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

Dear Reviewer, August 2017

The Alaska Board of Game (board) will consider the enclosed regulatory proposals at the board meetings scheduled for **November 2017 and February 2018.** The proposals primarily concern changes to hunting and trapping regulations pertaining to the Central/Southwest Region, and changes to specific regulations having statewide applicability. Proposals have been submitted by members of the public, organizations, advisory committees, and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (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 by Boards Support staff.

The proposals are presented as brief statements summarizing the intended regulatory changes. In cases where confusion might arise or where the regulation is complex, proposed changes are indicated in legal format. In this format, bolded and underlined words are **additions** to the regulation text, and capitalized words in square brackets are [DELETIONS].

Readers are encouraged to view all proposals in this book as some proposals may affect other regions and units. Proposals are grouped by each meeting to which they pertain (see Proposal Index). The proposals are listed in the tentative order in which they are expected to be considered during the meeting. The final order of proposals to be deliberated on, also known as the "roadmap," will be available at least 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 comment, in combination with advisory committee comments and ADF&G staff reports provide the board with useful biological and socioeconomic data to form decisions. Written comments can be submitted:

Online: www.boardofgame.adfg.alaska.gov
Email: dfg.bog.comments@alaska.gov (PDF format only)
Fax: 907-465-6094
Mail: ADF&G Boards Support Section
ATTN: Board of Game Comments
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Timely Submission: Written comments are strongly encouraged to be submitted by the set deadline for each meeting, usually two weeks in advance. Comments received by the deadlines are provided to the board and the public on the meeting information website in advance of the meeting. After the deadline but before the meeting, written comments are accepted via fax and mail only and will be provided to board members at the meeting. Comments will be accepted in person at the board meetings but with the limit of no more than ten pages in length, and 20 copies must be provided. All meeting materials, including written comments, are uploaded to the meeting information website and distributed to board members, agency staff, and the public during the meeting.

Tips for Providing Written Comments:

- 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.
- Include your name and if including graphs or charts, please indicate the source.
- Briefly explain why you support or oppose the proposal. The board benefits greatly from understanding 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.
- Page limits: For on-time comments, the board will accept up to 100 single-sided pages from any one individual or organization. For comments received after the announced deadline or at meetings, comments are limited to ten single-sided pages.
- If making comments on more than one proposal, please do not use separate pieces of paper. Simply begin the next set of written comments by listing the next proposal number.
- 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.

Advisory Committees: In addition to the above information, please make sure advisory committee (AC) meeting minutes reflect why the AC voted as it did. If the vote was split, include the minority opinion. A brief description consisting of a couple of sentences is sufficient. Detail the number of members in attendance and indicate represented interests such as subsistence, guides, trappers, hunters, wildlife viewers, and others. AC members are encouraged to use the format prescribed by the board, and provided by ADF&G Boards Support Regional Coordinators. For more information on providing recommendations on proposals and testimony during board meetings, refer to the AC manual available online and from Boards Support Section.

Public Testimony: The board welcomes public testimony at each regular scheduled regulatory meeting. The oral hearings are scheduled at the beginning of each meeting 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 representatives may elect to provide testimony at a later portion of the meetings. The length of testimony is typically limited to five minutes per person and organization representatives, and 15 minutes for ACs and regional advisory councils. Anyone interested in, or affected by the subject matter contained in these proposals should make written or oral comments if they wish to have their viewed considered by the board.

Meeting information, documents, and a link to the audio is available through the Board of Game website at www.boardofgame.adfg.alaska.gov, or through the ADF&G Boards Support Section. Preliminary board actions will also be posted on the website during the meeting, followed by final actions after the meeting.

Persons with a disability needing special accommodations in order to comment on the proposed regulations should contact the Boards Support Section at (907) 465-4110 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

Table of Contents

Introduction Section — Page

Reviewer Letter i
Table of Contents iv
Guidelines for Testifying at Board of Game Meetings v
About the Board of Game & Advisory Committees vi
2017/2018 Cycle Tentative Meeting Dates & Locations viii
Long-Term Meeting Cycle ix
Board of Game Members xi
Boards Support Section Staff List xii

Proposal Section — Page

Proposal Index 1
Statewide Regulations 10
Tentative Meeting Agenda 10
Definitions 11
Unlawful Methods 16
Falconry 26
Hunting Permits & Harvest Tickets 32
Possession & Transportation 51
Intensive Management & Predation Control Areas 55
Cultural & Subsistence Uses 58
Hunter Education 69
Permits for Possessing Live Game 70
Miscellaneous Topics 81
Central/Southwest Region 89
Tentative Meeting Agenda 89
Regionwide, Multiple Units & Other Regions 90
Palmer Area – Units 14A, 14B & 16 98
Glennallen Area – Units 11 & 13 108
King Salmon Area – Units 9 & 10 132
Dillingham Area – Unit 17 141
Reauthorization of Antlerless Moose Hunts & Brown Bear Tag Fee Exemptions for Other Regions 151

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

Guidelines for Testifying at Board of Game Meetings

The Board of Game (board) relies heavily on written comments and oral testimony explaining the effect of the proposed changes. During regulatory meetings, public testimony usually begins on the first day of the meeting following agency reports. Persons planning to testify at Board of Game meetings must submit a **PUBLIC TESTIMONY SIGN-UP CARD** (blue card) to the board's staff prior to the announced cut-off time. If submitting written comments at the meeting intended for the testimony, at least **20 copies** must be provided. You are encouraged to **submit any written material with the blue testimony card** to ensure distribution to the board prior to the testimony. **Please include your name and date** on the first page of the written material, clearly identify proposal numbers and topics being commented on, and identify the source of graphs or tables, if included in materials. PowerPoint presentations are allowed at meetings, but 20 copies of the presentation will need to be submitted and board's staff needs to be notified in advance to arrange the equipment. Written material submitted during the board meetings will be logged with a record copy ("RC") number which should be referenced at the time of testimony.

Once the oral hearing portion of the meeting begins, board's 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 microphone; state your name for the record and whom you represent. At the testimony table, a green light will come on when you begin speaking; a yellow light will come on when you have one minute remaining; and a red light or buzzer will 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. Please 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. **Testifiers using derogatory or threatening language to the board will not be allowed to continue speaking.**

The board allows testimony for one organization in addition to personal testimony or AC testimony, and each testimony is allotted its own time. **If you are giving testimony for yourself and an organization or an AC**, you need to turn in only one sign-up card naming 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 individual comments.

The length of testimony will be announced on the agenda just prior to meeting and by the board chair at the beginning of the meeting. The board typically allows five minutes for oral testimony for an individual or an 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.

Advisory committee representatives should restrict testimony to relaying the AC's discussions. Testimony should be a brief summary of the minutes of the meeting, and copies of the minutes should be available for the board members. An AC representative's personal opinions should not be addressed during AC testimony.

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

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: www.boardofgame.adfg.alaska.gov.

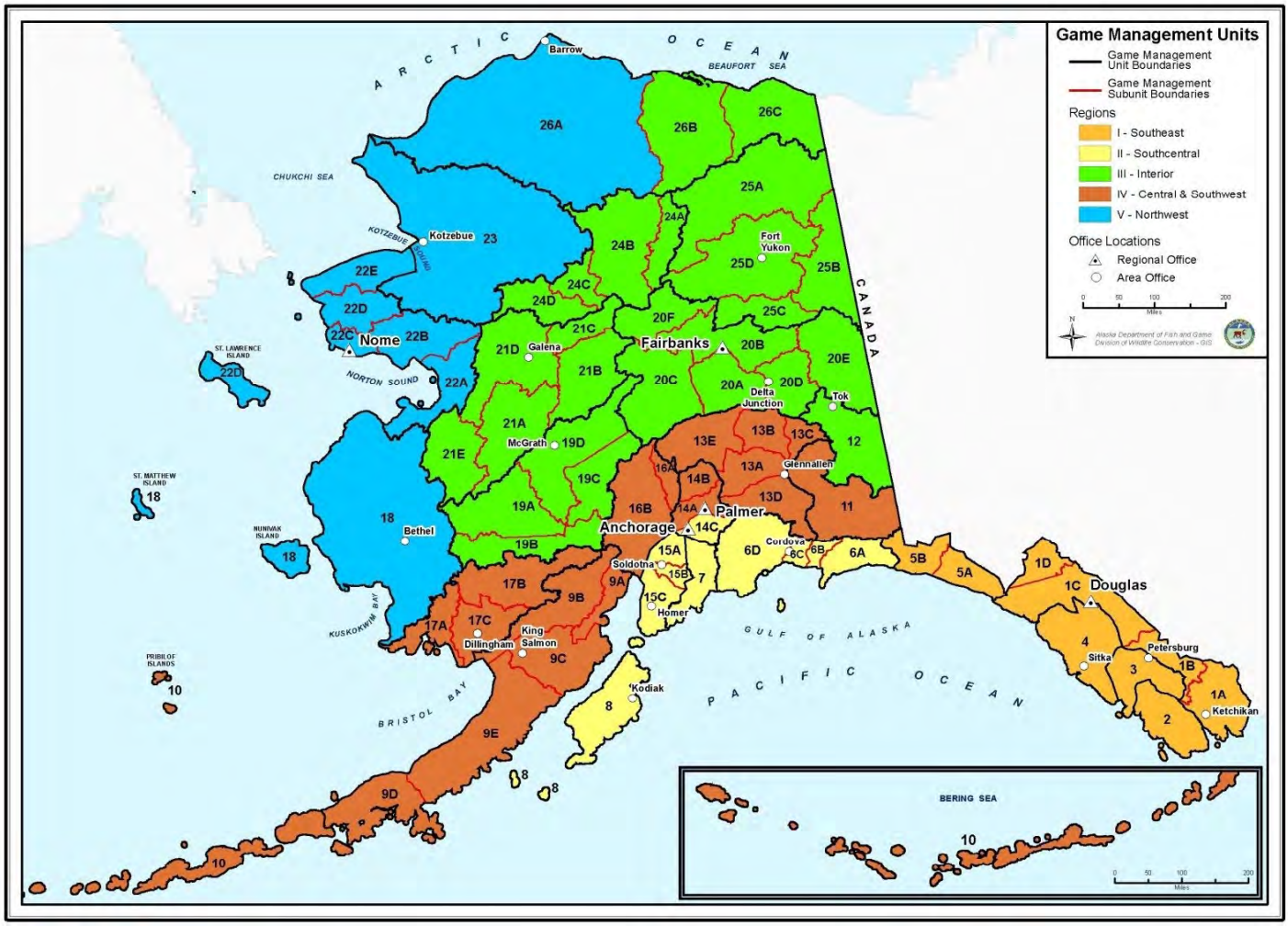
Advisory Committees

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: www.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 xii.

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 reasonably necessary for subsistence
AS	Alaska Statute
AWT	Alaska Wildlife Troopers
Board	Board of Game
C&T	Customary and Traditional Use
CUA	Controlled Use Area
DWC	Division of Wildlife Conservation
EO	Emergency Order
FSB	Federal Subsistence Board
GMU/Unit	Game Management Unit
IM	Intensive Management
NPS	National Park Service
OSM	Office of Subsistence Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior
RY	Regulatory Year
Region I	Southeast Region
Region II	Southcentral Region
Region III	Interior/Northeast Region
Region IV	Central/Southwest Region
Region V	Arctic/Western Region
RAC	Federal Regional Advisory Council
USF&WS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

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

2017/2018 Cycle Tentative Meeting Dates & Locations

Meeting Dates	Topic	Location	Comment Deadline
November 9, 2017 (1 day)	**Work Session**	**Anchorage** The Lakefront Anchorage	**October 27, 2017**
November 10-17, 2017 (8 days)	**Statewide Regulations** Statewide Provisions (5 AAC Chapter 92) and Areas of Jurisdiction for Antlerless Moose (5 AAC Chapter 98)	**Anchorage** The Lakefront Anchorage	**October 27, 2017**
February 16-23, 2018 (8 days)	**Central/Southwest Region** Game Management Units 9, 10, 11, 13, 14A, 14B, 16 & 17.	**Dillingham** Dillingham Middle School	**February 2, 2018**

Total Meeting Days: 17

Agenda Change Request Deadline: Monday, September 11, 2017
(*The Board of Game will meet via teleconference to consider Agenda Change Requests.)*

Proposal Deadline: Monday, May 1, 2017

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

Long-Term Meeting Cycle

The Board of Game (board) meetings generally occur from January 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 -- All species
- General and Subsistence Hunting Seasons and Bag Limits -- 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 specific to Units or Regions under 5 AAC Chapter 92

Proposals pertaining to 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 are considered once every three years at Statewide Regulations meetings.

The proposal deadline is May 1 every preceding year. If May 1 falls on a weekend, the deadline is the Friday before. Boards Support issues a "Call for Proposals" generally in December or January prior to 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: 2018/2019 2021/2022 2024/2025*
Southcentral Region – Game Management Units: 6, 7, 8, 14C, 15 *Meeting Cycle: 2018/2019 2021/2022 2024/2025*
Central and Southwest Region – Game Management Units: 9, 10, 11, 13, 14A, 14B, 16, & 17 *Meeting Cycle: 2017/2018 2020/2021 2023/2024*
Arctic and Western Region – Game Management Units: 18, 22, 23, 26A *Meeting Cycle: 2019/2020 2022/2023 2025/2026*
Interior and Northeast Region – Game Management Units: 12, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25, 26B, 26C *Meeting Cycle: 2019/2020 2022/2023 2025/2026*
Statewide Regulations (see next page) *Meeting Cycle: 2017/2018 2020/2021 2023/2024*

The three-year schedule was adopted at the January 2015 Work Session.

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

General Provisions & Definitions:
92.001 Application of this Chapter
92.002 Liability for Violations
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
92.990 Definitions

Licenses, Harvest Tickets, Reports, Tags, & Fees:
92.010 Harvest Tickets and Reports
92.011 Taking of Game by Proxy
92.012 Licenses and Tags
92.013 Migratory Bird Hunting Guide Services
92.018 Waterfowl Conservation Tag
92.019 Taking of Big Game for Certain Religious Ceremonies

Permits:
92.020 Application of Permit Regulations and Permit Reports
92.028 Aviculture Permits
92.029 Permit for Possessing Live Game
92.030 Possession of Wolf Hybrid and Wild Cat Hybrids Prohibited
92.031 Permit for Selling Skins, Skulls, and Trophies
92.033 Permit for Science, Education, Propagative, or Public Safety Purposes
92.034 Permit to Take Game for Cultural Purposes
92.035 Permit for Temporary Commercial Use of Live Game
92.037 Permit for Falconry
92.039 Permit for Taking Wolves Using Aircraft
92.040 Permit for Taking of Furbearers with Game Meat
92.041 Permit to Take Beavers to Control Damage to Property
92.042 Permit to Take Foxes for Protection of Migratory Birds
92.043 Permit for Capturing Wild Furbearers for Fur Farming
92.044 Permit for Hunting Bear w/the Use of Bait or Scent Lures
92.047 Permit for Using Radio Telemetry Equipment
92.049 Permits, Permit Procedures, and Permit Conditions
92.050 Required Permit Hunt Conditions and Procedures
92.051 Discretionary Trapping Permit Conditions & Procedures
92.052 Discretionary Permit Hunt Conditions and Procedures
92.057 Special Provisions for Dall Sheep Drawing Permit Hunts
92.061 Special Provisions for Brown Bear Drawing Permit Hunts
92.062 Priority for Subsistence Hunting; Tier II Permits Hunt Area and Permit Conditions
92.068 Permit Conditions for Hunting Black Bear with Dogs
92.069 Special Provisions for Moose Drawing Permit Hunts
92.070 Tier II Subsistence Hunting Permit Point System
92.071 Tier I Subsistence Permits
92.072 Community subsistence Harvest Area and Permit Conditions

Methods & Means:
92.075 Lawful Methods of Taking Game
92.080 Unlawful Methods of Taking Game; Exceptions
92.085 Unlawful Methods of Taking Big Game; Exceptions
92.090 Unlawful Methods of Taking Fur Animals
92.095 Unlawful Methods of Taking Furbearers; Exceptions
92.100 Unlawful Methods of Hunting Waterfowl, Snipe, Crane
92.104 Authorization for Methods and Means Disability Exemptions

Intensive Management and Predator Control:
92.106 Intensive Management of Identified Big Game Prey Populations
92.110 Control of Predation by Wolves
92.115 Control of Predation by Bears
92.116 Special Provisions in Predation Control Areas

Possession and Transportation:
92.130 Restrictions to Bag Limit
92.135 Transfer of Possession
92.140 Unlawful Possession or Transportation of Game
92.141 Transport, Harboring, or Release of Live Muridae Rodents Prohibited
92.150 Evidence of Sex and Identity
92.151 Destruction of trophy value of game required in specific areas.
92.160 Marked or Tagged Game
92.165 Sealing of Bear Skins and Skulls
92.170 Sealing of Marten, Lynx, Beaver, Otter, Wolf, and Wolverine
92.171 Sealing of Dall Sheep Horns

Use of Game:
92.200 Purchase and Sale of Game
92.210 Game as Animal Food or Bait
92.220 Salvage of Game Meat, Furs, and Hides
92.230 Feeding of Game
92.250 Transfer of Musk oxen for Science and Education Purposes
92.260 Taking Cub Bears & Female Bears with Cubs Prohibited

Emergency Taking of Game:
92.400 Emergency Taking of Game
92.410 Taking Game in Defense of Life or Property
92.420 Taking Nuisance Wildlife

Game Management Units:
92.450 Description of Game Management Units

Antlerless Moose Reauthorization:
98.005 Areas of Jurisdiction for Antlerless Moose Seasons

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

Board of Game Members

NAME AND ADDRESS	TERM EXPIRES
Ted Spraker, Chair 49230 Victoria Ave. Soldotna, AK 99669	6/30/2020
Nathan Turner, Vice Chair P.O. Box 646 Nenana, AK 99760	6/30/2019
Stosh (Stanley) Hoffman P.O. Box 2374 Bethel, AK 99559	6/30/2020
Teresa Sager Albaugh HC 72 Box 835 Tok, AK 99780	6/30/2018
Karen Linnell P.O. Box 8 Glennallen, AK 99588	6/30/2019
Larry Van Daele 3401 Antone Way Kodiak, AK 99615-7124	6/30/2018
Tom Lamal 1734 Becker Ridge Road Fairbanks, AK 99709	6/30/2020

****

Alaska Board of Game members may also be reached through:
ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
Boards Support Section
P.O. Box 115526, Juneau, AK 99811-5526
(907) 465-4110 PHONE; (907) 465-6094 FAX
www.boardofgame.adfg.alaska.gov
Kristy Tibbles, Executive Director, Alaska Board of Game
e-mail: kristy.tibbles@alaska.gov

Boards Support Section Staff List

Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Mailing address: P.O. Box 115526, Juneau, AK 99811-5526
Physical location: 1255 West 8th Street
Phone: (907) 465-4110; Fax: (907) 465-6094

HEADQUARTERS

Board of Fisheries
Glenn Haight, Exec. Director II, 465-6095
Jessalynn Rintala, Pub. Specialist II, 465-6097

Board of Game
Kristy Tibbles, Exec. Director I, 465-6098
Lena Gilbertson, Pub. Specialist II, 465-4046

REGIONAL OFFICES

Southeast Region (North of Frederick Sound)
Lena Gilbertson
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526
Phone: 465-4046
Fax: 465-6094

Southeast Region (South of Frederick Sound)
Jessalynn Rintala
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526
Phone: 465-6097
Fax: 465-6094

Southcentral Region
Sherry Wright
333 Raspberry Road
Anchorage, AK 99518-1599
Phone: 267-2354
Fax: 267-2489

Southwest Region
Taryn O'Connor-Brito
P.O. Box 1030
Dillingham, AK 99576
Phone: 842-5142
Fax: 842-5514

Western Region
Jen Peeks
P.O. Box 1467
Bethel, AK 99559
Phone: 543-1678
Fax: 543-2021

Arctic Region
Vacant
P.O. Box 689
Kotzebue, AK 99752
Phone: 442-1717
Fax: 442-2420

Interior Region
Nissa Pilcher
1300 College Road
Fairbanks, AK 99701-1599
Phone: 459-7263
Fax: 459-7258

Proposal Index

Statewide Regulations 10

Tentative Meeting Agenda 10

Definitions 11

PROPOSAL 1 Modify the definition of bag limit 11

PROPOSAL 2 Modify the definition of youth hunt, allow youth hunters to obtain their own harvest ticket, and remove the hunter education requirement for youth hunters 11

PROPOSAL 3 Modify the definition of regulatory year 12

PROPOSAL 4 Change the definition of edible meat for large game birds 13

PROPOSAL 5 Change the definition of a moose antler point/tine 14

Unlawful Methods 16

PROPOSAL 6 Allow the incidental take of up to two furbearers per year during an open season for other furbearers 16

PROPOSAL 7 Allow the use of bow and arrow to harvest beaver under a trapping license statewide 16

PROPOSAL 8 Remove the same day airborne restrictions for taking wolf and wolverine with a trapping license 17

PROPOSAL 9 Modify the land and shoot requirements for harvesting coyotes 17

PROPOSAL 10 Repeal the restrictions on the use of aircraft for taking big game 18

PROPOSAL 11 Modify the restrictions on the use of aircraft for sheep hunting 20

PROPOSAL 12 Remove the restrictions on the use of aircraft for sheep hunting 21

PROPOSAL 13 Clarify the regulation that prohibits the use of a “cellular or satellite telephone” to take game 22

PROPOSAL 14 Prohibit the taking of bears in dens 22

PROPOSAL 15 Remove the exception for taking cub bears and female bears with cubs 23

PROPOSAL 16 Allow the use of high-powered air guns during regular firearms and muzzleloader big game hunting seasons 24

PROPOSAL 17 Prohibit the use of airbows for taking big game 24

Falconry 26

PROPOSAL 18 Remove the West Nile Virus testing requirement for raptors..... 26

PROPOSAL 19 Change the nonresident season for taking passage raptors 26

PROPOSAL 20 Limit nonresident falconers to take raptors every four or five years 27

PROPOSAL 21 Require raptors taken under nonresident capture permits be implanted with microchips..... 28

PROPOSAL 22 Allow the take of up to five eyas goshawks by nonresidents 28

PROPOSAL 23 Update the falconry manual 29

Hunting Permits & Harvest Tickets 32

PROPOSAL 24 Define the term "equipment" for bear baiting 32

PROPOSAL 25 Require harvest tickets for all brown bear hunts statewide 32

PROPOSAL 26 Animals harvested under auction and raffle permits will not count against the regular bag limit..... 33

PROPOSAL 27 Modify the required permit hunt procedures for applying for drawing permits..... 33

PROPOSAL 28 Modify the Board of Game nonresident drawing permit allocation policy 34

PROPOSAL 29 Remove the bag limit restriction for resident relatives accompanying nonresident relatives within the second degree of kindred 35

PROPOSAL 30 Allow nonresident hunters to harvest brown bear, sheep or goat on behalf of their Alaska resident second degree of kindred relative's permit 36

PROPOSAL 31 Establish a preference point system for drawing hunts 38

PROPOSAL 32 Establish a bonus point system for bison and muskox drawing hunts... 38

PROPOSAL 33 Establish a ten percent nonresident moose drawing permit allocation .. 39

PROPOSAL 34 In drawing hunts with a separate allocation for residents and nonresidents, all nonresident permits will be issued from the nonresident allocation..... 40

PROPOSAL 35 Allow nonresidents and residents to apply as a party for hunts having separate permits for residents and nonresidents..... 41

PROPOSAL 36 Change nonresident general sheep hunts to drawing permit hunts with a ten percent permit allocation cap 42

PROPOSAL 37 Limit nonresident sheep harvest to no more than ten percent of total harvest per subunit 43

PROPOSAL 38 Implement a sliding scale bag limit for Dall sheep hunting for residents 44

PROPOSAL 39 Implement a sliding scale bag limit for Dall sheep hunting for residents and nonresidents..... 46

PROPOSAL 40 Allow nonresidents that have successfully harvested a Dall sheep in the last three years to apply for Dall sheep permits annually 46

PROPOSAL 41 Exempt rural subsistence hunters from the requirements for obtaining a waterfowl conservation tag 47

PROPOSAL 42 Remove the nonresident guide requirement for moose and black bear hunts 49

PROPOSAL 43 Allow the taking of Emperor geese by proxy hunting 49

PROPOSAL 44 Allow the take of moose by proxy in moose hunts having antler restrictions 50

Possession & Transportation 51

PROPOSAL 45 Require antlers be sealed for all antler restricted hunts 51

PROPOSAL 46 Modify the transfer of possession regulations as it pertains to guided and transported hunters 51

PROPOSAL 47 Modify the transfer of possession regulations 52

PROPOSAL 48 Modify the transfer of possession regulations to include reporting requirements 53

PROPOSAL 49 Require a permit before brown bear skulls and hides with claws attached can be sold..... 54

Intensive Management & Predation Control Areas 55

PROPOSAL 50 Provide clarification for allowing guides to register additional guide use areas for taking predators, and to restrict the take of predators in those guide use areas 55

PROPOSAL 51 Change the implementation date for removing additional guide use areas under intensive management..... 56

PROPOSAL 52 Prohibit nonresident hunting of moose and caribou under intensive management until harvest and population objectives are met 57

Cultural & Subsistence Uses 58

PROPOSAL 53 Reevaluate the customary and traditional use finding for migratory game birds statewide 58

PROPOSAL 54 Modify the Tier II subsistence hunting permit point system 59

PROPOSAL 55 Combine the regulations allowing the take of big game for religious ceremonies and ceremony potlatches 60

PROPOSAL 56 Modify the community subsistence harvest permit conditions 62

PROPOSAL 57 Change the definition of "community" or "group" for community subsistence harvest hunts 66

PROPOSAL 58 Modify the salvage requirements for moose and caribou taken under community subsistence harvest hunts 67

PROPOSAL 59 Consider all customary and traditional uses as eligibility criteria for Tier II and community subsistence harvest hunts 68

Hunter Education 69

PROPOSAL 60 Require hunter education for hunters 12 years of age or older, and those under 12 to be accompanied by someone who has successfully completed the course 69

Permits for Possessing Live Game 70

PROPOSAL 61 Add Lesser Hedgehog Tenrec to the list of animals allowed to be possessed without a permit 70

PROPOSAL 62 Allow the release of sterilized, feral cats into the wild 70

PROPOSAL 63 Prohibit the release of feral or stray domesticated cats into the wild 76

PROPOSAL 64 Eliminate domestic sheep (Ovis aries) and goats (Capra hircus) from the "Clean List" and require a permit for possession with stipulations if located within 15 air miles of all sheep habitat 80

Miscellaneous Topics 81

PROPOSAL 65 Close an area ¼ mile on either side of the Taylor Highway to hunting during caribou season, and limit the number of permits 81

PROPOSAL 66 Update the Board of Game's policy for accepting agenda change requests to make it more consistent with the Joint Board Petition Policy 82

PROPOSAL 67 To comply with recent statutory changes, review and update regulations with minimum hunting age requirements 84

PROPOSAL 68 Create a new regulation to allow season openings and increased hunting opportunities in-season by emergency order 87

PROPOSAL 69 For all antler restricted hunts, require hunters to view an educational video for identifying legal moose 88

Central/Southwest Region 89

Tentative Meeting Agenda 89

Regionwide, Multiple Units & Other Regions.....90

PROPOSAL 70 Remove the Bettles Winter Trail travel exception for public use within the Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area..... 90

PROPOSAL 71 Allow the use of crossbows in restricted-weapons hunts 90

PROPOSAL 72 Establish archery-only registration hunts for moose in Units 9, 11, 13, 14A, 14B, 16 and 17 92

PROPOSAL 73 Establish archery-only registration hunts for Dall sheep in Units 9, 11, 13, 14A, 14B, 16 and 17 92

PROPOSAL 74 Remove the nonresident bag limit restriction of one Dall sheep every four years in the Central/Southwest Region 93

PROPOSAL 75 Allow nonresidents to obtain one general season Dall sheep permit in a regulatory year in the Central/Southwest Region 94

PROPOSAL 76 Reauthorize the brown bear tag fee exemptions for the Central/Southwest Region 96

Palmer Area – Units 14A, 14B & 16.....98

PROPOSAL 77 Reauthorize the antlerless moose draw permits in Units 14A and 14B and increase permit levels in Unit 14A..... 98

PROPOSAL 78 Authorize an any bull draw permit hunt in Unit 14B 99

PROPOSAL 79 Modify the hunt structure for Dall sheep in Unit 14A..... 100

PROPOSAL 80 Open a resident registration hunt for mountain goat in Unit 14A 101

PROPOSAL 81 Increase the bag limit for brown bear and allow the harvest of brown bear at black bear bait stations in Unit 14A..... 102

PROPOSAL 82 Create a management area for the Mat-Su Borough's Government Peak Recreation Area in Unit 14A 102

PROPOSAL 83 Change the antler restrictions for moose hunting in Unit 16A 103

PROPOSAL 84 Raise the population objective for moose in Unit 16B 104

PROPOSAL 85 Lengthen the resident hunting season for moose in Unit 16B Remainder (DM540, YM541 and RM574)..... 104

PROPOSAL 86 Shorten the season for black bear baiting in Unit 16 105

PROPOSAL 87 Prohibit the harvest of brown bears at black bear bait stations in Unit 16 106

PROPOSAL 88 Shorten the season and reduce the bag limit for brown bear in Unit 16 106

PROPOSAL 89 End the predator control program for black and brown bear in Unit 16 106

PROPOSAL 90 Allow the harvest of beaver by firearms under a trapping license in Unit 16..... 107

Glennallen Area – Units 11 & 13 108

PROPOSAL 91 Modify the amount reasonably necessary for subsistence for caribou and moose in Unit 13 108

PROPOSAL 92 Eliminate the community subsistence harvest hunts for moose and caribou..... 109

PROPOSAL 93 Eliminate the community subsistence harvest hunt for caribou in Unit 13 109

PROPOSAL 94 Eliminate the community subsistence harvest hunt for caribou in Unit 13 110

PROPOSAL 95 Eliminate the community subsistence harvest hunt for moose in Unit 13 110

PROPOSAL 96 Eliminate the community subsistence harvest hunt for moose in the Copper Basin area, and establish a registration moose hunt for Unit 13 110

PROPOSAL 97 Remove the requirement for applicants to have specific customary and traditional use patterns for participating in the community subsistence harvest hunts in Unit 13 112

PROPOSAL 98 Modify the community subsistence harvest permit conditions..... 112

PROPOSAL 99 Remove the requirement that Unit 13 Tier I caribou hunters, community subsistence harvest (CSH) moose and caribou hunters, and all members of their household, shall hunt moose only in Unit 13 116

PROPOSAL 100 Remove the requirement for Unit 13 Tier I caribou hunters to hunt moose in Unit 13 117

PROPOSAL 101 Establish a youth hunting season for caribou in Unit 13 117

PROPOSAL 102 Open a nonresident caribou hunting season in Unit 13 and allocate up to ten percent of drawing permits to nonresidents when population objectives are met 118

PROPOSAL 103 Change the community subsistence harvest hunt season dates for moose to align to align with the general hunt 119

PROPOSAL 104 Reauthorize the antlerless moose seasons in Unit 13 119

PROPOSAL 105 Eliminate the antlerless moose hunt in Unit 13 120
PROPOSAL 106 Eliminate the drawing permit hunt DM324 for moose in Unit 13..... 120
PROPOSAL 107 Open a late resident hunting season for moose in Units 11 and 13 121
PROPOSAL 108 Change the antler restrictions for moose in Unit 13 123
PROPOSAL 109 Change the "any ram" bag limit to "full-curl ram" for the Dall sheep permit hunts in Units 13D and 14A 124
PROPOSAL 110 Change the drawing permit hunt for goat in Unit 13D to a registration hunt 124
PROPOSAL 111 Open a fall season for hunting brown bear and black bear over bait in Unit 13 125
PROPOSAL 112 Lengthen the hunting season for brown bear in Unit 11..... 125
PROPOSAL 113 Lengthen the trapping season for wolverine in Unit 13..... 126
PROPOSAL 114 Extend the trapping season for wolverine in Unit 13 126
PROPOSAL 115 Extend the trapping season for wolverine in Units 11 and 13 126
PROPOSAL 116 Allow trappers the incidental take of two furbearer in Units 11 and 13 127
PROPOSAL 117 Reduce the harvest and possession limits for grouse in Unit 11..... 127
PROPOSAL 118 Reduce the bag limit and shorten the season for grouse in Unit 11..... 128
PROPOSAL 119 Lengthen the hunting season for ptarmigan in Unit 13B..... 128
PROPOSAL 120 Align the hunting seasons and reduce the bag limit for ptarmigan in Units 13E and 13B 129
PROPOSAL 121 Lengthen the hunting season for ptarmigan in Unit 13B..... 129
PROPOSAL 122 Modify the Sourdough Controlled Use Area 129
PROPOSAL 123 Modify the Clearwater Creek Controlled Use Area description..... 130
PROPOSAL 124 Eliminate the Unit 13-specific proxy requirements 131

King Salmon Area – Units 9 & 10 132

PROPOSAL 125 Change the hunting season dates for the Tier II caribou hunt in Unit 9 132
PROPOSAL 126 Increase the bag limit for the Southern Alaska Peninsula caribou herd (SAP) in Unit 9D 132
PROPOSAL 127 Open a resident hunting season for caribou in a portion of Unit 9C ... 134
PROPOSAL 128 Allow the harvest of any caribou in Unit 10, Adak Island 134
PROPOSAL 129 Lengthen the resident hunting season for moose in Unit 9B..... 134

PROPOSAL 130 Allow hunters to obtain Unit 9B registration moose permits online and in other locations 135

PROPOSAL 131 Remove the brown bear bag limit of one bear every four years for residents in Unit 9 136

PROPOSAL 132 Open a resident-only early season for the current registration brown bear hunts in Unit 9, or open resident-only registration or drawing permit hunts 136

PROPOSAL 133 Change the nonresident brown bear registration hunt in Unit 9E to drawing permit hunt 138

PROPOSAL 134 Shorten the season for ptarmigan and reduce the bag limit in Unit 9 .. 138

PROPOSAL 135 Close the season for Alaska hares in Unit 9 139

Dillingham Area – Unit 17 141

PROPOSAL 136 Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in Unit 17A 141

PROPOSAL 137 Change the resident, fall season dates for moose hunting in Unit 17A 142

PROPOSAL 138 Extend the resident, fall season for moose hunting in Unit 17A 142

PROPOSAL 139 Lengthen the nonresident moose hunting season in Unit 17A 143

PROPOSAL 140 Open a guide required, nonresident registration hunt for moose in Unit 17A 143

PROPOSAL 141 Allocate a portion of the nonresident drawing permits for moose in Unit 17A to guided hunters 145

PROPOSAL 142 Shift the resident fall hunting season dates for moose in a portion of Unit 17A 146

PROPOSAL 143 Open the resident winter season for moose in a portion of Unit 17C by emergency order only 146

PROPOSAL 144 Allow the use of motorized vehicles for moose hunting in the Upper Mulchatna Controlled Use Area 147

PROPOSAL 145 Open a nonresident registration hunt for caribou in Units 9 and 17 147

PROPOSAL 146 Open a guide-required nonresident drawing hunt for caribou in Unit 17B 148

PROPOSAL 147 Open a nonresident draw hunt for caribou in Units 18 and 19 149

PROPOSAL 148 Allow the use of a snowmachine for harvesting caribou, wolf, or wolverine in Unit 17 149

PROPOSAL 149 Liberalize the season and methods and means for trapping beaver in Units 9 and 17 149

Reauthorization of Antlerless Moose Hunts & Brown Bear Tag Fee Exemptions for Other Regions 151

PROPOSAL 150 Reauthorize the antlerless moose hunts in Unit 1C 151

PROPOSAL 151 Reauthorize the antlerless moose hunt in Unit 5A, the Nunatak Bench hunt 153

PROPOSAL 152 Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in Unit 6C 154

PROPOSAL 153 Reauthorize the antlerless moose season on Kalgin Island in Unit 15B 155

PROPOSAL 154 Reauthorize the antlerless moose season and targeted moose season in a portion of Unit 15C 156

PROPOSAL 155 Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in the Twentymile/Portage/Placer hunt area in Units 7 and 14C 158

PROPOSAL 156 Reauthorize the antlerless moose seasons in Unit 14C 159

PROPOSAL 157 Reauthorize the nonresident antlerless moose season in the Remainder of Unit 18 161

PROPOSAL 158 Reauthorize the antlerless moose seasons in Unit 20A 163

PROPOSAL 159 Reauthorize the antlerless moose seasons in Unit 20B 166

PROPOSAL 160 Reauthorize antlerless moose hunting seasons in Unit 20D 170

PROPOSAL 161 Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in the western portion of Unit 26A 173

PROPOSAL 162 Reauthorize resident brown bear tag fee exemptions throughout Interior and Eastern Arctic Alaska 174

PROPOSAL 163 Reauthorize the current resident tag fee exemptions for brown bear in Units 18, 22, 23 and 26A 175

Tentative Meeting Agenda

November 10–17, 2017 | Anchorage, Alaska
The Lakefront Anchorage, Redington Ballroom

NOTE: This Tentative Agenda is subject to change throughout the course of the meeting. This Tentative Agenda 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, November 10, 8:30 AM
OPENING BUSINESS
Call to Order / Purpose of Meeting
Introductions of Board Members and Staff
Board Member Ethics Disclosures
AGENCY AND OTHER REPORTS
PUBLIC AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE ORAL TESTIMONY upon conclusion of 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, November 11, 8:30 AM
PUBLIC AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE ORAL TESTIMONY

Sunday, November 12, 9:00 AM
PUBLIC AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE ORAL TESTMONY
BOARD DELIBERATIONS upon conclusion of oral public testimony

Monday, November 13 – Thursday, November 16, 8:30 AM
BOARD DELIBERATIONS continued

Friday, November 17, 8:30 AM
BOARD DELIBERATIONS
MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS, including petitions, findings, resolutions, letters, and other business
ADJOURN

Agenda Notes

A. Meeting materials, including a list of staff reports, a roadmap, and schedule updates, will be available at: www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=gameboard.meetinginfo or by contacting the ADF&G Boards Support Office in Juneau at 465-4110.
B. A live audio stream for the meeting is intended to be available at: www.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 465-4110 no later than October 27, 2017 to make any necessary arrangements.

Definitions

PROPOSAL 1 – 5 AAC 92.990(a)(6) Definitions. Modify the definition of bag limit as follows:

The definition of "bag limit" should be as follows:

5 AAC 92.990(a)(6) "bag limit" means the maximum number of animals of any one game species a person may **kill or harvest** [TAKE] in the unit or portion of a unit in which the **killing** [TAKING] occurs; an animal disturbed in the course of legal hunting does not count toward a bag limit;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The definition of "bag limit" is excessively restrictive because it includes the definition of the word "take". "Take" is defined as taking, pursuing, hunting fishing, trapping or **in any manner** disturbing, capturing, or killing or **attempting** to take, pursue, hunt, fish, trap, or in any manner capture or kill fish or game. So if a hunter goes into the field and simply attempts to hunt a given species, he has by definition taken that animal and thus probably already exceeded his bag limit. I have been told that the definition of "take" is controlled by the legislature but that the definition of "bag limit" is a regulation of the Board of Game.

PROPOSED BY: John Frost (EG-F17-049)
****

PROPOSAL 2 – 5 AAC 92.990(a)(87). Definitions; 92.010. Harvest tickets and reports; and 92.003. Hunter education and orientation requirements. Modify the definition of youth hunt, allow youth hunters to obtain their own harvest ticket, and remove the hunter education requirement for youth hunters as follows:

There are three areas in current regulation that would need to be adjusted to accomplish change:

1) I recommend the Board of Game (board) change the definition of youth hunt to accommodate hunters starting at eight years of age (this is the minimum age allowed by state statute). Regulation:
    a. Youth Hunt – a hunt limited to a child aged **8** [10]–17 and an accompanying adult that is a licensed resident hunter 21 years of age or older. If the child is a nonresident, the accompanying adult must be a resident parent, stepparent, or legal guardian of the child. The bag limit counts against both the youth and the accompanying adult.

2) Additionally, I recommend allowing hunters from the ages of eight to seventeen to obtain their own harvest ticket or drawing tag that would allow them to participate in youth hunting seasons. The current regulation specifies the need for youth ten to seventeen obtain a harvest ticket or drawing tag for youth hunts. In conjunction, I also ask the board to consider waiving the requirement that the youth have completed a hunter education course before partaking in youth hunts, since immediate adult supervision is required for all "youth hunts". Regulation:
    a. Hunters under age 10 may not have their own big game bag limit, so they may not obtain harvest tickets or permits **with the exception of youth hunters hunting in a youth hunting season.** (See "Youth hunts only" pg. 13 of the Alaska Hunting Regulations booklet.)

b. Youth hunts only: Hunter education is **not** required for youth hunters participating in "youth hunts[.]" **under the required supervision of an accompanying adult that is a licensed resident hunter 21 years of age or older. Additionally, participants in a "youth hunt" may obtain their own harvest ticket/draw permit.** (See page 35 of the Alaska Hunting Regulations booklet for "youth hunt" definition.)

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The opportunities currently available to youth participating in "Youth Hunts" excludes children younger than ten years of age. Under the current regulations, children younger than ten can hunt during the general season/draw hunt under the supervision of and using a licensed hunters permit or harvest ticket, but do not have the opportunity to participate in youth hunts specifically for youth hunters.

Changing the definition of "Youth Hunt" to allow youth under ten years of age to participate would let children gain more experience in the field with adults who would have the chance to teach children during special seasons that have been created specifically for youth hunters in mind.

In a hunt that is specifically made for young hunters, where immediate adult supervision is required, excluding children who are capable of and interested in hunting is unnecessary and counterproductive. Regulations within youth hunt special seasons, as well as in hunts where a child under ten harvests an animal in the general season, require youth harvests to be applied towards the accompanying adult's bag limit.

Our future generation of hunters and outdoors people should be given every opportunity to partake in the outdoor experience, including those designated for our youth. This change would provide further opportunities for the hunting community to engage future generations in the outdoors.

PROPOSED BY: Jacob Mattila (HQ-F17-021)
****

PROPOSAL 3 – 5 AAC 92.990(a)(68). Definitions. Modify the definition of regulatory year as follows:

Replace regulatory year with calendar year regulations or define regulatory year such that it matches the definition for a calendar year. There would need to be an unusual regulatory year to transition from July 1 to January 1.

Example:

Regulatory Year 2018 (7/1/2018–6/30/2019) would become (7/1/2018–12/31/2018)

Regulatory Year 2019 and future years would run January 1 to December 31

For the purposes of hunts which might cross regulatory year boundaries, pick a simple definition such as "the regulatory year of the hunt will be the year of the normally scheduled open date of

the first season" so that emergency season adjustments do not change the regulatory year of a hunt.

The shortened regulatory year for transitioning should prevent any hunts from having to occur twice in a regulatory year. Some hunts will "skip" a regulatory year but would still be held at their usual time. In the example above there would be no 2018 DB132, however it would still occur and be listed as a 2019 hunt.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Help address confusion between regulatory and calendar years for hunters and ADF&G staff. This would also synchronize the permitting and license years. This is particularly confusing for hunts with season dates that fall entirely outside the calendar year of the regulatory year.

