunters whose strong desire above all else is to hunt sheep with Alaskan family may be allowed to do so, while giving up access to other species.
- 2 - Benefit of less competition to all other types of big game hunts, as well as excluding these nonresidents from drawing coveted tags of other species that same year.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The recently passed proposal 30, limiting nonresidents to one ram in a four-year period, will be both ineffective in its supposed goals of increasing ram numbers and imparts favoritism upon the sheep guiding business. This new regulation realistically only applies to those nonresidents who hunt with Alaskan family, as repeat guided Dall sheep hunters within a four-year period are virtually nonexistent. Likewise, since nonresidents who hunt with Alaskan family only get a minority of nonresident tags, the number of rams "saved" for others is not significant.

The real driving force behind Dall sheep population trends, including ram numbers, is natural mortality including non-human predation and winter severity. Limiting such a small number of nonresidents, along with their Alaskan kin, is not only ineffective and unscientific, but is inherently biased toward both residents with no outside family, and sheep hunting guides.

PROPOSED BY: Chris Harper (EG-F16-036)

PROPOSAL 66 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep. Open an archery-only hunting season for Dall sheep in the Interior/Northeast Arctic Region as follows:

Provide for an August 1—9 archery (conventional bows only) sheep season in all areas of the Interior and Eastern Arctic region (Units 12, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25, 26B & 26C) that are open for general (harvest tag) hunts (not for any drawing hunt areas).

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Most states in the lower 48 have long early archery seasons before firearms seasons because they recognize that these seasons give extra opportunity to hunt with very low impact on the species being hunted. Alaska does not have many special archery seasons. Allowing an early archery sheep season would increase hunting opportunity for both resident hunters and guided nonresident hunters. It might provide some relief of overcrowding in the first week of traditional sheep hunting season. It might spread out the season for air taxi operators and transporters.

PROPOSED BY: John Frost

(EG-F16-109)

PROPOSAL 67 - 5 AAC 92.044. Permit for hunting bear with the use of bait or scent lures.

Lengthen the season for bear baiting in the Interior/Northeast Region as follows:

We are allowed to register bait stands on April 1, but cannot bait until April 15. The new regulation would state, you may register and place bait in the field on April 1.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I would like the Board of Game to change the date of placing bear bait in the field from April 15 to April 1. We are allowed to register April 1, so it makes no sense to have to wait until April 15. With the early spring we had this year, there were already bears out by April 1 and delaying baiting doesn't make sense and some places using a snowmachine to haul bait makes it easier than an ATV.

PROPOSED BY: Michael Cronk

(EG-F16-048)

PROPOSAL 68 - 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Change the “any bull” or “one bull” bag limits to “any antlered bull” for all moose hunts in the Interior/Northeast Arctic Region as follows:

Change the bag limit for all “any bull” or “one bull” moose hunts to “any antlered bull” in those units within the Interior/Northeast Arctic Region.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Targeting 3–6 month old moose calves during an “any bull” or “one bull” season. Identifying the sex of “young-of-the-year” moose calves is very difficult, consequently the probability of shooting the wrong sex is high, which may also contribute to wanton waste of wrong-sex kills. Moose cows aggressively defend young calves and therefore pose a safety issue for hunters shooting calves. A 3–6 month old moose calf provides a minimal amount of edible meat for the hunter. There are currently moose hunts with bag limits restricted to antler size as well as “any bull” and “one bull” hunts thereby increasing the complexity of the hunting regulations. This proposal would simplify those regulations. Antlerless hunts are already restricted to protect calves and cows accompanied by calves for safety reasons. This safety concern is just as valid for male calves. Cows will protect their male calves just as diligently as they will their female calves.

PROPOSED BY: Delta Fish and Game Advisory Committee

(EG-F16-051)

PROPOSAL 69 - 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. 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 as follows:

Extend the current archery only, antlered moose hunts in Unit 20 by five days from the current September 26—September 30 to September 26—October 5 and allow all of Unit 20 an archery only season for antlered moose from September 26—October 5.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Extend moose season end dates in Unit 20 for an archery only, antlered moose hunt.

PROPOSED BY: Nicholas Muche, Zachri Kendl, and Kyle Moll (EG-F16-063)

PROPOSAL 70 - 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Open a resident disabled veteran hunting season for moose in the Interior/Northeast Arctic region as follows:

I propose those hunters meeting the criteria be allowed to hunt/harvest moose under the following guidelines: For resident veterans only, for the Interior/Northeast Arctic region, any unit/sub-unit with a healthy moose population, bull/cow ratio, qualified veterans would be allowed to harvest any moose, with the exception of calf or cow with calf/calves. In areas with a poor balance/ratio of bull to cow or vice versa, the individual would be allowed to harvest whichever sex the Alaska Department of Fish & Game deemed to be best/proper. No antler restrictions would apply. Qualified veterans must be 100% service connected disabled, with a purple heart and receiving special monthly compensation (SMC) from the Veterans Affairs. Proxy hunting for these individuals would not be allowed.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I am requesting a change in the State of Alaska hunting regulations for the benefit of a special group of combat disabled veterans. This group is 100% service connected disabled, with a purple heart and receiving SMC from the Veterans Affairs. SMC is payment for loss of or loss of use of a hand or foot, etcetera. This would be an effort to mitigate the obstacles encountered by the aforementioned group in their efforts to harvest moose.

This group of individuals who would participate in these hunts would not be very large, perhaps 50 to 75 around the state. If hunts can be provided for these individuals in areas with a healthy moose population, my hope is that there would be little impact on other hunters and that this group would have a greater outdoor opportunity and a successful hunt given their disabilities.

PROPOSED BY: Michael Coots (EG-F16-034)

PROPOSAL 71 - 5 AAC 92.080. Unlawful methods of taking game; exceptions; 92.085. Unlawful methods of taking big game; exceptions; and 92.990. Definitions. Allow the use of crossbows in archery hunts in Unit 20 for hunters over 60 as follows:

Alaska residents 60 years or older in possession of a permanent identification card are authorized/allowed to use a crossbow in any archery designated hunt in Unit 20.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I would like to propose that Alaska residents 60 years and older upon receiving their permanent hunting/fishing/trapping license via the identification card be authorized to use a crossbow in any archery designated hunt in Unit 20. It is difficult if not impossible for the elderly to pull back and hold a 60-pound bow. Allowing the use of crossbows would ensure the opportunity to continue archery hunting with age and increase the probability of better shot placement and more humane kills. Crawling up on game

to within 30 yards is difficult for the elderly and the use of crossbows would allow them to make effective kills at 60 yards. Thank you for your consideration of this proposal.

PROPOSED BY: Jim Sackett (EG-F16-029)

Note: AS 16.05.783 only allows same day airborne for taking of wolves as part of a predator control program authorized by the board. The same restriction does not apply to coyotes.

PROPOSAL 72 - 5 AAC 92.095. Unlawful methods for taking furbearers; exceptions, and 92.110. Control of predation by wolves. Allow the harvest of wolf and coyote by land and shoot with a trapping license in the Interior/Northeast Arctic Region as follows:

Allow land a. shoot means for harvesting of wolves and coyotes in Units 12, 13, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25, 26B, and 26C on a trapping license for both residents and nonresidents during the regular trapping season.

This addresses both predator harvest and prey sustainable yield levels and at the same time bringing a new revenue source to the Alaska Department of Fish & Game.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The issue is to allow an effective means of harvesting wolves/coyotes by land and shoot methods. This is a known and historically practiced way of managing the ever-burgeoning predator populations. We are in a current severe decline of our sheep resources statewide as well as other ungulates and this offers an efficient means of harvesting wolves and coyotes in the winter months even if the snow levels and frozen rivers don't allow access.

PROPOSED BY: Coke Wallace (EG-F16-070)

PROPOSAL 73 - 5 AAC 92.090. Unlawful methods of taking fur animals. Allow the use of dogs to hunt coyote in Unit 20 as follows:

Dogs may be used to hunt coyotes in Unit 20.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Allow the use of dogs to hunt coyotes in Unit 20. The trapper questionnaire and management reports suggest coyote populations are stable across their current range. Hunting seasons and bag limits are very liberal and yet sustain stable populations of coyotes. Alaska's vast area and small human population is protection enough to preserve healthy coyote populations for decades. If adopted, there will be an increase the quality of coyotes harvested in prime condition and in the opportunity to hunt coyotes. If nothing is done, coyote hunting will continue to be underutilized. Those who will benefit are hunters who wish to hunt coyotes with dogs and hunters of small game that are preyed upon by coyotes. Those who are likely to suffer are those opposed to hunting coyotes with dogs and those wishing to have more coyotes.

PROPOSED BY: Delta Junction Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-F16-022)

McGrath Area Proposals

PROPOSAL 74 - 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Change the antler restrictions for resident moose hunting in Unit 19B as follows:

5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.

...

19(B) Aniak River Drainage

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull with spike-fork	Sept. 1—Sept. 20
50 inch antlers or	
antlers with <u>3</u> [4] or	
more brow tines on	
one side	

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The regulation would change the number of brow tines required under the current regulations in Unit 19B from four to three on at least on side within the Upper Holitna-Hoholitna Management Area for resident hunters. There is no biological data that are prohibitive of changing the regulation.

PROPOSED BY: Central Kuskokwim Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-F16-090)

PROPOSAL 75 - 5 AAC 92.124(b). Intensive Management Plans VIII. Reauthorize the predation control program in Unit 21E as follows:

(a) **Plans established.** Intensive management plans for the following areas are established in this section:

...

(b) Unit 21(E) Predation Control Area is entirely deleted and replaced by the following.

...

(b) Unit 21(E) Predation Control Area. The Unit 21(E) Predation Control Area is established in Unit 21(E), encompassing approximately 7,993 square miles; this predation control program does not apply within National Park Service or National Wildlife Refuge lands unless approved by the federal agencies; notwithstanding any other provision in this title, and based on the following information contained in this section, the commissioner or the commissioner's designee may conduct a wolf and black bear and brown bear population reduction or a wolf and black bear and brown bear population regulation program in Unit 21(E) to benefit moose:

(1) the following Wolf and Bear Control Focus Areas are established in the Unit 21(E) Predation Control Area; the areas do not delineate a moose, wolf, or bear population and are not intended to distinguish animals within the areas from populations in Unit 21(E); the purpose is to focus wolf and bear control in a

relatively small area where moose numbers can be better estimated, where moose are accessible to hunters, and where harvest can be closely monitored;

(A) the Wolf Control Focus Area (WCFA) encompasses approximately 4,126 square miles within Unit 21(E) within the area south of 63° 06.00' N. lat., north of 61° 54.00' N. lat., and easterly of a line starting at 62° 08.00' N. lat., 160° 35.00' W. long., then north to 62° 44.00' N. lat., 160° 35.00' W. long., then east to 62° 44.00' N. lat., 160° 10.00' W. long., then north to 62° 56.00' N. lat., 160° 10.00' W. long., then east to 62° 56.00' N. lat., 160° 05.00' W. long., then north to 63° 00.00' N. lat., 160° 05.00' W. long., then east to 63° 00.00' N. lat., 160° 00.00' W. long., then north to 63° 02.00' N. lat., 160° 00.00' W. long., then east to 62° 02.00' N. lat., 159° 55.00' W. long., then north to 63° 06.00' N. lat., 159° 55.00' W. long.; wolf control will be conducted only within the WCFA; the department has the discretion to adjust the area's size and shape to include up to approximately 4,500 square miles of Unit 21(E);

(B) the Black Bear and Brown Bear Control Focus Area (BCFA) encompasses approximately 556 square miles consisting of those portions of the Yukon River drainage within the area starting at 62° 08.00' N. lat., 159° 25.00' W. long., then west to 62° 08.00' N. lat., 159° 45.00' W. long., then north to 62° 14.00' N. lat., 159° 45.00' W. long., then west to 62° 14.00' N. lat., 160° 00.00' W. long., then north to 62° 22.00' N. lat., 160° 00.00' W. long., then west to 62° 22.00' N. lat., 160° 05.00' W. long., then north to 62° 28.00' N. lat., 160° 05.00' W. long., then west to 62° 28.00' N. lat., 160° 10.00' W. long., then north to 62° 36.00' N. lat., 160° 10.00' W. long., then east to 62° 36.00' N. lat., 159° 30.00' W. long., then south to 62° 16.00' N. lat., 159° 30.00' W. long., then east to 62° 16.00' N. lat., 159° 25.00' W. long., then south to 62° 08.00' N. lat., 159° 25.00' W. long.; bear control will be conducted only within the BCFA; the department has the discretion to adjust the area's size and shape up to approximately 800 square miles of Unit 21(E); the BCFA is entirely within the WCFA;

(2) this is a continuing control program that was first authorized by the board in 2010 for wolf control; it is currently designed to increase moose numbers and harvest in the WCFA and BCFA by reducing predation on moose and is expected to make a contribution to achieving the intensive management (IM) objectives in Unit 21(E);

(3) moose, wolf, black bear, and brown bear objectives are as follows:

(A) the moose IM population objective established by the board for Unit 21(E) is 9,000–11,000 moose; the IM harvest objective for Unit 21(E) is 550–1,100 moose annually;

(B) the density objective for moose in the WCFA is 1.0 per square mile (corrected for sightability) during late winter surveys; the annual moose harvest objective for the WCFA is 165;

(C) the wolf control objective in the WCFA is to reduce wolf numbers by at least 60–80 percent; the pre-control estimate within the WCFA is 80 wolves; the pre-control wolf population in Unit 21(E) is estimated at 150; a minimum of 30 wolves post-control in Unit 21(E) will ensure that wolves persist in Unit 21(E);

(D) the black bear control objective in the BCFA is to reduce black bear numbers to the lowest level possible; the pre-control black bear population in Unit 21(E) is estimated at 1,900–2,275; the pre-control estimate within the BCFA is 130–160; because the BCFA is a relatively small geographic area, removing black bears from within it will have only a minor effect on the black bear population in Unit 21(E);

(E) the brown bear control objective in the BCFA is to reduce brown bear numbers to the lowest level possible; the pre-control brown bear population in Unit 21(E) is estimated at 100–200; the pre-control estimate within the BCFA is 10–15; because the BCFA is a relatively small geographic area, removing brown bears from within it will have only a minor effect on the brown bear population in Unit 21(E);

(4) board findings concerning populations and human use are as follows:

(A) A proactive approach is needed to allow for a timely response to a decline in the Unit 21(E) moose population if IM population and harvest objectives have not been met.

(B) predation by wolves and bears is an important cause of failure to achieve population and harvest objectives;

(C) a reduction of wolf and bear predation within the WCFA and BCFA can reasonably be expected to make progress towards achieving the Unit 21(E) IM objectives;

(D) reducing predation is likely to be effective and feasible using recognized and prudent active management techniques and based on scientific information;

(E) reducing predation is likely to be effective given land ownership patterns;

(5) if the moose density in Unit 21(E) declines to fewer than 1.0 moose per square mile (corrected for sightability) then authorized methods and means are as follows:

(A) hunting and trapping of wolves and hunting of black bears and brown bears by the public in Unit 21(E) during the term of this program may occur as provided in the hunting and trapping regulations set out elsewhere in this title, including use of motorized vehicles;

(B) notwithstanding any other provisions in this title, the commissioner may allow department employees to conduct aerial, land and shoot, or ground based lethal removal of wolves and black bears and brown bears using state owned, privately owned, or chartered equipment, including helicopters, under AS 16.05.783;

(C) notwithstanding any other provisions in this title, the commissioner may issue public aerial shooting permits and/or public land and shoot permits using fixed-wing aircraft as a method of wolf removal under AS 16.05.783;

(6) time frame is as follows:

(A) through June 30, 2026, the commissioner may authorize removal of wolves and black bears and brown bears in Unit 21(E);

(B) annually, upon implementation of predation control, the department shall, to the extent practicable, provide to the board a report of program activities conducted during the preceding 12 months, including implementation activities, the status of the moose, wolf and bear populations, and recommendations for changes, if necessary to achieve the objectives of the plan;

(7) the commissioner will review, modify or suspend program activities as follows:

(A) when wolf surveys or accumulated information from department personnel, hunters, trappers, and permittees indicate the need to avoid reducing wolf numbers in Unit 21(E) below 30 wolves;

(B) when the moose density and harvest objectives within the WCFA specified in this subsection are achieved.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Residents of Unit 21E; the Grayling, Anvik, Shageluk, Holy Cross Advisory Committee (GASH AC); and other hunters who use the area expressed concern about a perceived decline in the moose population during the mid-1990s. To address this concern, in January 2005, the Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) established a citizen-based working group. The working group asked to review all available information and to develop a comprehensive moose management plan for the area. The final product was the Yukon–Innoko Moose Management Plan, which includes the following mission statement: “Maintain healthy and abundant moose populations by proactively managing moose, predation, and habitat, and keeping moose harvest within sustained yield so that subsistence needs for moose are met on an annual basis, and there is sufficient moose to provide for personal and family use by Alaska residents and some nonresident hunting opportunity for generations to come.” This plan was endorsed by both the Board of Game (board) and the Federal Subsistence Board.

Because proactive management was a major tenet of the plan, the working group recommended an aerial wolf control program to prevent further declines in moose densities and maintain hunting opportunities in Unit 21E. The board adopted an intensive management (IM) plan (5 AAC 92.124)

in March 2010 authorizing wolf control if the moose population declined below 1.0 moose/mi². The most recent survey in 2016 estimated a density of 2.0 moose/mi² corrected for sightability, and there is no reason to initiate wolf control at this time.

The Unit 21E IM plan expired on June 30, 2016. The program was first authorized to include wolf control only; however, a bear control program is being added as a potential option based on information collected in adjacent Unit 19A and Unit 19D, which indicated that predation control for bears in addition to wolf control is feasible and would be more effective than wolf control alone. This proposal is meant to be proactive and will allow a more rapid response if a declining moose density is detected.

This proposal reauthorizes the Unit 21E IM plan for a nine-year period from July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2026 and will simplify codified language. It includes options for aerial wolf control conducted by public permittees and ADF&G, and aerial black and brown bear control conducted by ADF&G only. Additional details are available in the companion IM operational plan.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F16-136)

PROPOSAL 76 - 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Lengthen the hunting season for moose in Unit 21E as follows:

Unit 21E

Resident Hunters

One antlered bull by registration permit only

Sept. 1 [SEPT. 5]—Sept. 25

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? We would like to see the moose season changed in Unit 21E. Currently the federal season in Unit 21E starts on August 25 and requires a green harvest card. The resident state hunt starts on September 5 and requires a registration permit. This is leading to a lot of confusion of the users of this resource and double reporting. We would like to move to align these seasons and reporting requirements, and our first step is to request that the Board of Game move the moose season in Unit 21E from September 5 to September 1. We believe that the moose population will not be negatively impacted with the additional four days of hunting and it will be the first step to aligning the confusing state and federal seasons. We don't feel comfortable currently with aligning the state season with the earlier start date of August 25 and feel that a start date of September 1 is preferable at this time.

The GASH Advisory Committee will be submitting a proposal to the Federal Subsistence Board requesting a season change from August 25 to September 1 as well as requesting that the reporting requirements align with the state and move from a harvest ticket to the registration hunt at the first available call for game proposals.

