

Cordova Area - Unit 6

PROPOSAL 76

5 AAC 85.030. Hunting seasons and bag limits for deer.

Reduce the nonresident bag limit to one deer in Unit 6 as follows:

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

Reduce nonresident bag limit to one deer. August 1 - September 30 bucks only, October 1 - December 31 any deer.

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

We have heard that transporters with live aboard accommodations working with hunt planning services are going to be moving their operations from Kodiak to Unit 6 due to the nonresident bag limit reduction to one buck on Kodiak. Unit 6 currently allows nonresidents to harvest four deer. This would allow the Department of Fish and Game to be proactive vs. reactive as they were on Kodiak due to excessive harvest from the increased nonresident pressure.

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

PROPOSED BY: Bradley Golden (OI-F25-152)

Title Correction: The proposal requests changing goat registration hunts in Unit 6D to drawing hunts.

PROPOSAL 77

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

Change the nonresident goat hunts in Unit 6D from drawing permits to registration hunts as follows:

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

Unit 6D

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 goat by registration permit only; however if a nanny is taken, the hunter is prohibited from taking a goat in Unit 6 for five regulatory years: the taking of nannies with kids is prohibited.

Resident Sept. 15 - Jan. 31

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 goat by drawing permit only (up to 100 permits); however if a nanny is taken, the hunter is prohibited from taking a goat in Unit 6 for five regulatory years: the taking of nannies with kids is prohibited.

Nonresident Sept. 15 – Jan. 31

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

Nonresidents are harvesting a significant percentage of the goat quotas in multiple registration hunts within Unit 6D. This is causing the registration hunts to close sooner compared to prior years and decreasing the opportunity for residents.

Going to a draw for nonresidents in Unit 6D would be the same as what is being done in Unit 14C Lake George, DG889. This would allow the Board of Game and ADF&G to allocate quota between nonresidents and residents based on survey data to create a more balanced allocation of the resource between residents and nonresidents.

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

I worked with another individual on this proposal. We obtained data from the area biologist in Cordova.

PROPOSED BY: Bradley Golden (OI-F25-149)

PROPOSAL 78

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

Create a fall season, archery registration permit goat hunt within the RG248 hunt area in Unit 6D, with a bag limit of one billy as follows:

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

Make an additional registration permit within the RG248 hunt area to include an early season archery hunt. Permits would be available at ADF&G offices and online. The season would be September 10th-20th, with a bag limit of 1 billy. Online goat quiz required to receive a permit. The regular RG248 season would continue unchanged, later in the season. This hunt would provide hunters with a set time frame to hunt, as making it archery only with a billy only bag limit, would greatly decrease the success rate overall and likely, extending the season to its entirety.

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

Not enough road accessible goat hunts exist outside of drawing permits. Draw permits are getting harder to draw with decreased numbers of tags and increased interest. In addition to limited hunting opportunity, nanny harvest poses a problem when a hunt's duration is based on "Goat Points" and harvesting nannies closes a hunt sooner.

This type of management strategy makes it extremely challenging for goat hunters trying to set their schedule months in advance to go on a hunt. Especially goat hunters who are not interested in harvesting a nanny.

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

No

PROPOSED BY: Jesse Dunshie (OI-F25-155)

PROPOSAL 79

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

Shorten the nonresident hunting season for moose in Unit 6A as follows:

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

5 AAC 85.045 (4) Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.

Shorten the moose hunting season in Unit 6A as follows:

September 1 through **October 31** (November 30) for NONRESIDENTS.

5 AAC 85.045 Unit 6A moose.

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 Bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 3 or more brow tines on at least 1 side.

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

The adoption of this regulation change will significantly benefit the moose population in Unit 6A for many reasons. Due to an increase in big game guiding, the moose in Unit 6A have begun to be targeted more than in recent years. Moose are being pursued post-rut in poorer body condition and at a time when there is less enforcement present in this immediate area. As a gig game guide in this immediate area, I have noticed the moose migration routes and behaviors. As moose begin their rut behavior, moose began to migrate closer to the Gulf coast and are easier accessible during the later month of October and November. Moose are observed to be in poorer condition due to rut activity and winter very close to the coastline. Law enforcement during the months of November is all but nonexistent in this area due to extreme deuteriation in weather conditions. I believe much consideration should be taken to consider the preservation of this natural resource in Alaska and Unit 6A.

