

Kenai Peninsula Area - Units 7 & 15

PROPOSAL 105

5 AAC 92.052. Discretionary permit hunt conditions and procedures.

Limit hunters to one big game registration permit at a time in Units 7 and 15 as follows:

Add Units 7 and 15 to the areas in regulation that hunters are limited to one big game registration permit at a time.

5 AAC 92.052 (19) a person may be limited to one big game registration permit at a time in Units 1, **7 and 15**, 17, 20(E), 22, and 23.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? In Units 7 and 15, there are currently registration goat hunts with limited permit numbers. Each year some hunters pick up more than one registration permit even though it is physically impossible to hunt more than one area at a time. When hunters do this it takes opportunities away from other hunters.

PROPOSED BY: Tom Young (EG-F22-025)

PROPOSAL 106

5 AAC 92.540(4). Controlled use areas.

Modify the restrictions for using ATVs to hunt moose in Unit 15C as follows:

Change to delete the restrictions totally.

Change restrictions to read: ATV uses every other week unrestricted.

Change restrictions to read: ATV use every 3 days unrestricted.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I am a retired disabled Veteran with limited mobility. For at least 23 years, the Alaska Board of Fish and Game has discriminated against disabled Veterans and disabled Americans, for limited use of All Terrain Vehicles on limited dates in Unit 15C. Oftentimes, not everybody can get off or schedule limited time to go moose hunting in our home area. Why are we, as disabled Alaskans being penalized? I have been doing some research on this matter and found out this rule/regulation was intended for a few guides that use horses for guiding hunters back into Unit 15C. I have also talked to AK Wildlife Troopers and state game biologists advising me to request a change to the regulation. As we all get older, our mobility gets harder. There are a lot of existing trails in the area that can be used.

PROPOSED BY: John Reich (EG-F22-002)

PROPOSAL 107

5 AAC 92.540(5)(b). Controlled use areas.

Allow an exemption for disabled Veterans to hunt in the Lower Kenai Controlled Use Area in Unit 15C using motorized vehicles as follows:

A veteran upon providing proof of a service-connected disability of 50% or more, may receive an exemption to the "Controlled Use Area ATV restrictions".

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Lower Kenai Controlled Use Area in Unit 15C restricts the use of motorized vehicles during the latter days of the hunting season which prevents many disabled Veterans from accessing the hunting grounds. For a disabled Veteran to access the hunting grounds without motorized means essentially eliminates all access for a disabled Veteran who cannot walk or ride a horse. Without a change this restriction will continue to prevent a disabled Veteran from providing for one's family as well as improving the quality of life the Disabled Veteran can still enjoy.

I would like to see some consideration of exempting a verified disabled Veteran with a service-connected disability of 50% or more from this restriction. This change would provide an increased opportunity for those veterans who have already given to this country and now carry the scars of such service.

PROPOSED BY: Robert Ward (EG-F22-005)

PROPOSAL 108

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

Make all sheep hunts in Units 7 and 15 registration as follows:

Make all Dall sheep hunts in Units 7 and 15 registration hunts. This would give managers the ability to open or close areas based on survey data and allow potential harvests to be aligned with actual sheep numbers, contributing to overall hunt quality for participants.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Dall sheep numbers on the Kenai Peninsula have been in drastic decline for a number of years. General season sheep openings are not sustainable given the scarcity of legal rams.

PROPOSED BY: Homer Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-F22-063)

PROPOSAL 109

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

Close sheep hunting on the Kenai Peninsula, Unit 15 as follows:

An easy way to fix the problem would be to simply shut it down. Like I said, it would not affect many hunters and I think you must put the animals first.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I think the sheep hunting on the Kenai Peninsula should be shut down. There are few sheep spread thinly throughout the Kenai Peninsula and if you did shut it down it would only affect a small group of hunters. About five sheep are taken a year and two of which are not legal. These five sheep taken could really help the sheep population in the long run and some day you might have a good sheep population. Thanks for your consideration.

PROPOSED BY: Rockwell Bates (EG-F22-054)

PROPOSAL 110

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

Create an archery only registration hunt and youth hunt for sheep in Unit 7 Remainder as follows:

Unit 7 Remainder:

One ram with full curl horn or larger by **Bow and Arrow for certified bowhunters** only; August 10 - September 20.

One ram with full curl horn or larger, by **Bow and Arrow only for certified bowhunters**. Youth hunt only; August 1 - 5.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Over the past decade the Unit 7 sheep harvest has decreased to 1 - 3 rams harvested on average per year and about 40 hunters per year hunting the area. In addition, the average ram size ranges in the low to mid 30” range suggesting that rams are being harvested shortly after they first reach legal size. In addition, there is currently no archery sheep hunting area in the entire state of Alaska aside from a narrow corridor along the Dalton highway, very far from where most hunters live. Creating an archery only sheep hunting area would have multiple benefits.

First, it would allow for a place for hunters to safely hunt sheep with a bow without worry of long range shooters shooting over them while stalking. Archery hunters would also much less likely to interrupt each other while on a stalk or approach due the increased observation time and stalking time required.

Second, the existing archery registration hunts, in areas with high concentrations of rams and easy access, have consistently shown that archery sheep hunts allow for increased hunter opportunity while having very little affect on actual sheep populations. This would allow for rams to grow older on average increasing horn size and increasing age diversity in the population. (Of note, research is currently underway in in Alaska to determine if there is a population benefit from having larger numbers of rams and older rams.)

Third, much of Unit 7 is composed of very high use trails and waterways and limiting hunting to short range weapons in this areas will decrease potential or user conflict. Archery hunts have been used with good success in other parts of the state that are more heavily used with good community acceptance.

Fourth, there is a precedent in British Columbia and Alberta for archery only sheep hunting areas and both remain very popular as places where hunters can enjoy the adventure of sheep hunting

with a bow each year with opportunities at legal rams in relative proximity to road systems and populated areas.

Fifth, after a few years of archery only seasons and the subsequent increase in survival of mature rams, this hunt would likely become very popular with sheep hunters, many of whom would welcome the chance to challenge themselves by hunting with archery equipment. This could potentially draw pressure off of other units where sheep populations are known to be suffering and hunter conflict has become more common.

PROPOSED BY: Paul Forward (EG-F22-147)

PROPOSAL 111

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

Create an archery only, registration sheep hunt for residents and nonresidents in Units 7 and 15 Remainder as follows:

Unit 7 and 15 Remainder: Resident: One ram, with full curl horn or larger, by bow and arrow only from August 1 - August 5, by registration permit available at <http://adfg.alaska.gov>. Certified bowhunters only.

Unit 7 and 15 Remainder: Nonresident: One ram, with full curl horn or larger, by bow and arrow only, every four regulatory years from August 1 - August 5, by registration permit available at <http://adfg.alaska.gov>. Certified bowhunters only.

Aerial scouting is not allowed during this time period.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? There is an increasing interest in bowhunting opportunities for Dall sheep in Alaska but, aside from very low odds draw tags, there are currently no archery seasons or areas for sheep hunting in the Southcentral. This is a proposal for a resident and nonresident, August 1 – August 5 registration archery season for full curl Dall Sheep in Units 7 and 15 Remainder.

During the regular rifle season, bowhunting is difficult to safely achieve given the overall popularity of sheep hunting and the ability of rifle hunters to take very long shots. Bowhunters often spend many hours to days attempting to get within bow range of a particular ram and rifle hunters can easily interfere with any chance of a successful bow hunt. In the worst case, it’s even possible for rifle hunters to unknowingly shoot over the backs of bowhunters stalking sheep, especially in more popular and easily accessible areas.

In addition, there are many nonresident bowhunters who would welcome an opportunity for a guided bow hunt outside of the regular sheep season. Such a season would provide additional revenue for guiding operations and make Alaska a more competitive and appealing option for nonresidents bowhunters planning to book a sheep hunt.

In the past, early bow seasons were rejected by the Board of Game, in part, because of concern that bowhunters would push sheep out of certain areas just prior to the season. In this proposal the bow season would match the existing youth season, August 1 – August 5, thereby giving the sheep

a five-day break from hunting all pressure prior to the general season.

A bowhunting season in Units 7 and 15 Remainder would provide a wonderful opportunity for bowhunters to spend time safely in the mountains and is very unlikely to impact sheep populations and numbers of legal rams. Over the ten-year period from 2009-2018 bowhunters killed about 1% of legal rams taken in the Alaska’s general season. Even in the DS140/141 and DS240/241, which are bowhunting only draw hunts for *any ram* in an easily accessible area, the success rate over the same ten-year period was about two – three rams per year for almost 70 tags awarded each year, and only a small fraction of the rams that were killed in these hunts would be considered legal in a full curl only area.

Combined with a short season that is separated from the general season by five days and a very low projected success rate, there is no downside to allowing bowhunters an opportunity to safely pursue sheep each season in this region. It would simply allow bowhunters a short window each year to pursue sheep in a safer and more enjoyable fashion.

Making this a registration hunt would allow for accurate statistics about harvest and use.

In addition, aerial scouting should not be allowed during this season (or any other time while sheep hunting is allowed).

PROPOSED BY: Paul Forward (EG-F22-149)

PROPOSAL 112

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

Establish a general sheep hunting season, open for take by bow and arrow only in Unit 15 Remainder as follows:

General Season

15

Unit 15, Remainder

Nonresidents

Bag limit: One ram with full-curl horn or larger every four regulatory years

Season dates: Aug. 10 – Sept. 20

OR

One ram with full-curl horn or larger by bow and arrow only every four regulatory years

Season dates: Sept. 21 – Oct. 5

Hunt requires harvest ticket

General Season

15

Unit 15, Remainder

Residents only

Bag limit: One ram with full-curl horn or larger

Season dates: Aug 10 – Sept 20

OR

One ram with full-curl horn or larger by bow and arrow only every four regulatory years

Season dates: Sept. 21 – Oct. 5

Hunt requires harvest ticket

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 proceed the current general season which, combined with the already existing full curl requirements and limits of archery equipment, would add to the difficulty in harvest and limit impact on sheep populations. This hunt would most likely only result in the taking of a couple of rams per year if any at all.

PROPOSED BY: Alaskan Bowhunters Association (EG-F22-154)

PROPOSAL 113

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

Establish a general sheep season open for take by bow and arrow only, in Unit 7 Remainder as follows:

General Season

07

Unit 7, Remainder

Residents only

Bag limit: One ram with full-curl horn or larger

Season dates: Aug. 10 – Sept. 20

OR

One ram with full-curl horn or larger by bow and arrow only

Season dates: Sept 21 – Oct 5

Hunt requires harvest ticket

General Season

07

Unit 7, Remainder

Nonresidents

Bag limit: One ram with full-curl horn or larger every four regulatory years

Season dates: Aug 10. – Sept. 20

OR

One ram with full-curl horn or larger by bow and arrow only every four regulatory years

Season dates: Sept 21 – Oct 5

Hunt requires harvest ticket

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 proceed the current general season which, combined with the already existing full curl requirements and limits of archery equipment, would add to the difficulty in harvest and limit impact on sheep populations. This hunt would most likely only result in the taking of a couple of rams per year if any at all.

PROPOSED BY: Alaskan Bowhunters Association (EG-F22-156)

PROPOSAL 114

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

Change the RG331 goat hunt in Unit 7 to an archery only hunt as follows:

RG331 - 1 goat by **Bow and Arrow only for certified bowhunters**, by permit available online at <http://hunt.alaska.gov> or in person in Anchorage, Homer, Palmer, and Soldotna beginning Oct 27 (only selected areas open)

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? RG 331 does not appear to have been opened for several years but does have a resident goat population. Much of the unit also lies within close proximity to very popular hiking and biking trails and is also close to the community of Hope. In addition there are essentially no road accessible registration goat hunting opportunities for archery hunters in the Chugach and Kenai Mountains. Changing RG331 to archery only would allow for increased hunter opportunity, decrease user conflict but avoiding the loud discharges and perceived danger or long range weapons in close proximity to popular trails and community, and would likely have very little impact on the local goat population based on harvest success rates of archery goat hunts. Finally, archery hunters are much less likely to inadvertently harvest a nanny because of the extended amounts of close range observation required to successfully take a goat with a bow.

PROPOSED BY: Paul Forward (EG-F22-145)

PROPOSAL 115

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

Divide all Unit 15C goat drawing hunts into two seasons as follows:

Modify all goat draw hunts on Kenai Peninsula units to two draw hunts with the first season August 10 to September 15 and the second season September 16 to October 15

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The draw goat hunts on the Kenai Peninsula have limited access and although there are low number of tags given out annually, hunters still end up competing with other hunters. Also, given the ability to apply for up to six hunts now has made drawing a tag more difficult in some units. Splitting the draw hunts into two hunts would provide more draw opportunities and reduce crowding at popular access locations.

PROPOSED BY: Dave Lyon (EG-F22-143)

PROPOSAL 116

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

Change the regulation to clarify goat hunters in Unit 15C are restricted from taking goat on the Kenai Peninsula for five years if a nanny is harvested as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
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(3)

Unit 15(C), that portion beginning at the mouth of Jakalof Creek, then southwesterly along the shore of Kachemak Bay to the mouth of the Port Graham River, then southeasterly up the Port Graham River approximately 6 miles, then southerly up the south fork to the divide, then easterly across the divide to the main drainage that flows into Windy Bay, then southeasterly down the creek to Windy Bay, then easterly along the shoreline to the mouth of Rocky River, then northerly up the Rocky River and Windy River to the divide separating Windy River from

Jakalof Creek, then across that divide to Jakalof Creek, then down Jakalof Creek to the point of origin

1 goat by drawing permit only; **however, if a nanny is taken in either season, the hunter is prohibited from taking a goat on the Kenai Peninsula for 5 regulatory years;** the taking of nannies with kids is prohibited

Aug.10—Oct. 15

No open season.

Nov.1—Nov. 30

No open season.

