

Galena Area - Units 21B, 21C, 21D, & 24

Proposal 153

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

Add a hunt condition for RM834, DM816, DM817, and DM818 so that hunters who receive this permit are not allowed to use aircraft for hunting moose in this hunt area as follows:

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

We want to propose adding a hunt condition for RM834, DM816, DM817, and DM818 so that hunters who receive this permit are not allowed to use aircraft for hunting moose in this hunt area, including transportation of any moose hunters, their hunting gear, and/or moose parts. However, this prohibition does not apply to the transportation of moose hunters, their hunting gear, or parts of moose by aircraft between publicly owned airports, or the transportation into the area of game meat that has been processed for human consumption.

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

Use of aircraft in traditional hunting areas in the Kaiyuh flats are affecting subsistence hunting and land use patterns. Frequent air traffic is creating noise disturbance, low circling of wildlife and heavy airplane traffic over boats and camped hunters.

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

This proposal was developed by the Middle Yukon River Fish & Game Advisory Committee

PROPOSED BY: Middle Yukon River Fish & Game Advisory Committee (OI-F26-188)

Proposal 154

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

Split the season for DM816, DM817, DM818 so that half the draw permit hunters hunt from 9/05-9/15 and the other half hunt from 9/16-9/25 as follows:

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

We want to propose splitting the season for DM816, DM817, DM818 so that half the draw permit hunters hunt from 9/05- 9/15 and the other half hunt from 9/16-9/25. This would help to alleviate overcrowding from the middle to the end of the season.

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

Increasing number of moose hunters in the Kaiyuh area is impacting the traditional land use patterns for subsistence hunters and the quality of the hunt for all hunters.

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

This proposal was developed by the Middle Yukon River Fish & Game Advisory Committee

PROPOSED BY: Middle Yukon River Fish & Game Advisory Committee (OI-F26-189)

Proposal 155

5 AAC 92.540. Controlled Use Areas.

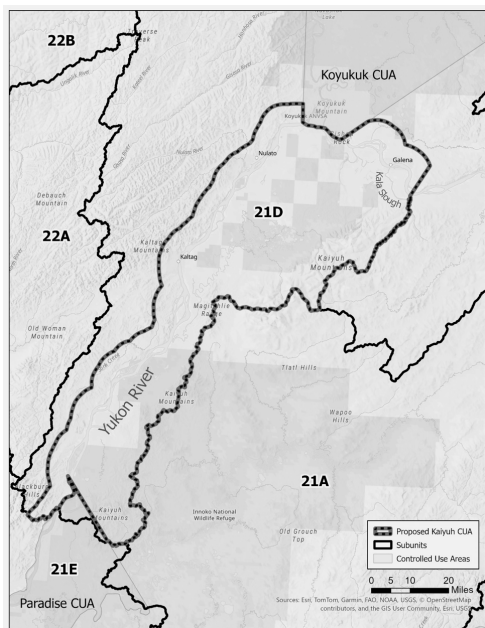
Establish a Controlled Use Area in the Kaiyuh Flats area in Unit 21D that encompasses the RM831 hunt area as follows:

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

Establish a Controlled Use Area in the Kaiyuh Flats area in Unit 21D that encompasses the RM831 hunt area, which includes the area from Kali Creek (near Galena) downstream to Blackburn Island area and extends along the Kaiyuh Mountains on the south side of the Yukon River and includes Papa Willy's area in the lower section, extends 5 miles north of the Yukon River and runs the full length from Kali Creek down to the Blackburn area.

This would reach nearly to Huslia in some sections and includes the Kaiyuh Hills and old runway areas. It covers water areas and flats but not the hilltops.

Blackburn Island was deliberately excluded as it is already covered by the existing Paradise Controlled Use Area.



A color version of this map is available at

<https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=gameboard/proposeback>

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

This proposal aims to reduce hunter crowding and restrict aircraft use for hunting in traditional subsistence areas in the Kaiyuh Flats area of Unit 21D. Use of aircraft in traditional hunting areas in the Kaiyuh flats are affecting subsistence hunting and land use patterns. Frequent air traffic is creating noise disturbance, low circling of wildlife and heavy airplane traffic over boats and camped hunters.