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

After discussions with the Cordova Department of Fish and Game and conversation with other outfitters in the area and increased big game guiding operations in Unit 6A found in the guide use areas section of the big game commercial service board, I have found that an increase in pressure on the moose in Unit 6A has become evident. I believe closing the season to NORESIDENTS on October 31 will significantly relieve the pressure on these moose during the post rut when their conditions are poor.

PROPOSED BY: Jason Semler, Alaska Expediton Lodge

(OI-F25-209)

PROPOSAL 80

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

Create new archery and any weapons drawing hunts for moose in Unit 6D along the Richardson Highway from Valdez to milepost 25 as follows:

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

Hunt Details

Location and Zones:

Archery-Only Zone: From Valdez (milepost 0) to milepost 12 on the Richardson Highway. Archery hunting reduces noise and disturbance near Valdez, a more populated area.

Any-Weapon Zone: From milepost 12 to milepost 25 on the Richardson Highway. Offers flexibility in a less populated stretch while ensuring safety and access.

Restricted Area: Hunting is limited to within 100 yards of the highway right-of-way on either side. Focuses harvest on moose most likely to cross the highway, enhances accessibility, and aids enforcement.

Season Dates:

October 1 to February 28.

This extended season targets late fall and winter, when moose are most active near the highway due to snow and foraging patterns, coinciding with peak collision risks.

Bag Limit and Restrictions:

Eligible Moose: Harvest is permitted for bull moose and cows without calves.

Protected Moose: Cows accompanied by calves are off-limits to safeguard calf survival and population stability.

Permit Limit: A limited number of draw permits (e.g., 20-30, to be determined by ADF&G based on population data) to maintain sustainable harvest levels.

Hunt Type:

Draw hunt requiring application through ADF&G's permit system.

Limits hunter numbers, prevents overcrowding, and allows precise management of harvest quotas.

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

Overview

This proposal outlines a new draw hunt for moose in Game Management Unit (GMU) 6D, along the Richardson Highway corridor from Valdez to milepost 25. The hunt aims to mitigate the increasing frequency of moose-vehicle collisions, reduce preventable moose mortality, and offer a sustainable harvest opportunity for hunters. The hunt would be archery-only from Valdez to milepost 12 and any-weapon from milepost 12 to milepost 25, restricted to within 100 yards of the highway. The season would run from October 1 to February 28, allowing the harvest of bull moose and cows without calves, while protecting cows accompanied by calves.

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

PROPOSED BY: Joseph List

(OI-F25-006)

PROPOSAL 81

5 AAC 85.045(4). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.

Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in Unit 6C as follows.

Seasons and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(4)		
...		
Unit 6(C)		
1 moose per regulatory year, only as follows:		
1 moose by drawing permit only; up to 40 permits for bulls and up to 20 permits for antlerless moose may be issued or	Sept. 1-Oct. 31 (General hunt only)	No open season.
1 moose by registration permit only;	Nov. 1-Dec. 31	No open season.
...		

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

Antlerless moose hunts must be reauthorized annually by the Board of Game (board). The department recommends reauthorizing the state antlerless hunt in Unit 6C to achieve the harvest objectives when the federal subsistence hunt is not able to achieve the desired level of harvest.

The population objective in Unit 6C is 600–800 moose. A population estimate completed during March 2023 yielded an estimate of 503 moose, 22% of which were calves. Because the available antlerless harvest quota in Unit 6C is currently harvested under a federal subsistence season administered by the U. S. Forest Service, the department has not held the antlerless hunt since regulatory year 99.

The board approved a registration hunt (RM169) to provide additional hunt opportunity if harvestable surplus existed after the administration of federal subsistence hunts. Without an antlerless moose hunt, this hunt cannot function as intended if it is needed. Continuation of the antlerless hunts may be necessary to manage population growth and keep it within the limits of what the habitat can support.

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

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F25-033)

PROPOSAL 82

5 AAC 85.015(a)(2). Hunting seasons and bag limits for black bear.

Shorten the spring hunting season for black bear in Unit 6D by 10 days as follows:

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

Current Black Bear harvest season in Unit 6D is Sept. 10th to June 10th.

