

Southeast Region Meeting

Proposal Index

Regionwide & Multiple Units.....	7
Proposal 1: Prohibit the take of big game animals between civil twilight of sunset until civil twilight of sunrise the following day in Units 1-5	7
Proposal 2: Prohibit the take of deer between civil twilight of sunset until civil twilight of sunrise the following day in Units 1-5	8
Proposal 3: Allow the same day airborne take of goats in Units 1-5	10
Proposal 4: Amend the definition of a "taken" mountain goat in Units 1-5 to align with the definition of a "taken" brown bear in Units 1-5	11
Proposal 5: Increase the brown bear bag limit in Unit 1 Remainder, to one bear every regulatory year instead of one bear every four regulatory years	12
Proposal 6: Align the wolf hunting seasons in Unit 1 by extending the seasons for Units 1B, 1C and 1D to May 31	12
Proposal 7: Align the wolf hunting seasons in Unit 1 by extending the seasons in Units 1A, 1B & 1C to May 31	13
Proposal 8: Establish an open season for hunting cougar in the Southeast Region	14
Proposal 9: Establish hunting and trapping regulations for taking mountain lion in the Southeast Region	14
Proposal 10: Remove the sealing requirement for beaver in Units 1-5	15
Proposal 11: Allow the use of cameras or other sensory devices that can send messages through wireless communication for trapping furbearers in Units 1-5	15
Proposal 12: Prohibit the use of night vision devices for taking furbearers in Units 1-5	16
Proposal 13: Prohibit the use of night vision for taking furbearers in Units 1-5, during state and federal deer seasons	17

Proposal 14: Change the bag limit for taking fisher from one to three per season in Southeast Region Units	17
Proposal 15: Remove the bag limit for trapping fisher in Units 1-5	18
Proposal 16: Shift the season dates for hunting migratory birds and waterfowl in Units 1-5 to October 8-January 22	19
Proposal 17: Change the bag limit for grouse in the Southeast Region	20
Proposal 18: Shift the hunting season for grouse in Units 1-5 to August 10 through May 31.....	21
Sitka Area – Unit 4	22
Proposal 19: Extend the resident hunting season for brown bear in Unit 4 to May 31	22
Proposal 20: Extend the season for the RB088 brown bear registration hunt from May 20 to May 31, to align the season for all of Lisianski Inlet in Unit 4	22
Proposal 21: Extend the season for the RB088 brown bear hunt in Unit 4, to align the season for all of Northeast Chichagof Island	23
Proposal 22: Lengthen the hunting season for brown bear in Unit 4	25
Proposal 23: Increase the nonresident bag limit for deer in Unit 4	26
Proposal 24: Modify the Northeast Chichogof Controlled Use Area in Unit 4, to exclude drainages near Tenakee Inlet	27
Proposal 25: Clarify the northern and southern boundaries of the Sitka Road System Closed Area in Unit 4.....	28
Juneau, Haines, Skagway & Yakutat Areas – Units 1C, 1D, & 5	30
Proposal 26: Restrict hunters who take nanny goat in Unit 1C from hunting goat in Unit 1C for the following four regulatory years, and require nonresidents to forfeit nanny goats taken	30
Proposal 27: Change the bag limit for deer in Unit 1C, Douglas Island to four bucks	31
Proposal 28: Change the bag limit for deer in Unit 1C, Douglas Island to two bucks.....	31
Proposal 29: Require an antler restriction for bucks harvested in Unit 1C, Douglas Island to at least one forked antler on one side.....	32

Proposal 30: Establish a moose hunt for disabled hunters on state lands in Unit 5A, the Yakutat Region	33
Proposal 31: Expand the RB063 and RB073 brown bear resident hunt area in Unit 1C to include the Chilkat Range, and change the bag limit to one bear every year	34
Proposal 32: Expand the RB063 and RB073 brown bear hunt area in Unit 1C to include the Chilkat Range, and change the bag limit to one brown bear annually	35
Proposal 33: Change the bag limit for hunting brown bear in Unit 5, to one bear every regulatory year instead of one bear every four regulatory years.....	36
Proposal 34: Allow archery only hunting for big game in the Juneau Road System Closed Area in Unit 1C,	36
Proposal 35: Open the area within 1/4 mile of Thane Road in Unit 1C, to taking big game by archery only	38
Proposal 36: Shift the ptarmigan season in Unit 1C to start August 15 instead of August 1	39
Ketchikan Area & Prince of Wales Island – Units 1A & 2.....	40
Proposal 37: Reduce the bag limit for deer in Unit 2 from four to three bucks	40
Proposal 38: Reduce the resident bag limit for deer in Unit 2 from four bucks to three	40
Proposal 39: Reduce bag limit for deer in Unit 2 from four bucks to two	41
Proposal 40: Reduce the nonresident bag limit for deer in Unit 2 from four bucks to one	42
Proposal 41: Reduce the nonresident bag limit for deer in Unit 2 from four bucks to one	43
Proposal 42: Change the nonresident start date for the deer hunting season in Unit 2 to August 15	44
Proposal 43: Increase the deer bag limit and extend the season length for residents and nonresidents on the Cleveland Peninsula	45
Proposal 44: Limit the nonresident permit allocation for the Unit 1A goat drawing hunt DG005, to “up to” 20% of the available permits.....	46
Proposal 45: Limit the nonresident permit allocation for the Unit 1A goat drawing hunt DG006, to “up to” 20% of the available permits.....	47

Proposal 46: Limit the nonresident permit allocation for the Unit 1A goat drawing hunt DG008, to “up to” 20% of the available permits.....	48
Proposal 47: Eliminate the Unit 2 meat salvage requirement for resident black bear hunting in May	48
Proposal 48: Increase the Unit 2 wolf population objective.....	49
Proposal 49: Change the season start date for wolf trapping in Unit 2 to December 15 or January 1	51
Proposal 50: Move the start date of the wolf trapping season in Unit 2 to December 15	52
Proposal 51: Extend the wolf trapping season to 45 days on Prince of Wales Island, Unit 2.....	53
Proposal 52: Add Unit 2 as an area for intensive mangagement of wolves	55
Proposal 53: Require an online trapping education course for trapping wolves in Unit 2.....	55
Proposal 54: Require identification tags be attached to traps and snares in Unit 2.....	57
Proposal 55: Prohibit the use of night vision and infrared devices for taking furbearers in Unit 2	57
Proposal 56: Prohibit the use of night vision and infrared devices for taking furbearers in Unit 2, during state and federal deer seasons.....	58
Petersburg & Wrangell Areas – Units 1B & 3	59
Proposal 57: Change the season, bag limit, and permit requirement for hunting elk on the Zarembo Island in Unit 3	59
Proposal 58: Open a registration hunt for elk on Zarembo Island in Unit 3	59
Proposal 59: Limit the nonresident permit allocation for the Unit 3, elk drawing hunt DE318, to “up to” 10% of the available permits.....	60
Proposal 60: Limit the nonresident permit allocation for the Unit 3 elk drawing hunt DE321, to “up to” 10% of the available permits.....	61
Proposal 61: Limit the nonresident permit allocation for the elk drawing hunt DE323, to “up to” 10% of the available permits.....	61
Proposal 62: Limit nonresident permit allocation for the Unit 3 elk drawing hunt DE324, to “up to” 10% of the available permits.....	62

Proposal 63: Adjust the season dates for the DE318 elk hunt in Unit 3, and open a new drawing hunt in September	63
Proposal 64: Eliminate the regulation that excludes broken, damaged, or altered antlers from the definition of spike-fork antlers for Units 1B, 1C and 3	63
Proposal 65: Remove the antler restriction for the moose hunt in Units 1B and 3 and replace with a shorter, any bull hunt in October	64
Proposal 66: Change the bag limit for hunting brown bear in Unit 3 to one bear every regulatory year.....	65
Proposal 67: Repeal the Petersburg Road System Closed Area in Unit 3, and add the area to the Petersburg Management Area, to allow for big game hunting by archery only	66
Proposal 68: Repeal the Blind Slough Closed Area in Unit 3, and add the area to the Petersburg Management Area, to allow for big game hunting by archery only	67
Proposal 69: Extend the grouse hunting season in Unit 3, to close June 15 instead of May 15	69
 Proposals Outside the Board of Game’s Authority	70

ALASKA BOARD OF GAME
Southeast Region Meeting
James and Elsie Nolan Center,
296 Campbell Drive, Wrangell, Alaska
January 23-27, 2026

TENTATIVE AGENDA

Note: This Tentative Agenda is subject to change throughout the course of the meeting. It is provided to give a general idea of the board's anticipated schedule. The board will attempt to hold to this schedule; however, the board is not constrained by this Tentative Agenda.

Friday, January 23, 8:30 a.m.

OPENING BUSINESS

Call to Order / Purpose of Meeting Introductions of Board Members and Staff

Board Member Ethics Disclosures

AGENCY AND OTHER REPORTS

PUBLIC & ADVISORY COMMITTEE TESTIMONY upon conclusion staff reports

THE DEADLINE TO SIGN UP TO TESTIFY will be announced prior to the meeting. Public testimony will continue until persons who have signed up before the deadline, and who are present when called by the Chair to testify, are heard.

Saturday, January 24, 8:30 a.m.

PUBLIC AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE ORAL TESTIMONY continued

BOARD DELIBERATIONS upon conclusion of public testimony

Sunday, January 25 (Time to be Determined)

BOARD DELIBERATIONS upon conclusion of public testimony

Monday, January 26 8:30 a.m.

BOARD DELIBERATIONS continued

Tuesday, January 27, 8:30 a.m.

BOARD DELIBERATIONS conclude

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS, including petitions, findings and policies, letters, and other business

ADJOURN

Agenda Notes

- A. Meeting materials, including a list of staff reports, a roadmap, and schedule updates, will be available prior to the meeting at: www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=gameboard.meetinginfo or by contacting ADF&G Boards Support Section in Juneau at 465-4110.
- B. A live audio stream for the meeting is intended to be available at: <https://boardofgame.adfg.alaska.gov>
- C. The State of Alaska Department of Fish and Game complies with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA). Individuals with disabilities who may need auxiliary aids, services, and/or special modifications to participate in this hearing and public meeting should contact 465-6098 no later than two weeks prior to start of the meeting to make any necessary arrangements.

Regionwide and Multiple and Multiple Units

PROPOSAL 1

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

Prohibit the take of big game animals between civil twilight of sunset until civil twilight of sunrise the following day in Units 1-5 as follows:

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

5AAC 92.085 Unlawful methods of taking big game.

Add the following unlawful method of taking big game: In Units 1-5, its unlawful to take any big game animal from civil twilight of sunset until civil twilight of sunrise the following day.

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

In Southeast Alaska (SE AK), it's currently unlawful to take a big game animal with the use of an artificial light, electronic night vision, or forward-looking infrared device. Furthermore, its unlawful to use artificial light to illuminate deer from a motorized land vehicle in Units 1-5.

The issue is some are interpreting the regulations that they can pursue deer in SE AK with artificial light. When they choose to harvest a deer at nighttime, the artificial light is shut off just before the person takes the animal.

For example, a person will drive a truck down a road on Prince of Wales Island. with a large LED light bar, then after they spot a deer to shoot near the road illuminated in the light, they will turn off the light just prior to shooting the deer.

In the Prince of Wales court system, judges and juries are having an issue with "take with artificial light". If the lights are shut off just prior to the person pulling the trigger, are they actually guilty? Some believe the person is not guilty and the defendant is getting away with it.

Currently, Alaska doesn't have shooting hours like many lower 48 states but this proposal would implement hard shooting hours to prevent these spotlight users.

A new issue in SE AK is the recent passage of the statewide regulation allowing furbearers to be taken with the aid of electronic night vision or forward-looking infrared devices. This complicates things for enforcement and gives an advantage for those who do not follow the principles of ethical hunting. These types of hunters can now immediately pursue big game under complete darkness and use the excuse they are only hunting furbearers.

The best solution is to pass a regulation for shooting hours in Units 1-5 for all big game.

After discussions with SE AK Wildlife Troopers, research, and by experimenting, we recommend using civil twilight shooting hours for SE Alaska since our twilights hours are extended because we are so further north than others states.

Civil Twilight begins in the morning or ends in the evening when the geometric center of the sun is 6 degrees below the horizon. Therefore, morning civil twilight begins when the geometric center of the sun is 6 degrees below the horizon.

Civil twilight starts quite a bit earlier than the standard lower 48 shooting times of 30 minutes prior to sunrise and ends quite a bit later than the standard 30 minutes after sunset.

There are civil twilight shooting tables available online and it would be easy enough to publish the civil twilight shooting hours for SE AK. The characteristics of civil twilight are; the horizon is clearly defined, only the brightest stars and planets can be seen, artificial light is not typically needed for outdoor activities.

It was discussed to use the typical definition of 30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes after sunrise but the civil twilight definition best fits Alaska because we are further north and our twilight lasts longer than other states.

A quick internet search revealed over 50 available apps showing civil twilight hours. A person hunting without flashlight, spotlight, electronic night vision or forward-looking infrared device, will not have to worry about looking up civil twilight hours. It's just too dark to be shooting between the sunset civil twilight and sunrise civil twilight times.

Anyone with concerns will understand after they experiment by trial that they don't need to bother looking up shooting hours because it's just too dark to hunt after civil twilight.

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

The East Prince of Wales Advisory Committee is proposing this reg change for both the state and federal subsistence seasons in Units 1-5.

PROPOSED BY: East Prince of Wales Fish and Game Advisory Committee (OI-F25-045)

PROPOSAL 2

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

Prohibit the take of deer between civil twilight of sunset until civil twilight of sunrise the following day in Units 1-5 as follows:

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

5AAC 92.085 Unlawful methods of taking big game.

Add the following unlawful method of taking deer: In Game Management Units 1-5, its unlawful to take any deer from civil twilight of sunset until civil twilight of sunrise the following day.

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

In Southeast Alaska (SE AK), it's currently unlawful to take a big game animal with the use of an artificial light, electronic night vision, or forward-looking infrared device. Furthermore, it's unlawful to use artificial light to illuminate deer from a motorized land vehicle in Units 1-5.

The issue is some are interpreting the regulations that they can pursue deer in SE AK with artificial light. When they choose to harvest a deer at nighttime, the artificial light is shut off just before the person takes the animal.

For example, a person will drive a truck down a road on Prince of Wales Island. with a large LED light bar, then after they spot a deer to shoot near the road illuminated in the light, they will turn off the light just prior to shooting the deer.

In the Prince of Wales court system, judges and juries are having an issue with "take with artificial light". If the lights are shut off just prior to the person pulling the trigger, are they actually guilty? Some believe the person is not guilty and the defendant is getting away with it.

Currently, Alaska doesn't have shooting hours like many lower 48 states but this proposal would implement hard shooting hours to prevent these spotlight users.

A new issue in SE AK is the recent passage of the statewide regulation allowing furbearers to be taken with the aid of electronic night vision or forward-looking infrared devices. This complicates things for enforcement and gives an advantage for those who do not follow the principles of ethical hunting. These types of hunters can now immediately pursue big game under complete darkness and use the excuse they are only hunting furbearers.

The best solution is to pass a regulation for shooting hours in Units 1-5 for taking deer.

After discussions with SE AK Wildlife Troopers, research, and by experimenting, we recommend using civil twilight shooting hours for SE Alaska since our twilights hours are extended because we are further north than others states

Civil Twilight begins in the morning or ends in the evening when the geometric center of the sun is six degrees below the horizon. Therefore, morning civil twilight begins when the geometric center of the sun is six degrees below the horizon.

