

Northeast Alaska – Units 25A, 25B, 25D, 26B & 26C

PROPOSAL 154

5 AAC 85.025 Hunting seasons and bag limit for caribou.

Change the bag limit for caribou in the Remainder of Unit 26B as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
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Remainder of Unit 26(B)

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

<u>5 caribou</u> [4 BULLS]	July 1–Apr. 30
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NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

<u>2 bulls</u> [1 BULL]	Aug. 1–Sept. 15
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What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Central Arctic caribou herd (CAH) grew throughout the early 2000s from an estimated 29,5019 (95% C.I. = 26,504–32,533) in 2000 to a high of 68,442 (95% C.I. = 54,571–82,312) in 2010 then declined precipitously by 2016 to 22,630 (95% C.I. = 20,074–25,186). Since 2016 the herd has slowly grown to an estimated population size of 34,642 (95% C.I. = 32,419–36,866). The management objective for CAH is 28,000–32,000 caribou and the current estimate is above the objective. In the past, harvest has shown to have little effect on this population but harvesting a few cows could help slow the growth of this herd. Regardless of the herd growth concerns, there is currently a harvestable surplus of cow caribou available. This proposed regulation change would allow the opportunity to harvest those surplus animals and provide some ability to slow the growth of this herd. Allowing the small number of nonresidents that harvest caribou in this area to take an additional bull would have negligible impact on the herd and would align the nonresident bag limit with Units 26C, 25A, 25B, and 25D.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F23-051)

PROPOSAL 155

5 AAC 85.025 Hunting seasons and bag limit for caribou.

Increase resident caribou hunting opportunity in Unit 26B Remainder as follows:

Residents **5 caribou** [4 BULLS] July 1 – April 30

No change to nonresident season or bag limit.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Central Arctic caribou herd (CAH) is an identified big game prey population under our Intensive Management (IM) Law important for high levels of human harvest by Alaskans. It has an IM population objective of 28,000 – 32,000 animals.

In 2010, the CAH population was wildly over the population objective at 68,000 animals and hunting was basically unlimited. The CAH then crashed to 22,000 animals in 2016, which led to the Board of Game at their 2017 Region III meeting significantly reducing hunting opportunity for both residents and nonresidents. However, the new bag limits the board levied on residents were much more restrictive than those on nonresidents, and subsequently nonresident CAH hunters began to take the majority of the harvest.

The CAH population began to slowly increase, and the board later increased the resident bag limit to four bulls to give residents more opportunity to put meat in their freezers, leaving the nonresident season and bag limit of one bull the same.

Currently, the CAH population is just over the Intensive Management (IM) population objective at 32,416 animals based on the 2022 photo census estimate, and there is a harvestable surplus of animals. Resident hunting opportunities –especially the opportunity to take cows – can now be expanded back to where they were in the past for this Intensive Management population.

The Department of Fish and Game believes that with the current population and trajectory of the CAH, we can sustainably harvest 350-400 cows annually. When hunting was unlimited, the highest cow harvest seen was 346 in 2011. While we don't believe we need a cow quota based on this information, the board may want to consider giving the department the ability to reduce cow harvests if necessary, as the herd is monitored.

We do not support any increase in the nonresident season or bag limit, or any amendments to this proposal that would increase the nonresident season or bag limit. Information, the board may want to consider giving the department the ability to reduce cow harvests if necessary, as the herd is monitored.

We do not support any increase in the nonresident season or bag limit, or any amendments to this proposal that would increase the nonresident season or bag limit.

PROPOSED BY: Resident Hunters of Alaska

(HQ-F23-012)

PROPOSAL 156

5 AAC 85.025. Hunting seasons and bag limit for caribou.

Change the nonresident caribou hunt in Unit 26B Remainder to a drawing hunt or registration hunt with a limited number of permits available as follows:

Change the nonresident caribou hunt in Unit 26B Remainder to draw only or registration with a limit to the amount of tags given out.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? While caribou hunting the Dalton Highway in Unit 26B the past few years, there has been a huge increase in the amount of hunters (primarily nonresident) being transported via airboat on the Sag and Echooka Rivers. It has gotten to the point where there is a camp placed every mile or so in some areas over vast stretches of river. While I have never used these services, I have routinely hiked out past the five mile corridor and have noticed the massive amount of boat and hunter traffic. I do believe that this sort of access to this area is having a negative impact on the caribou herd and the amazing remoteness of this area. While I believe that nonresident hunters should have an opportunity to hunt this area, I do believe that there should be a limit on the amount. If this is left unchecked, I am afraid this will lead to another ruined wilderness area and a dwindling caribou herd. While I understand limiting the amount of transporters transporting hunters will be difficult, I believe that limiting the amount of hunters in the area would help immensely.

