



Alaska Board of Game

P.O. Box 115526

Juneau, AK 99811-5526

(907) 465-4110

www.boardofgame.adfg.alaska.gov

Dear Reviewer,

August 2018

The Alaska Board of Game (board) will consider the enclosed regulatory proposals at the board meetings scheduled for **January and March 2019**. The proposals primarily concern changes to hunting and trapping regulations pertaining to the Southeast and Southcentral Regions. Proposals have been submitted by members of the public, organizations, advisory committees, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) and other agencies. With the exception of minor edits and clarifications, the proposals are published essentially as they were received, with the insertion of the appropriate Alaska Administrative Code citation and a brief description of the action requested.

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].

Readers are encouraged to view all proposals in this book as some proposals affect other regions and units. Proposals are grouped by each meeting to which they pertain (see Proposal Indices). 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. Anyone interested in or affected by the subject matter contained in these proposals are encouraged to provide written or oral comments if they wish to have their views considered by the board. Please review the additional information for providing written comment and testimony to the board on page iv.

Written comments can be submitted to the board by the announced deadlines as follows:

Online: www.boardofgame.adfg.alaska.gov
Email: dfg.bog.comments@alaska.gov (PDF format only)
Fax: 907-465-6094
Mail: ADF&G Boards Support Section
ATTN: Board of Game Comments
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Meeting information, including the agenda, public comments, agency reports, and a link to the meeting audio is available on the Board of Game website at www.boardofgame.adfg.alaska.gov. Please watch the website for notices and updates closer to the meeting dates, or sign up on the link above, to receive email notices about the Board of Game. Preliminary board actions on proposals will be posted on the website during the meeting, followed by final actions after the meetings conclude.

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 scheduled meeting to make any necessary arrangements.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kristy Tibbles". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kristy Tibbles, Executive Director
Alaska Board of Game



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Guidelines for Comments & Public Testimony

The Board of Game (board) relies heavily on information provided by the public explaining the effect of the proposed changes. The following information provides the board's guidelines and helpful tips for providing written comments and testimony to the board.

GUIDELINES FOR WRITTEN COMMENTS

Timely submission: Written comments are strongly encouraged to be submitted online at www.boardofgame.adfg.alaska.gov by the set deadline for each meeting, usually two weeks in advance. Comments received by the deadline are provided to the board and the public on the meeting information webpage in advance of the meeting and are cross-referenced with proposals. Comments become public documents and part of the board record.

Tips for format and content:

- Clearly state the proposal number, title or subject, and your position by indicating "support" or "oppose". If the comments support a modification in the proposal, please indicate "support as amended" and provide your preferred amendment in writing.
- Briefly explain why you support or oppose the proposal to help the board members understand 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.
- Review the agency comments to learn more about the proposals. Department of Fish and Game comments are posted well in advance of the comment deadline.
- For advisory committees (ACs), recommendations on proposals should reflect why the AC voted as it did. If the vote was split, include the minority opinion. A brief description consisting of a couple sentences is sufficient.
- Include your name and if including graphs or charts, please indicate the source.
- If using acronyms, please state what the acronym stands for.
- Page limits: For on-time comments, up to 100 single-sided pages from any one individual or organization; after the deadline, comments are limited to ten single-sided pages.
- If commenting on multiple proposals, please do not use separate pieces of paper.
- 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.

Comments submitted after the deadline: Written comments may be submitted after the deadline via mail, fax or hand-delivery. Comments received after the deadline are not cross-referenced with proposals and are distributed to board members and the public at the meeting. They are logged as "record copies" (also referred to as "RC") with an assigned log number. Requirements are the same as above. Comments submitted at the meeting must include 20 copies for the public distribution. It is not the responsibility of Boards Support staff to make the copies for you.

GUIDELINES FOR ORAL PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Oral hearings are scheduled at the beginning of each meeting, following agency reports, and continue until everyone who has signed up by the announced deadline and is present when called has been given the opportunity to be heard. Advisory committee (AC) representatives may elect to provide testimony at a later portion of the meetings.

Persons planning to testify at Board of Game meetings must submit a **PUBLIC TESTIMONY SIGN-UP CARD** (blue card) to the Boards Support staff prior to the announced cut-off time. If submitting written comments at the meeting intended for the testimony, at least **20 copies** must be provided. You are encouraged to **submit any written material with the blue testimony card** to ensure distribution to the board prior to the testimony. PowerPoint presentations are allowed at meetings, but 20 copies of the presentation will need to be submitted and Boards staff need to be notified in advance to arrange the equipment. Written material submitted during the board meetings will be logged with a record copy (“RC”) number, which should be referenced at the time of testimony.

Once the oral hearing portion of the meeting begins, Boards Support staff will prepare and post a list of testifiers. The chair will call testifiers in the order provided on the list. When it is your turn to testify, please go to the testimony table, press the button on the microphone, and state your name for the record, where you reside and whom you represent, if speaking for an organization. When giving testimony, be sure to reference the proposal number as well as the title or subject matter. Follow the tips for comments shown on page iv.

The board utilizes a light indicator system for timing testifiers. When you begin your testimony, a green light will come on. When you have one minute remaining, a yellow light will come on followed by a red light or buzzer to indicate your time is up. When you are finished speaking, please stay seated and wait for any questions board members may have regarding your comments. Be aware that when you testify, you may not ask questions of board members or of agency 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. **Testifiers using derogatory or threatening language to the board will not be allowed to continue speaking.**

The board allows testimony for one organization in addition to personal testimony or AC testimony and each testimony is allotted its own time. **If you are giving testimony for yourself and an organization or an AC**, you only need to turn in one sign-up card naming the group you wish to speak for. When giving testimony for yourself and an organization or AC, state on the record who you are speaking for. 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.

The length of testimony time will be announced on the agenda just prior to meeting and by the board chair at the beginning of the meeting. The board typically allows five minutes for oral testimony for an individual or an organization and 15 minutes for ACs and regional advisory councils. Time limits on testimony do not include questions the board members may have for you. Preparing and practicing your testimony ahead of time will help ensure you stay within the time limit, while making your points clear.



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About the Board of Game & Advisory Committees

Alaska Board of Game

The Board of Game (board) is Alaska's regulatory entity authorized to adopt regulations to conserve and develop the state's wildlife resources and to allocate uses of those resources. This includes establishing open and closed seasons, areas for taking game, setting bag limits, and regulating methods and means. 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, holding 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.

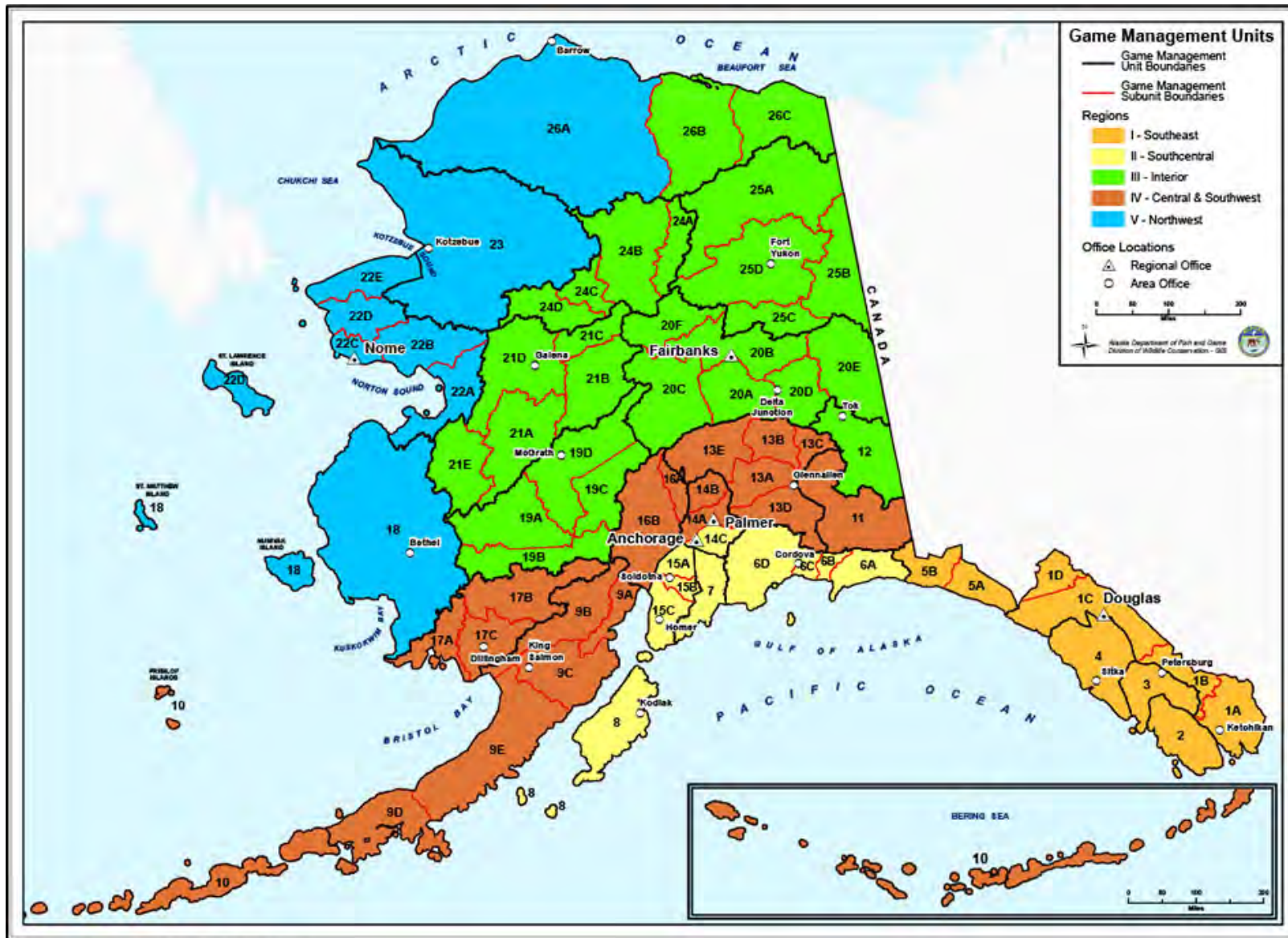
Advisory Committees

The local fish and game advisory committees (ACs) play a key role in the regulatory process for both fisheries and wildlife management. While the boards make 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 ACs in the state; nearly all actively participate in the state regulatory process as well as the federal subsistence process. ACs have up to 15 members and many have community seats designated under regulation. AC members serve three-year terms and are elected by local community members. ACs begin meeting as early as September and throughout the board meeting cycle to review proposals and submit recommendations to the boards. Meetings are open to the public and meeting information is online at: www.advisory.adfg.alaska.gov, or from Boards Support Regional Coordinators.

Boards Support Regional Coordinators facilitate AC participation in the regulatory process by coordinating AC meetings and ensuring the ACs have the necessary information to be effective before the boards. Contact information for the Regional Coordinators can be found on the Boards Support staff listing on page xiii.

Region & Game Management Unit Boundaries



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Commonly Used Acronyms & Terms

AAC	Alaska Administrative Code	RY	Regulatory Year; July 1 – June 30
AC	Advisory Committee	Region I	Southeast Region – Game Management Units 1, 2, 3, 4, & 5
ADF&G	Alaska Department of Fish and Game	Region II	Southcentral Region – Game Management Units 6, 7, 8, 14C, & 15
ANS	Amount Necessary for Subsistence	Region III	Interior/Northeast Region – Game Management Units 12, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25, 26B, & 26C
AS	Alaska Statute	Region IV	Central/Southwest Region – Game Management Units 9, 10, 11, 13, 14A, 14B, 16, & 17
AWT	Alaska Wildlife Troopers	Region V	Arctic/Western Region – Game Management Units 18, 22, 23, & 26A
BOG/Board	Board of Game	RAC	Regional Advisory Council
BGCSB	Big Game Commercial Services Board	SHS	Selective Harvest Strategy
BMMS	Brown Bear Management Strategy	USF&WS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
CI	Confidence Interval	USFS	U.S. Forest Service
C&T	Customary and Traditional	WAA	Wildlife Analysis Area
CUA	Controlled Use Area	2DK	Second degree of kindred
CCUA	Clearwater Controlled Use Area	Permit Hunt Abbreviations	
DHCMA	Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area	<i>Some proposals reference specific permit hunt numbers that begin with the initials to indicate the type of hunt and big game animal followed by three digits for the hunt number:</i>	
DWC	Division of Wildlife Conservation	RB	Registration brown bear
EO	Emergency Order	RC	Registration caribou
FMA	Fairbanks Management Area	RG	Registration goat
FSB	Federal Subsistence Board	RL	Registration black bear
GMU/Unit	Game Management Unit	RM	Registration moose
GSPE	GeoSpatial Population Estimator	DB	Drawing brown bear
GUA	Guide Use Area	DC	Drawing caribou
HGL	Harvest Guideline Level	DG	Drawing goat
IM	Intensive Management	DL	Drawing black bear
JBER	Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson	DM	Drawing moose
KMCH	Kenai Mountains caribou herd	DS	Drawing sheep
KNWR	Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge	YM	Youth moose
MFMA	Minto Flats Management Area		
NPS	National Park Service		
OSM	Office of Subsistence Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service		
POW	Prince of Wales Island		

**Alaska Board of Game**

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Meeting Dates	Topic	Location	Comment Deadline
January 10, 2019 (1 day)	Work Session	Petersburg Sons of Norway Hall	TBA
January 11-15, 2019 (5 days)	Southeast Region Game Management Units 1-5	Petersburg Sons of Norway Hall	December 28, 2018
March 15-19, 2019 (5 days)	Southcentral Region Game Management Units 6, 7, 8, 14C, and 15	Anchorage Anchorage Sheraton Hotel	March 1, 2019

Total Meeting Days: 11

Agenda Change Request Deadline: Thursday, November 1, 2018*(The Board of Game will meet via teleconference to consider Agenda Change Requests following the November 1 deadline.)***Proposal Deadline: Tuesday, May 1, 2018**



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Long-Term Meeting 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 and Southwest Region - Game Management Units: 9, 10, 11, 13, 14A, 14B, 16, & 17 <i>Meeting Cycle: 2020/2021 2023/2024 2026/2027</i>
Arctic and Western Region - Game Management Units: 18, 22, 23, & 26A <i>Meeting Cycle: 2019/2020 2022/2023 2025/2026</i>
Interior and Northeast Region - Game Management Units: 12, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25, 26B, & 26C <i>Meeting Cycle: 2019/2020 2022/2023 2025/2026</i>
Statewide Regulations (see next page) <i>Meeting Cycle: 2020/2021 2023/2024 2026/2027</i>

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.
- 92.005 Policy for Changing the Board of Agenda
- 92.008 Harvest Guideline Levels
- 92.009 Policy Obstruction or Hindrance of Lawful Hunting or Trapping
- 92.990 Definitions

Licenses, Harvest Tickets, Reports, Tags, & 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 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
- 92.061 Special Provisions for Brown Bear 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.
- 92.160 Marked or Tagged Game
- 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 Members

NAME AND ADDRESS	TERM EXPIRES
Ted Spraker, Chair 49230 Victoria Ave. Soldotna, AK 99669	6/30/2020
Nathan Turner, Vice Chair P.O. Box 646 Nenana, AK 99760	6/30/2019
Stosh (Stanley) Hoffman P.O. Box 2374 Bethel, AK 99559	6/30/2020
Teresa Sager Albaugh HC 72 Box 835 Tok, AK 99780	6/30/2021
Karen Linnell P.O. Box 8 Glennallen, AK 99588	6/30/2019
Larry Van Daele 3401 Antone Way Kodiak, AK 99615	6/30/2021
Tom Lamal 1734 Becker Ridge Road Fairbanks, AK 99709	6/30/2020

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

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(907) 465-6094 FAX

www.boardofgame.adfg.alaska.gov

Kristy Tibbles, Executive Director, Alaska Board of Game

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Boards Support Section Staff

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REGIONAL OFFICES / REGIONAL COORDINATORS

Southeast Region (north of Frederick Sound)

Lena Gilbertson
(see above contact info)

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Jessalynn Rintala
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Information on Pathogens and Parasites in Alaska's Wildlife

Attention Hunters:

During the last few years, the Board of Game (board) has received several proposals dealing with pathogens and parasites that may threaten Alaska's wildlife. Hunters are expressing concern with reports of confirmed pathogens and increasing threats of new pathogens and parasites. At the same time, observations of non-native large mammals like mule deer in Interior Alaska, which can introduce some pathogens and parasites, have increased or are becoming more well-known, which prompted an emergency request to open a mule deer hunting season. The season request stemmed from the potential for winter tick to become established in Alaska.

Cervid health is very important to the Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G), and as a result, ADF&G submitted an Agenda Change Request, based on the above-mentioned emergency request, to discuss the issue with the board at the Southeast or Southcentral board meeting. ADF&G is currently monitoring and collecting information specific to pathogens and parasites that can be harmful to indigenous wildlife. In combination with this continued monitoring, ADF&G would like to work with the board, local fish and game advisory committees, and the public to determine the public's desires regarding management of wildlife that move into Alaska. Options range from managing these new species, such as mule deer and white-tailed deer, for growth (as Yukon Territory is doing) to seeking to minimize their density.

The public is encouraged to review ADF&G's Agenda Change Request and all materials on pathogens and disease at www.boardofgame.adfg.alaska.gov and provide comments to the board for whichever meeting the Agenda Change Request is scheduled, if accepted.



Southeast Region

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ALASKA BOARD OF GAME
Southeast Region Meeting
January 11-15, 2019
Sons of Norway Hall
Petersburg, Alaska

TENTATIVE AGENDA

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 11, 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 of 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 12, 8:30 AM

PUBLIC AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE ORAL TESTIMONY

BOARD DELIBERATIONS upon conclusion of public testimony

Sunday, January 13, 9:00 AM

BOARD DELIBERATIONS continued

Monday, January 14, 8:30 AM

BOARD DELIBERATIONS continued

Tuesday, January 15, 8:30 AM

BOARD DELIBERATIONS

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 December 28, 2018 to make any necessary arrangements.

Regionwide & Multiple Units

Note: The Board of Game deferred this proposal from the 2016 Statewide Regulations Meeting to each regional meeting. It was previously considered by the board for the Arctic/Western Region (Proposal 20), Interior/Northeast Region (Proposal 48), and the Central/Southwest Region (Proposal 71).

PROPOSAL 1

5 AAC 92.080. Unlawful methods of taking game; exceptions.

5 AAC 92.085. Unlawful methods of taking big game; exceptions.

Allow the use of crossbows in restricted-weapons hunts for the Southeast Region 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 high-powered 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)

PROPOSAL 2

5 AAC 92.230. Feeding of game.

Allow the feeding of deer in the Southeast Region as follows:

Allow food plotting on private property for feeding and harvesting deer in all game units that are applicable.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I would like the board to consider changing the hunting regulations on the restriction of feeding deer, making it possible for hunters to feed deer year-round and to harvest deer, observing all other current hunting regulations while using food plots on private property only.

I believe allowing food plots to be used year-round will give deer more food throughout the winter and help the deer population. I also believe that by using food plotting techniques the hunters will be more apt to want to harvest more mature bucks.

PROPOSED BY: Lucas Shilts (EG-F18-008)

PROPOSAL 3

5 AAC 92.220. Salvage of game meat, furs, and hides.

Modify the salvage requirement for deer in Units 1–5 as follows:

Add an exception to 5 AAC 92.220 stating that salvage of rib meat for Sitka black-tailed deer in Units 1–5 is optional.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Current regulations require the salvage of rib meat off Sitka black-tailed deer. This proposal would make the salvage requirement of rib meat optional for Sitka black-tailed deer in Units 1–5. Listed are the reasons for this proposal:

(1) On many deer, this is really a small amount of meat, between two to five pounds total. Strips of meat are maybe one-half inch in thickness, which is why there's not a lot of meat. The meat that is salvageable is likely less than this as it is mixed in with large amounts of gristle and fat.

(2) If the deer is shot through the ribs, the amount of meat decreases even more. This is especially true because many hunters in Unit 4 (Admiralty, Baranof, Chicagof) are using large caliber rifles due to brown bear presence.

(3) Spending time salvaging rib meat increases the chances of a bear encounter.

(4) Many other western states do not require salvage of rib meat of even larger animals. Such states include: Oregon, Montana, Idaho, Colorado, Wyoming, New Mexico, and Arizona.

PROPOSED BY: Nicholas Orr

(EG-F18-036)

PROPOSAL 4

5 AAC 92.085. Unlawful methods of taking big game; exceptions.

Allow the harvest of game from a boat in Units 1–5 as follows:

Remove Section (9):

"from a boat in Units 1–5; however, a person with physical disabilities, as defined in Alaska Statute 16.05.940, may hunt from a boat under authority of a permit issued by the department;"

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I propose allowing harvest of game animals in Southeast Alaska (Units 1–5) from a boat not under power. Southeast Alaska is the only part of Alaska where it is illegal to shoot from a boat that is not under power. This is not due to general concerns over shot placement or hunter ethics, as shooting from a boat is allowed in all other parts of the state. This is also not because of any concerns that are particular to Sitka black-tailed deer or brown/black bears. Prince William Sound has all three species and it is legal to shoot from a boat not under power there. Kodiak has Sitka black-tailed deer and brown bears and it is also legal to shoot from a boat not under power in that unit as well.

It is common for hunters in Units 1–5 to shoot from a boat not under power; each year there are a number of pictures on social media that are highly suggestive of deer harvested from a boat as well as posts on social media/internet from other hunters throughout Southeast Alaska that either admit to or imply shooting from a boat is being used as a harvest method. When combined with the occasional violation charged in the court system, both support that this is happening on a regular basis.

Changing this rule would bring regulations regarding shooting from a boat not under power in Units 1–5 in line with those in the rest of the state. It is unlikely that it would lead to significant increase in the number of deer harvested as it is not uncommon for hunters to harvest deer in this way.

PROPOSED BY: Nicholas Orr

(EG-F18-035)

PROPOSAL 5

5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.

Shorten the hunting seasons and change the bag limit for moose in the Southeast Region as follows:

The solution may be to shorten the season to two weeks (October 1 to October 15) and allow “any bull” moose to be legally taken.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I request the Board of Game consider the number of illegal moose being taken in Southeast Alaska.

PROPOSED BY: Harold Martindale

(EG-F17-005)

PROPOSAL 6

5 AAC 92.220. Salvage of game meat, furs and hides.

Change the salvage requirement for black bear in Units 1–5 as follows:

Remove the requirement for residents to salvage black bear hides in Units 1–5 and instead require salvage of the meat throughout the season.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Remove the requirement for residents to salvage black bear hides but require meat salvage season-round. I've harvested black bear at all times during the season and find the meat is good any time. Hides often-times have no value. The Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) will say that when bears feed on salmon, the bear meat is not good. This is debatable. Some black bear in Southeast do not feed on salmon, contrary to popular belief.

PROPOSED BY: Mark Freshwaters

(EG-F18-033)

PROPOSAL 7

5 AAC 92.165. Sealing of bear skins and skulls.

Eliminate the black bear sealing requirement for resident hunters in the Southeast Region as follows:

Eliminate the sealing requirement of black bear by resident hunters in Southeast.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I would like the Board of Game (board) to eliminate the requirement for resident hunters to seal black bears but harvest reports/tickets would still be required. It's an inconvenience, especially for residents who do not live near Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) locations. ADF&G receives enough data from nonresidents required to seal black bear.

PROPOSED BY: Mark Freshwaters

(EG-F18-032)

PROPOSAL 8

5 AAC 85.015. Hunting seasons and bag limits for black bear.

Rescind the guide requirement for nonresidents hunting black bear in the Southeast Region as follows:

Rescind the must-be-guided requirement for black bear for nonresident U.S. citizens in Region I (Southeast).

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?

Must-be-guided requirement for nonresidents hunting black bear.

Alaska's must-be-guided law (AS 16.05.407) was enacted based on the rationale that nonresident U.S. citizen hunters needed assistance in judging legality of animals, protections when hunting certain dangerous game such as brown/grizzly bear, or when hunting in dangerous terrain for Dall sheep or mountain goat.

The legislature never intended for the Board of Game to create new must-be-guided species beyond brown bear, Dall sheep, and mountain goat without legislative approval.

But the Board of Game has done just that with black bear in Region I, using "conservation" concerns for black bears to create a new must-be-guided species for nonresidents.

As long as a nonresident hires a licensed guide to hunt black bear in Region I, he or she is granted unlimited opportunity under this new system. But if a nonresident is hunting without a guide, he or she must first draw a permit from a limited allocation.

Instead of equally limiting all nonresident black bear hunters because of conservation concerns, the Board of Game essentially granted yet another state-sponsored subsidy to guides. This is akin to saying there are too many cars on Southeast Alaska roads, but instead of fairly limiting all cars, Toyotas are guaranteed access at all times whereas all other car brands are limited in when they could be on the road. Such a scheme surely helps Toyota dealers, but this is not how the free market system is supposed to work.

There was never an allowance either to allow nonresidents hunting with a resident relative within second degree of kindred to hunt without being required to apply for a draw permit, further going against the intent of the must-be-guided law that allows a resident Alaskan to act as an (unpaid) guide. Alaskans who wanted to hunt black bear with their nonresident relative were denied that opportunity unless the nonresident relative first drew a draw permit.

When there are conservation concerns for any species that center around nonresident harvests, the solution should always be to limit nonresident harvest across the board, equally. The Board of Game should not use the must-be-guided statute as a game management tool, nor be in the business of giving a preference to, or limiting opportunity for, specific nonresident hunters who hunt on their own, with a registered guide, or with a resident relative within second degree of kindred.

PROPOSED BY: Resident Hunters of Alaska

(HQ-F18-022)

PROPOSAL 9**5 AAC 85.015. Hunting seasons and bag limits for black bear.**

Change the nonresident black bear permit hunts for Units 1B, 1C, and 1D to general season hunts as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
Unit 1(B) RESIDENT HUNTERS: 2 bears, not more than 1 of which may be a blue or glacier bear	Sept. 1—June 30 (General hunt only)	
[NONRESIDENT HUNTERS WITH GUIDE: 1 BEAR]		[SEPT. 1—JUNE 30]
[NONRESIDENT HUNTERS WITHOUT GUIDE: 1 BEAR BY DRAWING PERMIT ONLY; UP TO 40 PERMITS MAY BE ISSUED]		[SEPT. 1—JUNE 30]
<u>NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:</u> <u>1 bear</u>		<u>Sept. 1—June 30</u>
Units 1(C), north of Taku Inlet and the north bank of the Taku River		
RESIDENT HUNTERS: 2 bears, not more than 1 of which may be a blue or glacier bear; however, a white-colored bear may not be taken	Sept. 1—June 30 (General hunt only)	
[NONRESIDENT HUNTERS: WITH GUIDE: 1 BEAR; HOWEVER, A WHITE-COLORED BEAR MAY NOT BE TAKEN]		[SEPT. 1—JUNE 30]
[NONRESIDENT HUNTERS WITHOUT GUIDE: 1 BEAR BY DRAWING PERMIT ONLY; UP TO 30 PERMITS MAY BE ISSUED; HOWEVER, A WHITE-COLORED BEAR MAY NOT BE TAKEN]		[SEPT. 1—JUNE 30]

NONRESIDENT HUNTER:
1 bear; however, a white-colored
bear may not be taken

Sept. 1—June 30

Remainder of Unit 1(C)

RESIDENT HUNTERS:
2 bears, not more than 1
of which may be a blue or glacier
bear; however, a white-colored
bear may not be taken

Sept. 1—June 30
(General hunt only)

[NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:
WITH GUIDE: 1 BEAR; HOWEVER,
A WHITE-COLORED BEAR MAY
NOT BE TAKEN]

[SEPT. 1—JUNE 30]

[NONRESIDENT HUNTERS WITHOUT
GUIDE:
1 BEAR BY DRAWING PERMIT ONLY;
UP TO 30 PERMITS MAY BE ISSUED;
HOWEVER, A WHITE-COLORED BEAR
MAY NOT BE TAKEN]

[SEPT. 1—JUNE 30]

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:
1 bear; however, a white-colored
bear may not be taken

Sept. 1—June 30

Unit 1(D)

RESIDENT HUNTERS:
2 bears, not more than 1
of which may be a blue or glacier
bear; however, a white-colored
bear may not be taken

Sept. 1—June 30
(General hunt only)

[NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:
WITH GUIDE: 1 BEAR; HOWEVER,
A WHITE-COLORED BEAR MAY
NOT BE TAKEN]

[SEPT. 1—JUNE 30]

[NONRESIDENT HUNTERS WITHOUT
GUIDE:
1 BEAR BY DRAWING PERMIT ONLY;
UP TO 20 PERMITS MAY BE ISSUED;

[SEPT. 1—JUNE 30]

HOWEVER, A WHITE-COLORED BEAR
MAY NOT BE TAKEN]

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:
1 bear; however, a white-colored
bear may not be taken

Sept. 1—June 30

Remainder of Unit 3

RESIDENT HUNTERS:
2 bears, not more than 1 of which
may be a blue or glacier bear

Sept. 1—June 30
(General hunt only)

[NONRESIDENT HUNTERS WITH
GUIDE: 1 BEAR]

[SEPT. 1—JUNE 30]

[NONRESIDENT HUNTERS
WITHOUT GUIDE:

[SEPT. 1—JUNE 30]

1 BEAR BY DRAWING PERMIT ONLY;
UP TO 50 PERMITS MAY BE ISSUED]

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:
1 bear

Sept. 1—June 30

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? This proposal would remove drawing permit requirements for Unit 1B (DL017), Unit 1C north of Taku River (DL019), Unit 1C Remainder (DL020), and Unit 1D (DL021), creating general season harvest hunts for nonresidents in the above listed units.

