Alaska Board of Game
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526
(907) 465-4110
https://boardofgame.adfg.alaska.gov

Dear Reviewer, September 2025

The Alaska Board of Game (board) will consider the enclosed regulatory proposals during the board meetings scheduled **for January and March 2026**. The proposals primarily concern changes to hunting and trapping regulations pertaining to the Southeast Region (Game Management Units 1-5) and the Southcentral Region (Game Management Units 6, 7, 8, 14C and 15). The proposal book also includes annual reauthorizations for antlerless moose hunts and brown bear tag fee exemptions.

The proposals have been submitted by members of the public, organizations, advisory committees, ADF&G, and other agencies. With the exception of minor edits and clarifications, the proposals are published essentially as they were received, with the insertion of the appropriate Alaska Administrative Code citation and a brief description of the action requested. The proposals are often presented as brief statements summarizing the intended regulatory changes. Proposed changes are also written in legal format for which bold and underlined words indicate **additions** to the regulation text, and capitalized words in square brackets indicate [DELETIONS].

Readers are encouraged to view all proposals, as some apply statewide or affect multiple Units or Regions. Proposals are grouped by each meeting to which they pertain (see Proposal Indices). The proposals are listed in the tentative order in which they are expected to be considered during the meeting. The final order of all proposals to be deliberated on, also known as the "roadmap," will be available approximately two weeks prior to the meetings.

Public Comment Requested: Before taking action on these proposed changes to the regulations, the board would like to consider your written comments and/or oral testimony on any effects the proposed changes would have on your activities and interests. The board relies heavily on written comments and oral testimony explaining the effect of the proposed changes. Public comments, in combination with advisory committee comments and ADF&G staff reports, provide the board with useful biological and socioeconomic data to form decisions. Anyone interested in or affected by the subject matter contained in the proposals scheduled for the January and March 2026 meetings are encouraged to provide written or oral comments if they wish to have their views considered by the board.

Written comments can be submitted to the board by the announced deadlines as follows:

Online: https://boardofgame.adfg.alaska.gov
Fax: 907-465-6094
Mail: ADF&G Boards Support Section
ATTN: Board of Game Comments
P.O. Box 115526 | Juneau , AK 99811-5526

Comments received by the announced deadlines will be included in the board meeting workbooks and posted on the meeting website for public viewing in advance of the meetings. Comments will also be accepted once the meeting convenes. **Please review the additional information for providing written comment and oral testimony to the board on page v.**

Meeting information, documents, and a link to the audio is available through the Board of Game website at https://boardofgame.adfg.alaska.gov or by contacting ADF&G Boards Support Section. Please watch the website for notices and updates closer to the meeting dates, or sign up to receive notices about the Board of Game at: www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=process.emailsubscription .

To learn what actions the board took on proposals, a preliminary summary will be posted on the meeting website during each meeting. Afterwards, to understand the board's decisions, a meeting summary will be provided which will direct viewers to the audio recording for the board discussion for each section of proposals.

Persons with a disability needing special accommodations in order to comment on the proposed regulations should contact the Boards Support Section at (907) 465-6098 at least two weeks prior to the schedule meeting to make any necessary arrangements.

Thank you for your interest and involvement with the Alaska Board of Game and the regulatory process.

Sincerely,

Kristy Tibbles, Executive Director
Alaska Board of Game

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Guidelines for Written Comments and Public Testimony

The Board of Game (board) relies heavily on information provided by the public. Explaining the effect of the proposed changes help inform the board members for their decisions on the hundreds of proposals scheduled for consideration each year. The following information provides guidelines and helpful tips to be effective with submitting written comments and oral testimony.

GUIDELINES FOR WRITTEN COMMENTS

Timely submission: Written comments are strongly encouraged to be submitted online at https://boardofgame.adfg.alaska.gov, by the set deadline for each meeting, usually two weeks in advance. Comments can be submitted on an online form that will allow comments to be uploaded as a file or entered manually. Boards Support does not accept comments for board meetings via email.

Comments received by the deadline are provided to the board and the public on the meeting information webpages in advance of the meeting. Each public and advisory committee comment is indexed, assigned a public comment ("PC") or advisory committee ("AC") log number, and cross-referenced with proposals. Comments are public documents and part of the board record.

Tips for Commenting on Proposals:

- Please provide your name and community of residence.
- Clearly state the proposal number and your position by indicating "support" or "oppose". If the comments support a modification in the proposal, please indicate "support as amended" and provide your preferred amendment in writing.
- Briefly explain why you support or oppose the proposal to help the board members understand the pros and cons of each issue. Board actions are based on a complete review of the facts involved, not the sum of total comments for or against a proposal.
- For advisory committees (AC), meeting recommendations should reflect why the AC voted as it did. If the vote was split, include the minority opinion. A brief description consisting of a couple sentences is sufficient.
- If including graphs or charts, please indicate the source.
- If using acronyms, please state what the acronym stands for.
- Page limits: For on-time comments, up to 100 single-sided pages from any one individual or organization; during the meeting, comments are limited to ten single-sided pages.
- If commenting on multiple proposals, please do not use separate pieces of paper.
- If handwriting comments, write clearly, use dark ink and write legibly. Comments will be scanned and photocopied so please use 8 1/2" x 11" paper and leave reasonable margins.

Comments submitted as Record Copies: Once a board meeting has been convened, written comments will be accepted via online form, fax, or hand-delivery. Comments received by Boards Support during the meeting will be logged with a record copy ("RC") number and distributed to the board members two to three times each day. Comments submitted during a board meeting are limited to ten single-sided pages. As a practical matter, comments submitted during the meeting are likely to receive less consideration from the board than those submitted by the deadline.

GUIDELINES FOR ORAL PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Oral hearings are scheduled at the beginning of each regulatory meeting, typically following agency reports, and continue until everyone who has signed up by the announced deadline and is present when called has been given the opportunity to be heard. Advisory Committee (AC) and Regional Advisory Council (RAC) representatives may elect to provide testimony at a later portion of the meetings.

Persons planning to testify at Board of Game meetings must sign up with the Boards Support staff prior to the announced cut-off time. If submitting written or visual content at the meeting to accompany oral testimony, please review the guidelines for submitting written comments. At the discretion of the chair, PowerPoint presentations may be allowed, and will require a hard copy of the presentation be provided to Boards Support staff well in advance.

Once the oral hearing portion of the meeting begins, Boards Support staff will prepare and post a list of testifiers. The chair will call testifiers in the order provided on the list. When it is your turn to testify, please go to the testimony table, press the button on the microphone, and state your name for the record, where you reside and whom you represent, if speaking for an organization. When giving testimony, be sure to reference the proposal number as well as the title or subject matter, and the public comment or record copy log number for any written material accompanying your testimony if applicable. Follow the tips for written comments shown on the previous page.

The board utilizes a light indicator system for timing testifiers. When you begin your testimony, a green light will come on. When you have one-minute remaining, a yellow light will come on followed by a red light or buzzer to indicate your time is up. When you are finished speaking, please stay seated and wait for any questions board members may have regarding your comments. Be aware that when you testify, you may not ask questions of board members or of agency staff. This is your chance to make comments on proposals before the board. If board members and/or department staff need clarification, they will ask you questions. **Please do not use derogatory or threatening language or you will not be allowed to continue speaking.**

The board allows testimony for one organization in addition to personal testimony, or AC testimony. Each testimony is allotted its own time. **If you are giving testimony for yourself and an organization or an AC**, you only need to sign-up once entering your name and the group you wish to speak for. When giving testimony for yourself and an organization or AC, state on the record who you are speaking for. For example: give comments for the organization you are representing, then, after stating clearly that you are now testifying for yourself, give your personal comments.

The length of testimony time will be announced on the agenda prior to each meeting and stated by the board chair at the beginning of the meeting. The board typically allows five minutes for oral testimony for an individual or organization and 15 minutes for ACs and Regional Advisory Councils. Time limits on testimony do not include questions the board members may have for you. Preparing and practicing your testimony ahead of time will help ensure you stay within the time limit, while making your points clear.

Note: Updates related to public testimony and submitting public comments will be provided via advisory announcement prior to each meeting. Please watch the board's website for any updates or sign up to receive announcements via email at https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=process.emailsubscription

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****

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ALASKA BOARD OF GAME
2025/2026 Cycle
Tentative Meeting Dates

Meeting Dates	Topic	Location	Comment Deadline
January 22, 2026 (1 day)	**Work Session**	**Wrangell** James & Elsie Nolan Center	**January 16, 2026**
January 23-27, 2026 (5 days)	**Southeast Region** Game Management Units 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5	**Wrangell** James & Elsie Nolan Center	**January 9, 2026**
March 20-25, 2026 (6 days)	**Southcentral Region** Game Management Units 6, 7, 8, 14C, and 15	**Kodiak** Kodiak Marketplace	**March 6, 2026**

The Board of Game will meet via web conference to consider Agenda Change Requests following the November 1 deadline.

Total Meeting Days: 13

Proposal Deadline: Thursday, May 1, 2025

Agenda Change Request Deadline: Saturday, November 1, 2025

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Long-Term Meeting Cycle

The Board of Game meeting cycle generally occurs from November through March. The board considers changes to regulations on a region-based schedule that cycle every three years. When the regional regulations are before the board, the following regulations are open for consideration within that region:

- Trapping Seasons and Bag Limits (5 AAC Chapter 84)- All species
- General and Subsistence Hunting Seasons and Bag Limits (5 AAC Chapter 85)- All species (Except antlerless moose hunts as noted below)
- Intensive Management Plans
- Closures and Restrictions in State Game Refuges
- Management Areas, Controlled Use Areas, and Areas Closed to Hunting and Trapping
- Changes to specific Units or Regions under 5 AAC Chapter 92, excluding Game Management Unit Boundaries in 92.450

Proposals pertaining for the reauthorization of all antlerless moose hunts, 5 AAC 85.045, and all brown bear tag fee exemptions, 5 AAC 92.015, are taken up annually. Changes having statewide applicability to 5 AAC Chapters 92 and 98.005 listed on the following page and Game Management Units are considered once every three years at Statewide Regulations meetings.

The proposal deadline is May 1 every preceding year. Boards Support issues a "Call for Proposals" generally in January before the May 1 deadline, which will also specify which regulations are open for proposed changes.

Topic & Meeting Schedule
Southeast Region - Game Management Units: 1, 2, 3, 4, & 5 *Meeting Cycle: 2025/2026 2028/2029 2031/2032*
Southcentral Region - Game Management Units: 6, 7, 8, 14C, & 15 *Meeting Cycle: 2025/2026 2028/2029 2031/2032*
Western Arctic / Western Region - Game Management Units: 18, 22, 23, & 26A *Meeting Cycle: 2026/2027 2029/2030 2032/2033*
Interior and Eastern Arctic Region - Game Management Units: 12, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25, 26B, & 26C *Meeting Cycle: 2026/2027 2029/2030 2032/2033*
Central and Southwest Region - Game Management Units: 9, 10, 11, 13, 14A, 14B, 16, & 17 *Meeting Cycle: 2027/2028 2030/2031 2033/2034*
Statewide Regulations* (see next page) *Meeting Cycle: 2027/2028 2030/2031 2033/2034* ***5 AAC 92.037. Permits for falconry,** is scheduled every six years: *2027/2028 2033/2034 2039/2040*

Updated July 2025

ALASKA BOARD OF GAME
Statewide Regulations ~ 5 AAC Chapters 92 and 98

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92.001 Application of this Chapter
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92.003 Hunter Education and Orientation Requirements
92.004 Policy for Off-Road Vehicle Use for Hunting and transporting game.
92.005 Policy for Changing the Board of Agenda
92.008 Harvest Guideline Levels
92.009 Policy Obstruction or Hindrance of Lawful Hunting or Trapping
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92.011 Taking of Game by Proxy
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92.019 Taking of Big Game for Certain Religious Ceremonies

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92.028 Aviculture Permits
92.029 Permit for Possessing Live Game
92.030 Possession of Wolf Hybrid and Wild Cat Hybrids Prohibited
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92.039 Permit for Taking Wolves Using Aircraft
92.040 Permit for Taking of Furbearers with Game Meat
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92.171 Sealing of Dall Sheep Horns

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92.220 Salvage of Game Meat, Furs, and Hides
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About the Board of Game & Advisory Committees

Alaska Board of Game

The Board of Game (board) is Alaska's regulatory entity authorized to adopt regulations to conserve and develop the state's wildlife resources and to allocate uses of those resources. This includes establishing open and closed seasons, areas for taking game, setting bag limits, and regulating methods and means. The board consists of seven members, serving three-year terms. Each member is appointed by the governor and confirmed by the Alaska State Legislature.

The board considers regulatory topics on a three-year cycle, holding two to three meetings each year to address proposed regulations on a regional basis. Each year, the board solicits proposals for new regulations and changes to existing regulations. Any individual or organization may submit proposals and offer oral and/or written testimony for the board's consideration. More information about the Board of Game members, process and meeting information is online at: https://boardofgame.adfg.alaska.gov

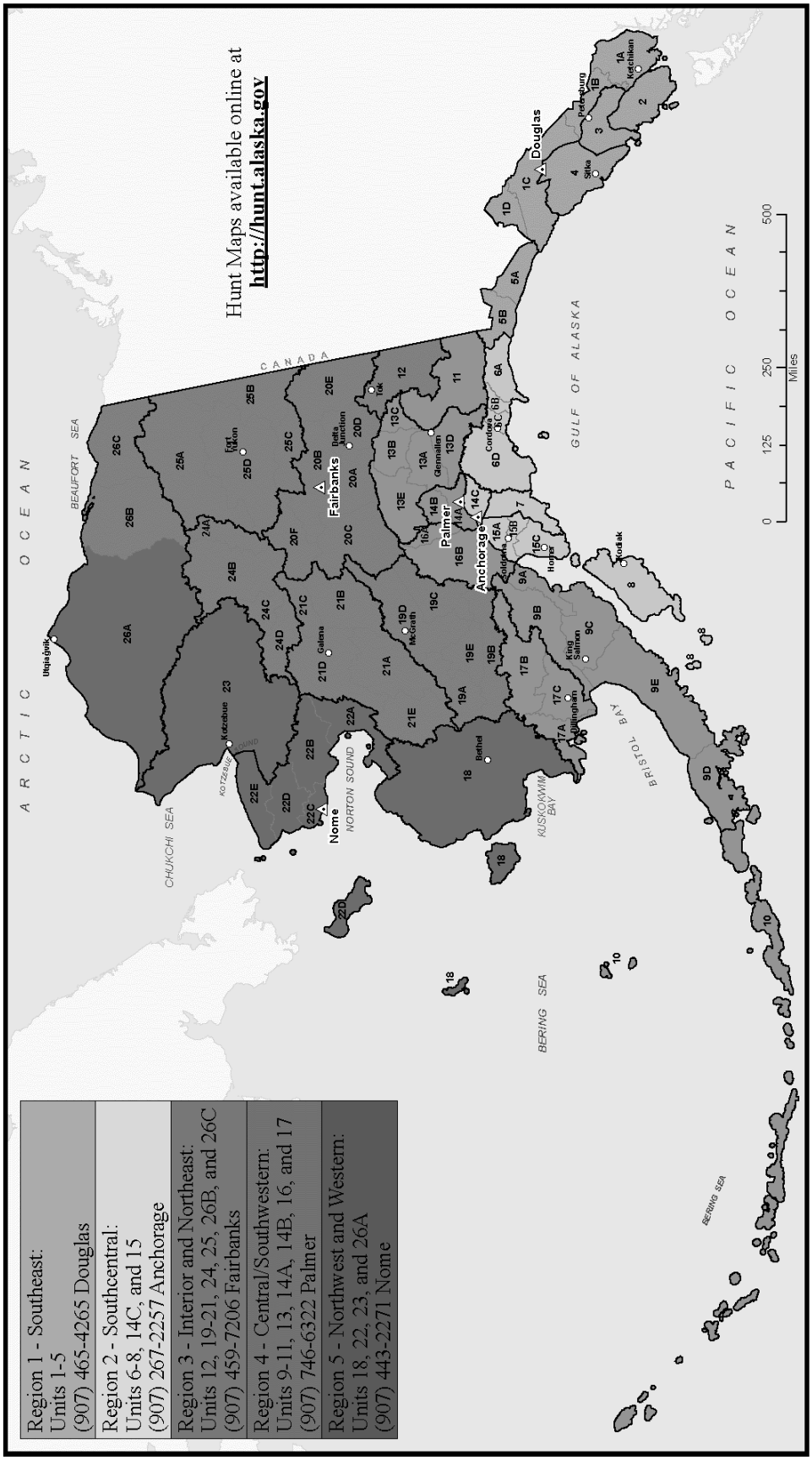
Fish and Game Advisory Committees

The local fish and game advisory committees (ACs) play a key role in the regulatory process for both fisheries and wildlife management. While the boards make the final decisions on proposed regulations, they rely heavily on ACs to offer their local knowledge on fish and wildlife issues of interest by submitting proposals and comments on proposals.

There are 84 ACs in the state; nearly all actively participate in the state regulatory process as well as the federal subsistence process. ACs have up to 15 members and many have community seats designated under regulation. AC members serve three-year terms and are elected by local community members. ACs begin meeting as early as September and throughout the board meeting cycle to review proposals and submit recommendations to the boards. Meetings are open to the public and meeting information is online at: https://advisory.adfg.alaska.gov, or from Boards Support Regional Coordinators.

Boards Support Regional Coordinators facilitate AC participation in the regulatory process by coordinating AC meetings and ensuring the ACs have the necessary information to be effective before the boards. Contact information for the Regional Coordinators can be found on the Boards Support staff listing on page viii.

Region and Game Management Unit Boundaries



Commonly Used Acronyms & Terms

AAC	Alaska Administrative Code
AC	Advisory Committee
ADF&G	Alaska Department of Fish and Game
ANS	Amount Necessary for Subsistence
AS	Alaska Statute
AWT	Alaska Wildlife Troopers
BBMS	Brown Bear Management Study
BOG/Board	Board of Game
BGCSB	Big Game Commercial Services Board
C.I.	Confidence Interval
C&T	Customary and Traditional Use
CUA	Controlled Use Area
DLP	Defense of Life and Property
DWC	Division of Wildlife Conservation
EO	Emergency Order
FSB	Federal Subsistence Board
GMU/Unit	Game Management Unit
GSPE	Geospatial Population Estimator
GUA	Guide Use Area
GCP	Guide Concession Program
HGL	Harvest Guideline Level
IM	Intensive Management
NFQU	Non-federal qualified users
NPS	National Park Service
OSM	Office of Subsistence Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior
RY	Regulatory Year; July 1- June 30
Region I	Southeast Region – Game Management Units 1, 2, 3, 4, & 5
Region II	Southcentral Region – Game Management Units 6, 7, 8, 14C, & 15
Region III	Interior & Eastern Arctic Region Game Management Units 12, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25, 26B & 26C
Region IV	Central & Southwest Region – Game Management Units 9, 10, 11, 13, 14A, 14B, 16 & 17
Region V	Western Arctic & Western Region – Game Management Units 18, 22, 23 & 26A
RAC	Federal Regional Advisory Council
SDA	Same Day Airborne
SHS	Selective Harvest Strategy
USFS	U.S. Forest Service
USF&WS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
2DK	Second degree of kindred

Permit Hunt Abbreviations

Some proposals reference specific permit hunt numbers that begin with the initials to indicate the type of hunt and big game animal, followed by three digits for the hunt number:

RB	Registration brown bear
RC	Registration caribou
RG	Registration goat
RL	Registration black bear
RM	Registration moose
RX	Registration Musk ox
DB	Drawing brown bear
DC	Drawing caribou
DG	Drawing goat
DL	Drawing black bear
DM	Drawing moose
DS	Drawing sheep
YS	Youth sheep
DX	Drawing must ox
YM	Youth moose

Southeast Region Meeting

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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 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 Unitss 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 to 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, 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.

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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 to 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 or 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 nonresident 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 hunting 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 linit of one mountian 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 Assocation.

PROPOSED BY: Rueben Glaves (OI-F25-188)
****

<u>PROPOSAL 15</u>

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)
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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)
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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)
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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)
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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)
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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 alines 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)
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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)
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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)
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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)
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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)
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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.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F25-031)

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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 forfiet 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 lC 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 lC, 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 IC 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)
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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)
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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)
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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)
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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.

(Unt 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)
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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)
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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 outheast 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)
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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)
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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 intead 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 Glaves (OI-F25-227)
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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 hada 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 theconsequential 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/nonresidents 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 forsubsistence 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)
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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 Princne 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)
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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)
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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 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. 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)
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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. Nonres 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 nonresident 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)
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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 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-F25-086)
****

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 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-F25-087)
****

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)
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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 Bord 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 Novomber 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 Dececmber 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)
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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)
****

<u>PROPOSAL 51</u>

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 thefield 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 mangaement 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 ll 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.

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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)
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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 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 where impemented 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 proposals 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-lNCH 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)
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PROPOSAL 67

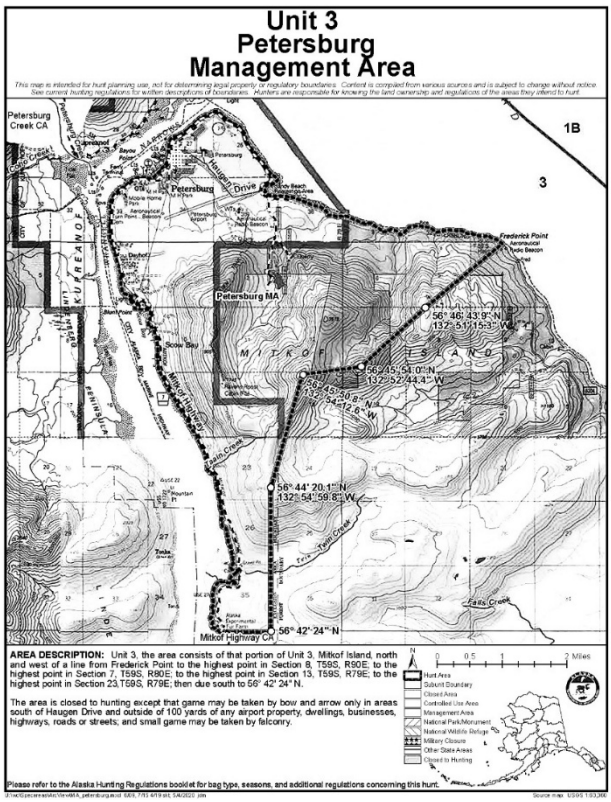
5 AAC 92.510(5)(B). Areas closed to hunting.

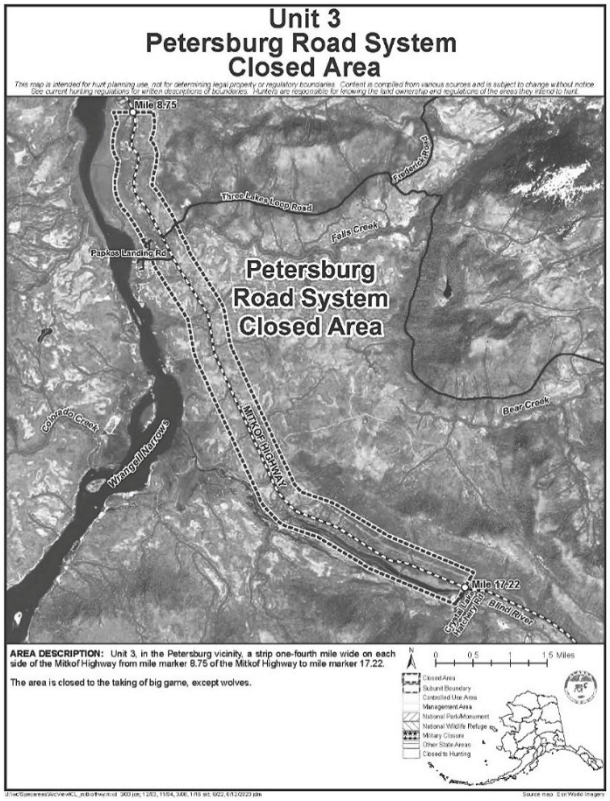
5 AAC 92.530(24). Management areas.

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 vards 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

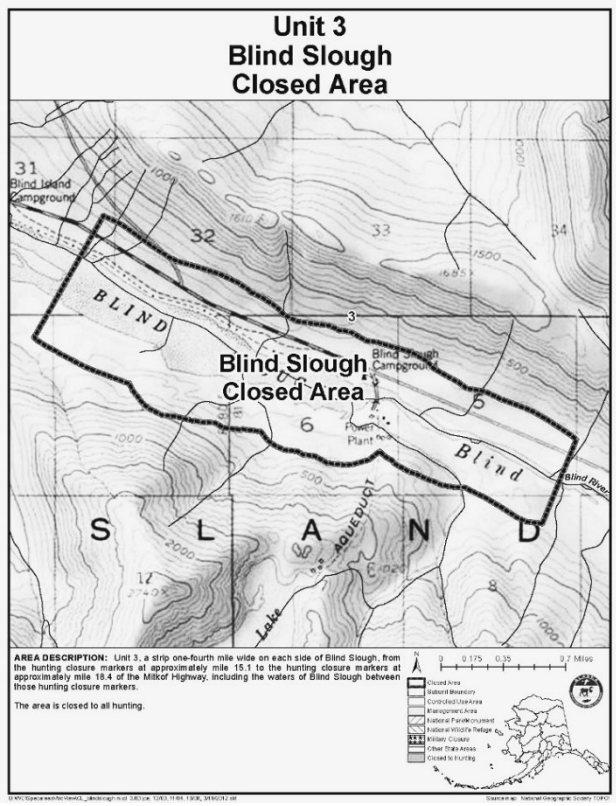
5 AAC 92.510(5)(D). Areas closed to hunting.

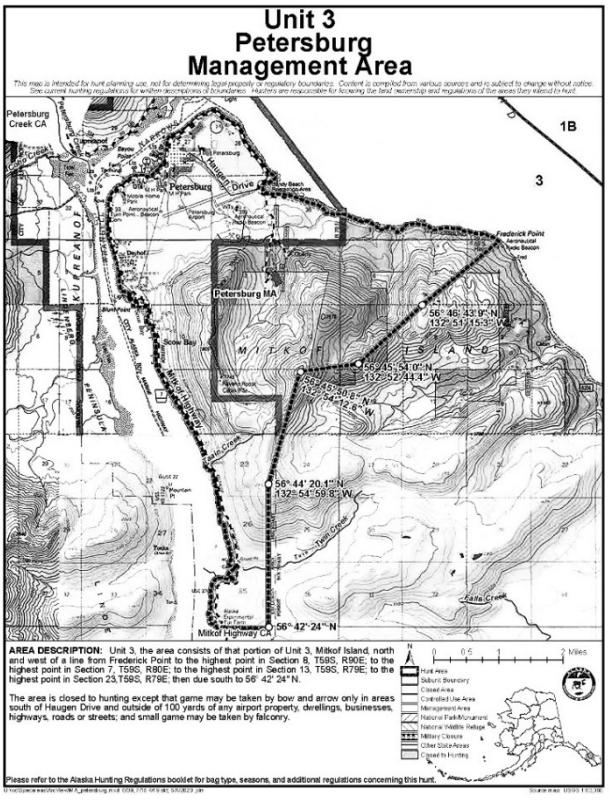
5 AAC 92.530(24). Management areas.

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 vards 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)
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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)
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Southcentral Region Meeting

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ALASKA BOARD OF GAME
Southcentral Region Meeting
Kodiak Marketplace
111 Rezanof Drive, Kodiak, Alaska
March 20 - 25, 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, March 20, 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, March 21, 8:30 a.m.

PUBLIC AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE ORAL TESTIMONY continued

BOARD DELIBERATIONS upon conclusion of public testimony

Sunday, March 22, (Time to be determined)

BOARD DELIBERATIONS upon conclusion of public testimony

Monday, March 23 through Tuesday, March 24, 8:30 a.m.

BOARD DELIBERATIONS continued

Wednesday, March 25, 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 Units

PROPOSAL 70

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

Restrict hunters who take a nanny in Units 6, 7, 14C, or 15 from hunting goats in Unit 6, 7, 8, 14C and 15 for five regulatory years as follows:

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

If a nanny is taken in Units 6, 7, 14C, or 15, the hunter is prohibited from hunting any goats in Units 6, 7, 8, 14C, or 15 for five regulatory years.

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

Change the penalty for shooting a nanny from only prohibiting the hunter from hunting that area to all of the areas in Southcentral (Unit 6, 7, 8, 14C, and 15).

Currently if you shoot a nanny in Unit 6, you are only prohibited from hunting Unit 6 for five regulatory years. You could still hunt goats in Units 7, 8, 14C, or 15.

If you shoot a nanny in Unit 7 or 15, you are prohibited from hunting goats in Units 7 and 15 for five regulatory years. You could still hunt goats in Units 6, 8, & 14C.

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

PROPOSED BY: Bradley Golden (OI-F25-153)
****

PROPOSAL 71

5 AAC 92.106. Intensive management of identified big game prey populations.

Establish an average annual historic human harvest value for sheep to consider if sheep populations are important for providing high levels of human consumptive use as follows:

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

5 AAC 92.106. Intensive management of identified big game prey populations. For purposes of implementing AS 16.05.255(e) - (g), the Board of Game will

(1) consider the following criteria when identifying big game prey populations that are important for providing high levels of human consumptive use:

(A) harvest size: the average annual historic human harvest meets or exceeds values as follows:

(i) caribou: 100;

(ii) deer: 500;

(iii) moose: 100;

(iv) sheep: **XX**

(B) accessibility to harvest;

(C) utilization for meat: a population that is used primarily for food; and

(D) level of hunter demand: as reflected by total hunter effort, number of applications for permits, or other indicators;

…

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

At the March 2025 Statewide Board of Game meeting in Anchorage the board adopted a proposal to establish sheep as an intensive management species. The board now needs to set an average annual historic human harvest value for sheep for use in considering if sheep populations are important for providing high levels of human consumptive use. Once established, the board can evaluate each individual population and determine if the population has a positive or negative intensive management finding, and if positive, the board can then set a population and harvest objective for each population.

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-F25-046
****

PROPOSAL 72

5 AAC 92.108. Identified big game prey populations.

Establish intensive management (IM) findings for sheep populations, and population and harvest objectives, in the Southcentral Region as follows:

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

5 AAC 92.108. Identified big game prey populations.

Population	**Finding**	**Population Objective**	**Harvest Objective**
. . .			
Sheep			
GMUs 7 and 15 (Kenai Peninsula)	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx
GMU 14(C) (Chugach Mountains)	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx

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

At the March 2025 Statewide Board of Game meeting in Anchorage, the board adopted a proposal to establish sheep as an intensive management species. This proposal was submitted as a way for the board to codify if the Dall sheep populations in the Southcentral region have a positive or negative IM finding, and if positive, to establish the population and harvest objectives. The department submitted another proposal for the board to consider this cycle to set an average annual historic human harvest value for sheep for use in considering if sheep populations are important for providing high levels of human consumptive use. Once established, the board will need to evaluate each individual sheep population and determine if the population has a positive or negative intensive management finding. If a population is determined to have a positive finding, the board can then set a population and harvest objective for each population.

The proposed sheep populations listed (Units 7 and 15, Kenai Peninsula and Unit 14C, Chugach Mountains) may also be changed by the board. Deer and moose are listed in 5 AAC 92.108 by subunit, and caribou by herd, however the board has never had to address how sheep populations would be captured in 5 AAC 92.108, and there is more than one way to do so. The department will make a recommendation to the board for the best description of each sheep population prior to the board taking action on this proposal.

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-F25-047
****

PROPOSAL 73

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

Define the terms "permenant dwelling", "publically maintained trail/road", and "developed recreational facility" for the purpose of bear baiting as follows:

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

Rewording the phrase " permanent dwelling" as "dwelling"to be defined as: "a structure or part of a structure that is used as a home, residence, or sleeping unit that is publically maintained through use of public funds or privately owned- this includes permited trapper cabins.

I request the board to define publically maintained trail or road as a trail or road that is maintained with the use of public funding through an agency or private organization and meant for public use.

Define Developed Recreational Facility:

(A) includes a shooting range, developed boat ramp, campground, picnic area, rest area, visitor information center, swim beach, education center and developed ski area;

(B) does not include trails or latrines more than one quarter mile from a road;

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

Currently in the bear baiting regulations in Alaska there are no definitions to permanent dwelling, publicly maintained /road trail or recreational facility.

Rewording the phrase “ permanent dwelling” as "dwelling"to be defined as: “a structure or part of a structure that is used as a home, residence, or sleeping unit that is publically maintained through use of public funds or privately owned- this includes permited trapper cabins.

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(B) does not include trails or latrines more than one quarter mile from a road

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

Yes many hunters and the board and enforcement all agree these terms need clarified

PROPOSED BY: Caleb Martin (OI-F25-160)
****

PROPOSAL 74

5 AAC 92.130. Restrictions to bag limit.

Count a wounded bear against a hunter's bag limit regionwide as follows:

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

Make it illegal across all units to wound a brown bear and not cut your tag for the season. Making all uniformity across these units.

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

Currenly only part of Southcentral is it illegal to wound a bear and shoot another. While the Kenai Peninsula has the closest regulation brown bear hunt in Alaska.

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

PROPOSED BY: Caleb Martin (OI-F25-158)
****

PROPOSAL 75

5 AAC 92.XXX. New regulation.

Require an online trapping education course for trapping in the Southcentral Region as follows:

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

Requirements for trappers before trapping in Units 6, 7, 8, 13, 14, 14C, 15, and 20:

If you were born after January 1, 1986 and are 18 years or older, you must have successfully completed a basic trapper education course in person or on-line before you trap in the unit areas listed above.

If you are under 18 years of age, you must have either successfully completed the basic trapper education course in person or on-line or be under the immediate supervision of a licensed trapper who:

a)is 18 years of age or older and has successfully completed a basic trapper education course in person or on-line OR

b) was born on or before January 1, 1986.

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

There are such minimum standards for trapping in this state that it allows many instances of inappropriate placement of these traps in and around populated areas. Basically, anyone who becomes, or is, a resident, can trap with or without knowledge, experience, or even minimum guidelines for education.

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

No

PROPOSED BY: Michael Knapp (OI-F25-078)
****

Cordova Area - Unit 6

PROPOSAL 76

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PROPOSAL 77

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

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

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

Unit 6D

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

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

Resident Sept. 15 - Jan. 31

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

Nonresident Sept. 15 – Jan. 31

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

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

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

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

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

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

PROPOSAL 78

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

No

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

PROPOSAL 79

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

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

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

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

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

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

5 AAC 85.045 Unit 6A moose.

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

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

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

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

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

PROPOSED BY: Jason Semler, Alaska Expediton Lodge (OI-F25-209)
****

PROPOSAL 80

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

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

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

Hunt Details

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

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

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

Season Dates:
October 1 to February 28.
This extended season targets late fall and winter, when moose are most active near the highway due to snow and foraging patterns, coinciding with peak collision risks.

Bag Limit and Restrictions:
Eligible Moose: Harvest is permitted for bull moose and cows without calves.
Protected Moose: Cows accompanied by calves are off-limits to safeguard calf survival and population stability.

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

Hunt Type:
Draw hunt requiring application through ADF&G's permit system.
Limits hunter numbers, prevents overcrowding, and allows precise management of harvest quotas.

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

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

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

PROPOSED BY: Joseph List (OI-F25-006)
****

PROPOSAL 81

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PROPOSAL 82

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

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

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

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

Proposed new season date as follows:

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

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

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

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

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

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

PROPOSAL 83

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The one bear bag limit for RL065 black bear permit.

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

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

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

No

PROPOSED BY: Jesse Dunshie (OI-F25-157)
****

PROPOSAL 84

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

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

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

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

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

October 1 [September 10] - June 10

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PROPOSED BY: David Pinquoch (OI-F25-060)
****

PROPOSAL 85

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

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

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

Hunters may not shoot big game from a boat in Units 1-6, UNLESS you have obtained a Permit to Hunt from a Boat.
This regulation is already in place for Units 1-5.

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

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

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

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

Kenai Peninsula Area – Units 7 & 15

PROPOSAL 86

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

Limit the nonresident permit allocation for the Unit 7 caribou drawing hunt DC001, 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 DC001 to UP TO 10% of the available permits. If at least 10 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 DC001.

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.

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-F25-068)
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PROPOSAL 87

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

Limit the nonresident permit allocation for the Unit 15B caribou drawing hunt DC608, 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 DC608 to UP TO 10% of the available permits. If at least 10 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 DC608.

There is currently no cap on how many tags may be drawn by no-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-F25-069)
****

PROPOSAL 88

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

Limit the nonresident permit allocation for the Unit 15C caribou drawing hunt DC618, 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 DC618 to UP TO 10% of the available permits. If at least 10 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 DC618.