1 goat by registration permit only; **however, if a nanny is taken in in either season, the hunter is prohibited from taking a goat on the Kenai Peninsula for 5 regulatory years;** the taking of nannies with kids is prohibited; or

Aug.10—Oct. 15

No open season.

Nov.1—Nov. 30

No open season.

Unit 15(C), that portion beginning at the mouth of the Port Graham River, then southeasterly up the Port Graham River approximately 6 miles, then southerly up the south fork to the divide, then easterly across the divide to the main drainage that flows into Windy Bay, then southeasterly down the creek to Windy Bay, then along the southern shore of Windy Bay, then westerly along the shore of the Gulf of Alaska and around the tip of the Kenai Peninsula and easterly to the point of origin

1 goat by registration permit only; **however, if a nanny is taken in either season, the hunter is prohibited from taking a goat on the Kenai Peninsula for 5 regulatory years;** the taking of nannies with kids is prohibited

Aug.10—Oct. 15

Aug.10—Oct. 15

Nov.1—Nov. 30

No open season.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? At the 2019 Board of Game meeting, the board established a new hunt, DG364, and separated the late season of RG364 and RG365 into RG374 and RG375 to aid ADF&G in the distribution of tags and tracking hunts in these management areas. When these new hunts were established, the board was asked to clarify that the five year no hunting penalty that has been listed in the handy dandy hunting regulations applies to all Kenai hunts. Unfortunately, the codified wording was not clarified. Since 2009, the general public including the communities of Seldovia, Nanwalek, and Port Graham have been under the impression that if a hunter harvested a nanny in these hunt areas, he or she was unable to hunt goats on the Kenai Peninsula for five years. The regulation wording available to the general public has read “If a nanny is taken, the hunter is prohibited from hunting any goats in Units 7 & 15 for 5 regulatory years”. The local communities understand the importance of limiting harvest to billies to preserve the integrity of the hunt and encourage their hunters to do so.

PROPOSED BY: Seldovia Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-F22-039)

PROPOSAL 117

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

Implement the penalty for taking nannies in the RG364, 365 and 374 goat hunts in Unit 15C as follows:

Instate the nanny penalty for goat hunts RG 364, 365 and 374. This is housekeeping and should not be an issue.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Recently created goat hunts (RG 364, 374 and 365) are on the Kenai end in the area where there is a penalty for taking a nanny this was inadvertently overlooked when the hunts were authorized.

PROPOSED BY: Homer Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-F22-066)

PROPOSAL 118

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

Change the general season, resident bag limit for moose in Unit 15 to include bulls with fork antlers as follows:

One bull with spike-fork antlers on at least one side or 50-inch antlers, or antlers with three or more brow tines on at least one side.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The issue I would like the board to address is to look at including fork antlered moose becoming a legal bull again in all of Unit 15, during the general hunting season.

Why: The moose population on the Kenai Peninsula west of the Kenai Mountains is increasing nicely. The increase is largely because of fires, brown bear hunting seasons which in some areas include baiting and a series of relatively easy winters. By including the fork bull as a legal animal, it would bring Unit 15 in line with the Alaska Constitution management plan of sustainable yield

basis. It would also open another opportunity for Alaska families to provide food for the dinner table. Having the fork antlers back would make Unit 15 the same as all other units with spike-fork regulations.

PROPOSED BY: Laine Lahndt (HQ-F22-004)

PROPOSAL 119

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

Create an archery only moose hunt in Unit 7 Remainder for both residents and nonresidents as follows:

Unit 7 Remainder

Residents and nonresidents

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

OR

One bull with a spike on at least one side or 50-inch antlers or antlers with three or more brow tines on at least one side Sept. 1-Sept. 25.

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 exactly the early, bow and arrow only seasons in Units 15A Remainder and 15B Remainder.

PROPOSED BY: Alaskan Bowhunters Association (EG-F22-119)

PROPOSAL 120

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

Open an archery, fall moose hunt in Unit 15 as follows:

Open moose season, bow and arrow, August 15 to August 30 for a spike on at least one side or 50-inch antlers or antlers with three or more brow tines on at least one side

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I would like to see a bow and arrow opening for moose from August 15 to August 30.

PROPOSED BY: Gary Deiman (EG-F22-153)

PROPOSAL 121

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

Establish an early archery only moose hunt in Unit 15C to align with Units 15A and 15B as follows:

Establish an early season, archery only hunt in Unit 15C to run concurrent with the existing archery hunts in Units 15A and 15B.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Units 15A and 15B have an early archery only moose season on the Kenai Peninsula. There is no reason not to extend this to Unit 15C. This would bring the entire unit into the same regulations. This would also negate the occasional incident where hunters unknowingly shoot a moose in Unit 15C during the archery season.

PROPOSED BY: Homer Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-F22-069)

PROPOSAL 122

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

Establish an early, archery only registration moose hunt in Unit 15C to align with Units 15A and 15B as follows:

This is a proposal to establish an early archery only season for moose in Unit 15C. This would be a registration hunt. The dates should reflect the dates for Unit 15A and 15B.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Absence of an archery season in Unit 15C for moose. Justification: Units 15A and 15B already have an archery only season and this would simply complete and make consistent this season for the rest of Unit 15.

PROPOSED BY: Joseph Brewer (EG-F22-023)

PROPOSAL 123

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

Establish an archery only, fall moose hunt in Unit 15C as follows:

Early moose season bow and arrow only: August 10 - 29.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Hopefully granting Unit 15C an early bow and arrow only moose season just like Units 15A and B, from 8/10 - 8/29.

PROPOSED BY: Dave Hahn (EG-F22-015)

PROPOSAL 124

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 15C Remainder as follows:

Unit 15C Remainder

Residents

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

OR

One bull with a spike on at least one side or 50-inch antlers or antlers with three or more brow tines on at least one side Sept. 1 - Sept. 25

Nonresidents

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

OR

One bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with three or more brow tines on at least one side Sept. 1-Sept. 25.

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 Unit 15A Remainder and 15B Remainder.

PROPOSED BY: Alaskan Bowhunters Association (EG-F22-120)

PROPOSAL 125

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

Establish a fall archery hunt for moose in Unit 15C to align with Units 15A and 15B as follows:

Add a taking one bull with spike-fork, three brow tines and 50-inch antlers between Aug. 22 – Aug. 29 in Unit 15C.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Unit 15C currently has no archery season for moose. I request that the Board of Game add an archery season that aligns with

the seasons already in place in Units 15A and 15B. These subunits hold less moose than Unit 15C and would help spread out the harvest over the entire unit instead of the areas with higher predator populations and less moose.

PROPOSED BY: Caleb Martin (EG-F22-126)

PROPOSAL 126

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

Establish an early archery moose hunt in Unit 15C as follows:

I would recommend changing the law so that early moose archery season in Unit 15 includes 15C. It currently excludes Unit 15C.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I would like to see the early moose archery season, currently limited to Units 15A and 15B, expanded to include Unit 15C. I see no reason for the current exclusion, and am a hunter in Unit 15C. This proposal is solely in reference to Unit 15.

PROPOSED BY: David Lama (HQ-F22-035)

PROPOSAL 127

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

Extend the TM549 moose hunting season in Unit 15C, Southwest of Point Pogibshi as follows:

Sept. 1 [AUG. 25] – Sept. 30 **and Nov. 1 - Nov.15.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Extend the TM549 open season for moose in Unit 15C, southwest of a line from Point Pogibshi to the point of land between Rocky and Windy Bays in order to increase hunter opportunity in the area. Inconsistent weather conditions have in the past limited hunting during the scheduled open season that is currently between August 25 and September 30. Area hunters have been experiencing effects of climate change and moose are migrating and rutting later than usual. A longer season would allow hunters more flexibility to schedule hunts around challenging weather conditions. ADF&G data shows that Tier II TM549 moose harvest has declined in recent years. From 2011-2017 hunter harvest averaged 2.4 moose/year. However, the most recent three-year average is 1.3 moose/year. ADF&G reported that no moose have been harvested between 2010-2021 prior to September 1st. The earliest date of harvest during this time was September 4th.

PROPOSED BY: Chugach Regional Resources Commission (EG-F22-049)

PROPOSAL 128

5 AAC 85.045(13). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.

Reauthorize the antlerless moose seasons in Unit 15C as follows:

This proposal would reauthorize the antlerless moose hunt for the Homer bench (DM549) and the targeted hunt (AM550).

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(13)		
...		
Unit 15(C), that portion south of the south fork of the Anchor River and northwest of Kachemak Bay		
RESIDENT HUNTERS:		
...		
1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only; the taking of calves, and females accompanied by calves, is prohibited; up to 100 permits may be issued in combination with the nonresident drawing hunt: or	Oct. 20—Nov. 20	
...		
1 moose by targeted permit only[,]	Oct. 15—Mar. 31	
NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:		
...		
1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only; the taking of calves, and females accompanied by calves, is prohibited; up to 100 permits may be issued in combination with the resident drawing hunt		Oct. 20—Nov. 20

Remainder of Unit 15(C)

...

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

...

1 moose by targeted permit only[,]

Oct. 15—Mar. 31

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Antlerless moose seasons must be reauthorized annually, and the department recommends reauthorization of the Homer bench hunt (DM549) and the targeted hunt (AM550) along the Sterling Highway in Unit 15C for the 2023-24 hunting season.

In February 2017, a GSPE census was conducted in the northern portion of Unit 15C (north of Kachemak Bay) and resulted in a population estimate of 3,529 moose (95% CI: range 2,769–4,289), of which 19% (95% CI: 14–24) were calves. This equates to a density of approximately 3 moose/mi² in the census area. Fall composition counts in core count areas during December 2019 provided a bull ratio of 33 bulls:100 cows.

The Homer bench land in Unit 15C, which encompasses the hunt boundary of DM549, contains high densities of moose when deep snow drives moose into human populated areas. Even without deep snow, some moose die due to malnutrition and negative interactions with humans occur as moose become more aggressive in their search for food around human residences. Fifty permits were issued in each of the last 10 years resulting in an average harvest of 25 cows annually.

The purpose of AM550 is to allow for the harvest of antlerless moose along the Sterling Highway in Unit 15C during deep snow winters to reduce moose and vehicle collisions. On average, 63 known animals are killed each year in vehicle collisions in Unit 15C. The department will decide when and where permits will be issued during the hunt period. Targeted hunts are administered through a registration permit and up to 100 moose may be taken. The number of permits issued each year will depend on conditions, and it is possible no permits will be issued in some years.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F22-048)

PROPOSAL 129

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

Expand the hunt area boundaries for the antlerless moose hunt in Unit 15C as follows:

Expand the boundaries of the Homer cow moose hunt as follows... Beginning at the mouth of Deep Creek then easterly along Deep Creek to Caribou Lake to the outlet of Fox Creek, then south along Fox Creek to the mouth of Fox Creek.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Since the inception of the Homer cow moose hunt (DM549) the land that was once open has for the most part been developed and/or posted. This has resulted in increasing conflict as hunting effort is concentrated in only a few legal areas.

Research has shown that cows in Unit 15C wander widely and that expanding the area of the hunt would not be detrimental to the overall moose population.

PROPOSED BY: Homer Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-F22-064)

PROPOSAL 130

5 AAC 92.118. Intensive Management Plans IV.

Renew and update the Unit 15C Intensive Management Plan as follows:

(c) Unit 15(C) Predation Control Area. The Unit 15(C) Predation Control Area is established and consists of all lands within Unit 15(C) north of Kachemak Bay including the Fox River Flats (1,171 square miles); state and private lands are approximately 856 square miles;

(1) this is a continuing **habitat enhancement and predator** control program that was first established by the Board of Game (board) in 2012 for wolf control; it is [CURRENTLY] designed to increase moose **abundance** [NUMBERS] and harvest by **improving habitat and** reducing predation on moose by wolves and is expected to [MAKE A CONTRIBUTION TO ACHIEVING] **maintain** the intensive management (IM) objectives in Unit 15(C);

(2) moose and wolf objectives are as follows:

(A) moose IM population objectives for Unit 15(C) as established in 5 AAC 92.108 are 2,500 - 3,500 moose. This objective is within the range of historic population estimates; the bull-to-cow objective is 20 - 25:100 for Unit 15(C);

(B) the moose harvest objectives for Unit 15(C) is 200 - 350 moose; which is eight percent of the low population objective and 10 percent of the high population objective;

(C) the department has determined that wolves can be removed from public and private lands within the control area to the extent possible without affecting the sustainability of the wolf population in Unit 15(C) because the control area is approximately 33 percent of Unit 15(C) and does not include all lands that the wolf population occupies;

(3) findings concerning populations and human use are as follows:

(A) **repealed** __/__/____;

(B) wolf predation is likely **a factor in the failure to achieve moose population and harvest objectives** [AN IMPORTANT CAUSE OF THE FAILURE TO ACHIEVE THESE OBJECTIVES];

(C) a reduction in wolf predation in Unit 15(C) may make progress toward achieving the Unit 15(C) IM harvest objectives for moose;

(D) reducing wolf predation **is likely to be effective and feasible using** [HAS BEEN EFFECTIVE UTILIZING] recognized and prudent active management techniques and based on scientific information;

(E) reducing wolf numbers is likely to be effective given land ownership patterns if conducted by department personnel;

(F) **repealed** __/__/____;

(4) authorized methods and means are as follows:

(A) hunting and trapping of wolves by the public in the Unit 15(C) Predation Control Area during the term of the program will occur as provided in the hunting and trapping regulations set out elsewhere in this title, including the use of motorized vehicles;

(B) notwithstanding any other provisions in this title, the commissioner may issue public aerial shooting permits or public land and shoot permits as a method for wolf removal

under AS 16.05.783;

(C) department personnel will be allowed to conduct aerial wolf removal using aircraft under AS 16.05.783.

(5) time frame is as follows:

(A) through **June 30, 2029** [JULY 1, 2022], the commissioner may authorize the removal of wolves in the Unit 15(C) Predation Control Area;

(B) annually the department shall, to the extent practicable, provide to the board a report of program activities conducted during the preceding 12 months, including implementation activities, the status of the moose and wolf populations, and recommendations for changes, if necessary to achieve the objectives of the plan.