In 2010, the Alaska Board of Game (board) required nonresident black bear hunters without a guide to have a drawing permit. During the 2010 board cycle, the board received numerous black bear proposals due to conservation concerns in multiple game management units. The primary conservation concerns are found in the following units: Unit 2, Unit 3 Kuiu Island, Unit 3 Kupreanof Island, and Unit 1C south of the Taku River to Cape Fanshaw. Due to the proximity and ease of access of the remaining Southeast units, the Department of Fish and Game (department) proposed implementing drawing permit requirements to all Southeast units with nonresident black bear seasons except for Unit 5, where the department had no conservation concerns.

In addition to drawing permit requirements, the board, working cooperatively with big game guides, the department, and the U.S. Forest Service established individual guide black bear harvest levels for the period regulatory years (RYs) 2012–2014. Those levels were based on guided black bear harvest data from RYs 2007–2009. The combined effort to require unguided nonresident black bear hunters to have a drawing permit and maintaining guided hunter harvest

levels at RY 2007–2009 achieved the department’s goal of reducing the black bear harvest in Southeast Alaska.

This proposal will not change unguided nonresident drawing hunt requirements for Unit 1C south, Unit 2, Unit 3 Kuiu Island, or Unit 3 Kupreanof Island. As noted above, those units were the original areas of conservation concern, and the department continues to believe harvest by unguided nonresidents in those areas is best managed through drawing permits.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F18-036)

PROPOSAL 10

5 AAC 92.170. Sealing of marten, fisher, lynx, beaver, otter, wolf, and wolverine.

Require sealing of coyote in Units 1–5 as follows:

Coyote must be sealed within 30 days after the close of the season.

You may shoot a coyote on the same day that you have flown in an airplane if the coyote is either caught in a trap or a snare or you are more the 300 feet from the airplane.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Coyote hunting seasons runs from September 1 – April 30. Coyote trapping season runs from November 1 – April 30.

Both hunting and trapping have no limit on the number animals harvested. Coyote distribution and abundance are unknown. Anecdotal information from trappers and observations in the field are that coyote numbers may be increasing but there is no way to tell for certain.

An increase in hunters and trappers in the 2017–2018 season have people wondering if the population can stand the increased pressure. Also, what really is the population and how many can we harvest.

PROPOSED BY: Upper Lynn Canal Fish Game Advisory Committee (EG-F18-045)

PROPOSAL 11

5 AAC 84.270. Furbearer trapping.

Extend the trapping season for beaver in Units 1–5 as follows:

Beaver, Units 1–5.....Nov. 10 – May 15.....No limit

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Return beaver season, Units 1–5, back to the closure of May 15.

PROPOSED BY: Robert Jahnke (EG-F18-024)

PROPOSAL 12

5 AAC 84.270. Furbearer trapping.

Modify the trapping season for beaver in Unit 1 as follows:

We are proposing to make the beaver trapping season in Unit 1 have no closed season so trappers can easily remove problem beavers.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? We would like to be able to trap nuisance beaver year-round without having to obtain a special permit.

PROPOSED BY: Luke Rauscher and Darren Belisle

(HQ-F18-018)

PROPOSAL 13

5 AAC 92.095. Unlawful methods of taking furbearers; exceptions.

Require identification tags for traps and snares in Units 1–5 as follows:

I recommend reinstating previous language for trap tag requirement: In Unit 1–5, trappers are prohibited from using a trap or snare unless the trap or snare has been individually marked with a permanent metal tag upon which is stamped or permanently etched the trappers name and address or the trapper's permanent identification number.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? There is currently no requirement for owners to mark traps, unlike crab pots and similar gear. Marking of traps promotes trapper accountability, encourages ethical trapping throughout the season and closure of traps at the end of the season. Trap marking also allows members of the public to contact proper authorities with trap information, who in turn can contact trappers, in situations where a non-target animal is trapped, or when a hiker comes across an animal that is trapped but not lethally. Wildlife is a public resource, and trappers gain financially through the harvest of this resource, yet at the same time, trapping and snaring present a risk to humans and their dogs and to non-target wildlife. Trapper accountability through trap tag marking and following the Trapper's Code of Ethics shows conscientious trapping by trappers and helps build public support of trapping into the future. Marking of traps used to be required throughout Southeast Alaska; this was a well-accepted program and was supported by ADF&G, Alaska Wildlife Troopers, and both trappers and non-trappers.

Please consider my experience in 2017: my dog was caught in a snare while I was hiking off-trail; my dog was within five feet of me when snared; it was not ranging off in the distance. I observed a snared wolf, not dead, but instead tethered on about 10 feet of cable, running back and forth, partially choking. Lastly, outside the trapping season, I came across three active snares that were still set on a trail. As an avid hiker and dog owner who also respects that trapping is a legal means of taking furbearers, I ask that you reinstate the requirement of marking traps in Southeast Alaska.

PROPOSED BY: Lauri Jemison

(EG-F18-067)

PROPOSAL 14

5 AAC 92.095. Unlawful methods of taking furbearers; exceptions.

Require trappers to post identification signs for traps and snares in Units 1–5 as follows:

In Unit 1–5, trappers are prohibited from using a trap or snare unless a sign is posted within 50 yards that list the trapper’s name and address or the trappers permanent identification; the trapper must use the trapper’s Alaska driver’s license number or state identification card number as the required permanent identification number. Signs at a snaring site must be at least 8.5” x 11” in size, be clearly visible, and have numbers and letters that are at least one inch high and 1/2-inch-wide in a color that contrasts with the background color of the sign. Signs must be placed at both the start and end of a trapline.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? There is currently no requirement for trappers to provide warning or post a sign near traps in an area where trapping occurs. Furbearers are a public resource, used by consumptive and non-consumptive persons, however, trapping and snaring present a risk to humans, their dogs, and to non-target wildlife. As a user of wildlife resources (through wildlife viewing and photography), as well as an avid hiker and dog owner, I feel that trappers should shoulder some responsibility for the danger that their activity poses to other user groups by placing signs within 50 yards of a trap set. Placement of signs will warn recreational user groups of the potential for danger ahead, allowing hikers a choice whether to continue into an area where traps are present. Posting traps and traplines may help to reduce the unintended capture of domestic pets. Placement of signs demonstrates that trappers are actively trying to reduce conflicts with other wildlife users; I believe this action will go a long way toward building public support for trapping. Some trappers have voluntarily taken the initiative to use signs to mark trails where they are trapping; I know this activity is greatly appreciated by dog owners. In most circumstances, especially when hiking only with my dogs (and not a second person), I will avoid an area if I know it is actively being trapped. One consideration is to require signage only for large traps and snares, as these are most likely to injure or kill unintended targets.

PROPOSED BY: Lauri Jemison

(EG-F18-068)

PROPOSAL 15

5 AAC 85.065. Hunting seasons and bag limits for small game.

Lengthen the hunting season for waterfowl in the Southeast Region as follows:

Expand the waterfowl hunting season for Southeast Alaska into January and February.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Why does the season for waterfowl in Southeast Alaska end with the calendar year? Many other states hunt into the new year. The birds are not breeding. Depending on the year and how harsh or tame the climate is, we don't even see a decent flush of birds until the end of the season. Why can't the season run through at least January and even February?

PROPOSED BY: Perry Klein

(EG-F17-006)

PROPOSAL 16

5 AAC 85.065(4)(A-F)(H) and (I). Hunting seasons and bag limits for small game.

Shift the hunting season for migratory game birds in Units 1–4 as follows:

If adopted, the migratory game bird season for Units 1–4 would be open **Sept. 1—Dec. 16** [SEPT. 16—DEC. 31] for residents and nonresidents.

Should the Board of Game (board) members find themselves unable to adopt this proposal, I urge them to consider alternating the waterfowl season annually, a September 1 – December 16 season on odd years and a September 16 – December 31 season on even years. This would be a reasonable compromise for all hunters should there continue to be interest in late December hunting opportunities.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? In 2008, the board passed a proposal that changed the waterfowl season opening date for Units 1–4 from September 1 to September 16. I hold some responsibility for the change as I spearheaded the effort by submitting the proposal. The purpose of my proposal was to allow for a couple more weekends of mallard hunting in December as late season hunting in the early 2000s was excellent. At the time, a hunter survey completed by the Department of Fish and Game showed a small preference toward the later start date, however, opinions varied throughout the region.

This proposal is submitted in an effort to return the Southeast Alaska waterfowl season back to a start date of September 1. Following the implementation of the current September 16 start date, there have been several board proposals and public comments supporting a return to the former start date. Reports from the Gustavus area indicate that access to sandhill crane hunting has been reduced by the later start date and folks in the Haines area seem unhappy with the current season structure as well. The loss of opportunities for other hunters was an unintended consequence of the change in season dates and this issue has weighed on me for some time.

My observations, as well as those of others, over the past five or six years have shown good numbers of pintail, teal and wigeon moving down the outer coast in late August and early September and many of these birds have passed through the area prior to the September 16 opener. I have made fewer late season hunting trips recently and have not seen the consistency in those December trips that there was a decade ago. I continue to find myself gravitating more toward opportunities earlier in the season and can no longer advocate for the delayed season.

It is my opinion that the importance of restoring those regional hunting opportunities in early September outweighs any benefit of the later hunting season. I cannot offer any information on current hunter participation levels during the last two weeks of December, but I ask the board to consider upcoming public and advisory committee comments when addressing this issue.

PROPOSED BY: Mike Vaughn

(HQ-F18-015)

Sitka Area – Unit 4

Note: The Board of Game does not have constitutional authority to limit hunting for Alaska residents based on residency.

PROPOSAL 17

5 AAC 92.013. Migratory bird hunting guide services.

Reserve waterfowl hunting areas in the Sitka area for local hunters as follows:

(d) A migratory bird hunting guide operating in the area of Sitka enclosed on the north by a line in Peril Strait at the latitude of Rapids Point, on the northwest by a line from Kruzof Island at 57° 20.50' N. lat., 135° 45.17' W. long. to Chichagof Island at 57° 22. 05' N. lat., 135° 43' W. long., and on the south and west by a line running from the southernmost tip of Sitka Point 56° 59.38' N. lat., 135° 49.57' W. long. to Hanus Point at 56° 51.92' N. lat., 135° 30.50' W. long. to the green day marker in Dorothy Narrows at 56° 49.28' N. lat., 135° 22.75' W. long. to Baranof Island at 56° 49.28' N. lat., 135° 22.60' W. long. may engage in providing migratory bird hunting guide services for sea ducks, goldeneye and bufflehead ducks only.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? This proposal is put forth to reserve waterfowl hunting areas around Sitka for local hunters and preclude new development of guided waterfowl hunting for puddle ducks (mallard, wigeon, teal, pintail, gadwall, and shoveler) and geese in the areas most frequently utilized by local hunters.

Local waterfowl hunters generally utilize a handful of bays within an hour skiff ride from town. A number of these same areas are also popular for stream fishing for fall coho by personal use fishermen and guided and non-guided sport fishermen. The high level of use in these areas can restrict hunter access to hunt locations on days when fishermen are present. Guided waterfowl hunting for puddle ducks in this area could result in additional congestion and increased competition for hunting locations and birds.

According to the 2016 Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) Public Distribution List of Migratory Bird Hunting Guides Registered in Alaska on the ADF&G website, the number of guides registered for waterfowl hunts in this area is low and an internet search finds only one business advertising guided hunts for ducks (sea ducks) in the Sitka area. This proposal does not seek to restrict established guided sea duck (scoter, oldsquaw, harlequin, and merganser) hunting, which generally would not overlap with hunting of puddle ducks on tidal flats. However, expansion of guiding operations for other duck species potentially could bring multiple-day hunting trips to this area, increasing competition and further reducing local opportunities. This proposal does not eliminate the opportunity to establish new guided hunting operations but asserts that this should not come at the expense of local users. This proposal asks that those receiving monetary compensation from this resource be required to travel further from town to avoid conflict. It will be easier to address this issue now than to deal with this situation after new businesses are established.

Though goldeneye and bufflehead are not considered sea ducks, for the purposes of this proposal they would be included in the species that guided hunters could target in this area. These are species that guided hunters may want to harvest and are likely to be encountered while hunting sea ducks.

PROPOSED BY: Mike Vaughn

(HQ-F18-019)

PROPOSAL 18

5 AAC 85.030. Hunting seasons and bag limits for deer.

Increase the bag limit for deer in Unit 4 Remainder as follows:

Increase bag limit for deer in Unit 4 Remainder (i.e. the area outside of the area of Chichagof Island east of Port Frederick and north of Tenakee Inlet including all drainages into Tenakee Inlet) from four deer to six deer.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Increase the limit from four deer to six deer in Unit 4 outside of the area of Chichagof Island east of Port Frederick and north of Tenakee Inlet including all drainages into Tenakee Inlet. Doing so would allow for hunters who normally harvest four deer to instead have the opportunity to harvest six. Increasing the limit would increase opportunities for all hunters.

Increasing the limit would have minimal impact on the Unit 4 deer population outside of the area of Chichagof Island east of Port Frederick and north of Tenakee Inlet including all drainages into Tenakee Inlet. Unit 4 hunters averaged 1.9 deer per hunter in 2016. This deer per hunter figure has averaged 1.62 over the past five years with minimal fluctuation.

Increasing the limit would have minimal impact on other communities in Southeast Alaska that already have six deer limits under federal regulations. As there is not much hunting effort in Unit 4 from hunters outside of Southeast Alaska, this change would impact almost exclusively residents of Juneau. Increasing the deer limit would not result in increased Juneau hunter effort near rural communities as the distances traveled by boat between Juneau and surrounding communities are prohibitively long considering the generally inclement weather and short days during which most deer hunting effort is located (November/December). Furthermore, localized marine weather—persistent, strong winds out of Northern Lynn Canal and Taku Inlet—regularly limits Juneau hunters to the area on Admiralty Island between Point Retreat and Point Arden.

This change would not cost the state additional money from a regulatory perspective as hunters are already required to carry six tags. Additionally, this change would bring state deer limits in line with federal deer limits.

PROPOSED BY: Nicholas Orr

(EG-F18-034)

PROPOSAL 19

5 AAC 92.510(6). Areas closed to hunting.

Close an area around the Greens Creek Mine road system and mine infrastructure in Unit 4 to hunting as follows:

Recommended solution: Hecla Greens Creek Mining Company recommends closing the Greens Creek road system and associated infrastructure to hunting starting 1/4 mile north of the Greens Creek Hawk Inlet facilities extending to the Greens Creek mine including the "B Road" and an area 1/4 mile on each side of the road and associated infrastructure including the Tailings Storage Facility.

Draft Regulatory Language:

Greens Creek Mine Road System and associated mine infrastructure: The road system and associated mine infrastructure extending from the Greens Creek Hawk Inlet facilities to the Greens Creek Mine including an area 1/4 mile on all sides is closed to hunting.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Hecla Greens Creek Mining Company would like the Board of Game to consider closing a portion of the Greens Creek Mine Access Road and mine infrastructure and an area 1/4 mile on all sides to hunting.

The single-lane dirt road is governed under a U.S. Forest Service (USFS) lease that does not have clear provisions regarding public access. Historically, hunters have utilized the road as walk-in access to northern Admiralty Island between Young Bay and private property located five miles away on the south shore of Hawk Inlet primarily for deer hunting. This section of the road (A Road) is lightly used by mine traffic and interactions between mine and public activities have been minor, however; in the past several years, use of the road by hunters has increased significantly and hunters have begun utilizing bicycles with pull behind carts to access the area. This has allowed hunters to gain access to the road between the Hawk Inlet facilities and the mine site nine miles away (B Road). The B Road section is heavily traveled by haul trucks moving tailings, ore concentrates and supplies between the Hawk Inlet and mine operational areas 24 hours per day, seven days per week and presents a significant public safety hazard to hunters either walking or on bicycles.

The road system consists of a single-lane dirt road with a driving surface that ranges from 14 feet to 23 feet wide. There are turnouts located approximately every 0.3 miles that allows traffic to pass. Traffic is managed by radio communications between vehicles and all equipment that operates on the road has a collision avoidance system installed as a backup safety system. Guardrail runs nearly the entire length of the road and on both sides in numerous areas. The road traverses mountainous terrain, particularly the B Road, and has numerous blind corners. There are strict safety protocols in place for employees utilizing the road as Greens Creek views the road as being a significant safety risk and manages it accordingly.

Several significant safety incidents have occurred between operations personnel and hunters, including:

- In November 2017, a haul truck with a gross vehicle weight of 200,000 pounds nearly ran over a hunter on a bicycle pulling a cart at six-mile B Road. The bicyclist could not get off of the road

with guardrail on both sides before the truck came around a blind corner. The truck could not stop and narrowly missed the bicyclist.

- In November 2017, contractors working on a new building threatened to stop work due to people hunting in the vicinity of their work area.
- In September 2017, an engineer had delivered samples to the Young Bay boat dock and was returning to the Hawk Inlet Operations Area via the A Road. He came around a corner and saw a deer ahead. Some distance past the deer he saw hunters in the road aiming a rifle down the road corridor at the deer which he was now in direct line of sight of. The hunters saw the pickup and did not fire.
- In September 2015, a hunter was asked to stop shooting at deer within the Tailings Disposal Facility while Greens Creek was conducting a family tour with buses full of people driving by the facility.
- In 2000, a contract drilling company supervisor confronted an archery hunter after his employees noticed an arrow pass by their drill rig. A hunter had missed a deer and the arrow traveled through the work area.
- Deer carcasses left around the facility attract bears which has created several near miss incidents with employees over the years.

Mine personnel and Alaska State Troopers are witnessing violations of hunting regulations. The deer along the mine access road are conditioned to the traffic and mine activity making them easy for hunters to harvest. The majority of the hunters simply bike or walk along the road and shoot deer within the road corridor both from and across the road surface, both violations of state law. These activities were documented in Case #AK17082725 where Alaska State Troopers charged four individuals from Juneau for multiple game violations while hunting on the Greens Creek road system. The majority of the deer harvested are within the immediate road corridor when harvested.

In addition to the safety of the public, Hecla is concerned about the safety of its employees. Hunters shooting within or from mine infrastructure puts Greens Creek employees in danger and carcasses left near mine infrastructure draws bears into work areas. Safety is a significant consideration at the site and adding the public and firearms to active work areas is additional cause for concern.

Hecla employees routinely approach hunters to explain the hazards of mining they could be subjected to, but warnings are generally ignored. There are no clear regulations to cite and no enforcement action that can be taken by mine personnel. Conversations with various agencies indicate that they believe the road system is governed by City and Borough of Juneau (CBJ) regulations requiring no hunting within 1/4 mile of the road. The CBJ road restrictions are addressed in Unit 1 regulations and this problem occurs in Unit 4. Greens Creek does fall within the CBJ boundaries but that is not clear in the hunting regulations or CBJ code. If the CBJ road restrictions apply to the Greens Creek road system, they still allow hunters to access the road, which still presents safety concerns for the public and Greens Creek employees. Further, limited enforcement continues to allow members of the public to break the law by shooting from the road, across the roadway, and within 1/4 mile of the road.

This request is meant to put regulations in place that will ensure the safety of the public and employees of Greens Creek. With increased exposure of easy hunting opportunities on the Greens Creek road system through social media has come increased numbers of people and increased safety risk for all involved. If recent incidents are any indication of the future, it is only a matter of time before someone gets hurt.

Greens Creek has considered many options to address this issue:

- Talk to hunters individually: Mine personnel continue to try to educate hunters on the hazards of mining, but they are largely ignored.
- Add signage along the road discussing the hazards: This is an option but still only warns of the hazards; it does little to deter the public from utilizing Greens Creek infrastructure for hunting which continues to put the public and employees in danger.
- Evaluate options to restrict public access through the USFS lease agreement: There is no clear language in agreements that specifically address public access.
- Request enforcement from ADF&G, USFS and AK State Troopers: All have expressed interest, but site access is somewhat difficult and those agencies have limited resources.
- Request the Board of Game close all infrastructure and 1/4 mile on all sides to hunting: Greens Creek respects the rights of the public to access public lands. The risks to the public and employees on the road between Young Bay and Hawk Inlet are low so Greens Creek chose to leave that request out of the Board of Game proposal instead requesting a closure to heavily used infrastructure which poses a high risk to the public and employees.

PROPOSED BY: Hecla Greens Creek Mining Company

(EJ-F18-757)



Juneau, Haines, Skagway, & Yakutat Areas – Units 1C, 1D, & 5

PROPOSAL 20

5 AAC 85.030. Hunting seasons and bag limit for deer.

Change the bag limit for deer on Douglas Island in Unit 1C as follows:

Units and bag limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(1)		
Unit 1 (C), that portion including [DOUGLAS,] Lincoln, Shelter, and Sullivan Islands	Aug. 1—Dec. 31	Aug. 1—Dec. 31
4 deer; however, only bucks may be taken before Sept. 15		
<u>Unit 1(C), Douglas Island</u>	<u>Aug. 1—Dec. 31</u>	<u>Aug. 1—Dec. 31</u>
<u>4 deer total, only one of which may be a doe, and only bucks may be taken before Sept. 15</u>		

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Douglas Island offers the greatest road-accessible opportunity to hunt deer in the Juneau area and harvest from the island usually accounts for over 70% of deer harvested in Unit 1C. In recent years, hunters have expressed concern over the return of wolves to Douglas Island and a perceived increase in effort required to harvest deer. During regulatory years (RY) 2012–2016, deer harvest on Douglas Island ranged from 192 to 272 and averaged 245 deer per year, slightly below the ten-year average of 258 (RY2007–2016). Hunter success ranged from a low of 21% in 2014 to a high of 30% in 2015 with an average of 26%, which was similar to the ten-year average of 27%. The days of hunting effort required to harvest a deer ranged from 6.8 days in RY2015 to 10.7 days in 2014 (average 8.7 day).

Following a decade of absence or use by only individual wolves, a breeding pack is thought to have occupied the Douglas Island in 2013. At about 77 square miles Douglas Island is smaller than wolf pack territories documented elsewhere in Southeast Alaska (average. ~125 square miles), suggesting that Douglas Island is part of a pack territory and that pack members likely move between the island and mainland. The number of wolves using Douglas Island is unknown. During RY2016, the Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) closed the wolf hunting and trapping seasons on Douglas Island following harvest of three wolves in accordance with the

Douglas Island Management Area (5 AAC 92.530(23)). Despite considerable effort, during the RY2017 hunting and trapping seasons only one wolf has been harvested on Douglas Island.

In addition to harvest statistics, ADF&G monitors the Douglas Island deer population using annual spring pellet group surveys. Because pellet survey results can be influenced by snow fall patterns, pellet persistence, deer distribution, and timing of leaf-out, they are only considered reliable indicators of substantial ($\geq 30\%$) changes in the population. Deer pellet group counts on Douglas Island have been below the ten-year average since 2013. From RY2008–2017, pellet group counts averaged 1.37 groups/plot on the north side of Douglas Island and 1.59 groups/plot on the west side of Douglas Island. In RY 2014, pellet group counts declined by 47% on north Douglas Island and 36% on the west side compared to 2013. Pellet group counts fell to a ten-year low in RY2016 when 0.77 groups/plot were observed on northern Douglas Island and 1.01 groups/plot were found on the west side of Douglas Island. Although the number of pellet groups/plot increased slightly from 2016 to 2017, pellet group counts during 2017 remained 37% lower on north Douglas Island and 52% lower on the west side of Douglas Island compared to counts in 2013.

Winters with little snow can result in low pellet group counts because deer remain dispersed, rather than concentrating in low elevation wintering habitat. From 2014 through 2016, winters were mild to very mild with little snow. Lower pellet group counts in recent years are consistent with anecdotal reports that deer numbers have declined but could also result from deer remaining dispersed during mild winters.

Because the Douglas Island deer population is important to Juneau hunters, wolves are again using the island, a new pioneer road has increased access for hunters, and there is some uncertainty over the current status of the population, ADF&G believes more conservative harvest management is warranted. Current regulations allow harvest of four deer including does. Rather than reducing the overall bag limit, we propose keeping the bag limit at four deer, but limiting hunters to harvest of one doe. Historically, 30–40% of the deer harvested from Douglas Island have been does. Until more is known about the status of the Douglas Island deer population, we believe this modest change will still allow ample harvest opportunity while conserving does for reproduction.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F18-040)

PROPOSAL 21

5 AAC 92.510. Areas closed to hunting.

Amend the area closed to hunting along the Douglas Highway in Unit 1C as follows:

5 AAC 92.510(3) is amended to read:

Unit 1(C):

(B) in the Juneau area, that area between the coast and a line one-fourth mile inland of the following road systems is closed to the taking of big game:

(ii) Douglas Highway from the Douglas city limits to [MILEPOST 7] **the northeast bank of Fish Creek.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Current regulations use “Milepost 7” as the landmark to identify the boundary of the area adjacent to the Douglas Highway closed to big game hunting. The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities recently relocated mile markers on the Douglas Highway. That change resulted in confusion about the boundary of the closed area. The current mapped boundary for the closed area is close to Fish Creek. Changing the legal description of the closed area boundary to a fixed and readily identifiable geographic feature like Fish Creek will clarify the location of the boundary.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F18-070)

PROPOSAL 22

5 AAC 92.530(23). Management areas.

Eliminate the Douglas Island Management Area in Unit 1C as follows:

Remove the Douglas Island Management Area in Unit 1C from regulation.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? This proposal would remove the Unit 1C Douglas Island Management Area from current regulation. There is no science or data that suggests this management area is necessary or effective, particularly as it applies to wolf management. While wolves certainly play an important part in the ecosystem, they are apex predators and must be managed as such. Wolves are transient to and from Douglas by either swimming the channel at high tide or crossing overland at low tide. It is very hard to manage and set a quota for a population of any species, especially one that is very wide-ranging. Wolf predation has reduced the deer population on the island which is solely estimated using the Department of Fish and Game’s (ADF&G) annual deer pellet survey at two locations on the north end of the island. Douglas Island is specifically used by deer hunters who don't have a boat and is a commonly used area where youth and new hunters have relatively easy access to deer hunting areas. The current data shows that the deer pellet survey samples increased when wolves were actively trapped. Removing this management area from regulation will allow for wolf management using hunters and trappers during the allowed seasons without a quota system while creating less of a burden to ADF&G staff and will increase deer populations for sport hunting and wildlife viewing. This is how the rest of the state manages wolf numbers, with the exception of Prince of Wales Island. Wolves will continue to be wolves and travel back and forth between the mainland and Douglas as they have for many years. If no change is made, wolves will continue to suppress the deer population on Douglas Island and further decrease the sport hunting and wildlife viewing opportunities.

PROPOSED BY: Jesse Ross (EG-F18-060)

PROPOSAL 23

5 AAC 85.040(a)(1). Hunting seasons and bag limits for goat.

Expand the archery-only registration permit hunt area for goat in Unit 1C as follows:

5 AAC 85.040(a)(1) Seasons and bag limits for goat in Unit 1C: That portion of Unit 1C to include all mainland areas between the south bank of the Mendenhall River and the Mendenhall Glacier and south to the western bank of Taku Inlet and Taku Glacier. 1 goat by permit and bow and arrow only. The taking of nannies with kids is prohibited Aug. 1–Nov. 30.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Expand the Unit 1C archery-only registration permit (RG014) hunt area to include all mainland areas between the south bank of the Mendenhall River and the Mendenhall Glacier and south to the western bank of Taku Inlet and Taku Glacier.

During the last Southeast Region Board of Game (board) cycle, the board voted to expand this area to include a small portion of Blackerby Ridge. This new area is described as follows: "That portion between the south side of Blackerby Ridge and the north side of Salmon Creek Reservoir, above the 1,000 ft contour and east to Observation Peak."

Expanding this hunt area using the above boundary lines would open up a large area to hunting opportunity that has not previously been open, to my knowledge. This area would include Mount Bullard, Thunder Mountain, Heintzelman Ridge, all of Blackerby Ridge, Mount Juneau, Mount Roberts and areas in between.

Adopting this new boundary area would also simplify the boundary areas for this hunt, making it dramatically easier to understand for hunters from the current boundaries.

Juneau is an area that is fortunate to have a relatively large population of goats that could be accessed via the road system without the need to charter an aircraft or use a boat. Based on my own observations, it appears that there is an ample population of goats that could sustain some level of harvest. I believe the Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) could manage this hunt utilizing their point system, as to allow harvest while still allowing other user groups (hikers, tourism industry) the ability to enjoy and view these animals. This hunt would also be self-limiting to some degree since it is an archery-only hunt and does not experience the same level of effort that any weapon hunts generally do. With the exception of the Blackerby Ridge area, which currently has a harvest objective of 1–2 points, the current registration area has rarely, if ever, met the maximum harvest objective. This is, in part, due to the difficulty in accessing the current area.

In short, I believe the current archery only registration area in Unit 1C (permit hunt RG014) could be expanded to include all areas between the Mendenhall River/Glacier and Taku Inlet/Glacier. This would allow hunters who do not own a boat or cannot afford to charter a plane the ability to have more hunting opportunities for goats.

PROPOSED BY: Jake Abbott

(EG-F18-004)

PROPOSAL 24

5 AAC 85.040. Hunting seasons and bag limits for goat.

Clarify the boundary description for the RG014 mountain goat hunt area in Unit 1C as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(1)		
Unit 1 (C), that mainland portion draining into the south bank of Little Sheep Creek, Gastineau Channel south of Little Sheep Creek, Stephens Passage, and Taku Inlet between the mouth of Little Sheep Creek and Taku Glacier, including that portion <u>on the south side of Blackerby Ridge encompassed by a line from Observation Peak west along the ridgeline down to the 1,000-foot contour, east along that contour to the north shore of Salmon Creek Reservoir, north of the main drainage into the head of reservoir following that drainage south and east up to the ridgeline and east to Olds Mountain</u> [BETWEEN THE SOUTH SIDE OF BLACKERBY RIDGE AND THE NORTH SIDE OF SALMON CREEK RESERVOIR, ABOVE THE 1,000 FOOT CONTOUR AND EAST TO OBSERVATION PEAK]	Aug. 1—Nov. 30 (General hunt only)	Aug. 1—Nov. 30
1 goat by registration permit Only, and by bow and arrow		

only; the taking of nannies
with kids is prohibited

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The current description of the portion of the boundary for mountain goat registration hunt RG014 between the head of Salmon Creek Reservoir and Olds Mountain lacks detail, resulting in uncertainty among hunters. The suggested changes add landmarks to help hunters locate the boundary.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F18-069)

Note: The Board of Game does not have constitutional authority to limit hunting for Alaska residents based on residency.