Example: 2017 DB132 is scheduled for 4/1/2018–5/15/2018

This will also eliminate the need to display two years everywhere a regulatory year is printed to address this specific confusion.

Disclaimer: I am a wildlife conservation employee and am submitting this personally. This does not reflect the opinion of ADF&G or the Division of Wildlife Conservation. After the transition period, I believe this would reduce the complexity of the systems and reports for wildlife conservation staff.

PROPOSED BY: Joseph Waters (EG-F17-033)
****

PROPOSAL 4 – 5 AAC 92.990(a)(26). Definitions. Change the definition of edible meat for large game birds as follows:

Regulation change:

5 AAC 92.990. Definitions.

(26) "edible meat" means, in the case of a big game animal, except a bear, the meat of the ribs, neck, brisket, front quarters, hindquarters, and the meat along the backbone between the front and hindquarters; in the case of a bear, the meat of the front quarters and hindquarters and meat along the backbone (backstrap); in the case of small game birds, except for cranes, geese, and swan, the meat of the breast; in the case of cranes, geese, and swan, the meat of the breast, **back, wings, gizzard, and heart** and meat of the femur and tibia-fibula (legs and thighs); however, "edible meat" of big game or small game birds does not include meat of the head, meat that has been damaged and made inedible by the method of taking, bones, sinew, incidental meat reasonably lost as a result of boning or a close trimming of the bones, or viscera;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Native Caucus of the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management Council (AMBCC) is proposing that the definition of edible meat for large-sized migratory game birds in the fall/winter migratory bird hunting

regulations be more consistent with that for the spring/summer subsistence migratory bird harvest regulations to reduce or prevent waste. The current definition of edible meat for swans, geese, and cranes to be salvaged for human consumption is the meat of the breast and meat of the legs and thighs. The AMBCC Native Caucus is proposing to further define edible meat for swans, geese and cranes to include breast, back, thighs, legs, wings, gizzard and heart.

PROPOSED BY: Native Caucus of the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management Council (EG-F17-048)

****

PROPOSAL 5 – **5 AAC 92.990. Definitions.** Change the definition of a moose antler point/tine as follows:

5 AAC 92.990(a)(13) "brow tine" means a tine emerging from the first branch or brow palm on the main beam of a moose antler; the brow palm is separated from the main palm by a wide bay; a tine originating in or after this bay is not a brow tine; **an antler point or tine originating within two inches from the base, and less than three inches in length, will not be counted as a brow tine;**

5 AAC 92.990(a)(46) "moose antler" definitions:

(A) "50-inch antlers" means the antlers of a bull moose with a spread of 50 inches or more measured in a straight line perpendicular to the center line of the skull;

(B) "spike-fork antlers" means antlers of a bull moose with only one or two tines on at least one antler; [AN ANTLER POINT OR TINE ORIGINATING WITHIN TWO INCHES FROM THE BASE, AND LESS THAN THREE INCHES IN LENGTH, WILL NOT BE COUNTED AS A TINE,] male calves are not considered spike-fork bulls; **spike-fork bulls can be either spike and/or fork configuration;**

(C) "spike" means antlers of a bull moose with only one tine on at least one antler; for the purposes of this subparagraph, male calves are not considered spike bulls;

(D) "fork" means antlers of a bull moose with only two tines on at least one antler;

5 AAC 92.990(a)(61) "point" means any antler projection that is at least one inch long, and that is longer than it is wide, measured one inch or more from the tip; **an antler point or tine originating within two inches from the base, and less than three inches in length, will not be counted as a tine;**

5 AAC 92.990(a)(80) "tine" has the same meaning as "point";

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Selective harvest regulations for bull moose have evolved from those originally envisioned (50-inch three brow tine (BT) pre-1987 and spike-fork 50-inch three BT in 1987). Today there are 50-inch 3BT, 4BT and 2BT by 2BT descriptions of legal moose in regulation. There are also spike-fork and spike categories of legal moose. Proposals have recently been considered for other configurations.

Confusion still exists by some hunters about legal bull moose. This new language attempts to clarify regulations previously passed by the Board of Game about "drop tines" or "burr tines"

(points emerging from the base or very near the base). This proposal clarifies that “drop tines” or “burr tines” do not count as spikes, forks, or brow tines. In addition, this proposal clarifies the term “spike-fork” includes both spike or fork bulls. Finally we add a definition of “fork” bulls for additional clarification.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F17-027)
****

Unlawful Methods

PROPOSAL 6 – 5 AAC 92.095. Unlawful methods of taking furbearers; exceptions. Allow the incidental take of up to two furbearers per year during an open season for other furbearers as follows:

Either:

"Allow two (2) total incidental furbearer catch by trapping per licensed trapper per year for any species that have a "no limit" bag limit. The incidental closed season catch must have been taken in traps set for a species that still has an open season.

Or:

"If a trapper incidentally takes a furbearer during a closed season in a trap that is set for a furbearer species that is still open, the Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) may issue a total of two (2) incidental take tags per licensed trapper per year only for species that have a "no limit" bag limit. The trapper must report these within 30 days to ADF&G for tagging, and sealing if required. The trapper may then keep the incidentally taken furbearer.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Allow two total incidental furbearer catch by trapping per licensed trapper per year. If all seasons are not aligned, there will be some incidental take of the closed species in traps set for species that are still open. You would still need to report to ADF&G within 30 days of take to get animal sealed or otherwise checked-in.

PROPOSED BY: Copper Basin Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-F17-045)
****

PROPOSAL 7 – 5 AAC 92.095 Unlawful methods for taking furbearers; exceptions. Allow the use of bow and arrow to harvest beaver under a trapping license statewide as follows:

Allow harvest of beaver with bow and arrow statewide.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? At time of the year when the water is open and beaver season is open it should be legal to take beaver with a bow and arrow. This is confusing in the trapping regulation summary book. On page 13 it says that you may use any method to take furbearers with a trapping license unless it is prohibited below. There does not appear to be any prohibition to taking beaver with a bow and arrow on page 13. However, subsequently in the regulations for each unit there are several places where it specifically says, "You may not take beaver by any means other than steel trap or snare except," then the exceptions are varied and in some areas it is specifically legal to use firearms but sometimes with the requirement that the meat be saved. It would seem that these regulations could be simplified by allowing statewide harvest of beaver by shooting and specifically include bow and arrow.

It is difficult to know the exact wording for the regulation change because in fact it may be that the actual regulations do not prohibit taking beaver statewide during season with bow and arrow. Page 13 of the trapping regulations summary would seem to allow that. It may be somehow the

ADF&G staff responsible for writing the regulation summary book misinterpreted the regulations. There does not seem to be any logical reason to prohibit taking beaver with bow and arrow.

PROPOSED BY: John Frost (EG-F17-059)
****

Note: Alaska Statute 16.05.783 only allows same day airborne taking of wolves and wolverine as part of a predator control program authorized by the Board of Game.

PROPOSAL 8 – 5 AAC 92.095. Unlawful methods for taking furbearers; exceptions. Remove the same day airborne restrictions for taking wolf and wolverine with a trapping license as follows:

Allow shooting a wolf or wolverine during trapping season on the same day airborne as long a person is more than 300 feet from his airplane and has a trapping license.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Under the trapping regulations it is legal to shoot fox, coyotes and lynx on the same day airborne as long as the trapper is more than 300 feet from his airplane. But it is specifically NOT legal to shoot a wolf or wolverine unless it is already caught in a trap or snare. There are at least two scenarios in which a person operating under the authority of a trapping license might encounter a wolf or wolverine and wish to harvest that animal. In one case, a trapper has flown to a remote trap line and is checking his traps either by foot or snow machine and encounters a wolf or wolverine, perhaps the wolf or wolverine is even raiding the trappers traps of martin but the trapper cannot shoot the wolf or wolverine because he has been airborne that day. In the second case, the trapper is attempting to take furbearers specifically by predator calling. The trapper may fly out in the morning, land his plane in a suitable area and hike while setting up and predator calling every half mile or so. This is an enjoyable way to hunt that is becoming more popular (witness the sales of predator calls at Cabela's and Bass Pro). If a fox, lynx or coyote comes in to the call it is legal to shoot but not a wolf or wolverine. This does not make much sense especially when the bag limit in essentially every unit except Units 14 and 16A is unlimited for both wolf and wolverine.

PROPOSED BY: John Frost (EG-F17-057)
****

PROPOSAL 9 – 5 AAC 92.090. Unlawful methods of taking fur animals; and 92.095. Unlawful methods of taking furbearers; exceptions. Modify the land and shoot requirements for harvesting coyotes as follows:

5 AAC 92.090. Unlawful methods of taking fur animals
…
(3) a person who has been airborne may not take or assist in taking a fur animal, **except coyotes,** until after 3:00 a.m. following the day in which the flying occurred; this paragraph does not apply if the person is at least 300 feet from the airplane at the time of taking.

and

5 AAC 92.095. Unlawful methods of taking furbearers; exceptions
…
(8) a person who has been airborne may not use a firearm to take or assist in taking a wolf or wolverine until after 3:00 a.m. on the day following the day in which the flying occurred; or in taking [A COYOTE,] arctic fox, red fox, or lynx, unless that person is over 300 feet from the airplane at the time of the taking; this paragraph does not apply to a trapper using a firearm to dispatch an animal caught in a trap or snare;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The issue is to allow harvesting coyotes by land and shoot methods, that doesn't require you to be more than 300 feet from the airplane under both a hunting and trapping license. There is an abundance of coyotes and this would allow another means of harvesting them.

PROPOSED BY: Upper Tanana/Fortymile Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-F17-040)
****

<u>PROPOSAL 10</u> – 5 AAC 92.085(8). Unlawful methods of taking big game; exceptions. Repeal the restrictions on the use of aircraft for taking big game as follows:

Repeal 92.085(8) or Repeal (A), (D), and (G).

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Repeal 92.085(8) a person who has been airborne may not take or assist in taking a big game animal and a person may not be assisted in taking a big game animal by a person who has been airborne until after 3:00 a.m. following the day in which the flying occurred, and from August 10 through September 20 aircraft may not be used by or for any person to locate Dall sheep for hunting or direct hunters to Dall sheep during the open sheep hunting season, however, aircraft other than helicopters may be used by and for sheep hunters to place and remove hunters and camps, maintain existing camps, and salvage harvested sheep. The Board of Game (board) finding 2016-213-BOG, dated March 17, 2016, is adopted by reference. Restrictions in this paragraph do not apply to **(A)** taking deer; **(D)** taking caribou from January 1 through April 15, in Unit 22 if the hunter is at least 300 feet from the airplane at the time of taking; **(G)** a hunter taking a bear at a bait station with the use of bait or scent lures with a permit issued under 5 AAC 92.044, and if the hunter is at least 300 feet from the airplane at the time of taking:...

Board finding #2016-213 dated March 17, 2016 is at variance with the principal of exceptions under 92.085 and the finding stands manifestly in contradiction to previous board actions under 92.085(8)(A)(D)(G).

Board finding #2016-213 acknowledged there was public opposition to Proposal 207 and also public support declaring "support from hunters that did not use aircraft" thus implying that opposition to '207' came only from hunters who used aircraft.

The board also acknowledges in its finding and as a rationalization for its decision that there has been for a decade long complaint regarding the "perception" of crowding and increased competition but fails to affirm through its finding what other action the board has considered and declined to act on that could have the same or more impact in addressing these issues.

The board chairman essentially came at this issue of 'perception' deciding the board had heard enough of a decades old complaint of "controversial practice of hunting for wildlife from aircraft" and the board chose only to address the use of aircraft for sheep hunting through its own board generated proposal supported after the fact by its finding of March 2017. But the contradictions continued in that aircraft use was only considered controversial for sheep and only between August 10 and September 20. This baseline justification for the exception to 92.085 to prohibit a "controversial practice" only serves to continue the contradictions.

Obviously not all hunters use aircraft to hunt deer (A), caribou (D) or bears over bait (G). It must also be true that such promotion of the use of aircraft under 92.085 (A, D, and G) disrupts the efforts of other hunters through displacement of animals and lowers the quality of experience for other hunters. It should not go unnoticed that the board failed to consider whether the broadening of aircraft use corresponding to previously authorized practice of hunting wildlife from aircraft in the taking of deer, caribou or bears over bait factually demonstrates the board promoting a "controversial practice" on the one hand and prohibiting the practice on the other hand and may resemble an arbitrary and capricious act.

The finding further cites technological advances of aircraft as justification to the exception (at 8) ignoring reciprocal technological advances in clothing, optics, ballistics, mapping, communication tools, food, packing/hiking/camping gear, an increase in access to types and sources of information including hunter educational material *(which could and has been used by ADF&G and board as a tool to mitigate controversial issues)* on how to sheep hunt videos, TV programs and a broader range and availability of data and statistics has also advanced considerably in the past decade and is as likely to be promoting the 'perception' of crowding and increased competition as advances in aircraft technology.

Maintaining exceptions for use of aircraft (same day airborne) for the hunting of deer, caribou and bears over bait or the effectiveness of advances in technology as applied to other valid methods of hunting further devalues the authenticity of the board's own proposal or board finding #2016-213.

92.085 (8)(A) (D) (G) simply do not line up. It is requested through this proposal that the board consider each of the exceptions individually and in light of its own Proposal 207 and board finding #2016-213. It is widely recognized by many hunters; those who use aircraft and those who do not, there is likely an undisclosed purpose to (8) and in reconsidering the validity of (A) (D) (G) it is hoped consistency can be re-established to 5 AAC 92.085. Unlawful methods of taking big game; exceptions.

PROPOSED BY: Mike McCrary (EG-F17-060)
****

PROPOSAL 11 – 5 AAC 92.085(8). Unlawful methods of taking big game; exceptions. Modify the restrictions on the use of aircraft for sheep hunting as follows:

5 AAC 92.085 Unlawful methods of taking big game; exceptions….(8) a person who has been airborne may not take or assist in taking a big game animal until after 3:00 a.m. following the day in which the flying occurred, and from August 10 – September 20 aircraft may not **intentionally approach any sheep or group of sheep closer than 1000 feet, or repeatedly approach them in a manner that results in them altering their behavior.** [BE USED BY OR FOR ANY PERSON TO LOCATE DALL SHEEP FOR HUNTING OR DIRECT HUNTERS TO DALL SHEEP DURING THE OPEN SHEEP HUNTING SEASON, HOWEVER, AIRCRAFT OTHER THAN HELICOPTERS MAY BE USED BY AND FOR SHEEP HUNTERS TO PLACE AND REMOVE HUNTERS AND CAMPS, MAINTAIN EXISTING CAMPS, AND SALVAGE HARVESTED SHEEP.] **This prohibition does not intend to prohibit any flight maneuvers that are necessary to make an informed and safe landing in the field.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? 5 AAC 92.085 currently reads: "Unlawful methods of taking big game; exceptions….(8) a person who has been airborne may not take or assist in taking a big game animal until after 3:00 a.m. following the day in which the flying occurred, and from August 10 – September 20 aircraft may not be used by or for any person to locate Dall sheep for hunting or direct hunters to Dall sheep during the open sheep hunting season, however, aircraft other than helicopters may be used by and for sheep hunters to place and remove hunters and camps, maintain existing camps, and salvage harvested sheep."

We support the Board of Game's (board) efforts to encourage the ethical use of airplanes and to work towards a quality sheep hunting experience for all, but think the current regulation is excessively broad and restrictive. This regulation has caused division among hunters, and causes concern to most pilots, of being suspect of spotting while performing necessary and normal operating procedures. Moose, caribou and bear also live in most sheep country and seasons are open at the same time.

What will happen if nothing is done? Unnecessary division amongst sheep hunters and resentment towards the board by many who otherwise support most of what they do will continue. We think most hunters can agree that approaching sheep during hunting season, close enough that you can tell if they are legal rams, is too close and will disturb the sheep and hunters on the ground. We would like to work towards better language to accomplish this.

Other solutions considered and why did you reject them? We also considered changing the same day airborne law for sheep from 3:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. or noon, and discussed different distances. We rejected changing times because that would not restrict spotting and buzzing sheep. We settled on 1,000 feet for distance, because though sheep can be seen as white spots on a hill side from a long way off, to tell whether they are legal rams, you have to be fairly close. Most full-curl sheep horns are about 12 inches in diameter. We went to an airport and ranged aircraft with 12-inch numbers. Standing still, 12-inch numbers are pretty unreadable to the naked

eye of most at 700 feet, and just a blur at 1,000 feet; and that's standing still, not moving at 70 miles per hour.

While some may have concern about the enforceability of our proposed language, we think most hunters want to be legal and obey the law. 1,000 feet is standard pattern altitude at most airports and is an altitude that most pilots should be fairly familiar with. We think text in the hunting regulation encouraging sheep hunters/pilots to fly around the pattern at 1,000 feet above ground level before flying out to sheep hunt, and reminding them to maintain at least that distance between them and any white spots they see in the mountains, would go a long way towards compliance. The last sentence in our proposed language is verbatim per RC 038 from the March 2016 Board of Game meeting.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Professional Hunters Association (EG-F17-042)
****

PROPOSAL 12 – 5 AAC 92.085(8). Unlawful methods of taking big game; exceptions. Remove the restrictions on the use of aircraft for sheep hunting as follows:

Simply rescind the regulations created by passing the Board of Game generated Proposal 207.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The regulation promulgated by the Board of Game (board) commonly referred to as Proposal 207 (regarding use of aircraft during sheep season) is not good for many reasons:

1) It promotes crowding at the beginning of sheep season.

2) It encourages flying into unsafe conditions for hunters trying to get into position prior to season opening.

3) It discourages making several passes to evaluate the safety of a landing area (that may have changed significantly from the previous year).

4) Because sheep move from mid-summer ranges to fall ranges it give significant advantage to hunters who hunt the first week of the season or to guides who may have several assistant guides continuously in the field and are able to keep track of sheep movements.

5) There is already a federal law (the anti-airborne hunting act) that prohibits disturbing any wildlife with an aircraft. This essentially already prohibits the type of activity that the board intends to limit with Proposal 207.

6) If an air taxi operator is flying a client into an area for a drop-off hunt it has been traditional to make one circle around the general area of the drop-off location to give the hunter an idea of the "lay of the land". This is still legal if the hunter is hunting moose, caribou, bear or goats but not sheep. It interferes with the safety and enjoyment of the hunt.

7) I can personally say that it adds a layer of repressive regulation that makes sheep hunting less

safe and less enjoyable for resident hunters who own aircraft.

8) It has resulted in some resident sheep hunters not hunting sheep.

9) It resulted in the formation of a resident hunter activist group Resident Hunters of Alaska (RHAK).

10) It was opposed by many advisory committees.

PROPOSED BY: John Frost (EG-F17-055)
****

PROPOSAL 13 – 5 AAC 92.080(7). Unlawful methods of taking game; exceptions. Clarify the regulation that prohibits the use of a "cellular or satellite telephone" to take game as follows:

Current regulation states that you may not use a "cellular or satellite telephone" to take game. Possible solutions might be that the use of cellular or satellite devices are exempted for certain use. Other possibilities might include re-affirming that cellular or satellite phones cannot be used for any reason to take game.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Clarify the use of cellular or satellite phones to take game animals. 5 AAC 92.080 prohibits certain methods of taking game. One method that is prohibited is the use of cellular or satellite phones. Technology has dramatically increased over the years. Cell phone capabilities, cell service and smart phones have all made it easier for hunters to use these devices for hunting utilizing various technologies. Examples of this technology are game cameras that are communicating with cell phones to let the hunter know an animal is in the area that they are hunting and devices connected by satellite when cell service is not available. This technology is becoming increasingly popular at bear bait sites, for general hunting and with trappers.

As technology changes, it is difficult to interpret the regulations for enforcement purposes. Additionally, regulations should be clear for the public so there is little room for interpretation. The Alaska Wildlife Troopers would like the Board of Game to clarify the use of cell phones and satellite communication devices for the purpose of hunting and taking game. This clarification will benefit both the hunters and the Alaska Wildlife Troopers enforcing the regulation.

Current regulation states that you may not use a "cellular or satellite telephone" to take game. The board should discuss the timeline and specific uses of these devices.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Wildlife Troopers (HQ-F17-018)
****

PROPOSAL 14 – 5 AAC 92.080(7). Unlawful methods of taking game; exceptions. Prohibit the taking of bears in dens as follows:

The solution would be to stop the innocent slaughter of bears and their cubs in their dens.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Thank you in advance for reading this proposal, as I am unable to attend the 2017 meeting. I am writing today to voice my views on what I understand to be the results of the law re-instating 5 AAC 92.080 Control of Predation by bears. I hope I have this right, as even the ADF&G folks I have spoken with say it is very complicated and confusing. In specific number (7) seven, as well as other regulations 5 AAC 92.115-118 or anything pertaining to the innocent slaughter of bears in their dens, (with cubs or without). I realize that management of all fish and wildlife is mandatory for survival of animals, as well as humans, and Alaska has the best management in the U.S. I am all for subsistence hunting for food and protection, but the murder of defenseless animals in their own dens "homes" in the middle of winter, where they should be safe is sickening, especially by means of gas, poison, explosives, etc. Imagine if this happened to you in your home with your family? Would extending/changing the hunting laws be an option for the black bear, surely there must be more humane ways of dealing with this issue?

Again, you will have to excuse my attempts at finding the correct language, rulings, laws, regulations etc. You may want to consider referencing a link to the Alaska State Legislature website, so these laws, rulings and regulations can be understood in layman's terms. Thank you for your time.

PROPOSED BY: Stephanie McCabe (EG-F17-034)
****

PROPOSAL 15 – 5 AAC 92.260. Taking cub bears and female bears with cubs prohibited. Remove the exception for taking cub bears and female bears with cubs as follows:

Taking cub bears and female bears with cubs prohibited:
A person may not take a cub bear or a female bear accompanied by a cub bear. [, EXCEPT THAT A BLACK BEAR CUB OR A FEMALE BLACK BEAR ACCOMPANIED BY A CUB BEAR MAY BE TAKEN BY A RESIDENT HUNTER

(1) UNDER CUSTOMARY AND TRADITIONAL USE ACTIVITIES AT A DEN SITE
(A) FROM OCTOBER 15 THROUGH APRIL 30 IN
(I) UNIT 19(A);
(II) UNIT 19(D), THAT PORTION OF THE KUSKOKWIM RIVER DRAINAGE UPSTREAM FROM THE SELATNA AND BLACK RIVER DRAINAGES;
(III) UNITS 21(B), 21(C), AND 21(D); AND
(IV) UNIT 24; AND (B) FROM DECEMBER 1 THROUGH THE LAST DAY OF FEBRUARY IN UNIT 25(D); AND
(2) FROM JULY 1 THROUGH NOVEMBER 30 AND MARCH 1 THROUGH JUNE 30 IN UNIT 25(D).]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Pursuant to Principle 3 Guideline 3.2 of the Intensive Management Program; practices should be socially sustainable and are closely scrutinized by the public. As such, the Board of Game (board), under the Intensive Management law, must periodically re-evaluate objectives to align with social standards based on feedback from the public stakeholders as defined as inclusive of both

Alaskans and the broader public. The board facilitates this public process for the state's fish and wildlife regulatory system. The exceptions in 5 AAC 92.260 sections 1-2, which permit the practice of taking cub bears and female bears with cubs, have already garnered national attention resulting in negative impact to the Alaskan state tourism business. The associated petition, which has already received over 7,000 signatures and continues to grow in number every day, services as evidence to this growing social awareness and impact. This practice may have some slight impact to reduce predation, but it is clearly not "socially sustainable". If it is not changed, the awareness and damage to tourism will continue to grow. We ask the board in the best interest of Alaska wildlife and tourism to kindly consider amending 5 AAC 92.260 to remove these two exceptions. The Alaska Administrative Code to be amended has the sections to be removed in all upper case, and the addition underlined and in bold.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Chapter OneProtest (EG-F17-030)
****

PROPOSAL 16 – 5 AAC 92.085. Unlawful methods of taking big game; exceptions. Allow the use of high-powered air guns during regular firearms and muzzleloader big game hunting seasons as follows:

Define high-powered air guns as the following:

- "Air gun" means a device that launches a pellet or bullet or other projectile like an arrow through the use of compressed air.
- Minimum .357 minimum caliber
- Minimum muzzle energy of 100 foot pounds (FPE)

Expressly allow using high powered air guns during regular firearms and muzzleloader hunting seasons.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? We would like the Board of Game to allow high powered air guns—100 ft./lbs. muzzle energy or more—to be used during regular hunting seasons for taking big game. You can see some of the hunting videos with these incredible high powered air rifles at: www.pyramydair.com/s/m/Dragon_Claw_Dual_Tank_Air_Rifle/2500.

PROPOSED BY: Val Gamerman (EG-F17-008)
****

PROPOSAL 17 – 5 AAC 92.085. Unlawful methods of taking big game; exceptions. Prohibit the use of airbows for taking big game as follows:

You may NOT take big game with an "airbow,"

Or, "Airbows" are not legal for use in any archery only area, archery season or special archery hunt.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? A new device called an "airbow" has recently come on the market. It is essentially a compressed gas device that shoots an arrow-like projectile. The Alaskan Bowhunters Association wants to be certain that this device is not confused with or considered conventional archery tackle.

PROPOSED BY: The Alaskan Bowhunters Association (EG-F17-061)
****

Falconry

Note: The Board of Game deferred this proposal from the 2017 Arctic/Western Region Meeting. It was previously numbered Proposal 158.

PROPOSAL 18 – 5 AAC 92.037. Permits for falconry. Remove the West Nile Virus testing requirement for raptors as follows:

Remove the requirements to test birds for West Nile Virus.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Please remove the West Nile Virus testing requirements, as per Alaska Division of Wildlife Conservation Alaska Falconry Manual 9 Addendum dated March 29, 2013. The current regulation requires falconers to give unnecessary vaccinations for raptors, costs hundreds of dollars in veterinary bills and requires unnecessary quarantines for up to 30 days each time a falconer travels outside of Alaska or imports a raptor.

PROPOSED BY: Don Hunley (HQ-2016-ACR8)
****

PROPOSAL 19 – 5 AAC 92.037. Permits for falconry. Change the nonresident season for taking passage raptors as follows:

Amended regulation should read:

(7) take is limited to one passage, hatching-year raptor;
(8) the annual nonresident season for acquiring a passage raptor is from **September 5 – November 20**;

The regulation currently reads:

(7) take is limited to one passage, hatching-year raptor;
(8) the annual nonresident season for acquiring a passage raptor is from [AUGUST 15 – OCTOBER 31];

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? This proposal's intention is to roll the nonresident passage take season start date back 20 days from August 15 to September 5, thus allowing young raptors to mature and disperse from their natal sites, making it less likely that targeting certain genetic progeny of certain nesting pairs can occur repeatedly over the years. Current nonresident effort with ever increasing demand could cause the loss of certain scarce genetics by concentrated excessive harvest from the wild gene pool year after year.

Taking of young birds before dispersal, allows for the undesirable impacts of targeting the progeny of specific nest pair genetics from the same nest sites, year after year.

A majority of the nonresident permit applicants are raptor breeders and/or their affiliates and are targeting certain localities and very specific genetic stock. Concentrated attention toward the offspring of these individual birds can ultimately effect the presence and maintenance of certain scarce genetics in the wild.

As nonresident demand for Alaskan birds increases, (demand already surpasses current resident take), we need to have measures in place to preclude undesired affects that will be most likely harmful to the wild gene pool in the future.

It is ok to retain the 76-day nonresident passage season, but adjustments must be made to the start date to better protect nesting pair genetics from the potential long-term impacts of nonresident over selective harvest. Rolling back the start date will greatly dilute concentrated nonresident effort impacting targeted pairs, yet allow nonresidents a reasonable opportunity to take a randomly encountered passage bird.

PROPOSED BY: Kurt Schmidt (EG-F17-090)
****

PROPOSAL 20 – 5 AAC 92.037. Permits for falconry. Limit nonresident falconers to take raptors every four or five years as follows:

Option A: A nonresident falconer who draws a permit and captures a raptor in Alaska may not apply for a nonresident capture permit for five calendar years.

Option B: A nonresident falconer who draws a permit and captures a raptor in Alaska may not apply for a nonresident capture permit for four calendar years.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Alaska Falconers Association is requesting that the Board of Game (board) institute a regulation that limits a successful applicant for a nonresident falconry capture permit who successfully traps a raptor in Alaska to be ineligible to apply for another nonresident capture permit for a period of five calendar years.

The board's intent language placed on record when nonresident take was instituted in 2014 was to make available the special opportunity and experience of trapping a raptor in Alaska available to as many nonresident falconers as possible. The Alaska Falconers Association agrees with the board's intent. In the three years that the nonresident allocation has been in place, one individual nonresident falconer drew a capture permit two consecutive years in a row and successfully took a raptor and exported that raptor out of Alaska in both years.

Alaska does not allow a person who successfully fills a drawing permit for a big game animal to re-apply for that same hunt the following year. Alaska prohibits a successful hunter who took a bison, Tok sheep, trophy brown bear in coastal units, or a muskox, from harvesting that same species for multiple years. We feel that raptors taken from Alaska by nonresident falconers hold that same special value and that a nonresident falconer should only be allowed to capture one raptor every five calendar years.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Falconers Association (EG-F17-044)
****

PROPOSAL 21 – 5 AAC 92.037. Permits for falconry. Require raptors taken under nonresident capture permits be implanted with microchips as follows:

Add a new section that reads:

Prior to exporting a raptor from Alaska that was taken by a nonresident falconer under the terms of a nonresident capture permit, the raptor must be implanted with a microchip by a licensed veterinarian. Documentation of the procedure and registration must be presented to ADF&G during the check-out process.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Alaska Falconers Association is requesting the Board of Game to require nonresident falconers who successfully draw a nonresident capture permit and trap a raptor in Alaska to have a microchip implanted in the raptor prior to exporting the raptor from the State of Alaska.

Airline companies require a health certificate, issued by a veterinarian, to be obtained for the raptor prior to shipment for export from Alaska. The bird can be microchipped by the vet at the same time the bird is examined for the required health certificate. Microchip identification can assist biologists, law enforcement, and state wildlife agencies keep track of wild origin birds that must stay in state falconry programs. These birds cannot be sold or transferred out of the United States. Implanting a microchip, a simple minimally evasive and inexpensive process, will go a long way in permanently identifying a wild-taken Alaska raptor once it has left the State of Alaska.

Highly prized raptors such as Alaska passage gyrfalcons and peregrine falcons have been traded and sold illegally in the past. ADF&G has documented one gyrfalcon that was trapped on the Yukon Delta as part of a scientific research study that was subsequently re-identified in the Middle East. We believe that implanting a microchip in each raptor that is trapped by a nonresident and subsequently exported from the state will aid in the proper use of that bird as a falconry bird and assist in tracking that bird through its life time.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Falconers Association (EG-F17-065)
****

PROPOSAL 22 – 5 AAC 92.037. Permits for falconry. Allow the take of up to five eyas goshawks by nonresidents as follows:

#1. The proponents request an annual take of up to five eyas goshawks (*Accipiter Gentilis*) by nonresident falconers.

#2. This proposed regulation is a new addition to the present Alaskan nonresident take of raptors, and is specific to goshawks.

#3. The proponents request the nonresident take of goshawks using an application and a lottery system administered by the ADF&G. We also suggest applicants be required to purchase a nonresident hunting license to enter the lottery.

#4. The proponents suggest that areas for nonresident take would be determined by ADF&G with the input of Alaskan falconers. Nonresidents must comply with all local state and federal laws concerning raptor take and must have prior approval to enter privately owned or native lands.

#5. The proponents suggest that successful applicants be required to check-out with ADF&G before being issued an export permit to leave the state with an eyas goshawk.

#6. The proponents suggest that a successful applicant will have a one or two year waiting period before being qualified to reapply for this lottery.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I represent a group of Alaskan falconers in favor of nonresident take of up to five eyas goshawks per year for nonresident American citizens. The use of eyas raptors in falconry is a normal practice in Alaska and in the lower 48 states. Very few raptors are taken by Alaskan falconers and this traditional practice by nonresidents will have virtually no effect on Alaska's resident falconers or to the resource. Goshawks are a common species and available to beginning falconers in the state. It is estimated that about 70% of first year raptors die within their first year. In addition, the survivability of the remaining nestlings can be enhanced by reduced competition for food.

The approval of nonresident eyas take of goshawks will provide limited additional funds to the State of Alaska and may financially benefit the private sector through the acquisition of services to access areas for goshawk take. This, for some in the sport, is a once-in-a-lifetime adventure similar to other users coming to our great state.

The proponents would like to thank the Alaska Board of Game for their consideration of this proposal. We are proud of the privilege of residing in Alaska and having access to its vast natural resources, and are willing and happy to share with others our passion for the sport.

PROPOSED BY: Timothy Sell (EG-F17-022)
****

PROPOSAL 23 – 5 AAC 92.037. Permits for falconry. Update the falconry manual as follows:

The falconry manual has been revised to remove spelling and typographic errors, update changes in statutes and regulations, and update changes to scientific names. In addition, the manual has been condensed by removing redundant statements via the combination of the former "General Information" and "Falconry Standards" sections. This new manual has been provided to the Boards Support Section in both 'clean' and 'track changes' versions (see www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=gameboard.proposalbook). The Department of Fish and Game proposes the Board of Game (board) adopt *Alaska Falconry Manual* No. 10 by reference in 5 AAC 92.037.

In addition, the nomenclature (genus) of the western screech-owl has changed according to the American Ornithological Society. We propose the board adopt the updated nomenclature in section (f) of the existing regulation, 5 AAC 92.037.

5 AAC 92.037 Permit for falconry.

(a) A permit and valid, current Alaska hunting license is required for taking, transporting, or possessing a raptor for falconry or for practicing falconry in this state. The permit will be issued under standards, procedures, and conditions set out in the Falconry Standards section of the *Alaska Falconry Manual* No. **10** [9], dated July 1, **2018** [2012]; that section of the falconry manual is hereby adopted by reference. Only a bird defined in (f) of this section as a raptor may be taken, transported, imported, exported, held, or possessed for falconry.

(f) In this section, "raptor" means any bird of the following species, including all subspecies of those species:

(1) northern harrier (*Circus cyaneus*); (2) sharp-shinned hawk (*Accipiter striatus*); (3) northern goshawk; any nonindigenous subspecies of northern goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*) must be behaviorally (imprinting) or surgically sterilized, except *Accipiter gentilis atricapillus* or *A.g. laing*i.; (4) red-tailed or Harlan's hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*); (5) rough-legged hawk *(Buteo lagopus*); (6) golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*); (7) white-tailed sea eagle (*Haliaeetus albicilla*); (8) Steller's sea eagle (*Haliaeetus pelagicus*); (9) American kestrel (*Falco sparverius*); (10) Eurasian kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*); (11) Asiatic sparrow hawk (*Accipiter gularis*); (12) merlin (*Falco columbarius*); (13) gyrfalcon (*Falco rusticolus*); (14) peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*); (15) great-horned owl (*Bubo virginianus*); (16) snowy owl (*Bubo scandiacus*); (17) northern hawk-owl (*Surnia ulula*); (18) barred owl (*Strix varia*); (19) great-gray owl (*Strix nebulosa*); (20) western screech-owl (***Megascops*** *[OTUS] kennicottii*); (21) northern pygmy-owl (*Glaucidium gnoma*); (22) long-eared owl (*Asio otus*); (23) short-eared owl (*Asio flammeus*); (24) boreal owl (*Aegolius funereus*); (25) northern saw-whet owl (*Aegolius acadicus*); (26) a hybrid of the species in this subsection that is produced by a raptor breeder; and (27) the following nonindigenous species: (A) Harris's hawk (*Parabuteo unicinctus*); (B) Cooper's hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*); (C) Ferruginous hawk (*Buteo regalis*); (D) Swainson's hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*); (E) prairie falcon (*Falco mexicanus*); (F) Aplomado falcon (*Falco femoralis*).

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? In 2008, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USF&WS) substantially changed its regulations governing falconry and required the states to promulgate falconry regulations that are the same or stricter than the federal rules. The USF&WS eliminated the federal permit required for falconry, but retained oversight responsibility for falconry. As such, Alaska was required to be certified by the USF&WS as meeting the federal standards by January 1, 2014. Therefore, the board adopted regulations and the *Alaska Falconry Manual* No. 9 during the 2012 board cycle.

Since 2012, falconers and Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) staff have found spelling and typographic errors within the manual. In addition, the falconry regulation (5 AAC 92.037) was updated during the 2014 board cycle to include a nonresident take program, and the statute listing the minimum age requirement for resident hunting licenses (AS 16.05.340) was updated in January 2017. These changes have resulted in portions of the manual being out of date.

Lastly, several parts of *Alaska Falconry Manual* No. 9 were stated in slightly different ways in multiple locations of the *Manual* (i.e., under both the "General Information" and "Falconry Standards" sections). As a result, falconers, ADF&G, Alaska Wildlife Troopers, and the Department of Law found the *Manual* could be interpreted differently depending on where and who referenced the *Manual*. As a result, ADF&G and Alaska Falconers Association worked together to condense the *Manual* by deleting the repetitions from the "General Information" section and clarifying any necessary statements in the "Falconry Standards" section.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F17-032)
****

Hunting Permits & Harvest Tickets

PROPOSAL 24 – 5 AAC 92.044(10). Permit for hunting bear with the use of bait or scent lures. Define the term "equipment" for bear baiting as follows:

5 AAC 92.044. Permit for hunting bear with the use of bait

(10) a permittee must remove bait, litter, and equipment from the bait station site when hunting is completed; **for the purposes of this section "equipment" is defined as barrels, tree stands, game cameras, and other items that may be left in the field for use at a bear bait station. Tree stands may be left in the field year-round with permission of the landowner or land manager.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Board of Game needs to define "equipment" as tree stands, game cameras, and other equipment that may be left in the field as hunting equipment.

The Department of Natural Resources has decided that all hunters will need a permit to leave a stand or camera in the field for more than 14 days in the same location, requiring a fee. We are hoping for an administrative resolution but this proposal is a placeholder in case there is not one reached.

PROPOSED BY: Aaron Bloomquist (EG-F17-103)
****

PROPOSAL 25 – 5 AAC 92.010. Harvest tickets and reports. Require harvest tickets for all brown bear hunts statewide as follows:

Create a harvest ticket for brown bear and require it to hunt them statewide.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Brown bear/grizzlies are one of the premier game animals in Alaska and the Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) have no way of telling how many people actually hunt them every year. I think it is vital the ADF&G start keeping track of how many people hunt bears and how much effort is put in hunting them. With much milder winters we seem to have a growing bear population statewide. By tracking how many bears are being seen by hunters, how many are being harvested and how much effort is made to hunt them, ADF&G will have a lot better idea of what is going on out in the field and how to best manage them. We have a statewide requirement for black bear harvest tickets. I see no reason we shouldn't have one for brown bear.

PROPOSED BY: Dan Montgomery (EG-F17-069)
****

PROPOSAL 26 – 5 AAC 92.050. Required permit hunt conditions and procedures. Animals harvested under auction and raffle permits will not count against the regular bag limit as follows:

Amend 5 AAC 92.050 to include a new subsection to read:

Permits issued under AS 16.05.343 do not count against the regular bag limit for nonresidents or residents for any big game species.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?
Auction and raffle big game tags (governor's tags).

I propose that the Alaska auction and raffle big game tags issued under Alaska Statute 16.05.343 not be subject to the normal bag limit regulations.

Auction and raffle big game tags are fundraisers for both the State of Alaska and for the nonprofit organization offering the tag. These tags are different and special and should not be subject to the normal bag limits of the general season, drawing, and registration types of hunts. This would apply to either one-year, four-year, ten-year, or lifetime bag limits, whichever applies to the species of big game tag being auctioned or raffled.

Auction and raffle tags should be treated differently and looked at as a separate means of obtaining a tag. For example, if the same person wanted to purchase the Unimak brown bear tag at auction every year, the way the system is now, he would not be able to do this, as he is held to the "one in four" brown bear bag limit rule. I believe a person should be able to buy the Unimak brown bear auction tag every year if he is able and desires to. Another example would be if a person wanted to purchase the Chugach Dall sheep tag but couldn't because he is a nonresident and had hunted sheep in Alaska within the last four years.

Making auction and raffle tags not subject to the bag limit requirements for all "normal" tags would add substantial value to the tags. Both the state and the nonprofit organization would stand to benefit from this. Under 5 AAC 92.050 the Board of Game (board) has already authorized this for the Delta bison (Unit 20D) governor's tag. We see no reason why the board could not include all governor's tag permits issued under AS 16.05.343 for any species within this regulation.

PROPOSED BY: Frank Noska IV (HQ-F17-017)
****

PROPOSAL 27 – 5 AAC 92.050(a) Required permit hunt conditions and procedures. Modify the required permit hunt procedures for applying for drawing permits as follows:

5 AAC 92.050(a)(2) except as provided in 5 AAC 92.061 and 5 AAC 92.069, a person may not
(A) apply for more than six drawing permit hunts for the same species per regulatory year[, WITH NO MORE THAN THREE FOR BULL MOOSE HUNTS];
…

5 AAC 92.050(a)(3) the commissioner shall void all applications by one person for more than six hunts for the same species, [OR THREE HUNTS FOR BULL MOOSE AS DESCRIBED IN (2)(A) OF THIS SUBSECTION,] and all applications by one person for more than one moose hunt for a nonresident in Unit 23;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? In 2012 the Board of Game (board) increased the number of moose hunts applicants could apply for to six, but limited the number of bull hunts to three to encourage applicants to apply for antlerless hunts. When the board made the increase, the provision that required all applications be invalidated for that species remained in place, and the result was many applicants unknowingly invalidated all of their chances at any moose hunts.

The restriction on the number of bull moose hunts a person can apply for has resulted in a large number of invalidated applications. The recent change to allow applicants to apply for each hunt more than once exacerbated this problem to the point that corrective actions had to be taken.

The Department of Fish and Game believes the restriction is no longer necessary and requests the board consider removing the restriction. The original issue the board attempted to address in 2012 was undersubscribed antlerless moose hunts, and the department has started to identify those and submit proposals to change them to registration hunts where appropriate.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F17-028)
****

Note: The following proposal requests a change to a Board of Game Policy #2007-173-BOG. Although it does not propose a regulatory change, it is included in the proposal book for public comment for the board's consideration.

PROPOSAL 28 – 2007-173-BOG. Nonresident drawing permit allocation policy. Modify the Board of Game nonresident drawing permit allocation policy as follows:

Possible new language: *"Allocations to nonresident hunters will be based on a subunit by subunit basis so that resident hunters always have a definitive hunting and harvest priority."*

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?
Nonresident Drawing Permit Allocation Policy.

We ask that the Board of Game (board) review and revise the 2007-173-BOG finding that sets policy on how the board will allocate draw permits to nonresidents. The current language in the finding states that: *"Allocations will be determined on a case by case basis and will be based upon the historical data of nonresident and resident permit allocation over the past ten years."*

This policy does not state if harvest data or participation data will be used, and is unclear what takes place for a new draw permit hunt where we have not had any previous "permit allocation" data.