PROPOSED BY: Grayling, Anvik, Shageluk, and Holy Cross Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-F16-042)

PROPOSAL 77 - 5 AAC 85.020. Hunting seasons and bag limit for brown bear. Increase the bag limit for brown bear in Unit 21E as follows:

Unit 21E
Resident Hunters
2 [1] bears every regulatory year

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? We would like to see a two brown bear limit in Unit 21E. There is an overabundance of this resource in our subunit, and it is our belief that more residents would take advantage of utilizing this resource if they were able to sell the skulls and hides of brown bears. This would benefit both the residents of our area by the potential to bring some money into our communities as well as to increase the take of brown bears that also prey on the same game animals we depend on as well. In the long term there is the chance that having residents take more brown bears will keep Unit 21E from having to resort to instituting the intensive management program that is written into the Innoko Moose Management Plan by helping to potentially increase moose survival in this unit.

PROPOSED BY: Grayling, Anvik, Shageluk, and Holy Cross Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-F16-041)

PROPOSAL 78 - 5 AAC 85.020. Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear. Lengthen the hunting season for brown bear in Unit 19C as follows:

Change opening date to August 10 from September 1. New regulation to read: Unit 19C brown/grizzly bear, one bear per regulatory year, August 10—May 31.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Unit 19C. Change the brown/grizzly bear hunting season to coincide with the remainder of Unit 19 opening August 10.

Why? To allow for additional bear hunting opportunity during the early season. All surrounding units are open during August. I see no reason not to allow for bear hunting opportunity during the early season in Unit 19C as well.

PROPOSED BY: Jeff Pralle (EG-F16-033)

PROPOSAL 79 - 5 AAC 92.044. Permit for hunting bear with the use of bait or scent lures. Allow the harvest of brown bear at bear bait stations in Unit 19A as follows:

(1) a person may establish a black bear bait station, or a black and brown bear bait station in Units 7, 11, 12, 13, 14(B), 15, 16, 19(A), 20(A), 20(B), 20(C), 20(E), 21(D), 24(C), 24(D), and 25(D), only if that person obtains a permit under this section;

...

(13) in Units 7, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14(A), 14(B), 15, 16, 17, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25, 26(B), and 26(C), 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, 14(B), 15, 16, 19(A), 20(A), 20(B), 20(C), 20(E), 21(D), 24(C), 24(D), and 25(D), 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 is the issue you would like the board to address and why? In recent years within Unit 19A we have seen brown bears more frequently at black bear stations. Unit 19A is a predator control unit. We would like to see allowing residents the opportunity to harvest a brown bear over a registered black bear bait station.

- 1) Customary Use
- 2) Safety Reasons

PROPOSED BY: Central Kuskokwim Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-F16-091)

PROPOSAL 80 - 5 AAC 92.540(7)(B). Controlled Use Areas. Remove the restriction on boat horsepower in the Holitna-Hoholitna Controlled Use Area in Unit 19A as follows:

No motor restrictions for the Holitna-Hoholitna Controlled Use Area.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Get rid of the 40 horsepower restriction for the Holitna-Hoholitna Controlled Use Area. Make it so you can take one boat to haul everything which will cost less for gas. The restriction keeps people from hunting the area.

PROPOSED BY: Tim Crace (HQ-C15-900)

PROPOSAL 81 - 5 AAC 92.540(7)(a)(ii). Controlled use areas. Specify airports allowed for transporting moose hunters within the Upper Kuskokwim Controlled Use Area as follows:

If this proposal were adopted, 5 AAC 92.540(7)(a)(ii) would read, "... the area is closed to the use of aircraft for hunting moose, including the transportation of moose hunters, their hunting gear, or parts of moose; however, this provision does not apply to the transportation of moose hunters, their hunting gear, or parts of moose by aircraft between publicly owned airports **including Takotna, McGrath, Medfra, and Nikolai**, or the transportation into the area of game meat that has been processed for human consumption."

Listing permitted airports within the Upper Kuskokwim Controlled Use Area (UKCUA) removes ambiguity, retains the original status for access in Medfra, and most importantly, is consistent with the intent of the regulation to separate boat-borne hunters from hunters using aircraft. This proposal is the simplest way to provide regulatory clarity.

Note: A map submitted with the proposal is available on the meeting information website for the Interior/Northeast Arctic Region meeting at:
www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=gameboard.meetinginfo&date=02-17-2017&meeting=fairbanks

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The UKCUA was established in 1981, and was amended in 2001 and 2008. Its purpose is to separate hunters using aircraft from

those using boats by prohibiting aircraft to transport moose hunters and gear within its boundaries. However, it allows access within the UKCUA through publicly owned airports. The Medfra Airport (MDR) is within the boundaries of the UKCUA and is publicly owned (Bureau of Land Management), but no longer appears in the Alaska Supplement so it no longer fits the definition of an airport. Meanwhile, MDR has 2200 feet of runway, runway numbers are 02/20, Airport ID is 13228, the Airport Sequence ID is 1322801, and Airport Identifier is MDR (established in 1950 through 2014). For all practical purposes, MDR is in fact, a public airport.

Medfra itself was permanently occupied through 2003 (by the proposer and his extended family) and is still used seasonally. It has legal right of way access from the river to the airport, is shown as a village site in the hunting regulations booklet, and is a village option for Tier II permit applications. When the UKCUA was first considered, MDR was legal for hunter access, and decisions outside the Board of Game process to remove it from the Alaska Supplement have changed its status. People with ties to Medfra regularly access their property for multiple purposes through this airport.

MDR is publicly owned and fits most definitions of an airport. Like surrounding villages, Medfra is generally accessed by air through its airport but because it's no longer in the supplement, using Medfra's airport sets up moose hunters for an inadvertent violation. If nothing is done, the uncertainty will persist and Medfra property owners will be unable to use moose hunting gear brought into Medfra by air.

This proposal would benefit all hunters and agencies from unambiguous regulations and this housekeeping proposal achieves clarity. The UKCUA was adopted to address conflicts between boat borne hunters and those using aircraft, specifically float planes. Hunters using aircraft to access Medfra, most specifically those with homes and cabins in Medfra, benefit by being able to continue to hunt from their property without having to worry which hunting gear was brought in using planes. Once in Medfra, all hunters typically use boats to hunt moose so the interest in separating boat-borne hunters from aircraft hunters is still maintained if the amended language is adopted. Those who would oppose the proposal are those who fear that confirming access would bring unwanted competition. However, because there is no nonresident moose hunt accessible from Medfra and there are resident permit hunt restrictions, competition is muted.

For other options, we considered resurrecting previous language that limited the time frame when the restriction on aircraft would be in effect (e.g., "during the moose hunting season"). While helpful this would still not provide the clarity this proposal seeks to achieve.

This housekeeping proposal would clarify existing regulations, retain previous board decisions, and retain access to MDR within the UKCUA without complicating the definition of airports. No real changes are expected on the ground from this housekeeping proposal; its benefit is to provide clarity and retain the status that MDR had when the UKCUA was first established.

PROPOSED BY: Barney Anselment (EG-F16-021)

PROPOSAL 82 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep. Change the nonresident sheep season in Unit 19C to a drawing permit hunt with up to 80 permits as follows:

5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep.

...

19(C)

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS

1 ram with full-curl horn
by drawing permit only;
up to 80 permits may
be issued

Aug. 10—Sept. 20

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The McGrath Advisory Committee is concerned with the ability of resident hunters to access and successfully harvest Dall sheep in Unit 19C. This unit is unique in Alaska because the majority of the sheep hunters are nonresidents. The average number of nonresident sheep hunters over the last five years is 84 and about 59 sheep are taken. For residents there are on average 67 hunters per year and 22 sheep are taken per year. These numbers clearly show in Unit 19C more than half of the hunters are nonresidents and 73% of the sheep shot each year are shot by nonresidents. In addition to having more nonresident hunters, access for residents is also made more difficult by the fact that guides are placing camps along many airstrips in the unit weeks before the season even starts.

While a guide concession program would have addressed most our concerns, we do not believe that this will occur in the near future. This proposal does not seek to limit guided use, but only to cap it by using a permit system. While it seems imbalanced that residents don't even get to harvest half of the sheep, we propose issuing up to 80 nonresident permits. This will keep nonresident participation approximately where it currently is and allow for better management of our sheep resource.

PROPOSED BY: Ray Collins (EG-F16-093)

Note: This proposal is scheduled for the Arctic/Western Region meeting as proposal 25 and the Interior/Northeast Arctic Region meeting as proposal 83.

PROPOSAL 83 - 5 AAC 85.025. Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou. Open a nonresident draw hunt for caribou in Units 18 and 19 as follows:

Units 18, 19A, and 19B - Nonresidents:

One bull caribou by drawing permit September 1-30

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? As of the drafting of this proposal, ADF&G states: "The harvest of Mulchatna caribou is well below sustainable levels." The Mulchatna caribou herd has started to grow and all indicators are that it is healthy. Unfortunately, it has recently resided predominantly in areas that are difficult to access. A nonresident hunt, limited by drawing should be well within the sustainability of this herd that is

currently underutilized. I would suggest a limit of up to 50 tags and ask ADF&G to initially only issue 20 across the entire range of the herd. It is desirable to see this herd continue to grow. Communities within the region have had a difficult time taking the harvestable surplus due to the locations of the animals. Providing a nonresident hunt will result in light harvest and most meat will be left in the communities within the region as is the case in all remote nonresident hunting opportunities. This proposal is submitted for both the Arctic and Western (Unit 18) and the Interior and Eastern Arctic (Unit 19A & B) meetings. This proposal will also be submitted for Units 9 and 17 when in cycle.

PROPOSED BY: Aaron Bloomquist

(EG-F16-010)

Tok Area Proposals

PROPOSAL 84 - 5 AAC 84.270. Furbearer trapping. Lengthen the trapping season for wolf in Units 12 and 20E as follows:

Change the opening date of the Unit 12 and 20E wolf trapping season to October 1.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? We would like to have the beginning of the wolf trapping season in Units 12 and 20E changed from October 15 to October 1, to align the beginning of the season with the federal wolf trapping season in Units 12 and 20E.

PROPOSED BY: Upper Tanana Fortymile Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-F16-030)

PROPOSAL 85 - 5 AAC 85.025. Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou. Open a resident drawing hunt for caribou in Unit 20E as follows:

Unit 20E, south of an east/west line running through the West Fork bridge on the Taylor

Highway (Lat 63.89 N):

One caribou by drawing permit (residents only)

September 1-September 30 and October 21-March 31.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Nelchina caribou spend much of their life in Units 12 and 20E. Residents of this area and those that prefer to hunt in this area should have some opportunity to take these caribou when they are present. The boundaries where suggested to eliminate extra harvest of Chisana caribou and minimize harvest of Fortymile caribou. The West Fork of the Dennison Bridge is the most recognizable landmark for people traveling to the area on the Taylor Highway. There may also be another adjustment required to protect the Mentasta caribou herd although many believe it was absorbed by the Nelchina herd. There may be some take of Fortymile caribou in this hunt but currently there is also some take of Nelchina caribou in the Fortymile hunt. These herds overlap ranges slightly, especially in winter, but collateral take should not be significant under a drawing-limited harvest. Other options considered: Expanding other Nelchina hunts to the area; rejected due to complexity.

PROPOSED BY: Aaron Bloomquist (EG-F16-009)

PROPOSAL 86 - 5 AAC 85.025. Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou; and 92.510. Areas closed to hunting. Close an area ¼ mile on either side of the Taylor Highway to hunting during caribou season, and limit the number of permits as follows:

We would like to see no-shoot zone ¼ mile from each side of the road, so a ½-mile wide corridor, with the highway in the center, along the Taylor Highway and Boundary Cutoff Road. If not along the entire highway (which we would prefer) at minimum between the Walker Fork Bridge (Mile Post 82) and the Alder Creek Bridge (MP 115.4) and along the Boundary Cutoff.

We would like to see the number of permits for these hunts limited to a level that will allow managers and law enforcement to be able to effectively manage the hunt in a safe and sustainable manner.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The fall Fortymile caribou hunt (RC860) along the Taylor Highway has become a very dangerous, wasteful, ugly, unethical, shooting gallery style of hunt. Resulting in numerous issues including:

- Hunters on ATVs run up and down the highway at high speeds (which is against state law) chasing after groups of caribou on or along the road (harassing animals is also against the law).
- Hunters commonly shoot animals on the highway, from the highway, across the highway and from their ATVs (all against the law). They'll see a group of caribou a ways off on or near the road, speed up to them, slam on their brakes and start shooting into the group. This happens often!
- Hunters along the road shoot down the road and at caribou sky lined on the road or just off the road, without any concern for safety of others, resulting in dangerous conditions for hunters and non-hunters alike along the Taylor Highway, especially in between the Walker Fork Bridge (MP 82) and the Fortymile River Bridge (MP 112.4) and along the Boundary Cutoff.
- Numerous pools of blood in the middle of the road, in this area, with no drag marks, during the fall 2015 season, prove these animals are being killed on the road. This was documented by state and federal managers and enforcement during the fall 2015 season.
- There is significant wounding loss from hunters flock-shooting from the highway, which has been documented by state and federal managers and law enforcement personnel. There were at least 12 caribou killed and left in this area in only a few days during the fall 2015 season, as documented by state and federal managers and law enforcement. And this is just what they were able to find.
- Each fall there are hundreds of people camped all across the high country along this stretch of highway, especially from the Y to MP 105. Garbage and animal remains litter the areas where the hunters camp when the hunters leave (littering is against the law).
- Dozens of gut piles litter the shoulder of the highway in this stretch and are occasionally left right in the middle of a pull-out or on the drivable surface of the road itself (this is against the hunt conditions for RC860 – thus illegal and can be verified by state and federal managers and law enforcement).
- During the fall 2015 season, my wife and I, while working in our garden, had bullets flying over our heads from people shooting at caribou on the road above our house. We also had caribou killed within a few hundred feet of our house that were shot by hunters shooting from the Fortymile River bridge toward our house. This hunt has put our lives and the lives of our dogs in danger, plain and simple, and has taken away our opportunity to hunt or even pick berries safely.
- Issuing over 3000 permits for this area is simply not manageable and not sustainable.
- While some may argue many of these things are already against the law, so much of it is happening that managers and enforcement officers cannot even come close to keeping up with all of this. It is uncontrollable and with dwindling enforcement presence due to state budget problems, the problem will only get worse.

The herd, the country, and those of us who live here can't take much more of this, changes need to be made.

PROPOSED BY: David Likins (EG-F16-027)

PROPOSAL 87 - 5 AAC 92.540(3)(E)(ii). Controlled use areas. Lengthen the Glacier Mountain Controlled Use Area hunting season as follows:

(E) Glacier Mountain Controlled Use Area (ii) the area is closed to the use of any motorized vehicle for hunting, including the transportation of hunters, their hunting gear, or parts of game, from **July 26** [AUGUST 5] through September 20; however, this provision does not prohibit motorized access via, or transportation of game on, the Taylor Highway or any airport, or the transportation into the area of game meat that has been processed for human consumption.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Extend the Glacier Mountain Controlled Use Area season to July 26 - September 20 in Unit 20E. The new youth sheep hunting season falls outside of the dates for the Glacier Mountain Controlled Use Area. This area is very small and has an average harvest of one to two sheep annually. Alaska Department of Fish & Game surveys indicate only two to six legal sheep in the area each year. This area is relatively easy to access by ATV and this access could result in excessive harvest. The Glacier Mountain Controlled Use Area was created in 1971 to afford greater protection for Dall sheep populations. The board re-affirmed that the area was meeting its objective at the March 2012 meeting through proposal 151.

PROPOSED BY: Upper Tanana/Fortymile Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-F16-031)

PROPOSAL 88 - 5 AAC 85.045(a)(10). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Clarify the boundary of the Unit 12 antler-restricted moose hunting area within the Tok River drainage as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
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(10)

Unit 12, remainder of that portion in the Tok River drainage upstream **of a line from Peak 5885 at 63° 9.243 N. lat., 143° 24.248 W. long., to Milepost 105 of the Tok Cutoff Highway at 63° 7.438' N. lat., 143° 18.135 W. long., then south along the Tok Cutoff Highway**

to the Little Tok River Bridge at Milepost 98.2; and within the Little Tok River drainage upstream of the Little Tok River Bridge at Milepost 98.2 [FROM THE TOK CUTOFF BRIDGE].

RESIDENT HUNTERS: Aug. 24—Aug. 28
1 bull with spike-fork antlers or 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side Sept. 8—Sept. 17

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS: Sept. 8—Sept. 17
1 bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The current boundary of the Unit 12 antler-restricted moose hunting area within the Tok River drainage is unclear as it relates to the Tok Cutoff near the Tok River bridge due to several drainages that originate on the west side of the Tok Cutoff but drain into the Tok River on the east side of the Tok Cutoff. As a result, there is currently no easy way for the public or law enforcement to definitively pinpoint the boundary of the antler-restricted area along the Tok Cutoff near the bridge. This proposal would modify the hunt boundary description to clarify the regulation.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F16-138)

PROPOSAL 89 - 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Change the antler restrictions for moose in Unit 12 as follows:

A legal bull moose is a spike/fork, 50-inch antlers or a bull with no more than two brow tines on either side if under 50-inch antlers excluding hunt RM291 (along Nebesna Road).

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Change the antler restrictions for bull moose in portions of Unit 12. We would like to try a new strategy for an antler restriction in portions of Unit 12. Current restriction in portions of the Unit 12 are one bull with spike-fork or-50 inch antlers or antlers with four or more brow tines on at least one side. Biologists tell us that the reason a spike or fork bull is legal to harvest is that animals seldom develop into big healthy robust bulls. However, the yearlings with palm antlers and or three or more brow points on either side are spared as they are more likely to have the potential to grow into a superior animal. So we ask why harvest these same animals in the following season or two when they are well on the way of becoming a large bull? It doesn't make sense. Moose counts show that since the antler restriction was put in place in Unit 12, the bull/cow ratio has improved. However not enough to open the general season to any bull. Our committee feels this would be an ideal time for the change. More than likely for the first few seasons of this regulation, there may be a slightly elevated harvest of

bulls, but it is believed that in time as the younger two-brow tine bulls are removed, the harvest will return to normal.

PROPOSED BY: Upper Tanana/Fortymile Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-F16-069)

PROPOSAL 90 - 5 AAC 92.074(d). Community subsistence harvest hunt areas. Expand the Copper Basin community subsistence harvest hunt area by adding a part of Unit 12 as follows:

5 AAC 92.074. Community subsistence harvest hunt areas.

...

(d) Gulkana, Cantwell, Chistochina, Gakona, Mentasta, Tazlina, Chitina, and Kluti Kaah Community Harvest Area for moose and caribou: Includes all of:

...

(2) that portion including all drainages into the west bank of the Little Tok River, from its headwaters in Bear Valley at the intersection of the unit boundaries of Unit 12 and Unit 13 to its junction with the Tok River, and all drainages into the south bank of the Tok River, from its junction with the Little Tok River to the Tok Glacier, and that area westerly of the of the easternmost bank of the Copper River and drained by all tributaries into the west bank of the Copper River from Miles Glacier north to the confluence with the Slana River, then along the east bank of the Slana River to Suslota Creek, and that area of the Slana River drainage north of the south bank of Suslota Creek, **and that portion within the Nabesna River drainage west of the east bank of the Nabesna River upstream from the southern boundary of the Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Add to 92.074(d): "that portion of Unit 12 within the Nabesna River drainage west of the east bank of the Nabesna River upstream from the southern boundary of the Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge" to (d) Gulkana, Cantwell, Chistochina, Gakona, Mentasta, Tazlina, Chitina, and Kluti-Kaah Community Harvest Area (CSH).