PROPOSAL 25

5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.

Restructure the moose hunt in Unit 5A Remainder to align with the federal subsistence regulations as follows:

Unit 5A, except Nunatak Bench, west of the Dangerous River – 1 bull by joint state/federal registration permit only, October 8 – November 15. From October 8 – October 21, federal public lands are closed to harvest of moose except by residents of Unit 5A.

Unit 5A, except Nunatak Bench, east of the Dangerous River – 1 bull by joint state/federal registration permit only, September 16 – November 15. From September 16 – September 30, federal public lands are closed to harvest of moose except by residents of Unit 5A.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Currently, the area in Unit 5A west of the Dangerous River receives heavy hunting pressure during the first few days of the subsistence season, resulting in a rapid harvest and multiple animals taken out of localized areas. In recent years, the quota has been met and the season closed within about 4–5 days of the opening. The area east of the Dangerous River is less accessible than the west side, including minimal to no local air taxi service after September, and receives less pressure (the harvest quota is not usually met in this area). By opening up the east side of the Dangerous River earlier, access will be improved for subsistence users (longer days, potentially better weather conditions, and greater availability of local air taxi), allowing additional opportunities for subsistence users and potentially reducing the hunting pressure during the opening days of the subsistence season on the west side.

We also considered and discussed proposing a draw hunt for the west side of the Dangerous River, but since that would leave some subsistence users without any opportunity in that area, we decided not to pursue this option as a proposal.

This change will allow additional harvest opportunities (increased season length) on the east side of the Dangerous River, potentially resulting in an increased number of animals harvested. The harvest is managed by a quota, however, so overharvest is not anticipated to be a concern. This

change may reduce and/or redistribute hunting pressure on moose on localized areas on the west side.

This change will allow additional opportunities for subsistence users, allowing additional time for harvesting and during a time when the harvest area is more accessible. It may also provide a longer, safer, more enjoyable and less competitive harvest opportunity on the west side.

PROPOSED BY: Yakutat Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F18-006)

PROPOSAL 26

5 AAC 85.045(a)(3). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.

Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in Unit 5A, Nunatak Bench, 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? The Nunatak Bench (Unit 5A) hunt area 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 Russel 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 seen. 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 were issued annually with an average of four people hunting each year. During that 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 and Game (department) believes it is important to retain the ability to implement an antlerless hunt in this area to prevent habitat damage should the population increase. The department 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-F18-051)

PROPOSAL 27

5 AAC 85.045(a)(1). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.

Reauthorize the antlerless moose seasons in Unit 1C as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
Unit 1C, Berners Bay drainages 1 moose by drawing permit only; up to 30 permits may be issued ... Unit 1C, that portion west of Excursion Inlet and north of Icy Passage	Sept. 15—Oct. 15 (General hunt only)	Sept. 15—Oct. 15

1 moose per regulatory year,
only as follows:

...

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? Antlerless moose hunts have been authorized for the Berners Bay and Gustavus moose populations in Unit 1C for over a decade. Those hunts were instituted as tools that could be used to manage both populations to within carrying capacity of the limited habitat in each area and to offer additional harvest opportunity as warranted. Antlerless hunts have been periodically and successfully used in both areas but must be reauthorized each year.

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 and Game (department) 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 the department has authorization to issue a total of 30 permits each year, no more than 20 total permits have been issued during a single year. Several severe winters from 2006–2009 resulted in overwinter mortality and 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). The number of moose seen on surveys declined during consecutive severe winters from 2006–2009 and with only 33–62 moose seen during surveys from 2007–2009. Since 2010, most winters have been moderate to mild and the population has recovered. 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. During the most recent survey in December 2016, a total of 115 moose were observed, including 18 bulls, 31 cows, 27 calves, and 39 adult moose of unknown sex. Based on that survey and sightability of collared moose, the population was estimated to be 141 +/- 25 moose. The winter of 2017–18 was relatively snow-free until mid-February, and we were unable to survey this population. However, survival of radiocollared moose was high and we believe the population continues to slowly grow. The Berners Bay population now exceeds the population and bull:cow objectives in the management plan. However, more recent habitat data suggests habitat in Berners Bay can support a higher post-hunt population than previously thought.

The department plans to manage the population by harvesting bulls. Five bull permits were issued in 2014 and 2015, and in response to growing population estimates, seven bull permits were issued in 2016 and 2017. However, the department would like to retain the ability to implement an antlerless moose hunt should the population or habitat conditions warrant that 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, the department 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, the department 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, the department 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 severe winter of 2006–2007 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. The most recent survey under moderate conditions in March 2018 resulted in a population estimate of 230 ± 30 moose.

Severe winters from 2006 through 2009 reduced calf survival, but since then calf survival has improved. 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 the department 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-F18-049)

PROPOSAL 28

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

Issue permits for using bait or scent lures to hunt black bear in Unit 1C as follows:

Either compel the Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) to issue black bear baiting permits for Unit 1C or adopt a new subsection under 5 AAC 92.044 that states that ADF&G shall issue these permits so that they may not make an arbitrary decision on a method and means without public input.

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

(e) Notwithstanding 5 AAC 92.052, the department shall issue a permit under this section.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Currently, even though technically legal under 5 AAC 92.044 - Permit for hunting bear with the use of bait or scent lures, ADF&G refuses to issue permits to hunters wishing to hunt black bears over bait in Unit 1C.

This practice is out of line from the majority of the state and either adopting a regulatory change or compelling ADF&G to issue these permits would bring Unit 1C methods and means regulations in line with the majority of the rest of the state.

If this change is not adopted, ADF&G will continue to not issue bear baiting permits in Unit 1C, thereby denying hunters of a lawful method of harvesting black bears for no apparent reason even though this method is allowed in more populated areas of the state such as the Mat-Su Valley.

Adopting this regulatory change or compelling ADF&G to issue permits for Unit 1C would allow archery hunters better opportunities for harvesting black bears while insuring they have time to take quality animals and make effective shots. This change would also allow more harvest opportunity to hunters who do not have access to boats to participate in spring “beach hunting.”

PROPOSED BY: Jake Abbott

(EG-F18-009)

PROPOSAL 29

5 AAC 85.065. Hunting seasons and bag limits for small game.

Shift the hunting season for waterfowl in Unit 1C as follows:

Waterfowl season starts September 1 and ends on December 16.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Change the waterfowl season in the Juneau-Douglas area (or whatever the corresponding federal area is for Juneau-Douglas) back to a September 1 opening day with closure on December 16. The switch from September 1 to December 16 to a September 16 to December 31 season resulted in the

equivalent of 15 fewer days to hunt and much lower probability to harvest teal in Juneau area. During September 1–16 there are 13–14 hours of daylight during shooting hours while during December 16–31 there are about only six hours of shooting light. Thus, 15 fewer days to hunt. Green-winged teal, considered by many the best duck to eat in the Juneau area, are pretty much gone by late September. During December, mostly sea ducks and resident mallards and Canada geese are available and often low-quality table fare. In contrast to the September 16 opening, the traditional September 1 opening also allows hunters to hunt before and after school and/or work.

PROPOSED BY: Tom Rutecki

(EG-F18-023)

PROPOSAL 30

5 AAC 92.520(a). Closures and restrictions in state game refuges.

Create a youth hunt for waterfowl in the Unit 1C Mendenhall Wetlands State Game Refuge as follows:

Mendenhall Wetlands State Game Refuge Youth Hunt Area: Unit 1C; the area is open to waterfowl hunting from September 16 through September 18 by a child aged 10 to 17 years of age who has successfully completed a Department of Fish and Game-approved hunter education class and who is accompanied by a licensed resident adult aged 21 years of age or older.

*A permit may be issued to a child aged 10 to 17 who will be accompanied in the field by a resident adult 21 years of age or older, with the child being the permittee. Both the adult and child will need the Mendenhall Waterfowl Permit (WU001).

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? We propose to create a three-day youth-only hunt on the Mendenhall Wetlands State Game Refuge to occur during the first three days of the waterfowl season (September 16 through September 18). Open to a child 10 to 17 years of age who has successfully completed a Department of Fish and Game-approved hunter education class and who is accompanied by a licensed resident adult aged 21 years of age or older, this hunt would be the first of its kind in Alaska.

As national organizations like Delta Waterfowl, Ducks Unlimited, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have found, waterfowl hunter numbers in the US have been on a steady decline for the last several decades (see especially <https://deltawaterfowl.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/LoomingCrisis.pdf>). Important efforts are in place to recruit underrepresented groups like women (Becoming an Outdoors Woman) and youth (hunter education courses), and there are efforts to engage with lapsed and new adult hunters, too, but these educational opportunities are not always met with adequate youth-friendly access to hunting opportunity.

There is significant interest in shooting sports among the younger generations in Juneau—the Juneau Youth Trap Shooting Team saw significant growth over the last few years, for example. The key to this program’s success lies in dedicated youth-only time at the Juneau Gun Club and appropriate adult supervision and coaching. Not all of these shooters have made the transition to field shooting, however, as the Mendenhall Wetlands State Game Refuge can be intimidating.

The majority of Juneau road-system waterfowl hunting effort takes place on the Mendenhall Wetlands (ADF&G reports that over 2,000 hunter days result in over 3,000 ducks taken annually on the Refuge), so even with 13 access points and approximately 3,800 acres, the good hunting spots accessible without a boat get crowded, especially early in the season. Without this dedicated youth hunt the barriers to entry for next generation of waterfowl hunters will remain high.

Although we are requesting a three-day youth hunt, we considered requesting both a single day and a week-long hunt. The latter would ensure that weekend opportunities would be available for all interested youth and their adult mentors, while the shorter hunt might not allow all young hunters the chance to get out due to school or mentor work obligations. We think a three-day hunt will create access for youth without adversely impacting adult access to the resource.

The Juneau-Douglas Fish and Game Advisory Committee was consulted on this drafting of proposal, as was the leadership of the local chapter of Ducks Unlimited, and there is general support for the idea among these organizations.

Finally, we feel that this proposal is consistent with the Mendenhall Wetlands State Game Refuge Management Plan's goal of enhancing public use, as the change would directly enhance opportunity for "public use of fish, wildlife, and refuge lands" (http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/lands/protectedareas/_management_plans/mendenhall.pdf).

PROPOSED BY: Kevin Maier

(EG-F18-054)

PROPOSAL 31

5 AAC 92.550(1)(F). Areas closed to trapping.

Allow the use of submerged traps in the Juneau closed area in Unit 1C as follows:

AREAS CLOSED TO TRAPPING

Unit 1C, (Juneau Area)

A strip within 1/4 mile of the following trails as designated on 1962 U.S. Geographical Survey maps and revisions: Herbert Glacier Trail, Windfall Lake Trail, Peterson Lake Trail, Spalding Meadows Trail, (including the loop trail), Nugget Creek Trail, Outer Point Trail, Dan Moller Trail, Perseverance Trail, Granite Creek Trail, Mount Roberts Trail, Nelson Water Supply Trail, (off of Mt. Roberts Trail), Sheep Creek Trail, Point Bishop Trail, Amalga Trail, Auke Nu/John Muir Trail, Eagle Glacier Trail, Point Bridget Trail, Treadwell Ditch Trail, and Salmon Creek Trail; however **traps that are completely submerged, and** traps with an inside spread of five inches or less which are set at least five feet above the ground and snow are allowed if more than 50 yards from the trail.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Areas closed to trapping in Unit 1C, Juneau area. Specifically, trail area closures and set-backs.

There are currently 19 trails that require 1/4 mile set-backs for trapping, with the exception of small traps that are elevated at least five feet above ground/snow. Many of these trails follow water courses to some extent. The Juneau area also is closed to all trapping within 1/4 mile of the coast along the entire road system. This severely restricts the ability to harvest water-oriented furbearers such as mink, otter, and beaver. While this area has an abundance of these species, for the most part they are not available to local trappers.

To compound the issue, the area is experiencing a large increase in the beaver population, resulting in an increase of complaints regarding personal property damage, flooding, and roads and culverts being compromised.

The ability for local trappers to make submerged sets and under-ice sets would allow the safe harvest of these animals, increase opportunity (which is severely limited under current regulation), and aid the Department of Fish and Game in managing damage complaints.

PROPOSED BY: Juneau Trappers Association (EG-F18-010)

PROPOSAL 32

5 AAC 92.550. Areas closed to trapping.

Modify the regulations to close trapping and restrict the use of certain traps near roads and trails within the Skagway Borough in Unit 1D as follows:

The Municipality of Skagway recommends that the Board of Game (board) adopt regulations on trapping within the boundaries of the Skagway Borough as detailed in Skagway Municipal Code (SMC) Chapter 9.04. Per SMC 9.04.015(B), the established trails are those detailed in Resolution No. 15-02R.

The Municipality recommends that the board adopt the regulations as additions to 5 AAC 92.550, Areas closed to trapping, to add certain areas within the game management unit that encompasses the Skagway Borough as closed to trapping and/or to establish limitations in these areas on the use of certain kinds of extremely dangerous traps. The areas and traps of particular concern to the municipality are set out in Attachments A and B: SMC Chapter 9.04 and Resolution No. 15-02R.

Note: The attachments submitted with this proposal are available on the Board of Game proposal book webpage at www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=gameboard.proposalbook or by contacting the ADF&G Boards Support Section at (907) 465-4046.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Municipality of Skagway would like the board to address the issue of trapping within certain distances of public roads, rights-of-way, and established trails located within the boundaries of the Skagway Borough as set out in Chapter 9.04 of the Skagway Municipal Code (SMC). The established trails are further described in Resolution No. 15-02R.

The Municipality of Skagway has an extensive road and trail system in a relatively consolidated area. All of the road and trail system is within what was the city limits for Skagway before Skagway became a borough. Trapping on trails frequented by hikers and skiers with their pets creates a serious public safety risk to the hikers and skiers and pets. These trails are not wilderness trails or seldom used trails. Complaints from hikers and skiers reached the borough assembly and a compromise between user groups was in the works for over 18 months with little success. Recreational trail use has increased dramatically in recent years and is only expected to increase. Traps should not be set in areas of high public use within the Skagway City limits (now borough limits) and certain kinds of extremely dangerous traps should have limitations on how they are used within the borough limits, in the manner currently established in SMC Chapter 9.04.

PROPOSED BY: Municipality of Skagway

(HQ-F18-003)



Ketchikan Area & Prince of Wales Island – Units 1A & 2

PROPOSAL 33

5 AAC 85.040. Hunting seasons and bag limits for goat.

Open a drawing hunt for mountain goat on the Cleveland Peninsula in Units 1A and 1B as follows:

Open to both residents and nonresidents. Unit 1A, 1B Cleveland Peninsula south of the divide between Yes Bay and Santa Anna Inlet. Bag limit: one male goat by permit only. Create new drawing permit area offering two permits, bag limit: one billy, August 1 – December 31.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? No open season for mountain goat in Unit 1A, 1B on the Cleveland Peninsula, south of the divide between Yes Bay and Santa Anna Inlet. This proposal is intended to provide trophy class hunt for mature billies; harvest of billies only. This will allow hunters to utilize a harvestable population of mature trophy class billies that would otherwise be missed. Those who are likely to benefit if the proposal is adopted will be hunters interested in harvesting a trophy class mountain goat and nobody is likely to suffer.

PROPOSED BY: Ed Toribio

(HQ-F18-033)

PROPOSAL 34

5 AAC 85.040. Hunting seasons and bag limits for goat.

Open a registration hunt for mountain goat on the Cleveland Peninsula in Units 1A and 1B as follows:

Open to both residents and nonresidents. Unit 1A, 1B Cleveland Peninsula south of the divide between Yes Bay and Santa Anna Inlet. Bag limit: one male goat by permit only. Create new registration hunt requiring hunters to register for ten-day period subject to emergency closure by the Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) after two goats have been harvested. Season: August 1 – December 31.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? No open season for mountain goat in Unit 1A, 1B on the Cleveland Peninsula, south of the divide between Yes Bay and Santa Anna Inlet. If area is not opened, an opportunity for hunters to utilize a harvestable population of mature trophy class billies is missed. This proposal will improve the quality of the resource by allowing the harvest of billies only. Those who are likely to benefit if the proposal is adopted will be hunters interested in harvesting a trophy class mountain goat and nobody is likely to suffer.

PROPOSED BY: Ed Toribio

(HQ-F18-034)

PROPOSAL 35

5 AAC 85.040. Hunting seasons and bag limits for goat.

Change the hunt structure for Revillagigedo Island mountain goat in Unit 1A as follows:

For Unit 1A, eliminate the mountain goat drawing hunt DG007 and add that hunt area to the RG001 hunt area, Remainder of Revillagigedo Island, and increase the allowable number of drawing permits that may be issued on Revillagigedo Island from 25 to 50 permits.

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(1)		
Unit 1(A), Revillagigedo Island, except that portion [WEST OF CARROLL INLET AND CREEK, WEST OF THE DIVIDE BETWEEN CARROLL CREEK AND THE SOUTH FORK OF ORCHARD CREEK, SOUTH OF ORCHARD CREEK, ORCHARD LAKE, SHRIMP BAY, AND GEDNEY PASS] <u>south and west from Donnelly Point to Naha Bay, Roosevelt Lagoon, Naha River, and Heckman Lake, the divide between Heckman Lake and the head of Salt Lagoon and the western shores of Salt Lagoon and George Inlet to Mountain Point</u>	Aug. 1—Dec. 31 (General hunt only)	Aug. 1—Dec. 31
1 goat by registration permit only; the taking of nannies with kids is prohibited		
Unit 1(A), remainder of Revillagigedo Island	Aug. 1—Dec. 31	Aug. 1—Dec. 31
1 goat by draw permit only; up to [25] <u>50</u> permits will be issued; the taking of nannies with kids is prohibited		

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Despite the Department of Fish and Game (department) steadily increasing the number of drawing permits available, the mountain goat population on northern Revillagigedo Island continues to increase. Mild winters, limited predation, and good habitat conditions likely account for this growth. However, additional growth of this population could risk damage to fragile alpine habitat. The department believes this portion of Revillagigedo Island can support more goat hunting and harvest than allowed under the current maximum number of draw permits (25) that may be issued. To better manage this population and provide additional hunting opportunity, we propose eliminating draw hunt DG007, adding the DG007 hunt area to the RG001 hunt area, and increasing the maximum number of drawing permits that may be issued from 25 to 50 permits. These changes will enable the department to conserve goat habitat and provide additional hunting opportunity when goat numbers are high, while still controlling goat hunting effort in more easily accessed areas near Ketchikan through drawing permits.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F18-068)

PROPOSAL 36

5 AAC 85.030. Hunting seasons and bag limits for deer.

Increase the bag limit for deer in Unit 1A as follows:

Deer

Unit 1A: Cleveland Peninsula south of the divide between Yes Bay and Santa Anna Inlet

Four bucks, August 1 – November 30

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Deer – Return the southern part of the Cleveland Peninsula to four bucks, August 1 – November 30 in Unit 1A.

PROPOSED BY: Robert Jahnke (EG-F18-025)

PROPOSAL 37

5 AAC 92.108. Identified big game prey populations and objectives.

Reduce the harvest objective for deer in Unit 1A from 700 to 350–400 as follows:

Population	Finding	Population Objective	Harvest Objective
Deer			
GMU 1 (A)	Positive	15,000	<u>350–400</u> [700]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? For the purposes of implementing AS 16.05.255(e) – (g), in 2000 the Alaska Board of Game (board) established intensive management (IM) population and harvest objectives for deer in Unit 1A at 15,000 deer and 700 deer, respectively (5 AAC 92.108). The IM population objective was developed by

assessing the deer habitat carrying capacity within the unit and the local Area Biologist's subjective assessment of where the unit's deer population stood relative to carrying capacity at that time. The IM deer harvest objective was developed using the unit's average estimated annual deer harvest from 1994-1998 plus an additional 10%.

Since the 1994–1998 period, significant declines in carrying capacity for deer, primarily resulting from transition of productive young clearcuts to closed canopy second-growth forest, have occurred. In years with deep snow loss of old-growth forest, wintering habitat can also result in high overwinter mortality. Wolves and black bears are present throughout the unit. Harvest of both species has remained fairly constant over the last two decades and we believe changes in habitat play a far greater role than predation in regulating deer abundance.

Although the Department of Fish and Game (department) does not have a reliable way to estimate deer abundance in the entire unit, trends in deer pellet-group counts suggest deer numbers have declined. Mean annual harvest for the last 20 years (regulatory year (RY) 1997 – RY2016) is only 294 deer with a peak of 508 deer in RY1998; well below the current 700-deer harvest objective. A decline in the number of hunters may also influence harvest. In 1993, there were an estimated 2,335 deer hunters in Ketchikan. That number dropped to 1,575 in 2001 and by 2003 it was only 1,167. This decline was influenced by the closing of the pulp mill in 1997 and changes in demographics for the Ketchikan area. Hunter effort in Unit 1A has also declined because more Ketchikan hunters are focusing their effort on nearby Prince of Wales Island. That island has more deer, greater road access, and daily ferry service from Ketchikan.

Currently, there is no viable way to significantly improve the value of second-growth forest as habitat for deer, particularly as winter habitat. Without higher deer numbers it is unlikely that hunters will make greater effort in Unit 1A. Consequently, it is also unlikely that the current harvest objective will be met in the foreseeable future. The department suggests that in such cases harvest objectives should be reasonably attainable and recommends reducing the annual harvest objective for deer in Unit 1A to 350–400 deer. Harvest exceeded 350 deer twice during RY2007 – RY2016.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F18-038)

PROPOSAL 38

5 AAC 84.270. Furbearer trapping.

Extend the trapping season for beaver in Unit 1A as follows:

The beaver season in Unit 1A continues two weeks into May.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I would like for the trapping season for beaver to be extended two additional weeks going into May. There are many remote locations made inaccessible by winter snow and ice but would be opened up by the end of April and into May. We are missing out on a lot of good beaver trapping. There are many areas overpopulated with beaver that can be hazardous to their population and hazardous to the ecosystem. All trappers in Unit 1A will benefit if this solution is adopted. As for those who

would suffer – my wife, because then I can trap two more weeks. Other solutions considered: We could add two more weeks in November, however, at that time the beaver kits are big enough to trigger a trap. In May, all the beaver are at least one year old or still in the den.

PROPOSED BY: Chad Crittenden (HQ-F18-007)

PROPOSAL 39

5 AAC 85.030. Hunting seasons and bag limits for deer.

Shorten the hunting season for deer in Unit 2 as follows:

The deer season will be August 1 to **November 30.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The deer population in Unit 2 is low at the present time and we feel that reducing the season length will help. Record deer hunter numbers, a very high wolf population and extensive old growth logging are all contributing factors to our low deer numbers.

PROPOSED BY: Craig Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F18-028)

PROPOSAL 40

5 AAC 85.030. Hunting seasons and bag limits for deer.

Decrease the nonresident bag limit for deer in Unit 2 as follows:

The limit for nonresident deer will be restricted to two buck deer annually.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Lower nonresident deer harvest to two antlered deer annually in Unit 2. The deer population is declining, so limiting the nonresident harvest will help some.

The advisory committee considered lowering the resident bag limit, but because of federal subsistence bag limits, it would result in inconsistent limits between state, private, and federal lands.

In consideration of other states' nonresident deer bag limits, we felt that a four-deer bag limit for nonresidents is excessive. Looking to the future, having such a high bag limit for nonresidents burdens resident harvesters of the resource in the end. We believe that current guiding operations would not suffer due to lowering the nonresident bag limit from four to two bucks.

PROPOSED BY: Craig Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F18-029)

PROPOSAL 41

5 AAC 92.010. Harvest tickets and reports.

In Unit 2, require harvest tickets for deer be attached at the time of harvest as follows:

Deer tags (harvest tickets) must be attached to the animal (either on the antlers or hocks) at the time of harvest and stay there until the point of processing.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? We feel that too many deer are being taken and the tag (harvest ticket) not filled out. We would like to see the tags have to be attached to the deer (either on the antlers or hock) when the deer is harvested and stay attached until it is at the location of processing. Harvest tickets are difficult to enforce and requiring them to be attached to the animal upon harvest would assist in enforcement.

PROPOSED BY: Craig Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F18-030)

PROPOSAL 42

5 AAC 92.008(1). Harvest guideline levels.

Increase the annual harvest of wolves in Unit 2 as follows:

5 AAC 92.008(1) would be modified to read:

"(1) wolves: the annual harvest of wolves in Unit 2 should not exceed **30** [20] percent of the **most recent** unit-wide, preseason population estimated by the department;"

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Southeast Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council (Council) seeks to increase the allowable take of wolves in Unit 2. The Council is concerned that previous quotas implemented have been too conservative and that the reductions in those harvest quotas during the 2015–2016 and 2016–2017 hunting and trapping seasons were not reflective of the actual wolf population for Unit 2.

PROPOSED BY: Southeast Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council (EG-F18-016)

PROPOSAL 43

5 AAC 84.270(13). Furbearer trapping.

5 AAC 85.056(1). Hunting seasons and bag limits for wolf.

5 AAC 92.008. Harvest guideline levels.

5 AAC 92.170(b). Sealing of marten, fisher, lynx, beaver, otter, wolf, and wolverine.

Change the harvest management strategy for wolf in Unit 2 as follows:

5 AAC 84.270(13) is amended to read:

Species and Units	Open Season	Bag Limit
(1) Wolf		

...

Unit 2	Dec. 1—Mar. 31	No limit; <u>season may be closed by emergency order.</u>
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5 AAC 85.056(1) is amended to read:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
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(1)

...

Unit 2	Dec. 1—Mar. 31	Dec. 1—Mar. 31
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5 wolves

5 AAC 92.008 is amended to read:

(1) Wolves: The annual harvest of wolves in Unit 2 should be managed to maintain the unit-wide population within a range of XXX to XXX wolves [NOT EXCEED 20 PERCENT OF THE UNITWIDE, PRESEASON POPULATION ESTIMATE AS ESTIMATED BY THE DEPARTMENT];

5 AAC 92.170 is amended to read:

(b) The sealing of marten, fisher, lynx, beaver, land otter, wolf, or wolverine must be accomplished as follows:

(1) [IN UNIT 2, WOLF TAKEN BY TRAPPING MUST BE SEALED ON OR BEFORE THE 14TH DAY AFTER THE DATE OF TAKING] Repealed;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Following a fall 2014 unit-wide population estimate of 89 wolves and concurrent Endangered Species Act Species Status Assessment, in January 2015 the Board of Game (board) adopted a 20 percent Harvest Guideline Level (HGL) for Unit 2 wolves as a conservation measure that would continue to provide some harvest opportunity while allowing the population to recover. By fall 2016, the population had grown to an estimated 231 wolves, rendering this harvest restriction unnecessary. The 20 percent HGL now inhibits the Department of Fish and Game's (department) ability to manage growth of the Unit 2 wolf population and is unpopular with trappers and deer hunters. Further, even with the current 14-day sealing requirement, the department has been unsuccessful at limiting harvest to within the HGL. A new approach is needed.

The department proposes to no longer manage this population using a percentage-based HGL. Instead we propose managing the population within a desired range (i.e. population objective) with population thresholds that trigger changes in season length. Wolf abundance will be monitored relative to the desired range using periodic (every 2–4 years) population estimates. During years between population estimates, indicators of population trend including harvest, documented reproduction, and anecdotal information on wolf abundance and distribution will inform harvest management.

The department is reaching out to stakeholders to determine appropriate population objectives and other details for a new harvest strategy. Those details will be presented in the department's analysis and recommendation prior to the board meeting.

Implementing this new strategy requires amending the current HGL, and because it does not depend on in-season harvest management, the 14-day sealing requirement in Unit 2 is no longer needed.

There is a positive customary and traditional use finding for wolves in Unit 2 and the board will need to determine if the proposed management plan will continue to provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F18-056)

PROPOSAL 44

5 AAC 84.270. Furbearer trapping.

Extend the trapping season for wolf in Unit 2 as follows:

We would like to change the starting date for wolf trapping season on state and private lands in Unit 2 to align with the starting date for wolf trapping season on federal land.

Wolf season shall be [DECEMBER1] (same date as wolf trapping on Unit 2 federal lands) – March 31.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Unit 2 includes federal, state and private lands with different starting dates for wolf trapping season. The federal season currently starts two weeks earlier than state and private lands, which results in the harvest of more wolves on federal land than state and private lands. With the wolf season being so short, few wolves are taken on state or private lands before the season closes. It is also unfair to trappers who trap on state lands only. With very little harvest on state and private lands, the wolf population is proportionally increasing in these areas.

If the starting date of trapping season on state and private lands do not match the federal opener, harvests on state and private lands will continue to be lower than federal land. With trapping seasons being the same on all lands in Unit 2, enforcement will also be easier.

PROPOSED BY: Craig Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F18-031)

Petersburg & Wrangell Areas – Units 1B & 3

PROPOSAL 45

5 AAC 85.030. Hunting seasons and bag limits for deer.

Extend the resident deer season on Mitkof, Woewodski, and Butterworth Islands in Unit 3 as follows:

Deer season: October 15 to **November 15** [OCTOBER 31]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Hunting season on Mitkof Island, Woewodski, and Butterworth Islands. To allow more hunting opportunities for residents.

