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I write in full support of Proposal # 267. Action on this matter has been delayed for far too long, and I fear that any further delay will be devastating to the Dall sheep population. The guide industry, in spite of agreeing that the sheep are in decline, have resisted placing any limits or restrictions on their clients. While I can agree that there may be some effect on the livelihood of the guides, better that than losing the entire industry to greed now when the situation can be turned around by logical action.



Submitted By  
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December 23, 2020

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## **RE: Unlawful Methods and Means, comment on proposals 129 & 130**

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comment on Alaska's game proposals.

### **Proposal 129**

I am opposed to proposal 129 which if adopted would prohibit full metal jacket (FMJ) bullets in the hunting of big game except wolf and wolverine. The proposal denigrates a type of bullet as being ineffective in the taking of big game, when in fact it is more likely the case it is the hunter who is ineffective and their behavior which should be resolved. Evidence that FMJ bullets can humanely kill big game is likely plentiful but would be an exhaustive and lengthy endeavor to portray in detail. Members of the public are posed with an incredible dilemma with Proposal 129. Proposal 129 makes the incredible claim that FMJ bullets are ineffective without providing enough evidence to show that is true. The proposal states "During many years of public testimony at Board of Game meetings, testifiers complained about hunters wounding moose, bear and caribou when using full metal jacket bullets in high velocity, small caliber rifles." That generalization does not apply to hunters in rural Alaska who have and do use high velocity small caliber rifles for generations with success. How reliable is the generalization from public testimony across the many ecoregions of Alaska that FMJ's are ineffective? The supposed public comments have not been subject to critique by local and regional people with experience and knowledge of hunting, and because the prohibition has the effect of impacting the subsistence lifestyle the Board of Game must not change a regulation that works in rural Alaska. Without providing the evidence for the incredible claim that FMJ's are ineffective the Board of Game must deny the proposal. The proposal attributes the popularity of public testimony to be validation of FMJ ineffectiveness but has not established any truthfulness to the claim that FMJ's are ineffective. Instead of conforming methods and means based on evidence, the proposal is instead convinced that an obscure public opinion who may believe FMJ's are ineffective, constitutes the truth on this subject. I am much in favor of humanely killing animals which for me involves destruction of the major nervous system components which support life. There are thousands of hunting shows out there which portray killing in a brutal fashion. Hunters glad handing themselves after they have made a shot on a big game animal, and then that animal running off into the bushes somewhere to be found later not knowing what manner of stress or suffering occurred. In my hunting culture killing an animal involves killing that animal where it stands and not letting it run off somewhere. We accomplish this because we are keenly aware of visualizing where the vital life organs are at the various shot angles that are presented to humanely kill. It seems the hunting shows (if they follow popular hunting culture) are full of hunters following a blood trail and hours later, they find the animal and then deem that method was humane when in fact the opposite may be true. Perhaps hunting culture as it exists today has lost some skills, good marksmanship, and the understanding of animal anatomy to hunt well and kill humanely; hunter education may in fact be at the center of the problem of this perceived issue. Hunting by some may in fact be a misnomer for "outdoor recreation" or a "party" or "something to prove" and may in fact be at the center of wounding loss. Ensuring an animal feels as little pain as possible when killed is a very important aspect of my hunting culture, which may have lessons for society as well. A quick kill ensures an animal is taken so that it feels as little pain as possible, and also ensures the meat is of the best quality. It is a demanding process, however, and it requires years of experience, a vast traditional knowledge, and experience with the anatomy of the animal. Because of the training involved to ensure quick kills, modern hunting society may not know the processes that must be understood to ensure humane kills.

There are numerous antiquated rifle and caliber combinations that may not be "special" or may not be "magnum" that are presently legal for use and would be if this proposal were adopted, but could be considered ineffective or too diminutive for humanely killing big game but yet are used every year by skilled hunters in rural Alaska. I will not go into what calibers those might be so as not to denigrate time honored calibers that I and others use with extraordinary effectiveness. Because ADF&G does not require caliber disclosures when filing hunt reports we have no way of knowing what kind of rifle or method and mean leads to success or failure in any empirical way. Humane kills result from a head or neck shot. It is likely that the hunter themselves possessed with the skills to hunt is the primary measure of success and not the tool used.

When I use high velocity small caliber rifles I recognize how they are effective and practice good judgement because the margin for error is small when using smaller calibers. For example the .223 in the 55 grain load has depending on several factors in excess of 1,000 foot pounds of energy out to 100 yards. When using a soft point bullet the wound channels are shallow and broad with little penetration which are very effective on light skinned game such as anything bigger than a fox up to caribou. When using a 55 grain FMJ in .223 the wound channel changes from broad and shallow to deep with more effectiveness at destroying larger bone. This lends itself to neck and head shots on large game to great effect within 100 yards. Assuming a hunter practices the same level of judgement I do and uses good shot placement on those regions which would cause nervous system collapse and very quick kills that tool is effective.

The incredible claim that FMJ's are not effective requires incredible evidence. The bottom line is that people who claim FMJ's are ineffective are displaying ignorance, FMJ's should be allowed in the hands of people like myself who value food, who value their way of life, and who practice good hunting.



### **Proposal 130**

I am opposed to proposal 130 and request the Board of Game repeal the prohibition for the Arctic. I trap and use gland based lures such as urine that I make or collect myself. The regulation is unenforceable because of the impracticality of determining the lure a trapper used because they could lie. As trappers we are always on the lookout for lures and though I cannot speak for other trappers I make my own food and gland based lures from the nature around me which does not have chronic wasting problems. If the Board of Game wishes to outlaw sellable urine which comes from outside of Alaska I am ok with that but the BOG should allow trappers to use urine on their traplines that they collect.



The Ahtna Intertribal Resource Commission (AITRC) represents eight (8) tribal communities, two ANCSA Corporations, their shareholders & tribal citizens. We are submitting the following comments on select proposals in the Board of Games' 2020-2021 Statewide Proposal Book.

**PROPOSAL 118 – Require completion of crossbow hunter certification course at the time of permit application**

**Comments:** AITRC supports proposal 118. Crossbow hunters should be certified before applying for permit hunts. If they have not completed a certification course, they may present a danger to other hunters in the field.

As well, there is a high rate of wounding loss among archery hunters generally. Anything that reduces wounding loss would contribute to more sustainable management.

Certification courses should include information about avoiding trespass on private lands.

**PROPOSAL 120 – Allow proxy hunting for any antlered bull moose**

**Comments:** AITRC supports proposal 120; it is a housekeeping proposal that would allow proxy hunting for any-antlered bull tags.

**PROPOSAL 121 – Allow the use of dogs to hunt, track and retrieve big game**

**Comments:** AITRC opposes proposal 121. This would likely create issues with poorly-trained dogs frightening and chasing away large game, harassing wildlife, etc. The proposer states that it is illegal to hunt for large game using dogs; however, hunting with a dog is currently allowable by permit to take black bears (5 AAC 92.085(5)(B)) as well as to track wounded game (5 AAC 92.085(5)(A)).

**PROPOSAL 122 – Lower the minimum draw-weight for bows for hunting big game**

**Comments:** AITRC opposes proposal 122. Lowering the draw weight is likely to increase the chances of wounding loss in large-game archery hunting.

**PROPOSAL 233 – Eliminate the requirement for peak draw weight of bows**

**Comments:** See comments under proposal 122.

**PROPOSAL 123 – Allow electronic range-finders mounted on bows to be used for hunting big game**

**Comments:** AITRC opposes proposal 123. AITRC opposes the use of rangefinders in bow hunting. This is likely to create more competition for subsistence hunters.



**PROPOSAL 124 – Allow the use of integrated bow sights/laser range finders for hunting big game with bows**

**Comments:** See comments under proposal 123.

**PROPOSAL 125 – Allow the use of crossbows for hunting big-game in weapons-restricted hunts**

**Comments:** AITRC opposes proposal 125: we oppose weapons-restricted and other specialized hunts.

**PROPOSAL 126 – allow muzzleloaders with scopes for hunting big-game**

**Comments:** AITRC opposes proposal 126: we oppose weapons-restricted and other specialized hunts.

**PROPOSAL 127 – allow air-rifles for taking big game**

**Comments:** AITRC opposes proposal 127, which would allow the use of air rifles for hunting big game.

**PROPOSAL 128 – prohibit the use of mechanical body-suits for big-game hunting**

**Comments:** AITRC supports proposal 128 as written by the proponent: mechanically-powered body suits should not be allowable as methods and means of hunting game.

**PROPOSAL 129 – require soft-point bullets for big game**

**Comments:** AITRC opposes proposal 129. This would eliminate the opportunity to hunt using full-metal jacket ammo, which is often the only kind of ammunition available in rural communities. The proposers have not demonstrated any clear benefit to this proposal. There are currently nationwide ammunition shortages; restricting the type of bullets that can be used would disenfranchise hunters who are unable to obtain soft, expanding bullets.

**PROPOSAL 130 – Prohibit the use of deer or elk urine as bait or natural scent lures**

**Comments:** AITRC supports proposal 130 for the reasons stated by the proposer.

**PROPOSAL 131 – Allow game-bird wings and backs to be used for trapping bait**

**Comments:** AITRC opposes any proposal that would lead to wanton waste of parts of large birds. Ahtna people would not use edible parts of geese or swans as trap-bait. There are lots of other things that can be used for trap-bait, without creating wanton waste.

**PROPOSAL 132 – allow bird-wings and backs to be used for trap-bait**

**Comments:** See comments under proposal 131.

**PROPOSAL 133 – add bow and arrow as a legal method of taking beaver**

**Comments:** AITRC opposes proposal 133. Hunting beaver with bow and arrow presents a significant risk of wounding and losing the animals underwater.

**PROPOSAL 134 – allow the use of cameras or sensory devices to monitor trap locations**

**Comments:** AITRC opposes proposal 134. Trappers should be checking their lines regularly and should not need the assistance of wireless surveillance technology to deter theft. The use of game cameras without cellular technology is already available to them and can be used to document theft, etc.

**PROPOSAL 135 – Repeal the restriction on using aircraft for locating Dall sheep**

**Comments:** AITRC is opposed to proposal 135. Helicopters have a lot more flexibility in where they are able to land. They can drop people directly on the mountains, whereas an airplane must land on an airstrip. This gives people with access to helicopters an unfair advantage over those who do not have access to them.

**PROPOSAL 136 – Repeal the restriction on using aircraft for locating Dall sheep**

**Comments:** AITRC opposes proposal 136. Aircraft often startle sheep and drive them deeper into the mountains, making it more difficult for those who are on the ground to effectively hunt sheep. The proponents state that there is an absence of biological concern, but this assertion is questionable. Dall sheep throughout Alaska have shown some concerning trends of population decline. Proposal 207 took years of public comments and broad stakeholder engagement to successfully craft and get passed through the Board. We urge the Board to think very carefully before repealing such a well-crafted and effective proposal, especially at a statewide level.

**PROPOSAL 137 – Repeal the restriction on using aircraft for locating Dall sheep**

**Comments:** See comments under proposals 136 and 137.

**PROPOSAL 138 – prohibit the use of aircraft to locate Dall sheep during the entire sheep season**

**Comments:** AITRC supports proposal 138, to expand the restriction on aircraft use to also include youth-hunts. Part of the purpose of youth hunts is to give youth the opportunity to learn effective hunting skills. Giving youth an advantage that nobody else has will not help them to develop the real-world skills necessary to effectively harvest Dall's sheep. Because the youth hunts have the advantage of an early hunting season, they afford youth with more opportunity for



success. Moreover, youth hunts exist for the purpose of training youth, not for the purpose of allowing transporters and guides to spot sheep before the general season begins.

**PROPOSAL 139 – Restrict the use of aircraft for making multiple, consecutive approaches near Dall sheep for hunting**

**Comments:** AITRC opposes proposal 139. The replacement language that is being proposed is more unenforceable than the language in the regulation as it currently stands. Moreover, this proposal waters down the intent of the regulation adopted in proposal 207—under this proposed change, spotting sheep from aircraft would be permitted as long as the party made only one approach.

**PROPOSAL 232 – Allow the use of dogs to recover wounded furbearers**

**Comments:** AITRC opposes proposal 232. Skilled trappers are already able to track down wounded animals using the snow on the ground, and should be checking their traps regularly. New or inexperienced trappers should attend one of the trapping classes hosted by the Alaska Trappers' Association. It would be difficult to enforce the use of dogs for the intended purpose.

**PROPOSAL 234 – Allow the use of stationary game cameras that transmit photos wirelessly**

**Comments:**

AITRC opposes proposal 234. The use of communication in sharing game locations is already illegal and unnecessary. This proposal raises some serious concerns about fair chase hunting.

**PROPOSAL 140 – Increase the number of bear-bait stations from 10 to 20 per guide-use area**

**Comments:** AITRC opposes proposal 140. Increasing the number of bait stations to 20 seems excessive—it would be very difficult for most guides to effectively tend to this many stations. Furthermore, while the proposer requests this increase "temporarily," no definition is given for what constitutes a temporary timeline here.

**PROPOSAL 141 – Require bear-baiting sites to be at least one mile apart**

**Comments:** AITRC opposes proposal 141. This is not enforceable without knowing the locations of existing bear-bait stations, information that is currently kept confidential. Requiring bait-stations to be one mile apart will create other problems, resulting in people putting bait-stations private lands or other areas where there should not be bait-stations.

**Proposal 235 – Allow the use of artificial light for hunting**

**Comments:** AITRC opposes proposal 235. The use of artificial light is not necessary for hunting in Alaska, where there are long twilight hours.



**PROPOSAL 236 – Require ADF&G to notify bear-bait station registrants of other bait stations within a one-mile radius of their desired locations**

**Comments:** In regard to proposal 236 and 237, AITRC supports ADF&G working with various bear-bait registrants to ensure proper placement of bait-stations so they are not too close to one another, or located in an illegal area. It is not clear why bear-baiters need to register with ADF&G if this information is not used to prevent such conflicts. ADF&G can do this without disclosing locations of bait-stations—it can just recommend moving sites based on their proximity to other bait-stations. ADF&G should encourage bear-baiters to contact landowners in these areas to obtain the necessary access permits.

**PROPOSAL 237 – Clarify that ADF&G will not issue permits for bait or scent lures near roads, trails, houses, schools, campgrounds, etc.**

**Comments:** AITRC supports the intent of proposal 237, although we feel it needs modification to make it more enforceable. This proposal would put the onus on ADF&G not to issue permits in prohibited areas, although AITRC has concerns about its enforceability. For example, ADF&G does not know where every cabin is located. It seems that the proposer intends for this to apply primarily to well-known development areas such as roads, trails, railroads, etc., but as it is written, this would put an impractical burden on the department. See our comments on proposal 236.

**PROPOSAL 145 – Classify house-cats as exotic wildlife and prohibit their release into the wild, feeding, etc.**

**Comments:** In regard to proposal 144, AITRC would remind the Board that this issue was addressed in 2017. We leave it up to the Board's judgment to address this issue.

**PROPOSAL 238 – Allow the Czechoslovakian Vlcak (a kind of wolf-dog) to be possessed without a permit**

**Comments:** AITRC opposes 238. Wild animals should not be crossbred with domestic animals for use as pets.

**PROPOSAL 146 – Limit big-game registration permits to one permit per species, per year**

**Comments:** AITRC opposes proposal 146. This could compromise subsistence opportunity by preventing a hunter from receiving both a state and a federal permit for a given species in a single year.

**PROPOSAL 147 – Allow the sale of prepared game trophies under a permit**

**Comments:** AITRC opposes proposals 147 and 148. AITRC is broadly opposed to trophy-hunting. There are already a lot of exceptions to the regulation prohibiting the sale of trophies. These proposals would be a further step toward commercializing the hunting of big-game animals for personal monetary gain.

**PROPOSAL 148 – Allow people over age 65 to sell trophies and rugs**

**Comments:** See comments under proposal 147.

**PROPOSAL 149 – Create a separate Dall sheep permit draw for second-degree-kindred hunters in areas that limit the number of nonresident hunters**

**Comments:** AITRC opposes proposal 149. Nonresidents are nonresidents, period. This proposal seeks to create a more privileged class of nonresidents—it is discriminatory to have different categories of nonresidents. The proposer states that "2DK sheep hunters also have to compete with guided hunters in the draws with no guarantee of getting any permits at all." The entire nature of draw-hunts is that there is no guarantee of getting any permits.

**PROPOSAL 151 – Require all hunters to apply for permit hunts and pay the application fee during the application period as follows**

**Comments:** AITRC supports proposal 151. The system currently in place allows nonresidents to exploit a loophole, receiving permits while bypassing the drawing system altogether.

**PROPOSAL 239 – Require all registration permit hunts to be eligible for online application** Note: This proposal is an updated submission for Proposal #152.

**Comments:** AITRC opposes proposal 239. This proposal presents equity issues because many rural Alaska communities do not have good internet access. In fact, the Board has declined to meet in some of these villages because of internet access issues.

Until there is equity with internet service and connection across the state, this proposal should not be adopted. It would provide an unfair advantage to Alaskans living in urban centers. If they can go out to rural communities to hunt, they can also go out to these communities to register to hunt.

Moreover, permits for some subsistence hunts are available only in limited numbers. Adopting this proposal could fail to provide reasonable opportunity for subsistence for some rural communities.



**PROPOSAL 152 – Require all drawing permit hunts available to residents be available for application online**

**Comments:** See comments under proposal 239.

**PROPOSAL 158 – Allow dog-mushers to receive inedible game meat from the state to use as dogfood**

**Comments:** AITRC supports proposal 158 with modification such that this proposal would pertain only to roadkill salvage, and so that it would apply to any dog-owners, not just mushers. There have been multiple instances where game animals have been left on the side of a road for weeks because it was not permitted to give the meat to dog-owners, creating a hazard for vehicles and attracting predators/scavengers. This proposal would clarify that it is allowable to use inedible meat as dog food.

**PROPOSAL 240 – Allow game skin or trophy to be placed into a revocable trust**

**Comments:** AITRC opposes proposal 240. This creates a loophole allowing the further commercialization and monetization of big-game hunting, especially given that some trophies have been taken with subsistence permits.

**PROPOSAL 242 – Allow hunting permits to be reissued for military personnel under "any official military deployment"**

**Comments:** AITRC supports our military personnel, but opposed to proposal 242. The military are already afforded more opportunities than residents and/or nonresidents. This could create a loophole for voluntary deployment for training, etc., that could be abused.

**PROPOSAL 243 – Recognize changes by the Alaska Legislature regarding the transfer of drawing permits**

**Comments:** AITRC supports 243, as it appears to be a housekeeping proposal codifying in regulation an action passed by the Alaska State Legislature.

**PROPOSAL 244 – Eliminate all community subsistence hunts**

**Comments:** AITRC adamantly opposes proposal 244. After reading through this proposal, it appears that it is primarily geared toward eliminating the Copper River basin community harvest hunts. At its recent meeting for the Central and Southwest Region, in Wasilla, the Board indefinitely tabled two proposals to eliminate community harvest hunts in the Copper basin.

The proposer states that there are too many users from urban areas participating in the CSH. While this may be true for the Copper Basin CSH, community subsistence opportunities in the Yukon Flats and Chalkytsik area attract primarily local residents.



While the inclusion of groups of all Alaskan residents have resulted in many more people participating in this CSH than originally anticipated, this opportunity is consistent with the community customary and traditional use pattern identified by the BOG. Elimination of the community harvest system for moose would result in the lack of a reasonable opportunity for customary and traditional uses as defined by the BOG. The proposers have not put forward any reasonable alternatives with which to replace the CSH, and none were suggested at the recent Central/Southwest BOG meeting in Wasilla.

ADF&G's Subsistence Division administers a questionnaire to groups participating in the CSH that seeks to measure their consistency with the community use pattern. The results of this questionnaire, presented at the Central and Southwest BOG meeting (RC 4, tab 5.4 from that meeting) show that an overwhelming majority of participants in the CSH have showed connections with at least six of the eight elements of subsistence pattern of wildlife use defined in 5 AAC 99.010.

Rather than eliminating the CSH, ADF&G should review groups participating in the hunt to ensure that they are consistent with the regulatory definition of "community" (as defined in 5 AAC 92.072(i)(2)). Until the department actually reviews groups to ensure their consistency with this regulatory definition, there should be a moratorium on any further changes to the CSH. Many rural Alaskans are currently experiencing hard times due to the rising prices of food; eliminating the CSH would further undermine their food security.

**PROPOSAL 159 – Change the sealing and reporting requirements to business days instead of calendar days**

**Comments:**

No comment.

**PROPOSAL 160 – Clarify the wanton waste regulation to specify that game animals taken by domestic pets must be reported and salvaged for human consumption**

**Comments:** No comment.

**PROPOSAL 161 – Change the salvage requirement for sheep, goat and deer to all meat outside the ribs**

**Comments:** AITRC opposes proposal 161; this could increase the potential for wanton waste.

**PROPOSAL 245 – Eliminate the requirement to salvage rib meat on the bone for moose, caribou and bison**

**Comments:** AITRC opposes proposal 245. Moose, caribou and bison rib-bones contain a significant amount of meat—failing to salvage it would basically be permitting wanton waste. "Rolling" or filleting the ribs, as the proposers describe, increases the chances of potential spoilage. Rib-bone meat is a preferred meat among many Alaskans.

**PROPOSAL 162 – Require the salvage of the meat or hide of snowshoe hare**

**Comments:** AITRC supports proposal 162; this seems to be a commonsense housekeeping proposal that would discourage wanton waste.

**PROPOSAL 163 – Count wounded animals all hunters' bag limits**

**Comments:** AITRC recommends that the Board take no action on proposals 163 and 164. These proposals both create enforcement issues and difficult to prove. It is sometimes difficult for hunters to know whether or not they wounded animals they shot at.

**PROPOSAL 164 – Count wounded animals toward nonresident hunters' bag limits**

**Comments:** See comments under proposal 163

**PROPOSAL 172 – Clarify the legal use of highway vehicles, snow machines and off-road vehicles in the Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area**

**Comments:** AITRC is neutral on proposal 172 to clarify the use of offroad vehicles, but see our more detailed comments and concerns about offroad vehicle use under proposal 173.

**PROPOSAL 173 – Repeal the Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area (thus allowing the use motorized transportation)**

**Comments:** AITRC opposes proposal 173. The repeal of the Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area (DHCMA) could be devastating to reasonable opportunities for subsistence uses by local communities and landowners as well as the wildlife resources and habitats upon which they depend. It can take tundra decades to grow back after the incessant trampling by ATVs this would bring.

This proposal also presents trespass issues. Ahtna communities are located along the highway system, and must contend with frequent trespassing on Ahtna lands. This would present similar issues for native corporations whose lands are located along the DHCMA. Highways in the Ahtna region also present issues of extreme hunting competition. This is precisely why these protections are in place for the Dalton Highway.