Proposed new season date as follows:

Open Sept. 10th but closing at the earlier date and time of May 31st at midnight.

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

To address the risks of overharvesting black bears in subunit 6D. Black bear harvest in Unit 6D peaked in 2007 and was a steady decrease over the next eight years. Since 2015 there has been a significant increase year to year. With increased harvest (2024 was third highest ever recorded), and increased efforts (2024 highest recorded since data collection began in 2009). There is probable concern that harvest levels will reach a level that will result in reduced long term hunting opportunity. The current harvest level is not sustainable at this rate.

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

This is a Prince William Sound - Copper River Delta Fish and Game Advisory Committee submitted proposal.

PROPOSED BY: Copper River/Prince William Sound Fish and Game Advisory Committees (OI-F25-054)

PROPOSAL 83

5 AAC 85.015. Hunting seasons and bag limits for black bear.

Increase the resident bag limit for the RL065 black bear hunt in Unit 6 to two bears as follows:

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

Make the bag limit for RL065 two bears for Alaskan residents. Nonresidents stays 1 bear.

Even given the option to harvest two bears, the vast majority of black bear hunters in Prince William Sound will not harvest more than one bear a season given the short period of time hunters are in the field for the RL065 open period of September 10th-June 10th and the difficulty at reaching the majority of bears spotted. Most of the bears are not on the beach, rather they are up on the steep hills and cliffs.

Increasing the bag limit for RL065 to two bears will have a negligible effect on overall harvest numbers but it would give resident hunters the added flexibility at hunting other units prior to hunting the RL065 unit.

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

The one bear bag limit for RL065 black bear permit.

The one bear bag limit for RL065 is unnecessary. It prohibits residents from harvesting a black bear earlier in the regulatory year in another unit and still being able to hunt RL065.

If a hunter harvests a black bear in another unit in the fall, they are not able to hunt RL065 in the spring. This is simply not necessary for black bear conservation in Prince William Sound as the only real way to hunt RL065 is by boat and the vast majority of bears spotted are not accessible to hunters.

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

No

PROPOSED BY: Jesse Dunshie

(OI-F25-157)

PROPOSAL 84

5 AAC 85.015. Hunting seasons and bag limits for black bear.

Shorten the season for black bear hunting in Unit 6D as follows:

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

5 AAC 85.015 Hunting seasons and bag limits for black bear.

Shorten the season for black bear hunting in Unit 6D from:

October 1 [September 10] - June 10

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

Increased harvest and hunting pressure on black bear in Unit 6D, Prince William Sound, particularly sows.

In 2000, when the tunnel opened to vehicle traffic, hunting in Prince William Sound changed forever. Harvest more than doubled, nearly tripled. Of particular concern was the increase in sow harvest which had a significantly higher percentage of sows in the fall. Over time, fall harvest numbers declined and so did the sow harvest. Fall harvest is increasing again and once again fall harvest has a significantly higher sow harvest percentage than in the spring.

Without more protection on sows it is highly unlikely harvests in the range of 500 are sustainable and increases the chances of a crash.

Closing the season when sows are most vulnerable offers the least amount of additional restriction with the highest reduction of sow harvest.

Other regulation options considered were moving season opening from September 10 to September 25, as most bears are off streams by then.

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

Collected statistical data and opinions from Cordova Department of Fish and Game office.

Will be presenting this proposal to the Whittier Fish and Game Advisory Committee fall of 2025 for their consideration.

PROPOSED BY: David Pinguoch (OI-F25-060)

PROPOSAL 85

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

Restrict hunters from shooting big game from a boat in Unit 6 without a permit as follows:

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

Hunters may not shoot big game from a boat in Units 1-6, UNLESS you have obtained a Permit to Hunt from a Boat.

This regulation is already in place for Units 1-5.

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

There is no need for hunters to shoot at big game from a boat. Due to increased recreational boating, hunters should not be shooting from a boat not knowing what is beyond their target on the shoreline. Hunters are cruising the shorelines looking for game and shooting at them without knowing or confirming what is beyond their target.

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

PROPOSED BY: Bradley Golden (OI-F25-150)
