

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH & GAME
Boards Support Section
PO Box 25526
Juneau AK 99802-5526

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**ALASKA BOARD OF GAME
FALL 1998 MEETING
OCTOBER 23 - 28, 1998
KETCHIKAN, ALASKA**

FIRST CLASS MAIL

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O.E.O

**U.S. Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240**

If you are a person with a disability who may need a special accommodation in order to participate in the process on the proposed regulations, please contact Diana Cote at (907) 465-6095 no later than October 9, 1998 to make any necessary arrangements. To correspond by text telephone (TDD) call 1-800-478-2028.

**ALASKA BOARD OF GAME
FALL 1998 PROPOSAL BOOK
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PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

REVIEWER LETTER

DEAR REVIEWER:

The attached packet of regulatory proposals will be considered by the Alaska Board of Game at its **Fall 1998** meeting concerning hunting and use of game in the Southeast Region, **October 23-28, 1998**, at the Westmark Cape Fox Lodge in Ketchikan, Alaska. The proposals generally concern changes to hunting regulations in Units 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5.

Before taking action on these proposed changes to the regulations, the board would like your written comments and/or oral testimony on any effects the proposed changes would have on your activities.

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

You are encouraged to read all proposals presented in this packet, as some regulations have statewide application and may affect all regions of the state.

After reviewing the proposals, you may send written comments to:

ATTN: BOG COMMENTS
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Boards Support Section
P.O. Box 25526
Juneau, Alaska 99802-5526
FAX - (907)465-6094

Comments may be submitted at any time until the public testimony period for that proposal and/or its subject matter is closed at the meeting and deliberation by the board begins. As a practical matter, you are encouraged to have all written comments presented to the above Juneau address by **October 9, 1998**. Receipt by this date will assure that your written comments will be published in the board workbook. Comments received after October 9 will be presented to board members at the time of the meeting, but will not be printed in the board workbook. Written comments will also be accepted during the board meeting, and of course, public testimony during the meeting is appreciated.

When making comments regarding these proposals, on the first line list the PROPOSAL NUMBER to which your comment pertains and whether you favor or oppose the proposal. This will ensure that the comments are noted by the board members in relation to the proper proposal(s).

The following guidelines will greatly assist the board in understanding your concerns:

Written comments will be hole-punched and copied to go into the board workbook. Therefore, please use 8 1/2 x 11 paper and leave at least a 1 1/2 inch margin on the left side and a 1-inch margin on the right side, top and bottom. If typed, please make sure the print is dark. If handwritten, use dark ink and write legibly. Briefly explain why you are in favor of or opposed to the proposal.

If you plan to testify, a written copy of your testimony is helpful, but is not required. Again not required, but 25 copies of your written testimony is also helpful.

ADVISORY COMMITTEES: In addition to the above, please make sure the meeting minutes reflect why the committee voted as it did. If the vote was split, include the minority opinion. A brief description--a couple of sentences--will do. Detail attendance, number in attendance (e.g., 12 of 15 members) and what interests were represented (such as guides, sport hunters, trappers, etc.).

Additional proposal booklets may be obtained at offices of the Department of Fish and Game.

A tentative agenda for the Fall 1998 meeting of the Board of Game is shown on page **iv**. A roadmap showing a tentative order in which proposals will be considered will be available in early October. During the meeting, a recorded telephone message will be available, with current updates on the board's agenda and roadmap. That phone number is 465-8901 (Juneau) or 1-800-764-8901 outside of Juneau.

If you are a person with a disability who may need a special accommodation in order to comment on the proposed regulations, please contact the Boards Support Section at 465-6095 no later than October 9, 1998. To correspond by text telephone (TDD), call 1-800-478-2028.

