

Anchorage Area Proposals – Unit 14C

PROPOSAL 82

5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep.

Expand the Unit 14C northeast sheep drawing hunt areas to include the East Fork Eklutna hunt area as follows:

Add East Fork Eklutna area, former hunt numbers DS127, DS128 and DS129 to the Unit 14C northeast unit hunt numbers DS124, DS125 DS126 and DS224.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The East Fork Eklutna area, hunt numbers DS127, DS128 and DS129 has been closed to rifle sheep hunting since a least 2012. The only open season is for the late areawide bow season DS140 and DS240. There was a massive die off in the winter of 1998-1999 and the sheep population continued to decline until there was no full curls in the unit and it was closed in 2011 or 2012. In the last four years there has been a number of rams that have been in the unit with three or four being mature full curls but rifle hunters had no open season to hunt them. It hasn't been consistent enough in my opinion to issue permits just in the East Fork Eklutna. I would like to see the East Fork Eklutna area added to the adjoining area in Unit14C northeast unit hunt numbers DS124, DS125, DS126 and DS224 without increasing the permits in the area unless the department thinks there is enough rams to do so. This would allow hunters more opportunity and more area to hunt and better access without putting more pressure on the resource.

PROPOSED BY: Dan Montgomery

(EG-F22-070)

PROPOSAL 83

5 AAC 85. 055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep.

Reopen the late rifle hunt for sheep in Unit 14C and redistribute the existing permits to not increase the total take of rams as follows:

Reopen the late areawide rifle season DS139 but don't increase the total number of permits issued by taking some permits from DS132-one permit, DS137- one permit, DS138 - two permits and eliminating DS232.

The new hunt structure would be as follows:

DS132 - 5 resident permits

DS137 - 7 resident permits

DS138 - 6 resident permits

DS139 - 4 resident permits

DS239 - 1 nonresident permit

DS232 - Eliminated for now but could be issued again if the sheep population in the area increases and the permits for all hunters are increased for this area.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I would like to see the areawide late rifle season DS139 reopened. DS139 did not include the hunt areas of DS123 and it would not include them now. The season dates were Sept. 18 to Sept. 30. This hunt was discontinued in 2012 because of a sharp decline in the sheep population and the department was issuing 20 permits and there was too much pressure on the rams. The population has stabilized now but there can be a lack of legal full curl rams in the late hunts in the Ship Creek unit hunts DS138 - eight resident permits and DS238 - one nonresident permit and the Peters Creek unit hunts DS132 - six resident hunters and DS232 - one nonresident hunter. At the same time we have observed a surplus of 10 year-old plus rams in the Upper Eagle River unit and the northeast - Hunter Creek unit lately. It would be beneficial to all hunters to have a very limited increased access to these other areas and the rams in them. By closing DS139 in 2012, it also prevented the governor's permit holder from hunting this time period. My proposal would be to open DS139 again but not to increase the number of permits issued overall but to take some of the later season permits from DS137 - one resident permit, DS138 - two resident permits, DS132 - one resident permit and DS232 - one nonresident permit and take these five permits, four resident and one nonresident and place the four resident permits in DS139 and the one nonresident permit in DS239. I would also recommend never increasing the number of permits for these two hunts. These permit holders would still be able to hunt the original areas if they wanted to but also the three additional areas. Weather can be very harsh this time of year and I think there will be a very low success rate for this hunt. There is a 13.5% nonresident permit allocation for Unit 14C and this change would keep the permit allocation in compliance with that.

PROPOSED BY: Dan Montgomery (EG-F22-071)

PROPOSAL 84

5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep.

Create a new archery only, drawing hunt for sheep in Unit 14C, that portion within the Eklutna River drainage area as follows:

I propose to create another tag that runs Aug. 5 - 12 to allow better opportunity as well as experience for bowhunters. This would cover the same areas as DS141. If permitted, ADF&G biologists can decide tag allotment between this new tag and DS141. I would be open to taking tags from DS141 and moving to this new tag. Currently, DS141 has 24 tags allotted. Splitting to 12 and 12 or whatever the board decides, would be beneficial.