PROPOSED BY: Steven Burrell

(EG-F18-006)

PROPOSAL 46

5 AAC 85.030. Hunting seasons and bag limits for deer.

Extend the resident deer season on Kupreanof Island in the Lindenberg Peninsula area in Unit 3 as follows:

Deer season: October 15 – **November 15** [OCTOBER 31]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Hunting season on Kupreanof Island on the Lindenberg Peninsula east of Portage Bay-Duncan Canal Portage. Extend season to give more hunting opportunity for residents.

PROPOSED BY: Steven Burrell

(EG-F18-007)

PROPOSAL 47

5 AAC 85.035. Hunting seasons and bag limits for elk.

Eliminate the general season elk hunt in Units 1–3 as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
[UNITS 1, 2, AND REMAINDER OF UNIT 3.]		
[1 ELK]	[AUG. 1—DEC. 31]	[AUG.1—DEC. 31]
<u>Units 1, 2, and the remainder of Unit 3</u>	<u>No open season.</u>	<u>No open season.</u>

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? In 1987, 33 Roosevelt and 17 Rocky Mountain elk were successfully transplanted from Oregon to Etolin Island in Unit 3. Due to concerns about the potential for disease transmission and interspecific competition with native Sitka black-tailed deer, the Department of Fish and Game's (department) elk management plan called for restricting the distribution of introduced elk to Etolin Island. Despite a desire to restrict elk to Etolin Island, not long after the initial release a group of elk swam to and colonized neighboring Zarembo Island. At the time, a decision was made to allow elk to occupy both Etolin and Zarembo islands.

To prevent dispersal of introduced elk from the Etolin and Zarembo island complex to other parts of the region, in 2000, the Board of Game (board) authorized a general season elk hunt (August 1 – December 31, one elk) for elk that dispersed outside of the Etolin and Zarembo island complex. While the department occasionally receives reports of elk having been harvested outside of the Etolin and Zarembo island complex, none of the reported kill locations has ever been verified. And while the department occasionally receives reports of elk having been observed or heard on other islands in Unit 3 and Unit 2, and on the Unit 1 mainland, none of these reports have been verified and no elk harvest has been reported outside the bounds of Unit 3.

The department believes that the general season hunt for elk outside of the Etolin and Zarembo island complex is being abused to facilitate taking elk from Etolin and Zarembo islands outside the current bull-only drawing and registration permit hunts. In the 31 years since elk were introduced to Etolin Island and soon after occupied adjacent Zarembo Island, elk have not established additional populations. Consequently, the department is now less concerned that introduced elk will colonize other areas of Southeast Alaska and potentially transmit diseases or parasites or compete with native deer.

This proposal rescinds the general season elk hunt in Units 1, 2, and the remainder of Unit 3. The department believes this change will have little effect on hunter opportunity because we have never been able to verify that an elk was lawfully harvested under this hunt. Should the presence of elk be confirmed outside the Etolin and Zarembo island complex, and should it remain desirable to limit the distribution of elk to those islands, the department will propose a new registration hunt.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F18-048)

PROPOSAL 48

5 AAC 85.020. Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear.

Change the bag limit and open a fall season for brown bear hunting in Unit 3 as follows:

Unit 3: One brown bear **every regulatory year**, by permit, from March 15 – May 31 AND **September 15 – December 31**.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The population of brown bear is increasing in Unit 3. Historically, there have not been brown bears in this unit. Unit 3

includes Mitkof, Wrangell, Zarembo, Kupreanof, and Kuiu Islands and the communities of Wrangell, Petersburg, Kupreanof, and Kake. The unit is utilized by sport fishermen, hunters, mushroom pickers, berry pickers, etc. As the population of bears grows there will be an increase of bear encounters. In the fall, when most of the aforementioned activities are taking place, there is a greater chance of people encountering a brown bear.

On Mitkof Island, there are people who live very near to places that brown bear are already being observed. Chickens, garbage, and other human activities are known to attract bears, and it is only a matter of time before brown bears become a public safety problem.

PROPOSED BY: Max Worhatch (EG-F18-062)

PROPOSAL 49

5 AAC 85.015. Hunting seasons and bag limits for black bear.

Increase the “up to number” for drawing permits (DL029) for nonresident black bear hunters without a guide on Kuiu Island in Unit 3 as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
Unit 3 Kuiu Island NONRESIDENT HUNTERS WITHOUT A GUIDE: 1 bear by drawing permit only; up to [50] 75 permits may be issued; the season will be closed by emergency order when the harvest guideline has been reached		Sept. 1—June 30

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? At its fall 2010 meeting in Ketchikan, the Board of Game (board) adopted a proposal requiring nonresident black bear hunters who do not enlist the services of a registered hunting guide to obtain a drawing permit prior to hunting black bears in Units 1–3. Implementation of the new regulation was delayed until fall 2012 to allow guides time to adjust and the Department of Fish and Game (department) time to implement the new drawing permit requirement for nonresident black bear hunters without a guide.

During deliberations on the original proposal, the board asked the department to provide estimates of black bear numbers, bear densities, and to determine sustainable harvest levels for geographical areas of concern and/or areas that were believed to constitute discrete management areas. The board then used department figures to establish the allowable number of bears to be taken by nonresidents without a guide and guided hunters within each of ten distinct geographic areas identified by the department. Based on the department’s estimates of sustainable harvest

levels within each geographic area, the board established the number of drawing permits available for nonresident hunters without a guide on Kuiu Island at 40 permits. In order to provide the department with some flexibility regarding the exact number of drawing permits to be issued on an annual basis, the board authorized the department to issue “up to” a maximum of 50 drawing permits annually on Kuiu Island (DL029).

From regulatory year (RY) 2012 to RY2016, the department offered 40 drawing permits annually for nonresident black bear hunters without a guide on Kuiu Island. After five years, the department evaluated hunt statistics associated with the drawing permit requirement, including the level of hunter participation, effort, success rate, and total harvest of black bears taken annually on the island. Based on hunt data obtained during the initial five years of implementation, beginning with the fall 2017 season, the department increased the number of drawing permits available to nonresidents hunting black bear without a guide on Kuiu Island up to the maximum allowable 50 permits.

Given that the maximum number of allowable drawing permits established by the board has been reached on Kuiu (DL029), the department requests that the board increase the number of permits that may be issued to nonresident black bear hunters without a guide on Kuiu Island from the current 50 to 75 permits annually. Such action will allow the department to provide additional hunting opportunity should it determine a harvestable surplus of bears exists on the island.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F18-066)

PROPOSAL 50

5 AAC 85.015. Hunting seasons and bag limits for black bear.

Increase the “up to number” for drawing permits (DL030) for unguided nonresident black bear hunters on Kupreanof Island in Unit 3 as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
Unit 3 Kupreanof Island NONRESIDENT HUNTERS WITHOUT A GUIDE 1 bear by drawing permit only; up to [100] 125 permits may be issued		Sept. 1—June 30

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? At its fall 2010 meeting in Ketchikan, the Board of Game (board) adopted a proposal requiring nonresident black bear hunters who do not enlist the services of a registered hunting guide to obtain a drawing permit prior to hunting black bears in Units 1–3. Implementation of the new regulation was delayed

until fall 2012 to allow guides time to adjust and the department time to implement the new drawing permit requirement for nonresident black bear hunters without a guide.

During deliberations on the original proposal, the board asked the Department of Fish and Game (department) to provide estimates of black bear numbers, bear densities, and to determine sustainable harvest levels for geographical areas of concern and/or areas that were believed to constitute discrete management areas. The board then used department figures to establish the allowable number of bears to be taken by nonresidents without a guide and guided hunters within each of ten distinct geographic areas identified by the department. Based on the department's estimates of sustainable harvest levels, the board established the annual number drawing permits available for nonresident hunters without a guide on Kupreanof Island at 80 permits. To provide the department with some flexibility regarding the exact number of drawing permits issued each year, the board authorized the department to issue up to a maximum of 100 drawing permits annually on Kupreanof Island (DL030).

From regulatory year (RY) 2012 to RY2016, the department offered 80 drawing permits annually for nonresident black bear hunters without a guide on Kupreanof Island. After five years, the department evaluated hunt statistics associated with the drawing permit requirement, including the level of hunter participation, effort, success rate, and total harvest of black bears taken annually on the island. Based on that evaluation, beginning with the fall 2017 season, the department increased the number of drawing permits available to nonresidents hunting black bear without a guide on Kupreanof Island up to the maximum allowable 100 permits.

Given that the maximum number of allowable drawing permits established by the board has been reached on Kupreanof (DL030), the department requests that the board increase the "up to" number of available permits for nonresident black bear hunters without a guide on Kupreanof from the current 100 to 125 permits annually. Such action will allow the department to provide additional hunting opportunity should it determine a harvestable surplus of bears exists on the island.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F18-067)

PROPOSAL 51

5 AAC 92.165(a)(1). Sealing of bear skins and skulls.

Modify the black bear sealing requirement for nonresident hunters in Unit 3 as follows:

Unit 3

Nonresidents must report black bear harvest to Petersburg at (907) 772-3801 within five days of taking black bear on Kuiu Island and seal the bear within **30** [14] days after harvest.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Sealing of black bear in Unit 3 on Kuiu is required at 14 days after harvest. This is inconsistent with the rest of Unit 3. This adds to confusion and unintended consequences.

PROPOSED BY: Zach Decker (EG-F18-017)

PROPOSAL 52

5 AAC 92.010(j). Harvest tickets and reports.

5 AAC 92.165(1). Sealing of bear skins and skulls.

Repeal the shorter harvest reporting and sealing requirements for black bears taken by nonresidents on Kuiu Island in Unit 3 as follows:

5 AAC 92.010(j). Harvest tickets and reports

[FOR BLACK BEAR, A NONRESIDENT HUNTER WHO TAKES A BLACK BEAR ON KUIU ISLAND IN UNIT 3 SHALL REPORT THE SEX AND LOCATION OF THE KILL TO THE DEPARTMENT'S DIVISION OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION OFFICE IN PETERSBURG WITHIN FIVE DAYS OF HARVEST.]

5 AAC 92.165(1). Sealing of bear skins and skulls.

[IN UNIT 3, KUIU ISLAND, A BLACK BEAR TAKEN BY A NONRESIDENT HUNTER MUST BE SEALED WITHIN 14 DAYS AFTER THE TAKING AND MAY NOT BE TRANSPORTED FROM UNITS 1–4 UNTIL SEALED;]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? In response to conservation concerns related to a rapidly escalating harvest of black bears by nonresidents during the late 1990s and early 2000s, in regulatory year (RY) 2001 the Board of Game (board) established an annual nonresident harvest guideline level (HGL) of 120 bears for Kuiu Island. To facilitate harvest management and implementation of the 120-bear HGL, the board also imposed a five-day notification of kill requirement and a 14-day sealing requirement for black bears taken by nonresidents on Kuiu Island.

To better regulate harvest, in November 2010 the board adopted a public proposal requiring a drawing permit for nonresident black bear hunters in Units 1–3 who do not enlist the services of a registered hunting guide. As a further conservation measure, the board and guides agreed to limit total guided nonresident harvest of black bears to the mean annual harvest level during RYs 2007–2009.

As a result of these measures, the harvest of Kuiu Island black bears by guided and unguided nonresidents has fallen from a mean of 85 bears per year during RYs 2007–2009 to a mean of 43 bears per year during RYs 2014–2016; well below the 120-bear HGL. Therefore, the Department of Fish and Game (department) feels the five-day notification of kill requirement and requirement to seal a bear within 14 days in Units 1–4 are no longer necessary to manage nonresident harvest of Kuiu Island black bears.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F18-071)

PROPOSAL 53

5 AAC 95.530(24). Management areas.

Modify the hunting area description within the Petersburg Management Area in Unit 3 as follows:

Replace the Petersburg Management Area description shown on page 47 of the 2017/2018 Alaska Hunting Regulations with the following:

Petersburg Management Area: that portion of Unit 3 on Mitkof Island, north and west of a line from Frederick Point to the highest point in Section 8, T59S, R80E; to the highest point in Section 7, T59S, R80E; to the highest point in Section 13, T59S, R79E; to the highest point in Section 23, T59S, R79E; then due south to Petersburg city boundary; and at least [1/4 MILE] **100 yards** from an airport property, dwelling, business, highway, road or street within the corporate city limits is open to hunting with bow and arrow only. International Bowhunter Education Program (IBEP) certification required for big game; small game hunting by falconry is allowed.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Modify the legal hunting area description within the Petersburg Management Area (PMA) from “at least 1/2 mile from an airport property...” to “at least 100 yards from an airport property...” The original idea behind creating the PMA for certified archery hunting was to help control the unusually high abundance of deer in Petersburg residential area using certified archers as an effective wildlife management tool. There have been a few deer harvested within the Petersburg Management Area annually by archers since the hunt was established around 2000/2001, but it doesn’t appear to have decreased the in-town population; in fact, it appears to have grown. This proposal would offer more land within the Petersburg Management Area to help control the deer population near town. The requirement to restrict hunters within the Petersburg Management Area to certified archers would remain in place.

PROPOSED BY: Dan McMahon

(HQ-F18-017)

Southcentral Region

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ALASKA BOARD OF GAME
Southcentral Region Meeting
March 15-19, 2019
Anchorage Sheraton Hotel | 401 East 6th Avenue
Anchorage, Alaska

TENTATIVE AGENDA

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, March 15, 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 of 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, March 16, 8:30 AM

PUBLIC AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE ORAL TESTIMONY

Sunday, March 17, 9:00 AM

PUBLIC AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE ORAL TESTIMONY

BOARD DELIBERATIONS upon conclusion of public testimony

Monday, March 18, 8:30 AM

BOARD DELIBERATIONS continued

Tuesday, March 19, 8:30 AM

BOARD DELIBERATIONS

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

ADJOURN

Agenda Notes

- D. 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.
- E. A live audio stream for the meeting is intended to be available at: www.boardofgame.adfg.alaska.gov
- F. 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 March 1, 2019 to make any necessary arrangements.

Regionwide & Multiple Units

Note: The Board of Game deferred this proposal from the 2016 Statewide Regulations Meeting to each regional meeting. It was previously considered by the board for the Arctic/Western Region (Proposal 20), Interior/Northeast Region (Proposal 48), and the Central/Southwest Region (Proposal 71).

PROPOSAL 54

5 AAC 92.080. Unlawful methods of taking game; exceptions.

5 AAC 92.085. Unlawful methods of taking big game, exceptions.

Allow the use of crossbows in restricted-weapons hunts in the Southcentral Region 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)

PROPOSAL 55

5 AAC 92.085(8). Unlawful methods of taking big game; exceptions.

Remove the restriction on the use of aircraft for spotting Dall sheep in Units 7 and 14 as follows:

Amend 5 AAC 92.085(8) by deleting the language set forth below, commonly referred to as Proposal 207:

[(8) ... from August 10 through September 20 aircraft may not be used by or for any person to locate Dall sheep for hunting or direct hunters to 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 Board of Game finding 2016-213-BOG, dated March 17, 2016, is adopted by reference.]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The pertinent part of 5 AAC 92.085(8) states as follows:

(8) ... from August 10 through September 20 aircraft may not be used by or for any person to locate Dall sheep for hunting or direct hunters to 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 Board of Game finding 2016-213-BOG, dated March 17, 2016, is adopted by reference.

I ask that the Board of Game (board) address the following issues:

1. Federal preemption regarding the limitation it placed upon flying aircraft between August 10 and September 20. Federal law governs the use and operation of aircraft. The Alaska Board of Game does not have the authority to regulate the use and operation of aircraft because federal law preempts state law and its regulations.

2. Enforceability and false reporting problems. There exists a significant danger of false reporting, causing the unnecessary increase in law enforcement time and money. It also costs law abiding pilots time and money to defend false accusations. It is extremely difficult for law enforcement to enforce this regulation. This regulation unnecessarily wastes law enforcement resources on an issue that has no connection with conservation of the resources.

Law enforcement is unable to know whether a pilot hunted, or attempted to hunt, after circling sheep from an airplane. Is a pilot flying with moose, caribou and sheep harvest tags violating the regulation if he spots a sheep from the air then lands and hunts any other lawful species of game? How does law enforcement enforce the regulation if the pilot denies that he was hunting for sheep? Non-hunter pilots, commercial operators and others are subject to unwarranted harassment without any way to determine whether the operator of the aircraft or any passengers actually hunted.

3. Equal protection. This regulation illegally penalizes all pilots, whether private resident pilots, guides with planes, transporters or Part 135 operators. In addition, the resident private pilots are particularly penalized without any rational basis for the restriction. This regulation has a disparate impact on resident private pilots. Hunters using an airboat, Argo, 4-wheeler, river boats, rafts, etc.... are not penalized at all. Businesses such as transporters, guides and FAR Part 135 operators have more established landing spots and locations to bring their clients. These businesses are subject to false accusations but are less likely to be falsely accused of spotting for sheep than the private pilot. Private pilots explore the mountains for sheep, for places to land and for places to hunt. It is the resident private pilot that feels the impact perhaps more than any other user group.

4. Safety issues. This regulation places yet one more concern on the pilot. There exists a lot of responsibility associated with flying. Since the passage of this regulation, pilots are afraid to circle and make multiple passes over multiple areas in the mountains out of fear that they will be accused of violating Proposition 207. Pilots are forced to balance the safe operation of their aircraft with the possibility of criminal prosecution and confiscation of their airplane. Separately, pilots are forced to fly pre-season instead of during the season, increasing the likelihood of a mid-air collision in the mountains. This pre-season flying also causes the extra stress on pilots to fly on August 7, 8 or 9. If the weather is marginal, a pilot is forced to balance flying in marginal weather and being able to spot for sheep against waiting a few days for good weather but not begin able to spot for sheep during the remainder of the season. This is an unacceptable burden placed upon a pilot who already has enough pressures associated with flying.

Non-hunter pilots are also affected by this regulation as this regulation directly impacts the decision-making process of a pilot while flying in the mountains between August 10 and September 20.

5. "Fair chase" is a red herring. It is legal to spot a sheep from the air on August 9, land on the evening of August 9, and then shoot that sheep on the morning of August 10. It is illegal to spot a sheep from the air on August 10, land on August 10, and then hike for 10 days through the mountains, stalk that sheep, and then shoot that sheep on August 20. In fact, is it illegal to spot the sheep on August 10, be on the ground for 39 days, and then shoot a sheep on the last day of the season. "Fair chase" is a red herring to justify penalizing pilots that utilize airplanes for sheep hunting.

6. Widely unpopular. Proposal 207 was a board-generated proposal created behind closed doors. When it came to the public's attention it was overwhelmingly unpopular. The Board of Game

ignored the troopers, local advisory committees, the overwhelming majority of the public testimony, and objections by other hunting and flying organizations.

PROPOSED BY: Robert Stone

(EG-F18-066)

PROPOSAL 56

5 AAC 92.106. Intensive management of identified big game prey populations.

Prohibit nonresident hunting of moose and caribou under intensive management in the Southcentral Region until harvest or population objectives are met as follows:

Nonresident hunting shall not be allowed in Region II (Southcentral) for any moose or caribou population under a current active Intensive Management Predation Control Program until the minimum Intensive Management population or harvest objective for that population has been reached.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?

Nonresident hunting opportunity in areas within Region II (Southcentral) under active Intensive Management Predation Control Programs.

Intensive Management (IM) Predation Control Implementation Programs 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 understand that nonresidents may benefit from IM programs once IM population or harvest objectives are met. That is why we support nonresidents as well as residents paying a fee for the state's intensive management programs. However, nonresidents are not entitled to benefit from IM programs while they are in progress until either the harvest or population objectives for specific moose or caribou populations have been achieved.

We would like to see the Board of Game (board) adopt regulations that match the intent of our Intensive Management law. No nonresident hunting should be allowed in Region II for a moose or caribou population that is under a formal IM Predation Control program to increase populations for the benefit of resident consumptive uses when the minimum IM population or harvest objectives for that prey species has not been reached.

Currently there are no active IM programs in place in Region II, as the active wolf control program in Unit 15C expired in 2017. Moose are just above the population objective for Unit 15C of 2,500–3,500 moose, and we are substantially below the harvest objective of 200–350 moose. Nonresident moose hunting is currently allowed in Unit 15C.

This proposal would not affect any current nonresident moose hunting opportunities in Region II (Southcentral) but looks forward should any future active IM programs in Region II be implemented and is a simple straightforward step the board can take to ensure for the public that

when we undertake predation control programs to reduce predators, its primary intention is to benefit resident Alaskans so that they can put food on their tables.

PROPOSED BY: Resident Hunters of Alaska

(HQ-F18-026)



Cordova Area – Unit 6

PROPOSAL 57

5 AAC 92.540(11)(B). Controlled use areas.

Modify the Controlled Use Area in Unit 6B as follows:

Change the dates from August 15 – September 4, to August 25 – September 4 and strike the words “hunters or their gear.”

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Change the wording in the regulation so that other user groups are not confused as to if this regulation pertains to them. Also, the August 15 date was set back when the walk-in hunt started in late August. Now it starts the first of September.

PROPOSED BY: Robert Mattson Jr.

(HQ-F18-021)

PROPOSAL 58

5 AAC 085.045(4) Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.

Reauthorize the antlerless moose seasons 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 per regulatory year, only as follows:		
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	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 and 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-F18-053)

Kenai Peninsula Area – Units 7 & 15

PROPOSAL 59

5 AAC 85.025(1). Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou.

Shorten the hunting season for Kenai Mountain caribou (DC001) in Unit 7 as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(1)		
Unit 7 north of the Sterling Highway and west of the Seward Highway 1 caribou by drawing permit only; up to 500 permits may be issued	Aug. 10— <u>Sept. 20</u> [DEC. 31]	Aug. 10— <u>Sept. 20</u> [DEC. 31]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Currently, the season dates for Kenai Mountain caribou under permit DC001 are August 10 – December 31. The historical harvest during the later portion of the existing hunting season (October 1 – December 31) is relatively low, averaging less than two caribou per year with 250 permits issued. Changing the closure date to September 20 from December 31 shortens the season by three months but would likely have little impact on harvest rates. By closing the hunt on September 20, we would avoid harvesting animals during the rut and align season dates for all caribou hunts on the Kenai Peninsula.

The number of caribou in the Kenai Mountain herd has decreased significantly in recent years and is now approximately 125–150 animals, down from peak numbers of approximately 400 animals. Given this decline, only 25 permits are issued each year compared to the 250 permits per year issued in the past.

It is the intention of the Department of Fish and Game to maintain an adequate number of collared animals in the Kenai Mountain herd to continue monitoring herd numbers. The current season dates dictate that we conduct our collaring efforts in the spring when the caribou are in their poorest condition. This timing increases the probability of capture related mortalities. The shortened season will allow managers to conduct radio collaring work in the fall when cows are in their best condition.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F18-039)

PROPOSAL 60

5 AAC 85.040(3). Hunting seasons and bag limits for goat.

Change the hunting seasons for goat in Units 7 and 15 as follows:

Mountain goat season

Unit 7 and 15

August 10 – September 30

October 10 – October 24

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The current late season mountain goat hunt is November 1 – November 14. This falls during the rut when not only is the meat of billies likely to be unpalatable, but also when hunting pressure may disrupt breeding activity. Goats have a low reproductive rate and any disturbance during the rut may have negative impact on herd recruitment.

Moving the late season up to October 10 – October 24 will still allow the Department of Fish and Game to collect data from the early season and determine harvest numbers for the late hunt while increasing the likelihood of harvested goats being edible and decreasing potential disturbance during the rut.

PROPOSED BY: Dave Lyon

(EG-F18-048)

PROPOSAL 61

5 AAC 85.040(3). Hunting seasons and bag limits for goat.

Establish a new drawing hunt for goats near Seldovia in Unit 15C as follows:

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

(3)

Unit 15(C), that portion beginning at the mouth of Jackalof Creek, then southwesterly along the shore of Kachemak Bay to the mouth of the Port Graham River, then southeasterly up the Port Graham River approximately 6 miles, then southerly up the south fork to the divide, then easterly across the divide to the main

drainage that flows into Windy Bay, then southeasterly down the creek to Windy Bay, then easterly along the shoreline to the mouth of Rocky River, then northerly up the Rocky River and Windy River to the divide separating Windy River from Jackalof Creek, then across that divide to Jackalof Creek, then down Jackalof Creek to the point of origin

1 goat by drawing permit only; however, if a nanny is taken, the hunter is prohibited from taking a goat on the Kenai Peninsula for 5 regulatory years; the taking of nannies with kids is prohibited; or

Aug. 10—Oct. 15 (General hunt only)

No open season

1 goat by registration permit only; the taking of nannies with kids is prohibited

Aug. 10—Oct. 15
Nov. 1—Nov. 30

No open season.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Mountain goat population levels are increasing in the Seldovia hunt area located in Unit 15C, as documented by an increase in minimum count numbers. The Department of Fish and Game (department) has increased the number of registration permits available as the population has increased. These permits are currently only available in Seldovia, one specific day each year, and must be picked up in person. Harvest has not increased with increased permit quantities and in recent years all available permits have not been distributed. Establishing a drawing hunt in this area allows the department to issue permits during years the area can support additional harvest beyond current levels. By establishing a drawing permit option in this area, both hunter opportunity and harvest will increase.

For consistency within the unit and to increase future harvest opportunity, this proposal also requests the addition of a restriction on hunters who harvest a nanny. Hunters who harvest a nanny in the new drawing hunt would be prohibited from harvesting a goat on the Kenai Peninsula (Units 7 and 15) for five regulatory years. This regulation was adopted in 2009 for Unit 7 and the Remainder of Unit 15 and applied to both drawing and registration permits.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F18-043)

PROPOSAL 62

5 AAC 85.040(3). Hunting seasons and bag limits for goat.

Separate the early and late season registration goat hunts for the Seldovia and Port Graham hunt areas in Unit 15C as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(3)		
Unit 15(C), that portion beginning at the mouth of Jackalof Creek, then southwesterly along the shore of Kachemak Bay to the mouth of the Port Graham River, then southeasterly up the Port Graham River approximately 6 miles, then southerly up the south fork to the divide, then easterly across the divide to the main drainage that flows into Windy Bay, then southeasterly down the creek to Windy Bay, then easterly along the shoreline to the mouth of Rocky River, then northerly up the Rocky River and Windy River to the divide separating Windy River from Jackalof Creek, then across that divide to Jackalof Creek, then down Jackalof Creek to the point of origin		
1 goat by registration permit only; the taking of nannies with kids is prohibited; <u>or</u>	Aug. 10—Oct. 15 [NOV. 1—NOV. 30]	No open season.
<u>1 goat by registration permit only; the taking of nannies with kids is prohibited;</u>	<u>Nov. 1—Nov. 30</u>	No open season.
Unit 15(C), that portion beginning at the mouth		

of the Port Graham River,
 then southeasterly up the
 Port Graham River
 approximately 6 miles,
 then southerly up the south
 fork to the divide, then
 easterly across the divide
 to the main drainage that
 flows into Windy Bay, then
 southeasterly down the creek
 to Windy Bay, then along the
 southern shore of Windy Bay,
 then westerly along the shore
 of the Gulf of Alaska and around
 the tip of the Kenai Peninsula and
 easterly to the point of origin

1 goat by registration
 permit only; the taking
 of nannies with kids
 is prohibited; or

Aug. 10—Oct. 15
 [NOV. 1—NOV. 30]

Aug. 10—Oct. 15

1 goat by registration
permit only; the taking
of nannies with kids
is prohibited;

Nov. 1—Nov. 30

No open season.

...

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Currently, the early and late season registration goat hunts for both the Seldovia (RG364) and Port Graham (RG365) areas are listed in regulation with season dates of August 10 – October 15 and November 1 – November 30. The intent of this proposal is to clearly differentiate between the two registration hunt seasons for each hunt (RG364 and RG365), which will allow for independent management of each. This will create separate hunt numbers for early and late season hunts, rather than the current system, which uses the same hunt number for both. Under the current regulation, permits for the later season in each hunt area may be over or under issued because harvest reports from the early season hunt have not been received prior to opening the late season. To resolve this issue, separating the hunts in regulation will allow the Department of Fish and Game (department) to identify the early season and late season hunts as distinct hunts and manage them for full permit allocations.

The Board of Game (board) has made a positive customary and traditional use finding for goats in these hunt areas within Unit 15C and found that 7–10 goats are reasonably necessary for subsistence. The board will also need to determine if the proposed regulations continue to provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence.

In addition to the regulatory change proposed here, the department will be adjusting the date of issue for the early season registration permits in this hunt (Unit 15C, RG364) from the current issuance date in mid-July to an earlier date in mid-June. Permits for the early season hunt are available in person in Seldovia only. The new issuance date will fall in the regulatory year prior to the hunt taking place, but is intended to increase participation in the registration permit hunt. Late season permits will remain available online, and in Anchorage, Palmer, Homer and Soldotna department offices.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F18-041)

PROPOSAL 63

5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.

Change the resident bag limit for moose in Unit 15 and remove the road closure criteria in Unit 15C as follows:

Unit 15A, B, and C: Spike, fork, 50-inch or four brow tines

Removal of road closure criteria in Unit 15C

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?

- 1) Successful management for moose harvest resulting from current regulations.
- 2) ADF&G surveys report a high bull:cow ratio. This supports an opportunity to harvest more bulls.
- 3) Harvesting of fork, spike bulls increases harvest opportunity for Alaska residents.
- 4) Current regulations characterize a trophy hunt vs. an opportunity to harvest game food.
- 5) Law enforcement personnel in the field manage compliance with regulations with cooperation of many land managers across Unit 15.
- 6) Including an additional spike-fork with the current regulation of four brow tines and over 50-inches will increase harvest opportunity and promote sustainable stock.

