

Proposal 6

Copper Basin Advisory Committee Proposal

Allow two (2) total incidental furbearer catch by trapping per licensed trapper per year.

- Department Recommendation: Neutral

Background

Proposal 6

- Currently, non-target furbearers caught during the closed season for that species are the property of the state and must be transported immediately to the nearest ADF&G or Alaska Wildlife Troopers office and surrendered.
- There has been interest from trappers in the past to allow for the possession of incidental caught furbearers due to the time and effort involved in handling and processing non-target catch.
- This would allow licensed trappers to target “incidental” species such as wolverine, lynx, wolf, and likely others during closed seasons for these species due to the value and opportunity provided by allowing retention of incidental furbearer catch.
- The current regulations require trappers to turnover non-target furbearers to the state as they are considered the property of the state if taken during the closed season.
- ADF&G can adjust seasons and bag limits to account for non-target catch as these animals will be sealed and added into the reported regular season harvest.

Proposal 6

Copper Basin Advisory Committee Proposal

Allow two (2) total incidental furbearer catch by trapping per licensed trapper per year.

- Department Recommendation: Neutral

Proposal 7

Public Proposal

Allow the harvest of beaver with bow and arrow statewide during the beaver trapping season as described in the trapping regulations.

- Department Recommendation: Neutral

Background

Proposal 7

- The proposal would allow for more general hunting opportunity for bowhunters to take beaver during the beaver seasons currently described in the trapping regulations.
- The harvest methods for beaver in some areas of the state (Units 12, 19, 20(A), 20(C), 20(E), 20(F), 21, 24, and 25) currently allow for the take of beaver using firearms *and* bow and arrow.
- This is intended to provide for additional opportunity to take these animals outside of traditional trapping methods and to allow for and increase their take as food.
- There is no biological concern with allowing the harvest of beaver with bow and arrow.

Proposal 7

Public Proposal

Allow the harvest of beaver with bow and arrow statewide during the beaver trapping season as described in the trapping regulations.

- Department Recommendation: Neutral

Proposal 8

Public Proposal

Effect of Proposal :

Remove the Same Day Airborne (SDA) restrictions for taking wolf and wolverine during trapping season

Recommendation :

Neutral: no biological concern

However may conflict with AS 16.05.783

Background

- **AS 16.05.783** A person may not shoot or assist in the shooting a free-ranging wolf or wolverine the same day that a person has been airborne...
- **5 AAC 92.095** allows wolves and wolverines caught in a trap or snare to be shot

Proposal 8

Public Proposal

Effect of Proposal :

Remove the Same Day Airborne (SDA) restrictions for taking wolf and wolverine during trapping season

Recommendation :

Neutral: no biological concern

However may conflict with AS 16.05.783

Proposal 9

Submitted by: Upper Tanana/Fortymile AC

Effect of Proposal :

Modify the Same Day Airborne (SDA) restrictions for taking coyotes under both hunting and trapping methods

Recommendation :

Neutral: no biological concern

Background

- 5AAC 92.090(3) A person who has been airborne may not take or assist in taking a fur animal until after 3:00 a.m. following the day in which the flying occurred; this paragraph does not apply if person is at least 300 feet from airplane at the time of taking.
- 5AAC 92.095(a)(8) A person who has been airborne may not use a firearm to take or assist in the taking a wolf or wolverine until after 3:00 a.m. on the day following the day in which the flying occurred; or in taking coyote, arctic fox, red fox, or lynx, unless that person is over 300 feet from the airplane at the time of the taking; this prohibition does not apply to a trapper using a firearm to dispatch an animal caught in a trap or snare;

Background

- **Federal Airborne Hunting Act**
- **No statute or regulation prohibiting this activity if approved**
- **Minimal take due to low pelt prices**

Proposal 9

Submitted by: Upper Tanana/Fortymile AC

Effect of Proposal :

Modify the Same Day Airborne (SDA) restrictions for taking coyotes under both hunting and trapping methods

Recommendation :

Neutral: no biological concern

Proposal 10

Public Proposal

Effect of Proposal :

This proposal would repeal 92.085(8) the restriction on the use of aircraft for spotting Dall sheep (rescind the regulations created by passing the Board generated Proposal 207) or repeal sections (A), (D), and (G).

Recommendation :

Neutral

Background

Proposal 10

- During the 2015 board cycle, the board adopted a proposal to restrict aircraft use.
- The current regulation allows for hunters to use an aircraft to establish and maintain sheep hunting camp, but prohibits the use of aircraft to spot or locate sheep during the hunting season.