Another concern is that if it is the board's intent to use past historical harvest and/or participation data to determine nonresident allocations for future draw-permit hunts, in many cases—for Dall sheep, for example—nonresidents would end up receiving the majority of the permits.

In Unit 19C, the board has allowed unlimited nonresident sheep hunting opportunity for the past ten years, and nonresident hunters have taken up to 80% of the annual sheep harvest and make up more than half of all hunters. The current policy, if the board should ever put nonresidents on a draw-only permit hunt in Unit 19C, would give nonresidents a priority.

There was a moose draw permit hunt instituted in 2008 by the board (DM 809, 810, 811) in which nonresidents receive 50 percent of the permits. Should a proposal be submitted from resident hunters to reduce that nonresident allocation, the board's current policy only ensures that unfair allocation to nonresident hunters be kept in place.

We would like the Board of Game to institute a new finding and policy on nonresident permit allocations that stipulates that residents will always receive a definitive harvest and participation priority over nonresidents.

PROPOSED BY: Resident Hunters of Alaska (EG-F17-075)
****

Note: The Board of Game repealed this requirement at the February 2017 Interior/Northeast Arctic Region Meeting.

PROPOSAL 29 – 5 AAC 92.130. Restrictions to bag limit. Remove the bag limit restriction for resident relatives accompanying nonresident relatives within the second degree of kindred as follows:

I ask the Board of Game to remove this "shared bag limit" restriction.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I would like to address the newly adopted regulation, to have "shared bag limits" between residents and their second degree relative. Guides do not have a similar restriction placed on them during a hunting season, and will often guide more than one client successfully to harvest the same species within the same year. Not only are they allowed to have more than one successful client in a given year, they are also allowed their own bag limit. The "shared bag limit" rule only applies to two categories of people: residents of Alaska, and their nonresident kindred.

This regulation also lacks significant conservation basis. It is designed to specifically target the "guide-required" species such as sheep, and instances of "doubling up" on them are very rare indeed. Removing this possibility also removes the incredible memories of such a trip.

Perhaps much more importantly, this rule could be opening the door to future unintended regulations on Alaskan families. While many people may not care very much about limiting access to sheep hunting, opinions could be very different when these rules are extended to other species. Using the "shared bag limits" of the current guide-required species as an example, these

same rules may soon be applied to moose, caribou, etc. **If you believe in the amazing power of maintaining family bonds through shared hunting experiences, I beg you to be a proponent of keeping nonresident second degree kindred hunting rights intact, for all species of Alaska.**

PROPOSED BY: Chris Harper (EG-F17-053)
****

PROPOSAL 30 – 5 AAC 92.050. Required permit hunt conditions and procedures, and 92.130. Restrictions to bag limit. Allow nonresident hunters to harvest brown bear, sheep or goat on behalf of their Alaska resident second degree of kindred relative's permit as follows:

5 AAC 92.050(a) is amended to read:

(a) The following conditions and procedures for permit issuance apply to each permit hunt:

(1) the applicant or the applicant's agent shall complete the application form; two hunters may apply as a party in a drawing permit hunt, and if drawn, both applicants will receive a permit; a permit application that is incomplete, or that does not include, if required, an Alaska big game hunting license number, or that contains a false statement, is void; the applicant must obtain or apply for an Alaska big game hunting license before submitting a drawing permits application; and

(A) to apply for a drawing permit hunt, for any hunt that requires a registered or master guide, a nonresident or a nonresident alien must contract a qualified registered guide or master guide as their agent to submit the application and provide hunting services; the contracting registered guide or master guide, shall provide, at the time of application, their current unique verification code that has been issued to them pursuant to 12 AAC 75.260(d);

(B) **in a drawing permit hunt for brown bear, grizzly bear, mountain goat, or sheep where there is no resident draw for that species in that area** the requirement in 5 AAC 92.050(a)(1)(A) does not apply if the applicant is a nonresident and will be accompanied by a resident over 19 years of age who is a spouse or a relative within the second degree of kindred, as described in AS 16.05.407(a);

(C) in a drawing permit hunt for brown bear, grizzly bear, mountain goat, or sheep where there is a resident draw for that species in that area a nonresident that will be accompanied by a resident over 19 years of age who is a spouse or a relative within the second degree of kindred, as described in AS 16.05.407(a), may not apply for a drawing permit;

...

(F) an individual who is a successful applicant for a specific drawing permit hunt is ineligible to apply for a **drawing** permit for that specific hunt the following year **except a resident individual may apply for a drawing permit for that specific hunt the following year**

when a nonresident who is a spouse or relative within the second degree of kindred, as described in AS 16.05.407(a), takes a brown bear, grizzly bear, mountain goat, or sheep under the resident's drawing permit as described in 5 AAC 92.130(k) for that specific hunt;

...

(4) permit issuance:

5 AAC 92.130 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

(k) a brown bear, grizzly bear, mountain goat, or sheep may be taken by a nonresident under the drawing permit of a resident relative when personally accompanied by that resident relative, as described in AS 16.05.407(a)(2) and will count as the bag limit of the nonresident only.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The intent of this proposal is to allow a nonresident hunter to harvest a brown bear, sheep, or goat on behalf of their Alaska resident second degree of kindred relative's permit. This would be done similar to the way a youth, under the age of ten, is allowed to harvest big game on behalf of another licensed hunter, however, the nonresident relative's harvest WOULD NOT count against the resident's bag limit. There are several brown bear, sheep, and goat permit hunts in the state that offer extremely restricted nonresident participation, however, under this proposal, the nonresident hunter who is hunting on behalf of his Alaska resident second degree of kindred relative's permit would still be able to participate in the hunt. The intent is not that the permit be transferred to the nonresident, but that the harvest would be done using the Alaska resident's hunt permit by either the resident or their bonafide family member.

Since the nonresident hunter who is hunting for either brown bear, sheep, or goats with a second degree of kindred resident relative would be harvesting the animal on behalf of the resident relative's permit, the nonresident does not need to apply for a drawing permit for brown bear, sheep, or goats and would be prohibited from doing so. They would still be allowed to apply for all other drawing permits.

The nonresident would still be required to purchase a nonresident hunting license and the appropriate big game tag.

When a nonresident harvested a brown bear, sheep, or goat on behalf of an Alaska resident second degree of kindred relative's permit, the harvest WOULD NOT count against the bag limit of the Alaska resident. The Alaska resident would still be able to harvest the same species under a general season tag where available in the same regulatory year. The Alaska resident WOULD BE allowed to apply for the same permit hunt the next year.

We also request that the any harvest of brown bear, sheep, or goat by a nonresident hunter on behalf of their Alaska resident second degree of kindred relative's permit be tracked on the Hunt Report Card.

This proposal DOES NOT affect the harvest of non-guide required species, i.e. moose, caribou, elk, black bear, deer, etc…

This proposal is not designed as a restriction. This proposal is designed to offer benefits to residents wishing to hunt with their nonresident relatives while clarifying allocations for hunts that offer extremely limited opportunities for nonresident participation.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Professional Hunters Association (EG-F17-102)
****

PROPOSAL 31 – 5 AAC 92.050. Required permit hunt conditions and procedures. Establish a preference point system for drawing hunts as follows:

Review and change the actual computer methodology of drawing hunt permits to incorporate the concepts of fairness given below. Specifically incorporate the concept that no one could draw more than one hunt before all applicants had a chance to draw and some type of preference for those who failed to draw in any given year. Also incorporate a preference for Alaskan residents in the drawing hunts similar to what other states do for their residents. These concepts should not be difficult to incorporate into a computer program.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The current drawing hunt permit methodology could be better. There are instances where one individual will be drawn for several hunts in a single year while other applicants do not get drawn at all. In some cases, recipients of multiple hunts cannot use all of the hunts they have been awarded because those hunts overlap. About ten (or so) years ago the Board of Game passed a provision for bonus or preference points for drawing hunts but that was ignored by ADF&G or dropped as being impractical. I believe the entire drawing hunt system should be reviewed and changed. It would not be difficult to be certain that no individual was drawn for more than one hunt until everyone had drawn and there were unsubscribed hunts remaining at which point second or even third computer runs could award additional hunts to applicants who had already drawn one or more hunts. In addition, a priority system should be established so that individuals who had failed to draw anything in previous years would have increased opportunity to draw in future years. Resident hunters should receive some percentage preference in the drawing hunts as is done in nearly all other states that have drawing permit hunts.

PROPOSED BY: John Frost (EG-F17-086)
****

PROPOSAL 32 – 5 AAC 92.050. Required permit hunt conditions and procedures. Establish a bonus point system for bison and muskox drawing hunts as follows:

I suggest the Board of Game come up with a bonus point system for both bison and muskox similar to many of the western states. Each year an individual does not get drawn, he or she will get a bonus point. The following year, the hunter will get his or her name in the hat twice instead of once. Every unsuccessful year an application is submitted, the hunter gets his or her name in the hat an equal number of times to unsuccessful attempts. Individuals may be able to apply for a

hunt after he or she will be the age ten or older at the time of the hunt. Bonus points will be lost after someone successfully draws the hunt or the species is not applied for two consecutive years.

Bonus points allow everyone a chance to win but is weighted toward individuals who have been applying longer. Bonus points also help the state to generate more income since it encourages individuals to have the maximum points possible. Most western states make millions from applications alone.

Within this system, the Alaskan resident would have a large preference to our wildlife resources (bison and muskox). Currently, Alaskan residents have no preference for muskox or bison in the drawing applications. This proposal would allow a strong preference to residents, potentially limiting nonresidents to only one tag every two to three years depending on the data and what the Board of Game decides. A nonresident should never have an equal or close to equal opportunity to a limited wildlife resource where the Alaskan resident draw odds are greater than 1%.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Draw-only permit hunts for both residents and nonresidents reflect a need to limit the number of hunters afield for reasons that could be related to conservation, trophy-quality, hunt aesthetics, crowding etc. Whatever the rationale for a draw-only hunt for all user groups, and whatever the species, resident hunters should have a clear and substantial priority to draw a permit and an opportunity to hunt. Resident hunters don't currently have that preference. Currently, we have bison and muskox draw-only hunts for both residents and nonresidents that allow equal opportunity for a nonresident to draw a permit. Examples are: DI 403 and DX 001. If an individual hunter lives in Alaska, Florida, Montana, or Texas, each individual hunter has equal odds to our extremely limited Alaskan resource. The DI 403 Delta bison permit had 14,126 applicants for 50 permits in 2016 for a percent chance of drawing for all applicants. The DX 001 Nunivak Island muskox permit had 860 applicants for ten permits in 2016 for a one percent chance of drawing. These rare and highly sought after draw permit hunts should not allow nonresidents an equal opportunity to draw. Currently, the nonresident draw percentage for Delta bison is about one percent. That is the same odds of drawing as a resident. That is not fair to the resident hunter who has been putting in for decades for that permit, who lives here and contributes all year to the economy, and does not have reciprocal hunting opportunities in any of the western states.

PROPOSED BY: Brad Sparks (EG-F17-088)
****

<u>PROPOSAL 33</u> – 5 AAC 92.069. Special provisions for moose drawing permit hunts. Establish a ten percent nonresident moose drawing permit allocation as follows:

Where we currently have or in future may have draw-only permit hunts for both residents and nonresidents for moose, the nonresident allocations should reflect constitutional intent to maximize the benefit to resident Alaskans and be no more than "**<u>up to ten percent maximum</u>**" of the available number of permits.

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

Draw permit allocations for moose when both residents and nonresidents are restricted to draw-only permit hunts.

Draw-only permit hunts for both residents and nonresidents reflect a need to limit the number of hunters afield for reasons that could be related to conservation, trophy-quality, hunt aesthetics, crowding etc.

Whatever the rationale for a draw-only hunt for all user groups, resident hunters should have a clear and substantial priority to draw a permit and an opportunity to hunt. Resident hunters don't currently have that preference for moose statewide.

Many draw-only moose permit hunts allow an equal opportunity for nonresidents to apply for a set number of permits. Other hunts allocate from 25 to 50 percent of available moose draw permits to nonresidents. These types of allocations often take place in units where the Board of Game has a positive finding for customary and traditional uses of moose that goes hand in hand with state law that declares that "the taking of moose…by residents for personal or family consumption has preference over taking by nonresidents."

This type of allocation of moose hunting opportunity to nonresident hunters does not in any way comport with requirements in our state constitution to manage our wildlife resources for the common use and maximum benefit of Alaskans. Whatever label is attached to a moose hunt (e.g. subsistence, sport, trophy), residents should have a clear and substantial priority opportunity to participate in that hunt.

PROPOSED BY: Resident Hunters of Alaska (EG-F17-077)
****

<u>PROPOSAL 34</u> – 5 AAC 92.057. Special provisions for Dall sheep drawing permit hunts; 92.061. Special provisions for Unit 8 brown bear permit hunts; 92.069. Special provisions for moose drawing permit hunts; and 92.050. Required permit hunt conditions and procedures. In drawing hunts with a separate allocation for residents and nonresidents, all nonresident permits will be issued from the nonresident allocation as follows:

All nonresidents shall be placed in the nonresident pool of drawing tags for hunts with a separate allocation to nonresidents and residents.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?
Nonresident second degree of kindred in resident drawing pools.

Alaska's must-be-guided law (AS 16.05.407/408) was created in 1967, and would not have passed without the inclusion to allow nonresident hunters to hunt with a resident relative within second degree of kindred (2DK) in lieu of having to hire a guide.

The guide industry has pushed for years to separate out 2DK hunters from guided hunters and in some cases, like Kodiak, the nonresident 2DK hunters are in the resident pool of tags. All nonresident hunters should be treated equally according to our must-be-guided law. All

nonresident hunters should be in the same pool of nonresident tags under draw permit hunts with a separate allocation to nonresidents.

Regardless of the level of 2DK hunters for must-be-guided species, a nonresident hunter is a nonresident hunter, period. Alaska's must-be-guided law never intended for one class of nonresident hunters (2DK) to be singled out and separated from the other (guided). There is currently a push by the guide industry to remove the 2DK provision with a new regulation eliminating 2DK nonresident tags entirely; all 2DK hunters in the future will only be allowed to hunt with a resident relative who has drawn a resident tag. The resident relative would essentially forfeit his or her tag and give it to their nonresident relative. That would be worse than putting all 2DK nonresident hunters in the resident pool of tags because it would prevent a resident and nonresident 2DK hunter from both drawing a tag and both having an opportunity to harvest an animal together.

Again, this is not what our must-be-guided law intended. Legislators realized that most nonresidents hunting must-be-guided species would hire a guide. They included the 2DK provision not as a benefit to certain nonresidents over others, but as a way of carrying on family hunting traditions and opportunities. 2DK hunters should never be dependent on a resident relative to put in and draw a tag in order to hunt with them in Alaska. A nonresident 2DK hunter should be given the same opportunity to draw a tag as a nonresident guided hunter, within the nonresident pool of tags.

Treat all nonresidents equally as our must-be-guided law intended.

PROPOSED BY: Resident Hunters of Alaska (EG-F17-100)
****

PROPOSAL 35 – 5 AAC 92.057. Special provisions for Dall sheep drawing permit hunts; 92.061. Special provisions for Unit 8 brown bear permit hunts; 92.069. Special provisions for moose drawing permit hunts; and 92.050. Required permit hunt conditions and procedures. Allow nonresidents and residents to apply as a party for hunts having separate permits for residents and nonresidents as follows:

My proposal is that for any such drawing with separate permit codes for residents/nonresidents, hunters be allowed to apply as a party regardless of residency status. A pair of hunters consisting of one resident and one nonresident will only be issued those respective permits if, when their draw number is reached, there is still at least one tag available for both the resident and nonresident in their respective allocative pools. This should apply not only to Unit 14C, but any drawing hunts statewide that separate resident and nonresident permit pools.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? There are certain drawing hunts that designate allocation amounts to residents and nonresidents, but are effectively the same hunt (locations, dates, methods, etc.). They sometimes have separate hunts codes for each, such as the Dall sheep permits in Unit 14C. This removes the ability of any resident-nonresident pair of hunters to submit a "party application" in hopes of hunting together in those areas.

PROPOSED BY: Chris Harper (EG-F17-054)
****

<u>PROPOSAL 36</u> – 5 AAC 92.057. Special provisions for Dall sheep and mountain goat drawing permit hunts. Change nonresident general sheep hunts to drawing permit hunts with a ten percent permit allocation cap as follows:

In areas where general season sheep hunting opportunity is allowed for both residents and nonresidents, limit all nonresident sheep hunters to draw-only hunts.

Set allocations so that participation rates of nonresidents do not exceed ten percent of the total participation rates of residents in any individual subunit, based on the last three years of historical data.

This solution will benefit the sheep resource and all resident sheep hunters if adopted.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?
Unlimited nonresident sheep hunting opportunity and high nonresident sheep harvest rates.

This proposal follows a decade of proposals from resident hunters asking the Alaska Board of Game (board) to limit nonresident sheep hunters. The nonresident harvest rates of 60-80 percent of our Dall sheep in some areas of the state and the problems associated with that level of nonresident mostly-guided competition are well known to the board. The board has continually stalled taking any action on resident hunter proposals to address these problems while publicly testifying in complete agreement that these problems exist and are harming resident hunters.

These problems don't occur in all areas of the state but the board has made it clear that any solutions must be statewide in nature and not through regional proposals that seek to deal with the problems on a subunit by subunit basis.

All along the board has said that the problem is not one of too many nonresident sheep hunters, most of whom must hire a guide, rather it was a problem of "too many guides," and thus the board only supports the guide-industry preferred solution to limit guides. This "Guide Concession Program" that would be under the auspices of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has already cost the state a half-million dollars in planning and meetings, and finally as it made its way through the legislature with yet still a million-dollar fiscal note, it did not pass out of committee. It has not been revived and with our current budget situation it is a non-starter. The guide industry has been lobbying the legislature for one million dollars in federal funds to start up the Guide Concession Program, and we simply cannot believe that yet again guides are asking for a subsidy from not only Alaskan taxpayers, but now from every American citizen.

The Board of Game has claimed for nearly ten years that the Guide Concession Program is their preferred solution. And the board still alludes they will wait for the concession program to be implemented before putting nonresident sheep hunters on draw hunts with a limited allocation. In the face of known problems we ask again for the board to act to protect the resource and give resident sheep hunters the hunting priority our constitution demands.

This proposal is exactly what the Department of Natural Resources Recommended as an alternative to the Guide Concession Program (GCP).

From DNR Alternatives:
"The first BOG alternative to the GCP is for the board to further restrict non-resident hunting opportunity. This could be accomplished by expanding the drawing and/or registration permit systems for non-residents, while simultaneously reducing or eliminating non-resident general harvest seasons and bag limits. This alternative would help to address the issues of quality of experience and conflicts between users by decreasing the number of non-resident hunters in the field. It may also address wildlife conservation concerns in cases where overharvest is an issue."

PROPOSED BY: Resident Hunters of Alaska (EG-F17-079)
****

PROPOSAL 37 – 5 AAC 92.008(5). Harvest guideline levels. Limit nonresident sheep harvest to no more than ten percent of total harvest per subunit as follows:

Amend 92.008 by adding a new subsection to read:

(5) Dall sheep: the annual harvest of Dall sheep by nonresident hunters shall be managed so that in any given three-year period the average annual harvest does not exceed 10 percent of the total sheep harvest for any individual subunit.

All nonresident sheep hunts will be draw-only hunts with an allocation set subunit by subunit under 5 AAC 92.008 so that harvest levels do not exceed ten percent of the total sheep harvest per subunit based on using the last three years of historical harvest data.

This solution will benefit the sheep resource and all resident sheep hunters if adopted.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?
Unlimited nonresident sheep hunting opportunity and high nonresident sheep harvest rates.

This proposal follows a decade of proposals from resident hunters asking the Alaska Board of Game (board) to limit nonresident sheep hunters. The nonresident harvest rates of 60-80 percent of our Dall sheep in some areas of the state and the problems associated with that level of nonresident mostly-guided competition are well known to the board. The board has continually stalled taking any action on resident hunter proposals to address these problems while publicly testifying in complete agreement that these problems exist and are harming resident hunters.

These problems don't occur in all areas of the state but the board has made it clear that any solutions must be statewide in nature and not through regional proposals that seek to deal with the problems on a subunit by subunit basis.

All along the board has said that the problem is not one of too many nonresident sheep hunters, most of whom must hire a guide, rather it was a problem of "too many guides," and thus the

board only supports the guide-industry preferred solution to limit guides. This "Guide Concession Program" would be under the auspices of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and has already cost the state nearly a half-million dollars in planning and meetings, and finally as it made its way through the legislature with yet still a million-dollar fiscal note, it did not pass out of committee. It has not been revived and with our current budget situation it is a non-starter. The guide industry has been lobbying the legislature and our congressional delegation for one million dollars in federal funds to start up the Guide Concession Program, and we simply cannot believe that yet again guides are asking for a subsidy from not only Alaskan taxpayers, but now from every American citizen.

The Board of Game has claimed for nearly ten years that the Guide Concession Program is their preferred solution. Let's stop waiting for something that is so costly and unlikely to be implemented. In the face of known problems we ask again for the board to act to protect the resource and give resident sheep hunters the hunting priority our constitution demands.

This Proposal is exactly what the Department of Natural Resources Recommended as an Alternative to the Guide Concession Program (GCP)

From DNR Alternatives:
"The second BOG [Board of Game] alternative to the GCP is for the board to establish a specific harvest level for non-resident hunters. The BOG would allocate a percentage of the harvestable surplus, such as 10%, to non-residents, potentially statewide and for all species, and the vehicle for this system would likely be drawing permits. This is different than the first alternative in that the allocation to non-residents would be fixed at a percentage of surplus rather than just reducing opportunity as needed."

PROPOSED BY: Resident Hunters of Alaska (EG-F17-074)
****

PROPOSAL 38 – 5 AAC 92.130. Restrictions to bag limit. Implement a sliding scale bag limit for Dall sheep hunting for residents as follows:

I propose a resident sliding scale harvest based on age of the ram harvested such as: A Resident Ram Harvest Age Index. If a harvested ram is ten years or older, the hunter may hunt sheep the following year. If the ram is nine years old, the hunter cannot hunt sheep the following year (sits out a year). If the ram is eight years old, the hunter cannot hunt sheep for the next two years (seasons). If the ram is seven years old, the hunter cannot hunt sheep for three years. If the ram is six years or younger, the hunter cannot hunt sheep for five years. In each case, age is the criterion for when they may get a tag to hunt sheep again, regardless of whether it is full curl or not. Full curl would still apply for a legal sheep and because of the sliding scale penalizing hunters for taking younger rams even though legal by full curl standards or the eight annuli requirements, hunters would be more selective in order to be able to hunt without a break. This does not directly diminish hunter opportunity, but requires hunters to select towards older rams that are more likely to succumb to winter mortality.

The positives from such a system are: 1. Creates more selectivity, 2. Leaves more sheep on the mountain, 3. Encourages shooting older rams, 4. Strongly discourages shooting of sub-legal and younger rams, 5. Those that choose to harvest a young ram that is legal by full curl standards, shoot knowing that if it has less than ten annuli, they will have to sit out X number of years depending on the age of the ram. This will help towards leaving more mature rams on the mountain and allow some rams that become large at a younger age to possibly survive another year or two. 6. It still allows opportunity based on choice by the hunter and may help with crowding since some will be sitting out for having harvested a younger ram. 7. It could also be managed such that when a hunter harvests a sub-legal ram which is his first ram ever harvested, he could keep the ram provided it was over 7/8 curl and at least seven years of age. This is more lenient than the current regulation, but would only apply for a hunter's first ram. This would cut down on litigation for the state, help keep from having rams left in the field, create better relations with new hunters and at the same time be restrictive since they will have to sit out a number of years based on the ram's age. To further cut down on hunters leaving sheep in the field, convicted offenders of such an offense would receive a lifetime ban on hunting Dall sheep in Alaska.

If this Age Index Harvest Scale seems too harsh, the age side could be slid up one notch to read: If a hunter harvests a nine year or older ram, the hunter would be eligible to hunt sheep the following year, etc., but I personally would prefer the original scale. If this scale approach appears to have merit, relaxing it would be better than discarding it altogether.

Finally, and this has nothing to do with this proposal, but does address nonresidents harvesting fewer rams than they currently harvest, which is 45% some years. It is time that the GCP (Guide Concession Program) be resurrected and supported by such organizations as RHAK (Resident Hunters of Alaska), APHA (Alaska Professional Hunter's Association) and WSF (Wild Sheep Foundation), and get HB 158 passed. This would give the needed control of too many guides in an area and unlimited harvest by nonresidents. I believe the only way to avert going to an all draw for sheep is to go to the age index I am proposing and having a Guide Concession Program. If we do nothing and go to an all-draw for sheep, everyone loses. Nonresidents will go to a percentage allocation and residents will seldom draw the area they really would like to hunt. We have all been too selfish and the time has come to act responsibly for the sake of the resource and quit being greedy.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The issue is harvesting too many young and marginally legal rams yearly; both resident and nonresident hunters. Our sheep populations are significantly diminished mainly due to changes in weather that causes melting and refreezing icing conditions in the winter. Our harvest levels have steadily fallen to less than 50% of harvests in the late 80s into the early 90s. The fight has become a resident vs. nonresident harvest issue. Neither side seems willing to give to help keep more sheep on the mountain. Since residents comprise 90% of sheep hunters in the field and I believe that most sheep hunters really want a quality older ram, why not raise the standard by which they are harvested; somewhat like is done in many moose areas? Hunters would become more selective.

PROPOSED BY: Lewis Bradley (EG-F17-027)
****

PROPOSAL 39 – 5 AAC 5 AAC 92.130. Restrictions to bag limit. Implement a sliding scale bag limit for Dall sheep hunting for residents and nonresidents as follows:

5 AAC 92.130. Restrictions to bag limit
Modify the statewide Dall sheep bag limit as follows

(k) Statewide Dall sheep bag limit, unless otherwise provided in 5 AAC 85-92:

One "full-curl ram" ten years old or older annually, however, if the ram taken is under ten years old

	Years off from sheep hunting	
	Residents	Nonresidents
9 year old	1	4
8 year old	2	6
7 year old	3	8
6 years or younger	4	10
Any sub legal	5	lifetime

Sublegal is determined by ADF&G staff and does not require criminal charges.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Virtually all sheep hunters agree that it is advantageous to have more older rams on the mountain. I would ask the Board of Game to implement a "sliding scale" bag limit for Dall sheep statewide, except areas where the bag limit is "any ram". This scale would encourage the take of older rams and greatly discourage the take of any sheep close to sublegal.

An alternative would be to only implement the sublegal portion of this proposal which would be much simpler. Reported sublegal harvest has held steady around ten percent for years. There is also a significant portion of rams that are sublegal that are not charged criminally. These rams could have consequences under this system if the district attorney does not decide to charge or ADF&G decides not to forward for charges. I would suggest a panel of at least three ADF&G employees determine these cases.

PROPOSED BY: Aaron Bloomquist (EG-F17-105)
****

PROPOSAL 40 – 5 AAC 92.057. Special provisions for Dall sheep and mountain goat drawing permit hunts. Allow nonresidents that have successfully harvested a Dall sheep in the last three years to apply for Dall sheep permits annually as follows:

I propose that if any hunter currently under the "one sheep every four regulatory years" restriction be allowed to apply for and be included in the drawing for Dall sheep drawing permits. This will need to be an additional section under 5 AAC 92.057, to provide clarity in this unique situation.

If this proposal is accepted by the Board of Game, there are several important points to consider:

The majority of the time, as proven by my friends and family, this will simply result in monetary donation and funding to ADF&G, as the odds remain low of actually drawing a permit. Denying this proposal would result in some lost revenue to ADF&G.

An option for the board to consider on this proposal:

If a permit is successfully drawn within this window, the hunter will only be issued the permit if he or she voluntarily gives up all other big game hunting rights in Alaska that year. This would allow for a dream hunt to occur, while reducing competition for all other hunts.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I would like to address the inability of a few nonresident hunters to apply for highly coveted Dall sheep permits. According to the most recent Drawing Permit Hunt Supplement, the odds of successfully drawing a permit for Dall sheep remain very low. The majority of these permits have drawing odds between zero and five percent. Except for the lucky few, these tags for most people are either once-in-a-lifetime, or never-in-a-lifetime. Therefore, everyone should be able to apply for these highly coveted tags.

The only people who are excluded from this, I believe, are those nonresidents who successfully harvested a sheep in Alaska in the prior three years. Residents who have successfully taken sheep are not excluded from applying. Just because a hunter has had success in the past, he or she should not be excluded from a potential opportunity of a lifetime.

PROPOSED BY: Chris Harper (EG-F17-052)
****

PROPOSAL 41 – 5 AAC 92.012. Licenses and tags. Exempt rural subsistence hunters from the requirements for obtaining a waterfowl conservation tag as follows:

The Native Caucus of the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management Council (AMBCC) would like the Alaska Board of Game to consider establishing an exemption from the regulation requiring all hunters under the age of 18 to purchase an Alaska Waterfowl Conservation Tag (State Duck Stamp). This would exempt rural Alaska subsistence hunters from having to purchase the waterfowl conservation tag in order to participate in the federal spring-summer subsistence harvest season for migratory birds.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Native Caucus of the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management Council (AMBCC) requests that the board exercise its authority under Alaska Statute 16.05.340 to promulgate a regulation exempting people who live in eligible areas (as defined by 50 C.F.R. § 92.5(a)) and who engage in subsistence hunting of migratory birds from the requirement that they obtain a state waterfowl conservation tag, or duck stamp, for waterfowl hunting for the subsistence harvest season for migratory birds. In the alternative, the Native Caucus requests the board take any action within its power to exempt

subsistence hunters from having to obtain a state duck stamp in order to participate in the subsistence harvest of migratory birds.

Under AS 16.05.340(a)(17)(B), the board can by regulation exempt the requirement of a waterfowl conservation tag for waterfowl hunting in areas of the state not likely to benefit from the programs described in AS 16.05.130(b)(2)-(4).

AS 16.05.130(b)(2)-(4) provides that money accruing to the state from waterfowl conservation tag fees from hunters may not be diverted to a purpose other than…

(2) the acquisition, by lease or otherwise, of wetlands that are important for waterfowl and public use of waterfowl in the state;

(3) waterfowl related projects approved by the Commissioner;

(4) the administration of the waterfowl conservation program…

In 2014, Congress amended the Duck Stamp Act to exempt the customary and traditional subsistence harvest of migratory waterfowl in Alaska from the Act's requirements that all hunters purchase and carry federal duck stamps. Federal law now exempts rural Alaskan residents engaged in subsistence uses of migratory waterfowl from having to obtain a federal duck stamp. *See* 16 U.S.C. § 718a(a)(2)(D). Given the preemptive nature of federal law over the management and regulation of migratory birds, state laws and regulations should be consistent with those federal requirements, and should not require obtaining a state duck stamp in order to engage in subsistence uses of migratory waterfowl.

Furthermore, included areas within Alaska where subsistence migratory bird hunting is allowed under 50 C.F.R. § 92.5(a) will not benefit from the programs described in AS 16.05.130(b)(2)-(4).

Finally, requiring that subsistence users obtain a state duck stamp is inconsistent with the subsistence way of life and customary subsistence practices. Alaska native hunters have long viewed the subsistence harvest of migratory birds and their eggs as a community tradition, as people often hunt or egg together as a family, and community members often hunt and egg for other community members who cannot. Migratory birds and their eggs are widely shared and distributed throughout the community, as well. Requiring the purchase of a duck stamp in order to participate is alien to these customary and traditional harvests.

Compliance with this requirement also places an extra administrative burden upon subsistence users, many of whom live in remote areas, and creates a financial hardship for those who can least afford it. The requirement is also inconsistent with customary and traditional practices.

Unless the board takes action, the customary and traditional harvest of migratory birds and their eggs will be deprived of an important part of its customary and traditional character, as hunters and egg gatherers find themselves subjected to a regulatory requirement that makes little sense in the context of this unique harvest.

PROPOSED BY: Native Caucus of the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management Council (EG-F17-083)
****

<u>PROPOSAL 42</u> – 5 AAC 92.069. Special provisions for moose drawing permit hunts; 92.XXX. New regulation. Remove the nonresident guide requirement for moose and black bear hunts as follows:

Remove moose and black bear from the list of must-be-guided species.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?
Remove moose and black bear from the list of must-be-guided species under AS 16.05.407.

The Board of Game (board), without legislative approval, has added moose and black bear to the list of must-be-guided species for nonresidents in certain parts of the state under AS 16.05.407.

The legislature never intended for the board to have the authority to add species to the must-be-guided list. When the board has done this, it is essentially a separate allocation to guides that often negatively affects resident hunter opportunity.

A prime example is the must-be-guided requirement for moose for the DM 809/810/811 Upper Nowitna draw permit hunt. The board in 2008 passed a proposal from a guide with exclusive rights to guide in the Nowitna National Wildlife Refuge that allocated half of the permits to nonresident hunters, with 70% of the nonresident permits required to hire that specific guide. A 50% allocation to nonresident moose hunters for any moose draw permit in Alaska is completely unacceptable. And it only happened because of the must-be-guided requirement for moose in that area.

The board has also added black bear to the list of must-be-guided species in parts of southeast Alaska, using conservation as a rationale for doing so when the board has the authority and duty to limit all nonresident black bear hunters if there is a conservation concern.

The addition of moose and black bear to the list of must-be-guided species is a subsidy to guides that sets a bad precedent that can harm resident opportunities and lock up access to areas where guides are guaranteed this new client base.

PROPOSED BY: Resident Hunters of Alaska (EG-F17-078)
****

<u>PROPOSAL 43</u> – 5 AAC 92.011. Taking of game by proxy. Allow the taking of emperor geese by proxy hunting as follows:

We request the Board of Game allow proxy hunting under this section for emperor geese statewide.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? In 2017, the fall-winter hunt of emperor geese is opened to all Alaska residents following over 30 years of closure. The State of Alaska was allotted an annual statewide harvest quota of 1,000 birds under the federal framework. The Board of Game (board) divided the statewide quota into smaller individual quotas in each of seven hunt areas across the range of emperor geese. The fall-winter hunt is administered as a registration permit hunt that allows the harvest and possession of one emperor goose per hunter per season. Registration permits are dispensed on-demand and hunt areas will be closed by emergency order when quotas are achieved.

Despite the fall-winter hunt being opened to all Alaska residents, regulations do not contain a provision for individuals that are incapable of participating in the emperor goose hunt because of their age or physical disability. Current regulation would allow a hunter to gift their emperor goose to another individual, but at a cost of forfeiting their one bird allowed for the season.

The Native Caucus of the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management Council (AMBCC) requests the board permit proxy hunting of emperor geese. This would allow both a proxy hunter and beneficiary the opportunity to obtain an emperor goose. A resident hunter holding a valid hunting license may take specified game for another resident who is blind, physically disabled, or 65 years of age or older, as authorized by Alaska Statute 16.05.405 and 5 AAC 92.011.

PROPOSED BY: Native Caucus of the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management Council (EG-F17-047)

****

PROPOSAL 44 – 5 AAC 92.011. Taking of game by proxy. Allow the take of moose by proxy in moose hunts having antler restrictions as follows:

Allow proxy hunting for antler restricted bull moose hunts statewide.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The statewide elimination of proxy hunting for antler restricted bull moose hunts has had the unintended consequence of eliminating an important Alaskan cultural tradition of harvesting game for family and friends that need assistance. While proxy hunting may not be right for all antler restricted bull moose hunts, it would be very helpful in some units where the majority of moose are taken in antler restricted general season hunts. In particular, if proxy hunting were once again allowed in the Unit 13 general season moose hunt, there would be significantly less interest in the community hunt structure which allows open designated hunting amongst community members.

The statewide regulation should be changed back to allow for proxy hunting in all antler restricted bull moose hunts. If proxy hunting is not wanted in some units or regions, it should be eliminated on a unit by unit basis.

PROPOSED BY: Rebecca Schwanke (EG-F17-110)

****

Possession & Transportation

PROPOSAL 45 – 5 AAC 92.171. Sealing of horns and antlers. Require antlers be sealed for all antler restricted hunts as follows:

All moose hunters in areas where there are antler restrictions must have horns sealed and measured by ADF&G or authorized representative within (x) days of harvest.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Regulations imposed on the Kenai Peninsula for sealing of moose horns has led to the realization that many moose taken under the existing antler size restrictions are sublegal. There is no reason to believe that the incidence of sublegal moose is any less in other parts of the state with similar antler restrictions. Regulations should be uniform within the state.

PROPOSED BY: Homer Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-F17-106)
****

PROPOSAL 46 – 5 AAC 92.135. Transfer of possession. Modify the transfer of possession regulations as it pertains to guided and transported hunters as follows:

Add a section (d) to 5 AAC 92.135: (d) When a licensed guide or transporter, who is under contract by a person (hunter), possesses game taken by that person (hunter), for the purpose of transportation, that game will be considered to remain in the possession of that person (hunter).

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Guides and transporters who are contracted by their clients should not be burdened with such a formality. Innumerable issues arise from the field to one's home or holding facility that can be extremely challenging, time-sensitive, and in many cases have safety concerns which are much more urgent than filling out paper work that is repetitive and ridiculous. Guides and transporters are very burdened with such a formality of filling out all of these forms, in duplicate sometimes multiple times. It is totally unnecessary and serves no real purpose. All of the information required under 5 AAC 92.135 is already in the possession of the guide or transporter and can be supplied to anybody that needs to know. Most of it is on the state-required hunt record or transporter form. This regulation in its current form is a deterrent to proper care of meat. One of the main reasons that a guide or transporter transports the meat while the client remains in the field is to insure quality meat care. It is brought out to hang in a dry cooled meat locker or some other facility to insure it is well taken care of. In this situation, the guide or transporter is acting as an agent of the hunter. 5 AAC 92.135 is a regulation that can turn a person who is attempting to act in a totally legal and reasonable manner into a criminal. Common sense needs to be used.

This was not the original intent of this regulation. 5 AAC 92.135 (b) says, "Upon receipt of game or a part of game, the recipient shall then be responsible to salvage the edible meat for human consumption." It was intended to allow people to permanently transfer possession of game and provided an avenue to do so and the meat still be tracked. It was not to require all of this paperwork to be filled out in duplicate in order for it to be transported an hour away, by your guide or transporter to be stored in a meat locker until you get there 15 minutes later.

PROPOSED BY: Upper Tanana/Fortymile Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-F17-039)
****

PROPOSAL 47 – 5 AAC 92.135. Transfer of possession. Modify the transfer of possession regulations as follows:

5AAC 92.135. Transfer of possession.

(a) Unless the person who took the game is accompanying the person possessing the game, until all salvage is completed as required under this chapter, a person who gives or receives game or a part of game shall immediately furnish, upon demand by a peace officer a statement signed by [BOTH] **either** [PARTIES] **party** describing the following:

(1) The names and addresses of each person who gave or received the game;

(2) When and where the game was taken;

(3) What game or part of game was transferred; and

(4) The hunting license number of the person who took the game.

(b) Upon receipt of game or a part of game, the recipient shall then be responsible to salvage the edible meat for human consumption.

(c) A person giving, shipping, or receiving game or parts of game shall allow inspection of that game or parts of game upon request from a peace officer of the state or a federal fish and wildlife agent.

(d) This statement may be created at the time of the request.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Transporting meat can be logistically complicated especially with big game animals such as moose in remote areas. Having to fill out or edit a form that requires the signature of both the hunter and the transferee every time a quarter or chunk of meat is ferried to a different spot, is overly burdensome to the hunter and transferee, and sometimes isn't even possible if both persons aren't present. Most hunters try to do their best, but often it is hard to dot every "i" and cross every "t". This should not count against hunters when they are doing their best to salvage meat in a timely fashion, especially with the technological advances in communication that we have today.

As recently as 2008/2009, the hunting regulations stated that the transfer of possession statement could be created at the time of contact, and didn't require the signature of both persons. Unless we go back to something similar to what it was then, many well intentioned hunters who are complying with the intent of the law to salvage the meat will be subject to needless paper work infractions. We also considered having a temporary sealing certificate and/or a hunt record work as a transfer of possession for guided hunters, but felt this is an issue for all hunters, not just guides and nonresidents.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Professional Hunters Association (EG-F17-041)
****

Note: The Board of Game does not have authority to impose regulations upon guides.

PROPOSAL 48 – 5 AAC 92.135. Transfer of possession. Modify the transfer of possession regulations to include reporting requirements as follows:

We would like the Board of Game to consider other options as well, but here is one solution:

Amend 5 AAC 92.135 to include a new subsection:
(d) if the meat from a guided hunter is transferred, a record must be kept by the guide of all transfers and turned into the Department of Fish & Game within 30 days of the close of the season.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?
Guided nonresident transfer of possession of game meat.

The guide industry has stated that nearly a quarter million pounds of meat from guided hunters is "shared" with Alaskan residents each year. Currently, our Alaska Wildlife Troopers and the Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) have no way of knowing where that quarter-million pounds of meat ends up and what kind of condition it was in when it was received by the end beneficiary.

Some guides require their clients to sign a contract agreement that prohibits the client from taking the meat home, and nonresident aliens have strict laws in most countries that prohibit importation of wild game meat. Guided clients have no active role in the process of meat "sharing" and once they sign a transfer of possession form, the obligation to take care of the meat and where that meat ends up is for the guide to take care of. Often multiple transfers of possession take place after a guided hunter transfers the meat to a guide.

We know how difficult it can be to get a moose or caribou out of the field and to the location where the meat will be processed. Guides are dealing with multiple moose and caribou taken by their clients, and there are numerous reports of spoiled meat from guided hunters being dropped off in villages or to processors. No matter how often or how infrequently that occurs, we need a better way to track where the meat from guided hunters ends up and if it was taken care of properly.

A quarter million pounds of meat is a lot of wild game meat. The public, Alaska Wildlife Troopers, the department and the Board of Game (board), should insist that commercial hunting of our wildlife resources requires clear records on the transfer of game meat by guides.

This is especially important when the board considers proposals allowing nonresident hunting of wildlife populations that are not within the intensive management harvest or population objectives, under the guise of a win-win scenario whereby guides will take those nonresident hunters into areas not typically accessible by local hunters, and all the meat from those guided hunts will be "shared" with villages.

PROPOSED BY: Resident Hunters of Alaska (EG-F17-080)
****

PROPOSAL 49 – 5 AAC 92.031. Permit for selling skins, skulls, and trophies; and 92.200. Purchase and sale of game. Require a permit before brown bear skulls and hides with claws attached can be sold as follows:

5 AAC 92.031 is amended by adding a new section to read:

(g) A person may sell, advertise, or otherwise offer for sale a brown bear skull or hide with claws attached of a brown bear harvested in an area where the bag limit is two bears per regulatory year only after obtaining a permit from the department.