If the problem is not solved, the sustainable environment may not be able to sustain large populations of moose. After the last significant change in harvest regulations, land managers found over 30 moose that had starved during the winter because the population exceeded the sustainable carrying capacity of the area. Adjustments in proven harvest thresholds predicated on the management of fish and wildlife stocks, genetic diversity, and trait expressions within the population managed according to the principals of fish and wildlife management. This follows the Alaska Constitution and allows residents to utilize resources that are expected to be made available. The Southern Peninsula advisory committees simply do not access tracts of land and are largely unaware of the changes identified by local observers. Developing higher moose numbers can be achieved through harvest management and a balance with sustainable practices of wildlife management that includes suitable harvest related to actual carrying capacity. Management of moose stocks is not a law enforcement issue. This is an issue that is predicated on the management of fish and wildlife stocks, genetic diversity, and trait expressions within the population managed according to the principals of fish and wildlife management.

If adopted, the moose will benefit and no one will suffer. A similar harvest criteria developed by others maintained successful populations and successful harvest yield for over twenty years.

Other solutions considered: Hunting with a normal state hunting license is not a “subsistence” harvest that is managed by the state. The state has clearly demonstrated that sustainable criteria similar to this proposed change has been successful for periods extending for over twenty years with no notable change in land use or ecology.

PROPOSED BY: Ninilchik Traditional Council (EG-F18-056)

PROPOSAL 64

5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.

Change the resident bag limit for moose in Unit 15 to include spike-fork bulls as follows:

ANTLER RESTRICTIONS UNIT 15: **Spike-fork moose are legal in Unit 15.** (Spike moose and four brow tines are legal in Unit 15)

The bull:cow ratio is too high in Unit 15. Rather than harvesting cows, we would rather relax the size of the antlers. It was hard to be sure if the moose was a spike or not sometimes. This resulted in the waste of moose that were not reported. This will increase the harvest of bull moose.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Moose antler restrictions: Change the regulation on spike-fork back to what it was. Allow the harvest of spike-fork moose in Unit 15.

PROPOSED BY: Central Peninsula Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-F18-039)

PROPOSAL 65

5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.

Change the bag limit for moose in Units 7 and 15 from four to three brow tines as follows:

The simple fix here to bring into proper management of moose on the Kenai Peninsula is to allow for a harvest of 50-inch, three brow tine, spike regulations. The required online class to hunt on the Kenai should be modified to reflect these changes.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Several years ago, the Board of Game changed the regulations to 50-inch, four brow tine, spike-only in most of Units 7 and 15. This has worked to increase the bull:cow ratio. We would like to see the legal bull regulation modified. The current bull:cow ratios are higher than optimal.

PROPOSED BY: Kenai/Soldotna Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-F18-050)

PROPOSAL 66

5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.

Change the resident bag limit for moose in Unit 15 from four to three brow tines as follows:

Unit 15 moose antler restrictions: A legal bull moose is one that has at least three brow tines or is 50 inches. (A legal moose is one that has four brow tines or is 50 inches.)

The bull to cow ratio is too high. We want more bull moose harvested. Rather than pass a moose with three brow tines because a hunter is not sure if it is 50 inches or more, a hunter could harvest one with three brow tines regardless of the size of the antlers. Thus, more bulls would be harvested. Also, there would be less moose left to waste from hunters who do not report an under-sized moose.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? ANTLER RESTRICTIONS, MOOSE: We wish to change the requirement of four brow tines to three brow tines in Unit 15.

PROPOSED BY: Central Peninsula Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-F18-040)

PROPOSAL 67

5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.

Change the resident bag limit for moose in Units 15A and 15B from spike-fork to four points on one palm or three brow tines as follows:

I urge you to consider having no spike-fork hunting and go to either four points on one palm or three brow tines

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The spike-fork hunting in Units 15A and 15B.

My name is Oliver Jackson, I am a 17-year-old. It has come to my attention that it has been eight years since my mother, grandfather, or anyone else in my family has gotten a moose. I would say the reason the dates and regulations changed was to prevent the moose population from decreasing. Now, by the time September 1 rolls around, most of the moose are bigger than a spike and smaller than four brow tines/50 inches. Therefore, many hunters in Unit 15A and 15B do not get to harvest a moose unless they are willing and able to travel to a different unit. With that in mind, I urge you to consider having no spike-fork hunting and go to either four points on one palm or three brow tines. The State of Alaska's statue says it is illegal to wanton waste any resource in this state. I believe killing a small spike-fork moose is wasteful because that moose, two or three years later, would feed two to three times the amount of people.

Thank you for your time.

PROPOSED BY: Oliver Jackson (EG-F18-014)

PROPOSAL 68

5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.

Change the resident bag limit for moose in Units 15A and 15B from spike-fork to five or more points on one palm and shorten the seasons as follows:

My solution is to have five or more points on one palm or the other. No spike-fork hunting. And no brow tine requirements. My reasoning is with three brow tines when the brush is thick and the fireweed gets six feet tall, it's too hard to distinguish a legal moose. Too many are shot and wasted. Shooting spike-fork size moose is wasteful to the resource. Let that moose grow and two or three years later that moose will give the hunter two or three times more meat. In addition, I would like to see the bow season cut to five days and the center fire season to ten days until the moose population in 15A and B rebounds.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The spike-fork hunting in Units 15A and 15B and the waste of the resource.

PROPOSED BY: Richard McGahan, Sr.

(EG-F18-015)

PROPOSAL 69

5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.

Open a general season hunt for moose in Unit 15B and eliminate the drawing hunt as follows:

Trophy area 15B: **All of subunit 15B is open as a general hunt area.** (Remove the trophy hunt designation in 15B.)

We believe there are few trophy moose there now. The bull:cow ratio is high. More bulls need to be harvested. The trails are beginning to be overgrown and fewer people are going there now. More opportunity would be given to hunters.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Change the designation of that portion of Unit 15B north of Tustumena Lake that is now a trophy area for moose and open it as a general hunt.

PROPOSED BY: Central Peninsula Fish and Game Advisory Committee

(EG-F18-041)

PROPOSAL 70

5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.

Open a general season hunt for moose in Unit 15B and eliminate the drawing hunt as follows:

The easy solution here is to open this area up to a harvest ticket area. Allowing people access to this area to have a true wilderness hunt is a positive thing for Alaskans. Keeping a 50-inch three brow tine spike regulation here would allow for proper management of a healthy bull:cow ratio. This may help a little in the crowding of hunters on the rest of the Kenai Peninsula. Also a few more predators may be taken while hunters were in the field during a moose hunt.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The draw-only area for moose hunting in Unit 15B should be removed. Currently, to have this area reserved for a small number of hunters no longer is justified. The moose population in Unit 15B has declined to the point that it is no longer trophy hunting area due to lack of moose numbers. The lack of moose hunters in this area has had some unintended consequences. One of the issues causing low moose populations is low calf numbers. These low numbers are due to predation of calves by bears. There is very little bear harvest in the area. The trails in Unit 15B are also grown over because of lack of use. We believe that this should be opened back up to a harvest ticket hunt.

PROPOSED BY: Kenai/Soldotna Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-F18-049)

PROPOSAL 71

5 AAC 85.045(13). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.

Establish a general season moose hunt for Unit 15B east and eliminate the drawing hunt as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(13)		
...		
Unit 15(B), that portion bounded by a line running from the mouth of Shantatalik Creek, Tustumena Lake, northeastward to the head of the westernmost fork of Funny River; then downstream along the westernmost fork of Funny River to the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge boundary; then east along the refuge boundary to its junction with the Kenai River; then eastward along the south side of the Kenai River and Skilak Lake; then south along the western side of Skilak River, Skilak Glacier, and Harding Icefield; then west along the Unit 15(B)	[SEPT. 1—SEPT. 20] [(GENERAL HUNT ONLY)] [SEPT. 26—OCT. 15] [(GENERAL HUNT ONLY)]	[SEPT. 1—SEPT. 20] [SEPT. 26—OCT. 15]

boundary to the mouth of
Shantatalik Creek

[1 BULL WITH 50-INCH ANTLERS OR
ANTLERS WITH 3 OR MORE BROW
TINES ON ONE SIDE, BY DRAWING
PERMIT ONLY; UP TO 100 PERMITS
MAY BE ISSUED; OR]

1 bull with spike or
50-inch antlers or
antlers with 4 or more brow
tines on one side, by bow and arrow
only; or

Aug. 22—Aug. 29
(General hunt only)

1 bull with 50-inch antlers
or antlers with 4 or more
brow tines on one side, by
bow and arrow only; or

Aug. 22—Aug. 29

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 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? Unit 15B east has been under restrictive permit hunt regulations since 1977. Access to this area is limited due to Kenai National Wildlife Refuge travel restrictions. The 2014 Funny River Fire substantially changed habitat in this area. Moose forage availability has increased since the fire, improving the quality of moose habitat, which will likely lead to increased production of moose. A population estimate was conducted in 2017 producing a point estimate of 837 moose (95% CI; 669-1004). Establishing a general season hunt for Unit 15B east with general season antler restrictions that mirror other portions of Unit 15B and general season restrictions of Unit 15C (currently one bull with spike or 50-inch antlers, or antlers with four or more brow tines on one side for residents, or a bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with four or more brow tines on one side for nonresidents) will provide hunters an increased opportunity to harvest moose as the population increases. Due to the restricted access in this area it is unlikely that an overharvest of bulls will occur. Liberalizing the current permit hunt restrictions was considered for this area, but such an action would not increase hunter opportunity.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F18-046)

PROPOSAL 72

5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.

Change the resident moose hunt structure in Unit 15C as follows:

1) Convert season from general hunt to a registration hunt, as per existing Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) protocols for in-person registration hunts elsewhere in the state. Open to residents only with restriction: hunters who obtain a permit for this hunt are ineligible to hunt bull moose in any other unit during the calendar year.

2) Split season dates concurrent with start date of the late season controlled use hunt period.

First season: September 1 through September 14.

Second season: September 15 through September 25.

3) Limit harvest in first season to: quota set annually by ADF&G, as per management objectives, using existing ADF&G protocols for registration hunts elsewhere in the state.

Second season harvest: No quota

4) First season bag limit: “any bull” with more than a forked antler on one side.

Second season bag limit: bull with minimum of 50-inch outside spread, or minimum of four brow tines on at least one antler.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? 1) Unacceptably high sublegal harvest resulting from current legal bull bag limit.

2) ADF&G annual bull harvest objectives have not been met for many years, but ADF&G surveys report a high bull:cow ratio. This supports an opportunity to harvest more bulls.

3) Limited resident opportunity to harvest a legal bull for food/subsistence. A large number of hunters are competing for a low number of legal bulls and are unsuccessful.

4) Harvesting yearlings, fork or spike bulls minimizes the meat yield of the moose and can adversely impact the ability to sustain future bull harvest numbers.

5) Current regulations characterize a trophy hunt vs. an opportunity to harvest game food.

6) Law enforcement personnel in the field are unable to manage compliance with regulations.

7) A percentage of hunters want to maintain the current bag limit or antler restrictions, but a majority wants to put a moose in the freezer.

What may happen if these problems are not solved: Game management objectives will not be met.

Area resident hunter harvest opportunity will continue to be compromised by bag limit restrictions and by too many hunters competing for this limited resource.

The quality of the hunting experience and our subsistence-based dependence on this food source will continue to be compromised by these factors and the sublegal hunting activity resulting from pressure to harvest a legal bull.

Compliance and enforcement demands will continue to exceed the capacity of law enforcement personnel and resources. The requirement for hunters to certify that they viewed and passed a legal bull moose orientation video certainly did very little to reduce the frequency of sublegal kills in 2017.

1) More than 20% of our annual bull harvest is sublegal. This is a lost resource. This moose herd has been under intensive management, but our ADF&G biologists are recommending that this classification be lifted. With current antler restrictions (bag limit), management harvest objectives are not being met and our regulations do not reflect this. Too many hunters are victims of failure to read their tape measures correctly or poor eye sight when counting brow tines or estimating antler spread, creating an environment which overloads our law enforcement in the field. This results in their lost opportunity to harvest food and subjection to a misdemeanor offense and fine.

2) Southern Peninsula advisory committees continue to support measures to sustain higher harvest numbers than what we have experienced for more than a decade. The priority has been to be able to harvest a moose for food and at the same time provide an opportunity to harvest a mature bull in the later season. The current state bag limit restrictions and the objectives upon which they are based are in conflict with the fact that communities within Unit 15C are federally recognized as subsistence users of this game resource.

3) Restricting the yearling harvest to spikes-only and mature bulls to minimum 50 inches or four brow tines were efforts to reduce pressure on and sustain an acceptable number of harvestable bulls as well as to manage bull:cow ratios. If we were growing a herd of cattle, we wouldn't harvest yearlings nor would we only harvest old bulls.

This proposal improves the quality of the resource harvested because local area hunter opportunity to harvest a legal moose will increase with a registration hunt with proposed restrictions and a change in the bag limit. ADF&G harvest objectives can be met and controlled. Simplification of the definition of legal bull will relieve the hunter and law enforcement personnel. Splitting the season will offer more opportunity to harvest a meat bull in the first season and help ensure maximum opportunity for a mature bull in the late season controlled use hunt period.

Those likely to benefit: Local area residents wanting increased opportunity to harvest game for subsistence, late season trophy hunters, ADF&G moose population managers, and law enforcement and compliance personnel.

Those likely to suffer: Nonresidents and resident hunters who live outside of the area who are not present during the registration period, as well all hunters unwilling to sacrifice eligibility to hunt elsewhere during the same year will suffer.

Other solutions considered and reasons rejected:

1) Considered not splitting the season but addressed concern that quota could be met prior to the late season controlled use hunt period, which would deprive hunters who traditionally hunt during that time and target mature trophy bulls as the rut begins.

2) Considered capping number of permits. A residency requirement does not significantly reduce the number of hunters in the field nor prevent this “any bull” hunt from becoming targeted by hunters residing outside of the area. Capping the number of permits is a matter of using statistics to achieve desired harvest levels rather than providing opportunity to area hunters willing to sacrifice eligibility elsewhere in order to support the objectives of these proposed regulation changes.

3) Establishing our eligibility for a Community Subsistence Harvest is an alternative which addresses several components of this proposal, but simultaneously continuing our current general hunt and bag limit for all other hunters does not address any of the other problems cited as reasons for this proposal.

PROPOSED BY: Michael Schuster

(HQ-F18-016)

PROPOSAL 73

5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.

Change the resident moose hunt structure in Unit 15C as follows:

Moose hunting in Unit 15C shall be an open registration hunt for residents only. Hunters who register for this hunt may not hunt bull moose in any other unit during the calendar year. Registration shall be done at Department of Fish and Game (department) offices in Unit 15C as designated by the department. The department shall cap the number of bulls allowed to be harvested. Successful hunters shall report their harvest within two days. The season shall be September 1 – September 25 or until closed by emergency order when the cap is reached. Legal bull moose are any bull except a spike or a fork on one or both sides. (These are saved for recruitment and do not have much meat on them.)

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? High bull:cow ratio, waste of sublegal bulls, and low success for meat hunters. Too restrictive for meat hunters. Prohibiting spike or fork moose will allow the harvest of more mature and larger moose and will achieve the bull:cow ratio desired sooner.

PROPOSED BY: Steve Vanek

(EG-F18-042)

PROPOSAL 74

5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.

Open a resident drawing hunt for moose in Unit 15C as follows:

Unit 15C, Resident Hunters:

1 antlered bull, by drawing permit only; up to 200 permits may be issued.

This number was arrived at by adding the 142 moose current harvest average plus 160 (200 draw permits at a conservatively high success rate of 80%) equals 302 moose, squarely within the harvest objective of 200–350. This hypothetical calculation includes the entire harvest structure.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Provide additional harvest opportunity due to high moose population in Unit 15C. Currently, Unit 15C is above the intensive management (IM) population objective, far below IM harvest objective, and the bull:cow ratio is very high; substantial opportunity is thus being underutilized. There is adequate room to add 200 “any antlered bull” draw permits, and these would work well alongside current selective harvest strategy (SHS) regulations to balance the herd and provide prime opportunity in a high use area.

- The latest point estimate as of this writing for moose in Unit 15C shows a population of 3,529; above the IM objective of 2500–3500.
- Last five years harvest average is 142 moose; well below harvest objective for Unit 15C of 200–350 moose. Of those 142, 27 were cows taken under DM549 and 118 were general season bulls. Hunters are excited about seeing many bulls but frustrated because most don’t meet the current requirement of spike, 50-inch, or four brow tines.
- Bull:cow ratios have increased steadily from 19 to 55 bulls per 100 cows in the last five years, with total moose remaining roughly constant or increasing. An adequate and sustainable ratio is normally considered to range about 25–30 bulls per 100 cows; about half of Unit 15C’s current ratio of 55:100 cows. One bull can service dozens of cows.
- Current regulatory hunt structure in Unit 15C consists of spike/50-inch or four brow tines for the general bull hunt, along with DM549 antlerless hunt (25–30 cows taken annually) and the targeted hunt (yet to be authorized) for highway corridor during heavy snow years.

We appear to have a substantial number of additional bulls available for harvest. High bull:cow ratios can lead to stressed moose populations as more bulls than necessary for the herd’s productivity compete for browse and habitat with the future of the herd: the cows and calves. Nutritional stress, while truly a factor of population, may also be exemplified by percent calves (last five years high 20, currently 11) and lower twinning rate. Additionally, for the bulls, mating stress and less nutrition on a per-animal basis may produce less antler growth, which puts more mid-size “illegal class” bulls in the population, compounding the situation of too many bulls competing for browse and perhaps also exacerbating illegal take with its inherent enforcement, prosecution and regulation costs. Longer term nutritional stress may play out in genetics. The Unit 15C moose population is over objective yet the harvest is less than half of its objective. This prime freezer-filling opportunity should be utilized to provide maximum benefit to hunters.

We think the population will respond favorably, we will stay within harvest objectives, and hunters will be happy with a better chance at winter meat if we offer up to (at Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) discretion) 200 “any antlered bull” permits by drawing in addition to the existing hunt structure.

Other solutions were considered to add opportunity and bring down the bull to cow ratio: A registration “any bull” hunt would be more difficult for ADF&G to manage in-season and make Alaska Wildlife Trooper enforcement more complicated. It would surely necessitate small window “hunt periods,” these are undesirable due to traditional family camp activity and also to ethical moose harvesting weather, which is spotty at best in the warm maritime climate of Unit 15C. A return to more liberal selective harvest strategy (SHS) antler restrictions (add forked antler and reduce to 3 brow tines/50-inch) was rejected due to overly adequate bull:100 cow ratio (indeed, the SHS may be working TOO well). Removal of the existing cow hunt makes some mathematical sense with respect to sex ratio, but removed from consideration due to popularity, low harvest (25–30 cows/ year), and is only a very small portion of Unit 15C in suburban Homer. Changing the entire general harvest ticket hunt to allow “any antlered bull” would be too liberal, resulting in heavy localized overharvest even if the season is drastically shortened (undesirable again due to weather and loss of opportunity to hunt). Concerns of nonlocal competition in the draw (which is lawful) have merit, but we don’t think a big factor with other “any bull” hunt opportunities elsewhere around the road system offering enticement to traveling hunters.

Additional prime moose harvest opportunity can be safely implemented in Unit 15C by adopting this proposal adding up to 200 “any antlered bull” draw permits to the existing harvest structure. This will bring the harvest up closer to objective, bring down the bull:cow ratio, help the overall health of the herd and put an additional hundred thousand pounds of meat in Alaskans’ freezers. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this proposal.

PROPOSED BY: Homer Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-F18-044)

PROPOSAL 75

5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.

Open an archery and muzzleloader permit hunt for moose Unit 15C as follows:

One moose by permit only. The harvest of cows with calves is prohibited. Up to 50 archery permits and up to 50 muzzleloader permits may be issued. No more than 10% the permits may be allocated to nonresident hunters. All applicants must hold a hunter education certification, bow hunter applicants must hold a bow hunter certification and muzzle loader applicants must hold a muzzle loader certification.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? To provide additional opportunity to harvest moose in Unit 15C using archery and muzzle loaders. There is currently a harvestable surplus of moose in Unit 15C that is being underutilized. Unit 15C is an intensive management area and the current intensive management harvest objectives are not being met. If nothing is done, we will continue to miss out on the opportunity to harvest moose and intensive

management objectives will continue to go unmet. In addition, if the population continues to grow, we run the risk of over-browsing our habitat, which would lead to a population decline and reduced hunter opportunity in this unit.

PROPOSED BY: Homer Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-F18-055)

PROPOSAL 76

5 AAC 85.045(13). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.

Establish an “any bull” drawing hunt in 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 accompa- nied by calves, is prohibited; up to 100 permits may be issued in combination with the nonresident drawing hunt; or	Oct. 20—Nov. 20	
1 moose by targeted permit only, or	Oct. 15—Mar. 31	
<u>1 bull by drawing permit only; up to 200 permits may be issued</u>	<u>Sept. 1—Sept. 25 (General hunt only)</u>	

**in combination with the
remainder of Unit 15(C)**

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 accompa-
nied by calves, is prohibited;
up to 100 permits may be issued
in combination with the
nonresident drawing hunt; or

Oct. 20—Nov. 20

Remainder of 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, **or**

Oct. 15—Mar. 31

**1 bull by drawing permit only;
up to 200 permits may be issued
in combination with that portion
south of the south fork of the
Anchor River and northwest of
Kachemak Bay**

**Sept. 1—Sept. 25
(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? Moose harvest in Unit 15C has been below or just within the lower end of the Intensive Management (IM) objectives (200–

350 moose) since changes to the legal antler requirement were implemented in 2011 and 2013. Currently, moose population estimates in the same area are at the upper end of the IM population objective (2,500–3,500) according to a February 2017 geospatial population estimation (GSPE) census (3,529, 95% confidence interval 2,769–4,289). The bull:cow ratio in the traditional composition count area has also increased substantially since reaching a low of nine bulls:100 cows in 2010. The bull:cow ratio in this same area was estimated at 46 bulls:100 cows in 2015, 40 bulls:100 cows in 2016 and 55 bulls:100 cows in 2017. The management objective for this area is 25 bulls:100 cows. Under the current antler restrictions in Unit 15C it is unlikely that IM harvest objectives will be achieved on an annual basis. Adding an “any bull” drawing permit hunt will provide the opportunity to harvest additional moose while the population and bull:cow ratios are high. Permit numbers (ranging from zero to 200) will be adjusted annually to reflect current population numbers and composition status. If no changes are made to the current hunt structure, harvest will likely remain below IM objectives during a time period when Department of Fish and Game census and composition data indicate the moose population is at the high end of the IM population objective, and also above the management objective for bull:cow ratio. A drawing permit with an “any bull” bag limit will also provide a new opportunity for hunters with reduced potential to harvest an illegal animal.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F18-054)

PROPOSAL 77

5 AAC 85.045(13). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.

Establish a drawing hunt for antlerless moose in Unit 15C north of the south fork of the Anchor River as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(13)		

...

Remainder of 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, <u>or</u>	Oct. 15—Mar. 31

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.

Oct. 20—Nov. 20

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? Current moose population levels in Unit 15C indicate that this area can sustain additional harvest. Creating an additional late season antlerless drawing permit hunt will allow for increased harvest opportunity for residents while the population is at high levels. The number of permits issued annually (ranging from zero to 100) would be adjusted to meet current population numbers and status. A similar antlerless moose hunt currently exists in Unit 15C south of the south fork of the Anchor River and northwest of Kachemak Bay (DM549) and is open to both residents and nonresidents.

Moose harvest in Unit 15C has been below or just within the lower end of the Intensive Management (IM) objectives (200–350 moose) since changes to the legal antler requirement were implemented in 2011 and 2013. Current moose population estimates are at the upper end of the IM population objective (2,500–3,500). In February 2017, a geospatial population estimate (GSPE) census was conducted in the northern portion of Unit 15C (north of Kachemak Bay) and resulted in a population estimate of 3,529 moose (95% confidence interval (CI): range 2,769–4,289), of which 19% (95% CI: 14–24) were calves. This equates to a density of approximately three moose/mi² in the census area. Fall composition counts in core count areas during November 2017 provided a bull ratio of 55 bulls:100 cows. If no changes are made to the current hunt structure, additional harvest opportunity will be missed and harvest will likely remain below IM harvest objectives during a time period when Department of Fish and Game census data indicates moose populations are at the high end of the IM population objective.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F18-052)

PROPOSAL 78

5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.

Establish resident drawing hunts for “any bull” moose in Units 15 and 7 as follows:

We would like to see a draw hunt within each individual unit on the Kenai allowing “any bull” tags to be offered on a resident-only draw hunt. The number of tags can be changed in each unit/subunit by the Department of Fish and Game to help attain healthy bull:cow ratios and allow for additional harvest when warranted.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Currently, the bull:cow ratios for moose on the Kenai Peninsula are not within management goals. The harvest of more bulls when the bull numbers are higher than desired increases efficiency in the moose population. Allowing harvest of additional bulls is warranted when the bull:cow ratio is out of desired ratios.

PROPOSED BY: Kenai/Soldotna Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-F18-051)

PROPOSAL 79

5 AAC 92.003. Hunter education and orientation requirements.

Require hunter education for all hunters participating in Unit 15C drawing hunts as follows:

All hunters participating in a draw hunt in subunit 15C are required to take a hunter certification course prior to participating in the hunt.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Under current regulations, hunters born before January 1, 1986 are not required to take hunters education in order to participate in hunting activities in Alaska. Hunters education is a basic safety course that helps ensure all hunters are acting in a safe and legal manner. In Unit 15C increased human activity on the landscape is making it more important than ever for hunters to be acting in a safe manner. We would like to require all hunters take hunters education prior to participating in any draw hunts in this subunit.

PROPOSED BY: Homer Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-F18-043)

PROPOSAL 80

5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.

Change the Hope/Palmer Creek Valley area general season moose hunt in Unit 7 to an archery-only permit hunt as follows:

The suggestion is to change the Hope/Palmer Creek area into a weapons-restricted draw hunt area with 2–4 tags.

*One bull **by bow and arrow only**, with a spike on at least one side or 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on at least one side. By PERMIT.*

This follows the model set in other multi-use areas (Eklutna, Birchwood, Ship Creek, etc.) and still allows hunting access to this wonderful corner of Alaska.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? In 2011, the town of Hope and the Palmer Creek Valley were opened to general season moose hunting. The result is heavy hunting pressure on the town of Hope and the Palmer Creek Valley. A small community just an hour and twenty minutes from Anchorage, accessible by road, with limited fish and game enforcement, the local community and local moose population are suffering from heavy hunting

traffic. Hiking, biking, berry picking, camping, mining, and hunting are all enjoyed in the valley by a wide cross section of the local and Alaskan community.

Sadly, the Palmer Creek drainage in particular is getting dangerous. As an avid hunter and naturalist, I count on fish and game to fill my freezer every summer. Last fall, while calling moose for a family member, a vehicle stopped on the road above us. I stepped from behind the alder and waved at the truck. The truck left. I resumed calling, almost immediately the truck came back. This time, the driver balanced his rifle across the hood of his vehicle; looking through my binoculars I saw him sighted on me! I dropped to the ground, removed a game bag from my pack and waved it at the hunter in an attempt to show that I was not an acceptable target.

PROPOSED BY: Brendan Maguire (EG-F18-011)

PROPOSAL 81

5 AAC 92.052. Discretionary permit hunt conditions and procedures.

Require blaze orange be worn by moose hunters on Kalgin Island in Unit 15B as follows:

Recommend that all moose hunters on Kalgin Island be required to wear blaze orange on upper half of body.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Increased safety risk resulting from failure of State of Alaska to enact possible regulatory measures which would contribute to safer hunting environment. Of concern is the increased risk of hunting accident fatalities and injuries incurred on Kalgan Island as a result of heavy timber and allowance of killing of any moose (excluding cows with calf). Reported deaths of two hunters in past is of concern.

PROPOSED BY: Jack Polster (EJ-F18-105)

PROPOSAL 82

5 AAC 085.045(13). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.

Reauthorize the antlerless moose season on Kalgin Island in Unit 15B as follows:

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

(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 (RM572) 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 and Game (department) staff counted 85 moose on Kalgin Island in March 2018. 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 the department 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-F18-042)

PROPOSAL 83

5 AAC 85.045(13). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.

Reauthorize the antlerless moose seasons in Unit 15C as follows:

This proposal would reauthorize the antlerless moose hunt for the Homer benchland and the targeted, antlerless hunt along the Sterling Highway in Unit 15C.

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
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(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)
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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 drawing hunt: or	Oct. 20—Nov. 20
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1 moose by targeted permit only,	Oct. 15—Mar. 31
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NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side; or	Sept. 1—Sept. 25 (General hunt only)
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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
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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)
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1 moose by targeted permit only,	Oct. 15—Mar. 31
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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? The antlerless moose season for the Homer benchland (DM549) and the targeted hunt (AM550) along the Sterling Highway in 15C would be reauthorized for the 2019–2020 hunting season.

Background: Antlerless moose seasons must be reauthorized annually. The Homer benchland in Unit 15C that encompasses the hunt boundary of DM549 often holds high moose densities in winters when deep snow pushes the moose down into human-populated areas. Even without deep snow, moose die due to malnutrition and negative interactions with humans are common as moose become more aggressive in their search for food around human residences.

In February 2017, a geospatial population estimation (GSPE) census was conducted in the northern portion of Unit 15C (north of Kachemak Bay) and resulted in a population estimate of 3,529 moose (95% confidence interval (CI): range 2,769–4,289), of which 19% (95% CI: 14–24) were calves. This equates to a density of approximately three 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 core count areas during November 2017 provided a bull ratio of 55 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 the winter if they pose a significant threat to highway vehicles. On average, 61 known animals are killed each year in vehicle collisions in Unit 15C. The Department of Fish and Game will decide when and where permits will be issued during the hunt period. The hunt is administered through a registration permit. The number of permits issued each year will depend on conditions and it is possible no permits will be issued in some years.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F18-050)

PROPOSAL 84

5 AAC 85.055. Hunting season and bag limits for Dall sheep.

Open a resident, archery-only season for Dall sheep in Unit 15 as follows:

Unit 15: Archery only, full-curl ram (harvest ticket)

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Would like archery-only hunt for sheep in advance of rifle season on the Round Mountain area. Full-curl (harvest ticket).