Sincerely,

BOARDS SUPPORT SECTION

ALASKA BOARD OF GAME

(Revised March 1998)

NAME AND ADDRESS	TERM EXPIRES
Bob Churchill	1/31/00
Mike Fleagle	1/31/99
Lori Quakenbush, CHAIRMAN	1/31/00
Greg Roczicka, VICE-CHAIR	1/31/99
Walter Sampson	1/31/01
Greg Streveler	1/31/99
Eruk Williamson	1/31/01

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1-800-764-8901 (outside of Juneau)

TDD

Phone: 1-800-478-2028

Email address:

dianac@fishgame.state.ak.us

TENTATIVE AGENDA
BOARD OF GAME
October 23 - 28, 1998
WESTMARK CAPE FOX LODGE, KETCHIKAN, ALASKA

[NOTE: This is a tentative agenda for this meeting of the Board of Game. It is subject to variance throughout the course of the meeting. At the discretion of the chair, additional periods of public testimony may be set. Also, evening sessions may be scheduled as necessary. A more detailed agenda will be available in early October.]

Friday, October 23

8:30 AM

OPENING BUSINESS

Call to Order; Introductions of Board Members and Staff
Purpose of Meeting (overview)

STAFF REPORTS

1:00 PM or at the conclusion of staff reports

PUBLIC TESTIMONY - This is the primary time for testimony on all issues before the Board of Game. At the chair's discretion, there may be additional sessions.

TO TESTIFY BEFORE THE BOARD ON PROPOSALS BEING CONSIDERED AT THIS MEETING, YOU MUST COMPLETE A BLUE TESTIMONY CARD. PUBLIC TESTIMONY WILL CONTINUE UNTIL ALL WHO SIGN UP HAVE TESTIFIED.

<p>DEADLINE FOR <u>SIGN-UP</u> TO TESTIFY IS: 12 NOON, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24</p>
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Saturday, October 24

8:30 AM

Continue public testimony

At the conclusion of public testimony the Board will begin deliberation on the proposals.

Sunday, October 25 through Wednesday, October 28

8:30 AM

Board Deliberation on proposals
Miscellaneous Business, if any

The Board schedule will generally be: 8:30 AM - 12:00 noon and 1:00 - 5:00 PM with lunch from noon until 1:00 PM. This schedule is subject to change at the discretion of the chair.

PROPOSAL 1 - 5 AAC 85.020(3). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR BROWN BEAR. Establish a drawing permit system for brown bear hunting in Unit 4 to include but not be limited to the following:

- a) Residents and nonresidents may take one bear every four years by drawing permit only;
- b) Permits shall be issued for hunt areas specified by the department. The number of permits issued for each hunt area will be based on the level of allowable harvest appropriate for each hunt area, as determined by the department. Permits will be allocated to residents and nonresidents to maintain a historical ratio, to ensure that hunters have access to the resource based on past use patterns.
- c) Permit numbers for hunt areas may be adjusted to reduce the harvest of females if appropriate sex ratios are not met, as determined by the department. Incentives will be considered by the department to reduce the harvest of female bears;
- d) A subsistence allocation shall be established by the department, as a percentage of the allowable annual harvest, sufficient to meet subsistence needs. If appropriate, special conditions shall be applied to subsistence hunters by the department so that the trophy value of a bear hide is eliminated.

ISSUE: The problem of increasing brown bear harvests in certain areas requires more control to ensure a safe and predictable harvest; the problem of hunter pressure in certain areas requires more control to ensure a high quality hunt.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Overall harvest goals for certain areas may be exceeded, challenging the sustainability of bear populations in those areas. The quality of bear hunting will continue to deteriorate as more and more hunting pressure develops.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All persons concerned primarily with the long-term health of the brown bear resource in Unit 4 as well as guides and other hunters concerned with maintaining a quality hunt.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Persons who are not drawn for a permit.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Admiralty Island Bears Association (HQ-98F-G-007)

PROPOSAL 2 - 5 AAC 85.020. HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR BROWN BEARS. Amend the existing regulations governing hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear.