Civil twilight starts quite a bit earlier than the standard lower 48 shooting times of 30 minutes prior to sunrise and ends quite a bit later than the standard 30 minutes after sunset.

There are civil twilight shooting tables available online and it would be easy enough to publish the civil twilight shooting hours for SE AK. The characteristics of civil twilight are; the horizon is clearly defined, only the brightest stars and planets can be seen, artificial light is not typically needed for outdoor activities.

It was discussed to use the typical definition of 30 min before sunrise to 30 min after sunrise but the civil twilight definition best fits Alaska because we are further north and our twilight lasts longer than other states.

A quick internet search revealed over 50 available apps showing civil twilight hours. A person hunting without flashlight, spotlight, electronic night vision or forward-looking infrared device,

will not have to worry about looking up civil twilight hours. It's just too dark to be shooting between the sunset civil twilight and sunrise civil twilight times.

Anyone with concerns will understand after they experiment by trial that they don't need to bother looking up shooting hours because it's just too dark to hunt after civil twilight.

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

PROPOSED BY: East Prince of Wales Fish and Game Advisory Committee (OI-F25-047)

PROPOSAL 3

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

Allow the same day airborne take of goats in Units 1-5 as follows:

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

The new regulation would state that same-day airborne hunting for mountain goats is allowed in Units 1-5.

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

Currently same day airborne hunting for mountain goats is illegal in Units 1-5. Allowing same day airborne hunting for mountain goats would increase safety and accessibility. Weather in Southeast Alaska ultimately controls mountain goat hunting. Hunts take place in the remote backcountry of these units with weather being very hard to plan around in small high elevation lakes. Hunters and pilots who make trips into remote lakes would be less likely to take chances getting in or out of lakes in marginal weather if allowed to hunt the same day airborne and it would allow people that are able to get to the hunting areas with reasonable time an opportunity to hunt in nice weather. When planning a mountain goat hunt many are based on a schedule of days off. Being that the weather is able to change so rapidly and unannounced allowing for people to hunt on the same day that they fly increases opportunity and brings cost down for the individual as a 5 day hunt is cheaper than a 10 day hunt.

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

Yes, this proposal was discussed with and agreed upon by the Ketchikan Advisory Committee

PROPOSED BY: Ketchikan Fish and Game Advisory Committee (OI-F25-189)

PROPOSAL 4

5 AAC 92.130. Restrictions to bag limits

Amend the definition of a "taken" mountain goat in Units 1-5 to align with the definition of a "taken" brown bear in Units 1-5 as follows:

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

Proposal: I propose amending the Alaska hunting regulations to align the definition of a "taken" mountain goat with that of a bear in Units 1-5. Specifically, a mountain goat struck by a projectile (e.g., bullet or arrow) should be considered "taken," regardless of whether the animal is retrieved, mirroring the existing regulation for bears in these units. This regulation would mirror the existing bear regulation (5 AAC 92.130) and apply to Unit 1-5 where mountain goats are managed under a weighted point harvest system (male = 1 point, female = 2 points).

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

Rationale:

Consistency Across Species: The current regulation for bears in Units 1-5 (5 AAC 92.130) defines a bear as taken when struck by a projectile, promoting ethical hunting practices and accountability. Extending this definition to mountain goats ensures consistency in harvest reporting and enforcement across big game species in these units.

Frequent Mid-Season Closures Due to Point System: Mountain goat populations in Unit 1-5 are managed using a weighted point system to ensure sustainable harvest. Recent years have seen multiple emergency orders issued by the Unit 1 biologist to close hunting seasons mid-season when harvest points are reached. For example, in 2023, closures were enacted in portions of Unit 1C (e.g., Mt. Kluchman, South Tracy Arm) due to reaching point limits (Emergency Orders R1-8-23, R1-23-24). Defining a goat as taken when struck by a projectile would improve harvest tracking accuracy, potentially reducing the need for abrupt closures.

Ethical Hunting Practices: Mountain goats inhabit rugged, remote terrain, making retrieval of a wounded animal challenging. Defining a goat as taken upon being struck encourages hunters to make responsible shot selections, reducing the likelihood of wounding and loss.

Population Management: Accurate harvest data is critical for sustainable management of mountain goat populations. Counting a goat as taken when struck ensures more precise reporting, aiding the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in monitoring populations and setting quotas.

Public Safety and Fairness: Aligning regulations for mountain goats with those for bears reduces confusion among hunters, enhancing compliance and fairness in enforcement.

Implementation: Amend 5 AAC 92.130 to include mountain goats in the definition of "taken" for Units 1 and 4, as follows:

"In Units 1-5 a *mountain goat* or bear is considered taken when it is struck by a projectile, regardless of whether the animal is retrieved." In Units 1-5, *goats* and bears wounded by a hunter count toward the bag limit for the regulatory year but not the every-four-regulatory-year bag limit.

“wounded” means there is a sign of blood or other sign that the animal has been hit by a hunting projectile.

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

Submitted to Juneau -Douglas Advisory Committee via email. Over several years, I have coordinated through discussion, field experience, and networking with outer mountain goat hunters in Southeast Alaska on this much needed change.

PROPOSED BY: David Summers (OI-F25-077)

PROPOSAL 5

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

Increase the brown bear bag limit in Unit 1 Remainder, to one bear every regulatory year instead of one bear every four regulatory years as follows:

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

Remainder of Unit 1: Sept. 15 - Dec. 31 (General hunt only) Mar. 15 - May 31 (General hunt only) 1 bear EVERY REGULATORY YEAR by registration permit only.

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

Several southeast brown bear areas are overly restricted from hunting opportunity by the one bear every four regulatory years bag limit. Parts of Unit 1 are already set at one bear every regulatory year, the remainder of Unit 1 should follow suit to open up more hunting opportunities for residents and nonresidents alike.

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

No.

PROPOSED BY: Trevor Embry (OI-F25-168)

PROPOSAL 6

5 AAC 85.056. Hunting seasons and bag limits for wolf.

Align the wolf hunting seasons in Unit 1 by extending the seasons for Units 1B, 1C and 1D to May 31 as follows:

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

Align all of the wolf seasons in Unit 1 to: August 1- May 31.

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

I would like to see more opportunity to harvest wolves in Unit 1 by aligning all of the seasons in the spring to end May 31st. I enjoy bear hunting in the spring and I see good numbers of wolves out during May. It would be nice to be able to hunt wolves during the nice weather in May. I'm not worried about the impacts to the wolf population because there are many portions of Unit 1 that are not accessible to hunters. Because of the large portions of Unit 1 are refugia. I think the limited amount of extra harvest will be insignificant to the wolf population.

The bottom line is this proposal will have the effect of allowing some more opportunity that will have no impact on the greater wolf population. I expect very very low participation and similarly low additional harvest.

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

I did not discuss this proposal with ADF&G or any local fish and game advisory committees.

PROPOSED BY: Jon Geary (OI-F25-136)

PROPOSAL 7

5 AAC 85.056. Hunting seasons and bag limits for wolf.

Align the wolf hunting seasons in Unit 1 by extending the seasons in Units 1A, 1B and 1C to May 31 as follows:

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

This proposal seeks to change the wolf hunting season in all of Unit 1A, 1B, and 1C with a season from August 1 to May 31.

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

Unit 1 wolf hunting dates are split up with Unit 1A and B (south of Bradfield Canal and the east fork of the Bradfield River) having a season of August 1 to May 31, and Unit 1A, 1B, and 1C Remainder, having a season of August 1 to April 30.

This proposal seeks to simplify the wolf hunting season in all of Unit 1 with a season from August 1 to May 31 in order to maximize hunting opportunities for hunters.

Hunters, both resident and non resident will have more opportunity to take a wolf when they are spring bear hunting. The state will benefit with income from nonresident hunters purchasing a tag. By not consolidating this season, hunters who are fortunate enough to see a wolf while spring bear hunting after April 30 will be deprived this opportunity of harvesting a wolf.

It should be noted that wolf population numbers in Southeast Alaska have always been healthy and sustainable.

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

I talked with other Unit 1 hunters and one guide who support this

PROPOSED BY: Jesse Ross

(OI-F25-237)

PROPOSAL 8

5 AAC 85.XXX. Seasons and bag limits for cougars/mountain lion.

Establish an open season for cougar in the Southeast Region as follows:

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

Season: August 1 thru June 15.

Limit: One cougar every regulatory year.

Salvage Requirements: Skull and hide

Sealing Requirements: Skull and hide will be presented for sealing within 15 days of kill.

(Sealing requirements were added if ADF&G wants to collect data.)

Closed to take of females with kittens and kittens. (kittens defined as young cougars with spots.)

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

Cougars seem to be migrating into Southeast Alaska. Cougars are an ambush predator. This style of predation is unknown to prey species in southeast Alaska. This will be extremely detrimental to prey species populations. There is currently no open hunting season for cougar.

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

Wrangell Advisory Committee.

PROPOSED BY: Wrangell Fish and Game Advisory Committee

(HQ-F25-012)

PROPOSAL 9

5 AAC 85.XXX. Seasons and bag limits for cougar/mountain lion.

5 AAC 84.270. Furbearer trapping.

Establish hunting and trapping regulations for taking mountain lion in the Southeast Region as follows:

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

I ask the department of create a hunting and trapping regulation for mountain lions with a limit of one mountain lion, and no closed season.

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

Currently there is no regulated harvest of mountain lion despite evidence of thier presence and growing population.

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

PROPOSED BY: Caleb Martin

(OI-F25-164)

PROPOSAL 10

5 AAC 92.170. Sealing of marten, fisher, lynx, beaver, otter, wolf, and wolverine.

Remove the sealing requirement for beaver in Units 1-5 as follows:

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

Remove the sealing requirement for beaver in Units 1-5.

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

Beavers are required to be sealed in Units 1-5. Typically, sealing is done to gather population data to help manage a species that may be at risk due to overharvest because of the species' high dollar value or low population. Beaver in Units 1-5 are not a high dollar value species nor are do they have a low population. The sealing requirement is inconvenient to trappers and is accomplishing nothing from a management standpoint.

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

The Juneau Douglas Advsiory Committee (JDAC) has not met prior to the proposal deadline. The member holding the trapping seat on the JDAC is supportive of this proposal.

PROPOSED BY: Nicholas Orr

(OI-F25-144)

PROPOSAL 11

5 AAC 92.080. Unlawful methods of taking game; exceptions.

Allow the use of cameras or other sensory devices that can send messages through wireless communication for trapping furbearers in Units 1-5 as follows:

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

Remove the section of the trapping regulations that prohibits the taking of furbearers with aid of "any camera or other sensory device that can send messages through wireless communication".

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

The trapping regulations state: "YOU MAY NOT... take furbearers with the aid of....any camera or other sensory device that can send messages through wireless communication"

This portion of the trapping regulations prohibits the use cellular game cameras. This prohibition appears to come from hunting regulations, where it has some applicability. In trapping, having a cellular game camera does not aid in the successful trapping of animals - the animals still have to enter a trap on their own. But it would be useful in helping to collect real time evidence of trap tampering. It would also be helpful in potentially alerting a trapper of an animal in a trap, though it would not reduce the responsibility of a trapper to regularly check their traps. Nor would it replace that responsibility, especially in Southeast Alaska, where weather forces regular re-adjustment, re-setting and re-luring of traps and snares.

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

The Juneau Douglas Advisory Committee (JDAC) has not met prior to the Board of Game proposal submission deadline. The member holding the trapping seat on the JDAC is supportive of this proposal.

PROPOSED BY: Nicholas Orr

(OI-F25-146)

PROPOSAL 12

5 AAC 92.080. Unlawful methods of taking game; exceptions.

Prohibit the use of night vision devices for taking furbearers in Units 1-5 as follows:

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

Allow the use of electronically enhanced night vision and forward-looking infrared devices for taking furbearers statewide **except for Unit 1-5**.

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

The statewide use of electronically enhanced night vision and forward-looking infrared devices for taking furbearers will create problems in Units 1-5. Units 1-5 are predominately densely covered areas with fewer species of predators.

Allowing the use of electronically enhanced night vision and forward-looking infrared devices would possibly increase the take of non furbearer species such as deer, moose and bears. Enforcement would also be an issue.

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

Informal discussions with residents of Prince of Wales and Ketchikan.

PROPOSED BY: Ellen Hannan and Kurt Whitehead (OI-F25-215)

PROPOSAL 13

5 AAC 92.080. Unlawful methods of taking game; exceptions.

Prohibit the use of night vision for taking furbearers in Units 1-5, during state and federal deer seasons as follows:

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

Allow the use of electronically enhanced night vision and forward-looking infrared devices for taking furbearers statewide **except for Unit 1-5 during any open federal or state deer season.**

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

The statewide use of electronically enhanced night vision and forward-looking infrared devices for taking furbearers will create problems in Units 1-5. Units 1-5 are predominately densely covered areas with fewer species of predators.

Allowing the use of electronically enhanced night vision and forward-looking infrared devices would possibly increase the take of non furbearer species such as deer, moose and bears. Enforcement would also be an issue.

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

Informal discussions with residents of Prince of Wales and Ketchikan.

PROPOSED BY: Ellen Hannan and Kurt Whitehead (OI-F25-217)

PROPOSAL 14

5 AAC 84.270. Furbearer trapping.

Change the bag limit for taking fisher from one to three per season in Southeast Region units as follows:

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

Change the bag limit for fishers in Southeast Alaska (unit(s)) from one/season to three/season.

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

Sign and sightings of fisher, particularly on trap lines, have been increasing and winter conditions are trending more favorable for their preferred habitat.

During a recent (March) Juneau Chapter of the Alaska Trappers Association (ATA) meeting local trappers discussed fisher harvest and while no one was specifically targeting fisher, we have caught fisher in other sets. It was a good step in the right direction to allow one fisher per season while ADF&G was doing more research on fisher, however with the additional information showing that fisher populations have expanded and are continuing to expand it would be valuable to trappers to be able to utilize the resource and also valuable information to ADF&G on fisher harvest if the bag limit was expanded.

In a study conducted in 2018 by Kupferman, Crupi, Waits, and Gilbert, fisher prevalence was shown to correlate positively with vegetation height, and detection decreased with increased snow density. Changing environmental condition and years without much snow have resulted in trappers and hunters seeing more sign of fishers in southeast Alaska. While not every trapper targets them, they are often caught in the same type of sets as used for marten and wolverine. Additional information gleaned from trapper harvest can continue to inform where fisher are shifting to and inform on what they are eating through coordinating with trappers to gather harvest information and any specimens/carcasses for study. It is important to further understand the impact of the fisher on marten populations as those have been and will be a mainstay of Alaskan trapping.

This recommendation is to expand the fisher trapping annual harvest to three fisher.

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

Yes, discussed with the local Alaska Trappers Association.

PROPOSED BY: Rueben Graves

(OI-F25-188)

PROPOSAL 15

5 AAC 84.270. Furbearer trapping.

Remove the bag limit for trapping fisher in Units 1-5 as follows:

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

Remove the limit on fisher in Units 1-5.

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

Trapping regulations in Units 1-5 have a limit of one fisher per year. Fisher are not an animal that can be reliably targeted in Southeast Alaska; rather, fisher take is incidental to marten trapping. A limit of one fisher means that many trappers will simply have any fisher they catch in excess of the limit sealed in the following year. In order to have accurate reporting, removing the fisher limit is a commonsense approach.