Bow only draw tag for sheep hunt area: that portion of Unit 14C within the Eklutna River drainage upstream of the Eklutna River closed area excluding the East Fork Eklutna River.

Bowhunters: must be IBEP (International Bowhunters Education Program) certified prior to hunting in DSXXX. Call ADF&G for more information.

Hunt Area: that portion of Unit 14C within the Eklutna River drainage upstream of the Eklutna River closed area excluding the East Fork Eklutna River.

Season Dates Aug. 5 - 12.

Tag Allotment: Per ADF&G and/or Board of Game referral as stated above.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I have hunted DS141 (archery only Sept. 1 – Sept. 30) multiple times. Although the tag appears to cover a substantial area, the sheep are concentrated to small areas within the unit. I have experienced hunters hunting directly on top of each other. It takes away from the experience of the hunt and puts higher stress on the sheep population. There is also a rifle hunt adjacent to DS141 (DS 124) that runs August 10 - 22. Hunters often access this area via the DS141 tag area and push the sheep up and out of DS141, into DS124.

PROPOSED BY: Brian Watkins (EG-F22-007)

PROPOSAL 85

5 AAC 85.040. Hunting seasons and bag limits for goat.

Create an archery only drawing hunt for goat in Unit 14C, within the drainage of the West Fork of Eklutna River as follows:

Bow only draw tag for goats:

Hunt Area: Unit 14C, West Eklutna, within the drainage of the West Fork of the Eklutna River.

Bowhunters: must be IBEP (International Bowhunters Education Program) certified prior to hunting in DGXXX. Call ADF&G for more information.

Season Dates Sept. 1-Oct. 15.

Taking of a nanny accompanied by a kid is prohibited.

HUNTERS SHOULD TRY TO TAKE MALE GOATS

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? In my time spent in the West Fork of the Eklutna River, I have observed a population of goats within the West Fork of the Eklutna River. This area is adjacent to DG852, so ADF&G biologists would have to advise on tag allotment. There are not many goat only bow opportunities in Alaska that I am aware of. I would like a bow only tag in this area.

PROPOSED BY: Brian Watkins (EG-F22-010)

PROPOSAL 86

5 AAC 85.045(5). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.

Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in the Twentymile/Portage/Placer hunt area in Units 7 and 14C as follows:

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

(5)

...

Unit 7, the Placer River drainages, and that portion of the Placer Creek (Bear Valley) drainage outside the Portage Glacier Closed Area, and that portion of Unit 14(C) within the Twentymile River drainage

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 moose by drawing permit only; up to 60 permits for bulls will be issued in combination with nonresident hunts, and up to 70 permits for antlerless moose will be issued; or

Aug. 20—Oct. 10
(General hunt only)

...

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Antlerless moose seasons must be reauthorized annually, and the department recommends reauthorizing the antlerless hunt in Units 7 and 14C. The moose population in the Twentymile/Portage/Placer area has a history of rapid increase following mild winters and sharp reductions during severe winters. In 2009, antlerless permits were issued for the first time since 2004. The number of permits issued depends on the current population estimate and bull:cow ratios, as well as estimated winter mortality. A December 2021 aerial composition count of moose in the Twentymile, Portage, and Placer River drainages found 185 moose with a bull:cow ratio of 36 bulls per 100 cows and a calf:cow ratio of 19 calves per 100 cows. This is an increase when compared to the December 2020 count, which found 153 moose with a bull:cow ratio of 30 bulls per 100 cows and a calf:cow ratio of 14 calves per 100 cows, and the December 2016 count which found 153 moose with a bull:cow ratio of 30 bulls per 100 cows and a calf:cow ratio of 18 calves per 100 cows.

The harvest of antlerless moose provides the department with a management tool to maintain the number of moose in the Twentymile/Portage/Placer area at a population level low enough to reduce over-browsing of winter habitat, moose-vehicle collisions, and starvation during severe winters. The moose population will be healthier and more productive due to decreased stress levels associated with winter food shortages. This hunt has been successful in creating additional moose hunting opportunity with little or no controversy.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F22-055)

PROPOSAL 87

5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.