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

Unit 4, Chichagof Island...same

Unit 4, that portion in the Northeast Chichagof Controlled Use Area North of the Spasski Trail and the Gartina Highway <u>and east of Port Frederick</u>	Sept. 15–Dec. 31 Mar. 15–May 20	Sept. 15–Dec. 31 Mar. 15–May 20
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ISSUE: Housekeeping. The currently definition of this hunt area technically opens up a portion of the Northeast Chichagof Controlled Use Area west of Port Frederick. When the Board of Game opened this 2-week fall season at the Fall 1996 BOG meeting, the intent was to contain the harvest to the small peninsula east of Port Frederick where Hoonah is located. Changing the language as proposed will close a potential loophole.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Some brown bear hunters may take advantage of an oversight in the current language.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Law enforcement officials, wildlife managers, and the bear population.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Brown bear hunters may wish to take advantage of an oversight in the current language.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Status quo; rejected because this does not close the loophole in the current language.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-98F-G-015)

PROPOSAL 3 - 5 AAC 85.035. HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR ELK.
Amend the existing regulations governing hunting seasons and bag limits for elk.

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(1)		
Unit 3	Oct. 1-Oct. 31 (General hunt only)	Oct. 1-Oct. 31

1 bull by drawing permit only;
up to [30]70 permits will be issued.

ISSUE: The elk management plan for Southeast Alaska calls for a hunt when the estimated population reached 250 elk, and a minimum harvest of 20 bulls could be justified. Elk reached that level by the summer of 1997 and 25 permits were issued for the 1997 fall season. Eight bull elk were harvested for a success rate of 32%. Thirty permits have been issued for the 1998 season, and we expect less than 20 bull elk to be harvested. Recent fieldwork has shown an

increase in the density of elk pellets on Etolin Island, and surveys have documented good calf recruitment there as well. It appears that the elk population continues growing strongly. In accordance with the management plan, the proposed increase in permits would accommodate a harvest of 20 or more bulls.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Additional hunting opportunity will be withheld from the public.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Potential elk hunters.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those who would prefer to deny elk hunting opportunity in Southeast Alaska.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Status quo. This option was discarded based on the elk population's ability to support a larger harvest.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-98F-G-014)

PROPOSAL 4 - 5 AAC 85.040(1). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR GOAT.
Open an archery-only hunt for goats in Unit 1C.

The new regulation would manage this population by means of an archery only registration hunt.

ISSUE: Current regulation does not allow for management of mountain goat populations in this specific isolated area. The area is in Unit 1C and is in Stevens Passage. It includes the drainages from Point Bishop to the Taku Glacier on the northwest side of the Taku River.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Mountain goat populations could suffer and be depleted. The Orf disease is goat and sheep specific. If the population is not managed at an environmentally sustainable level, it is possible that the total population could be diminished.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Currently there are no areas in Southeast Alaska where an archery enthusiast can gear up and hunt without fear of someone with a rifle taking a shot at his quarry from several hundred yards away while the archer is trying to get to within 20 yards. The goats would benefit because harvest by archery methods is less disruptive to the remaining herd, and far more selective.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? The mountain goat population eventually will suffer from over population diseases. In the short run aerial viewing by tourists on their way to the Taku Lodge might be affected by the herds being more scattered during hunting season. In the long run it would ensure a stable population for viewing.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? If it were an open hunt it would have to be a drawing permit only hunt and would greatly restrict or eliminate the number of hunters who would be allowed the opportunity to spend quality time in the field.

PROPOSED BY: Lon Hadfield (HQ-98F-G-005)

PROPOSAL 5 - 5 AAC 85.065(4). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR SMALL GAME. Change waterfowl seasons in Unit 4 as follows:

Units 1 - 4

Season: Oct. 8 - Jan. 22 [SEPT. 1 - DEC. 16]

ISSUE: Waterfowl season in Unit 4 opens before migratory flights of geese and ducks pass through the Sitka area. Sitka area waterfowlers do not encounter large waterfowl migrations during the first month of Unit 4 migratory bird season and miss migrations of some waterfowl species which arrive after the season closes.

Sea ducks, especially old squaw, bluebill, and scaup as well as Canada geese do not arrive until December in the Sitka area. The present migratory bird season does not give Sitka area hunters a chance to harvest these waterfowl species. The proposed change in regulation will allow hunters to harvest species that they presently have minimal opportunity to harvest.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Sitka area waterfowl hunters will continue to experience poor waterfowl hunting during the present season dates.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Sitka area waterfowl hunters.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Unkown.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Separate Unit 4 from the Southeast migratory bird hunting zone and change season date to Oct. 8 - Jan. 22 [SEPT. 1 - DEC. 16]

PROPOSED BY: Judy Lozori (HQ-98F-G-004)

PROPOSAL 6 - 5 AAC 85.065(4). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR SMALL GAME. Amend the bag limits for sea ducks in Units 1– 5.

OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION:

- Include all species of sea ducks in the general duck bag limit (7 ducks/day).
- Exclude oldsquaws from the sea duck bag limit and include them in the general duck bag limit.
- Reduce the special sea duck bag limit in Units 1-5.
- Make no change in sea duck regulations in Units 1-5.
- Address sea duck bag limits on a statewide basis at the March 1999 Board of Game meeting.

ISSUE: Several species of North American sea ducks are declining at regional or continental levels. Knowledge of population status and harvest level for sea ducks is generally poor. While most population concerns have been in the Atlantic flyway, some of Alaska’s sea duck populations have declined significantly since 1977. The rangewide population of spectacled eiders and Alaska-breeding Steller’s eiders are listed as threatened populations. Oldsquaw in

Alaska have declined by 70% or more, particularly in western Alaska. Scoters have declined by 40% over the long term, in Alaska and continentally.

Alaska's separate sea duck limits of 15 daily, 30 in possession were fixed in regulations in the 1970s. Sea duck harvest is important in coastal areas (70,000 annually). Hunting has increased only slightly in recent years. Harvest rates do not appear to be a significant factor in population declines. At recent technical and flyway council meetings, USFWS has indicated concern about Alaska's bag limits, while acknowledging that reasons for sea duck declines are unknown. This proposal seeks to open the issue of sea duck regulations for discussion by the Board of Game, in an attempt to review relevant information and find a harvest scheme that will satisfy national management concerns and maintain sea duck hunting in Alaska.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Sea ducks will continue to be harvested at the existing rate in Southeast Alaska. While the number of sea ducks taken in Region I is not a conservation concern, this proposal represents an initial step in adjusting Alaska's sea duck bag limits to reflect growing concern about certain species. It is possible that if no action is taken, federal migratory bird managers will institute significant restrictions to sea duck harvest in Alaska.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Sea duck populations may be exploited at a slightly lower level. Hunters who wish to ensure the continuation of sea duck hunting in the future.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Sea duck hunters who harvest the entire daily bag limit.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Status quo.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-98F-G-010)

PROPOSAL 7 - 5 AAC 92.220(a). SALVAGE OF GAME MEAT, FURS, AND HIDES.
Amend this regulation as follows:

Eliminate the salvage requirements for meat in coastal areas (Units 1 - 5), and return to the pre-96 regulations.

ISSUE: During the 1996 Spring meeting in Fairbanks, the Board of Game adopted a regulation which mandates salvage of black bear meat from bears harvested between January 1 and May 31 in Units 1-7, 11-17, and 20. A high percentage of spring bears along the coastal areas have meat that is not palatable depending on the time and food source after they come out of hibernation.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? People should not be forced to retrieve non-edible meat. It will also limit harvest of black bears to easily accessible areas along the coast by boat and logging roads by ATV and vehicles and make hunting trophy bears in remote areas nearly impossible.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Hunters, especially those hunting for old male trophy bears in remote areas.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Some bears feeding on botanical matter are excellent eating and their meat should be utilized. Diet can be determined by feces. But this is not enforceable or legally binding determined.

PROPOSED BY: Heinrich Springer (HQ-98F-G-001)

PROPOSAL 8 - 5 AAC 92.220(a). SALVAGE OF GAME MEAT, FURS, AND HIDES.

Amend this regulation as follows:

In Game Management Units 1 and 2, from September 1 to June 30, the hide and skull of any black bear harvested must be removed from the field and submitted for sealing within 30 days of kill. The removal of the meat of said animal is optional and not a requirement and is left to the discretion of the hunter.