Participants in the community subsistence hunt (CSH) area can only hunt in a portion of Unit 11 on state and National Preserve lands. This area was inadvertently left out of the community subsistence hunt areas. Local hunters hunt within this area for moose and caribou. Including this area will provide more of an opportunity for CSH participants to hunt and harvest a moose or caribou.

Crowded conditions in Unit 13 will be somewhat alleviated, if these lands areas were included into the CSH hunt areas. Local CSH hunters would be able to have more of a reasonable opportunity to hunt in other areas of Unit 11 and Unit 12 to harvest a moose or caribou.

PROPOSED BY: Ahtna Tene Nene' Customary & Traditional Use Committee (EG-F16-050)

PROPOSAL 91 - 5 AAC 85.065. Hunting seasons and bag limits for small game. Modify the hunting season and bag limits for grouse in Unit 12 as follows:

In Unit 12, a daily bag limit of five grouse per day with a possession limit of ten, except two per day and possession limit of four, for ruffed grouse August 20—November 10.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Revise and shorten grouse seasons in Unit 12. These season and bag limits are over 50 years old and do not meet today's increased human populations and hunting pressure. These large bag limits and long seasons are leading to the slaughter of grown populations. I would like this proposal to also apply to Units 11 and 13 but these units are not on the Board of Game's schedule this meeting cycle.

PROPOSED BY: Lee Adler

(EG-F16-019)

Galena Area Proposals

PROPOSAL 92 - 5 AAC 92.044. Permit for hunting bear with the use of bait or scent lures. Allow the harvest of brown bear at bear bait stations in Unit 21C as follows:

I would like Unit 21C to be added to the existing list at the bottom of page 26 as shown below.

Bear baiting seasons and requirements

You may:

In Units 7, 11, 12, 13, 14B, 15, 16, 20A, 20B, 20C, 20E, **21C**, 21D, 24C, 24D, and 25D brown/grizzly bears may be taken at a black bear bait station subject to the same restrictions as black bear. Hunters who take brown bears over bait in these areas are required to salvage the edible meat in addition to the hide and skull. Hunters must comply with seasons, bag limits, and sealing requirements for brown/grizzly bears (registration permits and locking-tags may be required in some areas, contact the Alaska Department of Fish & Game for details).

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Healthy, harvestable populations of grizzly bear in Unit 21C. I would like to see the harvest of grizzly bears allowed over black bear bait stations in this area. This unit is directly adjacent to units of similar characteristics where the taking of grizzly bears at a black bear bait station is currently permitted.

PROPOSED BY: Benjamin Holbrook (EG-F16-072)

PROPOSAL 93 - 5 AAC 92.530(7)(C)(i)(2). Management Areas. Remove the Bettles Winter Trail travel exception for public use within the Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area as follows:

The following management areas are subject to special restrictions:

(7) the Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area:

(C) no motorized vehicle may be used to transport hunters, hunting gear, or parts of game, within the Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area, except that

(i) licensed highway vehicles may be used on the following designated roads:

(1) Dalton Highway,

[(2) BETTLES WINTER TRAIL DURING PERIODS WHEN THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT AND THE CITY OF BETTLES ANNOUNCE THAT THE TRAIL IS OPEN FOR WINTER TRAVEL,]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Department of Fish & Game is submitting this proposal as a placeholder to provide the Board of Game with an opportunity to make changes to the Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area (DHCMA) regulation that may become necessary based on possible actions taken by land managers in the affected area. This proposal would remove the Bettles Winter Trail as a motorized travel exception from the DHCMA regulation. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is currently conducting

an environmental analysis of permitted use of the Bettles Winter Trail. The decision may be forthcoming by June 2016, which is after the deadline for proposals for this Board of Game meeting. BLM is also currently assessing the Bettles Winter Trail in their Central Yukon Management Plan. At this time, it appears that if the Bettles Winter Trail permit is approved by BLM in its current form, vehicle access will be restricted to commercial fuel trucks only with no public use allowed. Therefore, the existing regulation which designates the Bettles Winter Trail as a legal motorized travel exception within the DHCMA would mislead hunters and possibly subject them to citations if the road is closed to public use.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F16-139)

PROPOSAL 94 - 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Modify the hunting season for moose in Unit 21D as follows:

The solution proposed is a later, fall season for RM834 to accommodate warmer fall weather as stated below:

Remainder of Unit 21D

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 moose per regulatory year

[AUG. 22—AUG. 31]

Sept. 1 [SEPT. 5] — **Sept. 30** [SEPT. 25]

The solution proposes no additional hunting days to the hunting season. Increased opportunity is provided only through a shift in the season dates.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Weather patterns in this area have changed, producing warmer fall seasons and resulting in lack of moose movement earlier in the season, and greater potential for meat spoilage. In addition, later green vegetation presence hinders visibility for hunting. Shifting the season dates to respond to these changing weather patterns would better accommodate harvest opportunity and quality of harvest for residents in this area without adding days to the existing season.

PROPOSED BY: Galena Village (EG-C15-016)

PROPOSAL 95 - 5 AAC 85.045(19), (22). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Change the drawing permits DM812 in Unit 21C and DM896 in the remainder of Unit 24C to registration permit hunts, and change the RM834 subsistence registration permit to a general registration permit without the antler destruction requirement as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
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(19)

...

Unit 21(C)

Unit 21(C) that portion within the Dulbi River drainage

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull, by registration permit only[; OR]

Sept. 5—Sept. 25
[SUBSISTENCE HUNT ONLY]

[1 BULL, BY DRAWING PERMIT ONLY; UP TO 100 PERMITS MAY BE ISSUED IN UNIT 21(C)]

[SEPT. 5—SEPT. 25]

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side, by **registration permit only**
[DRAWING PERMIT ONLY; UP TO 100 PERMITS MAY BE ISSUED IN UNIT 21(C)]

Sept. 5—Sept. 25

...

(22)

...

Remainder of Unit 24(C)

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull, by registration permit only; or

Sept. 5—25
[SUBSISTENCE HUNT ONLY]

[1 BULL, BY DRAWING PERMIT ONLY; UP TO 450 PERMITS MAY BE ISSUED IN COMBINATION WITH UNIT 24(D) OUTSIDE THE KOYUKUK CONTROLLED USE AREA]

[SEPT. 5—SEPT. 25]

1 antlered bull by registration permit only

Dec. 15—Apr. 15
(Subsistence hunt only)

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers

Sept. 5—Sept. 25

with 4 or more brow tines on one side,
by **registration permit only**
[DRAWING PERMIT ONLY; UP
TO UP TO 450 PERMITS MAY BE
ISSUED IN COMBINATION WITH
UNIT 24(D) OUTSIDE THE KOYUKUK
CONTROLLED USE AREA]

**Unit 24(D), that portion west of the
Koyukuk Controlled Use Area**

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

**1 bull, by registration permit
only; or**

**Sept. 5—Sept. 25
(Subsistence hunt only)**

**1 bull by drawing permit only;
up to 450 permits may be issued
in Unit 24 outside the Koyukuk
Controlled Use Area**

Sept. 5—Sept. 25

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 450 permits
may be issued in Unit 24
outside the Koyukuk
Controlled Use Area**

Sept. 5—Sept. 25

Remainder of Unit 24(D)

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull, by **registration**
[DRAWING] permit only[; OR]

Sept. 5—Sept. 25
[SUBSISTENCE HUNT
ONLY]

[1 BULL BY DRAWING
PERMIT ONLY; UP TO 450
PERMITS MAY BE ISSUED
IN UNIT 24 OUTSIDE THE
KOYUKUK CONTROLLED
USE AREA]

[SEPT. 5—SEPT. 25]

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull with 50-inch antlers
or antlers with 4 or more
brow tines on one side, by
registration [DRAWING]

Sept. 5—Sept. 25

permit only [UP TO 450
 PERMITS MAY BE ISSUED
 IN UNIT 24 OUTSIDE THE
 KOYUKUK CONTROLLED
 USE AREA]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? This proposal changes the drawing permit hunts in Unit 21C, the remainder of Unit 24C, and a portion of Unit 24D (DM812 and DM896) to registration permit hunts and eliminates the antler destruction requirement in a portion of the RM834 subsistence registration permit area. These two hunt areas are remote and access is difficult. As a result, hunter participation in the drawing permit hunts has been low, and few subsistence hunters travel to these areas. Concerns about 1) hunters “bootlegging” moose from the Koyukuk Controlled Use Area by claiming they were harvested in these areas if antler destruction was not required and 2) the need to distribute hunters from heavily hunted areas are diminished due to the remoteness of these hunts. The proposed registration hunts will allow the Department of Fish and Game to monitor hunter participation, harvest, and address any potential concerns.

Since the DM812 permit hunt was established in 2004, an average of 31 permits were issued annually. An average of 74% of permittees did not hunt, and an average of five moose were harvested annually over the 12-year period. An average of 1.7 hunters harvested 0.5 moose annually on the RM834 permit in Unit 21C.

Since the DM896 permit hunt was established in 2004, an average of 52 permits were issued, an average of 51% of permittees did not hunt, and an average of 11 moose were harvested annually over the same 12-year period. An average of 29 hunters harvested six moose annually on the RM834 permit in the remainder of Units 24C and 24D.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F16-137)

PROPOSAL 96 - 5 AAC 85.045(a)(22). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Expand the winter hunting season for moose to include all of Unit 24B as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
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(22)
 ...

Unit 24(B) [ALL DRAINAGES OF
 THE KOYUKUK RIVER
 UPSTREAM FROM THE
 HENSHAW CREEK DRAINAGE,
 EXCLUDING THE NORTH FORK
 OF THE KOYUKUK RIVER

DRAINAGE]

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull; <u>or</u>	Sept. 1—Sept. 25
<u>1 antlered bull by registration permit only</u>	<u>Dec. 15—Apr. 15</u> <u>(Subsistence hunt only)</u>

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side	Sept. 5—Sept. 25
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[REMAINDER OF UNIT 24(B)]	
[RESIDENT HUNTERS:]	
[1 BULL; OR	[SEPT. 1—SEPT. 25]
[1 ANTLERED BULL BY	
REGISTRATION PERMIT ONLY]	[Dec. 15—Apr. 15]
	[(SUBSISTENCE HUNT ONLY)]

[NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:]	
[1 BULL WITH 50-INCH ANTLERS OR ANTLERS WITH 4 OR MORE BROW TINES ON ONE SIDE]	[SEPT. 5—SEPT. 25]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Expansion of the winter moose season will reduce confusion with federal regulations and land status in Unit 24B, it will simplify the regulations, and it will provide additional hunting opportunity.

Bull:cow ratios in Unit 24B are high (regulatory year (RY) 2010–RY2015 avg. = 62 bulls:100 cows) and can support an antlered bull hunt. There is no management objective for bull:cow ratios in Unit 24B, but the Koyukuk moose management plan prescribed a ratio of 30-40 bulls:100 cows as an appropriate level due to the low moose density. The existing winter hunt did not result in increased harvest because access to Unit 24B is limited. As a result, hunter participation has been low due to the remoteness, extreme weather conditions, and darkness during the hunting season dates. However, the hunt provides additional opportunity to harvest a moose to hunters who were not successful during the fall season.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F16-140)

PROPOSAL 97 - 5 AAC 92.069. Special provisions for moose drawing permit hunts. Remove the nonresident guide requirement for moose hunts in the Interior/Northeast Arctic Region, and change the permit allocation in Unit 21B as follows:

Rescind the nonresident must-be-guided requirement for moose in all of Interior/Northeast Arctic Region.

5 AAC 92.069 is amended to read:

(b)(3) in Unit 21(B), that portion within the Nowitna River drainage upstream from the Little Mud River drainage and within the corridor extending two miles on either side of and including the Nowitna River, the drawing permit hunt is allocated **90 percent** [50 PERCENT] to residents and **up to 10 percent** [50 PERCENT] to nonresidents; [THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ISSUE A MAXIMUM OF 75 PERCENT OF THE AVAILABLE NONRESIDENT DRAWING PERMITS TO GUIDED NONRESIDENTS, AND A MINIMUM OF 25 PERCENT OF THE AVAILABLE NONRESIDENT DRAWING PERMITS TO NON-GUIDED NONRESIDENTS; IF THE NUMBER OF NONRESIDENTS APPLYING FOR PERMITS FOR EITHER NONRESIDENT HUNT IS INSUFFICIENT TO AWARD THE REQUIRED PERCENTAGE, THE DEPARTMENT MAY AWARD THE REMAINING AVAILABLE NONRESIDENT DRAWING PERMITS TO THE OTHER NONRESIDENT HUNT;]

Other parts of 5 AAC 92.069 would have to be deleted if the must-be-guided requirement for moose in Interior/Northeast Arctic Region is rescinded.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Interior/Northeast **Arctic Region nonresident “must-be-guided” requirement for moose.** The Board of Game (board) added moose to the must-be-guided species listed in AS 16.05.407 in areas of the Interior/Northeast Arctic Region, using their authority under AS 16.05.255(a)(10) to “adopt regulations to sport hunting for the conservation, development, and utilization of game.”

We don’t believe the board had or has the authority to add to or amend AS 16.05.407, but nevertheless they have done so and they did so in a way that was detrimental to resident hunters. A prime example of this is proposal 55 that the board passed in 2008, which was submitted by a guide with exclusive guiding privileges within the Nowitna National Wildlife Refuge. Proposal 55 made moose a must-be-guided species for most nonresident hunters in Unit 21B in that part of the Nowitna National Wildlife refuge and at the same time allocated 50% of the recently created DM810 draw hunt permits for that same area to nonresident hunters.

The rationale used by the author of proposal 55 for this change to both the must-be-guided regulation and the number of permits offered to nonresidents under DM810 was the “inability of local hunting guides, and other historical user groups, to obtain permits for the upper Nowitna area.” The proposer further stated that “nonresident hunters now have difficulty in obtaining permits due to the sharp increase of applicants, and few of these awarded permits are actually utilized each season.”

If and when hunting guides are having difficulty obtaining clientele for moose draw permit hunts due to more residents applying for a draw permit hunt than nonresidents, that’s exactly how it should work according to our state constitution. The response to this complaint from a guide is **not** for the board to completely go against our state constitutional intent and give more opportunity to nonresidents and supply guides with more guaranteed clientele. Yet that is exactly what the board did.

We also don’t believe that where we have draw permit hunts for both residents and nonresidents that allocation to nonresidents should ever be based on how many residents utilize their awarded

draw permits. The Department of Fish & Game takes into account that some permits will not be utilized when determining the number of permits to offer.

This must-be-guided “creep” forced on nonresident moose hunters by the board is happening in other areas of the interior, like the Koyukuk Controlled Use Area and other parts of Unit 21D & 21E. This precedent set by the board typically results in fewer permits to residents and higher harvests for nonresident must-be-guided hunters.

AS 16.05.255 was never intended to authorize the board to provide a benefit to nonresidents over residents, nor was it intended to subsidize guides by providing a guaranteed client base for a species the legislature never intended to be included in the “must-be-guided” law.

Since proposal 55 passed in 2008, resident hunters have been disenfranchised by being forced to evenly split draw hunting opportunity for moose with nonresidents and the proof is in the draw permit statistics. In the 2014 draw permit results, 60 residents put in for the ten moose permits under DM810 with a 17% chance to draw. The success rate for the Board of Game-created nonresident must-be-guided component for that same moose hunt was 100%.

If this issue is not addressed, resident moose hunters who would like to hunt in these areas will continue to see reduced opportunities to draw a tag. The board has also set a precedent that could lead to future loss of resident hunting opportunities if the board is allowed to add more areas to the must-be-guided species list for nonresidents.

PROPOSED BY: Resident Hunters of Alaska (EG-F16-103)

PROPOSAL 98 - 5 AAC 92.124(b). Intensive Management Plans VIII. Eliminate the requirement for a nonresident wolf tag in Unit 21 as follows:

Per Statute 16.05.340...A nonresident is not required to have a nonresident wolf tag to take a wolf in a game management unit if the Board of Game has adopted an intensive management program under AS 16.05.255 for all or a portion of the game management unit...and per 5 AAC 92.124 Intensive Management Plans VIII(1) Unit 21E Predation Control Area, the Middle Yukon AC would like to see the tag fee for wolves for nonresident hunters eliminated in Unit 21.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? We would like to see more incidental take of wolves by nonresident hunters.

PROPOSED BY: Middle Yukon Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-F16-014)

Note: This proposal is scheduled for the Arctic/Western Region meeting as proposal 35 and the Interior/Northeast Arctic Region meeting as proposal 99.

PROPOSAL 99 - 5 AAC 85.056. Hunting seasons and bag limits for wolf. Lengthen the hunting seasons for wolf in Units 24-26 as follows:

Units 24-26 wolf season: July 1—April 20

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Wolf hunting seasons in the arctic actually open later in the fall than some areas much farther to the south. Many caribou and bear hunters hunt before the wolf season is open and sheep hunters are in the field a few days before the season opens in most areas. The opportunity to harvest a wolf is not being realized by these hunters. It is quite common for hunters to hunt in late July in these units and the option to harvest a wolf would be appreciated. Take is relatively low by hunters on wolf even with long seasons (as opposed to trapping). The opportunity to take a wolf is much more important to most hunters than the quality of the pelt. Trappers depend on the quality of the pelt for monetary value, conversely, most hunters will only take a couple wolves in their life and the opportunity is much more important than the monetary value of a good pelt. Most hunters would be more than satisfied with the quality of a late July wolf to hang in their home. Other considerations: Open Season August 1; apply this proposal only in Unit 26 where seasons are drastically shortened by weather. This proposal is submitted to both the Arctic and Western and Interior and Eastern Arctic meetings.

PROPOSED BY: Aaron Bloomquist (EG-F16-007)

Note: This proposal is scheduled for the Arctic/Western Region meeting as proposal 4 and the Interior/Northeast Arctic Region meeting as proposal 100.

PROPOSAL 100 - 5 AAC 92.085. Unlawful methods of taking big game; exceptions. Institute no-fly zones for caribou hunting in Units 21D, 22, 23, 24, & 26A as follows:

Aircraft restricted to only Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday. This will leave Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday to a no-fly zone allowing local villagers to have quiet hunting times and no aircraft noises. This proposal will affect Units and Subunits of 21D, 22, 23, 24 and 26A. Hunters in this area because of weather will need to be prepared to carry with them three days of provisions in case aircraft can't get in to get them out of the area.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Western Arctic caribou herd (WAH) declining population numbers. During the WAH meeting in December 2015 and the Regional Advisory Council meetings March of 2016 in Anchorage, information released to the public shows numbers going from 495,000 to 235,000 animals. Local people think aircraft are part of the reason. They attempted to try a correction with proposal WSA16-01.