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

The Juneau Douglas Advisory Committee has not met prior to the Board of Game proposal submission date. The member holding the trapping seat is supportive of this proposal.

PROPOSED BY: Nicholas Orr (OI-F25-145)

PROPOSAL 16

5 AAC 85.065. Hunting seasons and bag limits for small game.

Shift the season dates for hunting migratory birds and waterfowl in Units 1-5 to October 8-January 22 as follows:

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

Migratory birds and waterfowl hunt dates for Units 1-5 Southeast (OCTOBER 8-JANUARY 22).

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

The board should alter the Units 1-5 Southeast waterfowl hunt dates to October 8-January 22.

Switching the dates to these later dates gives waterfowl hunters in the region the best opportunity at harvesting large mature birds in their prime. The change of dates also gives guides and outfitters the ability to hunt waterfowl into January creating a new source of income that is otherwise not available as the current season sits. Having the dates moved back later also gives young hunters who may be off at school a time to hunt while home on Christmas break which often extends into the new year by multiple days. This proposal also gives waterfowl hunters targeting sea ducks and diver ducks the best opportunity at harvesting birds for trophy quality. Along with sea ducks and diver ducks it also gives hunters opportunity at hunting mallards and geese in the later part of the season once they are pushed down from the northern regions.

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

Yes, this proposal was discussed and agreed upon by the Ketchikan Advsiory Committee.

PROPOSED BY: Ketchikan Fish and Game Advisory Committee (OI-F25-171)

Note: The units to be considered by the Board of Game for the Southeast Region are Units 1–5.

PROPOSAL 17

5 AAC 85.065. Hunting seasons and bag limits for small game.

Change the bag limit for grouse in the Southeast Region as follows:

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

Grouse:

Units 1-6: Five per day, ten in possession..... Aug 1-May 15, only males between March 15-May-15.

Given the method for targeting grouse in the spring (locating calling males), and ease of differentiation between males and females during the spring season this regulation will help conserve grouse populations while having minimal impact on the average grouse hunter. Many hunters are already motivated to only harvest males, but not all hunters limit their take to males. Because hens cluster near calling males on the ground or low in nearby trees they are often easy prey along side a hooting male. Killing hens during the spring season, means removing birds who are just about to start laying the next generation and have survived winter.

Protect the future of grouse hunting, save the hens!

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

While there aren't conservation concerns regarding grouse populations at a game unit or regional scale, local populations — especially near urban areas with many trails and roads — suffer from intense hunting pressure. Not all hunters consider the impacts of removing reproducing females. Elders anecdotally report hearing diminished hooting and complain that birds are only located in higher and more difficult to reach locations.

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

I discussed this proposal with other three other current grouse hunters, and four elders who have hunted or bird watched for at least 70 years each. I asked one elder grouse hunter who has since aged out of the sport and one current Audubon member.

PROPOSED BY: Peter Robertson

(OI-F25-233)

PROPOSAL 18

5 AAC 85.065. Hunting seasons and bag limits for small game.

Shift the hunting season for grouse in Units 1-5 to August 10 through May 31 as follows:

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

Change the start date to August 10, (to align with other units) and extend the close date to May 31.

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

Sooty Grouse (formerly Blue Grouse, locally referred to as “Hooters”), is a favorite pastime of hunters in Southeast. Sooty’s are targeted during their breeding season in April and May, as males are hooting to acquire potential mates. This is a great opportunity to introduce kids to hunting, but often time access to these birds is limited by snow covered roads, hillsides and inclement weather. The window of opportunity is often small, and the season always ends just as the snow has melted and access has been made easier. Conversely, the season opens on August 1, the same as deer season. During this time, broods of immature grouse are still together and are often harvested opportunistically in their entirety alongside the road.

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

This proposal has been discussed and submitted by the Wrangell Advisory Committee with its full support.

PROPOSED BY: Wrangell Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F25-013)

Sitka Area – Unit 4

PROPOSAL 19

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

Extend the resident hunting season for brown bear in Unit 4 to May 31 as follows:

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

5 AAC 85.020(3) Hunting Season and Bag Limits for Brown Bear

(3) Unit 4, Remainder - Resident Hunters: Sept 15. – Dec. 31, Mar 15 - [MAY 20] **May 31**

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

In all other spring hunt codes pertaining to Southeast Alaska brown bear opportunities season dates coincide with a May 31 closure. The Admiralty Island and inside drainages of Baranof and Chichagof Islands hunt (RB089) closes on May 20 for both residents and nonresidents. This area is highly popular for both residents hunters and guided nonresidents. This proposal would leave the hunt open for residents only through May 31. Considering the hunt is a registration permit the department already has the ability to close the season if quotas have been met. Because of the guided nonresident effort in this area residents seemingly have to give up 11 days of opportunity during what is often the best weather of the year for shore-based access.

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

Developed myself through discussions with other local hunters wishing to have late spring opportunity for this hunt.

PROPOSED BY: Kaleb Baird

(OI-F25-030)

PROPOSAL 20

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

Extend the season for the RB088 brown bear registration hunt from May 20 to May 31, to align the season for all of Lisianski Inlet in Unit 4 as follows:

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

(Outside Drainages) from Point Lucan, outside of the Port Althorp closed area, following the ridge of the Althorp Peninsula along the common boundary of GUA 04-15, the area includes Chichagof Island south and west of a line that follows the island's crest to coordinates (57.82701, -135.86404), then to (57.79173, -135.99264), continuing south and west along the island crest to Point Nismeni (57°34' N. lat., 135°25' W. long), and then to the entrance of Gut Bay (56°44' N. lat., 134°38' W. long). This includes Yakobi Island, Kruzof Island, and other adjacent islands, as well as the drainages into Gut Bay.

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

Request: Adjust RB088 boundary to open all of Lisianski Inlet, extending the season from May 20 to May 31.

Justification:

Clarity and Safety: Simplifies hunt boundaries, reducing confusion. Allows hunters to use both sides of the inlet during foul weather, improving safety when open seas limit access in the final 11 days of brown bear season.

Bear Viewing: Port Althorp remains closed to hunting under the Brown Bear Management Strategy, allowing bear-viewing tourism uninterrupted access. This aligns with the USFS Shoreline II BMP agreements.

Harvest Impact: Unit 4 brown bear harvest has been ~40 bears below objective for a decade. Adding 16 NM of shoreline will not significantly effect overall harvest but does provide flexibility and safety for hunters.

Summary: This minor change enhances safety and clarity without impacting conservation concerns or viewing tourism.

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

PROPOSED BY: Zach Decker (OI-F25-033)

PROPOSAL 21

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

Extend the season for the RB088 brown bear hunt in Unit 4, to align the season for all of Northeast Chichagof Island as follows:

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

Recommended Solution and Draft Regulatory Language:

Regulation RB088 to include Northeast Chichagof by adjusting the boundary description to incorporate the specified coordinates and geographic references. The proposed regulation would read:

Proposed Regulation RB088:

(Outside drainages) Chichagof Island from East Point (57.80' N lat., 134.94' W long.) following the common GUA line of 04-11 to 58.02' N lat., 135.96' W long., to 57.96' N lat., 136.09' W long., following GUA line 04-15, including Yakobi and other adjacent islands; Baranof Island south and west of a line which follows the crest of the island from Nismeni Point (57°34' N lat., 135.25' W long.) to the entrance of Gut Bay (56°44' N lat., 134.38' W long.), including the drainages into Gut Bay, Kruzof Island, and other adjacent islands.

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

Expand the open area under Regulation RB088 to include Northeast Chichagof, till May 31. This area has a high brown bear population, as evidenced by a high Defense of Life and Property (DLP) reports over the past 10 years, indicating significant bear activity. Including Northeast Chichagof in RB088 would align the regulation with the area's bear management needs, support City of Hoonah's refuse waste management efforts to reduce bear human conflicts, and ensure consistency with ADF&G Brown Bear Management and US Forest Service land management practices. While still supporting Bear viewing tourism on Private land and the USFS roads system that is closed to Brown Bear hunting under regulation during these additional 11 days.

The Rationale:

By expanding the bear hunting area for hunt RB088 in Unit 4 to include Northeast Chichagof, defined by precise coordinates and Guide Use Area lines, while keeping existing regulations for Baranof, Kruzof, and adjacent islands intact, the revision extends the hunting period in the area by 11 days, from May 20 to May 31, to enhance bear management.

Key points supporting this change:

Unit 4 brown bear harvest has remained stable at approximately 40 bears under the established harvest guidelines annually for over a decade.

Harvest guidelines, set in the early 2000s and adjusted in 2018 per the Unit 4 Brown Bear Management Strategy (BBMS), target a sustainable 4% harvest rate with no more than 1.5% sow harvest which has proven effective.

Under the BBMS, Outfitter Guides have successfully reduced the number of contracting guides to 20, as mandated. Efforts by guided hunters have effectively decreased the overall nonresident sow harvest, demonstrating that additional hunting opportunities can be offered without jeopardizing or adversely affecting the core bear population.

The revision aims to balance expanded hunting opportunities with sustainable population management, supported by long-term harvest data and effective science base conservation strategies.

Support for Bear Viewing Tourism:

The proposal ensures that bear viewing on private land and USFS roads already closed to hunting remains unaffected, as RB088 would only apply to designated hunting areas and maintain existing closures. The Unit 4 Brown Bear Management Strategy acknowledges growing tourism demand and recommends identifying and managing specific non hunting bear viewing sites (Port Althorp, Pack Creek). By limiting hunting to areas away from tourism hotspots and enforcing motorized vehicle restrictions, the expansion aligns with ADF&G and USFS efforts to balance hunting and non-consumptive uses like wildlife viewing.

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

PROPOSED BY: Alisha Rosenbruch-Decker

(OI-F25-058)

PROPOSAL 22

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

Lengthen the hunting season for brown bear in Unit 4 as follows:

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

Unit 4 Brown / Grizzly Bear, Open Season: **September 1st** [September 15th] - December 31st.

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

Proposal to amend brown / grizzly bear season regulation in Unit 4.

This change has several positive effects on the resource and management.

The adjacent Unit 5 season is already September 1st - December 31st, this change will align the seasons.

Unit 4 is 40 bears below allocation for many years, a clear indication that the resource is both healthy and under harvested, supporting a change to a September 1st opening.

This will lead to less sow harvest. One of the primary indicators of lack of harvest opportunity is the harvesting of sows. Without enough opportunity to harvest mature boars, hunters not wanting to go home empty handed will harvest a sow, but when given more opportunity they are more selective.

Due to climate change, also known as global warming, the animals themselves and their food resources grow and behave differently. There are many more berries earlier in the year. Salmon runs are different. Bears in this unit tend to arrive and depart the streams much earlier than in the past.

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

I have coordinated with many others, all of whom have extensive field time, harvest, and care / concern for the management of brown bears in Unit 4. Additionally, I submitted this proposal via email to the local fish and game advisory committee.

PROPOSED BY: David Summers

(OI-F25-235)

PROPOSAL 23

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

Increase the nonresident bag limit for deer in Unit 4 as follows:

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

Increase nonresident bag limit for Unit 4 Remainder (outside the area of Chichagof Island east of Port Frederick and north of Tenakee Inlet including all drainages in Tenakee Inlet) from two bucks to four deer.

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

Prior to statehood, the Unit 4 Remainder bag limit was four deer until it was raised to six deer at the January 2019 Board of Game (board) meeting in Petersburg. The six deer bag limit was sustainable and provided opportunity for both residents and nonresidents.

At the January 2023 board meeting in Ketchikan, the board considered public proposals to reduce the Unit 4 Remainder bag limit from six deer back to four deer. These proposals were submitted as a good faith effort to deter concurrent federal proposals aimed at closing large areas of Unit 4 to non-federally qualified hunters. After rejecting these proposals, the board brought them up for reconsideration and passed an amended proposal to reduce the Unit 4 Remainder bag limit for nonresidents from six deer to two bucks. The Federal Subsistence Board subsequently passed regulations restricting non-federally qualified hunters in parts of Unit 4 from hunting from November 1 through 10.

Deer populations in Unit 4 are currently robust and at the highest densities anywhere in Alaska. After more than a decade of consecutive mild to moderate winters, populations are likely near or exceeding what the severe winter carrying capacity is in many areas. Winter mortality transects and spring body condition surveys indicate that annual overwinter survival has been excellent for several consecutive years. Observed deer abundance during those surveys was excellent.

Interest in hunting deer in Unit 4 by nonresidents is low. Unit 4 is difficult to access. Few roads and limited marine and air taxi operators make Do-It-Yourself hunts difficult without local connections (i.e., friends/family). Nonresident hunters are more likely to consider locations such as Kodiak or Prince of Wales Island because of the prevalence of higher trophy quality animals there compared to Unit 4.

During the ten seasons preceding the January 2023 nonresident bag limit change (RY2013-RY2022), an average of 209 nonresident hunters harvested 150 deer annually in Unit 4. This represents 6.2% of the hunters and 2.7% of the annual harvest in Unit 4. Despite the higher four- and six-deer bag limits in effect during those years, an average of only four nonresident hunters took more than two deer annually, with three nonresidents harvesting three deer, and one nonresident harvesting four deer. Therefore, the average reduction in nonresident deer harvest in Unit 4 resulting from the 2023 bag limit reduction has amounted to only five deer annually.

Unit 4 deer populations are high and stable to increasing. Nonresident hunting pressure is very low. Although the majority of nonresident hunters in Unit 4 take up to two deer, based on abundance estimates, additional opportunity remains available for the small handful of nonresident hunters who would choose to take additional deer.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F25-030)

PROPOSAL 24

5 AAC 92.540(1)(A). Controlled use areas.

Modify the Northeast Chichogof Controlled Use Area in Unit 4, to exclude drainages near Tenakee Inlet as follows as follows:

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

Exclude drainages running south into the north shore of Tenakee Inlet from the Northeast Chichogof Controlled Use Area (NCCUA). This area is geographically separated from more northerly areas of the NCCUA by a range of mountains (drainage divide) which runs parallel to the north shore of Tenakee Inlet.

ADF&G deer tagging data shows there is minimal movement of deer between the north shore of Tenakee and areas north of the mountains (drainage divide). Consequently, harvest on the north shore of Tenakee would have no impact on hunting north of the divide, and vice versa. Because of this and the lack of deer conservation issues in Tenakee, the north shore of Tenakee should be excluded from the NCCUA. This would also provide increased hunting opportunity on the north shore of Tenakee Inlet when heavy north or easterly winds prevent crossing the inlet.

Drainages flowing north from the drainage divide would remain in the NCCUA and drainages running south from the divide into Tenakee Inlet would be subject to standard hunting regulations for Unit 4.

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

Drainages draining into the north shore of Tenakee Inlet are included (unnecessarily) in the Northeast Chichagof Controlled Use Area (NCCUA) and subject to conservative deer hunting regulations designed to address conservation and access issues associated with the extensive Hoonah road system. These regulations apply to non federally qualified deer hunters on the NCCUA. Areas draining into the north shore of Tenakee Inlet should be excluded from the NCCUA, it has none of the access/roadside issues of Hoonah and deer harvest in Tenakee has no impact on more northerly areas of the NCCUA.

The NCCUA was established to address conservation and access issues associated with the Hoonah road system which covers the northern and mid sections of the NCCUA. The road system is also connected to the Ak Marine Highways Ferry landing in Hoonah. Tenakee is not attached to the Hoonah road system and has no road issues or conservation concerns for deer.

