

Proposal 101

Public Proposal

The proposal would change the definition of a bow to include a crossbow.

Department Recommendation: Neutral

If adopted, the department asks that the board evaluate each existing archery only hunt to determine if crossbows will be an acceptable weapon to use in those hunts.

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Background

Proposal 101

- Allocations of restricted weapons hunts for take by bow and arrow have occurred due to the differences between hunting with a firearm and hunting with a bow and arrow.
- The bowhunting/archery community has felt that crossbows aren't archery equipment because of the following differences:
 - how a crossbow shoots
 - the distance a crossbow can shoot
 - the mechanics of a crossbow
 - the skills needed to shoot a crossbow

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Background

Proposal 101

- The Board chose not to adopt a similar proposal in 2012, 2016, and 2018
- A crossbow does not fit the current Alaska bow definition

5 AAC 92.990. Definitions. (11) "bow" means a long bow, recurve bow, or compound bow that is a device for launching an arrow which derives its propulsive energy solely from the bending and recovery of two limbs, and that is hand held and hand drawn by a single and direct pulling action of the bowstring by the shooter with the shooter's fingers or a hand held or wrist attached release aid; the energy used to propel the arrow may not be derived from hydraulic, pneumatic, explosive, or mechanical devices...

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Background

Proposal 101

- The Board provides opportunities for an individual with disabilities to use a crossbow in an archery-only area through 5 AAC 92.104. This regulation allows for a Methods and Means exemption and the form is available from the department.
- Technology has improved bowhunting/archery equipment to the point where it's easier to reach the minimum draw weights of 40 and 50-pounds required to hunt big game in Alaska.

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Proposal 102

Public Proposal

The proposal would establish a definition of "primitive weapons" and define it as "primitive weapons include crossbow, longbow, shotgun, and muzzleloader"

Department Recommendation: Neutral

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Background

Proposal 102

- The board has already defined
 - Bow
 - Crossbow
 - Muzzleloader
- Currently there are no “primitive weapons” hunts. The board has adopted weapon restricted hunts and lists the types of weapons allowed to be used during that hunt.
- Proposal creates new hunts – weapons restrictions?

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Things to consider:

Proposal 102

- Is it the board’s intent to allow all four types of weapons in each of the existing weapons restricted hunts?
- It may not be appropriate to allow all four types of weapons in existing and future restricted weapons hunts, and the board should continue to evaluate those on a hunt-by-hunt basis.

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Proposal 102

Public Proposal

The proposal would establish a definition of “primitive weapons” and define it as “primitive weapons include crossbow, longbow, shotgun, and muzzleloader”

Department Recommendation: Neutral

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Proposal 103

Public Proposal

Clarify whether hay and grain are hunting gear, and define hunting gear

Department Recommendation: Supports defining terms, neutral on the definition.

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Background

Proposal 103

- March 2020 Proposal 129 Yanert CUA
 - 2 solutions:
 - Define "hunting gear", or
 - Set dates the CUA is in effect
- Board set dates the CUA was in effect, deferred the definition of "hunting gear" to Statewide meeting.

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Things to consider:

Proposal 103

- A specific definition will likely create a need to add items to it in the future
 - Tents
 - Firearms
 - Etc.
- May make things legal that are currently not
 - ATVs?
 - Water?

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Proposal 103

Public Proposal

Clarify whether hay and grain are hunting gear, and define hunting gear

Department Recommendation: Supports defining terms, neutral on the definition.

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Proposal 230

Public proposal

Modify the definition of "full-curl horn" to include sheep at least 7 years of age.

Department Recommendation: Opposed

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Background

Proposal 230

(30) "full curl horn" of a male (ram) Dall sheep means that

(A) the tip of at least one horn has grown through 360 degrees of a circle described by the outer surface of the horn, as viewed from the side, or

(B) both horn tips are broken; means the lamb tip is completely absent; horn tips that are chipped or cracked are not broken if any portion of the lamb tip is present; characteristics of the lamb tip include:

(i) a length of less than four inches,

(ii) the inside surface of the lamb tip is distinctly concave when compared to the remainder of the horn, and

(iii) the lamb tip is the section of a horn that is grown during the first six months of a sheep's life and is the section of horn distal of the first annulus, which is the swelling of the horn that forms during the first winter of life, or

(C) the sheep is at least **eight** years of age as determined by horn growth annuli;

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Background

Proposal 230

- Existing regulations are in place to prevent over harvest, and to prevent a conservation concern.
- Full-curl management is the equivalent of antler restrictions in moose hunts.
- It preserves sheep hunting opportunity while conserving sheep.
- Limiting harvest to older, full-curl rams ensures that the population's productivity is not affected by harvest.

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Background

Proposal 230

- Most rams do not reach 360° until 8 years or older
- Natural mortality for Dall sheep is accelerated after 8 years of age
- If the age is lowered, harvest would likely extend down into lower age classes, which could negatively impact sheep populations.
- The current full-curl management strategy focuses the harvest on the segment of the population that is near the end of their life span, which has a negligible impact on overall abundance.

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Proposal 230

Public proposal

Modify the definition of "full-curl horn" to include sheep at least 7 years of age.