PROPOSED BY: Kenneth Bowman

(EG-F23-188)

Note: This proposal is also scheduled for the January 26-29, 2024 Western Arctic / Western Region meeting in Kotzebue, Alaska as Proposal 35 during which Unit 26A will be considered. The board may defer final action on Unit 26A to the Interior and Eastern Arctic Region meeting.

PROPOSAL 157

5 AAC 85.050. Hunting seasons and bag limits for muskoxen.

Change the Unit 26A and Unit 26B muskox hunt area boundaries to match federal hunt boundaries, and expand the state hunt areas as follows:

Unit 26A, that portion west of the eastern shore of Admiralty Bay where the Alaktak River drains, following the Alaktak River to 155°00' W longitude south to the Units 26A border- 1 muskox by Tier II permit Aug. 1-Mar. 15. Unit 26A East and 26B West, that portion from West of the Dalton Highway to the eastern shore of Admiralty Bay where the Alaktak River enters, following the Alaktak River to 155°00' W longitude south to the Unit 26A border—1 muskox by Tier II permit Aug. 1-Mar. 15.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Modify the boundary of the western Unit 26A and eastern Unit 26A-26B muskox hunts so the boundaries match the federal hunt boundaries and so the state hunt boundaries abut.

PROPOSED BY: North Slope Fish and Game Advisory Committee

(EG-F23-193)

PROPOSAL 158

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

Allow nonresident sheep hunting by drawing permit only in portions of Units 25A, 26B, and 26C as follows:

Limit nonresident sheep hunters within the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge:

Units 25a, 26B, and 26C within the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge Guide Concession Areas 1 -16

Nonresident Hunters

**One ram with full curl horn or larger
by drawing permit only, every four
regulatory years; up to 7 permits may
be issued** [ONE RAM WITH FULL CURL HORN
OR LARGER EVERY FOUR REGULATORY YEARS]

Aug 10 – Sept 20

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

Federal management of sheep within the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, allowing feds to manage a state resource.

Recent sheep declines are a growing concern for federal land managers. Within the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR), all guides have exclusive concession areas, and the number of sheep hunting clients and sheep those clients can harvest is determined by the approved federal guide concession prospectus application submitted by the guide.

For example, if a guide has a concession within ANWR and he or she is approved to run seven sheep clients and harvest a maximum of seven sheep annually, that agreement is within the contract that runs for ten years. The refuge manager has no means to change that contract and lower that allocation when sheep are in decline and there are conservation concerns. All the refuge manager can do is recommend to the guides with concessions and 10-year contracts to voluntarily take less sheep. And while some guides do voluntarily take fewer sheep hunting clients and fewer sheep, some do not.

This essentially leaves sheep conservation decisions in the hands of guides who charge upwards of \$25,000 for a guided sheep hunt.

State Management of our Wildlife Resources

For a long time now, the Board of Game and the department have rightly been decrying “federal overreach” of our state game management and have pushed for state management of our wildlife resources on federal lands. But the Board of Game and the department are entirely hypocritical when it comes to allowing the feds to manage our sheep on federal refuge and National Park Service lands. The board and department are perfectly willing to have the feds manage our sheep within ANWR.

As sheep populations decline, the board needs to take control of sheep management on National Park Service and refuge lands and set allocations for nonresident sheep hunters. If the feds believe that current

allowable allocations of sheep to guides with exclusive concession contracts under the federal system are too high, yet have no way of lowering those allocations, it is a problem that the state needs to address.

There are sixteen exclusive guide concession areas within ANWR. The wildlife resources in each of those areas belong to the state and should be managed by the state! The Board of Game needs to take control of sheep management within ANWR and stop allowing the feds to manage our declining sheep resource.

