

Note: The Board of Game deferred the following portions of Proposal 67 from the November 2017 Statewide Regulations Meeting to the February 2017 Central/Southwest Region Meeting.

PROPOSAL 67B – 5 AAC 92.122. Unit 16 intensive management plan, and 92.530. Management Areas. To comply with recent statutory changes, review and update regulations with minimum hunting age requirements as follows:

The Department of Fish and Game (department) recommends the Board of Game (board) examine the age requirements of all existing regulations given action taken by the legislature to raise the minimum age requirement for Alaska residents to purchase licenses from 16 to 18 years of age.

5 AAC 92.122(b)(4)(D)(vii). Unit 16 Intensive Management Plan.

(vii) taking of bears by foot snaring by permit only from April 15 through October 15; permittees must be accompanied by another person, age **18** [16] or older, when conducting foot snaring activities in the field; foot snaring permits will be issued at the discretion of the department based on previous trapping experience, ability to help train other participants, and length of time available for participation in a snaring program; a selected foot snaring permittee must successfully complete a department-approved training program, must be a resident **18** [16] years of age or older, and report all animals taken by the permittee to the department within 48 hours of taking;

5 AAC 92.530. Management Areas.

(6) Skilak Loop Wildlife Management Area:

(A) the area consists of that portion of Units 15(A) and 15(B) bounded by a line beginning at the easternmost junction of the Sterling Highway and the Skilak Loop Road (milepost 58), then due south to the south bank of the Kenai River, then southerly along the south bank of the Kenai River to its confluence with Skilak Lake, then westerly along the north shore of Skilak Lake to Lower Skilak Lake Campground, then northerly along the Lower Skilak Loop Campground Road and the Skilak Loop Road to its westernmost junction with the Sterling Highway (milepost 75.1), then easterly along the Sterling Highway to the point of origin;

AAC 92.530(6)(B) is repealed and readopted to read:

(B) the area is closed to hunting and trapping, except that:

(i) moose may be taken by permit only;

(ii) small game may be taken by:

(a) falconry or bow and arrow only from October 1 through March 1;

and

(b) standard .22 caliber rimfire firearm and shotgun only, in that portion of the area west of a line from the access road from the Sterling Highway to Kelley Lake, the Seven Lakes Trail, and the access road from Engineer Lake to Skilak Lake Road, and north of Skilak Lake Road, during each Saturday and Sunday from November 1 through December 31 and the Friday following Thanksgiving day, by youth hunters **18** [16] years old or younger accompanied by a licensed hunter 18 years old or older who has successfully completed a certified hunter

education course if the youth has not successfully completed a certified hunter education course;

(iii) wolf, coyote, and lynx may be taken under applicable hunting regulations from November 10 through March 31, except within 1/4 mile of the Engineer, Kelly, Petersen and Hidden Lake campgrounds and within 1/4 mile of boat launches.

(C) a firearm may not be discharged within one-quarter mile of any campground;

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(30) the Hatcher Pass Youth Hunt Management Area:

(A) the area consists of that portion of Unit 14(A) within the upper Little Susitna River drainage upstream of mile 13.6 on Hatcher Pass Road (Gold Mint Trail parking area) and ¼ mile away from the road including Archangel and Fishhook Creeks, and upper Little Susitna River drainages. Also, portions of the upper Willow Creek drainage upstream of the confluence of Willow and Craigie Creeks, including Grubstake Gulch and Homestake Creeks, Summit Lake, and Bullion and Skyscraper Mountains. There is no discharge of firearms allowed within ¼ mile of the road.

(B) from August 10 to August 25, the area is closed to small game hunting except that small game may be taken by a youth hunter **18** [16] years old or younger accompanied by a licensed hunter 18 years old or older who has successfully completed a certified hunter education course if the youth hunter has not successfully completed a certified hunter education course.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? There are 13 places in regulation that refer to licensed hunters, hunters, and permit holders 16 years of age. Effective January 1, 2017, the Alaska legislature changed the minimum age requirement for Alaska residents to purchase a hunting, trapping, and fishing license from 16 to 18 years of age, which put these 13 places in regulation in contradiction with the statutes. In some cases the conflicting ages may be appropriate, in many cases the age in regulation appears to have been driven by the license requirement only. The proposed changes to 5 AAC 92.012, 5 AAC 92.052, and 5 AAC 92.072 must be made in order for board regulations to be in compliance with the recent statutory changes. All of the other changes in this proposal are at the board's discretion.

For most of the identified regulations the department has little data, if any, regarding the number of people that may be impacted by this change. Some of the regulations are not currently used, for example, bear control in Unit 16 is not currently being implemented, so the change would not impact anyone because there are no participants.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F17-029B)