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

This proposal was developed by the Middle Yukon River Fish & Game Advisory Committee with assistance from Fish and Game staff.

PROPOSED BY: Middle Yukon River Fish & Game Advisory Committee (OI-F26-186)

Proposal 156

5 AAC 85.045(a)(19). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.

Reauthorize a winter any-moose season during March in a portion of Unit 21D as follows:

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

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
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(19)

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Unit 21(D), that portion south of the South bank of the Yukon River, downstream of the up-river entrance of Kala Slough and west of Kala Creek

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

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1 moose, by registration permit only, up to 15 days during March; a person may not take a cow accompanied by a calf	(Season to be announced)
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...

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

Antlerless moose hunting seasons must be reauthorized annually by the Board of Game. The management goal for this antlerless hunt is to provide additional harvest opportunity and meet harvest objectives. This harvest opportunity of antlerless moose is recently possible because the moose population in the Kaiyuh Flats is increasing rapidly, especially the number of cows in the population. This reauthorization will likely improve or better maintain hunting opportunity. If this antlerless moose hunt is not reauthorized, opportunity to utilize a harvestable surplus of cow moose would be lost and the ability to meet intensive management (IM) harvest objectives could be reduced. Slowing the rate of growth in this population will also reduce the likelihood of dramatic shifts in population expansion and contraction.

The IM harvest objective for Unit 21D is 450–1,000 moose. The 10-year average estimated harvest during 2015–2024 was 388 moose, which includes the reported and estimated unreported harvest. The annual estimated harvest has not been within the harvest objective

since 2003 when the estimated harvest was 489 moose. Additional harvest from this hunt will help make progress toward achieving the IM harvest objectives without reducing bull-to-cow ratios to low levels and allow subsistence hunters to benefit from the opportunity to harvest cow moose.

Analysis of three trend count areas (Squirrel Creek, Pilot Mountain, and Kaiyuh Slough) within the Kaiyuh Flats in this hunt area demonstrated an increasing trend in moose abundance from 2001 to present. Geospatial population estimate data also increased from 1,897 ($\pm 11\%$) moose in 2011 to 4,116 ($\pm 10\%$) moose in 2017. Moose twinning data for the hunt area also showed high twinning rates from 2004 to 2024 (avg. = 36.1%), with the most recent 5-year twinning rate average (2020-2024) of 27.8%.

The portion of 21D affected by this reauthorization is approximately 21% (2,559 mi²) of Unit 21D (12,093.6 mi²). The department estimates moose abundance in this area at 4,000–4,500 moose, which is approximately 39–44% of the total moose estimated in Unit 21D (10,478 moose ($\pm 1,572$)) in 2024. The current total 21D moose population estimate was above the IM population objective for all of Unit 21D (12,093.6 mi²) of 9,000–10,000 moose.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F26-017)

Proposal 157

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

Limit the Non-Resident permit allocation for the Unit 21 Moose drawing hunt DM816, 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 the Non-Resident permit allocation for the Unit 21 Moose drawing hunt DM816, to “Up To” 10% of the available permits. If at least 10 permits are not available 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 Non-Residents for Moose drawing hunt DM816.

There is currently no allocation cap on how many tags may be drawn by Non-Residents.

Non-Residents are drawing a consistently high proportion of the tags for high demand drawing hunts. Moose hunting in Alaska is the only state in the Union that has opportunity to hunt Alaska-Yukon Moose unguided as a US Citizen, making it a highly desirable opportunity. Both Residents and Non-Residents compete for the tags equally in the Big Game Drawing which means Alaska Residents receive no preference in the drawing.

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-F26-203)

Proposal 158

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

Limit the Non-Resident permit allocation for the Unit 21 Moose drawing hunt DM817, 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 the Non-Resident permit allocation for the Unit 21 Moose drawing hunt DM817, to “Up To” 10% of the available permits. If at least 10 permits are not available 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 Non-Residents for Moose drawing hunt DM817.