There should be no opposition by guides to draw permits within exclusive concession areas, as each guide with an exclusive concession is guaranteed the clients who draw for that area. It is our understanding that most of the current federally approved sheep allocations to guides within ANWR are six to seven sheep. We suggest “up to” language as high as those current allocations, that would allow the department to manage sheep allocations within ANWR as they best see fit, so when sheep are in decline, allocations to nonresidents can be adjusted under state management regulations.

PROPOSED BY: Resident Hunters of Alaska

(HQ-F23-017)

PROPOSAL 159

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

5 AAC 92.530(31). Management areas.

Open a resident only archery only hunt for sheep in the Eastern Brooks Range Management Area with aircraft restrictions, and modify the existing youth hunt in the same area as follows:

Eastern Brooks Range Management Area:

Resident One ram with full-curl horn or larger **by bow and arrow only**. August 10-September 20. **No hunter may access or exit the hunt by landing aircraft inside the EMBRMA/AVSMA except for the Arctic Village airstrip itself.**

AND:

*** Amend the existing (in regulation only due to federal closure) **Youth Hunt** to include: **No hunter may access or exit the hunt by landing aircraft inside the EMBRAM/AVSMA except for the Arctic Village airstrip itself.**

(This hunt could also be created as a registration hunt if desired by wildlife managers to closer monitor and control the harvest.)

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The purpose of this hunt is to **increase hunter opportunity while having a minimal effect on the sheep population and on local subsistence hunters** by creating a new archery only hunt in the Arctic Village Sheep Management Area/Eastern Brooks Range Management Area.

Per the ADF&G regulations, the Eastern Brooks Range Management Area (EBRMA) currently has a youth sheep hunt from August 1-5 and then a registration hunt that takes place starting in October. However, the EBRMA directly overlays the Arctic Village Sheep Management Area (AVSMA) **which is currently under federal closure** except for the late season/winter registration hunt. **The aim of this proposal is to create a state supported hunt that might prove more acceptable to AVSMA managers** because the increased difficulty of a foot accessed, archery only hunt will make the hunt

challenging enough that, despite the added hunter opportunity, will result in which very few sheep will be killed and local subsistence hunting activities and communities will not be affected.

On archery hunting:

Archery hunting is an ideal management tool in areas sensitive to harvest numbers and/or in areas being managed to create the least disturbance possible on local subsistence hunting communities. Archery hunting increases or maintains hunting opportunity for all hunters (any sheep hunter can purchase and learn to shoot a bow) while dramatically decreasing the harvest/impact compared to a hunt in which rifles are allowed. Alaska should begin to implement archery hunting for sheep as a management tool and this hunt, if it were ever to become available, would be an ideal place to utilize this strategy.

(For reference: in the two existing archery draw hunts in Alaska, DS140 and DS141, which are easily accessible by road system near anchorage and have an established ATV trail within a couple of miles of much of the hunting area, there are still abundant sheep and mature rams in the area. Of the 64 resident hunters who receive that tag each year, on average one to three sheep have been killed in total in recent years and this is an any ram hunt. This demonstrates that archery hunts provide great opportunity for hunt but have little to no affect on animal populations. This hunt would have essentially zero adverse affect on sheep populations while increasing hunter opportunity.)

On access restrictions:

To decrease interruption to local subsistence hunters, an added feature of this hunt could be that it may only be accessed by foot from outside the EBRMA/AVSMA or from Arctic Village itself. To clarify, hunters would have to enter the EBRMMA/AVSMA by foot only unless walking from Arctic Village itself. Air access would only be allowed if planes drop hunters outside of the EBRMA/AVSMA. This would create a unique “controlled access” style hunt that would drastically minimize interruption to the local community and their subsistence hunting activities.

It is the intent of this proposal that the existing youth hunt, if allowed, (which has never been an actual available hunt due to federal regulations described above) would also transition to these air access restrictions, again with the intent of minimizing any interruption to the local community.

PROPOSED BY: Paul Forward

(EG-F23-279)

PROPOSAL 160

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

Change sheep hunting in a portion of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to archery only as follows:

That area, identified on ANWR land status maps as GUA/ARC-6 (main Branch of the Marsh Fork the Canning)

Resident: HT: One ram full curl or larger, by bow and arrow only.

Nonresident: HT: One ram full curl or larger every four years by bow and arrow only.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? We need to adopt archery only sheep hunting areas as a conservation management tool that will maintain hunting opportunity for all but will decrease harvest. This proposal, similar to several others here is proposing a region wide transition to archery only for sheep hunting in the interest of preserving hunting opportunity in the face of sheep population decline.