PROPOSED BY: Neil DeWitt (EG-F16-013)

Northeast Arctic Area Proposals

PROPOSAL 101 - 5 AAC 92.XXX. Create a regulation allowing the harvest of moose under a permit for “celebration of life” events as follows:

The Gwichyaa Zhee Gwich’in Tribal Government (GZGTG) is allowed to harvest moose under a permit issued by the Alaska Department of Fish & Game for a “Celebration of Life” event.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Funerary and mortuary moose are provided for in 5 AAC 92.019. Moose is customarily used in celebratory events as well, where many community members gather for potlaches and feasts, not associated with a person’s passing.

Current regulations that allow harvest of moose for funerary and mortuary purposes do not fulfill the requirement of all Gwich’in ceremonies and gatherings. Gwich’in people are historically generous people and Fort Yukon has been a gathering point for fishing and trading since time immemorial.

While the Tribe does have memorial potlaches to honor those that have passed away we would also like to use moose for positive traditional celebrations.

This regulation will enable the Tribe to continue to honor tradition without having the sadness of death be the center of the celebration we also celebrate the changing of seasons, the bountiful harvest and changes that it will bring.

Events may include, but are not limited to, GZGTG Annual Meeting (enrolled Tribal Members vote for first and second Chief and Council Members, one full day), GZGTG Holiday Potlatch (Christmas Eve – New Year’s Day, 5–9 days, everyone welcome, made possible through donations and volunteers), Spring Carnival Potlatch, (region-wide, everyone welcome, 5–8 days long, daily meals), Community Fall Harvest/Agricultural Fair Potlatch, and Community Spring clean-up potlatch.

PROPOSED BY: Yukon Flats Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-F16-039)

Note: This proposal is scheduled for the Arctic/Western Region meeting as proposal 1 and the Interior/Northeast Arctic Region meeting as proposal 102.

PROPOSAL 102 - 5 AAC 99.025. Customary and traditional uses of game. Evaluate a separate amount reasonably necessary for subsistence for the Teshekpuk caribou herd as follows:

The recommendation is to evaluate a separate amount reasonably necessary for subsistence (ANS) figures for the Western Arctic and Teshekpuk caribou herds. Updated caribou population data is warranted in the consideration due to the recent dramatic declines of both herds. More recent harvest data for the North Slope communities may also be included in the evaluation at this time. Proposed regulations change as follows:

5 AAC 99.025 Customary and traditional uses of game populations (a) - Species and Unit: Caribou, Units 21, 22, 23, 24, and 26 (Western Arctic caribou herd, [TESHEKPUK LAKE HERD])

Finding: positive

Amount Reasonably Necessary for Subsistence Uses: 8,000 – 12,000

Species and Unit: Caribou, Units 26A and 24B (Teshekpuk Herd)

Finding: positive

Amount Reasonably Necessary for Subsistence Uses: To be determined

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The North Slope Subsistence Regional Advisory Council (Council) held public meetings on November 3–4 and December 14, 2015 and reviewed, discussed at length, and made recommendations on conservation management strategies for the Western Arctic and Teshekpuk caribou herds which have been in decline for several years. At these meetings the Council also discussed its concern for the management of the smaller Teshekpuk herd and formally approved submission of a request to the Alaska Board of Game (board) to reconsider the evaluation of a separate ANS for the Teshekpuk caribou herd.

The Council requests the board re-evaluate and establish a separate ANS for the Teshekpuk caribou herd. Currently both the Western Arctic caribou herd and the Teshekpuk caribou herd are combined together with a single ANS that was originally established by the board in 1992 for just the Western Arctic herd. In 2014 the board deliberated on the findings of customary and traditional uses that led to a positive determination for the Teshekpuk herd and that there was a harvestable surplus of that caribou population. The board was then presented with options for establishing an ANS and voted to forego establishment of a separate ANS for the Teshekpuk herd.

The Council is very concerned that the combined ANS has created a range that is too high for the Teshekpuk herd to sustain and has resulted in hunting regulations that may be too liberal with respect to this herd. The Teshekpuk herd is much smaller than the Western Arctic herd and if not addressed may be susceptible to overharvest under the current combined ANS. In light of the recent declines of both the Western Arctic and Teshekpuk herds, and recognizing the importance of the Teshekpuk herd as a primary food source of subsistence caribou for several North Slope communities, the Council feels it is necessary to re-evaluate managing the two herds separately in order better protect the smaller Teshekpuk herd.

The Council recognizes the complexity of managing for overlapping caribou herds; however, the recent dramatic declines of both Western Arctic and Teshekpuk caribou herds warrants a closer evaluation for management of the smaller, more vulnerable Teshekpuk herd. Thank you for your consideration.

PROPOSED BY: North Slope Subsistence Regional Advisory Council (EG-F16-095)

Note: This proposal is scheduled for the Arctic/Western Region meeting as proposal 2 and the Interior/Northeast Arctic Region meeting as proposal 103.

PROPOSAL 103 - 5 AAC 92.010. Harvest tickets and reports; and 85.025. Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou. Modify the hunt structure of the Western Arctic and Teshekpuk caribou herds as follows:

The Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) recommends that the Board of Game (board) modify the hunt structure for the Western Arctic caribou herd (WAH) and Teshekpuk caribou herd (TCH) in Units 21, 23, 24, and 26 by establishing registration permit hunts within the range of these herds. For Unit 22, also within the range of these herds, the board adopted regulations that include a registration permit hunt structure during the March 2016 statewide meeting. Registration permit hunts provide additional tools to monitor harvest and manage caribou herds above what is offered by the registration system that is currently employed.

In preparation for upcoming regulatory years, ADF&G anticipates needing flexibility to actively manage harvest over a very large area of the state if either the WAH or TCH decline to the point that the current hunt management structure is no longer practical for one or both herds. For example, a registration permit allows flexibility to open and close seasons and areas based on seasonal access to caribou, without the need for further board action. Transition from the current harvest registration system to a registration permit hunt would be a significant change to increase ADF&G's ability to monitor harvest and allow for more responsive management.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The 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, with a population projection of approximately 200,000 as of 2015. The intensive management harvest objectives for the WAH are 12,000–20,000, with a population objective of over 200,000. Prior to regulatory year 2015 (RY2015 = July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016), harvests were estimated at 12,000 caribou per year based on data and patterns available through community harvest assessments. ADF&G is concerned that cow harvest has exceeded 2% since RY2011, but does not have the tools to evaluate the sex composition of the harvest efficiently.

The TCH was estimated at approximately 39,000 in 2013, and 41,500 in 2015. Given confidence limits associated with both estimates, herd growth is implied to have been stable between 2013 and 2015. Minimum counts in those two years were 32,000 and 35,000, respectively. Prior to RY2015, harvests have been estimated at approximately 2,300 per year, through the use of community harvest assessments. If the herd remains stable, these harvests are likely to be near sustainable levels, but additional capability to monitor harvest and adjust seasons, particularly in areas of herd mixture, is increasingly important. The intensive management harvest objectives for the TCH are 900–2,800, with a population objective of 15,000–28,000.

The combined amounts reasonably necessary for subsistence for the WAH and TCH is a range of 8,000–12,000. The combined harvestable surplus in 2015 for the two herds, based on a 6% harvest rate, would be approximately 14,500.

Establishing registration permit hunts for these herds will provide managers with additional tools to ensure that harvest levels do not exceed allowable rates for the WAH, which could further depress this population. In addition to providing additional information on harvest levels, the registration permit system will provide annual information on the timing and sex of harvest throughout the herd’s range, which is becoming increasingly important to evaluate the effects of harvest on the herd’s population status. Another benefit to a registration permit is the ability for the board to require mandatory reporting so harvest can be monitored more closely to prevent overharvest, while maximizing opportunity relative to what is available.

There are no proposed changes to bag limits or seasons; the only change ADF&G is requesting at this time is a change in hunt structure to a registration permit hunt. Restrictions to limit harvest with seasonal quotas, annual bag limits for one or both sexes, or changes to hunting seasons may be necessary for future hunt management. If changes to seasons and bag limits become necessary in the future, the changes would be more easily implemented under the registration permit hunt structure proposed.

ADF&G will present an overview of WAH and TCH hunt management during the January 2017 Board of Game meeting to discuss the potential for changes to seasons and geographic opportunity with the board. The board adopted regulations during the March 2016 meeting that changed bag limits and reporting mechanisms in Unit 22 that we anticipate will allow ADF&G to evaluate initial implementation of a registration permit hunt and annual bag limit in a portion of the WAH range.

ADF&G is seeking public input through this proposal related to regulatory options for ensuring the continued viability of these herds. ADF&G intends to actively engage state and federal advisory committees, effected communities, local governments, and the Western Arctic Herd Working Group in formulating refinements to this proposal. ADF&G also anticipates collecting new information on abundance and herd demographics in the interim before the January 2017 Board of Game meeting. Given the potential for falling below intensive management objectives, ADF&G will prepare an intensive management feasibility assessment for the January 2017 Board of Game meeting.

The public is encouraged to evaluate this proposal, and to provide advice on means for reducing harvest, while minimizing impacts to hunters and users of caribou throughout the ranges of both herds.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F16-135)

PROPOSAL 104 - 5 AAC 85.025. Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou. Expand the bag limits for caribou in Units 24A, 25A, 25D, 26B and 26C as follows:

Units and Bag Limit	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
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(19)
 ...

Remainder of Unit 24(A)

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

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

July 1—June 30

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

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

July 1—June 30

[REMAINDER OF UNIT 24(A), AND
REMAINDER OF UNIT 24(B)]

[RESIDENT HUNTERS:]
[5 CARIBOU PER DAY, AS
FOLLOWS:]

[UP TO 5 BULLS PER DAY;
HOWEVER, CALVES
MAY NOT BE TAKEN;]

[JULY 1—OCT. 14]
[FEB. 1—JUNE 30]

[UP TO 5 COWS PER DAY;
HOWEVER, CALVES MAY
NOT BE TAKEN]

[JULY 15—APR. 30]

[NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:]
[1 BULL; HOWEVER, CALVES
MAY NOT BE TAKEN]

[AUG. 1—SEPT. 30]

Unit 24(B), that portion south
of the south bank of the Kanuti
River, upstream from and including
that portion of the Kanuti-Kiloitna
River drainage, bounded by the southeast
bank of the Kodosin-Nolitna Creek, then
downstream along the east bank of the
Kanuti-Kiloitna River to its confluence
with the Kanuti River

1 caribou

Aug. 10—Mar. 31

Aug. 10—Sept. 30

Remainder of Unit 24(B)

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

5 caribou per day, as follows:

up to 5 bulls per day; however,

July 1—Oct. 14

calves may not be taken;

Feb. 1—June 30

up to 5 cows per day; however,
calves may not be taken

July 15—Apr. 30

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull; however, calves may not
be taken

Aug. 1—Sept. 30

...

(20)

Unit 25(A), those portions east
of the east bank of the East
Fork Chandalar River extending
from its confluence with the
Chandalar River upstream to
Guilbeau Pass, Unit 25(B), and
Unit 25(D), excluding the drainage
of the west fork of the Dall River
west of 150° W. long.

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

10 caribou; **however, cow caribou
may not be taken May 16—June 30**

July 1—June 30
[JULY 1—APRIL 30]

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

2 bulls

Aug. 1—Sept. 30

Remainder of Unit 25(A)

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

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

July 1—June 30

[10 CARIBOU; HOWEVER, COW
CARIBOU MAY NOT BE TAKEN
MAY 16—JUNE 30]

[JULY 1—JUNE 30]

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

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

July 1—June 30

...

(21)

...

[UNIT 26(B), THAT PORTION NORTH OF 69° 30' N. LAT. AND WEST OF THE EAST BANK OF THE KUPARUK RIVER TO A POINT AT 70° 10' N. LAT., 149° 04' W. LONG., THEN WEST APPROXIMATELY 22 MILES TO 70° 10' N. LAT., AND 149° 56' W. LONG., THEN FOLLOWING THE EAST BANK OF THE KALUBIK RIVER TO THE ARCTIC OCEAN]

[RESIDENT HUNTERS]:
[5 CARIBOU PER DAY; HOWEVER COW CARIBOU MAY NOT BE TAKEN MAY 16—JUNE 30]

[JULY 1—JUNE 30]

[NONRESIDENT HUNTERS]:
[5 CARIBOU]

[JULY 1—APR. 30]

Unit 26(B), that portion south of 69° 30' N. lat. and west of the Dalton Highway

5 caribou; however, cow caribou may be taken only July 1—Oct. 10

July 1—Oct. 10
May 16—June 30

July 1—Oct. 10
May 16—June 30

Unit 26(B), that portion south of 69° 30' N. lat. and east of the Dalton Highway

5 caribou; however, cow caribou may **not** be taken **May 16—June 30**
[ONLY JULY 1—MAY 15]

July 1—June 30

July 1—June 30

Remainder of Unit 26(B)

5 caribou; **however, cow caribou may not be taken May 1—June 30**

July 1—June 30
[JULY 1—APR. 30]

July 1—April 30

(22)

Unit 26(C)

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

10 caribou; however, cow caribou may not be taken

July 1—June 30

May 1—June 30

[ONLY BULL CARIBOU

[JULY 1—APRIL 30]

MAY BE TAKEN

[JUNE 23—JUNE 30]

JUNE 23—JUNE 30]

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS

2 bulls

Aug. 1—Sept. 30

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The proposed changes are recommended to align Central Arctic caribou herd seasons and bag limits as much as possible within the herd's range. These changes will also simplify and clarify regulations, and in some cases, increase opportunities for hunters. Changes recommended for the Porcupine caribou herd represent increased opportunity by extending seasons during late spring and summer.

Central Arctic caribou herd (CAH): The Central Arctic caribou herd was estimated at 50,750 caribou in 2013. The herd is either stable or slightly declining. The annual harvest rate is $\leq 2\%$, and increased opportunity will likely result in little effect on annual harvest rates. As a result, the Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) recommends the following changes for CAH hunts:

Unit 24A north of the south bank of the Kanuti River (Remainder of Unit 24A)

- Change the seasons and bag limits to align with seasons and bag limits in the majority of the CAH range. The current season and bag limit reflects the Western Arctic caribou herd (WAH) regulations, but the WAH rarely ranges into Unit 24A. Northern Unit 24A is occupied mostly by CAH during late fall through early spring. Hunters typically access caribou via the Dalton Highway in October and November. Currently, the season is closed 15 October—31 January because it is under the WAH regulations. In addition, the take of calves is prohibited under the WAH regulations, which is unnecessarily restrictive for CAH.
- The Hodzana caribou herd also occupies a portion of Unit 24A north of the Kanuti River to the South Fork Koyukuk River. Even though this is a small herd, we recommend keeping the seasons and bag limits similar to the CAH because annual harvest on the Hodzana caribou herd is very low (<5 caribou annually). The Hodzana herd has not been reviewed by the board for a finding of customary and traditional uses (C&T) or amounts reasonably necessary for subsistence (ANS). The nearby Galena Mountains herd, Wolf Mountain herd, and Ray Mountain herd have a positive C&T finding and a combined ANS of 150–200 caribou.
- The new season and bag limit would be five caribou during 1 July—30 June; however, cow caribou may be taken only during 1 July—15 May. This aligns regulations with adjacent Unit 26B, east of the Dalton Highway, and adjacent Unit 25A west of the east bank of the East Fork Chandalar River as recommended in this proposal (see below).

Unit 25A, west of the east bank of the East Fork Chandalar River

- Change the bag limit to align with the bag limit in the majority of the CAH range. This portion of Unit 25A encompasses most of the wintering grounds of the CAH, although some or many Porcupine herd caribou also mix with CAH during winter in this area. The

new season and bag limit would be five caribou, 1 July—30 June; however, cow caribou may be taken only 1 July—15 May.

Unit 26B North of 69° 30' N. lat. (Remainder of Unit 26B)

- Increase opportunity for resident hunters by extending the bull season from 1 July—30 April to no closed bull season for residents only. This will provide additional opportunity for resident hunters, particularly those living in Nuiqsut.

Northwest portion of Unit 26B

- Align the seasons and bag limits with the portion of Unit 26B north of 69° 30' N. lat. (Remainder of Unit 26B, above) as recommended in this proposal. This would change the season and bag limit for residents from five caribou per day, 1 July—30 April to five caribou total, 1 July—30 June; however cow caribou may be taken only 1 July—30 April. The Northwest portion of Unit 26B regulations were originally aligned with adjacent Unit 26A regulations for residents of Nuiqsut. However, the Teshekpuk caribou herd in Unit 26A is in decline, and regulations for that herd have changed dramatically, making aligning seasons for that small portion of northwest Unit 26B unnecessary. Although some hunting by Nuiqsut residents takes place in Unit 26B, most hunting by this community occurs in Unit 26A.

Porcupine caribou herd (PCH): The Porcupine caribou herd was estimated at 197,000 caribou in 2013. The herd is either stable or increasing. Hunting pressure on this herd is relatively low because the herd is frequently inaccessible to hunters. The combined annual harvest rate between Alaska and Canada is $\leq 4\%$. The department recommends the following changes for PCH hunts:

Unit 25A, east of the east bank of the East Fork Chandalar River

- Extend the season for residents to provide additional opportunity. We recommend changing the season for residents from 1 July—30 April to 1 July—30 June; however, cow caribou may be taken only 1 July—15 May.

Unit 26C

- Extend the bull season for residents only in Unit 26C from 1 July—30 April and 23—30 June seasons to a no closed bull season. Extending the bull season during May and June in Unit 26C would provide additional opportunity mostly for residents of Kaktovik during a period of time when the PCH caribou are accessible to them.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F16-141)

PROPOSAL 105 - 5 AAC 85.025. Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou. Change the nonresident bag limit for caribou and resident cow season in Unit 26B as follows:

	Residents	Nonresidents
Unit 26B Northwest portion: north of 69°30' and west of the east bank of the Kuparak River to a point at 70°10' N. lat., 149°04' W. long., then west	No Change	<u>Two caribou</u> [5 CARIBOU TOTAL] <u>Bull only</u> no closed season

approximately 22 miles to 70°10' N. lat. And 149°56' W. long., then following the east bank of the Kalubik to the Arctic Ocean

Unit 26B South of 69°30' N. lat. and west of the Dalton Highway	Cows <u>Aug. 1</u> [JULY 1]—Oct. 10	<u>Two caribou</u> [5 CARIBOU TOTAL] <u>Bull only</u> July 1—Oct. 10 May 16—June 30
Unit 26B South of 69°30' N. lat. and east of the Dalton Highway	Cows <u>Aug. 1</u> [JULY 1]—May 15	<u>Two caribou</u> [5 CARIBOU TOTAL] <u>Bull only</u> no closed season
Unit 26B remainder	Cows <u>Aug. 1</u> [JULY 1]—April 30	<u>Two caribou</u> [5 CARIBOU TOTAL] <u>Bull only</u> July 1—April 30

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? **Nonresident and resident caribou harvest allocation and seasons in Unit 26B.** In 2010 the Board of Game (board) passed a heavily amended proposal (#104A) from the Department of Fish & Game that substantially increased harvest allocations for Central Arctic caribou herd (CAH) in Unit 26B for both residents and nonresidents, while at the same time greatly expanding the seasons.