Establish a general moose season open for take by bow and arrow only, in Unit 14C Remainder as follows:

Unit 14C Remainder

Residents and nonresidents

One bull with spike-fork antlers or 50-inch antlers or antlers with 3 or more brow tines on at least one side, by bow and arrow only Aug. 22-Aug. 29

OR

One bull with spike-fork antlers or 50-inch antlers or antlers with 3 or more brow tines on at least one side Sept. 1 - Sept. 30.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Adding additional hunting days to the general season and restricting them to archery equipment would greatly add to hunter opportunity, while also keeping the impact on the resource to a minimum. Harvest rates for bowhunters are much lower than those who use firearms, which creates a valuable opportunity for hunters to enjoy more time in the field without necessarily expecting to take an animal. This hunt would precede the current general season which, combined with the already existing antler restrictions and limits of archery equipment, would add to the difficulty in harvest and limit impact on moose populations. This hunt would mirror almost exactly the existing bow and arrow only seasons in Units 15A Remainder and 15B Remainder.

PROPOSED BY: Alaskan Bowhunters Association (EG-F22-121)

PROPOSAL 88

5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.

Change the registration moose hunt, RM445, in the Chugach State Park Management Area in Unit 14C to an archery only hunt as follows:

Chugach State Park Management Area (excluding Ship Creek drainage):

One bull with spike-fork antlers or 50-inch antlers or antlers with 3 or more brow tines on at least one side by bow and arrow only by certified bowhunters.

September 1 - 30

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Chugach State Park Management area is currently open to moose hunting from September 1 - 30 for one bull with spike-fork antlers or 50-inch antlers or antlers with three or more brow tines on at least one side. Much of this area is prohibitively remote for ethical moose hunting but the areas that are accessible are close to very popular multi use trails and pathways. This creates potential for hunter/non-hunter conflict and the potential for accidents when using long range centerfire rifles around populated areas and heavily used trails.

In addition, there are currently limited opportunities for local hunters who wish to pursue moose with bow and arrow, the exception being RM445 where many years of archery hunting close to a heavily used trail has set a positive precedent. Unfortunately, RM445 is very heavily hunted because so many local hunters enjoy the challenge of archery hunting for moose.

One solution to these issues would be to transition the Chugach State Park Management area, or at least a large portion of it, to archery only for moose hunting. This would likely be a popular hunt given the proximity to Anchorage and the increasing popularity of archery hunting for moose but given the limited range of archery equipment would also not increase the overall harvest of moose in the area.

As with all archery only hunts, it should be reiterated that this hunt would not decrease any hunting opportunity for any Alaska resident or nonresident. It would simply require that hunters who wish to use these areas do so with archery equipment.

PROPOSED BY: Paul Forward (EG-F22-152)

PROPOSAL 89

5 AAC 85.045(5). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.

Reauthorize the antlerless moose seasons in Unit 14C as follows:

Seasons and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(12)		
...		
Unit 14(C), Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (JBER) Management Area	Sept. 1—Mar 31 (General hunt only)	Sept 1.—Mar 31
1 moose by regulatory year by drawing permit, and by muzzleloading blackpowder rifle or bow and arrow only; up to 185 permits may be issued		
Unit 14(C), that portion known as the Birchwood Management Area	Sept. 1—Mar 31 (General hunt only)	Sept 1.—Mar 31
1 moose by drawing permit, by bow and arrow only; up to 25 permits may be issued		

Unit 14(C), that portion known as the Anchorage Management Area	Sept 1.—Nov. 30 (General hunt only)	No open season
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1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only, and by bow and arrow, shotgun, or muzzleloader only; up to 50 permits may be issued

Unit 14(C), that portion of the Ship Creek drainage upstream of the Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (JBER) Management Area

1 moose by drawing permit only; up to 50 permits may be issued; or	Sept. 1—Sept. 30 (General hunt only)	Sept. 1—Sept. 30
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1 bull by registration permit only	Oct. 1—Nov. 30 (General hunt only)	Oct. 1—Nov. 30
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Remainder of Unit 14(C)

1 moose per regulatory year, only as follows:

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1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only; up to 60 permits may be issued; or	Sept. 1—Sept. 30 (General hunt only)	No open season
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What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Antlerless moose hunts must be reauthorized annually, and the department recommends reauthorizing the antlerless moose hunts in Unit 14C. The harvest of antlerless moose provides the department with a management tool to maintain the number of moose in Unit 14C at the desired population level, which has been demonstrated to reduce over-browsing of winter habitat, moose-vehicle collisions, moose-human conflicts in urban areas, and starvation during severe winters. These hunts have also been successful in providing additional moose hunting opportunities in the state’s human population center with little controversy.