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

PROPOSED BY: Michael Bethers

(HQ-F25-009)

PROPOSAL 25

5 AAC 92.510(a)(6)(A) Areas closed to hunting.

Clarify the northern and southern boundaries of the Sitka Road System Closed Area in Unit 4 as follows:

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

5 AAC 92.510. Areas closed to hunting. (a) The following areas are closed to hunting as specified:

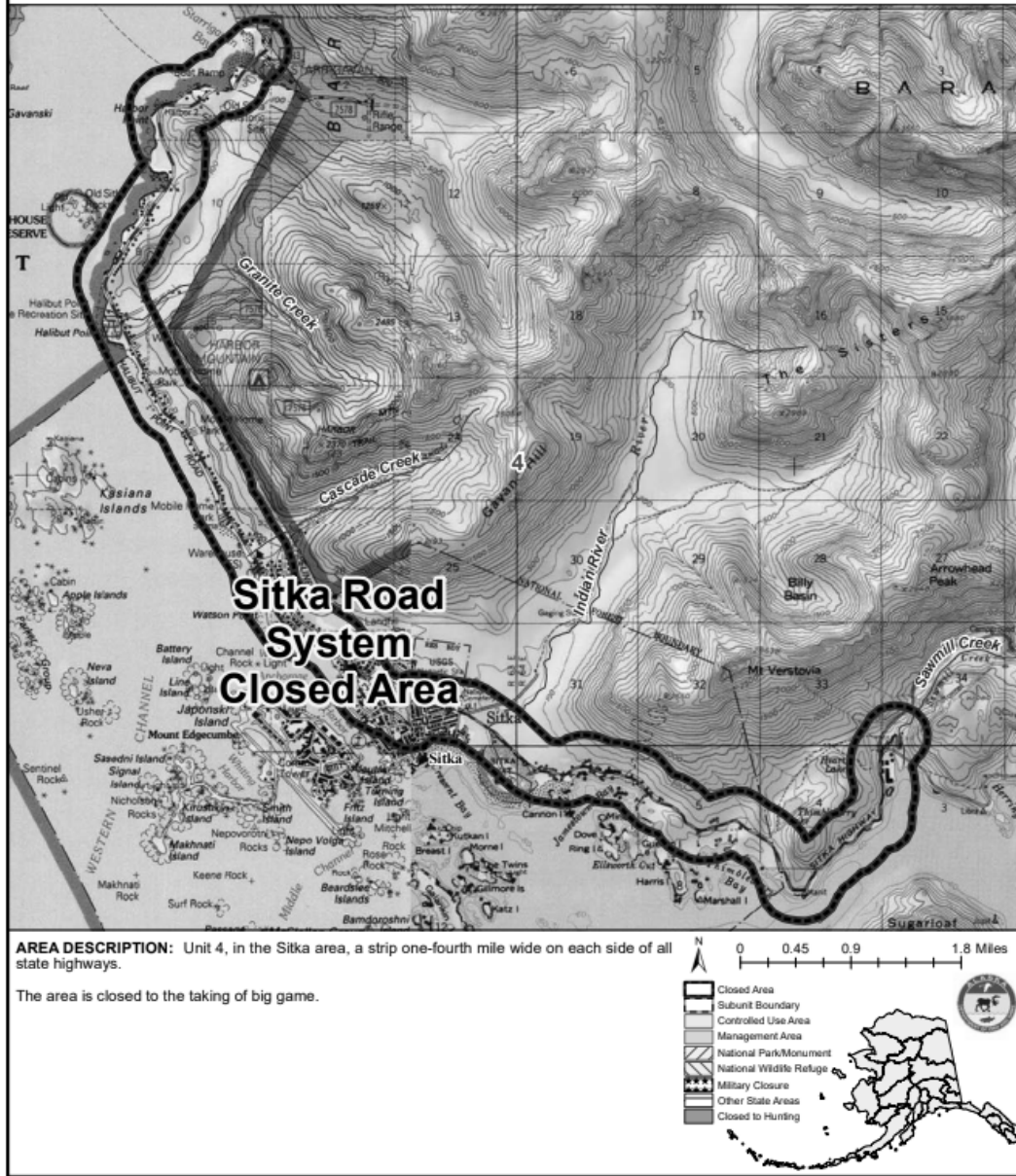
(6) Unit 4:

(A) in the Sitka area, a strip one-fourth mile wide on each side of all state highways **between the east side of the Sawmill Creek bridge and the Katlian Bay Road gate** is closed to the taking of big game.

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

There has been some ambiguity regarding the exact boundaries of the Sitka Road System Closed Area. In 2024, a portion of the Katlian Bay Road was opened to the public. The Katlian Bay Road extends the northern end of the Sitka road system past Halibut Point Road. It is not the intent of the department to extend the closed area to include the new Katlian Bay Road. On the south end of the road system (Sawmill Creek Road), the state highway actually extends to Herring Cove, approximately 1.5 miles past the closed area depicted on maps produced by the department. Popular mapping apps depict Herring Cove as the southern boundary of the closed area. The department is taking advantage of the current board cycle to clarify the boundaries match the intent of safety concerns associated with the Sitka Road System Closed Area. This proposed definition does not change the closed area, it clarifies the northern and southern boundaries of the existing closed area.

Unit 4 Sitka Road System Closed Area



PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F25-031)

Juneau, Haines, Skagway & Yakutat Areas – Units 1C, 1D & 5

PROPOSAL 26

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

Restrict hunters who take nanny goat in Unit 1C from hunting goat in Unit 1C for the following four regulatory years, and require nonresidents to forfeit nanny goats taken as follows:

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

The regulation would be changed to read the following: "if a nanny is taken in subunit 1 C, the hunter is prohibited from hunting any goats in subunit 1C the following four regulatory years and nonresident hunters would be required to forfeit their nannies to the Alaska Dept. of Fish & Game."

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

Restrict hunters who take nanny goat in Unit 1C from hunting goat the following regulatory year in Unit 1C as follows: The regulation would be changed to read the following: "if a nanny is taken in subunit 1C, the hunter is prohibited from hunting any goats in subunit 1C for the next four regulatory years."

Proposal to sustain the nanny goat population in Guide Use Area (GUA) 01-05, Unit 1C.

This proposal is for RG013 Unit 1C remainder, is for resident and nonresident hunting with a specific interest in Tracy and Endicott Arms. The area is managed by a point system and The Tracy/Endicott Arms area currently has a total of 37 harvest points annually. One harvested billy goat represents one point and a one harvested nanny goat represents two points.

There has been a steady increase in the nanny goat harvest in the Tracy/Endicott area. Nineteen nannies were taken between 2014 and 2021, and 10 of those were taken during the 2019 and 2020 season. In regulatory years 21 thru 24, there was 10 nannies taken just in the Tracy and Endicott, having an unnecessary impact of the overall harvest. This is a significant increase in the past two years and if this trend continues there could be a long-term negative effect on the goat population as a result of over harvesting of nanny goats in this Unit. For example, in 2023, there was three females harvested in one small portion of the Tracy/Endicott area. In addition, if the total harvest points are reached prior to the end of the hunting season, an Emergency Closure of the area occurs which is detrimental to all hunters in that area. It is an unnecessary loss of harvest to goat hunters.

We would like to copy the proposal that was done in Haines area as a model (Proposal 32),

The implementation of this proposal will benefit the overall goat population in RG013 Unit 1C remainder by reducing the number of nannies taken. This results in fewer Emergency Closures and promotes good conservation practice by all hunters.

It could also be helpful to change the mandatory ADF&G harvest reporting from five days to three days to the ADF&G.

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

With input from local ADF&G biologists, and a review by the Juneau/Douglas Advisory Committee. Other big game guides in the area and ADF&G, via the same proposal which was already passed (Proposal 32).

PROPOSED BY: Bruce & Ann-Marie Parker, Hans Baertle, and Lucas Mullen (HQ-F25-008)

PROPOSAL 27

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

Change the bag limit for deer in Unit 1C, Douglas Island to four bucks as follows:

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

Unit 1C Douglas Island: **Four bucks** [Four deer total only one of which may be a doe] Aug. 1 – Dec. 31

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

Quality Deer Herd Management (QDHM) practices for this area require a larger, more mature deer herd. QDHM is necessary on Douglas Island to contend with it's ongoing decline due primarily to predation and what became avoidable over-harvest during years of high predation had the allowable harvest during the years of decline been reduced more drastically, and habitat loss due to development, and additionally loss of remote safe harbor habitat due to increased access. If the regulation(s) are not changed the herd will continue to suffer decline in both numbers and maturity. Restricting the harvest to does only, identical to the sound policy of the adjacent mainland, will ensure the opportunity for more reproduction, and maturing of doe fawns to mating maturity, while still allowing for reasonable local harvest opportunity.

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

*These proposals shall be forwarded to local fish and game advisory committees.

PROPOSED BY: David Summers (OI-F25-023)

PROPOSAL 28

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

Change the bag limit for deer in Unit 1C, Douglas Island to two bucks as follows:

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

Unit 1C Douglas Island: **Two bucks** [Four deer total only one of which may be a doe] Aug. 1 – Dec. 31

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

Quality Deer Herd Management (QDHM) practices for this area require a larger, more mature deer herd. QDHM is necessary on Douglas Island to contend with it's ongoing decline due primarily to predation and what became avoidable over-harvest during years of high predation had the allowable harvest during the years of decline been reduced more drastically, and habitat loss due to development, and additionally loss of remote safe harbor habitat due to increased access. If the regulation(s) are not changed the herd will continue to suffer decline in both numbers and maturity. Restricting the harvest to does only, identical to the sound policy of the adjacent mainland, will ensure the opportunity for more reproduction, and maturing of doe fawns to mating maturity, while still allowing for reasonable local harvest opportunity of up to two bucks.

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

*These proposals shall be provided to local fish & game advisory committee

PROPOSED BY: David Summers (OI-F25-024)

PROPOSAL 29

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

Require an antler restriction for bucks harvested in Unit 1C, Douglas Island to at least one forked antler on one side as follows:

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

Unit 1C Douglas Island: Four deer total only one of which may be a doe, **all bucks must have at least one forked antler on one side** Aug. 1 – Sept. 14 (bucks), Sept. 15 - Dec 31. (any deer)

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

Quality Deer Herd Management (QDHM) practices for this area require a larger, more mature deer herd. QDHM is necessary on Douglas Island to contend with it's ongoing decline due primarily to predation and what became avoidable over-harvest during years of high predation had the allowable harvest during the years of decline been reduced more drastically, and habitat loss due to development, and additionally loss of remote safe harbor habitat due to increased access. If the regulation(s) are not changed the herd will continue to suffer decline in both numbers and maturity. Restricting the harvest to bucks with at least one forked antler on one side will ensure the opportunity for more bucks to survive longer and mature as an integral part of an overall increase in the size and maturity of the herd while still allowing for reasonable local harvest opportunity. This type of regulation (antler requirement(s)) is commonly done for other deer species, primarily moose, in Alaska already.

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

*These proposals shall be shared with local fish and game advisory committee(s).

PROPOSED BY: David Summers (OI-F25-025)

PROPOSAL 30

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

Establish a moose hunt for disabled hunters on state lands in Unit 5A, the Yakutat Region, as follows:

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

Proposed Regulations:

- **Area:** State lands in Game Management Unit 5A (Yakutat region), excluding federal lands.
- **Season Dates:** The hunt would be scheduled one week prior to the start of the regular state moose season for Unit 5A.
- **Eligibility:** Participation would be limited to individuals holding a valid ADF&G Disabled Hunter Permit. Proxy hunting regulations may apply where necessary.
- **Bag Limit:** One bull moose per hunter, consistent with the general hunting regulations unless modified by ADF&G.
- **Permit System:** up to five disabled hunters through existing Unit 5A registration process.

Implementation Considerations:

- **Stakeholder Coordination:** We will work with local organizations, including the Yakutat Tlingit Tribe, advisory committees, and federal land managers to ensure support and smooth implementation.
- **Monitoring and Reporting:** Hunters will be required to report their harvest within five days to assist ADF&G in tracking harvest data and evaluating the hunt's effectiveness.
- **Evaluation:** ADF&G will be asked to assess the hunt annually, reviewing participation rates, harvest numbers, and impacts on the moose population to inform future management decisions.

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

Dear Members of the Alaska Board of Game,

I am writing to submit a proposal for your consideration to establish a special moose hunt for disabled hunters on state lands in Game Management Unit 5A, specifically in the Yakutat region. The proposed hunt would occur one week prior to the opening date of the federally regulated

moose hunt in this area and would be open only to hunters with a valid Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) Disabled Hunter Permit.

Justification and Objectives:

Disabled Alaskans often face significant challenges when it comes to participating in traditional hunting seasons due to mobility limitations and increased competition for hunting opportunities. The proposed early-season hunt would provide a meaningful opportunity for these individuals to access the moose population in a way that aligns with both wildlife management goals and Alaska's values of inclusion and subsistence use of natural resources.

This initiative would:

- Ensure equitable access to moose hunting for disabled hunters.
- Have a minimal biological impact on the moose population, with careful regulation and monitoring.
- Align with Alaska's commitment to supporting the hunting rights of all citizens, regardless of physical ability.

In closing, this proposal represents an opportunity to enhance access to moose hunting for disabled Alaskans, ensuring that all residents have an equal chance to participate in traditional subsistence practices while maintaining the sustainability of the local moose population. I respectfully request the Alaska Board of Game's support in adopting this proposal.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to your response.

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

PROPOSED BY: Brian Metz (HQ-F25-023)

PROPOSAL 31

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

Expand the RB063 and RB073 brown bear resident hunt area in Unit 1C to include the Chilkat Range, and change the bag limit to one bear every year as follows:

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

Increase the area of RB063 and RB073 to include the area from South Sullivan Island to Point Couverdan.

(Unit 1C Chilkat Peninsula)

1 brown bear every regulatory year for residents and nonresidents.

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

Expand the RB063 and RB073 brown bear hunt area to include the area from South Sullivan Island to Point Couverdan including Homeshore and Excursion Inlet areas.

(Unit 1C Chilkat Peninsula)

One brown bear every regulatory year for residents and nonresidents.

This area has a healthy population of brown bears according to ADF&G data.

This proposal would seek to maximize brown bear hunting.

The harvest did not increase (it actually decreased) when Berners Bay drainages went from a one every four year brown bear tag to 1 brown bear every year tag. ADF&G always has the Emergency order authority to close an area if they feel an area is having too many bears harvested.

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

I have talked with other hunters trappers and fishermen who use this area. The brown bears are abundant.

I looked at past ADF&G studies posted in the archives that showed the abundance of brown bears in Howard Bay.

PROPOSED BY: Jesse Ross

(OI-F25-236)

PROPOSAL 32

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

Expand the RB063 and RB073 brown bear hunt area in Unit 1C to include the Chilkat Range, with a bag limit to 1 brown bear annually as follows:

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

Include portions of Unit 1C West of Lynn Canal in RB063 and RB073 for both residents and nonresidents.

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

This proposal will expand the Berners Bay registration brown bear hunt to the portions of the Chilkat Peninsula on the western side of Unit 1C. This proposal will change the bag limit to one brown bear annually for both residents and nonresidents. Having grown up in Juneau and hunted Unit 1C all of my life I have observed a healthy and expanding brown bear population. I have also observed a decrease in black bear numbers coinciding with the increase in brown bears. This proposal is designed to offer more opportunity to hunt brown bears in northern Unit 1C, I do not expect much of an increase in harvest. I expect a few resident hunters will take advantage of the new bag limit. Many hunters like myself will enjoy having more opportunity even if we will rarely take advantage of the more liberal bag limit.