5 AAC 92.200(b)(1) is amended to read:

(1) any part of a brown bear, except an article of handicraft made from the fur of a brown bear**;** [,] and except skulls and hides with claws attached of brown bears harvested in areas where the bag limit is two bears per regulatory year **by permit issued under 5 AAC 92.031**;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? In 2016 the Board of Game (board) passed a regulation allowing all brown bears harvested in areas where the bag limit is two brown bears per year to be sold. There is currently no method for the Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) to track the sale of those bears. Adopting this proposal will allow ADF&G to track and quantify the interest in selling brown bear skulls and hides with claws attached.

There are concerns about the potential to commercialize the harvest of brown bears, and there is interest in knowing the magnitude of this use. The board may also need to distinguish between uses to make allocation decisions in the future. There are concerns about the current inability to determine that hides and skulls that are sold were taken in areas with a two brown bear bag limit.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F17-030)
****

Intensive Management & Predation Control Areas

Note: The Board of Game cannot adopt a regulation that is inconsistent with state statute. Alaska Statute 08.54.750(e) states that guides can only conduct hunts for the big game species identified by the Board of Game as the cause of the depletion or reduction of productivity of a big game prey population.

PROPOSAL 50 – 5 AAC 92.116. Special provisions in predation control areas. Provide clarification for allowing guides to register additional guide use areas for taking predators, and to restrict the take of predators in those guide use areas as follows:

Provide clarification for the "extra guide use area provision" in AS 08.54.750 as follows:

5 AAC 92.116. Special provisions in predation control areas.

…

(e) A guide may register extra guide use areas under AS 08.54.750(f) in all IM program areas, and for all predator species within the "game management unit or portion of a game management unit where the Board of Game has identified predation by wolf, black bear, brown bear, or grizzly bear as a cause of the depletion of a big game prey population or a reduction of the productivity of a big game prey population"; unless the board specifically eliminates an area or species within an area from this provision.

(1) Unit 9, brown bear may not be taken in an extra guide use area under AS 08.54.750(f)

(2) Units 7 and 15, brown bear and black bear may not be taken in an extra guide use area under AS 08.54.750(f)

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Board of Game (board) needs to determine where is it appropriate, and for what species, extra guide use areas should be allowed under AS 08.54.750(f). Specifically, what species should be allowed to be taken under this provision in each Intensive Management (IM) Plan.

ADF&G made an administrative interpretation of AS 08.54.750(f) in 2014. This statute allows for guides to choose extra guide use areas in a "game management unit or portion of a game management unit where the Board of Game has identified predation by wolf, black bear, brown bear, or grizzly bear as a cause of the depletion of a big game prey population or a reduction of the productivity of a big game prey population" to assist in the increased take of predators. ADF&G's recent interpretation allows for this only in areas where they are currently issuing permits in an active predator control program. According to legislators that worked on this statute, this interpretation is contrary to legislative intent. It is also contrary to the way the law was implemented for at least the first six years it was in place.

ADF&G originally made this new interpretation several years ago when an IM plan was developed for Unit 9. At this point there was a small amount of internal panic that every guide would be able to register guide use areas in Unit 9 as extra guide use areas for brown bears. No

one intended this to be the case but it would have been fact if the old interpretation and legislative intent were followed. In this case the board should determine that Unit 9 may only be used for extra guide use areas for wolves and not for brown bears.

Guides were not informed of this administrative change for several years and it has still not been widely published. Many ADF&G staff where not even up to speed on the interpretation for several years. When I was made aware of the interpretation, I requested both ADF&G and Big Game Commercial Services Board staff send a letter to all guides informing them of the change. They refused and asked me, a member of the general public, to inform those guides! There is now a link on the Department of Commerce website but it took a couple years. It was on the ADF&G homepage for a couple days after I first brought it up but it has been removed. The memo is buried in the ADF&G website. This is not listed anywhere in regulation because it is not a codified regulation.

AS 08.54.750(f) is a very valuable provision in that it provides for increased predator take while avoiding costly ADF&G programs and predator control permits. Without this provision, ADF&G would not have come close to the desired take of bears in IM programs in Units 16 and 13 in the last decade.

I would recommend the board create an "opt-out" provision rather than the current "opt-in" provision. That is, all predator species would be available for guided take under AS 08.54.750(f) IM programs unless the board specifically removes them for conservation or other reasons.

The board would need to make specific determinations, but I would anticipate restrictions on this provision only in a few cases. Some that come to mind are Unit 9 brown bears, Units 7 and 15 black and brown bears and maybe very few others. I would not anticipate wolves needing to be restricted in any IM area.

PROPOSED BY: Aaron Bloomquist (EG-F17-095)
****

Note: This proposal does not require a regulatory change. The Department of Fish and Game can implement this request under its existing administrative authority.

PROPOSAL 51 – 5 AAC 92.116. Special provisions in predation control areas. Change the implementation date for removing additional guide use areas under intensive management as follows:

Any predator control use area changes will begin at the next regulatory year. July 1.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I would like the Board of Game to address the change of laws in the middle of a regulatory year. When you change a unit from being a predator control use area to a non-predator control area in the middle of winter after people have booked hunts, it makes it very, very hard to run a guide business the way it should be. It makes the additional guide use areas we had planned on being able to use from several back to three and that's fine but more notice is needed than a few months. These changes need to

be implemented and started at the beginning of a regulatory year so we know when and what areas we can register and it gives us time to book or not book hunts in these predator control use areas.

PROPOSED BY: Clint Miller (EG-F17-019)
****

PROPOSAL 52 – 5 AAC 92.106. Intensive management of identified big game prey populations; 92.110. Control of predation by wolves; and 92.115. Control of predation by bears. Prohibit nonresident hunting of moose and caribou under intensive management until harvest and population objectives are met as follows:

Nonresident hunting shall not be allowed for any moose or caribou population under a current Intensive Management Predation Control Program until the minimum Intensive Management population or harvest objectives for that population has been reached.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?
Nonresident hunting opportunity in areas under Intensive Management Predation Control Programs.

Intensive Management (IM) Predation Control Implementation Programs to restore the abundance of prey species as necessary to achieve human consumptive use goals are intended to benefit resident Alaskans.

Resident Hunters of Alaska supports IM efforts to achieve these goals.

We understand that nonresidents also benefit from IM programs once IM population or harvest objectives are met. That is why we support nonresidents as well as residents paying a fee for the state's active management programs. However, nonresidents are not supposed to benefit from IM programs while they are in progress when neither the harvest or population objectives for specific moose and caribou populations have been achieved.

We would like to see the Board of Game (board) adopt regulations that match the intent of our Intensive Management Law. No nonresident hunting should be allowed in any area of the state for a moose or caribou population that is under a formal IM Predation Control program to increase populations for the benefit of resident consumptive uses when the minimum IM population or harvest objectives for that prey species has not been reached.

This is a simple straightforward step the board can take to ensure for the public that when we undertake controversial predation control programs to reduce predators, its primary intention is to benefit resident Alaskans so that they can put food on their tables.

PROPOSED BY: Resident Hunters of Alaska (EG-F17-076)
****

Cultural & Subsistence Uses

PROPOSAL 53 – 5 AAC 99.025(a)(12). Customary and traditional uses of game populations. Reevaluate the customary and traditional use finding for migratory game birds statewide as follows:

The proposal requests that the Board of Game (board) review the information provided in the customary and traditional use worksheet provided by ADF&G as well as other available information, including information from the public, to determine if populations of migratory game birds (ducks, geese, swans, snipe, and cranes) statewide support customary and traditional subsistence uses. If a positive determination is made, the regulation would read as follows:

5 AAC 99.025. Customary and traditional uses of game populations (a)

SPECIES & UNIT	FINDING	AMOUNT REASONABLY NECESSARY FOR SUBSISTENCE USES
(12) Small Game		
(X) Migratory game birds	**positive**	
All units with a harvestable portion except within the nonsubsistence areas as defined in 5 AAC 99.015.		

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? AS 16.05.258 requires the board to identify game populations or portions of populations that support customary and traditional subsistence uses (a "C&T finding) and to adopt regulations that provide reasonable opportunities for Alaska residents to participate in these subsistence uses. 5 AAC 85.065(a)(4) provides hunting opportunities for migratory game birds, including ducks, sea ducks, geese, tundra swans, sandhill cranes, and common snipe. However, until January 2017 the board had only made a positive C&T finding for Canada geese in Unit 6. In January 2017, the board made a positive customary and traditional use determination for emperor geese throughout their Alaska range as well as for all migratory waterfowl (ducks, geese, swans), sandhill cranes, and common snipe in Units 18, 22, 23, and 26A. The finding was based in part on a report prepared by ADF&G titled "Customary and Traditional Use Worksheet: Migratory Game Birds, featuring Emperor Geese" (RC 5, Tab 4 at the January 2017 meeting). The report provided background harvest and use information on uses of migratory game birds in Alaska organized around the eight criteria used by the Board of Game and the Board of Fisheries to identify customary and traditional uses (5 AAC 99.010(b)). Although the board expressed an interest in including all migratory game birds (ducks, geese, swans, snipe, and cranes) throughout their ranges in Alaska (excluding nonsubsistence areas) in their positive finding, the legal notice for the meeting limited action to emperor geese throughout their Alaska range and other migratory game birds only in Units 18, 22, 23, and 26A. After adopting the C&T finding, the board requested that ADF&G prepare a proposal to address a C&T finding for migratory game birds statewide to be considered at the statewide regulatory meeting in November 2017.

Making a C&T finding would not result in any changes to seasons, bag limits, or other state regulations governing the taking of migratory game birds.

Because of the broad scale of the proposed C&T finding, it is not recommended that the board establish an amount reasonably necessary for subsistence (an "ANS finding") for migratory game birds at this time.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F17-006)
****

PROPOSAL 54 – 5 AAC 92.070. Tier II subsistence hunting permit point system. Modify the Tier II subsistence hunting permit point system as follows:

Eliminate the Tier II eligibility rural preference application point-scoring questions on:

1. Location of purchase of most of applicant's gasoline and groceries during the last year; and

2. Number of days in the local hunt area spent on subsistence activities.

Change to: (1) Eligibility questions on number of the applicant's related **living**-generations that have and will benefit from applicant's subsistence harvests; and

(2) applicant's total reliance and dependency on all their subsistence use activities no matter where applicant does subsistence hunt-fish-pick berries in the state; and

(3) the number of years the applicant has hunted or applied for this particular Tier II hunt; based on the following:

> (1) Count each living generation as one each for applicant and spouse, plus one generation for children, plus one for grandchildren, plus one for parents of applicant, plus one for grandparents, plus one for great grandparents, plus one for great grandchildren, plus one for generation of living nieces and nephews, and plus one great nieces and nephews. This will help assure compliance with 5 AAC 99.010 defining long-time customary and traditional subsistence use of at least one generation, i.e., ten years or more.
>
> (2) Consider all the subsistence activities use days for all hunt-fish-pick berries subsistence reliance and dependency of the applicant, no matter where applicant lives in the state or exercised subsistence use rights.
>
> (3) Consider applicant's number of years for hunting or applied for the Tier II species hunt being applied for, along with any other Tier II and Tier I general hunts for other big game species hunted or applied for and used for subsistence reliance and dependency.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The present Tier II application questions, and the community subsistence harvest (CSH) applications, do not adequately address and protect long-time customary and traditional subsistence use reliance and

dependency. Present questions are geared toward **rural preference** as the controlling eligibility, and not protection of long-time customary and traditional subsistence use and reliance (dependency). AS 16.05.258(b).

Eligibility questions presently use location of residency and priority for location of hunt area of subsistence use, while denying (ignoring) a resident's all other subsistence use activities in other areas of the state. For example, I exercise my hunt-fish-pick berries subsistence use in the Kenai Peninsula area almost year round, yet I receive unequal or no subsistence use days eligibility if I apply for Tier II moose and caribou or subsistence use permit anywhere else in the state.

Naturally, a person hunts-fish-picks berries, as well as buys most groceries and gasoline annually—in and closest to his location of residency.

The present cumulative eligibility criteria in effect is a poorly disguised rural preference, where grants a location-residency-rural preference priority for the hunt area, without consideration of total subsistence use needs, reliance, and dependency of the individual applicant on subsistence use.

This will require a new way of thinking for the Board of Game, to get away from unconstitutional rural-local-residency and **racial** C&T priority preference eligibility, and change focus to protect long-time customary and traditional subsistence use reliance and dependency, no matter where the applicant resides in the state, and **equal for all races**, and will avoid continued litigation for unconstitutional residency-rural-racial-location permit priority preferences that violate *McDowell v. State*, 785 P.2d 1 (Alaska 1989); violate Alaska Constitution Article VIII Section 3 common use, and Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) 43 U.S.C. 1601 Section 4b terminating all future aboriginal native priority preference of fish and game rights.

PROPOSED BY: Kenneth Manning (HQ-F17-014)
****

PROPOSAL 55 – 5 AAC 92.019. Taking of big game for certain religious ceremonies. Combine the regulations allowing the take of big game for religious ceremonies and ceremony potlatches as follows:

Amend: 5 AAC 92.019. Taking of big game for certain religious **and ceremony potlatches** [CEREMONIES]

(a) The hunting and taking of game species having a positive finding in 5 AAC 99.025, outside the seasons or bag limits established in 5 AAC 85, for use in this state as food in customary and traditional Alaska Native funerary, [OR] mortuary religious **or potlatch** ceremonies [WITHIN 12 MONTHS PRECEDING THE CEREMONY IS AUTHORIZED IF] consistent with sustained yield principles.

(b) The department shall publicize a list of game populations and areas, if any, for which the taking of game is inconsistent with sustained yield principles. It is the hunter's responsibility

to contact the department to find out which game populations and areas are excluded from taking under this regulation.

(c) A written permit from the department is [not] required for taking **big** game under this section, [except that in nonsubsistence areas, described in 5 AAC 99.015, and the Gulkana, Cantwell, Chistochina, Gakona, Mentasta, Tazlina, Chitina, and Kluti Kaah Community Harvest Area defined in 5 AAC 92.074(d),] a ceremonial **or potlatch** harvest report form, provided by the department, must be obtained and jointly completed by the hunter and the tribal chief, village council president, clan leader, traditional Native head of family, or clan leader's designee for the village associated with the customary and traditional Alaska Native funerary, [or] mortuary religious ceremony, **or potlatch.**

(d) the department may limit the amount of big game to be harvested

(1) by unit or area

(2) by sex

(3) females with offspring

(4) amount of big game

(5) time frame

(i) reporting of harvested big game will be reported no later than 15 days after harvest or permit requirement.

(ii) permit must be in possession of hunter/hunters and upon request from a peace officer of the state or authorized department person. A permittee may not refuse to present it or any big game in possession.

[(D) BEFORE GAME IS TAKEN UNDER THIS SECTION A TRIBAL CHIEF, VILLAGE COUNCIL PRESIDENT, CLAN LEADER, TRADITIONAL NATIVE HEAD OF FAMILY, OR THE CHIEF'S, PRESIDENT'S, TRADITIONAL NATIVE HEAD OF FAMILY, OR CLAN LEADER'S DESIGNEE FOR THE VILLAGE ASSOCIATED WITH THE RELIGIOUS CEREMONY, MUST NOTIFY THE NEAREST OFFICE OF THE DEPARTMENT THAT A HUNT FOR GAME WILL TAKE PLACE. THE NOTIFICATION MUST INCLUDE THE NUMBER OF ANIMALS EXPECTED TO BE TAKEN AND THE LOCATION WHERE THE TAKING WILL OCCUR. THE TRIBAL CHIEF, VILLAGE COUNCIL PRESIDENT, CLAN LEADER, TRADITIONAL NATIVE HEAD OF FAMILY, OR DESIGNEE MUST MAINTAIN RECORDS OF THE SUCCESSFUL HUNTERS AND THE DECEDENTS FOR THE CEREMONY, AND MAKE THAT INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO AN AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE OF THE DEPARTMENT UPON REQUEST. THE TRIBAL CHIEF, VILLAGE COUNCIL PRESIDENT, CLAN LEADER, TRADITIONAL NATIVE HEAD OF FAMILY, OR DESIGNEE MUST NOTIFY THE DEPARTMENT OF THE LOCATION, SPECIES, SEX, AND NUMBER OF ANIMALS TAKEN UNDER THIS SECTION AS SOON AS PRACTICABLE, BUT NOT MORE THAN 15 DAYS AFTER THE TAKING OF GAME.]

(e) It is an affirmative defense to a prosecution for hunting or taking big game outside the season or bag limit restrictions established in 5 AAC 85 that

(1) the person is a resident of this state;

(2) the person must possess a valid hunting license.

[(2)] **(3)** the hunting or taking was authorized under this section and the meat was used in a customary and traditional Alaska Native funeral [OR] mortuary religious **potlatch** ceremony; and

[(3)] **(4)** if the person took big game, the requirements of (d) of this section have been met.

(f) This section does not authorize the taking of game in areas where hunting is prohibited or when prohibited by a federal law that preempts state laws on point.

(g) In this section, "traditional Native head of family" means a person who, according to an Alaska Native tradition, is viewed as a head of a family and is charged with duties similar to those of a tribal chief, village council president, or clan leader regarding traditional Alaska Native funerary or mortuary rites.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? To centralize ceremony potlatches and religious ceremonies within the codified. The intent is to repeal 5 AAC 92.053, 92.017, and 92.055, and merge into 92.019, but these regulations were not on the Call for Proposals.

PROPOSED BY: Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-F17-096)
****

Note: The following proposal requests regulatory changes that are both statewide and specific to the Central/Southwest Region (see Proposal 98). The board will take public testimony at the November 2017 Statewide Regulations Meeting, and may defer taking final action on the proposal until the February 2018 Central/Southwest Region Meeting.

PROPOSAL 56 – 5 AAC 92.072. Community subsistence harvest hunt area and permit conditions. Modify the community subsistence harvest permit conditions as follows:

Amend 5 AAC 92.072. Community subsistence hunt area and permit conditions:

Throughout the regulation the term/phrase “a resident of a community or member of a group” is used to define those participating in the community subsistence hunt (CSH). The regulations should be amended to clarify that the CSH is for “communities”, not simply any “group” of individuals who are Alaska residents. The use of the term “group” diminishes the “community” aspect of the hunt. A “group” can be those who only get together over the internet. A “group” can consist of those who only get together once a year for a potluck that includes a dish or two containing a little moose or caribou taken by a member of the group. The use of the term “group”

encourages the kind of abuse that has occurred in the CSH. It takes a "community" to practice the community pattern of C&T (customary and traditional) uses that the Board of Game (board) has set as a condition for participating in the hunt for the Copper Basin area (5 AAC 92.074(d)). Therefore, the term "group" should be stricken from the regulation and replaced when necessary with "community."

The term "resident" should also be stricken, because a "community" of subsistence users may not all be residing in the same physical location. For example, the community composed of the eight Ahtna villages includes some Alaska residents who do not live in the area, but who continue to hunt, fish and gather subsistence resources in the area and to participate in the Ahtna customary and traditional hunting way of life, including widespread sharing, teaching traditional knowledge and values, potlatches, etc. Therefore, the term "community members" should be uniformly applied throughout the regulation when describing who is eligible to participate in the CSH. The term "residents" should be stricken.

Likewise, when describing the CSH administrator, the term "community administrator" should be used throughout the regulations. The term "group" should be deleted when the regulation references CSH administration.

Additionally amend 5 AAC 92.072. Community subsistence harvest hunt areas as follows:

(a) The commissioner or the commissioner's designee may, under this section and 5 AAC 92.052, issue community-based subsistence harvest permits and harvest reports for big game species where the Board of Game (board) has established a community harvest hunt area under (b) of this section and 5 AAC 92.074. **Prior to issuing a permit and harvest reports for the community hunt area described in 5 AAC 92.074(d), the commissioner or designee shall determine, on the basis of an application form developed by the department, that the community applying for the permit conforms with the definition of "community" set forth in section (i) of this regulation.**

…

(c) If the board has established a community harvest hunt area for a big game population, [RESIDENTS] **members** of the community [OR MEMBERS OF A GROUP] may elect to participate in a community harvest permit hunt in accordance with the following conditions:

(1)(D) make efforts to ensure that the applicable customary and traditional use pattern described by the board and included by the department as a permit condition, if any, is observed by subscribers [INCLUDING MEAT SHARING]; the applicable board finding and conditions will be identified on the permit; this provision does not authorize the community [OR GROUP] administrator to deny subscription to any community **[RESIDENT OR GROUP] member who agrees to practice the applicable customary and traditional use pattern as practiced by the community;**

…

(c)(3) in addition to the requirements of (1) of this subsection, the community [OR GROUP] representative must submit a complete written report, on a form provided by the department, for the community [OR GROUP] participating in the community harvest hunt area described in 5

AAC 92.074(d), that describes efforts by the community [OR GROUP] to observe the customary and traditional use pattern described by board findings for the game populations hunted under the conditions of this community harvest permit; in completing the report, the representative must make efforts to collect a complete report from each household that is a member of the community [OR GROUP] that describes efforts by the household to observe the customary and traditional use pattern using the eight elements described in this paragraph; a copy of all household reports collected by the community [OR GROUP] representative shall be submitted to the department as a part of the representative's written report; complete reports must include information about efforts to observe the customary and traditional use pattern of the game population, as follows:

(A) Element 1: participation in a long-term, consistent pattern of noncommercial taking, use, and reliance on the game population: the number of years of taking and use of the game population; and involvement of multiple generations in the taking and use of the game population; and use of areas other than the community subsistence hunt area for harvest activities;

(B) Element 2: participation in the pattern of taking or use of the game population that follows a seasonal use pattern of harvest effort in the hunt area: the months and seasons in which noncommercial harvest activities occur in the hunt area;

(C) Element 3: participation in a pattern of taking or use of wild resources in the hunt area that includes methods and means of harvest characterized by efficiency and economy of effort and cost: costs associated with harvests; and methods used to reduce costs and improve efficiency of harvest; and number of species harvested during hunting activities;

(D) Element 4: participation in a pattern of taking or use of wild resources that occurs in the hunt area due to close ties to the area: number of years of taking and use of the game population; and involvement of multiple generations in the taking and use of the game population; and variety of harvesting activities that take place in the hunt area; and evidence of other areas used for harvest activities;

(E) Element 5: use of means of processing and preserving wild resources from the hunt area that have been traditionally used by past generations: complete listing of the parts of the harvested game that are used; and preservation methods of that game; and types of foods and other products produced from that harvest;

(F) Element 6: participation in a pattern of taking or use of wild resources from the hunt area that includes the handing down of knowledge of hunting skills, values, and lore about the hunt area from generation to generation: involvement of multiple generations in the taking and use of the game population; and evidence of instruction and training;

(G) Element 7: participation in a pattern of taking of wild resources from the hunt area in which the harvest is shared throughout the community: amount of harvest of the game population that is shared; and evidence of a communal sharing event; and support of those in need through sharing of the harvest of the game population; and

(H) Element 8: participation in a pattern that includes taking, use, and reliance on a wide variety of wild resources from the hunt area: the variety of resource harvest activities engaged in within the hunt area; and evidence of other areas used for harvest activities.

(c)(4) the department may waive the annual reporting requirement and institute a five-year reporting period for any community which has demonstrated, through reports submitted annually over a five-year period, a high degree of participation in the customary and traditional community use pattern described in board findings for the area.

…

(f) The department may disapprove an application for a community subsistence harvest permit from a community [OR GROUP] that has previously failed to comply with requirements in (c)(1) and (3) of this section. The failure to **submit a** report by the community [OR GROUP] representative under (c) [(1) AND] (3) of this section **which demonstrates, pursuant to criteria and a scoring system established by the department, that the community is observing the customary and traditional use pattern described by board findings for the game populations hunted under the conditions of this community harvest permit shall** [MAY] result in denial of a community subsistence harvest permit for the area during the following **two** regulatory years **for all members of the community.** The department must allow a representative the opportunity to request a hearing if the representative fails to submit a complete report as required under (c)(l) and (3) of this section. A community [OR GROUP] aggrieved by a decision under this subsection will be granted a hearing before the commissioner or the commissioner's designee, if the community [OR GROUP] representative or **a member of the community** makes a request for a hearing in writing to the commissioner within 60 days after **receiving notice from the department that the community will be denied a community subsistence harvest permit for the following year.** [THE CONCLUSION OF THE HUNT FOR WHICH THE PERSON FAILED TO PROVIDE A REPORT]. The commissioner may determine that the penalty provided under this subsection will not be applied if the community [OR GROUP] representative **or member** provides the information required on the report **sufficient to satisfy the department's requirements** and if the commissioner determines that

(1) the failure to provide the report was the result of unavoidable circumstance; or

(2) extreme hardship would result to the community [OR GROUP] **or member.**

…

(h) Nothing in this section authorizes the department to delegate to a community [OR GROUP] representative determination of the lawful criteria for selecting who may hunt, for establishing any special restrictions for the hunt and for the handling of game, and for establishing the terms and conditions for a meaningful communal sharing of game taken under a community harvest permit, **except that a community representative shall require participating community members to observe the customary and traditional use pattern described by board findings for the game populations hunted as that pattern of use is practiced by the community.**

…

(i) In this section,

(2) a "community" [OR "GROUP"] is "a group **of 25 or more individuals** [OF PEOPLE] linked by a common interest in, and participation in **a consistent pattern of noncommercial taking, use, and reliance on a wide diversity of subsistence resources in** [,] an **identified** area [AND

THE WILDLIFE POPULATIONS IN THAT AREA,] that **provides substantial economic, cultural or social, and nutritional elements of the subsistence way of life of the community and its members** [IS CONSISTENT WITH THE CUSTOMARY AND TRADITIONAL USE PATTERN OF THAT WILDLIFE POPULATION AND AREA AS DEFINED BY THE BOARD].

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? This proposal: 1) amends the regulation to delete the terms "group" and "residents" and replaces these terms with the term "community" and "members"; 2) amends the authority of the Department of Fish and Game (department) to issue community-based subsistence harvest permits and harvest reports for the Copper Basin area (5 AAC 92.074(d)) to require the department to create an application form that establishes that the applicant is a "community" as that term is defined in the regulation; 3) amends the definition of "community" to make it clear that groups applying for and participating in the CSH share a common interest and participation in the pattern of C&T community use identified by the board for wildlife resources in that area and which provides substantial economic, cultural or social, and nutritional elements of the subsistence way of life of the community and its members; 4) requires the department to develop and apply a scoring system for annual reports from CSH administrators for the CSH in the area described in 5 AAC 92.074(d), and to disqualify a community and all members of the community for two years from participating in a CSH in this area if the annual report fails to satisfy the minimum score developed by the department for demonstrating that a community is observing the community pattern of subsistence use that is a condition of the permit for the area; 5) allows the department to waive the annual CSH administrator reporting requirement for the area described in 5 AAC 92.074(d) if a community has established a solid record of practicing the applicable C&T pattern of use, and replace it with a report once every five years; and 6) allows a CSH administrator to require all members of the CSH community to observe the C&T pattern of use recognized by the board in establishing the CSH, including specific practices of the community that are consistent with the pattern of use recognized by the board.

PROPOSED BY: Ahtna Tene Nene' (HQ-F17-026)
****

PROPOSAL 57 – 5 AAC 85.072(i)(2). Community subsistence harvest hunt area and permit conditions. Change the definition of "community" or "group" for community subsistence harvest hunts as follows:

5 AAC 92.072(i)(2) is entirely repealed and readopted to read:

(2) a "community" or "group" is a mutual support network of people who routinely (at least several times each year) provide each other with physical, emotional, and nutritional assistance in a multi-generational and inter/intra familial manner to assure the long-term welfare of individuals, the group, and natural resources they depend on.

Existing 5 AAC 92.072(i)(2)

(2) a "community" or "group" is a group of people linked by a common interest in, and participation in uses of, an area and the wildlife populations in that area, that is consistent with the customarily and traditional use pattern of that wildlife population and area as defined by the board.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Board of Game requested this proposal during the March, 2017 board meeting concerning caribou and moose hunting in Units 11, 12 and 13. During that meeting, the board received several public comments from community subsistence harvest hunt participants about the effectiveness of the program. Testimony also emphasized the importance for natural resource conservation to ensure long term sustenance and customary and traditional uses. The board agreed a modification to the definition of community/group is necessary to more accurately reflect the intent of the community subsistence harvest hunt regulations and further clarify how the community hunt is distinguished from the individual Tier I hunt. The customary and traditional use pattern described in regulation (92.072 subsection c), and the Board of Game findings #2006-170-BOG and #211-184-BOG, remain in effect and are an important element of the Copper Basin Community Subsistence Harvest hunt.

The board encourages input from the public on the current and proposed definitions to be considered at the November 2017 Statewide Regulations meeting.

PROPOSED BY: Board of Game (HQ-F17-056)
****

<u>PROPOSAL 58</u> – 5 AAC 92.072. Community subsistence harvest hunt area and permit conditions; and 92.220. Salvage of game meat, furs, and hides. Modify the salvage requirements for moose and caribou taken under community subsistence harvest hunts as follows:

Community harvest hunts for caribou and moose must have all meat stay naturally attached to the bone.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? By having all meat stay naturally attached to the bone, the Denali Fish and Game Advisory Committee suggests that this will help prevent and simplify enforcement of wanton waste. This includes the existing front quarter, hind quarter and rib meat as well as all of the neck meat, all of the brisket, and all of the meat along the backbone.

PROPOSED BY: Denali Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F17-004)
****

Note: The Board of Game does not have authority to change the Tier II scoring criteria to include nonconsumptive use per Alaska Statute 16.05.258.

PROPOSAL 59 – 5 AAC 92.072. Community subsistence harvest hunt area and permit conditions; and 92.070. Tier II subsistence hunting permit point system. Consider all customary and traditional uses as eligibility criteria for Tier II and community subsistence harvest hunts as follows:

Consider all customary and traditional (C&T) uses as eligibility criteria preferences for all Tier II and community subsistence harvest (CSH) permit applications.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Customary and traditional uses of fish and game populations. Consider the use of customary and traditional hand-made manufacture and use of subsistence harvest of non-edible animal parts harvested for customary and traditional practical use of hides, bones, horns, antlers, religious use, jewelry, barter, trade, and gifts, as priority preferences eligibility for all statewide subsistence use application permits.

Presently, no ADF&G applications for Tier II or CSH subsistence use permits consider or respect the customary and traditional uses of non-edible long-time traditional and customary uses and handicrafts for subsistence eligibility criteria.

PROPOSED BY: Kenneth Manning (EG-F17-056)
****

Hunter Education

PROPOSAL 60 – 5 AAC 92.003. Hunter education and orientation requirements. Require hunter education for hunters 12 years of age or older, and those under 12 to be accompanied by someone who has successfully completed the course as follows:

Under 5 AAC 92.003 Hunter education and orientation requirements, and on page 13 of the Alaska Hunting Regulations it should read:

Beginning July 1, 2018, **ALL Hunters** 12 years of older must have completed a Basic Hunter Education course to hunt in the State of Alaska. Hunters under 12 years of age must be accompanied by someone who has successfully completed a Basic Hunter Education course.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Mandatory hunter education requirement for ALL Hunters 12 years and older to address the large increase in the number of hunters who have never hunted before in the State of Alaska and have been exempted by current regulations. Hunters under 12 years old must be accompanied by someone who has successfully completed a Basic Hunter Education course.

In fact, it is time to implement a uniform code for the entire state. Presently, hunter education in now mandatory in most states, and for good reason. Solid education improves safety for other hunters in the field, the hunter themselves, and decreases the percentage of wounded animals left in field.

PROPOSED BY: John Kaiser (EG-F16-149)
****

Permits for Possessing Live Game

PROPOSAL 61 – 5 AAC 92.029. Permit for possessing live game. Add Lesser Hedgehog Tenrec to the list of animals allowed to be possessed without a permit as follows:

Under 5 AAC 92.029. Permit for possessing live game, section (b), I would like to see the Lesser Hedgehog Tenrec listed.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Currently, the African Pygmy Hedgehog is on the clean list for exotic pets in Alaska. As a licensed hedgehog breeder, I am also interested in introducing the Lesser Hedgehog Tenrec species into our community. The Tenrec is similar to the African Pygmy Hedgehog (APH) in care and needs, however, they are not related despite the name "hedgehog" in their title. Many hedgehog breeders in the "lower 48" offer this species to their clients as well as the APH. The availability and knowledge of the Lesser Hedgehog Tenrec is not as common in the pet industry because they do not breed as quickly as a hedgehog.

As an exotic pet owner and breeder, this is a variety of animal that I would love to have the opportunity to bring into my home and learn more about their contributions as a more affectionate "pocket pet". The joy that I see that this species bring into other families as a family pet seems to be exuberant. I do not see it being anymore of a threat to the eco-environment in Alaska, and a great alternative to various rodents that others enjoy as family members. Like the APH, this species is also hypoallergenic making it a great alternative to those that cannot have a typical cat or dog in their lives.

PROPOSED BY: Billie Wilder (EG-F17-020)
****

PROPOSAL 62 – 5 AAC 92.029. Permit for possessing live game. Allow the release of sterilized, feral cats into the wild as follows:

This proposal is a request to change Alaska Administrative Code 5 AAC 92.029, Permit for Possessing Live Game, to remove the regulatory barrier to implement Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) programs to manage community cat populations. Specifically, I am requesting that 5 AAC 92.029 be changed to exempt "sterilized feral cats" (under Cats/Felis catus) from the list of species that are prohibited from being released into the wild.

5 AAC 92.029. Permit for possessing live game.

(a) Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, or in AS 16, no person may possess, import, release, export, or assist in importing, releasing, or exporting, live game, unless the person holds a possession permit issued by the department.

(b) The following species, not including a hybrid of a game animal and a species listed in this subsection, may be possessed, imported, exported, bought, sold, or traded without a permit from the department but may not be released into the wild:

Common Name	Scientific Name
Dog	Canis familiaris
Cat **(except sterilized feral cats)**	Felis catus
Sheep	Ovis aries
Goat	Capra hircus
Cattle	Bos taurus
Oxen	Bos spp.
Horse	Equus caballus
Guinea pig	Cavia porcellus
Reindeer (except feral reindeer)	Rangifer tarandus Var.
Llama	Lama peruana
Alpaca	Lama pacos
One-humped camel	Camelus dromedarius
Ass	Equus asinus Var.
Mule	Equus asinus x caballus
Swine	Sus scrofa Var.
European ferret	Mustela putorius furo
European rabbit	Oryctolagus cuniculus Var.
White rat	Rattus norvegicus Var. albinus
Mice: white, waltzing, singing,shaker, piebald	Mus musculus Var.
Fat-tailed gerbil	Pachyuromys duprasi
Gerbil	Gerbillus spp.
Hamster (golden)	Mesocricetus auratus
Chinchilla	Chinchilla laniger
Cavy	Cavia aperea
Hedgehog, African Pygmy	Erinaceus albiventris
Chicken	Gallus gallus Var.
Pigeon	Columia livia Var.
Any Turkey species	Subfamily Meleagridinae
Any Pheasant, Junglefowl or Coturnix species	Subfamily Phasianinae
Any Guineafowl species	Subfamily Numidinae
Canary	Serinus canaria Var.
Parrot, parakeet, cockatiel, macaw, and other members of the Family Psittacidae not prohibited by federal or international law	Family Psittacidae
Toucan	Family Ramphastidae
Any New World Quail species (including Bobwhite)	Subfamily Odontophorinae
Mynah	Acridotheres spp.
Any Peafowl species	Pavo spp.
Any duck, goose, swan, or other migratory waterfowl which the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service determines does not require a federal permit for private ownership	
Chukar partridge	Alectoris chukar

Button "quail"	Family Turnicidae in the order Gruiformes
Any nonvenomous reptile (crocodile, alligator, snake, turtle, or lizard) Members of the bird families Fringillidae, Turdidae, Zosteripidae, Pycnonotidae, Timaliidae, and Ploceidae of non-Holarctic origin. Members of the bird families Columbidae and Trogonidae of non- Nearctic origin.	Class Reptilia
Elk (except feral and wild elk)	(cervus elaphus)
Bison (except feral and wild bison)	(Bison bison)
Muskoxen (except feral and wild muskoxen)	

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

Introduction

My name is Shannon Basner, and I am submitting the following proposal to the Alaska Board of Game as a constituent living in Anchorage. I am a special education teacher in the Anchorage School District working in a self-contained behavior classroom. I have taught in New York and Alaska for 22 years collectively. I am also the founder of Mojo's Hope, a nonprofit organization that rescues, rehabilitates, and re-homes animals with special needs (www.mojoshope.org), Alaska Kitty Advocacy Awareness Adoption Tails (KAAATs), a non-profit organization that promotes advocacy, awareness and adoptions of cats (www.pawprintshowlsandpurrs.org/alaska-s-kaaats), and Paw-Prints, Howls and Purrs, a pet photography business (www.pawprintshowlsandpurrs.org/). In addition, I am an ABC-DT Certified Trainer who specializes in working with dogs and cats with specific behavior needs, such as being fearful, shy or introverted, primarily in the shelter or foster environment, with the goal of shaping behaviors so animals are comfortable with themselves and potential adopters.

Proposal Issue: Management of Community Cats

Community cats are unowned, free-roaming cats who live outdoors. These cats may have been born in the wild, or they may be lost or abandoned pets. Most community cats are not socialized to people (i.e., feral cats), so they are unable to adjust to living indoors. If community cats are brought to an animal shelter, they experience intense suffering due to the stress of being confined and their fear of people. As a result, virtually all community cats are killed since they are not suitable for adoption. Therefore, the term "community cats" reflects the reality that for these cats, "home" is within the community rather than in an individual household.

Local governments may explore strategies to manage their municipality's community cat population for a variety of reasons, including reducing animal control and shelter costs, stabilizing the number of cats living outdoors, and reducing nuisance complaints. They have three options:

1. **Trap-And-Remove (i.e., Catch-and-Kill):** Cats are trapped, brought to a shelter, and, because most are not socialized to people and are unadoptable, killed. Any remaining cats in the area quickly breed to capacity, or new cats move in to take advantage of the newly available resources. This is a well-documented phenomenon known as the "vacuum effect."

Year after year, more cats are trapped, more cats are killed, and more time and money is spent with zero evidence of success.

Please see the Appendix for more information about the "vacuum effect."

2. **Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR):** Cats are humanely trapped, spayed or neutered, vaccinated, eartipped, and returned to their outdoor home where they will continue to live while keeping newcomers at bay. Over time, TNR stabilizes or reduces community cat populations by stopping the breeding cycle and preventing unwanted litters of kittens.

3. **Do Nothing:** Cats continue to live outdoors without being spayed or neutered, vaccinated, or provided veterinary care if injured or sick. As a result, community cat populations are not managed, public health and resident concerns are not addressed, and animal welfare implications are not considered.

Why the Regulation Is Being Proposed

Alaska has a large population of community cats, yet current Alaska Department of Fish and Game regulations allow *only one option* to manage them: Catch-and-Kill. Alaska's local governments, shelters, residents, and animals deserve *a second option*: Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR).

TNR is recognized worldwide as the most effective, sustainable, and humane approach to community cat management. Cities and shelters across America have stopped using the Catch-and-Kill approach because it is expensive, time-consuming, and ineffective. Today, over 650 municipalities have adopted a TNR ordinance or policy, and thousands more welcome the TNR efforts of citizens. This regulation change is being proposed so communities in Alaska can legally implement a TNR program to manage their community cats.

Please see the Appendix for case studies on how TNR has transformed communities across the county and key scientific studies that demonstrate the effectiveness of TNR programs.

There are residents and animal rescue groups who want to practice TNR in Alaska for the health and wellbeing of community cats. For example, one rescue group receives requests to trap feral cats and kittens approximately two to three times a month (sometimes higher in the summer). Since TNR is illegal, they must limit their actions to kittens who are young enough to be socialized and cats who are most likely domesticated strays. When the group explains the limited options for most of these community cats, finders are typically unwilling to trap the cats/kittens and take them to animal control to be killed. The good news is this group regularly traps, sterilizes, and vaccinates cats and kittens who are good candidates for socialization and adoption, which does help reduce the number of breeding cats in the community. The bad news is that cats and kittens who are not capable of being socialized and adopted cannot be sterilized and vaccinated, because it is illegal to return them to their outdoor homes. This group looks forward to a time when they no longer must deny assistance to the many concerned residents who want to help *all* community cats.

My organization, Mojo's Hope, is interested in working alongside other local nonprofits to implement a TNR program in Anchorage. In March 2014, I began a dialogue with our local animal control about the effectiveness of TNR. I presented case studies, informational packets, and statistics of the impact of such programs in the lower 48. It was at this time that we discovered regulation **5 AAC 92.029** creates a barrier to TNR. Our TNR program would entail humanely trapping community cats and transporting them to a veterinary clinic where they will be spayed or neutered, vaccinated, and eartipped, which involves removing the tip of the cat's left ear to indicate that he or she has been sterilized and vaccinated. Based on an assessment by the veterinary team and a cat behaviorist, healthy feral cats will be returned to their outdoor home and healthy socialized cats will be brought to our local open admissions shelter or one of the local rescue groups that work with the municipal shelter. We will work to educate the community about TNR and respond to questions about the program and the cats. Our goal is to help Anchorage's community cats live happy and healthy lives, mitigate concerns in the community, and help our animal control officers and shelter personnel focus their resources on animals in need.

Why the Regulation Change Should Be Adopted

The proposed change **to Alaska Administrative Code Number 5 AAC 92.029, Permit for Possessing Live Game,** should be adopted to give local municipalities the opportunity to experience the many benefits of Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR).

TNR stabilizes or reduces community cat populations by:

- Increasing the number of cats who are spayed or neutered
- Decreasing the number of unwanted litters

TNR helps local governments and shelters save money by:

- Decreasing shelter intakes
  - Every animal impounded at a shelter requires expenses for housing, sanitation, comfort, medical care, and, especially for community cats, euthanasia. Once a shelter stops taking in feral cats, and their population is stabilized or reduced, fewer animals enter the shelter and fewer expenses are incurred.
- Decreasing shelter disease and euthanasia rates
  - Crowded conditions and stress increases incidences of shelter disease, especially upper respiratory infections (URI). For many shelter animals, health deterioration due to preventable illnesses results in euthanasia. When shelter intakes decrease due to TNR, more space and medical resources are available, fewer animals become sick, and fewer animals are euthanized.
- Increasing shelter save rates
  - As TNR reduces the strain on a shelter's financial and physical resources and personnel, more resources are available for adoptable and special needs pets. Rather than euthanize for space, behavior, or health issues, all animals are given the best opportunity to lead happy and healthy lives.
- Increasing shelter employee morale
  - There is a growing understanding of the negative impact animal euthanasia has on the mental health and morale of shelter employees. When they no longer bear the burden of euthanizing healthy community cats simply because they are

not socialized to people, shelters save money through reduced employee turnover rates, time away from work, and workers compensation claims.

TNR benefits local communities by:

- Increasing community support
  - When local governments and shelters support TNR, residents receive a clear message that the humane treatment of animals is a priority, and the community is transformed. Elected officials garner more support because they have addressed community concerns. Shelters grow their volunteer network because they have improved working conditions, services, and morale. Animal control officers improve their relationship with the public because they are saving more lives.
- Decreasing nuisance complaints
  - Most cat-related complaints to animal control are due to behaviors and stresses associated with mating and pregnancies, such as yowling, roaming, and fighting. When community cats are spayed or neutered, these behaviors and stress patterns stop, complaints are reduced, and animal control officers save time (and taxpayers' dollars) by responding to fewer calls.
- Increasing vaccination rates
  - Vaccinations are an integral component of TNR programs, which protect the health of individual cats and reduce the disease burden in the community.
  - TNR programs are often the number one provider of rabies vaccinations.