The board increased the allocation to both residents and nonresidents from two to five caribou, and allowed nonresidents to also take cows starting July 1, when cows with newborn calves are heavily lactating and the calves are completely dependent on the mother.

Since 2010, and with caribou hunting in other parts of the state being limited, there has been an influx of resident and nonresident caribou hunters in Unit 26B that has led to increased harvests, including the take of cow caribou.

We don't believe the board should ever allow a nonresident harvest of five bull caribou anywhere in the state – let alone include the taking of cows during the time they are raising calves. It's hard enough to take care of the meat of two caribou, and allocating five caribou to nonresident hunters who for the most part don't intend to take the meat home only increases the potential for wanton waste.

We also have concerns with the increased resident allocation, particularly the cow allocation and season.

With more areas like Unit 23 facing possible closures to caribou hunting, the pressure on the CAH will likely increase and exacerbate these issues. Here is a scenario that plays out again and again on the North Slope: A group of nonresident hunters fly out of Happy Valley or Fairbanks or Deadhorse or Kavik and are dropped off to “intercept” migrating caribou. The day after being

dropped off they hike and scout and see a small band of caribou and each take one. They butcher and begin packing the meat back to camp. The next day several hundred caribou walk right through camp and with a five caribou allocation the hunters begin to shoot the largest bulls they see. Often there is little consideration for wounding loss. It isn't until after the shooting stops that they realize the predicament they have put themselves in. How are they going to care for all the meat for the next five days until their pickup? They call for an earlier pickup but the air carrier can't make it for a few days. The weather turns unseasonably warm, there are no trees or sticks to set up to hang meat and the meat sits in game bags on the ground until their air charter arrives to fly them, the coveted antlers, and the mostly spoiled meat, back to civilization.

Scenarios like this on the North Slope are unfortunately common with nonresident hunters who've never been to Alaska before and have been told they can donate all the meat to the food bank in Fairbanks when they return. When spoiled meat is transferred to the food bank, the end result is tons of waste getting thrown out by the processors and no penalty to the hunters.

PROPOSED BY: Resident Hunters of Alaska (EG-F16-105)

PROPOSAL 106 - 5 AAC 85.020. Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear. Open a resident archery season for brown bear in Unit 26B as follows:

Add a new resident-only registration permit hunt and season for grizzly bear within the Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area (DHCMA):

Unit 26B Resident Only

RB XXX - one bear every regulatory year by permit within the Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area by bow and arrow only, Aug. 10—Aug. 24.

(RB 988 permit could be used after August 24)

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Resident grizzly bear hunting opportunity in the Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area in Unit 26B. The current resident fall registration hunt (RB988) for grizzly bear in Unit 26B on the North Slope does not begin until August 25. Bowhunters who hunt caribou within the DHCMA earlier in August do not have an opportunity to harvest a bear they may see while hunting.

With the liberalized grizzly bear harvests on the North Slope later in August, including a nonresident permit hunt, and the desire to curb grizzly bear predation of muskox, allowing bowhunters within the DHCMA additional opportunity to harvest a bear earlier in August would likely not result in much additional harvest and could just help some of the muskox herds that congregate within the DHCMA.

PROPOSED BY: Resident Hunters of Alaska (EG-F16-104)

PROPOSAL 107 - 5 AAC 85.020. Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear. Lengthen the hunting seasons for brown bear in Unit 26B, and change the nonresident drawing permit to a registration permit as follows:

Unit 26B brown/grizzly bear:

Residents, August **10** [25] to December 31 by registration permit

Residents, January 1 to May 31 by registration permit

Nonresidents, August **10** [25] to December 31 by **registration** permit

Nonresidents, January 1 to May 31 by **registration** permit

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Unit 26B brown/grizzly bear season and permit requirements. Eliminate DB987 and require nonresidents to obtain a registration permit to hunt brown/grizzly bear in Unit 26B. Additionally, establish the season opening date for residents and nonresidents to be August 10. The season closing date for residents and nonresidents will remain May 31.

Moose and caribou numbers in Unit 26B are lower than I have seen them in the 37 years I have hunted this area. The bear population is healthy and could sustain additional harvest and the additional harvest of bears would be beneficial to the moose and caribou.

PROPOSED BY: Richard Guthrie (EG-F16-071)

PROPOSAL 108 - 5 AAC 99.025. Customary and traditional uses of game populations.

Reevaluate the customary and traditional use finding for brown bear in Unit 25D as follows:

Please revisit the customary and traditional use (C&T) findings for brown bear in Unit 25D.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? It has come to our attention that there is a negative finding for C&T for brown bears in Unit 25D. We don't believe that this is an accurate representation of usage in the flats, and since the current regulation is liberal at two bears per regulatory year for residents, we would like this C&T finding revisited.

PROPOSED BY: Yukon Flats Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-F16-047)

PROPOSAL 109 - 5 AAC 85.020. Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear. Lengthen the brown bear hunting seasons in Units 25 and 26 as follows:

Hunting seasons for brown bear:

Units 25A, 25B, 25D, 26B, 26C (except the Dalton Highway Corridor)

Residents and nonresidents: August 1—June 30

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? This proposal would add ten days to the beginning of grizzly seasons in Units 25A, 25B, 26B, and 26C; and align Unit 25D with these areas for regulatory simplicity in remote Eastern Arctic units. Grizzly bear hunting seasons in these areas actually opens later in the fall than some areas much farther to the south.

Some caribou hunters hunt before the bear season is open and sheep hunters are in the field a few days before the season opens in most areas. The opportunity to harvest a bear is not being realized by these hunters. Take is relatively low by hunters on bear even with long seasons in most of these areas. Hide quality on bears in the arctic is generally acceptable this time of year and seasons currently open earlier farther to the West. Most of the area within these units has relatively light harvest of grizzly bears at this time. In Unit 26B where pressure is higher, the take is limited by drawing and registration permit so take should not increase at all with longer seasons. Unit 25D seasons incorporate a needless winter break and there is a two bear limit in this area, indicating the desire to take more bears. Some guides in the Brooks Range take dedicated grizzly hunters in mountainous areas and this would allow them to take these hunters before sheep season, slightly reducing crowding cited by sheep hunters as undesirable. Other considerations: Open season July 15; apply this proposal only in Unit 26 where seasons are drastically shortened by weather. Do not apply this proposal to Units 26B and 25D due to slightly more complicated regulations already in place (this may be acceptable); retain the resident opener in Unit 25D of July 1 (this is likely desirable, but complicates the proposal slightly).

PROPOSED BY: Aaron Bloomquist (EG-F16-008)

PROPOSAL 110 - 5 AAC 85.015. Hunting seasons and bag limits for black bear. Increase the bag limit for black bear in Unit 25B as follows:

Resident and nonresident hunters: [3] **5 bears.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Increase the resident and nonresident black bear hunting bag limit in Unit 25B from three bears to five bears. Black bear densities in the Yukon Flats are very high. Hunting pressure is low. This provides opportunity for hunters who would utilize this bag limit. It also aligns the bag limit with adjacent Unit 25D.

If nothing is changed, confusion about bag limits near boundary of Unit 25D would persist when there is no biological concern. Alternative solution is to increase the resident bag limit to five bears and leave the nonresident bag limit at three bears.

PROPOSED BY: Yukon Flats Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-F16-044)

PROPOSAL 111 - 5 AAC 84.270. Furbearer trapping; and 92.080. Unlawful methods of taking game; exceptions. Open a snaring season for black bear in Unit 25D as follows:

Allow black bear snaring in Unit 25D for five years, or until the Board of Game revokes the practice, or until the moose population objective is met.

Season dates:

July 1–December 31

Sets must be checked daily.

If X number of brown bears are caught incidentally then the season will be closed by emergency order, where X is a number that the Alaska Department of Fish & Game establishes in order to prevent overharvest of brown bears.

Snares must be labeled in a manner similar to bear bait stations to alert other trail users of the presence of snares.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? At the Yukon Flats Advisory Committee meeting held in December of 2015, once again a lot of concern of committee members and those members of the public that were attending revolved around the low moose population in the Yukon Flats as well as the high numbers of predators. Several ideas were discussed in order to increase the take of predators, both by individuals as well as by the state. One of the ideas that was discussed was to create a season for bear snaring in Unit 25D. While foot snaring is a nontraditional way, it is traditional to take bears via neck snaring. By creating a season for neck snaring bears in Unit 25D, the Board of Game will be allowing residents to continue a traditional way of harvesting this resource.

PROPOSED BY: Yukon Flats Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-F16-046)

Note: Alaska Statute 16.05.783 only allows same day airborne for taking of wolves as part of a predator control program authorized by the Board of Game.

PROPOSAL 112 - 5 AAC 92.085. Unlawful methods of taking big game; exceptions; and 92.095. Unlawful methods of taking furbearers; exceptions. Allow same-day airborne hunting for wolf in Unit 25D as follows:

Allow same-day airborne for wolf hunting in Unit 25D.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? At the Yukon Flats Advisory Committee meeting held in December of 2015, once again a lot of concern of committee members and those members of the public that were attending revolved around the low moose population in the Yukon Flats as well as the high numbers of predators. Several ideas were discussed in order to increase the take of predators, both by individuals as well as by the state. One of the ideas that was discussed was to allow same-day airborne for wolf hunters in Unit 25D to help bolster the moose population as well as give those interested an opportunity to take more wolves.

PROPOSED BY: Yukon Flats Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-F16-043)

PROPOSAL 113 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep. Modify the resident bag limit for Dall sheep in Units 24B, 25A, 26B, and 26C as follows:

Change the three sheep bag limit for residents to three rams.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The harvest of ewe Dall sheep in declining populations in Units 24B, 25A, 26B, and 26C. The harvest of ewes is additive mortality. AS 16.05.258(b) states "The appropriate board shall determine whether a portion of the

game population identified under (a) can be harvested consistent with sustained yield." Based on Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) Dall sheep population estimates by both the ADF&G and the National Park Service sheep populations have been declining in the Brooks Range for 20 years. Testimony from fish and game advisory committees, federal regional advisory councils, and individuals at the March 2016 Statewide Board of Game meeting stated they have also witnessed drastic declines in Dall sheep populations in the central and eastern Brooks Range. Inadequate harvest reporting of ewes by both the ADF&G and the federal land managing agencies does not relieve the Board of Game from their obligations to manage declining game populations conservatively consistent with the Alaska Constitution Article 8, Sec. 4 Sustained Yield.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Outdoor Council (EG-F16-076)

Note: This proposal is scheduled for the Arctic/Western Region meeting as proposal 34 and the Interior/Northeast Arctic Region meeting as proposal 114.

PROPOSAL 114 - 5 AAC 85.057. Hunting seasons and bag limits for wolverine. Lengthen the hunting season for wolverine in Unit 26 as follows:

Units & Bag limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresidents Open Season
(1) Units 1–5 (General hunt only) 1 wolverine	Sept. 10—Feb. 15	Sept. 1—Feb. 15
Units 6–10, 12, 15, 16(B) and 17– 25 [26] 1 wolverine;	Sept. 1—Mar. 31 (General hunt only)	Sept. 1—Mar. 31
Units 11, 13, 14, and 16(A) 1 wolverine	Sept. 1—Jan. 31 (General hunt only)	Sept. 1—Jan. 31
<u>Unit 26</u>	<u>July 15 - March 31</u> <u>(General hunt only)</u>	<u>July 15—Mar. 31</u>

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Hunters in Unit 26 (all subunits) almost never get a chance to take a wolverine while hunting in the fall because the season opens after they are likely done hunting. The wolverine season opens September 1, and it is common practice to be off the north side of the Brooks Range by September 1 to avoid being caught by approaching winter. Wolverine hides are acceptable in the arctic in the summer for most hunters (as opposed to trappers). Most hunters will have very few opportunities to take a wolverine in their lifetime and would be thrilled with slightly less underfur on an otherwise very good

specimen. Starting wolverine season July 15 is much more reasonable. Another alternative would be August 1. Another alternative would be to include all Arctic Units (22-26) This proposal is submitted to both the Arctic and Western Region and the Interior and Eastern Arctic Region meetings to cover all subunits in Unit 26.

PROPOSED BY: Aaron Bloomquist (EG-F16-006)

PROPOSAL 115 - 5 AAC 84.270. Furbearer trapping. Lengthen the trapping season for lynx in Unit 25 as follows:

5 AAC 84.270 Furbearer Trapping

Extend the lynx trapping season in all of Unit 25:

Units 25A, 25B, 25D: Nov. 1—**March 31** [LAST DAY OF FEBRUARY]:

Unit 25C: Nov. 1—**March 31** [MARCH 15]:

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Extend the lynx trapping season in all of Unit 25 to March 31. The Eastern Interior Regional Advisory Committee submitted a companion proposal to the Federal Subsistence Board to extend lynx trapping seasons to March 31.

Although lynx will not necessarily be targeted during the month of March, trappers will be able to keep lynx if they are caught incidentally while trapping wolves and wolverine.

Alternative solution is to extend the lynx trapping season in Units 25A, 25B, and 25D to March 15 to align with adjacent Unit 25C for the state seasons.

PROPOSED BY: Yukon Flats Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-F16-045)

Delta Area Proposals

PROPOSAL 116 - 5 AAC 85.065. Hunting seasons and bag limits for small game. Reduce the bag and possession limit for ruffed grouse in Unit 20D as follows:

Unit 20D, that portion lying west of the east bank of the Johnson River and south of the north bank of the Tanana River

Fifteen per day, thirty in possession, provided that not more than five per day and ten in possession may be sharp-tail grouse, **and not more than five per day and ten in possession may be ruffed grouse.**

Aug 25—Mar 31

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? High-quality ruffed grouse habitat in the Delta Junction area is limited to the Delta Agricultural Project, a burned area on a military reservation and small areas of natural habitat. Access to this area is well-developed and hunting pressure has been increasing rapidly. Many non-local residents are traveling to this area to hunt grouse. There is also a significant potential for non-consumptive use of ruffed grouse as spring bird watchers view courtship displays. Ruffed grouse can be easily harvested at times by hunters in vehicles along roads, agricultural fields and military trails. Ruffed grouse limits should be reduced from 15 per day to five per day in line with the sharp-tail grouse limits.

PROPOSED BY: Delta Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-F16-016)

PROPOSAL 117 - 5 AAC 92.044. Permit for hunting bear with the use of bait or scent lures.

Allow the harvest of brown bear at bear bait stations in Unit 20D as follows:

5 AAC 92.044. Permit for hunting bear with the use of bait or scent lures:

...

(b) In addition to any condition that the department may require under 5 AAC 92.052, a permit issued under this section is subject to the following provisions:

(1) a person may establish a black bear bait station, or a black and brown bear bait station in Units 7, 11, 12, 13, 14(B), 15, 16, 20(A), 20(B), 20(C), **20(D)**, 20(E), 21(D), 24(C), 24(D), and 25(D), only if that person obtains a permit under this section;

...

(13) in Units 7, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14(A), 14(B), 15, 16, 17, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25, 26(B), and 26(C), 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, 14(B), 15, 16, 20(A), 20(B), 20(C), **20(D)**, 20(E), 21(D), 24(C), 24(D), and 25(D), 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 is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Adjacent units to Unit 20D currently allow bait stations (bait or scent lures) for brown bear. Harvest reports show no biological data that would suggest reasoning for brown bear baiting restrictions in Unit 20D. Recommend amending regulations to adopt Unit **20D** into 5 AAC 92.044. This amendment should follow all other regulations and statutes covered in adjacent Units (20A, 20B, 20C and 20E) for baiting and taking of black bear and brown bear.

PROPOSED BY: Delta Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-F16-052)

PROPOSAL 118 - 5 AAC 92.044. Permit for hunting bear with the use of bait or scent lures.

Allow the harvest of brown bear at bear bait stations in Unit 20D as follows:

The regulations should include Unit 20D: In Units 7, 11, 12, 13, 14B, 15, 16, 20A, 20B, 20C, **20D**, 20E, 21D, 24C, 24D, and 25D brown/grizzly bears may be taken at a black bear bait station subject to the same restrictions as black bear.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The ability to harvest a brown bear from a black bear bait station in Unit 20D. There is an extremely healthy population of brown bears in most of Unit 20D, and most hunters would welcome the opportunity to harvest a brown bear off from a bait station. Especially since much of Unit 20D is accessible from the road system, a reduction in the population of brown bears would mean better survival rate of black bear and also a better survival rate of moose and caribou. I believe that this would reflect the opinion of a large portion especially of Delta Junction area residents.

PROPOSED BY: Roy Louis Peters (EG-F16-028)

PROPOSAL 119 - 5 AAC 92.044. Permit for hunting bear with the use of bait or scent lures.

Allow the harvest of brown bear at bear bait stations in Unit 20D as follows:

Currently Units 20A, 20B, 20C, and 20E allow the harvest of brown bears at legally registered black bear bait stations. Adopting this proposed change would allow the harvest of brown bears in all of Unit 20, subject to the established seasons for brown/grizzly bear in each sub-unit.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Allow harvest of brown/grizzly bear at black bear bait stations as follows:

Unit 20-wide, allow harvest of brown/grizzly bear at registered black bear bait stations, subject to the established seasons for brown/grizzly bear in each unit. No baiting of brown/grizzly bear in Units that do not have black bear.

PROPOSED BY: Nicholas Muche, Zachri Kendl, and Kyle Moll (EG-F16-059)

PROPOSAL 120 - 5 AAC 92.044. Permit for hunting bear with the use of bait or scent lures.

Allow the harvest of brown bear at bear bait stations in Unit 20D as follows:

Open Unit 20D for legal grizzly bear baiting. Even just opening up Unit 20D north of the Tanana River would be helpful.

Example language: Brown grizzly bears may be taken at a black bear bait station subject to the same restrictions as black bear. (Please just add Unit 20D.)

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? There is a high number of grizzly bears in our unit to the point where it is difficult to even bait black bears. Shooting brown bears over bait during black bear baiting season in Unit 20D is requested and should be highly considered.

PROPOSED BY: Timothy Dow (EG-C15-068)

PROPOSAL 121 - 5 AAC 92.044. Permit for hunting bear with the use of bait or scent lures.

Allow the harvest of brown bear at bear bait stations in Unit 20D as follows:

Open grizzly over bait during black bear season in Unit 20D.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Grizzly bear over bait in Unit 20D; all other subunit in Unit 20 are open during black bear bait season.

PROPOSED BY: Brian Sauer (EG-C15-020)

PROPOSAL 122 - 5 AAC 85.045(18). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Reauthorize antlerless moose hunting seasons in Unit 20D as follows:

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

**Use Area [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 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

Sept. 1—Sept. 30
(General hunt only)

Sept. 1—Sept. 30

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 only,
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
take a calf or a
cow accompanied
by a calf

Oct. 10—Nov. 25
(General hunt only)

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 is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Antlerless moose hunts must be reauthorized annually. The objectives of the Unit 20D antlerless moose hunts are to 1) stabilize population growth of this high-density moose population; 2) address concerns about range degradation, reduced nutritional condition, and reduced reproductive success; 3) make progress toward meeting the Unit 20D intensive management (IM) harvest objective of 500—700 moose; and 4) provide youth and disabled veteran hunting opportunity. These objectives are being met.