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-F25-070)
****

PROPOSAL 89

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

Open an early season, archery only moose hunt in Unit 7 as follows:

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

Unit 7 remainder: One bull with a spike on at least one side or 50-inch antlers or antlers with three or more brow tines on at least one side by BOW AND ARROW ONLY -HT-

Aug. 22-29

*open only to certified bowhunters

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

Most other units in Southcentral Alaska have implemented an early season archery only moose hunt. Directly bordering Unit 7, Unit 15 Remainder has an archery only moose season from August 22-29. From review of harvest statistics it appears that these archery hunts have had no adverse impact on the moose population or regular season hunter success rates but have increased hunting opportunity for all Alaska hunters willing to pick up a bow. This proposal would bring the same opportunity to Unit 7 Remainder.

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

No.

PROPOSED BY: Paul Forward (OI-F25-205)
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PROPOSAL 90

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

Change the bag limit for the general season moose hunts in Units 7 and 15 to include 10 legal antler points on at least one side, in addition to the current antler restrictions as follows:

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

In addition to the 50-inch, spike, or three brow tine restrictions, I propose that if a moose has an antler with 10 legal points total on one side it would be a legal moose to harvest.

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

Hunters often have difficulty discerning a legal moose under the current antler restriction regulations of 50-inch, spike, or three brow tines.

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

I have spoken with several different hunters, previous wildlife troopers, and local biologists in these game management units concerning this proposal.

PROPOSED BY: Kenneth Halpin (OI-F25-014)
****

PROPOSAL 91

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

Shift the moose hunting season and the motorized vehicle restrction in Unit 15C from September to October as follows:

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

Just move the moose season to Oct. 1 – Oct. 25 with the dates for restriction number three for Unit 15C also moved to Oct. 16-19 and Oct. 22-25 with the rest of the regulations for the season remaining the same.

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

Move open season for moose from [September 1- September 25] to October 1 to October 25.

Also from restriction number three for Unit 15C change dates for closed to anyone using a motorized vehicle restrictions from [Sept. 16-19 and Sept. 22-25] to October 16-19 and October 22-25.

This would move the open season for moose after the start of the rut. This would allow the dominant bulls to breed some of the cows before the season opens without any hunting pressure. That would pass on the best bulls' genes which would improve the herd. The October season would also be cooler and most of the leaves would drop from the trees. This would increase visibility which would make identification of legal bulls easier which should minimize the shooting of illegal bulls. The cooler weather would also help with preserving and processing of the meat.

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

This proposal was developed from conversations with other hunters. Some expressed concerns about shooting bulls during the rut and the effect on the meat. My answer to that is that many of the bulls are currently shot during the rut and that problem may be more a result of how the meat is treated in the field and in the processing. Also, I attended two meetings of the Central Peninsula Advisory Committee. I was asked to give an overview of this proposal and answered some questions. After the presentation I was told to submit the proposal.

PROPOSED BY: Arnold Mason (OI-F25-016)
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PROPOSAL 92

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

Shift the moose hunting season on Kalgin Island in Unit 15B, from August 20–September 20 to September 1-25 as follows:

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

Change 5 AAC 85.045 (13) (A) Kalgin Island section to read: (bold text is changed language)

Unit 15(B) Kalgin Island

(Bag limit:) One moose per regulatory year, by registration permit only

(Season:) Residents and Nonresidents : **SEPTEMBER 1-25** [August 20- Sept. 20]

Explained in text, move the season forward on Kalgin Island to new dates of September 1- 25. This mirrors the season dates on the east side of the Inlet in the rest of Unit 15. The Board of Game made an identical change in 2015 via Proposal 157 with the same reasoning for the general bull season in Unit 15. Although weather has always been inconducive in August for moose hunting on Kalgin, now that due to board action the Island is part of Unit 15B, it is even more apparent that the season should shift forward and mirror the general season in the rest of Unit 15. It will tidy up the regulation book and ease enforcement questions. Cooler weather in September will greatly help bringing down the temperature of the hanging meat. The fly problem will lessen some, as it is beginning to frost at night in September. It will perhaps give those Kalgin hunters a bit of time to relax in camp, eating steak and enjoying the camp life, as they are investing significant personal gas or air/water taxi cost to get there. It is doubtful there is a risk to the herd of overharvest by allowing hunters later in September, because Kalgin is consistently over the population objective (latest population survey 11/29/2024 counted 103 moose, and 107 Registration permits were issued) and consistently under the harvest objective with a five-year average of 22 moose taken annually in this hunt. ADF&G has been trying to reduce this herd for years.

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

At issue are the poor conditions for meat care during the RM572 moose season on Kalgin Island, Unit 15B. Current season dates are August 20 - September 20. During the first half of this season, temperatures are routinely in the 60's or even higher. Rain has returned in force by then as well. These meteorological conditions of high heat and high humidity, coupled with the abundant blowfly numbers, create an extremely difficult, time and resource-consuming, and high-stress environment in which to properly care for 600 plus pounds of hanging moose meat. Hunters on Kalgin Island will also need time to transport by airplane or boat, then on the road system before they can get their meat to a controlled environment where it can be safely hung to age and subsequently butchered. Having an open season in August is, we believe, unethical. If nothing is done to correct this, much delicious wild meat will continue to be lost to heavy trimming or even outright spoilage.

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

This proposal, conceived from comments by local hunters, was developed by the Homer Advisory Committee with input from ADF&G.

PROPOSED BY: Homer Fish and Game Advisory Committee (OI-F25-043)
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PROPOSAL 93

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

Limit the nonresident permit allocation for the Unit 15C moose drawing hunt DM549, 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 DM549 to UP TO 10% of the available permits. If at least 10 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 DM549.

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-F25-133)
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PROPOSAL 94

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

Limit the nonresident permit allocation for the Unit 7 moose drawing hunt DM210, to "up to" 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 DM210 to UP TO 10% of the available permits. If at least 10 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 DM210.

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 nonguided 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-F25-120)
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PROPOSAL 95

5 AAC 85.045(13). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.

Reauthorize the antlerless moose season on Kalgin Island in Unit 15B as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(13) hunting seasons and bag limits for moose in Unit 15 are as follows:		
…		
Unit 15(B), Kalgin Island		
1 moose per regulatory year, by registration permit only	Aug. 20—Sept. 20	Aug. 20—Sept. 20
...		

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

Antlerless moose hunts must be reauthorized annually by the Board of Game (board). The current regulation for hunting moose on Kalgin Island in Unit 15B allows hunters to harvest antlerless moose with the goal of reducing the population to the management objective.

In response to concerns that the moose population on Kalgin Island had exceeded the island's carrying capacity and deteriorated habitat conditions, the board established a drawing permit hunt for antlerless moose in 1995. In a further attempt to reduce the number of moose on the island, the board established a registration hunt for any moose in 1999. Despite these measures to reduce moose numbers, moose remain abundant on the island and continue to meet or exceed the management objective. Antlerless hunts, such as RM572, provide opportunities for hunter harvest and improved food security while maintaining healthy moose herds and habitat at this time.

During the most recent moose survey (November 2024), department staff counted 103 moose on Kalgin Island. This count is larger than the population objective of 20–40 moose. In the last five years, an average of 109 permits were issued for this hunt, of which 78 permittees hunted, yielding an average annual harvest of 25 moose. Harvest tracks hunter effort, and although effort and harvest have declined in recent years, success rate has remained high with a 5-year average of 32%.

The any moose registration hunt is recommended to provide additional harvest opportunity on this predator-free island population. A registration hunt also allows the department to continue gathering biological information from specimens provided by successful hunters. The difficult hunting conditions and limited access will make over-harvest unlikely.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F25-034)
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PROPOSAL 96

5 AAC 85.045(13). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.

Reauthorize the antlerless moose seasons in Unit 15C as follows:

This proposal would reauthorize the antlerless moose hunt for the Homer bench (DM549) and the targeted hunt (AM550).

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

(13) hunting seasons and bag limits for moose in Unit 15 are as follows:

…

Unit 15(C), that portion

from the mouth of Deep Creek easterly along the south bank of Deep Creek to N 59° 55.183', W 151° 8.155'; then southeasterly in a straight line to the unnamed creek at N 59° 54.342', W 151° 6.459'; and easterly down the south bank of this stream to Caribou Lake and easterly along the south shore to the outlet of Fox Creek, then south along the west bank of Fox Creek to the mouth of Fox Creek, and along the mean high tide line to the point of origin

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

…

1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only; the taking of calves, and females accompanied by calves, is prohibited; up to 100 permits may be issued in combination with the nonresident drawing hunt: or	Oct. 20—Nov. 20

…

1 moose by targeted permit only;	Oct. 15—Mar. 31

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

…

1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only; the taking of calves, and females accompanied by calves, is prohibited; up to 100 permits may be issued in combination with the resident drawing hunt	Oct. 20—Nov. 20

Remainder of Unit 15(C)

…

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

…

1 moose by targeted permit only	Oct. 15—Mar. 31

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

Antlerless moose seasons must be reauthorized annually, and the Alaska Department of Fish & Game (department) recommends reauthorization of the Homer bench hunt (DM549) and the targeted hunt (AM550) along the Sterling Highway in Unit 15C for the 2026-27 hunting season.

In February 2023, a Geospatial Population Estimate (GSPE) census was conducted in the northern portion of Unit 15C (north of Kachemak Bay) and resulted in a population estimate of 5,162 moose (95% CI: range 3,934–6,390), of which 22% (95% CI: 17–27) were calves. This equates to a density of approximately 4.4 moose/mi^2 in the census area and indicates the population has continued to grow since 2010. However, the spatial distribution of moose during winter is heavily skewed away from elevations > 1000 feet in Unit 15C. This creates high variance of moose abundance in grid cells and removal of a single high density grid cell from the GSPE census reduces the population estimate to 4,486 moose (95% CI: range 5,391–3581), of which 22% (95% CI: 14–28) were calves. Despite this variability in moose distribution influencing precision of GSPE censuses, the population appears to be at or above the upper end of the Intensive Management population objective. Fall 2024 composition counts in core count areas provided a bull ratio of 30 bulls:100 cows. Antlerless hunts, such as DM549 and AM550, provide opportunities for hunter harvest and improved food security while maintaining healthy moose herds and habitat at this time.

The lowlands in Unit 15C, south of Deep Creek and Caribou Lake, which encompasses the hunt boundary of DM549, contain high densities of moose when deep snow drives moose to lower elevations. The human population continues to grow in these areas, having doubled in size since the 1980s according to U.S. Census Bureau statistics. In 2023, the hunt area was expanded to reduce hunter conflicts with private property owners. Even without deep snow, some moose die due to malnutrition and negative interactions with humans that occur as moose become more aggressive in their search for food around residences. Fifty permits were issued in each of the last 10 years resulting in an average harvest of 25 cows annually.

The purpose of AM550 is to allow for the harvest of antlerless moose along the Sterling Highway in Unit 15C during deep snow winters to reduce moose and vehicle collisions. On average, 65 known animals are killed each year in vehicle collisions in Unit 15C. The department will decide when and where permits will be issued during the hunt period. Targeted hunts are administered through a registration permit and up to 100 moose may be taken. The number of permits issued each year will depend on conditions, and it is possible no permits will be issued in some years.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F25-035)
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PROPOSAL 97

5 AAC 92.540(4)(B). Controlled use areas.

Eliminate the restriction on motorized vehicles for hunting moose in the Lower Kenai Controlled Use Area in Unit 15C as follows:

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

Remove the restriction on motorized vehicles for moose hunting in the Lower Kenai Controlled Use Area (Unit 15C). This change will ensure fair access for hunters, align with current moose population data, and improve regulatory clarity while maintaining responsible land use practices. Additionally, it will support conservation efforts by allowing for better-managed hunting practices that align with ecological sustainability and wildlife management goals.

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

The current regulation prohibiting the use of motorized vehicles (except aircraft and boats) for moose hunting in Unit 15C of the Lower Kenai Controlled Use Area during specific dates in September is outdated, ineffective, and unnecessarily restrictive. The rule negatively impacts hunters by restricting access and contains unclear wording. Additionally, it does not effectively serve its intended purpose of protecting critical habitat.

- High Moose Populations: Surveys indicate that the moose population is either stable or increasing, suggesting that current restrictions may no longer be necessary. Including specific population data would further support this conclusion.
- Restricted Hunter Access: The prohibition makes it difficult for hunters, especially those with physical limitations, to access hunting areas and transport harvested moose.
- Ineffectiveness in Protecting Habitat: The seasonal restriction does not significantly contribute to habitat protection, as motorized use occurs outside the restricted dates.
- Unclear Wording: The regulation's language regarding permitted roads is confusing and creates enforcement challenges.
- Easing of Administrative and Regulatory Burdens: Removing this rule will simplify enforcement and regulatory oversight, reducing the administrative burden on wildlife officials and eliminating confusion for hunters.

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

Yes, this proposal was written after a community comment forum with local hunters and wildlife stakeholders.

PROPOSED BY: Joshua Volland (OI-F25-007)
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PROPOSAL 98

5 AAC 92.540. Controlled use areas.

Clarify the types of roads motorized vehicles are allowed to drive within the Lower Kenai Controlled Use Area of Unit 15C during the moose season, and exclude the south side of Kachemak Bay as follows:

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

Change the wording in the AAC as follows to reflect improved language regarding roads, and the exclusion of the south side Kachemak Bay communities.

5 AAC 92.540

(4) Unit 15

(B) The Lower Kenai Controlled Use Area

(i) the area consists of Unit 15(C) **north of Kachemak Bay, Kachemak Creek, Bradley River, and Bradley Lake;**

(ii) the area is closed to the use of any motorized vehicle except an aircraft or boat for moose hunting, including the transportation of moose hunters, their hunting gear, or parts of moose from September 16 through September 19 and September 22 through September 25; however this provision does not apply to the use of a motorized vehicle on **platted and improved (graveled, asphalted, or paved) borough, state, or municipal roads** [A HIGHWAY MAINTAINED BY THE STATE OR BOROUGH OR ON THE GRAVEL PORTIONS OF OILWELL, BRODY, AND TUSTUMENA LAKE ROADS] or a driveway used for direct access to a primary residence or business.

(iii) during the periods specified in (ii) of this subparagraph, a moose hunter who travels off that highway system in that motorized vehicle may not hunt moose, including transporting moose hunters, their hunting gear, or parts of moose, or in any other manner initiate or participate in moose hunting activities, until after the hunter returns the motorized vehicle to the Unit 15(C) highway system; upon returning the motorized vehicle to that highway system, the hunter may initiate or participate in legal moose hunting activities so long as the hunter leaves the motorized vehicle on the Unit 15(C) highway system.

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

The current wording for the motorized vehicle closure in Unit 15C during moose hunting season is unclear and does not take into consideration the development of new roads over time. The wording is difficult for hunters to interpret and causes confusion with enforcement. In recent years, hunters have been cited while trying to act within the intentions of the regulation. Wording for the regulation needs to take into account the development of new roads, so that continued rewriting is not needed as development continues on the Peninsula. Additionally, this regulation was never intended to be applied to the south side of Kachemak Bay in the communities of Seldovia, Nanwalek, or Port Graham but as written currently applies in these communities as well, and were it to be enforced as written, restricts access for the Tier II subsistence moose hunt in Unit 15C.

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

This proposal was developed by the Homer AC in consultation with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Alaska Wildlife Troopers, and members of the communities of Homer and Seldovia. Two public meetings focused on this topic were held in Homer and one in Seldovia to receive input from the local communities. All were popular and filled the rooms, indicating great public interest.

PROPOSED BY: Homer Fish and Game Advisory Committee (OI-F25-046)
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PROPOSAL 99

5 AAC 92.540(4)(B). Controlled use areas.

Allow motorized vehicles to hunt moose in the area south of Kachemak Bay and south of Fox River within the Lower Kenai Controlled Use Area in Unit 15C as follows:

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

5 AAC 92.540. Controlled use areas. "(i) the area consists of Unit 15(C): (ii) the area is closed to the use of any motorized vehicle except and aircraft or boat for moose hunting, including the transportation of moose hunters, their hunting gear, or parts of moose from September 16 through September 19 and September 22 through September 25; however this provision does not apply to the use of a motorized vehicle on a highway maintained by the state or borough or on the gravel portions of Oilwell, Brody, and Tustumena Lake Roads or a driveway used for direct access to a primary residence or business, **and the area south of Kachemak Bay and south of Fox River**. (iii) during the periods specified in (ii) of this subparagraph, a hunter who travels off that highway system in that motorized vehicle may not hunt moose, including transporting moose hunters, their hunting gear, or parts of moose, or in any other manner initiate or participate in moose hunting activities, until after the hunter returns the motorized vehicle to the Unit 15(C) highway system; upon returning the motorized vehicle to that highway system, the hunter may initiate or participate in legal moose hunting activities so long as the hunter leaves the motorized vehicle on the Unit 15(C) highway system"

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

This regulation has been in effect for many years without many who live on the south side of Kachemak Bay knowing. It has always been common practice to drive a vehicle or ATV to where you start your hunt. This proposal removes the south side of Kachemak Bay from this regulation and allows the communities to continue to harvest as they have for centuries.

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

The local advisory committee agreed upon and put this proposal together. The AC worked with a local ADF&G wildlife biologist to learn more about the issue and develop the proposed wording.

PROPOSED BY: Seldovia Fish and Game Advisory Committee (OI-F25-169)
****

PROPOSAL 100

5 AAC 92.540. Controlled use areas.

Adjust the Kenai Controlled Use Area in Unit 15C to exclude the south side of Kachmak Bay. Additionally, clarify the types of roads motorized vehicles are allowed to be utilized during the moose season; restrict the use of motorized vehicles for all big game hunting; and restrict the use of aircraft to spot game as follows:

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

5 AAC 92.540. Controlled use areas.

...

(4) Unit 15

…

(B) The lower Kenai Controlled Use Area

(i)the area consists of Unit 15(C) **north of Kachemak Bay, Kachemak Creek, Bradley River, and Bradley Lake;**

(ii) the area is closed to the use of any motorized vehicle except a boat for **big game** hunting, including the transportation of hunters, their hunting gear, or parts of **big game** from September 16 through September 19 and September 22 through September 25; **an aircraft may not be used to spot game in this area during the period,** however this provision does not apply to the use of a motorized vehicle on **platted and improved (graveled, asphalted, or paved) borough, state, or municipal roads.**

(iii) during the periods specified in (ii) of this subparagraph, a **big game** hunter who travels off that highway system in that motorized vehicle may not hunt, including transporting hunters, their hunting gear, or parts of **big game,** or in any other manner initiate or participate in **big game** hunting activities, until after the hunter returns the motorized vehicle to the Unit 15(C) highway system; upon returning the motorized vehicle to that highway system, the hunter may initiate or participate in legal **big game** hunting activities so long as the hunter leaves the motorized vehicle on the Unit 15(C) highway system.

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

The current regulations for the non motorized dates of moose hunting in Unit 15C of September 16-19 and September 22-25 has several areas that are being exploited. Hunters are utilizing the excuse of bear hunting during these periods to travel in this area during the non motorized period. I believe restricting the use of motorized vehicles for all big game hunting during this period would make it easier for the enforcement of the regulation. Another aspect of this period is the use of aircraft to spot moose during the closure. On several occasions I have had aircraft circle over an area I was hunting during this period. The language to include no aircraft may be used to spot or locate big game in the lower Kenai Controlled Use Area during this period would help truly make it a non motorized hunt that the regulation intends to achieve. The new language proposed by the

Homer AC defining roads and removing the south side of Kachemak Bay are also a great improvement to this regulation.

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

This proposal was developed in consultation with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Alaska Wildlife Troopers, and members of the communities of Homer and Seldovia. Two public meetings focused on this topic were held in Homer and one in Seldovia to receive input from the local communities. The Homer Advisory Committee did not fully support this proposal, instead they adopted a version only better defining the roads and removing the restrictions from the south side of Kachemak Bay.

PROPOSED BY: Dan Miotke (OI-F25-061)
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PROPOSAL 101

5 AAC 92.540. Controlled use areas.

Allow motorized vehicles to hunt moose in the Lower Kenai Controlled Use Area in Unit 15C as follows:

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

No restrictions on motor vehicle use, other than those already adopted for all other hunting activities. This includes both public and private land.

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

I would like to see the restriction on the use of motorized vehicles during the last two weeks of moose season lifted. I have not found any such restrictions in any other part of the state. It basically closes off access to land for most people. It definitely closes hunting for the older hunters or those who can't walk far during the best part of the season. Not even landowners or those with access to private ground can drive a motor vehicle or atv as transport so packing an animal out very far from a legal jump off point restricts, severely, the options available for going afield for moose. Again the disabled and aged can't go out to hunt because they can't retrieve the animal if they were successful.

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

I have talked to numerous individuals with some hunting public ground and some on private ground. I've talked to wildlife troopers also and none, so far, can explain this restriction especially on private lands. No one seems to know why this was ever put in place or why it restricts such access on the last two weeks of the season, arguably the best time to get out.

PROPOSED BY: Don Bumbalough (OI-F25-026)
****

PROPOSAL 102

5 AAC 92.540. Controlled use areas.

Remove the motorized vehicle restriction for hunting moose within the Lower Kenai Controlled Use Area in Unit 15C as follows:

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

I want to recommend that this restriction be removed in its entirety. Having hunted this area for several years I have observed that this restriction is no longer useful.

The new regulation would remain the same except for the removal of the non-motorized restriction language.

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

I would like to address the non-motorized restrictions in Unit 15 that occur during two separate periods during the last two weeks of moose season.

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

No

PROPOSED BY: Robert Mathis (OI-F25-013)
****

PROPOSAL 103

5 AAC 92.540. Controlled use areas.

Allow the use of motorized vehicles to hunt moose on the weekends only, after the first week of the season within the Lower Kenai Controlled Use Area in Unit 15C as follows:

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

Lower Kenai Controlled Use Area - Unit 15C is closed to anyone using motorized vehicle (except an aircraft or boat)for moose hunting, including the transportation of moose hunters, their gear, and/ or parts of moose, **after the first week in September after moose hunting is opened. Motorized vehicle usage will will not be allowed during the weekdays, motorized vehicle will be allowed on the weekends (Saturday & Sunday) through the open moose hunting season.** However, this does not apply to the use of a motorized vehicle on state or borough maintained highway or on graveled portions of Oil well, Brody and Tustumena Lake roads, or driveways used for direct access to primary residence or business.

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

The proposal I would like to submit is - that after the first week that moose hunting is open to the general hunt, to restrict the use of motorized vehicle, in Unit 15C to just weekend travel. Motorized vehicle usage to Saturday and Sunday only.

This proposal will give hunters the opportunity to get into the hunting area and establish their camps during the first week of hunting, and would afford the hunters time to hunt, and then on Saturday and Sunday to transport any meat that was harvested during the hunt.

There has been studies on the the damage to the terrain in Unit 15c (which is the head waters too many salmon streams). If we do not become proactive, about limiting the amount of motorized vehicle damage to the environment it could be possible that we lose access to this hunting area.

We have some game cameras and we see motorized vehicle all day, and throughout the night, even during times that it is closed to motorized vehicle.

This would also give hunters, quiet time.

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

PROPOSED BY: Arn Johnson (OI-F25-148)
****

PROPOSAL 104

5 AAC 92.540(4)(B). Controlled use areas.

Allow the use motorized vehicles for moose hunting from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. during September 16-19 and 22-25, in the Lower Kenai Controlled Use Area in Unit 15C as follows:

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

Unit 15C is closed to motorized vehicles (except for aircraft or boat) for moose hunting, including the transportation of moose hunters, their hunting gear, and/or parts of moose, from September 16-19 and 22-25. However this does not apply to the use of motorized vehicles in the night hours of 10 p.m. - 5 a.m. or use on borough maintained highway or gravel portions of Oilwell, Brody, and Tustumena lake roads or driveways uses for direct access to primary residence or business.

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

I'd like to address the motorized vehicle closure days for moose hunting in Unit 15C.

My proposal is, make it legal or allowable to use motorized vehicles from the hours of 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. on the days of September 16-19 and 22-25.

It will give the hunters that don't have a safe/permanent camp, access at night to their hunting areas. (Without disturbing those that choose to stay in camp for the full four days.)

Those that decide to stay at their permanent camps will have the luxury of transporting their meat back to camp from the kill site on those night hours.

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

I talked to local hunters that agreed to this proposal.

PROPOSED BY: Michael Basargin (OI-F25-012)
****

PROPOSAL 105

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

Close Dall sheep hunting on the Kenai Peninsula in Units 7 and 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 85.055 should be amended so as to delete those parts of 5 AAC 85.055 which provide for any hunting of Dall Sheep in Units 7 and 15.

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

The hunting of Dall Sheep on the Kenai Peninsula should be closed so that a sustainable population of Dall Sheep will be preserved on the Kenai Peninsula for future generations of Alaskans who wish to view these magnificent animals on the Kenai Peninsula. Department comments provided to the Board in 2023 indicated that the average harvest of Dall Sheep on the Kenai Peninsula, including Federal subsistence harvest, was six sheep per year and that the Round Mountain and Crescent Lake areas had not been open to harvest in recent years because of lack of legal rams. Department comments also indicated that the population of Dall Sheep on the Kenai Peninsula had declined by 80% since the l960's. Nevertheless, the Department authorized continued hunting of the remnant populations of Dall Sheep on the Kenai Peninsula justifying its recommendation on the theory that hunting regulated by full curl management negated any concerns that hunting and harvest might negatively impact sheep population levels. The Department's theory is only a theory and it has not worked to restore the populations of these animals. It is time to try something new, namely no hunting or harvest. Hunters disturb these animals by hunting them. Hunters take the largest and strongest rams from the population. Dall Sheep hunting is trophy hunting, and many more Alaskans treasure these animals for viewing than Alaskans who harvest these animals on the Kenai Peninsula.

When and only if the populations of Dall Sheep on the Kenai Peninsula recover to numbers similar to those seen historically, hunting could be authorized at future Board meetings. It's time to see if the elimination of hunting will have a positive effect.

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

No.

PROPOSED BY: Kneeland Taylor (OI-F25-055)
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PROPOSAL 106

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

Change the general season sheep hunts in Units 7 and 15 to registration hunts with hunt areas set by ADF&G as follows:

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

5 AAC 85.055

...

(4)

Remainder of Unit 7 and Unit 15

Resident Hunters:

1 ram with full-curl horn or larger, **per lifetime of a hunter,** by youth hunt **registration permit;** Aug. 1-Aug. 5

or

1 ram with full-curl horn or larger, **by registration permit only;** Aug. 10-Sept. 20

Nonresident Hunters:

1 ram with full-curl horn or larger, **per lifetime of a hunter, by** youth hunt registration permit; Aug. 1-Aug. 5

or

1 ram with full-curl horn or larger every 4 regulatory years, **by registration permit** only Aug. 10-Sept. 20

With registration permit boundaries to be set by ADF&G

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

Given the significant decline in the Kenai population of sheep, I believe it is critical to transition from a general harvest ticket hunt to a registration hunt system to better manage and protect the remaining animals. Historically, the maximum sheep count peaked at 2,191 in 1968; however, today the count has plummeted to just 351. Harvest data reflects this troubling trend: the average annual harvest has decreased from 31 sheep between 1985–2004, to 12 sheep from 2005–2014, and now only 7 sheep from 2015–2024. Despite increasingly restrictive regulations — evolving from a ¾ curl ram in 1960 to a full curl ram by 1989 — the population has continued to decline. Given these alarming numbers and the clear trajectory of population loss, a registration hunt structure would allow for tighter, more responsive management practices by allowing managers to close certain sub districts/subpopulations with low abundance, ensuring harvest levels are sustainable and aligned with conservation goals to better manage this population.

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

This proposal was developed with information ADF&G staff provided to the Homer Advisory Committee. The AC had other proposals that were being worked on and this did not make it on the agenda. I still think this is an important issue and should be considered by the board.

PROPOSED BY: Doug Mitke (OI-F25-166)
****

PROPOSAL 107

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

Change the Dall sheep hunts in Units 7 and 15 to drawing hunts with season dates of August 10-September 20 as follows:

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

Change Unit 7 and 15 to a draw only hunt unitwide for Dall sheep due to decades long declines with a season from August 10-September 20 until a unit wide survey and information and planning can be provided on the rehabilitation efforts from the recent forest fire and 1970 ADF&G Sheep cull.

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

Dall Sheep in Units 7 and 15 have some of the steepest declines in the Country. I ask the board to decrease hunting opportunities, request a region wide survey and get information on the effects of the 1970 ADF&G sheep culling that effectively removed large portions of sheep from several mountains and permanently changed the way sheep are surveyed on the Kenai.

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

PROPOSED BY: Caleb Martin (OI-F25-162)
****

PROPOSAL 108

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

Change all or some of the general season sheep hunts in Units 7 and 15 to archery only hunts as follows:

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

Unit 7 Remainder: **One ram** with full-curl horn or larger by **Bow and Arrow** *only

AND/OR

Unit 15* Remainder: **One ram** with full-curl horn or larger by **Bow and Arrow*** only

*This could also be done for any particular subunit of Unit 15

*Certified Bowhunters only

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

For many years the general season Unit 7 and 15 Remainder sheep harvest was around 20 rams per year but due to permanent and ever worsening habitat changes, the harvest, particularly in Unit 7 has been in the very low single digits. The Kenai sheep population is obviously in decline. Accordingly, hunter interest has generally dropped off as well with few hunters going into the Kenai Mountains each year because they know the chance of finding a legal ram there is quite low especially considering that some of the areas are relatively close to population centers and that rams will often be killed shortly after reaching legal status. Throughout the state various management strategies have been implemented when populations are in decline. In Unit 14 to the north, almost all sheep hunting has been reduced to draw permit only. In Unit 19C we've seen an array of closures proposed and passed in recent years. Sadly, it appears that more such regulation might be on the horizon for other parts of the state and the Kenai sheep population is likely to be one of those areas.

This proposal offers a novel strategy that could both revitalize interest in hunting these areas, maintaining the same hunter opportunity we have now while further reducing actual harvest through the utilization of a weapons restricted hunt. There is strong precedent for this in British Columbia and Alberta where registration/OTC archery only sheep hunts have proven very popular and sustainable. There is a growing interest in the challenge of archery hunting for sheep and I believe strongly that transitioning the sheep hunting in Units 7 and 15 remainder HT hunts to archery only there will be a revival in sheep hunting interest in these areas. After a few years of this management style it's likely that some mature rams who would not have survived a rifle season will grow older and larger, thereby even further increasing the interest and opportunity in this area.

There is essentially no downside to this proposal for sheep hunters because, unlike a draw hunt or a closure, everyone can still hunt every season. They just have to accept a little more challenge in the actual stalk once a legal ram is found (and it's likely that after a few years of this strategy there will be more legal rams on that landscape!)

Those who may claim that this hunt caters to a special interest group of bowhunters are simply wrong. Essentially any person physically capable of sheep hunting can easily learn to shoot a modern bow in just a little more time than it takes to become proficient with a hunting rifle. (For those with medical issues that prevent use of archery equipment the ADF&G regulations already contains provisions allowing them to hunt with alternative means.) No one would be excluded from this hunt and I believe ultimately it will garner attention from around the world as a place to pursue mature rams with archery equipment.

With an already greatly waning interest in hunting this area (single digit hunters have pursued the HT remainder hunt in Unit 15 remainder in recent years and the numbers hunting in Unit 7 remainder has decreased from well over a hundred 20 years ago to the 20's or 30's per year now) creating an exciting new hunt that fosters more mature ram and the challenge of a fair chase archery hunt could revitalize interest in the area during a time when sheep hunting is generally in decline while at the same time reducing the actual harvest. This is a win-win for everyone, especially the sheep.

Based on current surveys, Board of Game discretion and ADF&G input this could be implemented for all of the Units 7 and 15 remainder HT areas or it could be targeted at just one unit or subunit as a proof of concept.

In short, we should change all or some of the harvest ticket hunts in Units 7 and 15 to archery only to increase opportunity/enthusiasm while simultaneously deceasing actual harvest/population impact.

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

No

PROPOSED BY: Paul Forward (OI-F25-211)
****

PROPOSAL 109

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

Limit the nonresident permit allocation for the DS150 sheep drawing hunt in Units 7 and 15A. to 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 DS150 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 DS150.

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-F25-134)
****

PROPOSAL 110

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

Open a drawing permit hunt for goat in an area of Unit 7, east of the Russian River, south of Kenai River and West of Copper River as follows:

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

I would like to see an additional goat tag for the mountains east of the Russian River, south of the Kenai River, west of Cooper River.

One goat by permit, Aug. 10 – Oct. 15th.

Map shown below for mountain goats.

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

There is a population of goats within this mountain range that has no tag. I would like to see a draw tag for one goat for this area.

One goat by permit, Aug. 10–Oct, 15th.

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

No

PROPOSED BY: Brian Watkins (HQ-F25-004)
****

PROPOSAL 111

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

Create a new registration, archery only hunt for goat in Unit 7 Remainder as follows:

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

Create a new registration hunt for mountain goat by bow and arrow only in Unit 7, Remainder as follows:

Hunt Number: RGXXX

Season Dates: August 16 - 31

Hunt Type: Registration

Species: Mountain Goat

Legal Animal: Either sex, taking of nannies with kids is prohibited; however, if you harvest a nanny you will be prohibited from taking a goat in Units 7 and 15 for five regulatory years.

Open to: Residents and Nonresidents by bow and arrow only

Quota to be set based on latest population data and extrapolated to comparable local draw areas.

Sealing would be required at the local ADF&G office.

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

Allowing a short, early archery season for mountain goats would afford more hunting opportunity while at the same time limiting harvest. The nature of this being a registration hunt would alleviate any conservation concern as the department would be fully monitoring the take. The early Lake George goat hunt is a great example of an added opportunity limited to archery equipment.

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

Combined Board of the Alaskan Bowhunters Association

PROPOSED BY: Alaskan Bowhunters Association (OI-F25-203)
****

PROPOSAL 112

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

Create a registration archery only hunt for goat in Units 7 and 15, prior to general registration hunts as follows:

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

RG*** 1 goat by Bow and Arrow only, by permit available in Anchorage, Palmer or online

October 25-October 31 may be announced

Alternative date could be November 1-7 which would shift the general registration hunts to November 8-15.

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

I would like to see the Board of Game increase archery goat hunting opportunity by allowing for an archery registration hunt prior to the general registration hunt in situations where registration hunts following the draw hunts are deemed appropriate.

It's my understanding that if the harvest numbers in DG331-352, DG364, DG365 and DG352-363 are low enough in a given hunt area, corresponding RG hunt(s) will be opened. The DG hunts have an open season from August 10 through October 15 and the RG hunts, if opened, start November 1. The 15 day window between the DG and RG hunts likely allows ADF&G to receive hunt reports (10 day reporting requirement if successful).

This proposal supports creating a short archery-only registration goat hunt between the closure of the DG and the opening of any RG hunts that are deemed appropriate. This could be any time window that ADF&G feels is appropriate but November 1-7 might be a good option that would essentially split the existing registration hunt. Another option, if feasible would be to have it from October 25th until November 1.

Either way, this is similar to how the registration archery hunts in unit 14 precede the registration general hunt. This proposal would follow that precedent by increasing hunter opportunity. At the same time, based on very low archery success rates in existing registration hunts, these archery hunts are very unlikely to have any meaningful impact on goat populations or on the hunting opportunity of the following general season hunt.

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

No

PROPOSED BY: Paul Forward (OI-F25-210)
****

PROPOSAL 113

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

Limit the nonresident permit allocation for the Unit 7 goat drawing hunt DG332, 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 DG332 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 DG332.

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-F25-088)
****

PROPOSAL 114

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

Limit the nonresident permit allocation for the Unit 7 goat drawing hunt DG334 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 DG334 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 DG334.

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-F25-089)
****

PROPOSAL 115

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

Limit the nonresident permit allocation for the Unit 7 goat drawing hunt DG338, 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 DG338 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 DG338.

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-F25-090)
****

PROPOSAL 116

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

Limit the nonresident permit allocation for the Unit 7 goat drawing hunt DG339, 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 DG339 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 DG339.

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-F25-091)
****

PROPOSAL 117

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

Limit the nonresident permit allocation for the Unit 7 goat drawing hunt DG342 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 DG342 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 DG342.

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-F25-092)
****

PROPOSAL 118

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

Limit the nonresident permit allocation for the Unit 7 goat drawing hunt DG343 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 DG343 to UP TO 20% of the available permits. If at least give 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 DG343.

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-F25-093)
****

PROPOSAL 119

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

Limit the nonresident permit allocation for the Unit 7 goat drawing hunt DG344 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 DG344 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 DG344.

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-F25-094)
****

PROPOSAL 120

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

Limit the nonresident permit allocation for the Unit 7 goat drawing hunt DG345 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 DG345 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 DG345.

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-F25-095)
****

PROPOSAL 121

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

Limit the nonresident permit allocation for the Unit 7 goat drawing hunt DG346 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 DG346 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 DG346.