(6) the commissioner will review, modify, or suspend program activities as follows:

(A) when the mid-point of the IM population and harvest objectives for the moose population are achieved;

(B) if, after three years, the harvest of wolves is not sufficient to make progress towards the IM population objectives for wolves;

(C) wolf predation control activities may be suspended:

(i) if, after three years, there is no detectable increase in the total harvest of moose in the control area;

(ii) if, after three years, any measure **such as twinning rates and short-yearling mass**, consistent with significant levels of nutritional stress in the moose population is identified;

(iii) when the moose population and harvest objectives within Unit 15(C) have been met; or

(iv) if the population exceeds a density of 3.0 moose per square mile;

(7) The department may plan and execute habitat enhancement projects in areas identified for improvement based on evidence at the landscape or population level through prescribed burns, wildfire, or mechanical means to increase the potential carrying capacity across the range in the Unit 15(C) Predation Control Area.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Unit 15C Intensive Management (IM) plan expires July 1, 2022. Due to rescheduling of board meetings due to the CoV-SARS 2 pandemic this proposal will be presented to the board after expiration. The department would like to have the plan reauthorized with predator control and habitat enhancement options. While the Unit 15C moose population and harvest objectives are currently being met the department sees a benefit to reauthorizing and updating the plan. Updates to the plan include adding habitat enhancement, which was not the focus in the initial IM plan development. The department's intent is to utilize habitat work to maintain moose populations within objectives, which will support meeting harvest objectives. Several habitat enhancement operations are being developed for use in Unit 15C and because of recent fire activity the department has the opportunity to research and monitor habitat changes over time.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F22-058)

PROPOSAL 131

5 AAC 85.045(13). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.

Reauthorize the antlerless moose season on Kalgin Island in Unit 15B as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(13)		
...		
Unit 15(B), Kalgin Island		
1 moose per regulatory year, by registration permit only	Aug. 20—Sept. 20	Aug. 20—Sept. 20
...		

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Antlerless moose hunts must be reauthorized annually by the board. The current regulation for hunting moose on Kalgin Island in Unit 15B allows hunters to harvest antlerless moose with the goal of reducing the population to the management objective.

In response to concerns that the moose population on Kalgin Island had exceeded the island’s carrying capacity and deteriorating habitat conditions, the board established a drawing permit hunt for antlerless moose in 1995. In a further attempt to reduce the number of moose on the island, the board established a registration hunt for any moose in 1999. Despite these measures to reduce moose numbers, moose remain abundant on the island and continue to meet or exceed the management objective.

During the most recent moose survey, department staff counted 30 moose on Kalgin Island in February 2022. However, this survey suffered from poor conditions for detecting moose and long term data indicates the population has been relatively stable for 10 years. This count is within the population objective of 20–40 moose. In the last 10 years, an average of 121 permits were issued for this hunt; of which 91 permittees hunted, with an annual average harvest of 30 moose.

The any moose registration hunt is recommended to provide liberal harvest opportunity on this predator-free island population. A registration hunt also allows the department to continue gathering biological information from specimens provided by successful hunters. The difficult hunting conditions and limited access will make over-harvest unlikely.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F22-049)

PROPOSAL 132

5 AAC 92.171(b). Sealing of horns and antlers.

Remove the antler sealing requirement for moose harvested on Kalgin Island and from the TM549 Tier II subsistence area as follows:

5 AAC 92.171(b).

(b) A person may not alter, possess, transport, or export from the state, the antlers of a moose taken in any hunt in Units 7, excluding the Placer River drainages, and that portion of the Placer Creek (Bear Valley) drainage outside the Portage Glacier Closed Area, and 15, **excluding Kalgin Island and that portion of Unit 15C southwest of a line from Point Pogibshi to the point of land between Rocky Bay and Windy Bay**, unless the antlers have been permanently sealed by a department representative within 10 days after the taking, or a lesser time if designated by the department.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? During the 2010 Board of Game meeting the board passed a regulation requiring all antlers from moose harvested on the Kenai Peninsula be sealed by a department representative. When this regulation was established, the Tier II subsistence moose hunt (TM549) was unintentionally included, and Kalgin Island was located in Unit 16. The bag limit on Kalgin Island is one moose, and the bag limit in the Tier II hunt is one bull. The sealing requirement in Units 7 and 15 was established to address the take of sublegal bulls, and because neither of these areas has antler restrictions there is no need to seal moose harvested in those hunts.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F22-062)

PROPOSAL 133

5 AAC 92.085. Unlawful methods of taking big game, exceptions.

Prohibit the taking of black bear from boats in Unit 15C as follows:

Illegal to shoot black bear from boat in Unit 15C.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Currently it is legal to shoot black bear from a boat in Unit 15C. This is confusing as it is prohibited in Unit 6D, Prince William sound.

PROPOSED BY: Homer Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-F22-065)

PROPOSAL 134

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

Extend the brown bear season in Units 7 and 15 as follows:

Change hunting regulations to read:

One bear every regulatory year by permit available online at <http://hunt.alaska.gov> or in person in Anchorage, Homer, Palmer, and Soldotna beginning Aug. 4.

RB300 August 10 - June 30

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Currently, Units 7 and 15 brown bear seasons start in September and end May 30th. Brown bears are commonly seen on sheep hunts and close to residential areas in August. Due to the season not starting yet, these conflicts must be handled by agencies rather than the public. Furthermore, brown bears are commonly seen on black bear bait sites in June and can be seen with a full hide even late in the season. It is not known exactly when a bear will or will not rub. The trophy value of a bear or if it is too rubbed should be left to the hunter to make a determination when he has the opportunity. It is common to see rubbed bears during the season early just as it is late. If the season is open to match the black bear season, hunters could have more opportunity to take these late season bears that have still full hides.

PROPOSED BY: Caleb Martin (EG-F22-134)

PROPOSAL 135

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

Extend the brown bear season in Unit 15 from May 31 to June 30, to align with the black bear baiting season as follows:

Brown /Grizzly Bear season: Sept. 1st - June 30th.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Brown bear season in Unit 15, for hunting opportunity and season alignment with the black bear baiting season.

PROPOSED BY: Wayne Ctibor and Dennis Johns (EG-F22-074 and 076)

PROPOSAL 136

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

Extend the season for the brown bear registration hunts in Units 7 and 15 to June 15 as follows:

Brown bear

Units 7 and 15

1 brown bear every year by registration permit only

Resident season

Nonresident season

Sept. 1 to [MAY 31] **June 15**

Sept. 1 to [MAY 31] **June 15**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Lost brown bear hunting opportunity during the spring season on the Kenai Peninsula, Units 7 and 15. Hunting for brown bear on the Kenai Peninsula is closely managed using an annual harvest quota of 50 to 60 bears or 8-12 females five years old or older, from all known mortality. Harvested brown bear in these Units must be reported to ADF&G within five days and presented for sealing within ten days. Since this quota management system has been in place (fall of 2013), the season has only been closed one time on the Kenai National Refuge portion of Unit 15. The hunting method of baiting

bears is allowed on the Kenai National Refuge for black bear, but it is not allowed for brown bear.

A review of brown bears seasons reveals 12 units or portions of units have spring seasons ending either June 15 or June 30. Unit 13 has an open season all year.

There will be some concern about harvesting a bear with a poor-quality hide if hunting is extended later in the spring. However, some bears have poor-quality hides in the fall and spring. Hunters can be selective and avoid harvesting a bear with a rubbed hide.

PROPOSED BY: Ted Spraker (EG-F22-055)

PROPOSAL 137

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

Extend the brown bear registration hunt (RB300) in Unit 7 to June 15 as follows:

Extend RB300 to June 15th.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Brown bear season ends May 31st for RB300. I am looking to extend it to June 15th. It seems the brown bears in this Unit rut later for higher elevations and I believe extending the season would assist hunters in success. This would also increase opportunity for Alaskan residents

PROPOSED BY: Brian Watkins (EG-F22-006)

PROPOSAL 138

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

Extend the brown bear season in Unit 15 to June 15 as follows:

The new regulation would say: Sept. 1st - June 15th.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Brown bear season dates. I believe the season closes to early, in my observations I believe the bear movement is just starting to pick up for the spring season when the current season closes.

PROPOSED BY: Danielle Wendt (EG-F22-050)

PROPOSAL 139

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

Extend the brown bear season for the RB300 hunt in Units 7 and 15 to June 15 as follows:

All of Units 7 and 15, where hunting is legal:

One brown bear, every regulatory year by permit Sept 1- **June 15** [May 31]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? There seems to be a very

stable brown bear population in units 7 and 15 and the opportunity to pursue them after May 31 should not have a negative impact. This area is already a registration hunt so ADF&G could close it early if too many bears were being taken. A few more bears taken would surely help the moose population as well.

PROPOSED BY: Logan Kurtz (EG-F22-158)

PROPOSAL 140

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

Extend the season for brown bear under RB300 open for take by bow and arrow only, in Units 7 and 15 as follows:

RB300

All of Unit 7 and 15, where hunting is legal.

Residents and Nonresidents

One (1) brown bear, every regulatory year by permit Sept. 1-May 31

OR

All of Unit 7 and 15, where hunting is legal excluding within 1/2 mile of the Russian and Kenai Rivers.

Residents and Nonresidents

One (1) brown bear, every regulatory year by permit, 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 on the Kenai Peninsula and desire an extended time in which 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. This hunt is already a registration hunt and the department can easily close it by emergency order if deemed necessary. It should be remembered that this hunt currently has an unlimited number of permits to be issued. The geographic restrictions 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-F22-123)

PROPOSAL 141

5 AAC 92.044. Permit for hunting bear with the use of bait or scent lures.

Lengthen the bear baiting season in Unit 7 as follows:

Unit 7 Dates: April 1- June 30th

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Baiting season in Unit 7 currently runs April 15 - June 30. I am proposing the season start date be changed to April 1st. My justification is hunter safety. A season that starts two weeks earlier creates less dangerous conditions for hunters due to; avalanches, open creeks, and open lakes. I have been baiting in Unit 7 for a decade and the bear harvest should not be affected by the earlier start date. April 15th is typically close to when over flow is rampant on lakes and avalanche danger from longer, warmer days is prevalent. It would be safer for hunters to get their initial set up in two weeks earlier

PROPOSED BY: Brian Watkins (EG-F22-009)

PROPOSAL 142

5 AAC 92.044. Permit for hunting bear with the use of bait or scent lures.

Lengthen the brown bear baiting season in Unit 15 as follows:

Start the bear baiting season April 1 instead of April 15.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Open bear baiting start from April 1 instead of April 15.

PROPOSED BY: Gary Deiman (EG-F22-155)

PROPOSAL 143

5 AAC 92.044. Permit for hunting bear with the use of bait or scent lures.

Restrict bear bait stations within a half mile of certain structures in Unit 15 as follows:

Change the restriction from 1 mile to 1/2 mile from structure.

You may not set up a bait station within 1/2 mile of a:

- house (including your own)
- school
- business
- ETC

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Setting up bear baits within 1 mile of a structure. Restricts access to a lot of land for bear baiting.

PROPOSED BY: Danielle Wendt (EG-F22-051)

PROPOSAL 144

5 AAC 92.044. Permit for hunting bear with the use of bait or scent lures.

Define "developed recreation facility" and "permanent dwelling" for bear baiting in Units 15 and 7 as follows:

I would ask the Board of Game to define “developed recreational facility” as a state-maintained multiuse area that provides services for shooting, launching of watercraft, or camping. It also must include signage and buildings that are regularly maintained for the purpose of recreation.

I would ask the board to define “permanent dwelling” as a structure permanently fixed in place, legally owned by the public or a private individual, and occupied for a minimum of 30 days per year.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Currently for bear baiting in Units 15 and 7 the regulations read:

- 5) a person may not use bait or scent lures within
 - (A) one-quarter mile of a publicly maintained road, trail, or the Alaska Railroad;
 - (B) one mile of a
 - (i) house or other permanent dwelling, except that bait may be used within one mile of a cabin if the cabin is on the opposite side of a major river system, as identified by the department in the permit, from the bear baiting station;
 - (ii) business; or
 - (iii) school; or
 - (C) one mile of a developed campground or developed recreational facility;

There is no definition of what a permanent dwelling or recreational facility is. When I spoke to three different Alaska Wildlife Troopers and multiple ADF&G offices, not only was there different answers, but several officials assumed it was up to the INTERPRETATION of the wildlife officers to determine how to define these areas. I have spoken to many members of the public who have spoken about getting fined or had to prove in court what is, or is not legal when it comes to these areas. One officer may determine a bait site legal, while another may charge a hunter. The regulations currently allow an officer to determine a duck blind, tree stand or any type of structure as a permanent dwelling with no recourse when the courts determine otherwise.

PROPOSED BY: Caleb Martin (EG-F22-130)

PROPOSAL 145

5 AAC 92.510. Areas closed to hunting.

5 AAC 92.550. Areas closed to trapping.

Close areas to hunting and trapping within 1/4 mile of parts of the Sterling Highway in Units 7 and 15 as follows:

5 AAC 92.510. Areas closed to hunting.

Amend to include all lands within 1/4 mile of the five wildlife structures (including the structures themselves) being constructed as part of the Sterling Highway MP 45-60 Project: two underpasses and one overpass in Unit 7 and two underpasses in Unit 15A.

5 AAC 92.550. Areas closed to trapping.

Amend to include all lands within 1/4 mile of the five wildlife structures (including the structures themselves) being constructed as part of the Sterling Highway MP 45-60 Project: two underpasses and one overpass in Unit 7 and two underpasses in Unit 15A.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Sterling Highway mile post (MP) 45-60 Project (aka Cooper Landing Bypass) includes more than \$10.5 million in mitigation for wildlife crossings including four underpasses and the first overpass in Alaska. Two underpasses are in Unit 15A between Jim’s Landing and Sportsman’s Landing along the existing highway; two underpasses and one vegetated overpass are in Unit 7 between Sportsman’s Landing and Cooper Landing along the new bypass.