When the Dalton Highway was constructed as an industrial road, statutory and regulatory protections were put into place to protect subsistence uses, habitat, and public safety, and the safety of the Alyeska Pipeline. Further erosion of the protections provided by the DHCMA should be opposed by the Board of Game.



**PROPOSAL 246 – Remove the sealing requirement for Dall sheep horns, and instead use a locking tag**

**Comments:** AITRC opposes proposal 246. The current system provides proof that the animal was taken legally in a way that a locking tag does not provide.

**PROPOSAL 165 – Auction permit conditions and procedures**

**Comments:** Proposal 165: Auction permits should only be used in the year they were issued, as they are issued on a biological basis. If people save permits for multiple years and then use them, it could create sustainability issues.

**PROPOSAL 166 – Amend the requirement for licenses and tags to include game legally taken with dogs and cats**

**Comments:** No comment.

**PROPOSAL 168 – Adopt a new regulation that specifies the Board of Game will not require guides for nonresidents hunting moose, caribou or black bear**

**Comments:** AITRC opposes proposal 168. Most nonresidents do not have the knowledge of the terrain or species needed for safe and successful unguided hunting.

**PROPOSAL 169 – Prohibit the harvest of white animals**

**Comments:** Proposal 169: While AITRC supports the idea of respecting Native American religious/spiritual beliefs, this proposal is poorly written. As it is written, harvest would be prohibited for Dall's sheep, snowshoe hares, wintertime ptarmigan, and other important subsistence animals that are typically white.

**PROPOSAL 247 – Discontinue lethal taking of wolves under predator control programs**

**Comments:** AITRC opposes proposal 247. Alaska Statute AS 16.05.255 stipulates intensive management; it is not within the Board's authority to pass regulations that would run contrary to this statute.

**PROPOSAL 183 – Reauthorize the antlerless moose seasons in Unit 20A**

**Comments:** AITRC opposes proposal 183. Antlerless moose hunts should not be used as draw-hunt permits when they could be used to meet subsistence needs and provide for ceremonial uses.

**PROPOSAL 270 – Open an antlerless moose hunt in a portion of Unit 20E**

**Comments:** See comments under proposal 183.



**PROPOSAL 189 – Reauthorize brown bear tag fee exemptions**

**Comments:** AITRC supports proposal 189.

**PROPOSAL 271 – Establish a definition for "position" as it applies to using a snowmachine to take game**

**Comments:** AITRC recommends that the Board defer action on proposal 271 until Fish & Game Advisory Committees have the opportunity to weigh in on it.



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February 15, 2022

Mr. Chairman, Alaska Board of Game, and Members of the Alaska Board of Game:

The Alaska Falconers Association is submitting comments on Proposals 108 through 114 that will be addressed by the Board at their State-Wide Board meeting being held in Fairbanks, Ak. March, 2022. We thank the Board for allowing us to comment on these proposals.

The Alaska Falconers Association (AFA) was formed in 1978 in order to improve, aid and encourage competency in the art and practice of falconry. AFA strives to promote scientific study of raptors, their care, welfare and training; to promote conservation of the birds of prey and an appreciation for their intrinsic value in nature and in wildlife conservation programs; to urge recognition of falconry as a legal field sport; and, to establish traditions which will aid, perpetuate and further the welfare of falconry and the raptors it employs. AFA has a long-standing working relationship with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and continues to work with the Department in promoting scientific research projects and supporting and maintaining a high level of competency within the Alaska falconry community.

There are currently 51 falconers who are licensed by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to practice falconry in Alaska. Alaska falconry regulations are promulgated by the Alaska Board of Game under the guidance 5AAC 92.037 and falconry standards listed in "The Alaska Falconry Manual Number 10"

Of the legal raptor species available for falconry in Alaska, the same species are available for falconry take by nonresident falconers in the contiguous 48 states except for nesting populations of gyrfalcons. Hawaii does not have a falconry program in place.

**The Alaska Falconers Association supports Proposals 108,109,110,111, and proposal 114.**

**The Alaska Falconers Association opposes proposals 112 and 113.**

#### **PROPOSAL 108**

**5 AAC 92.037. Permits for falconry.** Submitted by the Alaska Falconers Association,

Alaska Falconers Association (AFA) is requesting that the Board of Game allow additional opportunity for nonresident falconers to take eyas Northern Goshawks statewide and eyas Peale's Peregrine Falcons from Units 1 - 4. AFA is submitting this proposal at the request of nonresident and Alaska resident falconers to allow additional nonresident opportunity to take these two species as an eyas.

Current regulation, 5 AAC 92.037(g)(5), up to five permits for taking, transporting, or possessing a raptor for falconry by a nonresident shall be issued annually by the department;

Current regulation. 5 AAC 92.037(g)(7); "take is limited to one passage, hatching-year, raptor; "

Current regulation, 5 AAC 92.037(g)(8): The annual nonresident season for acquiring a passage raptor is from August 15 – October 31;

The new regulations would read:

5 AAC 92.037(g)(5), up to five permits for taking, transporting, or possessing a passage raptor for falconry; up to five permits for taking, transporting, or possessing an eyas Northern Goshawk for falconry statewide, and up to five permits for taking, transporting, or possessing an eyas Peale's Peregrine Falcon, from Units 1-4, for falconry by a nonresident shall be issued annually by the department; applicants can

only apply for one type of permit and must specify whether they are applying for a passage permit, an eyas Northern Goshawk, or an eyas Peale's Peregrine Falcon permit at the time of application.



5 AAC 92.037(g)(7): Take is limited to either one passage, hatching-year, raptor, one eyas Northern Goshawk statewide, or one eyas Peale's Peregrine Falcon from Units 1-4.

5AAC 92.037(g)(8): The annual nonresident season for acquiring a passage raptor is from August 15 – October 31; The annual nonresident season for acquiring an eyas Northern Goshawk statewide or an eyas Peale's Peregrine Falcon, (from Units 1-4), is from May 1 – July 20;

The AFA is asking the Board of Game to allow additional opportunity for nonresident falconers by allowing the take of certain eyas raptors. An eyas raptor is a bird that has hatched from the egg but has not fledged or has fledged but has not left the natal area and is still being fed by the parent birds. At least one eyas raptor must be left in the nest per the current regulation pertaining to resident falconers. AFA requests that this regulation as it applies to resident falconers, also apply to nonresident falconers.

AFA is requesting that the Board of Game authorize "up to" five eyas Northern Goshawk permits statewide, and "up to five eyas Peale's Peregrine Falcon permits from Units 1- 4, for nonresident falconers by drawing permit. Under 5 AAC 92.037(g)(8), the season dates for eyas Northern Goshawks, and eyas Peale's Peregrine falcon take is recommended to be from May 1 - July 20. (These dates are based on published scientific data documenting average hatching dates and fledge dates for these two species across their range.)

Because of the concern for the wellbeing of Alaska's Gyrfalcons and to eliminate any accidental take of eyas Gyrfalcons, Peale's Peregrine Falcon take by permit would only apply to Units 1-4. According to both ADF&G and US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) raptor biologists, there is a low probability that there are gyrfalcon nesting sites in Units 1-4. Most importantly, days old or weeks old Gyrfalcon chicks are difficult to tell apart from like aged Peregrine falcon chicks, except by the most experienced biologists and falconers. By restricting Peale's Peregrine eyas take to these units, we would significantly reduce the potential that a Gyrfalcon eyrie would be targeted by mistake.

Raptor biologists report that Northern Goshawks are considered to have a healthy and stable population statewide and Peale's Peregrine falcons maintain a healthy, low density, population in Units 1-4.

Saint Lazaria Island located in Sitka Sound is designated a Wilderness area by the USFWS. This island supports a highly researched and viewed seabird nesting population. The required landowner permission required by regulation to take an eyas raptor would not be granted by the USFWS for Saint Lazaria Island. AFA would request that this Island be closed in regulation for the taking of eyas Peale's peregrine falcons.

**PROPOSAL 109**, submitted by the Alaska Falconers Association,

### **5 AAC 92.037(h). Permits for falconry.**

Modify the microchip requirements for live raptors exported from Alaska by nonresidents as follows:

Current regulation: 5 AAC 92.037(h) all live raptors exported from the state, including propagated birds, must be microchipped.

Proposed regulation: 5 AAC 92.037(h) all wild caught live gyrfalcons exported from the state by a nonresident must be microchipped and the microchip must be registered with an internationally recognized microchip registry such as (Petlink). Proof of microchip registration must be submitted to the department within 90 days after export. Failure to provide proof of registration to the department makes the individual ineligible to receive a future permit under 5 AAC 92.037(g).

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Microchip requirements for raptors exported from the State of Alaska.

Current regulations require that all raptors including propagated birds must have a microchip implanted prior to being exported from the State of Alaska. This regulation was enacted by the Board of Game at its last Statewide Regulations meeting dealing with "permits for falconry" issues as a result of a proposal submitted by the Alaska Falconers Association (AFA). The proposal language and intent and was significantly changed by the Board of Game (board) to be more inclusive. There was testimony presented to the board for the reasoning behind the request by AFA for the need to microchip large falcons that are taken under a nonresident capture permit and exported from the state.

The current regulation does not require that the microchip be entered into an international registry. AFA believes that this important requirement was overlooked at the time and is requesting a "house cleaning" measure to provide a means for tracking the microchip once it is deployed.

During deliberations, the board expanded the original intent of the proposal from, "microchip requirements for the export of large falcons (Peregrine falcons and Gyrfalcons) taken by nonresident permit holders, to all raptors exported from the state by both nonresident and resident falconers. This expansion also included raptors exported by breeders under a propagation permit.

The current regulation is overburdensome and should be amended to only include the highly valuable wild caught Gyrfalcons exported from the state by a nonresident under a permit issued by the department. Alaska raptors that are commonly used for falconry (except

Gyrfalcons) are readily available to falconers in the continental United States, and propagation birds are highly regulated under the current system. AFA feels that the Board should remove all species of raptors from the microchip requirement except wild caught birds exported by a non-resident under this section.



AFA is also requesting that the microchip be registered with an internationally recognized microchip registry such as "Petlink" within 90 days of the take of the Gyrfalcons. Failure to provide proof of registration to the department within the time frame listed above will make the permit holder ineligible to apply for a future permit under this section.

Since the inception of the nonresident capture permit regulation in 2014 which allowed up to five permits for passage raptors, ADF&G issued three permits per year for the first three years and five permits per year for the last four years. Nonresidents have taken a total of eleven birds under this program. Ten Gyrfalcons and one Northern Goshawk have been captured and exported from the State of Alaska from 2015 thru 2021. In the past four years since the inception of the current regulation, six exported wild taken birds (all Gyrfalcons) have been microchipped. Gyrfalcons are still the bird of choice for both falconers and breeders who participate in the nonresident take program. Gyrfalcons continue to have a stable low-density population in Alaska. Gyrfalcons are highly valued raptors and due diligence would dictate that wild birds that are taken from Alaska should be protected in a way that helps maintain the bird in its wild status. Microchipping this species aids significantly in this protection. Current regulation dictates that a wild caught raptor is always wild and can never be legally sold.

If a microchipped wild Alaska sourced bird is recovered, it will provide a valuable tool for law enforcement for their investigative efforts. If an Alaska sourced bird is lost or stolen, the microchip would be an invaluable tool in returning the recovered bird to its owner.

In the exotic bird industry, valuable species such as parrots, macaws, cockatoos, toucans and mynahs are microchipped to prove ownership and stem illegal trade. These birds are chipped by breeders and when acquired from the wild. Gyrfalcons are the same size or in many cases much larger and more robust than most of these species of exotic birds.

AFA also considered the possibility of requiring a DNA test instead of the microchip. Although this test would conclusively prove identity of an individual bird, this option was put aside, because there is no central registry for DNA sampling and if a bird was recovered by law enforcement or was lost and recovered by a non-owner, the bird and owner could not be readily identified and reunited.

## **PROPOSAL 110 submitted by the Alaska Falconers Association**

### **5 AAC 92.037. Permits for falconry.**

Extend the nonresident season for acquiring passage raptors as follows:

This proposal seeks to modify the nonresident season for acquiring a passage raptor as follows: 5 AAC 92.037(g)(8). Permits for falconry.

Current regulation: The annual nonresident season for acquiring a passage raptor is from August 15th to October 31st

Proposed regulation: The annual nonresident season for acquiring a passage raptor is from September 15 to November 15.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Change the season dates for nonresident falconers to take passage raptors by permit.

The Alaska Falconers Association (AFA) proposes to change the nonresident season dates to acquire a passage raptor to better align the time of taking with the dispersal timing of Gyrfalcons from their natal areas, and to reduce the disturbance of nesting sites especially those nest sites located north and west of the Brooks Range.

This proposal is requesting the same season date changes that the Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) recommends in their proposal (#114) to the Board of Game on this subject.

The nonresident season dates were established in 2015 to provide opportunity to take all legal falconry species after they leave their natal area (i.e. passage bird), including smaller species that disperse in August. ADF&G records show that to date, ten Gyrfalcons and one Northern Goshawk have been taken by nonresident falconers. There appears to be little interest in taking other legal passage falconry species by nonresidents since most of those species are available in the continental United States. Further, individuals of all legal falconry species either remain in Alaska year long or remain in Alaska through mid-September and would remain available for nonresident falconers even with the change in season dates.

The following information that has been compiled by ADF&G represents data published by Gyrfalcons researchers:

Gyrfalcons depart their natal area in Alaska in early September (median=27 August, range 15 August – 6 September., n=20, Seward Peninsula and Denali National Park, McIntyre et al. 2009; median=12 September, n=2, Yukon Kuskokwim Delta; Eisaguirre et al. 2014). Current nonresident season dates allow recently fledged young that have not yet left their natal areas to be taken for approximately three weeks.

This is a conservation concern because there is substantial legal and illegal interest in obtaining white Gyrfalcons nestlings. These birds are extremely valuable through legal captive breeding and illegal falconry trades. Having a passage season for nonresident falconers that

allows take at or near Gyrfalcon nests incentivizes the sharing of sensitive nest site locations as well as the disturbance during a sensitive time in their life cycle. Further, most of this attention is focused on white birds that constitute less than 100) to ensure sustained yield into the future.



In addition, this proposal asks the Board of Game to extend the season dates later by fifteen days to allow additional opportunity for nonresident falconers to access transient passage Gyrfalcons migrating through road accessible areas of Western Alaska.

## **PROPOSAL 111 Submitted by Alaska Falconers Association**

### **5 AAC 92.037. Permits for falconry.**

Limit nonresident take of raptors to one bird every four years and limit unsuccessful permittees from applying the following year as follows:

Proposed regulation: 5 AAC 92.037(g)(5). Up to five permits for taking, transporting, or possessing a raptor for falconry by a nonresident shall be issued annually by the department. If a permittee successfully takes a raptor, that person would be ineligible to take another raptor for four calendar years.

If an applicant draws a nonresident capture permit, that applicant, if unsuccessful, will be ineligible to apply for a nonresident capture permit the following year.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** 5 AAC 92.037(g)(5). Up to five permits for taking, transporting, or possessing a raptor for falconry by a nonresident shall be issued annually by the department:

This proposal requests that the Board of Game (board) place a limit on raptors to allow a take of one raptor every four years by a nonresident. This request will prevent a falconer who successfully takes a raptor from applying for another permit for four years.

The proposer also requests that the board require that: "if an applicant draws a nonresident capture permit, that applicant, if unsuccessful, will be ineligible to apply for a nonresident capture permit the following year. This language is currently applicable for all other big game drawing permits the state administers.

Gyrfalcons in Alaska maintain a low-density population. Two published studies estimate 300 to 500 breeding pairs statewide. Gyrfalcons have been targeted almost 100 percent of the time by nonresident falconers and since the inception of the nonresident permit system in 2014, ten gyrfalcons and one northern goshawk have been taken by nonresident falconers during the first five years of the program. Two specific individuals have drawn two permits and have taken two Gyrfalcons in five years, and one individual has drawn three permits and has taken 3 raptors which include two gyrfalcons and one northern goshawk in five years. The chance of an applicant drawing a nonresident capture permit is about 1 in 5. Alaska Falconers Association (AFA) has had numerous contacts with unsuccessful applicants asking that the State implement a system that limits successful applicants to one gyrfalcon every four years. Gyrfalcons are highly sought-after birds by both breeders and falconers alike. The "one in four" management method is used in several areas by department managers when there is a reason to create opportunity for as many applicants as possible

The Board of Game's stated intent when nonresident take was implemented in 2014, was to give the nonresident falconer an opportunity to capture a raptor from a species that does not normally occur in the continental United States, and use that raptor as a falconry bird.

Up to five permits for passage, hatch year raptors will still be issued by the department. This proposed request from AFA will spread out the available opportunity, allowing different nonresident falconers an opportunity take a raptor from Alaska.

## **PROPOSAL 112**

### **5 AAC 92.037. Permits for falconry. Submitted by the American Falconry Conservancy**

#### **Proposal 113**

### **5AAC 92.037. Permits for Falconry. Submitted by the California Hawking Club**

#### **The Alaska Falconers Association is opposed to proposal 112 and 113.**

Alaska Falconry Manual defines Falconry as the sport of pursuing, capturing, or killing game using a trained raptor. Falconry is a lawful hunting method when practiced in compliance with state and federal regulations under the terms of a permit issued by the Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

The nonresident falconry take permit system was established by the Board of Game in 2015. The Board authorized ADFG to issue up to five (5) permits for nonresident falconers to take passage raptors of any of legal species available under regulation. Passage raptors are birds of the current hatch year that have left their natal area and no longer rely on their parents for food.



ADFG issued three of the "up to" five permits for passage take for nonresidents in 2015 thru 2017. Alaska Falconers requested the Board of Game in 2017, through ADFG, to increase the nonresident take allocation to the full amount of permits authorized by the Board. Since 2018, ADFG has issued five passage permits per year to nonresident falconers under the program. A high of 26 applicants and a low of 13 applicants (average 20) have applied for the nonresident permits since inception. The nonresident falconers have targeted one species of raptor, the gyrfalcon, (10 gyrfalcons and one goshawk have been taken since inception). Of the available species in Alaska that are allowed to be taken, there has been no interest by nonresident falconers to take any of the other raptor species.

Alaska Falconers Association is concerned that due to a trend by nonresident falconers to target gyrfalcons in the legal passage take, there would be a conservation concern by allowing unlimited nonresident take of gyrfalcon eyas's from critical nesting locations. We believe that gyrfalcons would be targeted in an eyas take as they are desirable by falconers and commercial breeders alike. There has been release of critical nesting site locations by some nonresident falconers by social media, you-tube videos, and printed media globally. This is of particularly concern because some species, which include gyrfalcons, use the same nest site for centuries and those sites would be perpetually susceptible to disruption. This is especially true of those few road-accessible gyrfalcon nest sites.

There has been no interest in taking any other legal species of raptor by nonresident falconers except for gyrfalcons and one goshawk.

ADFG reported that over the past three years (2019-2021), resident falconers took only one gyrfalcon in each of those years.

AFA in proposal #108 is asking the Board to allow an eyas take of up to five northern goshawks and up to five Peale's Peregrine falcons. In addition, this proposal triples the opportunity from the current five passage bird allocation. This proposal submitted by AFA is in response to requests by both resident and nonresident falconers to take eyas birds of these two species of lesser biological concern. AFA requests that the Board continue to protect critical gyrfalcon nest sites, and vote no on proposals 112 and 113.



January 21, 2022

Alaska Board of Game

Via email to [dfg.bog.comments@alaska.gov](mailto:dfg.bog.comments@alaska.gov)

Re: Opposition to Proposals 210, 211, and 244

To members of the Alaska Board of Game:

The Alaska Federation of Native (AFN) writes to submit the following comments on **Proposals 210, 211, and 244** as presented in the Board of Game's 2020-2021 Proposal Book and 2021-2022 Supplemental Proposal Book.

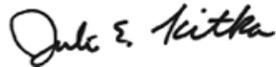
AFN is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska. Our membership includes 158 federally recognized tribes, 141 ANCSA village corporations, 10 regional ANCSA corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs.

AFN strongly opposes these proposals seeking to eliminate the Community Subsistence Hunts ("CSH"). The CSHs provide an important opportunity for Alaska Natives and all Alaskans to meet their subsistence needs. The community-based pattern of subsistence hunting is a long-standing customary and traditional practice of Alaska Natives, and the Alaska Board of Game has recognized the need for these hunts to meet subsistence needs in many areas of rural Alaska, including Chalkyitsik, Yukon Flats, and a vast swath of the Copper River Region, including the eight Ahtna villages: Gulkana, Cantwell, Chistochina, Gakona, Mentasta, Tazlina, Chitina, and Kluti Kaah. Community Subsistence Hunts have been successfully conducted for more than 20 years.

The State of Alaska's subsistence priority statute (AS 16.05.258) obligates the Alaska Board of Game to provide for reasonable opportunities for customary and traditional uses of fish and game. While the CSHs do not entirely fulfill this obligation, the elimination of the CSHs would devastate the opportunity for many Alaskans to meet their subsistence needs. The state's statutory obligations may not be met simply by relying on fundamentally different federal subsistence hunting opportunities that are limited to federally qualified rural residents, especially given that federal opportunities are very limited in the communities that rely on the CSHs.

Simply put, the customary and traditional needs of the Alaska Natives are not being met. To whittle away opportunities for subsistence users, like eliminating Community Subsistence Hunts, only takes us further from the obligations Congress imposed under Title VIII of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act and those required under Alaska Statute. Please **reject Proposals 210, 211, and 244.**

Sincerely,



Julie Kitka  
President



Submitted By  
Rodney M Arno  
Submitted On  
2/18/2022 2:44:16 PM  
Affiliation  
Alaska Outdoor Council

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(907) 841-6849  
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[Rodarno@gmail.com](mailto:Rodarno@gmail.com)  
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310 K Street, Suite 200  
Anchorage , Alaska 99501

Alaska Outdoor Council (AOC) position on select proposals submitted to the Alaska Board of Game (Board) for the 2022 Statewide meeting held March 2022.

Proposal 101. Oppose.

Repeatedly bow hunters comment to the Board the reason they should have early and/or extended seasons is because of the fact that they are ineffective at harvesting. Modern crossbows can be too effective to be considered primitive.

Proposal 120. Support.

Adoption would be consistent with Title 8, section 3. Common Use of the Alaska State Constitution. Wildfood provides security for many elderly Alaskans who physically cannot retrieve moose out of the field.

Proposal 135. Support.

Proposal 139. Support.

Proposal 147. Oppose.

Proposal 150. Oppose.

Proposal 152. Oppose.

It would be beneficial to those who participate in the regulatory process of the Board if the Department would cull proposals that make no sense. Drawing permit applications are available online.

Proposal 155. Support.