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-F25-096)
****

PROPOSAL 122

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

Limit the nonresident permit allocation for the Unit 7 goat drawing hunt DG347 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 DG347 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 DG347.

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-F25-097)
****

PROPOSAL 123

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

Limit the nonresident permit allocation for the Unit 7 goat drawing hunt DG351 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 DG351 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 DG351.

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-F25-098)
****

PROPOSAL 124

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

Limit the nonresident permit allocation for the Unit 7 goat drawing hunt DG352 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 DG352 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 DG352.

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-F25-099)
****

PROPOSAL 125

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

Limit the nonresident permit allocation for the Unit 15C goat drawing hunt DG354, 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 DG354 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 DG354.

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-F25-111)
****

PROPOSAL 126

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

Limit the nonresident permit allocation for the Unit 15C goat drawing hunt DG356, 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 DG356 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 DG356.

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-F25-112)
****

PROPOSAL 127

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

Limit the nonresident permit allocation for the Unit 15C goat drawing hunt DG357, 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 DG357 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 DG357.

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-F25-113)
****

PROPOSAL 128

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

Limit the nonresident permit allocation for the Unit 15C goat drawing hunt DG358, 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 DG358 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 DG358.

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-F25-114)
****

PROPOSAL 129

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

Limit nonresident permit allocation for the Unit 15C goat drawing hunt DG359, 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 DG359 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 DG359.

There is currently no cap on how many tags may be drawn by no-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-F25-115)
****

PROPOSAL 130

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

Limit the nonresident permit allocation for the Unit 15C goat drawing hunt DG360, 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 DG360 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 DG360.

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-F25-116)
****

PROPOSAL 131

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

Limit the nonresident permit allocation for the Unit 15C goat drawing hunt DG361, 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 DG361 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 DG361.

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-F25-117)
****

PROPOSAL 132

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

Limit the nonresident permit allocation for the Unit 15C goat drawing hunt DG362, 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 DG362 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 DG362.

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-F25-118)
****

PROPOSAL 133

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

Limit the nonresident permit allocation for the Unit 15C goat drawing hunt DG363, 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 DG363 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 DG363.

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-F25-119)
****

PROPOSAL 134

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

Shorten the resident hunting season, reduce the bag limit from three to one, and require registration permits for hunting black bear in a portion of Units 7 and 15. Additionally, close the nonresident season as follows:

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

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

(a) In this section, the phrase "General hunt only" means that there is a general hunt for residents, but no subsistence hunt, during the relevant open season. For those units or portions of units within non-subsistence areas established by the Joint Boards of Fisheries and Game (5 AAC 99.015), there is a general hunt only. Hunting seasons and bag limits for black bear are as follows:

Units and Bag Limits

Resident

Open Season

(Subsistence and

General Hunts)

Nonresident

Open Season

(3) Unit 7, that portion south of the city limits of Seward at 60° 04' 58" N. lat., and Unit 15, that portion south of Kachemak Creek, Bradley River, and Bradley

RESIDENT HUNTERS: **1 bear by drawing permit only; up to 500 permits may be issued**

Sept. 1 - June 30 [3 bears No closed season.]

(General Hunt Only) NONRESIDENT HUNTER: **No open season** [1 bear No closed season.]

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

Nonresident and some resident hunters have been coming from outside of the Unit 15C south of Kachemak Bay area, trespassing on private land, Native Allotment land, and Village Corporation land to hunt for black bears. An excessive amount of black bears are taken every year by nonresidents and residents that live outside of the area. There is an adequate black bear population to hunt in the Kenai Peninsula in Units 15 and 7 outside of hunt in Unit 15C south of Bradley River, Bradley Lake, and Kachemak Creek. The hunt should be reserved for residents only, and the hunt should be reduced to one bear every regulatory year by permit. Resident hunters usually harvest one bear a year and see that as an adequate hunt, and the proposal will reflect that.

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

This proposal was developed with the Chugach Regional Resources Commission (CRRC).

PROPOSED BY: Quentin McMullen (OI-F25-154)
****

PROPOSAL 135

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

Board of Game Finding #2015-211-BOG: Recommendation to ADF&G Provided duirng the Southcentral Region meeting.

Change the 2015 Board of Game findings to manage the mortality cap in Units 7 and 15 from a calendar year to a regulatory year or split the mortality cap into spring and fall caps as follows.

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

Change the RB300 brown bear registration hunt to a regulatory year framework.

The 2015-211-BOG Finding (below) directs the Department to manage the RB300 brown bear hunt and mortality caps on a calendar year framework. With the extension of the spring brown bear baiting season, this likely guarantees that the season will close by emergency order prior to June 30th, as it did last year, resulting in a complete loss of fall season hunting opportunity.

Changing the RB300 hunt to a regulatory year framework would start us off on July 1st every year in which mortality caps come into play. This ensures a fall season will take place.

The spring season will likely still be closed by emergency order at some point if the season remains the same due to mortality caps being reached, but moving to a regulatory year framework allows hunting opportunity for both the spring and fall seasons.

We considered recommending shortening the spring season to end on June 15th but believe this is a better option than shortening the spring season as it may allow the spring season to continue beyond June 15th.

Based on discussions with Department biologists, we do not support increasing the mortality caps.

Recommended changes to the Findings for the Alaska Board of Game

New Text **underlined** [DELETED TEXT BRACKETED]

2015-211-BOG

The Board of Game finds as follows, based on information provided by Department staff, Alaska

residents and other wildlife users:

The Board recommended the Department take the following management action:

Establish a maximum human-caused mortality quota of no more than 50-60 brown

bears, with no more than 8-12 of these adult (at least 5 years old) sows, [PER CALENDAR YEAR] **per regulatory year** beginning after January 1, 2015, for Units 7 and 15.

Other Options

Another option the board could consider is breaking up the mortality caps into separate spring and fall season caps. For example: the spring season could close by EO if eight sows are taken, to include both hunting caused mortality and non-hunting mortality. That leaves four sows left on the cap for the fall season. The total bear harvest cap could also be similarly separated out.

Unit 7 and 15 could also have separate mortality caps.

Again, the primary goal of this proposal is to ensure there is some guaranteed fall brown bear hunting opportunity.

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

Loss of fall RB300 brown bear hunting opportunity in Units 7 and 15.

At the previous 2023 Region II meeting, the board passed Proposal 134, which extended the RB300 brown bear spring season 30 days and opened the fall season 20 days earlier. The RB300 brown bear season is currently August 10 – June 30.

These are the Department's comments on Proposal 134: *"The proposed increased season length, which will allow hunters to harvest brown bears over bait, will likely increase spring brown bear harvest and adult female harvest based on previous harvest trends. This additional harvest in the spring will likely result in seasons closing by Emergency Order when mortality caps are reached, which will reduce fall harvest opportunities."*

The extension of the spring baiting season by 30 days led to exactly what the Department said in their comments would likely happen: brown bear harvests overall increased and the sow mortality cap was reached, resulting in the RB300 hunt being closed by emergency order on June 27, 2024. While the spring 2025 harvest is yet unknown, it seems likely the longer RB300 spring season will continue to result in an emergency order to close the hunt down due to either reaching the maximum human caused mortality of brown bears or the maximum human caused mortality of sows.

Below is a chart from ADF&G showing the hunting mortality and non-hunting human caused mortality of all brown bears in Units 7 & 15 for calendar years 2023 and 2024:

Table 1. Annual occurrences of known human-caused mortalities of brown bears in Game Management Units 7 & 15 in Alaska.

Calendar Year	Hunting Mortality	Non-Hunting Human Caused Mortality	Total
2023	41	7	48
2024	56	9	65

As you can see, more bears overall were taken by hunting after the season was extended in 2023.

The next chart below includes only sows, showing that more sows were taken by hunting after the season was extended in 2023.

Table 2. Annual occurrences of known human-caused mortalities of adult female brown bears in Game Management Units 7 & 15 in Alaska.

Calendar Year	Hunting Mortality	Non-Hunting Human Caused Mortality	Total
2023	7	3	10
2024	10	4	14

The next chart below shows sow hunting harvest dates in Units 7 and 15 for the 2024 spring season, showing that 60% of the sow harvest occurred during the June extension of the spring season:

Table 3. Date of Kill and bait usage of adult female brown bears harvested in Game Managemer Units 7 & 15 in Alaska.

DOK	Bait
5/9/2024	Y
5/13/2024	N
5/16/2024	Y
5/23/2024	Y
6/15/2024	Y
6/17/2024	Y
6/21/2024	Y
6/21/2024	Y
6/24/2024	Y
6/25/2024	N

The goal of this proposal is to ensure that there is an opportunity to harvest a brown bear under the RB300 registration hunt during the fall season in Units 7 and 15.

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

RHAK always contacts department biologists when working on proposals. Thanks to department staff for answering questions and providing harvest information!

PROPOSED BY: Resident Hunters of Alaska (OI-F25-186)
****

PROPOSAL 136

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

Change the management of the RB300 brown bear mortality cap in Units 7 and 15 from a calendar year to a regulatory year as follows:

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

"In Units 15 and 7 change the management year for brown bear from the calendar year to the regulatory year."

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

The current management year for brown bears in Units 7 and 15 is the calendar year, whereas all other big game is managed by regulatory year.

Changing the management plan to regulatory year would simplify the regulations and improve predictability of open season for hunters hoping to harvest brown bears during moose season in the fall.

This should be considered as housekeeping.

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

Discussed with regional area biologist.

PROPOSED BY: Dave Lyon (OI-F25-185)
****

PROPOSAL 137

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

Remove the current harvest cap for the RB300 hunt in Units 7 and 15 as follows:

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

Remove the current quota on Kenai bears unless there is conservation concern.

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

Currently, there is no conservation concern with Kenai brown bears and the majority of the bears are in hard to reach and in accessible or unhuntable places by federal regulation. Survey data shows the large majority of Kenai bears are in Unit 15B and only accessed by two major lakes, covered by federal management and restrictions to access. Over regulation of this hunt is limiting opportunity when no unit-wide survey having been done in over a decade. Even the previous surveys were done on the protected refuge after two plus months of baiting was done out of the area leading to a lower population survey. Hunters can currently hunt a very low portion of the bear habitat on the Kenai and a fraction of the area can be hunted over bait. The point being now matter how many bears are taken in huntable areas, hunters with currently federap regulations couldn't hunt out the Kenai bear.

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

PROPOSED BY: Caleb Martin (OI-F25-161)
****

PROPOSAL 138

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

Reduce the brown bear hunting season in Units 7 and 15 by 15 days as follows:

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

Units 7 and 15 One bear every regulatory year by RB300 permit.

Resident and Nonresident season: August 10 to **June 15** [June 30]

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

Reduce the season length for brown bear hunting by 15 days.

When Board of Game adopted a proposal to extend brown bear hunting season from Septenber 1 through May 31st to August 10th to June 30th in Units 7 and 15, some hunters and biologists believed the longer spring season would result in exceeding the quota and a closure of the fall season. Since this extended season has only been in place since RY24, only one year of complete is available. Fish and Game data reveals 10 females, five years old or older, were reported during spring of 2024. Chronology of harvest indicates five were taken from May 9th to June 15th (50%) and five from June 17th to June 25th (50%).

Allowable harvest of brown bear in Units 7 and 15 is managed on a quota system to assure a sustainable level of annual harvest is not exceeded. Fifty to sixty brown bear can be taken, from all causes of mortality, or 8-12 females five years old or older. Prior to the extended season, that has been in place since 2014, the season has only been closed one time by the state in late October, after fall hunting was essentially over. Following the harvest of 10 adult females during the spring 2024 season plus four non-hunting adult female mortalities, the 2024 fall season was closed in Units 7 and 15 because the 14 adult females taken exceeded the quota of 8-12.

Since few brown bear are taken during the fall, a reduction of 15 days in June will likely reduce adult female harvest and allow for a fall season. After last fall's closure, there was widespread complaining, primarily from moose hunters, that they could not hunt for brown bear. This sentiment added to the conflict between bear hunters using bait sites and those that didn't use the method.

If adopted, this will be a reduction in hunting opportunity by 15 days in the spring. However, it will still allow two months of hunting using bait in the spring and hopefully avoid the closure of the fall season.

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

Yes with many local hunters.

PROPOSED BY: Ted Spraker (OI-F25-031)
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PROPOSAL 139

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

Shorten the brown bear hunting seasons in Units 7 and 15, and divide the RB300 hunt into spring and fall hunts, with each having separate caps as follows:

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

I suggest to provide for both fall and spring opportunities. We reset the dates to October 1 which was originally used to prevent incidental take during moose season and a spring date of June 15. Then break RB300 into two separate hunts including a RB301 hunt for Unit 7. Then each having their own quota of 10 breeding age sows in a calendar which includes DLP and roadside incidents.

I would support the board using discretion on a change on the quota numbers here based on recent department data, but only if it doesn't decrease below 10 for both units

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

RB300 brown bear hunt. In 2024, the hunt closed just a few days early in the spring and closed entirely for the fall. This was due to the sow limit of ten bears based on data that is over 15 years old.

The problem with this hunt is that one quota is used for two entire game units and the survey data used did not include the majority of the areas currently baited but rather in the refuge areas, this survey also was done after bears were baited out of the area for the three previous months at a time when food sources were low. We are currently treating two entire game units as one population of animals, when the bears of the Hope and Girdwood are not traveling to Homer. The best bear habitat on the Kenai is around Russian River to Tustamena and a large part of this area is inaccessible or very difficult to spot and stalk. Which is why 80 percent of the baits in the State are in these units.

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

I have spoken with many hunters, biologists and subject matter experts on this.

PROPOSED BY: Caleb Martin (OI-F25-004)
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PROPOSAL 140

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

Restrict hunters who take a sow brown bear in Units 7 and 15 from hunting RB300 for two to four years as follows:

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

My solution to the harvest of sow brown bears in Uunits 7 and 15 would be to make whoever harvest a brown bear sow ineligible to register for the RB300 tag for two – four years

This would perhaps make it like mountain goats where very minor consequence for failing to ID bear but enough to catch people attention and might make people be more picky and target male bears thus making our seasons stay open longer with the lower number of sows getting shot overall.

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

The harvesting of to many sow brown bears on the peninsula and closure of seasons due to going over the quota of sows

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

I'm a new guide myself but have hunting this area for a few years now but after listening and experiencing season closures seeing people not care about identifying bears or just not knowing there's a quota on sows I and others I've talked to feel that we either need to get rid of the quotas all together or as get people to pay attention alittle more so our season may be open longer for everyone.

PROPOSED BY: Garrett Becker (OI-F25-063)
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PROPOSAL 141

5 AAC 84.270. Furbearer trapping.

When the lynx trapping season is open in Units 7 and 15, season dates will be December 15 through the last day of February as follows:

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

Change the wording/add language in 5 AAC 84.270 (5) as follows: (Bold text is addition)

5 AAC 84.270 (5) Lynx; Units 7 and 15: **Dec 15** [NOV 10] through the last day of February, Season may be closed by Emergency Order, **Season dates shall not change by Emergency Order**

Other possible solutions: Other dates giving a longer season, such as Dec. 1- end Feb., or Jan. 1- March 15.

If the Board of Game is unwilling to add the bolded text, perhaps consider directing the Department to offer a longer season.

Another idea would involve a seasonal limit per trapper in conjunction with longer season.

This change will provide fair opportunity for Unit 7 and 15 trappers, and provide a little breathing room to just pull traps during poor weather weeks and re-set when conditions improve, without having to rush around during the current six week season, shortened by EO annually. We will be better able to closely follow the Trappers Code of Ethics with regard to proper humane methods, loss prevention, fur care, concentrating in abundant areas only (cant see tracks on ice crust or rain wash), all promoting sound management and good ethics.

Thank you for your service and thoughtful consideration of this proposal.

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

I'd like to address the limited opportunity for lynx trapping in Units 7 and 15. The regulation booklet states the season runs from January 1 through February 15, which has been done by Emergency Order (EO) annually for 20 plus years. The codified language reads differently: 5 AAC 84.270 states November 10 - end February, unless closed by EO. It seems the Department is using this EO authority to shorten the season every year, even during high abundance. This gives only a six week season for trapping lynx in Units 7 and 15. Most of the state offers a several month season, even in Southeast where lynx are scarce.

Hares and lynx are both plentiful in cycle on the Kenai Peninsula. Lynx trapping involves many miles of travel and much distance between sets as they are solitary animals. The Kenai Peninsula is subject to extended freeze/thaw and heavy snow/rain cycles, making it difficult to maintain viable sets and to keep checking in a timely fashion in these typical weather conditions. Most trappers in this area are, while numerous, are casual in nature or "hobby trappers." Lynx fur primes up here in early December and remains good through early March.

It is noted that the lynx- hare cycle is the most cited and reliable predator- prey cycle in nature. I fully support the season closure during a few years of low abundance at the bottom of the lynx population cycle, but I'd like to see more opportunity when plentiful, like the rest of the state.

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

To address these two problems of minimal opportunity and annual management by EO, I offer the the solution which has been vetted extensively with the Homer Advisory Committee, local trappers, and ADF&G, along with some alternative ideas.

PROPOSED BY: Douglas Malone (OI-F25-190)
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PROPOSAL 142

5 AAC 84.270 (5). Furbearer trapping.

5 AAC 85.060. Seasons and bag limits for fur animals.

Lengthen the trapping and hunting seasons for lynx in Units 15 and 7 as follows:

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

5 AAC 84.270 (5) Lynx. Trapping and Hunting seasons for Lynx

Lengthen season for trapping and hunting lynx in Unit 15 and 7 as follows:

December 15 [JANUARY 1] through February 15.

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

Currently lynx trapping seasons in Units 7 and15 are January 1-February 15 opened by emergency order. The season is managed to coincide with the snowshoe hare cycle only opened in times of abundance. The current season is very restrictive compared to the rest of the state. With the season closed in times of low abundance over-harvest of the resource is not a concern. In times of abundance the management strategy is to harvest from the larger population, with this strategy a slightly lengthen season would optimize sustained yield practices. With time getting gear in the field and sometimes harsh weather conditions some sets only operate for 2-3 weeks. I propose a December 15- February 15 trapping season for lynx in times of abundance. It would allow a greater utilization of the resource in times of significant spikes in lynx numbers.

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

Spoke with other trappers and wildlife biologists about the proposed changes.

PROPOSED BY: Tom Nelson (OI-F25-062)
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PROPOSAL 143

5 AAC 84.270(5). Furbearer trapping.

Lengthen the trapping season for lynx in Units 7 and 15 as follows:

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

Lynx Trapping Units 7 and 15

Open Season: December 1st - February 15th

Limit: No Limit

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

Lynx trapping season is currently out of alignment with wolf and coyote trapping seasons in Units 7 and 15. Lynx caught incidentally in wolf and coyote sets prior to season opening need to be turned over to the state. I'm hesitant to set traps for wolf and coyote prior to lynx season opening to avoid incidental take of lynx. I feel this is a handicap. I also feel it should be up to the trapper to determine when they would like to start targeting lynx based on pelt primness. Southeast Units currently open December 1st and I do not believe lynx in that area become prime prior to those on the Kenai Peninsula. I believe lynx are being caught prior to the season and not being reported. The agency would get more information on harvested cats if the season was open earlier.

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

PROPOSED BY: John and Debbie Dahman (OI-F25-015)
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PROPOSAL 144

5 AAC 84.270. Furbearer trapping.

Lengthen the trapping season for lynx in Units 7 and 15 to align with Units 6 and 14C as follows:

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

Lynx Units 7 and 15.....Nov 10 - Feb 28th .....No limit

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

Increase season dates for lynx to in Unit 7 and 15 to match Units 6 and 14C, Nov. 10 – Feb. 28th.

The trapping data for reported harvest shows increased harvest, which indicates increase population: Region 2: 2018- 15, 2019- 15, 2020- 49, 2021- 141, 2022- 233, 2023- 250

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

With an increase in Lynx numbers on the kenai, please increase the trapping dates to be more liberal.

PROPOSED BY: Brian Watkins (HQ-F25-006)
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PROPOSAL 145

5 AAC 92.550. Areas closed to trapping.

Establish trapping and snaring buffers along specific roads and pullouts in and around Cooper Landing in Unit 7 as follows:

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

ADD Regulatory Language for Unit 7: "Trap and snare setback of 100-yards on both sides of roads and all sides of pullouts listed, unless the traps are elevated three feet above ground or snow level, enclosed, underwater, or under ice. Trapping would still be permitted on the below-listed roads and pull-outs if they are elevated three feet above ground or snow level, enclosed, underwater, or under ice. All other forms of lawful trapping would also still be allowed near the below-listed roads and pullouts, provided they are placed farther than 100-yards from the trail.

- Quartz Creek Road - Quartz Creek Road from its intersection with the Sterling Highway to the powerline crossing at approximately mile 2.5
- Quartz Creek Road - From powerline crossing to Crescent Creek Trailhead at mile 3.5 (used in winter for skiing)
- East Quartz Creek and Williams Road - Entire East Quartz Creek Road from its intersection with Quartz Creek Road and Williams Road
- Old Sterling Highway (unmaintained portion of Quartz Creek Road) - Old Sterling Highway from the Crescent Creek Trailhead to Tern Lake Rest and Picnic area
- Snug Harbor Road - The first 2.8 miles of Snug Harbor Road from its intersection with the Sterling Highway to the entrance of the Chugach Electric Power Station

- Bean Creek Road - The entire distance from the Sterling Highway to the end.
- West Juneau Bench Road/Chunkwood Rd - Pullout at mile 53.25 Sterling Highway to its intersection with Resurrection Trail.
- All DOT designated vehicle pullouts along 18 miles of the Sterling Highway, from Tern Lake to the Russian River Ferry and Boat Launch

The precedent for establishing trapping and snaring buffers for public safety along multi-use trails in the State of Alaska has already been set, most recently, in the Mat-Su Valley, where 50-yard setbacks were established for nine trails that both recreational users and the ATA mutually agreed on. The Alaska Supreme Court upheld Valdez's trapping ordinance, confirming the city's authority to regulate trapping within home rule municipality for safety reasons. In 2023, Cordova created a special use map that closed trapping in part of the municipality and created trap setbacks of 200 yards from publicly maintained roads for traps larger than a 120 conibear, and a 200-yard setback for a popular trail. Juneau has trap setbacks of 1/4 mile. The Municipality of Anchorage, parts of Chugach State Park, and other areas in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough have existing trap setback laws. While these municipalities and boroughs have approved trapping regulations on lands they manage, they have not issued regulations for state- managed trails in deference to the regulatory powers of the Board of Game. We are requesting the Board of Game to modify this situation in our area.

Unit	Road or Pullout Name:	Description	Winter Uses
7	Quartz Creek Road	Quartz Creek Road from its intersection with the Sterling Highway to the powerline crossing at approximately mile 2.5. Borough maintained.	Walking, hiking, fat tire biking
7	Quartz Creek Road	From powerline crossing to Crescent Creek Trailhead at mile 3.5; winter groomed by Cooper Landing Nordic Ski Club	Cross-country skiing, skijoring, snowshoeing, hiking, fat tire biking, and access to backcountry skiing
7	East Quartz Creek and Williams Road	Entire East Quartz Creek Road from its intersection with Quartz Creek Road and Williams Road	Walking, hiking, fat tire biking,

7	Old Sterling Highway (unmaintained portion of Quartz Creek Road)	Old Sterling Highway from the Crescent Creek Trailhead to Tern Lake Rest and Picnic area	Cross-country skiing, access to backcountry skiing, snowshoeing, hiking, skijoring, snowmachining
7	Snug Harbor Road	The first 2.8 miles of Snug Harbor Road from its intersection with the Sterling Highway to the entrance of the Chugach Electric Power Station	Walking, hiking, fat tire biking
7	Bean Creek Road	The entire distance. This road is mainly surrounded by private property, but traps can be set unless posted.	Walking, hiking, fat tire biking
7	Russian Gap Road	The entire distance. This road is mainly surrounded by private property, but traps can be set unless posted.	Walking, hiking, and fat-tire biking
7	All DOT designated vehicle pullouts along 18 miles of the Sterling Highway	Pullouts along the Sterling Highway from its junction with the Seward Highway at Tern Lake to the entrance of the Russian River Ferry and Boat Launch	People use these pullouts to let their animals and children take bathroom breaks, stretch their legs, take in the views, and gear up for backcountry activities
7	West Juneau Bench Road/Chunkwood Rd. USGS Maps Seward B8, C8 and D8	From the Sterling Highway pullout at mile 53.25 just west of the southern Resurrection Trail trailhead, continuing to its intersection with the Resurrection Trail.	Skiing, snowshoeing, skijoring, fat tire biking, snowmachining walking, new access to parcel 395, cabin access

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

We are requesting that the Board of Game amend Alaska Administrative Code No. 5 AAC 92.550 to establish a 100-yard trapping and buffers along both sides of roads and all sides of pullouts listed and described in the table provided, unless they are elevated three feet above ground or snow level, enclosed, underwater, or under ice. Trapping would still be permitted on the below-listed areas if they are elevated three feet above ground or snow level, enclosed, underwater, or under

ice. All other forms of lawful trapping would also still be allowed near the below-listed areas, provided they are placed farther than 100-yards from the roads or pullouts.

The purpose of this proposal is to create a solution to the growing conflict between recreational land use and trapping in a manner that protects the safety of individuals, families, and pets when using the most popular roads and pullouts in the Cooper Landing area. Reports of dangerous encounters are considered incomplete because land managers and law enforcement do not track trap injury incidents, and there is no database for community documentation. As of late February 2022, seven dogs had been caught in traps throughout Southcentral Alaska, and two dogs were killed, as reported via the Alaska Press. Bird dogs are typically well-behaved and respond to strict voice commands. However, there was a fatality where a trap had been placed 50 feet from the road. Search and rescue dog owners have expressed concerns about the safety of their dogs during emergency missions. Incidents of abandoned or "ghost traps" found at the Russian River Falls Trailhead and Williams Beach increase the community's fear of risk.

Why should this regulation be amended?

The District Ranger for the Chugach National Forest supports proposals for regulatory measures of 100- yard setbacks and trapline signage. It is the intention of the NFS to allow all user groups to utilize multi- use public lands safely, and to balance the opportunities for all. *See attachment*

The community of Cooper Landing supports trap and snare setbacks to create a safe buffer in and around popular areas utilized for winter recreation. A 2021 survey by the Cooper Landing Safe Trails Committee resulted in 90% support for trap setbacks. Many respondents requested setbacks of ¼ to 1 mile. This was an increase from 83% in 2015, which favored setbacks from a similar survey. Many commented on the emotional stress and fear when taking their families, children and pets to favorite recreational places due to the danger of encountering a trap. This safety concern grows as Cooper Landing residents' demographics change to a younger, more outdoor enthusiast-oriented population.

This proposal targets several roads and pullouts in our area used by those who cross-country ski, snowshoe, hike, fat tire bike, skijor, snow machine, and train search-and-rescue dogs. Year-round outdoor recreation is a significant and growing segment of Cooper Landing's economy. Cooper Landing's primary economy is based on summer recreation and tourism; however, year-round recreational activity is expected to increase with the anticipated bypass highway completion and the addition of Three Bears grocery store in the future. Local businesses desire to extend their seasonal offerings to encourage the increasing number of family- friendly, active, outdoor recreational pursuits (e.g. winter biking, cross-country skiing, backcountry skiing, snowshoeing, trail running, ice fishing, bird hunting, and backcountry cabin rentals). The proposed trapping setback benefits business owners who market Cooper Landing as a fun, safe, and uniquely beautiful area for visitors to enjoy with family and pets.

What other support do you have for developing your proposal?

- The Precautionary Principle is widely recognized in international law and policy. It suggests that if an action or policy has the potential to cause harm to the public or the environment, precautionary measures should be taken even if some cause-and-effect relationships are not fully established scientifically. We are seeking trapping regulations that will be preventative and ensure the safety of all area user groups reducing the risk of accidental encounters.

- The proposed 100-yard trapping and snaring setback is not significant enough to limit a trapper's opportunity to trap near roads and pullouts. Proposing setbacks for *only the most popular and heavily used roads and pullouts* leaves all other areas unrestricted. Trappers who follow the Trapper's Code of Ethics' third tenet to "promote trapping methods that will reduce the possibility of catching non-target animals," presumably set traps back from heavily used roads and pullouts.

- A former Cooper Landing trapper and trappers from other nearby Units have endorsed a 100-yard setback as reasonable and logical. The proposed 100-yard setback~~s~~ do not present an undue burden on trappers. The average backpacking speed is 1 to 2 miles per hour. Assuming trappers are walking between one and two miles per hour, the setback distances requested would require an additional two to three minutes of walking to place and check traps. Since many trappers use snow machines, the 100-yard setback could be crossed in less than 1 minute.

- The proposed 100-yard trapping and snaring setback would also align with the "Our Values Statement" set out by the U.S. Forest Service, which includes the intention of managing for "*Safety. In every way: physical, psychological, and social.*"

- The proposed 100-yard setback distance will not impact the Board of Game's ability to manage wildlife along the listed roads and pullouts, though trapping nuisance wildlife may be required within the setback and environmentally necessary.

- The proposed trap setbacks have increasing community support in Cooper Landing. A 2015 survey indicated that 83% of the respondents supported trap setbacks; in 2021, a similar survey was conducted of property owners and residents of Cooper Landing, and the results showed an increase to 90% who felt that trap setbacks were necessary.

- As of the 2019 census, there are 741,147 residents of the state of Alaska. Based on sealing records, license sales, and the annual "Trapper Questionnaire," the Alaska Department of Fish and Game estimates the number of trappers in the state between 2,500 to 3,500, meaning only .4% of the Alaskan population is actively trapping. By adopting this safe trapping regulation in Unit 7, the Board of Game would better represent the majority of constituents and the current area's recreational uses.

Note: The proposal submission included attachments which are available on the proposal book website at: www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=gameboard.proposalbook .

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

Several members of our Cooper Landing AC endorse this proposal and two members of the Cooper Landing Safe Trails have been trappers.

The Cooper Landing Safe Trails Committee met in April 2025 with members of the Southcentral Trappers Association to work together on solutions to reduce trap/pet conflicts; during the discussion, we gained a better understanding and appreciation of the trappers' concerns. Advocating for pet owner responsibility and not overreaching with more setback requests in the future were two concerns we heard clearly.

We took careful consideration of all land users while drafting this proposal, which will reduce conflicts between all user groups of shared recreational areas. We value the preservation, history, and tradition of trapping in Alaska for current and future generations. Providing a safe buffer along roads and pullouts will reduce conflicts and potentially improve trappers' public image for those opposed to the activity.

PROPOSED BY: The Cooper Landing Safe Trails Committee (HQ-F25-018)
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PROPOSAL 146

5 AAC 92.550. Areas closed to trapping.

Establish trapping and snaring buffers along specified trails and trailheads in and around the Cooper Landing Area in Unit 7 as follows:

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

ADD Regulatory Language for Unit 7: "Trap and snare setbacks of 100 yards on both sides of the trails and trailheads listed unless the traps are elevated three feet above ground or snow level, enclosed, underwater, or under ice. Trapping would still be permitted on the below-listed trails if they are elevated three feet above hard ground, enclosed, underwater, or under ice

- Crescent Creek Trail
- Lower Russian Lake Trail
- Bean Creek Trail
- Russian Gap//Historic Quartz Creek/Coyote Notch Trail System
- Resurrection Trail, South End
- Devil's Pass Ski Loops
- Stetson Trail parking area and the first 400 yards

The precedent for establishing trapping and snaring buffers for public safety along multi-use trails in the State of Alaska has already been set, most recently, in the Mat-Su Valley, where 50-yard setbacks were established for 9 new trails that both recreational users and the ATA mutually agreed on. The Alaska Supreme Court upheld Valdez's trapping ordinance confirming the city's authority to regulate trapping within city limits. In 2023, Cordova created a special use map that closed trapping in part of the municipality and created trap setbacks of 200 yards from publicly maintained roads for traps larger than a 120 conibear, and a 200yd. setback for a popular trail. The Municipality of Anchorage, parts of Chugach State Park, the City/Borough of Juneau, and along six other trails, and surrounding all schoolyards in the Matanuska Susitna Borough have existing trap setback laws. While these municipalities and boroughs have approved trapping regulations on lands they manage, they have not issued regulations for state-managed trails in deference to

the regulatory powers of the Board of Game. We are requesting the Board of Game to modify this situation in our area.

Unit	Trail Name	Description	Winter Uses
7	Crescent Creek Trail USGS Map Seward B7, C7 and C8 USFS, Chugach National Forest Map for Crescent Creek Trail	Begins at Crescent Creek Trailhead parking area at mile 3.5 of Quartz Creek Road and ascends 6.5 miles to the Crescent Lake Cabin at the west end of the lake.	Backcountry skiing, snowshoeing, hiking, backpacking, fat tire biking, and access to public-use cabins
7	Lower Russian Lake Trail USGS Map Seward B8, Kenai B1 USFS, Chugach National Forest Map for Russian Lakes Trail	Lower Russian Lake Trail from the trailhead parking located in the Russian River Campground about 1.0 miles from the campground entrance to both the Barber Cabin on the shore of Lower Russian Lake and to the Russian River Falls Overlook.	Backcountry and cross country skiing, skijoring, snowshoeing, hiking, fat tire biking, backpacking, and access to public-use cabins
7	Bean Creek Trail	Bean Creek Trail starting at its trailhead to its intersection of the main Resurrection Pass Trail above Juneau Falls.	Backcountry and cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, hiking, fat tire biking, snow machining, dog mushing, backpacking, and access to public-use cabins

7	Russian Gap Trail/Historic Quartz Creek/Coyote Notch Trail System	On the 2004 plat approved by the Kenai Peninsula Borough for the Russian Gap Subdivision, this trail is referred to as the Quartz Creek Trail. It ascends behind the west side of KPB parcel 11912507 and continues through parcel 11912513, connecting with the Russian Gap Trail and heading north-easterly along a bench below Russian Gap. Coyote Notch Trail intersects with this trail. RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITY CLOSE BY.	Backcountry and cross-country skiing, snowshoein g, hiking, snowmachi ne use.
7	Resurrection Trail, South End USGS Maps Seward B8, C8 and D8	From the southern Resurrection Trail trailhead on the Sterling Highway, continuing to the Swan Lake public use cabin	Backcountry and cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, hiking, fat tire biking, backpacking, and access to public-use cabins
7	Devil's Pass Ski Loops USGS Map Seward C7 and C8 USFS, Chugach National Forest Map for Devil's Pass Trail	These trails begin at the far end of the parking area for Devil's Pass Trailhead at mile 39.5 of the Seward Highway. They loop along the cleared area northeast of the parking lot between Quartz Creek and the Seward Highway.	Backcountry ski access, cross country skiing, snowshoeing, fat-tire biking, skijoring

7	Stetson Creek Parking area and Trail	Stetson Trail parking area at milepost 50.7 of Sterling Highway. Setback of 100 yards around the clearing beyond the gate under the power line and the first 400 yards up the trail.	Cooper Landing EMT training, search and rescue dog training, hiking, and snowshoeing

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

We are requesting the Board of Game amend Alaska Administrative Code No. 5 AAC 92.550 to establish 100- yard trapping and snaring buffers along both sides of the trails and all sides of the trailheads listed and described in the table below, unless they are elevated three feet above ground or snow level, enclosed, underwater, or under ice. Trapping would still be permitted on the below-listed trails if they are elevated three feet above ground or snow level, enclosed, underwater, or under ice. All other forms of lawful trapping would also still be allowed near the below-listed trails, provided they are placed farther than 100-yards from the specified trails and trailheads.

The purpose for this proposal is to create a solution to the growing conflict between recreational uses of land and trapping in a manner that protects the safety of individuals, families, and pets when utilizing the most frequently used trails in the Cooper Landing area. Dangerous encounters between user groups and traps in recreational areas continues, unfortunately, reports are considered incomplete because land managers and law enforcement do not track trap injury incidents nor is there a database for community documentation. As of late February 2022, seven dogs had been caught in traps throughout Southcentral Alaska, and two dogs were killed, as reported via the Alaska Press. Bird dogs are typically well-behaved and under strict voice command, however, there was a fatality where a trap had been placed 50 feet from the road. Search and rescue dog owners have voiced concern about the safety of their dogs in emergency missions. The Stetson Trail parking area and the first 400 yards have been used for training search-and-rescue dogs. Fears of abandoned or "ghost traps" found at the Russian River Falls Trailhead and Williams Beach increase the community's fear of risk.

Why should this regulation be amended?

