


# Regionwide Proposals



Region IV – Central and Southwest

RC 4, Tab 2.11




## Proposal 1

Brown Bear


### Reauthorize Brown bear tag fees exemptions for the Central/Southwest Region IV

*Department Proposal*



Department Recommendation: **SUPPORT**

1-2



# Proposal 1

## Brown Bear

### Customary & Traditional Use

**Amount Necessary for Subsistence (ANS)**

**Units 9A,C&D:** Negative customary and traditional use finding

**Unit 9B:** ANS 10–20 bears

**Unit 9E:** ANS 10–15 bears

**Unit 10:** Negative customary and traditional use finding

**Unit 11:** Negative customary and traditional use finding


**Unit 16B:** Negative customary and traditional use finding

**Units 17A &17B** (portions that drain into the Nuyakuk and Tikchik lakes): ANS 5 bears

**Unit 17B-Remainder & Unit 17C:** ANS 10–15 bears

1-3

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# Proposal 1

## Brown Bear

### Harvest Opportunities

- Units 9 & 10 - within 2.5-mile radius of communities
- Units 13 & 16
- Units 11 & 17

**Subsistence Registration Permits in:**

- Units 9B & 17
- Unit 9E, specified portion draining into the Pacific.

1-4

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# Proposal 1

## Brown Bear

### Reauthorize Brown bear tag fees exemptions for the Central/Southwest Region IV

*Department Proposal*



Department Recommendation: **SUPPORT**

1-5

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# Proposal 2

## Bear Baiting

### Establish brown bear baiting in Units 9&17; create a second bear baiting season of July 1–October 15 in Units 9, 11, 13, 14A&B, and 17 where baiting is legal


*Bethel Advisory Committee*



Department Recommendation: **NEUTRAL**

2-6

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Proposal 2

Bear Baiting

Current Regulations

Spring Season

- Units 11, 13, 14A&B, and 16: April 15–June 30
- Unit 17: April 15–May 31

Fall Season

- Unit 16: July 1–October 15

- Black bear sealing requirement in Units 16 & 17 (all brown bears).
- Both bear species can be taken over bait in Units 11, 13, 14A&B, and 16.
- Black and brown bears can be taken same-day flown provided 300 ft. from airplane in Units 11, 13, 14A&B, and 16. Black bears can be taken same-day flown provided 300 ft. from airplane in Units 9 & 17.
- Salvage requirements for skull, hide, and meat dictated by season and area.

2-7

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Proposal 2

Bear Baiting

Current Regulations

➤ Units 14A&B and 16A in Anchorage Matanuska Nonsubsistence Area

Black Bear


- Positive customary and traditional use (C&T) finding for black bear in Units 11 and 13
  - Amount reasonably necessary for subsistence (ANS) of 20–50 bears
- Positive C&T for black bear in Unit 16B
  - ANS of 15–40 bears.

Brown Bear

- Positive C&T findings
  - Unit 9B (ANS = 10–20 bears)
  - Unit 9E (ANS = 10–15 bears)
  - Unit 17A and portions of 17B (ANS = 5 bears)
  - Portions of 17B&C, 19A, B, & D (combined ANS of 10–15 bears)

3-8

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# Proposal 2

## Bear Baiting

### Average annual take of bears by unit and percent of harvest through baiting RY2019–2023

Unit	Spring Bait	Fall Bait	Registered bait stations	Black bear harvest	Black bear harvest over bait (% of total take)	Brown bear harvest	Brown bear harvest over bait (% of total take)
9*	X		5	3	0.6	109	-
11	X		27	4	2.8	6.5	3.6
13A	X		35	1	0.6	11.8	3.0
13B	X		23	<1	0.3	13.0	4.4
13C	X		11	1	0.7	6.5	1.8
13D	X		118	19	13	11.9	14.4
13E	X		50	5	2.0	23.5	9.2
14A	X		175	30	17.8	4.3	4.4
14B	X		62	4	1.5	4.9	2.8
16A	X	X	218	27	18.4	10.4	6.3
16B	X	X	253	87	54	34.9	12.7
17A*	X		0	0	0	5.1	-
17B*	X		0	2	0	27.4	-
17C*	X		0	<1	0.0	10.0	-

\* No take of brown bears allowed at bait stations.