The number of antlerless permits issued depends on the current population level and bull:cow ratios, as well as estimated winter mortality. A combined 2021 aerial composition count of the Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson Management Area and the Ship Creek drainage (the area that provides the most hunting opportunity in Unit 14C found 301 moose with a bull:cow ratio of 44 bulls per 100 cows and a calf:cow ratio of 20 calves per 100 cows. In 2020, a survey of the same area found a total of 242 moose with bull:cow and calf:cow ratios of 30:100 and 25:100, respectively. Compared to the 2013 survey, which found 225 moose with a bull:cow ratio of 39 bulls per 100 cows and a calf:cow ratio of 20 calves per 100 cows, little change has occurred. In addition, harvest numbers have remained relatively steady, indicating that the population level has likely not changed dramatically. At this population level, there are few reports of human-moose conflicts and of winter mortalities. Harvesting cow moose is paramount to maintaining the population at the low end of the objective while providing harvest opportunity.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F22-054)

PROPOSAL 90

5 AAC 85.015. Hunting seasons and bag limits for black bear.

5 AAC 92.530. Management areas.

Establish a primitive weapons hunt or any weapons hunt for black bear in the West Fork of Eagle River Drainage in Unit 14C as follows:

Hunt Area: Unit 14C, South Fork Eagle River: all drainages into South Fork Eagle River, excluding that area within ½ mile of a developed facility. Black bear.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The West Fork of Eagle River drainage is known for having a substantial population of bears. There have been several known bear attacks. The latest in June 2018. I have a view of the north facing side of Highland Mountain and consistently see brown and black bears on that mountain in the fall. It's important we hunt bears in this area to maintain their fear of human encounters. I would like the Board of Game (BOG) to either implement a primitive weapons hunt or an any weapons hunt in this area. Season dates and tag allotment to be determined by ADF&G biologists. Recommended by submitter to be the same dates as DL457 (Oct. 1-31) to alleviate hunter/hiker encounters. I am intentionally separating black and brown bears for this submission for deliberation within BOG and tag allotment by ADF&G biologists.

PROPOSED BY: Brian Watkins (EG-F22-011)

PROPOSAL 91

5 AAC 85.015. Hunting seasons and bag limits for black bear.

5 AAC 92.530. Management areas.

Add bow and arrow to the legal means of take for the DL455 black bear hunt in Unit 14C, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson as follows:

DL455

Unit 14C, portions of Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson Management Area (former Fort Richardson portion)

One bear by shotgun **or bow and arrow** only by permit Sept. 1-June 15

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Drawing permit hunt DL455 already allows the take of one black bear by shotgun only. Archery is a step down in weapon efficacy and should be considered as a means of take for this hunt. There are currently multiple archery hunts that already take place on the Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (JBER) and there is no reason DL455 should exclude archery equipment. If this regulation change were to be adopted, hunters who draw this permit would be able to hunt with either a shotgun or a bow rather than only being limited to using a shotgun.

PROPOSED BY: Alaskan Bowhunters Association (EG-F22-125)

PROPOSAL 92

5 AAC 85.015. Hunting seasons and bag limits for black bear.

5 AAC 92.530. Management areas.

Add bow and arrow to the legal means of take for the DL457 black bear hunt in Unit 14C, McHugh Creek area as follows:

DL457

Unit 14C, McHugh Creek

One bear by **bow and arrow**, shotgun or muzzleloader only by permit Oct. 1-Oct. 31

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Drawing permit hunt DL457 already allows the take of one black bear by shotgun or muzzleloader only. Archery is a step down in weapon efficacy and should be considered as a means of take for this hunt. If this regulation change were to be adopted, hunters who draw this permit would be able to hunt with either a shotgun, muzzleloader, or a bow rather than only being limited to using a shotgun or muzzleloader.