ISSUE: The mandatory requirement to salvage spring black bear meat for human consumption in Units 1 and 2 in Southeast Alaska. The edibility of the meat is controversial and I feel should be left a matter of choice. There is not adequate processing facilities in rural Southeast and for most hunters it is cost prohibitive to transport the meat elsewhere. Also, the weather at that time of year is not conducive to holding meat in camp.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? There will be meat lost due to an irresponsible regulation, and the hunting pressure will shift from spring to the fall, and lesser grade animals will be harvested.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The spring time economy in Southeast Alaska, the state from license and tag sales.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one I can think of.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Thomas L. Warren (HQ-98F-G-008)

PROPOSAL 9 - 5 AAC 92.220(a). SALVAGE OF GAME MEAT, FURS, AND HIDES.

Amend this regulation as follows:

In any unit in which sealing is required, from Sept. 1 through June 30. The salvaging of bear meat is optional for the hunter, and not a requirement. The hide and skull must be salvaged.

ISSUE: I would like to see the board reconsider the requirement to salvage the meat of black bear in Units 1 and 2. In Southeast when bears come out of their dens in April, they head straight for the beach to scavage what they can to eat. They are not in berry patches in the spring and the meat of black bears is marginal at best this time of year.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The state through nonresident licenses and many local vendors will lose revenue from the lack of people hunting bears. Most bear hunters in Southeast have to fly out and set up camps for 1-2 weeks. Meat cannot be cared for in this period of time, and most people don't eat it anyway.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Local store owners, air taxi services, taxidermists, local hunters, nonresident hunters, state from sale of license and tags.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Randall Jahnke

(HQ-98F-G-009)

PROPOSAL 10 - 5 AAC 92.510(a)(2)(A). AREAS CLOSED TO HUNTING. Amend this regulation in Unit 1B as follows:

While roaded logging occurs in the Canal and Hoya drainages of Unit 1B brown bear hunting shall be closed in these drainages and the area west to the present Anan Closed Area shall also be closed.

ISSUE: This area is currently being considered for logging and could be logged as early as 1999. Access to this area will be much easier and effort will increase because of the increased activity in the area.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The brown bear harvest in this portion of Unit 1B will increase to levels that will not be sustainable.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Hunters who want to hunt in this area after the logging is through and the roads have been closed.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Hunters who currently use this area to hunt brown bear.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? We also discussed closing this area to black bear hunting, but we felt that since they reproduce at higher levels they would be able to withstand the increased pressure.

PROPOSED BY: Wrangell Advisory Committee

(HQ-98F-G-006)

PROPOSAL 11 - 5 AAC 92.510. AREAS CLOSED TO HUNTING. Correct language in codified relating to a closed area.

(6) Unit 4

(A) in the Sitka area...same

(B) to the taking of bears

- (C) the Salt Lake [BAY] Closed Area (Admiralty Island), including all lands within one-fourth mile of Salt Lake above Klutchman Rock at the head of Mitchell Bay, is closed to the taking of bears;

ISSUE: Salt Lake Bay is located on northern Chichagof Island, and the area referenced in 92.510(6)(C) is in Mitchell Bay on Admiralty Island. This is a housekeeping proposal.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The codified regulations will continue to be incorrect and confusion may result.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Land and wildlife managers and the general public who make use of the area.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Status quo.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-98F-G-011)

PROPOSAL 12 - 5 AAC 92.540. CONTROLLED USE AREAS. Create a controlled use area in Game Management Unit 3.

Kuiu Island in Unit 3 closed to the use of any motorized land vehicle for black bear hunting, including transportation of black bear hunters, their gear, and/or parts of black bears.

ISSUE: Use of any motorized land vehicle for black bear hunting on Kuiu Island.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Continued adverse impact on resource. Increased access on new logging roads, and ATV use on beaches and estuaries. A single island should remain in southeast for traditional boat access without impact of land vehicle hunting.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Long-term management of the resource.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? All other islands in Unit 3 and Unit 2 remain open to black bear motorized land vehicle hunting.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Jimmie C. Rosenbruch (HQ-98F-G-002)

PROPOSAL 13 - 5 AAC 92.540(1). CONTROLLED USE AREAS. Amend this regulation as follows:

Game Management Unit 4 closed to the use of any motorized land vehicle for brown bear hunting, including transportation of brown bear hunters, their gear, and/or parts of brown bear.