2-9

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The logo of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, featuring a circular emblem with a fish, a bear, and a moose, surrounded by the text "ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME".

# Proposal 2

## Bear Baiting

### Effect of Proposal

- Increased opportunity
- Potential increase bear harvest across the region
- Registered guides operating in these areas will be able to operate up to 10 sites at a time in each of their guide use areas in the fall.

2-10

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# Proposal 2


## Bear Baiting

### Considerations

- Continued protection of cubs, and sows with cubs, suggests increased bear harvest is not likely to create conservation concern
- Potential user conflicts and/or increased incidental human-bear interactions in areas of high fall hunting activity or development (i.e., Units 13 &14)
- Areas without fall opportunities are intentional BOG decisions to mitigate:
  - Public safety in areas of high hunting activity
    - Potential user conflicts among fall recreationists, hunters, and bear baiters.

2-11

11



# Proposal 2


## Bear Baiting

### Considerations

- Bear baiting is typically not allowed for coastal brown bears. The board's *Bear Conservation, Harvest and Management Policy* 2023-227-BOG recognizes the ecological and economic difference between brown and grizzly bears.
  - Conservation measure for coastal brown bear viewing areas (i.e., McNeill River and Brooks Falls)
- Land status will dictate where bait stations can be placed as there is considerable federal and private land in Region IV.

2-12

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## Proposal 2

Bear Baiting

Establish brown bear baiting in Units 9&17; create a second bear baiting season of July 1–October 15 in Units 9, 11, 13, 14A&B, and 17 where baiting is legal

*Bethel Advisory Committee*



Department Recommendation: **NEUTRAL**

2-13

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## Proposal 3

Bear Baiting

Allow the use of cellular cameras for the taking of black and brown bears over bait in Units 9, 11, 13, 14A&B, 16, and 17 from April 15–June 30




*Public Proposal*

Department Recommendation: **NEUTRAL**

3-14

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# Proposal 3

## Bear Baiting

### Current Regulations

**Spring Season**

- **Units 11, 13, 14A&B, and 16:** April 15–June 30
- **Unit 17:** April 15–May 31

**Fall Season**

- **Unit 16:** July 1–October 15

- Black bear sealing requirement in Units 16 & 17 (all brown bears).
- Both bear species can be taken over bait in Units 11, 13, 14A&B, and 16.
- Black and brown bears can be taken same-day flown provided 300 ft. from airplane in Units 11, 13, 14A&B, and 16. Black bears can be taken same-day flown provided 300 ft. from airplane in Units 9 & 17.
- Salvage requirements for skull, hide, and meat dictated by season and area.

3-15

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# Proposal 3

## Bear Baiting

### Current Regulations

➤ Units 14A&B and 16A in Anchorage Matanuska Nonsubsistence Area

**Black Bear**

- Positive customary and traditional use (C&T) finding for black bear in Units 11 and 13
  - Amount reasonably necessary for subsistence (ANS) of 20–50 bears
- Positive C&T for black bear in Unit 16B
  - ANS of 15–40 bears.


**Brown Bear**

- Positive C&T findings
  - Unit 9B (ANS = 10–20 bears)
  - Unit 9E (ANS = 10–15 bears)
  - Unit 17A and portions of 17B (ANS = 5 bears)
  - Portions of 17B&C, 19A, B, & D (combined ANS of 10–15 bears)

3-16

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# Proposal 3

## Bear Baiting

### Current Regulations

5 AAC 92.080. Permit for hunting bear with the use of bait or scent lures.

The following methods of taking game are prohibited:

...

(7) with the aid of ...


(G) any device that has been airborne, controlled remotely, or communicates wirelessly, and is used to spot or locate game with the use of a camera or video device;

(H) any camera or other sensory device that can send messages through wireless communication;

....