Department Recommendation: Opposed

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Current Regulations -

Proposal 131

5 AAC 92.220(d) A person taking game not listed in (a) of this section shall salvage for human consumption all edible meat, as defined in 5 AAC 92.990.

5 AAC 92.990(a)(26) “edible meat” means,...in the case of small game birds, except for cranes, geese, and swan, the meat of the breast; in the case of cranes, geese, and swan, the meat of the breast, back, the meat of the femur and tibia-fibula (legs and thighs), and the meat of the wings, excluding the metacarpals...

5 AAC 92.990(a)(70) “Salvage” means to transport the edible meat, heart, liver, kidneys, head, skull, or hide, as required by statute or regulation, of a game animal or small game bird to the location where...will be consumed by humans or processed for human consumption in order to save or prevent the edible meat, heart, liver, or kidneys from waste, and the head, skull, or hide will be put to human use;

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Proposed change -

Proposal 131

- 5 AAC 92.990(a)(26) "edible meat" means...in the case of small game birds, except for cranes, geese, and swan, the meat of the breast; in the case of cranes, geese, and swans, the meat of the breast, [BACK,] the meat of the legs(femur and tibia-fibula) [(LEGS AND THIGHS)], and the meat of the upper wing (humerus) [WINGS, EXCLUDING THE METACARPALS];

Department Notes -

- The department encourages the use of all meat that is edible beyond what is required to be salvaged. Salvage regulations have been applied to all game meat, including small game, on a statewide basis to establish minimum standards to ensure responsible use of game animals
- In 2017, the board expanded the definition of “edible meat” for cranes, geese, and swan to include the meat of the back and wings – aligned with the federal subsistence harvest regulations definition of “edible meat” that includes meat from the breast, back, thighs, legs, wings, gizzard, and heart

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Proposal 231

Modify the definition of edible meat for cranes, geese, and swan

Proposed by: Public

Department Position: Neutral

Advisory Committees:

Support -

Oppose -

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Proposal 104

Public Proposal

Update the names of some species included in the definition of deleterious exotic wildlife to more commonly used names.

Department Recommendation: Neutral

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Background

Proposal 104

- Since being added to the definition of deleterious exotic wildlife, some of the species have been renamed by the appropriate groups, which puts the regulations at odds with common practices.
- The proponent used very outdated codified regulations, and as a result the proposal, as written will remove many species of rodents if the language "Muridae rodent" is removed and replaced with "brown rat".
- Adding scientific names to the rest causes no concerns, issues it will resolve are unknown.

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Proposal 104

Public Proposal

Update the names of some species included in the definition of deleterious exotic wildlife to more commonly used names.

Department Recommendation: Neutral

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Proposal 105

Public Proposal

Add roof rat and house mouse to the definition of deleterious exotic wildlife

-Already covered by "Muridae rodent"

Department Recommendation: Take No Action

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Proposal 106

Public Proposal

Create a definition of “feral”.

Department Recommendation: Neutral

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Background

Proposal 106

Proposed Definition:
“feral” means an ownerless and unconfined domestic animal, or the progeny of an ownlerless and unconfined domestic animal, that no longer depends solely on food provided by humans to survive.

Webster Definition:
1 : of, relating to, or suggestive of a wild beast feral teeth feral instincts
2a : not domesticated or cultivated
b : having escaped from domestication and become wild

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Background

Proposal 106

Calls regarding domestic animals and wildlife

- Often related to domestic animals harassing or injuring wildlife
- Occasionally related to unconfined and unrestrained domestic animals, such as rabbits
- Deleterious exotic wildlife have no closed season and no bag limit
- Nuisance wildlife includes feral domestic animals, which can be taken under a permit issued by the department.

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Proposal 106

Public Proposal

Create a definition of "feral".

Department Recommendation: Neutral

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Proposal 107

Public Proposal

Add domestic cats (*Felis catus*) to the definition of deleterious exotic wildlife.

Department Recommendation: Neutral

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Background

Proposal 107

- Disease risks associated with feral cats pose a threat to public health and to other animals.
- Existing board regulations prohibit the release of any animal into the wild.
- Adding cats to the definition of deleterious exotic wildlife would create a year round hunting seasons for them statewide with no bag limit.

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Proposal 107

Public Proposal

Add domestic cats (*Felis catus*) to the definition of deleterious exotic wildlife.

Department Recommendation: Neutral

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Proposal 271

Board Generated Proposal

Create a definition for “positioning”

Department Recommendation: Supports defining terms, neutral on the definition.

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Background

Proposal 271

2018:

- In Unit 17, a snowmachine may be used to assist in the taking of a caribou and caribou may be shot from a stationary snowmachine.
- **"Assist in the taking of a caribou"** means a snowmachine may be used to approach within 300 yards of a caribou at speeds under 15 miles per hour, in a manner that does not involve repeated approaches or that causes a caribou to run.
- A snowmachine may not be used to contact an animal or to pursue a fleeing caribou.

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Background

Proposal 271

2018:

- Board discussed positioning for all of 5 AAC 92.080 and did not adopt it.

2022:

- Board deferred Proposal 23 to allow the use of a snowmachine to position a wolf or wolverine for harvest, to define position.

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Proposal 271

Board Generated Proposal

Create a definition for “positioning”

Department Recommendation: Supports defining terms, neutral on the definition.

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