ISSUE: Use of any motorized land vehicle for brown bear hunting in Unit 4.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Continued adverse impact on resource. Continued increase access on logging roads, and ATVs on beaches and estuaries.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The long-term management of the resource.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? All hunters with more restrictive hunting opportunity.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Jimmie C. Rosenbruch

(HQ-98F-G-003)

PROPOSAL 14 - 5 AAC 92.064. PERMIT FOR ACCESS TO THE STAN PRICE STATE WILDLIFE SANCTUARY. Amend the existing regulations governing access to the Stan Price State Wildlife Sanctuary.

- b) The department may issue an unlimited number of permits; however, from July 5[10] through August 25, the department may put a limitation on the number of people entering the sanctuary.

ISSUE: Visitor numbers at Pack Creek are currently not limited until the peak season begins on July 10. On that date through August 25, visitors are limited to 24 per day. In recent years visitation has been as heavy as 50–60 people per day on July 8 and 9. It has been extremely difficult for the 2-person staff to supervise the large number of visitors. In addition, Pack Creek is managed as a remote bear viewing experience. The presence of 50 people at once negatively impacts the experience for humans and may deter bears from using the area.

Chum salmon normally begin to appear at Pack Creek around July 1 – 4, with the bulk of bears showing up around July 10 – 15. By moving the peak season date earlier to July 5, to the time frame when salmon are just beginning to arrive, the bears present at that time stand a better chance to become habituated in the viewing area. Because bears are just beginning to be regularly viewable, this restriction will not deprive the public from a period of high bear activity. This is a sensitive period when bears are establishing their associations along the salmon stream. In past years, because of the July 4 holiday and scarcity of bears, few visitors arrived on July 3 and 4. We believe this trend will continue and that we would not receive a large number of visitors on the days proceeding the peak season if it begins on July 5.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The quality of early season bear viewing at Pack Creek will continue to diminish, and the potential for negative bear-human encounters will increase as the staff struggles to supervise more people than the site can handle. Fewer bears may visit the area or more may be displaced by uncontrolled human activity. Some marginally habituated bears may fail to become accustomed to the presence of low-level human activity.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Visitors to Pack Creek who desire a quality remote bear viewing experience and ADF&G and USFS staff who supervise visitors.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? The people who in the past have come to Pack Creek in unlimited numbers in early July would have to compete for reservations for a limited number of permits. Additionally they would pay the higher peak season fee (\$36), rather than buying a permit at the shoulder season price (\$20).

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Push the peak season date back to July 1; rejected because there are few fish or bears present at this time and public visitation is not as high. Status quo; rejected due to the growing number of visitors between July 5 and 10.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-98F-G-012)

PROPOSAL 15 - 5 AAC 92.108. IDENTIFIED BIG GAME PREY POPULATIONS. Adopt regulations identifying those ungulate populations that are important for providing high levels of harvest for human consumptive use, and establish population and harvest objectives.

For purposes of implementing AS 16.05.255(e)-(g), the Board of Game has identified the following populations or portions of populations as important for providing high levels of harvest for consumptive use and establishes the following population and harvest objectives:

<u>Population</u>	<u>Population Objective</u>	<u>Harvest Objective</u>
Deer		
Unit 1A	21,984	Not established
Unit 1B	6,734	Not established
Unit 1C	7,520	Not established
Unit 1D	NA	NA
Unit 2	110,039	Not established
Unit 3	63,615	Not established
Unit 4	171,010	Not established
Unit 5	NA	NA
Elk		
Unit 3	1,300	Not established
Moose		
Unit 1A	35	3
Unit 1B–Stikine	450	40
Unit 1B–Thomas Bay	200	20
Unit 1C–Taku	150	20
Unit 1C–Berners Bay	90	8
Unit 1C–Chilkat Range	150	10
Unit 1D	450	30
Unit 3	NA	NA
Unit 5A	900	75
Unit 5B	250	25

ISSUE: The board is directed by AS 16.05.255 (e)–(g) to adopt regulations providing for the intensive management of “identified big game prey populations” (defined as ungulate populations identified by the Board of Game that are important for providing high levels of harvest for human consumptive use) as necessary to achieve “human consumptive use goals of the board.” To accomplish this the board must first identify the ungulate populations that are “important for providing high levels of human consumptive use.”