These structures are expected to help reduce moose-vehicle collisions (that average more than \$35,000 per incident in damage, injury and sometimes human death according to the Alaska Moose Federation) and allow for other wildlife species to move unimpeded across a road segment that currently averages > 1.2 million vehicles per year.

Cameras installed to monitor similar wildlife underpasses on the adjacent Sterling Highway MP 58-79 through the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge have already documented use by moose, lynx, snowshoe hare, brown and black bears, porcupine, caribou, river otter, ermine, mink, ducks and sandhill cranes. More wildlife use is expected once game trails become well established, a likely outcome because trapping and hunting around those structures are incidentally prohibited by other safety restrictions imposed by the Refuge near roads, campgrounds, trailheads, and buildings.

However, the new structures being installed on the Sterling Highway MP 45-60 project do not have protections for wildlife while they use them. Without a change in regulation, hunting and trapping would be permitted on and at the entrance/exit of multi-million dollar structures meant to create safe passage across the highway; these underpasses and this bypass, meant to benefit wildlife, could turn into a population sink.

We seek to ensure that the \$10+ million investment of public funds to help wildlife navigate an increasingly congested part of the Kenai Peninsula is honored by State hunting and trapping regulations.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Wildlife Alliance (HQ-F22-032)

PROPOSAL 146

5 AAC 92.550. Areas closed to trapping.

Establish trapping setbacks on specific trails within the Kachemak Bay State Park in Unit 15C as follows:

5 AAC 92.550 Areas closed to trapping.

.....(4) Unit 15:

...

(E) Those portions in Unit 15C that are within 100 yards from the Diamond Creek Trail, the Grewingk Glacier Lake Trail and the Grewingk Saddle Trail are closed to trapping.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Require a 100-yard setback of traps from the Diamond Creek Trail, Grewingk Glacier Lake Trail and the Grewingk Saddle Trail within Kachemak Bay State Park. These trails are heavily used by the public during trapping season, accompanied by their dogs.

Other considerations, including appropriate signage warning park users of traps during trapping seasons, would help avoid conflicts but is labor intensive and requires funding which is currently not available.

Requiring park visitors to have their dogs on a leash during trapping season is another option. Skiing and snowshoeing with a dog on a leash is difficult and is not adhered to. Our rangers are already strapped with responsibilities and regulation enforcement is difficult at best.

Requiring trappers to get permits in the park, like Chugach State Park, would better educate users but would again require unavailable staff time, energy and additional funding.

If nothing is changed, dogs getting caught in traps will increase causing unnecessary trauma to park users and dogs, and huge public outcry. User conflicts are time consuming and energy draining for all involved. Already overtaxed and underfunded, ADF&G employees and Park staff will be increasingly burdened.

PROPOSED BY: Kachemak Bay State Park Citizen Advisory Board (EG-F22-030)

PROPOSAL 147

5 AAC 92.550. Areas closed to trapping.

Establish trapping setbacks along certain snow machine and Nordic ski trails in Unit 15C as follows:

We recommend no trapping within 100 yards from Snomad mapped trails in Unit 15C and 100 yards from Kachemak Nordic Ski Club Trails in Unit 15C.

5 AAC 92.550

(4) Unit 15C

...

E. within 100 yards from Snomad trails in 15(C);

F. within 100 yards from Kachemak Nordic Ski Club Trails in 15(C).

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? With a growing population on the lower Kenai Peninsula and an increase in non-consumptive users on multi-use trails, conflict with traditional trapping areas and incidents of pet dogs being caught in traps is becoming more common in Unit 15C.

Local trappers, non-consumptive trail users, and the Homer AC working together propose that: traps set adjacent to public mapped trails in Unit 15C be at least 100 yards from the main trail.

If a 100-yard setback is not implemented, there will be more user conflicts on public trails, as the number of non-consumptive users increases on public trails in winter each year in Unit 15C.

PROPOSED BY: Homer Fish and Game Advisory Committee, Sid Wolford and Kathy Sarns Irwin (EG-F22-048)

PROPOSAL 148

5 AAC 92.550. Areas closed to trapping.

Require 100-yard trapping setbacks from known multi-use trails in Unit 7 as follows:

I propose that traplines need to be set up, say 100 yards from known multi-use trails.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I live in Seward. Last winter on popular trails in the area, trappers were setting up traplines directly on the side of trails. I understand that this is not illegal but they are catching people’s dogs on these trails and causing quite a bit of user conflict.

PROPOSED BY: Jacob Swartz (EG-F22-098)

PROPOSAL 149

5 AAC 92.550. Areas closed to trapping.

Establish trapping setbacks along the perimeter of campgrounds in Unit 7 as follows:

1) SOLUTION:

We are requesting the Board of Game amend 5 AAC 92.550 to establish 1) a 100-yard trapping setback along the perimeter of the campgrounds listed and described in the table provided. 2) We are requesting a 50-yard trapping setback for traps with an inside spread of 5 inches or less, that are set at least 4 feet above the ground or snow level, and size 3 leghold marten traps set in boxes. We are requesting these changes to protect the safety of people and their pets utilizing campgrounds in the Cooper Landing area.

2) REGULATORY LANGUAGE:

ADD Regulatory Language for Unit 7: “Trap setback of 100-yards on all sides of the campgrounds listed. Traps with an inside spread of 5 inches or less which are at least 4 feet above the ground or snow level, and size 3 leghold marten traps in boxes are allowed if more than 50-yards from all sides of the campgrounds listed.”

- Quartz Creek Campground
- Crescent Creek Campground
- Russian River Campground
- Cooper Creek Campgrounds, North & South

The precedent for establishing trapping buffers for public safety along multi-use trails in the State of Alaska has already been set, most notably in the Municipality of Anchorage, parts of Chugach State Park, the City/Borough of Juneau, and along six trails and surrounding all school yards in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough. While these municipalities and boroughs have approved trapping regulations on lands they manage, they have not issued regulations for state-managed trails in deference to the regulatory powers of the Board of Game. We are asking the Board of Game to rectify this situation in our area.

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

1) ISSUE:

We are requesting the Board of Game amend 5 AAC 92.550 to establish 1) a 100-yard trapping setback along the perimeter of the campgrounds listed and described in the table provided. 2) We are requesting a 50-yard trapping setback for traps with an inside spread of 5 inches or less, that are set at least 4 feet above the ground or snow level, and size 3 leghold marten traps set in boxes. We are requesting these changes to protect the safety of people and their pets’ utilizing campgrounds in the Cooper Landing area.

Unit	Campground Name	Location	Winter Uses
7	Quartz Creek Campground	Mile 1 Quartz Creek Road, Cooper Landing	Cross-country skiing, skijoring, snowshoeing, hiking, fat tire biking, dog mushing, dog training,
7	Crescent Creek Campground	Mile 3 Quartz Creek Road, Cooper Landing	Cross-country skiing, skijoring, snowshoeing, hiking, fat tire biking, dog mushing, dog training,
7	Russian River Campground	Entrance is Mile 53 Sterling Highway, Cooper Landing	Cross-country skiing, skijoring, snowshoeing, hiking, fat tire biking, dog mushing, dog training,

7	Cooper Creek Campgrounds, North & South	Mile 50.7 Sterling Highway, Cooper Landing	Cross-country skiing, skijoring, snowshoeing, hiking, fat tire biking, dog mushing, dog training,
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2) WHY:

Year-round outdoor recreation is an important and growing segment of the Cooper Landing area’s economy. The community of Cooper Landing is located on the Sterling highway at the headwaters of the Kenai River. Easily accessible by road, Cooper Landing is located only 100 hundred miles south of Anchorage, the largest city in the state. Cooper landing’s primary economy is based on summer recreation and tourism to the area, however, as winter recreation in the area increases, Cooper Landing businesses could take advantage of this opportunity and extend their seasonal offerings. To encourage the increasing number of family-friendly, active, outdoor recreational pursuits (e.g., winter biking, cross-country skiing, backcountry skiing, snowshoeing, trail running, ice fishing, bird hunting, and backcountry cabin rentals) in the area, it would be beneficial for business owners to be able to accurately market Cooper Landing as a fun, safe, and uniquely beautiful area, for visitors to enjoy with their family and pets.

As the amount of winter recreation has increased over the past 20 years, so has the number of dangerous encounters between user groups and traps set in recreational areas. While many trappers set their traps a responsible distance from campgrounds, trap placements close to campgrounds, present a very real danger, especially for young children and pets. As of late February 2022, seven dogs have been caught in traps throughout Southcentral Alaska, and two dogs were killed, as reported via the Alaska Press. Since land managers and law enforcement do not track trap safety incidents all reports are collected and tabulated unofficially and are considered incomplete. While we respect the rights of trappers to set their traplines near campgrounds, we are seeking trapping regulation that will ensure the safety of all area user groups.

Our proposed 100- and 50-yard trapping setbacks are not large enough to significantly limit a trappers’ opportunity to trap near a campground. Proposing setbacks for campgrounds still leave most other areas unrestricted to trapping. Trappers who follow the Trapper’s Code of Ethics’ third tenant, to “promote trapping methods that will reduce the possibility of catching non-target animals,” most likely already set traps back from campgrounds. The setbacks we are requesting will not unduly impact trappers and will greatly improve all user groups’ safety. These proposed setbacks would also align with the Forest Service’s Our Values Statement, which includes the intention of managing for “*Safety. In every way: physical, psychological, and social.*”

The 100- and 50-yard setbacks we have proposed would not present an undue burden on trappers. The average backpacking speed is 1 to 2 miles per hour. Assuming trappers are walking between one and two miles per hour, the setback distances requested would require only an additional two to three minutes of walking to place and check traps. Since many trappers use snow machines, the 100-yard setback could be crossed in less than 1 minute. **A local Cooper Landing trapper, as well as trappers from other nearby GMUs, have endorsed a 100- yard setback as reasonable and logical.**

Our proposed 100-yard and 50-yard setback distances will not impact the Board of Game’s ability to manage wildlife along the listed campgrounds. Should trapping a particular species within the setback become biologically necessary, the board could use a temporary permit

system to address any problem that might arise. A similar proposal requesting a 100-yard setback from trails has been submitted and endorsed by the Homer AC. Having regulations that are similar, will make management, education, and enforcement easier in Units 7 and 15.

Establishing trap setbacks in the Cooper Landing area has strong community support. Cooper Landing property owners and residents were surveyed about trapping issues in their area in March, 2021. Returned surveys were tallied to show that 90% of the respondents felt setbacks for traps in the Cooper Landing area were necessary, and 10% felt setbacks were unnecessary.

Our proposal includes all public campgrounds accessed by a variety of users groups during the trapping season. The campgrounds that we have proposed for trapping setbacks are used for: cross-country skiing, access to backcountry skiing, snowshoeing, hiking, fat tire biking, dog mushing, snow machining, travel by search and rescue dogs and personnel, hunting and trapping.

As of the 2019 census, there are 731,545 residents of the state of Alaska, and based on sealing records, license sales and the annual "Trapper Questionnaire," the Alaska Department of Fish and Game estimates 2,500 to 3,500 trappers in the state. By adopting this trapping regulation in Unit 7, the Board of Game would better represent the majority of its constituents and the current areas recreational uses.

PROPOSED BY: The Cooper Landing Safe Trails Committee (HQ-F22-008)

PROPOSAL150

5 AAC 92.550. Areas closed to trapping.

Establish trapping setbacks along certain roads and pullouts in Unit 7 as follows:

1) SOLUTION:

We are requesting the Board of Game amend 5 AAC 92.550 to establish 1) a 100-yard trapping setback along both sides of roads and all sides of the pullouts listed and described in the table provided. 2) We are requesting a 50-yard trapping setback for traps with an inside spread of 5 inches or less, that are set at least 4 feet above the ground or snow level, and size 3 leghold marten traps set in boxes. We are requesting these changes to protect the safety of people and their pets utilizing the most popular roads and pullouts in the Cooper Landing area.

2) REGULATORY LANGUAGE:

ADD Regulatory Language for Unit 7: "Trap setback of 100-yards on both sides of roads and all sides of pullouts listed. Traps with an inside spread of 5 inches or less which are at least 4 feet above the ground or snow level, and size 3 leghold marten traps in boxes are allowed if more than 50-yards from the road or pullout."

- Quartz Creek Road - Quartz Creek Road from its intersection with the Sterling Highway to the powerline crossing at approximately mile 2.5.
- Quartz Creek Road - From powerline crossing to Crescent Creek Trailhead at mile 3.5(used in winter for skiing)
- East Quartz Creek and Williams Road - Entire East Quartz Creek Road

from its intersection with Quartz Creek Road and Williams Road

- Old Sterling Highway (unmaintained portion of Quartz Creek Road) - Old Sterling Highway from the Crescent Creek Trailhead to Tern Lake Rest and Picnic area
- Snug Harbor Road - The first 2.8 miles of Snug Harbor Road from its intersection with the Sterling Highway to the entrance of the Chugach Electric Power Station
- Bean Creek Road - The entire distance from the Sterling Hwy to end.

The precedent for establishing trapping buffers for public safety along multi-use trails in the State of Alaska has already been set, most notably in the Municipality of Anchorage, parts of Chugach State Park, the City/Borough of Juneau, and along six trails and surrounding all school yards in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough. While these municipalities and boroughs have approved trapping regulations on lands they manage, they have not issued regulations for state- managed trails in deference to the regulatory powers of the Board of Game. We are asking the Board of Game to rectify this situation in our area.

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

1) ISSUE:

We are requesting the Board of Game amend 5 AAC 92.550 to establish 1) a 100-yard trapping setback along both sides of roads and all sides of the pullouts listed and described in the table provided. 2) We are requesting a 50-yard trapping setback for traps with an inside spread of 5 inches or less, that are set at least 4 feet above the ground or snow level, and size 3 leghold marten traps set in boxes. We are requesting these changes to protect the safety of people and their pets utilizing the most popular roads and pullouts in the Cooper Landing area.