Antlerless moose hunts are offered in southwest Unit 20D, which has the highest moose density in the unit. This area has great potential for population growth due to an abundance of high quality moose habitat created from extensive land clearing for agricultural use and multiple wild fires over the past 30 years. Total moose harvest in all of Unit 20D averaged 278 moose (an average of 272 bulls and six antlerless moose) during regulatory year (RY) 2014 and RY2015.

The largest antlerless harvest (n=113) that occurred recently in Unit 20D was in 2009 when antlerless hunts were newly authorized. The southwest Unit 20D population estimate has been stable (approximately 4,000—4,500 w/SCF applied) since 2011, and the Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) limits antlerless hunting opportunity. Bull harvest in southwest Unit 20D has been stable during the same time period, ranging from 135—165. The 2014 population estimate for southwest Unit 20D was 4,321 moose (corrected for sightability) with a density of 3.2 moose per square mile. The southwest Unit 20D population composition was estimated to contain 38 calves:100 cows and 32 bulls:100 cows during a fall 2014 geospatial population estimator survey.

Antlerless harvest will likely be needed to maintain the population at the optimal density and will help meet the IM harvest objective of 500—700 moose without reducing bull:cow ratios below the management objectives. The population trend and harvest rate suggests the low, consistent antlerless harvest provided by three drawing permit hunts in Unit 20D, in conjunction with other mortality factors (i.e., ceremonial harvest, vehicle collision, accidents, predation), is an appropriate rate of antlerless mortality that contributes to stability in the southwest 20D moose population.

ADF&G will continue to evaluate antlerless moose hunts and their effect on moose density and population growth. Future antlerless moose hunts will be implemented as needed based on evaluation of three 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. Additional permits would be issued only if more harvest is needed in specific areas to maintain optimal moose densities.

If antlerless moose hunts are not reauthorized, the moose population could quickly increase to undesirable levels. Opportunity to hunt a harvestable surplus of cow moose would be lost, and our ability to meet IM harvest objectives could be compromised. Additionally, the population may need to be reduced dramatically when new data are available and analyzed.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F16-129)

PROPOSAL 123 - 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Lengthen the resident hunting season for moose in Unit 20D as follows:

Seasons and bag limits for moose in Unit 20D

That portion of Unit 20D which is south of the north bank of the Tanana River and east of the west bank of the Johnson River, except that portion within the Robertson River drainage south of the confluence of the east and west forks, and within one mile of the west fork.

Alaska Residents - One bull
Sept. 1—**Sept. 20** [SEPT. 15]

With the vast amount of moose browse just across the Tanana River created by the 463,994 acre Billy Creek burn in 2004, good wolf trapping reports from the north side of the Tanana and with the Macomb Plateau Controlled Use Area to the south, overharvest should not be an issue.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Local residents report that moose movement along the Tanana River Valley in eastern Unit 20D during the first part of September (the first part of the existing hunting season) is very slow, especially during a warm fall, and that rutting behavior is minimal until the last few days of the current hunting season. Extending the hunting season until September 20 would provide hunters with a better opportunity to harvest a bull moose. A bit more hunting opportunity in this area would be appreciated.

PROPOSED BY: Tom Geyer (EG-F16-025)

PROPOSAL 124 - 5 AAC 92.530(19). Management areas. 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 as follows:

Regarding the Unit 20D wounded warrior veterans hunt (DM795); the problem is that many of the DM795 tags are not getting to qualified veterans and subsequently going unused.

- 1) A great solution would be to authorize at least three of these tags as governor's tags, so nonprofit organizations could coordinate qualified candidates and cover some expenses for the hunt in coordination with the Fort Greely resources manager. This would be of great benefit to the veterans we are all trying to help.
- 2) The regulation should require that winners of the DM795 submit proof of qualification to the Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) within two weeks of notification, before they receive their tags in the mail, or they should submit proof of qualification at the time of application. This would solve the problem of the tags not getting to qualified recipients. There is no reason that these tags should be wasted like they are currently.
- 3) ADF&G should make an effort in coordination with the Fort Greely resources manager to contact the winners of the tags this year—this month—and ensure that at least some of these tags are getting to veterans that qualify for them. There are nonprofit organizations interested in assisting these veterans with their expenses for this hunt.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The six tags provided for wounded veterans to attend this hunt are amazing and I'd like to thank the Board of Game for authorizing them. I am a wounded veteran. I have attended the DM795 hunt and it was a life-changing experience for me. However, I was very sad to learn that I was the only one who used the tag last year. The other five tags didn't get to qualified applicants, or the winners were unresponsive to contact attempts. In my case, I applied, but wasn't initially drawn. Rather, I received a call less than two weeks before the hunt, from the Fairbanks area ADF&G personnel, asking if I would be interested in hunting. They were calling down the list of applicants and I was the only qualified applicant that could make it to Delta Junction with such short notice. This happened because several of the winning applicants for the DM795 draw were not qualifying disabled veterans. Previously, ADF&G personnel has called the draw winners to verify qualification. When they encountered applicants who admitted they accidentally applied, but do not qualify, ADF&G would then try to contact other applicants to get the tag to a veteran that qualifies. Unfortunately, the Fairbanks ADF&G had decided not to contact any of the applicants this year.

Another problem is that Fort Greely's resources manager has resources to guide and house the qualified hunters. He has had trouble connecting with the winners of these tags. If he and other organizations knew who had won and how to contact the winners, it is possible that the entire trip could be funded by nonprofits in honor of the service of these wounded veterans.

PROPOSED BY: Joshua Revak

(EG-F16-067)

Fairbanks Area Proposals

PROPOSAL 125 - 5 AAC 85.045(18). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Reauthorize the antlerless moose hunting seasons in Unit 20A as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(18)		
Unit 20(A), the Ferry Trail Management Area, Wood River Controlled Use Area, and the Yanert Controlled Use Area		
RESIDENT HUNTERS:		
1 bull with spike-fork antlers 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; 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; a person may not take a cow accompanied by a calf; or	Oct. 1—Feb. 28 (General hunt only)	
1 bull by drawing permit only; up to 1,000 permits may be issued in combi- nation with the Remainder	Sept. 1—Sept. 25 (General hunt only)	

of Unit 20(A); or

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

Aug. 15—Nov. 15
(General hunt only)

Area, Wood River
Controlled Use Area,
and the Yanert Con-
trolled Use Area; a
person may not
take a cow accompanied
by a calf; or

1 antlerless moose by
registration permit
only; a person may not
take a cow accom-
panied 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
Use Area; or

Sept. 1—Sept. 25

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 is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Antlerless moose hunting seasons must be reauthorized annually. The purpose of antlerless moose hunts in Unit 20A is to regulate population growth, to 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 of Fish & Game (ADF&G) 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 the Unit 20A population at roughly 12,000 moose while continuing to monitor nutritional condition. In 2015 the post-hunt moose population estimate was 12,315 (10,622–14,009 @ 90% confidence interval). This high-density moose population (~2.5 moose/mi²) continues to experience density-dependent effects, including low productivity and relatively light short-yearling weights. Although sporadic signs of improvement in nutritional condition have been observed (i.e., higher twinning rates in the 2012 and 2016 and increases in short-yearling weights in 2015–2016 compared to the late 1990s–early 2000s), no clear signals or significant trends have yet been detected. ADF&G recommends continued antlerless hunts in regulatory year 2017 to regulate population growth (i.e., stabilize the population at 12,000 moose).

If antlerless moose hunts are not reauthorized, ADF&G 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.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F16-127)

PROPOSAL 126 - 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and big limits for moose. Modify the muzzleloader hunting season for moose in Unit 20A as follows:

1 bull by drawing permit only; by muzzleloader only; up to 75 permits may be issued in combination with nonresidents in Unit 20(A);	<u>Nov. 10</u> [NOV. 1]— <u>Dec. 10</u> [NOV. 30] (General hunt only)
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What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The current Unit 20A moose muzzleloader hunt (DM766) season is: 1 to 30 November. Creating a hunt that often is not accessible during the first couple weeks of the season. This also consolidates all hunters into the last few days of November. Hunters are placing themselves in extreme danger attempting to cross open rivers. Delaying the season start will help disperse hunters and allow for safer access. Changing to a 10 November to 10 December season would also align this hunt with the Unit 20B muzzleloader hunt. Unit 20F also has a general moose hunt that runs to 15 December. Holding bull moose seasons running to 10 or 15 of December is reasonable.

PROPOSED BY: David Machacek (EG-F16-011)

PROPOSAL 127 - 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Change the antler restrictions for moose hunting in Unit 20A as follows:

Unit 20A will return to **any bull**. Should the Department of Fish and Game feel the harvest gets too high, they can adjust the season dates accordingly. If they still want to keep the bull harvest lower, they can put nonresident hunters—who care more about harvesting a trophy animal than filling their freezer anyways—on antler restrictions.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Unit 20A should be **any bull** for Alaska residents. Most residents hunt to fill their freezers and the antler restrictions (spike-fork/50 inch) make harvesting a moose unnecessarily difficult and at times stressful. It also leads to wanton waste by unscrupulous and unethical hunters.

Personnel at the Department of Fish and Game have stated concerns about whether or not Unit 20A can handle increased hunting pressure from southcentral Alaska residents should the subunit go to “any bull.” Units 20B, C, D, E, & F are mostly “any bull” for residents already, and those subunits do have many hunters from southcentral. This “any bull” approach would help alleviate some pressure on those subunits, B through F, as well. Returning Unit 20A to “any bull” is a better option for residents and helps fill freezers. Hands down, it is also a better and wiser option than harvesting cows.

PROPOSED BY: Jake Sprankle (EG-F16-073)

PROPOSAL 128 - 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Change the antler restrictions for moose hunting in Unit 20A as follows:

Change Unit 20A to any bull for residents and 50-inch antlers or three brow tines for nonresidents. Keep the hunt dates of September 1 until the 25 the same. The Department of Fish and Game may in the future change the season dates to maintain a healthy moose population.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Antler restrictions in Unit 20A. Resident hunters use this area to put meat in their freezers. With antler restrictions, it makes that task more difficult and stressful. It also puts higher hunting pressure on neighboring units.

PROPOSED BY: Leonard Jewkes (EG-F16-089)

PROPOSAL 129 - 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Change the antler restrictions for moose hunting in Unit 20A as follows:

Unit 20A: Change the season to any bull and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) can adjust the length of the season if they feel too many bulls are being harvested. If ADF&G has a concern about the number of bulls being taken - then nonresidents should be put on antler restrictions of spike/fork/50 inch antlers before the season is shortened for residents. This unit and all game management units in Alaska should be managed for maximum benefit to Alaska residents. No antlerless permits should be issued under any circumstances.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Unit 20A should be changed back to any bull. Units 20 B, C, D, E, & F are any bull except for a few small areas. Most Alaska residents hunt to fill their freezer and antler restrictions make it difficult because no one wants to shoot an illegal moose. Trying to judge a 50 inch moose, or count brow tines, is very stressful to the hunter. These antler restrictions really diminish the experience and are not necessary. Guides like antler restrictions (spike/fork/50) so the season lasts longer and they can keep guiding nonresidents.

PROPOSED BY: Jeff Barney (EG-F16-094)

PROPOSAL 130 - 5 AAC 85.045(18). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. 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 as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(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	Dec. 1—Jan. 31 (General hunt only)	Dec. 1—Jan. 31

permit is prohibited from taking an antlered bull moose in the Fairbanks Management Area

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 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 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

Oct. 15—Feb. 28

registration permit only	(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	Nov. 10—Dec. 10 (General hunt only)	No open season.

DRAINAGE UPSTREAM
FROM AND INCLUDING
GOOSE CREEK;]

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;	Oct. 1—Feb. 28 (General hunt only)	

a person may not take
a cow accompanied by
a calf; 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.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? 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 high levels of harvest, 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.

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 regulatory year (RY) 1999–RY2010. Moose–vehicle collisions and moose nuisance problems declined during RY2006–RY2015, presumably, in part due to the consistent antlerless moose harvests during RY2009–RY2015.

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. The MFMA moose density was high in 2010 (4.1 moose/mi²). In order to reduce the moose population, harvest of antlerless moose during RY2012 and RY2013 was about 2.5% of the population. The fall 2013 estimate showed a more sustainable density in the MFMA (2013 = 2.6 moose/mi²). Our most recent estimates indicate densities are still high, probably about 2.5 moose/mi². Since antlerless harvest in this area is used to stabilize the population, our goal is to maintain antlerless harvest at 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 just 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) indicated the population declined from the 2009 estimate (20,173 moose) to a more appropriate level for the habitat. Based on the population trend analysis, twinning rates, harvest rate, and success rates, we estimate the population remains at appropriate levels for the habitat. Therefore, to regulate the population at this level, our goal is to maintain antlerless harvest at about 1% of the total moose population to maintain the current population size.

To mitigate hunter conflicts, the Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) attempts to distribute hunters 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 our intended harvest.

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. Antlerless hunts will continue to be available to hunters, and ADF&G will continue to have the authority to use antlerless hunts as a tool to regulate the moose populations.

Finally, we propose to remove the antlerless hunts in the Salcha River drainage downstream of Goose Creek and upstream of and including Butte Creek. This area has a low density of moose and currently does not warrant antlerless harvest. It is unlikely that an antlerless hunt would be warranted in this area in the foreseeable future.

Housekeeping: To simplify and clarify regulations, we propose to remove incorrect language from the winter registration muzzleloader hunt for bulls in those portions of Unit 20B in the drainage of the Middle Fork of the Chena River, the Salcha River drainage upstream from and including Goose Creek, and the Salcha River drainage downstream of Goose Creek and upstream from and including Butte Creek. Also, we propose to remove the targeted and antlerless hunts in Unit 20B, that portion of the Salcha River drainage downstream of Goose Creek and upstream from and including Butte Creek. This area has a lower density of moose and antlerless hunts are not warranted. Nuisance or injured moose are also not a problem, so there is no need to issue targeted permits. These regulations are artifacts of changes to “the remainder” portion of Unit 20B in codified in previous years that made this language irrelevant and inaccurate.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F16-128)

PROPOSAL 131 - 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Modify the hunting season dates for antlerless moose in Unit 20B as follows:

Unit 20(B), that portion
Within the Minto Flats
Management Area

...

1 antlerless moose by registration permit only	[OCT. 15–FEB. 28] <u>Aug. 21–27 then Sept. 8–Feb. 28</u> (Subsistence hunt only)
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What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Change the antlerless moose hunt dates. Moose are in better condition for human consumption and less conflict with other users. The management plan for antlerless moose has a quota of about 30 moose. We feel this quota will be met well before November and not have to go to the end of season date of February 28.

PROPOSED BY: Al Barrette (EG-F16-064)

PROPOSAL 132 - 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Lengthen the nonresident hunting season for moose in Unit 20B remainder as follows:

Change the nonresident season dates for moose in Unit 20B remainder to be September 1 through September 20 to coincide with resident season dates.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Nonresident moose season dates have been changed in several high population units (population above target level) to coincide with resident season dates. Unit 20B remainder is a high-population unit but the nonresident opening date was not changed in this unit and currently remains September 5, while season opens September 1 for residents. This proposal would have nonresident and resident season dates be the same (September 1 through September 20) for Unit 20B remainder, making it consistent with other high-population units with the same resident and nonresident seasons.

PROPOSED BY: Ken Wegner (EG-F16-032)

PROPOSAL 133 - 5 AAC 92.530. Management areas. Restrict waterfowl hunting in the Chena Slough, Unit 20 as follows:

The Chena Slough would be open to waterfowl hunting only by falconry and archery with flu-flu arrows. No firearm discharge of any kind is allowed in this zone.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Duck hunting is legal on the Chena Slough, also known as Badger Slough, which is in my back yard. Hunters step over the guard rail on Repp Road and begin shooting down the slough, which is approximately 60 feet from my yard. I own a bed and breakfast, with guest seating and a fire pit by the slough, which could easily be in the line of fire if they were shooting at ducks along that shore. There is a hamburger stand across Repp Road that has guests and children playing along the slough. There is a private residence across the slough from the hamburger stand that has children playing along the slough. This scenario is representative of many areas along the slough due to population growth and expanding businesses to service that population. Hunting in residential and/or business areas is not safe and/or responsible hunting. In addition, swans, which are protected, nest all along the slough.

PROPOSED BY: Debra Vance, North Pole Aurora Lodge (EG-F16-054)

PROPOSAL 134 - 5 AAC 92.530. Management areas. Create a management area for the Eielson Farm Road area in Unit 20 as follows:

I'm asking the Board of Game to create a new management area that covers the entire Eielson Farm Road and surrounding private farm lands (fields and woods) much like the areas and refuges on page 98-99 of the hunting regulations.

Example: #15 Eielson Farm Road Management Area - all private land (woods and fields) on either side of the Farm Road the entire length are closed to hunting, fishing and trapping without owner's permission.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Hunting on/along Eielson Farm Road and surrounding farm lands.

This area is a unique area that holds good populations of moose, waterfowl and fish all in close proximity to the towns of Fairbanks and North Pole, along with military bases Fort Wainwright and Eielson.

Each year countless numbers of "road hunters" travel up and down the road looking for moose or geese in fields, some with "no trespassing" signs. The problem is that there are many instances of trespassing and sometimes taking of game past these signs. At the start of the road there is a large metal sign stating that it is private property along the road and "no hunting, shooting."

PROPOSED BY: Jacques Etcheverry (EG-F16-058)

PROPOSAL 135 - 5 AAC 84.270(14). Furbearer trapping. Lengthen the trapping season for wolverine in Unit 20C as follows:

Wolverine, west of the Parks Highway in Unit 20C trapping season is open from November 1 to March 31.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I would like to see the trapping of wolverines in Unit 20C west of the Toklat River extended from the end of February to the last day of March.

There is very little trapping pressure on wolverines in this area and due to the wolf trapping season being open during this time period there is always the possibility of an incidental catch of a wolverine in a wolf trap, and removing a live wolverine from a trap is a very tough and dangerous job. If you have to dispatch said wolverine, it has to be turned over to the Department of Fish and Game at a financial loss to the trapper.

Due to the nature of wolverines to be very widely dispersed and territorial and the low trapping pressure on them, I feel there would be very little negative pressure on them.

PROPOSED BY: Mike Turner (EG-F16-005)

PROPOSAL 136 - 5 AAC 92.108. Identified big game prey populations and objectives.
Reevaluate the intensive management finding for the Delta caribou herd as follows:

Reevaluate the current finding. The regulation 5 AAC 92.106. Intensive management of identified big game prey populations states in paragraph (1)(A) that the average annual historical human harvest for caribou should meet or exceed 100. We do not believe this has ever happened since the Delta caribou herd had a positive finding of intensive management (IM), nor has the population objective ever been met (5,000-7,000).

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Board of Game and the Department of Fish and Game, Division of Wildlife Conservation is not compliant with the IM statute or regulations set by the Board of Game. The Fairbanks Advisory Committee requests that the positive finding of the IM for the Delta caribou herd be reevaluated.

PROPOSED BY: Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-F16-061)

PROPOSAL 137 - 5 AAC 92.106. Intensive management of identified big game prey populations. Implement an intensive management program for the Delta caribou herd as follows:

Start with a feasibility plan for intensive management (IM) for the Delta caribou herd (DCH).