There is currently no allocation cap on how many tags may be drawn by Non-Residents.

Non-Residents are drawing a consistently high proportion of the tags for high demand drawing hunts. Moose hunting in Alaska is the only state in the Union that has opportunity to hunt Alaska-Yukon Moose unguided as a US Citizen, making it a highly desirable opportunity. Both Residents and Non-Residents compete for the tags equally in the Big Game Drawing which means Alaska Residents receive no preference in the drawing.

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-F26-204)

Proposal 159

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

Limit the Non-Resident permit allocation for the Unit 21 Moose drawing hunt DM818, 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 the Non-Resident permit allocation for the Unit 21 Moose drawing hunt DM818, to “Up To” 10% of the available permits. If at least 10 permits are not available 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 Non-Residents for Moose drawing hunt DM818. There is currently no allocation cap on how many tags may be drawn by Non-Residents.

Non-Residents are drawing a consistently high proportion of the tags for high demand drawing hunts. Moose hunting in Alaska is the only state in the Union that has opportunity to hunt Alaska-Yukon Moose unguided as a US Citizen, making it a highly desirable opportunity. Both Residents and Non-Residents compete for the tags equally in the Big Game Drawing which means Alaska Residents receive no preference in the drawing.

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-F26-206)

Proposal 160

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

Limit the Non-Resident permit allocation for the Unit 21 Moose drawing hunt DM820, 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 the Non-Resident permit allocation for the Unit 21 Moose drawing hunt DM820, to “Up To” 10% of the available permits. If at least 10 permits are not available 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 Non-Residents for Moose drawing hunt DM820.

There is currently no allocation cap on how many tags may be drawn by Non-Residents.

Non-Residents are drawing a consistently high proportion of the tags for high demand drawing hunts. Moose hunting in Alaska is the only state in the Union that has opportunity to hunt Alaska-Yukon Moose unguided as a US Citizen, making it a highly desirable opportunity. Both Residents and Non-Residents compete for the tags equally in the Big Game Drawing which means Alaska Residents receive no preference in the drawing.

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-F26-207)

Proposal 161

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

Limit the Non-Resident permit allocation for the Unit 24 Moose drawing hunt DM892, 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 the Non-Resident permit allocation for the Unit 24 Moose drawing hunt DM892, to “Up To” 10% of the available permits. If at least 10 permits are not available 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 Non-Residents for Moose drawing hunt DM892.

There is currently no allocation cap on how many tags may be drawn by Non-Residents.

Non-Residents are drawing a consistently high proportion of the tags for high demand drawing hunts. Moose hunting in Alaska is the only state in the Union that has opportunity to hunt Alaska-Yukon Moose unguided as a US Citizen, making it a highly desirable opportunity. Both Residents and Non-Residents compete for the tags equally in the Big Game Drawing which means Alaska Residents receive no preference in the drawing.

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-F26-208)

Proposal 162

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

Limit the Non-Resident permit allocation for the Unit 24 Moose drawing hunt DM922, 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 the Non-Resident permit allocation for the Unit 24 Moose drawing hunt DM922, to “Up To” 10% of the available permits. If at least 10 permits are not available 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 Non-Residents for Moose drawing hunt DM922. There is currently no allocation cap on how many tags may be drawn by Non-Residents.

Non-Residents are drawing a consistently high proportion of the tags for high demand drawing hunts. Moose hunting in Alaska is the only state in the Union that has opportunity to hunt Alaska-Yukon Moose unguided as a US Citizen, making it a highly desirable opportunity. Both Residents and Non-Residents compete for the tags equally in the Big Game Drawing which means Alaska Residents receive no preference in the drawing. Additionally this is one of the most accessible moose hunts in Alaska and provides opportunity for Alaskans to affordably fill the freezer on a road system any bull hunt.