Unit	Road or Pullout Name:	Description	Winter Uses
7	Quartz Creek Road	Quartz Creek Road from its intersection with the Sterling Highway to the powerline crossing at approximately mile 2.5.	Walking, hiking, fat tire biking
7	Quartz Creek Road	From powerline crossing to Crescent Creek Trailhead at mile 3.5	Cross-country skiing, skijoring, snowshoeing, hiking, fat tire biking, and access to backcountry skiing
7	East Quartz Creek and Williams Road	Entire East Quartz Creek Road from its intersection with Quartz Creek Road and Williams Road	Walking, hiking, fat tire biking,

7	Old Sterling Highway (unmaintained portion of Quartz Creek Road)	Old Sterling Highway from the Crescent Creek Trailhead to Tern Lake Rest and Picnic area	Cross-country skiing, access to backcountry skiing, snowshoeing, hiking, skijoring, snowmachine use
7	Snug Harbor Road	The first 2.8 miles of Snug Harbor Road from its intersection with the Sterling Highway to the entrance of the Chugach Electric Power Station	Walking, hiking, fat tire biking
7	Bean Creek Road	The entire distance. This road is mostly surrounded by private property, but unless posted, traps can be set.	Walking, hiking, fat tire biking
7	Russian Gap Road	The entire distance. This road is mostly surrounded by private property, but unless posted, traps can be set.	Walking, hiking fat-tire biking
	All vehicle pullouts along the Sterling Highway	Pullouts along the Sterling Highway from its junction with the Seward Highway to the entrance to the Russian River Ferry and Boat Launch	People use these pullouts to let their animals and children take bathroom breaks, stretch their legs, take in the views and gear up for backcountry activities

2) WHY:

Year-round outdoor recreation is an important and growing segment of the Cooper Landing area's economy. The community of Cooper Landing is located on the Sterling highway at the headwaters of the Kenai River. Easily accessible by road, Cooper Landing is located only 100 hundred miles south of Anchorage, the largest city in the state. Cooper landing's primary economy is based on summer recreation and tourism to the area, however, as winter recreation in the area increases, Cooper Landing businesses could take advantage of this opportunity and extend their seasonal offerings. To encourage the increasing number of family-friendly, active, outdoor recreational pursuits (e.g., winter biking, cross-country skiing, backcountry skiing, snowshoeing, trail running, ice fishing, bird hunting, and backcountry cabin rentals) in the area, it would be beneficial for business owners to be able to accurately market Cooper Landing as a fun, safe, and uniquely beautiful area, for visitors to enjoy with their family and pets.

As the amount of winter recreation has increased over the past 20 years, so has the number of dangerous encounters between user groups and traps set in recreational areas. While many trappers set their traps a responsible distance from roads and pullouts, trap placements close

to roadways, or in pullouts, present a very real danger, especially for young children and pets. As

of late February 2022, seven dogs have been caught in traps throughout Southcentral Alaska, and two dogs were killed, as reported via the Alaska Press. Since land managers and law enforcement do not track trap safety incidents all reports are collected and tabulated unofficially and are considered incomplete. While we respect the rights of trappers to set their traplines near roads and pullouts, we are seeking trapping regulation that will ensure the safety of all area user groups.

Our proposed 100- and 50-yard trapping setbacks are not large enough to significantly limit a trappers' opportunity to trap near a road or pullout. Proposing setbacks for only the most popular and heavily used roads and pullouts leaves all other areas unrestricted. Trappers who follow the Trapper's Code of Ethics' third tenant, to "promote trapping methods that will reduce the possibility of catching non-target animals," most likely already set traps back from heavily used roads and pullouts. The setbacks we are requesting will not unduly impact trappers and will greatly improve all user groups' safety. These proposed setbacks would also align with the Forest Service's Our Values Statement, which includes the intention of managing for "*Safety. In every way: physical, psychological, and social.*"

The 100- and 50-yard setbacks we have proposed would not present an undue burden on trappers. The average backpacking speed is 1 to 2 miles per hour. Assuming trappers are walking between one and two miles per hour, the setback distances requested would require only an additional two to three minutes of walking to place and check traps. Since many trappers use snow machines, the 100-yard setback could be crossed in less than one minute. **A local Cooper Landing trapper, as well as trappers from other nearby Units, have endorsed a 100- yard setback as reasonable and logical.**

Our proposed 100-yard and 50-yard setback distances will not impact the Board of Game's ability to manage wildlife along the listed roads and pullouts. Should trapping a particular species within the setback become biologically necessary, the board could use a temporary permit system to address any problem that might arise. A similar proposal requesting a 100- yard setback from trails has been submitted and endorsed by the Homer Advisory Committee. Having regulations that are similar, will make management, education, and enforcement easier in Units 7 and 15.

Establishing trap setbacks in the Cooper Landing area has strong community support. Cooper Landing property owners and residents were surveyed about trapping issues in their area in March 2021. Returned surveys were tallied to show that 90% of the respondents felt setbacks for traps in the Cooper Landing area were necessary, and 10% felt setbacks were unnecessary.

Our proposal includes only the most popular roads and pullouts accessed by a variety of users groups during the trapping season. The popular roadways and pullouts that we have proposed for trapping setbacks are used for: cross-country skiing, access to backcountry skiing, snowshoeing, hiking, fat tire biking, dog mushing, snow machining, travel by search and rescue dogs and personnel, hunting and trapping.

As of the 2019 census, there are 731,545 residents of the state of Alaska, and based on sealing records, license sales and the annual "Trapper Questionnaire," the Alaska Department of Fish and Game estimates 2,500 to 3,500 trappers in the state. By adopting this trapping regulation in Unit 7, the Board of Game would better represent the majority of its constituents and the current areas recreational uses.

PROPOSED BY: The Cooper Landing Safe Trails Committee (HQ-F22-009)

PROPOSAL 151

5 AAC 92.550. Areas closed to trapping.

Establish trapping setbacks along highway pullouts, backcountry access points, and winter trails in Unit 7 as follows:

1) SOLUTION:

We are requesting the Board of Game amend 5 AAC 92.550 to establish trapping setbacks along the perimeter of all highway pullouts, backcountry access points, and winter trails described in the table provided. We are requesting these changes to reduce conflicts with trappers and increase safety among the rising number of backcountry user groups to Unit 7.

2) REGULATORY LANGUAGE:

ADD Regulatory Language for Unit 7: “Trap setback of 100-yards along the perimeter of highway pullouts accessing backcountry areas along the Seward Highway, and on both sides of the winter trails listed within the Summit Lake Recreational Area. However, traps with an inside spread of 5 inches or less which are at least 4 feet above the ground or snow level, and size 3 leghold marten traps in boxes are allowed if more than 50-yards from the trail or pullout.”

- Japan Woods - The west side of the Seward Highway from the southern-most tip of Summit Lake (MP 44.5) north to Colorado Creek (MP 46.5).
- Tenderfoot Campground – Ski Area - MP 46 of the Seward Highway.
- Park N Poke - The west side of the Seward Highway from the southern-most tip of Lower Summit Lake (MP 47) to the gravel pit at (MP 49).
- Manitoba Mountain - MP 48 of the Seward Highway, pullout on the east side of the highway for the Alaska Mountain Huts (non-profit organization), following the established .7-mile trail to the Manitoba Cabin, and up the Polly Mine Trail (1 mile) to where it meets with the Manitoba Mountain Trail and continuing up to tree line at the summit of Little Manitoba Mountain.

The precedent for establishing trapping buffers for public safety along multi-use trails in the State of Alaska has already been set, most notably in the Municipality of Anchorage, parts of Chugach State Park, the City/Borough of Juneau, and along six trails and surrounding all school yards in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough. While these municipalities and boroughs have approved trapping regulations on lands they manage, they have not issued regulations for state- managed trails in deference to the regulatory powers of the Board of Game. We are asking the Board of Game to rectify this situation in our area.

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

1) ISSUE:

We are requesting the Board of Game amend 5 AAC 92.550 to establish trapping setbacks along the perimeter of all highway pullouts, backcountry access points, and winter trails described in the table provided. We are requesting these changes to reduce conflicts with trappers and increase safety among the rising number of backcountry user groups to Unit 7

Unit	Trail Name	Description	Winter Uses
7	Japan woods	The west side of the Seward Highway from the southern-most tip of Summit Lake (MP 44.5) north to Colorado Creek (MP 46.5).	Backcountry skiing, snowshoeing, bird hunting, hiking
7	Tenderfoot Campground – Ski Area	MP 46 of the Seward Highway.	Backcountry skiing, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, bird hunting, hiking, snow machine use
7	Park N Poke	The west side of the Seward Highway from the southern-most tip of Lower Summit Lake (MP 47) to the gravel pit at (MP 49).	Backcountry Skiing, snowshoeing, bird hunting, hiking
7	Manitoba Mountain	MP 48 of the Seward Highway, pullout on the east side of the highway for the Alaska Mountain Huts (non-profit organization), following the established .7-mile trail to the Manitoba Cabin, and up the Polly Mine Trail (1 mile) to where it meets with the Manitoba Mountain Trail and continuing to tree line at the summit of Little Manitoba Mountain. https://www.alaskahuts.org/manitoba-hiking-guide/	Backcountry and cross- country skiing, snowshoeing, bird hunting, hiking, backpacking for camping and cabin use

Note: Maps for the following proposal are available at: [https://www.cnfaic.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/Summit Lake Area.jpg](https://www.cnfaic.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/Summit_Lake_Area.jpg)

2) WHY:

Trapping setbacks would establish safe zones for user groups accessing backcountry areas for: cross-country skiing, backcountry skiing, snowboarding, snowshoeing, ice fishing, bird hunting, cabin rentals and more.

Trapping setbacks would reduce some of the dangers to safety personnel called to respond to an area requiring the use of search and rescue dogs to find injured, lost, or buried victims.

The community of Cooper Landing is located on the Sterling highway at the headwaters of the Kenai River. Easily accessible by road, Cooper Landing is located only 100 hundred miles south of Anchorage, the largest city in the state. Cooper landing’s primary economy is based on summer recreation and tourism to the area, however, as winter recreation in the area increases, Cooper Landing businesses could take advantage of this opportunity and extend their seasonal offerings.

To encourage the increasing number of family-friendly, active, outdoor recreational pursuits (e.g., winter biking, cross-country skiing, backcountry skiing, snowshoeing, trail running, ice fishing, bird hunting, and backcountry cabin rentals) in the area, it would be beneficial for business owners to be able to accurately market Cooper Landing as a fun, safe, and uniquely beautiful area, for visitors to enjoy with their family and pets.

As of the 2019 census, there are 731,545 residents of the state of Alaska, and based on sealing records, license sales and the annual "Trapper Questionnaire," the Alaska Department of Fish and Game estimates **2,500 to 3,500** trappers in the state. By adopting this trapping regulation in Unit 7, the Board of Game would better represent the majority of its constituents and the current areas recreational uses. It would also align with the Forest Service's Our Values Statement, which includes the intention of managing for "*Safety. In every way: physical, psychological, and social*".

A survey conducted in Cooper Landing by the Cooper Landing Safe Trails Committee, in March 2021, found that 90% of respondents felt setbacks for traps in the Cooper Landing area were necessary, and 10% felt that setbacks were unnecessary. **A local Cooper Landing trapper, as well as trappers from other nearby GMU's, have endorsed a 100-yard setback as reasonable and logical.**

A similar proposal requesting a 100-yard setback from trails has been submitted and endorsed by the Homer Advisory Committee. Having regulations that are consistent within the region will make management, education, and enforcement easier in Units 7 and 15.

PROPOSED BY: The Cooper Landing Safe Trails Committee (HQ-F22-011)

PROPOSAL 152

5 AAC 92.550. Areas closed to trapping.

Establish trapping setbacks along trails and trailheads in Unit 7 as follows:

1) SOLUTION:

We are requesting the Board of Game amend 5 AAC 92.550 to establish 1) a 100-yard trapping setback along both sides of the trails and all sides of the trailheads listed and described in the table provided. 2) We are requesting a 50-yard trapping setback for traps with an inside spread of 5 inches or less, that are set at least 4 feet above the ground or snow level, and size 3 leghold marten traps set in boxes. We are requesting these changes to protect the safety of people and their pets utilizing the most popular multi-use trails in the Cooper Landing area.

2) REGULATORY LANGUAGE:

ADD Regulatory Language for Unit 7: "Trap setback of 100-yards on both sides of the trails and trailheads listed. Traps with an inside spread of 5 inches or less which are at least 4 feet above the ground or snow level, and size 3 leghold marten traps in boxes are allowed if more than 50-yards from the trail."

- Crescent Creek Trail
- Lower Russian Lake Trail
- Bean Creek Trail

- Russian Gap Trail/Historic Quartz Creek Trail
- Resurrection Trail, South End
- West Juneau Bench Trail
- Devil's Pass Ski Loops
- Stetson Trail parking area and first 400 yards

The precedent for establishing trapping buffers for public safety along multi-use trails in the State of Alaska has already been set, most notably in the Municipality of Anchorage, parts of Chugach State Park, the City/Borough of Juneau, and along six trails and surrounding all school yards in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough. While these municipalities and boroughs have approved trapping regulations on lands they manage, they have not issued regulations for state- managed trails in deference to the regulatory powers of the Board of Game. We are asking the Board of Game to rectify this situation in our area.

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

1) ISSUE:

We are requesting the Board of Game amend 5 AAC 92.550 to establish 1) a 100-yard trapping setback along both sides of the trails and all sides of the trailheads listed and described in the table provided. 2) We are requesting a 50-yard trapping setback for traps with an inside spread of 5 inches or less, that are set at least 4 feet above the ground or snow level, and size 3 leghold marten traps set in boxes. We are requesting these changes to protect the safety of people and their pets utilizing the most popular multi-use trails in the Cooper Landing area.