Throughout the state sheep populations are generally in decline. This has been the topic of constant discussion at the state and federal level of wildlife managers and has led to a recent closure in the federal lands west of the Sagavanirktok River. Further south, in Unit 19C, this decline has resulted in an emergency closure to nonresidents at the most recent Board of Game (BOG) meeting. Sheep are in decline and concern has been raised by biologists throughout the state that full-curl management (FCM) may not be sufficient. Closures and transition to draw hunts have been the primary tools utilized by ADF&G but this proposal encourages the BOG to consider using archery hunts as a conservation management tool. Both with sheep in Alaska (DS 140/141, 240/241) and many other species in the state and around North America, archery areas and/or seasons have consistently shown that management by archery creates the ideal situation of maintaining opportunity while decreasing harvest. It is a perfect solution that benefits the game population while having very little negative affect on hunters. It simply makes the hunting a little more difficult. Skilled and/or lucky hunters will still harvest rams but the overall take will be much smaller.

Aside from a very narrow portion of the Brooks Range within the Dalton Highway Corridor, Alaska does not have any areas or seasons for for sheep. In contrast, we have at least limited seasons and a few set aside areas for hunting almost every other big game species in the state. Similarly, in British Columbia and Alberta there are designated archery areas or seasons available to all hunters. Because of the nature of archery hunting and the time and stealth often required, it is less compatible with having rifle hunters in the area, especially when some rifle hunters are shooting at 500+ yards.

For well over a decade hundreds of bowhunters have stepped forward, representing potentially thousands more hunters, resident and nonresident, requesting archery sheep seasons but thus far the BOG and ADF&G have not been willing to provide opportunity. This proposal, of taking a specific area and transitioning it to archery only for sheep will maintain opportunity for all hunters (they need only take bow instead of a rifle) but will answer the decades of request for such an area.

Despite biologists consistently telling us that sheep numbers, overall are in decline in much of the Brooks Range (and elsewhere in the state), the harvest numbers from the nonresident hunters in ANWR have shown no significant decrease. I will enclose numbers in supporting documentation but, for example, harvest statistics since 2012 show that guided hunters in ANWR had their highest harvest number ever in

2020, with the third highest being 2021. With use of extensive aerial scouting hunters in these areas year after year, have success rates above 80%. Based on ADF&G statistics resident hunters using airplanes in those same areas are also reporting success rates above 60-70% despite official and anecdotal reports that overall sheep are much more sparse than they've been in decades.

For all of these reasons, we need to start thinking about way to maintain opportunity but decrease harvest. One of these ways is to make the hunting a little bit harder through the transition to archery only hunting. Archery only sheep hunts are the perfect solution. Anyone can buy and fairly quickly learn to use a bow and everyone who wants to hunt sheep will still have the same opportunity to be out there hunting and enjoying the pursuit of these amazing animals in amazing places. The hunting will just be a little more difficult and, resulting in fewer animals being killed every year.

In this proposal we have identified one specific area within ANWR because it was identified by the ANWR management office as being up for outfitter allotment renewal soon. This criteria was utilized in an effort to avoid disrupting an existing outfitter allotment that may not be renewed for several years. If the BOG or DOI/ANWR would suggest another GUA/ARC or area,

PROPOSED BY: Paul Forward

(EG-F23-294)

PROPOSAL 161

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

Change sheep hunting in a portion of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to archery only as follows:

That area, identified on ANWR land status maps as GUA/ARC-04

Resident: HT: One ram full curl or larger, by bow and arrow only.

Nonresident: HT: One ram full curl or larger every four years by bow and arrow only.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? We need to adopt archery only sheep hunting areas as a conservation management tool that will maintain hunting opportunity for all but will decrease harvest. This proposal, similar to several others here is proposing a region wide transition to archery only for sheep hunting in the interest of preserving hunting opportunity in the face of sheep population decline.