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

I have not coordinated with ADF&G on this proposal but I did submit a similar proposal that had technical difficulties during the last Region I cycle.

PROPOSED BY: Jon Geary (OI-F25-135)

PROPOSAL 33

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

Change the bag limit for hunting brown bear in Unit 5, to one bear every regulatory year instead of one bear every four regulatory years as follows:

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

Unit 5: Sept. 1-May 31 One bear EVERY REGULATORY YEAR by registration permit only.

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

Brown bear bag limit in many outeast units deters resident participation due to the one per four regulatory years restriction on the bag limit. Given current bear populations this has become an overly restrictive bag limit and should be revised to be one bear per regulatory year.

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

No

PROPOSED BY: Trevor Embry (OI-F25-167)

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)

PROPOSAL 35

5 AAC 92.510. Areas closed to hunting.

Open the area within 1/4 mile of Thane Road in Unit 1C, to taking big game by archery only, as follows:

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

a) The following areas are closed to hunting as specified:

B) the area in the Juneau area, that area between the coast and a line one-fourth mile inland of the following road systems is closed to the taking of big game:

(i) Glacier Highway from Mile 0 to the northern bank of Peterson Creek;

(ii) Douglas Highway from the Douglas city limits to the northeast bank of Fish Creek;

(iii) Mendenhall Loop Road; and

[(iv) THANE ROAD;]

C) the area in the Juneau area, that area between the coast and a line one-fourth mile inland of the following road systems is closed to the taking of big game with firearms. However, in the following areas, big game may be taken by archery only

(i) Thane Road

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

The area within 1/4 mile of Thane Road is closed to the taking of big game. Opening this area to taking of big game by archery only would allow for increased opportunities for local residents, especially those who cannot travel by boat to one of the surrounding islands. The City and Borough of Juneau regulations do not allow for use of firearms in city limits within 1/4 mile of a public street, which is very reasonable from a safety perspective. Opening this area to archery only harvest (rather than by firearm harvest as well) would avoid causing any confusion associated with differences between city and state laws. It would also help to prevent any danger to local homeowners and road users due to firearm use.

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

No.

PROPOSED BY: Matt Leither

(OI-F25-200)

PROPOSAL 36

5 AAC 85.065. Hunting seasons and bag limits for small game.

Shift the ptarmigan season in Unit 1C to start August 15 instead of August 1 as follows:

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

Shift the ptarmigan Unit 1C season back from August 1 to August 15 – May 15 (still 20/day, 40 in possession).

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

Unit 1C offers exceptional access to alpine and backcountry areas via established trail systems, making it a popular destination for ptarmigan hunting. As accessibility and interest have increased, so too has hunting pressure. In recent years, hunters have observed that many ptarmigan broods in Unit 1C experience late spring hatches. During the first week of August, when the season currently opens, chicks are often still small and closely reliant on hens.

To address these observations, I recommend shifting the opening date of the ptarmigan hunting season back by 15 days, to August 15. This modest delay would allow chicks additional time to mature and would result in a more sustainable harvest and slightly larger birds, ensuring better use of the birds taken.

While the Alaska Department of Fish & Game has not identified a conservation concern for ptarmigan in Southeast Alaska, it also does not currently conduct population monitoring in the region. In the absence of hard data, and given these consistent field observations by hunters, a precautionary adjustment to the season start date is a responsible step.

Hunting ptarmigan is an enjoyable and accessible way to introduce new hunters, especially youth, to upland bird hunting. However, our primary responsibility is to ensure the resource is respected and well-utilized. This change supports that goal.

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

Yes, consulted ADF&G for scientific data. Spoke with Juneau-Douglas AC members.

PROPOSED BY: Mary Graves (OI-F25-227)

Ketchikan Area and Prince of Wales – Units 1A & 2

PROPOSAL 37

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

Reduce the bag limit for deer in Unit 2 from four to three bucks as follows:

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

We hope to reduce the bag limit for deer in Unit 2 as follows:

5 AAC 85.030 Hunting seasons and bag limits for deer/

Unit 2: Prince of Wales Island

3 Bucks [4 Bucks]

Reduce deer bag limit to 3 bucks in Unit 2 Prince of Wales Island.

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

The Sitka black tailed deer population in Unit 2 on Prince of Wales (POW) Island is declining. Deer are an important subsistence food security resource for all the local rural communities of POW Island. The Island has better road access than most other locations with deer. Factors affecting the decline of deer include habitat loss, wolf and black bear predation, deep snow years, and one of the most liberal deer bag limits in Alaska. The deer bag limit on POW is currently four bucks. Reducing the hunter bag limit to three bucks should conserve and help maintain the deer herd for the future.

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

Yes, the East Prince of Wales Island Advisory Committee members developed this proposal with input from Unit 2 residents. These residents have noticed and are concerned about the steady and significant decline in deer numbers and their availability for subsistence food resources. Scientific publications depicting trends of concern on the POW Island deer may be found on the website: www.sitkablacktaildeer.org.

PROPOSED BY: East Prince of Wales Fish and Game Advisory Committee (OI-F25-010)

PROPOSAL 38

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

Reduce the resident bag limit for deer in Unit 2 from four bucks to three as follows:

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

Reduce the deer bag limit in Unit 2 for residents to three bucks total.

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

The Sitka Blacktail deer population on Prince of Wales Island (PoW) crashed in 2017, 2018, and 2019. This was due to increasingly degraded forest habitat related to past timber harvest and the increase in the wolf population from 2015-2019. The broad loss of old growth forest habitat in central and north PoW has had a notable reduction on the ability of the landscape to produce and support deer. The value of old growth forest habitat to a healthy deer population can not be overstated. This loss of quality habitat and the consequential increase in the number one predator of deer (wolves) has significantly depleted the PoW deer population.

Factors affecting the PoW deer herd are; habitat loss, wolf and black bear predation and human predation resulting from some of the most liberal deer hunting season in the state and likely in the US. If you are a resident of PoW and are hunting under federal regs, the deer hunting season is July 25-Jan. 31. If you are a nonresident, the deer hunting season is Aug. 1-Dec. 31. The current deer hunting state bag limit for residents/non-residents is four bucks.

Our deer herd is depressed enough that we feel it is reasonable to limit the resident hunters. Unit 2 only has three big game animals; wolf, black bear and deer. The year-round residents of PoW heavily rely on deer to feed our families. PoW grocery stores are limited to Craig, Klawock and Thorne Bay. This drives our grocery prices higher than other areas in Southeast AK and many other places in Alaska. Ketchikan was recently granted a rural designation and will be able to harvest under subsistence regulations, thereby competing with residents of PoW for our deer and other resources.

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

The Craig Advisory Committee members developed this proposal with input from other Unit 2 residents. We have noticed and are concerned about the steady and significant decline in deer numbers and their availability for subsistence food resources. Scientific publications depicting trends of concern about the deer of PoW can be found at www.sitkablacktaildeer.org.

PROPOSED BY: Craig Fish and Game Advisory Committee (OI-F25-038)

PROPOSAL 39

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

Reduce bag limit for deer in Unit 2 from four bucks to two as follows:

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

We hope to reduce the bag limit for deer in Unit 2 Prince of Wales Island as follows:

5 AAC 85.030 Hunting seasons and bag limits for deer.

Unit 2: Prince of Wales Island

2 Bucks [4 Bucks]

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

The Sitka black tailed deer population in Unit 2 on Prince of Wales (PoW) Island is declining. Deer are an important subsistence food security resource for all the local rural communities of PoW Island. The Island has better road access than most other locations with deer. Factors affecting the decline of deer include habitat loss, wolf and black bear predation, deep snow years, and one of the most liberal deer bag limits in Alaska. The deer bag limit on PoW is currently four bucks. Reducing the hunter bag limit to two bucks should conserve and help maintain the deer herd for the future.

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

Yes, the East Prince of Wales Island Advisory Committee members developed this proposal with input from Unit 2 residents. These residents have noticed and are concerned about the steady and significant decline in deer numbers and their availability for subsistence food resources. Scientific publications depicting trends of concern on the POW Island deer may be found on the website: www.sitkablacktaildeer.org.

PROPOSED BY: East Prince of Wales Fish and Game Advisory Committee (OI-F25-009)

PROPOSAL 40

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

Reduce the nonresident bag limit for deer in Unit 2 from four bucks to one as follows:

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

Proposal: The Klawock Advisory Committee proposes to change the deer harvest in Unit 2 to: One buck for nonresidents.

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

The Sitka Blacktail deer population on Prince of Wales Island (PoW) crashed in 2017, 2018 & 2019 mainly due to the increase in wolf population from 2015-2019. Between 1985 and 2001 the wolf harvest on PoW ranged from 18-132 wolves and the season length was Dec. 1-March 31 with no closures and no limit.

In 1993, the 1st petition to list the Alexander Archipelago wolves under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) was filed and Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) defeated it.

In 2011, a 2nd petition was filed and ADF&G countered with a wolf management change in 2015 to avoid the listing.

In 2015, wolves on PoW were managed under a quota system resulting in the following harvest:

2015: 7 total wolves harvested
2016: 30 total wolves harvested
2017: 62 total wolves harvested
2018: 46 total wolves harvested

The 2018 deer season was dramatic for many of us. We saw more wolf scat with deer bones/hair in it than we saw deer. Nearly every mountain, road, beach, etc. had wolf scat on it and our deer were very hard to find since so many died from wolves.

In 2019, ADF&G changed wolf management to its current format of a variable season length which resulted in the harvest of 164 wolves. This jump in wolf harvest triggered the 3rd petition to list the Alexander Archipelago wolves under the ESA in July of 2020.

With a lot of effort, ADF&G defeated the petition and has continued to manage wolves under its current format of a tight season length to control the take.

Currently, ADF&G has a handle on wolf management but PoW still suffers from a depressed deer herd and every deer is important until our herd rebounds. Nonresidents hunters come to PoW for the opportunity to harvest a large male buck. They do not come here specifically for the meat, but rather for the experience and the chance at a trophy Sitka Blacktail deer.

Our deer herd is struggling and residents heavily rely on venison to feed our families. PoW only has one good eating big game animal.

We feel a one buck bag limit for nonresidents is justified and prudent until our deer population rebounds.

Respectfully,

The Klawock Fish & Game Advisory Committee

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

PROPOSED BY: Klawock Fish and Game Advisory Committee (OI-F25-019)

PROPOSAL 41

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

Reduce the nonresident bag limit for deer in Unit 2 from four bucks to one as follows:

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

Proposal: Reduce the deer bag limit in Unit 2 for nonresidents to one buck total.

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

The Sitka Blacktail deer population on Prince of Wales Island (PoW) crashed in 2017, 2018 & 2019. This was due to increasingly degraded forest habitat related to past timber harvest and the increase in the wolf population from 2015-2019. The broad loss of Old Growth forest habitat in central and north PoW has had a notable reduction on the ability of the landscape to produce and support deer. The value of old growth forest habitat to a healthy deer population can not be overstated. This loss of quality habitat and the consequential increase in the number one predator of deer (wolves) has significantly depleted the PoW deer population.

Factors affecting the PoW deer herd are; habitat loss, wolf and black bear predation and human predation resulting from some of the most liberal deer hunting season in the state and likely in the US. If you are a resident of PoW and are hunting under federal regs, the deer hunting season is July 25-Jan. 31. If you are a non-resident, the deer hunting season is Aug. 1-Dec. 31. The current deer hunting state bag limit for residents/nonresidents is four bucks.

Our deer herd is depressed enough that we feel it is reasonable to limit the nonresident hunters. Unit 2 only has three big game animals; wolf, black bear and deer. The year-round residents of PoW heavily rely on deer to feed our families. PoW grocery stores are limited to Craig, Klawock and Thorne Bay. This drives our grocery prices higher than other areas in Southeast AK and many other places in Alaska. Ketchikan was recently granted a rural designation and will be able to harvest under subsistence regulations, thereby competing with residents of PoW for our deer and other resources.

Nonresidents come to PoW for an Alaskan adventure and the opportunity to harvest a mature Sitka Blacktail deer that arguably, have larger antlers for the species than anywhere else in the world.

Nonresident hunters do not need the meat like locals/residents. Nonresident hunters can also hunt black bear and fish during the hunting season, so there are plenty of other adventures for them to partake in after they tag out on their one buck. This reduction will hopefully be temporary until our deer herd rebounds.

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

The Craig Advisory Committee members developed this proposal with input from other Unit 2 residents. We have noticed and are concerned about the steady and significant decline in deer numbers and our availability for subsistence food resources. Scientific publications depicting trends of concern about the deer of PoW can be found at www.sitkablacktaildeer.org.

PROPOSED BY: Craig Fish and Game Advisory Committee (OI-F25-039)

PROPOSAL 42

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

Change the nonresident start date for the deer hunting season in Unit 2, to August 15 as follows:

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

Proposal: Change the start date for deer in Unit 2 for nonresidents to August 15.

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

The Sitka Blacktail deer population on Prince of Wales Island (PoW) crashed in 2017, 2018 & 2019. This was due to increasingly degraded forest habitat related to past timber harvest and the increase in the wolf population from 2015-2019. The broad loss of old growth forest habitat in central and north PoW has had a notable reduction on the ability of the landscape to produce and support deer. The value of old growth forest habitat to a healthy deer population can not be

overstated. This loss of quality habitat and the consequential increase in the number one predator of deer (wolves) has significantly depleted the PoW deer population.

Factors affecting the PoW deer herd are; habitat loss, wolf and black bear predation and human predation resulting from the most liberal deer hunting season in the state and likely in the US. If you are a resident of PoW and are hunting under federal regs, the deer hunting season is July 25-Jan. 31. If you are a nonresident, the deer hunting season is Aug. 1-Dec. 31. The current deer hunting state bag limit for residents/nonresidents is four bucks.

Our deer herd is depressed enough that we feel it is reasonable to limit the nonresident hunters. Unit 2 only has three big game animals; wolf, black bear and deer. The year-round residents of PoW heavily rely on deer to feed our families. PoW grocery stores are limited to Craig, Klawock and Thorne Bay. This drives our grocery prices higher than other areas in Southeast AK and many other places in Alaska. Ketchikan was recently granted a rural designation and will be able to harvest under subsistence regulations, thereby competing with residents of PoW for our deer and other resources.

Nonresidents come to PoW for an Alaskan adventure and the opportunity to harvest a mature Sitka Blacktail deer that arguably, have larger antlers for the species than anywhere else in the world. Nonresident hunters do not need the meat like locals/residents. Non-res hunters can also hunt black bear and fish during the hunting season, so there are plenty of other adventures for them to partake in after they tag out on their one buck. The Aug. 15 start date for nonresidents will allow resident hunters the opportunity to harvest bucks above treeline (alpine) without the increased competition from non-resident hunters. This reduction will hopefully be temporary until our deer herd rebounds.

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

The Craig AC members developed this proposal with input from other Unit 2 residents. We have noticed and are concerned about the steady and significant decline in deer numbers and their availability for subsistence food resources. Scientific publications depicting trends of concern about the deer of PoW can be found at www.sitkablacktaildeer.org.

PROPOSED BY: Craig Fish and Game Advisory Committee (OI-F25-040)

PROPOSAL 43

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

Increase the deer bag limit and extend the season length for residents and nonresidents on the Cleveland Peninsula as follows:

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

Lengthen the season and increase the bag limit for deer in Unit 1A on the southern portion of the Cleveland Peninsula by aligning seasons and bag limits with the rest of Unit 1A. The bag limit will increase from two bucks to four bucks, and the season will increase by one month.