TNR improves individual cats' lives by:

- Increasing the number of community cats who are vaccinated
- Increasing the number of community cats who receive veterinary care if sick or injured
- Eliminating the behaviors and stresses associated with mating and pregnancy
- Providing an opportunity to live a happy and healthy life outdoors

Please see the Appendix for more information on how TNR benefits public health.

In conclusion, the proposed change to **Alaska Administrative Code Number 5 AAC 92.029, Permit for Possessing Live Game**, should be adopted because TNR is sound public policy.

What Would Happen if the Regulation Is Not Changed

If the proposed change to **Alaska Administrative Code Number 5 AAC 92.029, Permit for Possessing Live Game**, is not adopted, Alaska's local governments, shelters, and residents will continue to be limited to *only one option* to manage community cats: Catch-and-Kill. The purpose of this proposal is to remove the regulatory barrier to Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) so Alaska's communities have *a second option* to manage community cat populations. The change will not impact the authority of municipalities to develop programs and policies that best fit their needs. In fact, this regulatory change will support the discretion of municipalities by allowing them to choose whether TNR is right for them.

Other Solutions Considered and Rejected

Most community cats are not socialized to people, so they are unable to adjust to living indoors and cannot be adopted into traditional homes. Therefore, there are only two options to manage them: Trap-and-Remove (i.e., Catch-and-Kill) and Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR). Those who do not understand the unique needs of community cats often suggest cat sanctuaries as a solution. However, the viability of cat sanctuaries as an option for community cats exists only in theory, not in reality.

Cat sanctuaries are not the answer for the millions of community cats who live outside, just as they are not the answer for socialized cats who have lived with people inside. Sanctuaries face many challenges, including significant financial obstacles. They are extremely expensive to build and maintain, and most of them just aren't sustainable. Cat sanctuaries often spend thousands of dollars for housing and care per cat! Once a facility has opened, they fill up fast because they can only provide long term care for a small group of cats. Even then, the confinement and the large number of cats in small rooms or areas causes the cats a lot of stress and can expose them to disease. Despite their good intentions, sanctuaries are forced to close their doors every year due to insufficient funds or an inability to properly care for the cats in the existing confined space.

Rather than spend money to house a few hundred cats in a confined space, it is more practical, cost-efficient, and effective to fund Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) and low-cost spay and neuter programs that will benefit the entire cat population.

Appendix

The appendix and references submitted with the proposal are available on the Board of Game proposal book webpage at www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=gameboard.proposalbook or by contacting the ADF&G Boards Support Section at 465-4046.

PROPOSED BY: Mojo's Hope/Alaska's KAAATs (HQ-F17-007)
****

PROPOSAL 63 – 5 AAC 92.029. Permit for possessing live game. Prohibit the release of feral or stray domesticated cats into the wild as follows:

Put simply, to specifically and by name outlaw "Trap, Neuter, Release" (TNR) and all other "no-kill" programs predicated on trapping and treating feral domesticated cats and then returning them to the wild, or feeding and maintaining colonies of such cats unconfined, anywhere in the state of Alaska. An example of my proposed textual additions are given below in ***bold, italicized, underlined*** font:

Example: **AAC 92.029 Permit for Possessing Live Game** (d): Under this section, and in accordance with the definition of "game" as in AS. 69.05.940 (which includes feral domestic animals), a game animal defined as deleterious exotic wildlife or nonindigenous gallinaceous bird is feral if the animal is not under direct control of the owner, including being confined in a cage or other physical structure, or being restrained on a leash***; feral animals shall not be maintained unconfined in Alaska under the aegis of "no-kill" management programs such as TNR, TVNR, RTF or any other such program not providing for secure and continuous confinement of such animals at all times. Owners of such animals shall apply for permits***

issued by the department for all animals in their care, and shall abide by all conditions required by said permits.

In support of the above I include text from **AAC 92.029 Permit for Possessing Live Game** (h): "Upon application" (for temporary release for hunting, field trials, etc.) the board will add a species to the list in (b) of this section if there is clear and convincing evidence that the species is (1) *not capable of surviving in the wild in Alaska*; (2) is not capable of causing a genetic alteration of as species that is indigenous to Alaska; (3) *is not capable of causing a significant reduction in the population of a species that is indigenous to Alaska*; (4) *is not capable of transmitting a disease to a species that is indigenous to Alaska*; (5) *does not otherwise present a threat to the health or population of a species that is indigenous to Alaska*; (6) is not captured from the wild for use as a pet; (7) does not present a conservation concern to the species' native habitat outside of this state; (8) can reasonably be maintained in good health in private ownership; and (9) *does not present a likelihood that concerns about, or threats to human health and safety will lead to adverse consequences for captive animals*.

The *underlined, italicized* font in items (1), (3)-(5) and (9) clearly disqualifies feral cats from being considered as a species suitable for even temporary release into the wild.

The alternative solution I propose would be to reclassify feral cats as "vermin" and allow unlimited take, year-round.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Respectful greetings to members of the Alaska Board of Game: My proposal is to add language to 5 AAC Ch. 92.029 specifically prohibiting release of feral or stray domesticated cats (Felis catus) into the outdoors, or maintaining them unconfined anywhere in the state of Alaska, as part of any so-called "no-kill" management scheme touted to be a "viable alternative" to euthanasia or other lethal means of animal control currently provided for by existing State regulation.

Such schemes are identified under various acronyms such as: TNR--"Trap, Neuter, Release"; TVNR--"Trap, Vaccinate, Neuter, Release"; RTF--"Return-to-Field", etc. Proponents' claims to the contrary notwithstanding, these programs have proved utterly worthless for control or reduction of feral cat populations, and they pose a growing public health threat to our citizens, zoonotic disease threat to our valuable native wild mammals (terrestrial and marine, game and non-game), and an egregious threat by direct depredation to Alaska's smaller native mammal and bird populations.

I submit this proposal because misguided "animal welfare activists" in Alaska have proposed to this board that exemptions be made to the existing language of 5 AAC 92.029 prohibiting release of domesticated animals into the wild, and which prohibits maintaining feral domesticated animals as defined per AS.16.05.940 "...if the animal is not under direct control of an owner, including being confined in a cage or other physical structure, or being restrained on a leash."

Such "humane" activists desire exemptions to 5 AAC 92.029 so they can feed and maintain unconfined feral cat colonies in our environment. These groups already maintain such colonies in Anchorage and in the Mat-Su Valley illegally—they have admitted this on their websites and

I've obtained screenshots of said admissions, which I will print and provide upon request during the period for public input or as the board directs.

Last May, an Anchorage Animal Control Officer verbally acknowledged to me that at least two illegal feral cat colonies in Anchorage were "managed" or otherwise cared for by one of these groups. The group's president volunteers at the Anchorage animal shelter. One of her online statements suggest the illegal cat colonies may have been moved to locations which are being kept secret.

The irresponsible practice of trapping, neutering, vaccinating and then returning feral cats where they were trapped represents egregious threats to public health and wildlife conservation, and does nothing whatsoever to reduce feral cat presence in our environment—quite the opposite. The following examples constitute some of the reasons for my proposal and opposition to a proposal which was unsuccessfully, attempted to be submitted to the board last year. Please be advised that I can provide peer-reviewed scientific reports substantiating every example listed below, and again, will provide said documentation on board request:

(1) Since the advent of "no-kill" feral cat programs, cats have become the primary domesticated rabies vector in the US. Nearly one-third of human rabies exposures—about 13,000 annually—are cat-vectored. This has been the case for nearly three decades.

(2) One reason for this is that TNR colony "care-takers" only give the initial rabies shot when they trap a cat. The required annual rabies booster is never given, because once trapped the cats become wary and difficult to re-trap (so the caretakers simply don't bother).

(3) The worst incidence of human rabies exposure in US history was due to a TNR feral cat colony in one New Hampshire town in 1994. A rabid raccoon attracted to food left out for the cats transmitted the virus to four feral kittens. The colony "caretakers" subsequently gave (or sold) these kittens to a local pet store, which distributed them to the public. 665 individuals had to receive post-exposure prophylactic inoculations for rabies. It cost that municipality nearly $2 million to treat them. Rabies is nearly always fatal.

(4) Cats are also the definitive host of a highly dangerous pathogen—Toxoplasma gondii—which reproduces exclusively in feline digestive tracts. In the US between 40% and 70% of free-roaming cats are infected with it, usually throughout their lives. The pathogen's oocysts are its infectious agents, and infected cats shed hundreds of millions of them with their feces. The oocysts persist and remain infectious for up to 4.5 years, and—again thanks to "no-kill" programs like TNR and the resulting proliferation of feral cats—they now occur in our environment at densities of from three to 434 per square foot.

(5) Although it's almost certain T. gondii oocyst density in Alaska is less than in the lower '48—if for no other reason than because of our colder climate and smaller feral cat population—a pregnant woman in Anchorage consumed toxoplasmosis-infected flesh from a moose which her husband shot in October 2013, and passed the oocysts she ingested with her meal to her unborn child, who nearly died. The child recovered thanks to heroic measures, but may still lose his eyesight to ocular lesions caused by toxoplasmosis. He will in any event be infected for life.

(6) Per the CDC toxoplasmosis is the leading cause of pathogenic blindness—mostly but by no means exclusively in children—and the second-leading cause of fatal food-borne illness, surpassed only by Salmonella. 4,500 Americans are hospitalized with toxoplasmosis-related food-borne illness each year. Nearly 10% of them die.

(7) The incidence is far greater in areas where there are large populations of free-roaming cats: 50% of Ohio's white-tailed deer population is now infected with toxoplasmosis. It's now unsafe to eat venison from these animals unless it's cooked to a core temperature of at least 157 degrees F, or frozen to at least -21 degrees F for at least two weeks to destroy the infectious oocysts.

(8) In British Columbia some Inuit mothers have been afflicted with chronic miscarriages and birth defects after consuming toxoplasmosis-infected beluga meat. The prevalence of infection in belugas is such that Canadian health agencies now attempt to screen beluga for toxoplasmosis before allowing its consumption.

(9) Toxoplasmosis causes up to 5,000 stillbirths, blind, hydrocephalic, microcephalic, severely deformed and mentally debilitated infants in the US each year.

(10) T. gondii oocysts survive in seawater, which they enter with runoff into the nearshore marine environment, where they are taken up into the tissues of oysters, mussels, anchovies and sardines. Cetaceans, pinnipeds and otters from Arctic Canada to New Zealand and from the US Pacific Coast to the United Kingdom consume these contaminated organisms and die from it—by the thousands. Apparently all species of terrestrial mammals—and several bird species—are just as susceptible to toxoplasmosis as marine mammals.

(11) T. gondii oocysts contaminate above-ground rural and/or urban drinking water supplies if they're inadequately filtered--chlorination does not kill them. This has caused toxoplasmosis outbreaks in several regions.

(12) The oocysts can and do aerosolize. Inhalation or ingestion of one oocyst is sufficient to blind, permanently debilitate or kill a child, elderly or immuno-compromised person. Possibly one-fifth of the US population is infected with toxoplasmosis. A healthy immune system suppresses its symptoms. However, everyone's immune system will degrade with age, and the oocysts will still be present—toxoplasmosis infection is for life—there is no cure.

(13) I have mentioned only two of the more than three dozen deleterious and/or potentially fatal zoonotic diseases which cats carry—some others are bartonellosis, tularemia, leishmaniasis, MRSA, toxocariasis and plague. These diseases are more prevalent and infectious in regions with large stray and feral cat populations. My purpose in submitting this proposal in opposition to legalizing TNR or other worthless "no-kill" programs in my state is to prevent Alaska from becoming like those regions.

(14) Describing TNR as "worthless" is by no means an overly harsh assessment. Since the advent of this program in the US, two- and three-decades old feral colonies have become commonplace, for example in Washington DC and Disneyland (Anaheim). Even more telling, TNR was first

practiced in the UK. Despite a half-century of TNR, the British stray and feral cat population has more than doubled—from 4.1 million in 1965 to 9.1 million today.

PROPOSED BY: Frederick Minshall (EG-F17-067)
****

Note: The Board of Game deferred this proposal from the 2016 Statewide Regulations Meeting. It was previously numbered Proposal 90.

PROPOSAL 64 – 5 AAC 92.029. Permit for possessing live game. Eliminate domestic sheep (Ovis aries) and goats (Capra hircus) from the "Clean List" and require a permit for possession with stipulations if located within 15 air miles of all sheep habitat as follows:

(b) **Domestic sheep and goats will be removed from the "Clean List" regulation.**

Any person in possession of domestic sheep (*ovis*) or goats (*capra*) must obtain a permit from the department within one year of implementation of this section. Animals located within 15 air miles of Dall sheep habitat must be contained within a Department approved facility (double fence, etc.) and certified disease free when testing becomes available. Animals located more than 15 miles from Dall sheep habitat will be issued a permit without stipulation online.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Domestic sheep and goats have been proven to carry diseases that are devastating to wild sheep populations. This proposal will be a good start to prevent the spread of disease into wild sheep populations. Hobby farming is growing rapidly in Alaska including areas that would be considered Dall sheep habitat. Entire populations of bighorn sheep are presently being eradicated due to these unintentional disease transmissions.

Justification:
#1 We have a constitutional mandate to manage for sustained yield, this includes doing what we can to maintain healthy native wildlife populations.
#2 Online permitting has become mainstream and is simple.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Wild Sheep Foundation (HQ-C15-128)
****

Miscellaneous Topics

Note: The Board of Game deferred this proposal from the 2017 Interior/Northeast Arctic Region Meeting. It was previously numbered Proposal 86.

PROPOSAL 65 – 5 AAC 85.025. Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou; and 92.510. Areas closed to hunting. Close an area ¼ mile on either side of the Taylor Highway to hunting during caribou season, and limit the number of permits as follows:

We would like to see no-shoot zone ¼ mile from each side of the road, so a ½-mile wide corridor, with the highway in the center, along the Taylor Highway and Boundary Cutoff Road. If not along the entire highway (which we would prefer) at minimum between the Walker Fork Bridge (Mile Post 82) and the Alder Creek Bridge (MP 115.4) and along the Boundary Cutoff.

We would like to see the number of permits for these hunts limited to a level that will allow managers and law enforcement to be able to effectively manage the hunt in a safe and sustainable manner.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The fall Fortymile caribou hunt (RC860) along the Taylor Highway has become a very dangerous, wasteful, ugly, unethical, shooting gallery style of hunt. Resulting in numerous issues including:

-Hunters on ATVs run up and down the highway at high speeds (which is against state law) chasing after groups of caribou on or along the road (harassing animals is also against the law).

-Hunters commonly shoot animals on the highway, from the highway, across the highway and from their ATVs (all against the law). They'll see a group of caribou a ways off on or near the road, speed up to them, slam on their brakes and start shooting into the group. This happens often!

-Hunters along the road shoot down the road and at caribou sky lined on the road or just off the road, without any concern for safety of others, resulting in dangerous conditions for hunters and non-hunters alike along the Taylor Highway, especially in between the Walker Fork Bridge (MP 82) and the Fortymile River Bridge (MP 112.4) and along the Boundary Cutoff.

-Numerous pools of blood in the middle of the road, in this area, with no drag marks, during the fall 2015 season, prove these animals are being killed on the road. This was documented by state and federal managers and enforcement during the fall 2015 season.

-There is significant wounding loss from hunters flock-shooting from the highway, which has been documented by state and federal managers and law enforcement personnel. There were at least 12 caribou killed and left in this area in only a few days during the fall 2015 season, as documented by state and federal managers and law enforcement. And this is just what they were able to find.

-Each fall there are hundreds of people camped all across the high country along this stretch of highway, especially from the Y to MP 105. Garbage and animal remains litter the areas where the hunters camp when the hunters leave (littering is against the law).

-Dozens of gut piles litter the shoulder of the highway in this stretch and are occasionally left right in the middle of a pull-out or on the drivable surface of the road itself (this is against the hunt conditions for RC860 – thus illegal and can be verified by state and federal managers and law enforcement).

-During the fall 2015 season, my wife and I, while working in our garden, had bullets flying over our heads from people shooting at caribou on the road above our house. We also had caribou killed within a few hundred feet of our house that were shot by hunters shooting from the Fortymile River bridge toward our house. This hunt has put our lives and the lives of our dogs in danger, plain and simple, and has taken away our opportunity to hunt or even pick berries safely.

-Issuing over 3000 permits for this area is simply not manageable and not sustainable.

-While some may argue many of these things are already against the law, so much of it is happening that managers and enforcement officers cannot even come close to keeping up with all of this. It is uncontrollable and with dwindling enforcement presence due to state budget problems, the problem will only get worse.

The herd, the country, and those of us who live here can't take much more of this, changes need to be made.

PROPOSED BY: David Likins (EG-F16-027)
****

<u>PROPOSAL 66</u> – 5 AAC 92.005. Policy for changing board agenda. Update the Board of Game's policy for accepting agenda change requests to make it more consistent with the Joint Board Petition Policy as follows:

5 AAC 92.005. Policy for changing board agenda.

(a) The Board of Game (board) may change the board's schedule for considering proposed regulatory changes in response to an agenda change request, submitted on a form provided by the board, in accordance with the following guidelines:

(1) an agenda change request must be to consider a proposed regulatory change outside the board's published schedule and must specify the change proposed and the reason the proposed change should be considered out of sequence. An agenda change request is not intended to address proposals that could have been submitted by the deadline scheduled for submitting proposals;

(2) the board will accept an agenda change request only

(A) [FOR A CONSERVATION PURPOSE OR REASON;] **<u>repealed;</u>**

(B) to correct an error in a regulation; [OR]

(C) to correct an effect of a regulation that was unforeseen when a regulation was adopted; **<u>or</u>**

(D) if the request identifies a biological concern for the population or a threat to meeting objectives for the population;

(E) if the request identifies an unforeseen, unexpected event or effect that would otherwise restrict or reduce a reasonable opportunity for customary and traditional wildlife uses, as defined in AS 16.05.258(f):or

(F) if the request identifies an unforeseen, unexpected resource situation where a biologically allowable resource harvest would be precluded by delayed regulatory action and such delay would be significantly burdensome to the petitioners because the resource would be unavailable in the future;

(3) the board will not accept an agenda change request that is predominantly allocative in nature in the absence of new information that is found by the board to be compelling;

(4) a request must be received by the executive director of the boards support section [AT LEAST 60 DAYS BEFORE THE FIRST REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING] **by November 1st of that year;**

(5) if one or more agenda change requests have been timely submitted, the board shall meet to review the requests within 30 days following the submittal deadline in subsection (4), and may meet telephonically for this purpose**;**[.]

(6) when considering an agenda change request, the board should take into consideration 5 AAC 96.625(d) and 5 AAC 96.625(e);

(7) if the board accepts an agenda change request, the board will develop and consider proposals for all agenda change requests for those specified regulations.

(b) The board may change the board's schedule for consideration of proposed regulatory changes as reasonably necessary for coordination of state regulatory actions with federal agencies, programs, or laws.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The criteria for Agenda Change Requests (ACRs) is vague. This has resulted in inconsistency in acceptance of requests and acceptance of requests that do not need to be addressed out of cycle. Out of cycle proposals are not afforded the full process for advisory committee and public review and comments. It is also confusing for the public to know when an ACR is appropriate. The Department of Fish and Game has provided this proposal to allow the board to address those issues.

Amending the regulation to put it in closer alignment with the Joint Board Petition Policy is one way to ensure that the full Board of Game process for public input and comment is used for all proposals that do not need to be addressed out of cycle.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F17-031)
****

PROPOSAL 67 – 5 AAC 92.003 Hunter education and orientation requirements; 92.012. Licenses and tags; 92.039. Permit for taking wolves using aircraft; 92.044. Permit for hunting bear with the use of bait or scent lures; 92.052. Discretionary permit hunt conditions and procedures; 92.072. Community subsistence harvest hunt area and permit conditions; 92.130. Restrictions to bag limit; and 5 AAC 92.530, Management areas. To comply with recent statutory changes, review and update regulations with minimum hunting age requirements as follows:

The Department of Fish and Game (department) recommends the Board of Game (board) examine the age requirements of all existing regulations given action taken by the legislature to raise the minimum age requirement for Alaska residents to purchase licenses from 16 to 18 years of age. Some of the age requirements in regulation are region specific and the board may prefer to deal with those at the appropriate regional meeting, however they are shown below to illustrate all of the age requirements currently in regulation.

5 AAC 92.003. Hunter education and orientation requirements. (a) Beginning August 1, 2002, a person born after January 1, 1986 that is

(1) required to have a hunting license must have successfully completed a certified hunter education course in order to hunt in Units 7, 13, 14, 15, and 20;

(2) not required to have a hunting license, and who has not successfully completed a certified hunter education course, must, in order to hunt in Units 7, 13, 14, 15, and 20, be under the direct immediate supervision of a licensed hunter who

(A) is **18** [16] years of age or older and has successfully completed a certified hunter education course; or

(B) was born on or before January 1, 1986

(b) not withstanding (a) of this section, A resident hunter who is 10 through 17 years of age at the start of the hunt, and has successfully completed a certified hunter education course, is allowed to hunt on behalf of a permit holder who is at least **18** [16] years of age, under the direct immediate supervision of that permit holder, who is responsible for ensuring that all legal requirements are met.

5 AAC 92.012. Licenses and tags. (a) No hunting or trapping license is required of a resident under the age of **18** [16]. An appropriate license and big game tag are required of nonresidents, regardless of age, for hunting and trapping. No person **18** [16] years of age or older may take waterfowl unless that person has a current, validated, federal migratory bird hunting stamp or "duck stamp" in possession.

5 AAC 92.039. Permit for taking wolves using aircraft.

(d) The department may apply any of the following conditions to a permit issued under this section:

…

(7) the department may require an applicant for a permit to possess minimum qualifications, including

…

(E) that the applicant is at least **18** [16] years old;

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

…

(b) In addition to any condition that the department may require under 5 AAC 92.052, a permit issued under this section is subject to the following provisions:

…

(3) a person must be at least **18** [16] years of age to be issued a permit;

5 AAC 92.052. Discretionary permit hunt conditions and procedures. The department may apply any or all of the following additional conditions to a permit hunt, when necessary for management of the species hunted:

…

(15) the permit applicant must hold a valid Alaska hunting license; however, this does not apply to a resident under the age of **18** [16]; an applicant's hunting license number must be entered on the permit application; a resident under the age of **18** [16] shall enter his or her age instead of a license number;

5 AAC 92.072. Community subsistence harvest hunt area and permit conditions.

…

(c) If the board has established a community harvest hunt area for a big game population, residents of a community or members of a group may elect to participate in a community harvest permit hunt in accordance with the following conditions:

(1) a person representing a group of 25 or more residents or members may apply to the department for a community harvest permit by identifying the community harvest hunt area and the species to be hunted, and by requesting that the department distribute community harvest reports to the individuals who subscribe to the community harvest permit; the community or group representative must

(A) provide to the department the names of residents or members subscribing to the community harvest permit and the residents' or members' hunting license numbers, permanent hunting identification card numbers, or customer service identification numbers, or for those residents or members under **18** [16] years of age, the resident or member's birth date;

5 AAC 92.122(b)(4)(D)(vii). Unit 16 Intensive Management Plan.

(vii) taking of bears by foot snaring by permit only from April 15 through October 15; permittees must be accompanied by another person, age **18** [16] or older, when conducting foot snaring activities in the field; foot snaring permits will be issued at the discretion of the

department based on previous trapping experience, ability to help train other participants, and length of time available for participation in a snaring program; a selected foot snaring permittee must successfully complete a department-approved training program, must be a resident **18** [16] years of age or older, and report all animals taken by the permittee to the department within 48 hours of taking;

5 AAC 92.130. Restriction to bag limit.

(e) A hunter who is under 10 years of age may take big game only under the direct, immediate supervision of a licensed hunter who is at least **18** [16] years of age. The supervising hunter is responsible for ensuring that all legal requirements are met. The big game animal taken will count against the supervising hunter's bag limit. This section does not relieve an individual from complying with big game tag requirements, but does require a supervising hunter to validate the hunter's harvest ticket, or permit, in accordance with 5 AAC 92.010, immediately following the taking of big game under this section.

5 AAC 92.530. Management Areas.

(6) Skilak Loop Wildlife Management Area:

(A) the area consists of that portion of Units 15(A) and 15(B) bounded by a line beginning at the easternmost junction of the Sterling Highway and the Skilak Loop Road (milepost 58), then due south to the south bank of the Kenai River, then southerly along the south bank of the Kenai River to its confluence with Skilak Lake, then westerly along the north shore of Skilak Lake to Lower Skilak Lake Campground, then northerly along the Lower Skilak Loop Campground Road and the Skilak Loop Road to its westernmost junction with the Sterling Highway (milepost 75.1), then easterly along the Sterling Highway to the point of origin;

AAC 92.530(6)(B) is repealed and readopted to read:

(B) the area is closed to hunting and trapping, except that:

(i) moose may be taken by permit only;

(ii) small game may be taken by:

(a) falconry or bow and arrow only from October 1 through March 1; and

(b) standard .22 caliber rimfire firearm and shotgun only, in that portion of the area west of a line from the access road from the Sterling Highway to Kelley Lake, the Seven Lakes Trail, and the access road from Engineer Lake to Skilak Lake Road, and north of Skilak Lake Road, during each Saturday and Sunday from November 1 through December 31 and the Friday following Thanksgiving day, by youth hunters **18** [16] years old or younger accompanied by a licensed hunter 18 years old or older who has successfully completed a certified hunter education course if the youth has not successfully completed a certified hunter education course;

(iii) wolf, coyote, and lynx may be taken under applicable hunting regulations from November 10 through March 31, except within 1/4 mile of the Engineer, Kelly, Petersen and Hidden Lake campgrounds and within 1/4 mile of boat launches.

(C) a firearm may not be discharged within one-quarter mile of any campground;

…

(30) the Hatcher Pass Youth Hunt Management Area:

(A) the area consists of that portion of Unit 14(A) within the upper Little Susitna River drainage upstream of mile 13.6 on Hatcher Pass Road (Gold Mint Trail parking area) and ¼ mile away from the road including Archangel and Fishhook Creeks, and upper Little Susitna River drainages. Also, portions of the upper Willow Creek drainage upstream of the confluence of Willow and Craigie Creeks, including Grubstake Gulch and Homestake Creeks, Summit Lake, and Bullion and Skyscraper Mountains. There is no discharge of firearms allowed within ¼ mile of the road.

(B) from August 10 to August 25, the area is closed to small game hunting except that small game may be taken by a youth hunter **18** [16] years old or younger accompanied by a licensed hunter 18 years old or older who has successfully completed a certified hunter education course if the youth hunter has not successfully completed a certified hunter education course.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? There are 13 places in regulation that refer to licensed hunters, hunters, and permit holders 16 years of age. Effective January 1, 2017, the Alaska legislature changed the minimum age requirement for Alaska residents to purchase a hunting, trapping, and fishing license from 16 to 18 years of age, which put these 13 places in regulation in contradiction with the statutes. In some cases the conflicting ages may be appropriate, in many cases the age in regulation appears to have been driven by the license requirement only. The proposed changes to 5 AAC 92.012, 5 AAC 92.052, and 5 AAC 92.072 must be made in order for board regulations to be in compliance with the recent statutory changes. All of the other changes in this proposal are at the board's discretion.

For most of the identified regulations the department has little data, if any, regarding the number of people that may be impacted by this change. Some of the regulations are not currently used, for example, bear control in Unit 16 is not currently being implemented, so the change would not impact anyone because there are no participants.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F17-029)
****

PROPOSAL 68 – 5 AAC 92.XXX. New regulation. Create a new regulation to allow season openings and increased hunting opportunities in-season by emergency order as follows:

Create regulation that will allow ADF&G to open or increase hunting opportunities in-season based on best available science when additional harvest can be supported.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Biologists within ADF&G should have the ability to adjust harvest by opening or closing seasons during the regulatory year by Emergency Order (EO), based on in-season information. Currently, ADF&G can only close seasons. A mechanism should be in place to allow opening of hunting opportunities when game populations can support additional harvest.

PROPOSED BY: Dave Lyon (EG-F17-108)
****

<u>PROPOSAL 69</u> – 5 AAC 92.003. Hunter education and orientation requirements. For all antler restricted hunts, require hunters to view an educational video for identifying legal moose as follows:

All moose hunters in areas with antler restrictions must watch an ADF&G video on how to judge moose.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? As has been made obvious by moose antler sealing requirements in Units 7 and 15 many hunters have difficulty judging legal moose when faced with 50-inch antler restrictions. All hunters in units with antler restrictions should be better educated in judging moose. This issue cannot be unique to the Kenai Peninsula. Regulations in areas with antler restrictions should be uniform throughout the state.

PROPOSED BY: Homer Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-F17-107)
****

Central/Southwest Region

Tentative Meeting Agenda

February 16–23, 2018 | Dillingham, Alaska
Dillingham Middle School

Note: This Tentative Agenda is subject to change throughout the course of the meeting. This Tentative Agenda 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, February 16, 8:30 AM
OPENING BUSINESS
Call to Order / Purpose of Meeting
Introductions of Board Members and Staff
Board Member Ethics Disclosures
AGENCY AND OTHER REPORTS
PUBLIC AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE ORAL TESTIMONY upon conclusion of 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, February 17, 8:30 AM
PUBLIC AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE ORAL TESTIMONY

Sunday, February 18, 9:00 AM
PUBLIC AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE ORAL TESTIMONY
BOARD DELIBERATIONS upon conclusion of public testimony

Monday, February 19, 8:30 AM – Thursday, February 22, 8:30 AM
BOARD DELIBERATIONS continued

Friday, February 23, 8:30 AM
BOARD DELIBERATIONS
MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS, including petitions, findings and policies, letters, and other business
ADJOURN

Agenda Notes

D. 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 the ADF&G Boards Support Office in Juneau at 465-4110.
E. A live audio stream for the meeting is intended to be available at: www.boardofgame.adfg.alaska.gov
F. 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 465-4110 no later than February 2, 2018 to make any necessary arrangements.

Regionwide, Multiple Units & Other Regions

Note: The Board of Game deferred this proposal from the 2017 Interior/Northeast Arctic Region Meeting. It was previously numbered Proposal 93.

PROPOSAL 70 – 5 AAC 92.530(7)(C)(i)(2). Management Areas. Remove the Bettles Winter Trail travel exception for public use within the Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area as follows:

The following management areas are subject to special restrictions:
(7) the Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area:
(C) no motorized vehicle may be used to transport hunters, hunting gear, or parts of game, within the Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area, except that
(i) licensed highway vehicles may be used on the following designated roads:
(1) Dalton Highway,
[(2) BETTLES WINTER TRAIL DURING PERIODS WHEN THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT AND THE CITY OF BETTLES ANNOUNCE THAT THE TRAIL IS OPEN FOR WINTER TRAVEL,]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Department of Fish and Game is submitting this proposal as a placeholder to provide the Board of Game with an opportunity to make changes to the Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area (DHCMA) regulation that may become necessary based on possible actions taken by land managers in the affected area. This proposal would remove the Bettles Winter Trail as a motorized travel exception from the DHCMA regulation. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is currently conducting an environmental analysis of permitted use of the Bettles Winter Trail. The decision may be forthcoming by June 2016, which is after the deadline for proposals for this Board of Game meeting. BLM is also currently assessing the Bettles Winter Trail in their Central Yukon Management Plan. At this time, it appears that if the Bettles Winter Trail permit is approved by BLM in its current form, vehicle access will be restricted to commercial fuel trucks only with no public use allowed. Therefore, the existing regulation which designates the Bettles Winter Trail as a legal motorized travel exception within the DHCMA would mislead hunters and possibly subject them to citations if the road is closed to public use.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F16-139)
****

Note: The Board of Game deferred this proposal from the 2016 Statewide Regulations Meeting. It was previously numbered Proposal 14.

PROPOSAL 71 – 5 AAC 92.080. Unlawful methods of taking game; exceptions, and 92.085. Unlawful methods of taking big game; exceptions. Allow the use of crossbows in restricted-weapons hunts as follows:

In order to allow more opportunity for those hunters wishing to use a crossbow while hunting during special hunts like the roadside "targeted hunts" for moose in Southcentral and the Interior,

or while hunting in specific game management areas or state refuges around the state where either muzzleloaders or shotguns and bow and arrow are the approved hunting tools, I would ask the Board of Game to include the use of crossbows as a fourth approved hunting tool.

In addition to those wishing to hunt with a crossbow, there are those older or smaller hunters who, for whatever reason, cannot use a bow and arrow that meets the existing requirements. A person who cannot draw and hold a bow and arrow can normally still use a crossbow if that tool was legal for use.

What I am proposing is that the category of crossbow be added to the list of approved hunting tools for those hunts in game management areas, state game refuges, and special hunts where either a muzzleloader or shotgun is legal along with bow and arrow. For areas or hunts that are specified as bow and arrow only, nothing will change.

A crossbow has certain advantages over a bow and arrow and also has some major disadvantages compared to a bow and arrow. However, the two hunting tools are still relatively comparable in power and range. A crossbow does not even come close to a muzzleloader or shotgun in comparison. If a muzzleloader or a shotgun is legal to use, along with bow and arrow, then there are no practical concerns to not allow a crossbow along with bow and arrow in those areas or hunts which also allow a muzzleloader or shotgun.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? There are currently several state game management areas, state refuges, and special hunts statewide which support weapons restricted big game hunts. Most of these hunts prohibit the use of centerfire, high-powered rifles and specify that only muzzleloaders, shotguns using slugs, or bow and arrow (or some combination of the specified implements) are allowed. Hunters choosing to use muzzleloaders or bow and arrow must comply with existing regulation requirements for these hunting tools, i.e., things like muzzleloading caliber or the bow's draw weight.

These restrictions in areas or refuges or special hunts are done largely for safety reasons because all of the approved hunting tools are considered short-range compared to a highpowered rifle.

The Board of Game recently defined crossbows in regulation into their own category with requirements on power, bolt length, etc. This was done because crossbows as hunting tools are gradually increasing in hunting use for big game in Alaska during the general season and have become the fastest growing hunting tool in the Lower 48 for hunting animals like white-tailed deer and black bear. It was felt that a distinction between bow and arrow and crossbow was necessary.

Since crossbows are defined separately from bow and arrow, current regulations allowing the use of bow and arrow exclude the use of a crossbow for hunting during that same hunt.

PROPOSED BY: Howard Delo (EG-C15-037)
****

PROPOSAL 72 – 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Establish archery-only registration hunts for moose in Units 9, 11, 13, 14A, 14B, 16 and 17 as follows:

Establish a registration archery (conventional bows, not crossbows, IBEP certified hunters) only moose season in any Unit of 9, 11, 13, 14A, 14B, 16 or 17 that is open to a general (harvest ticket) moose hunt. A legal moose would be the same as during the general season hunt. Season dates would be seven days immediately following the close of the general moose season.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Nearly all states in the lower 48 encourage bowhunting by having long archery only seasons in desirable times of the year. This allows many individuals the opportunity to hunt with a challenging, ethically satisfying device while limiting the harvest because of the limited range of that device. More hunting opportunity translates into more hunters which results in more license sales and more gear purchased. This all rests in increased Pittman-Robertson federal funds to support better wildlife management. Hunters are the best conservationists and bowhunters are the best of the best because they spend more time in the field and harvest less game. Alaska has very few archery-only hunts but we believe that more hunts could be offered with minimal impact on the game populations. We are asking for a special archery moose hunt, which would occur after the regular firearms moose hunt. It would be a registration hunt. A legal moose would be whatever moose was legal in the general hunt in that same area. In other words, no special size limits for archery hunters. The purpose of the hunt being after the general moose hunt would be because the weather is colder and meat care is easier later in the fall. Also, fewer leaves on the trees and bushes make the moose easier to see. We would propose a registration hunt so that it could be closely monitored in terms of participation and harvest. We purpose this hunt for any area open to moose hunting with a general harvest ticket.

PROPOSED BY: The Alaskan Bowhunters Association (EG-F17-064)
****

PROPOSAL 73 – 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep. Establish archery-only registration hunts for Dall sheep in Units 9, 11, 13, 14A, 14B, 16 and 17 as follows:

Establish an archery only (conventional bows, not crossbows) registration sheep hunt in all areas of Units 9, 11, 13, 14A, 14B, 16 and 17 that are currently general season (harvest ticket) hunts. Season dates to be August 1–9.

An alternative would be the above registration archery sheep hunt from September 21–30. This is not as desirable because of shorter daylight hours and worse weather.

Legal sheep in either case would be full-curl, eight years of age or double-broomed ram only.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Nearly all other states promote bowhunting by allowing longer seasons in more desirable times of the year because bowhunting allows greater public participation in hunting and conservation activities while at the same time limiting by the method of take of the actual harvest of game. Alaska has been struggling with much dissatisfaction among its sheep hunters because of overcrowding and lack

of quality animals being available. Allowing an early archery sheep hunt before the regular firearm season would potentially reduce crowding on August 10 and it would not cause any significant increase in sheep harvest. Biologically as long as a legal sheep was still defined as full-curl, eight years old or double-broomed it would not affect the sheep population. There would be benefit to both resident and nonresident hunters and guides because it would give the guides another potential hunt to sell. Bowhunters are not an exclusive group. Anyone can learn to be proficient with bow and arrow. But the harvest would be much less because of the need to get very much closer to the sheep before being able to make a kill. This would be a method by which the Board of Game could provide increased hunting opportunity while not increasing the take of sheep. It would be only in areas where sheep hunting is currently allowed by harvest ticket and not in the special drawing hunt areas. It seems reasonable to initiate this type of season in only one region so that it can be studied to see its effect on the sheep population and on hunters' enjoyment of their opportunities. We propose making it a registration hunt so that participation and reporting can be closely monitored.

PROPOSED BY: The Alaskan Bowhunters Association (EG-F17-082)
****

PROPOSAL 74 – 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep. Remove the nonresident bag limit restriction of one Dall sheep every four years in the Central/Southwest Region as follows:

My proposal is to change the nonresident restriction "one ram every four regulatory years" to "one ram every regulatory year." Stated in regulatory language:

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

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 ram with full-curl horn or larger, [EVERY 4 REGULATORY YEARS]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I would like to address the regulation within 5 AAC 85.055 that currently only allows nonresidents to harvest one Dall sheep every four years. Roughly 80% of all sheep hunters in Alaska on any given year are on their first or second sheep hunt. Roughly 60% of all sheep hunters are on their first sheep hunt. Data from ADF&G shows that most Dall sheep harvested in Alaska every year were taken by novice sheep hunters, regardless of residency.

Few people actually report hunting sheep multiple times over the years. The heated topics and issues surrounding Dall sheep hunting truly is a problem of the few. However, those few are very passionate. Their desires and dreams are filled with the persistent thoughts of returning to the mountains, in pursuit of those majestic animals. This passion is the very reason why those hunters should be allowed the freedom to continue and pursue their dreams.

The only people who are excluded from returning to hunt Dall sheep are those nonresidents who successfully harvested a sheep in Alaska in the prior three years. Residents who have

successfully taken sheep are not excluded from hunting again. Just because a nonresident hunter has had success in the past, he or she should not be excluded from further opportunity.

For those who believe their own chances of taking a Dall sheep will improve by further restrictions of nonresidents, I believe they are misguided. To borrow a quote from Jack O'Connor, "This is no game for the weak-kneed and faint-hearted. Hunter success is not high, not because there aren't enough sheep but because there aren't enough people with the temperament to become sheep hunters." – *The Bighorn, March 1960.* Alaska is the only state in America that does not severely restrict sheep tags to its own residents. Residents of Alaska may go sheep hunting every single year, and it should remain this way. But restricting a few nonresidents does nothing to improve an individual's sheep hunting abilities.

Furthermore, there will be very limited impact of allowing these nonresident hunters to return to the mountains. According to data from ADF&G, for the 16 hunting seasons spanning from 2000–2015, there were 24,164 hunters who reported hunting sheep a total of 42,150 times. If we look at just the total number of nonresidents who attempted another hunt within a four year period after successfully taking a sheep, there was a total of 211. This includes both those guided, and those hunting with second degree Alaskan family. However, how many of these hunters successfully took another sheep within that four-year window? 135, most of which came from repeat guided clients. That comes out to 8.4 sheep per year, statewide! Stated another way, this is about one sheep saved per mountain range where sheep exist in Alaska. This level of "conservation" is laughable at best.

With a population of sheep somewhere around 45,000 statewide, and the literature showing repeated natural population fluctuations, both increasing and decreasing, of 28–35% in one to three year periods over areas of the Alaska Range (Arthur 2003) and Canada (Hoefs and Bayer 1983), the "normal" fluctuation statewide would be expected to be about 12,600–15,700 sheep. Not allowing these few passionate hunters to harvest 8.4 sheep per year on a conservation basis is inconsequential. Therefore, please consider allowing a nonresident hunter the opportunity to continue to hunt Dall sheep each year.

PROPOSED BY: Chris Harper (EG-F17-050)
****

PROPOSAL 75 – 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep. Allow nonresidents to obtain one general season Dall sheep permit in a regulatory year in the Central/Southwest Region as follows:

My proposal is to allow any hunter currently under the "one sheep every four regulatory years" restriction be allowed to obtain one general season permit for Dall sheep in a regulatory year. If issued such a permit, that hunter agrees to the following:

Voluntarily forfeiting all opportunity to hunt other big game species in Alaska that year, including drawing permits, registration permits, and general season hunts.

This would allow a person, whose passion above all else is to pursue Dall sheep, the opportunity to do so while excluding them from all other Alaska big game opportunity. This is a positive for both those few passionate sheep hunters, and for everyone else whose interest is more directed to other species.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I would like to address the regulation that currently only allows nonresidents to harvest one Dall sheep every four years. Roughly 80% of all sheep hunters in Alaska on any given year are on their first or second sheep hunt. Roughly 60% of all sheep hunters are on their first sheep hunt. Data from ADF&G shows that most Dall sheep harvested in Alaska every year were taken by novice sheep hunters, regardless of residency.

Few people actually report hunting sheep multiple times over the years. The heated topics and issues surrounding Dall sheep hunting truly is a problem of the few. However, those few are very passionate. Their desires and dreams are filled with the persistent thoughts of returning to the mountains, in pursuit of those majestic animals. This passion is the very reason why those hunters should be allowed the freedom to continue and pursue their dreams.

The only people who are excluded from returning to hunt Dall sheep are those nonresidents who successfully harvested a sheep in Alaska in the prior three years. Residents who have successfully taken sheep are not excluded from hunting again. Just because a nonresident hunter has had success in the past, he or she should not be excluded from further opportunity.