PROPOSED BY: Robert Gauden (HQ-F18-032)

PROPOSAL 85

5 AAC 85.015. Hunting seasons and bag limits for black bear.

Reduce the resident bag limit for black bear in Units 7 and 15 as follows:

Black Bear

Unit 7 south of the city limits of Seward at 60° 04' 58" N. latitude, and Unit 15 south of the Bradley River, Bradley Lake and Kachemak Creek.

Two bears: one between January 1 – May 31, one between June 1 – December 31

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The area described was managed under this regulation prior to adoption of the three-bear anytime bag limit in 2011.

Since that time there has been increasing pressure both from transported and resident hunters and an anecdotal decrease in bear sightings in both spring and fall.

As this area is primarily hunted by residents looking for meat and nonresident trophy hunters (who are already limited to one bear), we feel that a more conservative harvest strategy would benefit both user groups.

PROPOSED BY: Homer Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-F18-047)

PROPOSAL 86

5 AAC 85.065. Hunting seasons and bag limits for small game.

Reduce the bag limit for spruce grouse in Units 7 and 15 as follows:

Reduce spruce grouse limit to five per day, ten in possession.

Retain current ruffed grouse limit of one per day, two in possession.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Units 7 and 15 are similar to Unit 14C in that they have a growing number of hunters and much of the hunting pressure is concentrated along the road system. Grouse populations are cyclic and susceptible to over harvest, especially when a liberal limit may encourage the taking of entire cohorts.

Changing the spruce grouse limit to conform with 14C would be a prudent move to insure grouse hunting opportunities in the future.

PROPOSED BY: Homer Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-F18-046)

PROPOSAL 87

5 AAC 85.065(a)(3). Hunting seasons and bag limits for small game.

Close the ptarmigan season in Unit 15C as follows:

A complete cessation of hunting of ptarmigan for at least five years and allow them to come back, please.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Ptarmigan. Where are they? When we moved to our place on East Skyline in 1980, it was common to see ptarmigan over winter when they would come down to feed on willow tips. When the snows got deep on Lookout, they would come to our area to feed. I have not seen a ptarmigan here in over 20 years. Likewise, when my family goes into the Caribou Hills area, they see no ptarmigan, and they used to see so many. When I visited with some of the early homesteaders, they told me when they came up here to hunt in the fall, the sky would turn white with ptarmigan that came to feed on the plentiful blueberries. The berries are still there, but no ptarmigan has fed on them in many years. Instead, the now more numerous black bear harvest them.

PROPOSED BY: Mildred Martin (EG-F18-018)

PROPOSAL 88

5 AAC 92.530(6). Management areas.

Move the boundary of the Skilak Loop Wildlife Management Area in Unit 15 as follows:

Simply move the boundary to the northern shoreline of the Kenai River. This would increase access for hunting and trapping. We believe the biggest benefit of this would go to waterfowl hunters. Currently there are no conservation concerns on hunting waterfowl.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The current boundary of the Skilak Loop closure should be modified. The current boundary along the south shore of the Kenai River reduces opportunity.

PROPOSED BY: Kenai/Soldotna Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-F18-052)

PROPOSAL 89

5 AAC 84.270(1). Furbearer trapping.

Close the trapping season for beaver in an area of Units 7 and 15C as follows:

5 AAC 84.270(1) Beaver, Units 7 and 15.

Beaver trapping in the headwaters of the south fork of the Anchor River starting at the fork in T4S R12W section 19. **No open season.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Beaver are currently absent from the headwaters of the south fork of the Anchor River Drainage. Evidence of historic beaver activity is present in this area, including old dams and lodges. Trapping records indicate that

beaver were present in this system as recently as 2006 and well established in the late 1990s. The loss of beaver from this area has decreased the overall wildlife habitat quality and has reduced trapping opportunity due to lack of animals. Beaver are a keystone species that alter their environment, providing habitat for other species such as moose, songbirds, waterfowl, and salmon rearing. Beavers increase water table levels and nutrient deposition that increases forage values. This area is void of potential for human wildlife conflicts due to beaver activity as no roads, agriculture or other man-made activities exist in the proposed area. I propose that the headwaters of the south fork of the Anchor River Drainage be closed to beaver trapping to allow the reestablishment of beaver to this area.

If this area is not closed to trapping, the area will remain void of beaver and habitat benefits will be lost. Alternatively, I have requested that the Department of Fish and Game relocate beavers to this watershed, but this is unlikely to be successful without a trapping closure, as any animals that are relocated have a high probability of being trapped before becoming established.

PROPOSED BY: Jim Van Oss (EG-F18-019)

PROPOSAL 90

5 AAC 92.530(6). Management Areas.

5 AAC 85.065. Hunting seasons and bag limits for small game.

Remove the date restrictions and expand the hunt area for the small game youth hunt in the Skilak Loop Wildlife Management Area in Unit 15 as follows:

This is a simple adjustment. Remove the date restrictions for the youth small game hunt in the Skilak Loop area. Allow hunting of small game for youth with the same dates in the Remainder of Unit 15. Also remove the current youth hunting border within the Skilak Loop Management Area, allowing youth hunting within the entire Skilak Loop area.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The current Skilak Loop youth hunt is overly restricted. There are too many restrictions in place for no conservation reasons. The current area open to youth hunting on restricted dates is open to archery for small game in the entire Skilak Loop area.

PROPOSED BY: Kenai/Soldotna Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-F18-053)

PROPOSAL 91

5 AAC 92.080. Unlawful methods of taking game; exceptions.

Prohibit the discharge of certain weapons used for hunting and trapping within 1/2 mile of any residence in Unit 15C as follows:

The discharge of firearms, crossbows, or bows and arrows for the purpose of hunting or trapping is prohibited within 1/2 mile of a residence and its outbuildings in Unit 15C South of Anchor Point and North of Kachemak Bay and the Fox River Drainage without the specific, advanced written permission of the landowner.

(This proposal suggests an optimal solution, but should the Board of Game (board) decide this too sweeping a measure, the distance might be amended to 1/4 mile and/or be restricted to a person's residence rather than encompassing its outbuildings.)

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The negligent discharge of firearms and other weaponry near homes. In recent years, with the population growth on the Kenai Peninsula, particularly in the Homer and Anchor Point areas, people's interactions with wildlife near residences is increasing. Along with this, the negative interaction between hunters and property owners is increasing also, with documented incidents involving hunters shooting wildlife without permission, often in an unsafe manner. There are also incidents whereby hunters with permission from one landowner shoot dangerously close to neighbors' residences. Current laws and regulations, such as those pertaining to the negligent discharge of firearms and the posting of private property, have not satisfactorily addressed this issue.

In order to minimize safety concerns and decrease hunter/landowner conflicts, this proposal asks the board to adopt a regulation that sets a minimum shooting distance from a residence and its outbuildings. Many states have established a basic "safety zone," whereby no person, except the owner or occupant, or someone with specific, advanced written permission thereof, shall discharge a firearm, crossbow or bow and arrow within (XXX) yards of an occupied dwelling, or any barn, stable or other building used in connection therewith, while hunting or trapping wild birds or wild animals of any kind. Should a landowner's property overlap the "safety zone" of a neighbor's property, the overlap will still constitute the neighbor's "safety zone." This makes it incumbent upon the hunter to ensure he or she is not unwittingly discharging a firearm in an unsafe manner, causing nuisance or gaining an unfair advantage over wildlife habituated to human proximity.

Precedence for such a regulation already exists in Alaska: Alaska State Parks has a regulation that prohibits the discharge of firearms within 1/2 mile of developed areas including trailheads. Also, the city of Homer has an ordinance prohibiting the discharge of firearms within city limits. However, the actual city limit boundary of Homer encompasses a very small area and does not include the majority of the populace, nor does it include the large tracts of land inhabited by targeted wildlife.

PROPOSED BY: Victoria Wilson Winne

(EG-F18-064)

PROPOSAL 92

5 AAC 85.065. Hunting seasons and bag limits for small game.

Open a hunting season for tundra swan in Units 7 and 15 as follows:

Allowing a harvest of tundra swans within conservation guidelines may be warranted. Maybe a season from October 1 – December 16. Some opportunity should be allowed if no conservation concerns exist. We look forward to a new hunting opportunity on the Kenai Peninsula. While not our preferred option, a registration permit would be an option.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? There seems to be an abundance of tundra swans in Alaska. There are open seasons for tundra swans in Alaska and other states. If there is not a conservation concern, we would like to see some harvest opportunities.

PROPOSED BY: Kenai/Soldotna Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-F18-061)



Kodiak Area – Unit 8

PROPOSAL 93

5 AAC 85.030. Hunting seasons and bag limits for deer.

Increase the bag limit for deer in Unit 8 as follows:

Everything in the regulations would stay the same as they are now except the total limit. That would change to five deer. Then add subject to change by emergency order.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I would like to change the deer harvest limit on Kodiak Island. What I am proposing would make the limit more responsive to the up and down population fluctuations. What I would like is a five deer limit with an emergency order to reduce it if necessary. With the high population in 2016–17, we could have had a larger harvest without harm to the overall population. I was told you can only lower the limit, not raise it by emergency order. The way it is now it takes too long when the population rises. I know this would put more work on local Department of Fish and Game personnel, but I think it would make a better use of the resource with the unpredictable population swings of our deer herd.

PROPOSED BY: Andrew Finke

(HQ-F18-002)

PROPOSAL 94

5 AAC 84.040. Hunting seasons and bag limits for goat.

Lengthen the hunting season for goat in Unit 8 Remainder as follows:

We propose lengthening the season from the current December 15 closure to January 31, coinciding with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service subsistence season for deer.

RG471–RG479, November 1 – **January 31** [DECEMBER 15]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Areas RG471–RG479 occasionally have remaining goats in the guideline harvest level (GHL). We would like to provide for a small amount of additional opportunity.

What will happen if nothing is done: Loss of additional opportunity.

Other solutions considered: Lengthening season to March 20. These areas are closed by emergency order and we doubt any of the areas would have many remaining goats in the GHL past January 31, so it would be easier on the Department of Fish and Game to have the season wrap up.

PROPOSED BY: Kodiak Fish and Game Advisory Committee

(EG-F18-028)

PROPOSAL 95

5 AAC 85.040. Hunting seasons and bag limits for goat.

Change the bag limit, lengthen the season, and implement reporting requirements for goat in Unit 8 Remainder as follows:

We propose limiting the billy harvest to one per hunter to increase nanny harvest and also improve trophy quality. We also would lengthen the season to provide additional opportunity.

RG480: August 20 – **March 31** [March 20], two goats – **only one of which may be a billy.** Nanny with kids prohibited. **Reporting requirements: in person to Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) within five days of completion of hunt or submit a photo of head/horns to ADF&G within 30 days of completion of hunt.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Area RG480 (southern half of Kodiak Island) has an increasing mountain goat population, which we are trying to stabilize or reduce. We have liberalized regulations in the past but need to do more. While we are getting increased participation and harvest, we need to harvest more nannies to accomplish this mission. There seems to be some reluctance to harvest nannies, or the inability to distinguish which nanny has kids (taking a nanny with kids is prohibited). An additional problem is the targeting and harvesting of billies, leading to a reduced number of mature billies.

What will happen if nothing is done: Goat population will continue to expand, endangering habitat and health of herd. Trophy billy quality will continue to decline.

Other solutions considered: (1) Allowing “any goat” after December 31 to ease the inability of distinguishing which nanny has kids. However, we currently don’t have good biological information to ascertain survivability of kids without their mother. (2) Having a nanny-only requirement after December 31. We feel this would lower participation and reduce opportunity as some people are reluctant to harvest nannies or would be unable to identify a legal animal. (3) Lengthening season to May 15. This would interfere with the spring brown bear season.

PROPOSED BY: Kodiak Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-F18-029)

PROPOSAL 96

5 AAC 85.040. Hunting seasons and bag limits for goat.

Establish a new registration hunt for goat in Unit 8 as follows:

Create an additional “RG” goat hunt for the Aliulik Peninsula (Kodiak Hunt Area 07).

Bag limit – One goat both resident and nonresident – Season dates: October 1 – December 1

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The late season registration goat hunt (RG 480) on southern Kodiak. A large majority of the goats located on the Aliulik Peninsula (Hunt Area 07) reside on private native lands, Akhiok-Kaguyak, Inc. (AKI). These goats become very vulnerable to poaching by non-authorized hunters during the winter as they

come very low on the mountain and congregate on the cliffs just above the beach. The billy to nanny ratio is poor because of the goat harvest by non-authorized hunters on private lands.

PROPOSED BY: Michael Bradshaw

(EG-F18-020)

PROPOSAL 97

5 AAC 85.040. Hunting seasons and bag limits for goat.

Allow the use of muzzleloaders for goat hunting in Unit 8 as follows:

Solution

Option A: Muzzleloaders, in addition to bow and arrow, will be allowed to hunt goats in Kodiak Mountain Goat Hunting Areas RG479 (North Road System) and RG478 (South Road System) during the registration goat season in Unit 8.

Option B: Muzzleloaders, in addition to bow and arrow, will be allowed to hunt goats in Kodiak Mountain Goat Hunting Areas RG479 (North Road System) and RG478 (South Road System) beginning November 23 during the registration goat season in Unit 8. (Three weeks archery-only; three weeks archery or muzzleloader.)

Option A is the preferred solution.

Option B would prevent any competition with archery hunters during the first three weeks of the registration season and give them the first chance at the remaining quota. Limiting muzzleloader hunters to the last three weeks, when weather and snow conditions have become more severe, would likely deter many persons from participating.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Area 478 and 479 Mountain Goat Hunting Area quotas are not always being met and goat populations are increasing. To more effectively meet the quota, allow a new hunting opportunity for Alaska resident muzzleloader hunters.

Management Area Background: DG478 and DG479 are popular drawing hunts in large part because of the accessibility to goats from the road system in Kodiak on foot without needing to charter ATV, aircraft or boats. The season is long and typically runs August 20 – October 25. These draw hunts are open to residents and nonresidents with no weapon restrictions.

RG478 and RG479 are open to Alaska residents only, currently bow and arrow restricted, and run November 1 – December 15. The registration hunt is more challenging not only because of weapon restrictions, but because weather has become a more serious limiting factor by November.

Per the local Alaska Department of Fish and Game Area Wildlife Biologist, Kodiak Mountain Goat Hunting Areas 478 and 479 were recently surveyed and found to have high populations that may be above sustainable levels. Area 478 had an all-time record of 370 goats in 2017 and Area 479 was close to its record with 203 goats. The number of permits allotted for draw hunts in

Area 479 (North Road System) has been increased from 35 to 60 and for Area 478 (South Road System) has been increased from 75 to 100.

Potential Opposition: Some bowhunters may not wish to see an increase in hunters or wish not to compete with muzzleloader hunters. Given the number of access points and length of season, I do not think that allowing muzzleloader hunters would greatly encroach on bowhunters.

Other Options Considered: Extending registration season and allowing muzzleloaders after December 15: This would take registration season out of alignment with other registration area season lengths. Weather would be severely limiting.

Allowing crossbows and muzzleloaders in addition to bow and arrow: I decided to request for muzzleloaders only after considering that Unit 8 hunting regulations already include a bow and arrow or muzzleloader-only deer season.

PROPOSED BY: Benjamin Shryock (EG-F18-058)

PROPOSAL 98

5 AAC 85.020. Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear.

Lengthen the fall hunting season for brown bear in Unit 8 as follows:

Unit 8

Fall season: Oct. 10 [25] – Nov. 30

Change the start date of the fall hunting season in Unit 8 from October 25 to **October 10.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?

Change the opening date of the fall Kodiak brown bear season from October 25 to October 10.

1. By starting the season 15 days earlier, hunters would have an additional one hour and 30 minutes of daylight to start a hunt.
2. The temperatures and climate conditions on October 10, in general, are much warmer than October 25 and much milder than later in November.
3. The many lakes used for access to hunting areas are much less likely to freeze up and strand hunters earlier in October.
4. For many hunters that are elderly or not in top physical condition, having the opportunity to hunt in milder weather is safer and potentially more successful.
5. Many resident and nonresident deer hunters plan their hunts to coincide with the deer rut, which begins in late October and runs through November. Starting the brown bear season on October 10 would reduce the competition and conflict for some brown bear and deer hunters.

If the brown bear season opening remains on October 25, all hunters, regardless of their physical abilities, will continue to hunt in potentially more dangerous and harsh conditions. More late season deer hunters will continue to have conflicts with brown bear hunters.

Also considered requesting that the season begins on October 1. The negative impact of this change could be that the Department of Fish and Game in Kodiak will be required to spend more days each fall issuing brown bear permits and sealing hides and skulls.

PROPOSED BY: Greg Acord

(EG-F18-021)

PROPOSAL 99

5 AAC 92.061. Special provisions for brown bear drawing permit hunts.

Allocate at least 90% of the Unit 8 brown bear drawing permits to residents as follows:

The Board of Game (board) should amend the beginning of 5 AAC 92.061(a)(1) as follows: “the department shall issue a **minimum of 90 percent of the drawing permits to residents, with the remaining drawing permits available to residents and nonresidents on the same terms** [MAXIMUM OF 40 PERCENT OF THE DRAWING PERMITS TO NONRESIDENTS AND A MINIMUM OF 60 PERCENT TO RESIDENTS]”

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Under 5 AAC 92.061, the Department of Fish and Game issues 40% of drawing permits in the Kodiak Brown Bear Permit Area to nonresidents. This allocation of hunting permits exclusively to nonresidents is contrary to the Alaska Constitution’s mandates that wildlife in the State of Alaska be “reserved to the people for common use” and “utiliz[ed] . . . for the maximum benefit of its people.”

The Kodiak brown bear hunt, like many drawing permit hunts in Alaska, dedicates a percentage of the available permits exclusively to nonresidents. In this hunt, the nonresident allocation is an astronomical 40%—and the nonresident harvest typically *exceeds* resident harvest. Taking these permits and harvesting opportunities away from Alaskans and guaranteeing them to nonresidents is contrary to the Alaska Constitution.

Alaska’s natural resources, including its wildlife, belong to the state, which holds them in trust for all Alaskans. *Shepherd v. State, Dep’t of Fish & Game*, 897 P.2d 33, 40-41 (Alaska 1995). This principle was a pillar of statehood and is enshrined in the Alaska Constitution. Article 8, Section 3 of the constitution provides, “Wherever occurring in their natural state, fish, wildlife, and waters are reserved to the people for common use.” Article 8, Section 2 provides, “The legislature shall provide for the utilization, development, and conservation of all natural resources belonging to the State, including land and waters, for the maximum benefit of its people.” Thus, it is constitutionally mandated that when state agencies make decisions regarding wildlife management and allocation, the rights of Alaskans must be given priority.

The board is responsible for ensuring that hunting takes place responsibly and sustainably. Drawing permit hunts exist to avoid the overharvest of a scarce resource. The board’s decision to

conduct the Kodiak brown bear hunt as a drawing permit hunt is based on its determination that the bears do not exist in great enough numbers to support unlimited hunting.

Yet under the current regulations, the board also takes a number of these scarce animals away from Alaskans and dedicates them to the exclusive use of nonresidents. As a result, often nonresident hunters have almost equal odds as Alaskans for drawing these rare and highly-sought after permits. This is inconsistent with, and contrary to, the constitution's mandate that wildlife be reserved to Alaskans. In certain other hunts, permits are available only to Alaska residents, but the number of permits varies wildly by hunt and—across the board—the allocations to residents are too low to satisfy the constitutional requirements. The 40% nonresident permit allocation of the Kodiak brown bear hunt is the most egregious.

The proposed regulatory change would bring the Kodiak brown bear hunt permit allocations in line with the above constitutional mandates. Alaskans would be guaranteed the majority of the permits and have a fair chance—along with nonresidents—at the rest. Under this change, *no* permits would be set aside for the exclusive use of nonresidents. Revenue generated by nonresident hunters cannot justify depriving Alaskans of the opportunity to harvest their own game in direct violation of the Alaska Constitution.

The proposal provides that, at minimum, 90% of all Kodiak brown bear hunt drawing permits would be set aside for Alaskans, with the remaining permits available to all, nonresidents and Alaskans alike. This proposal is in line with the resident allocation percentages adopted by many other states, including Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Kentucky, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon and Utah.

PROPOSED BY: Robert Cassell

(HQ-F18-020)

PROPOSAL 100

5 AAC 92.061. Special provisions for brown bear drawing permit hunts.

Create a separate drawing for second degree of kindred brown bear permits in Unit 8 as follows:

We propose creating a separate draw for second degree of kindred bear permits. There would be up to four permits available in the spring season and up to two permits available in the fall season. Following current Kodiak bear management practices of issuing two-thirds of the permits in the spring and one-third in the fall. (This varies from the current limit of up to four each season, spring and fall, but higher than the historical average of permits issued.)

Unit 8 brown bear – second degree kindred: One bear every four regulatory years by draw permit.

Up to four permits issued. April 1 – May 15.

Up to two permits issued. October 25 – November 30.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? In recent years, there has been a push by certain organizations to change the resident/nonresident allocation of hunting permits statewide (increasing permits to residents), including brown bear permits on Kodiak.

One measure being pushed for is removing the allocation of second degree of kindred permits for brown bears on Kodiak from the current resident allocation.

Second degree of kindred permits are somewhat unique to Alaska and where these permits come from (resident/nonresident pool) varies around the state. One idea being considered is creating a separate draw for second degree of kindred permits. The Kodiak Advisory Committee (KAC) supports this idea to bring some uniformity where possible.

The KAC is adamantly opposed to any change in the historical 60/40 split between resident/nonresident allocation. This has the potential to greatly change bear management on Kodiak (a unique, interdependent, and complex system), which is a major success story. This potential change could have major biological ramifications and severe economic implications to the small business owners and the local Kodiak economy (already depressed with status of current fish stocks), along with a drastic decline in state license revenues.

PROPOSED BY: Kodiak Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-F18-031)

Note: Resident and nonresident tag fees are set in Alaska Statute 16.05.340, which the Board of Game does not have authority to change.

PROPOSAL 101

5 AAC 92.061. Special provisions for brown bear drawing permit hunts.

Create a resident tag for Kodiak brown bear from the nonresident permit allocation as follows:

Create a special Kodiak bear tag currently within the nonresident pool.

Under 5 AAC 92.061, nothing changes with the resident permit allocation or drawing and residents would still pay \$25 for a brown bear locking tag.

Create a pool of special Kodiak bear permits currently within the nonresident guided allocation that are also available to residents. No additional permits are added to this pool. In order to be placed in this drawing, an Alaskan resident would have to be willing to pay the same amount as a nonresident for the brown bear locking tag, which is currently \$1000.

This would let the State of Alaska make the same amount of money from a resident who can afford the higher tag fee or a nonresident wanting to hunt Kodiak brown bear.

Amend 5 AAC 92.061(a)(3) to read:

(3) the department shall enter, in a guided nonresident drawing, each complete application from a nonresident who will be accompanied by a guide; **the department shall enter, in a resident drawing, each complete application from a resident who agrees to pay the current cost of a nonresident brown bear locking tag;** the department may enter an application and issue a drawing permit for the general hunt only to a successful nonresident applicant who presents

proof at the time of application that the applicant will be accompanied by a guide, as required under AS 16.05.407 or 16.05.408;

(4) the following provisions apply to a guided nonresident drawing **and resident drawing** under this section:

(A) an applicant for a **resident or** guided nonresident drawing permit may apply for only one such permit per application period;

(B) after the successful applicants have been selected by drawing, the department shall create an alternate list by drawing the remaining names of applicants for a specific hunt and placing the names on the alternate list in the order in which the names were drawn;

(C) if a successful applicant cancels the **resident or nonresident** guided hunt, the person whose name appears first on the alternate list for that hunt shall be offered the permit; if an alternate applicant fails to furnish proof that the applicant will be accompanied by a guide, the permit must be offered in turn to succeeding alternate applicants until the alternate list is exhausted;

(D) if a **resident or** guided nonresident drawing permit is available, but the alternate list is exhausted, the permit becomes available, by registration at the Kodiak Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) office, to the first **resident** applicant furnishing proof that the applicant **has paid the nonresident brown bear tag fee, or the first nonresident applicant furnishing proof the applicant will be accompanied by a guide;**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? It's appalling the coveted Kodiak brown bear tag does not have a solid resident priority. How can we allow nonresidents to harvest more Kodiak bears annually than residents? The number one reason I hear is financial despite the fact Alaska resident hunters spend over one billion dollars annually on hunting and hunting-related expenditures, which is 88% of the money spent on hunting annually in Alaska!

PROPOSED BY: Brad Sparks (EJ-F18-773)

PROPOSAL 102

5 AAC 85.020. Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear.

Eliminate nonresident opportunity for the RB230 and RB260 registration permit brown bear hunts in Unit 8 as follows:

For Unit 8 Northeastern portion of Kodiak Island, including all drainages into Chiniak, Anton Larsen and northeast Ugak (east of the Saltery Creek drainage) bays, including Spruce, Near, Long, Woody, and Ugak Islands.

RB230: Oct. 25 – Nov. 30 Resident Only

RB260: April 1 – May 15 Resident Only

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?

Kodiak Island brown bear registration permit hunts.

Currently, the RB230 and RB260 brown bear registration hunts in the northeast portion of Kodiak Island outside the Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge—often referred to as the road system hunts—are open to both resident and nonresident hunters equally.

This is the only Kodiak brown bear hunt a resident Alaskan has a 100 percent guarantee of being able to hunt. The spring season hunt is especially sought after, and in the last three spring seasons (2015–2017) nonresident hunters have taken the majority of the harvest. In fact, nonresidents have taken 70 percent of the brown bear harvest under the RB260 spring hunt over the past three years.

RB 260 Spring Harvest

ADF&G Data	2015	2016	2017
Nonresident	6	11	7
Resident	5	3	2

All the remaining Kodiak Island—encompassing two-thirds of the island—is draw-permit-only for brown bear for both resident and nonresident and nonresidents are allocated up to 40 percent of the available permits. Nonresident guided hunters have a near 100 percent chance of drawing a permit whereas resident Alaskans have a 1–3 percent chance of drawing.

Guides and their nonresident clients are taking increasing advantage of this unlimited registration hunt along the Kodiak road system, with nonresident guided hunter numbers nearly tripling since 2014, going from eight nonresident hunters in 2014 to 22 nonresident hunters in 2017 (Department of Fish and Game data), adding to competition and impacting the quality of the hunt for residents.

This is an area on Kodiak where residents should have exclusive hunting privileges and opportunities.

PROPOSED BY: Resident Hunters of Alaska (HQ-F18-025)

PROPOSAL 103

5 AAC 92.061. Special provisions for brown bear drawing permit hunts.

Transfer under-subscribed nonresident Kodiak brown bear drawing permits to the resident drawing permit allocation as follows:

Amend 5 AAC 92.061(a)(3) to read:

(3) the department shall enter, in a guided nonresident drawing, each complete application from a nonresident who will be accompanied by a guide; **if no applications are received for any available permit by the application deadline that permit or permits will be transferred to the resident pool of available permits and be awarded using the same draw permit**

algorithm to a resident applicant who applied for the same permit area and season; the department may enter an application and issue a drawing permit for the general hunt only to a successful nonresident applicant who presents proof at the time of application that the applicant will be accompanied by a guide, as required under AS 16.05.407 or 16.05.408;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?

Under-subscribed Kodiak brown bear permits after draw hunt application period.

According to the 2017 draw permit supplement and results, zero applications were received for the fall DB 108, 110, 111, 114, 115, 119, and 122–125 draw permit hunts. That is 18 opportunities not applied for.

For the spring 2018 Kodiak brown bear draw hunt, zero applications were received for the DB 138, 140, 141, 143, 144, 145, 149, and 155 hunts. Many other hunts were not fully subscribed and there were over 30 hunt opportunities not applied for.

There are similar results for previous years.

Those same spring and fall permits in the resident pool of tags are highly sought after, fully subscribed, and on average have less than 3% chance of being drawn.

In researching this issue and talking with Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) staff on Kodiak, we were informed that most of the above hunts that were not applied for during the draw application period were actually hunted, but ADF&G was unable to tell us how many or which ones were hunted or not. This caused us to further question what was going on with these nonresident guided-only draw permit hunts.

Kodiak Island is unique in that two-thirds of the island is within the Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) where guides have exclusive hunt concession areas that are tied to individual permits. See map of exclusive guide use areas within Kodiak NWR.*

A nonresident hunter wishing to apply, for example, for the DB122 Uganik Bay permit can only hunt with the contracting guide who holds the exclusive concession in that area. A signed guide-client agreement is required at the time of application. This allows the guide to essentially pick and choose which nonresident hunter he or she will accept as a client within the draw permit process.

But because of the way the regulation (5 AAC 92.061(a)(4)(A-D) is written, guides don't need to submit applicants for the draw and nonresidents with signed guide-client agreements don't need to submit applications for the draw either. The entire draw permit system can be circumvented using the registration process outlined in the regulation if no applications are received during the draw application period.

Guides with exclusive concessions on Kodiak NWR are essentially being given exclusive permits to pick and choose who gets to hunt or if they don't want those permits hunted at all. Guides can decide not to utilize a permit, whether or not a client should fill out paperwork and

pay the fee to submit a draw permit application or just show up with a signed guide-client agreement and get a registration permit from ADF&G for the same DB100 series draw permit they never applied for in the first place. For the nonresident hunter, it really isn't a draw permit lottery at all, as it is with the resident pool of tags.

Beyond those issues, the public (and ADF&G) has no real idea how many hunts are truly undersubscribed and not hunted.