5 AAC 85.030. Hunting seasons and bag limits for deer

Units and Bag Limits

Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)

Nonresident Open Season

(1)

Unit 1 (A) [THAT PORTION
ON THE CLEVELAND
PENINSULA BOUNDED
BY AN EAST-WEST LINE
FROM YES BAY TO
SANTA ANNA INLET]

Aug. 1 – **Dec. 31** [NOV. 30]

Aug. 1 – **Dec. 31** [NOV. 30]

4 [**2**] bucks

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

The Alaska Department of Fish & Game proposes increasing the bag limit and season length for deer on the portion of the Cleveland Peninsula south of the divide between Santa Anna Inlet and Yes Bay in Unit 1A. That area has a shorter season and lower bag limit for deer than the remainder of Unit 1A, including the adjacent mainland. Deer harvest in Unit 1A has consistently increased over the past 10 years (2014–2023) while the average days of hunting effort needed to harvest a deer have decreased, suggesting an increase in abundance. Trends on the southern portion of the Cleveland Peninsula have mirrored trends elsewhere in Unit 1A, indicating that additional harvest opportunity is available in that area.

In addition to offering greater sustainable harvest opportunity, aligning the season dates and bag limit with the rest of Unit 1A would simplify regulations. The rest of Unit 1A currently has a 4-buck bag limit and an August 1 to December 31 open season.

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-F25-032)

PROPOSAL 44

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

Limit the nonresident permit allocation for the Unit 1A goat drawing hunt DG005, to “up to” 20% of the available permits as follows:

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

Limit nonresident permit allocation for drawing hunt DG005 to UP TO 20% of the available permits. If at least five permits are not issued a nonresident permit will not be available.

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

Limit the number of tags that may be drawn by nonresidents for drawing hunt DG005. There is currently no cap on how many tags may be drawn by nonresidents. If nothing is changed residents will continue to lose opportunities to hunt in easier accessible areas that are limited to drawing hunts because of said access issues. The nature of many hunts in Alaska requires that hunters use expensive modes of transportation to access an area to hunt. Many of the drawing hunts are only restricted to drawing because they are in easier accessible areas. Even where access is not the primary limiting factor Alaskan residents are being out competed by guided nonresidents in the draw by outfitters and license application services. Additionally caribou, moose, bison, muskox, black bear and elk do not require a guide and non-guided nonresident interest in these species is increasing.

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

No

PROPOSED BY: Craig Van Arsdale (OI-F25-085)

PROPOSAL 45

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

Limit the nonresident permit allocation for the Unit 1A goat drawing hunt DG006, to “up to” 20% of the available permits as follows:

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

Limit nonresident permit allocation for drawing hunt DG006 to UP TO 20% of the available permits. If at least five permits are not issued a nonresident permit will not be available.

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

Limit the number of tags that may be drawn by nonresidents for drawing hunt DG006. There is currently no cap on how many tags may be drawn by nonresidents. If nothing is changed residents will continue to lose opportunities to hunt in easier accessible areas that are limited to drawing hunts because of said access issues. The nature of many hunts in Alaska requires that hunters use expensive modes of transportation to access an area to hunt. Many of the drawing hunts are only restricted to drawing because they are in easier accessible areas. Even where access is not the primary limiting factor Alaskan residents are being out competed by guided non-residents in the draw by outfitters and license application services. Additionally caribou, moose, bison, muskox, black bear and elk do not require a guide and non-guided nonresident interest in these species is increasing.

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

No

PROPOSED BY: Craig Van Arsdale (OI-F25-086)

PROPOSAL 46

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

Limit the nonresident permit allocation for the Unit 1A goat drawing hunt DG008, to “up to” 20% of the available permits as follows:

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

Limit nonresident permit allocation for drawing hunt DG008 to UP TO 20% of the available permits. If at least five permits are not issued a nonresident permit will not be available.

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

Limit the number of tags that may be drawn by nonresidents for drawing hunt DG008. There is currently no cap on how many tags may be drawn by nonresidents. If nothing is changed residents will continue to lose opportunities to hunt in easier accessible areas that are limited to drawing hunts because of said access issues. The nature of many hunts in Alaska requires that hunters use expensive modes of transportation to access an area to hunt. Many of the drawing hunts are only restricted to drawing because they are in easier accessible areas. Even where access is not the primary limiting factor Alaskan residents are being out competed by guided non-residents in the draw by outfitters and license application services. Additionally caribou, moose, bison, muskox, black bear and elk do not require a guide and non-guided nonresident interest in these species is increasing.

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

No

PROPOSED BY: Craig Van Arsdale

(OI-F25-087)

PROPOSAL 47

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

Eliminate the Unit 2 meat salvage requirement for resident black bear hunting in May as follows:

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

Proposal: Eliminate meat salvage requirement in May for black bear in Unit 2 for residents only.

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

The Sitka Blacktail deer population on Prince of Wales Island (PoW) crashed in 2017, 2018 & 2019. This was due to increasingly degraded forest habitat related to past timber harvest and the increase in the wolf population from 2015-2019. The broad loss of old growth forest habitat in central and north PoW has had a notable reduction on the ability of the landscape to produce and support deer. The value of old growth forest habitat to a healthy deer population can not be

overstated. This loss of quality habitat and the consequential increase in the number one predator of deer (wolves) has significantly depleted the PoW deer population.

Factors affecting the PoW deer herd are; habitat loss, wolf and black bear predation and human predation resulting from the most liberal deer hunting season in the state and likely in the US.

Our deer herd is depressed enough that we feel it is reasonable to change the meat salvage requirements for black bear hunters in Unit 2. This would incentivize residents to harvest more black bears to reduce the take of fawns by bears.

Unit 2 only has three big game animals; wolf, black bear and deer.

PoW grocery stores are limited to Craig, Klawock and Thorne Bay. This drives our grocery prices higher than other areas in Southeast AK and many other places in Alaska.

Ketchikan was recently granted a rural designation and will be able to harvest under subsistence regulations, thereby competing with residents of PoW for our deer and other resources.

Eliminating the meat salvage requirement in May for black bear in Unit 2 for residents will increase the harvest of black bear on PoW further improving the deer population. This change will hopefully be temporary until our deer herd rebounds.

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

The Craig AC members developed this proposal with input from other Unit 2 residents. We have noticed and are concerned about the steady and significant decline in deer numbers and our availability for subsistence food resources. Scientific publications depicting trends of concern about the deer of PoW can be found at www.sitkablacktaildeer.org.

PROPOSED BY: Craig Fish and Game Advisory Committee (OI-F25-041)

PROPOSAL 48

5 AAC 92.008. Harvest guideline levels.

Increase the Unit 2 wolf population objective as follows:

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

For purposes of management of the named species, the department shall manage harvest by hunting and trapping as follows:

- (1) Wolves: the annual harvest of wolves in Unit 2 should be managed to maintain the unit-wide population within a range of **200-300** [150-200] wolves;

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

Based on a retrospective evaluation, data suggests the early population estimates from regulatory year (RY) 2014 and RY2015 that the Board of Game (board) referenced when setting the current

objective, likely underrepresented true population size. Research since the objective was set in 2019 also found the Unit 2 wolf population is reproductively isolated and has a high degree of inbreeding, which increases the potential for inbreeding depression. The available information indicates that sustainable management of Unit 2 wolves requires consideration of both demographic and genetic factors along with public sentiment and other information. Based on this information, the department is managing for a larger Unit 2 wolf population than the fall population objective of 150-200 wolves. Numerous research projects are ongoing; however, findings and new tools to inform management will not be available for the January 2026 Board of Game meeting in Wrangell. Until new information is available, maintaining the current larger population size is the best option to conserve existing genetic diversity and future management options. Therefore, the department proposes increasing the fall population objective range in Unit 2 from 150–200 to 200–300 wolves.

To help resolve long-standing management challenges and take advantage of advances that allowed annual population estimates, at the January 2019 Board of Game meeting in Petersburg the department proposed fundamental changes to management of Unit 2 wolves. These changes included managing harvest opportunity, primarily trapping season length, to achieve a level of harvest that maintains the wolf population within a fall population objective range set by the board. The board recognized that the fall population objective would play a pivotal role and referenced the best available information to ensure consistency with the Alaska Constitution’s mandate for sustained yield management. Board members also recognized that the population objective would require periodic review as new information became available.

Research since the 2019 Board of Game meeting found that wolves in Southeast Alaska have been generally isolated from other North American wolf populations for thousands of years with slowly declining genetic diversity. Within Southeast Alaska, the Unit 2 population is the most reproductively isolated, with the lowest genetic diversity and the highest degree of inbreeding. Although no signs of inbreeding depression have been detected, these conditions signal an increased level of risk for Unit 2 wolves.

Field and laboratory aspects of population genetics research are time-consuming. However, new tools for modeling likely outcomes of different management scenarios and for monitoring changes in genetic diversity and inbreeding should be available before the next Southeast Alaska Board of Game meeting in 2029. Until better information is available, as a conservation measure, the department proposes increasing the fall Unit 2 wolf population objective range to preserve future management options.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F25-045)

PROPOSAL 49

5 AAC 84.270. Furbearer trapping.

Change the season start date for wolf trapping in Unit 2 to December 15 or January 1 as follows:

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

Proposal: The Klawock Advisory Committee proposes to change the wolf harvest start date in Unit 2 to: Dec. 15 or Jan. 1

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

The Sitka Blacktail deer population on Prince of Wales Island (PoW) crashed in 2017, 2018 & 2019 mainly due to the increase in wolf population from 2015-2019.

Between 1985 and 2001 the wolf harvest on PoW ranged from 18-132 wolves and the season length was Dec. 1-March 31 with no closures and no limit.

In 1993, the 1st petition to list the Alexander Archipelago wolves under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) was filed and Alaska Dept. of Fish & Game (ADF&G) defeated it.

In 2011, a 2nd petition was filed and ADF&G countered with a wolf management change in 2015 to avoid the listing.

In 2015, wolves on PoW were managed under a quota system resulting in the following harvest:

2015: 7 total wolves harvested
2016: 30 total wolves harvested
2017: 62 total wolves harvested
2018: 46 total wolves harvested

The 2018 deer season was dramatic for many of us. We saw more wolf scat with deer bones/hair in it than we saw deer. Nearly every mountain, road, beach, etc. had wolf scat on it and our deer were very hard to find since so many died from wolves.

In 2019, ADF&G changed wolf management to its current format of a variable season length which resulted in the harvest of 164 wolves. This increase in wolf harvest triggered the 3rd petition to list the Alexander Archipelago wolves under the ESA in July of 2020.

With a lot of effort, ADF&G defeated the petition again and has continued to manage wolves under its current format of a tight season length to control the take.

The current start date for wolf trapping is November 15 but there are multiple issues with this early start date.

Six years ago, the wolf trapping season start date was moved from December 1st to November 15th and there have been many conflicts:

- 1) The deer are still rutting and the deer bycatch in snares is a real problem.
- 2) Many black bear are still out and the black bear bycatch in snares is a real problem as well as bears destroying traps/snares.

- 3) There are lots of hunters in the field in November and many have come across wolves caught in traps/snares and have taken/shot the wolves and not reported them since the current regulation of unmarked traps is still in effect. The hunters dispatch the wolf and don't know who to contact.
- 4) ADF&G is still conducting their wolf hair board studies until December 5 and the extra human presence in the field negatively affects the wolf trappers.
- 5) There are still waterfowl hunters in the field at this time and the tide flats see more human pressure also influencing the wolves and negatively affecting the trappers.
- 6) Many trappers would prefer to start trapping in December after the hides are fully prime; which most agree don't become prime until Dec. 1.
- 7) November weather is generally worse than December and also negatively affects the trappers.
- 8) There is a proposal to change the federal subsistence wolf trapping start date to December 15.

Respectfully,

The Klawock Fish & Game Advisory Committee

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

PROPOSED BY: Klawock Fish and Game Advisory Committee (OI-F25-020)

PROPOSAL 50

5 AAC 84.270. Furbearer trapping.

Move the start date of the wolf trapping season in Unit 2 to December 15 as follows:

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

Proposal: Move the start date of wolf trapping season in Unit 2 to Dec. 15.

If adopted the regulation would read: Unit 2 wolf trapping season start date: Dec. 15th.

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

The East Prince of Wales Advisory Committee would like to move the start date for wolf trapping from November 15 to December 15.

Since the wolf trapping season start date was moved from December 1 to November 15 start date six years ago, there has been an overwhelming increase in conflicts with other user groups and black bears. These user groups include deer hunters, waterfowl hunters and biologists conducting the wolf population study on the Unit 2 wolves. Having a later start date would reduce these conflicts.

Unit 2 is made up of Prince of Wales Island (PoW) and many smaller islands. PoW is one of the most accessible areas in the entire state with easy access from a daily ferry and planes from Ketchikan combined with over 2000 miles of roads. The shoreline and surrounding islands are also

easily accessed by boat. The current November 15th start date overlaps the deer rut and PoW gets a lot of off island deer hunters as well as many local deer hunters.

Several wolf trappers are setting their traps and having deer hunters come across them while in the process.

Waterfowl hunters are also hunting during this time and conflicts arise with wolf trappers who set their gear at the heads of the bays in the tide flats that are also frequented by waterfowl hunters and their dogs.

Southeast Alaska is a temperate rain forest generally with warmer falls and mild winters. Many trappers prefer to wait and trap later in December because the pelts don't get fully prime until December 1. Currently, the short 30 day wolf trapping season in Unit 2, forces the wolf trappers to start November 15 when many of the pelts are not fully prime.

Another issue the trappers are having is catching black bear in their sets. There are still significant numbers of bears out in November and several have reported accidentally catching black bear; mostly in November. This issue will be resolved by moving the start date to December 15.

The most important reason to change the start date are the conflicts with the wolf population study. It has been voiced at many wolf meetings with ADF&G and USFS that the study is in direct competition with the wolf trappers. Over the years, ADF&G has either agreed or remained neutral that a change in the start date would be beneficial for them. Wolf study staff have had run-ins with wolf trappers and their gear when they are conducting an essential study to manage the wolf population. Their study concludes in early December so this conflict would also be resolved by moving to December 15.

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

PROPOSED BY: East Prince of Wales Fish and Game Advisory Committee (OI-F25-042)

PROPOSAL 51

5 AAC 84.270. Furbearer trapping

Extend the wolf trapping season to 45 days on Prince of Wales Island, Unit 2 as follows:

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

Proposal: Wolf trapping season length of 45 days.

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

The Sitka Blacktail deer population on Prince of Wales Island (PoW) crashed in 2017, 2018 & 2019. This was due to increasingly degraded forest habitat related to past timber harvest and the increase in the wolf population from 2015-2019. The broad loss of Old Growth forest habitat in central and north PoW has had a notable reduction on the ability of the landscape to produce and support deer. The value of old growth forest habitat to a healthy deer population can not be

overstated. This loss of quality habitat and the consequential increase in the number one predator of deer (wolves) has significantly depleted the PoW deer population.

Between 1985 and 2001 the wolf harvest on PoW ranged from 18-132 wolves and the season length was Dec. 1-March 31 with no closures and no limit.

In 1993, the 1st petition to list the Alexander Archipelago wolves under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) was filed and Alaska Dept. of Fish & Game (ADF&G) defeated it.

In 2011, a 2nd petition was filed and ADFG countered with a wolf management change in 2015 to avoid the listing.