For those who believe their own chances of taking a Dall sheep will improve by further restrictions of nonresidents, I believe they are misguided. To borrow a quote from Jack O'Connor, "This is no game for the weak-kneed and faint-hearted. Hunter success is not high, not because there aren't enough sheep but because there aren't enough people with the temperament to become sheep hunters." – *The Bighorn, March 1960.* Alaska is the only state in America that does not severely restrict sheep tags to its own residents. Residents of Alaska may go sheep hunting every single year, and it should remain this way. But restricting a few nonresidents does nothing to improve an individual's sheep hunting abilities.

Furthermore, there will be very limited impact of allowing these nonresident hunters to return to the mountains. According to data from ADF&G, for the 16 hunting seasons spanning from 2000–2015, there were 24,164 hunters who reported hunting sheep a total of 42,150 times. If we look at just the total number of nonresidents who attempted another hunt within a four year period after successfully taking a sheep, there was a total of 211. This includes both those guided, and those hunting with second degree Alaskan family. However, how many of these hunters successfully took another sheep within that 4-year window? 135, most of which come from repeat guided clients. That comes out to 8.4 sheep per year, statewide! Stated another way, this is about one sheep saved per mountain range where sheep exist in Alaska. This level of "conservation" is laughable at best.

With a population of sheep somewhere around 45,000 statewide, and the literature showing repeated natural population fluctuations, both increasing and decreasing, of 28–35% in one to three year periods over areas of the Alaska Range (Arthur 2003) and Canada (Hoefs and Bayer

1983), the "normal" fluctuation statewide would be expected to be about 12,600–15,700 sheep. Not allowing these few passionate hunters to harvest 8.4 sheep per year on a conservation basis is inconsequential. Therefore, please consider allowing a nonresident hunter the opportunity to continue to hunt Dall sheep each year if the hunter is willing to sacrifice all other Alaskan big game tags.

PROPOSED BY: Chris Harper (EG-F17-051)
****

PROPOSAL 76 – 5 AAC 92.015. Brown bear tag fee exemption. Reauthorize the brown bear tag fee exemptions for the Central/Southwest Region as follows:

5 AAC 92.015. Brown bear tag fee exemption

(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) Unit 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 of Game (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 meeting and in Unit 17 during the March 2011 board meeting. The tag fee exemption in these units provides greater opportunity to harvest of brown bears by allowing opportunistic harvest.

The board also exempted brown bear tag fees for bear hunts near communities in Unit 9 to address public safety concerns in communities during the board meeting in March 2011. Brown bears are abundant in Unit 9 and are managed 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 liberalized 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 cultural 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-F17-037)
****

Palmer Area – Units 14A, 14B & 16

PROPOSAL 77 – 5 AAC 85.045(12). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Reauthorize the antlerless moose draw permits in Units 14A and 14B and increase permit levels in Unit 14A 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 **1,500** [1000] antlerless moose permits may be issued.	Aug. 20–Sept. 25 (General hunt only) Nov. 1–Dec. 15 (General hunt only)	No open season
...		
1 moose by targeted permit only; and by shotgun or archery 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; and by shotgun or archery 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.

Moose surveys conducted in February 2017 yielded an estimate of 8,700 moose in Unit 14A. This estimate was greater than the post-hunt objective of 6,000–6,500 moose and greater than the 2013 survey estimate of 8,500 moose with a bull ratio of 21 bulls:100 cows and a calf ratio of 45 calves:100 cows.

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. Despite increased permit levels and increased harvest, the population has remained above the post-hunt population objective. Based upon the current population estimate, the decreasing trend in the calf twinning rate, and the impact on the available habitat as observed in a recent browse removal study, further increases in the permit allocation may be warranted in order to reduce the population to a sustainable level.

The current increases in the harvest have seemingly slowed the population growth; however it has not reduced the moose population to within objectives. If the density of moose is allowed to increase, we anticipate an increase in the number of moose-human conflicts, and moose may experience nutritional stress as the population nears carrying capacity. Cow harvests are warranted to control the moose population's growth and recommended as a way to provide additional moose hunting opportunity in the Matanuska-Susitna Valley.

The targeted moose hunts in Units 14A and 14B are an effective tool to address public safety concerns related to moose-vehicle collision and nuisance management issues. Moose-vehicle collisions result in property damage and may result in human injury or death. An average of 266 moose per year were killed in the Matanuska-Susitna Valley area during the last few years of average snowfall and substantially more were killed during higher snowfall years. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game also receives periodic complaints from the public about crop depredation and aggressive behavior that can be mitigated by this hunt structure.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F17-035)
****

<u>PROPOSAL 78</u> – 5 AAC 85.045(12). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Authorize an any bull draw permit hunt in Unit 14B as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	**Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)**	**Nonresident Open Season**
(12)		
Unit 14(B)		

1 moose per regulatory year, only as follows:		
1 bull with spike-fork antlers or antlers with 3 or more brow tines on one side, by bow and arrow only; or	Aug. 10–Aug. 17 (General hunt only)	Aug. 10–Aug. 17
1 bull with spike-fork antlers or antlers with 3 or more brow tines on one side; or	Aug. 25–Sept. 25 (General hunt only)	Aug. 25–Sept. 25
1 bull moose by drawing permit only; up to 100 permits may be issued	**Aug. 25–Sept. 25**	**No open season.**
1 moose by targeted permit only; by shotgun or archery only; up to 100 permits may be issued	Winter season to be announced by emergency order.	No open season.

…

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? This proposal liberalizes moose hunting in Unit 14B to provide additional harvest opportunities for resident hunters in response to a growing moose population. In 2009 the population was estimated at 1,662 moose with a bull:cow ratio of 34:100 and a calf:cow ratio of 18:100. In 2013 the population estimate was within population objective (2,500–2,800) at 2,700 with a bull:cow ratio of 30:100 and a calf:cow ratio of 28:100. The 2013–2016 average harvest was 91 moose which is under the harvest objective of 100-200 moose. Providing additional harvest opportunity through a draw hunt for any bull will aid in achieving the harvest objective while maintaining the management goal of ensuring a bull to cow ratio of ≥ 20 bulls:100 cows.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F17-036)
****

PROPOSAL 79 – 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep. Modify the hunt structure for Dall sheep in Unit 14A as follows:

In all of Unit 14A, a legal ram will be full-curl, broken on both horns, or at least eight years old. From August 10 to August 25, retain the current draw permit system in hunt DS170, DS270, DS180, DS280, DS190 and DS290. **Increase the nonresident allocation from 10% to 20% in these draws**. That is what it originally should have been set at back in 2008 but the Board of Game (board) didn't follow its own policy back then. **Set the number of permits at one for**

nonresidents in each hunt and four for residents. You want to set the permits in these hunts very low at first until you build up the population of full-curl rams and then increase them.

Aircraft are not allowed to be used for sheep hunting in any manner in Unit 14A south and east of the Matanuska River for any sheep hunt that starts on the August 26 or later.

From August 26 to September 20 retain the draw permit hunt for nonresidents and residents in hunts DS275, DS285, DS295, DS175, DS185 and DS195, **with only one permit issued for each hunt for nonresidents hunts and four being issued for resident hunts. After two years there should be enough full-curls in the population to switch resident hunt numbers DS175, DS185 and DS195 to registration hunts with very conservative harvest goals and two years later change the nonresident hunts to registration also along with the residents and manage both residents and nonresidents as one hunt with harvest goals for each of the three areas in this part of Unit 14A.** When both residents and nonresidents go to a registration hunt by 2023, there will be no allocation between them just like in the Tonsina walk-in area.

If the board adopts this proposal, it might consider changing the draw permits that will be issued in 2018 from any ram to full-curl before they are issued.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Change the Dall sheep hunts in Unit14A south of the Matanuska River from any ram to full-curl, broken on both horns, or at least eight years old. Also change the second hunt from August 25 to September 20 to a registration hunt for residents but retain the draw portion for nonresidents. Aircraft would not be allowed to be used in any manner for the second hunt.

The current hunts in Unit 14A are being managed for any ram and they were put in place in 2008. The idea was to increase the number of old rams in the population by allowing the harvest of any ram thus taking the pressure off of the full-curls. To do this there were going to be a very limited number of permits issued. That management strategy has not been followed in the last five years or more as the Department of Fish and Game is now issuing 75 any ram permits in this area. Right now there are still very few full-curl rams in this population. When this management strategy was first implemented with the hope of rebuilding the sheep population, especially the number of older rams in it, the hoped for long term goal was to get back to an open general season again. I think we can do that with the changes I'm suggesting.

PROPOSED BY: Dan Montgomery (EG-F17-070)
****

PROPOSAL 80 – 5 AAC 85.040. Hunting seasons and bag limits for goat. Open a resident registration hunt for mountain goat in Unit 14A as follows:

Retain the draw goat hunts DG890 and DG891 for nonresidents only. **Issue only two permits for DG890 and three permits for DG891.**

<u>Create a residents only registration hunt RS890 for Metal Creek and another RG891 for residents only in Marcus Baker. Set the harvest goals at 6% of the total count of the latest aerial survey of this area.</u>

The hunting season will stay the same September 1 to October 15. There will be no allocation between residents and nonresidents. The season will close when the harvest goal is met.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I want to change the mountain goat draw permit hunts, numbers DG890 and DG891 to registration hunts for residents and retain the draw for nonresidents. When this was first put into a draw permit hunt back in 2007 or there about, there was still a general sheep hunt in these areas. Every sheep hunter in this area got a registration permit for goats also and the quota was being filled very quickly. With all the sheep in this area now on draw I believe it will take much longer to fill it. Keeping the nonresidents on a draw will also slow the harvest down a lot.

PROPOSED BY: Dan Montgomery (EG-F17-071)
****

<u>PROPOSAL 81</u> – 5 AAC 85.020. Seasons and bag limits for brown bear, and 92.044. Permit for hunting bear with the use of bait or sent lures. Increase the bag limit for brown bear and allow the harvest of brown bear at black bear bait stations in Unit 14A as follows:

In Unit 14A (or just that portion of Unit 14A west of the Little Susitna River and west of the Parks Highway), increase the bag limit to one brown bear every regulatory year AND allow brown bear to be taken at black bear bait stations.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? There seems to be a significant increase in the numbers of brown bear at least in that area of Unit 14A, which lies west of the Little Susitna River and west of the Parks Highway. This has been noticed by hunters operating black bear bait stations in this area. It has been difficult to maintain black bear bait stations because of marauding brown bear. There also seems to be a decline in the moose population in this area possibly due to predation by brown bear.

PROPOSED BY: The Alaskan Bowhunters Association (EG-F17-062)
****

<u>PROPOSAL 82</u> – 5 AAC 92.530. Management areas. Create a management area for the Mat-Su Borough's Government Peak Recreation Area in Unit 14A as follows:

5 AAC 92.530 Management areas.

(##) The Matanuska-Susitna Borough's Government Peak Recreation Area – (see State of Alaska, Hatcher Pass Management Plan, Government Peak management unit, Northern and Southern Development areas)

(A) the area consists of borough-owned lands within the Government Peak management unit

under the Hatcher Pass Management Plan;

(i) the area is open to hunting by bow and arrow only.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Matanuska-Susitna Borough has lands in the Northern and Southern Development areas of the Government Peak management unit near Hatcher Pass which have been developed with trails for biking, hiking, and skiing. The highly developed nature of this area has resulted in some concerns with hunting regulations and the use of firearms. This area is identified under 11 AAC 96.014(b)(3)(E) which states:

(E) in the High Glacier Peaks, Government Peak, Independence, and Mile 16 management units and in portions of the Archangel and Reed Lakes/Little Susitna management units, as shown on the *Hatcher Pass Special Use Area Map 2*, a person may not use or discharge a firearm except for the purpose of lawful hunting; however, a person may not use or discharge a firearm for any purpose

(i) within the Independence State Mine Historical Park, the Summit Lake State Recreation Site, and the Northern and Southern Development areas in the Government Peak management unit;

There is a need to update the ADF&G Hunting Regulation Booklet for Unit 14A to identify the Northern and Southern Development areas of the Government Peak management unit as restricted areas for firearms. The ADF&G Hunting Regulations Booklet is highly regarded by the public, and adding the information to show that these areas are off limits to firearms for any purpose needs to be publicized.

Please reference: The State of Alaska, Hatcher Pass Management Plan; and the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, Government Peak Unit Asset Management and Development Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Matanuska-Susitna Borough, Land and Resource Management Division
(EG-F17-026)
****

PROPOSAL 83 – 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Change the antler restrictions for moose hunting in Unit 16A as follows:

Proposed solution: One bull with spike-fork or three brow tines on at least one side.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Change the Unit 16A antler restrictions to spike-fork or three brow tines on at least one side. Do away with the 50-inch rule. The reason is too many illegal bulls are being taken with the 50-inch rule. They are not 50 inches after people shoot and measure the spread. This should be a statewide regulation. In areas with four brow tines it should read four not three.

PROPOSED BY: Neil DeWitt (EG-F17-028)
****

PROPOSAL 84 – 5 AAC 92.108. Identified big game prey populations and objectives. Raise the population objective for moose in Unit 16B as follows:

The Unit 16B moose population is most likely going to be estimated to be above the current population objective and will likely continue to grow further above since habitat is not limiting productivity and predators are no longer limiting population growth. It would be wise in my opinion to raise the moose population to reflect this reality.

The new moose population objective for Unit 16B should be 1.5–2 moose per square mile of available moose habitat or 10,000 to 13,000 moose.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The moose population objective for Unit 16B is well below carrying capacity. By the time this proposal is deliberated on in 2018 it will have been five years since ADF&G determined that the moose population was near the upper end of the current population objective of 6,500–7,500 moose or 1–1.2 moose per square mile of the approximately 6,500 square miles of moose habitat in the unit. The moose population estimate, if and when ADF&G conducts any new ones since the 2013 one done in the north (unless they do one in the south), will likely show that the moose population is above the objective using the new measured sightability correction factor. Twinning rates have remained high, around 50%, since 2013 at the same time the moose population was estimated to be near the upper end of the objective, indicating that the habitat can support more moose than 7,500 new count. Since the population has likely grown beyond 7,500 since 2013 and twinning rates have remained steady, it indicates that a population above 7,500 moose is not habitat limited. If you live here and see the amount of willow that remains untouched during winter, you might surmise that winter range is not limiting the moose population. According to ADF&G estimates, Unit 16B south has been at 1.5 moose per square mile of available moose habitat since 2010. This indicates that 1.5 moose per square mile would make a fine lower objective for the unit. The Unit 16A moose population objective is roughly 2.2 to 2.6 moose per square mile. If Unit 16A can support 2.2 moose per square mile, I think it reasonable to assume Unit 16B can support two moose per square mile of available habitat.

PROPOSED BY: David McHoes (EG-F17-018)
****

PROPOSAL 85 – 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Lengthen the resident hunting season for moose in Unit 16B Remainder (DM540, YM541 and RM574) as follows:

The solution to the problem is to expand the any bull fall moose harvest opportunity. How we do this is the debate. I suggest we go back to the refugia system of management where we trust that the inaccessible areas of the unit will protect the bulls from over harvest. This was a proven method prior to the 1993 antler restriction management system. ADF&G appears to want to micromanage the harvest. I have a hard time figuring out how this can be done when we rarely collect population and/or composition data. The concern with over participation causing conflicts in the field may be valid. This could be dealt with by restricting any bull seasons to August 20 to

September 10 a rarely utilized part of the season. In an effort to allow all Alaskans who desire to participate in any bull hunting in Unit 16B, I submit the following proposal:

My solution to chronic under-harvest of the surplus bulls of the unit in the fall is replace the existing hunts DM540, YM541 and RM574 with an August 20 to September 30 any bull bag limit for residents.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Unit 16B moose population is now a growing population which has led to a growing harvestable surplus of bulls. Increased calf survival (up from the lows of ten calves per 100 cows to highs of near 50 calves per 100 cows in much of the unit) has also increased the yearly supply of harvestable bulls. Two recently created draw hunts were created with little or no public participation. DM540 and YM541 were created at the 2013 Board of Game (board) meeting from an ADF&G proposal to do minor changes to predator control plan under 5 AAC 92.125 has nothing to do with moose seasons. No proposal to create these seasons was ever put before the public prior to the board meeting; therefore no public input was received. Generally, changes in seasons and bag limits are considered "allocative" in nature and ADF&G generally takes no position on these matters. This was one of the most bizarre things I have witnessed at a board meeting. The youth hunt idea in particular could have benefited from some local knowledge of the hazardous and unreliable travel conditions in the unit during the youth trophy hunt conducted November 15 to December 15 known locally as "freeze up". The goal of these draw hunts was apparently to reach the midpoint of the unit's harvest objective. These hunts have failed in this objective.

The unit also has a recently created winter registration hunt on the books. This hunt was the result of an emergency petition by ADF&G to allocate moose from fall sport hunters to winter meat hunters. The justification was that their previously created hunts were failures in reaching the midpoint of the harvest objective. I find it odd that it is an emergency not to reach the midpoint of a harvest objective range when it was not an emergency for a decade during the 90s when we never reached the minimum and the harvestable surplus existed. I would like to make a public proposal that will be reviewed by the public, commented on by the public, and testified at the board meeting by the public to allocate the public's resource created by the combined efforts of the people of Alaska. The failure to reach the midpoint of the harvest objective is because of the restrictive nature of the fall hunt and goes back to the conversion of the unit to spike-fork, 50-inch in 1993. The moose hunt was converted due to concerns of increase participation due changes in adjacent units that had low bull/cow ratios where antler restrictions were put in place. The antler restrictions made it near impossible to achieve the unit harvest object although seasons were expanded. Eventually the declining moose population made it impossible.

PROPOSED BY: David McHoes (EG-F17-017)
****

<u>PROPOSAL 86</u> – 5 AAC 92.044. Permit for hunting bear with the use of bait or scent lures.
Shorten the season for black bear baiting in Unit 16 as follows:

The black bear baiting season for Unit 16 should be reduced to April 15 to June 30.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The current black bear harvest (especially females) is unsustainable and continuing a decline in the black bear population. This was the goal of the Board of Game when they wanted to increase moose calf survival. Reported moose calf survival is between 35–45% up from 8–16%. Mission accomplished.

PROPOSED BY: David McHoes (EG-F17-014)
****

PROPOSAL 87 – 5 AAC 92.044. Permit for hunting bear with the use of bait or scent lures. Prohibit the harvest of brown bears at black bear bait stations in Unit 16 as follows:

Unit 16 should be removed from the list of units that allow harvesting of brown bears at black bear bait stations.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The current harvest of brown bears in Unit 16 is unsustainable. The Board of Game approved these levels of harvest to improve moose calf survival. Moose calf survival is between 35 and 45%. Brown bear harvest should be lowered to maintain or increase the bear population.

PROPOSED BY: David McHoes (EG-F17-015)
****

PROPOSAL 88 – 5 AAC 85.020. Seasons and bag limits for brown bear. Shorten the season and reduce the bag limit for brown bear in Unit 16 as follows:

The Unit 16A brown bear season should be reduced from "no closed season" to August 10 – May 31.

The Unit 16B brown bear season should be reduced from "no closed season" to August 10 – May 31.

The Unit 16B brown bear bag limit should be reduced from two bears to one bear.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Brown bear harvest in Unit 16 reflects the desire of the Board of Game to reduce the bear population and to increase moose survival. The moose population no longer requires bear population reductions. Harvest levels should be reduced to maintain or grow the brown bear population.

PROPOSED BY: David McHoes (EG-F17-016)
****

PROPOSAL 89 – 5 AAC 92.122. Intensive Management Plan VI. End the predator control program for black and brown bear in Unit 16 as follows:

Bear control program has been terminated due to objectives being met.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Unnecessary reductions in the black and brown bear populations. Both black and brown bear populations have been harvested at above sustainable levels for at least a decade to lower predation on moose calves. ADF&G data collected for the last four years has shown that moose calf survival is well above levels to grow the moose population. The issue has been resolved. Harvest levels should be returned to sustained yield levels.

PROPOSED BY: David McHoes (EG-F17-012)
****

PROPOSAL 90 – 5 AAC 92.095. Unlawful methods of taking furbearers; exceptions. Allow the harvest of beaver by firearms under a trapping license in Unit 16 as follows:

The Matanuska Valley Fish and Game Advisory Committee recommends adding Unit 16 to the units that allow for the harvest of beavers with a firearm under a trapping license. The regulatory language would duplicate that for Units 1–5 out of the current trapping regulations (see page 22): "Firearms may be used to harvest beaver in Unit 16."

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Currently, under a trapping license a person may harvest a beaver with a firearm in Units 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 12, 18, 19, 20A, 20C, 20E, 20F, 21, 22, 23, 24, and 25. Currently this is not allowed in Unit 16. Of late, southcentral Alaska has experienced warmer and shorter winters, leading to unsafe ice during much of the Unit 16 beaver trapping season. Allowing for the harvest of beavers in Unit 16 with a firearm will aid trapper safety and increase harvest, providing some much needed income for trappers in an already depressed market. At this time there is no biologic concern for beavers in Unit 16.

PROPOSED BY: Matanuska Valley Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-F17-021)
****

Glennallen Area – Units 11 & 13

PROPOSAL 91 – 5 AAC 99.025. Customary and traditional uses of fish and game populations. Modify the amount reasonably necessary for subsistence for caribou and moose in Unit 13 as follows:

I. Conduct a current ADF&G public "Customary and Traditional Use Public Survey" of sport, public personal use, and subsistence users residing in Units 7, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, and 20, including personal use and subsistence harvest of: (1) all big game including moose, caribou, sheep, goat, and bears; (2) harvests of fresh water and salt water fish including trout, grayling, Dolly Varden, salmon, halibut, cod, red snapper, and rock fish; and (3) small game harvest including spruce grouse, ptarmigan, rabbits, ducks, and geese.

II. Re-calculate the ANS for Unit 13 caribou and moose:

A current public survey of customary and traditional use of Tier-I, sport, personal use, and community subsistence harvest (CSH) subsistence use, is necessary and overdue for the determination of ANS for big game populations, to determine the increased number of subsistence users of fish and game, the current harvest rates, and to determine and update the stocks of fish and game populations that are presently used for subsistence use. AS 16.05.258(b) *et. seq*

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? A current and updated public survey of customary and traditional use is necessary and lawfully required to maintain sustainable use management of fish and game resources, and to protect subsistence use priority benefits of fish and game resources, as well as prior to Board of Game (board) imposing restrictive regulations on bag limits and seasons. 5 AAC 99.010; 5 AAC 92.072(b)(1)-(4); AS 16.05.258(b) *et. seq*

The 2009 board determinations of ANS for Unit 13 caribou was struck down as **arbitrary and capricious** by Judge Bauman in *Manning v. State ADFG, Ahtna*, Case No. 3KN-09-178CI. The board has NOT completed any public survey of "Customary and Traditional Use" after the Judge Bauman decision. Prior to implementing regulation restrictions on harvests of fish and game, the board is required by law to identify customary and traditional uses by **Alaska residents** [i.e., NOT just the Ahtna tribal members]. 5 AAC 99.010(b)(1)-(8). [Note: Nothing in the regulations and statutory enabling authority AS 16.05.258 allow the board to impose limitations and bar the customary and traditional subsistence use based only on Ahtna **racial** customs and traditions, nor grant **racial** permit priority preferences to residents of the eight Ahtna Athabaskan villages, all in violation of Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) 43 U.S.C. 1601 Section 4b terminating all future aboriginal native priority rights, Alaska Constitution Article VIII Section 3 common use, and U.S. Constitutional 14th Amendment equal protections. *Zobel v. Williams, 455, U.S. 55 (1982); McDowell v. State, 785 P.2d 1 (Alaska 1989); and Manning, Id.]*

PROPOSED BY: Kenneth Manning (HQ-F17-009)
****

<u>PROPOSAL 92</u> – 5 AAC 85.025. Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou; 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose; and 92.072. Community subsistence harvest hunt area and permit conditions. Eliminate the community subsistence harvest hunts for moose and caribou as follows:

Repeal the current community subsistence harvest hunt for the Copper Basin area. Default back to the old general season moose hunt: September 1 through September 20, spike-fork, four brow tines, 50-inches. Increase the number of draw permit tags from the current allocation of five to 100 tags.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Eliminate the community subsistence moose and caribou hunts.

Harvest and population data from ADF&G suggest that customary and traditional needs are being met for all qualified residents in Units 11,12, and 13. Those qualifying residents are allowed a 50-day hunting season for one federal subsistence "any bull" moose permit, plus two federal subsistence caribou permits for hunting in the four million acres of federal lands. Then you have a 20-day state general season moose hunt, with a spike-fork, 50-inches or four brow tines regulation, and a 40-day fall season for Tier I caribou hunters. In addition to this, Ahtna members have access to another 1.7 million acres of Ahtna private lands which provides exclusive use by Ahtna members to hunt.

All of this opportunity combined meets the intent of reasonable opportunity.

PROPOSED BY: Anchorage Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F17-015)
****

<u>PROPOSAL 93</u> – 5 AAC 85.025. Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou; and 92.072. Community subsistence harvest hunt area and permit conditions. Eliminate the community subsistence harvest hunt for caribou in Unit 13 as follows:

Eliminate the community subsistence harvest caribou hunt in Unit 13.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Eliminate the community subsistence harvest caribou hunt in Unit 13. This hunt offers one main advantage over the (other) Tier I caribou hunt in the unit, open designated hunting opportunity amongst group members. If the Unit 13-specific proxy regulations were eliminated, the vast majority of Unit 13 caribou permittees would be able to meet their needs under the existing Tier I caribou hunt in the unit.

PROPOSED BY: Rebecca Schwanke (EG-F17-112)
****

PROPOSAL 94 – 5 AAC 92.072. Community subsistence harvest hunt area and permit conditions, and 85.025. Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou. Eliminate the community subsistence harvest hunt for caribou in Unit 13 as follows:

Eliminate the CSH caribou permit hunt (CC001) for Unit 13. The other Tier I level hunts provides reasonable opportunity for all subsistence needs and general sport hunts for the Copper Basin Nelchina Caribou herd in Unit 13.

Keep the Tier I hunt (RC566) in effect; this will achieve all management objectives needed for the Copper Basin caribou hunting.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The harvestable surplus of Nelchina caribou far exceeds the ANS allowing Tier-I-plus level hunts. Thus the CSH hunt is unnecessary, adds confusion and unnecessary administration costs to the regulations, management, and enforcement of Unit 13 caribou hunts.

PROPOSED BY: Kenneth Manning (HQ-F17-010)
****

PROPOSAL 95 – 5 AAC 92.072. Community subsistence harvest hunt area and permit conditions, and 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Eliminate the community subsistence harvest hunt for moose in Unit 13 as follows:

Eliminate the CSH moose permit hunt (CM001) for Unit 13. The Tier I level hunt provides reasonable opportunity for all subsistence needs and general sport hunts for the Copper Basin Nelchina moose herd.

Keep the Tier I hunt for moose; this will achieve all management objectives needed for the Copper Basin moose hunting.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The harvestable surplus of Unit 13 moose exceeds ANS allowing Tier-I-Plus level hunts. Thus the CSH hunt is unnecessary, adds confusion and unnecessary administration costs to the regulations and enforcement. "Reasonable opportunity" for subsistence use does NOT mean unconstitutional **racial** Ahtna "racial C&T" permit priority preferences.

PROPOSED BY: Kenneth Manning (HQ-F17-011)
****

PROPOSAL 96 – 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose, and 92.072. Community subsistence harvest hunt area and permit conditions. Eliminate the community subsistence harvest hunt for moose in the Copper Basin area, and establish a registration moose hunt for Unit 13 as follows:

Eliminate the community subsistence harvest moose hunt in Unit 13, 11, and a portion of 12.

Establish a new resident registration moose hunt for Unit 13. Season dates would be August 15–31. The bag limit would be one bull per household with antlers less than 50-inches wide, and at least two brow tines on both sides. If a household registers for this moose hunt, no member of the household may hunt moose outside Unit 13 during the regulatory year. Households would register during the November hunt application period.

This bag limit allows for more hunters to participate in the early hunt opportunity, helping meet subsistence needs, without over harvesting the resource. In addition, allow the department to set a quota for this hunt to ensure the resource is not over harvested.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Eliminate the community subsistence harvest moose hunt in Unit 13, 11, and a portion of 12 (finalize during the next Region III meeting). This hunt offers a few advantages over other moose hunts in the unit, although the complexity of the hunt is not in the best interest of Unit 13 hunters as a whole or the department. The CSH moose hunt offers open designated hunting opportunity amongst group members, early hunt dates, and a limited number of highly coveted any bull moose permits. The demand for any bull moose permits is extremely high in Unit 13 for all hunters, local and non-local, as seen in the number of CSH participants as well as the number of any bull drawing permit applications. The demand for an early and/or longer moose hunting season is also high in Unit 13. Are these things necessary? No. The Unit 13 Amount Necessary for Subsistence is more than being met by other existing resident hunts in the unit. Are these things coveted by all hunters? Yes.

The CSH moose hunt however has morphed into a complicated and convoluted program that has ballooned out of control. In its most recent form following the March 2017 Board of Game meeting, it is now likely sideways of existing state laws governing allocation of game. For example, the Tier II application process has no place inside an otherwise stated Tier I moose hunt, especially considering the moose harvest far exceeds ANS, and nonresidents are still allowed to hunt in the unit. It is time to let go of the CSH moose hunt in Unit 13, 11, and a portion of 12.

To offer a replacement for the additional hunt opportunity for an any bull moose, consider adopting an early season registration bull hunt similar to the past Tier II hunt dates, August 15–August 31. This time period offers a jump on the general season moose hunters, and moose are not overly susceptible to harvest during this time. To accommodate the number of hunters that will be interested in participating, the bag limit must have an antler restriction. Unfortunately, an any bull registration hunt is just not an option given the hunter interest in this unit.

If the Unit 13-specific proxy regulations were also eliminated, and proxy hunting were again allowed for antler restricted bull moose hunts, the vast majority of Unit 13 moose hunters would be able to meet their needs under the existing general season and drawing hunts in the unit.

PROPOSED BY: Rebecca Schwanke (EG-F17-113)
****

PROPOSAL 97 – 5 AAC 92.072. Community subsistence harvest hunt area and permit conditions. Remove the requirement for applicants to have specific customary and traditional use patterns for participating in the community subsistence harvest hunts in Unit 13 as follows:

Eliminate the regulatory requirement that all applicants for community subsistence hunts (CSH) for Unit 13 caribou and moose, must practice or convert to local Ahtna Athabaskan customs and traditions (C&T) in accordance with board findings #206-170-BOG, and under penalty of $10,000 fine and one year in jail for CSH permit non-compliance.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Eliminate: Requiring all moose and caribou CSH applicants to practice or convert to Ahtna racial C&T imposes an **unconstitutional racial discrimination limitation and bar** to the community subsistence hunt user group. *McDowell v. State*, 785 P.2D1 (Alaska 1989); *Adarand Constructors, Inc. v. Pena*, 515 U.S. 200 (1995) [racial preference is unconstitutional].

Requiring **racial C&T** compliance with **one race customs and traditions (Ahtna C&T)** exceeds and violates all statutory enabling authority of Alaska Statute 16.05.255, regulations of the Board of Game, management requirements, AS 16.05.258 Alaska Subsistence Law, and constitutional equal protections of Alaska Constitution Article I Section 1 equal rights, and Article VIII Section 3 common use; violates Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) 43 U.S.C. 1601 Section 4b terminating all future aboriginal native priority hunting and fishing rights.

PROPOSED BY: Kenneth Manning (HQ-F17-012)
****

Note: The following proposal requests regulatory changes that are both statewide (see Proposal 56) and specific to the Central/Southwest Region. The board may take action at the November 2017 Statewide Regulations Meeting or defer taking action until the February 2018 Central/Southwest Region Meeting.

PROPOSAL 98 – 5 AAC 92.072. Community subsistence harvest hunt area and permit conditions. Modify the community subsistence harvest permit conditions as follows:

Amend 5 AAC 92.072. Community subsistence hunt area and permit conditions:

Throughout the regulation the term/phrase "a resident of a community or member of a group" is used to define those participating in the community subsistence hunt (CSH). The regulations should be amended to clarify that the CSH is for "communities", not simply any "group" of individuals who are Alaska residents. The use of the term "group" diminishes the "community" aspect of the hunt. A "group" can be those who only get together over the internet. A "group" can consist of those who only get together once a year for a potluck that includes a dish or two containing a little moose or caribou taken by a member of the group. The use of the term "group" encourages the kind of abuse that has occurred in the CSH. It takes a "community" to practice the community pattern of C&T (customary and traditional) uses that the Board of Game (board) has set as a condition for participating in the hunt for the Copper Basin area (5 AAC 92.074(d)).

Therefore, the term "group" should be stricken from the regulation and replaced when necessary with "community."

The term "resident" should also be stricken, because a "community" of subsistence users may not all be residing in the same physical location. For example, the community composed of the eight Ahtna villages includes some Alaska residents who do not live in the area, but who continue to hunt, fish and gather subsistence resources in the area and to participate in the Ahtna customary and traditional hunting way of life, including widespread sharing, teaching traditional knowledge and values, potlatches, etc. Therefore, the term "community members" should be uniformly applied throughout the regulation when describing who is eligible to participate in the CSH. The term "residents" should be stricken.

Likewise, when describing the CSH administrator, the term "community administrator" should be used throughout the regulations. The term "group" should be deleted when the regulation references CSH administration.

Additionally amend 5 AAC 92.072. Community subsistence harvest hunt areas as follows:

(a) The commissioner or the commissioner's designee may, under this section and 5 AAC 92.052, issue community-based subsistence harvest permits and harvest reports for big game species where the Board of Game (board) has established a community harvest hunt area under (b) of this section and 5 AAC 92.074. **Prior to issuing a permit and harvest reports for the community hunt area described in 5 AAC 92.074(d), the commissioner or designee shall determine, on the basis of an application form developed by the department, that the community applying for the permit conforms with the definition of "community" set forth in section (i) of this regulation.**

…

(c) If the board has established a community harvest hunt area for a big game population, [RESIDENTS] **members** of the community [OR MEMBERS OF A GROUP] may elect to participate in a community harvest permit hunt in accordance with the following conditions:

(1)(D) make efforts to ensure that the applicable customary and traditional use pattern described by the board and included by the department as a permit condition, if any, is observed by subscribers [INCLUDING MEAT SHARING]; the applicable board finding and conditions will be identified on the permit; this provision does not authorize the community [OR GROUP] administrator to deny subscription to any community **[RESIDENT OR GROUP] member who agrees to practice the applicable customary and traditional use pattern as practiced by the community;**

…

(c)(3) in addition to the requirements of (1) of this subsection, the community [OR GROUP] representative must submit a complete written report, on a form provided by the department, for the community [OR GROUP] participating in the community harvest hunt area described in 5 AAC 92.074(d), that describes efforts by the community [OR GROUP] to observe the customary and traditional use pattern described by board findings for the game populations hunted under the conditions of this community harvest permit; in completing the report, the representative must

make efforts to collect a complete report from each household that is a member of the community [OR GROUP] that describes efforts by the household to observe the customary and traditional use pattern using the eight elements described in this paragraph; a copy of all household reports collected by the community [OR GROUP] representative shall be submitted to the department as a part of the representative's written report; complete reports must include information about efforts to observe the customary and traditional use pattern of the game population, as follows:

(A) Element 1: participation in a long-term, consistent pattern of noncommercial taking, use, and reliance on the game population: the number of years of taking and use of the game population; and involvement of multiple generations in the taking and use of the game population; and use of areas other than the community subsistence hunt area for harvest activities;

(B) Element 2: participation in the pattern of taking or use of the game population that follows a seasonal use pattern of harvest effort in the hunt area: the months and seasons in which noncommercial harvest activities occur in the hunt area;

(C) Element 3: participation in a pattern of taking or use of wild resources in the hunt area that includes methods and means of harvest characterized by efficiency and economy of effort and cost: costs associated with harvests; and methods used to reduce costs and improve efficiency of harvest; and number of species harvested during hunting activities;

(D) Element 4: participation in a pattern of taking or use of wild resources that occurs in the hunt area due to close ties to the area: number of years of taking and use of the game population; and involvement of multiple generations in the taking and use of the game population; and variety of harvesting activities that take place in the hunt area; and evidence of other areas used for harvest activities;

(E) Element 5: use of means of processing and preserving wild resources from the hunt area that have been traditionally used by past generations: complete listing of the parts of the harvested game that are used; and preservation methods of that game; and types of foods and other products produced from that harvest;

(F) Element 6: participation in a pattern of taking or use of wild resources from the hunt area that includes the handing down of knowledge of hunting skills, values, and lore about the hunt area from generation to generation: involvement of multiple generations in the taking and use of the game population; and evidence of instruction and training;

(G) Element 7: participation in a pattern of taking of wild resources from the hunt area in which the harvest is shared throughout the community: amount of harvest of the game population that is shared; and evidence of a communal sharing event; and support of those in need through sharing of the harvest of the game population; and

(H) Element 8: participation in a pattern that includes taking, use, and reliance on a wide variety of wild resources from the hunt area: the variety of resource harvest activities engaged in within the hunt area; and evidence of other areas used for harvest activities.

(c)(4) the department may waive the annual reporting requirement and institute a five-year reporting period for any community which has demonstrated, through reports submitted

annually over a five-year period, a high degree of participation in the customary and traditional community use pattern described in board findings for the area.

…

(f) The department may disapprove an application for a community subsistence harvest permit from a community [OR GROUP] that has previously failed to comply with requirements in (c)(1) and (3) of this section. The failure to **submit a** report by the community [OR GROUP] representative under (c) [(1) AND] (3) of this section **which demonstrates, pursuant to criteria and a scoring system established by the department, that the community is observing the customary and traditional use pattern described by board findings for the game populations hunted under the conditions of this community harvest permit shall** [MAY] result in denial of a community subsistence harvest permit for the area during the following **two** regulatory years **for all members of the community.** The department must allow a representative the opportunity to request a hearing if the representative fails to submit a complete report as required under (c)(l) and (3) of this section. A community [OR GROUP] aggrieved by a decision under this subsection will be granted a hearing before the commissioner or the commissioner's designee, if the community [OR GROUP] representative or **a member of the community** makes a request for a hearing in writing to the commissioner within 60 days after **receiving notice from the department that the community will be denied a community subsistence harvest permit for the following year.** [THE CONCLUSION OF THE HUNT FOR WHICH THE PERSON FAILED TO PROVIDE A REPORT]. The commissioner may determine that the penalty provided under this subsection will not be applied if the community [OR GROUP] representative **or member** provides the information required on the report **sufficient to satisfy the department's requirements** and if the commissioner determines that

(1) the failure to provide the report was the result of unavoidable circumstance; or

(2) extreme hardship would result to the community [OR GROUP] **or member.**

…

(h) Nothing in this section authorizes the department to delegate to a community [OR GROUP] representative determination of the lawful criteria for selecting who may hunt, for establishing any special restrictions for the hunt and for the handling of game, and for establishing the terms and conditions for a meaningful communal sharing of game taken under a community harvest permit, **except that a community representative shall require participating community members to observe the customary and traditional use pattern described by board findings for the game populations hunted as that pattern of use is practiced by the community.**

…

(i) In this section,

(2) a "community" [OR "GROUP"] is "a group **of 25 or more individuals** [OF PEOPLE] linked by a common interest in, and participation in **a consistent pattern of noncommercial taking, use, and reliance on a wide diversity of subsistence resources in** [,] an **identified** area [AND THE WILDLIFE POPULATIONS IN THAT AREA,] that **provides substantial economic, cultural or social, and nutritional elements of the subsistence way of life of the community**

and its members [IS CONSISTENT WITH THE CUSTOMARY AND TRADITIONAL USE PATTERN OF THAT WILDLIFE POPULATION AND AREA AS DEFINED BY THE BOARD].

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? This proposal: 1) amends the regulation to delete the terms "group" and "residents" and replaces these terms with the term "community" and "members"; 2) amends the authority of the Department of Fish and Game (department) to issue community-based subsistence harvest permits and harvest reports for the Copper Basin area (5 AAC 92.074(d)) to require the department to create an application form that establishes that the applicant is a "community" as that term is defined in the regulation; 3) amends the definition of "community" to make it clear that groups applying for and participating in the CSH share a common interest and participation in the pattern of C&T community use identified by the board for wildlife resources in that area and which provides substantial economic, cultural or social, and nutritional elements of the subsistence way of life of the community and its members; 4) requires the department to develop and apply a scoring system for annual reports from CSH administrators for the CSH in the area described in 5 AAC 92.074(d), and to disqualify a community and all members of the community for two years from participating in a CSH in this area if the annual report fails to satisfy the minimum score developed by the department for demonstrating that a community is observing the community pattern of subsistence use that is a condition of the permit for the area; 5) allows the department to waive the annual CSH administrator reporting requirement for the area described in 5 AAC 92.074(d) if a community has established a solid record of practicing the applicable C&T pattern of use, and replace it with a report once every five years; and 6) allows a CSH administrator to require all members of the CSH community to observe the C&T pattern of use recognized by the board in establishing the CSH, including specific practices of the community that are consistent with the pattern of use recognized by the board.

PROPOSED BY: Ahtna Tene Nene' (HQ-F17-026)
****

PROPOSAL 99 – 5 AAC 92.050(a)(4)(I). Required permit hunt conditions and procedures. Remove the requirement that Unit 13 Tier I caribou hunters, community subsistence harvest (CSH) moose and caribou hunters, and all members of their household, shall hunt moose only in Unit 13 as follows:

Eliminate the requirement for Unit 13 Tier I caribou hunters and all applicants for CSH caribou and moose hunts, and everyone in their household, are required to hunt moose only in Unit 13.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Moose harvest numbers will continue to be reduced while the regulation of "coupling" requiring all caribou Tier I and CSH hunters, and all members of their household, shall hunt moose only in Unit 13. This "coupling" is a major factor of increasing the overcrowded moose and caribou hunters in Unit 13. The Department of Fish and Game promoting overcrowded moose hunters is not enabling reasonable opportunity for subsistence use for moose harvest in Unit 13, and denies the rights of Unit 13 hunters to hunt moose in other long-time traditional and customary subsistence moose hunting areas of the state.

PROPOSED BY: Kenneth Manning (HQ-F17-013)
****

PROPOSAL 100 – 5 AAC 92.050(a)(4)(I). Required permit hunt conditions and procedures. Remove the requirement for Unit 13 Tier I caribou hunters to hunt moose in Unit 13 as follows:

Remove Unit 13 Tier I caribou requirement to hunt moose in Unit 13.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Remove the Unit 13 Tier I caribou requirement to hunt moose in Unit 13. This requirement was originally put in thinking that less people would choose to hunt caribou in Unit 13 if they had to hunt moose there also. We think this requirement that we originally supported backfired and now there are more folks hunting moose because of this requirement. As the number of Tier I caribou permits increase to now 8,500 permits, we have 8,500 people who now have to hunt their moose in Unit 13 and can't hunt in another unit.

PROPOSED BY: Copper Basin Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-F17-038)
****

Note: The Board of Game deferred this proposal as amended from the 2017 Special Meeting on Copper Basin Area Moose and Caribou Hunting. It was previously numbered Proposal 37. The amended proposal applies only to establishing a youth hunt, August 1–5, for caribou in Unit 13.