Proposal 159. Support.

Proposal 162. Support.

Proposal 163. Support.



Proposal 173. Support.

Proposal 193. Support with a negative C&T finding.

Proposal 196. Support.

Proposal 199. Oppose.

Proposal 237. Amend and support.

Define "other permanent dwelling" in 5 AAC 92.044(b)(5)(B)(I) as permanently fixed and legally owned.

Proposal 239. Support.

Proposal 100. Support.

Proposal 267. Oppose.

New board member orientation by the department clearly needs to do a better job of defining what it takes to meet the threshold requirements for an agenda change request (ACR).

Allocative proposals do not qualify for ACRs.

5 AAC 92.005(3) the board will not accept an agenda change request that is predominantly allocative in nature in the absence of new information that is found by the board to be compelling

# ALASKA



## PROFESSIONAL HUNTERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

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February 18, 2022

Dear Alaska Board of Game Members,

Please find the following comments regarding proposals you will be considering during the March meeting in Fairbanks. The APHA's members rely on fair and predictable allocation to non-resident hunters based on defensible biological parameters that are in line with the principles of sustained yield and result in a maximum benefit to ALL users. APHA maintains its support of the Board's current allocative policies and believes that the well defined, species specific, resident preferences are in the best interests of all Alaskans.

### **Guided Hunt Allocation Benefits Resident Hunters, Visiting Hunters, Guides & Non-hunters**

APHA commissioned its first socioeconomic report with the McDowell Group in 2014, titled "*Economic Impacts of Guided Hunting in Alaska.*" More recently (2019), APHA partnered with Dallas Safari Club to add to and update McDowell's 2014 seminal work. "*The Economic Importance of Hunters Visiting Alaska; Alaska's Guided Hunting Industry 2019*" provides new information on funding for conservation that our visiting clients contribute to wildlife management. Guiding hunters is primarily an activity that occurs in rural areas of Alaska.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 91.8 Million total economic output (2019)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 57.4 Million <b>new</b> dollars to Alaska (2019)</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 59% of guide industry spending occurs in <b>rural</b> areas (2019)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 1,380 people directly employed, total employment with multipliers; 1,890 (2019)</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 85% Active Guides are AK Residents (2019)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Visiting hunters (guided &amp; non-guided) purchase 14% of total Alaska hunting licenses (2019)</li></ul>



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Guided nonresidents represented only 3% of current licenses but 30% of License/tag revenue</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visiting hunters (guided &amp; non-guided) contribute 76% of total revenue to the ADFG wildlife conservation fund (2019)</li> </ul>
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### **Significance to Alaskans & Meat Sharing**

Guiding hunters in Alaska has its origins in Territorial days. Because of our rich history, guides have deep roots in communities across Alaska, with many guides living in remote communities or “Bush Alaska.” APHA worked with McDowell to quantify what some of the benefits that Alaskans reap from Guided Hunting. In 2019, 31.9 million new dollars went to Alaska business that were directly attributed to Guided Hunting. This generated another 19.1 million in economic activity in the support sector. Hunting guides do what they can to share the harvest; 223,500 lbs of well cared for, high quality game meat was shared with their fellow Alaskans in 2019.

### **Individual Proposal Comments**

Below you will find our comments on individual proposals under your consideration for Statewide regulatory change. Leading up to the drafting of these comments the APHA held multiple teleconferences and invited all members to participate in the drafting of these comments. Our teleconferences were well attended with over 30 individual guides representing small Alaskan businesses participating. You will find that there are some proposals that we don’t have comments listed for. These were proposals that we felt did not directly impact guides or were outside of the group’s purview. We also chose, in a couple of instances, to group similar proposals together and combine our recommendations. While these comments represent the voice of our group, you will undoubtedly get comments from APHA members who want their individual positions considered as well. Because the APHA takes a statewide perspective when approaching Board proposals, we urge you to consider regional expertise from our members even when their position is different from that of the APHA. Finally, we thank you for your consideration and urge you to reach out to our membership for clarity and details on proposals before you, either on a unit-by-unit or regional basis. Given the opportunity, Alaska’s hunting guides will continue to bring a wealth of wildlife and hunting knowledge to the table.

### **Proposal 147- OPPOSE**

APHA opposes the creation of a for-profit industry to trade in big game mounts. APHA’s opposition to Prop. 147 is conservation based. Proposal 147 puts the department in a troubling and what will likely be a difficult situation where they will be bombarded by permit requests to sell big game taxidermy. We fear the additional staff time required to



respond to these requests is far outside of the core mission of the department and will place an undue drain on department staff where this is no legal mechanism to capture costs incurred. Further, the APHA warns the board that passage of prop. 147 will create a new market for market hunters who wish to take animals with the intent to sell the taxidermy product. We are aware of a vast demand for taxidermy products across the country and in fact the world. Proposal 147 will open the proverbial pandoras box on the sale of big game without any public benefit to the sale or resale of trophies. Proposal 147 should be rejected.

### **Proposal 151- OPPOSE**

Proposal 151 is purely allocative in nature and is without a conservation basis.

The sponsor of Prop. 151 relies on a truncated and cherry-picked interpretation of special permit provisions within 5AAC 92.050, 92.052 & 92.061. Passage of Prop. 151 will have dire unintended consequences for land owners, department managers, guided non-resident hunters and guide businesses. Prop. 151 is punitive to small guide businesses, offering no advantage to resident hunters what-so-ever.

### **Permit Reassignment and Transfer as a Matter of Policy:**

Proposal 151 paints an unflattering and scandalous picture of the use of alternate lists for certain draw hunts allocated to non-resident guided hunters. A brief discussion looking more holistically at regulations empowering permit transfer and opportunity reassignment referencing Alaska administrative code follows below.

5AAC 92.050 (6) sets out various provisions for transfer for military personal deployed to combat zones for both drawing and Tier II hunts. 5AAC 92.050 (7)(8) outline requirements for proxy hunters to report and carry in the field while hunting on behalf of another Alaskan resident. These regulatory provisions are analogous to resident alternate lists for important hunt opportunities. We note that these permit transfers and proxy hunting opportunities assign a given opportunity in much the same way alternate lists do in 5AAC 91.061 and 5AAC 92.069, that is without an initial application for the hunt by the eventual recipient.

5 AAC 92.052 (22) allows for a resident to transfer subsistence opportunity in GMU 13 to a resident relative within the second degree of kindred. This transfer or reassignment of a resident permit operates much the way an alternate list works. Importantly, the transfer of a subsistence permit to a resident relative in GMU 13 stipulates *“may not receive remuneration for the transfer of a permit under this paragraph”* but it does not require that the recipient initially applied for the permit being transferred. Again, this is analogous to the alternate list Prop 151 attacks.



5 AAC 92.052 (23) is the general provision giving the department broad latitude to issue undersubscribed, surplus permits as follows:

*“except as otherwise provided, if a drawing permit hunt is undersubscribed, surplus permits may be made available at the division of wildlife conservation office responsible for management of the applicable hunt. Surplus permits are not subject to the limitations in 5 AAC 92.050(2) and (4)(F);”*

5 AAC 92.069 incorporates strict drawing hunt conditions describing provisions for guided nonresident moose hunts to include the use of “alternate list” and “undersubscribed hunts.” In the case of the moose hunts described in 5 AAC 92.069 unused guided non-resident moose opportunities will be reassigned to nonresidents generally ensuring full issuance of available tags. Guided nonresidents are prohibited from applying for more than one permit and alternate lists are maintained in the eventuality of a canceled hunt. Once the guided nonresident alternate list is exhausted the department makes available nonresident registration hunts ensuring the hunt opportunities are utilized. 5 AAC 92.069 is an important federal comity regulatory provisions because the moose hunts described within are conducted on federal lands with a set number of hunt opportunities managed by the Nowitna and Koyukuk National Wildlife Refuges.

5 AAC 92.069 limits applications, set criteria and creates administratively feasible reassignment provisions for guided bear hunting opportunity in GMU 8.

Paragraph (4)(a) limits applications:

*“(4) the following provisions apply to a guided nonresident drawing under this section: (A) an applicant for a guided nonresident drawing permit may apply for one such permit for fall hunts and one such permit for spring hunts;” 5 Alaska Admin. Code § 92.061*

Paragraphs (4)(B,C&D) outline reassignment provisions:

*(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 guided hunt, the person whose name appears first on the alternate list for that hunt shall be offered the permit; if an alternate applicant cancels the guided hunt, the permit must be offered in turn to succeeding alternate applicants until the alternate list is exhausted;(D) 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;*

*5 Alaska Admin. Code § 92.061*

5 AAC 92.061 is designed to work in areas open to unlimited entry on state land, private lands and satisfy the need for comity with federal Kodiak Wildlife Refuge lands.

### **Recent Legislative Action Commanding Hunt Reassignment:**

In 2021 Senator Von-Imhof sponsored SB 125:

#### *“AN ACT*

*Relating to the transferability of hunts awarded by drawing; and providing for an effective date.”*

SB 125 allows the transfer of resident drawing permits to family members in the event of the permittee’s death. SB 125 passed the 32<sup>nd</sup> legislature in rapid order securing unanimous support in both legislative bodies. Of note, the proponent of Prop 151 is not listed as a supporter of this discreet benefit to resident hunting families.

### **Consumer Protection and Punitive Impacts of Proposal 151:**

Proposal 151 seems to have been drafted with malice towards nonresidents using Alaskan guide services. Just like military personal who find themselves deployed to a combat zone or residents who require the help of a proxy in GMU 13, nonresidents who retain a guide can have unfortunate, unexpected life circumstances that cause them to cancel a guided hunt. Current use of alternate lists for moose and bear hunters allow for nonresidents to cancel a hunt and his guide to find an alternative hunter so the hunt deposit can be refunded. Proposal 151 singles out guided nonresident hunters and will materially harm them if they have to cancel a hunt putting their guide and the state in an

uncomfortable situation where there is no alternative but to punish them for their unfortunate circumstances. Passage of Prop. 151 will inflict real harm on the consumer to the benefit of no user group, including resident hunters. The 32<sup>nd</sup> legislature chose to look after residents and their families in times of tragedy, it is too bad the sponsor of Prop. 151 is devoid of compassion and heartless in their drive for allocation.

### **Land Use Considerations:**

Prop. 151 would strike down important regulatory provisions that guarantee a sustainable level of use on federal public lands. The APHA finds itself working with a variety of public and sometimes private landowners to develop fair and consistent land access for guided hunters. Much of what Prop. 151 seeks to do will upset those careful compromises and leave federal land managers explaining to the public at large why reasonable access to their lands has been denied or obstructed by state action. The APHA urges extreme caution where the board has the power to work with federal managers, as is the case now, and yet chooses to restrict access to federal lands. The current use of alternate lists and carefully awarded guided hunter allocations are appropriate and minimize state/federal conflicts. Passage of Prop. 151 will nullify reasonable, sustainable and predictable provisions protecting access to federal lands for guided hunters.

### **Guide Business Impacts:**

Guide businesses rely on sustained yield management and wise conservation of Alaska's game resources. Fair and predicable allocations are also important to guide business viability. In areas where opportunity must be limited by drawing hunts it is favorable for guides to plan for a certain level of use i.e., number of hunts. The current use of alternate lists benefits the consumer, land managers, resource managers and guide businesses. Passage of Prop. 151 will drive a stake into the hearts of small family run guide businesses.

### **Conclusion:**

Prop. 151 does nothing to benefit resident hunters, guides, nonresidents, guided nonresidents, or the department. Prop 151 reduces the value of the resource by pulverizing important consumer protections to the detriment of guided hunters who have canceled a hunt, likely due to circumstances or tragedies out of their control.

Even the Alaska legislature took time to pass a law to provide for hunt reassignment in the time of family tragedy. Prop 151 is a heartless and punitive proposal that seeks to single out and hurt guided nonresidents with reckless disregard for potential conflict with federal land managers. The APHA asks the Board of Game to send a strong message that proposals designed to hurt a class of hunters who have suffered personal hardship should be unanimously rejected.



### **Proposal 149- SUPPORT**

The APHA supports Prop. 149 because time and time again the BOG has asked for discreet solutions to address 2DK allocations in specific drawing hunts. The APHA supports family hunting and supports the 2DK use but points out that not all Alaskans or all nonresidents get to enjoy this privilege. If the BOG does not act to allocate hunts to 2DK hunters as Prop. 149 suggests, all of the nonresident quota could eventually be 2DK hunters. We are firm, only SOME nonresidents have Alaskan family members who can take them hunting- this is an unequally enjoyed privilege.

We urge a careful and thoughtful discussion around the table on Prop. 149 because it doesn't eliminate 2DK hunt opportunities in fact, it guarantees them.

### **Proposal 159- SUPPORT**

The APHA supports Prop 159 because it requires that bear sealing deadlines will occur on a business day. We are aware of wonderful department staff that are willing to be called out to seal bear on holidays and weekends so hides will be sealed in a timely fashion. Prop 159 clarifies that sealing deadlines will occur on a workday and alleviates unnecessary demands on department staff.

### **Proposal 239- OPPOSE**

The APHA opposes Prop. 239 because it can work counter to area managers achieving important conservation objectives and could result in some registration hunts going to draw. The APHA is opposed to proposals that can cause overharvest of the resource and we oppose unnecessary drawing hunts. Prop. 239 looks like a good idea but it will result in chaos for some area managers and likely compel them to propose tightly controlled drawing hunts to the detriment of resident hunters.

If the BOG passes Prop 239 it should apply to residents AND nonresidents.

### **Proposal 247- OPPOSE**

The APHA opposes Prop. 247 because it requires that populations of wolves that can be harvested sustainably be un-hunted. There is no conservation basis for Prop. 247.

### **Proposal 168- OPPOSE**

The APHA opposes Prop. 168 based on its negative impact on wildlife conservation and meat sharing.

The proponent of Prop. 168 is asking the BOG to tie its hands and remove an important conservation and consensus building tool from its toolbox. Guided allocations, in certain circumstances, can be an important aspect of a comprehensive approach to achieving



the maximum opportunity for residents and nonresidents alike. The proponent of Prop. 268 asserts the BOG has no authority to impose a guided restriction on nonresident hunters. This assertion has no basis in fact or law as long as the entire allocation in question is not exclusively guide required. The APHA is unaware of ANY allocation for a given species in any given hunt unit for moose, black bear or caribou that is exclusively guide required.

### **Black Bears in Southeast Alaska:**

During the time period from approx. 2005-2010 nonresident use and harvest of black bears in Southeast Alaska (SEAK) began to climb. Black bears are not a guide required species and the growth in harvest and hunting effort was attributed to non-guided nonresidents. This additional harvest required the BOG to address hunter effort and harvest with a quota-based approach. Drawing hunts for all nonresidents were considered but upon close examination it was identified that guides were already on strict quotas based on Forest Service permits administered by the Tongass National Forest. The BOG was also presented compelling data that guide harvest was predominately male bears where non-guided harvest was shown to have much higher rates of sow harvest. Guided black bear hunter effort was stable and working within game manager's goals to minimize sow harvest.

Resident hunter effort in the SEAK units in question was low but stable with a liberal two bear limit. Guided hunter effort was stable and predominately male with a one bear limit. Non-guided black bear hunters were shown to be using commercial services, usually a transporter or a lodge-based service and sometimes utilizing out-of-state hunt planning services. All nonresidents enjoyed a one bear annual bag limit. The BOG realized that resident hunting opportunity could be lost or reduced if harvest was not restricted.

Ultimately the BOG put resident hunters first and took a thoughtful approach to reducing nonresident black bear harvest. Guided nonresident hunters were placed on a registration hunt so hunter effort and harvest could be closely monitored. The Tongass National Forest worked with the BOG to cap guided hunts at the current level to stymie growth potential in the guided nonresident quota. Non-guided nonresident hunts were put on a drawing hunt structure with flexible tag levels so wildlife managers could adjust harvest based on harvest and trends.

Passage of Prop 168 will destroy this carefully constructed and well thought out SEAK black bear hunt structure. Hunting guides in SEAK are predominantly Alaskan (approx 90%) who live in mostly rural communities. Passage of Prop 168 will directly harm small Alaskan businesses and rural communities who benefit from the economic activity generated from guided nonresident black bear hunts. Economic hardship will befall guides because they are already capped by the Tongass National Forest and drawing hunts are randomly awarded. Chaos will ensue as guides may not draw enough tags for a viable season or potentially draw more hunts than they have land access for.



Conservation and sustainability and maximum resident opportunity are primary to the BOG decision making process. Prop 168 would crush carefully constructed conservation-based compromises to the detriment of the black bear resource and potentially resident hunter opportunity in SEAK. As important, Prop 168 would take an important tool out of the toolbox if the BOG ever needs to look at limiting nonresident harvest in other areas with coastal black bears. While APHA is not suggesting the SEAK black bear hunt structure is the only way to manage harvest of valuable coastal black bears we are asserting that Prop 168 would destroy structures that have demonstrated successful applications. Resident hunters still enjoy liberal seasons and bag limits in SEAK in all GMUs (1-3) with coastal black bears.

### **Interior Moose:**

Starting around 2000 certain remote moose populations in the interior were in danger of being over harvested. The BOG took necessary steps to reduce harvest in areas encompassed by the Koyukuk and Nowitna National Wildlife Refuges. Residents and nonresidents were limited and remain limited by a variety of registration and draw hunts. Guides are limited by concessions in the NWR system and held to strict hunt opportunity quotas by the federal land managers.

Over time it became apparent that, due to the remote nature of some of the areas, nonresidents tags were not being fully utilized. This directly impacted guides who were striving to sell valuable hunt opportunities that were randomly awarded but allowed by their land use permits. The BOG worked to understand this problem and bring stability and better utilization of the nonresident quota. Because guides were limited in their hunt numbers by the federal land managers it was understood that guide use could not grow beyond a certain point. The BOG chose to take a thoughtful approach and work with guides, land managers and the department to more fully utilize nonresident opportunities.

Overtime the BOG heard testimony from guides and locals alike that identified valuable traditions of meat sharing facilitated by guides on behalf of their nonresident clients. It became clear that guided moose harvest was an important aspect to consider in the chain of beneficiaries of the interior moose resource. Guided nonresident moose meat was being donated to locals to distribute to elders. Guides and non-guides alike also testified to the board about important employment opportunities brought by guides in these remote and economically depressed interior communities. Testimony to the board included other holistic aspects of the guides relationship with the region and ecology such as guided winter wolf trapping efforts. It was clear that guides were interwoven in the fabric of these interior communities and the very ecology of the subarctic boreal forest.

As a result of public testimony and thoughtful work to understand how guide use was already limited by federal land managers the BOG took deliberate action. Nonresident



tags were bifurcated between guided and non-guided hunters in a few federal land hunts. This has worked well and stabilized harvest and worked to maximize the benefit of nonresident harvested moose. Guide businesses are viable, meat is shared and a few wolves are harvested each year to the benefit of the moose. Passage of Prop. 168 will destroy this carefully thought-out compromise to the detriment of rural residents, guides, federal land managers and wildlife managers.

Not only will Prop 168 destroy certain interior moose hunting structures described above it will remove the ability for the BOG to work with guides, land managers and local communities in other areas of the state. We state this firmly because there are large tracks of privately owned lands that may ONLY allow guided trespass as well as other large federal units in the state. Passage of Prop 168 will send a message that the BOG is no longer interested in benefits such as meat sharing and is now turning a blind eye elders and private and public land managers.

### **Caribou:**

Caribou hunts in NW Alaska are currently in a state of near constant conflict. It is possible that the BOG could use discreet guided allocations to navigate this difficult landscape. It is possible that guided hunt allocations will alleviate some rural concerns especially where land managers are at the table helping find solutions to maintain hunting opportunity. Passage of Prop 168 will take this option off the table and leave the BOG with less tools to build compromise and consensus with federal and local stakeholders.

### **Proposal 241- OPPOSE**

Proposal 241 is purely allocative and offers no conservation benefit nor does it add to the value of Alaska's game resource.

The APHA opposes the board tying its hands by removing authority to allocate between different types of beneficial uses as offered in Prop. 241. The APHA urges you reject the central supporting argument that the legislature in some way intended for nonresidents to be treated equally or in any way has commanded that the Board of Game be prohibited to allocating guided hunts. Passage of Prop. 241 would ignore reams and reams of precedent set at both the Boards of Fish and Game where allocations to or between commercial uses have been made. The sponsor of Prop. 241 ignores recent legislative action that struck down an identical concept in attempt to impose their view of allocation and limit your power now and in the future. Passage of Prop 241 will harm resident hunters in a myriad of ways and require that you ignore important guided hunt benefits, such as meat sharing, when considering allocations of limited game resources. Prop 241 targets guided allocation and, if passed, will crush small businesses that add value to limited Alaskan hunt opportunities.



### **Recent Legislative Action:**

In 2016 the legislature had a chance to pass a law that would have had the same effect of Prop. 241. A summary of that consideration and ultimate failure follows.

Shortly after midnight on April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2016 the Senate passed a surprise and poorly understood floor amendment to House Bill 137 that nearly killed a concerted effort by all wildlife conservation groups in Alaska to raise hunting license and nonresident tag fees. The amendment would have amended AS 16.05.407 and resulted in all classes of nonresidents being treated equally for purposes of allocation. HB137 with its poison pill was sent to the house at 1 AM where it garnered concurrence. No one really understood what the amendment would actually do. A weary legislature returned to the capital and began to work to understand its actions after a night of activity where bills were shipped back and forth between bodies. Once the impacts of the senate amendment to HB137 were understood and the fact that it would undue countless game allocations and hunt structures efforts were put into motion for the house to rescind concurrence after willingness was expressed to form a conference committee to remove the devastating language and passed the hunting license and tag fee. Ultimately the legislature REJECTED the amendment to HB137 but unanimously passed the hunting license and tag fee increase. Fortunately for all hunters and wildlife conservationists in Alaska the legislature took the time and effort to understand the real effects of what is offered in now Prop 241 and removed it but passed the new revenue for wildlife conservation.

### **Guided Hunts are a Beneficial Use:**

Alaska's constitution commands that allocations between beneficial uses be made and empowers the legislature to make those decisions. The legislature has delegated its allocation authority to the boards of game and fish while retaining the power to confirm appointments. Passage of Prop 241 would be a regulatory action unwinding a host of allocations made between beneficial uses, some of them guided opportunities some of them nonguided. The APHA urges caution as you approach this proposal because guided allocations made in 5 AAC 92.057,061&069 were carefully thought out on a case-by-case basis. A blanket removal of those allocations based on justifications offered in Prop 241 is not appropriate and would ignore the record where benefits brought by various nonresident uses were carefully considered and weighed by the board of game. A NEW policy of equal allocation between different types of nonresident allocations would require much work and record building for the APHA to accept as legally viable given the far-ranging implications and impacts of such an action.