At the November 1997 meeting the board decided to take a comprehensive approach to implementation of the intensive management law. At the January 1998 meeting the board adopted regulations that provided specific criteria by which the board will determine which populations are important for providing high levels of human consumptive use. At the March 1998 meeting the board applied those criteria to the Interior Region identified ungulate populations and made determinations as to which populations are important for providing high levels of human consumptive use. This proposal facilitates moving forward in the process and addressing which Southeast Region ungulate populations are important for providing high levels of human consumptive use.

The second step in implementing AS 16.05.255 (e)–(g), where the board establishes “human consumptive use goals” for those populations, was not accomplished for the identified Region III populations. The board will examine the historic and current population size, historic and current human harvest, and hunter demand for each population. Based on this information, the board will establish population and harvest objectives for these populations. Once adopted by the board, these objectives will set the direction for management of these populations and establish the standards by which the board and department can determine whether the population is depleted, or its productivity is reduced.

Because these determinations will be the basis for management planning, regulations and subsequent action by the board under AS 16.05.255 (e)–(g), the list of populations and human use goals should be adopted by the board in regulation.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The board will continue to make decisions on intensive management in a reactive fashion. The department will not be able to plan effectively for intensive management. Important data needed by the board and department may not be collected on some populations. Board decisions will be inconsistent and subject to legal challenge.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Everyone will benefit from having a clear understanding of which populations are important for providing high levels of human consumptive use and what the board’s consumptive use goals are for these populations. Establishing these populations and objectives will enable the board and department to develop long-term management plans, with public involvement, to ensure attainment of intensive management goals.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: Do not codify the list of populations and objectives. This was rejected as it will not provide the same level of public participation in setting the objectives, nor ensure the objectives were as evident to all interested parties.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-98F-G-016)

DRAFT CALL FOR PROPOSALS

SPRING 1999 BOARD OF GAME MEETING

March 5-15, 1999, Anchorage, AK

The Alaska Board of Game is accepting proposed changes to its regulations pertaining to hunting, trapping and the use of game in the Southcentral Region to be considered at the Spring 1999 board meeting. The Southcentral Region is composed of Game Management Units 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17.

DEADLINE FOR PROPOSALS: 5 PM, DECEMBER 11, 1998

For ALL SPECIES in Game Management Units 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17:
GENERAL, SUBSISTENCE, AND TRAPPING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS
(Chapters 84, 85, and 99 of the Alaska Administrative Code)

For statewide regulations applicable to Game Management Units 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17:

- 5 AAC 92.061 Unit 8 Brown Bear Permits
- 5 AAC 92.065 Permits for Access to McNeil River State Game Sanctuary
- 5 AAC 92.066 Permits for Access to Walrus Islands State Game Sanctuary
- 5 AAC 92.108 Identified Big Game Prey Populations and Objectives
- 5 AAC 92.125 Wolf Predation Control Implementation Plans
- 5 AAC 92.132 Bag Limit for Brown Bears
- 5 AAC 92.510 Areas Closed to Hunting
- 5 AAC 92.520 Closures and Restrictions in State Game Refuges
- 5 AAC 92.530 Management Areas
- 5 AAC 92.540 Controlled Use Areas
- 5 AAC 92.550 Areas Closed to Trapping

The following topics also will be considered for ALL Game Management Units:

- 5 AAC 92.015 Brown Bear Tag Fee Exemption
- Reauthorization of Antlerless Moose Hunts

Proposal forms may be obtained from any office of the Boards Support Section. All proposals must contain an original signature. Please print or type the individual's name and an organizational name if appropriate. A fax is acceptable and considered an original. Proposals must be received in one of the Boards Support offices by the deadline (a postmark is NOT sufficient for timely receipt). Proposals are reviewed by the board's proposal review committee prior to publication. Following publication, proposal booklets will be available to advisory committees and interested members of the public for their review and comments. *If you are a person with a disability who may need a special modification in order to make a proposal, please call 465-6095 (1-800-478-2028 text telephone) no later than two weeks before the proposal deadline.*