Throughout the state sheep populations are generally in decline. This has been the topic of constant discussion at the state and federal level of wildlife managers and has led to a recent closure in the federal lands west of the Sagavanirktok River. Further south, in Unit 19C, this decline has resulted in an emergency closure to nonresidents at the most recent Board of Game (BOG) meeting. Sheep are in decline and concern has been raised by biologists throughout the state that full-curl management (FCM) may not be sufficient. Closures and transition to draw hunts have been the primary tools utilized by ADF&G but this proposal encourages the BOG to consider using archery hunts as a conservation management tool. Both with sheep in Alaska (DS 140/141, 240/241) and many other species in the state and around North America, archery areas and/or seasons have consistently shown that management by archery creates the ideal situation of maintaining opportunity while decreasing harvest. It is a perfect solution that benefits the game population while having very little negative affect on hunters. It simply makes the hunting a little more difficult. Skilled and/or lucky hunters will still harvest rams but the overall take will be much smaller.

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For well over a decade hundreds of bowhunters have stepped forward, representing potentially thousands more hunters, resident and non-resident, requesting archery sheep seasons but thus far the BOG and ADF&G have not been willing to provide opportunity. This proposal, of taking a specific area and transitioning it to archery-only for sheep will maintain opportunity for all hunters (they need only take bow instead of a rifle) but will answer the decades of request for such an area.

Despite biologists consistently telling us that sheep numbers, overall are in decline in much of the Brooks Range (and elsewhere in the state), the harvest numbers from the nonresident hunters in ANWR have shown no significant decrease. I will enclose numbers in supporting documentation but, for example, harvest statistics since 2012 show that guided hunters in ANWR had their highest harvest number ever in 2020, with the 3rd highest being 2021. With use of extensive aerial scouting hunters in these areas year after year, have success rates above 80%. Similarly, based on ADF&G statistics resident hunters using airplanes in those same areas are also reporting success rates above 60-70% despite official and anecdotal reports that overall sheep are much more sparse than they've been in decades. It would be reasonable to conclude that the nature of this terrain and the ability to easily scout large areas by plane pre-season (and very difficult enforcement of in-season scouting) that sheep in these areas are extremely vulnerable to airplane utilizing rifle hunters.

For all of these reasons, we need to start thinking about way to maintain opportunity but decrease harvest. One of these ways is to make the hunting a little bit harder through the transition to archery only hunting. Archery only sheep hunts are the perfect solution. Anyone can buy and fairly quickly learn to use a bow and everyone who wants to hunt sheep will still have the same opportunity to be out there hunting and enjoying the pursuit of these amazing animals in amazing places. The hunting will just be a little more difficult and, resulting in fewer animals being killed every year.

PROPOSED BY: Paul Forward

(EG-F23-296)

PROPOSAL 162

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

Change sheep hunting in a portion of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to archery only as follows:

That area, identified on ANWR land status maps as GUA/ARC-01

Resident: HT: One ram full curl or larger, by bow and arrow only.

Nonresident: HT: One ram full curl or larger every four years by bow and arrow only.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? We need to adopt archery only sheep hunting areas as a conservation management tool that will maintain hunting opportunity for all but will decrease harvest. This proposal, similar to several others here is proposing a region wide transition to archery only for sheep hunting in the interest of preserving hunting opportunity in the face of sheep population decline.

Throughout the state sheep populations are generally in decline. This has been the topic of constant discussion at the state and federal level of wildlife managers and has led to a recent closure in the federal lands west of the Sagavanirktok River. Further south, in Unit 19C, this decline has resulted in an emergency closure to nonresidents at the most recent Board of Game (BOG) meeting. Sheep are in decline and concern has been raised by biologists throughout the state that full-curl management (FCM) may not be sufficient. Closures and transition to draw hunts have been the primary tools utilized by ADF&G but this proposal encourages the BOG to consider using archery hunts as a conservation management tool. Both with sheep in Alaska (DS 140/141, 240/241) and many other species in the state and around North America, archery areas and/or seasons have consistently shown that management by archery creates the ideal situation of maintaining opportunity while decreasing harvest. It is a perfect solution that benefits the game population while having very little negative affect on hunters. It simply makes the hunting a little more difficult. Skilled and/or lucky hunters will still harvest rams but the overall take will be much smaller.