The draw permit process should not allow for this to happen. It's one thing in regulation—5 AAC 92.061(a)(4)(B)—to allow for an alternate list should a permit winner cancel the hunt.

5 AAC 92.061(a)(4)(D) states that: “if a guided nonresident drawing permit is available, but the alternate list is exhausted, the permit becomes available, by registration at the Kodiak ADF&G office, to the first applicant furnishing proof that the applicant will be accompanied by a guide.”

This is the part of the regulation that is apparently being misused. There never was an alternate list because the guide and/or his or her client decided they didn't need to put in for the draw permit to begin with.

This flawed draw permit process for nonresidents should stop. These are highly coveted hunts and nonresidents should go through a real draw permit lottery process just like residents. If there are zero applications during the draw permit application process for any permit or a hunt went undersubscribed, those permits should be transferred to the resident pool of tags.

**Note: The map referenced above is available on the Board of Game proposal book webpage at www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=gameboard.proposalbook or by contacting the ADF&G Boards Support Section at (907) 465-4046.*

PROPOSED BY: Resident Hunters of Alaska (HQ-F18-027)

PROPOSAL 104

5 AAC 92.061. Special provisions for brown bear drawing permits.

Allow residents to return Kodiak brown bear drawing permits in advance of the hunting season to be reissued to residents as follows:

One tag every four years should be based on opportunity, not harvest; create an alternate list to encourage every tag being hunted.

The Kodiak brown bear bag limit of one every four years should be based on opportunity, not harvest. If someone draws a coveted tag, he or she will be unable to hunt for Kodiak brown bear again for four years regardless of harvest. However, the permit holder should be able to return the tag at least three months prior to the hunt without being penalized. This would allow the individual an opportunity to draw a tag the following year.

An alternate list will be created for each permit number so Alaskan residents can hunt all of the limited, coveted tags issued. This will provide more opportunities for Alaska residents.

Amend 5 AAC 92.061:

(2) the department shall enter, in a resident drawing, each application from a resident and each application from a nonresident accompanied by a resident relative who is within the second degree of kindred; for each season, the department shall issue a maximum of four permits to nonresident hunters accompanied by a resident relative who is within the second degree of kindred; however, the department may not issue, within one calendar year, more than one of these permits per individual hunt, as described in the permit hunt guide published each year by the department;

(A) after the successful resident applicants have been selected by drawing, the department shall create an alternate list by drawing the remaining names of applicants for a specific hunt and placing the names on the alternate list in the order in which the names were drawn;

(B) if a successful resident applicant cancels the hunt at least three months before the hunt start date, the person whose name appears first on the alternate list for that hunt shall be offered the permit; if an alternate applicant cancels the hunt at least three months before the hunt start date, the permit shall be offered in turn to succeeding alternate applicants until the alternate list is exhausted;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? There are too many resident Kodiak brown bear permits going un-hunted. This even further expands the lack of resident priority.

PROPOSED BY: Brad Sparks

(EJ-F18-772)

PROPOSAL 105

5 AAC 85.020. Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear.

Adjust the boundaries of the Kodiak brown bear drawing hunt areas for Kiliuda Bay and Ugak Bay as follows:

The new regulation would adjust the description and maps showing the Kodiak brown bear drawing hunt areas in Kiliuda Bay (-4) and Ugak Bay (-2) to match the state land/federal land border between the two hunt units as the provided maps indicate.* Currently, this border does not match the state land/federal land border as the included maps show.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? This proposal is to adjust the common border of the Kodiak bear drawing hunt areas between Kiliuda Bay and Ugak Bay to match the state land/federal land border.

Kiliuda Bay (-4) hunts	Spring Drawing hunt #	Fall Drawing hunt #
Resident	DB234	DB204
Nonresident	DB134	DB104

The hunts above will be referred to as the “-4” hunt area.

Ugak Bay (-2) hunts	Spring Drawing hunt #	Fall Drawing hunt #
Resident	DB232	DB202
Nonresident	DB132	DB102

The hunts above will be referred to as the “-2” hunt area.

These brown bear drawing areas have the same borders as the state Guide Use Areas 8-02 and 8-04. The purpose of this change is to have the brown bear drawing area borders match the state Guide Use Areas as well as the KNWR (Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge) Guide Use Areas. All three of these borders match for almost all of Kodiak, but Kiliuda Bay state Guide Use Area 8-04 does not match federal Guide Use Area KOD-18, and therefore brown bear drawing hunt area -4 does not match the federal land/state land border.

This proposal is to adjust the northern border of the -4 brown bear hunt areas listed above to line up with the state land/federal land border. Maps with the current and proposed border changes have been provided to illustrate the change.

Currently, brown bear hunt area -4 is approximately 2/3 federal land and 1/3 state land by size. This border change would only impact bear drawing areas -4 and -2. The border change would make -4 somewhat smaller and make -2 somewhat larger.

Access to hunt area -2 is currently somewhat restricted due to the majority of the area being mountainous, Hidden Basin has private property and the south arm of Ugak Bay has a permanent lodge.

The border change will allow significantly more access to hunt area -2 from Kiliuda Bay and reduces hunter congestion in Ugak Bay. Access to hunt area -4 would not be an issue since it is a peninsula and can be accessed from several sides.

This proposed change would only impact bear hunting because the goat hunting area (DG476) border is not common to the current border of -4, nor is it common to the proposed border move to the state land/ federal land boundary.

Since resident and nonresident bear hunting is allocated based on a drawing, this proposal would need a review of the bear hunting drawing permit allocation numbers by the Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G). However, it seems reasonable that approximately 2/3 of the number of current bear hunting permits for both resident and nonresidents from -4 would remain with -4 based on the fact that the new size of -4 would be approximately 2/3 the size of the current area. The other 1/3 of permits would be added to the -2 hunt area allocation.

Goat hunting permits would remain unchanged since there are no border changes proposed for DG476.

Record keeping from previous bear hunting activities for bear hunt area changes would need to be updated, however, ADG&G tracks this information when the bears are sealed as well as on the hunt report.

Guides that hunt on state land in areas -2 and -4 would benefit because they would only have to register in one Guide Use Area (8-02) instead of two as they do currently to be able to hunt all the state land currently contained in the two hunt areas, -2 and -4, since the state land in -4 would be added to the -2 area. This would allow guides to register another Guide Use Area in Alaska without exceeding the max of three areas.

The lodge in Ugak Bay in the -2 area would have less pressure because guided hunts in the newly altered -2 area could hunt on the Kiliuda Bay side of the hunt area, thereby reducing hunter density and improving the quality of the experience from the Ugak Bay side.

There is a current underutilization of hunt area -4 on the KNWR land for nonresident guided hunts since there is only one federal refuge permit holder. Refuge permit holder competes for permits with all guides that hunt state land in -4. Example: Spring of 2017 and spring of 2018 had no guided nonresident hunts on the federal land of -4 because the guides hunters drew no permits even though they had the maximum number of hunters apply that is allowed in both years. The Kiliuda Bay federal land will be able to have regular guided hunts for nonresident hunters, more evenly distributing the harvest if the border is adjusted to line up with the state land/federal land border.

There is a current overutilization of -4 state land for nonresident guided bear hunts since all guided hunting has to take place on a small area of state land in the -4 hunt area with the exception of the current federal wildlife special use permit holder who can hunt the federal land portion of -4.

The Kodiak bear hunt drawing areas currently match the state Guide Use Areas. Therefore, an associated change to the state Guide Use Area borders of Kodiak areas 8-02 (Ugak Bay) and 8-04 (Kiliuda Bay) (such that 8-04 matches the KNWR Guide Use Area KOD-18) will be sought from the Big Game Commercial Services Board (BGCSB) upon the acceptance of this proposal by the Board of Game (board). This two-step approval is required since the board controls the brown bear drawing hunt area borders, and the BGCSB controls the state Guide Use Area borders under **12 AAC 75.265**.

**Note: The author submitted maps and additional information for this proposal, which are available on the Board of Game proposal book webpage at www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=gameboard.proposalbook or by contacting the ADF&G Boards Support Section at (907) 465-4046.*

PROPOSED BY: Michael Zweng (HQ-F18-005)

PROPOSAL 106

5 AAC 92.132. Bag limit for brown bears.

Provide educational material to encourage Kodiak brown bear hunters to harvest boars and penalize hunters for taking sows as follows:

The Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) needs to create resources to educate hunters who draw a coveted Kodiak brown bear tag. This video or workbook would be similar to the bison, musk ox or sheep tutorials. This could be made mandatory or optional based on the Board of Game recommendations.

Another potential solution would be penalizing hunters who shoot sows. If someone shoots a sow, they would not be able to draw a Kodiak brown bear tag for eight years instead of the typical four years. For guided hunts, a separate penalty would have to be established, such as a loss of a future tag allocation.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Percentage of Boar/Sow Harvest. While Alaska residents and guides have never been encouraged by ADF&G to harvest boars as far as I know (I may not know because I have never been drawn), it is important to the population and allows more hunting opportunities if less sows are taken,

PROPOSED BY: Brad Sparks

(EJ-F18-774)

PROPOSAL 107

5 AAC 92.080. Unlawful methods of taking game; exceptions.

Prohibit shooting from a boat while hunting in the Ugak Bay area in Unit 8 as follows:

From a line drawn between Gull and Pasagshak Point eastward up the bay, shooting from a boat, moving or not, for other than waterfowl, is prohibited.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Shooting from a boat in Ugak Bay. This is dangerous because there are many cabins and homes on the beaches of the bay. These cabins are occupied during deer season and the danger is obvious.

PROPOSED BY: Jack Harris

(HQ-F18-001)

PROPOSAL 108

5 AAC 92.540. Controlled use areas.

Create a controlled use area on the Ayakulic River in Unit 8 as follows:

Create a controlled use area in Unit 8 on the Ayakulic River, limit the type of outboard motor used on the river to four-stroke only.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?

Limit the type of outboard motors on the Ayakulik River in Unit 8. Make the Ayakulik River a controlled use area and allow only four-stroke motors.

The Ayakulik River is located on the remote south end of Kodiak Island; the river provides critical habitat to all five species of Pacific salmon and steelhead trout. The steelhead and some salmon species have had recent declines in run strength, causing seasonal closures for both commercial and sport fisheries. The Ayakulik is also pristine wilderness and provides habitat and food for an abundance of wildlife including brown bear, bald eagle, land otter, beaver, ermine, Sitka black-tail deer, reindeer, and waterfowl. In recent years, there has been an increase in residents and nonresidents that access the Ayakulik River for hunting, fishing and sightseeing. Some user groups that access the Ayakulik use two-stroke or belt-driven motors on boats for navigating the river. When this type of motor is used, the noise pollution from these motors spooks all of the wildlife for at least a mile in every direction. It pushes the bears out of the area and away from the salmon; a critical food source. The exhaust pollutes the water. In 2018 we have the technology with four-stroke motors to stop the noise and water pollution. It would benefit every refuge user and all of the local wildlife without limiting access if only four-stroke motors were allowed on the Ayakulik River.

PROPOSED BY: Greg Acord

(EG-F18-022)

PROPOSAL 109

5 AAC 92.095. Unlawful methods of taking furbearers; exceptions.

Require all snares on the Kodiak road system to have a breakaway mechanism as follows:

On the Kodiak road system, all snares must have a breakaway mechanism (of a designated minimum poundage) on the loop end of the snare and the snare cable and anchor must be stronger than the breakaway mechanism.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? There has been an increase in the catch of non-target animals in snares along the Kodiak road system, including bears. The main concerns are with “locking” style snares. Without tension release or breakaway requirements for the snares, the snares caused severe harm and the bears had to be put down.

What will happen if nothing is done: Continued possible loss of brown bears.

Other solutions considered: (1) We considered to make this island-wide, but have not had enough input from off-road system trappers. (2) We considered tension release aids, but don’t think they would work as effectively on the long hair of the bears.

PROPOSED BY: Kodiak Fish and Game Advisory Committee

(EG-F18-030)

Anchorage Area – Unit 14C

PROPOSAL 110

5 AAC 85.040(a)(7). Hunting seasons and bag limits for goat.

Modify the nonresident bow and arrow goat hunt structure in the Lake George area in Unit 14C from a drawing hunt to a registration hunt as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(7)		
...		
Remainder of Unit 14(C)		
RESIDENT HUNTERS:		
1 goat by registration permit only; however, goats may be taken from Aug. 16 through Aug. 31 by bow and arrow only; the taking of nannies with kids is prohibited	Aug. 16—Nov. 30 (General hunt only)	
NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:		
1 goat by <u>registration</u> [DRAWING] permit only, and by bow and arrow only; the taking of nannies with kids is prohibited; or		Aug. 16—Aug. 31
1 goat by drawing permit only; the taking of nannies with kids is prohibited		Sept. 1—Oct. 15
...		

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? This proposal is to change the nonresident bow and arrow goat season in Lake George (Unit 14C) from a drawing permit to a registration permit. This hunt was previously administered as a registration permit until regulatory year 2017–18, when it became a drawing permit.

At the 2016 Statewide Board of Game meeting, both the nonresident bow and arrow goat hunt and the nonresident unrestricted weapons goat hunt were converted from registration hunts into

drawing hunts for the remainder of Unit 14C, specifically the Lake George area. This created nonresident goat hunts DG888 (bow and arrow only) and DG889 (unrestricted weapons) and was in response to a Department of Fish and Game (department) proposal, as the nonresident unrestricted weapons registration hunt was continually exceeding the set harvest quota.

The Lake George area is the most popular goat hunting area in Unit 14C and supports the largest numbers of goats in the unit. A 2015 minimum count survey of all goat areas in Unit 14C documented that 471 out of 877 goats observed were in the Lake George area. The department manages goats in this area at a harvest rate of 5%.

The bow and arrow hunts in the Lake George area have rarely produced any harvest, from either resident or nonresident hunters (RG879, residents only; DG888, nonresidents only). Changing the nonresident bow and arrow drawing hunt back into a registration permit with permits available online or in-person in Anchorage, Palmer and Soldotna would expand opportunity for goat hunters. The department does not currently have a conservation concern based on bow and arrow harvest of goats in this area and liberalizing the permit structure should not drastically change harvest rates. Harvest would be evaluated against the quota set for each year. If harvest were to exceed the quota, hunts could be closed by emergency order.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F18-035)

PROPOSAL 111

5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.

Lengthen the hunting season for moose in the Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson Management Area in Unit 14C as follows:

Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (JBER) proposes to change the following moose hunt open season dates for 5 AAC 85.045 as follows:

- Unit 14C Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (DM421) to: **Sept. 1** [SEPT. 5]—Nov. 15, Dec. 15—Jan. 15
- Unit 14C Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (DM422) to: **Sept. 1** [SEPT. 5]—Nov. 15, Dec. 15—Jan 15
- Unit 14C Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (DM423) to: **Sept. 1** [SEPT. 5]—Nov. 15, Dec. 15—Jan 15
- Unit 14C Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (DM424) to: **Sept. 1** [SEPT. 5]—Nov. 15
- Unit 14C Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (DM428) to: **Sept. 1** [SEPT. 5]—Sept. 30

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? JBER would like to change the start date of the moose hunts that begin in September from the day after Labor Day to the first of September. The proposed change to September 1 for the moose hunts would coincide with the proposed start of the black bear hunt open season dates. Aligning all of the hunt start

dates will allow the JBER Conservation Law Enforcement Officers and Natural Resources Staff to be able to manage the proficiency testing, orientations and hunts more effectively.

PROPOSED BY: Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (HQ-F18-011)

PROPOSAL 112

5 AAC 85.045(5). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.

Reauthorize the antlerless moose 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
be issued; or

Day after Labor Day
—Sept. 30
(General hunt only)

Day after Labor Day
—Sept. 30

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 and Game (department) recommends reauthorizing the antlerless moose hunts in Unit 14C. The harvest of antlerless moose provides the department 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, the department 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-F18-057)

PROPOSAL 113

5 AAC 85.045(5). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.

Reauthorize the antlerless moose 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

...

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 and Game (department) 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. 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 December 2016 aerial composition count of moose in the Twentymile, Portage, and Placer river drainages found 153 moose with a bull:cow ratio of 30 bulls per 100 cows and a calf:cow ratio of 18 calves per 100 cows.

The harvest of antlerless moose provides the department 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.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F18-055)

Note: Alaska Statute 16.05.255 specifies the bag limit taken under a youth hunt must be counted against the bag limits for both the child and adult.

PROPOSAL 114

5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep.

Open a youth drawing hunt for Dall sheep in Unit 14C as follows:

Issue resident youth sheep permits – bag limit – any-ram in all draw areas within Unit 14C. The number of permits issued will be equal to the number of nonresident permits issued for each draw code. Season dates – August 1–5 or concurrent with draw season dates.

Shared bag limit by the guardian/parent is not a requirement of the draw permits in Unit 14C.

Rescind the shared bag limit for youth sheep hunts in all general harvest areas.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Youth hunting opportunities for sheep is currently limited to a five-day season in general harvest areas. Most of the areas are

quite difficult or expensive to access resulting in poor participation. In addition, further discouragement of participation results from the bag limit shared with the guardian/parent.

The current youth sheep hunt has been in place for the last two years, resulting in a 12+/- rams killed by youth each fall. The onerous limits (shared bag limit) placed on this hunt is discouraging to the guardian and hence the youth are not getting opportunity to utilize the resource. Considering the total harvest by both residents and nonresidents in general areas of over 700 rams a year, and the Department of Fish and Game has no concern for overharvesting rams (under full curl regs), youth shared bag limit should be dropped. The current youth harvest is not having a measurable impact now, nor would they be in the future, after dropping the shared bag limit, assuming current full curl management, short five-day season, and difficulty/cost of access.

Secondly, a recent study indicates that at least 50% of the legal rams each year are left on the mountain under full-curl regulations, indicating populations are sustainable under current management, regardless of hunting "pressure."

Sheep are readily accessible from trail systems in much of Unit 14, making both success and participation more probable compared the current youth hunts available.

Sheep populations in the Chugach State Park are robust, with many rams dying of old age each year. Additional limited opportunity for youth could be provided with little to no impact to the current resource given the surplus of rams in Unit 14C.

PROPOSED BY: Ivan Clark (EG-F18-065)

PROPOSAL 115

5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep.

Establish a separate Dall sheep drawing for second degree of kindred hunters in Unit 14C as follows:

Recommended Solution: Have a separate second degree of kindred (2DK) drawing for sheep tags in Unit 14C (DS300s series). Allow one additional hunt for the Northwest Unit – Dates: August 10 – September 17, one additional hunt for the Southwest Unit – Dates: August 10 – September 17, and one additional hunt for Unit 14C West bow hunt – Dates: October 1–10. These hunts would only be available for nonresident 2DK hunters. The remainder of the Unit 14C nonresident sheep tags would be applied for by nonresident hunters that have a guide-client agreement with a qualified guide.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The increased number of 2DK hunters drawing nonresident sheep tags in Unit 14C. Also, the requirement that the relative accompany the 2DK nonresident in the field.

PROPOSED BY: Anders Gustafson (EG-F18-037)

PROPOSAL 116

5 AAC 85.020. Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear.

5 AAC 92.132. Bag limit for brown bears.

Change the brown bear hunt in Unit 14C Remainder to a registration hunt with a bag limit of one bear every year as follows:

Brown/Grizzly Bear

Unit 14C Remainder

Resident and Nonresident

One bear every regulatory year by registration permit RB XXX Sept. 1—May 31.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?

One every 4-year bag limit for brown bear in Unit 14C Remainder.

Unit 14C Remainder within the Chugach National Forest is adjacent to Unit 7 that also includes the Chugach National Forest. Brown bear populations in both units are abundant.

The bag limit for brown bear in Unit 7 is one bear every regulatory year, September 1 – May 31, for both residents and nonresidents under the RB300 permit.

We see no reason the same bag limit and registration permit structure should not be implemented in Unit 14C Remainder.

PROPOSED BY: Resident Hunters of Alaska

(HQ-F18-024)

PROPOSAL 117

5 AAC 85.015. Hunting seasons and bag limits for black bear.

Extend the hunting season for black bear in the Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson Management Area in Unit 14C as follows:

Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (JBER) proposes to extend the black bear hunting season for 5 AAC 85.015. Unit 14C Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (DL455) to encompass the entire open season for black bears in Unit 14C: **Sept. 1—Jun 15** [APR. 15—JUN15]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? JBER would like to extend the black bear hunting season to encompass the entire open season for black bears in Unit 14C. For safety purposes during military training activities, portions of JBER are closed to the public while training occurs. Due to military training requirements, access to portions of JBER for the 2016 black bear hunt was curtailed for majority of the hunting season for safety to the military and public. To provide hunters with the greatest opportunity to have a successful hunt on JBER, we propose extending the open season dates of the hunt.

PROPOSED BY: Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson

(HQ-F18-010)

PROPOSAL 118

5 AAC 85.015. Hunting seasons and bag limits for black bear.

5 AAC 92.530(3)(B). Management areas.

Open a registration black bear hunt for shotgun and muzzleloader only in the McHugh Creek hunt area in the Anchorage Management Area as follows:

Open a black bear registration hunt in existing DM666 McHugh Creek hunt area. Proposal is for a weekday hunt with season dates September 5 through May 31. Shotgun or muzzleloader only.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Provide additional black bear hunting opportunities in Unit 14C.

PROPOSED BY: Anchorage Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-F18-026)

PROPOSAL 119

5 AAC 85.015. Hunting seasons and bag limits for black bear.

5 AAC 92.530(3)(B). Management areas.

Open a registration black bear hunt for shotgun and muzzleloader only in the Upper Campbell Creek hunt area in the Anchorage Management Area as follows:

Open a black bear registration hunt in existing DM666 Upper Campbell Creek hunt area. Proposal is for a weekday hunt with season dates September 5 through May 31. Shotgun or muzzleloader only.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Provide additional black bear hunting opportunities in Unit 14C.

PROPOSED BY: Anchorage Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-F18-027)

PROPOSAL 120

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

5 AAC 92.530(3). Management areas.

Open a black bear baiting registration hunt for shot gun or muzzleloader only within the Anchorage Management Area as follows:

Registration resident bear baiting hunt from May 1 through June 15 within Unit 14C in the Anchorage Management Area. Hunt areas will be determined by Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) local biologists. Hunters who apply must have a bear baiting certification and follow all requirements for bear baiting. Shotgun or black powder only. Biologist samples and sex identification may be required upon the taking of a black bear.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Create a black bear baiting hunt within the Anchorage Game Management Area, Unit 14C. This hunt would provide local

hunters an opportunity to take bears in a much safer way. Since most hunters harvest bears from a tree stand, the trajectory of the projectile is in a downward direction, eliminating a stray bullet from traveling far. It also provides a better opportunity for hunters by attracting the animal to a planned location where it would draw them away from more populated areas. Many Anchorage citizens were concerned over last year's many interactions between residents and bears. Panic in some after hearing of the death of a 14-year-old hiker. Over 30 animals were killed by ADF&G, police and residents claiming they or their property was in danger in the Anchorage area last year alone.

PROPOSED BY: Phillip Calhoun (EJ-F18-767)

PROPOSAL 121

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

Allow the harvest of bear with the use of bait in Unit 14C Remainder as follows:

Add Unit 14C Remainder to the list of areas under 5 AAC 92.044 where black bear baiting is allowed April 15 – June 30.

We also ask the Board of Game to consider allowing brown bear baiting from April 15 – May 31.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?

Bear baiting not allowed in Unit 14C Remainder.

Both black and brown bear hunting is allowed in Unit 14C Remainder for both residents and nonresidents and there is no closed season for black bear in Unit 14C Remainder.

Unit 14C Remainder is adjacent to Unit 7 and within the Chugach National Forest. Bear baiting is allowed in Unit 7 within the Chugach National Forest. There is no reason we can see that bear baiting is restricted in 14C Remainder. The area is fairly remote, there are plenty of bears, and opening up more baiting opportunities will help spread out bear baiters.

PROPOSED BY: Resident Hunters of Alaska (HQ-F18-023)

PROPOSAL 122

5 AAC 92.003. Hunter education and orientation requirements.

Require hunter education for small game hunting in the Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson Management Area in Unit 14C as follows:

Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (JBER) proposes to be added to the list of areas identified requiring hunters to successfully complete a Basic Hunter Education course in the first paragraph of requirements for all hunters on page 13.

...hunters must successfully complete a Basic Hunter Education course before hunting in the following areas:

Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson Management Area (14C small game)

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? JBER would like to be included in the list of the areas identified requiring hunters to successfully complete a Basic Hunter Education course before hunting in those areas. JBER already requires hunters to have completed a Basic Hunter Education course for the moose and black bear draw hunts on base. JBER would like to include this requirement for small game as well. This would provide consistency with requirements for all hunting on base and provide an additional level of safety and awareness to hunters because of the proximity to housing and surrounding residential areas such as Eagle River and Anchorage.

PROPOSED BY: Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (HQ-F18-009)

PROPOSAL 123

5 AAC 84.070. Hunting seasons and bag limits for unclassified game.

Open a year-round season with no bag limit for unclassified game in the Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson Management Area in Unit 14C as follows:

Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (JBER) proposes to have the current regulation for unclassified game in Area 1: JBER for Unit 14C changed to: **No limit. No closed season.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? In the hunting regulations, on page 142, unclassified game (shrew, mouse, and porcupine) for Units 1–26 are identified as “no limit and no closed season” except for special area restrictions in Unit 14C. Area 1 (JBER) is listed as one of the special area restrictions identified as “no open season.” JBER Conservation Law Enforcement Officers have been receiving information on damage to equipment, targets and electronics (including antennas and transmitter electrical wires) being done by porcupines. Many of these areas cannot be fenced or shielded due to the types of items being damaged and their purpose, causing the potential to interfere with training or national security issues. If JBER hunting areas are opened to allow for unclassified game species, this will provide for more hunt opportunity, be consistent with Units 1–26, as well as potentially help reduce the issues being caused by certain species listed under unclassified game.

PROPOSED BY: Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (HQ-F18-008)

PROPOSAL 124

5 AAC 84.270. Furbearer trapping.

Extend the trapping season for beaver in Unit 14C as follows:

Extend Unit 14C beaver trapping season to April 30 to mirror Unit 7 and to more closely match Unit 14A.

Unit 14C, within the drainages of Glacier Creek, Kern Creek, Peterson Creek, the Twentymile River, the drainages of Knik River outside Chugach State Park, Birchwood Management Area and Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (JBER) Management Area.....Season: December 1 – **April 30**.....Limit: 20

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Unit 14C beaver season currently runs December 1 to April 15. The current end date severely restricts safe open water trapping of beaver in a vast majority of years as well as being inconsistent with neighboring units (Unit 7 – April 30 and Unit 14A – May 15).

PROPOSED BY: Bradley Christensen (EG-F18-059)

PROPOSAL 125

5 AAC 92.530(11). Management Areas.

Modify the Birchwood Management Area boundary in Unit 14C as follows:

The following management areas are subject to special restrictions:

...

(11) the Birchwood Management Area:

(A) the area consists of all land bounded on the south and west by Eagle River and the Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (JBER) Military Reservation, on the east by the [OLD GLEN] **Glenn** Highway, and on the north by Peters Creek;

...

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? As currently worded in codified, the Eagle River Management Area and Birchwood Management Area overlap in that section of the Eagle River Drainage between the Glenn Highway and Old Glenn Highway. This proposal seeks to clarify this boundary to prevent confusion for hunters and land managers.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F18-037)

Proposals for Other Regions

PROPOSAL 126

5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.

Allow additional moose harvest opportunity in Unit 16A by providing an antlerless hunt and/or an “any bull” hunt as follows:

Seasons and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(14)		
...		
Unit 16(A)		
1 bull per regulatory year as follows:		
1 bull with spike-fork antlers Or 50-inch antler or 3 or more brow tines on one side, by bow and arrow; or	Aug. 10—Aug. 17 (General hunt only)	Aug. 10—Aug. 17
1 bull with spike-fork antlers Or 50-inch antler or 3 or more brow tines on one side; and	Aug. 20—Sept. 25	Aug. 10—Sept. 25

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

**1 antlerless moose by
drawing permit only; up
to XXX antlerless moose
permits may be issued; or**

**Aug. 20—Sept. 25
(General hunt only)
Nov. 1—Last Day of
February
(General hunt only)**

**1 bull by drawing permit only;
up to XXX permits may be
issued;**

**Aug. 20—Sept. 25
(General hunt only)
Nov. 1—Dec. 15
(General hunt only)**

...

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? During the March 2018 Board of Game (board) meeting in Dillingham, the board requested a board proposal to provide additional moose harvest opportunity in Unit 16A by providing an antlerless hunt and/or an “any

bull” hunt. Unit 16A is in the Anchorage-Matsu-Kenai Peninsula Nonsubsistence Area.

In November 2017, after many years of inadequate survey conditions, a complete moose survey was conducted in Unit 16A. The population was estimated at 8,654 moose, which is above the population objective of 3,500–4,000 moose. The population was comprised of 33.4 bulls:100 cows and 36.3 calves:100 cows. This high calf-to-cow ratio suggests that the population is continuing to increase, and the bull:cow ratio, which also exceeds the objective (20–25 bulls:100 cows), indicates that there are surplus bulls in the population.

Over the last five years the average annual moose harvest has been 204 moose; harvest has been increasing and is within the harvest objective of 190–360 moose. Additional resident harvest opportunities provided through a draw hunt structure will provide the necessary harvest to continue to meet harvest objectives as well as to reduce population levels. Two draw hunts are being proposed in addition to the current archery season and general moose season – one antlerless hunt and one “any bull” hunt.

An antlerless hunt would follow the general season dates for moose in Unit 16A, however, there would be another hunt period beginning post-rut on November 1 extending through the winter until the last day of February. Depending on population size and composition, these two hunt periods could be administered through a single draw hunt with two periods or two separate draw hunts, either of which should maximize hunter participation.