### **Unequal Treatment of Alaskan Residents:**

Passage of Prop 241 would disadvantage resident hunters by treating them unequally in two very important ways. First, not all residents have nonresident relatives. This is an important fact because all resident Alaskans are eligible to become hunting guides and



enjoy the benefits of that use. Because only SOME residents have non-resident relatives and only SOME nonresidents have Alaskan relatives Prop. 241 disadvantages Alaskans without families and nonresidents without Alaskan relatives. A family might be a closed class in this case and not be protected as a common or viewed favorably as equal access. Second, the benefits of guided hunts expand beyond the guide and client hunters. Many of the benefits brought to Alaska by guided hunts are enjoyed by Alaskans who do not hunt, especially the sharing of meat. Benefits from nonguided nonresident hunters are not as well described or understood at this time. Passing Prop. 241 disadvantages resident hunters and non-hunting Alaskan residents because it forces the Board of Game to ignore benefits of a use of wildlife brought by guided hunts no matter how well those benefits are understood or quantified or how far they reach. The APHA will submit a recent economic report quantifying social and economic benefits brought by guiding hunters in Alaska to illustrate this aspect.

### **Summary:**

Alaska's legislature declined to rewrite AS 16.05.407 in 2016. Prop. 241 is an identical concept that would diminish the ability of the state to receive the maximum benefit of its game resource while treating some hunting families in Alaska differently than those without family living outside the state.

### **Proposal 267- OPPOSE**

The APHA opposes Prop 267 because it is NOT conservation based and purely allocative.

### **Intro:**

The APHA supports limiting the number of guides on state land through a concession program that promotes stewardship. The APHA continues to advocate for guide concessions that build on and duplicate the successes of the federal land concessions. The APHA agrees that GMU 19C sheep hunters, both resident and nonresident, would benefit from a stewardship-based approach to limiting the number of guides in the unit. The APHA adamantly opposes reallocating the resource with the use of drawing hunts because of the devastating impacts on guide businesses. The APHA agrees with the department that full curl management is the only tool necessary to manage human harvest to achieve sustainable sheep harvest.

### **Sheep Conservation and Impacts of Human Harvest:**

At this time there is no data from any unit or region of Alaska that demonstrates reducing hunting effort, beyond the use of full curl management, will increase sheep populations or speed their recovery. The data is clear that national parks in Alaska (Denali, Gates of the Arctic and Wrangell St. Elias) closed to hunting are experiencing sheep declines at



the same rate as adjacent areas open to hunting. The data is clear that areas such as Tok and Delta that have been managed via strict drawing hunting quotas are experiencing the same types, if not worse, than areas open to general season hunting. The data is clear that areas with historically high levels of nonresident harvest such as 20A and 25A are experiencing sheep declines at the same pace as drawing units, federal concession areas and national parks that have the same weather patterns. The historical data is also clear that these same areas have experienced weather-related decline, principally in the early 1990s, and recovered to near historic high even while being open to general seasons and unlimited guiding. Human harvest, as long as its managed with the full curl restriction, has no demonstrated impact on sheep populations in Alaska.

Sheep population trends appear to be identical in both drawing and general season hunt areas at this time. Areas closed to hunting also appear to be following parallel population trends to areas open to hunt either by draw or over the counter tags. We also note that there is substantial data demonstrating populations have declined and recovered while being hunted. It is also important to realize that there is a large body of data that shows hunting effort will mirror resource availability- the more animals to harvest the more hunters the less animals to harvest less hunters.

Looking ahead and beyond the current series of bad winters it will be important to monitor and compare open areas such as 19C with drawing areas such as Tok and closed areas such as Denali National Park. It will also be important to fly regular surveys and track herd composition, lamb production and especially rates of predation. Given studies released by the department it is more likely that certain types of predator reductions will increase sheep populations FASTER than in areas like Denali National Park where predator control is off the table.

### **19C Sheep Conservation Observations:**

\*\*\*\*\*No department sheep surveys have been flown in 19C for two years\*\*\*\*\*

Given the dearth of recent ariel survey information the APHA has reached out to guides with decades of experience in 19C to understand more about the sheep population in the unit. What we have learned is 19C appears to be suffering from a lack of 8yr old rams attributed to the 2013 winter but that lamb production in the fall 2021 was decent. Sheep populations are reported to have declined between 40-60% with low numbers of 7,8&9yr old rams. Cohort productions starting in 2015 and continuing to 2019 were apparently robust. Most of the sheep population in 19C is reported to be 2-6yrs old. Guides report harsh winter conditions again in winter 2021-22 but population impacts are unknown at this time. Guides are universally concerned about the population but older guides who hunted in the unit compare it to hunting after the steep population decline in the early 90s. All guides familiar with the population decline and rebuild from the early

90s until now remember “lean years” but increasing abundance and ultimately population recovery and growth until the winter of 2019-20.

All of the guides the APHA spoke with expect to reduce hunting pressure in the near-term to respond to lower sheep abundance. While guides are discouraged by population declines and realize this will decrease their success rates, decrease their hunt numbers they universally point to the late spring in 2013 and recent tough winters as the cause of declines and low legal ram abundance.

### **False Crisis:**

Prop 267 paints a picture of a turning point or a crisis point in sheep sustainability and resident hunting opportunity in 19C. Nothing could be further from the truth. 19C is an extremely remote unit with vast in-tact sheep habitats. Hunting pressure is dispersed over great distances with vast sections of the unit being rough and difficult to access for any hunter. Prop 267 attempts to capitalize on sheep declines and reallocate hunting opportunity unnecessarily. Prop 267 plays on fear to suggest that 19C will have to go to drawing and putting nonresidents on draw now will save resident hunting opportunity down the road. This is absolutely false, not supported by biological fact or any real-world study while ignoring real history of sheep decline and population recovery WITH SUSTAINED HUNTING PRESSURE.

Sheep have been hunted by both resident and guided nonresidents under full curl management for almost thirty years. During that time sheep populations in 19C have cycled from high abundance in the late 80s to crashing in the early 90s to high abundance in the two thousand teens and now back down again. Sheep populations will continue to cycle independent of whether a drawing hunt for sheep is implemented. The current series of bad winters should prompt intensive sheep surveys and careful resource monitoring. If the department identifies a biological crisis, action should be taken. Prop 267 is a reallocation proposal using a false crisis to manipulate the public and the BOG to restrict guided hunting.

### **Sheep Management Objectives- Sheep Working Group:**

The APHA was at ground zero in support of the sheep working group. The APHA was prompted to support the sheep working group as a way to resolve user conflicts by assessing sheep management strategies, allocations and management objectives. The sheep working group was a response to an onslaught of proposals similar to Prop 267 that bombarded the BOG in an effort to reallocate sheep hunting opportunity away from nonresidents. Looking back this is laughable because we were approaching all time population highs in “problem units” such as 20A and 19C with many old rams dying from old age each year. During the sheep working group management goals were identified and offered up to be considered for change. 19C was discussed as an area where sheep were managed to provide maximum opportunity for hunters. Not once was a



motion made that garnered any consensus to change management objectives to reduce harvest or stymie opportunity in 19C.

The APHA remains open to discussing management goals of units like 19C with other public stakeholder groups. If the department comes forward with data that shows reducing harvest in 19C will increase the speed of recover, the APHA will work with our members, the BOG and other public stakeholders to develop a path forward. At this time, we are not aware of any discussion to move away from full curl management or limit the number of full curl sheep harvested in 19C. The APHA cautions the BOG that taking action to pass Prop 267 will ignore the result of exhaustive work by the department, and stakeholders to set and achieve maximum sheep hunting opportunity in 19C.

### **Drawing Hunts and Loss of Hunter Opportunity:**

Drawing hunts achieve two very important and definable outcomes. One, drawing hunts can increase the average size and age of harvested rams. Two, drawing hunts will restrict hunting opportunity. 19C is not managed as a trophy area so a drawing hunt is not appropriate for any user group. 19C is managed to provide for maximum hunting opportunity. Passage of Prop 267 would undermine set management objectives by reducing hunter opportunity.

### **Summary:**

The APHA recognizes sheep hunting in 19C could be restricted to achieve different outcomes than maximum opportunity. The APHA opposes Prop 267 because there is no data to support drawing hunts being used successfully to increase sheep populations as a whole. Guide concessions are a proven solution to promoting stewardship and reducing conflict within the guide industry. The APHA adamantly opposes Prop 267 because it is not based on conservation and is purely allocative in nature.



***Alaska Trappers Association  
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ATTN: BOG Comments  
Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
Boards Support section  
PO Box 115526  
Juneau, AK 99811

January 24, 2022

Dear Chairman and Members of the Board

On behalf of the over 1000 members of the Alaska Trapper's Association, we wish to share our input on four supplemental proposals that you will be considering during your March 2022 statewide meeting in Fairbanks.

**Proposal 231** - ATA supports relaxing the requirement for the salvage of meat from the wings of geese, cranes and swans to allow for the traditional use of wings as trapping bait. Even if the requirement for salvage of meat from the humerus is retained, it should be made clear that the rest of the entire wing, including the humerus, and associated skin and feathers, should be useable as bait. Please sort out this issue once and for all so that it is understandable for everyone.

**Proposal 232** - ATA does not support the use of dogs in trapping other than for transportation. There is, at most, a very minimal need for their use in recovery and the opportunity for abuse is great.

**Proposal 234** - The use of transmitting cameras for hunting is a complicated issue. Regardless of what may be allowed for hunting, ATA requests that their use for trapping be allowed. They are a safe, practical and efficient means of monitoring a site regardless of weather conditions and travel distances. Their use for trapping would not impose an unfair advantage in the ability to harvest a resource. They also provide a level of deterrence for tampering with traps and traplines.

**Proposal 247** - ATA opposes this proposed curb on the control and harvest of wolves. It would take away a viable management tool and would needlessly restrict the harvest of a healthy resource. It is a philosophically-based proposal that would serve no practical management purpose.

The ATA appreciates the opportunity to participate in the regulatory process.

Sincerely,

Randall L Zarnke, president



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Alaska Wildlife Alliance supports the subcommittee amendment to Proposal 199. We also strongly encourage the Board to consider setbacks on trails in the Nancy Lake Recreation Area, which were discussed but not decided upon, in the Feb 14th subcommittee meeting.

The Nancy Lake Recreation Area is extremely popular for winter outdoor recreation. From the Alaska State Parks brochure (here: <http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/brochures/nancylake.pdf>) the area is marketed as a "winter playground" designed for multi-use: *"Nancy Lake SRA is ideal for cross-country skiing, snowmachining, and dog mushing. With nearly 40 miles of maintained trails and lots of opportunities for backcountry snowshoeing, ice fishing, snowmachining and skiing, Nancy Lake SRA is a superb winter playground."*

On the Nancy Lake Recreation Area webpage, the description reads: *"It is one of the few flat, lake-studded landscapes in Alaska preserved for recreation purposes.... In winter, the rolling topography is ideal for cross-country skiing, dog mushing and snow machining."*

Because this area is marketed and designed for multi-use, and is a popular recreation destination, setbacks on designated and maintained snowshoe, mushing, and skiing trails in this recreation area are extremely reasonable. We urge the Board to assign trap setbacks on all designated multi-use trails in the Nancy Lake Recreation Area (see map here: <http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/units/nancylk/nansumap.pdf>).

During the subcommittee negotiations, ATA agreed that two trails within Nancy Lakes Rec Area - Red Shirt Lake Trail and the Nancy Lake Parkway - would be suitable trails for trap setbacks, given their accessibility by large parking lots and heavy winter use. Individual trappers who did not represent an organization at the subcommittee meeting did not know the area, and thus felt they could not vote, which is why these trails are not listed in the subcommittee amendment. Setbacks on these trails would not close trapping within the Recreation Area, it would simply create buffers around the multi-use trails, and would still offer opportunities for underwater and above-ground sets within the multi-use trail buffers.

We appreciate the Board's willingness to consider this proposal, and for supporting the subcommittee process. We are particularly appreciative of Mr. Keogh for spearheading this issue and coming to the table with sincere interest in finding compromises. We believe this process, with some tweaking, could be replicated to find common ground in other high-conflict areas.

During the Board's deliberations on this proposal, it would be helpful to understand what variables the Board considers when determining if a trail is eligible for setbacks.

Additionally, we encourage the Board to direct both ADF&G and Alaska Wildlife Troopers to document reported pet catchments statewide, and report those data in the annual trapping report. Having a better understanding of where dog-trap encounters are happening (or not happening) will be helpful in ensuring that setbacks are applied on the multi-use trails where they are needed most. Trap-pet encounters have continued into this trapping season, as summarized by the Feb 17th article "Multiple dogs caught, killed in Southcentral Alaska traps" by Paxson Woelber (available here: <https://alaskalandmine.com/landmines/multiple-dogs-caught-killed-in-southcentral-alaska-traps/>). Agency data would provide helpful context on the situation.



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The Alaskan Bowhunters Association (ABA) is a 501C-4 Nonprofit organization representing bowhunters from all over the nation who choose to pursue game in Alaska with the bow and arrow. Our mission is "To foster and perpetuate fair chase hunting with the bow and arrow"

These comments reflect our stance on upcoming State-wide proposals and we hope that the Board of Game seriously considers what our organization and membership have to say regarding these matters.

#### Proposal 101 OPPOSE:

This proposal would allow crossbows to be used in special bow and arrow only seasons and hunts. Currently, special archery seasons only work because of the lower success rates and impact to game populations. Adding crossbows as a means of take during archery season would cause higher success rates and result in higher impact to game populations. This could result in shortening bowhunting seasons and/or losing some bowhunting seasons and areas completely. The purpose of Archery seasons is to create more opportunity to hunt more days without having any impact on game populations. Some argue that age and health concerns warrant the use of a crossbow for all during the archery season, however there is already a method and means exemption for those that are truly disabled to use a crossbow during these seasons. Also, many bowhunters that are well into their 70's are still able to use conventional longbows, recurves, and compounds without any issue. It must also be noted that crossbows are allowed in general seasons for those that wish to use them. Adding non archery equipment to archery seasons threatens the very essence of why we have these opportunities in the first place.

#### Proposal 102 OPPOSE:

This proposal has several issues. First, recurve bows and compounds are excluded completely. Second, this proposal would potentially take away the option from ADFG to limit certain weapons in certain urban areas, management areas etc. This proposal would make things more complicated rather than more simple.

#### Proposal 123 OPPOSE:

Proposal 123 would advocate for electronic range finding sights on archery equipment. The whole idea of having archery seasons is based on limiting technology in order to have less impact on the resource. Range finding sights go against the idea of fair chase and are an excuse for circumventing ethics. If someone really doesn't have enough time to make an ethical shot on an animal, they should choose to not shoot at all rather than use a piece of technology to make up for it.

#### Proposal 124 OPPOSE:

We would ask you to oppose proposal 124 based on the same reasons stated under proposal 123.

Proposal 125 OPPOSE:



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2 of 2

We would ask that the Board oppose proposal 125 based on the same reasons stated under proposal 101.

Proposal 127 NEUTRAL WITH CONCERN:

While the ABA is neutral on the use of air rifles in the general season, we are concerned that allowing air "bows" as a legal method of take would eventually try and make its way into archery seasons. An air "bow" is nothing more than an air rifle that shoots a bolt. In several states, the air "bow" has been proposed to be used in the archery season based on its name alone. In some states it has actually been allowed. The ABA has concerns that if proposal 127 is passed, air "bows" will eventually be introduced into archery seasons.

Proposal 133 SUPPORT:

As long as there is no biological concern and no limit on beavers, we support adding bow and arrow to the method of take state wide.

Proposal 156 OPPOSE as written:

While we understand the reasoning and logic behind this proposal, the language would allow ANYONE who has completed the crossbow education course to apply for an archery drawing permit. This would allow for many people to apply for and receive permits prior to actually receiving a methods and means exemption. This could take away permits from many bowhunters by individuals that may never end up being approved for or even applying for a methods and means exemption.

Proposal 157 SUPPORT:

This proposal would make it easier for the department to vet those applying for methods and means exemptions as well as help prevent abuse of the system.

Proposal 173 OPPOSE as written:

We oppose any repealing of the Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area as it could eliminate the archery only opportunity we currently possess. Losing the corridor management area would result in unwarranted hunting pressure which the game populations could not sustain.

Proposal 233 OPPOSE:

Many of our members take Moose, Brown Bear, Elk, Muskox and Bison with compounds, recurves and longbows with draw weights under 55 pounds. With proper arrow set up, ethical shots and shot placement, 50 pounds of draw weight is more than enough to ethically take any big game in North America.

I would like to thank the Board of Game for their time and consideration of these proposals.

Respectfully,

Mike Harris - Legislative Vice President, Alaskan Bowhunters Association



**Submitted By**

Laura Hazelett

**Submitted On**

2/17/2022 8:13:00 AM

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PROPOSAL 109

5 AAC 92.037(h). Permits for falconry.

Modify the micro-chip requirements for live raptors exported from Alaska by nonresidents as follows:

Current regulation: 5 AAC 92.037(h) all live raptors exported from the state, including propagated birds, must be micro-chipped.

Proposed regulation: 5 AAC 92.037(h) all wild caught live gyrfalcons exported from the state by a nonresident must be micro-chipped and the micro-chip must be registered with an internationally recognized micro-chip registry such as (Petlink). Proof of micro-chip registration must be submitted to the department within 90 days after export. Failure to provide proof of registration to the department makes the individual ineligible to receive a future permit under 5 AAC 92.037(g).

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Micro-chip requirements for raptors exported from the State of Alaska.

The American Falconry Conservancy (AFC) doesn't see a need to micro-chip any Alaska wild taken raptor or domestically bred raptor. It is well established that wild take has no impact on wild raptor populations given the insignificant numbers taken. Domestic breeding of raptors is encouraged and there is proof that captive breeding supports research and conservation as well as conservation education. Science, the guiding force in wildlife management, identifies captive breeding and reintroduction programs as not only vital portions of conservation for a species but also reduces the pressure on wild populations, particularly in expensive or difficult to acquire specimens such as gyrfalcons. Taking occasional specimens from the wild to ensure genetic diversity is important to domestic breeding. Alaska has the largest resource of wild gyrfalcons. Gyrfalcon populations are quite healthy, and studies provide much information that gyrfalcons are the most widely dispersing falcons in the world.

The burden of micro-chipping raptors, when a robust federal banding program already exists, seems counterproductive. Such record-keeping adds to Alaska Department of Fish and Game's administrative costs with no social good being realized. We think of social good as things that benefit the largest number of people in the largest way. For example, clean air, water, and literacy benefit the common good and general public. Discouraging the take of Gyrfalcons by non-resident falconers prevents both Alaska and its citizens from realizing permitting and tourism dollars gained from non-resident falconers coming to stay, hire guides, and take raptors.

Illicit trade in North American gyrfalcons is either nonexistent or so low it does not rise to the level warranting such law enforcement monitoring. Unless law enforcement has reasonable suspicion, or sufficient criminal convictions of nonresident Americans, such enforcement and monitoring remains unnecessary. AFC believes reciprocity amongst



states is important but it seems that Alaska might find it equally objectionable if other states required falconers to micro-chip birds from the lower 48 before allowing export to Alaska. Currently, there is no indication a widespread theft of Alaska gyrfalcons is occurring. It is unclear what issue Alaska is attempting to resolve with the micro-chipping regime and it does not seem to resolve any issue that the existing USFWS robust banding of birds does not address. If it is theft of the resource (sans evidence) as some Alaskans would have us believe, it seems unlikely that people who would trade in black market raptors from Alaska would bother to utilize the legal system of applying for and receiving permits to procure raptors in the state. Micro-chipping would be an ineffective method with which to address such an issue.

However, if Alaska feels compelled to require micro-chipping of gyrfalcons taken by nonresidents, all gyrfalcons should be micro-chipped regardless of origin—domestic bred or wild taken—whether by residents or nonresidents. The Privileges and Immunities Clause of the U.S. Constitution in Article IV, Section 2 of the Constitution states that "the citizens of each state shall be entitled to all privileges and immunities of citizens in the several states." This requires equal treatment of residents and nonresidents, to perpetuate mutual friendship and interactions unless there is a compelling public interest at stake that cannot be attained by any other less prejudicial or burdensome means. Micro-chipping gyrfalcons exclusively by nonresidents will not meet this threshold. In fact, it appears to be an effort by Alaska resident gyrfalcon breeders to erect unreasonable barriers to proscribe take of wild gyrfalcons in Alaska by nonresidents. This serves only the Alaska gyrfalcon breeders, but not Alaska public interests.

The final thing we contend is that a micro-chipping regime is designed in part or in whole to prevent or discourage falconers from visiting Alaska to take gyrfalcons. The micro-chipping requirement also ignores the many documented health risks associated with micro-chipping, from the chips migrating in the body, failures of the devices, and particularly, the risk of cancers that studies show are associated with the devices. These studies for the most part are done on rodents, and canines, but the fact that large falcons are considered indicator species, may equate to higher susceptibility to these cancers. In the study, *Artificial Implants and Soft Tissue Sarcomas*, Elcock et al. (2001) writes, "It should be noted ... that these tumor incidences only approximated the potential incidence of micro-chip-induced tumors for these studies. The original intent of the studies was to characterize the toxicological profile of the chemical test substance in question, therefore tissue surrounding the animal-identification micro-chips was not examined microscopically unless there was a gross lesion. Thus, small pre-neoplastic or neoplastic lesions may have been missed" (p. 488). As a whole, these studies indicate the percentage of mice, rats, and canines developing micro-chip-induced tumors in the six studies reviewed ranged from 0.8% to 10.2%. Several researchers, including Elcock et al. (2001), Le Calvez et al. (2006), and Tillmann et al. (1997) suggest that the actual rate of tumor formation may have been higher than was reported in their studies since they examined only visible lesions and thus may have missed microscopic changes that signaled the onset of additional tumors around the implants.

It is unlikely that any wildlife rehabbers or state game departments, much less un-named international entities, have the necessary equipment to detect all potential iterations of micro-chips in use on the rare occasions that these birds may come into their possession. As the "returning to owners the found pets" is the main function for micro-chipping animals, not as a law enforcement tool that already exists in the form of recorded bands, we find this step goes far beyond what is required to ensure compliance.

Based on this assessment, AFC requests that the Commission discard all micro-chipping requirements for any domestically bred or wild taken raptor species for resident and non-resident falconers alike.

The AFC appreciates Alaska's consideration of our comments; both this comment regarding Proposal 109 and our comments submitted earlier regarding the other Proposals. Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,

Laura Hazelett

President, American Falconry Conservancy



I'm writing in support of proposals 106, 107 and 145, and against 144.

Cats are clearly a huge problem and the people who like to play their science denialism games should be held responsible for killing off our wildlife and spreading disease to humans and wildlife.