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Despite biologists consistently telling us that sheep numbers, overall are in decline in much of the Brooks Range (and elsewhere in the state), the harvest numbers from the nonresident hunters in ANWR have shown no significant decrease. I will enclose numbers in supporting documentation but, for example, harvest statistics since 2012 show that guided hunters in ANWR had their highest harvest number ever in 2020, with the 3rd highest being 2021. With use of extensive aerial scouting hunters in these areas year

after year, have success rates above 80%. Similarly, based on ADF&G statistics resident hunters using airplanes in those same areas are also reporting success rates above 60-70% despite official and anecdotal reports that overall sheep are much more sparse than they've been in decades. It would be reasonable to conclude that the nature of this terrain and the ability to easily scout large areas by plane pre-season (and very difficult enforcement of in-season scouting) that sheep in these areas are extremely vulnerable to airplane utilizing rifle hunters.

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PROPOSED BY: Paul Forward

(EG-F23-295)

PROPOSAL 163

5 AAC 92.220. Salvage of game meat, furs, and hides.

Align salvage requirements for caribou in Units 25B, 25C, and 25D with Unit 25A to require meat of caribou remain on the bone when harvested prior to October 1 as follows:

Align meat on bone for caribou in Unit 25B, C, and D with Unit 25A to require the meat of the front quarters, hindquarters, and ribs to be left on the bone prior to October 1 until removed from the field or processed for human consumption.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? This would prevent spoilage in the hot fall weather because it would make the meat easier to handle when hanging and/or transporting.

PROPOSED BY: Amanda Pope

(HQ-F23-005)

PROPOSAL 164

5 AAC 92.220. Salvage of game meat, furs, and hides.

Require the liver, heart, and tongue of moose and caribou harvested in Units 25 to be salvaged as follows:

Organ meat such as liver, heart, and tongue must be salvaged in Units 25A, 25B, 25C, and 25D.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? If organ meat such as liver, heart, and tongue of a beef cow can be purchased in a retail store, it should be salvaged when a moose or caribou is harvested. If organ meat is good, salvageable for human consumption, then it should be taken out of the field. If the person doesn't eat the organ meat, then those parts can be donated to the nearest community.

PROPOSED BY: Amanda Pope

(HQ-F23-006)

PROPOSAL 165

5 AAC 92.XXX. Intensive Management Plans.

Create an intensive management plan for reducing wolves in Unit 25D as follows:

Establish a wolf population reduction plan in Unit 25D and issue permits for same-day airborne shooting/public taking of wolves by land and shoot on private and state lands as allowed under 5 AAC 92.039.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Allow same-day airborne shooting/public taking of wolves by land and shoot in Unit 25D.

Our moose population in Unit 25D is low. Probably one of the lowest in the state. There are seven villages in Unit 25D which mostly subsist on moose meat as their primary food. The state managed lands are only a certain percentage of Unit 25D. This proposal mostly applies to tribal corporation/private lands in the refuge. Wolves and bears are becoming more and more abundant in Unit 25D. We are needing to hunt, trap, and shoot as many as possible in these seven communities. There have been reports of wolves and bears within the communities at certain times of year – bears in the summer months, and wolves in the winter months – all which are looking for food closer and closer to villages. Moose are tending to stay closer to communities in order to find safety. Wolf packs are always getting larger, breeding six to eight wolf pups per year. And living in remote areas of the refuge. Black bears and brown bears are hunting moose calves thru out the birthing times. We need more resources (tools in the toolbox) to address the need to reduce the number of wolves and bears in Unit 25D in order to bring our moose populations back up to a more sustainable level.

PROPOSED BY: Yukon Flats Fish and Game Advisory Committee

(EG-F23-318)

PROPOSAL 166

5 AAC 84.270. Furbearer trapping.

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

Establish trapping seasons for black and brown/grizzly bears and allow black and brown/grizzly bears to be taken by bucket snares in Unit 25D as follows:

Add bucket snaring under trapping regulations as a legal method of taking black and brown bear (grizzlies) in Unit 25D. Request the Board of Game (BOG) and ADF&G to develop seasons and regulations associated with implementing bear bucket snaring.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? People can take five black bears and 2 brown bears (grizzlies) a year including sows and cubs. I would like to allow people to harvest more bears for human consumption using the bucket snaring method, under trapping regulations. This would be a more efficient method to harvest a bear than baiting bears alone. I added brown bears (grizzlies) because you can take them over bait, so allowing them to also be taken legally using a bucket snare would be beneficial for those who want to fill their freezers. This would also help the declining moose population in the unit.