The District Ranger for the Chugach National Forest supports proposals for regulatory measures of 100-yard setbacks and trapline signage. It is the intention of the NFS to allow all user groups to utilize multi-use public lands safely, and to balance the opportunities for all. *See attachment.*

The proposed trap setbacks have increasing community support in Cooper Landing. A 2015 survey indicated that 83% of the respondents supported trap setbacks, but in 2021, when a similar survey of property owners and residents of Cooper Landing was conducted, results showed an increase to 90% who felt that trap setbacks were necessary. The community of Cooper Landing clearly supports traps and snare setbacks for a safe, trap- free zone in and around areas utilized for winter recreation. Surveys and meetings have highlighted the emotional stress and apprehension

experienced by residents and visitors when bringing their families, children, or pets to popular recreational areas due to the risk of encountering traps. This safety concern grows as Cooper Landing residents' demographics change to a younger, more outdoor enthusiast-oriented population. This proposal targets trails in our area used by those who cross-country ski, snowshoe, hike, fat tire bike, skijor, snow machine, and train search-and-rescue dogs. Year-round outdoor recreation is a significant and growing segment of Cooper Landing's economy.

Year-round outdoor recreation is a significant and growing segment of Cooper Landing's economy. Easily accessible by road, Cooper Landing is located only 100 miles south of Anchorage, the largest city in the state. Cooper Landing's primary economy is based on summer recreation and tourism; however, year round recreational activity is expected to increase with the anticipated bypass completion and the addition of Three Bears grocery store in the future. Local businesses desire to extend their seasonal offerings to encourage the increasing number of family-friendly, active, outdoor recreational pursuits (e.g. winter biking, cross-country skiing, backcountry skiing, snowshoeing, trail running, ice fishing, bird hunting, and backcountry cabin rentals). The proposed trapping setback benefits business owners who market Cooper Landing as a fun, safe, and uniquely beautiful area for visitors to enjoy with family and pets.

What other support do you have for developing your proposal?

• The Precautionary Principle is widely recognized in international law and policy. It suggests that if an action or policy has the potential to cause harm to the public or the environment, precautionary measures should be taken even if some cause-and-effect relationships are not fully established scientifically. We are seeking trapping regulations that will be preventative and ensure the safety of all area user groups reducing the risk of accidental encounters.

• The proposed 100-yard trapping and snaring buffer is not significant enough to limit a trapper's opportunity to trap near trails. Proposing setbacks for *only the most popular and heavily used Trails* leaves all other areas unrestricted. Trappers who follow the Trapper's Code of Ethics' third tenet to "promote trapping methods that will reduce the possibility of catching non-target animals," presumably set traps back from heavily used trails.

• A former Cooper Landing trapper and trappers from other nearby Units have endorsed a 100-yard setback as reasonable and logical. The proposed 100-yard setbacks do not present an undue burden on trappers. The average backpacking speed is 1 to 2 miles per hour. Assuming trappers are walking between one and two miles per hour, the setback distances requested would require an additional two to three minutes of walking to place and check traps. Since many trappers use snow machines, the 100-yard setback could be crossed in less than 1 minute.

• The proposed 100-yard trapping and snaring setback would also align with the "Our Values Statement" set out by the U.S. Forest Service, which includes the intention of managing for "*Safety. In every way: physical, psychological, and social.*"

• The proposed 100-yard setback distance will not impact the Board of Game's ability to manage wildlife along the listed trails, though trapping nuisance wildlife may be required within the setback and environmentally necessary. A similar proposal requesting a 100-yard setback from trails has been submitted and endorsed by the Homer AC. Having regulations that are consistent will make management, education, and enforcement easier in Units 7 and 15.

• As of the 2019 census, there are 741,147 residents of the state of Alaska. Based on sealing records, license sales, and the annual "Trapper Questionnaire," the Alaska Department of Fish and Game estimates the number of trappers in the state between 2,500 to 3,500 meaning only .4% of the Alaskan population is actively trapping. By adopting this safe trapping regulation in Unit 7, the Board of Game would better represent the majority of constituents and the current area's recreational uses.

Note: The proposal submission included attachments which are available on the proposal book website at: www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=gameboard.proposalbook .

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

Several members of our Cooper Landing AC endorse this proposal and two members of the Cooper Landing Safe Trails have been trappers.

The Cooper Landing Safe Trails Committee met in April 2025 with members of the South Central Trappers Association to work together on solutions to reduce trap/pet conflicts; during the discussion we gained a better understanding and appreciation of the trappers' concerns. Advocating for pet owner responsibility and not overreaching with more setback requests in the future were two concerns we heard clearly.

We took careful consideration of all land users while drafting this proposal, which will reduce conflicts between all user groups of shared recreational areas. We value the preservation, history, and tradition of trapping in Alaska for current and future generations. Providing a safe buffer on the trails listed will reduce conflicts and potentially improve trappers' public image for those opposed to the activity.

PROPOSED BY: The Cooper Landing Safe Trails Committee (HQ-F25-019)
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PROPOSAL 147

5 AAC 92.550. Areas closed to trapping.

Establish trapping buffers along two areas of Kenai Lake beaches near Cooper Landing, in Unit 7 as follows:

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

ADD Regulatory Language for Unit 7: "Trap and snare setback of 100-yards from mean high-water mark of Kenai Lake on the north side from the Kenai River Bridge to 1 mile past the end of Williams Road and on the south side from the Kenai River Bridge to ¼ mile past the powerline crossing (The powerline is at mile 2.8 Snug Harbor Road), also, Kenai Lake Beach (Locally known as Waikiki Beach) ¼ mile north to ¼ mile south of the lake access road at mile 5.8 Snug Harbor Road, unless the traps are elevated three feet above ground or snow level, enclosed, underwater, or under ice. Trapping would still be permitted on the below-listed beaches if they are elevated three feet above ground or snow level enclosed, underwater, or under ice. All other forms of lawful trapping would still be allowed near the below listed beaches, provided they are placed farther than 100-yards from the trail.

- Cooper Landing, Kenai Lake Beach- north side, Kenai River Bridge to 1 mile past end of Williams Rd.

- Cooper Landing, Kenai Lake Beach -south side, Kenai River Bridge to 1/4mile past powerline at mile 2.8 Snug Harbor Rd.

- Cooper Landing, Kenai Lake Beach-west side (Waikiki Beach)

The precedent for establishing trapping and snaring buffers for public safety along multi-use trails in the State of Alaska has already been set, most recently, in the Mat-Su Valley, where 50-yard setbacks were established for 9 trails that both recreational users and the ATA mutually agreed on. The Alaska Supreme Court upheld Valdez's trapping ordinance, confirming the city's authority to regulate trapping within city limits. In 2023, Cordova created a special use map that closed trapping in part of the municipality and created trap setbacks of 200 yards from publicly maintained roads for traps larger than a 120 conibear, and a 200-yard setback for a popular trail. The Municipality of Anchorage, parts of Chugach State Park, the City/Borough of Juneau, and surrounding all schoolyards in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough have existing trap setback laws. While these municipalities and boroughs have approved trapping regulations on lands they manage, they have not issued regulations for state- managed trails in deference to the regulatory powers of the Board of Game. We are requesting the Board of Game to modify this situation in our area.

Unit	Beach Area	Description	Winter Uses
7	Cooper Landing Kenai Lake Beaches north side	Kenai Lake Beaches: on the North side from the Kenai River Bridge to 1 mile past the end of Williams Road	Cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, hiking, fat tire biking, skijoring, snow machining
7	Cooper Landing Kenai Lake Beach south- side	Kenai Lake Beaches: from the Kenai River Bridge to ¼ mile past the powerline crossing (powerline is at mile 2.8 Snug Harbor Road). *Area from the mean high water mark to 100yds back.*	Cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, hiking, fat tire biking, skijoring, snow machining
7	Cooper Landing- Kenai Lake Beach-west side (Waikiki Beach)	Kenai Lake Beach (Locally known as Waikiki Beach) ¼ mile north to ¼ mile south of the lake access road at mile 5.8 Snug Harbor Road. *Area from the mean high-water mark to 100yds back.*	Cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, hiking, fat tire biking, skijoring, snow machining

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

We are requesting that the Board of Game amend Alaska Administrative Code No. 5 AAC 92.550 to establish a 100-yard trapping and snaring buffer in two small areas in Cooper Landing listed and described in the table provided, unless they are elevated three feet above ground or snow level, enclosed, underwater, or under ice. Trapping would still be permitted in the areas listed below if they are elevated three feet above ground or snow level, enclosed, underwater, or under ice. All other forms of lawful trapping would also still be allowed near the below-listed beaches, provided they are placed farther than 100 yards from the trail.

The purpose of this proposal is to create a solution to the growing conflict between recreational uses of land and trapping in a manner that protects the safety of individuals, families, and pets when utilizing the most popular beaches in the Cooper Landing area. As dangerous encounters between user groups and traps in recreational areas increases, reports are considered incomplete because land managers and law enforcement do not track trap injury incidents nor is there a database for community documentation. As of late February 2022, seven dogs had been caught in traps throughout Southcentral Alaska, and two dogs were killed, as reported via the Alaska Press. Bird dogs are typically well-behaved and under strict voice command, however, there was a fatality where a trap had been placed 50 feet from the road. Search and rescue dog owners have voiced concern about the safety of their dogs in emergency missions. Incidents of abandoned or "ghost traps" found at the Russian River Falls Trailhead and Williams Beach increase the community's fear of risk.

Why should this regulation be amended?

The District Ranger for the Chugach National Forest supports proposals for regulatory measures of 100-yard setbacks and trapline signage. It is the intention of the NFS to allow all user groups to utilize multi-use public lands safely, and to balance the opportunities for all. *See attachment*

The proposed trap setbacks have <u>increasing community support</u> in Cooper Landing. A 2015 survey indicated that 83% of the respondents supported trap setbacks, and in 2021 when a similar survey was conducted of property owners and residents of Cooper Landing, results showed an increase to 90% who felt that trap setbacks were necessary. The community of Cooper Landing clearly supports trap and snare setbacks in and around areas utilized for winter recreation.

Indicated in the surveys and local meetings was people's emotional stress and fear when taking their families, children or pets to their favorite recreational places due to the danger of encountering a trap. This safety concern grows as Cooper Landing residents' demographics change to a younger, more outdoor enthusiast-oriented population. This proposal targets several beaches used by those who cross-country ski, snowshoe, hike, fat tire bike, skijor, snow machine, and train search-and-rescue dogs.

As the community evolves, there is an increasing call for measures that protect all residents and visitors. This proposal aims to create a safer environment for winter recreation by implementing trap setbacks, which will help reduce the risks and alleviate the fears associated with accidental encounters. Families can enjoy outdoor activities with peace of mind, knowing that the areas they frequent are secure from hidden dangers.

Year-round outdoor recreation is a significant and growing segment of Cooper Landing's economy. Easily accessible by road, Cooper Landing is located only 100 miles south of Anchorage, the largest city in the state. Cooper Landing's primary economy is based on summer recreation and tourism; however, year round recreational activity is expected to increase with the anticipated bypass completion and the addition of Three Bears grocery store in the future. Local businesses desire to extend their seasonal offerings to encourage the increasing number of family-friendly, active, outdoor recreational pursuits (e.g. winter biking, cross-country skiing, backcountry skiing, snowshoeing, trail

running, ice fishing, bird hunting, and backcountry cabin rentals). The proposed trapping setback aims to benefit business owners who promote Cooper Landing as an area for visitors to enjoy with family and pets.

What other support do you have for developing your proposal?

• The Precautionary Principle is widely recognized in international law and policy. It suggests that if an action or policy has the potential to cause harm to the public or the environment, precautionary measures should be taken even if some cause-and-effect relationships are not fully established scientifically. We are seeking trapping regulations that will be preventative and ensure the safety of all area user groups reducing the risk of accidental encounters.

• The proposed 100-yard trapping and snaring setback is not significant enough to limit a trapper's opportunity to trap near beaches. Proposing setbacks for *only the most popular and heavily used beaches* leaves all other areas unrestricted. Trappers who follow the Trapper's Code of Ethics' third tenet to "promote trapping methods that will reduce the possibility of catching non-target animals," presumably set traps back from heavily used beaches.

• A former Cooper Landing trapper and trappers from other nearby Units have endorsed a 100-yard setback as reasonable and logical. The proposed 100-yard setback~~s~~ do not present an undue burden on trappers. The average backpacking speed is 1 to 2 miles per hour. Assuming trappers are walking between one and two miles per hour, the setback distances requested would require an additional two to three minutes of walking to place and check traps. Since many trappers use snow machines, the 100-yard setback could be crossed in less than 1 minute.

• The proposed 100-yard trapping and snaring setback would also align with the "Our Values Statement" set out by the U.S. Forest Service, which includes the intention of managing for "*Safety. In every way: physical, psychological, and social.*"

• The proposed 100-yard setback distance will not impact the Board of Game's ability to manage wildlife along the listed beaches, though trapping nuisance wildlife may be required within the setback and environmentally necessary. A similar proposal requesting a 100-yard setback from trails has been submitted and endorsed by the Homer AC. Having regulations that are consistent will make management, education, and enforcement easier in Units 7 and 15.

• As of the 2019 census, there are 741,147 residents of the state of Alaska. Based on sealing records, license sales, and the annual "Trapper Questionnaire," the Alaska Department of Fish and Game estimates the number of trappers in the state between 2,500 and 3,500, meaning only .4% of the Alaskan population is actively trapping. By adopting this safe trapping regulation in Unit 7, the Board of Game would better represent the majority of constituents and the current area's recreational uses.

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

Several members of our Cooper Landing AC endorse this proposal and two members of the Cooper Landing Safe Trails have been trappers.

The Cooper Landing Safe Trails Committee met in April 2025 with members of the Southcentral Trappers Association to work together on solutions to reduce trap/pet conflicts; during the discussion we gained a better understanding and appreciation of the trappers' concerns. Advocating for pet owner responsibility and not overreaching with more setback requests in the future were two concerns we heard clearly.

We took careful consideration of all land users while drafting this proposal, which will reduce conflicts between all user groups of shared recreational areas. We value the preservation, history, and tradition of trapping in Alaska for current and future generations. Providing a safe buffer on the two beach areas indicated will reduce conflicts and potentially improve the public image of trappers for those who are opposed to the activity.

PROPOSED BY: The Cooper Landing Safe Trails Committee (HQ-F25-020)
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PROPOSAL 148

5 AAC 92.550(9). Areas closed to trapping.

Require signs be posted at all access points to active trapping in Unit 7, as follows:

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

1) SOLUTION:

We request that the Board amend 5 ACC 92.550(9) to add a subpart (C), adding a requirement that signs be posted by trappers at all access points to active trapping. This change will reduce conflicts with trappers and increase safety among the rising number of multi-use groups in Game Management Unit 7.

2) REGULATORY LANGUAGE:

Areas Closed to Trapping The following areas are closed to the trapping of furbearers as indicated: (1-6) No change requested.

ADD Regulatory Language for Unit 7: 5AAC 92.550(9)(C) "Trappers setting traps in Unit 7 are required to post signs at all access points to operating traplines. Signs must be:
1) at least 8"x11", 2) brightly colored (orange or yellow), 3) waterproof/tear-proof, and 4)

posted at eye level denoting active trapping in the area. Must include Alaska Public Safety Information Network (ASPIN) ID number or contact information for the trapper. If the trapper's sign uses the ASPIN ID no, the trapper's identity would be held confidential and released only to law enforcement.

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

ISSUE:
We request that the Board amend 5 ACC 92.550(9) to establish a requirement that signs be posted at all access points to active trapping. This change will reduce conflicts with trappers and increase safety among the rising number of multi-use groups in GMU 7.

Mandatory posted signs are in line with the Alaska Trappers Association's Official Position Statement "Trapline Signs" that was adopted on September 27th, 2016, and states:

"The Alaska Trappers Association encourages trappers in road-accessible regions of the State to post signs near major points of access to their personal trapline trails. These signs should explain that there are traps and/or snares on or near the trail. The signs could also include the trapper's name and contact information. These signs are intended to alert other trail users of the purpose of the trail, so that they can avoid conflict with the trapper. This approach of posting signs should be beneficial for everyone involved."

"Active Trapping" informational signs aligns with the Forest Service's Our Values Statement, which includes the intention of managing for "*Safety. In every way: physical, psychological, and social.*"

The District Ranger for the Chugach National Forest supports proposals for regulatory measures of 100-yard setbacks and trapline signage. It is the intention of the NFS to allow all user groups to utilize multi-use public lands safely and to balance the opportunities for all. *See attachment*

This is a low-cost, low-maintenance way to reduce conflicts between trappers and recreational users, create a shared responsibility, and support trappers' rights.

WHY:
Posted trapping signs would alert user groups to the presence of trapping in the area and allow them to take safety precautions. Trapping signs would also alert safety personnel to additional dangers if they were called to respond to an emergency requiring the use of Search and Rescue Dogs to find injured, lost, or buried victims. Ten other states have set a precedent for signage regulations; *see attachment.* A former local Cooper Landing trapper posted signs warning of his traplines and supports a regulation to add "active trapping" signs, as do several of the Cooper Landing AC members and members of the ATA.

Year-round outdoor recreation is a significant and growing segment of the Cooper Landing area's economy. Cooper Landing's primary economy is based on summer recreation and tourism; however, as winter recreation in the area increases, Cooper Landing businesses want to extend their seasonal offerings. With the anticipated bypass completion and the addition of Three Bears grocery store in the future, year-round recreational activity is expected to increase. To encourage the increasing number of family-friendly, active, outdoor recreational pursuits (e.g., winter biking, cross-country skiing, backcountry skiing, snowshoeing, trail running, ice fishing, bird hunting, and

backcountry cabin rentals) in the area, it would benefit business owners to be able to accurately market Cooper Landing as a fun, safe, and uniquely beautiful area, for visitors to enjoy with their family and pets.

Signage is a valuable precaution to avoid conflicts. The Precautionary Principle is widely recognized in international law and policy, especially in environmental and public health contexts. It suggests that if an action or policy has the potential to cause harm to the public or the environment, precautionary measures should be taken even if some cause-and-effect relationships are not fully established scientifically. This puts the onus on dog owners to be aware of potential risks around a legal trapline. We seek regulations to ensure the safety of all area user groups to reduce the risk of accidental encounters.

As of the 2024 census, there are 741,147 residents of Alaska. Based on sealing records, license sales, and the annual "Trapper Questionnaire," the Alaska Department of Fish and Game estimates 2,500 to 3,500 trappers in the state, meaning only .4% of the Alaskan population traps. By adopting this trapping regulation in GMU 7, the Board of Game would better represent the majority of its constituents and better align with current area residents' recreational use.

Note: The proposal submission included attachments which are available on the proposal book website at: www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=gameboard.proposalbook .

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

Several members of our Cooper Landing AC endorse this proposal and two members of the Cooper Landing Safe Trails have been trappers.

The Cooper Landing Safe Trails Committee met in April 2025 with members of the Southcentral Trappers Association to work together on solutions to reduce trap/pet conflicts; during the discussion we gained a better understanding and appreciation of the trappers' concerns. Advocating for pet owner responsibility and not overreaching with more setback requests in the future were two concerns we heard clearly.

We took careful consideration of all land users while drafting this proposal, which will reduce conflicts between all user groups of shared recreational areas. We value the preservation, history, and tradition of trapping in Alaska for current and future generations. Providing a safe buffer on the trails listed will reduce conflicts and potentially improve trappers' public image for those opposed to the activity.

PROPOSED BY: The Cooper Landing Safe Trails Committee (HQ-F25-021)
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PROPOSAL 149

5 AAC 92.550. Areas closed to trapping.

Establish trapping and snaring buffers along highway pullouts, backcountry access points, and winter trails in the Summit Lake Recreation Area in Unit 7 as follows:

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

ADD Regulatory Language for Unit 7: "Trap and snare setback of 100-yards along the perimeter of highway pull outs accessing backcountry areas along the Seward Highway, and on both side of the winter trails listed within the Summit Lake Recreational Area, unless the traps are elevated three feet above ground or snow level, enclosed, underwater, or under ice. Trapping would still be permitted in the described areas if the traps are elevated three feet above ground or snow level, enclosed, underwater, or under ice. All other forms of lawful trapping would also still be allowed near the below listed areas, provided they are placed farther than 100-yards from the trail.

- Japan Woods - The west side of the Seward Highway from the southernmost tip of Summit Lake (**MP44.5**) north to Colorado Creek (**MP 46.5**).
- Tenderfoot Campground - Ski Area - **MP 46** of the Seward Highway.
- Park N Poke - The west side of the Seward Highway from the southernmost tip of Lower Summit Lake (**MP 47**) to the gravel pit at (**MP 49)**.
- Manitoba Mountain - **MP 48** of the Seward Highway, pullout on the east side of the highway for the Alaska Mountain Huts (non-profit organization), following the established .7-mile trail to the Manitoba Cabin, and up the Polly Mine Trail (1 mile) to where it meets with the Manitoba Mountain Trail and continuing up to tree line at the summit of Little Manitoba Mountain.

The precedent for establishing trapping and snaring buffers for public safety along multi-use trails in the State of Alaska has been set, most recently, in the Mat-Su Valley, where 50-yard setbacks were established for 9 trails that both recreational users and the ATA mutually agreed on. In January 2025, the Alaska Supreme Court upheld Valdez's trapping ordinance, confirming the city's authority to regulate trapping within city limits. In 2023, Cordova created a special use map that closed trapping in part of the municipality and created trap setbacks of 200 yards from publicly maintained roads for traps larger than a 120 conibear, and a 200yd. setback for a popular trail. The Municipality of Anchorage, parts of Chugach State Park, the City/Borough of Juneau, and surrounding all schoolyards in the Matanuska Susitna Borough have existing trap setback laws. While these municipalities and boroughs have approved trapping regulations on lands they manage, they have not issued regulations for state-managed trails in deference to the regulatory powers of the Board of Game. We are requesting the Board of Game to modify this situation in our area.

	Trail Name	Description	Winter Uses
7	Japan woods	The west side of the Seward Highway from the southernmost tip of Summit Lake (**MP 44.5**) north to Colorado Creek (**MP 46.5**).	Backcountry skiing, snowshoeing, bird hunting, hiking
7	Tenderfoot Campground – Ski Area	**MP 46** of the Seward Highway.	Backcountry skiing, cross country skiing, snowshoeing, bird hunting, hiking, snow machine use
7	Park N Poke	The west side of the Seward Highway from the southernmost tip of Lower Summit Lake (**MP 47**) to the gravel pit at (**MP 49**).	Backcountry Skiing, snowshoeing, bird hunting, hiking
7	Manitoba Mountain	**MP 48** of the Seward Highway, pullout on the east side of the highway for the Alaska Mountain Huts (non-profit organization), following the established .7-mile trail to the Manitoba Cabin, and up the Polly Mine Trail (1 mile) to where it meets with the Manitoba Mountain Trail and continuing to tree line at the summit of Little Manitoba Mountain.	Backcountry and cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, bird hunting, hiking, backpacking for camping and cabin use

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

We are requesting that the Board of Game amend Alaska Administrative Code No. 5 AAC 92.550 to establish 100-yard trapping and snaring buffers along the perimeter of all highway pull outs, backcountry access points, and winter trails in the Summit Lake Recreation Area, described in the table below, unless they are elevated three feet above ground or snow level, enclosed, underwater, or under ice. Trapping would still be permitted on the below-listed areas if they are elevated three feet above ground or snow level, enclosed, underwater, or under ice. All other forms of lawful trapping would also still be allowed near the below-listed areas, provided they are placed farther than 100-yards from the specified recreational areas.

The purpose of this proposal is to create a solution to the growing conflict between recreational uses of land and trapping in a manner that protects the safety of individuals, families, and pets when utilizing the Summit Lake Recreation Area. Reports of dangerous encounters between user groups and traps in recreational areas are considered incomplete because land managers and law enforcement do not track trap injury incidents nor is there a database for community documentation. As of late February 2022, seven dogs had been caught in traps throughout Southcentral Alaska, and two dogs were killed, as reported via the Alaska Press. Bird dogs are typically well-behaved and under strict voice command, however, there was a fatality where a trap had been placed 50 feet from the road. Search and rescue dog owners have voiced concern about the safety of their dogs in emergency missions. Incidents of abandoned or "ghost traps" found at the Russian River Falls Trailhead and Williams Beach increase the community's fear of risk.

Why should this regulation be amended?

The District Ranger for the Chugach National Forest supports proposals for regulatory measures of 100- yard setbacks and trapline signage. It is the intention of the NFS to allow all user groups to utilize multi-use public lands safely, and to balance the opportunities for all. *See attachment*

This conflict of user groups has been an issue for almost 20 years in the Cooper Landing area. It is getting more attention as the demographics change to a more recreational population. The community of Cooper Landing supports trap and snare setbacks. In 2021, the Cooper Landing Safe Trails Committee sent a survey to every post office box, landowner, and business in Cooper Landing to get a precise gauge of what people wanted. With a 35% return rate, 90% wanted trap setbacks established, and many requested up to a mile. This represents a 7% increase from a 2015 survey where 83% supported setbacks. The surveys and community meetings highlight people's concerns about taking their families, children, and pets to recreational areas due to past incidents and the risk of encountering traps. This proposal targets several roads and pullouts in our area used by those who cross-country ski, snowshoe, hike, fat tire bike, skijor, snow machine, and train search-and-rescue dogs.

Year-round outdoor recreation is a significant and growing segment of Cooper Landing's economy. The Summit Lake Recreational Area is about 1.5 hours south of Anchorage and 30 minutes north of Cooper Landing. Winter recreational activity is expected to increase with the anticipated bypass completion and the addition of Three Bears grocery store in the future. Local businesses desire to extend their seasonal offerings to encourage the increasing number of family-friendly, active, outdoor recreational pursuits (e.g. winter biking, cross-country skiing, backcountry skiing, snowshoeing, trail running, ice fishing, bird hunting, and backcountry cabin rentals). The proposed trapping setback benefits business owners who market Cooper Landing as a fun, safe, and uniquely beautiful area for visitors to enjoy with family and pets.

What other support do you have for your proposal?

- The Precautionary Principle is widely recognized in international law and policy. It suggests that if an action or policy has the potential to cause harm to the public or the environment, precautionary measures should be taken even if some cause-and-effect relationships are not fully

established scientifically. We are seeking trapping regulations that will be preventative and ensure the safety of all area user groups reducing the risk of accidental encounters.

- The proposed 100-yard trapping and snaring setback is not significant enough to limit a trapper's opportunity to trap near Summit Lake Recreation Area. Proposing setbacks for *only the most popular and heavily used Summit Lake Recreation Area* leaves all other areas unrestricted. Trappers who follow the Trapper's Code of Ethics' third tenet to "promote trapping methods that will reduce the possibility of catching non-target animals," presumably set traps back from the popular areas of the Summit Lake Recreation Area.

- A former Cooper Landing trapper and trappers from other nearby Units have endorsed a 100-yard setback as reasonable and logical. The proposed 100-yard setbacks do not present an undue burden on trappers. The average backpacking speed is 1 to 2 miles per hour. Assuming trappers are walking between one and two miles per hour, the setback distances requested would require an additional two to three minutes of walking to place and check traps. Since many trappers use snow machines, the 100-yard setback could be crossed in less than 1 minute.

- The proposed 100-yard trapping and snaring setback would also align with the "Our Values Statement" set out by the U.S. Forest Service, which includes the intention of managing for "*Safety. In every way: physical, psychological, and social.*"

- The proposed 100-yard setback distance will not impact the Board of Game's ability to manage wildlife along the listed Summit Lake Recreation Area, though understandably, trapping nuisance wildlife may be required within the setback and environmentally necessary.

- The proposed trap setbacks have increasing community support in Cooper Landing. A 2015 survey indicated that 83% of the respondents supported trap setbacks, and in 2021 when a similar survey was conducted of property owners and residents of Cooper Landing, results showed an increase to 90% who felt that trap setbacks were necessary.

- As of the 2019 census, there are 741,147 residents of the state of Alaska. Based on sealing records, license sales, and the annual "Trapper Questionnaire," the Alaska Department of Fish and Game estimates the number of trappers in the state between 2,500 to 3,500 meaning only .4% of the Alaskan population actively traps. By adopting this safe trapping regulation in Unit 7, the Board of Game would better represent the majority of constituents and the current area's recreational uses.

Note: The proposal submission included attachments which are available on the proposal book website at: www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=gameboard.proposalbook .

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

Several members of our Cooper Landing AC endorse this proposal, and two members of the Cooper Landing Safe Trails have been trappers.

The Cooper Landing Safe Trails Committee met in April 2025 with members of the Southcentral Trappers Association to work together on solutions to reduce trap/pet conflicts; during the

discussion we gained a better understanding and appreciation of the trappers' concerns. Advocating for pet owner responsibility and not overreaching with more setback requests in the future were two concerns we heard clearly.

We took careful consideration of all land users while drafting this proposal, which will reduce conflicts between all user groups of shared recreational areas. We value the preservation, history, and tradition of trapping in Alaska for current and future generations. Providing a safe buffer on the trails listed will reduce conflicts and potentially improve trappers' public image for those opposed to the activity.

PROPOSED BY: The Cooper Landing Safe Trails Committee (HQ-F25-022)
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PROPOSAL 150

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

Require identification tags on traps and snares in Unit 7 as follows:

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

5 AAC 92.095 should be amended to add a provision stating as follows:

In Unit 7, a person may not set a trap or snare unless there is attached to the trap or snare an identification tag.. Identification tags must provide either the person's name, or personal identification number (PIN) The PIN for residents is the Alaska Public Safety Information Network (ASPIN) ID. For residents, the Department shall upon request of a person intending to set traps or snares that person's ASPIN ID. For nonresidents the Department will assign a PIN when a trapping license is issued. PINs will be kept confidential by the Department with the exception with the exception that the identities of trappers shall be released to Law Enforcement when requested by Law Enforcement.

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

Tags on traps and snares should be required in Unit 7 to provide a deterrence to individuals who might be tempted to trap illegally.

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

Law Enforcement supported a statewide proposal for tags on traps which was considered by the Board at its statewide meeting in March, 2025, but was rejected. This proposal incorporates the technical changes and recommendations made by Law Enforcement.

For that reason it can be said that this proposal is being made in coordination with Law Enforcement.

PROPOSED BY: Kneeland Taylor (OI-F25-053)
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PROPOSAL 151

5 AAC 92.550. Areas closed to trapping.

Close all beaver trapping within the Deep Creek and Anchor River drainage south to but excluding the Fox River drainage in Unit 15C, for five years as follows:

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

The Deep Creek and Anchor River drainage south to but not including the Fox River drainage in Unit 15C should be closed to beaver trapping for five years with a population assessment before reopening. Closing trapping for this length of time with an ADF&G assessment before reopening will provide the time needed to evaluate the re-establishment effort.

5 AAC 92.550. Areas closed to trapping.

The following areas are closed to trapping as indicated:

...

(4) Unit 15

…

(E) That portion of Unit 15(C) within the Deep Creek and Anchor River drainage south to the northern boundaries of the Fox River Drainage and all tributaries is open to trapping under Unit 15(C) seasons and bag limits, except that the trapping of beaver is not allowed.

(i) This closure will remain in effect for approximately five years from July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2031 a review of population levels will be conducted by ADFG before reopening.

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

Beaver are no longer a functional part of the ecosystem in the Anchor River drainage. As a keystone species, the loss of beaver from the system is negatively impacting wildlife such as moose, salmon, songbirds and other species that rely on the habitat that beavers create. Trapping opportunities have been lost and flood control and water retention naturally provided by beaver impoundments is absent, which negatively impacts human infrastructure in the Anchor River Drainage.

The Homer Soil and Water District proposes to work with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to promote the restoration of beaver populations in this watershed. A trapping moratorium during these restoration efforts are likely to increase the success of the program. Unit 15C's harvest of beaver in 2023 was five animals with a five year average of four being taken,

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

This proposal was created out of concern for the beaver population by the Homer Advisory Committee in close cooperation with the Homer Water and Soil Conservation District and ADF&G.

PROPOSED BY: Homer Fish and Game Advisory Committee (OI-F25-044)
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PROPOSAL 152

5 AAC 92.550. Areas closed to trapping.

Close all beaver trapping in the Anchor River drainage in Unit 15C for five years as follows:

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

The Anchor River drainage in Unit 15C is closed to all beaver trapping for five years with a required review before reopening. Closing trapping for this length of time with a required review before reopening will provide the time needed to begin a re-establishment effort. Homer Soil and Water Conservation District, under the direction and assistance of ADF&G, will conduct animal surveys and reviews as needed.

5 AAC 92.550. Areas closed to trapping.

The following areas are closed to trapping as indicated:

...

(4) Unit 15

…

(E) That portion of Unit 15(C) within the Anchor River drainage and its tributaries is open to trapping under Unit 15(C) seasons and bag limits, **except that the trapping of beaver is not allowed.**

(i) This closure will remain in effect for approximately five years from July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2031 unless renewed.

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

Beavers are no longer a functional part of the ecosystem in the Anchor River drainage. As a keystone species, the loss of beaver from the system is negatively impacting wildlife such as moose, salmon, songbirds and other species that rely on the habitat that beavers create. Trapping opportunities have been lost and flood control and water retention naturally provided by beaver impoundments is absent, which negatively impacts human infrastructure in the Anchor River Drainage.

The Homer Soil and Water Conservation District proposes to work with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to promote the restoration of beaver populations in this watershed. Without a trapping moratorium restoration efforts are unlikely to be successful.

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

This proposal was developed with consultation and support from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Homer Advisory Committee, the Alaska Trapper's Association and members of the community of Homer.

PROPOSED BY: Matthew James, Homer Soil and Water Conservation District (OI-F25-032)
****

PROPOSAL 153

5 AAC 92.550. Areas closed to trapping.

Close the Anchor River drainage in Unit 15C to beaver trapping as follows:

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

The Anchor River drainage is closed to beaver trapping.

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

Beaver trapping in the Anchor River drainage should be closed. Departrnent of Fish and Game comments provided to the Board of Game regarding a proposal to close beaver trapping in the Anchor River and Deep Creek drainages indicated that there were virtually no beaver active in the Anchor River drainage at that time; and that beaver trapper had reported low number and poor recruitment in 2017. In addition, comments and testimony regarding other proposals to reduce Beaver trapping on the Kenai Peninsula indicated area-wide over-trapping with resulting reductions in beaver populations at many places on the Kenai Peninsula. Closure for at least three years, or until at least the next meeting of the board, should be implemented to see if this important species repopulate this drainage and provides information for analysis by the department as to how to remedy the decline of beaver population elsewhere on the Kenai Peninsula .

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

No.

PROPOSED BY: Kneeland Taylor (OI-F25-056)
****

PROPOSAL 154

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

Change the bag limits for sea ducks in Unit 15C as follows:

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

In the waterfowl regulations:

GULF COAST Units 5-7, 9, 10 (Unimak Is. only), 14-16

Ducks 1 ……8 per day, 24 in possession

Sea Ducks 2, 3, 4

Residents……10 per day, 20 in possession

Nonresidents……8 per day, 20 per season

Special Bag Limit Restrictions

1 DUCKS: General duck limits may include no more than 2 canvasback per day, 6 in possession.

2 SEA DUCKS:

- Steller's and spectacled eiders are closed statewide.
- Residents may take no more than 6 per day, 12 in possession of harlequin ducks and no more than 6 per day, 12 in possession of long-tailed ducks.
- Nonresidents may not take or possess more than 20 sea ducks per season, including no more than 4 each of any sea duck species.

~~3. Units 7 and 15, limits for residents and nonresidents may include no more than 1 per day, 2 in possession of long-tailed ducks.~~

~~4. Unit 15C, that portion of Kachemak Bay east of a line from Point Pogibshi to Anchor Point, limits for residents and nonresidents may include no more than 2 per day, 4 in possession of harlequin, and no more than 1 per day, 2 in possession of eiders (king or common). In addition, nonresidents may not take or possess more than 4 each of any sea duck species.~~

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

Uniformity for migratory waterfowl regulations for sea ducks among all Alaska regions for the same migratory sea duck species.

Weather patterns determine where the ducks go with much of Unit 15's coastline not hunted and holds birds most cannot access or survey through the designated duck season.

People tend to hunt the protected waters of Seldovia Bay or China Poot. There are nine large bays beyond Port Graham that are too remote to observe duck populations as well as the continuing shoreline. There are other open areas where there are mussel beds that are difficult to hunt due to open water and distance from the shoreline.

The number of birds vary due to weather being the primary factor of finding open water. Wind strength, direction and tide cycles are daily factors on finding sea ducks. Time of year for observing any ducks also determines the density. Fall flocks of family groups verses winter flocks of higher density feeding groups versus spring when mature birds begin pairing off. It is wrong to assume ducks are in the same place and have the same social structure year-round.

Sea duck hunting in Unit 15C is light pressure and shows with the lack of operating sea duck guides/transporters compared to other areas in the Southcentral Alaska region. The duck population is healthy and to say that it is not would risk the entire state's sea duck population, since they are migratory.

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

With waterfowl hunters on social media regarding previous years' Unit 15C proposals.