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Why the Board of Game and the Department of Fish and Game, Division of Wildlife Conservation have not addressed the IM laws/regulations concerning the DCH; the management of the DCH is not in compliance with its positive finding of IM.

PROPOSED BY: Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-F16-057)

PROPOSAL 138 - 5 AAC 85.020. Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear. Lengthen the hunting season for brown bear in Units 20A and 20B remainder as follows:

	Resident Open Season	Nonresident Open Season
Units 20(A) and Remainder of Unit 20(B) 1 bear every regulatory year	Sept. 1 - June 30 [MAY 31] (General hunt only)	Sept. 1 - June 30 [MAY 31]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Lengthen the brown/grizzly bear season in Units 20A and 20B remainder to September 1—June 30. This will better align with bear baiting season April 15 to June 30. If you are bear baiting, hunters can take black bear until June 30 but you can only take brown/grizzly bear until May 31. This change will allow hunters to take brown/grizzly bear till the end of baiting season on June 30.

PROPOSED BY: Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-F16-024)

PROPOSAL 139 - 5 AAC 92.044. Permit for hunting bear with the use of bait or scent lures.

Allow the harvest of brown bear at bear bait stations in Unit 20F as follows:

(a) A person may not establish a bear bait station to hunt bear with the use of bait or scent lures without first obtaining a permit from the department under this section.

(b) In addition to any condition that the department may require under 5 AAC 92.052, a permit issued under this section is subject to the following provisions: (1) a person may establish a black bear bait station, or a black and brown bear bait station in Units 7, 11, 12, 13, 14(B), 15, 16, 20(A), 20(B), 20(C), 20(E), **20(F)**, 21(D), 24(C), 24(D), and 25(D), only if that person obtains a permit under this section;

...

(13) in Units 7, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14(A), 14(B), 15, 16, 17, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25, 26(B), and 26(C), 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, 14(B), 15, 16, 20(A), 20(B), 20(C), 20(E), **20(F)**, 21(D), 24(C), 24(D), and 25(D), 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 is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I would like to be able to take brown bears over bait in Unit 20F. There have been increased encounters/sightings of brown bears in recent years and there are a lot more brown bears now then there has been in the past. I would like to respectfully request that we are allowed to take brown bears at bait sites in Unit 20F.

PROPOSED BY: Craig Odom (EG-F16-107)

PROPOSAL 140 - 5 AAC 92.044. Permit for hunting bear with the use of bait or scent lures.

Allow the harvest of brown bear at bear bait stations in Unit 20F as follows:

My proposal is to open Unit 20F for grizzly bears to be taken over bait during the regulatory black bear baiting season and under the current regulations for harvesting grizzly bears over bait.

Salvage for brown/grizzly bears:

You must salvage the entire hide (including claws attached) and skull of a brown/grizzly bear unless it was taken in (and not remove from) one of the subsistence hunt areas under a subsistence registration permit (see page 25). For brown bears taken at black bear stations in Units 7, 12, 13D, 15, 16, 20A, 20B, 20C, 20E, **20F**, 21D, 24C, 24D, and 25D, the edible meat must be salvaged and may not be used for bait or pet food. (See black bear baiting season and requirements on page 26-27 or handout available at Department of Fish & Game offices and online at <http://huntalaska.gov>.)

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? My proposal is to open Unit 20F for grizzly bears to be taken over bait during the regulatory black bear baiting season and under the current regulations for harvesting grizzly bears over bait. I have active bear baits in Unit 20F and have had issues with grizzly bears eating all the bait and keeping black bears away from the bait. I have noticed over the past few years the units such as 20A, 20B, 20C, and 20E and 25D

are all open for harvesting grizzly bears over bait and would like to propose Unit 20F to do the same. Unit 20F also has a short moose season that ends on September 15. This leads me to believe that moose population is a concern and that allowing for the harvest of grizzly bears over bait would only help the moose population grow.

PROPOSED BY: Brock Graziadei (EG-C15-063)

PROPOSAL 141 - 5 AAC 92.510. Areas closed to hunting; and 92.550. Areas closed to trapping. Close a portion of Unit 20C to the taking of wolf as follows:

Within Game Management Unit 20C; those portions of UCU 0607 and 0605 west of George Parks Highway and bounded by Denali National Park on three sides, is closed to the taking of wolves by hunting from February 1 to July 31 and by trapping from February 1 to October 31.

Note: Maps/figures and references submitted with the proposal are available on the meeting information website for the Interior/Northeast Arctic Region meeting at: www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=gameboard.meetinginfo&date=02-17-2017&meeting=fairbanks.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? In Alaska, wolves are among the most desired species for viewing (Shea & Tankersley 1991), and state wildlife management includes mandates to provide for multiple uses, including non-consumptive uses such as wildlife viewing (Alaska Department of Fish and Game 2006). Wildlife viewing also brings an important socio-economic benefit to the state of Alaska, with wildlife viewing activities in Alaska supporting over \$2.7 billion in economic activity in 2011. Forty percent of visitors to Alaska reported hoping to view wild wolves during their visit (ECONorthwest 2012).

More than anywhere else in Alaska, wolves in the eastern region of Denali National Park (Denali) provide significant wolf viewing opportunities as visitors travel along the Park Road. Denali is recognized as one of the best places in the world for people to see wolves in the wild and several thousand park visitors may see wolves in a given year. In addition, viewing large carnivores, particularly wolves and grizzly bears, is a main indicator of a satisfying visitor experience in Denali (Manning & Hallo 2010).

Wolf viewing opportunities in Denali are primarily provided by one to three packs of wolves that center their activity near the Park Road during the summer months. Analysis of 12 years of data from the National Park Service (NPS) GPS radio collars shows that these same wolf packs that provide the majority of wolf sightings during the visitor season show a seasonal shift in habitat use, increasing their use of areas just outside of the boundary of the park during the winter and spring. Wolves that frequent the Park Road are accustomed to the presence of humans and may be particularly vulnerable to harvest and even older breeding wolves are more susceptible to being trapped or shot. Harvest of wolves, particularly breeding wolves, has the potential to decrease wolf numbers, alter wolf behavior, and decrease opportunities for wolf viewing by park visitors. Borg et al. (2016) documented that the probability for wolf sighting during the period a buffer was in place was twice that of the periods when the buffer was absent. While wolf harvest just outside the northeastern boundary of the park may have little effect on regional scale wolf populations, it can

have significant effects on wolf packs whose territories intersect the Park Road and on the experience of Denali's visitors.

From 2000 to 2010, the Alaska Board of Game (board) approved the closure of certain areas adjacent in the Stampede Corridor to the park boundary to wolf hunting and trapping year round in order to protect wolf viewing opportunities in the park. In 2010, members of the board requested more information and research into the relationship between harvest of wolves in the Stampede corridor and wolf sightings within Denali ("Unit 20C Wolf Closure Proposals" 2010). In September 2010, the NPS, with collaboration from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) embarked on a five-year study of the relationship of wolf harvest adjacent to the park boundaries on wolf population and pack dynamics and on wolf viewing opportunities (Borg 2015).

Based on this research, we found that the presence of the trapping and hunting buffer zone during 2000-2010 was associated with increased wolf sightings in Denali compared to 2011-2013 and 1997-2000 (Borg et al 2016). Both the wolf population size and an index measuring the number of wolves denning near the park road, which were strongly associated with increased wolf sightings, were also greater during the period when the buffer zone was in place. Thus, the presence of the buffer may have increased local population size and the likelihood that wolves would den near the park road. Alternatively, the increase in sightings may have been a result of coincidental peaks in population size or the number of wolves denning near the park road as a result of variables not measured or explicitly included in our analysis. However, we note that the two natural variables generally considered to be strong drivers of wolf population dynamics (prey density and snow conditions, which influence prey vulnerability to wolf predation (Mech et al. 1998) were relatively consistent during the period of our study with no statistically significant differences (Adams & Roffler 2010; Owen & Meier 2009; Schmidt & Rattenbury 2013; Western Regional Climate Center 2015)).

It should also be noted that the presence of the buffer did not decrease the average annual number of wolves harvested in UCUs overlapping the Stampede corridor (UCUs 502, 605, 607), in fact harvest was higher during the years the buffer was in place (ADF&G 2013); note that these UCUs extend beyond the buffer area. During the presence of the buffer zone, harvest of wolves adjacent to Denali (7 ± 11.25 SE) was on average greater than during the period without the presence of the buffer zone (2.6 ± 4.3). Simultaneously the buffer was associated with substantially increased wolf sightings (Borg et al 2016). Therefore, it is reasonable to conclude that closure of wolf hunting and trapping in an area within the Wolf Townships would present the optimal solution in meeting both consumptive and non-consumptive objectives of state and federal management agencies, and benefit about 400,000 visitors to Denali with potentially a greater likelihood of observing wild wolves.

We recognize that it is possible that the higher wolf population size, higher harvest levels and increased sightings during the buffer years were coincidental and not related to the buffer itself but some other unknown factor(s). Resolving this uncertainty would require additional years of monitoring the response of the system with a new buffer zone in place. The NPS will continue to monitor the wolf population and wolf viewing index to assess several factors (including the efficacy of the buffer, if enacted) that may affect wolf viewing opportunities in the park.

It has been suggested that given the large number of Alaska's visitors that view wildlife along the Denali Park Road and the relatively small number of wolf trappers and hunters active in the

Stampede corridor, that the seasonal closure of the corridor to wolf harvest is a negative impact for a few with a positive outcome for many (Mowry 2013). Indeed, annually well over 400,000 people visit Denali (Fix, Ackerman & Fay 2012), while the numbers of active trappers in the Stampede Corridor is between 1-3 in any given year (ADF&G 2013). However, the NPS recognizes the impact of the closure to the lifestyle and livelihood of these trappers may represent a significant trade-off.

If nothing is done, wolves from the most commonly viewed packs will continue to be trapped and hunted just outside of park boundaries, in places as close as four miles from the park road. This will result in continued disruption of wolf packs in the areas where wolves are seen by Alaska's visitors, a decrease in wolf numbers along the park road, possible loss of packs that frequent the park road (Borg 2015, Borg et al 2016) and decreased opportunities for wolf viewing.

This proposal would help to protect and improve the opportunities for Alaskans and others to see wolves along the Denali Park Road. It would have a small effect on the number of wolves harvested in a portion of Unit 20C.

Those likely to benefit if the proposal is adopted are the visitors who come to Alaska to see a diversity of wildlife (about 400,000 annually); tour operators and the Alaska tourism industry that promote and provide wildlife viewing tour products; and people who value the concept of conservation areas for wildlife.

Those likely to suffer if it is the proposal is not adopted are trappers and hunters who wish to harvest wolves in the 152 square mile area that we are proposing to close within the Stampede Corridor. Over the last 20 years, the average number of different individuals harvesting a wolf from this area is less than two people per year. This proposed change may impact the lifestyle or livelihood of a few trappers who use the area. Within the proposed closed area, under this proposal, wolf hunting would be open from August 1 to January 31, and wolf trapping would be open from November 1 to January 31. Within the proposed buffer, this proposal curtails the wolf hunting season by 29% and the wolf trapping season by 50% of the days.

Other solutions considered: Including UCU-502 in Unit 20C. Limiting harvest in a larger area that included the western most UCU within the Stampede Corridor, which has a much lower density of use by wolves than in UCUs 605 and 607 (over the last 12 years) was considered. This would have limited harvest opportunity with only a moderate reduction in risk to wolves.

Closing the entire wolf hunting and trapping season within the buffer was also considered. Wolves' reproductive capacity and pack structure is most vulnerable to disruption during the breeding season (Borg et al 2015). Packs that lose breeders during the breeding season are more likely to disband. Therefore, we chose to submit a proposal where the buffer is implemented during the proestrus and the breeding season. Wolves in Denali typically come into oestrus in March (Mech et al. 1998) and give birth in early May following a two-month gestation (Hayssen & van Tienhoven 1993). There is a prolonged period of proestrus in grey wolves of about six weeks (Asa & Valdespino 1998) during which the mated pair spends time together coordinating their activity, and this period appears important for the formation and maintenance of the pair bond (Mech & Knick 1978; Rothman & Mech 1979). We therefore define the breeding season and spring as February–April.

PROPOSAL 142 - 5 AAC 92.510. Areas closed to hunting; and 92.550. Areas closed to trapping. Close a portion of Unit 20 near Denali National Park to the taking of wolf as follows:

We are asking the Board of Game (board) to establish a no-wolf-take zone in a small portion of Unit 20, Subunits 20A and 20C, adjacent to Denali National Park. The proposed boundaries coincide approximately with the Denali National Park wolf population area, delineated by telemetry locations.

Take of wolves is prohibited on lands (Unit 20), in the area bounded on the west by the east boundary of Denali National Park; extending east to one mile east of, and parallel to, the Anchorage-Fairbanks Intertie Electrical Power Line; on the south by Carlo Creek; and on the north by a line from the southeast corner of Township 11S, Range 9W (Latitude 63 degrees, 55 minutes North), due east to the George Parks Highway, then south along the Parks Highway to a line running due east from the Highway through the town of Healy, to one mile east of the Intertie Line; inclusive of all lands west of the George Parks Highway commonly referred to as the “Wolf Townships,” and/or “Stampede Trail.”

Note: A map and references submitted with the proposal are available on the meeting information website for the Interior/Northeast Arctic Region meeting at:

www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=gameboard.meetinginfo&date=02-17-2017&meeting=fairbanks

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?

1. Declines in the population of wolves that den inside Denali National Park have been associated with significantly diminished wolf viewing opportunities for park visitors. For 2015, the likelihood that a visitor would see wolves along the park road was five percent, down from 45% in 2010. Updated survey information on wolves that den inside Denali National Park and venture onto state lands outside the park (<http://www.nps.gov/dena/learn/nature/wolves.htm>) points to continued low numbers and densities of wolves. It also addresses the particular risk of additional population decline due to harvest of wolves that den in eastern parts of the park. In spring of 2015, three wolves were taken on state lands in the Wolf Townships by hunter/trapper activity, all three from the East Fork Pack, and one of them a pregnant female. Unfortunately, these are also the wolves that are among the most easily viewed by the park’s half-million annual visitors. The East Fork pack did not produce young in 2015, and was down to two individuals in spring 2016. Even a documented yearly human take of four to six wolves will be significantly detrimental to Denali’s five eastern packs, which at last count numbered 27 individuals, and whose numbers did not increase between the 2015 spring and fall 2015. The risk is compounded by the regionally low population of wolves (total for the park was 49 in spring 2016), and when breeding females are taken. Adequate evidence exists that the taking of one wolf, if a pregnant female, can disrupt an entire pack.

2. Wolves that den inside Denali National Park are particularly vulnerable to hunting and trapping in winter and spring when they take hunting forays onto lands north and east of the park. Hunting forays onto lands north and east of Denali National Park (in Units 20A and 20C) have been noted and recognized by wildlife scientists since the 1980s. Radiolocations have

shown over many years that wolves that den within the park tend to follow caribou into the Wolf Townships in spring. They have also been known to cross to the east and take forays into the Yanert River valley. This makes them specifically and predictably vulnerable to hunting and trapping during these times.

3. The Alaska Board of Game acted in the past to create no wolf take areas in Units 20A and 20C adjacent to Denali National Park and Preserve, to enhance their numbers for the viewing public. This idea makes economic sense and fulfills ADF&G management goals for wolves. Acknowledging that the park wolves were a valuable resource for visitors, in 2001 and 2002 the board approved no-take closed areas (Stampede and Nenana Canyon) adjacent to the park. This was at a time when the wolf population was double the current number (a 2002 spring count of 97 wolves).

This decision - to allocate wolves from hunting and trapping to viewing and enjoyment by tourists and Alaskans - is within the power of the board and makes sense in this particular area, where economics support it and Alaskans have repeatedly requested it. Neither Unit 20A nor Unit 20C is identified for intensive management to control predator numbers. Additionally, one of the world's premier scientific wolf study programs has been collecting data in this region for almost 30 years.

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) management policies include management for non-consumptive uses of wolves. Note below, from the wolf management report of survey-inventory activities, 1 July 2008 – 30 June 2011 (ADF&G, Division of Wildlife Conservation) [p. 160]:

MANAGEMENT GOALS

ADF&G will manage wolf populations to provide for human uses and to ensure that wolves remain an integral part of Interior Alaska's ecosystems. Compatible human uses include hunting and trapping (both for personal use and commercial sale of furs), photography, viewing, listening, and scientific and educational purposes. We recognize the aesthetic value of observing wolves in their natural environment as an important human use of wolves.

Unquestionably Denali National Park's iconic wolves are high on visitors' lists of animals they hope to see. Those visitors spend money that has an enormous impact on the local Denali economy. A recent NPS report showed that the more than 530,000 visitors who came to the park in 2014 spent \$5.24 million in nearby communities. That spending supported almost 7,000 jobs in the local area – including 300-plus employees of the park's largest concessionaire - and had a cumulative benefit to the local economy of \$7.48 million.

If nothing is done, human take of park wolves on lands adjacent to the park will continue. The wolf population within the park and adjacent lands will be at significant risk for continued declines in numbers and view-ability.

Reallocation of use from hunting/trapping to viewing wolves will enhance the economic benefit of this area to all Alaskans. The local and state tourism economies will benefit when visitors have an improved chance of seeing wolves. Almost 30 years of collaborative scientific study of wolf ecology in the Denali region will benefit.

This proposed buffer would inconvenience a few recreational hunters/trappers. Trappers would have to set their traps farther away from the park boundary. Likewise, hunters would be prohibited from taking wolves on land closest to the park. This “no-take” zone is quite small in the context of the entire state.

PROPOSED BY: Denali Citizens Council and Alaska Wildlife Alliance (EG-F15-114)

Other Regional Proposals

PROPOSAL 143 - 5 AAC 85.045(1). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Reauthorize the antlerless moose hunting seasons in Unit 1C as follows:

Units and Bag Limits (1)	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
...		
Unit 1(C), Berners Bay Drainages: 1 moose by drawing permit only; up to 30 permits may be issued	Sept. 15—Oct. 15 (General hunt only)	Sept. 15—Oct. 15
...		
Unit 1(C), that portion west of Excursion Inlet and north of Icy Passage: 1 moose per regulatory year, only as follows:	Sept. 15—Oct. 15 (General hunt only)	Sept. 15—Oct. 15
...		
1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only; up to 100 permits may be issued	Nov. 10—Dec. 10 (General hunt only)	Nov. 10—Dec. 10

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?

Berners Bay: The Berners Bay (Unit 1C) strategic moose management plan calls for a post-hunt population of 90 moose based on the area's estimated carrying capacity. The Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) has been successful at maintaining the Berners Bay population close to the post-hunt population objective by implementing both bull and cow hunts.

From 1998–2006 the number of drawing permits for Berners Bay moose ranged from ten bull and ten antlerless permits to seven bull permits and no antlerless permits. The average annual harvest of bulls during that period was seven moose, and in years when antlerless permits were issued, the annual harvest averaged four cow moose. Although ADF&G has had authorization to issue a total of 30 permits each year, over the past ten years no more than 20 total permits have been issued during a single year. As a result of several severe winters and resulting population declines, no Berners Bay moose permits were issued from 2007–2013.