Unit	Trail Name	Description	Winter Uses
7	Crescent Creek Trail USGS Map Seward B7, C7 and C8 USFS, Chugach National Forest Map for Crescent Creek Trail	Begins at Crescent Creek Trailhead parking area at mile 3.5 of Quartz Creek Road and ascends 6.5 miles to the Crescent Lake Cabin at the west end of the lake.	Backcountry skiing, snowshoeing, hiking, backpacking, fat tire biking, and access to public use cabins
7	Lower Russian Lake Trail USGS Map Seward B8, Kenai B1 USFS, Chugach National Forest Map for Russian Lakes Trail	Lower Russian Lake Trail from the trailhead parking located in the Russian River Campground about 1.0 miles from the campground entrance to both the Barber Cabin on the shore of Lower Russian Lake and to the Russian River Falls Overlook.	Backcountry and cross-country skiing, skijoring, snowshoeing, hiking, fat tire biking, backpacking and access to public use cabins

7	Bean Creek Trail	Bean Creek Trail starting at its trailhead at mile 0.5 of the west end of Slaughter Ridge Road to its intersection of the main Resurrection Pass Trail above Juneau Falls.	Backcountry and cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, hiking, fat tire biking, snow machining, dog mushing, backpacking, and access to public use cabins
7	Russian Gap Trail/Historic Quartz Creek Trail	This trail is referred to as the Quartz Creek Trail on the 2004 plat approved by the Kenai Peninsula Borough for the Russian Gap Subdivision. This trail ascends behind the west side of KPB parcel 11912507 and continues through parcel 11912513, connecting with the Russian Gap Trail and heading north easterly along a bench below Russian Gap.	Backcountry and cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, hiking, snowmachine use
7	Resurrection Trail, South End USGS Maps Seward B8, C8 and D8	From the southern Resurrection Trail trailhead on the Sterling Highway continuing to the Swan Lake public use cabin	Backcountry and cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, hiking, fat tire biking, backpacking and access to public use cabins
7	West Juneau Bench Trail USGS Maps Seward B8, C8 and D8	From the Sterling Highway pullout at mile 53.25 just west of the southern Resurrection Trail trailhead continuing to its intersection with the Resurrection Trail.	Back country and cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, hiking, snow machining, fat tire biking, backpacking for camping and cabin use

7	Devil's Pass Ski Loops USGS Map Seward C7 and C8 USFS, Chugach National Forest Map for Devil's Pass Trail	These trails begin at the far end of the parking area for Devil's Pass Trail head at mile 39.5 of the Seward Highway. They loop along the cleared area to the northeast of the parking lot between Quartz Creek and the Seward Highway.	Backcountry ski access, cross country skiing, snowshoeing, fat-tire biking, skijoring
7	Stetson Creek Parking area and Trail	Stetson Trail parking area at milepost 50.7 of Sterling Highway. Setback of 100 yards around clearing beyond gate under the power line and first 400 yards up the trail.	Cooper Landing EMT training, search and rescue dog training, hiking and snowshoeing

2) WHY:

Year-round outdoor recreation is an important and growing segment of the Cooper Landing area's economy. The community of Cooper Landing is located on the Sterling highway at the headwaters of the Kenai River. Easily accessible by road, Cooper Landing is located only 100 hundred miles south of Anchorage, the largest city in the state. Cooper landing's primary economy is based on summer recreation and tourism to the area, however, as winter recreation in the area increases, Cooper Landing businesses could take advantage of this opportunity and extend their seasonal offerings. To encourage the increasing number of family-friendly, active, outdoor recreational pursuits (e.g., winter biking, cross-country skiing, backcountry skiing, snowshoeing, trail running, ice fishing, bird hunting, and backcountry cabin rentals) in the area, it would be beneficial for business owners to be able to accurately market Cooper Landing as a fun, safe, and uniquely beautiful area, for visitors to enjoy with their family and pets.

As the number of winter trail users has increased immensely over the past 20 years, so have the number of dangerous encounters between user groups and traps set in recreational areas. While many trappers set their traps a responsible distance from multi-use trails, trap placements close to (or in) trails and trailheads present a very real danger to all users, especially young children and pets. As of late February 2022, seven dogs have been caught in traps throughout Southcentral Alaska, and two dogs were killed, as reported via the Alaska Press. Since land managers and law enforcement do not track trap safety incidents all reports are collected and tabulated unofficially and are considered incomplete. While we respect the rights of trappers to use these multi-use trails, we are seeking trapping regulation that will ensure the safety of all trail users.

Our proposed 100- and 50-yard trapping setbacks are not large enough to significantly limit a trappers' opportunity along multi-use trails. Proposing setbacks for only the most popular

and heavily used multi-use trails leaves all other areas unrestricted. Trappers who follow the Trapper's Code of Ethics' third tenant, to "promote trapping methods that will reduce the possibility of catching non-target animals," most likely already set traps back from heavily used

trails. The setbacks we are requesting will not unduly impact trappers and will greatly improve trail user safety. These proposed setbacks would also align with the Forest Service’s Our Values Statement, which includes the intention of managing for “*Safety. In every way: physical, psychological, and social.*”

The 100- and 50-yard setbacks we have proposed would not present an undue burden on trappers. The average backpacking speed is 1 to 2 miles per hour. Assuming trappers are walking between one and two miles per hour, the setback distances requested would require only an additional two to three minutes of walking to place and check traps. Since many trappers use snow machines, the 100-yard setback could be crossed in less than one minute. **A local Cooper Landing trapper, as well as trappers from other nearby GMUs, have endorsed a 100- yard setback as reasonable and logical.**

Our proposed 100-yard and 50-yard setback distances will not impact the Board of Game’s ability to manage wildlife along the listed trails. Should trapping a particular species within the setback become biologically necessary, the board could use a temporary permit system to address any problem that might arise. A similar proposal requesting a 100-yard setback from trails has been submitted and endorsed by the Homer AC. Having regulations that are similar, will make management, education, and enforcement easier in Units 7 and 15.

Establishing trap setbacks in the Cooper Landing area has strong community support. Cooper Landing property owners and residents were surveyed about trapping issues in their area in March, 2021. Returned surveys were tallied to show that 90% of the respondents felt setbacks for traps in the Cooper Landing area were necessary, and 10% felt setbacks were unnecessary. 86-89% responded in favor of setbacks along the trails and trailheads listed above, while 10-12% did not feel they were necessary.

Our proposal includes only the most popular multi-use trails used by a variety of users during the trapping season. Popular trail uses in our area include: cross-country skiing, access to backcountry skiing, snowshoeing, hiking, fat tire biking, dog mushing, snow machining, travel by search and rescue dogs and personnel, hunting and trapping. The Stetson Trail parking area and first 400 yards has been utilized for search and rescue dog training which is critical to the active avalanche areas close by.

As of the 2019 census, there are 731,545 residents of the state of Alaska, and based on sealing records, license sales and the annual "Trapper Questionnaire," the Alaska Department of Fish and Game estimates **2,500 to 3,500** trappers in the state. By adopting this trapping regulation in Unit 7, the Board of Game would better represent the majority of its constituents and the current areas recreational uses

PROPOSED BY: The Cooper Landing Safe Trails Committee (HQ-F22-012)

PROPOSAL 153

5 AAC 92.550. Areas closed to trapping.

Establish trapping setbacks along Kenai Lake beaches in Unit 7 as follows:

1) SOLUTION:

We are requesting the Board of Game amend 5 ACC 92.550 to establish 1) a 100-yard trapping setback from the mean high-water mark along the north and south side beaches of Kenai Lake as described in the table provided. 2) We are requesting a 50-yard trapping setback for traps with an inside spread of 5 inches or less, that are set at least 4 feet above the ground or snow level, and size 3 leghold marten traps set in boxes. We are requesting these changes to protect the safety of people and their pets utilizing the most popular multi-use beaches in the Cooper Landing area.

2) REGULATORY LANGUAGE:

ADD Regulatory Language for Unit 7: “Trap setback of 100-yards from mean high-water mark of Kenai Lake on the north side from the Kenai River Bridge to 1 mile past the end of Williams Road and on the south side from the Kenai River Bridge to ¼ mile past the powerline crossing (powerline is at mile 2.8 Snug Harbor Road), also, Kenai Lake Beach (Locally known as Waikiki Beach) ¼ mile north to ¼ mile south of the lake access road at mile 5.8 Snug Harbor Road. Traps with an inside spread of 5 inches or less which are at least 5 feet above the ground or snow level are allowed if more than 50-yards from the beach.”

- Kenai Lake Beaches
- Kenai Lake Beach (Waikiki Beach)

The precedent for establishing trapping buffers for public safety along multi-use trails in the State of Alaska has already been set, most notably in the Municipality of Anchorage, parts of Chugach State Park, the City/Borough of Juneau, and along six trails and surrounding all school yards in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough. While these municipalities and boroughs have approved trapping regulations on lands they manage, they have not issued regulations for state- managed trails in deference to the regulatory powers of the Board of Game. We are asking the Board of Game to rectify this situation in our area.

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

1) ISSUE:

We are requesting the Board of Game amend 5 AAC 92.550 to establish 1) a 100-yard trapping setback from the mean high-water mark along the north and south side beaches of Kenai Lake as described in the table provided. 2) We are requesting a 50-yard trapping setback for traps with an inside spread of 5 inches or less, that are set at least 4 feet above the ground or snow level, and size 3 leghold marten traps set in boxes. We are requesting these changes to protect the safety of people and their pets utilizing the most popular multi-use beaches in the Cooper Landing area.

Unit	Beach Area	Description	Winter Uses
7	Kenai Lake Beaches	Kenai Lake Beaches: on the North side from the Kenai River Bridge to 1 mile past the end of Williams Road and on the south side from the Kenai River Bridge to ¼ mile past the powerline crossing (powerline is at mile 2.8 Snug Harbor Road). <i>Area from the mean high-water mark to 100yds back.</i>	Cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, hiking, fat tire biking, skjoring, snow machining
7	Kenai Lake Beach	Kenai Lake Beach (Locally known as Waikiki Beach) ¼ mile north to ¼ mile south of the lake access road at mile 5.8 Snug Harbor Road. <i>Area from the mean high-water mark to 100yds back.</i>	Cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, hiking, fat tire biking, skjoring, snow machining

2) WHY:

Year-round outdoor recreation is an important and growing segment of the Cooper Landing area’s economy. The community of Cooper Landing is located on the Sterling highway at the headwaters of the Kenai River. Easily accessible by road, Cooper Landing is located only 100 hundred miles south of Anchorage, the largest city in the state. Cooper landing’s primary economy is based on summer recreation and tourism to the area, however, as winter recreation in the area increases, Cooper Landing businesses could take advantage of this opportunity and extend their seasonal offerings. To encourage the increasing number of family-friendly, active, outdoor recreational pursuits (e.g., winter biking, cross-country skiing, backcountry skiing, snowshoeing, trail running, ice fishing, bird hunting, and backcountry cabin rentals) in the area, it would be beneficial for business owners to be able to accurately market Cooper Landing as a fun, safe, and uniquely beautiful area, for visitors to enjoy with their family and pets.

As the amount of winter recreation has increased over the past 20 years, so has the number of dangerous encounters between user groups and traps set in recreational areas. While many trappers set their traps a responsible distance from popular beaches, trap placements close to (or on) multi-use beaches present a very real danger to all users, especially young children and pets. As of late February 2022, seven dogs have been caught in traps throughout Southcentral Alaska, and two dogs were killed, as reported via the Alaska Press. Since land managers and law enforcement do not track trap safety incidents all reports are collected and tabulated unofficially and are considered incomplete. While we respect the rights of trappers to set their traplines near beaches, we are seeking trapping regulation that will ensure the safety of all area user groups.

Our proposed 100- and 50-yard trapping setbacks are not large enough to significantly limit a trappers’ opportunity to trap near beaches. Proposing setbacks for only the most popular and heavily used beaches leaves all other areas unrestricted. Trappers who follow the Trapper’s Code of Ethics’ third tenant, to “promote trapping methods that will reduce the possibility of catching non-target animals,” most likely already set traps back from heavily used beaches. The setbacks

we are requesting will not unduly impact trappers and will greatly improve all user groups' safety. These proposed setbacks would also align with the Forest Service's Our Values Statement, which includes the intention of managing for "Safety. In every way: physical, psychological, and social."

The 100- and 50-yard setbacks we have proposed would not present an undue burden on trappers. The average backpacking speed is 1 to 2 miles per hour. Assuming trappers are walking between one and two miles per hour, the setback distances requested would require only an additional two to three minutes of walking to place and check traps. Since many trappers use snow machines, the 100-yard setback could be crossed in less than 1 minute. **A local Cooper Landing trapper, as well as trappers from other nearby Units, have endorsed a 100- yard setback as reasonable and logical.**

Our proposed 100-yard and 50-yard setback distances will not impact the Board of Game's ability to manage wildlife along the listed beaches. Should trapping a particular species within the setback become biologically necessary, the board could use a temporary permit system to address any problem that might arise. A similar proposal requesting a 100-yard setback from trails has been submitted and endorsed by the Homer AC. Having regulations that are similar, will make management, education, and enforcement easier in Units 7 and 15.

Establishing trap setbacks in the Cooper Landing area has strong community support. Cooper Landing property owners and residents were surveyed about trapping issues in their area in March, 2021. Returned surveys were tallied to show that 90% of the respondents felt setbacks for traps in the Cooper Landing area were necessary, and 10% felt setbacks were unnecessary.

Our proposal includes only the most popular beaches used by a variety of user groups during the trapping season. Popular beach uses in our area include: cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, hiking, fat tire biking, dog mushing, snow machining, travel by search and rescue dogs and personnel, hunting and trapping.

