



THE STATE  
*of* **ALASKA**  
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

## Department of Public Safety

DIVISION OF ALASKA WILDLIFE TROOPERS  
Office of the Director

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Chairman Spraker  
Alaska Board of Game  
P.O. Box 115526  
Juneau Ak, 99811-5526

Dear Chairman Spraker:

The following comments give a brief description of the positions that the Department of Public Safety, Division of Alaska Wildlife Troopers have on the proposals that are up for consideration at the March 2020 Interior and Eastern Arctic Region meeting in Fairbanks.

In general, when the board considers seasons and or bag limit changes, the Alaska Wildlife Troopers request that every effort possible be made to align the season dates and bag limits with adjacent game management units and/or subunits. This is mainly due to enforceability of multiple seasons in multiple locations as well as consistency of the regulations for the public. When the board considers proposals having to do with allocation or biological concerns, AWT is generally neutral in position.

AWT recognizes that regulations are developed by the Alaska Boards of Fish and Game through the public process to support management plans. Further, all management plans rely upon public compliance with regulations to achieve success. Enforcement is a crucial element needed to ensure long-term compliance with regulations by the public. The Alaska Wildlife Troopers request the board recognize that the division has limited resources and manpower and any new regulation scheme or area restrictions may place an additional burden on AWT.

Comments on specific proposals are included in this letter.

Thank you for your time,

*Aaron Frenzel*

Lieutenant Aaron Frenzel  
Alaska Wildlife Troopers

### **Proposal 45**

This proposal seeks to prohibit the use of moose, caribou and reindeer urine as scent lures in the Interior and Eastern Arctic Region.

AWT is neutral on this proposal and if passed the board should consider in the future adopting it statewide to remain consistent.

### **Proposal 56**

This proposal seeks to establish a one mile no trapping buffer around houses, cabins, dwellings and mailboxes throughout the Interior and Eastern Arctic Region.

AWT is neutral on this proposal, but if passed would encourage the board to make it clear what type of structure the one-mile closure is from. Additionally, consider if this closure would include those structures located off the road system and commonly used by trappers to operate out of. This regulation would likely increase the number of trapping complaints received and investigated by AWT. As currently seen with trapping closed area cases identifying who made the set can be difficult.

### **Proposal 57**

This proposal seeks to allow Alaska residents to take game from a boat under power in GMU 21.

AWT typically remains neutral regarding methods and means, but we have concerns with this proposal. This would allow for residents only to take game by a method that non-residents cannot partake in, which can be difficult to enforce. It would remain unlawful to take waterfowl, snipe and cranes from a boat under power due to regulations set out in 5AAC 92.100. If passed as written this would leave the method of shooting game animals from a boat wide open with no restrictions to speed, which can lead to public safety concerns and hunter conflict.

### **Proposal 115**

This proposal seeks to require the meat to be left on the bone for caribou, moose and bison in GMU's 19, 21A and 21E.

AWT is in support of this proposal and all proposals that assist in the enforcement of salvage requirements. Meat on bone requirements not only aid in preventing spoilage, but also is a deterrent for failing to salvage all edible meat. AWT spends a significant amount of man hours looking for and investigating kill sites after contacting hunters with a marginal amount of loose bagged meat. Having this requirement aids in the enforcement of salvage requirements and makes it easier to match up all parts of the animal.

### **Proposal 129**

This proposal seeks to change the closure dates for Yanert Controlled Use Area and to clarify if horse feed is considered “hunting gear”.

AWT is neutral in respect to changes of the closure dates for the Yanert CUA. Regarding the request for clarification for horse feed, AWT intends on submitting a statewide proposal to the board for a definition of “hunting gear”. The term is used multiple times in 5AAC 92 and AWT receives calls every year regarding what gear is. Hay has come up several times and AWT’s stance has been if it is for the purpose to feed horses that are used for hunting then it is gear. When making a definition or clarifying what hunting gear is, it is encouraged to not think only about when the term is used in reference to CUAs, but also in other regulations like the use of helicopters. For example, if horse feed is not considered hunting gear can it be transported to the field by helicopter. Making a definition or clarification just for the Yanert CUA at this time can lead to different definitions for individual areas and lead to confusion amongst users.

### **Proposal 131**

This proposal seeks to make it unlawful to hunt moose in Unit 20A until after 3:00 A.M. the day following the use of off-road vehicles.

AWT is neutral on this proposal but believe a change like this could create a substantial amount of work for Troopers in Unit 20A. ORV’s are the primary mode of transportation for moose hunters in this area. Complaints regarding same day use of an ORV could result in AWT needing an increased presence within the subunit, which would remove Troopers out of other areas of the state.