

Petersburg and 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 nonresidents 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 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-F25-071)

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 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-F25-072)

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 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 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 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-F25-073)

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 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 DE324.

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-F25-074)

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

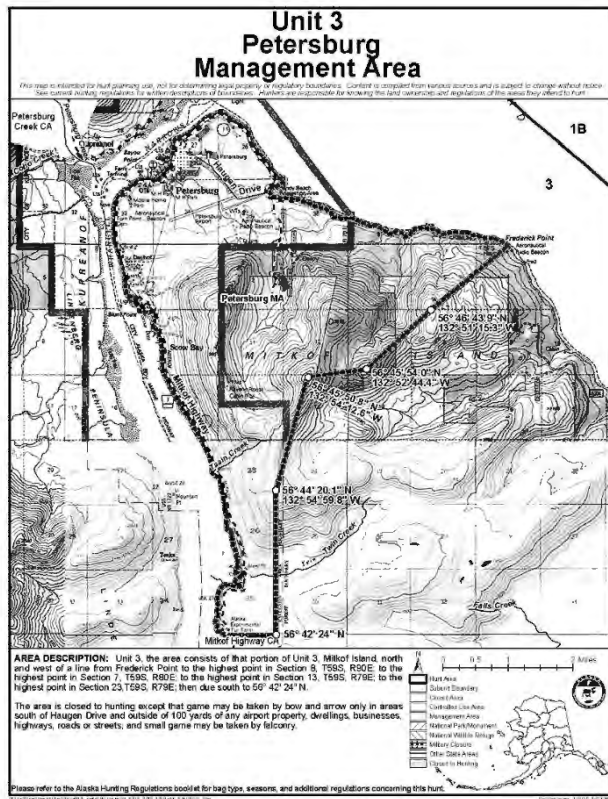
5 AAC 92.510(5)(B). Areas closed to hunting.

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

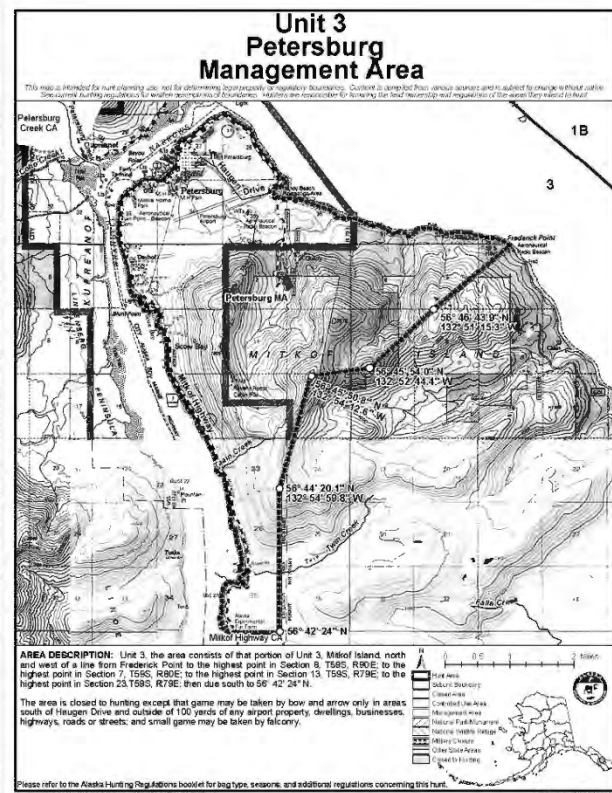
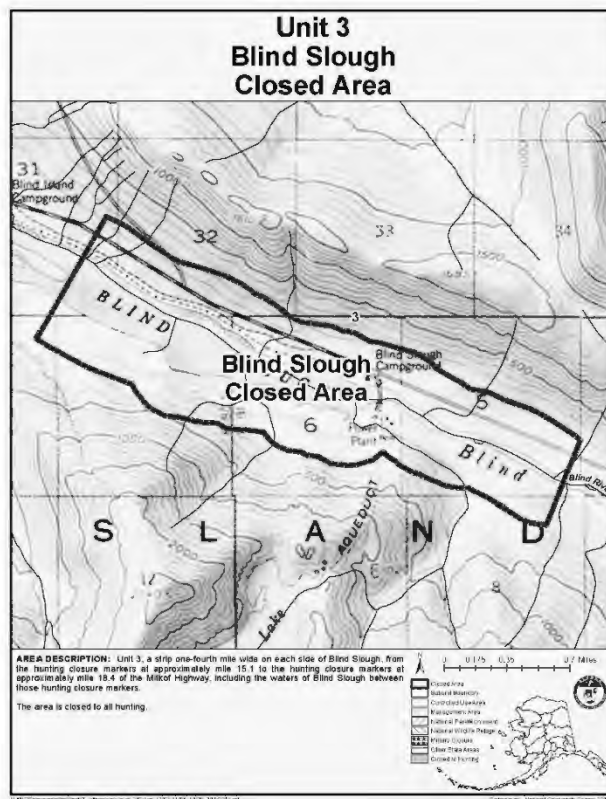
5 AAC 92.510(5)(D). Areas closed to hunting.

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)
