PROPOSAL 34

5 AAC 92.510(3). Areas closed to hunting.

Allow archery only hunting for big game in the Juneau Road System Closed Area in Unit 1C, as follows:

What solution do you recommend? In other words, if the board adopted your solution, what would the new regulation say?

The revised regulation book (p. 40, item 1) would read Juneau Road System Closed Area: The area between the coast and a line ¼ mile inland of the following road systems: Glacier Hwy from Mile 0 to the northern bank of Peterson Creek, Douglas Hwy from the Douglas city limits to the northeast bank of Fish Creek, Mendenhall Loop Road and Thane Road; restricts the taking of big game to archery only. (The intent is to exclude the use of firearms and crossbows while leaving small game harvest as it currently is.)

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

Currently, the regulation book (p. 40, item 1) reads: Juneau Road System Closed Area: The area between the coast and a line ¼ mile inland of the following road systems: Glacier Hwy from Mile 0 to the northern bank of Peterson Creek, Douglas Hwy from the Douglas city limits to the northeast bank of Fish Creek, Mendenhall Loop Road and Thane Road; is closed to taking big game.

Note that the area addressed by this proposal is not closed to hunting; it is explicitly closed to the taking of big game.

I propose the Board change this area in Unit 1C from "closed to taking big game" to "harvest of big game permissible by archery only." It is my intention that the taking of big game by firearm and crossbow would remain restricted and therefore not permitted in this area.

This change increases hunting opportunities in a manner safe for use in the area, as has been shown in other parts of the state where archery harvest of big game is legal throughout populated communities, such as on the Kenai Peninsula. It also may help address the steadily increasing safety issues presented by growing black bear numbers in the area, while avoiding the use of firearms for big game in an area near homes and roads.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee?

Yes, I did.

As a lifelong Alaskan and new homeowner in Unit 1C, I began a few years ago by exploring the various harvest options available to me. I then started talking with neighbors and acquaintances throughout Juneau to understand if the black bear encounters I was experiencing were common among other Juneau area residents. Since my family annually harvested spring black bear for consumption in Southcentral Alaska, and because I was limited in my ability to hunt away from the road system, I recognized the increasing black bear population could likely benefit from a harvest management approach that would also support a spring harvest for consumption, so I began researching the relevant regulations.

Then, I sought out information and ideas from experienced former members of area Advisory Committees (AC), individual members of the local AC (no meeting was scheduled between the time I sought input and the due date of proposals), employees of Alaska Department of Fish and Game and a former member of the Board of Fish and Game. Once I felt I had a good understanding of concerns and possible solutions, I drafted this proposal and shared it with other Juneau area residents, some current members of the Juneau area AC, several hunting and fishing guides, and multiple non-hunting land users. Their input was used to refine and clarify my proposal before final submission. Should the board believe that opening the whole corridor is too big of a move at one time, I'd like to offer an alternative to consider rather than rejecting the proposal entirely. The alternative would be to open the corridor from Waydelich Creek north.

PROPOSED BY: Christine Ermold (HQ-F25-010)

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