PROPOSED BY: Alaskan Bowhunters Association (EG-F22-127)

PROPOSAL 93

5 AAC 85.015. Hunting seasons and bag limits for black bear.

5 AAC 92.530. Management areas.

Allow certified bowhunters to participate in DL455 and DL457 black bear hunts in Unit 14C, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson and McHugh Creek areas as follows:

Add certified bowhunters to applicants for drawing hunts DL455 and DL457.

“...(3) Unit 14(C), JBER Management Area 1 bear every regulatory year, by drawing permit Sept. 1 – June 15 Sept. 15 - June 15 only; by shotgun **and archery** only; (General hunt only) up to 25

permits may be issued Unit 14(C), that portion Sept. 1 - May. 31 known as the Anchorage (General hunt only) Management Area 1 bear by drawing permit only. shotgun, **archery**, or muzzleloader only; weekdays only; up to 20 permits may be issued in the McHugh Creek area and up to 20 permits may be issued in the Upper Campbell Creek area...”

The option to also hunt with a shotgun or shotgun/muzzleloader would remain unchanged, allowing for follow up shots (if needed). This solution presents arguably less wounding loss potential than archery-only hunts (e.g., DM424).

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Low participation and hunter success in Unit 14C black bear drawing hunts. The current regulations limit hunters to shotgun and shotgun/muzzleloader only in DL455/457, respectively. This deters a large pool of certified black bear archery hunters from applying to hunt this underutilized resource in an area that already has a successful archery hunt for moose.

PROPOSED BY: Bryce Eckroth (EG-F22-114)

PROPOSAL 94

5 AAC 85.015. Hunting seasons and bag limits for black bear.
5 AAC 92.530. Management areas.

Open a black bear archery drawing hunt in the McHugh Creek hunt area in the Unit 14C, Anchorage Management Area as follows:

Open a black bear drawing archery hunt in the existing area within the DL457 McHugh Creek hunt area. Weekday hunt only with season dates from September 1 through May 31.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Provide more hunting opportunities for archery black bear hunts in Unit 14C.

PROPOSED BY: Matt Moore (EG-F22-138)

PROPOSAL 95

5 AAC 85.015. Hunting seasons and bag limits for black bear.
5 AAC 92.530. Management areas.

Open a resident only, limited registration black bear archery hunt in McHugh Creek hunt area in the Unit 14C Anchorage Management Area as follows:

Open a resident only, limited participation, black bear registration archery hunt in the existing area within the DL457 McHugh Creek hunt area. Weekday hunt only with season dates from September 1 through May 31.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Provide additional black bear hunting opportunities of resident archers in Unit 14C.

PROPOSED BY: Matt Moore (EG-F22-137)

PROPOSAL 96

5 AAC 85.015. Hunting seasons and bag limits for black bear.

5 AAC 92.530. Management areas.

Establish a black bear archery hunt in Unit 14C, the Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson management area for hunters who also draw an archery moose tag as follows:

Add a black bear archery registration hunt for residents and nonresidents in the Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson management hunt area. These registration permits would be made available only to those hunters who draw a moose tag and hunt by bow and arrow. The permits and hunt period would remain valid while the moose draw tag is valid.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Provide more black bear archery hunting opportunities in Unit 14C. This is specifically for archers who have drawn a moose tag and could take a black bear while in the field if the opportunity presented itself. It is another way/opportunity to reduce the black bear predation on moose calves in Unit 14C.

PROPOSED BY: Matthew Moore (EG-F22-140)

PROPOSAL 97

5 AAC 85.020. Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear.

5 AAC 92.530. Management areas.

Establish a primitive weapons hunt or any weapons hunt for brown bear in the West Fork of Eagle River Drainage in Unit 14C as follows:

Hunt Area: Unit 14C, South Fork Eagle River: all drainages into South Fork Eagle River, excluding that area within ½ mile of a developed facility. Brown bear.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The West Fork of Eagle River drainage is known for having a substantial population of bears. There have been several known bear attacks. The latest in June 2018. I have a view of the north facing side of Highland Mountain and consistently see brown and black bears on that mountain in the fall. It’s important we hunt bears in this area to maintain their fear of human encounters. With the increase in hiking post-pandemic, there is an increased likelihood of hiker/bear encounters. I would like the Board of Game (BOG) to either implement a primitive weapons hunt or an any weapons hunt in this area. Season dates and tag allotment to be determined by ADF&G Biologists. Recommended by submitter to be the same dates as DL457 (Oct. 1 - 31) to alleviate hunter/hiker encounters. I am intentionally separating black and brown bears for this submission for deliberation within BOG and tag allotment by ADF&G biologists.