In 2015, wolves on PoW were managed under a quota system resulting in the following harvest:

2015: 7 total wolves harvested

2016: 30 total wolves harvested

2017: 62 total wolves harvested

2018: 46 total wolves harvested

The 2018 deer season was dramatic for many of us. We saw more wolf scat with deer bones/hair in it than we saw deer. Nearly every mountain, road, beach, etc. had wolf scat on it and our deer were very hard to find.

In 2019, ADF&G changed wolf management to its current format of a variable season length which resulted in the harvest of 164 wolves. This increase in wolf harvest triggered the 3rd petition to list the Alexander Archipelago wolves under the ESA in July of 2020.

With a lot of effort, ADF&G defeated the petition again and has continued to manage wolves under its current format of a tight season length to control the take.

Six years ago, the wolf trapping season start date was moved from December 1st to Nov. 15th and there have been conflicts:

- 1) The deer are still rutting and the deer bycatch in snares is a problem.
- 2) Many black bear are still out and the black bear bycatch in snares is a problem as well as bears destroying traps/snares.
- 3) There are lots of hunters in the field in November and many have come across wolves caught in traps/snares and have taken/shot the wolves and not reported them.
- 4) ADF&G is still conducting their wolf hair board studies until Dec. 5 and the extra human presence in the field negatively affects the wolf trappers.
- 5) There are still waterfowl hunters in the field at this time and the tide flats see more human pressure also influencing the wolves and negatively affecting the trappers and potentially, dogs.
- 6) November weather/winds are generally worse than December and also negatively affects the trappers. Last year the beach trappers lost at least five days of the season due to high winds.

Extending the wolf trapping season to 45 days would improve the safety, decrease some of the above conflicts, allow trappers the flexibility to choose their weather windows of checking traps

instead of the current derby style season, gain more participation from younger/newer trappers and make trapping more enjoyable.

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

PROPOSED BY: Craig Fish and Game Advisory Committee (OI-F25-037)

PROPOSAL 52

5 AAC 92.127. Intensive Management Plans IX.

Add Unit 2 as an area for intensive management of wolves as follows:

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

The harvest of wolves will be increased to a level that will allow deer populations to increase.

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

Add Unit 2 as an area of intensive management for the harvest of wolves. The deer population of Unit 2 is declining due to increasing population of wolves on Unit 2. The communities in Unit 2 had a need for deer for food.

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

No

PROPOSED BY: Patricia Phillips (OI-F25-232)

PROPOSAL 53

5 AAC 92.051. Discretionary trapping permit conditions and procedures.

Require an online trapping education course for trapping wolves in Unit 2 as follows:

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

Proposal: Require an online wolf trapping education course for all Unit 2 wolf trappers.

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

The Sitka Blacktail deer population on Prince of Wales Island (PoW) crashed in 2017, 2018 & 2019. This was due to increasingly degraded forest habitat related to past timber harvest and the increase in the wolf population from 2015-2019. The broad loss of old growth forest habitat in central and north PoW has had a notable reduction on the ability of the landscape to produce and support deer. The value of old growth forest habitat to a healthy deer population can not be overstated. This loss of quality habitat and the consequential increase in the number one predator of deer (wolves) has significantly depleted the PoW deer population.

Between 1985 and 2001 the wolf harvest on PoW ranged from 18-132 wolves and the season length was December 1-March 31 with no closures and no limit.

In 1993, the 1st petition to list the Alexander Archipelago wolves under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) was filed and Alaska Dept. of Fish & Game (ADF&G) defeated it.

In 2011, a 2nd petition was filed and ADF&G countered with a wolf management change in 2015 to avoid the listing.

In 2015, wolves on PoW were managed under a quota system resulting in the following harvest:

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The 2018 deer season was dramatic for many of us. We saw more wolf scat with deer bones/hair in it than we saw deer. Nearly every mountain, road, beach, etc. had wolf scat on it and our deer were very hard to find.

In 2019, ADF&G changed wolf management to its current format of a variable season length which resulted in the harvest of 164 wolves. This increase in wolf harvest triggered the 3rd petition to list the Alexander Archipelago wolves under the ESA in July of 2020.

With a lot of effort, ADFG defeated the petition again and has continued to manage wolves under its current format of a tight season length to control the take.

Six years ago, the wolf trapping season start date was moved from December 1st to November 15th and there have been conflicts:

- 1) The deer are still rutting and the deer bycatch in snares is a problem.
- 2) Many black bear are still out and the black bear bycatch in snares is a problem as well as bears destroying traps/snares.
- 3) There are lots of hunters in the field in November and many have come across wolves caught in traps/ snares and have taken/shot the wolves and not reported them.
- 4) ADF&G is still conducting their wolf hair board studies until Dec. 5 and the extra human presence in the field negatively affects the wolf trappers.
- 5) There are still waterfowl hunters in the field at this time and the tide flats see more human pressure also influencing the wolves and negatively affecting the trappers and potentially, dogs.

With the potential increase in conflicts, the Craig AC recommends an online education course required by all Unit 2 wolf trappers which is similar to the mountain goat ID quiz required for all Southeast Alaska goat hunters and other ADFG online education courses.

We are working with ADF&G and Alaska Trappers Assoc. on the best ways to implement the proposed educational course.

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

PROPOSED BY: Craig Fish and Game Advisory Committee (OI-F25-036)

PROPOSAL 54

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

Require identification tags be attached to traps and snares in Unit 2 as follows:

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

Require the use of trap or snare name tags on traps or snares used in Unit 2.

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

Ownership of traps or snares that are lost or left in the field out of trapping season.

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

No.

PROPOSED BY: Ellen Hannan and Michael Douville (OI-F25-213)

PROPOSAL 55

5 AAC 92.080. Unlawful methods of taking game; exceptions.

Prohibit the use of night vision and infrared devices for taking furbearers in Unit 2 as follows:

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

Allow the use of electronically enhanced night vision and forward-looking infrared devices for taking furbearers statewide except for Unit 2.

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

The statewide use of electronically enhanced night vision and forward-looking infrared devices for taking furbearers will create problems in Unit 2. Unit 2 is predominantly a very densely covered area, the only predator that would be available is wolves. The season for wolf harvest is tightly controlled and this may increase the take beyond ADF&G harvest levels.

Plus allowing the use of electronically enhanced night vision and forward-looking infrared devices would threaten to increase the take of our already declining population of deer.

Enforcement would also be an issue.

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

Informal discussions with residents of Prince of Wales and Ketchikan.

PROPOSED BY: Ellen Hannan

(OI-F25-214)

PROPOSAL 56

5 AAC 92.080. Unlawful methods of taking game; exceptions.

Prohibit the use of night vision and infrared devices for taking furbearers in Unit 2, during state and federal deer seasons as follows:

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

Allow the use of electronically enhanced night vision and forward-looking infrared devices for taking furbearers statewide **except for Unit 2 during any open federal or state deer season.**

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

The statewide use of electronically enhanced night vision and forward-looking infrared devices for taking furbearers will create problems in Unit 2. Unit 2 is predominantly a very densely covered area, the only predator that would be available is wolves. The season for wolf harvest is tightly controlled and this may increase the take beyond ADFG harvest levels.

Plus allowing the use of electronically enhanced night vision and forward-looking infrared devices would threaten to increase the take of our already declining population of deer.

Enforcement would also be an issue.

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

Informal discussions with residents of Prince of Wales and Ketchikan.

PROPOSED BY: Ellen Hannan

(OI-F25-216)

Petersburg & Wrangell Areas - Units 1B & 3

PROPOSAL 57

5 AAC 85.035. Hunting seasons and bag limits for elk.

Change the season, bag limit, and permit requirement for hunting elk on the Zarembo Island in Unit 3 as follows:

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

Zarembo Island - ONE BULL WITH AT LEAST 3 POINTS ON ONE SIDE. FIRST SATURDAY OF NOVEMBER TO THIRD SUNDAY OF NOVEMBER. [ONE BULL BY PERMIT]

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

The Wrangell Advisory Committee would like to address the under-utilized elk herd on Zarembo Island. Elk are encroaching on deer habitat on Zarembo Island where Wrangell and Petersburg residents do a major portion of their deer hunting in the fall. The AC believes a common sense approach needs to be taken to allow for hunting opportunity and habitat protection on Zarembo Island. A limited cow hunt may be necessary in the future to further keep the herd in check. Elk have been on Zarembo Island for over 40 years with little to no hunting opportunity. The question needs to be asked why.

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

This proposal has been debated and submitted by the Wrangell AC with its full support.

PROPOSED BY: Wrangell Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F25-015)

PROPOSAL 58

5 AAC 85.035. Hunting seasons and bag limits for elk.

Open a registration hunt for elk on Zarembo Island in Unit 3 as follows:

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

Zarembo Island: One elk by registration permit, Aug. 1st – Nov. 30

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

Elk population on Zarembo island not being managed and dwindling deer population. If we have a bad winter the elk will survive on the beach and eat all the foliage and the deer will die could be devastating for the harvest of our deer.

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

No

PROPOSED BY: David Powell

(HQ-F25-017)

PROPOSAL 59

5 AAC 85.035. Hunting seasons and bag limits for elk.

Limit the nonresident permit allocation for the Unit 3, elk drawing hunt DE318, to “up to” 10% of the available permits as follows:

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

Limit nonresident permit allocation for drawing hunt DE318 to UP TO 10% of the available permits. If at least ten permits are not issued a nonresident permit will not be available.

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

Limit the number of tags that may be drawn by non-residents for drawing hunt DE318.

There is currently no cap on how many tags may be drawn by nonresidents.

If nothing is changed residents will continue to lose opportunities to hunt in easier accessible areas that are limited to drawing hunts because of said access issues. The nature of many hunts in Alaska requires that hunters use expensive modes of transportation to access an area to hunt. Many of the drawing hunts are only restricted to drawing because they are in easier accessible areas. Even where access is not the primary limiting factor Alaskan residents are being out competed by guided nonresidents in the draw by outfitters and license application services. Additionally caribou, moose, bison, muskox, black bear and elk do not require a guide and non guided non resident interest in these species is increasing.

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

No

PROPOSED BY: Craig Van Arsdale

(OI-F25-071)

PROPOSAL 60

5 AAC 85.035. Hunting seasons and bag limits for elk.

Limit the nonresident permit allocation for the Unit 3 elk drawing hunt DE321, to “up to” 10% of the available permits as follows:

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

Limit nonresident permit allocation for drawing hunt DE321 to UP TO 10% of the available permits. If at least ten permits are not issued a nonresident permit will not be available.

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

Limit the number of tags that may be drawn by nonresidents for drawing hunt DE321.

There is currently no cap on how many tags may be drawn by non-residents.

If nothing is changed residents will continue to lose opportunities to hunt in easier accessible areas that are limited to drawing hunts because of said access issues. The nature of many hunts in Alaska requires that hunters use expensive modes of transportation to access an area to hunt. Many of the drawing hunts are only restricted to drawing because they are in easier accessible areas. Even where access is not the primary limiting factor Alaskan residents are being out competed by guided nonresidents in the draw by outfitters and license application services. Additionally caribou, moose, bison, muskox, black bear and elk do not require a guide and non guided nonresident interest in these species is increasing.

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

No

PROPOSED BY: Craig Van Arsdale (OI-F25-072)

PROPOSAL 61

5 AAC 85.035. Hunting seasons and bag limits for elk.

Limit the nonresident permit allocation for the elk drawing hunt DE323, to “up to” 10% of the available permits as follows:

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

Limit nonresident permit allocation for drawing hunt DE323 to UP TO 10% of the available permits. If at least ten permits are not issued a non resident permit will not be available.

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

Limit the number of tags that may be drawn by nonresidents for drawing hunt DE323.

There is currently no cap on how many tags may be drawn by nonresidents.

If nothing is changed residents will continue to lose opportunities to hunt in easier accessible areas that are limited to drawing hunts because of said access issues. The nature of many hunts in Alaska requires that hunters use expensive modes of transportation to access an area to hunt. Many of the drawing hunts are only restricted to drawing because they are in easier accessible areas. Even where access is not the primary limiting factor Alaskan residents are being out competed by guided non-residents in the draw by outfitters and license application services. Additionally caribou, moose, bison, muskox, black bear and elk do not require a guide and non-guided nonresident interest in these species is increasing.

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

No

PROPOSED BY: Craig Van Arsdale (OI-F25-073)

PROPOSAL 62

5 AAC 85.035. Hunting seasons and bag limits for elk.

Limit nonresident permit allocation for the Unit 3 elk drawing hunt DE324, to “up to” 10% of the available permits as follows:

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

Limit nonresident permit allocation for drawing hunt DE324 to UP TO 10% of the available permits. If at least ten permits are not issued a non resident permit will not be available.

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

Limit the number of tags that may be drawn by nonresidents for drawing hunt DE324.

There is currently no cap on how many tags may be drawn by non-residents.

If nothing is changed residents will continue to lose opportunities to hunt in easier accessible areas that are limited to drawing hunts because of said access issues. The nature of many hunts in Alaska requires that hunters use expensive modes of transportation to access an area to hunt. Many of the drawing hunts are only restricted to drawing because they are in easier accessible areas. Even where access is not the primary limiting factor Alaskan residents are being out competed by guided nonresidents in the draw by outfitters and license application services. Additionally caribou, moose, bison, muskox, black bear and elk do not require a guide and non-guided nonresident interest in these species is increasing.

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

No

PROPOSED BY: Craig Van Arsdale (OI-F25-074)

PROPOSAL 63

5 AAC 85.035. Hunting seasons and bag limits for elk.

Adjust the season dates for the DE318 elk hunt in Unit 3, and open a new drawing hunt in September as follows:

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

Adjust the starting and ending date for DE318 and open an additional elk season as follows:

DE318 August 16-September 15

DE??? September 16-September 30

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

Since the current Etolin Island elk hunting season dates were implemented in 2005, the elk harvest has consistently produced a lower harvest. The average annual harvest has been reduced by roughly 30% to what it was prior to this change.

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

Yes, this proposal was discussed with and agreed upon by the Ketchikan Advisory Committee.

PROPOSED BY: Ketchikan Fish and Game Advisory Committee (OI-F25-173)

PROPOSAL 64

5 AAC 92.150. Evidence of sex and identity.

Eliminate the regulation that excludes broken, damaged, or altered antlers from the definition of spike-fork antlers for Units 1B, 1C and 3 as follows:

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

Remove portion of language under 92.150(c) [IN UNIT 1(B), THAT PORTION OF UNIT 1(C) SOUTH OF PORT HOBART, INCLUDING ALL PORT HOUGHTON DRAINAGES, AND UNIT 3, A DAMAGED, BROKEN, OR ALTERED ANTLER IS NOT CONSIDERED A SPIKE-FORK ANTLER AS DEFINED IN 5AAC 92.990.]

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

Overburdening regulation leading to inconsistency and villainizing of hunters. It is already illegal to alter horns under this section.

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

This proposal was discussed and vetted at two well attended local advisory committee meetings with unanimous community support.