PROPOSAL 101 – 5 AAC 85.025. Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou. Establish a youth hunting season for caribou in Unit 13 as follows:

~~Some ways to solve this problem would be to extend the season from August 10 – March 31 with no closing time.~~

~~Allow a two caribou bag limit for the time frame of October 1 – March 31. This would give more of an incentive for hunters to hunt the winter season and not during the season when moose is open at the same time.~~

Another suggestion would be to open a youth hunt from August 1–**5** ~~20~~ which would allow families to be able to give the youths a chance to hunt when the Denali Highway isn't saturated with other hunters. This would also be during a time when the youth aren't in school so they would be given more incentive to hunt early.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I am very concerned about the numbers of hunters on the Denali Highway at the same time. The Denali Highway allows for easy hunting with highway access for hunting of caribou and other game. This then brings a huge safety issue with hunters shooting over other hunters. The whole unit has become more and more saturated over the last three years. The issue comes from the high caribou tags given with Tier I and Tier II over the last few years, community harvest and general harvest all hunting the fall all at the same time.

Another issue is that many kids are being denied the chance to hunt on the Denali Highway. Parents are either not bringing their children or ending their hunts early due to this safety. Many friends voiced their concerns with their children being in an area where hunters are shooting over other hunters. This then discourages our next generation of hunters! The Denali Highway is a great place to bring children since it is an easy area to hunt with lots of support in case there is a need for lodging and food.

PROPOSED BY: Jennifer Bondy (EG-F16-121)
****

PROPOSAL 102 – 5 AAC 85.025. Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou. Open a nonresident caribou hunting season in Unit 13 and allocate up to ten percent of drawing permits to nonresidents when population objectives are met as follows:

5 AAC 85.025. Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou

(a)(8) Unit 13

Resident and **Nonresident** hunters: August 20 – September 20 and October 21 – March 31

One caribou every regulatory year by drawing permit; up to 5,000 permits may be issued. **Up to ten percent of drawing permits may be issued to nonresident hunters when the herd is within or above the population objective.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Provide for a nonresident caribou hunting opportunity in Unit 13 as follows:

Nonresident caribou hunting opportunity has been absent in the Nelchina herd even though the management objectives have been exceeded for several years and the ANS is being met by several fold.

I would like the board to allocate ten percent of the current drawing tags to nonresident hunters when the Nelchina Herd is within population objectives. This would have been around 2.5% of the total opportunity this last year (2016-17).

If the Unit 13 moose drawing hunts are any indication, 90% or more of these tags will go to hunters that accompany resident Alaskans or hunt on their own. Many of them are military, stationed here but not yet residents, others that have moved to Alaska in the last 12 months, and family and friends of resident hunters. Guided hunters are also a small portion, around five percent in the moose drawings.

PROPOSED BY: Aaron Bloomquist (EG-F17-094)
****

<u>PROPOSAL 103</u> – 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Change the community subsistence harvest hunt season dates for moose to align to align with the general hunt as follows:

Align the season dates for the CSH moose season and the general moose hunt season: September 1 through September 20.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Change season dates for the community subsistence moose hunt. By removing this early opener from the CSH and aligning the season date with the general season would level the playing field for all Alaskans, and possibly remove some of the interest in the current CSH.

PROPOSED BY: Anchorage Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F17-016)
****

<u>PROPOSAL 104</u> – 5 AAC 85.045(11). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Reauthorize the antlerless moose seasons in Unit 13 as follows:

Units and Bag Limits (11)	**Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)**	**Nonresident Open Season**
Unit 13 1 moose per regulatory year, only as follows:		
…		
1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only; up to 200 permits may be issued; a person may not take a calf or a cow accompanied by a calf	Oct. 1–Oct. 31 Mar. 1–Mar. 31 (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 (board). The current regulation allows hunters to take a limited number of cows in specific areas to keep the population within objectives.

This Unit 13 antlerless hunt was initially adopted in March 2011, and the first Unit 13 antlerless hunt under this regulation took place in September 2012. The hunt was modified when the board adopted an October and March season during the February 2013 board meeting.

Since the inception of this hunt, the Department of Fish and Game (department) has issued ten permits annually for a hunt in Unit 13A. The department intentionally limited the number of permits issued annually to gain public support for the hunt, even though a higher rate of cow harvest was desirable to regulate the moose population within objectives. After considering a proposal during the 2015 Board of Game meeting, which was submitted by the public to increase the number of cow permits issued annually, the board directed the department to issue a sufficient number of permits to allow the harvest of up to one percent of the cow population, when the moose population is above the midpoint of the population objective for the subunit.

Moose have generally increased at an average rate of 3% per year in the intensive wolf management area during the past ten years. The current population objective for Unit 13A is 3,500–4,200, and the population was estimated to be above objective in 2015 and 2016. The number of cows in western Unit 13A is expected to continue increasing, and the antlerless hunt in western Unit 13A is necessary to slow the growth of this population and to keep it within the intensive management objectives. The additional harvest provided by the hunt will also assist in achieving the harvest objectives for the population. No additional antlerless opportunities in other portions of Unit 13 are recommended at this time.

If this antlerless moose hunting opportunity is not reauthorized in Unit 13, the intensive management program and objectives will likely need to be restructured to maintain the moose population within a population size range that does not result in nutritional limitations for the moose and to achieve the harvest objectives recommended by the public, advisory committees, and the board.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F17-033)
****

PROPOSAL 105 – 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Eliminate the antlerless moose hunt in Unit 13 as follows:

[R] [13] [ONE ANTLERLESS MOOSE BY PERMIT. HOWEVER, NO PERSON MAY TAKE A CALF OR COW ACCOMPANIED BY A CALF] [DM325] [OCT.1–OCT.31] [MAR.1–MAR.31]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? End DM325. Do not remove ten cow moose from a herd being managed by antler restrictions. There is no biology supporting this hunt

PROPOSED BY: John Raich (EG-F17-085)
****

PROPOSAL 106 – 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Eliminate the drawing permit hunt DM324 for moose in Unit 13 as follows:

[R] [13] [ONE BULL MOOSE BY PERMIT] [DM324] [SEPT.1–SEPT.20]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? End the DM324 hunt. Do not remove these five bulls from a herd of moose being managed by antler restrictions. There is no biology supporting this hunt.

PROPOSED BY: John Raich (EG-F17-084)
****

PROPOSAL 107 – 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Open a late resident hunting season for moose in Units 11 and 13 as follows:

Amend resident moose hunting seasons in Units 11 and 13 by adding a late season any bull registration hunt.

Retain all other existing seasons and bag limits.

New Late Season Registration Permit Hunt(s): The late season registration moose hunt(s) will have a bag limit of any bull and run November 15–30. Registration permits will be issued in Unit 13 communities starting November 13. The hunt(s) will be offered in Units 11 and 13 as follows:

Remainder of Unit 11. Issue up to ten permits.
Unit13A west: Issue up to ten permits.
Remainder of Unit13A: Issue up to 20 permits.
Unit 13B: Issue up to 20 permits.
Unit 13C: Issue up to 50 permits.
Unit 13D: Issue up to 50 permits.
Unit 13E: Issue up to 50 permits.

Hunters should be limited to one late season registration moose permit per season within Units 11 and 13.

Permits will ONLY be issued if bull/cow ratios exceed the management objective by more than five bulls/100 cows in three consecutive years. Some of the subunits listed above would not have permits issued in the foreseeable future due to lower bull:cow ratios. Unit 13A west would likely never have permits issued.

These hunts will provide an opportunity for subsistence moose hunting for all Alaskan hunters on under-harvested moose populations.

The two week November registration hunt offers a "second chance" for those not successful during the general season. This early winter time frame allows for travel into some areas that are normally un-hunted during the fall due to open water (supported by continually high bull:cow ratios in some areas). It also offers family hunting opportunity over the Thanksgiving holiday. While we recognize there will be post-rut concentrations of moose in higher elevations, the limited number of permits for these areas will reduce harassment and keep harvest sustainable.

High “UP TO” permit numbers are offered to allow flexibility in times of high moose numbers and annual conditions that may be less than ideal. Some years when freeze-up conditions are very poor the entire allowable number of permits may be necessary to take a few moose.

Conservative registration permit numbers should be set for areas with heavy fall hunting pressure given current bull:cow ratios such as in Unit 13B and the western portion of Unit 13A. Moderate permit numbers can be set for Units 13C, 13D and 13E considering much of the moose habitat in these areas is inaccessible during the fall and thus lightly hunted. Continually high bull:cow ratios and increasing moose numbers in these areas suggest additional harvest will be sustainable. In the case of Unit 13E there will also be some bulls migrating out of park areas that are otherwise closed to state hunters, becoming available to state subsistence hunters for the first time.

Given existing proxy regulations, late season registration hunters will be able to proxy hunt for others, but only once per season within Unit 13.

Regulations to be amended by adding the following to current regulations:

5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose

(9)

Unit 11, that portion east of the east bank of the
Copper River upstream from and including the
Slana River drainage

1 bull by registration permit Nov. 15–Nov. 30
Available in local communities
Nov. 13–Nov. 30
Up to 10 permits may be issued

(11)

Units and Bag Limits
Unit 13

1 bull, by [Dec. 1–Dec. 31]
registration Nov. 15–Nov. 30
permit only as follows:

Unit 13A west of the Lake Louise
Road, Lake Louise, Susitna Lake,
Tyone Lake, and the Tyone River.
Permits available in local communities
Nov. 13–Nov. 30
Up to 10 permits may be issued

Unit 13A east of the Lake Louise Road, Lake Louise, Susitna Lake, Tyone Lake, and the Tyone River, Permits available in local communities Nov. 13–Nov. 30 Up to 20 permits may be issued

Unit 13B Permits available in local communities Nov. 13–Nov. 30 Up to 20 permits may be issued

Unit 13C Permits available in local communities Nov. 13–Nov. 30 Up to 50 permits may be issued

Remainder of Unit 13D Permits available in local communities Nov. 13–Nov. 30 Up to 50 permits may be issued

Unit 13E Permits available in local communities Nov. 13–Nov. 30 Up to 50 permits may be issued

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Units 13 and 11, although heavily used by the public in some areas, have certain areas where moose are not accessible during the regular seasons. I would like the Board of Game to adopt regulations to provide an opportunity to harvest moose in these areas where bull:cow ratios are high and additional harvest will be sustainable.

PROPOSED BY: Aaron Bloomquist (EG-F17-081)
****

PROPOSAL 108 – 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Change the antler restrictions for moose in Unit 13 as follows:

R 13 One bull with spike-fork or 50-inch antlers or antlers with **3** [4] or more brow tines on at least one side. HT September 1 – September 20.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Amend antler restriction rule in Unit 13 from four brow tines to three brow tines. There are dozens of bulls with a 48-inch antler spread and two or three brow tines. Twenty years ago adult bulls had brow palms. Antler restrictions removed them before breeding season.

PROPOSED BY: John Raich (EG-F17-087)
****

<u>PROPOSAL 109</u> – 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep. Change the "any ram" bag limit to "full-curl ram" for the Dall sheep permit hunts in Units 13D and 14A as follows:

Change the legal animal of harvest to a full-curl ram for these existing draw hunts:

Subunit 13D West
DS 160
DS 260

Subunit 14A Metal Creek
DS 170
DS 175
DS 270
DS 275

Subunit 14A Friday Creek
DS 180
DS 185
DS 280
DS 285

Subunit 14A Carpenter Creek
DS 190
DS 195
DS 290
DS 295

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Any ram hunts cost the Department of Fish and Game (department) more money to manage and necessitate fewer tags. Any ram hunts have the potential for higher impact on sheep populations, so they require more intensive management by the department to prevent over utilization. The high impact of any ram hunts leads the department to lower the number of tags awarded in order to maintain a sustainable harvest. The result of changing any ram hunts to full-curl hunts would be saving both department funds and staff time. Additionally, it would allow more hunters to participate in these coveted draw hunts.

PROPOSED BY: Brett Barringer (EG-F17-007)
****

<u>PROPOSAL 110</u> – 5 AAC 85.040. Hunting seasons and bag limits for goat. Change the drawing permit hunt for goat in Unit 13D to a registration hunt as follows:

Unit 13D remainder: One goat by registration permit……August 10 – November 30

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Eliminate the Unit 13D remainder drawing hunt for goat and make it a registration hunt. This area is a walk-in only area hunt. A registration hunt will allow people who really want to go into this area and know what they are getting into to be able to get a tag and hunt the area. Some folks are drawing the tag and not using it once they find out how hard and area it is to get in to.

PROPOSED BY: Copper Basin Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-F17-037)
****

PROPOSAL 111 – 5 AAC 85.015. Hunting seasons and bag limits for black bear; 85.020. Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear; and 92.044. Permit for hunting bear with the use of bait or scent lures. Open a fall season for hunting brown bear and black bear over bait in Unit 13 as follows:

Brown bear and black bear may be taken over bait in Unit 13 from April 15 to June 30 **and from August 20 to October 15** except that portion of Unit 13E that is Denali State Park. **Hunting brown bear over bait from August 20 to October 15 will be by registration permit only. This hunt may be closed by emergency order if a harvest goal is met.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I am proposing a fall bear baiting season in Unit 13 for both brown and black bears. There is a very high population of both brown and black bear in Unit 13 that are under-harvested because most of this unit is very remote and hard to access and a lot of it is heavily timbered. Many hunters who bait in the spring in this area report seeing five to ten bears on every bait station in this area. I would like to see a higher utilization of this game resource. The Department of Fish and Game (department) has put video cameras on some brown bear in this area and some bears were observed killing or at least eating up to forty different moose and caribou in a very short period of time. Most of them calves. The Board of Game (board) has watched some of these videos. It can't hurt to take a few more of these bears. The board failed a similar proposal in February of 2015 that would have allowed fall baiting in Subunit 13D for fear of over-harvest of brown bear. I have personally been baiting bears in the spring in this unit since 2014 and have found brown bears to be very smart and cautious around bait stations and almost always approach from far down wind. They are not easy to harvest this way. They are nothing like the bold and care free black bears. I have also baited brown bear in Unit 16 in the fall and found them to be the same in the fall there, with most coming in after dark. There is a two brown bear bag limit in Unit 16 and there has not been a dramatically high brown bear harvest in this area, only a moderate one and the baiting season in Unit 16 runs from April 15 to October 15. I think there is almost no chance of over-harvest of brown bear on this hunt. Just to be cautious, I propose this hunt to be a registration hunt so the department can keep better track of the number of hunters in the field and the total number of bears taken this way. If the department are really concerned about over-harvest they could even put a harvest goal on it and close the season by emergency order if it is met.

PROPOSED BY: Dan Montgomery (EG-F17-068)
****

PROPOSAL 112 – 5 AAC 85.020. Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear. Lengthen the hunting season for brown bear in Unit 11 as follows:

Unit 11 brown/grizzly bear season: August 10 – June 30.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Extend the brown/grizzly bear season to June 30 in Unit 11.

More closely align the season with similar adjoining areas. Example: Unit 12 brown bear season ends June 30, and Unit 13 has no closed season.

PROPOSED BY: Copper Basin Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-F17-032)
****

<u>PROPOSAL 113</u> – 5 AAC 84.270. Furbearer trapping. Lengthen the trapping season for wolverine in Unit 13 as follows:

Extend wolverine season in Unit 13 to February 28.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Denali Fish and Game Advisory Committee believes that there is an abundant population of wolverine and there are very few individuals trapping wolverine in Unit 13. By extending the season, this will allow for more opportunity to increase the participation of trapping in Unit 13. In addition, this will align the wolverine season with red fox, lynx, marten, mink and weasel. Due to wolf season ending on April 30, by extending wolverine season, this would further help prevent the trapper turning over the wolverine to law enforcement due to incidental catch in a wolf trap.

PROPOSED BY: Denali Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F17-003)
****

<u>PROPOSAL 114</u> – 5 AAC 84.270. Furbearer trapping. Extend the trapping season for wolverine in Unit 13 as follows:

Change the dates for the wolverine trapping season in Unit 13 from November 10 to January 31 to **<u>November 10 to February 28 annually</u>.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Early closure date to wolverine trapping season in Unit 13 (January 31). The season would align with Unit 20 and others if it was extended to February 28. Access would be much improved with more daylight, possibly warmer temperature and better snow conditions. Much of Unit 13 is very remote and this additional time opportunity would not have a significant negative effect on wolverine populations. The current closure date for wolverine trapping season in Unit 13 unnecessarily restricts opportunity.

PROPOSED BY: John Basile (EG-F17-035)
****

<u>PROPOSAL 115</u> – 5 AAC 84.270. Furbearer trapping. Extend the trapping season for wolverine in Units 11 and 13 as follows:

Wolverine trapping season in Units 11 and 13……November 10 – February 28……no limit

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Extend wolverine trapping season to the end of February in Units 11 and 13. It currently ends the end of January.

Provide a longer opportunity to take wolverine. It will cut down on incidental take when trapping other species.

It would more closely align with other trapping seasons within these units. Example: Wolf and coyote seasons go until the end of March in Unit 11 and the end of April in Unit 13. Lynx and fox both go until the end of February in both units. Adjoining Units 20A and Unit 6 wolverine season goes until February 28 and Unit 12 goes until March 15.

PROPOSED BY: Copper Basin Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-F17-031)
****

PROPOSAL 116 – 5 AAC 92.095. Unlawful methods of taking furbearers; exceptions. Allow trappers the incidental take of two furbearer in Units 11 and 13 as follows:

Either:

"Allow two (2) total incidental furbearer catch by trapping per licensed trapper per year for any species that have a "no limit" bag limit. The incidental closed season catch must have been taken in traps set for a species that still has an open season.

Or:

"If a trapper incidentally takes a furbearer during a closed season in a trap that is set for a furbearer species that is still open, the Department of Fish and Game may issue a total of two (2) incidental take tags per licensed trapper per year only for species that have a "no limit" bag limit. The trapper must report these within 30 days to ADF&G for tagging, and sealing if required. The trapper may then keep the incidentally taken furbearer.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Allow two total incidental furbearer catch by trapping per licensed trapper per year. If all seasons are not aligned, there will be some incidental take of the closed species in traps set for species that are still open. You would still need to report to ADF&G within 30 days of take to get animal sealed or otherwise checked in.

PROPOSED BY: Copper Basin Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-F17-046)
****

PROPOSAL 117 – 5 AAC 85.065. Hunting seasons and bag limits for small game. Reduce the harvest and possession limits for grouse in Unit 11 as follows:

Grouse -- Unit 11: **Five** [FIFTEEN] per day, **ten** [THIRTY] in possession, **of which not more than two per day and four in possession may be ruffed grouse**.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Reduce the harvest and possession limits for grouse in Unit 11. For several years, the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park Subsistence Resource Commission has been hearing about large groups of hunters from outside the area taking advantage of the current liberal bag limits and harvesting large numbers of grouse along the McCarthy and Nabesna Roads within Wrangell-St. Elias National Preserve. For example, a group of four to six hunters hunting for a couple of days could each harvest 30 each, or a total of 120 to 180 grouse. We are concerned about the potential for these high harvest levels

to impact the grouse populations, especially during years when recruitment is poor, and believe that reducing the harvest and possession limits would help to address this issue. We are fortunate that good conditions in recent springs have resulted in substantial numbers of birds, however, we will eventually go back to wet springs with less recruitment. Additionally, the lynx population is on the upswing, and they will also have an impact on grouse populations. The smaller harvest and possession limits on ruffed grouse is proposed because they are just coming into this area and limited in number.

PROPOSED BY: Wrangell-St. Elias National Park Subsistence Resource Commission (EG-F17-013)

****

PROPOSAL 118 – 5 AAC 85.065. Hunting seasons and bag limits for small game. Reduce the bag limit and shorten the season for grouse in Unit 11 as follows:

A daily bag limit of five grouse per day, with a possession limit of ten; September 1 – December 15.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Modify the hunting season and bag limits for grouse (Spruce Hens) in Unit 11 as follows: We propose that the season be shortened and open September 1 instead of August 10 so that the young birds have more time to develop before being hunted. The reason for this is that the population of Alaska is changing and the hunting pressure is increasing from folks who drive out to hunt from Anchorage and other urban areas.

PROPOSED BY: Howard Mozen and George Vue Yang (EG-F17-024)

****

PROPOSAL 119 – 5 AAC 85.065. Hunting seasons and bag limits for small game. Lengthen the hunting season for ptarmigan in Unit 13B as follows:

Units 13A, B, C, D, E……August 10 – March 31

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Extend ptarmigan season in Unit 13B to March 31. The advisory committee agreed several years ago that as an experiment we wanted to try a shorter season to see if that would help the rock ptarmigan population. It didn't seem to help. Willow ptarmigan numbers are up and we are missing the opportunity to hunt willow ptarmigan later in the season in Unit 13B, which encompasses a very large area and a lot of hunting area and opportunity is lost.

PROPOSED BY: Copper Basin Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-F17-036)

****

PROPOSAL 120 – 5 AAC 85.065. Hunting seasons and bag limits for small game. Align the hunting seasons and reduce the bag limit for ptarmigan in Units 13E and 13B as follows:

Align Unit 13E and 13B ptarmigan season by changing season dates to August 10 through January 31, and reduce harvest limit to five a day and possession limit of ten total.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Denali Fish and Game Advisory Committee feels that the population of ptarmigan has decreased from historical levels. The ptarmigan population decrease over the years has been caused from many factors but a major factor is from springtime recreation users along the corridors of the Denali Highway and popular recreation areas in Units 13E and 13B. Shortening the season will decrease the vulnerability of springtime ptarmigan. Decreasing the bag limit will help prevent overharvest. Aligning season dates will simplify enforcement and assist hunters with date compliance between areas. Despite the decreased opportunity to harvest, this could help repopulation the ptarmigan and in future, reinstitute previous bag limits with higher limits and longer seasons.

PROPOSED BY: Denali Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F17-002)
****

PROPOSAL 121 – 5 AAC 85.065(3). Hunting seasons and bag limits for small game. Lengthen the hunting season for ptarmigan in Unit 13B as follows:

Return the ptarmigan season length in Subunit 13B to the standard August 10 – March 31, aligning the subunit with surrounding units.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The length of the ptarmigan season in Subunit 13B was reduced a number of years ago in an attempt to achieve higher rock ptarmigan numbers at calling stations located along the eastern Denali Highway. The late winter season was eliminated (December 1 – March 31), in hopes of reducing additive mortality. The change has not been successful in bringing rock ptarmigan numbers back up to previous highs. Meanwhile, with the natural swing in upland bird numbers, willow ptarmigan are now abundant in the subunit and surrounding areas. A significant amount of winter and spring upland bird hunting could be provided if the season was returned to the standard length August 10 – March 31. Given the popularity and accessibility of this area for ptarmigan hunting, the change would also take pressure off surrounding subunits.

PROPOSED BY: Rebecca Schwanke (EG-F17-109)
****

PROPOSAL 122 – 5 AAC 92.540 Controlled Use Areas. Modify the Sourdough Controlled Use Area as follows:

5 AAC 92.540(3)(B)(ii)

…

the area is closed to the use of any motorized vehicle for hunting, including the transportation of hunters, their hunting gear, or parts of game; however, this provision does not prohibit motorized access, or transportation of game, on the Richardson Highway, **Gulkana River, Sourdough Creek Campground or boat launch,** Sourdough and Haggard Creeks, Middle Fork and Haggard Creek trails, or other trails designated by the department.

…

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Sourdough Controlled Use Area was created in 1971 to provide moose and caribou hunting opportunities for individuals without off-road vehicles (ORVs). As competition increased for moose and caribou in the late 1960s, it became evident that there was a substantial demand for areas to hunt without having to compete with ORVs. The Sourdough Controlled Use Area provides a large hunting area accessible from the Richardson Highway where moose and caribou can be found in fair numbers and roadside or non-motorized hunters have reasonable chance for success. The Sourdough CUA was not intended to restrict hunter access to or on the Gulkana River. This proposal will clarify the legality of motorized use and access for the Sourdough Campground and the adjacent public boat launch.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F17-040)
****

PROPOSAL 123 – 5 AAC 92.540(3)(C)(i). Controlled Use Areas. Modify the Clearwater Creek Controlled Use Area description as follows:

…

(C) Clearwater Creek Controlled Use Area:

(i) the area consists of that portion of Unit 13(B) north of Denali Highway, west of and including **the Maclaren Summit trail and** the Maclaren River drainage, and east of, and including eastern bank drainages of the Middle Fork of the Susitna River downstream from and including the Susitna Glacier, and the eastern bank drainages of Susitna River downstream from its confluence with the Middle Fork

…

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Clearwater Creek Controlled Use Area (CCUA) is closed to the use of any motorized vehicle for hunting, including the transportation of hunters, their hunting gear, or parts of game, except for brown/grizzly bears, wolves, and small game from March 15 through June 30. The area provides a large hunting area, accessible from the Denali Highway, where roadside and non-motorized hunters have a reasonable opportunity to harvest moose and caribou. Recently there has been some confusion by the public regarding the location of the Maclaren Summit Trail relative to the eastern boundary of the CCUA. Recent GIS analysis conducted by the Alaska Department of Natural Resources and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game has identified that the trailhead and the majority of the Maclaren Summit Trail lies within the Maclaren River drainage and the controlled use area.

Adding the Maclaren Summit Trail to the Clearwater Creek Controlled Use area description further refines the description, and should help alleviate public confusion.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F17-041)
****

PROPOSAL 124 – 5 AAC 92.011. Taking of game by proxy. Eliminate the Unit 13-specific proxy requirements as follows:

Eliminate all Unit 13-specific proxy regulations.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Eliminate all Unit 13-specific proxy regulations. The current regulation that limits proxy hunting to once per season per species in Unit 13 limits an Alaskan cultural tradition of harvesting big game for family and friends that need assistance. Often a young hunter is willing and able to harvest big game for more than one individual that qualifies for a proxy. Utilization of the original proxy regulations in this manner was essential to providing elders and other individuals with wild game in Unit 13. Without this opportunity, many have turned to the community hunt structure where open designated hunting is allowed amongst a group.

Additionally, eliminate the Unit 13 requirement that only Tier II caribou hunters can proxy for other Tier II caribou hunters. Currently there is no Tier II caribou hunt in Unit 13. Even should it come back, this regulation should not be in place. Most often young hunters willing and able to hunt for Tier II permittees are not Tier II permit holders themselves.

PROPOSED BY: Rebecca Schwanke (EG-F17-111)
****

King Salmon Area – Units 9 & 10

PROPOSAL 125 – 5 AAC 85.025. Seasons and bag limits for caribou. Change the hunting season dates for the Tier II caribou hunt in Unit 9 as follows:

Unit 9 caribou season date: **September 1 to October 10** [AUGUST 10 to SEPTEMBER 20]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Open season dates for TC505 For Ugashik Village and Pilot Point permit holders. Change the current open season of August 10 through September 20 to September 1 through October 10 on the Ugashik River and Dego Creek drainage only.

Due to migration patterns there are not any caribou available for harvest in this area until early September, negating harvest opportunities the first twenty plus days of the season and very limited numbers of caribou the first three weeks of September which is also our moose season, forcing us to pick one or the other. Even though the season reopens for an extended time during the winter migration patterns again dictate our harvest opportunities to the last days of march until season closure on April 30, when weather and breakup conditions make hunting dangerous or impossible.

Shifting the season dates would increase our chances of a successful and safer hunt, it would also relieve hunting pressure on the pregnant cows in the spring.

PROPOSED BY: Brian Cato (EG-F17-104)
****

PROPOSAL 126 – 5 AAC 85.025. Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou. Increase the bag limit for the Southern Alaska Peninsula caribou herd (SAP) in Unit 9D as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	**Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)**	**Nonresident Open Season**
(4)		
Caribou		
Unit 9D If the harvestable portion is greater than 150:		
RESIDENT HUNTERS:		
2 caribou [1 caribou]	Aug. 1–Sept. 30 Nov. 15–Mar. 31	

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:
2 caribou [1 caribou] Aug. 1–Sept. 30

If the harvestable portion is greater than 250:

RESIDENT HUNTERS:
3 caribou [1 caribou] Aug. 1–Sept. 30
Nov. 15–Mar. 31

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:
3 caribou [1 caribou] Aug. 1–Sept. 30

If the harvestable portion is greater than 450:

RESIDENT HUNTERS:
4 caribou [1 caribou] Aug. 1–Sept. 30
Nov. 15–Mar. 31

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:
4 caribou [1 caribou] Aug. 1–Sept. 30

If the harvestable portion is greater than 550:

RESIDENT HUNTERS:
5 caribou [1 caribou] Aug. 1–Sept. 30
Nov. 15–Mar. 31

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:
5 caribou [1 caribou] Aug. 1–Sept. 30

…

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The growing SAP herd has likely exceeded 2,200 caribou, has high bull and calf ratios, and low reported harvest under a one caribou bag limit. Historically, the remoteness of the herd and small human population has not provided the harvest necessary to contain the herd within objectives which led to declines in population and habitat quality. Increasing the bag limit will allow the Department of Fish and Game the discretion to proactively manage the rapidly growing population by increasing harvest commensurate with population levels to maintain it at or near the upper end of the objective of 4,000 caribou without having to propose Board of Game changes out of cycle.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F17-038)
****

PROPOSAL 127 – 5 AAC 85.025. Seasons and bag limits for caribou. Open a resident hunting season for caribou in a portion of Unit 9C as follows:

Open the north bank of the Naknek River drainage to hunting for two caribou by the same permit that is used in Units 9B and 9C, the Alagnak River drainage (RC503),

Resident hunt only, that portion of the north and south bank of the Alagnak to that portion of the north of the north bank of the Naknek River drainage, two caribou by permit RC503

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? That area in Unit 9C that is open on an announced caribou hunt south of the Alagnak River drainage and the north side of the Naknek River drainage. This area was protected for the Northern Alaska Peninsula herd had been crossing the Naknek River, it crashed and needed help and we didn't hunt for many years. It is now open for hunting by permit, and hasn't crossed in a long time so it is time for us to be able to hunt this area again. This area is an area used by the Mulchatna caribou in the winter and should be open to hunt just like the rest of Unit 9C that area draining the south and north Alagnak drainage and Unit 9B Kvichak drainage.

PROPOSED BY: Naknek/Kvichak Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-F17-023)
****

PROPOSAL 128 – 5 AAC 85.025. Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou. Allow the harvest of any caribou in Unit 10, Adak Island, as follows:

No limit, harvest ticket, no closed season.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Allow any caribou, no closed season, no limit. Remove the bull restriction (no bulls January 1 – August 9). Unnecessarily restricts meat hunters that may harvest younger animals that are harder to determine sex.

PROPOSED BY: John Bush (HQ-F17-005)
****

PROPOSAL 129 – 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Lengthen the resident hunting season for moose in Unit 9B as follows:

Unit 9(B)
RESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 bull by registration permit only; Sept. 1–Sept. **20** [15]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The moose population in Unit 9B can sustain additional bull harvest, according to the Department of Fish and Game. We would like to increase hunting opportunity by increasing the season by five days. This would align fall seasons for residents with Unit 9C.

PROPOSED BY: Lake Iliamna Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F17-019)
****

PROPOSAL 130 – 5 AAC 92.052. Discretionary permit hunt conditions and procedures. Allow hunters to obtain Unit 9B registration moose permits online and in other locations as follows:

Recommended changes:

One bull by permit available **online at http://hunt.alaska.gov or** in person in Unit 9B village or in King Salmon beginning August 16, contact King Salmon for additional information

Or

One bull by permit available in person in Unit 9B village or in person in **Anchorage, Cordova, Fairbanks, Glennallen,** King Salmon, **Palmer, or Soldotna,** beginning August 16, contact King Salmon for additional information

Or a combination of the two:

One bull by permit available **online at http://hunt.alaska.gov or** in person in **Anchorage, Cordova, Fairbanks, Glennallen,** King Salmon, **Palmer, or Soldotna,** beginning August 16, contact King Salmon for additional information

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Justification: For 40 years I have hosted fishing and hunting camps during moose season in Unit 9B. The existing requirement to register in the local villages needs to be changed for three primary reasons.

1) It makes the hunt dangerous. The need to fit permit application into the administrative hours of the villages and Lake Clark Park forces hunters to fly only on weekdays and only during business hours to arrive in time to meet the registrar's schedule. Often, the weather during that period is marginal, or worse. We now find that we fly in far worse weather than we historically have. Since we hunt in Unit 9B, we now have to route through Lake Clark Pass even if weather on alternate routes is better. This regulation makes access to the hunt substantially more dangerous than necessary.

2) It disenfranchises working Alaska resident hunters. If a hunter, such as one of our regulars who grew up hunting and fishing the Iliamna region, has only five days to hunt, this rule means he often cannot hunt. (EXAMPLE) One of our party learned to fly in a Cessna, roaming the Iliamna area. He now flies for Alaska Airlines and as a junior officer can only arrange five days off at a time. If he clears his last scheduled flight on a Friday afternoon, but not early enough to get to a registration site during working hours, the earliest he can register is Monday, (can't hunt), and must return on Tuesday evening or Wednesday morning depending on weather. This leaves one day to hunt. If the weather is poor on Monday, it leaves none. He never missed a trip from the time he was ten until this rule took effect. Since, he has missed two out of three years. This scheduling problem has caused every one of us to miss the entire hunt. In order to hunt, you really now need a full week of time off.

3) It is age discriminatory. For older hunters, (four of our group are over 65), the walk from where you can park a plane to the registration in (for example) Pedro Bay is becoming very difficult. With the time constraints at the site, a two or three-mile round trip walk only to find the site has run out of permits, or the person who issues them is not available, is very tough since it means we must find another site and repeat it. Even the walk from the Farm in Port Allsworth to the Park Service is tough on 75-year-old legs.

Some of us have hunted the area for three or four decades. We understand the need to conserve the moose herd. No matter how many we have in hunting camp, we have always maintained a strict maximum limit of two moose. We've collectively discussed the population issues and all agree that the single greatest impact on herd size came when brown bear hunting every fall and spring was eliminated. Before, we used to see equal numbers of bears and moose. Now, or for every moose we see, bull or cow, we see six to ten bears.

PROPOSED BY: Beaver Creek Hunting Group (EG-F17-058)
****

PROPOSAL 131 – 5 AAC 85.020. Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear. Remove the brown bear bag limit of one bear every four years for residents in Unit 9 as follows:

Remove the "one bear every four regulatory years" requirement for residents hunting under the RB368, RB369, and RB370 registration permits for brown bear in Unit 9.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?
One bear every four regulatory years for resident hunters in Unit 9.

If there are no conservation concerns for brown bears in Unit 9 under the RB368, RB369, and RB370 registration permit hunts, and we are allowing unlimited nonresident opportunity that results in nonresident hunters taking greater than 80% of the bears, there is absolutely no need for a restriction on resident hunters to only take one bear every four regulatory years.

These registration permits are only available every other regulatory year as it is, so residents already are restricted to one bear every two regulatory years.

PROPOSED BY: Resident Hunters of Alaska (EG-F17-073)
****

PROPOSAL 132 – 5 AAC 85.020. Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear. Open a resident-only early season for the current registration brown bear hunts in Unit 9, or open resident-only registration or drawing permit hunts as follows:

Solution 1) Create a new registration or draw hunt for resident hunters *only,* mirroring the current RB368, 369, and 370 registration hunts, to allow a spring season on odd numbered years and a fall season on even numbered years.

Unit 9 Alaska Peninsula
Brown/grizzly bear
Units 9A, 9C, 9D, 9E
RBXXX Resident only fall season, even numbered years, October 1–21
RBXXX Resident only spring season, odd numbered years, May 10–31

Unit 9B
RBXXX Resident only fall season, even numbered years, October 1–21
RBXXX Resident only spring season, odd numbered years, May 10–31

Solution 2) Provide a five-day early start to residents for the RB368, 369, and 370 registration hunts.

Unit 9 Alaska Peninsula
Brown/grizzly bear
Units 9A, 9C, 9D, 9E
RBXXX Resident only fall season, odd numbered years, October 1–5
RBXXX Resident only spring season, even numbered years, May 10–15

Unit 9B
RBXXX Resident only fall season, odd numbered years, October 1–5
RBXXX Resident only spring season, even numbered years, May 10–15

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?
Resident hunting and harvest opportunity for brown bear in Unit 9.

We are continually receiving reports from resident brown bear hunters in Unit 9 that guides have many areas locked-up to access by residents, and guides are claiming areas as their own when resident hunters do manage to fly or boat into areas. There are many conflicts between guides on state lands and conflicts between guides and residents on both federal and state lands.

Both the spring (even numbered years only) and fall (odd numbered years only) registration permit hunts (RB368, 369, 370) are unlimited. After the Board of Game (board) went to a registration hunt in 2012, the harvests by nonresidents has been over 80 percent (see table below). These high nonresident (mostly guided) harvests reflect some of what is going on in Unit 9 with resident access problems and conflicts between guides and residents.

Department of Fish and Game Data
Unit 9 Brown Bear Harvest

REGYEAR	Resident	Nonresident	Total Harvest
2013	89	415	506
2014	6	0	7
2015	88	369	462
2016	6	1	8

Most of the harvest takes place the first week of both the spring and fall hunt according to the Department of Fish and Game (department) data. The department has no conservation concerns for brown bears in Unit 9 at this time.

We would like the board to consider two solutions to provide better resident hunter access and opportunity and success in Unit 9. Institute a resident-only early season for the RB 368, 369, 370 registration permit hunts, or allow a resident-only registration or draw hunt for brown bears in Unit 9 during the even and odd years the current RB 368, 369, and 370 hunts have no open season. The current level of competition from guides and guided nonresident hunters is overwhelming and causing too many conflicts, access and opportunity issues for resident hunters.

PROPOSED BY: Resident Hunters of Alaska (EG-F17-072)
****

PROPOSAL 133 – 5 AAC 85.020. Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear. Change the nonresident brown bear registration hunt in Unit 9E to drawing permit hunt as follows:

Unit 9E brown bear:

Nonresidents: One brown bear every four regulatory years;

(Five permits by drawing), state land south of Cinder River to Mud Creek

(Five permits by drawing), state land south of Mud Creek to Meshik River

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The over-harvest of brown bears by guides and their nonresident clients. The resource cannot handle the unlimited number of guides and nonresident hunters on state land between Cinder River and the Meshik River.

PROPOSED BY: Lance Kronberger (EG-F17-011)
****

PROPOSAL 134 – 5 AAC 85.065. Hunting seasons and bag limits for small game. Shorten the season for ptarmigan and reduce the bag limit in Unit 9 as follows:

Ptarmigan (rock, willow, and white-tailed)	**Resident Open Season**	**Nonresident Open Season**
Units 8, 10, 17, 19, 21, 24, 25 (except 25(C)), And the Dalton Highway Corridor and Prudhoe Bay Closed Area in Unit 26(B)	Aug. 10–Apr. 30 (General hunt only)	Aug. 10–Apr. 30

20 per day, 40 in possession

Unit 9	**Aug. 10–Mar. 1 (General hunt only)**	**Aug. 10–Mar. 1**

10 per day, 20 in possession

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Ptarmigan numbers are extremely low in Unit 9. We believe that the bag limit and season should be reduced to conserve remaining birds and allow the population to grow.

PROPOSED BY: Lake Iliamna Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F17-020)
****

PROPOSAL 135 – 5 AAC 85.065. Hunting seasons and bag limits for small game. Close the season for Alaska hares in Unit 9 as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	**Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)**	**Nonresident Open Season**
(2)		
Snowshoe and Alaska hares		
Units 1–5	Sept. 1–Apr. 30 (General hunt only)	Sept. 1–Apr. 30
Units 6–26, except 14(A) and 14(C)**, and Alaska hares in Units 9(C), 9(D), and 9(E)**	No closed season (General hunt only)	No closed season
No limit		
Units 9(C), 9(D) and 9(E) Alaska hares only	**No open season**	**No open season**
Unit 14(A) 5 per day	No closed season (General hunt only)	No closed season
Unit 14(C) 5 per day	Day after Labor Day –Apr. 30 (General hunt only)	Day after Labor Day –Apr. 30

…

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Even though snowshoe hares remain abundant in Unit 9, the once abundant Alaska hare population is now at a very low density and has a patchy distribution in the southern portion of the Alaska Peninsula. Very little is known about the Alaska hare, but the apparent decrease in abundance may have been caused by changes in habitat or predation. A small Alaska hare population has been observed Unit 9D and there are infrequent observations of Alaska hare sign near King Salmon. Although there are no estimates of abundance, hunting seasons should be closed in Units 9C, 9D and 9E to address the low density, and biological concern as a precaution for this species. While the closure of the Alaska hare season would result in a slight decrease in hunting opportunity, snowshoe hare hunting opportunity would remain open in the area. If climatic or habitat conditions favorable to Alaska hares return to the southern Alaska Peninsula, a low hunter harvest could protect localized populations for quicker recovery and recolonization.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F17-039)
****

Dillingham Area – Unit 17

PROPOSAL 136 – 5 AAC 85.045(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 antlerless moose by registration permit; during the period Dec. 1 –Last day of Feb. a season of up to 31 days may be announced by emergency order;	Winter Season to be Announced by Emergency Order (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 board adopted an antlerless moose hunt in Unit 17A in support of the Unit 17A Moose Management Plan, which was modified during a meeting of the Unit 17A Moose Management Planning Group in December 2012. The planning group consists of entities interested in the management of this moose population and includes representatives from the Bristol Bay Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Council, the Nushagak and Togiak Fish and Game Advisory Committees, the Togiak National Wildlife Refuge, and the ADF&G Unit 17 management office.

According to the third goal of the revised Unit 17A Moose Management plan, antlerless moose hunting opportunity can be offered when the population is above 600 moose and increasing. The revised plan also recommends that a bag limit of up to two moose when the population exceeds 1,200 moose.

Based on the most recent survey in October 2017, the point estimate was 1,760 moose in Unit 17A. The bag limit of two moose and antlerless harvest opportunity provides a mechanism to limit population growth and allows hunters to harvest surplus animals.

The moose population in subunit 17A is growing and can sustain additional harvest; however, the objectives for this population include allowing it to expand into neighboring areas as well as provide for additional harvest opportunity. The population is currently contributing to the growth of moose populations, especially to the north and west.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F17-034)
****

PROPOSAL 137 – 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Change the resident, fall season dates for moose hunting in Unit 17A as follows:

… Unit 17(A) 1 bull per regulatory year, only as follows:

RESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 bull by registration Aug. [25] **30**–Sept. [20] **25** permit only; or (Subsistence hunt only) 1 antlered bull by Dec. 1–Jan. 31 registration permit; (Subsistence hunt only) during the period (To be announced) Dec. 1–Jan. 31, a season of up to 14 days may be announced by emergency order

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS: No open season. …

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Shift the fall moose season in Unit 17A by five days for residents. The amount of moose traffic during the proposed season increases hunter's safety and is in line with the moose migratory pattern. Currently the season opens too early, the moose are moving more towards the proposed season of August 30 – September 25. With the rise of fuel prices and amount of moose traffic in the area, this shift is warranted for safe hunting procedures.