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-F26-210)

Proposal 163

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

Limit the Non-Resident permit allocation for the Unit 24/25 Moose drawing hunt DM920, 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 the Non-Resident permit allocation for the Unit 24/25 Moose drawing hunt DM920, to “Up To” 10% of the available permits. If at least 10 permits are not available 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 Non-Residents for Moose drawing hunt DM920.

There is currently no allocation cap on how many tags may be drawn by Non-Residents.

Non-Residents are drawing a consistently high proportion of the tags for high demand drawing hunts. Moose hunting in Alaska is the only state in the Union that has opportunity to hunt Alaska-Yukon Moose unguided as a US Citizen, making it a highly desirable opportunity. Both Residents and Non-Residents compete for the tags equally in the Big Game Drawing which means Alaska Residents receive no preference in the drawing. Additionally this is one of the most accessible moose hunts in Alaska and provides opportunity for Alaskans to affordably fill the freezer on a road system any bull hunt.

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-F26-209)

Proposal 164

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

Change allocation in moose hunts DM809, DM810and DM811 in 21B to 80% for residents and 20% for non-residents as follows:

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

At the 2026 Southcentral Region board meeting, the board set a precedent of sorts on draw permit allocations when the nonresident allocation was above 20 percent. The board decided that for “trophy” species like mountain goat, nonresidents should receive 20 percent of the available permits and for “meat” animals like elk, nonresidents should receive 10 percent of the permits.

If we were to label the Upper Nowitna moose population as a “trophy” species, then the allocation of permits for this area should be no more than 20 percent going to nonresidents.

We propose to lower the nonresident allocation and raise the resident allocation so we have an 80/20 resident/nonresident split as follows:

DM 810 Resident – 16 permits

DM 809 Nonresident unguided – 1 permit

DM 811 Nonresident must-be-guided – 3 permits

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

Resident/Nonresident Draw Tag Allocation

Upper Nowitna River Moose Hunt Unit 21B

DM 809/810/811

Background: The upper Nowitna River area in Unit 21B within the Nowitna National Wildlife Refuge (NNWR) is known for its “trophy” moose. It became a hot spot for moose hunters and due to concerns too many moose would be taken along the river, the Board of Game made it a draw-only “trophy” moose hunt (DM 810) in the early 2000s within the upper Nowitna River corridor, similar to the Koyukuk moose hunt. The only way a hunter was allowed to keep the moose antlers from the Upper Nowitna River area was if he or she won the DM 810 permit or hunted under a general season OTC tag 2 miles outside the river corridor on either side.

The new DM 810 draw hunt had 20 permits available and was just like other draw hunts in the state where anyone could apply equally for a permit from one pool of tags. Since more residents than nonresidents typically put in for the permit, residents won most of the permits. That wasn't good for the guide with exclusive guiding privileges in the NNWR, so he put in a proposal at the 2008 Interior Board of Game meeting (Proposal 55) to change the allocation to 50/50 resident/nonresident. But since that alone wouldn't help him get clients, he also asked the board to make this a must-be-guided moose hunt for all nonresidents.

Part of his argument was that a lot of residents would win that permit but not hunt after they found out the area is hard to access and expensive to fly into. Which is true of a lot of draw permits. But the gist of the proposal was that he wasn't getting enough clients under the DM 810 draw hunt.

The board ended up passing Proposal 55 in 2008, separating out the DM 810 permits with a 50/50 resident/nonresident permit allocation, 10 permits to residents (DM 810) and 10 to nonresidents, 7 of which were must-be-guided (DM 811), with the remaining 3 going to nonresident unguided (DM 809).

The fact that we have a 50/50 resident/nonresident draw permit allocation, regardless if this is a “trophy” moose population, if the area is expensive or hard to get to, or a certain percentage of residents don't hunt their permit, is just a slap in the face to resident Alaskans who live here and raise their kids here. **Under no circumstances should we ever allocate half of any draw permits to nonresidents, whether it is considered a “trophy” animal or a meat animal.**

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

PROPOSED BY: Resident Hunters of Alaska

(OI-F26-096)

Proposal 165

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

Establish a winter registration moose hunt within a portion of the Hammond River drainage of Unit 24A as follows:

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

Establish a winter registration hunt within a portion of the Hammond River drainage of Unit 24A.