An example of their complete disregard for logic and how they like to down play real threats, can be found in the IN SUMMARY section on page 12 of their appendix and references, on Toxoplasma Gondii.

Giving support to feral cat hobbyists to deal with what is such a serious problem would be extremely dangerous.

TNR is nothing but a pipe-dream solution, being touted by no kill charities, who don't like cat's dying humanely, and really care nothing about wildlife dying.

Ian Anderson



Submitted By  
Steven Aubry  
Submitted On  
2/18/2022 12:42:14 PM  
Affiliation

Our Proposal 199 to the Alaska Board of Game (BOG) has moved forward with consideration to the Statewide BOG meeting taking place in early March 2022. Alaskans who recreate in the Mat-Su region (Wasilla, Palmer, Big Lake, Willow, Chickaloon, Knik): today is the last day to comment in support of trap setbacks from popular multi-use trails. There's still time to help!

I support Proposal 199 and am happy it has moved forward for your consideration. The proposal for 50-yard trap setbacks to increase public safety on popular multi-use trails, including those in: Nancy Lakes Recreation Area, Big Lake, Palmer Hayflats, Hatcher Pass, Jim Creek, Talkeetna, Sutton, Glacier, Mat-Su Valley Moose Range, Chickaloon, Government Peak, Knik, Settler's Bay Coastal Park, Willow, Nelchina, and more is definitely a needed change which will still not prevent the setting of traps, just make it safer for others. I understand that currently, it is legal for traps to be set on or near multi-use trails, campgrounds, roads, and pullouts from as early as September through May. I also have learned that statistics show that this winter alone, at least seven dogs have been caught in traps, and two of them have been killed in Southcentral Alaska. This proposal could prevent the majority of these occurrences. Please support this proposal. Make it safer for "all" the users that enjoy the use of these areas.

Respectfully submitted,

Steven Aubry, WI

Submitted By  
Lisa Baird  
Submitted On  
2/17/2022 2:58:40 PM  
Affiliation



PC014  
1 of 1

I support Proposal 144 to exempt sterilized cats. Trap-Neuter-Vaccinate-Return programs have been shown through properly-designed scientific research to be good for cats and good for the environment. Of course, there are some sensitive areas, such as ground-nesting bird sites, that are not suitable for TNVR, but those can be regulated as needed. Returning sterilized, vaccinated cats to a residential neighborhood, or to their barn home in a rural area, will not have significant impacts on wildlife, and will start chipping away at the cat overpopulation problem. Years of killing free-roaming cats through trapping and lethal injections, poisoning, and shooting have not reduced their numbers; the remaining cats will always breed until the population is back to each area's carrying capacity. It's time to choose a modern, humane method of cat population control that has been proven to work. Thank you.



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**Proposal 108:** I support this proposal if amended to say: "Taking of eyases for non-residents statewide of any species of raptor legally allowed to be taken in Alaska, up to five permits for taking, transporting, or possessing a passage raptor for falconry; up to ten permits for taking, transporting, or possessing an eyas raptor for falconry legally allowed to be taken from May 1- July 20."

**Reason** Take by Alaska resident falconers is of no biological significance for any Alaskan raptor populations. Consequently, a take of up to 15 raptors by non-resident falconers would also be of no biological significance. Although the Alaska Falconers Association (AFA) claims that it is difficult to tell eyas peregrines and gyrfalcons apart, evidence does not exist to support this claim. Adult falcons associate closely with their young and are conspicuous during disturbance to the eyrie. Gyrfalcon chicks have grey beaks, ceres (the fleshy area above the beak) and feet while peregrines possess very pink beaks, ceres and feet. Identifying gyrfalcons and peregrine falcons is of no difficulty at any life stage due to their vast morphological differences.

**Proposal 109:** I strongly disagree with this proposal

**Reason:** AFA falsely claims "Alaska raptors that are commonly used for falconry (except Gyrfalcons) are readily available to falconers in the continental United States"

Gyrfalcons are readily available to falconers in all states in this country. They are bred in captivity in large numbers - perhaps even surpassing captive production of some other common raptor species. In addition, multiple other states allow gyrfalcon take including Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, North Dakota, and others. Alaska is not the only state that allows take of this species that AFA claims to be "uncommonly available." Gyrfalcons are not an uncommon or unavailable species for falconers to access.

**Proposal 110:** I strongly disagree with this proposal

**Reason:** AFA is using verbiage that directly contradicts what they are proposing. They propose to "extend" the non-resident season from Aug 15-Oct 31 to Sept 15-Nov 15. This season they are proposing would be 15 days SHORTER. If this proposal were to be adopted a non-resident trapper may be forced to trap in winter conditions, combating all the issues that may go with below freezing temperatures and snow. This proposal restricts a non-resident's chances of securing a bird after spending thousands of dollars to take such a trip in rural Alaska. Alaska is known for adverse weather conditions that can make trapping or traveling impossible. Shortening and pushing back the trapping season unfairly pushes non-residents into a shorter time frame for success and more likelihood of adverse weather. In the last seven years of non-resident take, only three gyrfalcons have been taken from natal territories by non-residents.

**Proposal 111:** I strongly disagree with this proposal

**Reason:** Only 13 non-residents applied for a permit to trap in 2021. The Alaska non-resident take has so far never met its quota. Only 37.9% (29 permits available over 7 years, 11 birds exported) of the total permits issued so far have resulted in the export of a raptor. The four-year rule being proposed is pointless because the applicant pool is so low already and the odds of drawing the permit are so high already. With an already low number of people applying for a non-resident permit there is a high chance of any one of the applicants being successful in drawing a permit but not necessarily successful in capturing a raptor.

The big game hunts that this proposal references where successful applicants must wait four years before applying again is comparing apples and oranges. Hundreds to thousands of people apply for big game hunts in Alaska for a handful of permits. Non-resident falconry permit applications thus far have never numbered more than 26. The average number of applicants when you divide the numbers by 7 years is 20.7. If this proposal were to go through and roughly 20 people applied per year, you would be out of applicants in short order. Additionally, this is an attempt to fix a problem that doesn't exist. The total number of individuals who have applied in the last seven years is 63. The number of people who have applied every year and won is 5 individuals. The number of people who have won more than once is 4 out of 63 individuals over 7 years. The number of people who have applied \*once\* and won is 6 individuals. Therefore, arguing that it is unfair to let someone apply every year when only 4 out of 63 individuals have won more than once in 7 years is baseless.

**Proposal 112:** I support this proposal

**Reason:** Alaska hosts healthy populations of all native raptor species found breeding there. In addition, the landmass of Alaska is one-fifth the size of the entire lower 48 (per [alaska.gov](http://alaska.gov)) with a very low number of resident falconers (less than 50, per ADF&G). Many other



states in the lower 48 have much smaller resource availability and no limits (except for peregrines) on the numbers of falconers applying for take, including Texas, Kansas, Indiana, Wyoming, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Oklahoma, and Washington. Oregon, a state with a non-resident quota for example, allows 20 non-resident permits in a landmass incredibly similar compared to Alaska. Biologically, Alaska would stay well below the threshold of significance with respect to raptor take if all residents and the average number (20.7) of non-residents took birds each year. Furthermore, not all residents will take birds every year and that holds very true with non-residents as well. The quota for non-resident take has never been met in the 7 years of this program. In 2020 and 2021, zero birds were taken on non-resident permits. Alaska most certainly can biologically afford to allow unlimited take for non-resident permits since the chances of success remain low.

**Proposal 113** I support this proposal as amended below. Rather than having three different drawings for peregrine, gyrfalcon and other species, take should be unlimited for reasons addressed above: the quota for non-residents has never been met and the resource is healthy and stable enough to allow unlimited take at this time. If the above proposal were to be adopted, it would force a permit holder to decide which species they were targeting before knowing their travel plans, weather, and seasonal influences on these species. Alaska has already determined that the season allowed for resident falconers is safe and biologically sound. Multiple states allow non-residents to trap the same numbers and during the same time as residents. I propose a change FROM "issue annually: up to 5 permits for a gyrfalcon (*Falco rusticolus*); up to 5 permits for a peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*); and up to 5 permits for any other raptor species listed under (f) of this section."

TO: "Nonresident take permits for raptors shall have the same quotas as resident take. Take is limited to two raptors either eyas or passage, hatching- year-raptors; Include all raptors in section (f) for nonresidents."

I agree with all other portions of this proposal to clear up language and to extend the non resident trapping season to be in line with resident trapping season (Alaska Falconry Manual Part 34 - Taking of Raptors "An eyas or passage bird may be taken any day of the year.")

**Proposal 114:** I strongly disagree with this proposal.

**Reason:** If this proposal were to be adopted a non-resident trapper may be forced to trap in winter conditions while attempting to rent the correct gear (e.g. snow machine) and combating all the other issues that may go with below freezing temperatures and snow. This proposal restricts a non-resident's chances of securing a bird after spending thousands of dollars to take such a trip in rural Alaska.

The cost of trapping in a remote area of Alaska is extremely high and perhaps why there are low numbers of applicants for these permits to begin with. A proposal to push back and restrict trapping dates will only add to the cost of a non-resident's trip due to weather conditions. Shortening and pushing back the trapping season unfairly pushes non-residents into a shorter time frame for success and more likelihood of adverse weather.



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### **I Oppose Proposal #267 for a few reasons:**

1. It raises the question-is this an emergency action by the board or not?
2. The previous board prior to this one would have most likely followed the rules set forth to recognize and put attention to it at the begging of the three year cycle.
3. This proposal really dose not address conservation of the herd. Those that submitted this proposal took into consideration only two numbers, non-resident harvest and resident harvest.

I have lived in Alaska for the past 33 years, and I have observed the differances between resident hunters. There are a small percentage of passionate ones, and then the weekend warriors. The question is how many sheep heads do the passionate ones need? I can appreciate one from each of the ranges, that is five rams. It isn't as one is going to feed a family of say four for very long with that amount of meat.

4. The economic numbers that are not looked at by this organization submitting proposal 267. Money spent by non-residents to all the local businesses throughout the state, also to those involved directly with the hunt. Guides, assistant guides, packers, pilots, air taxi services, all have families who are dependant on the guiding industry. I have been in the guiding industry since 93 as an assistant guide, and then registered guide in 2007. I not only support my family, but all those involved I consider family. Also, the industries family-includes supporting numerous families in villagtes and patients at Providence Hospital for their Holistic healing from the game meat our industry family has and will continue to donate. This shows the conservation efforts in the guiding industry are a needed far and wide for the state. This is why I oppose proposal #267 that discriminates against non-resident hunters.

### **I Support #136 and #137:**

1. The Alaska State Troopers have documented that this is an unforcable law, and is a waste of the states money to investigate when there are more valid investigations.
2. There are times as a pilot that safety requires one to spot out a safe landing area that may have sheep in that drainage, however, it is to scout sheep it is only to find a safe landing spot.

### **I Oppose Proposal #138:**

There is already a regulation stating that you can't hunt the day you fly intill 3:00am the following day

### **I Oppose Proposal #139:**

There is already a regulation that specifies that you can't "Harass Wildlife."

### **I Oppose Proposal #271:**

There is already a regulation that specifies you can't rundown or Harass Wildlife. In all reality how would this be enforced? Also, how would anyone catch to a herd of Caribou or a pack of wolves moving at 15 miles per hour. These animals survive with either fight or flight. And in this situation it will be flight.

### **I Oppose Proposal #146:**

There are areas in the state where one side of a drainage is open for a registration hunt, yet the other side might not open until later in the week, month etc.; therefore, you would need to get both registrations if the goats are on either side. Additionally, if the weather doesn't allow a hunter to get into one regerstration area then a hunter will have to go to a different area, and this proposal doesn't allow a hunter to do that.

## **I Oppose Proposal #147:**



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2 of 2

1. I think this is a bad idea because it could lead to promoting illegal hunting practices e.g. poaching, and then the next proposal may lead to selling black bear bladders etc. Keep it clean for Alaska and our future hunting families.

## **I Oppose Proposal #152**



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I fully support the Alaska Wildlife Alliance's Proposal 199 requesting 50-yard trap setbacks from over 200 multi-use trails in the Mat-Su area, including trails in: Nancy Lakes, Big Lake, Palmer Hayflats, Hatcher Pass, Jim Creek, Talkeetna, Sutton, Glacier, Mat-Su Valley, Moose Range, Nelchina, Chickaloon, Government Peak, Knik Glacier, Willow, and more.

Ideally, trapping should be fully banned in heavily populated and used areas. Alaska has plenty of room away from high-density population centers for people to trap without the risk of hurting people and animals who are out enjoying the amazing trails and wildlife areas in the state.



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Proposal 199, 50 yard setbacks from popular hiking/ski/biking trails is an entirely reasonable proposal. As our urban/suburban trails become increasingly popular with the public at large, the potential for tragic incidents, such as pets becoming maimed and killed by poorly placed leg-hold and conibear traps will only increase. And god forbid, if a small child should come across one of these traps. Currently trappers enjoy virtually unfettered access to most of the state. A fifty-yard setback requirement should not negatively impact most trapping activities. Please adopt this proposal.



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I am writing in support of Proposal 199, to require traps to be a minimum of 50 yards off of main multi-use trails in the Matanuska-Susitna region. This seems like a reasonable compromise and will save a lot of dogs. The vast majority of users of these trails are there for purposes other than trapping. Families out skiing, people out with their dogs, even people with little kids out snow machining; all of these shouldn't have to worry about traps set right beside the trail. Thank you.



Submitted By  
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## **ALASKA BOARD OF GAME**

### **Statewide Regulations Meeting**

**March 4-12, 2022**

### **Comments in Support of Proposal 144**

**And in Opposition to Proposals 107 and 145**

#### **Submitted by**

**Danielle Bays**

**Senior Analyst, Cat Protection and Policy**

**The Humane Society of the United States**

The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), the nation's largest animal protection organization, works to protect both wildlife and domestic animals. On behalf of our members and supporters in Alaska, please accept these comments in **SUPPORT of Proposal 144 and in OPPOSITION to Proposal 145 and 107**. These proposals relate to 5 AAC 92.029. Permit for possessing live game, 5 AAC 92.230. Feeding of game, and 5 AAC 92.990. Definitions as they pertain to the management of free-roaming domestic cats in the state.

The HSUS firmly believes that cat management should be designed to protect public safety and wildlife as well as to protect cats. We support strategic, non-lethal management of free-roaming cats who already exist outdoors through multi-faceted programs including sterilization and vaccination efforts, such as trap-neuter-vaccinate-return (TNVR). The goal of TNVR-based programs is to humanely reduce, and eventually eliminate, populations of outdoor cats, as well as the nuisance behaviors, wildlife predation and public health concerns associated with them.

The effects of free-roaming cats on wildlife are well documented and are a cause of legitimate concern to us, as well as wildlife agencies and animal protection organizations. The degree of impact is often hotly debated, obfuscating the desire on both sides of the debate to find an effective solution. Arguments against sterilization-based population management programs all too often focus on the current landscape, providing a laundry list of negative impacts cats may have on wildlife, and then essentially arguing for the status quo. This appears to be the case for Proposal 145, seeking to redefine domestic cats as "deleterious exotic wildlife" and prohibit the feeding and "release" of cats outdoors.

We urge the Board to instead focus on solutions to the conflicts caused by free-roaming cats. The majority of people appreciate both domestic cats and native wildlife and wish to see neither suffer. The question to consider here is not whether to have free-roaming cats or

not have them. They already exist in Alaska's outdoors. Nor is it the environmental impact of having free-roaming cats roaming cats.



A similar question was raised for a proposed sterilization-based cat management effort in Los Angeles, California. To resolve the question of the program's impact on wildlife and the environment, the city completed an environmental review process in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act<sup>[1]</sup>. The exhaustive review found that the TNVR program would not have a negative impact on the environment or wildlife given that it would reduce the number of cats living outdoors. Fewer cats mean less of an impact. Similarly, the Alaska Board of Game should find that TNVR programs aimed at effectively reducing the free-roaming cat population will reduce the threats to wildlife in the state and thus are an improvement over the current situation.

We urge the Board to not be waylaid by unproductive debate and focus on the question at hand – does Alaska want to utilize effective and humane methods for managing free-roaming domestic cat populations or does the state want to entrench the status quo and leave outdoor cats unmanaged.

### **Proposal 144 allows for management of free-roaming cats**

Proposal 144 requests that sterilized free-roaming domestic cats (“community cats”) be exempt from the list of species prohibited from being released in the wild. This would allow for cats already living outdoors to be captured, sterilized and vaccinated, and then returned to the same location where they were living.

The intent of Proposal 144, and any TNVR program in any location, is to positively impact the current state of affairs by sterilizing enough of these cats to reduce the overall population, thereby reducing wildlife predation and public health risks. A study to evaluate the effect of a long-term, multi-faceted cat management program on the dynamics of a free-roaming cat population concluded that, “A comprehensive long-term program of neutering followed by adoption or return to the resident colony can result in reduction of free-roaming cat populations in urban areas.” and documented an 85% reduction in cat population in the study area (Levy et al., 2003)

Numerous other studies support the claim that when conducted appropriately, non-lethal strategies can achieve the desired outcome<sup>[2]</sup>. For example, a population of over 300 cats at a waterfront site in Newburyport, MA was eliminated through a concerted TNVR effort paired with rehoming of adoptable kittens. (Spehar & Wolf, 2017) A 67% decrease in cat population was found in a Chicago neighborhood targeted for TNVR by volunteers. (Spehar & Wolf, 2018) And a study of TNVR in rural North Carolina compared the impact of TNVR with control groups, finding a 36% mean decrease where TNVR was employed (range 30-89%) versus a 47% mean increase of control groups—the actual increases in cat population across the three sites where no TNVR was performed were 31%, 127%, 283%.(Stoskopf & Nutter, 2004)

When sterilization is not part of a management strategy, cat populations can increase. Trap-and-remove efforts end up being a haphazard approach that address too few cats, often target household pets, and have little impact on animal welfare, environmental, wildlife or public health issues. These efforts are also incredibly costly, in terms of both financial and human labor/mental welfare impacts.

Additional peer-reviewed research comparing various free-roaming cat management strategies found that the most effective strategy with respect to both population impact and cost efficiency was a high intensity TNVR-based effort.(Benka et al., 2021; Boone et al., 2019; Miller et al., 2014) This means sterilizing a high proportion of cats at the start of the program (front-loading), followed by a less-intensive maintenance phase to address any new cats that appear. Often communities are not able to implement such intensive TNVR due to lack of government support or restrictive policies. Adoption of Proposal 144 would be a first step in clearing pathways to allow for such intensive management strategies in Alaska.

### **Proposals 145 and 107 are not a solution.**

Proposals 107 and 145 request adding domestic cats to the state's list of “deleterious exotic wildlife” and proposal 145 goes further to request additional prohibitions on releasing domestic cats outdoors and on feeding cats outdoors. Such policy changes would likely be effective only on a landscape that did not already include free-roaming domestic cats. Clearly this is not the reality of present-day Alaska.

Instead of doing more to manage cat populations, these proposals would further hinder effective methods of reducing living outdoors in the state.



There is a misconception that if free-roaming domestic cats are prohibited from being returned outdoors, that once those cats are captured, they will be removed from the environment. The reality is that the bulk of those cats will never be captured in the first place. A cat management program will not trap cats who can't be returned to the same location once sterilized and vaccinated. There simply isn't the capacity to rehabilitate and rehome the cats on the scale needed to make a difference. The cats will continue to live outdoors, intact and unvaccinated, and thus allowed to reproduce and their populations to grow. Prohibition on returning cats does not accomplish the intended goal of having fewer cats outdoors. It does the opposite.

Research on the impacts of various cat management strategies conducted at both high and low intensities over a period of ten years showed, not surprisingly, that doing nothing was the worst possible choice, with the largest population of cats at the end of the experiment. (Benka et al., 2021; Boone et al., 2019; Miller et al., 2014) Support for Proposal 145 is essentially support for doing nothing, maintaining the inadequate status quo.

Feeding bans have also proven ineffective at managing free-roaming cats time and time again and may actually lead to an increase in free-roaming cats. It is impossible to eliminate all food sources, such as food scraps in garbage cans, and cats are adept scavengers. When feeding is sanctioned, it can be monitored and managed. This means it can be done in a way that is sanitary and will not attract wildlife or otherwise cause a public nuisance. A ban often does not result in cats not being fed, but rather creates a situation where people will drop large piles of food and leave, not wanting to get caught. For cats that have grown accustomed to being fed, to abruptly discontinue feeding them is cruel. With managed care, feeding sites can be placed in areas to minimize impact and leftover food promptly removed. Often, existing sanitation code allows for enforcement of problem situations.

The [American Bar Association](#) encourages government bodies to adopt TNVR programs and humane cat management policies. Regarding feeding bans, the ABA states:

"Feeding bans cause a real dilemma legally for caregivers. By feeding the community cats they care for, caregivers could be violating such an ordinance, but by adhering to the ordinance they could conceivably find themselves in violation of a cruelty provision, by failing to provide care to those same animals. Further, for those cats who have become dependent on food provided by a caregiver, a feeding ban is inhumane, usually forcing cats to subsist on insufficient resources and/or create a nuisance by rummaging through dumpsters for food. To rectify this, feeding ban laws should be interpreted to exempt ear-tipped community cats."<sup>[3]</sup>

The HSUS recognizes that there is an urgent need for practical and effective solutions to the challenges associated with the presence of cats outdoors. However, Proposals 107 and 145 are not it. With determination, innovation, and collaboration, we can implement and sustain effective programs to humanely resolve human-cat-wildlife conflicts. That means including animal care and sheltering professionals as well as wildlife professionals in the crafting of a plan. Animal welfare organizations invest significant resources and energy each year on cat rescue, sheltering, adoption, and other protection measures. More support is needed for accessible sterilization for all cats in Alaska and for programs to prevent abandonment of cats outdoors. A broad range of tools are needed to effectively reduce free-roaming domestic cat populations, including those that employ TNVR. Adoption of Proposal 144 takes Alaska a step closer to implementing effective solutions.

We encourage the Board of Game to support Proposal 144 and to reject Proposals 144 and 107. Thank you for consideration of our comments.

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202-839-2022



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[1] <https://eng.lacity.org/about-us/divisions/environmental-management/projects/citywide-cat-program>

[2] See <https://www.felineresearch.org/post/issue-brief-what-to-do-with-feral-cats-examining-trn>

[3] <https://www.maddiesfund.org/assets/documents/American-Bar-Association-TNVR-report.pdf>



Submitted By  
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My name is Danita Bennett and my community of residence is Calgary, Alberta.

I am writing in **Support** of proposal # 265 changing RM855 to DM 855.

I find the process for applying for a non-resident moose tag in Unit 22E very complicated and the process unfair.

It requires being super adept on the computer and keyboard since those wishing to compete for the available tags must do so at the same **exact moment** on July 7th at 0900 when the ADF&G opens it to receive and award registration permits to the first electronic applications they receive.