PROPOSED BY: Ethan Waldvogel (HQ-F25-005)
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Anchorage Area - Unit 14C

PROPOSAL 155

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

Limit the nonresident permit allocation for the Unit 14C goat drawing hunt DG852, 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 DG852 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 DG852.

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-F25-107)
****

PROPOSAL 156

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

Limit the nonresident permit allocation for the Unit 14C goat drawing hunt DG854, 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 DG854 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 DG854.

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-F25-108)
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PROPOSAL 157

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

Limit the nonresident permit allocation for the Unit 14C goat drawing hunt DG856, 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 DG856 to UP TO 20% of the available permits. If at least 5 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 DG856.

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-F25-109)
****

PROPOSAL 158

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

Limit tthe nonresident permit allocation for the Unit 14C goat drawing hunt DG858, 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 DG858 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 DG858.

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-F25-110)
****

PROPOSAL 159

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

Create archery only, registration permit hunts for goat in Unit 14C as follows:

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

Create an archery registration hunt that corresponds to DG852-858 and otherwise adheres to the same regulations.

RG***-*** **One goat by bow and arrow only*** b*y permit available online at*

http://hunt.alaska.gov or in person in Anchorage,

Palmer, and Soldotna beginning Aug 1

November 1-14 (May be Announced)

*certified bowhunters only

• Taking of nannies with kids is prohibited. Taking of males is encouraged.

• Information on sex identification available with permit.

• Nonresident hunters must be accompanied by a guide, see page 10.

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

The goal of this proposal is to create registration archery goat hunts that correlate with DG 852-858 that are opened if game management professionals determine that the population can sustain additional harvest after the draw hunt harvest reports are submitted.

In Units 7 and 15 there are registration goat hunts that follow the correlating draw hunt seasons. These hunts are carefully managed and when post-draw hunt populatioins can sustain additional harvest registration hunts are opened and have proven popular with many local hunters who otherwise would not have the opportunity to hunt mountain goats in this region.

Creating something similar in Unit 14C would have the same benefit of expanded opportunity and because of the nature of the hunt would not create a risk of over harvest. These hunts would only open if it was determined that the area could sustain additional harvest and a strict quota could be created for the new registration hunt. Making these hunts archery only would further reduce the chance of over harvest while still maintain opportunity for all. (Virtualy any hunter capable of hunting mountain goats can do so with a bow and arrow and would just be accepting additional challenge of a true fair chase hunt.)

Similar to the Unit 7 and 15 hunts, at least a 10 day buffer should be applied after the existing draw hunt to accommodate for receipt and analysis of DG harvest reports. The draw hunts end on 10/15 and the new archery registration hunt would start on 11/1.

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

No.

PROPOSED BY: Paul Forward (OI-F25-219)
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PROPOSAL 160

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

Limit the nonresident permit allocation for the Unit 14C moose drawing hunt DM422, 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 DM422 to UP TO 10% of the available permits. If at least 10 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 DM422.

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-F25-124)
****

PROPOSAL 161

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

Limit the nonresident permit allocation for the Unit 14C moose drawing hunt DM423, 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 DM423 to UP TO 10% of the available permits. If at least 10 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 DM423.

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-F25-125)
****

PROPOSAL 162

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

Limit the nonresident permit allocation for the Unit 14C moose drawing hunt DM424, 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 DM424 to UP TO 10% of the available permits. If at least 10 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 DM424.

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-F25-126)
****

PROPOSAL 163

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

Limit the nonresident permit allocation for the Unit 14C moose drawing hunt DM427, 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 DM427 to UP TO 10% of the available permits. If at least 10 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 DM427.

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-F25-127)
****

PROPOSAL 164

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

Limit the nonresident permit allocation for the Unit 14C moose drawing hunt DM428, 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 DM428 to UP TO 10% of the available permits. If at least 10 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 DM428.

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-F25-128)
****

PROPOSAL 165

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

Limit the nonresident permit allocation for the Unit 14C moose drawing hunt DM430, 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 DM430 to UP TO 10% of the available permits. If at least 10 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 DM430.

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-F25-129)
****

PROPOSAL 166

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

Limit the nonresident permit allocation for the Unit 14C moose drawing hunt DM446, 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 DM446 to UP TO 10% of the available permits. If at least 10 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 DM446.

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-F25-130)
****

PROPOSAL 167

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

Limit the nonresident permit allocation for the Unit 14C moose drawing hunt DM447, 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 DM447 to UP TO 10% of the available permits. If at least 10 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 DM447.

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-F25-131)
****

PROPOSAL 168

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

Limit the nonresident permit allocation for the Unit 14C moose drawing hunt DM448, 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 DM448 to UP TO 10% of the available permits. If at least 10 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 DM448.

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-F25-132)
****

PROPOSAL 169

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

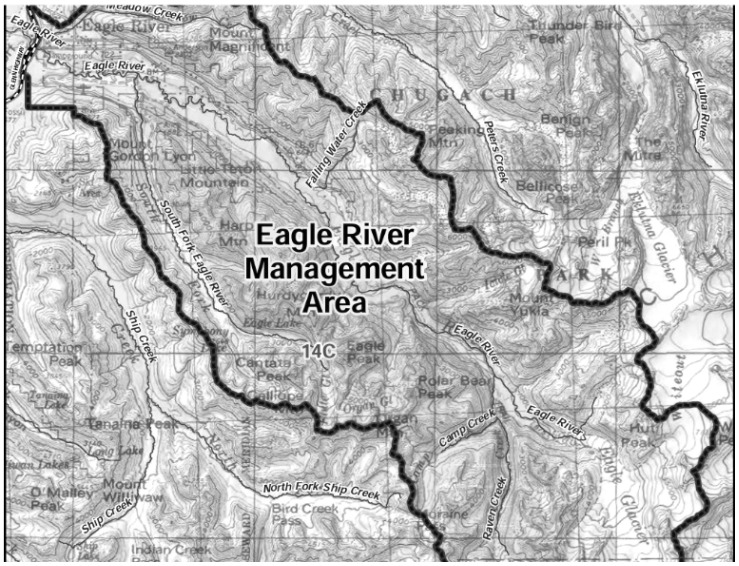
Create a moose drawing permit hunt within the Eagle River Management Area in Unit 14C, with additional restrictions as follows:

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

One bull by bow and arrow only by permit Sept 15th- Oct 15th.

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

I would like to see a moose draw tag within the Eagle River management area, but with additional restrictions; South of Eagle River Road, North of Highland loop road, south east of the confluence of the south fork of Eagle River and Eagle river. (Highlighted area below) This will keep user conflict with housing at minimum. I would like to see this one bull by bow and arrow only by permit Sept. 15th-Oct. 15th. These dates will keep multi-user conflicts to a minimum.



A color version of this map is available at
https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=gameboard.proposalbook

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

No.

PROPOSED BY: Brian Watkins (HQ-F25-002)
****

PROPOSAL 170

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

Close the RM445 moose hunt in Unit 14C to nonresidents as follows:

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

R: RM445 One bull by Bow and Arrow only (Resident hunters only)

N: No open season

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

The RM445 is increasingly one of the best opportunities for Southcentral Alaska hunters to hunt moose with archery equipment without having to worry about the safety hazards of hunting in open rifle areas during the general season. In most years the average moose killed are young bulls indicating that this is primarily a meat focused hunt that is easy access to major population centers.

The hunt is usually closed when a harvest goal of about six bulls is achieved and almost every year in recent history at least one of the moose harvested has been by a nonresident. It is important for nonresidents to have hunting opportunities but with upwards of 100 local hunters vying for meat in this area each year, this is not the appropriate place for nonresident hunting opportunities.

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

No.

PROPOSED BY: Paul Forward (OI-F25-206)
****

PROPOSAL 171

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

Create a new registration archery moose hunt in Unit 14C, East Fork Eklutna area as follows:

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

Create a new registration archery hunt in the East Fork Eklutna with regulation and season that matches RM445.

RM*** ***One bull by bow and arrow only by permit*** *online*

at http://hunt.alaska.gov or in person available in

Anchorage, Palmer, and Soldotna beginning Aug. 1

Sept. 1 – Oct. 20

A color version of this map is available at
https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=gameboard.proposalbook

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

This proposal advocates for creating a new registration hunt in the East Fork Eklutna that would correspond with RM445. This proposal differs from the proposal that advocates including the East Fork in RM445 by creating a new registration hunt that would allow for more nuanced control of the harvest in that area.

RM445 is an archery only registration moose hunt in the Eklutna lake area. Over 200 hunters routinely register for the hunt and over 100 of those actually go hunting there each year. While the area appears relatively large, there are access issues (private land and limited parking along the northeastern portion that surrounds the eklutna river) most of the hunting pressure is confined to the more accessible area surrounding Eklutna lake and the access trail. During the hunting season the ATV traffic on the trail can be intense with many hunters and non-hunting users packed into this very popular hunting and non-hunting recreation area. I believe that the initial RM445 area map was designed to mirror the Eklutna Lake Management area. Unfortunately, this map does not include the East Fork Eklutna drainage which is a natural geographic extension of the hunt area. The inclusion of the East Fork as an archery registration hunt would allow hunters to spread out a little from the heavily used trail and I believe this change would little to no effect on other hunters or the moose population management goals.

Currently the East Fork Eklutna falls under the Chugach State Park Management area therefore falls under the spike/fork/>50" regulation and allows rifle hunting. It's hard to tease out the numbers but based on extensive personal experience in the area this is not a well utilized area for moose hunters largely due to the lack of easy motorized access that many eklutna area hunters prefer. Allowing the archery hunters who are already committed to the area to hunt the East Fork would help spread out hunters and would allow those who prefer to walk off the ATV trail more opportunity to spread out from the relatively narrow corridor at that end of the current hunt area.

A concern of increasing the size of RM445, as proposed separately might be that doing so would simply allow the killing for more bulls in the existing, more easily accessible area and thereby inadvertently overhunt the area. In that proposal I discussed that keeping the harvest quota unchanged would be a conservative approach unless wildlife professionals thought that the increased area could sustain a higher harvest. With this proposal of a second hunt there would be more nuanced control of the area with a second hunt. The allocation for the East Fork hunt might only be one bull moose some year.

Based on extensive experience hunting this area (I spent 29 days in there in 2023 and have spent almost that much time in there during other seasons) I think this would be a well-received addition that would increase opportunity and safety and would have very little impact on the current management goals of the registration hunt.

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

No.

PROPOSED BY: Paul Forward (OI-F25-220)
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PROPOSAL 172

5 AAC 92.130. Restrictions to bag limit.

Include wounded moose to count towards bag limits for all hunts in the Joint Base Elmendorf Richards Management area in Unit 14C as follows:

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

5 AAC 92.130. Restrictions to bag limit.

JBER proposes to include wounded animals be counted towards bag limits for all Unit 14(C), JBER Management Area moose hunts: DM421, DM422, DM423, DM424, DM426, DM427, DM428, and DM430.

Unit 14C Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (DM421, DM422, DM423, DM424, DM426, DM427, DM428, and DM430): **If you wound a moose, it counts towards your bag limit for the regulatory year.**

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

Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson (JBER) would like to include wounded game count towards bag limits, as it is for bears in Units 1-5 and bear and elk in Unit 8. Recreation on military land is subject to safety, security, and military mission. It is the policy of JBER to provide public access for outdoor recreation and the harvest of fish and wildlife when compatible with the military mission and natural resource management objectives. The 10 year annual average reported wounded, not recovered is eight moose. Wounded moose not recovered present a safety risk to military missions and other recreators. They may draw in large predators to the training areas and increase in human-wildlife conflicts. For example, during the fall of 2024, during a military training exercise a brown bear with cubs on a cached moose was encountered, delayed training and increased risk to training. When a moose is wounded, every effort to track and completion of taking the moose that was attempted, rather than pursuing another moose.

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

The concerns and proposal were discussed with the ADF&G Anchorage area biologist.

PROPOSED BY: Colette Brandt, Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson (OI-F25-225)
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PROPOSAL 173

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

Shift the season dates of the DM211 antlerless moose hunts in the Twentymile/Placer River drainages in Units 7 and 14C to October 1-30, to avoid overlap with the DM210 bull hunt as follows:

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

Move the 20-Mile/Placer Rivers antlerless moose drawing hunt DM211 dates to October 1-30 so that they do not coincide with the bull hunt DM210.

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

Move the 20-Mile/Placer Rivers antler less moose drawing hunt DM211 dates to October 1-30 so that they do not coincide with the bull hunt DM210.

This area is very congested and is a popular river system for other recreation. having 75 moose hunters along with all the other user groups is diminishing the quality of the bull hunt DM210 which is very difficult to draw.

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-F25-121)
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PROPOSAL 174

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

5 AAC 92.057. Special provisions for Dall sheep and mountain goat drawing permit hunts.

Reduce the resident sheep harvest to one ram every other year in the general harvest hunt areas in Units 7 and 14C. Additionally, limit the application period to every other year and change the nonresident permit allocation as follows:

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

Reduce resident Dall Sheep harvest to one ram every other year in the general harvest areas.

Reduced draw tags from being allowed to apply for a tag every year in 14C and 7 to every other year only regardless of harvesting a ram or not.

Reduce nonresident tag allocation to 5% for 14C and 7.

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

Populations are ever dwindling and this would still allow for maximum resident hunter opportunities while reducing overall harvest.

Change the Units 14C and 7 draw unit applications to an every other year system for residents.

You can currently technically get a tag in the draw and harvest a ram and apply for the sub unit next to the same area and harvest another ram if you get another tag the next season. By changing the draw to only allow for one tag to be drawn every other year and not allowed to apply for another tag the next year again the overall harvest of the fewer numbers of sheep available will be reduced while at the same time still allowing for hunter participation and harvest.

We need look no further than current ADF&G research and observation to know that change needs to be made to increase conservation. This conservation can be done while still allowing resident hunter participation.

An available tag reduction for nonresidents would further increase resident hunter opportunities and participation, which is identified in the state constitution, residents first.

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

One other individual.

PROPOSED BY: Jerry Herrod (OI-F25-017)
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PROPOSAL 175

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

Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in the Twentymile/Portage/Placer hunt area in Units 7 and 14C.

Seasons and Bag Limits	**Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)**	**Nonresident Open Season**
(5)		
…		
Unit 7, the Placer River drainages, and that portion of the Placer Creek (Bear Valley) drainage outside the Portage Glacier Closed Area, and that portion of Unit 14(C) within the Twentymile River drainage		
RESIDENT HUNTERS:		
1 moose by drawing permit only; up to 60 permits for bulls will be issued in combination with nonresident hunts, and up to 70 permits for antlerless moose will be issued	Aug. 20—Oct. 10 (General hunt only)	
…		
NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:		
1 bull by drawing permit only; up to 60 permits for bulls will be issued in combination with resident hunts		Aug. 20—Oct. 10
…		

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why
Antlerless moose seasons must be reauthorized annually, and the Alaska Department of Fish & Game (department) recommends reauthorizing the antlerless hunt in Units 7 and this portion of 14C. The moose population in the Twentymile/Portage/Placer area has a history of rapid increase following mild winters and sharp reductions during severe winters. In 2009, antlerless permits were issued for the first time since 2004. The number of permits issued depends on the current population estimate, bull:cow ratios, and estimated winter mortality. A November 2024 aerial composition count of moose in the Twentymile, Portage and Placer River drainages found 203 moose with a bull:cow ratio of 33 bulls per 100 cows and a calf:cow ratio of 30 calves per 100 cows.

The harvest of antlerless moose provides the department with a management tool to maintain the number of moose in the Twentymile/Portage/Placer area at an abundance level that reduces the possibility of over-browsing of winter habitat, moose-vehicle collisions, and significant mortality events during severe winters. This hunt, in previous years, has been successful in creating additional moose hunting opportunity with little or no controversy among resource users.

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-F25-036)
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PROPOSAL 176

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

Reauthorize the antlerless moose seasons in Unit 14(C).

Seasons and Bag Limits	**Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)**	**Nonresident Open Season**
(12) …		
Unit 14(C), Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (JBER) Management Area 1 moose by regulatory year by drawing permit, and by muzzleloading blackpowder rifle or bow and arrow only; up to 185 permits may be issued	Sept. 1—Mar. 31 (General hunt only)	Sept 1.—Mar. 31
Unit 14(C), that portion known as the Birchwood Management Area 1 moose by drawing permit, by	Sept. 1—Sept. 30 (General hunt only)	Sept. 1— Sept. 30

bow and arrow only; up to 25 permits may be issued		
Unit 14(C), that portion known as the Anchorage Management Area	Sept. 1—Nov. 30 (General hunt only)	No open season
1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only, and by bow and arrow, shotgun, or muzzleloading black powder rifle only; up to 50 permits may be issued		
Unit 14(C), that portion of the Ship Creek drainage upstream of the Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (JBER) Management Area		
1 moose by drawing permit only; up to 50 permits may be issued; or	Sept. 1—Sept. 30 (General hunt only)	Sept. 1—Sept. 30
1 bull by registration permit only	Oct. 1—Nov. 30 (General hunt only)	Oct. 1—Nov. 30
…		
Remainder of Unit 14(C)		
1 moose per regulatory year, only as follows:		
…		
1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only; up to 60 permits may be issued; or	Sept. 1—Sept. 30 (General hunt only)	No open season
…		

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

Antlerless moose hunts must be reauthorized annually, and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (department) recommends reauthorizing the antlerless moose hunts in Unit 14C. The harvest of antlerless moose provides the department with a management tool to maintain the number of moose in Unit 14C at the desired population objective (1,500 moose). This population size has been demonstrated to reduce over-browsing of winter habitat, moose-vehicle collisions, moose-human conflicts in urban areas, and significant mortality events during severe winters. These hunts have also

been successful in providing additional moose hunting opportunities in the state's human population center with little or no controversy among resource users.

Moose in Unit 14C are managed intensively for a population objective of 1,500–1,800 moose and an annual harvest objective of 90–270 moose (5AAC 92.108). The number of antlerless permits issued depends on the current population estimate, bull:cow ratios, and estimated winter mortality. In 2013, the department estimated that the moose population contained approximately 1,533 moose in Unit 14C based on a combination of population censuses, composition surveys, and extrapolation to areas not surveyed. A combined 2024 aerial composition count of the Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson Management Area and the Ship Creek drainage found 233 moose with a bull:cow ratio of 44 bulls per 100 cows and a calf:cow ratio of 14 calves per 100 cows. In 2021, a survey of the same area found a total of 301 moose with ratios of 44 bulls per 100 cows and 20 calves per 100 cows, respectively. The persistent, deep snowpack during the winter of 2022 likely resulted in additional winter mortality and an increase in the late winter energetic demands on pregnant cows, potentially reducing both the bull:cow and calf:cow estimates for the population. However, harvest numbers continue to remain relatively steady, and at this population level, there have been fewer reports of human-moose conflicts and moose-vehicle collisions.

Harvesting cow moose is paramount to maintaining the population at the low end of the objective while providing harvest opportunity.

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-F25-037)
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PROPOSAL 177

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

Extend the season for the DS140 and DS240 sheep hunts in Unit 14C by five days as follows:

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

Extend the dates for DS140 and DS240 by five days to October 1-15.

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

Extend the dates for DS140 and DS240 by five days to October 1-15.

This time of the year inclement weather limits the amount of days a hunter can hunt effectively. Ten days is a very short amount of time to hunt with archery equipment for sheep and weather adds to this.

An additional five days may add some additional opportunity to hunters on some years and on others heavy snow will fall and the additional days will not be utilized.

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-F25-122)
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PROPOSAL 178

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

Split the DS141 sheep drawing hunt in Unit 14C into two hunt periods as follows:

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

DS141 Sept 1st- Sept 15th

DSXXX Sept 16th- Sept 30th

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

Decrease the number of tags for DS141 from 24 to 12. Split the tag into two separate tags of six and six, with season dates of Sept. 1st- Sept. 15th and Sept. 16th – Sept/ 30th.

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

With the current situation of DS141, 24 tags is too many users in one area at a time. This tag should have tags cut to 12, with two separate seasons. I have hunted this tag five times and each time there is extended pressure on sheep from too many hunters at one time.

PROPOSED BY: Brian Watkins (HQ-F25-007)
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PROPOSAL 179

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

Remove the East Fork Eklutna from the sheep hunt area for DS124, DS125, DS126 and DS224 in Unit 14C as follows:

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

Option 1) Remove the East Fork Eklutna from the hunting areas of DS124, 125, 126, 224 and revert back to the previous situation with the East Fork being open for sheep hunting only as part of DS140/240.

Option 2) Remove the East Fork Eklutna from the hunting areas of DS124,125, 126, 224 and include that area both within DS140/240 as well as DS141 and DS241.

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

We need to remove the Eklutna East Fork from the hunt areas for DS124, 125, 126 and 224 and add them to the hunt area for DS141 and 241 to increase opportunity, safety and equity for draw permit winners in these areas.

In the 2022/2023 proposal cycle Proposal 82 was carried by the BOG. This proposal, submitted by a hunting guide, expanded DS124, DS125, DS126 and DS224 to include the East Fork Eklutna drainage that had, at one time had it's own draw tag, and the in subsequent years was included in DS140 and DS240. While the effort to expand hunting opportunity in a sustainable way should be commended, this proposal has the opposite affect. DS124, DS125, 126 and 224 include a vast area that only has 3 tags/hunters for each of the allowed seasons. This is an uncrowded hunt with plenty of terrain and opportunity for a DS recipient to hunt safely and enjoyably away from the two other hunters who are allowed to be in the area.

On the other hand, recipients of DS141 and 241 (I've had 141 twice myself) find themselves in a much smaller more easily accessible area competing with 23 other tag holders each season. Furthermore, many of the rams that can be pursued in the DS141 area often travel back and forth across the hunt boundary into the east fork Eklutna making them vulnerable to DS124, DS125, 126 and DS224 who, at times, could almost shoot those rams from the popular hiking trail that ascends the east fork. This unfortunate result of Proposal 82 results in not just a lower quality experience for the 25 hunters who draw DS141 and DS241 but also puts in them in potential danger if they find themselves stalking rams near the hunt border where an errant shot from a rifle hunter just the other side of the border could be in their direction. I have many times seen rams residing right on the divide between the two hunting areas. Essentially, the 22/23 Proposal 82 has greatly increased decreased the hunt quality, stalking opportunity and physical safety of up to 25 hunters per year just to allow additional area for a much smaller group of tag holders who already have a large area with very little competition.

Furthermore, prior to Proposal 82, DS 140 and DS240 hunters could already hunt in the East Fork. For those 40 tag holders the East Fork Eklutna provided one of the only areas of their entire hunting area that had not been previously hunted by other hunters during earlier seasons and was a small refuge for those looking to hunt less disturbed sheep. Now that is no longer a reality after at least 10 hunters have been able to rifle hunt the relatively small area during the preceding ~2 months.

A quick view of the map will show that geographically it makes much more sense to either revert have to the previous situation of having the East fork included in the other hunts that include the Eklutna lake area. DS124, 125, 126 and 224 hunters are unlikely to access that area via any other terrain in their area and would rather use a completely different access and be isolated from the other hunting areas of their tag. DS140,141,240 and 241 hunters however, could venture up in the East Fork easily from the areas they are already hunting, making this a much more natural option. Geographically including the east fork Eklutna with the other Eklutna drainage tags is intuitive.

It should also be noted that during the 22/23 cycle ADFG staff wrote that it would make sense to include the East Fork in the already somewhat crowded DS141/241 hunts and mentioned that as an alternative. Personal conversations with local ADFG staff have confirmed that sentiment.

Finally, the mandate of the Board of Game is to increase opportunity for hunters. The recently adopted Proposal 82 creates increased hunting area for about 10 hunters per year while adding this area into DS141/241 or reverting back to having it open only for DS140/240 would increase opportunity for up to 65 hunters each season. At the same time, restricting the area to archery only

would provide this greatly increased hunting opportunity while likely decreasing the overall harvest in the area due to the dramatically decreased success rates of bowhunters for sheep.

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

Yes, through discussion with area biologists and through review of ADF&G comments from the 22/23 proposal cycle documents and meeting.

PROPOSED BY: Paul Forward (OI-F25-212)
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PROPOSAL 180

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

Expand the DS123 sheep hunt area in Unit 14C, available to resident and nonresident hunters. Additionally, exempt the nonresident quota; issue only one permit for any ram, and lengthen the season as follows:

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

Expand DS123 - Central's hunting area to include all of the other four any weapon hunt areas. Make it available to all hunters and exempt it from the nonresident hunter quotas.

Issue only one permit and make it a any ram bag limit.

Season dates: August 1st to September 30th.

Unit 14C - Central - DS123- Resident and Nonresident 1 permit

August 1st to September 30 - Any ram

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

I would like to have a super tag for Unit 14C. There is very limited access to all hunting areas in Unit 14C for Dall sheep and this would create a super tag for all hunters. I want to expand the hunting area for DS123- Central to every area in the park and make it available to all hunters, both residents and nonresidents. It will be exempt from the nonresident quotas. The season dates will be August 1st to September 30th. There will only be one permit still. The guides will not put their hunters in for this permit because the odds are already astronomical and they can apply their hunters for the nonresident permits already available that have much better odds. DS123 has only been drawn by a nonresident one time and that was the first year it was offered.

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

Myself.

PROPOSED BY: Daniel Montgomery (OI-F25-241)
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PROPOSAL 181

5 AAC 92.057. Special provisions for Dalls heep and mountain goat drawing permit hunts.

Allow 2nd degree kindred sheep hunters to hunt under their relative's permit for sheep in Unit 14C as follows:

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

Resident Dall sheep permit holders in Unit 14C are allowed to take a second degree of kindred relative hunting and take their Dall sheep under the resident's permit. The second degree of kindred nonresident hunter must purchase a hunting license and a nonresident sheep locking tag and obtain a separate additional permit from ADF&G before going into the field to hunt. Both the resident permit holder and the 2DK nonresident hunter have to be in the field together as required. Both permit tags have to be notched if there is a sheep harvested.

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

There is almost no opportunity for sheep permits for second degree of kindred nonresident hunters in Unit 14C. There is only one floating 2DK permit for rifle hunters and none for archery hunters. Under the current allocation percentages of 5% of permits for nonresident archery hunters and 13% for nonresident rifle hunters, one is all there can be. No more that 20% of the total nonresident permits can go to 2DK nonresidents. There have been seven total nonresident permits issued in each of the last two years. 2DK nonresident success is the same as resident success around 20%. I'm proposing allowing 2DK hunters to hunt under their relative's permit for sheep in Unit 14C.

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

I wrote it myself.

PROPOSED BY: Dan Montgomery (OI-F25-222)
****

PROPOSAL 182

5 AAC 92.057. Special provisions for Dalls sheep and mountain goat drawing permit hunts.

Change the nonresident sheep permit allocation in Unit 14C so that at least one permit is issued for each of four hunts areas as follows:

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

I'm proposing allocating at least one nonresident guided Dall sheep permit for each of the four hunt areas in Unit 14C that have nonresident permits in them. There had been nonresident permits issued in these areas every year since the early 1980's, until 2023. The permit dates I'm advocating for are some of the same ones that were issued in 2010 when the first separate draws for nonresidents were put in place. If there is not enough nonresident permits to issue at least one in each area (minimum four) then at the department discretion they can decide which ones not to offer. If any area is closed to all hunters the department does not have to issue any nonresident permits in it.

The Department shall issue nonresident guided permits for the following areas unless there is less than four to issue.

Unit 14C- Northeast - DS224 August 10th to August 22

Unit 14C- Northwest- DS230 August 10th to August 22

Unit 14C- Upper Eagle River August 23rd to Sept. 4th

Unit 14C- Southwest DS237 August 23rd to Sept. 4th

Thank you for this opportunity.

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

Modify the nonresident drawing permit allocation for Dall sheep in Unit 14C. Nonresidents are allocated 13% of the total number of any weapon sheep permits in Unit 14C and second degree of kindred hunters are allocated up to 20% of those permits.

The issue: In the 2023 permit drawing period, no guided nonresident permits were offered in the Unit 14C-Northeast area or the Unit 14C- Upper Eagle River area. This was the first time ever that guided nonresident hunters had not had access to apply hunters for these areas since they went to draw permits in the 1980's. In 2024 there was no nonresident permit offered in the Unit 14C- Upper Eagle river area (DS233). In 2025 there was no nonresident permit offered in Unit 14C- Northwest (DS224). The Department offered three permits in some of the areas during this period. Guides did not even apply anyone for two of the permits offered in 2024 for lack of mature rams in the areas. Not having access to these permits has a big financial impact on the guides that operate in Unit 14C.

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

Myself.

PROPOSED BY: Daniel Montgomery (OI-F25-240)
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PROPOSAL 183

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

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

Extend all hunting seasons for black and brown bear in Unit 14C to June 15 as follows:

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

Extend the black bear and brown bear seasons in Unit 14C including all draw tags to June 15.

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

Due to later winters in the Southcentral area, it makes it increasingly more difficult to harvest black and brown bears on years with heavy snow.

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

PROPOSED BY: Caleb Martin (OI-F25-021)
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PROPOSAL 184

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

Create a resident, black bear hunt for Highland Mountain in Unit 14C, October 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?

I would like a draw tag added for the Highland Mountain. One bear by bow and arrow, shotgun or muzzleloader only by permit, Oct. 1- Oct. 31.

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

I would like a season opening for black bear on Highland Mountain in Eagle River. There is an abundance of bears on this mountain and a hunting season would help alleviate user/bear conflicts

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

No

PROPOSED BY: Brian Watkins (HQ-F25-001)
****

PROPOSAL 185

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

Increase the number of drawing permits for the DL455 black bear hunt in Unit 14C as follows:

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

5 AAC 85.015(4). Hunting seasons and bag limits for black bear.

Increase the number of available permits to 50 for Unit 14(C), JBER Management Area DL455 as follows: up to **50** [25] permits may be issued.

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

Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson (JBER) would like to increase the number of draw permits available for the JBER black bear hunt (DL455) from 25 to up to 50. Since the hunt began in 2016, 25 hunters are drawn but only an average of 11 (44%) hunt and only 1-4 bears are taken each year. With the low participation and harvest of the hunt, we'd like to increase the available permits to up to 50, that way potential participation and harvest may increase and allow the Department of Fish and Game to adjust annually as needed to better meet harvest goals.

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

The proposal was discussed with the ADF&G Anchorage area biologist.

PROPOSED BY: Colette Brandt, Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson (OI-F25-223)
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PROPOSAL 186

5 AAC 92.130. Restrictions to bag limit.

Include wounded black bear to count towards the bag limit for the DL455 hunt as follows:

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

5 AAC 92.130. Restrictions to bag limit.

JBER proposes to include wounded animals be counted towards bag limits for the 14C JBER Management Area, black bear hunt (DL455).

Unit 14C Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (DL455): **If you wound a black bear, it counts towards your bag limit for the regulatory year.**

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

Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson (JBER) would like to include wounded game counted towards bag limits, just as it is considered for bears in Units 1-5 and bear and elk in Unit 8. The definition of "take" already includes wounding described as "attempting to take".

The use of military land for recreation is subject to safety, security, and military mission. It is the policy of JBER to provide public access for outdoor recreation activities and the harvest of fish and wildlife when compatible with the military mission and natural resource management objectives. A wounded black bear presents safety risks to the hunter, soldiers that may be performing land navigation and maneuvering exercises or occupying bivouac sites, as well as any other individuals in the vicinity, both on and off installation. Since the hunt began, there have been 3 reports of hunters wounding and not recovering bears shot at. By including wounded game in the bag limit for the regulatory year, it will incentivize accuracy.

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

The concerns of wounding and not recovered animals and proposal were discussed with the ADF&G Anchorage area biologist.

PROPOSED BY: Colette Brandt, Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson (OI-F25-224)
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PROPOSAL 187

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

Increase the bag limit for black bear to three, in Unit 14C Remainder as follows:

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

The proposed solution is **Three** [ONE] bear, harvest tag and no closed season.

The new regulation would read **Three** [ONE] bear, harvest tag and no closed season.

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

The issue the MatSu Valley AC would like to have addressed is the bag limit for black bears in 14C Remainder from one black bear, harvest tag and no closed season to three black bears, harvest tag and no closed season.

Individual observations suggest a surplus harvest to support this proposal.

At times, local pilots are reporting seeing 40 to 60 black bears in Colony, George, Troublesome, and Whiteout Glacier drainages during a single flight. In addition, black bears have been seen moving from the Unit 14A drainages of Friday Creek, Metal Creek and Grasshopper into Unit 14C Remainder. The other areas within Unit 14C have a harvest of one black bear as either a draw or registration and may have a limits for the method and means. The abundance of bears throughout Unit 14C has the black bears moving into Unit 14C remainder.

Unit 14C Anchorage and Eagle River

Unit 14C: That portion of Unit 14 south of Unit 14A. See map page 82 for state restricted areas in Unit 14C.

OPEN TO:	R = RESIDENTS ONLY	B = RESIDENTS AND NONRESIDENTS	N = NONRESIDENTS ONLY

OPEN TO:	UNIT/ AREA	BAG LIMIT AND SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS	PERMIT/ HUNT #*	OPEN SEASON
Black Bear		*• See pages 24-27 for bear information and salvage requirements.* *• Evidence of sex must remain naturally attached as required.*		
B	14C	*Lower Eagle River Valley* — One bear ***by bow and arrow, crossbow, or muzzleloader only*** *by permit available online at http://hunt.alaska.gov or in person in Anchorage and Palmer beginning Aug 1*	RL450	Sept 1-May 31
B	14C	*Upper Eagle River Valley* — One bear *by permit available online at http://hunt.alaska.gov or in person in Anchorage and Palmer beginning Aug 1*	RL460	Sept 1-June 15
B	14C	*a portion of Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson* — One bear ***by shotgun only*** *by permit*	DL455	Sept 1-June 15
B	14C	*McHugh Creek* — One bear ***by bow and arrow, shotgun or muzzleloader only*** *by permit*	DL457	Oct 1-Oct 31
B	14C	*remainder of Eagle River, remainder of Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Birchwood, and Anchorage Management Areas, excluding McHugh Creek*		no open season
B	14C	*Eklutna Lake Management Area* — One bear ***by bow and arrow only***	HT	Sept 1-May 31
B	14C	*Chugach State Park Management Area* — One bear	HT	Sept 1-May 31
B	14C	*remainder* — One bear	HT	no closed season

The access to Unit 14C Remainder is accessible mostly by aircraft with limited access by boat, ATV or UTV.

If approved, this proposal will align with the Unit 14A/B black bear bag limits.

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

The advisory committee met to review this proposal and the ADF&G biologist was present to answer AC questions.

PROPOSED BY: Matanuska Valley Fish and Game Advisory Committee (OI-F25-049)
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PROPOSAL 188

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

Limit the nonresident permit allocation for the Unit 14C brown bear drawing hunt DB468, 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 DB468 UP TO 20% of the available permits.

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 DB468.

There is currently no cap on how many tags may be drawn by nonresidents. No other state in the union allows such an allowance to 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.

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-F25-065)
****

PROPOSAL 189

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

Limit the nonresident permit allocation for the brown bear drawing hunt DB470, 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 DB470 to UP TO 20% of the available permits.

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 DB470.

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.

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-F25-066)
****

PROPOSAL 190

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

Limit the nonresident permit allocation for the brown bear drawing hunt DB477, 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 DB477 to UP TO 20% of the available permits.

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 DB477.

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.

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-F25-067)
****

PROPOSAL 191

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

Create an archery only, drawing permit hunt for brown bear in Unit 14C as follows:

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

Create an additional drawing permit hunt in Game Management Unit 14C by bow and arrow only as follows:

DBXXX

GMU, Area

Unit 14C, Chugach State Park Management Area

Season Dates: 09/01 - 05/31

Residency Restrictions

Hunt available to Nonresidents

Hunt available to Alaska Residents

Certified Bowhunters Only

Up to 25 permits

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

With an average of only one bear per year taken from the current hunt, I believe more opportunity is warranted. Over the past several years, I have personally witnessed a ton of brown bear in the area covered by DB470. In one afternoon, I witnessed six different brown bears on one side of a single valley. I have also hunted moose several different years in the area and during the season of 2023, I witnessed more bears, wolves and less moose and sheep than ever. I believe that creating a drawing permit hunt for archery only would allow for that additional opportunity, while only maybe averaging one more bear taken per year. There should be no conflict with user groups as there is already almost unlimited harvest ticket black bear hunting in the same area.

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

Myself and other avid hunters of Unit 14C.

PROPOSED BY: Mike Harris (OI-F25-184)
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PROPOSAL 192

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

Establish an archery only, registration brown bear huntin the Chugach State Park Management Area in Unit 14C as follows:

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

RB470 Chugach State Park Management Area and that portion of Eagle River Management Area above Icicle Creek: One bear every regulatory year by bow and arrow only. By registration permit.

