

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)