This method is unfair because: **1)** puts older individuals who may have slower fingers or not skilled at the computer at an unfair disadvantage; **2)** speed of transmission of mobile technology is not the same for everyone from different parts of the country; **3)** many older hunters do not have access to a reliable computer or internet at their residence. **4)** there will be those super skilled at technology who may use multiple computers, and if possible set for a scheduled automatic transmission of the form or automatic recurring transmission of the form.

For the above reasons, I feel that the current method of obtaining a non-resident moose tag in Unit 22E are a barrier for many and perhaps discriminatory.

Because of this, **I urge you to approve Proposal #265 and take action for this regulatory year and changing it to a draw system on July 7, 2022 so this unfairness can be rectified for the year 2022 by a "draw system as described in Proposal #265.**

Thank you for your consideration.



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**I support Proposal 144, and for trap-neuter-vaccinate-return programs in general. Sterilized community cats should be exempt from the list of species prohibited from being released into the wild.**



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I would like to comment in support of Proposal 199, requiring a 50-yard trap setback from popular multi-use trails, including those in: Nancy Lakes Recreation Area, Big Lake, Palmer Hayflats, Hatcher Pass, Jim Creek, Talkeetna, Sutton, Glacier, Mat-Su Valley Moose Range, Chickaloon, Government Peak, Knik, Settler's Bay Coastal Park, Willow, Nelchina, and more.

I believe pet owners need to be personally responsible for the safety of their dogs. I also believe Alaskans have the right to trap.

That being said, the explosive growth in population in the Mat Su does mean that it is time for there to be rules about trapping closer than 50 yards to popular multi-use trails.

I can't imagine that it makes for very good success (if one is ethically trapping) to be that close to high use areas.

As all user groups are judged by the worst of their members, it will always be in our best interest to make sure that we can reduce the opportunity for clashes to occur.

Thank you for your consideration.

February 18, 2022

Alaska Board of Game  
Via e-mail: [dfg.bog.comments@alaska.gov](mailto:dfg.bog.comments@alaska.gov)

Re: 2020/2021 Proposed Changes to Regulations

Executive Director Tibbles and members of the Alaska Board of Game:

Best Friends Animal Society is a leading national animal welfare organization dedicated to ending the killing of cats and dogs in America's shelters. On behalf of Best Friends and our many supporters in Alaska, I urge you to support Proposal 144 and oppose Proposals 106, 107, 145, and 166 during your upcoming meeting to discuss the latest round of regulatory proposals.

By exempting "sterilized community cats" from the list of species prohibited from being released into the wild under 5 AAC 92.029, Proposal 144 would allow municipalities to use trap-neuter-return (TNR) for managing their free-roaming cat populations. Proposals 106, 107, 145, and 166 would, in various ways, impede such efforts.

Numerous peer-reviewed studies have documented the efficacy of targeted TNR for reducing free-roaming cat populations<sup>1-11</sup> and reducing feline admissions at local animal shelters.<sup>12-15</sup> Lethal removal, on the other hand, has been shown to be ineffective. A 2015 study, for example, found that "low-level ad hoc culling of feral cats" is not only ineffective at reducing their numbers, but might actually lead to their *increase* due to "influxes of new [adult] individuals after dominant resident cats were removed."<sup>16</sup> More recently, researchers found that, despite removing "an estimated 44% of the population," there were "no meaningful differences in the relative abundance and density of feral cats" just three months later.<sup>17</sup>

These results are hardly surprising to anybody involved in animal control. Indeed, nearly 15 years ago, Mark Kumpf, then president of the National Animal Care & Control Association (NACA), compared the traditional method for managing cats to "bailing the ocean with a thimble." Kumpf continued: "There's no department that I'm aware of that has enough money in their budget to simply practice the old capture-and-euthanize policy, nature just keeps having more kittens."<sup>18</sup> The lessons learned since then were codified last year, when NACA revised its policy on Animal Control Intake of Free-Roaming Cats. In it, the organization formed nearly 45 years ago "to provide resources, standardized training, and support for animal care and control professionals across the United States"<sup>19</sup> noted that:



“indiscriminate pick up or admission of healthy, free-roaming cats, regardless of temperament, for any purpose other than TNR... fails to serve commonly held goals of community animal management and protection programs and, as such, is a misuse of time and public funds and should be avoided.”<sup>20</sup>

Although Proposals 106, 107, and 145 claim to clarify existing regulatory language (e.g., the definition of *feral*), their adoption would likely create a great deal of confusion for state and local agencies tasked with managing wildlife and domestic animals—and among the general public as well. Proposal 106, for example, aims to define *feral* as “an ownerless and unconfined domestic animal, or the progeny of an ownerless and unconfined domestic animal, that no longer depends solely on food provided by humans to survive.” Although the determination of whether or not a particular animal is confined or not is relatively straightforward (setting aside for the moment confinement via invisible electric fencing), the determination of a cat’s ownership is not. This is further complicated by the fluid nature of cat ownership—a lost pet may, for example, become “feral” and later befriend a compassionate caregiver who eventually adopts the cat. In fact, it’s estimated that 23.7% of pet cats in the U.S. are adopted directly from the “stray” population, and another 20.6% from friends or family members (who themselves likely obtained the cat or kitten from the local “stray” population).<sup>21</sup>

If it can be difficult to determine whether a cat is owned or not, it can be even more difficult to determine if a cat is “feral” given the difficulties in applying the term to this species. Indeed, the meaning of the term itself can be difficult to pin down. In a 2014 decision, the Supreme Court of the State of Alaska found that the Game Board’s “regulatory definition of ‘feral’ is arbitrary.” While this case concerned bison grazing off-lease, not domestic cats, it’s not difficult to see how the Court’s decision might speak to the implications of the proposed definition of *feral*. To begin with, the Court pointed out that “the term ‘feral’ found in AS 16.05.940(19) can be traced to the common law concept *ferae naturae*, meaning “of a wild nature, untamed.”<sup>22</sup> The proposed definition of *feral* described in Proposal 106, by contrast, departs considerably from this foundational concept, taking no account of a cat’s “nature.” In addition, the Court found that far too much importance was being given to boundaries that are, often by their very nature, arbitrary:

“...instead of considering objectively ascertainable, fact-driven standards for defining when a domestic bison becomes feral, when the Board drafted the amendments to 5 AAC 92.029(d)(2) and 5 AAC 85.010(a)(1), it defined ‘feral’ solely with reference to a grazing lease’s boundary line: the instant a lawfully owned, domestic bison crosses over the boundary line of the grazing lease, it is automatically classified as feral, owned by the State, and subject to an emergency hunt.”<sup>22</sup>

The proposed definition of *feral* described in Proposal 106 would instead give too much importance to *ownership*—the determination of which is far more complicated than whether or not an animal exists on one piece of property or another. Consider, for example, a scenario in Anchorage, where a cat’s owner



includes, according to the city’s municipal code, “any person or custodian, who owns, restrains, possesses or holds title to an animal or knowingly permits an animal to remain on premises occupied by such person” (§ 17.05.010). Because a microchip meets the requirement for identification when the cat is off the owner’s property (§ 17.10.012), ownership cannot necessarily be determined visually. Under the definition of *feral* in Proposal 106—which fails to account for the real-world conditions under which the definition might be applied—the lawful owner of a cat might very well have their pet declared to be “game” and therefore killed. Proposals 107 and 145, which aim to include domestic cats among species deemed “deleterious exotic wildlife,” would create similar confusion—with similarly disastrous results.

These attempts to classify domestic cats as wildlife also raise questions about which agency has jurisdiction over the enforcement of various laws and regulations. Domestic animals are generally handled by local animal control agencies—what happens when a “stray” cat is suddenly classified as “wildlife”? Or when an owner comes forward to reclaim the cat, making the issue once again an “animal control” issue rather than a “wildlife issue”? Proposals 106, 107, and 145 simply invite this kind of trouble.

It’s important to point out the misinformation and scaremongering being used as justification for the proposals submitted as attempts to impede TNR efforts across Alaska. It’s difficult to see, for example, how predation of reptiles in the Australian outback or birds in the “sage-scrub habitat” of “coastal southern California”<sup>23</sup> (Proposal 145) is relevant to Alaska’s wildlife. Similarly, mortality estimates derived only for the Lower 48 states<sup>24</sup>—and discredited long ago<sup>25</sup>—are largely meaningless when it comes to addressing Alaska’s legitimate conservation concerns (Proposal 107). Equally meaningless is “an analysis of the cost of alien and invasive species in the U.S. conducted in 2005” (Proposal 107), as this analysis was discredited long ago by a researcher who warned:

“bypassing accepted scientific and economic principles in order to [create favorable economic valuations for things that we know to be ecologically important] sets a dangerous precedent and risks many unintended consequences.”<sup>26</sup>

The public health concerns used to justify the classification of domestic cats as wildlife are similarly dubious. Proposal 145, for example, goes on for several pages about toxoplasmosis, which is not included among the “certain health conditions and diseases [for which reporting] has been mandated to the Alaska Division of Public Health.”<sup>27</sup> One wonders if the Department of Fish and Game is truly expected to give this disease more attention than the state’s public health professionals do. This same proposal mentions flea-borne typhus, a disease occurring in the U.S. only in Hawaii, Southern California, and parts of Texas.<sup>28</sup> Again, it’s difficult to see how this is relevant to residents of Alaska, never mind the Department of Fish and Game.

Proposal 107 argues that, “because they are far more regulated, dogs are seldom as problematic as cats.” This claim ignores the considerable research showing just

the opposite. Although the number of cats testing positive for the rabies virus annually in the U.S. exceeds the number of dogs testing positive, human cases are more likely to originate from exposure to dogs and wildlife.<sup>29</sup> A study of patients seeking post-exposure treatment at 11 “university-affiliated, urban emergency departments” found that 81% of 2,030 exposures were attributed to dogs compared to just 13% attributed to cats.<sup>30</sup> And 33% of dog exposures occurred in the public street or park, compared to 12% of cat exposures; by contrast, 24% dog exposures occurred in the home, compared to 53% of cat exposures.<sup>31</sup> Dogs in public places clearly pose a greater public health threat than cats do. A more recent study found that the average annual dog bite hospitalization rate among “American Indian and Alaska Native” children in Alaska was nearly twice the national average: 6.1 incidents/100,000 children compared to 3.1/100,000.<sup>32</sup> Obviously, such findings contradict any claim that “dogs are seldom as problematic as cats.”

In light of the evidence presented here, I again urge you to support Proposal 144 and oppose Proposals 106, 107, 145, and 166 during your upcoming meeting. Doing so will make it easier for the many Good Samaritans involved in TNR across the state to do their work managing community cats—and, by extension, protecting Alaska’s wildlife.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Respectfully,



Richard Angelo, Jr., Esq.  
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Submitted By  
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I'm submitting comment in regards to Proposal 265, 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Change the Unit 22E registration moose hunt to a draw hunt with specific application conditions addressed below. My name is Todd Bodenheimer and I live at 10 Zachary Peak Trail, Three Forks, MT 59752. My contact number is 503-887-6109 and my e-mail address is [elkrchr@earthlink.net](mailto:elkrchr@earthlink.net).

I am in favor of changing RM855 to DM855 so that it becomes a draw hunt conducted by the ADF&G in Nov/Dec 2022 for the 2023 hunt season. Registered guides should only be able to submit as many applicants as there are tags available and each submission would require an accompanying guide contract. An alternate list should be established should a hunter back out for personal or medical reasons and those tags would then become available on first come, first served basis.

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

As stated on page 123 of the current ADF&G regulations for unit 22E, NR moose. One bull with 50-inch antlers or 4 or more brow tines on at least one side by permit available online on July 7 at 9 A.M. (in red: permits issued on a first come, first served basis [numbers of permits to be announced]). This does not allow hunters and guides a reasonable time to plan a hunt with the season opening on September 1. Over the last 3 years, the number of registered guides in unit 22E has risen from 1 to 4; thus, the demand for limited moose tags is significantly greater. Internet speed and hunter age (familiarity with the internet) could favor one hunter over the other. When I tried applying for the tag in 2021, the tags were sold out within 30 seconds. By changing over to a draw, all hunters would have an equal opportunity to obtain a tag.

If the commission does vote in favor of changing RM855 to DM855, I would advocate for a "special draw period" to occur in 2022 prior to being adopted for the 2023 season. Thank you for taking the time to read my concerns.

Proposed by: Todd Bodenheimer

Submitted By  
Doug Bourland  
Submitted On  
2/18/2022 9:21:00 AM  
Affiliation



PC026  
1 of 1

I oppose proposals 123 and 124 rangefinding sights should not be allowed during archery seasons! I oppose proposals 101 and 125 crossbows should definitely not be allowed during archery seasons they should only be allowed during rifle season. I support proposal 138 no flying should be used to scout or locate sheep in any season which you do allow during some it makes no sense. I strongly oppose proposal 127



Submitted By  
Robert Bourland  
Submitted On  
2/16/2022 9:41:02 PM  
Affiliation

- Proposal 123 and 124, I oppose these proposals! Rangefinding sights should not be allowed on bows. Technology in archery seasons has gone far enough!
- Proposal 101 and 125, I oppose the use of crossbows during archery season!! A crossbow is not a bow and not what archery seasons were designed for. Technology has gone far enough in archery, we should be going the other way. We are losing most of our over the counter opportunities down here in the lower 48 because of these advancements in our "archery" seasons! That will also increase the pressure on the remaining areas that are open. I would hate to see Alaska start losing opportunities like we are down here!! I like to hunt up there!!
- Proposal 138, support the no fly rule for all sheep seasons!!
- proposal 127, oppose use of airbows and rifles during any weapon seasons!! No need just a push to get them closer to the archery seasons.



Submitted By  
Jani Bowerman  
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I support Proposal 199

Submitted By  
Stephane Brault  
Submitted On  
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PC029  
1 of 1

Alaska Board of Game Members:

I am an almost 20-year Anchorage resident who has spent a lot of time recreating on trails in the Mat-Su area with my dogs. I am also an avid hunter and I'm aware of several regulation regarding hunting restriction that could be consider simmilar to the proposal 199, a few exemples are: Shooting on, from, or across the driveable surface of any constructed road or highway, weapon restriction (bow only, crossbow only, muzzle loader, ect) setback from road for allowable firearm discharge. I'm writing to support Proposal 199 which requests 50-yard trap setbacks on more than 200 multi-use trails in the Mat-Su area. I understand this distance is considered a "reasonable compromise" between user groups in other areas of Alaska.

Trail-users with dogs are a large stakeholder group for Mat-Su area trails, which is why it's difficult to understand how it is legal for traps to be set on or near multi-use trails, campgrounds, roads and pullouts. The Mat-Su Valley (and Southcentral Alaska generally) is growing rapidly. There are many more people (including tourists) and dogs using these trails, campgrounds, roads and pullouts and the consequences are too great to not set traps back at least 50 yards.

Sadly, I have two different friends whose beloved dogs were caught in traps in the past couple of months on multi-use trails in Southcentral Alaska. One incident occurred on a popular Mat-Su area trail—gratefully my friend had a tool to release the trap. And though I recognize it's outside the scope of this proposal, it's worth mentioning that my other friend's dog died in a conibear trap near a trailhead on the Kenai Peninsula. It has been a heart-wrenching loss. I share this to demonstrate the impact of these traps near trails.

Please approve Proposal 199 and 50-yard trap setbacks on more than 200 multi-use trails in the Mat-Su area. I believe this is a more humane, safe and reasonable rule than what is currently in place for trapping in the Mat-Su area.

Thank you for your consideration.



Submitted By  
jeff broadbent  
Submitted On  
1/11/2021 3:45:15 PM  
Affiliation  
Nonresident falconer

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Jeff Broadbent, and I am a long-time falconer and resident of the state of Utah. In 2018, it was my great fortune to draw an Alaska nonresident falcon take permit, and I was successful in capturing a female gyrfalcon. That falcon, which I named "AK" in honor of your state, is now in her third hunting season with me. She is the only falcon I possess, and I have actively pursued and taken wild quarry with her in each of the three seasons I've had her. The experience of going to your state to find and capture a gyr and the subsequent months I've spent establishing and enjoying a successful hunting partnership with her is one of the highlights of my more than 30 years practicing falconry. It should therefore come as no surprise that I have firm opinions regarding the opportunity for nonresident raptor take in Alaska, and am grateful for the chance to express them here. With that background, I humbly ask that you please consider the following comments in regard to the proposed statewide regulations #108-114 affecting nonresident falconry take in your great state:

**#108-Proposal to allow additional opportunity for nonresident falconers to take eyas Northern Goshawks statewide and eyas Peale's Peregrine Falcons from Units 1–4.**

In general, I support all the proposals that maintain or expand the opportunity your state has provided for nonresident take, and this proposal clearly would expand the opportunities available in Alaska for nonresident falconers. I therefore want to register my support for it.

**#109-Proposal to revise the microchip rule so that it only applies to gyrfalcons**

The gyrfalcon I captured in 2018 is microchipped as was required. I told the Alaska Fish and Game agents during my checkout that I strongly disliked this rule, as it forced me to grab my newly caught falcon at a time when my primary goal was to build trust with her. I continue to see little reason for microchipping raptors. The suggestion that it offers value for law enforcement is laughable; if criminal intent exists, it is far easier to "recycle" a microchip than a plastic federal band, since the former can be easily removed from a deceased bird and injected into a fresh one. My preference then is that the requirement for microchipping be removed altogether, but I support any rule change that reduces its need. I would add that reading the justification provided in the proposal book for microchipping gyrfalcons leads me to also question why this rule should only apply to nonresident falconers? If microchipping gyrs is so important and presents such advantages, shouldn't it be unilaterally required?

**#110-Proposal to change the harvest dates for nonresident take from Aug 15-Oct 31 to Sept 15-Nov 15**

This proposal would effectively reduce the opportunities available in Alaska for nonresident falconers, and so I strongly oppose it. As is noted in the proposal book, only 10 gyrfalcons have been taken by nonresidents in Alaska since 2015 and even with the August 15 open date, none have been eyasses. The justification for this proposal; i.e., reduce the likelihood of disturbance at gyr eyries by nonresident, is simply weak. Alaska falconers and wildlife biologists cause far greater direct disturbance every year – and at more crucial times in the breeding cycle- than the one or two nonresidents who have attempted to trap for fledged young near an eyrie. I should also add that I know for a fact that not every individual that has tried to capture a bird near the eyrie has been successful, and this outcome alone serves to discourage the practice.

For most falconers, the expense of going to Alaska to try and capture a wild falcon is, by far, the greatest impediment to their pursuing this opportunity. I can say from personal experience that it is less expensive to buy a captive-bred gyr than it is just to go to Alaska and attempt to trap a passage bird. I went because I wanted to experience Alaska (I'd never visited before) and because I hoped to capture a passage male gyrfalcon (which are found in the lower 48 states even less frequently than females). While I was not successful in that goal (I caught a female instead), the adventure I had (and which continues through my hunting partnership with AK) is something I will forever cherish.

I know from my experience and from talking to others that have done it (both successfully and unsuccessfully) that the risk/reward ratio for this adventure is high, and I need to emphasize that the proposal to extend the start date will inevitably serve to diminish the likelihood of success for future participants. I say this because inclement weather becomes a serious concern as the calendar gets longer. Part of my own planning effort involved looking at 5-year weather patterns for the area I chose to visit. That research confirmed that severe winter



weather is a lot more likely starting mid-October. Thus, extending the take period to November 15 is literally meaningless for nonresident considering this opportunity. My Alaska trip cost several thousand dollars to execute, and I was only there because of normal means will want to risk the high but necessary expense to pursue this opportunity if there is a strongly likelihood that they will end up sitting for days by a window in their hotel room watching a blizzard unfold! Delaying the start of the take period will, in practice, simply serve to compress the short window of time that is available to nonresidents. This outcome will inevitably increase the risk that more than one nonresident will end up in the same place at the same time, trying to fill their permits, and that will diminish the experience for everyone involved. PLEASE do not implement this proposal.

**#111-Proposal to extend the eligibility to apply for a nonresident falcon permit to once every four years if a falconer is successful.**

This proposal would expand the opportunities available in Alaska to more nonresident falconers, and I generally support it. However, four years is too long a time interval; please consider adjusting it to be every two or three years at most. Utah has a similar provision for peregrine take, where successful applicants cannot enter the drawing again the following year. This rule is applied uniformly to both resident and nonresident falconers, a practice which I submit reflects sound biology-based wildlife management. From my observations, the rule has provided greater opportunity to the falconry community while simultaneously ensuring those who most want to fly a wild peregrine will get another opportunity to capture one before too many years go by.

**#112-Proposal to expand nonresident opportunity for acquiring raptors**

As I noted in my comments for proposal #108, proposal #112 would substantially expand the opportunities available in Alaska for nonresident falconers, and I support it.

**#113-Proposal to modify nonresident opportunity for acquiring raptors**

This proposal also would substantially expand the opportunities available in Alaska for nonresident falconers, and I support it.

**#114- Proposal to change the harvest dates for nonresident take**

I cannot determine how this proposal differs from #110. In any event, I don't understand how the concerns that are raised regarding the August 15 start date are unique to nonresident take, since residents have been taking eyass gyrs for decades. As I noted in my comments to proposal #110, Alaska falconers and wildlife biologists every year cause far greater direct disturbance – and at more crucial times in the breeding cycle- than the one or two nonresidents who have trapped for fledged young near an eyrie, I am, once again, strongly opposed to this proposed rule. As I noted in my comments for proposal #110, the addition of November dates to the take period in Alaska are meaningless due to the likelihood for severe winter weather.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed rules.

Sincerely,

Jeff Broadbent

Amalga, UT



Submitted By  
Mary Dean Broussard  
Submitted On  
2/16/2022 7:57:23 PM  
Affiliation

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4135191746

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Regarding Proposal 199 to be submitted to the Alaska Board of Game (BOG):

I am writing to urge you to support this proposal requiring a minimum of a 50-yard trap setback on popular multi-use trails. This is essential to protect our animals, children, and even adults who are looking to safely recreate. A multi-use trail is intended to support multiple activities and not put the needs of one group ahead of another. Thank you.

Submitted By  
Christine E Brummer  
Submitted On  
2/17/2022 9:00:39 PM  
Affiliation



PC032  
1 of 1

## Public Testimony for Proposal 144

My name is Christine Brummer, I am a lifelong Anchorage resident. I have a cumulative 18-years working in the veterinarian field. Outdoor cat communities in Anchorage is not new issue, but the ignorance surrounding this issue remains high. The more we understand outdoor cats and the issues related to them, the more we can work to effectively assist these cats, reduce cat populations in a humane way, and protect wildlife.

