

I apologize for missing my testimony yesterday. The stomach flu had me tethered to my hotel room.

I am a member of the Big Game Commercial Services Board and a 20 year AC member, currently serving on the Mat-su AC. This is testimony for myself.

Sheep

- 8 year old ungulates in any population are simply surplus. The option of taking of these animals is the dream of Conservation Biologists. If we could manage any other ungulate to take only 8 year old male, we could have year-round seasons!
- Sheep have been crushed by weather regularly in different areas of the state regularly throughout history. This is not a new problem. We went through this same scenario in 2013 in the Brooks range and most areas had bounced back when the 2020 winter got it again along with the rest of the state.
- The only real solution is patience and restraint and the full curl/8 year old regulations provide for very judicious restraint.
- This is not a hunter problem. All-time or near all-time high ram numbers existed in many areas of the Alaska Range just 3-4 years ago in both 20a and 19c.
- If closures are implemented, Hunters will be displaced as in the 13D draw implementation over a decade ago. Pressure increased, in many areas when Chugach hunters were displaced by the drawings.
- We know that sheep populations are not hurt by hunting, even when depressed. We know this because we have many totally-closed areas in the National Parks that are seeing the same population fluctuations.
- The percentage of 5-6 year old rams in any depressed population is generally high meaning that in just a couple years there are quite a few legal rams if weather does not get them again. ADF&G Biologists say middle aged rams are "bulletproof" in most cases.
- The statistics and trends show that sheep hunting pressure is self limiting. The data shows that we have far fewer sheep hunters than we had in the 1990s (about half). We have seen drastic decreases in sheep hunters in the Alaska range recently. Resident hunters have almost completely vacated the western AK Range since the bad winters a couple years ago because they will go where more sheep are present. The word gets out very quickly when a really bad winter happens. EVERY guide I have talked to has drastically decreased their bookings in the area. I polled the guide community at the Alaska Sheep meeting at the Wild Sheep Foundation Convention in Reno. There were about 20 guides in the room and every single one had intentionally booked fewer hunters. Further questioning revealed that those in the Alaska Range had decreased bookings by over 50% on average!

Kodiak Deer

1 deer for nonresidents.

- I Support the Kodiak AC recommendation of one deer for nonresidents.
- I have a Kodiak Guide concession and would like my clients to be able to take two deer but I am willing to sacrifice this privilege to get a handle on the transporter issues that are causing so much angst for Kodiak residents.
- More pressure than ever on deer.
- Not a conservation problem in the sense of a population level issues. This is a quality of hunt issue causing drastic localized depletions in the areas that area easy to hunt from large boats.
- If not one deer, maybe two deer, only one of which could be a doe or even bucks only.

Kodiak Bear Allocation

- Flexibility is needed when you have a system as micro managed and complicated as Kodiak bears.
- Some areas have over 35% nonresident allocation and some have much less.
- The Department have set these numbers for reasons.
 - o Some areas are easier to access and better opportunities for residents and these should probably have a little higher resident allocation while those areas traditionally heavily used by guides and tougher to access are more appropriated to have a little higher nonresident allocation.

Trapping setback proposals

- Establish history of Trappers made the trails.
- Only provide setbacks for those trails that were NOT built by trappers.
- Testimony indicated that there are 50-year trappers being displaced by other uses.
- Trappers made many, if not most of these trails and they have been taken over by other uses.
- Education is great and the history of each trail would be really interesting to establish and post.

Kenai Bears over bait

- Sows are more likely to have boars with them later in the season, making the harvest of sows LESS likely. When a hunter has the choice of the boar or the sown when there are two of them, they almost always take the boar.
- June 15th is a very reasonable closing date but June 30 is also very common around the state.

203 - Ira Edwards hunt in Kinkaid

- I tried to get moose hunts open in Anchorage Parks for years as the Anchorage AC Chair. I was unsuccessful. I support this proposal from the simple basis of a harvestable surplus.
- I have always been an advocate of disabled hunts. Ira did his homework on this proposal and has a very practical solution.