As of the 2019 census, there are 731,545 residents of the state of Alaska, and based on sealing records, license sales and the annual "Trapper Questionnaire," the Alaska Department of Fish and Game estimates 2,500 to 3,500 trappers in the state. By adopting this trapping regulation in Unit 7, the Board of Game would better represent the majority of its constituents and the current areas recreational uses.

PROPOSED BY: The Cooper Landing Safe Trails Committee (HQ-F22-007)

PROPOSAL 154

5 AAC 92.550. Areas closed to trapping.

5 AAC 92.095. Unlawful methods of taking furbearers; exceptions.

Require signs be posted at all active trapping access points in Unit 7 as follows:

1) SOLUTION:

We are requesting the Board of Game amend 5 AAC 92.550 to establish mandatory signs posted at all access points of active trapping in the area. We are requesting these changes to reduce conflicts with trappers and increase safety among the rising number of multi-use groups in Unit 7.

2) REGULATORY LANGUAGE:

ADD Regulatory Language for Unit 7: “Active Trapping signs posted at all access points to operating traplines. Signs must be: 1) at least 8” x 11”, 2) brightly colored (orange or yellow), 3) waterproof/tear proof, and 4) posted at eye level clearly denoting active trapping in the area. Must include ADF&G license number or Fish & Wildlife ID number; contact information optional.”

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

1) **ISSUE:** We are requesting the board amend 5 AAC 92.550 to establish mandatory signs posted at all access points of active trapping in the area. We are requesting these changes to reduce conflicts with trappers and increase safety among the rising number of multi-use groups in Unit 7.

Posted trapping signs would alert user groups to trapping in the area and give them the opportunity to take safety precautions. Trapping signs would also alert safety personnel to added dangers if called to respond to an emergency requiring the use of Search and Rescue Dogs to find injured, lost, or buried victims. **A local Cooper Landing trapper already posts signs in a plastic bag warning of his traplines, and he supports a regulation to add “active trapping” signs indicating the presence of traplines as do several of the Cooper Landing AC members.**

Mandatory posted signs are in line with the Alaska Trappers Association Official Position Statement “Trapline Signs” that was adopted on September 27th, 2016, and states:

“The Alaska Trappers Association encourages trappers in road-accessible regions of the State to post signs near major points of access to their personal trapline trails. These signs should explain that there are traps and/or snares on or near the trail. The signs could also include the trappers name and contact information. These signs are intended to alert other trail users of the purpose of the trail, so that they can avoid conflict with the trapper. This approach of posting signs should be beneficial for everyone involved.”

Trapping signs would also be in alignment with the Forest Service’s Our Values Statement, which includes the intention of managing for “*Safety. In every way: physical, psychological, and social.*”

This is a low cost, low maintenance way to reduce conflicts between trappers and recreational users, and allows trapping to continue.

2) **WHY:** The community of Cooper Landing is located on the Sterling Highway at the headwaters of the Kenai River. Easily accessible by road, Cooper Landing is located only 100 hundred miles south of Anchorage, the largest city in the state. Cooper Landing’s primary economy is based on summer recreation and tourism to the area, however, as winter recreation in the area increases, Cooper Landing businesses could take advantage of this opportunity and extend their seasonal offerings. To encourage the increasing number of family-friendly, active, outdoor recreational pursuits (e.g., winter biking, cross-country skiing, back country skiing, snowshoeing, ice fishing, trail running, and back country cabin rentals) in the area, it would be beneficial for business owners to be able to accurately market Cooper Landing as a fun, safe, and uniquely beautiful area for visitors to enjoy with their family and pets.

As of the 2019 census, there are 731,545 residents of the state of Alaska, and based on sealing records, license sales and the annual "Trapper Questionnaire," the Alaska Department of Fish and Game estimates 2,500 to 3,500 trappers in the state.

By adopting this trapping regulation in Unit 7, the Board of Game would better represent the majority of its constituents and better align with current area resident's recreational use.

PROPOSED BY: The Cooper Landing Safe Trails Committee (HQ-F22-010)

PROPOSAL 155

5 AAC 92.550 Areas closed to trapping.

Close Unit 15C to beaver trapping as follows:

5 AAC 92.550 Southcentral Trapping Regulations

The following areas are closed to trapping as indicated:Unit 15 - Kenai Peninsula Area

- Skilak Loop Wildlife Management Area, consisting of that portion of Unit 15A bounded by a line beginning at the easternmost junction of the Sterling Highway and the Skilak Loop Road (milepost 58.0), then due south to the south bank of the Kenai River, then southerly along the south bank of the Kenai River to its confluence with Skilak Lake, then westerly along the north shore of Skilak Lake to Lower Skilak Lake Campground, then northerly along the Lower Skilak Lake Campground Road and the Skilak Loop Road to its westernmost junction with the Sterling Highway, then easterly along the Sterling Highway to the point of beginning;
- Kenai Moose Research Center Closed Area in Unit 15A, which consists of the area within the outer boundary fences of the Kenai Moose Research Center, located west and south of Coyote and Vixen Lakes.

***Unit 15C closed.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Close beaver trapping in Unit 15C.

There are very few beaver around these days on the Kenai Peninsula. Please give beavers some time to replenish themselves down here...just a few years, get the population back up. Give trappers some beaver to catch.

This is an issue bigger than beaver trapping. Beavers are engineers in rewetting and recharging ground water, essential for our diminishing salmon. They also have a huge ability to restore drying peatlands, vital for carbon sequestration and climate change mitigation. We need them.

PROPOSED BY: Sue Christiansen (EG-F22-132)

PROPOSAL 156

5 AAC 84.270. Furbearer trapping.

Close beaver trapping in the Anchor River and Deep Creek Drainages in Unit 15C for six years as follows:

Close all beaver trapping in the Anchor River and Deep Creek drainages in Unit 15C for two board cycles with a required sunset review.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? In recent years beavers have been nearly completely extra paid from the Anchor River and Deep Creek drainages. Given historic numbers and an abundance of suitable habitat it seems likely that with protection they may recall and ice these drainages and again offer trapping opportunities.

PROPOSED BY: Homer Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-F22-067)

PROPOSAL 157

5 AAC 84.270. Furbearer trapping.

Shorten the beaver trapping season in Unit 7 as follows:

Beaver trapping season: Unit 7 – **Nov. 1** [Oct. 15] - April 30

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Since 2015, beaver are at least locally depleted in Unit 7. For example, along the Seward and Sterling Highways where beaver were once fairly common now they appear to be virtually absent.

Traditional Unit 7 beaver season was November 10 - March 31, generally necessitating under ice trapping which is less efficient than open water trapping. Beaver populations seemed to be fairly stable. At some point the season was extended to April 30 allowing weeks of open water opportunity. Beginning 2015, the season was again extended, this time to open October 15. Beaver abundance seemed to hold up pretty well after the season was extended to April 30 but soon became obviously depleted after the change to October 15 open.

There is also a federal subsistence hunting season for beaver in Unit 7:

BEAVER • All rural residents, 1 beaver per day, May 1 - October 10.

Beaver pelt quality improves November 1 versus October 15.

Shortening the beaver season in Unit 7 to open November 1 will continue to provide abundant harvest opportunity while giving the population a better chance to recover.

Shortening the beaver season in Unit 15 was considered. However much of Unit 15 is within the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge which already has additional beaver trapping restrictions in place. Further we are not familiar enough with Unit 15 beaver populations to ask for a shorter season.

Reducing the bag limit was also considered but presumably few trappers seal 20 beavers from Unit 7 so that probably is not a contributing factor to observed declines.

PROPOSED BY: Cooper Landing Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-F22-079)

PROPOSAL 158

5 AAC 84.270. Furbearer trapping.

Shorten the coyote trapping season in Units 7 and 15 as follows:

Coyote trapping season Units 7 and 15: **Nov 10** [Oct 15]- March 31

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Coyote trapping season in Units 7 and 15 opens October 15 with 3/32" or greater diameter snare cable. Most other trapping seasons in Units 7 and 15 open November 10.

Confusing regulations, bycatch and conflict with other users are all problems. Bears are more active and more likely to encounter snares prior to November 10. 3/32" snares cannot exclude wolverine and lynx. At least one dog has been trapped during the early coyote season because the owner thought the trapping season opened November 10 and so allowed the dog to run off leash. Additionally, the dog was caught in a trap, not a snare, suggesting that whoever set the trap was possibly unaware of the snare-only requirement. Finally, according to the dog owner, ADF&G stated the trapping season for coyotes was open, again apparently unaware of the snare-only requirement. While ignorance is said to not be an excuse, clearly the early coyote season has been problematic. Aligning the coyote trapping season with most other trapping seasons will help address these issues.

PROPOSED BY: Cooper Landing Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-F22-080)

PROPOSAL 159

5 AAC 85.057. Hunting seasons and bag limits for wolverine.

Lengthen the wolverine hunting season in Units 7 and 15 as follows:

Adjust the wolverine season to start August 10 in Units 7 and 15.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Currently the regulations for wolverine in Units 7 and 15 starts the season on September 1st. Wolverines are primarily found in the high country feeding on Dall sheep and mountain goats. By having a later season than Dall sheep and wolves, this means many hunters miss an opportunity to help manage these predators. If wolverines are harvested for their fur just like wolves and bears, why can a hunter harvest wolves and bears in August during sheep season, but not wolverine. The Dall sheep in the Kenai Mountains are on a steady decline while predators continue to grow.

PROPOSED BY: Caleb Martin (EG-F22-133)

PROPOSAL 160

5 AAC 92.095. Unlawful methods of taking furbearers; exceptions.

Limit beaver trapping to one set per lodge for Units 7 and 15, and require visual markers as follows:

Limit beaver trapping to one set per lodge and only one beaver may be removed per lodge in Units 7 and 15. All lodges that have been or are being trapped in the current season must be visually marked with a pole set vertically in the ice. This regulation has been successful in the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Trapping appears to be a major factor in the extirpation of beavers in many areas of the Kenai Peninsula. Multiple trappers in one area can contribute to overharvest of beaver lodges.

PROPOSED BY: Homer Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-F22-068)

PROPOSAL 161

Direct ADF&G to conduct a feasibility study for transporting Sitka Blacktail deer to Unit 15C, south side of Kachemak Bay as follows:

Direct the Department of Fish and Game to conduct its scoping report, feasibility assessment, and biological and social risk analyses, which would precede department and public review before a potential formal ADF&G plan regarding transplanting and growing a population of Sitka Blacktail deer to the south side of Kachemak Bay in Unit 15C. Reference "Game Transplants in Alaska, Technical Bulletin #4 second edition by Thomas Paul, ADFG, 2009" or a later edition.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Increase opportunity for hunting, food security, local economy, and wildlife viewing in Unit 15c.

The south side of Kachemak Bay would be a productive area to explore the idea of transplanting deer. The area is ecologically quite different than the Homer side and provides very similar habitat, browse, and other fauna to Prince William Sound, northern Southeast Alaska, and much of the Kodiak archipelago; all locations of successful past ADF&G transplant operations which now provide opportunity for all.

It is understood that this is the purview of the ADF&G Commissioner; we do not believe the Board of Game (board) has the authority to enact transplants. By submitting this as a board proposal, we are aiming only to begin a dialogue, allowing everyone who follows wildlife issues: public, private, agency staff, and administrators, to begin thinking about its viability if and when it pleases this or a future Administration.

PROPOSED BY: The Homer Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-F22-029)

PROPOSAL 162

5 AAC 85.065. Hunting seasons and bag limits for small game.

Extend the ptarmigan season in a portion of Unit 15C to March 31 as follows:

I propose leaving the bag limit at five and ten in possession with the hunt dates increased back to original that were August 10th - March 31st. The spring hatch has been good, and the numbers are high.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Change back to original dates August 10th - March 31st for ptarmigan in Unit 15C, that portion north of Kachemak Bay and north of Fox River, leaving the bag limit of five and ten in possession as it is now.

PROPOSED BY: Rollin Braden (EG-F22-027)

PROPOSAL 163

5 AAC 85.065. Hunting seasons and bag limits for small game.

Rescind the bag limit restrictions for sea duck hunting in Unit 15C as follows:

In effect, eliminate special sea duck restrictions for Unit 15C, restoring seasons and bag limits applicable to the entire Gulf Coast Zone – Units 5-7, 9, 10 (Unimak Is. only) and Units 14-16.

5 AAC 85.065. Hunting seasons and bag limits for small game. (a)

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(4)		
Migratory game birds (except by falconry) ¹		
...		
(B) Sea Ducks (except Spectacled and Steller's eiders) ³		
...		
Units 5 - 7, 9, 10 (Unimak Is. only), and Units 14 - 16		
RESIDENT HUNTERS: 10 per day, 20 in possession, of which no more than 6 each per day, 12 in	Sept. 1-Dec. 16 (General hunt only)	

possession may be harlequin ducks and no more than 6 per day, 12 in possession may be long-tailed ducks.

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

8 per day, 20 in possession; however, no more than 4 each of any sea duck species may be taken per season; and no more than 20 sea ducks of all species may be taken per season

Sept. 1-Dec. 16

[UNIT 15C, THAT PORTION IN KACHEMAK BAY EAST OF A LINE FROM POINT POGIBSHI TO ANCHOR POINT

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

SEPT. 1-DEC. 16]

10 PER DAY, 20 IN (GENERAL HUNT ONLY) POSSESSION, OF WHICH NO MORE THAN 2 PER DAY, 4 IN POSSESSION MAY BE LONG-TAILED DUCKS AND NO MORE THAN 1 PER DAY, 2 IN POSSESSION MAY BE AN EIDER]

[NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

8 PER DAY, 20 IN POSSESSION; OF WHICH NO MORE THAN 2 PER DAY, 4 IN POSSESSION MAY BE HARLEQUIN DUCKS, NO MORE THAN 2 PER DAY, 4 IN POSSESSION MAY BE LONG-TAILED DUCKS, AND NO MORE THAN 1 PER DAY, 2 IN POSSESSION MAY BE AN EIDER; HOWEVER, NO MORE THAN 4 EACH OF ANY SEA DUCK SPECIES MAY BE TAKEN PER SEASON; AND NO MORE THAN 20 SEA DUCKS OF ALL SPECIES MAY BE TAKEN PER SEASON]

Sept. 1-Dec. 16

...