The number of drawing permits issued annually for Berners Bay is based on the number of moose observed during winter aerial surveys. The mean number of moose seen during aerial surveys conducted from 1990–2006 was 77 (range: 59–108). As a result of a series of severe winters from

2006–2009 and associated population declines, the number of moose observed during surveys from 2007–2009 ranged from 33–62. Surveys in 2010 and 2011 found 73 moose including ten calves each year. Under ideal survey conditions in 2012, 102 moose were observed, including 21 bulls, 81 cows, and 14 calves. Adjusted for sightability based on collared moose, the 2012 population was estimated at 113 +/- 11 moose. Under less ideal conditions in 2013, 73 moose were observed, including 18 bulls, 47 cows, and eight calves. Adjusted for sightability, the 2013 population estimate was 90 +/- 13 moose. During the most recent survey in January 2014 a total of 105 moose were observed, including 22 bulls, 52 cows, 24 calves, and seven unknown. Based on this survey, the population was estimated to be 109 +/- 6 moose. The Berners Bay population has slowly increased and now exceeds ADF&G's population and bull:cow management objectives.

Five bull permits were issued in 2014 and 2015. ADF&G would like to retain the ability to implement an antlerless moose hunt should the population or habitat conditions warrant this type of management.

Gustavus: The Gustavus moose population (Unit 1C) rapidly expanded from just a few animals in the 1980s and early 1990s to a peak of about 400 animals in 2003. In 2002 ADF&G estimated the density of moose on the Gustavus Forelands winter range exceeded five moose per km² despite only a small proportion of the area consisting of productive (abundant willow) winter habitat. In response to concerns about moose damaging the winter habitat, ADF&G initiated spring browse surveys in 1999 and determined that an unsustainable level (85% - 95%) of the current annual growth of willow twigs had been consumed by moose.

To conserve winter habitat ADF&G requested the Board of Game authorize an antlerless moose hunt, and the first antlerless hunt was held in the fall of 2000. From 2002–2008 hunters harvested between 11 and 67 antlerless moose annually, depending on the number of permits issued. No hunt was held in fall 2007 due to high moose mortality during the previous winter, and no antlerless hunts have been held since 2009.

The objective of antlerless moose hunts in Gustavus is to maintain the moose population using the winter range to levels commensurate with habitat capability. Based on aerial surveys corrected for sightability and annual browse surveys, management of the population using antlerless hunts has been successful. In 2013, under favorable survey conditions 186 moose (25 bulls, 121 cows, and 40 calves) were observed. The population estimate corrected for sightability was 323 +/- 87 moose. Under poor late winter survey conditions in March 2014 91 (24 cows, 12 calves, and 55 unknown) moose were seen yielding a sightability corrected population estimate of 244 +/- 98 moose. Due to exceptionally mild winter weather, at the time of this survey a number of radiocollared moose had already transitioned to forested summer range outside the survey area. There was little snow cover during the winter of 2014–15, so no survey was attempted.

Severe winters from 2006 through 2009 reduced calf survival, but since then calf survival has returned to 21% to 37%. Even during severe winters survival of adult females remained high at about 89%. Given the improved survival rate of calves during successive mild winters and stable cow survival, the potential exists for the Gustavus moose population to rapidly increase.

The Gustavus moose population is currently at a level ADF&G believes is appropriate for the available winter habitat. However, we believe it is important to retain the ability to implement antlerless hunts should the population increase to a level that is detrimental to the habitat.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F16-116)

PROPOSAL 144 - 5 AAC 85.045(3). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Reauthorize the antlerless moose hunting season in Unit 5A, the Nunatak Bench hunt, as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(3) Unit 5(A), that portion south of Wrangell - Saint Elias National Park, north and east of Russell and Nunatak Fiords, and east of the east side of East Nunatak Glacier to the Canadian Border (Nunatak Bench)	Nov. 15—Feb. 15	Nov. 15—Feb. 15
1 moose by registration permit only; up to 5 moose may be taken		
...		

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Nunatak Bench The Nunatak Bench hunt area (Unit 5A) is managed as a separate population because it is generally isolated from other moose populations by fiords and glaciers. The area is subject to severe winters and has low capability to support moose relative to other moose habitat in Unit 5A. The purposes of this hunt are to provide opportunity as the population allows and to maintain the number of moose within a level the limited habitat can support. This hunt opens after other moose hunts in the unit have closed, and it is a popular alternative for hunters who were unsuccessful during those hunts. Because much of the open season for this hunt takes place after bulls have dropped their antlers, either sex may be harvested.

The Nunatak Bench strategic moose management plan calls for a post-hunt population of no more than 50 moose. During an aerial survey in 2001 52 moose were seen. From 2005 through 2012 only 11–14 moose with one or two calves were seen during surveys. The decline in moose numbers following the 2001 survey may be related to the 68-foot rise of Russell Fiord flooding and damaging habitat when it was blocked by the surging Hubbard Glacier during 2003. Due to poor weather and the remoteness of the location this area was not surveyed again until December 2015

when a total of 14 moose (three bulls, two cows, three calves, and six unknown) were observed. A series of severe winters from 2006 through 2012 may have inhibited recovery of the population. Anecdotal reports from hunters indicate that wolves in the area may also be inhibiting recovery of this small population.

From 1997 through 2004, an average of 12 either sex permits was issued annually with about four people actually hunting. During this period a total of 15 moose (nine bulls, six cows) were harvested for an average of about two moose per year. No permits have been issued and no moose have been harvested in this area since 2004.

The Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) believes it is important to retain the ability to implement an antlerless hunt in this area to prevent habitat damage should the population increase. ADF&G will continue to monitor this population as conditions allow, but we do not plan to issue hunt permits until the population reaches at least 25 moose.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F16-117)

PROPOSAL 145 - 5 AAC 085.045(4). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Reauthorize the antlerless moose hunting season in Unit 6C as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(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.
or		
1 moose by registration permit only;	Nov. 1—Dec. 31 (General hunt only)	No open season.
...		

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Antlerless moose seasons must be reauthorized annually. The Department of Fish & Game recommends reauthorizing the state antlerless hunt in Unit 6C to achieve the harvest objectives when the federal subsistence hunt is not able to achieve the desired level of harvest. The population objective in Unit 6C is 400–500 moose. A population estimate completed during February 2014 yielded an estimate of 600 moose, 25% of which were calves. Because the available antlerless harvest quota in Unit 6C is currently harvested under a federal subsistence season administered by the U. S. Forest Service, we have

not held the antlerless hunt since the 1999–2000 season. Continuation of the antlerless hunts will be necessary to manage population growth and keep it within the limits of what the habitat can support.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F16-118)

PROPOSAL 146 - 5 AAC 85.045(5). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Reauthorize the antlerless moose hunting season in the Twentymile/ Portage/ Placer hunt area in Units 7 and 14C as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(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 for bulls will be issued in combination with nonresident hunts, and up to 70 permits for antlerless moose will be issued	Aug. 20—Oct. 10 (General hunt only)
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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
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...
What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Antlerless moose seasons must be reauthorized annually, and the Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) recommends reauthorizing the antlerless hunt in Units 7 and 14C. The moose population in the

Twentymile/Portage/Placer area has a history of rapid increase following mild winters and sharp reductions during severe winters. The harvest of antlerless moose provides ADF&G 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. This hunt has been successful in creating additional moose hunting opportunity with little or no controversy.

In 2009, antlerless permits were issued for the first time since 2004. The number of permits issued 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. Since 2013, a lack of snow has prevented surveys from being conducted, but ADF&G has had no indication from either harvest or roadkill numbers that the moose population has changed significantly. It is likely that moose survival has been good during recent mild winters.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F16-119)

PROPOSAL 147 - 5 AAC 85.045(11). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Reauthorize the antlerless moose hunting seasons in Unit 13 as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(11)		
Unit 13		
1 moose per regulatory year, only as follows:		
...		
1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only; up to 200 permits may be issued; a person may not take a calf or a cow accompanied by a calf	Oct. 1—Oct. 31 Mar. 1—Mar. 31 (General hunt only)	No open season
...		

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Antlerless moose hunts must be reauthorized annually by the Board of Game (board). The current regulation allows hunters to take a limited number of cows in specific areas to keep the population within objectives.

This Unit 13 antlerless hunt was initially adopted in March 2011, and the first Unit 13 antlerless hunt under this regulation took place in September 2012. The hunt was modified when the board adopted an October and March season during the February 2013 board meeting.

Since the inception of this hunt, the department has issued ten permits annually for a hunt in Unit 13A. The Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) intentionally limited the number of permits issued annually to gain public support for the hunt, even though a higher rate of cow harvest was desirable from to regulate the moose population within objectives. After considering a proposal during the 2015 board meeting, which was submitted by the public to increase the number of cow permits issued annually, the board directed ADF&G to issue a sufficient number of permits to allow the harvest of up to one percent of the cow population, when the moose population is above the midpoint of the population objective for the subunit.

Moose in Unit 13 have generally increased at a rate of 3–5% per year in the intensive wolf management area during the past ten years. The current population objective for Unit 13A is 3,500–4,200, and the population was estimated to include 4,020 in 2013. The number of cows in western Unit 13A is expected to continue increasing, and the antlerless hunt in western Unit 13A is necessary to slow the growth of this population and to keep it within the intensive management objectives. The additional harvest provided by the hunt will also assist in achieving the harvest objectives for the population. No additional antlerless opportunities in other portions of Unit 13 are recommended at this time.

If this antlerless moose hunting opportunity is not reauthorized in Unit 13, the intensive management program and objectives will likely need to be restructured to maintain the moose population within a population size range that does not result in nutritional limitations for the moose and to achieve the harvest objectives recommended by the public, advisory committees, and the board.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F16-120)

PROPOSAL 148 - 5 AAC 085.045(13). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Reauthorize the antlerless moose hunting season on Kalgin Island in Unit 15B as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(13)		
...		
Unit 15(B), Kalgin Island		
1 moose per regulatory year, by registration permit only	Aug. 20—Sept. 20	Aug. 20—Sept. 20
...		

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Antlerless moose hunts must be reauthorized annually by the Board of Game (board). The current regulation for hunting moose

on Kalgin Island in Unit 15B allows hunters to harvest antlerless moose with the goal of reducing the population to the management objective.

In response to concerns that the moose population on Kalgin Island had exceeded the island's carrying capacity and due to deteriorating habitat conditions, the board established a drawing permit hunt for antlerless moose in 1995. In a further attempt to reduce the number of moose on the island, the board established a registration hunt for any moose in 1999. Despite these measures to reduce moose numbers, moose remain abundant on the island and continue to exceed the management objective.

During the most recent moose survey, Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) staff counted 104 moose on Kalgin Island in December 2012. This count exceeded the population objective of 20–40 moose.

The "any moose" registration hunt is recommended to provide additional mortality on this predator-free island population. A registration hunt also allows ADF&G to continue gathering biological information from specimens provided by successful hunters. The difficult hunting conditions and limited access will minimize the danger of over-harvest.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F16-123)

PROPOSAL 149 - 5 AAC 85.045(13). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Reauthorize the antlerless moose hunting season and targeted moose season in a portion of Unit 15C as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(13)		
...		
Unit 15(C), that portion south of the south fork of the Anchor River and northwest of Kachemak Bay		
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 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	Oct. 20—Nov. 20	

drawing hunt: or

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; or Sept. 1—Sept. 25

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 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 is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Antlerless moose seasons must be reauthorized annually, and the Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) recommends reauthorization of the Homer benchland hunt (DM549) and the targeted hunt (AM550) along the Sterling Highway in Unit 15C for the 2016-17 hunting season.

The Homer benchland in Unit 15C, which encompasses the hunt boundary of DM549, contains high densities of moose in winters when deep snow drives moose into human populated areas. Even without deep snow, some moose die due to malnutrition and negative interactions with humans occur as moose become more aggressive in their search for food around human residences.

In February 2013, a geospatial population estimator census was conducted in the northern portion of Unit 15C (north of Kachemak Bay) and resulted in a population estimate of 3,204 moose (95%

CI: range 2,554–3,855). This equates to a density of approximately 2.7 moose/mi² in the census area. Density estimates for the winter are difficult to determine because the areas available to moose vary depending on snowfall, but winter density is consistently higher. Fall composition counts in December 2015 provided a bull ratio of 46 bulls:100 cows and a calf ratio of 23 calves: 100 cows. The high bull:cow ratio in 2015 could have been influenced by moose distribution and survey conditions (the 2014 ratio was 26 bulls:100 cows). Fifty permits were issued in each of the last ten years resulting in an average harvest of 23 cows annually.

The purpose of AM550 is to allow for the harvest of antlerless moose along the Sterling Highway in Unit 15C during deep snow winters if they pose a threat to highway vehicles. On average, 61 known animals are killed each year in vehicle collisions in Unit 15C. ADF&G 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. This hunt was established prior to the 2015-16 hunting season, but no permits were issued because snow depth was minimal and did not concentrate moose along roadways.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F16-124)

PROPOSAL 150 - 5 AAC 85.045(15). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Reauthorize the antlerless moose hunting season in Unit 17A as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(15)		
Unit 17(A)		
Up to 2 moose per regulatory year only as follows:		
RESIDENT HUNTERS:		
1 bull by registration permit only; or	Aug. 25—Sept. 20 (Subsistence hunt only)	
1 antlered bull by registration permit; during the period Dec. 1 – Last day of Feb. a season of up to 31 days may be announced by emergency order; or	Winter season to be announced by emergency order (Subsistence hunt only)	
1 antlerless moose by registration permit; during the period Dec. 1 –Last day of Feb. a season of up	Winter season to be announced by emergency order	

to 31 days may be announced
by emergency order;

(Subsistence hunt only)

...

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Antlerless moose hunts must be reauthorized annually by the Board of Game (board). The board adopted an antlerless moose hunt in Unit 17A in support of the Unit 17A moose management plan, which was modified during a meeting of the Unit 17A moose management planning group in December 2012. The planning group consists of entities interested in the management of this moose population and includes representatives 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 & Game Unit 17 management office.

According to the third goal of the revised Unit 17A moose management plan, antlerless moose hunting opportunity can be offered when the population is above 600 moose and increasing. The revised plan also recommends a bag limit of up to two moose when the population exceeds 1,200 moose.

Based on the most recent surveys, there were 1,166 moose in Unit 17A during March 2011. Since then the reproductive indices from a sample of radio collared animals indicate this herd is still growing and is probably above 1,200 moose. The bag limit of two moose and antlerless harvest opportunity provide a mechanism to limit population growth and allow hunters to harvest surplus animals.

The moose population in Unit 17A is growing and can sustain additional harvest; however, the objectives for this population include allowing it to expand into neighboring areas as well as provide for additional harvest opportunity. The population is currently contributing to the growth of moose populations, especially to the north and west.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F16-125)

PROPOSAL 151 - 5 AAC 85.045(12). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Reauthorize the antlerless moose hunting seasons in Units 14A and 14B as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
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(12)

Unit 14(A)
1 moose per regulatory year,
only as follows:

...

1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only; up to 1000 antlerless moose permits may be issued	Aug. 20—Sept. 25	No open season (General hunt only)
...	Nov. 1—Dec. 15 (General hunt only)	
1 moose by targeted permit only; and by shotgun or archery only; up to 200 permits may be issued	Winter season to be announced	No open season (General hunt only)

Unit 14(B)

1 moose per regulatory year,

only as follows:

...		
1 moose by targeted permit only; and by shotgun or archery only; up to 100 permits may be issued	Winter season to be announced (General hunt only)	No open season
...		

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Antlerless moose hunts must be reauthorized annually by the Board of Game. There are two types of antlerless moose hunts in the Mat-Su Valley, a drawing permit hunt used to regulate growth of the moose population in Unit 14A and targeted hunts used to mitigate public safety concerns in Units 14A and 14B.

Moose surveys conducted in November 2013 resulted in an estimate of 8,500 moose in Unit 14A with a bull ratio of 21 bulls:100 cows and a calf ratio of 45 calves:100 cows. This estimate was greater than the post-hunt objective of 6,000–6,500 moose and greater than the 2011 survey estimate of 8,000 moose.

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 the number of moose-human conflicts, and moose may experience nutritional stress as the population nears carrying capacity. Cow harvests are warranted to control the moose population’s growth and recommended as a way to provide additional moose hunting opportunity in the Mat-Su Valley.

The targeted moose hunts in Units 14A and 14B are an effective tool to address public safety concerns related to moose-vehicle collision 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 of Fish & Game also receives periodic complaints from the public about crop depredation and aggressive behavior that can be mitigated by this hunt structure.

PROPOSAL 152 - 5 AAC 85.045(5). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Reauthorize the antlerless moose hunting seasons in Unit 14C as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(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	Day after Labor Day —Sept. 30	Day after Labor Day —Sept. 30

be issued; or	(General hunt only)	
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 is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Antlerless moose hunts must be reauthorized annually, and the Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) recommends reauthorizing the antlerless moose hunts in Unit 14C. The harvest of antlerless moose provides ADF&G with a management tool to maintain the number of moose in Unit 14C at the desired population objective (1,500 moose). This population size has been demonstrated to reduce over-browsing of winter habitat, moose-vehicle collisions, moose-human conflicts in urban areas, and starvation during severe winters. These hunts have also been successful in providing additional moose hunting opportunities in the state’s human population center with little controversy.

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 (5 AAC 92.108). The number of antlerless permits issued depends on the current population estimate and bull:cow ratios, as well as estimated winter mortality. In 2013, ADF&G estimated that the moose population contained approximately 1,533 moose in Unit 14C from a combination of population census, composition surveys and extrapolation to unsurveyed areas. Since 2013, a lack of snow has limited our ability to conduct surveys, but we have seen no indication from either harvest or roadkill numbers that the moose population has changed significantly. It is likely that moose survival has been good during recent mild winters.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F16-122)

PROPOSAL 153 - 5 AAC 92.015. Brown bear tag fee exemption. Reauthorize resident brown bear tag fee exemptions in the Central/Southwest Region as follows:

5 AAC 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 16(A);
- (3) Unit 16(B) and 17;

...

(11) Unit 9, within the following areas, unless a smaller area is defined by the department in an applicable permit:

(A) Unit 9(B), 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 9(C), within five miles of the communities of King Salmon, Naknek, and South Naknek;

(C) Unit 9(D), within five miles of the communities of Cold Bay, King Cove, Sand Point, and Nelson Lagoon;

(D) Unit 9(E), 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 9(B);
- (2) Unit 9(E), that portion including all drainages that drain into the Pacific Ocean between Cape Kumliun and the border of Unit 9(D) and Unit 9(E);
- (3) Unit 17;

...

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Brown bear tag fee exemptions must be reauthorized annually or the fee will be automatically reinstated.

General Season Hunts: The Board of Game (board) liberalized brown bear hunting regulations including the tag fee exemption to increase the harvest of brown bears in Units 11, 13, and 16 during the March 2003 meeting and in Unit 17 during the March 2011 meeting. The tag fee exemption in these units provides greater opportunity to harvest of brown bears by allowing opportunistic harvest.

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 board meeting in March 2011. Brown bears are abundant in Unit 9 and are managed as a trophy species. Brown bears are frequently observed in communities where they destroy property in search of food or garbage and occasionally kill pets. The liberalized bear seasons and bag limits adopted along with the elimination of the tag fee were 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 bears in defense of life or property.

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. 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.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F16-133)