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

Establish RB470 registration tag to mirror draw tag DB470. Archery restrictions of bow and arrow only for the registration tag, season dates remain the same September 1 - May 31. Starting a registration rather than a harvest ticket still allows the department control to alleviate concerns of over harvest by establishing a sow quota for the area, if such concerns even exist. This area is a popular area for moose hunting in the fall, draw sheep hunting, and harvest ticket black bear hunting. Given the extremely low harvest rate of the 15 draw tags open to any weapon, there should

be no biological concern of establishing a registration hunt for archery only and creating more opportunities for those afield in this area. This additional registration opportunity also does not take away or limit the any weapon opportunities already in place. Conflicts with other user groups for the area should not be a concern as it is already open to harvest ticket black bear hunting during these season dates.

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

PROPOSED BY: Trevor Embry (OI-F25-195)
****

PROPOSAL 193

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

Change the DB468 brown bear draw hunt for the Eklutna Lake Management Area in Unit 14C to a registration hunt as follows:

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

Change DB468 from a drawing permit hunt to a registration permit hunt as follows:

[DB468] **RB468** Chugach State Park within Eklutna Lake Management Area One bear every regulatory year by bow and arrow only by registration permit.

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

Switching to a registration rather than a harvest ticket still allows the Department of Fish and Game control to alleviate concerns of over harvest by establishing a sow quota for the area, if such concerns even exist. This area is a popular area for registration moose hunting in the fall, draw permit sheep hunting, and harvest ticket black bear hunting. Given the extremely low harvest rate of the 20 draw permits, there should be no biological concern of converting to registration for this hunt and allowing more opportunities for those already afield in this area. Conflicts with other user groups for the area should not be a concern as it is already open to harvest ticket black bear hunting by bow and arrow only.

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

Combined board of the Alaskan Bowhunters Association

PROPOSED BY: Alaskan Bowhunters Association (OI-F25-202)
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PROPOSAL 194

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

Extend the brown bear hunting season in Unit 14C Remainder to June 30 as follows:

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

Extend the brown bear season in Unit 14C Remainder as follows:

Unit 14C remainder

One bear every regulatory year

Sept. 1- **Jun 30** [Jun 15]

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

Lengthening the season in Unit 14C Remainder to June 30th would align the end date with Units 14A, 14B, 7 and 15. An additional two weeks should pose no biological concern and will add additional hunting opportunity.

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

PROPOSED BY: Mike Harris (OI-F25-204)
****

PROPOSAL 195

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

Allow same day airborne take of black and brown bears at a bait stations in Unit 14C Remainder as follows:

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

In Units 7, 9, 11-13, 14A, 14B, **14C Remainder**, 15-21, 23-25, 26B, and 26C black bears may be taken at permitted bait stations the same day you have flown, provided you are at least 300 feet from the airplane. Same day airborne take is not allowed on National Park Service lands.

In Units 7, 11-13, 14A, 14B, **14C Remainder**, 15-16, 18, 19, 20A, 20B, 20C, that portion of 20D north of the Tanana River, 20E, 20F, 21, 23, 24B, 24C, 24D, and 25D, brown bears may be taken at permitted bait stations the same day you have flown, provided you are at least 300 feet from the airplane. Same day airborne take is not allowed on National Park Service lands.

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

The issue the MatSu Valley Advisory Committee would like to have addressed is increasing the bear baiting opportunities in Unit 14C Remainder by allowing same day airborne hunting for black and brown bears at a bait station.

A large portion of Unit 14C Remainder is only accessible by aircraft. The current regulation requires hunters to overnight or camp until 3AM before legally hunting. Although bears move

throughout the day or 24-hour period, the bears seem to visit bait stations in the evening and tend to be nocturnal.

Allowing hunters to hunt bears the same day airborne provided the hunter is 300 feet from the airplane will increase the opportunity for harvesting bears over bait in 14C Remainder.

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

The advisory committee met to review this Proposal and ADF&G biologistwas present to answer AC questions.

PROPOSED BY: Matanuska Valley Fish and Game Advisory Committee (OI-F25-050)
****

PROPOSAL 196

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

Restrict bear baiting within five miles of the Knik River Road in Unit 14C Remainder as follows:

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

At Page 27 of the Regulation Book there is language stating that bear baiting is prohibited in the Glacier Creek drainage. This language should be added so that the Regulation Book would state as follows: "Bait may not be used and bait stations may not be registered. Unit 14 Remainder, the Glacier Creek drainage outside of Chugach 'State Park, and within five (5) miles of the Knik River Road."

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

Bait stations for both black and brown bear habituate some bears to human food and humans, and these bears pose a threat to people and property when bait stations are permitted near to populated areas. Bear baiting is currently authorized within a mile of the numerous cabins, home, and lodges along and near the Knik River Road; and a single mile separation is inadequate to provide for public safety. Furthermore, allowing bear bait near a populated area sends the wrong message contradicting the efforts of public authorities to persuade residents to handle their garbage responsibly.

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

I discussed this with the Anchorage Advisory Committee, but support was not unanimous and it was recommended that l submit it as an individual. I spoke with the area biologist about it and he referred me to Page 27 of the Regulation Book and suggested using the language concerning Glacier Creek drainage as a form.

PROPOSED BY: Kneeland Taylor (OI-F25-151)
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PROPOSAL 197

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

Require identification tags on traps and snares in Unit 14C as follows:

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

A person may not set a trap or snare in Unit 14C unless there is attached to the trap or snare an identification tag. Identification tags must provide either the person's name, or a personal identification number (PIN). The PIN for residents is the Alaska Public Safety Information Network (ASPIN) ID. For residents, the Department shall upon request of a person intending to set traps or snares that person's ASPlN ID._ For nonresidents the Department will assign a PIN when a trapping license is issued. PlNs, will be kept confidential by the Department with exception that. the identities of trappers shall be released to law enforcement when requested by law enforcement.

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

The Anchorage Municipal Code requires at AMC 14.70.200 C that all game traps and snares set with in the Municipality of Anchorage shall be marked with a trapper identification number issued by the State or with contact information for the owner of the trap or snare. However, the state currently has no regulation providing for the issuance of confidential I D's to trappers. This proposal would enable the ADF&G to issue confidential ID tags so that trappers who intend to set traps in the municipality could comply with AMC 14.70.200 C without using tags which contain their names.

Another purpose of this proposal to require tags is to provide. a deterrent to individuals who might be tempted to trap illegally

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

Law enforcement supported a statewide proposal for tags on traps which was considered by the Board of Game at its Statewide Meeting in March, 2025, but was rejected. This proposal incorporates all the technical changes and recommendations made by law enforcement.

PROPOSED BY: Kneeland Taylor (OI-F25-052)
****

Kodiak Area – Unit 8

PROPOSAL 198

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

Shorten the nonresident hunting season for deer in Unit 8 Remainder as follows:

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

Sitka blacktail hunting season in UNIT 8 Remainder

August 1-November 25 for Nonresidents and Aliens

August 1st-December 31st for Residents

Kodiak Road zone stays the same as its been.

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

My proposal addresses the clashing of nonresident deer hunters on Kodiak Island with resident hunters during our hunting season. There are flat out too many people hunting especially during November and December every year. Resident hunters utilize deer as a major source of subsistence in Unit 8, nonresident hunters utilize deer as a source of hunting and adventure and to a vastly lesser degree, eating. They are not dependent on it as a means of survival and subsistence like residents hunters. Nonresident harvest has steadily increased since 2016 while resident deer harvest has stayed steady or dropped. The increase in nonresident hunting for deer is perpetuated by the internet and DIY videographers and opportunistic transporters. Quality of hunting has gone way down for all user groups. It is getting so bad I now wear a bright orange gumby suit when out hunting so I don't get smoked with a stray bullet. There needs to be a reasonable season in place for different user groups.

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

I have formulated this proposal with the input of many Kodiak Island, Unit 8 residents and village residents as well as input from other continental Alaskans residents

PROPOSED BY: Stig Yngve (OI-F25-176)
****

PROPOSAL 199

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

Increase the nonresident bag limit for deer in Unit 8 Remainder as follows:

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

Increase the limit for Sitka blacktail deer on Kodiak Island for nonresidents from 1 buck to 2 deer or 3 deer (bucks only before October 1).

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

The limit for nonresidents was changed from three Sitka blacktail deer to one buck starting in the 2023 season. From what I can tell, this was due to "user-conflict issues" with villages on the ferry system rather than deer population concerns. The Department of Fish & Game opposed the reduction finding no biological reason for it. The population remains high and healthy.

Very few nonresidents ever harvested more than one deer. However, they did book 4-7 day trips wherein they harvested the first decent buck they saw and spent the remaining time in the field trying to beat the size.

The unintended consequence of this reduction is additional pressure put on waterfowl hunting and fishing. When hunters harvest deer at the beginning of their trip, instead of staying in the field looking for a bigger buck, they are now waterfowl hunting and fishing to fill the rest of the days of their trip. I have lived in Larsen Bay my whole life and have never seen so much winter charter fishing and waterfowl hunting.

There are also far fewer nonresidents booking hunts. This is for at least two reasons. First, the reduction in limit gave the impression that the population of deer on Kodiak was low. That is not the case. Second, hunters did not want to devote the time and expense to a hunt that could be over in one day. This harms lodges, transporters, air taxies, outfitters, and other Alaskan businesses.

If this were a population issue or an issue that effected the health of the deer on Kodiak Island, I would be fully supportive. My father was a guide here, my son is guiding too, and we want this area healthy and productive for generations to come. However, the deer population in my area, Larsen Bay/Uyak Bay, is high and healthy. There were 42 deer in my yard last week. Winter conditions effect deer population far more than hunters. We have had mild enough winters, without sheets of ice that block deer food sources, and the population is thriving.

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

No.

PROPOSED BY: Mike Carlson (OI-F25-182)
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PROPOSAL 200

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

Increase the nonresident bag limit for deer in Unit 8 Remainder from one to two bucks for as follows:

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

Change the nonresident Unit 8 deer limit to two bucks to allow hunters that are successful early in their hunt to continue their time in the field.

"Nonresidents Unit 8 Remainder two bucks HT Aug 1 - Dec 31

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

The one deer limit in Unit 8 for nonresidents is a deterrent to nonresident hunters, and a detriment to Kodiak Island businesses and State of Alaska revenue for a negligable reduction in harvest.

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

In consultation with Kodiak Island businesses catering to hunters.

PROPOSED BY: Roark Brown (HQ-F25-003)
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PROPOSAL 201

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

Increase the nonresident bag limit for deer in Unit 8, Remainder 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?

Increase the nonresident bag limit for deer in Unit 8, Remainder as follows:

Unit 8: Remainder

Nonresidents

Bag Limit: Two Bucks

Season dates: Aug. 1 — Dec. 31

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

In 2023, the Alaska Board of Game adopted a proposal (Proposal 73) which decreased the nonresident bag limit in Game Management Unit 8, Remainder from three deer to only one buck. This decrease was drastic and was not supported by data or opinions offered by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. I believe that if a bag limit change were needed, the board should have taken a more gradual approach (two deer or two bucks). As an Alaska resident, I personally have several nonresident friends and family members who would buy two deer tags when coming to Kodiak. In the off chance that they filled one early, they would have the rest of the hunt to pursue a bigger buck. Most of these hunts would still only result in one deer killed but the department still made money on that second tag. Most of my friends and family now cannot justify coming to hunt Kodiak when limited to only one tag. I also know of Alaskan transporter businesses that lost money to the bag limit decrease.

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

Myself and various friends and family.

PROPOSED BY: Mike Harris (OI-F25-183)
****

PROPOSAL 202

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

Change the bag limit for deer in Unit 8 for Guide Use Areas 08-01, 02, 26, 27 and 28, to two bucks only through December 1, and antlerless deer after December 1 as follows:

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

Bucks only until December 1st, One antlerless deer after December 1st in Guide Use Area's 08-01, 08-02, 08-26, 08-27 and 08-28.

Bucks can only be harvested until December 1st; after December 1st, does and antlerless deer may be harvested.

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

Proposal: Bucks only until December 1st; one antlerless deer after December 1st - Unit 8.

The harvest limit would not be affected in this proposal. This proposal would take affect in Guide Use Area's 08-01, 08-02, 08-26, 08-27, and 08-28. With ease of transportation and todays technology, it is more accessible to these area's causing higher harvest of does and does with fawns. With the harvest of does with fawns, the fawns are left alone to survive without the added protection from their mother. With the health of the population in mind, and the mating season being in the prime of the hunting of the species, this would protect does with fawns as well as the does that become pregnant and give them a chance to reproduce the population. Enriching the biological diversity of these areas, to grow the population of mature animals and increase the sustainability of the population is the goal behind this proposal.

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

This proposal was not developed in coordination with the local advisory committee. There has been conversation within the City of Port Lions.

PROPOSED BY: Brandon Bartleson (OI-F25-198)
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PROPOSAL 203

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

Increase the nonresident bag limit for deer in Unit 8 Remainder from one to three as follows:

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

The limit for Sitka blacktail deer in Unit 8 should be raised back to three for nonresident hunters.

Nonresident hunters in Unit 8 Remainder deer bag limit **3 deer total** [ONE BUCK]

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

I would like to address the recent change for nonresident hunters in Unit 8 from three Sitka blacktail deer of any sex to one buck only. This change has negatively affected me and my family and according to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game had no biological reason to be implemented.

Thank you.

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

PROPOSED BY: Zachary Porter (OI-F25-005)
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PROPOSAL 204

5 AAC 85.030(a)(6). Hunting seasons and bag limits for deer.

Increase the nonresident bag limit for deer in Unit 8 Remainder 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?

Remainder of Unit 8

RESIDENT HUNTERS:
Three deer; however, only bucks may be taken before Oct. 1
Aug. 1 - Dec. 31

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:
Two bucks [One buck]
Aug. 1 - Dec. 31

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

The current regulation restricts nonresident hunters to harvesting only one buck deer annually on Kodiak Island, while Alaska residents may harvest up to three deer of either sex. This regulation lacks biological justification, as the Sitka blacktail deer population on Kodiak is stable, productive, and resilient. There is no data indicating that nonresident harvest poses a conservation concern. The regulation should be updated to reflect actual population dynamics and to align with the sustainable yield principles guiding Alaska's game management.

Nonresidents are an important stakeholder group in Alaska's wildlife management system. They contribute significant revenue through license/tag sales, transport, lodging, and guiding services. Limiting them to one buck per year—despite healthy deer numbers—artificially restricts opportunity and economic benefit to the region.

Recent harvest data and field reports show that the deer population on Kodiak Island has rebounded strongly from previous harsh winters and continues to produce strong fawn recruitment and mature buck age classes. There is no indication that increasing the nonresident limit from one to two bucks would pose a conservation threat, especially as the regulation would still prohibit doe harvest by nonresidents.

The proposed two-buck limit maintains a conservative and biologically sound approach:

- It allows increased opportunity while continuing to protect breeding-age does.
- It better reflects the productivity of the unit and brings nonresident opportunity closer to that of residents (who are allowed three deer, including does).

If the regulation remains unchanged, nonresident opportunity remains artificially limited, economic contributions to local businesses will remain suppressed, and the management framework will continue to be misaligned with the actual status of the deer herd on Kodiak Island.

This proposal is a modest, biologically justified increase in harvest opportunity. It helps align regulation with current herd conditions, better serves the hunting public, and increases the economic benefit to Kodiak communities—all while remaining within a sustainable framework.

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

PROPOSED BY: Austin Atkinson (OI-F25-048)
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PROPOSAL 205

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

Change the season dates and bag limits for deer hunting in Unit 8, Ugak Bay, Saltery Cove and Rough Creek as follows:

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

Proposed Regulation – Kodiak Off-Road Accessible Areas (Ugak Bay, Saltery Cove, Rough Creek)

Season Dates and Bag Limits:
August 1 – October 31
Bag Limit: Three (3) bucks
Antler Restrictions: Any size
Legal Weapons: All legal hunting methods permitted
November 1 – November 30
Bag Limit: Three (3) adult deer
Antler Restrictions for Bucks: Minimum spike length of 3 inches
Harvest Restrictions: Harvest of nursing does and fawns prohibited
Legal Weapons: All legal hunting methods permitted
December 1 – December 31
Bag Limit: Three (3) adult deer
Antler Restrictions for Bucks: Minimum spike length of 3 inches
Legal Weapons: Muzzleloader or primitive weapons only
Youth and Hunters with Disabilities:
Bag Limit: Three (3) deer, any sex or age

Season Dates: August 1 – December 31

Legal Weapons: All legal hunting methods permitted

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

I'm writing to raise concern about the declining deer population in Kodiak's Ugak Bay, Saltery Cove, and Rough Creek—areas accessible by ATVs and UTVs. Since 2015, the rise of side-by-sides has allowed more hunters to access these regions, stay longer in colder months, and transport more gear and game. These small areas remain open to extended seasons and motorized access, resulting in increased harvest pressure. As mature deer become scarce, younger deer are being taken, reducing reproductive success and long-term sustainability. I urge the Board of Game to review regulations in these off-road accessible zones to help protect and restore the deer population yet maintain the season bag limits and duration so that residents and no and preserve the quality of hunt for the residents and nonresidents.

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

I've spoken with many hunters who use this area in the fall after the road system closes. While opinions vary on the best approach, there is broad agreement that action is needed to preserve the deer population and maintain quality hunting opportunities.

PROPOSED BY: Lucas Smith (OI-F25-199)
****

PROPOSAL 206

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

Change the road system boundary for deer hunting in Unit 8, from the mouth of the Saltry River to the mouth of Wild Creek as follows:

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

For deer hunting in Unit 8, move the on road system line from the mouth of the Saltry River to the mouth of Wildcreek. Leaving the other end of the line in Sharatin Bay the same.

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

Overhunting of deer of the Saltry River Drainage due to increased access of the off-road system area directly adjacent to the on-road system area by large side-by-sides

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

Yes, after talking to a lot of the other local hunters about what to do about the overhunting of this area this was the solution.

PROPOSED BY: John Neff (OI-F25-064)
****

PROPOSAL 207

5 AAC 85.030(a)(6). Hunting seasons and bag limits for deer.

Change the bag limit for deer in Unit 8 for Guide Use Areas 08-01, 02, 026, 027, and 028, to require a fork on at least one side as follows:

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

Proposal: Spike/Fork Restriction - Unit 8

This restriction would take place in Guide Use Areas 08-01, 08-02, 08-26, 08-27 and 08-28. Bucks must have a fork on at least one side of their antlers in order to be harvested.

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

This restriction would allow bucks to age past their first year and help the biological diversity of these areas. The mortality rate, when we have hard winters, the first age group of deer to die off are the younger age groups, thus this proposal would give the younger animals a chance of maturing if they make it through the harder winters. The younger age group of bucks and does has been substantially decreasing in these area's due to the increased pressure and ease of access.

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

This proposal was not developed in coordination with the local advisory committee. Their has been conversations within the City of Port Lions.

PROPOSED BY: Brandon Bartleson (OI-F25-193)
****

PROPOSAL 208

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

Prohibit the take of fawns or does with fawns in Unit 8 as follows:

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

Taking of fawns or does with fawns is prohibited.

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

Decline in deer population in easy to access hunting areas and unethical harvest of young deer.

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

PROPOSED BY: Jessie Juhlin (OI-F25-238)
****

PROPOSAL 209

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

Require nonresidents to hunt elk with a guide in Unit 8 as follows:

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

All aliens and nonresidents regardless of degree of kindred relatives as Alaska resident must have a guide for Kodiak brown bear, Roosevelt elk and mountain goat in Unit 8.

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

There is a gross abuse of hunting resources in our state by degree of kindred nonresident hunters hunting like Alaskan residents. Many Alaskans as the degree of kindred link are not experienced or qualfied enough to hunt big game animals in Unit 8 like Mountain goat or brown bear, but they act like it, and thus a father or mother or brother or sister nonresident can legally hunt with them unguided. This is a major source of exploitation by Coast guard people in Unit 8, especially with bears. WE ARE SUPPOSED TO BE GOOD STEWARDS OF THE RESOURCE and we are not in this case. Many of these hunters shoot barely legal sows or not legal cub bears because they are not experienced enough to know better. If you are any kind of nonresident, Alaska degree of kindred relative or not, a guide should be mandatory for Kodiak brown bear or mountain goat hunting.

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

Nope.

PROPOSED BY: Stig Yngve (OI-F25-194)
****

PROPOSAL 210

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

5 AAC 92.050. Required permit hunt conditions and procedures.

Reallocate elk permits in hunt areas DE715, DE717, DE721, DE723 and RE706 and limit RE706 tags issued in Port Lions and Ouzinkie to one per household as follows:

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

Return the 16 tags to the DE715, DE717, DE721, and DE723 pool of permits and assign four registration tags from RE706 for in-person release in Ouzinkie and four registration tags from RE706 for in-person release in Port Lions.

Designate these tags for in-person release in Ouzinkie and Port Lions as one per household.

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

The allocation of 16 registration elk permits (RE752 and RE756) that can only be picked up in the extremely difficult and costly to access communities of Port Lions and Ouzinkie is excessive and negatively impacts highly competitive draw hunts for the rest of Alaska residents. The creation of

RE753 and RE756 registration permits removed 16 tags from the DE715, DE717, DE721, and DE723 draw hunts, reducing the overall number of draw tags by 9.4% for those areas.

Removing 9.4% of the total tags from the DE715, DE717, DE721, and DE723 pool of tags, which have a 2-3% draw success rate, is punitive to Alaskans who do not live in these communities.

This inequity to fellow Alaskans is heightened by the fact that a registration hunt for Alaska residents exists on Raspberry Island (RE706) which provides an abundant resource for subsistence elk hunting. Raspberry Island is closer by distance to both Ouzinkie and Port Lions in comparison to the current East Afognak and Remainder hunt areas.

In addition, RE752 and RE756 are not limited to one permit per household. This resulted in three households receiving two permits during the 2024 permit issuance.

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

No

PROPOSED BY: Brooks Horan (OI-F25-180)
****

PROPOSAL 211

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

Extend the elk registration hunt in Unit 8, to December 31 as follows:

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

Elk Registration on Kodiak Island until December 31st.

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

Allow for elk registration be extended beyond the closure for Raspberry Island and Afognak Island for the remainder of Kodiak Island.

Elk move from Raspberry or Afognak Island on occasion to the main Island of Kodiak. During registration season you may harvest an elk on Kodiak if you see one. The refuge does not elk to establish a population on Kodiak.

I would like to see Eek registration to be allowed on Kodiak Island until December 31/

If poaching is a concern require verifiable proof of kill and gut pile with GPS coordinates included in a photo to be submitted with your registration to ADF&G upon return to town.

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

Several people have expressed interest in hunting elk late in the fall on Kodiak Island.

Not run through Kodiak Advisory Committee.

PROPOSED BY: Alexus Kwachka (OI-F25-229)
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PROPOSAL 212

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

Limit the nonresident permit allocation for the Unit 8 elk drawing hunt DE702, 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 DE702 to UP TO 10% of the available permits. If at least 10 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 DE702.

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-F25-075)
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PROPOSAL 213

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

Limit the nonresident permit allocation for the Unit 8 elk drawing hunt DE704, 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 DE704 to UP TO 10% of the available permits. If at least 10 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 DE704.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-F25-076)
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PROPOSAL 214

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

Limit the nonresident permit allocation for the Unit 8 elk drawing hunt DE711, 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 DE711 to UP TO 10% of the available permits. If at least 10 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 DE711.

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-F25-079)
****

PROPOSAL 215

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

Limit the nonresident permit allocation for the Unit 8 elk drawing hunt DE713, 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 DE713 to UP TO 10% of the available permits. If at least 10 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 DE713.

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-F25-080)
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PROPOSAL 216

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

Limit the nonresident permit allocation for Unit 8 elk drawing hunt DE721, 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 DE721 to UP TO 10% of the available permits. If at least 10 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 DE721.

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-F25-081)
****

PROPOSAL 217

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

Limit the nonresident permit allocation for Unit 8 elk drawing hunt DE723, 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 DE723 to UP TO 10% of the available permits. If at least 10 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 DE723.

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-F25-082)
****

PROPOSAL 218

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

Limit the nonresident permit allocation for the Unit 8 elk drawing hunt DE715, 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 DE715 to UP TO 10% of the available permits. If at least 10 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 DE715.

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-F25-083)
****

PROPOSAL 219

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

Limit the nonresident permit allocation for Unit 8 elk drawing hunt DE717, 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 DE717 to UP TO 10% of the available permits. If at least 10 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 DE717.

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-F25-084)
****

PROPOSAL 220

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

Extend the subsistence goat hunting season in Unit 8 to March 31 as follows:

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

One goat available by permit RG471-474, 476 season November 1-March 31st.

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

I want to address subsistence mountain goat hunting in draw hunt areas on Kodiak Island. Currently there is a subsistence hunt available in 471, 472, 473 and 474 and 476 Unit 8 goat hunts. This subsistence tag becomes available to hunt November 1st. I would like to see the season extended to March 31st for subsistence hunts to mirror the same season as RG480. It would give people more time to utilize the resource and harvest goats at lower elevation in winter months. ADF&G still would have emergency order power to close a hunt if the harvest quota was met.

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

No

PROPOSED BY: Stig Yngve (OI-F25-191)
****

PROPOSAL 221

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

Lengthen the season for the RG480 goat hunt in Unit 8, to start August 1 as follows:

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

Open season for RG480 runs from August 1-March 31.

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

I propose that the start date of RG480 be modified from August 20 to August 1. To begin, according to a AF&G biologist I spoke with, there is no biological evidence for the start date to be later than August 1.

In addition, an August 1st start date would provide an amazing opportunity for young hunters and parents to hunt goat prior to the start of a new school year. I imagine many Alaskans would appreciate the expansion of a quality hunt option prior to the start of the school year so that young hunters can enjoy the experience of a mountain goat hunt without missing school and sporting events.

Lastly, this change would align with the start of deer season in Kodiak, which would give hunters more options for harvesting goat or deer on an early season hunt.

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

I developed the proposal in coordination with the many parents of young hunters who are always looking for high quality hunting opportunities prior to the start of the school year. An early season mountain goat hunt in Kodiak that would not require stude

PROPOSED BY: Daniel Olson (OI-F25-018)
****

PROPOSAL 222

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

5 AAC 92.171. Sealing of horns and antlers.

Change the bag limit for hunting goat in Unit 8 to one billy only, and require horns be sealed as follows:

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

I recommend changing the hunts in Unit 8 to billy only and reducing RG480 back to one male goat with requirements to seal so we can have better harvest information on this population.

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

The current mountian goat strategy on Kodiak Island is shifting the nanny/billy ratio across the Island. We currently have a long season on the South end to reduce population by 20% and due to federal managers not wanting the animals there, over harvest of billys and lack of sealing

requirements, it has been left open despite low abundance of mature males. This has left a disproportionate amount of young goats and nannys to mature males. Even though these were an introduced population, these animals provide value to the economy, one of the only reliable over the counter opportunities and subsistence to locals.

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

PROPOSED BY: Caleb Martin (OI-F25-022)
****

PROPOSAL 223

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

Limit the nonresident permit allocation for the Unit 8 goat drawing hunt DG471, 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 DG471 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 DG471.

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-F25-100)
****

PROPOSAL 224

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

Limit the nonresident permit allocation for the Unit 8 goat drawing hunt DG472, 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 DG472 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 DG472.

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-F25-101)
****

PROPOSAL 225

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

Limit the nonresident permit allocation for the Unit 8 goat drawing hunt DG473, 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 DG473 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 DG473.

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-F25-102)
****

PROPOSAL 226

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

Limit the nonresident permit allocation for the Unit 8 goat drawing hunt DG474, 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 DG474 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 DG474.

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-F25-103)
****

PROPOSAL 227

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

Limit the nonresident permit allocation for the Unit 8 goat drawing hunt DG476, 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 DG476 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 DG476.

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-F25-104)
****

PROPOSAL 228

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

Limit the nonresident permit allocation for the Unit 8 goat drawing hunt DG478, 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 DG478 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 DG478.

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-F25-105)
****

PROPOSAL 229

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

Limit the nonresident permit allocation for the Unit 8 goat drawing hunt DG479, 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 DG479 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 DG479.

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-F25-106)
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PROPOSAL 230

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

Extend the season for the RG480 goat hunt in Unit 8, to start August 1st as follows:

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

Extend the dates for RG480 from August 20-March 31 to August 1st to March 31st.

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

Extend the dates for RG480 from August 20-March 31 to August 1st to March 31st.

Add additional opportunity to hunt goats while hunting deer from August 1st to August 19th.

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-F25-123)
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PROPOSAL 231

5 AAC 92.057. Special provisions for Dall sheep and mountain goat drawing permit hunts.

Limit nonresident permit allocation to 10%, for the Unit 8 goat drawing permit hunts DG471, DG472, DG473, DG474, DG476, DG478, and DG479 as follows:

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

Nonresident allocation for goat draw permits DG471, DG472, DG473, DG474, DG476, DG478, and DG479 should be capped at 10% of the total number of permits issued.

This would not only limit the competition in the field for resident hunters, but it will also increase the odds of drawing a permit by taking excess applications out of the drawing pool if/when the 10% cap is reached for nonresident permits.

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

The Issue:

Nonresidents are drawing upwards of 20% of the goat drawing permits for hunts DG471, DG472, DG473, DG474, DG476, DG478, and DG479.

Why it matters:

These hunts offer residents of Alaska a great opportunity to hunt goats with a healthy population and high odds of success at a decreased overall cost due to these units being a shorter flight from the city of Kodiak or accessible from the road system.

Bush plane flights have risen astronomically over the last several years and a flight to the south end of Kodiak to hunt RG480 is running over $4,000 round trip. The draw units are half the cost

for a flight and two of them can be hunted off the Kodiak road system. Goats are big animals and yield a decent amount of meat. Deer can also be harvested concurrently on these hunts, giving residents more opportunity to fill their freezers.

Goat hunts statewide are strictly monitored and are managed exclusively via registration and drawing permits. Registration permits on the mainland are prone to small quotas and early closures. Draw permits on the mainland typically see less than a dozen permits issued making them extremely hard to draw.

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

No

PROPOSED BY: Jesse Dunshie (OI-F25-156)
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PROPOSAL 232

5 AAC 92.057. Special provisions for Dall sheep and mountain goat drawing permit hunts.

Establish an allocation for resident and nonresident goat drawing permits for North Kodiak Island in Unit 8 as follows:

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

If this moves forward:

Board of Game established appropriate ratio of opportunity for residents and nonresidents to access North Kodiak Islands goat populations.

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

Kodiak has a very unique situation. We live on a road system adjacent to two goat areas. residents can fly into town and stay in a hotel and take a cab to access hunting area's. This option is available for residents and nonresidents. It's becoming extremely important to guides as well. I feel it's time to explore either a set aside for guides or a ratio of permits available to residents / nonresidents. Draw areas 471, 472, 478 and 479 should be considered for this actions.

These four area's can be accessed by vehicle or 4-wheeler and should have a priority for resident hunters who can access goat country at a reasonable cost. I feel like establishing a criteria of allocation will eliminate potential conflict between guides and resident hunters in the future.

If this proposal moves forward the data will be helpful in narrowing in the proper proportions.

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

Several people have spoken to me about this and what is felt like declining opportunity because of guides loading up the drawing with potential hunters. I feel like it's good policy to try and be ahead of a cure versus behind and trying to catch up. Kodiak is one of a handful of places where you can access goats at a reasonable cost. We should be aware of this and regulate accordingly. I believe most of these are's fall outside of guide area's and are appealing to access for nonresident hunters

through the use of a guide. If this is the case we should definitely recognize this and regulate it. Known numbers for each user will establish stability and provide the most opportunity to access goats.

I did not run this through the local advisory Board, but i'm sure a robust conversation from the submittal of this proposal will ensue.

PROPOSED BY: Alexus Kwachka (OI-F25-226)
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PROPOSAL 233

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

Change the boundary for the Unit 8 brown bear drawing hunts DB 106/206/136/236 as follows:

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

Change the boundary of Kodiak bear drawing DB 106/206/136/236. Change the northeast boundary of this bear area to follow the ridgeline to Cape Kasiak (The point that separates Three Saints Bay from Kaiugnak Bay; rather than come down Avnulu Creek.

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

The boundary for DB 106/206/136/236 is in a bad place. For some reason, unknown to anyone at ADF&G the boundary goes down Avnulu Vreek. This is contrary to almost every other Kodiak bear hunt boundary which follow the ridgelines or high ground. It makes this area very difficult to hunt because the only practical access is from Kaiugnak Bay but only half of the valley is in that unit, making it very frustrating to hunt. The side that is in the opposite area is good to hunt also but virtually inaccessible for anyone with that tag becasue float planes can't pull up to the rocky/wavy beach. It is more than 10 miles of very rough ocean from any place in that unit where a floatplane could land. It is only practical via inflatable from Kaiugnak. I asked the staff in Unit 8, they were not opposed, but they wanted the Board of Game to weigh in. As far as we can tell staff has the authority to move the line. I also talked to the bear guide in the adjacent unit and he is not opposed.

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

Developed with the adjacent area guide (his area will be slightly smaller. Also Unit 8 ADF&G staff and USF&WS staff for Kodiak Refuge.

PROPOSED BY: Aaron Bloomquist (OI-F25-035)
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PROPOSAL 234

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

Shorten the spring brown bear season on Kodiak Island in Unit 8, to start April 20 as follows:

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

Kodiak Brown Bear

Spring season April 20 - May 20th

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

The issue I want to address is spring bear season on Kodiak Island. It begins April 1st. There is VERY LITTLE actual bear harvest or bear activity in early April, so most people never start until around April 20th, every year, guided and Alaskan. We have had a lot of late springs where nothing is happening at all for successful hunting until the very end of April til the end on May 15th. I believe shortening the season and changing dates would still allow for everyone, resident and nonresident and alien to have a high quality experience and harvest more boars, thus growing a healthier and more uniform bear population. All vendors and airplane and boat transport services would not lose business, if anything it would increase for everyone being able to operate during warmer better weather.

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

I collaborated with Alaskan and Kodiak Island residents as well as some guides and nonresidents on this matter.

PROPOSED BY: Stig Yngve (OI-F25-178)
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PROPOSAL 235

5 AAC 92.132. Restrictions to bag limit.

Count a wounded bear against a hunter's bag limit in Unit 8 as follows:

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

Bag limit for Kodiak brown bear in Unit 8 in any draw or registration hunt is 1 KODIAK BROWN BEAR wounded or harvested every 4 REGULATORY YEARS.

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

The issue my proposal addresses is wounded bears and a lack of ethics hunting with Kodiak brown bear. Current regulations allow for a bear hunter to LEGALLY WOUND A BEAR in Unit 8, on any SPRING kodiak brown bear hunt (APRIL 1st - MAY 15th) and hunt again that same calendar year fall hunt (October 25th - November 30th). The reason for this is a new ADF&G management year begins in July every year, thus allowing a hunter to hunt again because it is a "new" year by the fish and game management calendar. This to me promotes gross and negligent mismanagement of a very finite and unique resource, Kodiak brown bear. A wounded bear is a

wounded bear, and it should be treated the same as a harvested bear for the magnitude of putting a bullet (or arrow) in that animal. IT IS WRONG MORALLY AND ETHICALLy speaking, that a person can potentially wound/kill two bears in one calendar year. This needs to change. It has been happening for far too long and is an overlooked example of bad management.

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

NOPE. ALL MYSELF

PROPOSED BY: Stig Yngve (OI-F25-175)
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PROPOSAL 236

5 AAC 92.052. Discretionary permit hunt conditions and procedures.

5 AAC 92.061. Special provisions for brown bear drawing permit hunts.

Remove the sow restriction and penalties for resident hunters in Kodiak brown bear hunt areas 8 thru 16, and institute a sow skull size restriction for resident hunters as follows.

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

Remove the sow restrictions and penalties for resident hunters in hunt areas 8-16.

Institute a skull size component to where the elimination of any permits only happens if a sow is harvested with a skull size less that 15 inches in length or 9 inches in width.

From the 2024/2025 draw hunt supplement: "The bag limit is one bear every four years, and a legal bear is any bear except cubs or females with cubs. A wounded bear counts against your bag limit for the regulatory year."

Including resident brown bear hunters in the sow harvest restrictions in these hunt areas will lead to many more permits being taken away from resident hunters than nonresident guided hunters.

A resident bear hunter who draws a once-in-a-lifetime Kodiak brown bear permit wants to take a trophy (male) bear but also doesn't want to come away without harvesting a bear in what will likely be the only chance he or she gets the opportunity for this coveted hunt. Taking a sow in these areas does not affect that hunter, so there is no real incentive to not take a sow. The loss-of-permit penalty falls on future resident hunters.

A guided nonresident hunter is after a trophy brown bear, and most guides will not let a client take a sow. Guides have far more knowledge than most resident bear hunters on judging sows vs boars. Guides in the areas where these sow restrictions are in place have a monetary incentive to avoid taking sows because the penalty (loss of a permit) applies to that guide with that concession area. So, guided nonresident hunters are much more likely to avoid taking a sow.

