

Proposed Changes Outside the Board of Game's Authority

The Board of Game (board) does not have authority to adopt the requested changes in the following proposals. They are included in the book for review, comments, and discussion at the applicable board meeting.

Note: The Board of Game does not have authority to establish and change fees for permits and applications.

PROPOSAL 191

5AAC 92.037(g)(10). Permits for Falconry.

Current regulation: The department may, in its discretion, establish additional permit requirements necessary to administer this program.

Suggested condition of nonresident permit under 5AAC 92.037(g)

Nonresident Falconry application and permit fees

Permit and application fees for the nonresident take of raptors program are as follows:

Item

Nonresident Fee (Per Person)

Non-Refundable Lottery Application Fee

\$50

Nonresident Permit Winner Fee

\$250

To maintain a fair and equitable system for allowing nonresidents to take a raptor under provisions of 5 AAC 92.037 and to provide for a cost recovery process for the administration of the nonresident falconry permit application process by the department, the following conditions apply to the lottery process for nonresident falconry permits:

A non-refundable application fee of \$50 is required for each applicant to apply for a nonresident permit to take and export a raptor from the State of Alaska under 5 AAC 92.037(g).

The permit application fee must be paid by credit card, check or money order - checks and money orders must be in U.S. funds drawn on a U.S. bank. Cash will not be accepted.

Applicants are allowed to submit one application per year. If more than one application is submitted, all applications submitted by that applicant will be invalid and the applicant will forfeit all application fees.

False or incorrect information on an application voids the application.

Any application that is illegible or has incomplete information will be invalid.

Any credit card charges that are denied or checks returned for insufficient funds will void the entire application.

Any rejected, revoked or ineligible application will forfeit the application fee.

Applications cannot be accepted in person. They must be submitted online or mailed to the address listed on the application. Applications must be submitted online by March 1 or if mailed, they must arrive at the department's Anchorage office by March 1.

A successful applicant is ineligible to apply for a nonresident permit the following calendar year. Example: if an applicant won a 2021 nonresident permit to take a raptor, that applicant cannot apply again until the 2023 calendar year.

The fee for a successful nonresident applicant to take a raptor is \$250. ADF&G must receive this fee by April 15 or the applicant will forfeit the permit.

The department annually administers the nonresident falconry permit application process. The administration of this process takes a considerable number of man hours each year for the permit biologist who manages the applicant's qualifications, contacts the applicants home state falconry coordinator, issues export permits to nonresident falconers, and makes phone calls to each successful applicant as required under the targeted hunt system; the team that collects the data and administers the drawing permit process; and the regional area biologists who must check out the successful applicants, identify and photograph the captured raptor and complete the checkout process required to issue the export permit.

Under current regulation, there are no fees assessed to nonresident falconers to apply for a permit or take a raptor under this section. 5 AAC 92.037 (a) a permit and valid hunting license is required for taking, transporting, or possessing a raptor for falconry or for practicing falconry in this state. This proposal requests that the Board of Game implement these fees in a cost recovery process. This request is reasonable, equitable, and in line with other programs administered by the department that provide cost recovery for staff time and resources expended directly as a result of administration of those programs. Other department managed and co-managed projects where cost recovery fees are applied include McNeil River and Stan Price bear viewing areas, and all big game drawing permit applications. All applicants who successfully draw a big game hunting permit for the current year are precluded from applying for the same drawing permit the following year.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? 5 AAC92.037. Permits for Falconry. Cost recovery for the administration of the nonresident falconry permit program by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

PROPOSED BY: David Lorring (EG-F20-005)

Note: The Board of Game does not have administrative, budgeting, or fiscal powers.

PROPOSAL 192

5 AAC 92.047. Permit for using radio telemetry equipment.

As a successful wolf trapper here in Southeast Alaska, I strive to catch fur when it is prime and in its best condition. I recently caught 2 collared wolves here in Southeast Alaska. While I am all for research, I am also strongly against the ruining of a prime winter wolf fur. Especially as it applies to collared wolves which tend to be one of the most valuable highly prized furs in Alaska. When a researcher collars a wolf in Alaska it undoubtedly leaves a collar mark in which little to no fur remains under the three to four-inch-wide collar. This rub in the fur length and quality downgrades the value of the fur to a potential buyer or taxidermist significantly.