.... (22)

Unit 24(A), that portion of the
Dalton Highway Corridor
Management Area, **outside the
Hammond River drainage
downstream from the Canyon
Creek drainage**

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull by drawing permit; Sept. 1 – Sept 25
up to 70 permits may be issued (General Hunt only) in combination with Unit
25(A), that portion within the
Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull with 50-inch antlers or Sept. 5 – Sept. 25
antlers with 4 or more brow
tines on one side by drawing
permit only; up to 70 permits
may be issued in combination
with Unit 25(A), that portion
within the Dalton Highway
Corridor Management Area

**Unit 24(A), that portion
within the Hammond River
drainage upstream and
including the Canyon Creek
drainage**

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull; or Sept. 1 – Sept 25
(General Hunt only)

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 antlered bull, by registration Dec. 15 – Apr. 15 permit only

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS: No Open Season

Remainder of Unit 24(A)

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull Sept. 1 – Sept 25

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull with 50-inch antlers or Sept. 5 – Sept. 25
antlers with 4 or more brow
tines on one side

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

Currently, due to the revocation of Public Land Orders (PLO) 5150 and 5180 under PLO 7966 on February 25, 2026 - 2.1 million acres of Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands in the Dalton Highway Corridor are now State selected lands and no longer under Federal subsistence priority as of March 27, 2026. To allow for subsistence opportunity within Gates of the Arctic National Park, a winter moose hunt is being requested. This additional hunting opportunity is necessary to allow for subsistence utilization of available Federal lands in Gates of the Arctic National Park in Unit 24A because hunting opportunity has been lost on BLM lands.

Opening a winter moose season would provide opportunities for Federally qualified subsistence users to harvest a moose utilizing snowmachines. This would be a contiguous regulatory hunt since there's already a similar hunt in Unit 24B.

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

This proposal was developed during a discussion Koyukuk River Fish & Game Advisory Committee meeting and with ADFG Area Biologists.

PROPOSED BY: Jack Reakoff (OI-F26-180)

Proposal 166

5 AAC 85.025. Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou.

Reduce Caribou bag limit for Western Arctic Caribou herd in 24B and 24C remainder as follows:

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

Reduce the **BAG LIMIT 4 BULL CARIBOU PER REGULATORY YEAR IN 24B REMAINDER JULY 1 - OCT 1 - NOV 1-JUNE 30**

[FIVE CARIBOU PER DAY HOWEVER CALVES MAY NOT BE TAKEN, BULLS

JULY 1-OCT 14-&-FEB 1-JUNE 30, COWS JULY 15-APRIL 30]

BAG LIMIT 4 BULL CARIBOU PER REGULATORY YEAR IN 24C REMAINDER

JULY 1 -OCT1 - NOV 1- JUNE 30

[FIVE CARIBOU PER DAY HOWEVER CALVES MAY NOT BE TAKEN, BULLS

JULY 1-OCT 14-&-FEB 1-JUNE 30, COWS JULY 15-APRIL 30]

These two GMU units 24B and 24C remainder are within the range of the Western Arctic Caribou herd predominantly. Regulation reduction should include these sub units of GMU 24.

The proposal focuses on best use of the limited bull caribou, eliminating cow harvest entirely. The season is set for Bull caribou when they are best to eat. Bulls start into the rut in early October, they become unusable for food while breeding. It is best reproductive management to not disrupt the breeding cows and bulls during the rut.

Bulls are very run down after the intense short breeding activity. The poor flavor is cleared out by November, they have used all fat as well as muscle protein they can be eaten in early November but not prime, but are typically regained most muscle by February 1.