3-17

17



# Proposal 3

## Bear Baiting


### Average Annual Take of Bears by Unit and Percent Harvest through Baiting RY2019–2023

Unit	Spring Bait	Fall Bait	Registered bait stations	Black bear harvest	Black bear harvest over bait (% of total take)	Brown bear harvest	Brown bear harvest over bait (% of total take)
9*	X		5	3.2	0.6	109	-
11	X		27	4.0	2.8	6.5	3.6
13A	X		35	1.4	0.6	11.8	3.0
13B	X		23	0.5	0.3	13.0	4.4
13C	X		11	1.3	0.7	6.5	1.8
13D	X		118	18.5	13	11.9	14.4
13E	X		50	4.6	2.0	23.5	9.2
14A	X		175	30.1	17.8	4.3	4.4
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16A	X	X	218	27.4	18.4	10.4	6.3
16B	X	X	253	86.9	54	34.9	12.7
17A*	X		0	0	0	5.1	-
17B*	X		0	1.9	0	27.4	-
17C*	X		0	0.1	0.0	10.0	-

\* No take of brown bears allowed at bait stations.

2-18

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Proposal 3

Bear Baiting

Effect of Proposal

- Bear baiters in affected units could use game cameras to communicate wirelessly to locate, identify, and monitor activity at bait stations.
- Could lead to increased selectivity of bears taken

3-19

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Proposal 3

Bear Baiting

Allow the use of cellular cameras for the taking of black and brown bears over bait in Units 9, 11, 13, 14A&B, 16, and 17 from April 15–June 30



Public Proposal

Department Recommendation: **NEUTRAL**

3-20

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Proposal 4

Dall Sheep

Establish archery-only season for Dall sheep in Units 9, 11, 13, and 14A&B under a harvest ticket



Public Proposal



Department Recommendation: **NEUTRAL** on allocation  
**OPPOSED** to July hunt dates

4-21

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Proposal 4

Dall Sheep

Current Regulations

Residents and Nonresidents - General season harvest tickets in most of region

- August 10–September 20: 1 full-curl ram
- 1 full-curl ram every 4 regulatory years for nonresidents.

Resident and Nonresident Youth - Age 10–17 accompanied by an adult

- General season during August 1–5: 1 full-curl ram

Nonresidents - Require guide or resident relative age ≥19 y/o within 2<sup>nd</sup> degree kindred.

August 10–September 20 - Aircraft may only be used to place and remove hunters and camps, maintain existing camps, and salvage harvested sheep.


- A person may not use or employ an aircraft to locate sheep or direct hunters to sheep during the open sheep hunting season.

Unit 11 - 1 sheep annually under federal subsistence permit: Aug 10–Sept 20.

- Positive C&T finding, ANS of 60–75 sheep.

4-22

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# Proposal 4

## Dall Sheep

### Proposed Regulation

**Residents and nonresidents** - General season harvest tickets in most of region

- **August 6–9 or July 21–31: 1 full-curl ram *by Archery Only***
- August 10–September 20: 1 full-curl ram
- 1 full-curl ram every 4 regulatory years for nonresidents.

**Resident and nonresident youth** - Age 10–17 accompanied by an adult


- General season during August 1–5: 1 full-curl ram

**August 10–September 20** aircraft may only be used to place and remove hunters and camps, maintain existing camps, and salvage harvested sheep.

- *A person may not use or employ an aircraft to locate sheep or direct hunters to sheep during the open sheep hunting season.*

4-23

23



# Proposal 4


## Dall Sheep

### Total Dall Sheep Ram Harvest in the Central/Southwest Region RY2018–2024

Regulatory Year	Unit 9B	Unit 11	Unit 13	Units 14A&B	Unit 16	Total
2019	0	73	83	35	20	211
2020	1	60	53	23	7	144
2021	0	49	43	22	4	118
2022	0	46	40	23	8	117
2023	0	31	48	11	7	97
2024	0	40	46	8	9	103
Total	1	299	351	156	48	855

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# Proposal 4

## Dall Sheep

### Considerations

- Season would not overlap the youth sheep hunt (August 1–5) which is not weapons restricted.
  - July hunt dates would affect youth success.
  - Both proposed dates would affect success in current season.
- Hunters would not be affected by the aircraft restriction pertaining to locating sheep but would be required to wait until 3am the day following flying to harvest a ram.
- Full-curl bag limit provides maximum participation in sheep hunts and has not been linked to any negative effects on the sheep population or lamb production.

4-25

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# Proposal 4

## Dall Sheep

### Establish archery-only season for Dall sheep in Units 9, 11, 13, and 14A&B under a harvest ticket



*Public Proposal*



Department Recommendation: **NEUTRAL** on allocation  
**OPPOSED** to July hunt dates

4-26

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