PROPOSED BY: Wrangell Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F25-011)

PROPOSAL 65

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

Remove the antler restriction for the moose hunt in Units 1B and 3 and replace with a shorter, any bull hunt in October as follows:

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

[1 BULL WITH SPIKE-FORK ANTLERS OR 50-INCH ANTLERS WITH 3 OR MORE BROW TINES ON ONE SIDE OR ANTLERS WITH 2 OR MORE BROW TINES ON EACH SIDE, BY REGULATION PERMIT ONLY]

Season: October 1 - 15

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

Remove horn restriction and replace with shorter any bull hunt. The current horn restriction has unfortunately created animosity between hunters and the Alaska Wildlife Troopers. Our southeast moose have a lot of broken and non typical horn configurations. Shorter season would cut down the harvest to mitigate for restrictive horn restriction harvest, Later time would allow for breeding of cows prior to hunt

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

No, our local advisory committee discussed it but some felt it would take too many bulls. If that was the case there would not be any legal bulls taken now in the second-half of a month long season

PROPOSED BY: David Powell (HQ-F25-016)

PROPOSAL 66

5 AAC 92.132. Bag limit for brown bear.

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

Change the bag limit for hunting brown bear in Unit 3 to one bear every regulatory year as follows:

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

5 AAC 85.020 Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear

(2) Unit 3 - One bear every [4] regulatory year[S] by registration permit only

5 AAC 92.132 - Bag limits for brown bears - A person may not take more than one brown bear every four regulatory years, except that.

(1) the bag limit for brown bear in Unit 1 (C), Berners Bay drainages, **Unit 3**, Units 6 (except Unit 6(D)), 7, 11, 12, 13, 14(B), (C), that portion within the Chugach State Park Management Area, Units 15, 16(A), 18, 19(B), 19(C), 20 (except Unit 20(E)), 22(C), 24(A), 24(C), 24(D), 25(A), 25(B), 25(C), 26(B), 26(C) is one bear per regulatory year; a bear taken in these units does not count against the one bear every four regulatory years' bag limit established for brown bears in other units; in Units 16(B), 19(A), 19(D), 20(E), 21, 22(A), 22(B), 22(D), 22(E), 23, 24(B), 24(D) a person may take two brown bears per regulatory year; a bear taken in these units does not count against the one bear every four regulatory years' bag limit established for brown bears in other units;

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

This proposal would remove the waiting period following a successful brown bear harvest in Unit 3. The islands that make up Unit 3 are historically not known for permanent brown bear populations. Areas close to the Stikine River flats and bordered closely by mainland portions of Unit 1B do see some regular brown bear occurrences, however the vast majority of the region remains predominantly inhabited by black bears with brown bear sightings few and far between. The majority of sightings are by hunters targeting other species and folks participating in various recreational activities. Many of the latter are often unprepared for a brown bear encounter because they are historically so uncommon. Unit 3 does not currently allow any nonresident opportunity in either the spring or fall hunts. Removing the waiting period would allow hunters that choose to take an opportunity bear or conflict bear to not be punished by disqualification in the other true brown bear regions with waiting periods.

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

Developed myself during discussions with other Unit 3 big game hunters that would like the opportunity to take a conflict/opportunity bear in areas where public sentiment for brown bear presence is low, without incurring the four year waiting period for t

PROPOSED BY: Kaleb Baird

(OI-F25-059)

PROPOSAL 67

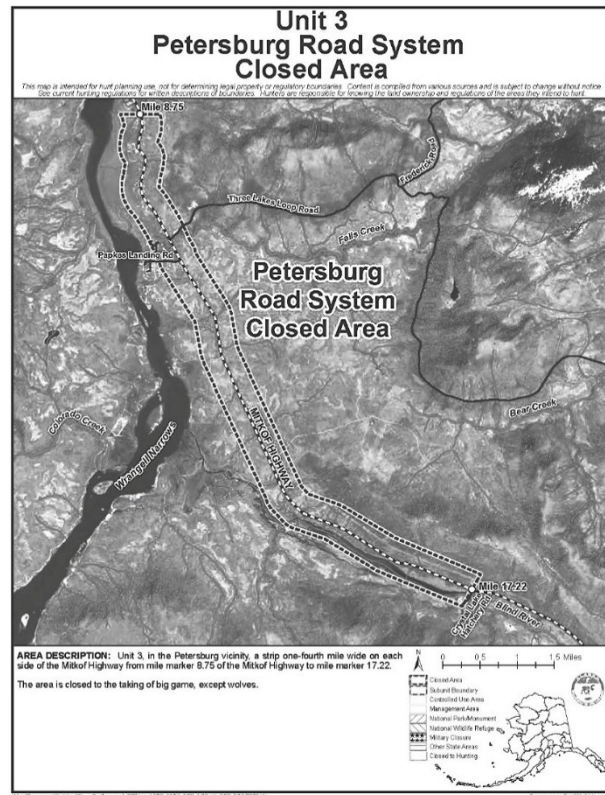
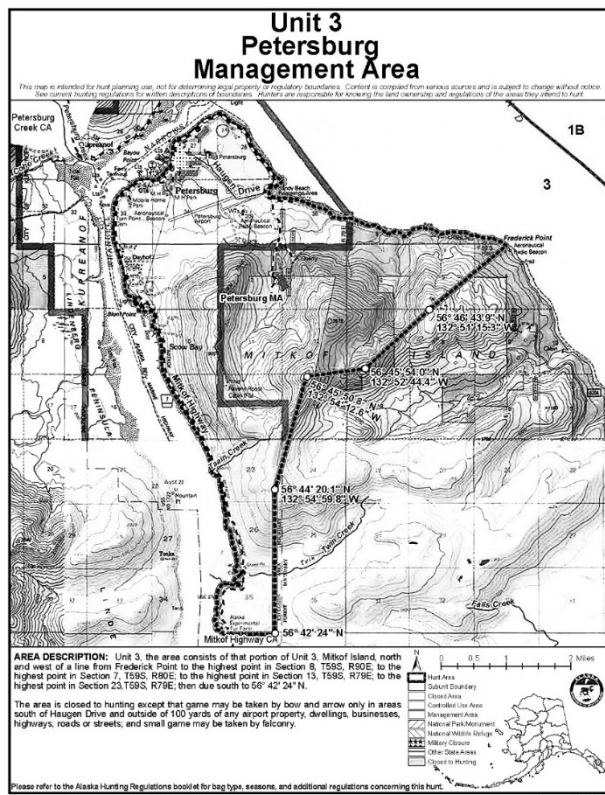
5 AAC 92.510(5)(B). Areas closed to hunting.

5 AAC 92.530(24). Management areas.

Repeal the Petersburg Road System Closed Area in Unit 3, and add the area to the Petersburg Management Area, to allow for big game hunting by archery only, as follows:

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

5 AAC 92.530(24) - (A) the area consists of that portion of Unit 3 on Mitkof Island north and west of a line from Frederick Point to the highest point in Section 8, T59S, R90E, to the highest point in Section 7, T59S, R80E, to the highest point in Section 13, T59S, R80E, to the highest point in Section 23, T59S, R79E; then due south to 56° 42' 24" N; **(Unit 3, in the Petersburg vicinity, a strip one-fourth mile wide on each side of the Mitkof Highway from mile marker 8.75 of the Mitkof Highway to mile marker 17.22.)** (B) the area is closed to hunting except that game may be taken by bow and arrow only in areas south of Haugen Drive and outside of 100 yards of any airport property, dwellings, businesses, highways, roads, or streets; and small game may be taken by falconry;



5 AAC 92.510(5 - Unit 3) [(B) - IN THE PETERSBURG VICINITY, A STRIP ONE FOURTH MILE WIDE ON EACH SIDE OF THE MITKOF HIGHWAY FROM MILE MARKER 8.75 TO MILE MARKER 17.22 IS CLOSED TO THE TAKING OF BIG GAME, EXCEPT WOLVES]

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

Near Petersburg and the Mitkof Highway road system there are currently three separate areas, each with varying regulations. This proposal would remove 92.510(5 - Unit 3)(B) - Petersburg Road System Closed Areas, and add it to 92.530(24) - Petersburg Management Area. The PMA is a long standing and popular section of Mitkof Island surrounding Petersburg. It was implemented largely to provide hunting access to high deer populations while taking into consideration proximity to dwellings, private property, roads, etc. Within the PMA, big game hunting is allowed for certified bow hunters only. Adding the closed corridor of the Petersburg Road System would extend this opportunity for certified bow hunters through an area with higher than normal deer populations and heavy vehicle traffic. Considering the already well defined regulations of the PMA with distance buffers from aforementioned potential conflict areas, this could be a seamless transition for hunters, public, and law enforcement.

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

Developed myself through discussions with other certified bowhunters from Petersburg.

Please see maps for Petersburg Management Area and Petersburg Road System Closed Area

PROPOSED BY: Kaleb Baird (OI-F25-028)

PROPOSAL 68

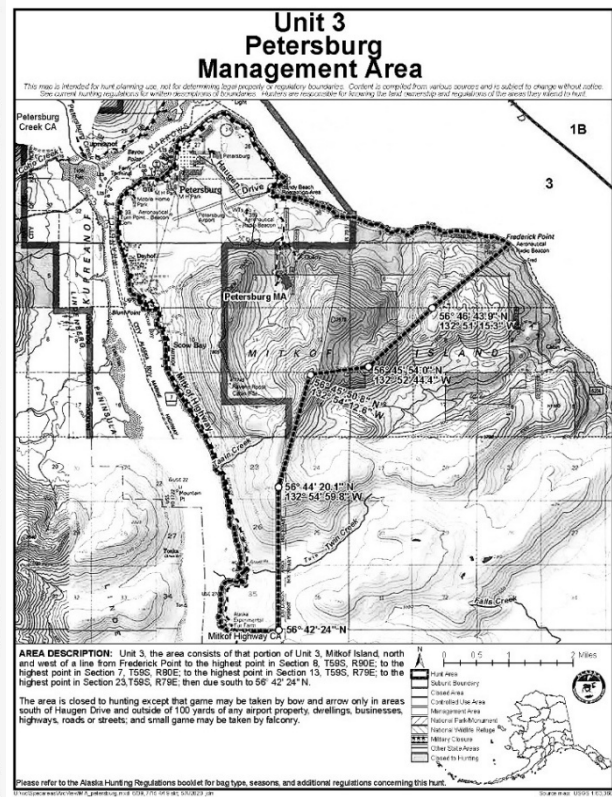
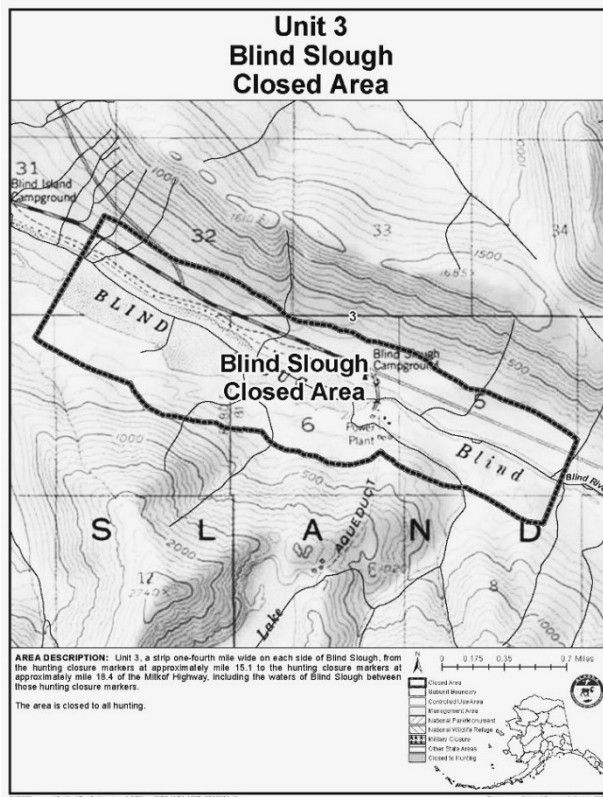
5 AAC 92.510(5)(D). Areas closed to hunting.

5 AAC 92.530(24). Management areas.

Repeal the Blind Slough Closed Area in Unit 3, and add the area to the Petersburg Management Area, to allow for big game hunting by archery only, as follows:

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

1. 5 AAC 92.530(24) - (A) the area consists of that portion of Unit 3 on Mitkof Island north and west of a line from Frederick Point to the highest point in Section 8, T59S, R90E, to the highest point in Section 7, T59S, R80E, to the highest point in Section 13, T59S, R80E, to the highest point in Section 23, T59S, R79E; then due south to 56° 42' 24" N; **Blind Slough, draining into Wrangell Narrows, and a strip one-fourth mile wide on each side of Blind Slough, from the markers at approximately mile 15.4 to the markers at approximately mile 18.4 of the Mitkof Highway,** (B) the area is closed to hunting except that game may be taken by bow and arrow only in areas south of Haugen Drive and outside of 100 yards of any airport property, dwellings, businesses, highways, roads, or streets; and small game may be taken by falconry;



2. 5 AAC 92.510(5 - Unit 3) [(D) - BLIND SLOUGH, DRAINING INTO WRANGELL NARROWS, AND A STRIP ONE-FOURTH MILE WIDE ON EACH SIDE OF BLIND SLOUGH, FROM THE HUNTING CLOSURE MARKERS AT APPROXIMATELY MILE 15.4 TO THE HUNTING CLOSURE MARKERS AT APPROXIMATELY 18.4 OF THE MOTIF HIGHWAY, ARE CLOSED TO ALL HUNTING;]

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

Near Petersburg and the Mitkof Highway road system there are three separate areas, each with varying regulations as it pertains to hunting. This proposal would remove 92.510(5 - Unit 3)(D) - Blind Slough Closed Area (BSCA), and add it to 92.530(24) Petersburg Management Area. The PMA is a long standing and popular section of Mitkof Island surrounding Petersburg. It was implemented largely to provide hunting access to high deer populations while taking into consideration proximity to dwellings, private property, roads, etc. Within the PMA big game hunting is allowed for certified bow hunters only. Adding the closed section of the Blind Slough Closed Area to the PMA would extend this opportunity for certified bow hunters. Opening BSCA would allow for increased deer take near the highway. Considering the already well defined regulations of the PMA with distance buffers from aforementioned potential conflict areas, this could be a seamless transition for hunters, public, and law enforcement.

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

Developed myself through discussions with other certified bowhunters in Petersburg.

If approved alongside the Petersburg Highway Closed Area proposal these three areas would become one continuous area under a single set of regulations.

Please see maps for Petersburg Management Area and the Blind Slough Closed Area

PROPOSED BY: Kaleb Baird (OI-F25-029)

PROPOSAL 69

5 AAC 85.065. Hunting seasons and bag limits for small game.

Extend the grouse hunting season in Unit 3, to close June 15 instead of May 15 as follows:

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

5 AAC 85.065 - Seasons and Bag Limits For Small Game

(1) Grouse - (spruce, blue, ruffed, sharp-tailed) Units 1-6 - 5 per day, 10 in possession

Aug 1 - May 15

In Unit 3 grouse maybe be taken Aug 1 - Jun 15 [MAY 15]

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

This proposal would extend grouse season in Unit 3, from May 15 through June 15. Unit 3 is made up of central Southeast islands that primarily contain sooty grouse. The vast majority of sooty grouse harvest and effort occurs in the spring when males are booming. Their “hoots” can be heard from long distances and hunters follow the sound to locate and harvest these males. Harvest of females happens more frequently near road systems in the fall when big game hunters are more active. Oftentimes the road systems of Unit 3 can remain impassable well into the spring which greatly impacts the ability of hunters to access grouse areas. Because of variable spring weather, access complexities and a very small, if any, increased take on females there is interest in leaving the season open longer to encompass more of the booming season. “Heavy hunting pressure is never exerted over a large enough area to be responsible for the widespread (population) changes.” - ADF&G Sooty Grouse Profile

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

Developed myself during discussions with other grouse hunters.

PROPOSED BY: Kaleb Baird (OI-F25-057)