I am writing in support of Proposal 144, which seeks to trap-neuter-vaccinate-return (TNVR) cats to the wild. TNVR programs are a humane way to control feral cat populations. Catch and kill eradication programs have not been effective so a new approach is needed. TNVR helps to manage community cats by allowing them to be evaluated by a licensed veterinarian than having the cats spayed or neutered and vaccinated so they can be returned to the area in which they were found. TNVR helps reduce feral cat populations and assists in reducing the spread of feline diseases among cat communities.

The North Shore Animal League's Spay USA, International City/County Management Association and the Humane Society of the United States recognize that TNVR is the best way to manage cat populations. Overpopulation is a serious concern; the Human Society of the United States (2022) estimates that only about two percent of U.S. community cats (feral or strays) have been spayed or neutered. Those cats that are not spayed or neutered reproduce and add to the outdoor cat population. Humans often think that trapping these community cats and taking them to Anchorage Animal Control Center (AACC) is a great way to reduce the outdoor cat population. However, I argue that it is not.

What happens when one of these community cats are dropped of at the shelter. First, these cats are not socialized to humans so many of them are very fearful and do not pass the behavioral test that they need to pass in order to be considered adoptable. Many of these cats unfortunately are euthanized because current regulations do not allow for them to be returned to the outdoor community in which they came. Second, those community cats that are young enough to be socialized add to the number of cats at the shelter. AACC and rescue organizations are often at capacity. AACC has even had to close the shelter to taking in cats on a number of occasions due to capacity issues. It is obvious that we have a problem and we need to come up with humane solutions to solve the problem.

What can we do? We can halt cat reproduction by allowing community cats to be trapped and be spayed or neutered. We can also vaccinate these cats so that they live in a safer environment and do not spread feline disease among each other. We can return the cats to the communities in which they belong to live out their lives. This is what humanely controlling wild cat populations looks like and I urge the Board to support Proposal 144.

## Reference

The Human Society of the United States. 2022. Outdoor cats FAQ: Learn about the outdoors cats-both community (feral/stray) and owner-that you see in your community. Retrieved from <https://www.humanesociety.org/resources/outdoor-cats-faq>



Submitted By  
Teri Buck  
Submitted On  
2/16/2022 4:14:47 PM  
Affiliation

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[ak2bucks@gmail.com](mailto:ak2bucks@gmail.com)

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Palmer , Alaska 99645

I am writing in support of Proposal 199. I fully support trap setbacks from popular Mar-Su multi-purpose trails. Thank you for your consideration.



Submitted By  
Martin Burzynski  
Submitted On  
2/17/2022 6:50:45 AM  
Affiliation

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The placement of traps near hiking, walking and biking trails needs to be regulated as to prevent domestic pets and children from injury and or death. There is absolutely no reason why lethal traps should be anywhere within a 100 yards from a trail or trail head. The need for safe family outdoor recreation greatly outweighs the social or economic burden that will be placed upon a small and statically insignificant group. As such I support proposal 199.

Martin Burzynski

Submitted By  
Michael Caltabiano  
Submitted On  
2/17/2022 6:35:40 AM  
Affiliation



PC035  
1 of 1

**Please Approve Proposal 265 for Unit 22E**

The current system of "first come, first serve" via a timed computer submission is totally unfair to participants and is open for manipulation. I was advised by F&G staff that they knew applicants had several people using computers at the same time just to increase one (1) persons chances. Further, the lack of a random drawing opens the door for other abuses, such as allowing some to apply moments before others. While this may be accidental, Last years submission start time notification was not clear and very confusing. Finally, if you don't approve Proposal 265, then applicants should be eligible for a refund of the \$130. application fee since it isn't a fair and equal opportunity to draw a tag. A random computer drawing insures all applicants have a fair change and prevents some from gaming the system. Finally, I would ask that you allow one other person to be included on the moose permit. This is a big animal and to share a permit just makes sense. Thank you for you consideration.

# Farmed Emu Ratite in Alaska





**Proposition proposal #142, #143 for inclusion of Emu as  
approved Ratite into the inclusion of Alaska's  
"The Clean Animal List"**

**I would propose (#142, #143) that the Alaska Board of Game Council include Emu Ratites; into the inclusion of “The Clean Animal List” without a permit for Alaska farmers and residents as livestock.**



**(1) is not capable of surviving in the wild in Alaska;**

*although Ratites are weather tolerant, they would not be able to survive in Alaska's extreme wilderness without adequate care and shelter from the long cold winters. Alaska has predators such as black/brown bears, wolverines, lynx and wolves for which the Ratite has no true defenses. Also, Alaska wild vegetation is not Ratite friendly.*

**(2) is not capable of causing a genetic alteration of a species that is indigenous to Alaska;**

*although Ratites have been around for nearly 80 million years, they are not capable of mating and hybridizing with any indigenous Alaskan wildlife species.*

**(3) is not capable of causing a significant reduction in the population of a species that is indigenous to Alaska;**

*although Ratites are omnivores they will eat seeds, fruits, flowers and young shoots. They will also eat insects and small vertebrates. As a standard wild Ratite diet cannot be found in the Alaska wilderness, 90% of wild plants in Alaska will cause great harm if ingested by Ratites. They must be farm fed with a commercial ratite diet to survive Alaska's harsh landscape.*

**(4) is not capable of transmitting a disease to a species that is indigenous to Alaska;**

*Ratites are considered poultry; they present no more threat via disease to the indigenous species of Alaska than the common chicken. Ratites are extremely hardy and rarely present illness.*

**(5) does not otherwise present a threat to the health or population of a species that is indigenous to Alaska;**

*Ratites are not aggressive nor hostile to other species, they are quite placid curious animals, are extremely healthy and are not vectors for disease.*

**(6) is not captured from the wild for use as a pet;**

*although Ratites are indigenous to Africa, Australia and South America, Ratites are not on the endangered species list. Domestic farm breeding stock can be acquired throughout the United States.*

**(7) does not present a conservation concern in the species' native habitat outside of this state;**

*Ratites are not on any endangered species list in any country of the world. Ratites have been displayed in zoos and farmed as livestock throughout the world for over 100 years without there ever being a conservation concern or threat in the native habitat of the species.*

**(8) can be reasonably maintained in good health in private ownership;**

*Ratites are naturally healthy and rarely present illness. Ratites are not aggressive. Ratites are gentle, quiet and inquisitive animals, and can be easily cared for as pets or livestock, the average animal feed store will stock ratite feed once there is a demand for it.*

**(9) does not present a likelihood that concerns about, or threats to human health and safety will lead to adverse consequences to captive animals.**

*Ratites are extremely healthy animals that are not vectors for disease. They are not aggressive and do not pose physical harm to humans nor other animal life whether domestic pets or indigenous wildlife.*



## What Are Ratites?

There are 6 birds in the Ratite family, including the Emu, Ostrich, Rhea, Cassowary, Kiwi and Tinamou. Ratite is from the Latin meaning raft. These are, however flightless or 'running birds' with a flat breast bone (sternum) there is no breast meat like on a chicken, which has a keel type breastbone that allows for flight, because of this flat breastbone, Ratites do not fly. This first Ratite - The Emu - which has recently become of increased interest as an alternative farming enterprise is raised commercially in a number of countries including the United States.

## Emu

Emus are native to Australia and is the second largest bird in the world and considered very docile. The original inhabitants of Australia consumed Emu meat and used the oil for medicinal purposes. The Emu species has been around for over 80-million years, and has adapted to Australia's different climates from desert conditions to snow-capped mountains. The United States first imported Emus between 1930 and 1950 as exotic zoo stock. However, commercial Emu farming in the U.S. did not begin until the late 1980's.

The Emu grows to full size within 2-years standing 5 to 6 feet tall and weighing as much as 150 pounds. With powerful legs, the Emu can run up to 40 mph. Documented domestic farmed birds may have a 20 to 30-year life span. The female begins to breed between 18-months and 3-years of age, and may continue to produce eggs for more than 15 years. It is the male who incubates the eggs alone and each egg will take up to 50 days to hatch. They can adjust to wide ranges in temperature, varying levels of food supply and are being raised in many States throughout the U.S. Generally, Emu's can be put with other livestock with no problem.

Emu products include leather, meat, and decorative egg shells. Emu oil contains fatty acids, including several beneficial acids like Omega-9, Omega-6, and Omega-3, making it popular as a natural skin moisturizer sold for cosmetic and pharmaceutical purposes. Young stock may also be bred for resale, and eggs can be sold for hatching. Emu meat, like Ostrich meat, is similar in texture and color to beef. Compared to beef, it is very low in fat and cholesterol, while at the same time containing higher amounts of vitamin C, vitamin E, protein, and iron. The low-fat meat has less sodium than beef, chicken, lamb or turkey.

## Farming The Ratite

It has been found that when farmed properly as poultry these birds are healthy and can flourish in a variety of climates and do not require large tracts of land. Today Emu are raised in many countries including the United States, Australia, Israel, France, New Zealand, China, Korea, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Namibia, the United Kingdom, Belgium, Holland, Poland and Canada. Emu are now raised in at least 43 States of the U.S. by about 10,000 ranchers and farmers (3,000 are in Texas). The United States Emu population is about one million.

Emu are considered poultry, with Emu production as with all livestock requires care and diligence to maintain quality and minimize stress for the caregiver and bird livestock. if released in the Alaskan wild without proper protections from farm caregivers, these birds will have a difficult time surviving predation in Alaska. (in their native lands Emu have few predators, in Alaska they would be faced with many new predators). However, under proper conditions i.e., fencing, properly balanced ratite feed and protection from predators they are adaptable, healthy, hardy and can thrive for many years. There are some beliefs that these birds should not be farmed in northern regions because they will freeze to death, we need to correct this myth; this is simply not true, studies have shown that Emu have not only been farmed successfully in northern regions but they have thrived and are found to enjoy snow and cooler temperatures. Ratite farms are found in areas of the United States such as Minnesota, Main and Montana. Canada there are ratites farms in Cowichan Valley Vancouver, Saskatchewan and Eastern Ontario, to as far away as Europe in places like Poland, Germany and the United Kingdom. When maintained by farm caregivers Ratites that are properly farmed in northern climates will put on maximum fat pads for warmth and just in time for the fall breeding season.

Most producers today are growing Emu for their meat, with the hides, feathers, fat, egg shells, and the birds as by-products.



### Land Requirements of the Ratite

Land requirements for these birds are minimal. If diversifying farming operation to include Ratites, the farmer probably already has the basics of the operation. These birds can be successfully raised in small pens or large pastures – or a combination of the two. Most Ratite ranches are between 5 to 10 acres.

### Are Ratites USDA Inspected?

Yes. Effective 22 April 2002, Ratites are under mandatory USDA inspection. Establishments that slaughter Ratites are required to implement and validate sanitation standard operating procedures and Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) systems, as required by mandatory poultry inspection regulations. Previously, voluntary inspection was available for Ostrich beginning in December 1991. Ratites are slaughtered at about 10 to 13 months of age.

### In Conclusion

These birds are considered poultry and pose no danger to species that are indigenous to Alaska in any way. These birds can be raised on smaller tracks of land (as opposed to ‘cows’) in 80’ x 200’ pens, and minimal barn construction is required from the caregiver. These birds usually prefer to live outside year-round in all weather conditions, however will seek shelter from extreme cold and windy conditions. These birds can be fed on a commercial ratite pelleted grain for which the average animal feed store will stock once there is a demand for it. With a little instruction, they can be easily cared for as pets or livestock. Young stock may be bred for resale, and eggs can be sold for hatching. Ratite products include leather, meat, feathers and decoratively carved egg shells for resale. The adaptive growth and characteristics of these birds can produce lean omega-rich red meat and health promoting fat and oil for retail sales.

### Informational Video of Farmed Emu Ratite:

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ZMBU4MvP\\_zTuavayXG0DV4UGWnsOub9u/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ZMBU4MvP_zTuavayXG0DV4UGWnsOub9u/view?usp=sharing)



Emu Chicks



Farmed Emu in Canada



Farmed Emu in Lower States



## Magazines & Associations Cited

Australian Ostrich Association  
National Secretariat  
45 Settlement Road  
Bellarine  
Victoria 3223  
Australia  
<http://www.aoa.asn.au/>

British Domesticated Ostrich Association  
Craig Culley, Secretary and Treasurer  
33 Eden Grange  
Little Corby, Carlisle, UK CA4 8QW  
<http://www.ostrich.org.uk/>

Canadian Emu Association  
R.R.#1  
Stratford, Ontario, Canada N5A 6S2

Canadian Ostrich Association  
Site 1, Box 34, R.R. 6  
Calgary, Alberta, Canada, T2M 4L5  
<http://www.ostrich.ca/manual/index.htm>  
<http://www.ostrich.ca/members/join.htm>

Maryland Emu Association  
910 Western Chapel Road  
Westminster, MD 21157  
<http://www.marylandemu.com/>

North Carolina Emu Association  
Twin Creek Farm  
4262 Hwy. 49 South  
Asheboro, NC 27205  
<http://www.twincreekfarm.net>

North Carolina Ostrich Breeders Association  
2 W. Edenton Street, Room 402  
Raleigh, NC 27699-1020  
<http://www.agr.state.nc.us/markets/assoc/ostrich/>

Ostrich Industry Council  
4203 Weiland Rd.  
Weatherford, TX 76086

American Ostrich Association  
227 W. Magnolia  
Suite 210  
Fort Worth, TX 76104

American Emu Association  
P.O. Box 8174  
Dallas, TX 75205

North American Rhea Association  
11902 Elm St.  
Suite 4  
Omaha, NE 68144

Alternative Farming Systems Information Center  
National Agricultural Library, ARS, USDA  
10301 Baltimore Ave., Room 132  
Beltsville, MD 20705-2351  
<http://afsic.nal.usda.gov>

Food Safety and Inspection Service  
United States Department of Agriculture  
Washington, D.C. 20250-3700

Emu Today & Tomorrow Magazine  
Vol. 29 Issue 2, Spring 2019  
Vol. 25 Issue 1, Winter 2015

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## Literature Cited

- American Emu Association News. March 1994.
- Bolen, Kenneth R. *Biosecurity and Disease Prevention for the Ratite Owner*.  
University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension (internet resource): May 1994.
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Mid-Atlantic Cooperative Extension Poultry Health and Management Unit: 1994-5.
- Parker, Z., G. L. Greaser, and J. K. Harper. *Agriculture Alternatives Ostrich Production, Emu Production, Rhea Production*. Pennsylvania State University  
College of Agriculture Sciences Cooperative Extension: 1994.
- Dr. D. Rambabu. Assistant Professor, Dept. of Poultry Science Sri Venkateswara Veterinary University, College of Veterinary Science. *Business Bird Emu Rearing and Economic Importance*. Korutla, Karimnagar. Dist-505326





Submitted By  
Brittany Carie  
Submitted On  
2/18/2022 2:15:13 PM  
Affiliation

My name is Brittany Carie. I am a lifelong Alaska and currently reside in Wasilla. I am in support of Proposal 199. I don't trap but come from a family that does. I am not against trapping but believe current regulations fall short of protecting all trail user groups. I have frequented many Matsu Valley trails over the years. Every year they appear to get more and more traffic. I am a medical provider and am committed to the health and safety of my fellow Alaskans. A 50-yard trap setback is a fair compromise and an essential step towards ensuring public safety as trail use grows.



Submitted By  
Peter Caruso  
Submitted On  
2/17/2022 10:49:30 PM  
Affiliation

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King Salmon, Alaska 99613

I lived in 9c for over 40 years. In this time I have hunted moose and caribou and I have also trapped for over 30 years. Your theory or suggestion for "positioning your snow machine" to me seems to work well for caribou. The last thing anyone of us wants to do is to stress our caribou herds which have diminished considerably over the years. As for wolf hunting this "theory or suggestion" does not and I do repeat does not work well at all. The second wolves hear our machines they start running and don't stop until they reach the trees or thick brush. In order for us to keep up your speed needs to be considerably more than 15 mph. We do not get a lot of chances to chase down wolves due to our weather conditions (lack of snow). If this proposal passes less wolves will be taken our caribou herds will diminish even more. From what I have been told by our biologist we take a very low percentage of wolves throughout unit 9 every year.

Allowing your proposed method will increase the wolf population and at the same time diminish our caribou and moose populations. It's bad enough our bear population has exploded we don't need anymore pressure on our herds than there already is. Thank you for allowing me to comment on proposal 271.

Pete Caruso  
local resident  
Hunter and Trapper

271.  
Pete Caruso  
local resident  
Hunter and Trapper



Submitted By  
Dan Casner  
Submitted On  
2/16/2022 12:08:21 PM  
Affiliation

Good Day.

I'm writing to support a 50 yard setback for trapping along multiuse trails, per Proposal 199. We are lucky enough to have ample wild areas to support a thriving trapping community in our state, and this minor common sense regulation would in no way impede that, while at the same time preventing recreator-trapper conflicts that can result in injury or loss of life to pets, loss of property and hard work to trappers, and inhibit trapping success along those corridors. By preemptively taking action, we also show that the trapping community is happy to share our public lands with other users.



Submitted By  
Chelsea Cassell  
Submitted On  
1/20/2022 4:55:44 PM  
Affiliation

I support Proposal 199 to add restrictions that prohibit trapping near to popular multi-use trails. The numerous accidents in the recent years are extremely concerning. The restrictions would not greatly reduce the amount of trapping area and I believe it to be in the best use of the majority of trail users. Please approve Proposal 199.



Submitted By  
Matthew Christ  
Submitted On  
2/15/2022 12:58:41 PM  
Affiliation

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124 Harvest Way  
Crandall, Texas 75114

I lived and hunted in Alaska for almost 20 years. And now living in Texas for over seven years, I am in big support of Proposal 265. I believe that changing RM855, a registered hunt into a draw hunt, DM855 is a fantastic idea. I believe it makes things more fair for the non-resident hunter. What i mean is you have more time to sign up for the hunt. You have all these hunters trying to register at the same time till all the tags are gone. Its one big free for all, the guys with the fastest computer rule. At least with the draw you can put in for the hunt ahead of time. That way if drawn you have time to plan correctly. We all know that planning is cruial in Alaska. I think that Unit 22E can support the draw and i think it needs to be done now, as in this season. Should you wait to implament it then non-resident hunters will miss out. Make it an even playing field, please!!!



## **CHUGACH STATE PARK CITIZENS' ADVISORY BOARD**

18620 Seward Hwy, Anchorage, AK 99516 Phone: 907-345-5014 Fax: 907-345-6982

February 17, 2022

ADF&G Boards Support Section  
Attn: Board of Game Comments  
P.O. Box 115526  
Juneau, Alaska 99811-5526

**Subject: 2021/2022 Board of Game Proposals \*PREVIOUS COMMENTS REVISED\***

I am writing on behalf of the Chugach State Park Citizens Advisory Board regarding regulatory proposals that will affect Chugach State Park. Please consider these comments during the upcoming Board of Game meeting.

The Chugach State Park Citizens Advisory Board assists park staff in an advisory role with park management and development issues. As an advisory board, our decisions are guided by the five primary purposes established in creating the park:

- 1) To protect and supply a satisfactory water supply for the use of the people;
- 2) To provide recreational opportunities for the people by providing areas for specified uses and constructing the necessary facilities in those areas;
- 3) To protect areas of unique and exceptional scenic value;
- 4) To provide areas for the public display of local wildlife; and
- 5) To protect the existing wilderness characteristics of the easterly interior area.

The 15-member advisory board is comprised of park users representing various interests ranging from backcountry skiers, hikers, hunters, bikers, horseback riding enthusiasts, as well as, ATV and snowmachine users. At approximately 495,000 acres, Chugach State Park comprises nearly half of the Alaska Game Management Unit (GMU) 14C. With over 1.3 million visitors to the park annually, we have an interest in Board of Game regulation changes that may affect park resources and visitors.

We have carefully reviewed the 2021/2022 Board of Game regulatory proposal that will affect the park's wildlife and users. These proposals were discussed at our January 10th and February 14th, 2022 meetings. Our recommendations and any proposed amendments are included below.

**PROPOSAL 250**

REAUTHORIZE THE ANTLERLESS MOOSE SEASONS IN UNIT 14C  
AS PROPOSED BY THE ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME.



**Amendment(s) Discussed:** None

**Recommendation:** No objection

**Findings:** This hunt has proven to be an effective tool at managing the moose population within Unit 14C for several years. This proposal comes directly from the state's authority on wildlife management, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Requiring annual renewal of this hunt allows the Department of Fish and Game to closely regulate antlerless moose harvest quotas to keep the moose population within a sustainable number. Keeping the moose population at or near the goal of between 1,500-1,800 moose within subunit 14C helps to avoid over-browsing of winter habitat and the resulting die-offs from starvation.

**PROPOSAL 155** ESTABLISH PROTOCOL FOR ADF&G TO ISSUE A LIMITED NUMBER OF "ANY BULL" RESIDENT MOOSE PERMITS IN UNITS MANAGED BY SELECTIVE HARVEST STRATEGY.

**Amendment(s) Discussed:** None

**Recommendation:** Support

**Findings:** CAB support for this proposal is in reference to GMU 14C, which was listed as a potential area to be included in new regulation. The CAB Wildlife Committee consulted with ADFG regarding this proposal and did not find any major safety concerns or conflicts with other user groups, as there are already several hunts that are managed within 14C. The "any bull" moose permits are highly coveted, and additional permits could generate additional revenue for management. The CAB encourages the Board to investigate the feasibility of this proposal, and if sustainable, to develop regulation as needed to include additional "any bull" permits as appropriate.

We greatly appreciate the opportunity to review and submit comments on this proposal. Please let me know if you have any questions regarding this recommendation. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Ryan Yelle  
Chair

cc: Ben Corwin, Superintendent, Chugach State Park  
Dave Battle, Wildlife Biologist, ADF&G  
Charlotte Levy, Chair, Wildlife Committee



Submitted By  
Paul Claus  
Submitted On  
2/18/2022 7:29:38 PM  
Affiliation

Phone  
907-390-0048

Email  
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Chitina, Alaska 99566

I am basically in favor of proposals #135-139 referring to repealing 5 AAC 92.085 , but I must first say that I'm very much opposed to any type of animal harassment and causing disruption to any hunter in the field. AAC 92.085 is too vague and should mirror more closely AAC 92.990 harassment definition. 92.085 is almost unenforceable as written. May I propose that these two statutes might be best served by combining them. They are both speaking of animal harassment and refining definitions of harassment and spotting would better serve the animals and hunters. Defining spotting and including it with harassment would lead to greater enforceable regulation by troopers.

I live and operate in the heart of the Wrangell/St.Elias National Park and wear numerous hats, Hunting/Guide, AirTaxi, and Recreational Tourism, In the later 2, I'm legal to point out white sheep dots on the hillside but with my hunting clients I have to put my blinders on and pretend we didn't see anything! Also in the area that I operate we have sheep and goats that literally live on the same hillsides and it is currently legal to spot goats anytime and from the 1st of September through the end of the sheep season (Sept. 20) we have clients who are hunting both. It is legal to spot a goat but we can't spot the sheep laying next to it. That is rather confusing, please define what spotting is and is not?