The previous RY94-RY06 sow harvest restrictions in these hunt areas only applied to nonresident drawing permits and according to the Department, "it was widely believed this prior regulation (RY94-RY06) had a positive effect on the population."

Going back a few years, the ADF&G chart below shows that in hunt areas 8-16, from RY 21 – 24, nonresidents harvested 10 sows, and residents took 26 sows. Resident hunters took about 73 percent of the sows, with nonresidents taking 27 percent.

1	Area	Sex	Residency	SKTOTAL	Regulatory Year	cert
2	111	F	Nonresident	24.5625	2021	1807985
3	112	F	Nonresident	24.3125	2021	1808011
4	113	F	Nonresident	21.8750	2021	1807995
5	143	F	Nonresident	23.0000	2021	1805763
6	113	F	Nonresident	22.5625	2022	1806351
7	116	F	Nonresident	20.1250	2022	1806333
8	146	F	Nonresident	19.8125	2022	1806233
9	238	F	Nonresident	23.9375	2022	1806286
10	240	F	Nonresident	23.1250	2022	1806212
11	113	F	Nonresident	20.8125	2023	1807341
12	208	F	Resident	20.1875	2021	1808002
13	211	F	Resident	20.9375	2021	1808012
14	211	F	Resident	22.1875	2021	1808028
15	212	F	Resident	21.3750	2021	1807982
16	214	F	Resident	23.1875	2021	1808078
17	215	F	Resident	22.6875	2021	1808021
18	240	F	Resident	22.3750	2021	1805784
19	244	F	Resident	22.8125	2021	1805752
20	210	F	Resident	23.6250	2022	1806336
21	211	F	Resident	23.0625	2022	1806386
22	212	F	Resident	21.1250	2022	1806352
23	213	F	Resident	23.7500	2022	1806368
24	213	F	Resident	25.0000	2022	1806330
25	215	F	Resident	21.6250	2022	1806360
26	238	F	Resident	22.5000	2022	1806298
27	241	F	Resident	22.5625	2022	1806277
28	243	F	Resident	22.3750	2022	1806223
29	212	F	Resident	21.1875	2023	1807316
30	214	F	Resident	20.5000	2023	101188
31	214	F	Resident	22.6250	2023	1807333
32	241	F	Resident	22.6875	2023	1807291
33	243	F	Resident	21.9375	2023	1807210
34	208	F	Resident	19.5625	2024	1813379
35	211	F	Resident	20.6875	2024	1813363
36	213	F	Resident	22.4375	2024	1813389
37	214	F	Resident	21.6875	2024	1813378

If only including nonresidents (who take a quarter of the sow harvests) in the previous sow restrictions had a positive effect on the population to the point those restrictions were rescinded, why are we including residents in these sow restrictions now? Again, without a penalty to the individual resident hunter who takes a sow, there is no real incentive not to take a sow when that hunter won't be affected by future loss of permits. This will continue to result in a significant loss of permits to residents.

We'd like the Department of Fish and Game to only include nonresident drawing permits for these sow harvest restrictions in these hunt areas. Start out just like we did the last time when we had bear conservation concerns in these areas, put the emphasis on guided hunters whereby the guide has a clear incentive not to harvest sows.

Including a skull size component places no burden on Department staff because skulls are already required to be sealed and skulls are measured when sealed. There should be no penalty for any hunter for taking older class sows with a skull size larger than 15 inches in length or 9 inches in width.

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

Kodiak brown bear restrictions on the taking of sows in hunt areas 8-16 and elimination of permits for residents if sows are taken

Department concerns with lower brown bear populations in the southwestern portion of Kodiak Island resulted in the Department instituting regulations in RY23 that result in a loss of permits to both residents and nonresidents if any sows are taken in hunt areas 8–16 (Deadman Bay, Dog Salmon River, South Olga Lakes, Red Lake, Frazer Lake, Karluk Lake, Halibut Bay, Sturgeon River, & North Karluk River).

These new sow harvest restrictions are similar to what was in place in RY94–RY06 in the same hunt areas, although the previous sow harvest restrictions had a skull size component and did not include resident bear hunters.

Since the implementation of these sow harvest restrictions in RY 23 in these hunt areas, residents have harvested nine sows, and nonresidents 1 sow. This results in a significant loss of permits for resident hunters. While we understand the necessity to take fewer sows in these areas, we don't believe resident bear hunters should be included in the sow restrictions and penalties.

Also, we want to note that after the Department implemented these sow restrictions, there was nothing in the Draw Permit Supplement to inform hunters who apply for permits in these areas that these sow harvest restrictions were in place. However, hunters are informed of the sow harvest restrictions after they win a permit for these areas.

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

RHAK always contacts Department biologists when working on proposals. Thanks to Department staff for answering questions and providing harvest information!

PROPOSED BY: Resident Hunters of Alaska (OI-F25-187)
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PROPOSAL 237

5 AAC 92.061. Special provisions for brown bear drawing permit hunts.

Require all nonresident hunters to apply for Unit 8 brown bear drawing permits and reallocate unused nonresident permits to residents as follows:

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

1) Require all nonresident guided hunters to apply for Unit 8 Kodiak brown bear drawing permits, pay the application fee, and for the Department to submit that application.

2) If guided nonresident Kodiak brown bear permits are not being utilized, reallocate those permits to residents.

There is absolutely no reason why the board should continue to allow nonresident guided hunters to skip the Kodiak brown bear draw permit process. This state-managed draw permit hunt clearly gives a preference to nonresidents over residents and should not be allowed to happen.

If guided nonresident Kodiak brown bear "draw" permits awarded to exclusive or semi-exclusive guide concession areas are not being utilized, those permits for those areas should be re-allocated to the resident draw permits.

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

Guides and their nonresident clients being allowed to intentionally "skip" the Kodiak brown bear "draw" permit process.

5 AAC 92.061 Special provisions for Unit 8 brown bear permit hunts (our emphasis):

"In the Unit 8 general brown bear drawing permit hunt, the department shall issue permits, and a hunter may apply for a permit, as follows:

(1) the department shall issue a maximum of 40 percent of the drawing permits to nonresidents and a minimum of 60 percent to residents; each guide may submit the same number of nonresident applications for a hunt as the number of permits available for that hunt;

(2) the department **shall** enter, in a resident drawing, each application from a resident and each application from a nonresident accompanied by a resident relative who is within the second degree of kindred; for each season, the department shall issue a maximum of four permits to nonresident hunters accompanied by a resident relative who is within the second degree of kindred; however, the department may not issue, within one calendar year, more than one of these permits per individual hunt, as described in the permit hunt guide published each year by the department;

(3) the department **shall** enter, in a guided nonresident drawing, each complete application from a nonresident who will be accompanied by a guide; the department may enter an application and issue a drawing permit for the general hunt only to a successful nonresident applicant who presents proof at the time of application that the applicant will be accompanied by a guide, as required under AS 16.05.407 or 16.05.408;

(4) the following provisions apply to a guided nonresident drawing under this section:

(A) an applicant for a guided nonresident drawing permit may apply for only one such permit per application period;

(B) **after the successful applicants have been selected by drawing,** the department shall create an alternate list by drawing the remaining names of applicants for a specific hunt and placing the names on the alternate list in the order in which the names were drawn;

(C) if a successful applicant cancels the guided hunt, the person whose name appears first on the alternate list for that hunt shall be offered the permit; if an alternate applicant cancels the guided hunt, the permit must be offered in turn to succeeding alternate applicants until the alternate list is exhausted;

(D) if a guided nonresident drawing permit is available, but the alternate list is exhausted, the permit becomes available, by registration at the Kodiak ADF&G office, to the first applicant furnishing proof that the applicant will be accompanied by a guide;"

Resident Hunters of Alaska submitted a similar proposal (Proposal 78) for the 2023 Southcentral meeting, trying to get the board to recognize that these hunts aren't really a "draw" hunt for nonresidents at all when they can skip the permit process completely. During deliberations on

Proposal 78, the chairman of the board made these statements below, transcribed from the audio recording (our emphasis):

Chairman Burnett: *"So, why do we pretend that these are draw hunts? I mean, other than the fact we've identified them as draw hunts by putting them in the draw supplement. No one can draw except very few people, there are no odds, it's 100% or zero. Why can't we identify those separately? And rather than pretending that it's a regular random draw like everything else, maybe have people pay a fee as if it were a draw. What prevents us from doing that?"*

Department of Law: *"The Department is kinda limited on what they can do here because of these exclusive guide use areas. It's really controlled by the federal process. "*

Chairman Burnett: *"Perhaps those should be registration hunts? Identify those hunts and we can make them registration hunts for nonresidents because they can only have one permit. Or something like that rather than pretending they are a draw permit. Because it is…the people support this proposal – and we've seen this proposal in the past -- because it's confusing and it seems unfair. It's nothing the state's doing that's unfair, it's a fact that there is a federal exclusive guide use area, doesn't have anything to do with what the state's actions are here. But, somehow to identify it so it doesn't provide the confusion that these people are doing something wrong.".*

The board's own former chairman has said on the record that these hunts listed as "draw" hunts for nonresidents are not really draw hunts at all, that we are "pretending" these are random draw hunts for nonresidents. Clearly, as he also alludes, this is "unfair."

We are not going to advocate to make these nonresident Kodiak brown bear hunts registration hunts, as the former Board of Game chairman suggested, because clearly it would be unconstitutional for residents to be required to participate in a random draw hunt for any opportunity to hunt a Kodiak brown bear while nonresidents could hunt whenever they want via a registration hunt.

But for decades now, what the board is allowing is unconstitutional because it is a random lottery draw hunt for residents, but nonresidents have 100% opportunity to hunt.

The regulation is very clear in 5AAC 92.061 where it states that the Department *"shall enter, in a guided nonresident drawing, each complete application from a nonresident who will be accompanied by a guide."*

Yet the Department is not doing that, and the board is not requiring the Department to do that. The alternate list in 5AAC 92.061 is only to be used *"after the successful applicants have been selected by drawing"*

But the Department is issuing over-the-counter tags to nonresidents who didn't apply for a draw permit and were not selected as part of the alternate list.

The fact that this happens on federal lands within exclusive guide concession areas doesn't mean that the Department and the board are "limited" in what they can do, as the Department of Law suggested. **This is a state-managed hunt, under state regulations, and the current regulation isn't being followed!** Even the Department's own area biologist agrees that it isn't being followed.

Details Submitted Previously

RHAK has provided ample evidence in previous proposals how some guides and their clients are taking advantage of the unfair system of how nonresident Kodiak brown bear "draw" permits are issued.

These permits actually go to the guide with the exclusive concession area to allocate as they wish. Some guides don't use the permits awarded to their area. Some guides donate permits to be auctioned off to the highest bidder before the draw results even come out for that application period. Some nonresident hunters are able to hunt every four years after harvesting a bear, as we have shown, until they get their trophy 10-foot bear.

Draw Permit Supplement shows this is still Happening

Looking through the 2025/2026 Draw Permit Hunt Supplement results from the previous year, you can see that most guides and their clients go through the required draw application process, pay the fee, and the Department submits those applications.

But you can also see that many guides and their clients do not submit a draw application or pay a fee, yet those "draw" permits were hunted. Here are a few examples:

Results of the 2024 Permit Hunt Drawing			
Hunt Number	Apps Received	Permits Available	% Drawn
Brown Bear			
DB108*	1	2	100
DB116**	1	2	100
DB122*	1	2	100
DB138*	1	4	100
DB139*	1	3	100
DB145**	1	3	100
DB155*	2	4	100

There are also many examples that appear to show that some guides aren't even utilizing the permits awarded to their concession area.

Hunt Number	Apps Received	Permits Available	% Drawn
Brown Bear			
DB117**	0	2	0
DB123*	0	1	0
DB125*	0	2	0
DB143**	0	3	0
DB153*	0	2	0

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

RHAK always contacts Department biologists when working on proposal submissions. Thanks to Department staff for answering questions and providing harvest information!

PROPOSED BY: Resident Hunters of Alaska (OI-F25-208)
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PROPOSAL 238

5 AAC 92.003. Hunter education and orientation requirements.

Require residents hunting brown bear in Unit 8, to complete an online education course specific to Kodiak Island brown bear as follows:

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

Create an online course that covers properly identifying Kodiak Island brown bear sows and boars as well as biological features that are unique to different age classes of bears and sex. The information provided must be from Kodiak Island and not other regions in the state of Alaska or elsewhere.

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

Currently residents are harvesting more than double the amount of sows as guided nonresidents, with residents harvesting 33% sows and nonresidents harvesting 15% sows. While the Kodiak Island bear biologist can manage with an up to 40% sow harvest, a lower sow harvest percentage would allow for more future resident opportunity and a greater Kodiak brown bear management plan.

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

Matanuska Valley Advisory Committee and Kodiak game biologist.

PROPOSED BY: Matanuska Valley Fish and Game Advisory Committee (OI-F25-051)
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PROPOSAL 239

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

Reduce the bag limit for sea ducks in Unit 8, and require harvest reporting as follows:

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

Reduced bag limits on sea ducks.

Logbooks to capture amount of harvest and loss.

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

Limit sea duck harvest on multi-day transporter hunts or require very accurate harvest numbers while harvesting (logbook of kills and losses). We need accurate trends in harvest to be accountable of impacts transporters are having of migratory birds.

Sea ducks are important food source to our local communities understanding impacts on a local level will enhance the Board of Game to manage impacts in the future.

Transporters are having impacts and to this point there is no recourse to mitigate them. hunting grounds are being preempted and game is being depleted of run off.

Sea ducks, deer, fox and and fish all need to be considered. Fish not your issue.

Place halved or reduced numbers that can be taken on transported trips. Auality of experience over quantity. If nothing is done we will continue to push towards the boiling point.

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

Local people frustrated and concerned on various levels. Lots of discussion about being in over utilized hunting area's. Concern about access to game and ducks.

PROPOSED BY: Alexus Kwachka (OI-F25-230)
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PROPOSAL 240

5 AAC 8.060. Hunting seasons and bag limits for fur animals.

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

Reduce the bag limit for taking fox in Unit 8 and prohibit the use of night vision for hunting as follows:

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

Either limit two fox to nonresidents while hunting in Unit 8 or two fox to all hunters who utilize transporters to the field or while in the field.

Prohibit all infrared hunting in Unit 8. Infrared hunting maybe useful on mainland where population are not on a vertical hillside adjacent to the ocean, but here on Kodiak this will be deadly for all game. NOT FAIR CHASE.

The State Constitution will limit how this is done but if the Board of Game allows infrared use Statewide, this issue you will come before you in more than one area. We have strict limits on guides and the guide industry, Transporters are the wild Wild West and we are seeing area's of localized depletion of our deer populations on island. Please do not let fox be next. I realize this will insult many but I and many on island do not feel infrared hunting has anything to do with fair chase. Please be proactive versus reactive to protecting our fox.

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

I would like the Board of Game to put a limit of two fox on all hunters who use a transporter for access to the field.

Through recent Board of Game actions of the use of infrared or night vision technology the residents have grave concern about elimination of fox along our bays. We have a huge uptick of transporters on the Island deer hunting. Our fox population is highly susceptible to adverse impacts of this technology on our fox populations.

Transporters have had a huge impact of local hunters to access deer, with this new regulation fox will be extremely vulnerable. There is a saying on Kodiak; "when the tide is low the table is set"

For good reason the there have been regulations prohibiting the use of lights while hunting. Infrared technology will have a huge impact on our fox population.

There is a big difference between local hunters and fur trappers than non Unit 8 residents. I/we are asking that you take this difference into consideration while considering this proposal.

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

Many local residents have concern of the fox population and the use of infrared in the field.

The Kodiak Advisory Committee was not consulted but at the last meeting expressed concern of the use of infrared use. If my memory serves me right.

PROPOSED BY: Alexus Kwachka (OI-F25-228)
****

PROPOSAL 241

5 AAC 84.270. Furbearer trapping.

Open a year-round season for trapping mink in Unit 8 as follows:

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

5AAC 84.270 (7) Mink and Weasel
....

Units 7, 8, and 14-16 Nov.10 - Jan.31 No Limit

Except in Unit 8, mink may be taken year-round.

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

Remove the season dates for mink in Unit 8 to allow trapping for mink year round in Unit 8. Allowing both increased flexibility for fur trapping and for trapping of nuisance mink.

The mink population has grown alot on the northern part of Kodiak Island and several other islands since their arrival about 10 years ago. The mink trapping season, however, coincides with the worst weather and shortest days of the year. Since most travel to remote areas of the island is via boat, access is much more difficult during November to January than the better weather and longer days from February through April such as already an option during the beaver season. Additionally, a year round season would allow trapping of nuisance mink to protect livestock and hatchery operations without a depredation permit from ADF&G.

Kodiak has a fairly constant year round climate and fur quality in the spring is not an issue with other species such as beaver and not likely to be for mink either.

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

I worked with the Kodiak Area wildlife biologist and assistant area biologist to get recommendations for proposal language and with other Kodiak trappers to gauge interest. There is a general desire to allow more species to be trapped in the spring on Kodiak given the difficulties of trapping during the fall and winter with weather and daylight. And given fur quality for species that are trapped in the spring is typically not an issue on Kodiak.

PROPOSED BY: Tyler Polum (OI-F25-011)
****

PROPOSAL 242

5 AAC 84.270. Furbearer trapping

Extend the trapping season for river otter in Unit 8 to end April 15 as follows:

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

Extend the river otter season in Unit 8 by two and a half months, to end on April 15.

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

Reduce the potential for an incidental catch of river otter when trapping for beaver since they can be trapped in the same locations. Other Units within the state have a river otter season that extends past January 31. Example: Unit 12.

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

PROPOSED BY: Jessie Juhlin (OI-F25-239)
****

PROPOSAL 243

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

Require all snares set n the Kodiak Road system within Unit 8, to include breakaway mechanisms as follows:

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

On the Kodiak road system, all snares must include breakaway mechanisms as follows:

All snares must be equipped with a breakaway mechanism (of a designated minimum poundage) on the loop-end of the snare and the snare cable and anchor must be stronger than the breakaway mechanism.

This change was proposed during each of the last two cycles, first by the Kodiak Fish and Game Advisory Committee in 2019 (Southcentral Region meeting: March 14-19, 2019; Proposal 109) and then again by the Humane Society of Kodiak in 2023 (Southcentral Region Meeting; March 17-22, 2023; Proposal 81). Despite broad community support for both proposals they were ultimately not adopted by the Board. At those meetings, comment from the Board of Game (BOG) and the Alaska Trappers Association (ATA) indicated that community outreach, led by ATA, was the preferred approach instead of a regulatory change. In the intervening six years, ATA has made no effort to conduct community outreach in Kodiak; meanwhile, the number of incidents and volume of community discussion related to this issue has only increased.

The inclusion of appropriately sized breakaway mechanisms would allow trappers to continue targeting furbearers with snares along the Kodiak road system. While at the same time, this would reduce catch of non-target animals, promote responsible trapping practices, and reduce user group conflict. Inclusion of breakaway mechanisms is not expected to significantly increase direct costs for an individual to participate in trapping activities.

Note: The Humane Society of Kodiak is not a member of, nor formally affiliated with, the Humane Society of the United States

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

There has been an increase in catch of non-target animals in snares set along the Kodiak road system, including bears, deer, and domestic animals. The main concern is with locking style snares that do not incorporate breakaway mechanisms. Snares without breakaway mechanisms cause severe injury or death to non-target animals, resulting in increased mortality of valuable game resources (i.e., bears and deer) and conflicts between trappers and other user groups, particularly when domestic animals (i.e., dogs and livestock) are involved.

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

While Alaska Department of Fish and Game Advisory Committee has submitted this same proposal previously with broad support, the current proposal is submitted without coordination with the local advisory committee.

PROPOSED BY: The Humane Society of Kodiak (OI-F25-165)
****

PROPOSAL 244

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

Require identification tags on traps and snares set along the Kodiak road system within Unit 8 as follows:

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

Identification tags are required for each trap and snare set along the Kodiak road system. A person may not set a trap or snare along the Kodiak road system unless there is attached to the trap or snare an identification tag. Identification tags must provide some form of owner identification, such as a personal identification number (PIN) registered with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. The Department will make identities of trappers who register their traps and snares with the Department available to law enforcement but otherwise, will keep identities confidential. If there is an injury or death (of a dog or human) resulting from being caught in a trap, it will be the injured party's responsibility to report to law enforcement, who can then investigate the incident and respond appropriately.

The expense related to the cost of tags would be minimal to trappers.

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

There is not a mechanism in place to identify the owners of traps or snares set along the Kodiak road system. The concern is that there is no official way to identify the owner of a trap that is placed illegally or is in a location where there are frequent user groups, such as hikers, that could pose a public safety concern. Over the years, there have been dogs caught in traps that were close to trails, causing injury and emotional distress. Without the ability to identify the trapper, there is not the opportunity for law enforcement to intercede and educate on proper placement of traps.

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

A similar proposal was submitted previously by Kneeland Taylor as a state-wide proposal and was considered at the March 21-28, 2025, meeting of the Board of Game (Proposal 131). That proposal was unanimously supported by the Kodiak Fish and Game Advisory Committee at their meeting in February 2025. The Human Society of Kodiak is proposing this reguation, specific to the Kodiak road system within Unit 8, without coordination of other parties, but with strong commuity support.

Note: The Humane Society of Kodiak is not a member of, nor formally affiliated with, the Humane Society of the United States

PROPOSED BY: The Humane Society of Kodiak (OI-F25-170)
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PROPOSAL 245

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

Prohibit the use of all artificial light and infrared devices for hunting in Unit 8 as follows:

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

ALL ARTIFICIAL LIGHT AND INFRARED/ HEAT SIGNATURE OPTICS ARE ILLEGAL TO HUNT big game or hunt or trap small game in Unit 8.

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

I would like to address infrared and artificial light for hunting predators (foxes) in Unit 8. Infrared heat vision optics is now legal statewide. The main motivation for this is wolf and coyote predator control state wide. FOXES ARE NOT DANGEROUS PREDATORS IN KODIAK. This should not be legal here because it will set a precedent for allowing infrared vision, possibly for other big game like BEARS and deer on Kodiak down the road. IT IS not fairchase, ethical or promoting safe hunting on Kodiak Island. In the fall many deer and bear hunters camp right on the beach with base camp in close proximity to other hunters.

Allowing infrared fox hunting at night is dangerous for other user groups and someone or their tent or boat is liable to get inadvertently shot. People don't hunt at night anyway on our island, they get drunk. So allowing this type of hunting on Kodiak Island is a recipe for disaster when foxes are not a true predator of things but rather just a furbearer.

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

I collaborated with Kodiak Advisory Committee.

PROPOSED BY: Stig Yngve (OI-F25-181)
****

PROPOSAL 246

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

Prohibit the use infrared devices for hunting in Unit 8 as follows:

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

Ban all infrared hunting Unit 8.

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

Ban all infrared hunting in Unit 8.

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

This action maybe appropriate for other area's but not in Unit 8.

PROPOSED BY: Alexus Kwachka (OI-F25-231)
****

PROPOSAL 247

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

Allow the use of artificial light for taking fox under a trapping license as follows:

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

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

The following methods of taking game are prohibited:

(7) with the aid of a pit, fire, artificial light, laser sight, electronically enhanced night vision scope, radio communication, cellular or satellite telephone, artificial salt lick, explosive, expanding gas arrow, bomb, smoke, chemical (excluding scent lures), or a conventional steel trap with an inside jaw spread over nine inches, except that

(C) for the purpose of taking furbearers under a trapping license during an open season November 1 - March 31 in Units 7 and 9 - 26, **and during an open season January 1 - March 31 in Unit 8 for land-based trapping only,** artificial light may be used;

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

Under current regulation, use of artificial light is prohibited for trapping in Unit 8.

Fox are one of the main furbearers in Unit 8. With no natural predators such as coyote or wolf and the ready availability of marine food sources year-round, their population is relatively unchecked. Winter trapping months in Unit 8 have limited daylight and notoriously poor weather, limiting trapping opportunity. By allowing the use of artificial light the state could provide for additional opportunity of an underutilized resource. Traditionally, fox farming and trapping was a thriving industry in Unit 8.

Because of the potential for obfuscation of illegal use of artificial light from boats during open deer hunting season, this provision could be limited to land-based use by those with a trapping license, and only after the deer hunting season has been closed.

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

PROPOSED BY: Taj Shoemaker (OI-F25-027)
****

PROPOSAL 248

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

Prohibit the use of electronically enhanced night vision for taking furbearers in Unit 8 as follows:

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

5 AAC 92.080. The following methods of taking game are prohibited:

(7) with the aid of.....

(E) electronically enhanced night vision; except that electronically enhanced night vision can be used for taking furbearers **in Units 1-7 and 9-2**6;

(F) any forward looking infrared device; except that forward looking infrared devices can be used for taking furbearers **in Units 1-7 and 9-26**;

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

The issue I'm seeking to address is that the statewide change to allow electronically enhanced night vision and forward looking infrared devices does not fit well with Kodiak's circumstances and is unnecessary. Kodiak does not coyote or wolf, and our daylight restrictions are less than northern parts of the state. Additionally, in Unit 8 allowing these devices creates an enforcement challenge because there is considerable overlap between the trapping season and the open season for big game animals, including brown bear and deer. This is very different from the interior region, where this regulation was originally adopted, where there is considerably less overlap between trapping seasons and open seasons for big game.

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

The Kodiak Advisory Committee discussed the statewide proposal to allow these devices in early 2025 and did not support its application to Kodiak/Unit 8. I did not have a chance to discuss this specific proposal with the AC because there wasn't another AC meeting between the Board of Game and the proposal submission deadline.

PROPOSED BY: Rebecca Skinner (OI-F25-163)
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Reauthorization of Antlerless Moose Hunts and Brown Bear Tag Fee Exemptions for other Regions

PROPOSAL 249

5 AAC 92.015. Brown bear tag fee exemption.

Reauthorize the brown bear tag fee exemptions for the Central and Southwest Region as follows:

(a) A resident tag is not required for taking a brown bear in the following units:

(1) Unit 11;

(2) Units 13 and 16(A);

(3) Units 16(B) and 17;

…

(11) Unit 9, within the following areas, unless a smaller area is defined by the department in an applicable permit:

(A) Unit 9(B), within five miles of the communities of Port Alsworth, Nondalton, Iliamna, Newhalen, Pile Bay, Pedro Bay, Pope Vanoy Landing, Kakhonak, Igiugig, and Levelock;

(B) Unit 9(C), within five miles of the communities of King Salmon, Naknek, and South Naknek;

(C) Unit 9(D), within five miles of the communities of Cold Bay, King Cove, Sand Point, and Nelson Lagoon;

(D) Unit 9(E), within five miles of the communities of Egegik, Pilot Point, Ugashik, Port Heiden, Port Moller, Chignik Lake, Chignik Lagoon, Chignik Bay, Perryville, and Ivanof Bay;

(12) Unit 10, within three miles of the community of False Pass, unless a smaller area is defined by the department in an applicable permit.

(b) In addition to the units as specified in (a) of this section, if a hunter obtains a subsistence registration permit before hunting, that hunter is not required to obtain a resident tag to take a brown bear in the following units:

(1) Unit 9(B);

(2) Unit 9(E), that portion including all drainages that drain into the Pacific Ocean between Cape Kumliun and the border of Unit 9(D) and Unit 9(E);

(3) Unit 17;

…

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

Brown bear tag fee exemptions must be reauthorized annually, or the fee will be automatically reinstated.

General Season Hunts: The board liberalized brown bear hunting regulations including the tag fee exemption to increase the harvest of brown bears in Units 11, 13, and 16 during the March 2003 Board of Game (board) meeting and in Unit 17 during the March 2011 Board of Game meeting. The tag fee exemption in these units provides greater opportunity to harvest brown bears by allowing opportunistic harvest.

In March 2011 the board also exempted brown bear tag fees for bear hunts near communities in Unit 9 to address public safety concerns in communities. Brown bears are abundant in Unit 9 and are managed primarily as a trophy species. Brown bears are frequently observed in communities where they destroy property in search of food or garbage and occasionally kill pets. The bear seasons and bag limits adopted along with the elimination of the tag fee were intended to allow people to take bears before they destroy property, to promote a greater acceptance of the unit's bear population, and to resolve some of the compliance issues associated with the take of bears in defense of life or property.

Subsistence Brown Bear Hunts: The board waived the brown bear tag fee requirement for subsistence brown bear hunts in Unit 17 and portions of Unit 9. Subsistence brown bear harvest rates are low and well within sustainable limits. Exempting the resident tag fee has not caused an increase in subsistence harvest in these units. Continuation of the exemption accommodates customary and traditional uses of brown bears in these units and provides an alternative for hunters who take brown bears primarily for their meat.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game HQ-F25-027
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PROPOSAL 250

5 AAC 92.015(a)(4). Brown bear tag fee exemptions.

Reauthorize resident grizzly/brown bear tag fee exemptions throughout Interior and Northeast Alaska as follows:

(a) A resident tag is not required for taking a brown bear in the following units:

...

(4) Units 12, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25, 26(B), and 26(C)

...

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

Brown bear tag fee exemptions must be reauthorized annually. Reauthorizing the exemption allows residents who have not purchased the $25 brown bear tag to take bears opportunistically. This reauthorization would assist with the objective of managing Region III (Interior and Northeast Alaska) brown bear populations for hunter opportunity and would continue to allow

hunters to take brown bears opportunistically.

Region III brown bear populations are healthy, and harvest is monitored through the brown bear sealing requirement. Reauthorizing all resident brown bear tag fees throughout Region III maintains simpler regulations, provides high resident hunter opportunity, and is not likely to cause declines in these brown bear populations. This reauthorization includes tag fee exemptions for subsistence registration permit hunts in Units 19A and 19B (downstream of and including the Aniak River drainage), 21D, and 24.

The department estimates that brown bear harvest accounts for less than 6% of the bear population. Harvest is comprised primarily of males and is sustainable. Where harvests are elevated (i.e., Units 20A, 20B, 20D, and portions of 26B), brown bear populations are managed by adjusting seasons and bag limits. The absence of resident tag fees that were in place prior to 2010 appears to have little effect on net harvest across the region in general.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish & Game HQ-F25-044
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PROPOSAL 251

5 AAC 92.015. Brown bear tag fee exemptions.

Reauthorize the current resident tag fee exemptions for brown bear in Units 18, 22, 23 and 26A as follows:

(a) A resident tag is not required for taking a brown bear in the following units:

…
(4) Units… 26;
…
(8) Unit 22;
(9) Unit 23;
…
(13) Unit 18;
…

(b) In addition to the units as specified in (a) of this section, if a hunter obtains a subsistence registration permit before hunting, that hunter is not required to obtain a resident tag to take a brown bear in the following units:

…
(4) Unit 18;
…
(7) Unit 22;
(8) Unit 23;
…
(10) Unit 26(A).

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

The Board of Game must reauthorize brown bear tag fee exemptions annually or the fee automatically becomes reinstated. The department recommends continuing resident tag fee

exemptions for the general season and subsistence season hunts in Region V (Units 18, 22, 23, and 26A).

General Season Hunts: Reauthorizations are needed for: Unit 18, where the tag fee has been exempted for 10 years; Unit 22, where the tag fee has been exempted for 20 years; Unit 23, where the tag fee has been exempted for 15 years; and Unit 26A, where the tag fee has been exempted for 10 years. Tag fee exemptions are desired to allow: 1) incremental increase in annual harvest; 2) opportunistic harvest by resident hunters; and 3) harvest by a wide range of users.

General season brown bear harvest rates are within sustained yield limits and previous exemptions of the resident tag fee have not caused dramatic or unexpected increases in overall harvest. In Units 18 and 26A, tag exemptions were authorized for RY2012 and harvest has remained within sustained yield and continues to be similar to the preceding ten-year period. In Unit 22, the 18-year tag-free period for residents has had an average annual harvest of 50 brown bears (range 41–63 bears). In Unit 23, general harvests have been increasing slowly since 1961 primarily in response to increases in human population rather than regulatory changes, although annual harvests vary due to weather and hunting conditions. Harvest data for Unit 23 show no trend in the sex ratio, age or size of bears harvested under all types of hunts.

Subsistence Season Hunts: Reauthorizations are needed for Units 18, 22, 23, and 26A where brown bear subsistence hunt requirements include: 1) registration permit, 2) tag fee exemption, 3) salvaging meat for human consumption, 4) no use of aircraft in Units 22, 23 and 26A, 5) no sealing requirement unless hide and skull are removed from subsistence hunt area, and 6) if sealing is required, the skin of the head and front claws must be removed and retained by the Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) at the time of sealing. Continuing the tag fee exemption helps facilitate participation in the associated brown bear harvest programs maintained by ADF&G for subsistence hunts.

In all units, subsistence brown bear harvest rates are low and well within sustained yield limits and exempting the resident tag fee has not caused an increase in subsistence harvest. In Unit 18, it is estimated that 0–3 bears are taken annually in subsistence hunts. In Unit 22, subsistence harvest by permit is quite low, averaging less than one bear per year (less than 1% of the total brown bear harvest). In Unit 23, subsistence permit harvest is less than five bears annually since 1992 (less than 10% of the total brown bear harvest). In Unit 26A, between zero and five bears are taken annually by subsistence hunters.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game HQ-F25-024
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PROPOSAL 252

5 AAC 84.045(a)(12). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.

Reauthorize the antlerless moose hunts in Units 14A and 14B as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(12)		
Unit 14(A) 1 moose per regulatory year, only as follows: …		
1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only; up to 2,000 antlerless moose permits may be issued; or	Aug. 20–Sept. 25 (General hunt only) Nov. 1–Dec. 25 (General hunt only)	No open season
...		
1 moose by targeted permit only; by crossbow, shotgun or bow and arrow only; up to 200 permits may be issued	Winter season to be announced (General hunt only)	No open season
Unit 14(B) 1 moose per regulatory year, only as follows: …		
1 moose by targeted permit only; by crossbow, shotgun, or bow and arrow only; up to 100 permits may be issued. ….	Winter season to be announced (General hunt only)	No open season

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

Antlerless moose hunts must be reauthorized annually by the Board of Game. There are two types of antlerless moose hunts in the Matanuska-Susitna Valley – a drawing permit hunt used to regulate growth of the moose population in Unit 14A, and targeted hunts used to mitigate public safety concerns in Units 14A and 14B.

Antlerless moose hunts have been authorized in Unit 14A since 2001 in order to regulate the growth of the population. The permit level was increased from 450 to 1,000 in 2013 to account for the continued increase in the population and again in spring 2018 from 1,000 to 2,000. Increased harvest based on the increased permit levels has brought the population back to near the objective for the unit of 6,000–6,500. Permit levels have been reduced significantly as the population approached the objective and will be adjusted as necessary.

Moose surveys conducted in November 2023 yielded an estimate of 6,657 moose in Unit 14A. This estimate was greater than the post-hunt objective of 6,000–6,500 moose and less than the 2020 survey estimate of 7,112 moose, indicating that antlerless harvests are having the desired effect of reducing the population to near objectives. The sex and age composition demonstrated a bull ratio of 30 bulls:100 cows and a calf ratio of 28 calves:100 cows.

Moose-human conflicts have declined along with the moose population as it has approached the population objective. The targeted moose hunts in Units 14A and 14B, which are authorized to include an antlerless component, have been a tool to address public safety concerns related to moose-vehicle collisions and nuisance management issues. Moose-vehicle collisions result in property damage and may result in human injury or death. An average of 316 moose per year were killed in the Matanuska-Susitna Valley area during the last five years of average snowfall and substantially more are killed during higher snowfall years. The Alaska Department of Fish & Game also receives periodic complaints from the public about crop depredation and aggressive behavior that can be mitigated by this hunt structure. Antlerless hunts are an important tool to control the moose population's trajectory and recommend additional moose hunting opportunity in the Matanuska-Susitna Valley when appropriate.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F25-029)
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PROPOSAL 253

5 AAC 85.045(a)(15). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.

Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in Unit 17A as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(15)		
Unit 17(A)		
Up to 2 moose per regulatory year only as follows: RESIDENT HUNTERS:		
1 moose by registration permit only; or	Aug. 25–Sept. 25 (Subsistence hunt only)	
…		
1 antlerless moose by registration permit only;	Jan. 1 – last day of Feb. (Subsistence hunt only)	

….

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

Antlerless moose hunts must be reauthorized annually by the Board of Game (board). The goal is to provide for a wide range of public uses and benefits, and to protect the health and habitat of moose populations. Antlerless hunts are important for improving or maintaining the ability of moose habitat to support current populations. They also help regulate moose population growth, help to meet Intensive Management objectives for high levels of harvest, and provide subsistence hunters with the opportunity to pursue moose for subsistence uses without reducing bull-to-cow ratios. The board adopted an antlerless moose hunt in 2013 after hearing many comments from heavily invested groups such as the federal Bristol Bay Subsistence Regional Advisory Council, the Nushagak and Togiak Fish and Game Advisory Committees, and the Togiak National Wildlife Refuge.