Cows have increasing gestational demands in February. If winter conditions are severe cows will draw significant protein from muscle to support the fetus. Breakup timing is of critical importance for all caribou. When the temperatures warm up to above freezing normally in late April, the Cotton Grass Sedge Tussock shoots up the flower blossom high in protein. The shape of the tussock and open habitat allow it to be the first large protein source for caribou muscle loss and final fetal development. Deep snow and late spring timings are very detrimental to caribou if they don't have access to this resource.

Arctic Caribou will seek and eat predominantly Tussock flowers as they move towards calving and summer range. Like all grasses the tussock flower is pollinated by the wind. In early summer after the Tussock is pollinated they are switching to wildflowers. Woolly Lousewort, Dryas, Fireweed, and other flowers are important protein/ nectar for lactating cow caribou and Bulls growing and accumulating fat.

Early hot weather is extremely bad for caribou. The Tussock will pollinate too quickly, pollinating insects will be very active in the long days to pollinate the wildflowers in a short period of time. Mosquitoes and parasitic fly harassment exacerbates the ability to gain fat and produce quality lactation. Cows will be thin in falls after a long hot summer, and calf weights will be below normal. These calves can become a weak cohort with these cows delayed reproduction until 4 years old.

Lichen is always eaten throughout the year by caribou to maintain the microbiome in their digestive system. Lichen intake is vastly reduced during spring and summer normally. Lichen intake will increase in summer if high protein feed is lost.

Bulls will not have as thick of fat in fall after a hot summer, especially after a late spring. Five year old bulls are skeletal mature and dominate breeding due to the larger fat reserves than younger

growing bulls. The large bulls will be especially run down post rut after a hot summer. A good rule of thumb is; if caribou aggregate in summer to facilitate a survey they are in hardship at that time.

Cows are in lactation through the fall right before the rut. It is not best management to harvest cows in summer or fall when in lactation. The cow caribou are real skinny and meat is not of the same quality as in Early October and early winter.

If limited cow harvest can eventually be supported it should only be from early October to February. Bulls can be harvested most of the year except for during the rut, and just after the rut.

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

The Western Arctic Caribou Herd population has declined dramatically. The WACH work group is very concerned as I am with excessive cow caribou take is a main driver currently, weather events and predation are additive. I informed the Koyukuk River AC of my concerns to eliminate cow take with a uniform bull bag limit and seasons applied across the WACH Range. The data and social media shows that large numbers of cow harvest it is exceeding sustained yield.

Cow caribou almost never have twins. Cow caribou short yearling that experience hardships like hot summer as a calf, deep snow, rain icing in winter, and late spring will typically not produce its first calf until her fourth birthday. Currently large percentage of recruited cows have lost one year of production, affecting overall recruitment. This weak cohort with a 10 year life span would only have 6 calves at best. Strong cohorts with better conditions will produce at 3 years, or 7 total calves in her life span.

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

I have discussed these issues with the Koyukuk River AC members as I am chairman, Western Interior Regional Advisory Council and other Regions. I discuss caribou management with ADFG managers about what strategies to use to address the current situation with all the Northern Caribou herds. I discuss these issues with Federal management NPS, USFWS, and BLM as well as the Federal Subsistence Board. I talk about these caribou issues with people that travel up the Dalton Highway to hunt the Arctic hunt caribou.

PROPOSED BY: Jack Reakoff

(OI-F26-104)

Proposal 167

5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep.

Limit nonresident sheep hunters in Units 26B and 24A via a draw permit system as follows:

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

Limit nonresident sheep hunters in Units 26B and 24A via a draw permit system.

**Unit 26B Remainder and Unit 26B within the Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area
Nonresidents**

Season Dates: Aug 10 – Sept 20

**Bag Limit: 1 ram with full-curl horn or larger every four regulatory years by draw permit only
DS XXX with up-to 5 permits issued.**

**Unit 24A Remainder and Unit 24A within the Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area
Nonresidents**

Season Dates: Aug 10 – Sept 20

**Bag Limit: 1 ram with full-curl horn or larger every four regulatory years by draw permit only
DS XXX with up-to 5 permits issued.**

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

Continued unlimited nonresident sheep hunting opportunity in units 26B and 24A.