Thank you for the the opportunity to comment on these proposals.

Submitted By  
Robert Colo  
Submitted On  
2/18/2022 3:34:50 PM  
Affiliation



PC044  
1 of 2

**Proposal- 265  
limits for moose.**

**5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag**

**Change Unit 22E registration moose hunt to a drawing hunt with specific application conditions as follows:**

I am a non-resident hunter from Idaho, and I am asking to change RM855 to DM8SS- to become a drawing hunt conducted by ADF&G in November -December 2022 for the 2023 season, at the latest. That registered guides may only submit as many applicants as there are tags allotted for the upcoming season. A hunter/ guide contract must be submitted as well. That an alternate list be established should a hunter back out for medical or personal reasons and the next eligible hunter would be contacted. If there are no alternate hunters that the tag would become available on a first come first served basis upon request.

I want to request that that all applicants want to hunt in this area need to submit an application earlier in the season and for ADF&G to conduct a drawing so that it will be a fair distribution of these limited non-resident moose tags.

**Reasons why this should be changed:**

- The current online drawing of tags in July does not allow hunters and guides enough time to prepare for a big moose hunt with the season opening on September 1.
- Nonresident hunters will not be given reasonable or fair opportunity to obtain a permit.
- Internet speed and the age of the applicant could favor one hunter over another. The first online distribution of 10 tags in July 2021 required applicants to purchase a hunting license before attempting to obtain a tag; they then encountered confusing steps to select the tag, which in the end, all tags were distributed in under 30-seconds.
- There is no way to monitor if one applicant has several individuals applying on-line to obtain a tag for just this one person. Hunters should be given an equal playing field to obtain these tags and adequate time to plan a hunt.
- It's also hard to get a guide lined up in seven weeks and make it a good hunt. It is also not enough time for a hunter to prepare for the hunt.

Thank for your time,

Robert Colo



Submitted By  
Robert Colo  
Submitted On  
2/18/2022 4:00:40 PM  
Affiliation  
Hunters Choice Taxidermy  
  
Phone  
2086974950  
Email  
[robertcolo@yahoo.com](mailto:robertcolo@yahoo.com)  
Address  
802 N ROBINSON BLVD  
Nampa, Idaho 83687

**Proposal 265**

5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag

limits for moose.  
application conditions as follows:

Change the Unit 22E registration moose hunt to a drawing hunt with specific

I am a non-resident hunter, and I am asking to change RM855 to DM8SS- to become a drawing hunt conducted by ADF&G in November - December 2022 for the 2023 season, at the latest. That registered guides may only submit as many applicants as there are tags allotted for the upcoming season. A hunter/ guide contract must be submitted as well. That an alternate list be established should a hunter back out for medical or personal reasons and the next eligible hunter would be contacted. If there are no alternate hunters that the tag would become available on a first come first served basis upon request.

I am a non-resident of Idaho and have been an avid hunter my whole life. I have hunted in Alaska a couple times and it is one of my favorite places to hunt. I will definitely hunt Alaska as much as I can, and until I cant hunt anymore.

I think the lottery system they started last year to obtain a permit for moose in Unit 22E was unfair to so many hunters trying to apply online at 9am on July 7th. I actually got the permit to hunt moose in the area, not sure how I did but I was thankful. Once I got the permit I had very little time to plan everything out: plane fair, lodging, hunting preparations, guides, find someone to take care of my business, and all the other nessacites of a big once in a lifetime kind of hunt. More time would of had not such a rush on everything trying to get prepared properly.

I propose this to change to an appilcation hunt and with guide earlier in the year for the non-resident moose hunt in Unit 22E.

Sincerely, please consider my request,

RJ Colo (Hunter Choice Taxidermy)



Submitted By  
Robert Bourland  
Submitted On  
2/18/2022 5:23:03 PM  
Affiliation  
Compton Traditional Bowhunters

Compton Traditional Bowhunters would like share our recomendations for the following proposals.

-Proposal 123 and 124

Compton Traditional Bowhunters OPPOSE allowing the use of electronic range finding sights during archery seasons. This will increase harvest rates during archery seasons which can be a threat to opportunity in the future.

-Proposal 101 and 125

Compton Traditional Bowhunters OPPOSE allowing the use of crossbows during archery seasons. This will increase harvest rates during archery seasons which will be a threat to opportunity in the future. This is already proven in many of the states that have been allowing crossbows during archery seasons.

-Proposal 138

Compton Traditional Bowhunters SUPPORT the proposal to change the aircraft rule to include any area where there is an open sheep hunting season. This simple change to the rule would cover its original intent, as there are some seasons that fall out of the current dates and it would also cover any future changes.

-Proposal 127

Compton Traditional Bowhunters OPPOSE the proposal to allow air rifles and air bows for taking big game. Any state that has allowed the use of these has then made the push to include them in archery seasons. This we also believe will increase harvest rates to a point that will be a threat to future archery hunts and seasons.

Thank you,

Robert Bourland

Compton Traditional Bowhunters



Submitted By  
Simone Cook  
Submitted On  
2/18/2022 12:52:51 PM  
Affiliation  
Master Falconer, Member of Washington Falconers Association

### Proposal 108. 5 AAC 92.037.

I support as amended: change from proposed “5 AAC 92.037(g)(5), up to five permits for taking, transporting, or possessing a passage raptor for falconry; up to five permits for taking, transporting, or possessing an eyas Northern Goshawk for falconry statewide, and up to five permits for taking, transporting, or possessing an eyas Peale’s Peregrine Falcon, from Units 1-4, for falconry by a nonresident shall be issued annually by the department; applicants can only apply for one type of permit and must specify whether they are applying for a passage permit, an eyas Northern Goshawk permit, or an eyas Peale’s Peregrine Falcon permit at the time of application. 5 AAC 92.037(g)(7): Take is limited to either one passage, hatching-year, raptor, one eyas Northern Goshawk statewide, or one eyas Peale’s Peregrine Falcon from Units 1-4.”

5AAC 92.037(g)(8): The annual nonresident season for acquiring a passage raptor is from August 15 – October 31; The annual nonresident season for acquiring an eyas Northern Goshawk statewide or an eyas Peale’s Peregrine Falcon, (from Units 1-4), is from May 1 – July 20;”

TO:

“Taking of eyases for non-residents statewide of any species of raptor legally allowed to be taken in Alaska, up to five permits for taking, transporting, or possessing a passage raptor for falconry; up to ten permits for taking, transporting, or possessing an eyas raptor for falconry legally allowed to be taken from May 1- July 20.”

Take by Alaska resident falconers is of no significance biologically for any species of raptor. Hence, take of up to 15 raptors by non-resident falconers would also be of no biological significance. **The argument that Alaska Falconers Association (hereafter AFA) claims that only experienced falconers or biologists can tell eyas peregrines and gyrfalcons apart is incredibly incorrect.** Adult raptors defend their nests from every type of predator be it another raptor, humans or bears. There is almost zero chance the adult birds would not be seen on site defending the nest aggressively, including getting incredibly close and perhaps even making contact with a human near the nest. Nesting raptors are notorious for attempting to drive humans (researchers, biologists, falconers, etc) away from their nests. In addition, the color of even a days-old peregrine vs. gyrfalcon differs significantly. Gyrfalcon chicks have grey beaks, ceres (the fleshy area above the beak) and feet while peregrines possess very pink beaks, ceres and feet. The presence of adult birds defending the nest and the color of young gyrfalcons vs. peregrines makes the argument that these species are hard to tell apart null and void.

### Proposal 109. 5 AAC 92.037(h).

I strongly disagree with this proposal. AFA falsely claims “Alaska raptors that are commonly used for falconry (**except Gyrfalcons**) are readily available to falconers in the continental United States”

Gyrfalcons are readily available to falconers in all states in this country. They are bred in captivity as commonly as peregrines, goshawks, harris hawks and a multitude of other species. The market is currently flooded with gyrfalcons, hence breeders listing the same birds multiple times due to lack of sales. It is easy to see this after breeding season on various public websites devoted to the sale of captive bred raptors in the United States to licensed falconers. If gyrfalcons were not readily available to falconers in the continental United States why would less than 30 falconers out of thousands in the US apply for Alaska permits targeting gyrfalcons? In addition, multiple other states allow take of gyrfalcons including Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, North Dakota, and others. Alaska is not the only state that allows take of this species that AFA claims to be “uncommonly available.” They are wrong on this account both in terms of birds available for take in multiple states in the wild and from captive breeding projects.

Furthermore, AFA states, “if a microchipped wild Alaska sourced bird is recovered, it will provide a valuable tool for law enforcement for their investigative efforts.” It is nearly impossible to imagine that a non resident, permitted falconer would smuggle a legally taken bird out of Alaska that has gone through the check out procedure at ADF&G, been to a vet, had its photo taken for the ADF&G website, been inspected by TSA and been microchipped. If someone wanted to smuggle a bird out of Alaska one can only imagine they would do so without any sort of paper trail, check out trail, lottery winning or microchip paperwork. If someone were to do something illegal with a wild taken Alaska gyrfalcon, removing a microchip would be as easy as removing a federal band.

**Additionally, why are non-residents being unfairly targeted as potential sources of unlawful behavior? Are all non-residents inherently suspect and is it impossible for residents, who have much more time, access and knowledge of raptor populations in their state, to act unlawfully?**

### Proposal 110. 5 AAC 92.037.

I strongly disagree with this proposal. Yet again, as was the case with the last falconry proposals, AFA is using verbiage that directly contradicts what they are proposing. **They propose to “extend” the non-resident season from Aug 15-Oct 31 to Sept 15-Nov 15. Extend is a very interesting word to use for a season they are proposing to be 15 days SHORTER.**



I was a permit winner three times and spent my time on the Seward Peninsula where the weather was fair for the month and half of October. However, this would most certainly not be the case into mid November. If this proposal were to be implemented, a resident trapper may be forced to trap in winter conditions while attempting to rent the correct gear (e.g. snow machine), and combating all the other issues that may go with below freezing temperatures and snow. I stayed in Alaska from the beginning of September to the middle of October and it took me the entire time to secure a bird to export. There is no way to guarantee that a bird will be trapped quickly, thus with this proposal it restricts a non-resident's chances of securing a bird after spending thousands of dollars to take such a trip in rural Alaska.

The cost of trapping in a remote area of Alaska is extremely high and perhaps why there are low numbers of applicants for these permits to begin with. A proposal to push back and restrict trapping dates will only add to the cost of a non-resident's trip due to weather conditions, rental of snow machines, etc. Alaska is known for adverse weather conditions that can make trapping or traveling impossible. Shortening and pushing back the trapping season unfairly pushes non-residents into a shorter time frame for success and more likelihood of adverse weather.

Furthermore, if AFA members are concerned about nest disturbance and targeting of white genetics in gyrfalcon populations they should then be **restricting their own resident take of such birds**. Residents are legally allowed to take eyas gyrfalcons and in addition, with a higher number of resident permits than non-resident, the pressure on white birds would be higher from residents. This is basic math. Again, AFA is unfairly targeting non-residents with logic that should pertain to residents as well, if it pertains to anyone at all.

In the last seven years of non-resident take, only **three** gyrfalcons have been taken from natal territories by non-residents.

In addition, multiple people have had a first choice bird that was not a gyrfalcon. Goshawks are also sought after. Goshawks are harder to catch and harder to find because they are often in heavier cover. We know multiple people that came to AK for goshawks but were unsuccessful. Thus, most photos show gyrfalcons as being exported but you must take into consideration that there is a trapping bias towards female gyrs. I have spent 164 days trapping in Alaska over the last 7 years, either with permit holders or with a permit myself. The most abundant and easiest raptor to trap by far is a female gyrfalcon due to their dominance over male gyrfalcons and competition with other species of raptors in general. We have attempted to catch goshawks and have caught female gyrfalcons instead. I know of at least six permits over the last seven years that would have been used for other raptors besides gyrfalcons if the permit holders had had their preference. The obsession from AFA that gyrfalcons are the most sought after, the most sensitive and the most likely to be exploited ignores the fact that these birds are available in other states, are available in the captive bred market and are the most likely bird to catch in Alaska. It appears AFA would like to convince the board that gyrfalcons are the most precious resource in regards to this permit but they leave out important statistics that non-residents can bring to light if asked about their personal experiences trapping in Alaska over the last seven years.

Lastly, AFA's argument that "having a passage season for nonresident falconers that allows take at or near Gyrfalcon nests incentivizes the sharing of sensitive nest site locations" assumes that people who have spent lots of time, resources, money and effort will be sharing nest sites freely with other falconers. Raptor nest sites, hunting spots and trapping sites are often held close by falconers, much like a good fishing hole. I've been trapping in Alaska multiple times with permit holders and permits I drew myself. I have no idea and have not been told where other falconers have been trapping at nest sites. Despite our small community, that information has not been shared freely by other permit holders and I highly doubt it ever will be.

### **PROPOSAL 111 5 AAC 92.037.**

I strongly disagree with this proposal. If AFA is concerned with this opportunity being available to as many individuals as possible, the way to rectify this is to open up more permit opportunities, not restrict people who apply multiple years in a row. Only 13 individuals applied in 2021. There are other proposals being considered at this meeting that would single-handedly meet the needs of every applicant by allowing more permits to be allocated, while simultaneously maximizing revenue to ADF&G and small businesses in rural Alaskan villages. I urge the board to keep in mind that opening up, say, 15 permit slots does not guarantee that 15 birds will be taken even though the resource can handle it. The Alaska non resident take has so far never met its quota. **Only 37.9% (29 permits available over 7 years, 11 birds exported) of the total permits issued so far have resulted in the export of a raptor.** The four year rule being proposed is pointless because the applicant pool is so low already and the odds of drawing the permit are so high already. With an already low number of people applying for a nonresident permit there is a high chance of any one of the applicants being successful in drawing a permit but not necessarily successful in capturing a raptor. Last year, despite the incredible rise in outdoor activities and permit sales nation-wide due to COVID still only 13 people applied for the Alaska non resident permit. The odds of being a successful permit winner last year with only 5 permits available was 38%. Additionally, I personally know that at least one falconer that drew a permit was in his 70's. It would be a shame for the older folks to draw a permit with such a long wait in between applying again.

The big game hunts that this proposal references where successful applicants have to wait four years before applying again is comparing apples and oranges. Hundreds to thousands of people apply for big game hunts in Alaska for a handful of permits. Non-resident falconry permit applications thus far have never numbered more than 26. The average number of applicants when you divide the numbers by 7 years is 20.7. Compared to big game draws, non-resident falconry applications are a very small number indeed. If this proposal were to go through and roughly 20 people applied per year, you would be out of applicants in short order. Additionally, this is an attempt to fix a problem that doesn't exist. There has only been one person who has applied every year and not won a permit. I crunched the numbers and the total number of individuals who have applied in the last seven years is 63. The number of people who have applied every year and won is 5 individuals. **The number of people who have won more than once is 4 out of 63 individuals over 7 years.** The number of people who have applied \*once\* and won is 6 individuals. Therefore, arguing that it is unfair to let someone apply every year when only **4 out of 63 individuals have won more than once in 7 years** is mathematical nonsense. Just like any lottery, your chances of winning go up the more you apply, and some people are complaining that they have never won but have not entered the lottery every year or even

multiple years. That is the very nature of a lottery system...



**Proposal 112. 5 AAC 92.037.**

I support this proposal. Alaska hosts healthy populations of all native raptor species found breeding there. **In addition, the landmass of Alaska is one-fifth the size of the entire lower 48 (per alaska.gov) with a very low number of resident falconers (less than 35).** Many other states in the lower 48 have much smaller resource availability and no limits (except for peregrines) on the numbers of non-resident falconers applying for take, including Texas, Kansas, Indiana, Wyoming, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Oklahoma, and Washington to name a few. Oregon, a state with a non-resident quota for example, allows 20 non-resident permits in a landmass incredibly small compared to Alaska. Biologically, Alaska would stay well below the threshold of significance in regard to raptor take if all residents and the average number (20.7) of non-residents took birds each year. Furthermore, not all residents will take birds every year and that holds very true with non residents as well. **The quota for non-resident take has never, ever been met in the 7 years of this program. In 2020 and 2021, zero birds were taken on non-resident permits.** This is not due to lack of trying. I was a permit winner in 2021 and spent 4 weeks in Alaska. I was hoping to take a goshawk and did not trap one. I have been trapping with other permit holders who also were unsuccessful in trapping and it was not due to lack of effort, time and money. Therefore, Alaska most certainly can afford, biologically, to allow unlimited take for non resident permits since the chances of success remain low. Again, this is based on biology and the actual statistics of how many birds have been taken by non-residents.

**Proposal 113. 5 AAC 92.037.**

I support as amended. Rather than having three different drawings for peregrine, gyrfalcon and other species, take should be unlimited for reasons addressed above: the quota for non residents has never been met and the resource is healthy and stable enough to allow unlimited take at this time. If the above proposal were to be adopted, it would force a permit holder to decide which species they were targeting before knowing their travel plans, weather and seasonal influences on these species. Alaska has already determined that the season allowed for resident falconers is safe and biologically sound. Multiple states allow non-residents to trap the same numbers and during the same time as residents. I propose a change from "issue annually: up to 5 permits for a gyrfalcon (*Falco rusticolus*); up to 5 permits for a peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*); and up to 5 permits for any other raptor species listed under (f) of this section."

TO:

"Nonresident take permits for raptors shall have the same quotas as resident take.

Take is limited to two raptors either eyas or passage, hatching- year-raptors;

Include all raptors in section (f) for nonresidents."

I agree with all other portions of this proposal to clear up language and to extend the non resident trapping season to be in line with resident trapping season (Alaska Falconry Manual Part 34 - Taking of Raptors "An eyas or passage bird may be taken any day of the year.")

**Proposal 114. 5 AAC 92.037.**

I strongly disagree with this proposal. I was a permit winner three times and spent my time on the Seward Peninsula where the weather was fair for the months of September and half of October. However, this would most certainly not be the case into mid November. If this proposal were to be adopted a non-resident trapper may be forced to trap in winter conditions while attempting to rent the correct gear (e.g. snow machine) and combating all the other issues that may go with below freezing temperatures and snow. I stayed in Alaska from the beginning of September to the middle of October and it took me the entire time to secure a bird to export. There is no way to guarantee that a bird will be trapped quickly, thus with this proposal it restricts a non-resident's chances of securing a bird after spending thousands of dollars to take such a trip in rural Alaska.

The cost of trapping in a remote area of Alaska is extremely high and perhaps why there are low numbers of applicants for these permits to begin with. A proposal to push back and restrict trapping dates will only add to the cost of a non-resident's trip due to weather conditions, rental of snow machines, etc. Alaska is known for adverse weather conditions that can make trapping or traveling impossible. Shortening and pushing back the trapping season unfairly pushes non-residents into a shorter time frame for success and more likelihood of adverse weather.

Furthermore, if ADF&G is concerned about nest disturbance and targeting of white genetics in gyrfalcon populations they should then be restricting resident take of such birds as well. Residents are legally allowed to take eyas gyrfalcons and in addition, with a higher number of resident permits than non-resident, the pressure on white birds would be higher from residents. This is basic math. ADF&G is unfairly targeting non-residents with logic that should pertain to residents as well, if it pertains to anyone at all. Lastly, in the last seven years of non-resident take, only three gyrfalcons have been taken from natal territories by non-residents.

I would like to thank ADF&G for how wonderful they have been to deal with in terms of permits and information about local wildlife, and the many wonderful Alaskan falconers I met on my travels in Alaska who were willing to lend help in many different ways. Lastly, I would like to thank the board for taking my comments into consideration.

Submitted By  
Jennifer Corrigan  
Submitted On  
2/14/2022 11:54:43 AM  
Affiliation



PC047  
1 of 1

Please support Proposal 144 and to exempt sterilized community cats from the list of species prohibited from being released into the wild. TNVR programs are good for cats and good for communities.



Submitted By  
Sandra Couch  
Submitted On  
2/14/2022 7:39:19 PM  
Affiliation  
self

Phone  
6309223177  
Email  
[sndrcch@yahoo.com](mailto:sndrcch@yahoo.com)  
Address  
2903 Bartlett Court  
Unit 201  
Naperville, Illinois 60564-4694

I ask the Board of Game to support Proposal 144 and to exempt sterilized community cats from the list of species prohibited from being released into the wild. TNVR programs will be better for the cats, better for public health, and better for the wildlife we all want to protect.



Submitted By  
Nevin Dahl  
Submitted On  
2/9/2022 9:25:43 AM  
Affiliation  
Hunter

Phone  
701-570-3152  
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[nnd@restel.com](mailto:nnd@restel.com)  
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1431 125th Ave NW  
Watford City, North Dakota 58854

I am writing in regards to proposal 265.

I am in favor in proposal 265 so that it would become a drawing permit rather first come first serve/ registration hunt.

Reasons:

When going on hunt like this it is always nice to hunt with a friend or family member along to hunt with and the first come first serve system does not make it likely it that would or could even happen.

The short notice from current situation does not allow much time to make work schedule arrangements and trip logistics as easy as it should be.

Lastly not everyone has the equal computer skills nor the same quality of internet service.

Respectfully,

Nevin Dahl



Submitted By  
Gail Davidson  
Submitted On  
2/17/2022 9:03:09 PM  
Affiliation

Phone  
(907) 479-7127

Email  
[Akmtngirl@gmail.com](mailto:Akmtngirl@gmail.com)

Address  
3638 Rosie Creek Road  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709

I am writing in support of Proposal 199. Our Alaskan winter trails are shared by many types of users of all ages, motorized and non-motorized. I am personally a skier and a skijorer. I am concerned about the safety of our trails for our children and our dogs. Mat-Su trails are heavily used, but the principle applies Statewide--one user group should not be allowed to dominate multiuse trails by inhibiting the safety of other users. A 50 foot setback for traps would keep them out of reach of most users, making the trails safer for everyone. The trails would then be multiuse, rather than being owned by a minority of users.

My own personal experience involved my dog being caught in a leghold trap buried in the middle of a trail on the Tanana River. The dog was skijoring in front of me. Although I was on skis, adults and children walk on those trails and could easily have been caught. A friend had their dog caught in a snare just under the houses along the river, a place where ice fishing is popular with families.

The Alaska Trappers Association has been helpful in trying to educate both trappers and other trail users in the etiquette of sharing trails. This, however, has not been enough to prevent trappers from placing their traps in places dangerous to others. We need stronger regulations on trapping, and they need to be disseminated widely and carry consequences for non-compliance. We all live here, and we need to share our recreational spaces without endangering others.