PROPOSED BY: Togiak Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F17-025)
****

PROPOSAL 138 – 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Extend the resident, fall season for moose hunting in Unit 17A as follows:

... Unit 17(A) 1 bull per regulatory year, only as follows:

RESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 bull by registration Aug. 25–Sept. [20] **25** permit only; or (Subsistence hunt only) 1 antlered bull by Dec. 1–Jan. 31 registration permit; (Subsistence hunt only) during the period (To be announced) Dec. 1–Jan. 31, a season of up to 14 days may be announced by emergency order

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS: No open season. ...

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Extend the fall moose season in Unit 17A by five days for residents. The amount of moose traffic during those days have increased. At the end of the current season, there is a slowdown of moose. Once the current

season closes, there is an increase of the moose within the unit, this is the reason for the increase of an additional five days to the fall moose hunt.

PROPOSED BY: Traditional Council of Togiak (HQ-F17-008)
****

PROPOSAL 139 – 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Lengthen the nonresident moose hunting season in Unit 17A as follows:

5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose

(a)(15) Unit 17A

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS: [Sept. 5–Sept. 15] **Sept. 1–Sept. 20**

One bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with four or more brow tines on one side, by drawing permit only; up to 50 permits may be issued.

The moose population in this area is very healthy and resident hunters have a two moose bag limit, "any bull" harvest, cow harvest, a 28-day fall season, and a month-long winter season. This would not increase take, but provide for a more predictable situation.

The nonresident moose hunt in Unit 17A is limited by a drawing in which only 20 tags are issued.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Nonresident moose hunting in Unit 17A is very limited, by a drawing hunt, making a very short season completely unnecessary. A longer season would actually provide a benefit by spreading the same number of hunters out over time. Access is very limited to less than ten lakes due to a no-fly corridor along most of the rivers in the area. Regulations allow for up to 50 nonresident permits in Unit 17A but permits are limited to 20 by an agreement reached through the Unit 17A moose working group in conjunction with the Togiak Advisory Committee, Togiak Refuge and others. Twenty seems to be a reasonable number at this point due to this limited access. Resident hunters would still have the advantage of a five day head start, an any bull season and a winter season.

I would like the Board of Game to adopt a regulation to extend the nonresident moose season by ten days.

PROPOSED BY: Aaron Bloomquist (EG-F17-093)
****

PROPOSAL 140 – 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Open a guide required, nonresident registration hunt for moose in Unit 17A as follows:

5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose

(a)(15)

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS: Sept. 5–Sept. 15

1 bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side, by drawing permit only; up to 50 permits may be issued

or

1 bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side, by registration permit only; up to 10 permits will be issued to guided hunters only.

Regulations allow for up to 50 nonresident permits in Unit 17A but permits are limited to 20 by an agreement reached through the Unit 17A moose working group in conjunction with the Togiak AC, Togiak Refuge and others. Twenty seems to be a reasonable number at this point due to limited access. My intent would be to remove the number of registration permits allowed from the drawing hunt. (If four registration permits are issued, only 16 drawing tags will be issued). Although only four guided moose hunters are permitted in Unit 17A at this time; I used "up to ten permits" so the Dillingham area biologist would have some flexibility in the case that the Togiak Refuge allows guided moose hunting in their other concession, there are two concessions but the second does not allow guided moose hunting at this time. Togiak or Twin Hills Villages could also decide to allow moose take on their lands. These villages have not yet allowed guided moose hunting to my knowledge but it could be a good opportunity if a shareholder had a guide license.

The moose population in this area is very healthy and resident hunters have a two moose bag limit, "any bull" harvest, cow harvest, a 28-day fall season, and a month-long winter season. This would not increase take, but provide for a more predictable situation.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Nonresident guided moose hunting in Unit 17A is limited by Federal Concession Quotas making the need for a drawing hunt for guided hunters unnecessary. Having guided hunters apply for hunts where the draw odds are high (over 50% historically), and guides are limited by concession, are very messy. Guides must put in more hunters than their quota but it is impossible to judge how many hunters must apply to reach the allocated number allowed under refuge concessions. This may result in more hunters drawn than the guide is allowed to take. I am the only guide currently allowed to take moose hunters in Unit 17A and my concession quota is only four moose hunters. I currently have 18 people on my list that want to apply for the hunt. If I put them all in, I will likely have too many drawn, if I put in fewer, I run the risk of not having enough. The extra hunters that draw will likely not hunt because they want a guided hunt. This removes an opportunity from other hunters that would have preferred a non-guided hunt. There are currently 20 tags available in the drawing.

I would like the Board of Game to adopt a regulation for a registration permit for guided moose hunters in Unit 17A OR allocate a portion of the drawing to guided hunters in a similar fashion as other units (see additional proposal for this option).

PROPOSED BY: Aaron Bloomquist (EG-F17-089)
****

PROPOSAL 141 – 5 AAC 92.069. Special provisions for moose drawing permit hunts. Allocate a portion of the nonresident drawing permits for moose in Unit 17A to guided hunters as follows:

5 AAC 92.069. Special provisions for moose drawing permit hunts.

(b)(5) in Unit 17A, the department shall issue a maximum of 50 percent of the available nonresident drawing permits to guided nonresidents, and a minimum of 50 percent of the available nonresident drawing permits to non-guided nonresidents. If the number of nonresidents applying for permits for either nonresident hunt is insufficient to award the required percentage, the department may award the remaining available nonresident drawing permits to the other nonresident hunt;

Regulations allow for up to 50 nonresident permits in Unit 17A but permits are limited to 20 by an agreement reached through the Unit 17A moose working group in conjunction with the Togiak Advisory Committee, Togiak Refuge and others. Twenty seems to be a reasonable number at this point due to limited access. I used the 50% language simply because it is already in regulation for other areas. Another number could be chosen but I believe this language allows for flexibility. Only four guided moose hunters are permitted in Unit 17A at this time; so it would be 20% but it should be higher in the case that the Togiak Refuge allows guided moose hunting in their other concession. There are two concessions but the second does not allow guided moose hunting at this time. Togiak or Twin Hills Villages could also decide to allow moose take on their lands. These villages have not yet allowed guided moose hunting to my knowledge but it could be a good opportunity if a shareholder had a guide license.

The moose population in this area is very healthy and resident hunters have a two moose bag limit, "any bull" harvest, cow harvest, a 28-day fall season, and a month-long winter season. This would not increase take, but provide for a more predictable situation.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Nonresident guided moose hunting in Unit 17A is limited by Federal Concession Quotas making the need for a drawing hunt for guided hunters unnecessary and burdensome. Having guided hunters apply for hunts where the draw odds are high (over 50% historically), and guides are limited by concession, are very messy. Guides must put in more hunters than their quota but it is impossible to judge how many hunters must apply to reach the allocated number allowed under refuge concessions. This may result in more hunters drawn than the guide is allowed to take. I am the only guide currently allowed to take moose hunters in Unit 17A and my concession quota is only four moose hunters. I currently have 18 people on my list that want to apply for the hunt. If I put them all in, I will likely have too many drawn, if I put in fewer, I run the risk of not having enough. The extra hunters that draw will likely not hunt because they want a guided hunt. This removes an opportunity from other hunters that would have preferred a non-guided hunt. There are currently 20 tags available in the drawing.

I would like the Board of Game to adopt a regulation for a registration permit for guided moose hunters in Unit 17A (preferred option, see additional proposal for this option) OR allocate a portion of the drawing to guided hunters in a similar fashion as other units (this option).

PROPOSED BY: Aaron Bloomquist (EG-F17-092)
****

PROPOSAL 142 – 5 AAC 85.045(a)(15). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Shift the resident fall hunting season dates for moose in a portion of Unit 17A as follows:

Unit 17(C), that portion east of the Weary River

Resident Hunters:	Aug. 20–Sept. 15
1 bull by registration permit only; however during the period Sept. 1–Sept. 15, spike-fork bulls and bulls with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 3 or more brown tines on one side may be taken with a harvest ticket, or	
1 antlered bull by registration permit only	Dec. 1–Dec. 31

Unit 17(C), that portion west of the Weary River

Resident hunters	**Aug. 25–Sept. 20**
1 bull by registration permit only; however during the period of Sept. 1–Sept. 20, spike-fork bulls and bulls with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 3 or more brow tines on one side may be taken with a harvest ticket	

…

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I would like to see the fall moose hunt for that portion of Unit 17C west of the Weary River changed from the present season dates of August 20 – September 15 to August 25 – September 20.

We want to allow for more time during the early rut period to allow for safer and easier harvest location near the river because the terrain near Manokotak differs from the Nushagak River.

PROPOSED BY: Kenneth Nukwak (HQ-F17-024)
****

PROPOSAL 143 – 5 AAC 85.045(a)(15). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Open the resident winter season for moose in a portion of Unit 17C by emergency order only as follows:

Unit 17C, that portion west of the Weary River, one antlered bull by registration permit; during the period of December 1 – last day of February; a season of up to 31 days may be announced by emergency order.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I would like to see the winter moose hunt for that portion of Unit 17C west of the Weary River changed from the present fixed season dates of December 1 – December 31, to a season that can be opened by emergency order when snow conditions are most suitable for pursuing moose, similar to the winter hunt in Unit 17A.

I would like flexible season dates to allow for safe hunting and travel conditions, due to climate change.

PROPOSED BY: Kenneth Nukwak (HQ-F17-023)
****

PROPOSAL 144 – 5 AAC 92.540 (5) (A) (ii). Controlled Use Areas. Allow the use of motorized vehicles for moose hunting in the Upper Mulchatna Controlled Use Area as follows:

(ii) **except for the purposes of moose hunting** the area is closed to the use of any motorized vehicle for hunting big game, including the transportation of big game hunters, their hunting gear, or parts of big game from August 1 through November 1, except that the use of an aircraft or a boat is not prohibited, and a motorized vehicle in a legally permitted hunting camp is not prohibited

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Upper Mulchatna Controlled Use Area is closed to the use of motorized vehicles (except aircraft and boats) for hunting big game. This includes all of Unit 17B. Currently hunters can enter the Upper Mulchatna Controlled Use Area with a motorized vehicle to hunt ducks and other small game, however if they see a moose while in the area with their motorized vehicle they cannot shoot it. This discourages use of the area outside of the river corridor by people hunting for subsistence reasons, who do not have access to an aircraft, and favors guides, and those who do have access to aircraft.

PROPOSED BY: Richard King (HQ-F17-001)
****

PROPOSAL 145 – 5 AAC 85.025. Hunting seasons a bag limits for caribou. Open a nonresident registration hunt for caribou in Units 9 and 17 as follows:

Unit 9 within the range of the Mulchatna caribou and all of Unit 17

Nonresidents: September 1–30
One bull caribou by registration permit. Up to 200 permits may be issued.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? As of the drafting of this proposal, the Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) states: "The harvest of Mulchatna caribou is well below sustainable levels." The Mulchatna caribou herd has started to grow and all indicators are that it is healthy. Unfortunately, it has recently resided predominantly in areas that are difficult to access. A nonresident hunt, limited by registration, should be well within the sustainability of this herd that is currently underutilized. I would suggest a limit of up to 200 tags

and ask ADF&G to initially only issue 50 across the entire range of the herd. It is desirable to see this herd continue to grow. Communities within the region have had a difficult time taking the harvestable surplus due to the locations of the animals. Providing a nonresident hunt will result in light harvest and most meat will be left in the communities within the region as is the case in all remote nonresident hunting opportunities.

A similar proposal for a drawing hunt was deferred from the Arctic/Western meeting for Units 18 and 19. This registration permit would be preferable but the drawing is another option.

PROPOSED BY: Aaron Bloomquist (EG-F17-101)
****

Note: The Board of Game does not have authority to increase tag fees.

PROPOSAL 146 – 5 AAC 85.025. Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou. Open a guide-required nonresident drawing hunt for caribou in Unit 17B as follows:

I propose 14 nonresident caribou tags be issued by lottery for one bull caribou each for Unit 17B at the rate of $1,000/tag to guided only nonresidents. Season dates to begin August 10 through August 19. Caribou hunts must be conducted by a licensed registered guide and may not be part any other hunting trip for another species.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I have been conducting hunts for brown bear in the area and am seeing more and more very nice mature caribou bulls during the fall brown bear season in each camp location. Many of these mature bulls will not be harvested by hunters and die of natural causes. There are not enough caribou to offer unlimited licenses in the area but the caribou dying of natural causes is a lost opportunity for the state to make some money and bring back the prestige of trophy caribou hunting to an area that was once famous for it. There is little or no caribou hunting pressure from residents in the area. There are many out of state hunters who would gladly put money into the state in tag costs, hunting license fees, guide fees, lodging fees, meals, gas and other logistics for an opportunity to hunt the Mulchatna herd once again. This would amount to approximately $150,000 revenue being created by out of state hunters. This needs to be done or we face the area being forgotten as a trophy caribou hunting destination for hunters from across the globe. Running the season to begin August 10 through August 19 would allow nonresident hunters to target strictly caribou and while no brown bear or moose seasons were running which would extend the time outfitter services could make money while not overcrowding the area for other hunters. It is a win-win-win deal for sportsmen, businesses and the State of Alaska. I would be glad to discuss conservation issues at any time.

PROPOSED BY: Thomas Dvorak (EG-F17-002)
****

Note: This proposal was deferred from the 2017 Arctic/Western and Interior/Northeast Arctic Region meetings to the 2018 Central/Southwest Region Meeting. It was previously numbered Proposal 25 and Proposal 83.

PROPOSAL 147 – 5 AAC 85.025. Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou. Open a nonresident draw hunt for caribou in Units 18 and 19 as follows:

Units 18, 19A, and 19B – Nonresidents:
One bull caribou by drawing permit September 1–30

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? As of the drafting of this proposal, ADF&G states: "The harvest of Mulchatna caribou is well below sustainable levels." The Mulchatna caribou herd has started to grow and all indicators are that it is healthy. Unfortunately, it has recently resided predominantly in areas that are difficult to access. A nonresident hunt, limited by drawing should be well within the sustainability of this herd that is currently underutilized. I would suggest a limit of up to 50 tags and ask ADF&G to initially only issue 20 across the entire range of the herd. It is desirable to see this herd continue to grow. Communities within the region have had a difficult time taking the harvestable surplus due to the locations of the animals. Providing a nonresident hunt will result in light harvest and most meat will be left in the communities within the region as is the case in all remote nonresident hunting opportunities. This proposal is submitted for both the Arctic and Western (Unit 18) and the Interior and Eastern Arctic (Unit 19A and B) meetings. This proposal will also be submitted for Units 9 and 17 when in cycle.

PROPOSED BY: Aaron Bloomquist (EG-F16-010)
****

PROPOSAL 148 – 5 AAC 92.080(4)(B)(i). Unlawful methods of taking big game. Allow the use of a snowmachine for harvesting caribou, wolf, or wolverine in Unit 17 as follows:

5 AAC 92.080(4)(B)(i): in Units **17**, 22, 23 and 26(A), a snowmachine may be used to position a caribou, wolf, or wolverine for harvest, and caribou, wolves, or wolverines may be shot from a stationary snowmachine.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I would like Unit 17 to be included in the use of a snowmachine to position a caribou, wolf or wolverine for harvest.

PROPOSED BY: Kenneth Nukwak (HQ-F17-022)
****

PROPOSAL 149 – 5 AAC 84.270. Furbearer trapping, and 92.095(a)(3). Unlawful methods of taking furbearers; exceptions. Liberalize the season and methods and means for trapping beaver in Units 9 and 17 as follows:

Liberalize the season and method and means for trapping beaver in Unit 9 and 17 as follows: **In Units 9 and 17 – No closed season** and no bag limit. A trapping license is still required.

It is against the law to take beaver by any means other than a steel trap or snare except: **In Units 9 and 17 you may shoot up to the established bag limit with either a firearm or bow and arrow throughout the season provided that either the meat or the hide is salvaged.**

In Units 9 and 17 from June 1 to October 9, taking beaver by any means other that a firearm or bow and arrow is prohibited.

Beaver taken in Units 9 and 17 only need to be sealed if they are to be sold as raw fur.

In Units 9 and 17 you may shoot a beaver on the same day you have flown in an airplane if the beaver is either caught in a trap or snare or you are more than 300 feet from the airplane.

In Units 9 and 17 you may disturb or destroy a beaver dam. You may not disturb or destroy a beaver house or den.

[IN UNITS 9 AND 17 THE OPEN SEASON IS FROM OCTOBER 10 – MAY 31]

[BEAVER TAKEN IN UNITS 9 AND 17 MUST BE SEALED WITHIN 30 DAYS AFTER THE CLOSE OF THR SEASON]

[IN UNITS 9 AND 17 FROM APRIL 15 TO MAY 31, A FIREARM MAY BE USED TO TAKE 2 BEAVER PER DAY PROVIVED THAT THE MEAT IS SALVAGED FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION; AND IN UNIT 17 A FIREARM OR BOW AND ARROW MAY BE USED TO HARVEST BEAVER FROM DECEMBER 1 – APRIL 14, PROVIDED THAT THE MEAT IS SALVAGED.]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The beaver population is ever expanding in Units 9 and 17. They are damming up more small streams every year and preventing salmon from reaching their spawning grounds. Many of these small streams have lost their entire run of salmon. The beaver population needs to be reduced. The liberalization of the beaver season, harvest methods, bag limits, salvage requirements and eliminating some of the sealing requirement will give everyone the maximum opportunity to harvest beaver in these units. Many residents and nonresidents have expressed interest in being able to harvest a few beavers when they are hunting other species. Local residents will be able to harvest beaver anytime they want for food or fur.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Professional Hunters Association (EG-F17-066)
****

Reauthorization of Antlerless Moose Hunts & Brown Bear Tag Fee Exemptions for Other Regions

PROPOSAL 150 – 5 AAC 85.045(1). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Reauthorize the antlerless moose hunts in Unit 1C as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(1)		
…		
Unit 1(C), Berners Bay Drainages:	Sept. 15–Oct. 15 (General hunt only)	Sept. 15–Oct. 15
1 moose by drawing permit only; up to 30 permits may be issued		
…		
Unit 1(C), that portion west of Excursion Inlet and north of Icy Passage: 1 moose per regulatory year, only as follows:		
…		
1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only; up to 100 permits may be issued	Nov. 10–Dec. 10 (General hunt only)	Nov. 10–Dec. 10

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Berners Bay: The Berners Bay (Unit 1C) strategic moose management plan calls for a post-hunt population of 90 moose based on the area's estimated carrying capacity. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (department) has been successful at maintaining the Berners Bay population close to the post-hunt population objective by implementing both bull and cow hunts.

From 1998–2006 the number of drawing permits for Berners Bay moose ranged from ten bull and ten antlerless permits to seven bull permits and no antlerless permits. The average annual harvest of bulls during that period was seven moose, and in years when antlerless permits were issued, the annual harvest averaged four cow moose. Although the department has had

authorization to issue a total of 30 permits each year, over the past ten years no more than 20 total permits have been issued during a single year. As a result of several severe winters and resulting population declines, no Berners Bay moose permits were issued from 2007–2013.

The number of drawing permits issued annually for Berners Bay is based on the number of moose observed during winter aerial surveys. The mean number of moose seen during aerial surveys conducted from 1990–2006 was 77 (range: 59–108). As a result of a series of severe winters from 2006–2009 and associated population declines, the number of moose observed during surveys from 2007–2009 ranged from 33–62. Surveys in 2010 and 2011 found 73 moose including ten calves each year. Under ideal survey conditions in 2012, 102 moose were observed, including 21 bulls, 81 cows, and 14 calves. Adjusted for sightability based on collared moose, the 2012 population was estimated at 113 +/- 11 moose. Under less ideal conditions in 2013, 73 moose were observed, including 18 bulls, 47 cows, and eight calves. Adjusted for sightability, the 2013 population estimate was 90 +/- 13 moose. During the most recent survey in January 2014 a total of 105 moose were observed, including 22 bulls, 52 cows, 24 claves, and seven unknown. Based on this survey, the population was estimated to be 109 +/- 6 moose. The Berners Bay population has slowly increased and now exceeds the department's population and bull:cow management objectives.

Five bull permits were issued in 2014 and 2015. The department would like to retain the ability to implement an antlerless moose hunt should the population or habitat conditions warrant this type of management.

Gustavus: The Gustavus moose population (Unit 1C) rapidly expanded from just a few animals in the 1980s and early 1990s to a peak of about 400 animals in 2003. In 2002 the department estimated the density of moose on the Gustavus Forelands winter range exceeded five moose per km^2 despite only a small proportion of the area consisting of productive (abundant willow) winter habitat. In response to concerns about moose damaging the winter habitat, the department initiated spring browse surveys in 1999 and determined that an unsustainable level (85%–95%) of the current annual growth of willow twigs had been consumed by moose.

To conserve winter habitat the department requested the board authorize an antlerless moose hunt, and the first antlerless hunt was held in the fall of 2000. From 2002–2008 hunters harvested between 11 and 67 antlerless moose annually, depending on the number of permits issued. No hunt was held in fall 2007 due to high moose mortality during the previous winter, and no antlerless hunts have been held since 2009.

The objective of antlerless moose hunts in Gustavus is to maintain the moose population using the winter range to levels commensurate with habitat capability. Based on aerial surveys corrected for sightability and annual browse surveys, management of the population using antlerless hunts has been successful. In 2013, under favorable survey conditions 186 moose (25 bulls, 121 cows, and 40 calves) were observed. The population estimate corrected for sightability was 323 +/- 87 moose. Under poor late winter survey conditions in March 2014 91 (24 cows, 12 calves, and 55 unknown) moose were seen yielding a sightability corrected population estimate of 244 +/- 98 moose. Due to exceptionally mild winter weather, at the time of this survey a number of radiocollared moose had already transitioned to forested summer range outside the

survey area. There was little snow cover during the winter of 2014–15, so no survey was attempted.

Severe winters from 2006 through 2009 reduced calf survival, but since then calf survival has returned to 21% to 37%. Even during severe winters survival of adult females remained high at about 89%. Given the improved survival rate of calves during successive mild winters and stable cow survival, the potential exists for the Gustavus moose population to rapidly increase.

The Gustavus moose population is currently at a level the department believes is appropriate for the available winter habitat. However, we believe it is important to retain the ability to implement antlerless hunts should the population increase to a level that is detrimental to the habitat.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F17-042)
****

<u>PROPOSAL 151</u> – 5 AAC 85.045(3). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Reauthorize the antlerless moose hunt in Unit 5A, the Nunatak Bench hunt, as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	**Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)**	**Nonresident Open Season**
(3)		
Unit 5(A), that portion south of Wrangell-Saint Elias National Park, north and east of Russell and Nunatak Fiords, and east of the east side of East Nunatak Glacier to the Canadian Border (Nunatak Bench)	Nov. 15–Feb. 15	Nov. 15–Feb. 15
1 moose by registration permit only; up to 5 moose may be taken		
…		

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? <u>Nunatak Bench:</u> The Nunatak Bench hunt area (Unit 5A) is managed as a separate population because it is generally isolated from other moose populations by fiords and glaciers. The area is subject to severe winters and has low capability to support moose relative to other moose habitat in Unit 5A. The

purposes of this hunt are to provide opportunity as the population allows and to maintain the number of moose within a level the limited habitat can support. This hunt opens after other moose hunts in the unit have closed, and it is a popular alternative for hunters who were unsuccessful during those hunts. Because much of the open season for this hunt takes place after bulls have dropped their antlers, either sex may be harvested.

The Nunatak Bench strategic moose management plan calls for a post-hunt population of no more than 50 moose. During an aerial survey in 2001 52 moose were seen. From 2005 through 2012 only 11–14 moose with one or two calves were seen during surveys. The decline in moose numbers following the 2001 survey may be related to the 68-foot rise of Russel Fiord flooding and damaging habitat when it was blocked by the surging Hubbard Glacier during 2003. Due to poor weather and the remoteness of the location this area was not surveyed again until December 2015 when a total of 14 moose (three bulls, two cows, three calves, and six unknown) were observed. A series of severe winters from 2006 through 2012 may have inhibited recovery of the population. Anecdotal reports from hunters indicate that wolves in the area may also be inhibiting recovery of this small population.

From 1997 through 2004 an average of 12 either sex permits were issued annually with about four people actually hunting. During this period a total of 15 moose (nine bulls, six cows) were harvested for an average of about two moose per year. No permits have been issued and no moose have been harvested in this area since 2004.

The Department of Fish and Game believes it is important to retain the ability to implement an antlerless hunt in this area to prevent habitat damage should the population increase. The department will continue to monitor this population as conditions allow, but we do not plan to issue hunt permits until the population reaches at least 25 moose.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F17-043)
****

<u>PROPOSAL 152</u> – 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 seasons must be reauthorized annually. The Department of Fish and Game 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 400–500 moose. A population estimate completed during February 2014 yielded an estimate of 600 moose, 25% 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, we have not held the antlerless hunt since the 1999–2000 season. Continuation of the antlerless hunts will be necessary to manage population growth and keep it within the limits of what the habitat can support.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F17-044)
****

PROPOSAL 153 – 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)		
…		
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 due to deteriorating 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 exceed the management objective.

During the most recent moose survey, department staff counted 101 moose on Kalgin Island in January 2017. This count exceeded the population objective of 20–40 moose.

The "any moose" registration hunt is recommended to provide additional mortality on this predator-free island population. A registration hunt also allows the Department of Fish and Game to continue gathering biological information from specimens provided by successful hunters. The difficult hunting conditions and limited access will minimize the danger of over-harvest.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F17-047)
****

PROPOSAL 154 – 5 AAC 85.045(13). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Reauthorize the antlerless moose season and targeted moose season in a portion of Unit 15C as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	**Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)**	**Nonresident Open Season**
(13)		
…		
Unit 15(C), that portion south of the south fork of the Anchor River and northwest of Kachemak Bay		
RESIDENT HUNTERS:		
1 bull with spike or 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side; or	Sept. 1–Sept. 25 (General hunt only)	
1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only; the taking of calves, and females accompa-	Oct. 20–Nov. 20	

nied by calves, is prohibited; up to 100 permits may be issued in combination with the nonresident drawing hunt: or		
1 moose by targeted permit only,	Oct. 15–Mar. 31	
NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:		
1 bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side; or		Sept. 1–Sept. 25
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 bull with spike or 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side; or	Sept. 1–Sept. 25 (General hunt only)	
1 moose by targeted permit only,	Oct. 15–Mar. 31	
NONRESIDENT HUNTERS		
1 bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side;		Sept. 1–Sept. 25

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Antlerless moose seasons must be reauthorized annually, and the Department of Fish and Game recommends reauthorization of the Homer benchland hunt (DM549) and the targeted hunt (AM550) along the Sterling Highway in 15C for the 2018–19 hunting season.

The Homer benchland in Unit 15C, which encompasses the hunt boundary of DM549, contains high densities of moose in winters when deep snow drives moose into human populated areas. Even without deep snow, some moose die due to malnutrition and negative interactions with

humans occur as moose become more aggressive in their search for food around human residences.

In February 2017, a GSPE census was conducted in the northern portion of Unit 15C (north of Kachemak Bay) and resulted in a population estimate of 3,529 moose (95% CI: range 2,769–4,289), of which 19% (95% CI: 14–24) were calves. This equates to a density of approximately three moose/mi^2 in the census area. Density estimates for the winter are difficult to determine because the areas available to moose vary depending on snowfall, but winter density is consistently higher. Fall composition counts in December 2016 provided a bull ratio of 40 bulls:100 cows. Fifty permits were issued in each of the last 10 years resulting in an average harvest of 23 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 if they pose a threat to highway vehicles. On average, 61 known animals are killed each year in vehicle collisions in Unit 15C. The Department of Fish and Game 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 based on snow conditions.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F17-048)
****

<u>PROPOSAL 155</u> – 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 as follows:

Units 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 Department of Fish and Game recommends reauthorizing the antlerless hunt in Units 7 and 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 and bull:cow ratios, as well as estimated winter mortality. A December 2016 aerial composition count of moose in the Twentymile, Portage, and Placer river drainages found 153 moose with a bull:cow ratio of 30 bulls per 100 cows and a calf:cow ratio of 18 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 a population level low enough to reduce over-browsing of winter habitat, moose-vehicle collisions, and starvation during severe winters. The moose population will be healthier and more productive due to decreased stress levels associated with winter food shortages. This hunt has been successful in creating additional moose hunting opportunity with little or no controversy.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F17-045)
****

<u>PROPOSAL 156</u> – 5 AAC 85.045(5). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Reauthorize the antlerless moose seasons in Unit 14C as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	**Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)**	**Nonresident Open Season**
(12)		

…

Unit 14(C), Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (JBER) Management Area	Day after Labor Day –Mar 31 (General hunt only)	Day after Labor Day –Mar 31
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		
Unit 14(C), that portion known as the Birchwood Management Area	Day after Labor Day –Sept. 30 (General hunt only)	Day after Labor Day –Sept. 30
1 moose by drawing permit, by bow and arrow only; up to 25 permits may be issued		
Unit 14(C), that portion known as the Anchorage Management Area	Day after Labor Day –Nov. 30 (General hunt only)	No open season
1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only, and by bow and arrow, shotgun, or muzzleloader 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	Day after Labor Day –Sept. 30 (General hunt only)	Day after Labor Day –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 bull with spike-fork antlers or 50-inch antlers or antlers with 3 or more brow tines on one side; or	Day after Labor Day –Sept. 30 (General hunt only)	Day after Labor Day –Sept. 30
1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only; up to 60 permits may be issued; or	Day after Labor Day –Sept. 30 (General hunt only)	No open season
1 bull by drawing permit only, by bow and arrow only; up to 10 permits may be issued	Oct. 20–Nov. 15	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 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 starvation during severe winters. These hunts have also been successful in providing additional moose hunting opportunities in the state's human population center with little controversy.

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 and bull:cow ratios, as well as estimated winter mortality. In 2013, the department estimated that the moose population contained approximately 1,533 moose in Unit 14C from a combination of population census, composition surveys and extrapolation to unsurveyed areas. Since 2013, a lack of snow has limited our ability to conduct surveys, but we have seen no indication from either harvest or roadkill numbers that the moose population has changed significantly. It is likely that moose survival has been good during recent mild winters.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F17-046)
****

<u>PROPOSAL 157</u> – 5 AAC 85.045(16). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Reauthorize the nonresident antlerless moose season in the Remainder of Unit 18 as follows:

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

(16)

…

Remainder of Unit 18

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

2 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
2 antlerless moose; or	Oct. 1–Nov. 30.
2 moose	Dec. 1–Mar. 15

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 antlered bull; or	Sept. 1–Sept. 30
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 the Remainder of Unit 18 must be reauthorized annually. The current nonresident antlerless hunt was adopted at the January 2017 Board of Game (board) meeting in Bethel. The board has previously reauthorized the resident antlerless moose season for regulatory year (RY) 2016 and RY2017. This proposal requests reauthorization for RY2018.

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, the Department of Fish and Game 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 17,000 animals with calf:cow ratios ranging from 65:100 to 75:100, and twinning rates from 20% to 50% for all areas. Population growth continues to be strong in this portion of Unit 18 and anecdotal evidence suggests that calf survival rates remain high. The population is expected to continue to grow with high recruitment and adult survival.

Although the current year harvest data in the Remainder of Unit 18 has not been finalized due to the early proposal deadline, we expect harvest to be similar to the past four years and well within sustained yield for this robust population. 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.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F17-053)
****

<u>PROPOSAL 158</u> – 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–Feb. 28 (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(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–Feb. 28

...

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. Our 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 (IM) objectives for high levels of harvest, and provide subsistence hunters with a reasonable opportunity to pursue moose for subsistence uses without reducing bull-to-cow ratios.

If antlerless moose hunts are not reauthorized, the moose population may increase to unacceptable levels or may need reduction when new data is available and analyzed. Opportunity to hunt a harvestable surplus of cow moose will be lost, and our ability to meet intensive management harvest objectives will be compromised. Subsistence hunters in the portion of Unit 20A outside the Fairbanks Nonsubsistence Area (part of the western Tanana Flats) may not have a reasonable opportunity to pursue moose for subsistence uses.

This reauthorization of antlerless moose hunts will likely improve or maintain the ability of moose habitat to support the current moose population. Hunting opportunity and harvest will increase and allow the Department of Fish and Game (department) to manage these moose populations at optimum levels. The additional harvest will help in meeting intensive management harvest objectives without reducing bull-to-cow ratios to low levels. Meat and subsistence hunters will benefit from the opportunity to harvest cow moose. Moose populations will benefit by having moose densities compatible with their habitat. Motorists and residents may benefit from reduced moose-vehicle collisions and moose-human conflicts.

The number of moose in Unit 20A was estimated at 17,768 in 2003. Research indicated this high-density moose population was experiencing density-dependent effects, including low productivity, relatively light calf weights, and high removal rates of winter forage. The objective beginning in regulatory year 2004–2005 (RY04) was to reduce moose numbers to the population objective of 10,000–12,000 unless indicators of moose condition showed signs of improvement at higher densities. The Unit 20A population was estimated at 10,272–14,115 moose (90% confidence interval) in 2012.

Our current objective is to maintain moose numbers within the IM population objective of 10,000–15,000 moose (the IM population objective adopted by the board in 2016) while monitoring indicators of moose and habitat condition for positive density-dependent responses. The Unit 20A population was estimated at 10,622–14,009 moose (90% confidence interval) in 2015. Because this estimate falls within the IM population objective and the department has not detected any indicators that the nutrition is not limited with in this population, our intention is to harvest moose at a rate of 1% of the population which has been shown to stabilize the moose population at its current level. Antlerless harvest will be from drawing permits for a majority of Unit 20A and a registration permit in northwest Unit 20A near Nenana. The harvest objective will be based on the most recent survey results.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F17-049)
****

<u>PROPOSAL 159</u> – 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
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)	Dec. 1–Jan. 31
Unit 20(B), remainder of the Fairbanks Management Area		
...		
1 antlerless moose by bow and arrow only, by	Sept. 1–Nov. 27 (General hunt only)	Sept. 1–Nov. 27

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		
1 moose by targeted permit 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		
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	Oct. 1–Feb. 28 (General hunt only)	No open season.

a cow accompanied by a calf; or		
...		
Unit 20(B), that portion southeast of the Moose Creek dike within one-half mile of each side of the Richardson highway		
...		
1 moose by drawing permit only; by crossbow, bow and arrow, or muzzleloader only; up to 100 permits may be issued; or	Sept. 16–Feb. 28 (General hunt only)	No open season.
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)	No open season.
Remainder of Unit 20(B)		
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)	No 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)	No open season.

1 antlerless moose by registration permit only; a person may not take a cow accompanied by a calf; or	Oct. 1–Feb. 28 (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)	No open season.

...

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Antlerless moose hunting seasons must be reauthorized annually. Our 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 (IM) objectives for high levels of harvest, and provide subsistence hunters with a reasonable opportunity to pursue moose for subsistence uses without reducing bull-to-cow ratios.

If antlerless moose hunts are not reauthorized, the moose population may increase to unacceptable levels or may need reduction when new data is available and analyzed. Opportunity to hunt a harvestable surplus of cow moose will be lost, and our ability to meet intensive management harvest objectives will be compromised. Subsistence hunters in the portion of Unit 20B in the Minto Flats Management Area may not have a reasonable opportunity to pursue moose for subsistence uses.

This reauthorization of antlerless moose hunts will likely improve or maintain the ability of moose habitat to support the current moose population. Hunting opportunity and harvest will increase and allow the Department of Fish and Game (department) to manage these moose populations at optimum levels. The additional harvest will help in meeting intensive management harvest objectives without reducing bull-to-cow ratios to low levels. Meat and subsistence hunters will benefit from the opportunity to harvest cow moose. Moose populations will benefit by having moose densities compatible with their habitat. Motorists and residents may benefit from reduced moose-vehicle collisions and moose-human conflicts.

Fairbanks Management Area (FMA)—The purpose of this antlerless hunt is to regulate population growth in the FMA and potentially reduce moose-vehicle collisions and nuisance moose problems.

The number of moose-vehicle collisions in the FMA are high and pose significant safety risks to motorists. In addition, moose nuisance issues continue to place significant demands on property owners. To increase hunting opportunity and harvest and reduce moose–vehicle collisions, the department incrementally increased the number of drawing permits for antlerless moose in the

FMA during RY99-RY10. Moose-vehicle collisions and moose nuisance problems declined during RY06-RY13, presumably, in part due to consistent antlerless moose harvests.

Minto Flats Management Area (MFMA)—The primary purpose of this antlerless hunt is to provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence uses and to regulate the moose population in the MFMA.

The MFMA moose density was high in 2010 (4.1 moose/mi^2). In order to reduce the moose population, harvest of antlerless moose during RY12 and RY13 was about 2.5% of the population. The fall 2013 estimate showed a more appropriate density of 2.6 moose/mi^2. Therefore, to stabilize this population, antlerless harvest will be reduced to approximately 1% of the total population to maintain the current population.

Targeted Hunt—The purpose of the targeted hunt is to allow the public to harvest moose that are causing a nuisance or public safety issue. These permits are used sparingly, but allow the public to harvest the moose instead of the department just dispatching them.

Unit 20B, drainage of the Middle Fork of the Chena River and the *Remainder of Unit 20B*—The antlerless moose harvest in this area is designed to regulate the moose population in this portion of Unit 20B and to help meet the Unit 20B IM harvest objective. Because the 2015 population estimate (11,064 moose, 90% CI 8,870–13,258) was below the IM population objective of 12,000–15,000 moose and no surveys were conducted in 2016, we suspended these hunts for the 2017 season. If a population estimate survey is can be conducted in November of 2017, then the department may reinstate these hunts; however at this time we will continue to manage this area conservatively until we have a population estimates and determine whether the moose population falls within the IM population objective.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F17-050)
****

<u>PROPOSAL 160</u> – 5 AAC 85.045(18). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Reauthorize antlerless moose hunting seasons in Unit 20D as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	**Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)**	**Nonresident Open Season**
(18)		
…		
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 by drawing permit only; up to 1,000 permits may be issued in combination with that portion in the Delta Junction Management Area; a person may not take a calf or a cow accompanied by a calf; or	Oct. 10–Nov. 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 Delta Junction Management Area	
RESIDENT 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 (General hunt only)
...	
1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only; up to 1,000 permits may be issued in combination with that portion lying west of the west bank of the Johnson River and south of the north bank of the Tanana	Oct. 10–Nov. 25 (General hunt only)

River; a person may not take a calf or a cow accompanied by a calf; or	
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, and reduced reproductive success; 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. These objectives are being met.

If antlerless moose hunts are not reauthorized, the moose population could quickly increase to undesirable levels. Opportunity to hunt a harvestable surplus of cow moose would be lost, and our ability to meet IM harvest objectives could be compromised. Additionally, the population may need to be reduced dramatically when new data are available and analyzed.

Antlerless moose hunts are offered in southwest Unit 20D, which has the highest moose density in the unit. This area has great potential for population growth due to an abundance of high quality moose habitat created from extensive land clearing for agricultural use and multiple wild fires over the past 30 years. Total moose harvest in all of Unit 20D averaged 278 moose (an average of 272 bulls and six antlerless moose) during regulatory year (RY) 2014 and RY2015.

Antlerless hunting opportunity is limited. The largest antlerless harvest (n=113) that occurred recently in Unit 20D was in 2009 when antlerless hunts were newly authorized. The southwest Unit 20D population estimate (approximately 4,000–4,500 moose, with a sightability correction factor applied) and bull harvest in southwestern Unit 20D (135–165) have been stable since 2011. The 2014 population estimate for southwest Unit 20D was 4,321 moose (corrected for sightability) with a density of 3.2 moose per square mile, 38 calves:100 cows and 32 bulls:100 cows.

Antlerless harvest will likely be needed to maintain the population at the optimal density and will help make progress toward the IM harvest objective of 500–700 moose without reducing bull:cow ratios below the management objectives. The population trend and harvest rate suggest the low, consistent antlerless harvest provided by the drawing permit hunts in Unit 20D, in conjunction with other mortality factors (including ceremonial harvest, vehicle collision, accidents, and predation), is an appropriate rate of antlerless mortality that contributes to stability in the southwest 20D moose population.

The Department of Fish and Game will continue to evaluate antlerless moose hunts and their effect on moose density and population growth. Future antlerless moose hunts will be implemented as needed based on 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.

Additional drawing permits or registration permits will be issued only if more harvest is needed in specific areas to maintain optimal moose densities.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F17-051)
****

<u>PROPOSAL 161</u> – 5 AAC 85.045(24). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in the western portion of Unit 26A as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	**Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)**	**Nonresident Open Season**
(24)		
…		
Unit 26(A), that portion west of 156° 00′ W. longitude and excluding the Colville River drainage.		
1 moose; a person may not take a calf or a cow accompanied by a calf	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.

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 fluctuated between 294 and 609 moose between 2011 and 2014. More recently, staff counted 145 moose in 2015 and 158 moose in 2016 in the core sample area. The number of moose in the antlerless hunt area is difficult to estimate, but is likely around 10 moose per year. Harvest reports indicate three antlerless moose have been harvested since 2006, and the annual harvest rate of antlerless moose is less than 1% of the total population.

Due to the low harvest rate the Department of Fish and Game 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-F17-054)
****

PROPOSAL 162 – **5 AAC 92.015(a)(4). Brown bear tag fee exemptions**. Reauthorize resident brown bear tag fee exemptions throughout Interior and Eastern Arctic 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.

Region III (Interior and Eastern Arctic) brown bear populations are healthy, and harvest is monitored through the brown bear sealing requirement. Eliminating all resident brown bear tag fees throughout Region III simplifies regulations, increases resident hunter opportunity, and is not likely to cause declines in these brown bear populations. This reauthorization would assist with our objective of managing Region III brown bear populations for hunter opportunity and would continue to allow hunters to take brown bears opportunistically. During regulatory years 2006–2014, 31% of brown bears harvested by resident hunters in Region III were taken incidentally to other activities compared with 13% statewide.

The Department of Fish and Game (department) estimates that brown bear harvest account for approximately 6% of the bear populations. It is composed 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 resident tag fees that were in place prior to 2010 appeared to have little effect on harvest rates in these areas.

The department also recommends that the tag fee exemptions for subsistence registration permit hunts in Units 19A and 19B (downstream of and including the Aniak River drainage), 21D, and 24 should also be reauthorized to provide additional subsistence opportunity in these areas.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F17-052)
****

PROPOSAL 163 – 5 AAC 92.015(a)(4). 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. We recommend 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 five years; Unit 22, where the tag fee has been exempted for 15 years; Unit 23, where the tag fee has been exempted for 10 years; and Unit 26A, where the tag fee has been exempted for five 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. Increased harvest is allowable because portions of these units have high bear populations.

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 adopted in RY2012 and harvest has remained within sustained yield and continues to be similar to the preceding ten-year period. In Unit 22, the 15-year tag-free period (RY2000-RY2015) for Alaska residents has had an average annual harvest of 52 brown bears (range 42–65 bears). In Unit 23, general harvest has been stable since 1990, although annual harvest is variable due to effects of weather on 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 Department of Fish and Game (department) at the time of sealing. Continuing the tag fee exemption helps facilitate participation in the associated brown bear harvest programs maintained by the department 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, an estimated 1–3 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 one and five bears are taken annually by subsistence hunters.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F17-055)
****