From 2022 – 2025, all federal lands in 26B west of the Sag River and 24A were closed by the Federal Subsistence Board to sheep hunting by all users due to sheep conservation concerns. These areas will be opened again to sheep hunting in the fall of 2026.

Sheep are in significant decline in these areas and the 2025/2026 winter certainly was a bad one for sheep. We believe nonresident sheep hunting opportunity should be limited.

The charts below from ADF&G show sheep harvest data for Units 26B and 24A from 2017-2025, The Department was unable to provide sheep harvest statistics for just the areas on federal lands that were closed to all sheep hunting 2022-2025.

Total resident sheep harvests in Unit 26B from 2017-2025: **61 sheep,**

Total nonresident sheep harvests in Unit 26B from 2017-2025: **63 sheep.**

Total resident sheep harvests in Unit 24A from 2017-2025: **46 sheep.**

Total nonresident sheep harvests in Unit 24A from 2017-2025: **43 sheep.**

all 26B Sheep hunters	Unsuccessful hunters				Successful hunters				Total hunters	
	Nonresidents	Residents			Nonresidents	Residents			Nonresidents	Residents
2017	9	34			6	8			15	42
2018	1	40			11	7			12	47
2019	4	39			7	14			11	53
2020	2	41			9	6			11	47
2021	7	48			10	8			17	56
2022	4	15			4	3			8	18
2023	6	14			7	2			13	16
2024	8	17			5	6			13	23
2025	6	25			4	7			10	32

All 24A Sheep hunters	Unsuccessful				Successful				Total hunters	
	Nonresidents	Residents			Nonresidents	Residents			Nonresidents	Residents
2017	3	39			10	5			13	44
2018	2	42			5	11			7	53
2019	9	49			6	12			15	61
2020	6	39			10	7			16	46
2021	13	42			8	3			21	45
2022	9	6			1	0			10	6
2023	4	4			3	1			7	5
2024	4	10			0	2			4	12
2025	2	8			0	5			2	13

While the number of resident sheep hunters in these units is 2 to 5 times more than nonresident sheep hunters, nonresidents take on average 50% of the total sheep harvest. With sheep in such decline in these areas and fewer legal rams available, residents should have a clear sheep hunting priority to avoid crowding and conflicts and any future closures.

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

Thanks to Department staff for providing the data!

PROPOSED BY: Resident Hunters of Alaska

(OI-F26-093)

Proposal 168

5 AAC 92.044. Permit for hunting black bear with the use of bait or scent lures.

Amend the spring bear baiting season in Units 21B, 21C, 21D, 24B, 24C, 24D, and 25D to open April 1 and close June 30, no change to the fall season (August 1–October 31) as follows:

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

Amend the spring bear baiting season in Units 21B, 21C, 21D, 24B, 24C, 24D, and 25D to open April 1 and close June 30. No change to the fall season (August 1–October 31).

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

The current April 15 opener occurs during spring break-up, when access to remote bait sites is often unsafe or not possible. These units are largely roadless and depend on snowmachine or ski-equipped aircraft access. By mid-April, warming temperatures frequently create overflow, deteriorating ice, and unpredictable travel conditions that limit safe access.

Early April generally provides more stable late-winter conditions, allowing safer and more efficient transport of bait and equipment before break-up. Bears typically emerge from dens in early to mid-May, so this change would not increase harvest opportunity, only allow earlier bait site establishment and improve reliability of operations.

This proposal improves safety, access, and consistency for hunters and guides while maintaining current harvest timing. No negative impacts to bear populations are anticipated.

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

Informal discussions with other area users.

PROPOSED BY: Charles Jagow

(OI-F26-085)

Proposal 169

5 AAC 85.060; 84.270. Hunting seasons and bag limits for fur animals; Furbearer trapping.

Extend hunting and trapping for Wolverine to April 30 as follows:

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

Wolverine hunting and trapping season ends April 30.

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

extend hunting and trapping for Wolverine.

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

PROPOSED BY: Gilbert huntington

(OI-F26-105)
