

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 (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 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
<p>(3)</p> <p>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</p>	<p>Aug. 10—Oct. 15 [NOV. 1—NOV. 30]</p>	<p>No open season.</p>
<p><u>1 goat by registration permit only; the taking of nannies with kids is prohibited;</u> <u>or</u> <u>1 goat by registration permit only; the taking of nannies with kids is prohibited;</u></p>	<p><u>Nov. 1—Nov. 30</u></p>	<p>No open season.</p>
<p>Unit 15(C), that portion beginning at the mouth</p>		

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 Tustemena 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 accompanied 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 accompanied 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
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(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, or

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:

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

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

1 moose by targeted permit only,

Oct. 15—Mar. 31

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

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

Sept. 1—Sept. 25
(General hunt only)

1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only; the taking of calves, and females accompanied by calves, is prohibited; up to 100 permits may be issued in combination with the resident drawing hunt

Oct. 20—Nov. 20

Remainder of Unit 15(C)

RESIDENT HUNTERS

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

Sept. 1—Sept. 25
(General hunt only)

1 moose by targeted permit only,

Oct. 15—Mar. 31

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS

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

Sept. 1—Sept. 25

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

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 meet. 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
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(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)
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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)
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...

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 Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident 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)