The “any bull” draw hunt would also follow the general season dates for moose in Unit 16A in August – September but would add a second hunt period beginning November 1 and ending December 15. This draw opportunity could also be split either into a single draw hunt with two hunt periods or two draw hunts, depending on the needs of management to bring the population composition into management objectives.

These proposed options are in lieu of registration hunts, which can be unwieldy to administer particularly around high population centers.

PROPOSED BY: Board of Game (HQ-F18-072)

Note: The Board of Game deferred this proposal from the Central/Southwest Region Meeting in February 2018. It was previous numbered Proposal 165.

PROPOSAL 127

5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.

Open a registration hunt for moose in Unit 19A as follows:

Replace the closed area of Unit 19A with a registered Tier I permit hunt. Permits would be available at the store in Sleetmute. Permit application would be for one week, one month before opening season. Anyone acquiring this permit can have no other hunting permits in the Kuskokwim drainage.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The closure of Unit 19A above the George River to moose hunting. The fish and game survey of spring 2017 show there is a harvestable population for the first time since the closure in 2006.

This hunting season should have been available in the 2017 cycle of the Board of Game for Interior/Northeast Arctic Region (Region 3), however weather conditions did not allow for aerial surveys to validate this opening until the board cycle was past. The AC was not able to put an agenda change request together because of all the summer activities of its members.

This would not allow for local people to have an opportunity to take moose in close proximity of their communities.

This will be a Tier I registration permit hunt available to all Alaskans.

PROPOSED BY: Henry Hill

(HQ-F17-ACR1)

Note: The Board of Game deferred this proposal as amended from the 2018 Central/Southwest Region Meeting. It was previously numbered Proposal 123. The board amended the proposal to exclude the Maclaren Summit Trail from the Controlled Use Area as described below, which will allow motorized access or transportation of game on the established Maclaren Summit Trail, whereas before it was restricted.

PROPOSAL 128

5 AAC 92.540(3)(C)(i). Controlled Use Areas.

Modify the Clearwater Creek Controlled Use Area description as follows:

...

(C) Clearwater Creek Controlled Use Area:

(i) the area consists of that portion of Unit 13(B) north of Denali Highway, west of **up to 100 feet east of the Maclaren Summit trail from the Denali Highway north to the southern boundary of the Controlled Use Area, and** the Maclaren River drainage, and east of, and including eastern bank drainages of the Middle Fork of the Susitna River downstream from and including the Susitna Glacier, and the eastern bank drainages of Susitna River downstream from its confluence with the Middle Fork

(ii) The area is closed to the use of any motorized vehicle for hunting, including the transportation of hunters, their hunting gear, and/or parts of game, except for brown/grizzly bears, wolves, and small game from March through June 30; however, this provision does not prohibit motorized access, or transportation of game on the Denali Highway and adjacent highway vehicle parking areas;

...

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Clearwater Creek Controlled Use Area (CCUA) is closed to the use of any motorized vehicle for hunting, including the transportation of hunters, their hunting gear, or parts of game, except for brown/grizzly bears, wolves, and small game from March 15 through June 30. The area provides a large hunting area, accessible from the Denali Highway, where roadside and non-motorized hunters have a reasonable opportunity to harvest moose and caribou. Recently there has been some confusion by the public regarding the location of the Maclaren Summit Trail relative to the eastern boundary of the CCUA. Recent GIS analysis conducted by the Alaska Department of Natural Resources and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game has identified that the trailhead and the majority of the Maclaren Summit Trail lies within the Maclaren River drainage and the controlled use area. The original proposal (Proposal 123) added the remainder of the Maclaren Summit Trail to the CCUA description whereas the amended proposal removes the entire trail from the CCUA.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F17-041)

Note: Proposal 129 was accepted by the Board of Game as an agenda change request for consideration at the Southcentral Region Meeting in March 2019.

PROPOSAL 129

5 AAC 92.530(7)(C). Management areas.

Clarify the ability for trappers to transport furbearers or lawful parts of game as trapping bait within the Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area as follows:

The Alaska Wildlife Troopers requests the Board of Game (board) clarify the intent of the Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area in regard to trappers and the use of motorized vehicles.

5 AAC 92.530. Management areas.

(7) the Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area:

(A) the area consists of those portions of Units 20 and 24–26 extending five miles from each side of the Dalton Highway, including the drivable surface of the Dalton Highway, from the Yukon River to the Arctic Ocean, and including the Prudhoe Bay Closed Area;

(B) the area within the Prudhoe Bay Closed Area is closed to the taking of big game; the remainder of the Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area is closed to hunting; however, big game, small game, and fur animals may be taken in the area by bow and arrow only, and small game may be taken by falconry;

(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,

(3) Galbraith Lake Road from the Dalton Highway to the BLM campground at Galbraith Lake, including the gravel pit access road when the gate is open,

(4) Toolik Lake Road, excluding the driveway to the Toolik Lake Research Facility,

(5) the Sagavanirktok River access road two miles north of Pump Station 2, and

(6) any constructed roadway or gravel pit within one-quarter mile of the Dalton Highway;

(ii) aircraft and boats may be used;

(iii) a snowmachine may be used to cross the management area from land outside the management area to access land on the other side of the management area;

(D) any hunter traveling on the Dalton Highway must stop at any check station operated by the department within the Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The regulation in place for the Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area (DHCMA) prohibits the use of motorized vehicles to transport hunters, hunting gear, and parts of game. That has been interpreted that hunters could not operate motorized vehicles, but trappers could. It has recently come to the attention of the Alaska Wildlife Troopers and the Department of Fish and Game that due to the definition of “game,” trappers cannot transport furbearers or lawful bait that consists of parts of game with a motorized vehicle in the DHCMA. It is requested that the intent of this regulation in regard to trappers and the use of motorized vehicles be placed into the regulation.

If the intent of the regulation was to only pertain to hunters, then an exception should be created to allow the use of motorized vehicle for the transportation of furbearers taken under the authority of a trapping licenses and parts of game lawfully used as bait under a trapping license.

If the intent of the regulation is to not allow trappers to transport parts of games, then the Alaska Wildlife Troopers (AWT) believe that the regulation should read “... no motorized vehicle may be used to transport hunter or trappers, hunting or trapping gear, or parts of game...” This will make the intent of the regulation very clear to both enforcement and trappers.

At the time AWT presented the agenda change request to the board at the February 2019 board meeting, it was the belief that the regulations for multiple management areas would need to be clarified in regard to the intent for trappers to transport game and furbearers, but after reviewing the regulations, it was determined that the DHMCA is the only management area needing clarification.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Wildlife Troopers

(HQ-F18-ACR1)

Note: The Board of Game deferred this proposal from the 2017 Statewide Regulations Meeting. It was previously numbered Proposal 34.

PROPOSAL 130

5 AAC 92.057. Special provisions for Dall sheep drawing permit hunts.

5 AAC 92.061. Special provisions for Unit 8 brown bear permit hunts.

5 AAC 92.069. Special provisions for moose drawing permit hunts.

5 AAC 92.050. Required permit hunt conditions and procedures.

In drawing hunts with a separate allocation for residents and nonresidents, all nonresident permits will be issued from the nonresident allocation as follows:

All nonresidents shall be placed in the nonresident pool of drawing tags for hunts with a separate allocation to nonresidents and residents.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?

Nonresident second degree of kindred in resident drawing pools.

Alaska's must-be-guided law (AS 16.05.407/408) was created in 1967 and would not have passed without the inclusion to allow nonresident hunters to hunt with a resident relative within second degree of kindred (2DK) in lieu of having to hire a guide.

The guide industry has pushed for years to separate out 2DK hunters from guided hunters and in some cases, like Kodiak, the nonresident 2DK hunters are in the resident pool of tags. All nonresident hunters should be treated equally according to our must-be-guided law. All nonresident hunters should be in the same pool of nonresident tags under draw permit hunts with a separate allocation to nonresidents.

Regardless of the level of 2DK hunters for must-be-guided species, a nonresident hunter is a nonresident hunter, period. Alaska's must-be-guided law never intended for one class of nonresident hunters (2DK) to be singled out and separated from the other (guided). There is currently a push by the guide industry to remove the 2DK provision with a new regulation eliminating 2DK nonresident tags entirely; all 2DK hunters in the future will only be allowed to hunt with a resident relative who has drawn a resident tag. The resident relative would essentially forfeit his or her tag and give it to their nonresident relative. That would be worse than putting all 2DK nonresident hunters in the resident pool of tags because it would prevent a resident and nonresident 2DK hunter from both drawing a tag and both having an opportunity to harvest an animal together.

Again, this is not what our must-be-guided law intended. Legislators realized that most nonresidents hunting must-be-guided species would hire a guide. They included the 2DK provision not as a benefit to certain nonresidents over others, but as a way of carrying on family hunting traditions and opportunities. 2DK hunters should never be dependent on a resident relative to put in and draw a tag in order to hunt with them in Alaska. A nonresident 2DK hunter should be given the same opportunity to draw a tag as a nonresident guided hunter within the nonresident pool of tags.

Treat all nonresidents equally as our must-be-guided law intended.

PROPOSED BY: Resident Hunters of Alaska

(EG-F17-100)



Antlerless Moose & Brown Bear Tag Fee Reauthorizations for Other Regions

PROPOSAL 131

5 AAC 85.045(a)(11). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.

Reauthorize the antlerless moose 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 of Fish and Game (department) has issued ten permits annually for a hunt in Unit 13A. The department 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 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 the department 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 have generally increased at an average rate of 2% per year in the intensive wolf management area over the past ten years. The current population objective for Unit 13A is 3,500–4,200 and the population was estimated to be above objective in 2015–2016 and within objectives in 2017. The antlerless hunt in western Unit 13A is necessary to maintain the population within the intensive management objectives. The additional harvest provided by the hunt will also assist in achieving the harvest objectives for the population. If antlerless moose hunting opportunities are 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-F18-047)

PROPOSAL 132

5 AAC 84.045(a)(12). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.

Reauthorize the antlerless moose seasons in Units 14A and 14B as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(12)		
Unit 14(A)		
1 moose per regulatory year, only as follows:		
...		
1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only; up to 2,000 antlerless moose permits may be issued.	Aug. 20—Sept. 25 (General hunt only) Nov. 1—Dec. 15 (General hunt only)	No open season
...		
1 moose by targeted permit only; by crossbow, shotgun or bow and arrow only; up to 200 permits may be issued.	Winter season to be announced (General hunt only)	No open season

Unit 14(B)

1 moose per regulatory year,
only as follows:

...

1 moose by targeted
permit only; by crossbow,
shotgun or bow and arrow 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 Matanuska-Susitna 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 February 2017 yielded an estimate of 8,700 moose in Unit 14A. This estimate was greater than the post-hunt objective of 6,000–6,500 moose and greater than the 2013 survey estimate of 8,500 moose with a bull ratio of 21 bulls:100 cows and a calf ratio of 45 calves:100 cows.

Antlerless moose hunts have been authorized in Unit 14A since 2001 in order to regulate the growth of the population. The permit level was increased from 450 to 1,000 in 2013 to account for the continued increase in the population and again in spring 2018 from 1,000 to 2,000. Increased harvest based on the increased permit levels is expected to bring the population back to within the objective for the unit of 6,000–6,500.

The current increases in the harvest have seemingly slowed the population growth, however, it has not reduced the moose population to within 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 Matanuska-Susitna 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 Matanuska-Susitna Valley area during the last few years of average snowfall and substantially more were killed during higher snowfall years. The Department of Fish and Game also receives periodic complaints from the public about crop depredation and aggressive behavior that can be mitigated by this hunt structure.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F18-045)

PROPOSAL 133**5 AAC 85.045(a)(16). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.**

Reauthorize the antlerless moose seasons in Unit 18 as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(16)		
...		
Unit 18, that portion south of and including the Goodnews River Drainage	Sept. 1—Sept. 30	
1 antlered bull by registration permit only; or		
1 moose by registration Permit only; During the Jan. 1–Jan 31 a season up to 21 days may be announced by emergency order	Jan. 1—Jan. 31 (Season to be announced)	
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.	
2 moose	Dec. 1—Mar. 15	
NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:		
1 antlered bull: or		Sept. 1—Sept. 30
1 antlerless moose		Dec. 1—Mar. 15
...		

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? To be retained, the antlerless moose seasons in Unit 18 must be reauthorized annually. The current antlerless hunts in the Remainder of Unit 18 were adopted at the January 2014 Board of Game meeting in Kotzebue. The current antlerless hunt in the Goodnews Hunt area and nonresident antlerless hunt was adopted at the January 2017 Board of Game meeting in Bethel. The Board of Game has previously reauthorized the antlerless moose season for resident hunts in Unit 18 Remainder for regulatory year (RY) 2016 – RY2018. This proposal requests reauthorization for RY2019.

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 and Game (ADF&G) 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 17,000 animals with calf:cow ratios ranging from 65:100 to 75:100 and twinning rates from 20% 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 with high recruitment and adult survival.

Although the current year harvest data in the Remainder of Unit 18 has not been finalized due to the early proposal deadline, we expect harvest to be similar to the past four 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.

The moose population in the Goodnews River drainage had grown steadily in the past 15 years following a closure in 2004. The fall hunt has had a quota of ten in the first few years of the hunt and recently increased to 30. The season has not been closed by emergency order and the past few years the quota was not met. The population now is over 300 moose and based on the steady growth in moose populations and productivity, ADF&G proposes continued antlerless moose hunts in the Goodnews River Drainage.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F18-061)

PROPOSAL 134

5 AAC 85.045(a)(15). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.

Reauthorize the antlerless moose 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 moose by registration permit only; or	Aug. 25—Sept. 25 (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 to 31 days may be announced by emergency order;	Winter season to 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 Department of Fish and 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 that when the population exceeds 1,200 moose, a bag limit of up to two moose is established. Based on the most recent survey with good conditions in March 2017, both of these conditions have been met with a population estimate of 1,990 moose \pm 437. After further analyses, this estimate will be corrected for sightability, which will result in a higher population estimate further supporting liberal harvest strategies. The bag limit of two moose and antlerless harvest opportunity provides a mechanism to limit population growth and allows hunters to harvest surplus animals.

The moose population in subunit 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 elsewhere, especially to the north and west.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F18-044)

PROPOSAL 135

5 AAC 85.045(18). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.

Reauthorize the antlerless moose 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 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	
...		
1 moose by targeted permit only; by crossbow, shotgun, or bow and arrow only; up to 100 permits may be issued	Season to be announced by emergency order	
...		

Remainder of Unit 20(A)

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

...

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 Area, Wood River Controlled Use Area, and the Yanert Controlled Use Area; a person may not take a cow accompanied by a calf; or

Aug. 15—Nov. 15

1 antlerless moose by registration permit only; a person may not take a cow accompanied by a calf; or

Aug. 25—Feb. 28

...

1 moose by targeted permit only; by crossbow, shotgun, or bow and arrow only; up to 100 permits may be issued

Season to be announced by emergency order

...

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Antlerless moose hunting seasons must be reauthorized annually. Our goal 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, help to 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:cow ratios.

If antlerless moose hunts are not reauthorized, the moose population may increase to unacceptable levels or may need reduction when new data is available and analyzed. 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.

This reauthorization of antlerless moose hunts will likely improve or maintain the ability of moose habitat to support the current moose population. Hunting opportunity and harvest will increase and allow the Department of Fish and Game (department) to manage these moose populations at optimum levels. The additional harvest will help in meeting intensive management harvest objectives without reducing bull:cow ratios to low levels. Meat and subsistence hunters will benefit from the opportunity to harvest cow moose. Moose populations will benefit by having moose densities compatible with their habitat. Motorists and residents may benefit from reduced moose-vehicle collisions and moose-human conflicts.

Our current objective is to maintain moose numbers within the IM population objective of 10,000–15,000 moose (the IM population objective adopted by the Board of Game in 2016) while monitoring indicators of moose and habitat condition for positive density-dependent responses. The Unit 20A population was estimated at 10,622–14,009 moose (90% confidence interval) in 2015. Because this estimate falls within the IM population objective and the department has not detected any indicators that the nutrition is not limited within this population, our intention is to harvest moose at a rate of 1% of the population, which has been shown to stabilize the moose population at its current level. Antlerless harvest will be by drawing permits for a majority of Unit 20A and a registration permit in northwest Unit 20A near Nenana. The harvest objective will be based on the most recent survey results.

The number of moose in Unit 20A was estimated at 17,768 in 2003. Research indicated this high-density moose population was experiencing density-dependent effects, including low productivity, relatively light calf weights and high removal rates of winter forage. The objective beginning in regulatory year 2004–2005 was to reduce moose numbers to the population objective of 10,000–12,000 unless indicators of moose condition showed signs of improvement at higher densities. The Unit 20A population was estimated at 10,272–14,115 moose (90% confidence interval) in 2012.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F18-058)

PROPOSAL 136

5 AAC 85.045(18). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.

Reauthorize the antlerless moose seasons 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 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 muzzle-loader by drawing permit only; up to 10 permits may be issued; a recipient of a drawing permit is prohibited from taking an antlered bull moose in the Fairbanks Management Area

Dec. 1—Jan. 31
(General hunt only)

Dec. 1—Jan. 31

Unit 20(B), remainder of the Fairbanks Management Area

...

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 antlerless moose by registration permit only

Oct. 15—Feb. 28
(Subsistence hunt only)

...

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.

...

Unit 20(B), that portion southeast of the Moose Creek dike within one-half mile of each side of the Richardson highway

...

1 moose by drawing permit only; by crossbow, 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 crossbow, 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 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; 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 crossbow, shotgun, or bow and arrow only; up to 100 permits may be issued	Season to be announced by emergency order	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 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, help to 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:cow ratios.

If antlerless moose hunts are not reauthorized, the moose population may exceed population objectives, causing habitat degradation and a loss of opportunity to hunt a surplus of antlerless moose. Furthermore, subsistence hunters in the portion of Unit 20B in the Minto Flats Management Area may not have a reasonable opportunity to pursue moose for subsistence uses.

The reauthorization of antlerless moose hunts in Unit 20B will allow the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) to manage the moose population within the population objectives of 12,000 to 15,000 moose. Hunting opportunity and harvest will increase and allow ADF&G to manage this moose population at optimum levels. The additional harvest is necessary to meet intensive management harvest objectives while maintaining bull:cow ratios within objectives. Subsistence hunters will have reasonable opportunity to harvest cow moose. Moose populations will benefit by having moose densities compatible with their habitat. Motorists and residents may benefit from reduced moose-vehicle collisions and moose-human conflicts.

The moose population level in Unit 20B is currently within our population objectives of 12,000–15,000 moose. The population declined from an estimated 20,173 moose in 2009 to 11,064 in 2015 due in large part to antlerless moose hunts designed to lower the population to our population objectives. The population increased slightly to 12,871 moose during the 2017 survey. Because the population estimate is within our objectives, we recommend limited antlerless hunts in the Minto Flats Management Area (MFMA) and the Fairbanks Management Area (FMA) to maintain the current population level. We will continue to monitor the moose

population and may implement additional antlerless hunts if the population continues to trend upward.

Fairbanks Management Area—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 are high and pose 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 reduce moose-vehicle collisions, ADF&G 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–RY2013, presumably in part due to consistent antlerless moose harvests.

Minto Flats Management Area—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 (4.4 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 2015 and 2017 estimates showed more appropriate densities of 1.6 and 1.7 moose/mi², respectively. Because the population level has been stable and within the population objectives, the antlerless harvest has been reduced to approximately 1% of the total population to maintain the current population level.

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 ADF&G 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.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F18-059)

PROPOSAL 137

5 AAC 85.045(18). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.

Reauthorize antlerless moose seasons in Unit 20D as follows:

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

(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

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

...

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)

...

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 antlerless moose by drawing permit only; up to 1,000 permits may be issued in combination with that portion lying west of

Oct. 10—Nov. 25
(General hunt only)

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

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

...

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.

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.

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 275 moose (an average of 261 bulls and 13 antlerless moose) during regulatory year (RY) 2015 and RY2016.

Antlerless hunting opportunity is limited. 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 (approximately 4,000–4,500 moose with a sightability correction factor applied) and bull harvest in southwestern Unit 20D (128–277) have been stable since 2011. The 2017 population estimate for southwest Unit 20D was 4,553 moose (corrected for sightability) with a density of 2.7 moose per square mile, 40 calves:100 cows and 22 bulls:100 cows.

Antlerless harvest will likely be needed to maintain the population at the optimal density and will help make progress toward the IM harvest objective of 500–700 moose without reducing bull:cow ratios below the management objectives. The population trend and harvest rate suggest the low, consistent antlerless harvest provided by the drawing permit hunts in Unit 20D, in conjunction with other mortality factors (including ceremonial harvest, vehicle collision, accidents and predation), is an appropriate rate of antlerless mortality that contributes to stability in the southwest Unit 20D moose population.

The Department of Fish and Game 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 drawing permits or registration permits will be issued only if more harvest is needed in specific areas to maintain optimal moose densities.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F18-060)

PROPOSAL 138

5 AAC 85.045(a)(24). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.

Reauthorize the antlerless moose 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 recent moose population estimates have fluctuated between 609 moose in 2011, 294 moose in 2014 and 348 moose in 2017. The number of moose that are found in the antlerless hunt area is difficult to estimate but is approximately 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 of Fish and Game 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-F18-062)

PROPOSAL 139

5 AAC 92.015. Brown bear tag fee exemptions.

Reauthorize the resident brown bear tag fee exemptions 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 Region V (Units 18, 22, 23, and 26A).

General Season Hunts: Reauthorizations are needed for: Unit 18, where the tag fee has been exempted for six years; Unit 22, where the tag fee has been exempted for 16 years; Unit 23, where the tag fee has been exempted for 11 years; and Unit 26A, where the tag fee has been exempted for six 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 RY2012 and harvest has remained within sustained yield and continues to be similar to the preceding ten-year period. In Unit 22, the 16-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 and 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 1–3 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-F18-065)

PROPOSAL 140

5 AAC 92.015. Brown bear tag fee exemptions.

Reauthorize the resident brown bear tag fee exemptions for the Central/Southwest Region as follows:

(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 board meeting and in Unit 17 during the March 2011 board 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-F18-064)

PROPOSAL 141

5 AAC 92.015(a)(4). Brown bear tag fee exemptions.

Reauthorize the resident grizzly/brown bear tag fee exemptions for the Interior and Eastern 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.

Region III (Interior and Eastern Arctic) 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.

The Department of Fish and Game (department) estimates that brown bear harvest accounts for less than 6% of the bear population. Harvest 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.

The department 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-F18-063)



Proposed Changes Outside of the Board of Game's Authority

The Board of Game (board) does not have authority to adopt the requested changes in the following proposals. They are included in the book for review and discussion by the board at the applicable region meeting.

The Board of Game does not have authority to change the Brown Bear Management Strategy or the number of guided permit hunts issued by the U.S. Forest Service or private land owners.

PROPOSAL 142

We feel there are two options to consider:

1. Raise the allowable nonresident recommended hunts in Guide Use Area 04-11 in the Brown Bear Management Strategy (BBMS) from nine to 13. Keep the total Unit 4 recommended nonresident hunts at no more than 144 hunts; possibly by using some of the “pool” created by the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) 1/3 Holdback Rule (2009-2017) recently rescinded in the USFS Shoreline II ROD.

OR

2. Reduce authorization on private land in Guide Use Area 04-11 to a maximum of two hunts (2).

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? A recent letter issued in March 1, 2018 by the Unit 4 area biologist of the Department of Fish and Game indicates Guide Use Area 04-11 on Northeast Chichagof are over three-year average of harvest. The Unit 4 Sitka area biologist has worked with private land owners and has authorized four nonresident hunting guide allocations in Guide Use Area 04-11 on private land. With nonresident historical hunting on USFS land, this new private land hunting is contributing to an overharvest according to the number of recommended hunts in the BBMS.

PROPOSED BY: Zach Decker

(EG-F18-057)

The Board of Game does not have authority to change federal hunting regulations.

PROPOSAL 143

Units 15A Remainder, 15B, and 15C – One antlered bull with spike-fork or 50-inch antlers or with three or more brow tines on either antler, by federal registration (FM1505) only; ***upon successful harvest, shall have one antler removed and kept by Fish and Wildlife.*** August 10 – August 20.

Units 15B and 15C – One antlered bull with spike-fork or 50-inch antlers or with three or more brow tines on either antler, by federal registration (FM1505) only; ***upon successful harvest,***

shall have one antler removed and kept by Fish and Wildlife. The Kenai National Wildlife Refuge Manager is authorized to close the October/November season based on conservation concerns, in consultation with the Department of Fish and Game and the Chair of the Southcentral Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council. October 20 – November 10.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? In the recent past (last 5–7 years), a subsistence hunter contacted both Boone and Crockett scorer and the SCI scorers to score his subsistence moose. This does not fit at all with the idea of providing meat for your family. It should **not** be about a "**trophy hunt**" or "**antlers**" at all. It is about providing protein and **sustenance for your family**. There is already in place current regulations by the Federal subsistence for moose in the Koyukuk Controlled Use Areas and for other species as well. This regulation does not add undue burden to create a "new rule."

Populations have increased in the "subsistence areas" and more pressure will be upon the animals. This season comes after a long general harvest and it further stresses the game to take large antlered breeding animals.

PROPOSED BY: Dan Presley (EG-F18-012)

The Board of Game does not have authority to change federal hunting regulations.

PROPOSAL 144

Units 15A Remainder, 15B, and 15C antlered bull with spike-fork or 50-inch antlers, or with three or more brow tines on either antler, by federal registration (FM1505) only; shall carry a GPS or a mapping program equivalent downloaded to your cell phone and mark the coordinates when an animal is taken. The coordinates must be given to the Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) when sealing the antlers. August 10 – August 20.

Units 15A Remainder, 15B and 15C antlered bull with spike-fork or 50-inch antlers, or with three or more brow tines on either antler, by federal registration (FM1505) only; shall carry a GPS or a mapping program equivalent downloaded to your cell phone and mark the coordinates when an animal is taken. The coordinates must be given to ADF&G when sealing the antlers. The Kenai National Wildlife Refuge Manager is authorized to close the October/November season based on conservation concerns, in consultation with ADF&G and the Chair of the Southcentral Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council.

October 20 – November 10.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? During the subsistence moose hunts in Units 15A, 15B, and 15C, hunters are quite often unaware of the Federal Moose Range boundaries and could easily harvest a subsistence moose on state land, which would make it moose poaching. By requiring a GPS and or mapping program downloaded from the internet on to a smart phone, you would be able to be aware of where you are to avoid a poaching scenario.

The Board of Game does not have authority for establishing subsistence hunts in nonsubsistence areas under Alaska Statute 16.05.258(c) and lacks the constitutional authority to restrict a hunt based on residency.

PROPOSAL 145

5 AAC 92.074 Community subsistence harvest hunt area

(a) The commissioner may issue community subsistence harvest permits for designated big game species in the areas specified in this section.

...

(e) Ninilchik Community Harvest Area for moose: includes all of Unit 15C.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Hunting restrictions in Unit 15C have become more and more restrictive, which has hurt the year-round residents of Ninilchik, Alaska. There is also talk that the bull moose hunt in this region may become even further restricted, possibly to draw permit only, making it nearly impossible for Ninilchik residents to access a traditional and customary resource: moose.

Ninilchik families depend upon protein provided by locally harvested moose as access to other sources is limited. The customary and direct dependence on the game population by the subsistence user for human consumption is a mainstay of livelihood in Ninilchik. Not only is this a traditional and customary hunting area, access to other options of meat is limited with the closest grocery stores 40 miles away. Subsistence harvest options are otherwise very limited in this area for rural residents of Ninilchik and restrictions of moose harvest regulations and lack of a subsistence hunt will make the ability to obtain meat extremely restricted and may eliminate the chance for local residents.

According to the most recently published Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) species management report for moose in Unit 15C (ADF&G Chapter 16. 2013), moose populations in this area have continued to grow since being depleted by severe winters in the 1990s. In addition, the quality and quantity of moose browse has continued to increase. The report referred to above documents that the "main concern for moose management in this unit [15C] is maintain an adequate bull:cow ratio." This report, which is the most recent version available, states that the optimum bull:cow ratio for this management unit is 20–25:100. Hunting restrictions imposed in 2011 increased the bull:cow ratio from 9 bulls:100 cows in 2010 to 22 bulls:100 cows in 2012. This is within ADF&G's management objective to maintain a healthy and productive population of moose in Unit 15C.

According to verbal reports from the ADF&G area management biologist, during a Central Peninsula Advisory Committee meeting, the Unit 15C bull:cow ratios are at 55:100, well beyond

management objectives. This proposal aims to provide Ninilchik community residents with additional subsistence opportunities while providing managers with additional management tools to maintain a healthy and productive moose population in Unit 15C.

According to State of Alaska regulation 5 AAC 92.072 Community Subsistence Harvest Hunt Area and Permit Conditions and at 5 AAC 92.052 Discretionary Permit Hunt Conditions and Procedures, ADF&G may issue community-based subsistence harvest permits for big game species where the Alaska Board of Game (board) has established a community harvest hunt area. This proposal seeks for the board to establish Ninilchik as a Community Subsistence Harvest Area under 5 AAC 92.074(d), referred hereafter as the Ninilchik Community Subsistence Harvest (NCSH) area.

The NCSH permit program would allow up to 60 permits be issued to Ninilchik households that reside in the United States Census Area of the community of Ninilchik. One permit would be issued per household for Unit 15C. One moose could be taken per permit on a first come first served basis for one bull moose. All meat, including the liver, heart, and hide must be salvaged for customary and traditional purposes. Dates for the NCHS hunting season would be August 20 – September 20.

Each household would be required to submit one completed participant application. NCSH applicants must be Alaskan residents at the time of application. All members of the household must be listed on the application and are subject to all NCSH hunt eligibility requirements and conditions. A "household" means that group of people domiciled in the same residence per 5 AAC 92.990 (23) Definitions.

PROPOSED BY: Gary Deiman

(HQ-F18-012)