PROPOSED BY: Brian Watkins (EG-F22-012)

PROPOSAL 98

5 AAC 85.020. Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear.

5 AAC 92.530. Management areas.

Open a hunt for brown bear within the Rainbow Creek drainage in Unit 14C as follows:

Hunt Area: Unit 14C, Rainbow creek: all drainages into Rainbow, excluding that area within a ½ mile of the Seward Highway or within ½ mile of a developed facility. Brown bear.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? In the last cycle of the Board of Game (BOG) meetings for Unit 14C, the BOG deliberated on Rainbow Creek drainage. The way it was written was for black bears, but biologists said it is not an area where black bears frequent. They said the area is frequented by brown bears. After discussion, this was rejected instead of amended by the BOG, so I am submitting with brown bears. With the increase in hiking post-pandemic, there is a likelihood of hiker/bear encounters. To get ahead of the issue, there should be a draw tag within the Rainbow Creek drainage. Season dates and tag allotment to be determined by ADF&G biologists. If primitive weapons will help to get the tag accepted, submitter agrees to that.

PROPOSED BY: Brian Watkins (EG-F22-013)

PROPOSAL 99

5 AAC 85.020. Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear.

5 AAC 92.530. Management areas.

Open an archery drawing hunt for brown bear in Unit 14C, the McHugh Creek area for residents and nonresidents as follows:

Open a drawing hunt for archery brown bear in same hunt area as DL457 hunt. Proposal is written for a weekday hunt only with season dates from September 1 through May 31.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Provide additional brown bear hunting opportunity in Unit 14C.

PROPOSED BY: Matt Moore (EG-F22-139)

PROPOSAL 100

5 AAC 85.020. Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear.

5 AAC 92.530. Management areas.

Establish an archery only drawing hunt for brown bear in Unit 14C, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson area, with a bag limit of one bear every four regulatory years as follows:

Provide an archery only drawing hunt for both residents and nonresidents. One bear every four regulatory years by bow and arrow only. Season to be open from September 1st through May 31st.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Create an archery brown bear hunting opportunity on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson management area.

PROPOSED BY: Matt Moore (EG-F22-141)

PROPOSAL 101

5 AAC 85.020. Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear.

Extend the general season for brown bear, open for take by bow and arrow only, in Unit 14C Remainder as follows:

Unit 14C, Remainder

Residents and Nonresidents

One bear every regulatory year, Sept. 1 – May 31

OR

One (1) brown bear, every regulatory year, by bow and arrow only June 1-June 30

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Adding additional hunting days that are restricted to archery equipment would greatly add to hunter opportunity, while also keeping the impact on the resource to a minimum. Harvest rates for bowhunters are much lower than those who use firearms, which creates a valuable opportunity for hunters to enjoy more time in the field without necessarily expecting to take an animal. Members of our organization have reported seeing a rise in brown bear activity in remote areas of Unit 14C Remainder while pursuing black bears. These members report often seeing more brown bears than black bears in this area and would like additional time to pursue them during the spring season. We believe that this extension can be accomplished without having a big impact on brown bear populations if it is restricted to the use of archery equipment only. Unit 14C Remainder is already remote, and hunters willing to access these areas are not numerous. The limited access as well as the limits of archery equipment would add to the difficulty in harvest, limiting impact on brown bear populations while also providing more opportunity for hunters to pursue bears.