Background

Proposal 10

- 5 AAC 92.085(8) a person who has been airborne may not take or assist in taking a big game animal and a person may not be assisted in taking a big game animal by a person who has been airborne until after 3am following the day in which the flying occurred, and from Aug 10 through Sept 20 aircraft may not be used by or for any person to locate Dall sheep during the open sheep hunting season, however, aircraft other than helicopters may be used by and for sheep hunters to place and remove hunters and camps, maintain existing camps, and salvage harvested sheep. The BOG finding 2016-213-BOG dated 3/17/2016 is adopted by reference...

Background

Proposal 10

- 5 AAC 92.085(8) ...Restrictions in this paragraph do not apply to
 - (A) taking deer;
 - (B) repealed 7/1/92;
 - (C) a person flying on a regularly scheduled commuter airline;
 - (D) ~~taking caribou from Jan 1 through Apr 15, in Unit 22 if the hunter is at least 300' from the airplane at the time of taking;~~
 - (E) repealed 7/1/2009;
 - (F) repealed 7/1/2008;
 - (G) a hunter taking a bear at a bait station with the use of bait or scent lures with a permit issued under 5 AAC 92.044, and if the hunter is at least 300' from the airplane at the time of taking;

Background

Proposal 10

- The board will be addressing this and two other proposals at this meeting regarding this issue.
- This proposal does not create or address a biological concern for sheep populations.

Proposal 10

Public Proposal

Effect of Proposal :

This proposal would repeal 92.085(8) the restriction on the use of aircraft for spotting Dall sheep (rescind the regulations created by passing the Board generated Proposal 207) or repeal sections (A), (D), and (G).

Recommendation :

Neutral

Proposal 11

Public Proposal

Effect of Proposal :

This proposal would modify unlawful methods of taking big game; exceptions so that an aircraft may not intentionally approach any sheep or group of sheep closer than 1000 feet or repeatedly approach in a manner that results in the sheep altering their behavior.

Recommendation :

Neutral; does not create or address a biological concern for sheep populations

Background

Proposal 11

- This proposal addresses the use of aircraft for sheep hunting considered by the board at the board meetings in 2015 and 2016.
- During the 2015 board cycle, the board adopted a proposal to restrict aircraft use.
- The current regulation allows for hunters to use an aircraft to establish and maintain sheep hunting camp, but prohibits the use of aircraft to spot or locate sheep during the hunting season.
- This proposal does not create or address a biological concern for sheep populations.

Proposal 11

Public Proposal

Effect of Proposal :

This proposal would modify unlawful methods of taking big game; exceptions so that an aircraft may not intentionally approach any sheep or group of sheep closer than 1000 feet or repeatedly approach in a manner that results in the sheep altering their behavior.

Recommendation :

Neutral; does not create or address a biological concern for sheep populations

Proposal 12

Public Proposal

Effect of Proposal :

This proposal would repeal 92.085(8) the restriction on the use of aircraft for spotting Dall sheep (rescind the regulations created by the Board generated Proposal 207).

Recommendation :

Neutral; does not create or address a biological concern for sheep populations

Background

Proposal 12

- This is similar to proposals considered by the board at the statewide meeting in 2016.
- During the 2015 board cycle, the board adopted a proposal to restrict aircraft use.
- The current regulation allows for hunters to use an aircraft to establish and maintain sheep hunting camp, but prohibits the use of aircraft to spot or locate sheep during the hunting season.
- This proposal does not create or address a biological concern for sheep populations.

Proposal 12

Public Proposal

Effect of Proposal :

This proposal would repeal 92.085(8) the restriction on the use of aircraft for spotting Dall sheep (rescind the regulations created by the Board generated Proposal 207).

Recommendation :

Neutral; does not create or address a biological concern for sheep populations

Proposal 13

Submitted by: Alaska Wildlife Troopers

Effect of Proposal :

Clarify the regulation on the use of Cellular telephones or satellite phones

Recommendation :

Neutral: no biological concern

Background

- 5AAC 92.080 (7) with the aid of a pit, fire, artificial light, laser sight, electronically enhanced night vision, any forward looking infrared device, any device that has been airborne, controlled remotely, and used to spot or locate game with the use of a camera or video device, radio communication, cellular or satellite telephone, artificial salt lick, explosive, expanding gas arrow, bomb, smoke, chemical (excluding scent lures), or a conventional steel trap with an inside jaw spread over nine inches, except that...
- (E) in a Unit 20(D) bison hunt, the use of ground based radio communications, including cellular or satellite telephones, to locate bison is allowed;

Background

- 5AAC 92.080 (7) constant revisions for:
- New technology
- Game cameras
- Communication through GPS technology
- Communication pre season
- Other cell phone applications
 - Web surfing, email, photo and video, flashlight...