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Rescind bag limit restrictions for sea duck hunting in Unit 15C adopted by the Board of Game in 2010. The reductions in bag limits for eiders, harlequin ducks and long-tailed ducks were not based on best available scientific data nor were they consistent with management guidelines by ADF&G, Pacific Flyway Council or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to address necessary conservation needs.

There is no documented biological problem indicating low population levels or substantial declines for eiders, harlequin ducks or long-tailed ducks (nor for buffleheads or goldeneyes that are the subject of current discussions by local supporters of restrictions). There is no evidence that changes in sea duck abundance are caused by harvest.

There are no documented indications that sea duck harvests in Alaska are excessive in relation to duck population levels or increasing to the point of concern. Harvest assessment needs to be examined from a flyway-wide or large region perspective that is consistent with defined species populations that can be feasibly monitored—not from anecdotal or biased claims about small-scale effects.

It is critical that sea duck regulation decisions be framed at the appropriate scale and continue the biologically sound regime of population and harvest assessments for populations that seasonally migrate thousands of miles across thousands of square miles of breeding and wintering habitat. The numbers of birds that occupy individual bays and coves at any given time is highly variable in response to many conditions and is not relevant to the status of entire species populations at regional or flyway levels.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Waterfowl Association (EG-F22-101)

PROPOSAL 164

5 AAC 85.065. Hunting seasons and bag limits for small game.

Reduce the bag limit for goldeneye in Units 7 and 15 as follows:

Bag limit for Goldeneye: 4/day, 8 in possession.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Anecdotal and undeniable evidence attests to a drastic decline in sea duck numbers in Kachemak Bay in recent history. Given the three-year delay in addressing management issues in Units 7 and 15, it would be prudent to address conservation concerns conservatively. In lieu of any current accurate data of population trends, we suggest that a bag limits on some sea ducks be reduced.

PROPOSED BY: Homer Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-F22-058)

PROPOSAL 165

5 AAC 85.065. Hunting seasons and bag limits for small game.

Reduce the bag limit for goldeneye in Unit 15C as follows:

4 Goldeneye per day, 8 in possession.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? A bag limit reduction on goldeneye is needed to ensure hunt opportunities now and in the future. The Homer Fish and Game Advisory Committee voted unanimously to sponsor this proposal at its April 2022 meeting, and they have submitted the same proposal. I am submitting this to add supporting information.

Residents and hunters are noticing increased sea duck hunting pressure in Kachemak Bay. In 2021, we saw a disturbing spike in harvest, and we learned that the addition of a few more guides means significantly increased harvest.

Kachemak Bay is one of the easiest place to access sea ducks in Alaska. Since goldeneye prefer protected bays and coves that are particularly easy to access, they are among the most threatened species of sea ducks.

Depressed populations of sea ducks do not recover quickly. They are known to have a high degree of site fidelity, which means that if an area’s population is depressed, birds from other areas are unlikely to boost the population. Also, according to the Sea Duck Joint Venture, they have lower reproductive and chick survival rates than other ducks.

The proposal is supported by two consecutive years of community sea duck surveys in Kachemak Bay—a local effort of over 30 people motivated by concern of over-harvest and lack of data. Our data suggests that the number of Sea Ducks in Kachemak Bay are limited and that populations do not bounce back after significant harvest occurs.

For the most part sea ducks are targeted for trophies—this proposal is designed to allow for trophies, meat harvest, incidental take, and traditional tribal harvest.

Populations of sea ducks in Kachemak Bay declined significantly in the 1990s, and according to ADF&G surveys and community science surveys, they have not yet recovered.

Kachemak Bay is an ADF&G Critical Habitat Area, whose legislative purpose is “to protect and preserve habitat” and the Kachemak Bay Management Plan says that “priority should be given to encouraging rehabilitation of depleted indigenous fish and wildlife populations.”

Bag limits for migratory waterfowl are set on the level of the Pacific Flyway, but Alaska can set more restrictive limits, as happened when the Board of Game set special bag limit restrictions on eiders, harlequin, and long-tailed ducks in Kachemak Bay in 1999.

PROPOSED BY: Penelope Haas (EG-F22-093)

PROPOSAL 166

5 AAC 85.065. Hunting seasons and bag limits for small game.

Reduce the bag limit for bufflehead in Units 7 and 15 as follows:

Bufflehead: 4/day, 8 in possession.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Anecdotal and undeniable evidence attests to a drastic decline in sea duck numbers in Kachemak Bay in recent history. Given the three-year delay in addressing management issues in Units 7 and 15, it would be prudent to address conservation concerns conservatively. In lieu of any current accurate data of population trends we suggest that a bag limits on some sea ducks be reduced.

PROPOSED BY: Homer Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-F22-060)

PROPOSAL 167

5 AAC 85.065. Hunting seasons and bag limits for small game.

Reduce the bag limit for bufflehead in Unit 15C as follows:

4 Bufflehead per day, 8 in possession.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? A bag limit reduction on bufflehead is needed to ensure hunt opportunities now and in the future. The Homer Fish and Game Advisory Committee voted unanimously to sponsor this proposal at its April 2022 meeting, and they have submitted the same proposal. I am submitting this to add supporting information.

Residents and hunters are noticing increased sea duck hunting pressure in Kachemak Bay. In 2021, we saw a disturbing spike in harvest, and we learned that the addition of a few more guides means significantly increased harvest.

Kachemak Bay is one of the easiest place to access sea ducks in Alaska. Since bufflehead prefer protected bays and coves that are particularly easy to access, they are among the most threatened species of sea ducks.

Depressed populations of sea ducks do not recover quickly. They are known to have a high degree of site fidelity, which means that if an area’s population is depressed, birds from other areas are unlikely to boost the population. Also, according to the Sea Duck Joint Venture, they have lower reproductive and chick survival rates than other ducks.

The proposal is supported by two consecutive years of community sea duck surveys in Kachemak Bay—a local effort of over 30 people motivated by concern of over-harvest and lack of data. Our data suggests that the number of sea ducks in Kachemak Bay are limited and that populations do not bounce back after significant harvest occurs.

For the most part sea ducks are targeted for trophies—this proposal is designed to allow for trophies, meat harvest, incidental take, and traditional tribal harvest.

Populations of sea ducks in Kachemak Bay declined significantly in the 1990s’, and according to

ADF&G surveys and community science surveys, they have not yet recovered.

Kachemak Bay is an ADF&G Critical Habitat Area, whose legislative purpose is “to protect and preserve habitat” and the Kachemak Bay Management Plan says that “priority should be given to encouraging rehabilitation of depleted indigenous fish and wildlife populations.”

Bag limits for migratory waterfowl are set on the level of the Pacific Flyway, but Alaska can set more restrictive limits, as happened when the Board of Game set special bag limit restrictions on eiders, harlequin, and Long-tailed ducks in Kachemak Bay in 1999.

PROPOSED BY: Penelope Haas (EG-F22-095)

PROPOSAL 168

5 AAC 85.065. Hunting seasons and bag limits for small game.

Reduce the bag limit for harlequin duck for Units 7 and 15 as follows:

Harlequin duck: 1/day, 2 in possession

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Anecdotal and undeniable evidence attests to a drastic decline in sea duck numbers in Kachemak Bay in recent history. Given the three-year delay in addressing management issues in Units 7 and 15 it would be prudent to address conservation concerns conservatively. In lieu of any current accurate data of population trends we suggest that a bag limits on some sea ducks be reduced.

PROPOSED BY: Homer Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-F22-061)

PROPOSAL 169

5 AAC 85.065. Hunting seasons and bag limits for small game.

Reduce the bag limit for harlequin in Unit 15C as follows:

1 Harlequin per day, 2 in possession.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? A bag limit reduction on harlequin is needed to ensure hunt opportunities now and in the future. The Homer Fish and Game Advisory Committee voted unanimously to sponsor this proposal at its April 2022 meeting, and they have submitted the same proposal. I am submitting this to add supporting information.

Residents and hunters are noticing increased sea duck hunting pressure in Kachemak Bay. In 2021, we saw a disturbing spike in harvest, and we learned that the addition of a few more guides means significantly increased harvest.

Kachemak Bay is one of the easiest place to access sea ducks in Alaska. Since harlequin prefer protected bays and coves that are particularly easy to access, they are among the most threatened species of sea ducks.

Depressed populations of sea ducks do not recover quickly. They are known to have a high degree

of site fidelity, which means that if an area’s population is depressed, birds from other areas are unlikely to boost the population. Also, according to the Sea Duck Joint Venture, they have lower reproductive and chick survival rates than other ducks.

The proposal is supported by two consecutive years of community sea duck surveys in Kachemak Bay—a local effort of over 30 people motivated by concern of over-harvest and lack of data. Our data suggests that the number of sea ducks in Kachemak Bay are limited and that populations do not bounce back after significant harvest occurs.

For the most part sea ducks are targeted for trophies—this proposal is designed to allow for trophies, meat harvest, incidental take, and traditional tribal harvest.

Populations of sea ducks in Kachemak Bay declined significantly in the 1990s, and according to ADF&G surveys and community science surveys, they have not yet recovered.

Kachemak Bay is an ADF&G Critical Habitat Area, whose legislative purpose is “to protect and preserve habitat” and the Kachemak Bay Management Plan says that “priority should be given to encouraging rehabilitation of depleted indigenous fish and wildlife populations.”

Bag limits for migratory waterfowl are set on the level of the Pacific Flyway, but Alaska can set more restrictive limits, as happened when the Board of Game set special bag limit restrictions on eiders, harlequin, and Long-tailed ducks in Kachemak Bay in 1999.

PROPOSED BY: Penelope Haas (EG-F22-094)

PROPOSAL 170

5 AAC 85.065. Hunting seasons and bag limits for small game.

Reduce the bag limit for long-tailed duck in Units 7 and 15 as follows:

Long-tailed duck: 1/day, 2 in possession.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Anecdotal and undeniable evidence attests to a drastic decline in sea duck numbers in Kachemak Bay in recent history. Given the three-year delay in addressing management issues in Units 7 and 15 it would be prudent to address conservation concerns conservatively. In lieu of any current accurate data of population trends we suggest that a bag limits on some sea ducks be reduced.

PROPOSED BY: Homer Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-F22-062)

PROPOSAL 171

5 AAC 92.052. Discretionary permit hunt conditions and procedures.

Direct ADF&G to implement a method for accurate reporting of sea duck harvest for Units 6, 7 and 15 as follows:

Direct the Department of Fish and Game to institute means and methods to record sea duck harvest as accurately as possible.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Given that there is nearly no current data on sea duck harvest and that there is growing concern about population trends hunter harvest data should be collected.

PROPOSED BY: Homer Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-F22-057)

PROPOSAL 172

5 AAC 92.052. Discretionary permit hunt conditions and procedures.

Require mandatory harvest reporting for sea ducks in Kachemack Bay in Unit 15C as follows:

I propose mandatory harvest reporting for sea ducks in Kachemak Bay.

Regulatory language could be modeled on regulations in the State of Washington, which reads:

“To improve management of certain limited migratory bird species, you are required to possess a Migratory Bird Authorization and Harvest Record Card(s) if you are hunting those species (see page 10). Immediately after taking a band-tailed pigeon, brant, sea duck (scoters, long-tailed duck, harlequin, goldeneyes) in western Washington, snow goose (Goose Management Area 1) or any goose in Goose Management Area 2 — Coast & Inland into possession, you must fill out the required harvest record card information in ink. You must report hunting activity on your harvest record cards to WDFW using the online reporting system at: fishhunt.dfw.wa.gov/, or by mailing the cards to: WDFW, Wildlife Program — Waterfowl Section, PO Box 43141 Olympia, WA 98504. Reports need to be postmarked by the reporting deadlines even if you did not harvest any birds. Please note that you must comply with these reporting requirements or you will be required to pay a \$10 administrative fee before obtaining a harvest record card the next year.”

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Accurate sea duck harvest numbers in Kachemak Bay are needed to assure hunt opportunities now and in the future. The Homer Fish and Game Advisory Committee voted unanimously to sponsor this proposal at its April 2022 meeting, and they have submitted a similar proposal. I am submitting this to add supporting information.

The current reporting system, Alaska’s Migratory Bird Harvest Information Program (HIP), does not give us enough information and puts us in danger of over-harvest. HIP invites voluntary reporting from a very small, randomized group of hunters from across the state: it gives a just a little information on a statewide level and does not consider regional variations.

Residents and hunters are noticing increased sea duck hunting pressure in Kachemak Bay. In 2021, we saw a disturbing spike in harvest, and we learned that the addition of a few more guides means significantly increased harvest.

Kachemak Bay is one of the easiest places to access sea ducks in Alaska. Since bufflehead prefer protected bays and coves that are particularly easy to access, they are among the most threatened species of sea ducks.

Depressed populations of sea ducks do not recover quickly. They are known to have a high degree of site fidelity, which means that if an area’s population is depressed, birds from other areas are unlikely to boost the population. Also, according to the Sea Duck Joint Venture, they have lower

reproductive and chick survival rates than other ducks.

The proposal is supported by two consecutive years of community sea duck surveys in Kachemak Bay—a local effort of over 30 people motivated by concern of over-harvest and lack of data. Our data suggests that the number of sea ducks in Kachemak Bay are limited and that populations do not bounce back after significant harvest occurs.

Populations of sea ducks in Kachemak Bay declined significantly in the 1990s, and according to ADF&G surveys and community science surveys, they have not yet recovered.

Kachemak Bay is an ADF&G Critical Habitat Area, whose legislative purpose is “to protect and preserve habitat” and the Kachemak Bay Management Plan says that “priority should be given to encouraging rehabilitation of indigenous fish and wildlife populations.”

PROPOSED BY: Penelope Haas

(EG-F22-096)