The Unit 17A moose management plan calls for antlerless moose hunting opportunity when the population is above 600 moose and increasing. When the population exceeds 1,200 moose, a bag limit of up to two moose is needed to provide increased opportunity and to reduce moose abundance to protect habitat. Based on the most recent survey in October 2022, the population estimate was 1,967 ±358 moose. After further analyses, this estimate will be corrected for sightability which will result in a higher population estimate further supporting strategies for additional harvest opportunities. The bag limit of two moose and antlerless harvest opportunity provide a mechanism to limit population growth and allow hunters to harvest surplus animals.

The moose population in subunit 17A is over objective and can sustain additional harvest. The objectives for this population include allowing it to expand into neighboring areas to provide additional harvest opportunities. This population is currently contributing to the growth of adjacent moose populations, especially to the north and west.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game HQ-F25-028
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PROPOSAL 254

5 AAC 85.045(a)(16). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.

Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in Unit 18 as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(16)		
Unit 18 Kuskokwim Area, that portion easterly of a line from the mouth of the Ishkowik River to the closest point of Dall Lake then to east bank of the Johnson River at its entrance into Nunavakanukakslak Lake (60 59.41' N. latitude, 162 22.14' W. longitude), continuing up-river along a line one-half mile south and east of, and paralleling a line along the southerly bank of the Johnson River to the confluence of the east bank of Crooked Creek, then continuing upriver along the east bank of Crooked Creek to the outlet at Arhymot lake, then following the south bank of Arhymont Lake easterly to the Unit 18 border and north of and including the Eek River drainage		

RESIDENT HUNTERS:
…

1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only, up to 100 permits may be issued	Sept. 1-Oct. 15	

…

Unit 18, that portion that drains into Kuskokwim Bay south of the Carter Bay drainage

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

…

1 moose by registration Permit only; to be announced by emergency order	Dec. 1—Mar. 31 (Season to be announced)	No open season.

Remainder of Unit 18

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

3 moose; of which only 1 may be an antlered bull; a person may not take a calf or a cow accompanied by a calf; or	Aug. 1—Sept. 30
3 antlerless moose; or	Oct. 1—Nov. 30.
3 moose	Dec. 1—April 30.

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 antlerless moose	Dec. 1— Mar. 15

…

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

To be retained, the antlerless moose seasons in Unit 18 must be reauthorized annually. The current antlerless hunts in the Remainder of Unit 18 were adopted at the January 2014 Board of Game meeting in Kotzebue. The current antlerless hunt in the Goodnews Hunt area and nonresident antlerless hunt was adopted at the January 2017 Board of Game meeting in Bethel. The Kuskokwim hunt wase adopted at the January 2024 Bord of Game meeting in Kotzebue. Both the Remainder and Goodnews antlerless hunts were amended at the BOG meeting in 2020 in Nome. The Board of Game (board) has previously reauthorized the antlerless moose season for resident hunts in Unit 18 Remainder for regulatory year (RY) 2016 through RY2024. This proposal requests reauthorization for RY2025.

Implementation of antlerless hunts began in 2007 and has continued each year due to increased moose abundance, productivity, and population growth along the Yukon River drainage in Unit 18. Based on the steady growth in moose populations and productivity, ADF&G proposes continued antlerless moose hunts in the Remainder of Unit 18.

Within the areas near the Yukon River, the moose population is estimated at a minimum of 24,000 animals with calf:cow ratios ranging from 36:100 to 61:100, and twinning rates from 15% to 50% for all areas. Population growth and range expansion continues in this portion of Unit 18. The population is expected to continue to grow with high recruitment and adult survival.

Current year harvest data in the Remainder of Unit 18 has not been finalized; however, harvest is expected to be similar to the past 4 years and well below sustained yield for this robust population. In RY2023 the antlerless harvest in Unit 18 remainder was 157 moose. Allowing antlerless harvest will benefit hunters through increased opportunity, and any increases in harvest may help slow the growth rate of the population in this portion of Unit 18. The nonresident antlerless moose hunt has had very low participation. In 2024 there have been four cows harvested. Harvest has been four antlerless moose (all cows) in the previous past five years.

The moose population in the Goodnews River drainage had grown steadily in the past 15 years following a closure in 2004. The fall hunt has a quota of 10 in the first few years of the hunt and recently increased to 45. The season has not been closed by EO and the past few years the quota was not meet. In the seven years that the winter hunt has been held, harvest has been low (with a range of 0-6 animals). A March 2024 survey found 450 moose and, based on the steady growth in moose populations and productivity, ADF&G proposes continued antlerless moose hunts in the Goodnews River Drainage.

In January of 2024 at the Board of Game meeting in Kotzebue, the board adopted a drawing hunt for antlerless moose on the Kuskokwim River. The first hunt is anticipated to be held in the fall of 2025. In February of 2024 the midpoint of the population estimate was 3,336 moose in Zone 1 of the Kuskokwim hunt area. In the same month, an additional 2,327 moose were counted in a minimum count of Zone 2 of the hunt area. Following a moratorium on moose hunting (2004-2008) the Kuskokwim moose population has experienced rapid growth and range expansion and is starting to see early signs of resource limitation and high browse removal rates.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game HQ-F25-025
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PROPOSAL 255

5 AAC 85.045(a)(17). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.

Reauthorize a fall antlerless hunt during September and a winter any-moose season during February in a portion of Unit 19D as follows.

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(17)		
…		
Unit 19(D), that portion of the Black River drainage within 2 miles of the Kuskokwim River and that portion of the Selatna River drainage north of the Selatna River within 2 miles of the Kuskokwim River.		
…		
1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only; up to 20 cows may be taken.	Sept. 1 – Sept. 30 (General hunt only)	o open season
…		
Unit 19(D), that portion 2 miles on either side of the Kuskokwim River from the Selatna River upstream to the confluence of the South Fork and the North Fork of the Kuskokwim River, and 2 miles on either side of the South Fork of the Kuskokwim River from the mouth to Nikolai, and 2 miles on either side of the Takotna River from the mouth to the bridge at Takotna, excluding the Black River drainage and the Selatna River drainage		
…		
1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only; up to 20 cows may be taken; or	Sept. 1 – Sept. 30 (General hunt only)	No open season

1 moose by registration permit only; a person may not take a cow accompanied by a calf	Feb. 1 – Last day of Feb.	No open season
…	…	…
Unit 19(D), that portion of the Black River drainage excluding that portion within 2 miles of the Kuskokwim River, and that portion of the Selatna River drainage north of the Selatna River, and excluding that portion with 2 miles of the Kuskokwim River		
…		
1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only; up to 20 cows may be taken; or	Sept 1 – Sept 30 (General hunt only)	No open season
…		
1 moose by registration permit only; a person may not take a cow accompanied by a calf	Feb 1 – Last day of Feb	No open season

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

Antlerless moose hunting seasons must be reauthorized annually.

The moose population in Unit 19D upstream of the Selatna River recently experienced a significant decline due to an extremely difficult winter in 2022/2023. During a November 2023 geospatial population estimate (GSPE) the Alaska Department of Fish & Game (department) documented a decline from 2,471 moose (2.2 moose/mi^2) to 1,591 moose (1.4 moose/mi^2) . Due to this decline, the department closed the winter hunt in regulatory year (RY) 23 by emergency order. Proposal 66, which was submitted by the McGrath Advisory Committee (AC) prior to the documented decline, was passed by the Board of Game (board) in March 2024 authorizing a new draw permit hunt in the fall for cows in a portion of Unit 19D. The hunt was reauthorized by the board during March 2025 with unanimous support from the McGrath AC. While the department does not intend to issue antlerless permits in RY26, the department would like to keep the hunt available as a tool to provide additional opportunity when it is again warranted.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish & Game HQ-F25-043
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PROPOSAL 256

5 AAC 85.045(18). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.

Reauthorize the antlerless moose seasons in Unit 20A as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(18)		
Unit 20(A), the Ferry Trail Management Area, Wood River Controlled Use Area, and the Yanert Controlled Use Area RESIDENT HUNTERS:		
...		
1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only; up to 2,000 permits may be issued in combination with the Remainder of Unit 20(A); a person may not take a cow accompanied by a calf; or	Aug. 15–Nov. 15 (General hunt only)	
1 antlerless moose by registration permit only; a person may not take a cow accompanied by a calf; or	Oct. 1–Last day of Feb.	
...		
1 moose by targeted permit only; by crossbow shotgun, or bow and arrow only; up to 100 permits may be issued	Season to be announced by emergency order (General hunt only)	
...		
Remainder of Unit 20(A)		

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

...

1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only; up to 2,000 permits may be issued in combination with Unit 20(A), the Ferry Trail Management Area ,Wood River Controlled Use Area, and the Yanert Controlled Use Area; a person may not take a cow accompanied by a calf; or	Aug. 15–Nov. 15 (General hunt only)
1 antlerless moose by registration permit only; a person may not take a cow accompanied by a calf; or	Aug. 25–last day of Feb.

...

1 moose by targeted permit only; by crossbow, shotgun, or bow and arrow only; up to 100 permits may be issued	Season to be announced by emergency order (General hunt only)

...

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

Antlerless moose hunting seasons must be reauthorized annually. The primary goals of the Unit 20A antlerless hunts are to regulate moose population growth and size within the Intensive Management (IM) population objective and at levels that the habitat can support, provide harvest opportunity to help meet IM harvest objectives, and provide subsistence hunters with a reasonable opportunity to pursue moose for subsistence uses without reducing bull-to-cow ratios.

The Unit 20A moose population is currently within the IM population objective and nutritional indices suggest the population is at moderate nutritional levels. In November 2024, the Unit 20A population estimate was 11,696 moose (90% confidence interval 10,155–13,237 moose; 2.0–2.6 moose per square mile). This is within the IM population objective of 10,000–15,000 moose and similar to the previous estimated Unit 20A population size from fall 2022. The 3-year (2021, 2022, and 2024) average twinning rate was 15%, which is within the 10–20% range that suggests moderate nutrition. Furthermore, short-yearling weights collected during 2023–2024 averaged 398 lbs, which is greater than the 385 lb threshold suggestive of low nutrition but less than the

410 lb threshold suggestive of high nutrition. Thus, similar to the multi-year twinning rate estimate, the short-yearling weights suggest the moose population nutrition is at moderate levels. Since the moose population is currently within the IM population objective and at moderate nutritional levels, the goal is to manage the population for a stable population trend and antlerless harvest is an important component of this management strategy.

No antlerless hunts have been held in Unit 20A since the winter of 2021–2022, which was a difficult winter with deep snow and icing events and resulted in a decline in the moose population. However, antlerless hunts will likely occur again beginning in regulatory year 2026 with the primary goal of maintaining a stable population size. Previous years of antlerless hunts in Unit 20A have demonstrated that an antlerless harvest rate of 1% of the total population is generally suitable for maintaining a stable population trend. Furthermore, this increase in harvest opportunity will help achieve the IM harvest objective and provide for additional subsistence harvest opportunity within that portion of Unit 20A outside the Fairbanks Nonsubsistence Area.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game HQ-F25-038
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PROPOSAL 257

5 AAC 85.045(18). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.

Reauthorize the antlerless moose seasons in Unit 20B as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season Subsistence and General Hunts	Nonresident Open Season
(18)		
...		
Unit 20(B), that portion within Creamer's refuge		
...		
1 antlerless moose by bow and arrow only, by drawing permit only; up to 150 bow and arrow permits may be issued in the Fairbanks Management Area; a recipient of a drawing permit is prohibited from taking an antlered bull moose in the Fairbanks Management Area; or	Sept. 1–Nov. 27 (General hunt only)	Sept. 1–Nov. 27

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season Subsistence and General Hunts	Nonresident Open Season
1 antlerless moose by muzzle-loader by drawing permit only; up to 10 permits may be issued; a recipient of a drawing permit is prohibited from taking an antlered bull moose in the Fairbanks Management Area	Dec. 1–Jan. 31 (General hunt only)	No Open Season
Unit 20(B), remainder of the Fairbanks Management Area		
...		
1 antlerless moose by bow and arrow only, by drawing permit only; up to 150 bow and arrow permits may be issued in the Fairbanks Management Area; a recipient of a drawing permit is prohibited from taking an antlered bull moose in the Fairbanks Management Area; or	Sept. 1–Nov. 27 (General hunt only)	Sept. 1–Nov. 27
1 moose by targeted permit only; by shotgun or bow and arrow only; up to 100 permits may be issued	Season to be announced by emergency order (General hunt only)	No open season.
Unit 20(B), that portion within the Minto Flats Management Area		
RESIDENT HUNTERS:		
...		
1 antlerless moose by registration permit only	Oct. 15–Feb. 28 (Subsistence hunt only)	No open season.
...		
Unit 20(B), the drainage of the Middle Fork of the Chena River RESIDENT HUNTERS:		

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season Subsistence and General Hunts	Nonresident Open Season
1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only; up to 300 permits may be issued; a person may not take a cow accompanied by a calf; or	Aug. 15–Nov. 15 (General hunt only)	
1 antlerless moose by registration permit only; a person may not take a cow accompanied by a calf; or	Oct. 1–Last day of Feb. (General hunt only)	
...		
Unit 20(B), that portion southeast of the Moose Creek dike within one-half mile of each side of the Richardson highway		
RESIDENT HUNTERS:		
...		
1 moose by drawing permit only; by crossbow, bow and arrow, or muzzleloader only; up to 100 permits may be issued; or	Sept. 16–Last day of Feb. (General hunt only)	
1 moose by targeted permit only; by crossbow, shotgun, or bow and arrow only; up to 100 permits may be issued	Season to be announced by emergency order (General hunt only)	
Remainder of Unit 20(B)		
RESIDENT HUNTERS:		
1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only; by youth hunt only; up to 200 permits may be issued; or	Aug. 5–Aug. 14 (General hunt only)	
...		

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season Subsistence and General Hunts	Nonresident Open Season
1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only; up to 1,500 permits may be issued in the remainder of Unit 20(B); a person may not take a cow accompanied by a calf; or	Aug. 15–Nov. 15 (General hunt only)	
1 antlerless moose by registration permit only; a person may not take a cow accompanied by a calf; or	Oct. 1– Last day of Feb.	
1 moose by targeted permit only; by crossbow, shotgun, or bow and arrow only; up to 100 permits may be issued	Season to be announced by emergency order (General hunt only)	

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

Antlerless moose hunting seasons must be reauthorized annually. The primary goals of the Unit 20B antlerless hunts are to regulate moose population growth and size within the Intensive Management (IM) population objective and at levels that the habitat can support, provide harvest opportunity to help meet IM harvest objectives, provide subsistence hunters with a reasonable opportunity to pursue moose for subsistence uses without reducing bull-to-cow ratios, and reduce moose-vehicle collisions and nuisance moose issues.

The most recent Unit 20B moose population estimate was below the IM population objective and thus there are currently few antlerless hunts offered within the unit. In November 2023, the Unit 20B moose population estimate was 7,848 moose (90% confidence interval 6,613–9,083 moose; 0.7–1.0 moose per square mile), which is below the IM population objective of 12,000–15,000. This estimate was a decrease from the previous survey in fall 2020, when the population estimate was 12,480 moose. The primary cause for the decline was likely the difficult winter of 2021–2022, which was a prolonged winter with deep snow and icing events both of which negatively impacted moose populations throughout the interior. Following the winter of 2021–2022, no antlerless hunts have been offered in Unit 20B except for within the Fairbanks Management Area (FMA) and within the Richardson Highway corridor. The primary purposes of the FMA and Richardson Highway corridor hunts are to reduce vehicle-moose collisions, and for the FMA, to reduce nuisance moose issues.

The only antlerless hunts planned for Unit 20B for regulatory year 2026 are within the FMA and Richardson Highway corridor. Furthermore, targeted hunts for any moose may be used to address public safety or nuisance moose issues. Antlerless hunt plans for regulatory year 2027 and beyond will be based upon the results of the planned unitwide moose population survey in fall 2025 as well as ongoing monitoring of nutritional indices. Recent twinning and browse removal surveys within the Minto Flats Management Area, which is in western Unit 20B, suggest the nutritional

condition of the moose in this area has improved and is currently at moderate to high levels. Thus, no additional antlerless hunts beyond the FMA, Richardson Highway corridor, and targeted hunts will be held in the near future unless the unitwide population increases to within the IM population objective, nutritional condition declines, or there is an identified harvest surplus within a portion of the unit due to a rapidly increasing population.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game HQ-F25-039
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PROPOSAL 258

5 AAC 85.045(18). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.

Reauthorize the antlerless moose hunting seasons in Unit 20D as follows:

(18) hunting seasons and bag limits for moose in Unit 20 are as follows:

…

Unit 20(D), that portion lying west of the west bank of the Johnson River and south of the north bank of the Tanana River, except the Delta Junction Management Area and the Bison Range Controlled Use Area	
RESIDENT HUNTERS:	
…	
1 antlerless moose, per lifetime of a hunter, by youth hunt drawing permit only; up to 100 permits may be issued may be issued in combination with those portion in the Delta Junction Management Area and the Bison Range Controlled Use Area; a person may not take a calf or a cow accompanied by a calf;	Sept. 16 – Sept. 25 (General hunt only)
1 antlerless moose by registration permit only; a person may not take a calf or a cow accompanied by a calf	Oct. 10 - Nov. 25 (General hunt only)
…	

Unit 20(D), that portion within the Bison Range Controlled Use Area		
…		
1 antlerless moose, per lifetime of a hunter, by youth hunt drawing permit only; up to 100 permits may be issued in Unit 20(D) lying west of the west bank of the Johnson River and south of the north bank of the Tanana River and the Delta Junction Management Area; a person may not take a calf or a cow accompanied by a calf;	Sept. 16 – Sept. 25 (General hunt only)	No open season.
Unit 20(D), that portion within the Delta Junction Management Area		
RESIDENT HUNTERS:		
…		
1 antlerless moose, per lifetime of a hunter, by youth hunt drawing permit only; up to 100 permits may be issued Unit 20(D) lying west of the west bank of the Johnson River and south of the north bank of the Tanana River and the Bison Range Controlled Use Area; a person may not take a calf or a cow accompanied by a calf;	Sept. 16 – Sept. 25 (General hunt only)	
1 moose every four regulatory years by drawing permit a person may not take a calf or a cow accompanied by a calf; or	Sept. 1 - Sept. 15 (General hunt only)	
…		

1 antlerless moose by registration permit only; a person may not take a calf or a cow accompanied by a calf	Oct. 10 - Nov. 25 (General hunt only)

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 moose every four regulatory years by drawing permit only, a person may not take a calf or a cow accompanied by a calf; or	Sept. 1 - Sept. 15

…

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

Antlerless moose hunts must be reauthorized annually. The objectives of the Unit 20D antlerless moose hunts are to 1) stabilize population growth of this high-density moose population; 2) address concerns about range degradation, reduced nutritional condition of moose, and reduced reproductive success of moose; 3) make progress toward meeting the Unit 20D intensive management (IM) harvest objective of 500–700 moose; and 4) provide youth and disabled veteran hunting opportunity.

The Unit 20D moose population is currently below the IM population objective and nutritional indices suggest the population is at low to moderate nutritional levels. In November 2023, the Southern Unit 20D population estimate was 3,250 moose (90% confidence interval 2,715-3,786 moose; 2.1 moose per square mile). This estimate represents a slight increase in moose abundance compared to the 2022 survey, which estimated 2,530 moose (1.62 moose/mi^2). The 2022 population estimate was 40% lower than the 2020 estimate, likely due to increased mortality because of severe winter conditions during 2021–2022, which included deep snow and winter rain events. The 2024 observed twinning rate of 27.5% (up from 8% in 2023) was a near record high for GMU 20D. The two-year (2023 and 2024) average twinning rate is 17.8%. An increased twining rate following the population reduction after the winter of 2021–2022 suggests improved nutritional condition of this moose population. A reduction in browse offtake from 41% in 2022 to 21% in 2023 in Unit 20D also supports less browsing pressure on available forage. Furthermore, short-yearling weights collected in 2025 averaged 396 lbs, which is greater than the 385 lb threshold suggestive of low nutrition but less than the 410 lb threshold suggestive of high nutrition. Thus, similar to the multi-year twinning rate estimate, the short-yearling weights suggest the moose population nutrition is now at moderate levels. The goal is to manage the 20D moose population for stability, and antlerless harvest is an important component of this management strategy.

No antlerless moose were harvested in regulatory year (RY)22 or RY23 as the moose population experienced a 40% decline as a result of the severe winter of 2021 – 2022. During RY24 a limited number of antlerless permits were offered, and 12 cows were harvested.

Continued antlerless harvest is needed to maintain this population at an optimal density relative to habitat constraints and will contribute additional harvest towards meeting the IM harvest objective without reducing bull-to-cow ratios. The current population trend suggests that low, consistent

antlerless harvest provided by drawing permit hunts in Unit 20D, in conjunction with other mortality factors (including ceremonial harvest, vehicle collision, accidents, and predation), is appropriate to maintain population stability. If antlerless moose hunts are not reauthorized, the moose population could increase to levels beyond the capacity of the habitat. Opportunity to hunt a harvestable surplus of cow moose would be lost, and the ability to meet IM harvest objectives could be further compromised.

The Department of Fish and Game (department) will continue to evaluate antlerless moose hunts and their effect on moose density and population growth. The department will implement future antlerless moose hunts as needed based on the evaluation of three indices of density-dependent moose nutritional conditions in relation to changes in moose density: biomass removal of current annual growth on winter browse, proportion of females with twin calves, and late-winter calf weights.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish & Game HQ-F25-040
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PROPOSAL 259

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

Reauthorize a winter antlerless moose season during March in a portion of Unit 21D.

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(19)		
...		
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:		
...		
1 moose, by registration permit only, up to 15 days during March; however, a person may not take a cow accompanied by a calf	(Season to be announced)	
...		

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

Antlerless moose hunting seasons must be reauthorized annually. The goal is to provide additional harvest opportunity and meet harvest objectives. This harvest opportunity of antlerless moose recently emerged 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 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 Alaska Department of Fish & Game's (department) ability to meet IM harvest objectives could be reduced. In addition, slowing the rate of increase, rather than allow the population to go through dramatic rates of expansion and contraction, is appropriate for providing stable hunting opportunity.

The Intensive Management (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 met 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. Subsistence hunters will benefit from the opportunity to harvest cow moose.

Analysis of three Trend Count Areas (TCAs) (Squirrel Creek, Pilot Mountain, and Kaiyuh Slough TCAs) 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 (±11%) moose in 2011 to 4,116 (±10%) moose in 2017. Moose twinning data for the hunt area also showed high twinning rates 2004-2024 (avg. = 36.1%), although the five-year twinning rate average (2020-2024) was 27.8%.

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

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish & Game HQ-F25-041
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PROPOSAL 260

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

Reauthorize a winter antlerless moose season during part of February and March in Unit 21E as follows.

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(19)		
…		
Unit 21(E)		
RESIDENT HUNTERS:		
...		
1 moose, by registration permit only, a person may not take a cow accompanied by a calf	Feb 15. – Mar. 15	No open season.
...		

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

Antlerless moose hunting seasons must be reauthorized annually. The goal is to provide additional harvest opportunity and meet harvest objectives.

The Alaska Department of Fish & Game's completed its most current survey in 2022 and it indicated there are approximately 9,300 moose in Unit 21E, which is within the range of the Intensive Management (IM) population objective of 9,000–11,000 moose. There is currently a harvestable surplus of 390 moose; however, many of those moose are not accessible in the fall. Approximately 200 moose are harvested each fall along the rivers. The most recent composition survey in 2024 showed 33 bulls per 100 cows and 41 calves per 100 cows. The IM harvest objective for Unit 21E is 550–1,100 moose.

Within the Unit 21E moose survey area (4,094 mi^2), the overall moose density increased from 1.0 moose/mi^2 in 2000 to 1.9 moose/mi^2 in 2022. The 2024 2-year average twinning rate in the Holy Cross area was 42%, while north of Anvik and Shageluk (where the moose density is lower) the twinning rate was 56%.

Additional harvest opportunity is available. Furthermore, winter hunts distribute hunter pressure temporally and allow access to areas inaccessible in the fall.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish & Game HQ-F25-042
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PROPOSAL 261

5 AAC 85.045(a)(24). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.

Reauthorize the resident antlerless moose season in Unit 26 as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(24) … Unit 26(A), that portion west of the eastern shore of Admiralty Bay where the Alaktak River enters, following the Alaktak River to 155°00′ W longitude excluding the Colville River drainage		
1 moose	July 1 - Sept. 14	No open season.

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

To be retained, the antlerless moose season in the portion of Unit 26A west of 156º 00’ W longitude and excluding the Colville drainage must be reauthorized annually. This hunt was recently adopted by the Board of Game at the 2024 meeting in Kotzebue after being closed for the previous year after failing to be reauthorized in 2023.

The moose population in the western portion of Unit 26A north of the Colville drainage is somewhat unique compared to the unit-wide population, and the distribution is very sparse because there is very little moose habitat in the coastal plain. However, each year a small number of bulls and cows migrate into the area from the major river drainages in the central and southern parts of the unit. So far, the marginal habitat in this portion of Unit 26A has not allowed moose to establish a population, but these moose provide the only opportunity to harvest a moose in the northwestern portion of Unit 26A.

Unit 26A moose population estimates have historically fluctuated between 294 and 609 moose (2011-2014). More recently, 348 moose and 438 moose were observed in 2018 and 2021, respectively. The overall trend appears to be slow growth after a decline that started about 2007. The number of moose in the antlerless hunt area is difficult to estimate but is approximately 10

moose. Harvest reports indicate 4 antlerless moose have been harvested since 2005, and the annual harvest rate of antlerless moose is less than 1% of the total population. The preliminary reports for regulatory year 2024 indicate there have been no moose reported harvested in this hunt. Due to the low harvest rate the department recommends reauthorization of the antlerless moose season in this area to provide additional hunting opportunity for the small number of hunters to opportunistically harvest antlerless moose in this remote portion of Unit 26A.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game HQ-F25-026
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Proposed Changes Outside the Board of Game's Authority

The following proposals request changes that the Board of Game does not have authority to adopt. They are included in the book for review, comment, and discussion at the applicable meetings if the board desires.

The Board does not have authority to determine the process for judging the legality of an animal taken during an antler restricted hunt.

PROPOSAL 262

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

5 AAC XXX. Moose harvested under the horn restriction in 5 AAC 85.045 Units 1(B), and 3 will be judged for legality by a committee of biologists and law enforcement for consistency over time and without conspiring form a judgement beyond a reasonable doubt.

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

Inconsistencies in judging legality of moose under the horn restriction hunt in GMU 1(B), 1(C), (3). Local hunters are frustrated with the current horn restriction and process for confiscation. Many locals refuse to hunt moose in the region under the current horn restriction. Recently a moose was taken from a hunter, deemed illegal by a trooper in the field, ground into hamburger, then the state dropped its case. Another hunter had his moose deemed legal by a biologist even though pictures clearly showed both spikes were broken and was illegal by the letter of the law.

We ask the Board of Game to establish in regulation, a committee process for judging the legality of moose harvested for Unit 1B, 1C and 3. If it's not under the board's regulatory authority, we ask the board to work with ADF&G and the Alaska Wildlife Troopers to establish it as a policy.

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

Yes, this proposal was developed in two well attended local AC meetings.

PROPOSED BY: Wrangell Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F25-014)
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The Board lacks the authority to amend a statute. Adding elk to Alaska Statute 16.05.407 would require an act by the Alaska Legislature.

PROPOSAL 263

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

Include elk in the list of species requiring a nonresident to be accompanied by a person who is qualified to guide under Alaska Statute 16.05.407 in Unit 3.

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

Due to the growth of social media, elk hunting in unit 3 has recently gained attention from non-resident hunters who are largely ill equipped for the task. Hunting elk in Unit 3 is extremely challenging logistically and in many cases at least as dangerous as mt. goat or sheep hunting. Hunters who are not fully prepared to navigate the hurdles run a significant risk of personal injury and of finding themselves ina a position where they are unable to adhere to Alaska's strict meat salvage requirements.

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 AC.

PROPOSED BY: Ketchikan Fish and Game Advisory Committee (OI-F25-174)
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Black bear population goals and objectives are under the Department of Fish and Game's management authority.

PROPOSAL 264

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

Unit 3 Trophy Recognition: A 19-inch skull size aligns with the minimum threshold for trophy record book recognition, ensuring Unit 3 remains a destination for hunters seeking high-quality black bears.

Age and Quality Management: Targeting a 19-inch average skull size promotes the harvest of older, mature bears, maintaining a healthy population structure and supporting long-term trophy quality.

Declining Trophy Harvests: The rapid decline in 20-inch bear harvests over the last 20 + years suggests that current management may not be sustaining trophy-class bears, which could impact hunter interest and economic benefits from hunting tourism.

Conservation and Appeal: Adjusting the management goal to 19 inches balances conservation with the demand for trophy hunting, preserving Unit 3's reputation as a premier hunting area while ensuring sustainable bear populations.

ADF&G can request USFS help in reducing outfitter hunt allocation to help reach and maintain management goals, while also adjusting the nonresident non-guided hunt allocation. Resident hunter take to be reduced to one bear (instead of two bears) in Unit 3 to support the trophy area resource goals.

This change would align management practices with hunter expectations and maintain the ecological and economic value of Unit 3's black bear "trophy" population.

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

Issue to Address: The current management of Unit 3 Black Bear by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) targets an average skull size of 18.5 inches, which does not prioritize

"trophy" quality. Over the past 20 years, the harvest of bears with skull sizes of 20 inches or larger has significantly declined, indicating a reduction in trophy-class bears.

Proposed Action: Modify the Unit 3 management goals to include a "trophy" quality objective by adjusting the average skull size harvest target to 19 inches.

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

This idea was brought forward as a solution to help arrest the declining trophy quality and general population of black bears in a joint meeting with the ADF&G biologist, USFS staff, and guide/outfitter operators with permits allocated in the area.

PROPOSED BY: Zach Decker (OI-F25-034)
****

Brown bear population goals and objectives are under the Department of Fish and Game's management authority.

PROPOSAL 265

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

Institute a minimum skull size for a sow harvest. The exact parameters to be set by the area biologists.

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

The Kodiak office of the Alaska Department of Fish & Game has instituted a sow harvest restriction for brown bear hunts in several areas of southwest Kodiak in response to a decline in bear population in the Sturgeon area. Although there has not been a decline in Karluk Lake or North Karluk (the areas in which I live) these areas were included in this policy. These areas have actually seen an increase in population.

There are female bears that are past breeding age and should not be included in this policy. One way to exclude them is to institute a minimum skull size. There was a sow harvest restriction in RY 1994-RY 2006 that only applied to "female bear with a skull length (posterior sagittal crest to center of upper incisors) of less than 15 inches or with a skull width (zygomatic breadth) of less than nine inches."

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

No.

PROPOSED BY: Mike Carlson (OI-F25-218)
****

The Board does not have the administrative authority to require the Department of Fish and Game to use specific types of sealing tags.

PROPOSAL 266

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

New regulation would require ADF&G to use a a plastic non metallic sealing tag on hides and furs that require sealing. A Plastic seal is fur friendly in the tanning and taxidermy process as opposed to the current steel locking tag.

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

My Issue is with ADFG's use of steel locking tags on furbearers and trophies. The steel locking tags or seals are not fur friendly..the steel corrodes during the tanning process. When a hide is tanned one of the first things that happens to the hide after rehydrating is the hide is thinned on a sharp fleshing wheel. The steel locking tag can damage the fleshing wheel and the hide as the paint color bleeds off the tag. As the hide progresses along the tanning process the fur is drummed in a large round drum..the tag can and does catch on the other furs in the drum and causes unnecessary damage to the hides and other furs especially thin skinned animals such as beaver and marten. I have talked to taxidermists and tanneries in and out of Alaska that agree with this proposal. Simply put, steel locking tags damage animal skins and are not taxidermist or tannery friendly.

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

I talked with two Taxidermists in State about this and two tanneries out of the state that work with Alaska tagged furs

PROPOSED BY: Jesse Ross (OI-F25-179)
****

Fees related to hunting are established in state statute by the Alaska Legislature. The Board does not have the authority to establish or change fees related to hunting.

PROPOSAL 267

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

Sitka Blacktail Harvest tickets can be obtained from ADF&G or a local vendor for a charge of $5.00 per tag. In the case of a lost tags, duplicates can be given to the hunter only once.

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

In this proposal, taking away the current issuing of harvest tickets to residents, which currently, a resident hunter can get their harvest tickets issued online, and are still able to get more harvest tickets later, and/or photo copy them so the harvest ticket holder has a fresh set of tags every hunt. Changing this to where a hunter must go to ADF&G or a vendor to receive their tags, eliminating the opportunity for a hunter to defraud the system or over harvest deer. Also implementing a charge of 5 dollars per tag which proceeds could be used for the harvest ticket system, continued research

and management of the species, and help with the added administrative cost to the proxy amendment proposal. This proposal would be state wide where Sitka Blacktail Deer can be harvested.

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

This proposal was not developed in coordination with the local advisory committee. There has been discussion within the City of Port Lions.

PROPOSED BY: Brandon Bartleson (OI-F25-201)
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Tag fees are established in state statute by the Alaska Legislature. The Board does not have the authority to establish or change fees related to hunting.

PROPOSAL 268

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

Nonresident deer tag for Unit $400/tag
Resident deer tag for Unit 8 $50/tag

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

I am proposing increasing the cost of nonresident and resident Unit 8 Sitka Blacktail tags to more closely mirror what other states are charging for a deer tag. I feel that we give our resources away in our state and that needs to change. A premium should be put on everything in our state. Currently states such as Idaho, Wyoming, the Dakotas, Colorado, Montana, Oregon, Washington and Nevada, our closest neighboring states all sell nonresident deer tags in the $400 dollar range for a single tag. Alaska could generate a lot more income for wildlife management off this revenue. It would most likely not deter hunters. I also believe Alaska resident hunters should pay for this right as well. Currently we pay NOTHING, ZERO for our deer tags. Nothing but good would come of this.

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

Nope. All me

PROPOSED BY: Stig Yngve (OI-F25-177)
****

Tag fees are established in state statute by the Alaska Legislature. The Board does not have the authority to establish or change fees related to hunting.

PROPOSAL 269

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

ALASKA RESIDENT TAG cost in Unit 8 for Reindeer $75, mountain goat $75/tag, Roosevelt elk $100, Kodiak brown bear $150.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Alaska residents pay virtually nothing for our tags for big game animals. In Unit 8, DEER, MOUNTAIN GOAT, REINDEER AND ELK TAGS ARE FREE. Bear tags are $50. I propose that Alaskan residrnts pay a neglible fee for these tags to aid in Wildlife research and management.

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

No

PROPOSED BY: Stig Yngve (OI-F25-192)
****

The Board of Game does not have authority to regulate transporters. Transporters are regulated by the Big Game Commercial Services Board.

PROPOSAL 270

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

Mandatory ADF&G state issued logbooks for all big game transporters in Unit 8.

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

Transporters in Unit 8 have zero accountability for hunting resources, especially boat based ones. There needs to be mandatory logbook for all transporters of big game hunters in Unit 8 to quantify and measure the impact they have on our resources here. This would be very similar to saltwater logbooks for sportfishing charters. It needs to be done.

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

Nope

PROPOSED BY: Stig Yngve (OI-F25-196)
****

Proxy verification is within the Department of Fish and Game's administrative authority.

PROPOSAL 271

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

Proxy Tags will need to be notarized by both parties before the proxy tag is issued.

Proof of destruction of trophy, photo's of the carcass, and photo's of all salvageable meat must be submitted to ADF&G within 10 days of the end of the season.

If a hunter wishes to proxy for another hunter, all required proof must be submitted within 10 days of the end of the prior hunt in order to conduct a 2nd proxy.

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

Proposal: Proxy Regulation Amendment - Unit 8

With is proposal, it would not be a regulation change but a regulation amendment. The proxy tags should be notarized by both parties before the hunt occurs. The notarized document will then be taken to the Department of Fish and Game to receive the proxy tag. Implementing proof of trophy destruction, photo's of the carcass, and photo's of of all salvageable meat will have to be submitted to ADF&G within 10 days of the season or hunt. The amendment should also include limiting the number of recipients a hunter can proxy for. That number would be 1 until the other proxy is officially submitted and sealed by ADF&G. The proxy system is being taken advantage of in Unit 8 and is being abused. There has been craigslist ads, Facebook posts, and other means of hunters advertising the option to proxy other peoples tags since they are planning trips to Kodiak to hunt deer. This proposal would be all of Unit 8.

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

This proposal was not developed in coordination with the local advisory committee. There has been discussion with in the City of Port Lions.

PROPOSED BY: Brandon Bartleson (OI-F25-197)
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