Proposal 13

Submitted by: Alaska Wildlife Troopers

Effect of Proposal :

Clarify the regulation on the use of Cellular telephones or satellite phones

Recommendation :

Neutral: no biological concern

Proposal 16

Public Proposal

Effect of Proposal :

- This proposal would allow a high-powdered airgun to be used to hunt big game in muzzleloader-only areas and non-restricted weapon areas.
- This proposal would also define an "airgun" as the following:
"Airgun" means a device that launches a pellet or bullet or other projectile like an arrow through the use of compressed air. Minimum .357 caliber and minimum muzzle energy of 100 foot pounds.

Recommendation :

The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal.

Background

- **Current muzzleloader-only area regulation:**

“the use of a muzzleloader is prohibited unless the firearm is a shoulder mounted long gun, 45 caliber or larger, with a barrel that is either rifled or smoothbore, and discharges a single projectile”

- Currently in Alaska, small game can be harvested using an airgun.

Background

- The muzzleloader standards were based on industry research. Relatively little research has been done on airguns and there are not yet industry standards as there are for muzzleloaders. We recommend more research be conducted before airguns are allowed to be used to harvest big game in Alaska.
- From research we found, air rifles in the .30 caliber range under 150 ft/lb are good for mid-weight animals (deer, pigs) but marginal for big game. The .40 caliber air rifles and larger that produce 300 ft/lb have been found to be more effective on big game.

Background

- Suggested definition of air guns by ADF&G:
"Air guns are shoulder-mounted rifles whose projectile (bb or pellet) is propelled by compressed air or carbon dioxide in contrast to a firearm which uses combustible propellants."

Board may choose to consider adopting a definition of "firearm" at the same time.

Proposal 16

Public Proposal

Effect of Proposal :

- This proposal would allow a high-powdered airgun to be used to hunt big game in muzzleloader-only areas and non-restricted weapon areas.
- This proposal would also define an “airgun” as the following:
“Airgun” means a device that launches a pellet or bullet or other projectile like an arrow through the use of compressed air. Minimum .357 caliber and minimum muzzle energy of 100 foot pounds.

Recommendation :

The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal.

Proposal 17

Public Proposal

Effect of Proposal :

Prohibit the use of airbows to hunt big game in Alaska.

Recommendation :

The department is NEUTRAL on this proposal.

Background

- Currently in Alaska, small game can be harvested using an airbow in a non-weapons restricted hunt area.
- Airbows cannot be used in an archery-only area due to the definition of a bow, which doesn't allow an arrow to be propelled by a pneumatic device.
- Since airbows are a relatively new technology, many states do not have regulations yet referring to airbows specifically.
- Many states however, have regulations similar to Alaska's that don't allow for pneumatic devices/technology to be used to propel an arrow.

Proposal 17

Public Proposal

Effect of Proposal :

Prohibit the use of airbows to hunt big game in Alaska.

Recommendation :

The department is NEUTRAL on this proposal.

Proposal 164

Public Proposal

Effect of Proposal :

The proposal would allow Alaska residents who are 60 years and older with a permanent hunting/fishing/trapping license to use a crossbow to hunt in an archery-only restricted weapons hunt.

Recommendation :

The department is NEUTRAL on this proposal

Background

- **Allocations of restricted weapons hunts for take by bow and arrow have occurred due to the differences between hunting with a firearm and hunting with a bow and arrow.**
- **The bowhunting/archery community has felt that crossbows aren't archery equipment because how a crossbow shoots and the mechanics of a crossbow are very different from long bows, recurve bows, and compound bows.**

Background

- The Board chose not to adopt similar proposals during the January 2012 and January 2016 statewide meetings to make crossbows legal in archery-only areas.
- The Board provides opportunities for an individual with disabilities to use a crossbow in an archery-only area through 5 AAC 92.104. This regulation allows for a Methods and Means exemption and the form is available from the department.

Background

- If this proposal is adopted, the department asks the Board to review the individual management areas which currently allow archery-only hunts and evaluate if crossbows are an acceptable weapon.

Proposal 164

Public Proposal

Effect of Proposal :

The proposal would allow Alaska residents who are 60 years and older with a permanent hunting/fishing/trapping license to use a crossbow to hunt in an archery-only restricted weapons hunt.

Recommendation :

The department is NEUTRAL on this proposal