PROPOSED BY: Amanda Pope

(HQ-F23-004)

PROPOSAL 167

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

Lengthen the season dates for Unit 26B nonresident drawing brown bear hunt DB987 by opening the season two weeks earlier, on August 10 as follows:

DB987: Season dates: 08/10/20xx - 05/31/20xx

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? DB987: I would like to propose that the season dates be extended to begin on August 10th. An earlier start date of August 10th instead of August 25th would allow for more harvest opportunity on grizzly bears. Over harvest would not be a concern because DB987 has a set number of permits available for nonresidents.

PROPOSED BY: Emily Thoft

(EG-F23-247)

PROPOSAL 168

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

Lengthen the Unit 26B brown bear hunting seasons within the Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area for residents and nonresidents as follows:

Extend the brown bear spring season to **Jan 1 - June 15th** in Unit 26B "Within Dalton Highway Corridor" and Unit 26B Remainder.

Open the fall season 15 days earlier to **Aug 10- Dec 31** in hunt area Unit 26B Remainder.

Align the nonresident hunt dates of DB987 to match the resident dates and allow a nonresident with a draw permit to hunt **Aug 10-June 15**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Lost brown bear hunting opportunity in the spring and fall seasons in Unit 26B hunts RB988/989 and nonresident draw hunt DB987.

The hunts in these areas are closely managed by registration and draw harvest reporting. Therefore a risk to over harvest is not a concern.

There will be some concern about harvesting bears with poor hide quality if spring dates are extended however some bears have poor hides in the spring and fall and hunters can be selective and avoid harvesting a bear with a poor hide.

PROPOSED BY: Craig Van Arsdale

(EG-F23-308)

PROPOSAL 169

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

Remove the resident registration permits RB988 and RB989 for brown bear in Unit 26B as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
Unit 26(B), that portion within the Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area		
RESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 bear every regulatory year [BY REGISTRATION PERMIT ONLY]; by bow and arrow only;[OR	Aug. 10 – <u>May 31</u> [AUG. 24]	
1 BEAR EVERY REGULATORY YEAR BY REGISTRATION PERMIT ONLY]	[AUG. 25 – MAY 31]	
NONRESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 bear every regulatory year by drawing permit only; up to 20 permits may be issued in combination with the remainder of 26(B)		Aug. 25 – May 31
Remainder of Unit 26(B)		
RESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 bear every regulatory year [BY REGISTRATION PERMIT ONLY]	Aug. 25 – May 31	
NONRESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 bear every regulatory year by drawing permit only; up to 20 permits may be issued in combination with that portion of Unit 26(B) within the Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area		Aug. 25 – May 31

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? These registration permits were put in place as a measure to limit the hunting pressure on brown bears in Unit 26B. These registration permits were not limited in recent years and the harvest has remained below management objectives. Removing the requirement for obtaining a registration permit prior to hunting in Unit 26B may allow more opportunistic hunting to occur where there is a harvestable surplus.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F23-052)

PROPOSAL 170

5 AAC 84.270. Furbearer trapping.

Lengthen the wolverine trapping season in Unit 25A by two weeks to close on April 15 as follows:

Proposed regulatory language would read:

5 AAC 84.270(14) Wolverine.

Units 19, remainder of 20(C), 21, 24, and 25 (except 25(A) and 25(C)) Nov. 1 - Mar. 31 No limit. Units 22, 23, and 26 Nov. 1 - Apr. 15 No limit.

Unit 25(A), Nov 1 - April 15, No limit.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I would like to change the closing date for trapping wolverine in Unit 25A by extending the closure date from March 31 to April 15.

I am writing this proposal to request an extension of the trapping season for wolverine in Unit 25A. Wolverine trapping season currently closes on March 31. I am requesting that the season closure date be extended to April 15.

I have been a trapper in the upper part of Unit 25A since the 1980s and have not only seen some of the coldest winters in Alaska but also some of the longest. Many winters in this area last several weeks longer than many parts of the interior. This being said, I feel wolverine trapping can not only be extended until April 15, and still produce well primed pelts, but the weather at that time of year can be advantageous for longer trapping days.

Unit 26C is the adjacent unit to the north where the trapping season for wolverine is open until April 15th. With very similar winter conditions and seasonal changes for both units (at least in the upper portion of Unit 25A), I feel wolverine trapping for Unit 25A can be extended with no issues. Thank you for your consideration.

PROPOSED BY: Daniel Hayden

(EG-F23-249)