PROPOSED BY: Alaskan Bowhunters Association (EG-F22-124)

PROPOSAL 102

5 AAC 85.020. Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear.

Lengthen the season for brown bear in Unit 14C Remainder as follows:

Unit 14C, Remainder

Residents and Nonresidents

One bear every regulatory year **Sept 1 - June 15** [Sept 1 - May 31]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Unit 14C Remainder is remote and at times, snow conditions don't allow access until later in the spring season. There appears to be a VERY healthy population of brown bears in this area and an additional two weeks of season does not seem to be a big ask. While hunting black bears in early June but seeing mostly brown bears, it would be nice to be able to attempt to take one.

PROPOSED BY: Landon Albertson (EG-F22-157)

PROPOSAL 103

- 5 AAC 85.015. Hunting seasons and bag limits for black bear.**
- 5 AAC 85.020. Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear.**
- 5 AAC 92.044. Permit for hunting bear with the use of bait or scent lures.**
- 5 AAC 92.530. Management areas.**

Establish a bear bait hunt in Unit 14C, the McHugh Creek drainage area for black and brown bear as follows:

- (1) Station for bear baiting for brown and black bears in Unit 14C McHugh Creek Drainage area starting May 1 through June 15. Up to six certified users of the bait station shall operate the bait station by registration permit.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Create a bear bait hunt within the Chugach State Park for brown and black bears. The area proposed is around the McHugh Creek area. Exact location of the bait station will be approved by ADF&G to help eliminate dangerous encounters with bears and recreational users of the park. The purpose of the proposal is to help reduce the overall number of bears on the hillside through conservation. After speaking with ADF&G biologists, a large number of bear are present in this area. Over the years there has been encounters with bears that have taken the lives of people using the park for recreational purposes. After a recent encounter ADF&G had to kill several bears when a 14-year-old boy was stalked and eaten by a bear. By using a bait station for hunting bears, the chances of wounding a bear is greatly reduced because the bears are lured in to close range and are usually moving slow or standing still for the hunter to take the shot. The location of the bait station will lure the bears away from heavily used trails and help prevent these dangerous encounters. If this proposal does not pass more dangerous encounters and possible deaths may occur. The bear population will increase and put more pressure on ADF&G staff to control population growth.

PROPOSED BY: Phillip Calhoun (EG-F22-135)

PROPOSAL 104

- 5 AAC 84.270. Furbearer trapping.**
- 5 AAC 85.060. Hunting seasons and bag limits for fur animals.**

Close Chugach State Park and Glacier Creek drainage in Unit 14C to lynx hunting and trapping as follows:

I am recommending the closure of all of Chugach State Park plus the Glacier Creek drainage be closed to hunting and trapping of lynx. The regulatory language I propose is as follows:

5 AAC 85.060(4) Lynx Units 6, 7, 11, 13 - 16 (General hunt only) Nov. 10 - Feb. 28 except that all of Chugach State Park and the Glacier Valley drainage are closed.

5 AAC 84. 270(5) Lynx Units 7, 11, and 13 - 16 Nov. 10 - Last day of Feb. No limit: season may be closed by emergency order; except that all of Chugach State Park and the Glacier Creek drainage are closed.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Thousands of Alaskans who live in and around Anchorage currently have the rare opportunity to see lynx in the wild in the Anchorage bowl and Eagle River drainage, including at the Eagle River Nature Center. Videos of these cats often appear in social media, and on commercial tv. These cats are truly a premier species of watchable wildlife. These rare opportunities exist primarily because the Anchorage bowl, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (JBER), the Eagle River drainage, and large parts of the Eklutna drainage are currently closed to the hunting and trapping of lynx. and because most of the rest of Unit 14C is closed to lynx hunting and trapping by emergency order in those years when population numbers are low. But much of Unit 14C is open to the hunting and trapping of lynx, and was not closed by emergency order in 2021 - 2022. The areas permanently closed to hunting and trapping lynx should be expanded to include all of Chugach State Park and also the Glacier Creek drainage. (Most of the Glacier Creek drainage is outside Chugach State Park.) The purpose would be to increase the opportunity for residents and visitors to see these cats in the wild, and to provide a larger refuge. The value of these watchable wildlife to the thousands of people who are thrilled by the occasional glimpse exceeds the value of these cats to a handful of hunters and trappers. These animals are a publicly owned resource owned by all Alaskans, and their highest and best use is as watchable wildlife

PROPOSED BY: Kneeland Taylor

(EG-F22-033)