My suggestion and hope is that the commissioner's Office would advise researchers when they are setting out their budgets for a study or project concerning collared wolves and or wolverine that they would put some kind of funding into their budget which is usually comes from grant money so as to reimburse trappers for the damage caused by these collars to the animal's fur. I would think 250 to \$500 is what the damage caused by a collar does to a wolf hide. I have talked to other trappers around the state who have caught colored wolves and they feel the same way, that the research project does indeed ruin the resource of this highly prized fur. As a trapper I don't think it's too much to ask that the researchers put money into their budget to account for this. The odds of a trapper catching the wolf are fairly minimal. Obviously that would change in an area where there are higher numbers of wolves being collared. Researchers already are spending exorbitant amounts of money for the collars (which is usually federal grants matched based off of trappers, license sales ammo, gear, etc). A researcher spends approximately 2 to \$5,000 per collar plus the deployment and maintenance on these types of projects. It's not uncommon for a researcher to fly with a helicopter pilot for several days and amass a hefty bill. As a trapper I feel that research is important but I also am frustrated having seen first hand the damage that collars do to the fur quality of highly prized and valued fur bearers. I am a member of the Alaska Trappers Association and have talked with several of the leaders of our organization and they agree that this is a step in the right direction of proper resource management done without bias. Regards, Jesse Ross

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? State and federal researchers use radio collars on wolves to study them. The fur is danged around the neck. The radio collar being worn around the neck ruins their prime winter fur. I propose that ADF&G compensate trappers \$500 upon return of a collar from a radio/gps collared wolf. Though trappers recognize the value of wolf studies, the collars currently in use damage fur in the neck area while in use. As such, trappers are being forced to suffer economic hardship and should be compensated as such. I feel that a policy compensating trappers for damaged fur caused by research collars would represent a goodwill gesture from both state and federal agencies.

PROPOSED BY: Jesse Ross

(EG-F20-117)

Note: The Board of Game does not have authority to open hunting seasons for taking sea otters because they are managed under the federal Marine Mammals Protection Act.

PROPOSAL 263

Under the "Fur Animals" Section of the Hunting Regulations Booklet, write....

Sea Otter - Hide of Sea Otter must be salvaged and sealed. Special area restrictions may apply.

All Units.....perhaps a 3-6 week season or two shorter seasons..ideally during crabbing season where there is more traffic in traditional crab grounds and hides are in prime condition. Possible Limit for certain areas. Possibly 4 per day to avoid people abusing this resource.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Sea otters are a problem.

Dear Alaska Board of Game Members,

My name is Jackson Carney and I am a middle school student in Wrangell, AK. I enjoy hunting, fishing, and trapping. I also enjoy running, wrestling, baseball, and basketball. Today, I am writing to you because Sea Otters are having a major impact on Alaska's crabbing industry.

In addition to Alaskan Natives harvesting Sea Otters year round, I support a short hunting season on Sea Otter for all Alaskan residents. This hunting season would allow the crab population to rebound causing more crab to be caught by fisherman, and would also be a way to create an income by selling the fur.

Not more than two weeks ago, my dad, a friend, and I, went to a crabbing spot that had recently saved that friend from having a terrible crabbing season. When we got to the crabbing spot, there was a Sea Otter hovering over one of his pots. The crab return was very poor that day, only getting three crabs in a pot that had been set for about two weeks.

I would very much appreciate it if you would at least try to get this season passed. All of Alaska's crabbing industry depends on it.

-Jackson Carney, 6th grade- Wrangell, Alaska

PROPOSED BY: Jackson Carney (EG-F21-031)

Note: Federal regulations prohibit shooting wounded waterfowl from motorized boats under power, and therefore the Board of Game does not have authority to allow it.

PROPOSAL 264

5 AAC 92.100(2) i. however, a person may shoot while underway to dispatch crippled waterfowl from a boat that still has forward progress from a motor.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The current regulations for shooting from a moving vessel prohibit hunters from dispatching and retrieving critically wounded but still mobile waterfowl. Duck hunters routinely experience birds which have been mortally wounded still be able to dive away from boaters seeking to retrieve it. The current legislation on the matter is as follows:

5 AAC 92.100. Unlawful methods of hunting waterfowl, snipe, and cranes

(a) The following methods and means of taking waterfowl, waterfowl, snipe, and cranes are prohibited, in addition to the prohibitions in 5 AAC 92.080:

(2) from a motor-driven boat unless the motor has been completely shut off and the boat's progress from the motor's power has ceased;

(3) from any mechanical vehicle; however, a power or sailboat may be used as a means of retrieving a dead or injured bird;

The language as currently written prevents hunters from firing a killing shot to dispatch wounded waterfowl in the most effective manner possible, from a watercraft that has a motor. All too often, waterfowl will dive away from a boat which is gliding to a stop in order to comply with the current state law.

Additionally, I reached out to the Alaska State Troopers during the 2020 hunting season seeking clarity on the issue, and received the following response: "If the waterfowl is already wounded and you're just trying to kill it, you may shoot it while underway" (14 December 2020).

PROPOSED BY: Jacob Liedman

(HQ-F21-017)
