Alaska Department of Fish and Game Boards Support Section P.O. Box 25526 Juneau, AK 99802-5526



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ALASKA BOARD OF GAME SPRING 1999 MEETING March 5 - 15, 1999 Anchorage, AK This publication was released by the Department of Fish and Game produced at a cost of \$3.02 per copy and printed in Juneau, AK

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O.E.O. US 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 February 19, 1999 to make any necessary arrangements. To correspond by text telephone (TDD) call 1-800-478-2028.

# ALASKA BOARD OF GAME SPRING 1999 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 **Spring 1999** meeting concerning hunting and use of game in the Southcentral Region, **March 5** - **15**, **1999**, at the WestCoast International Inn, in Anchorage, Alaska. The proposals generally concern changes to hunting regulations in Southcentral Alaska.

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 <u>additions</u> 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 February 19, 1999. Receipt by this date will assure that your written comments will be published in the board workbook. Comments received after February 19 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 <u>PROPOSAL NUMBER</u> to which your comment pertains and whether you favor or oppose the proposal. This will assure that the comments are noted by the board members in relation to the proper proposal(s).

(continued on next page)

Reviewer Letter Page Two

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, hunters, trappers, etc.).

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

A tentative agenda for the Spring 1999 meeting of the Board of Game is shown on page x. A roadmap showing a tentative order in which proposals will be considered will be available in early February. 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 February 19, 1999. To correspond by text telephone (TDD), call 1-800-478-2028.

Sincerely,

**BOARDS SUPPORT SECTION** 

# ALASKA BOARD OF GAME TENTATIVE FUTURE MEETING SCHEDULE

as of January 1999

Dates & Location Topic

SPRING 1999 March 5 - 15, 1999 Southcentral Region

Anchorage

Proposal Deadline: December 11, 1998 Comment Deadline: February 19, 1999

FALL 1999 October 22 - 26, 1999 Arctic and Western Region

Barrow

Proposal Deadline: August 6, 1999 Comment Deadline: October 8, 1999

WINTER 2000 January 14 - 17, 2000 Statewide Issues\*

Anchorage

Proposal Deadline: October 29, 1999 Comment Deadline: December 31, 1999

SPRING 2000 Dates to be determined Interior Region

Location to be determined

For information on the Board of Game's past, current, and upcoming meetings and actions,

including proposal forms, access our web site at:

www.state.ak.us/local/akpages/FISH.GAME/boards

<sup>\*</sup>See Board of Game's meeting cycle on pages vi - vii for list of statewide regulations that will be considered during the Winter 2000 meeting.

# ALASKA BOARD OF GAME MEETING CYCLE

The board meeting cycle generally occurs from October through March. The board considers changes to regulations on a region-based schedule. Each region will be discussed on a two-year cycle. When the regional area is 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 antierless moose hunts as noted below)

Wolf Control Implementation Plans
Bag Limit for Brown Bears
Areas Closed To Hunting
Closures and Restrictions in State Game Refuges
Management Areas
Controlled Use Areas
Areas Closed To Trapping

Regulations which are specific to an area (e.g., Permits for Access to Round Island) will be taken up when the board is scheduled to consider regulations in that region.

Two statewide regulations will be taken up annually, at the spring meeting: Reauthorization of Antlerless Moose Hunts, and Brown Bear Tag Fees. Proposals for changes to these regulations will be considered each spring.

Other statewide regulations will not be taken up every meeting cycle. Statewide regulations are scheduled to be reviewed on a four-year cycle, distributed between winter meetings scheduled to occur every other year. The list of statewide regulations and the associated meeting cycle is attached.

Cycle**		
Fall 2000	Fall 2002	Fall 2004
Spring 1999	Spring 2001	Spring 2003
Fall 1999	Fall 2001	Fall 2003
Spring 2000	Spring 2020	Spring 2004
	Fall 2000 Spring 1999 Fall 1999	Fall 2000 Fall 2002  Spring 1999 Spring 2001  Fall 1999 Fall 2001

This schedule was adopted October 20, 1995; updated August 1, 1997

# Alaska Board of Game Winter Meeting Schedule

# STATEWIDE REGULATIONS: 5 AAC 92

# CYCLE: Winter 2002, 2006, 2010, 2014, etc.

.001	Application of this Chapter
.002	Liability for Violations
.004	Policy for Off-Road Vehicle Use for Hunting and Transporting Game
.005	Policy for Changing Board Agenda
.010	Harvest Tickets and Reports
.011	Taking of Game by Proxy
.012	Licenses and Tags
.016	Muskoxen Tag Fees
.018	Waterfowl Conservation Tag
.019	Taking of Big Game for Certain Religious Ceremonies
.020	Application of Permit Regulations and Permit Reports
.025	Permit for Exporting a Raw Skin
.027	Permit for Exporting Big Game Trophies
.028	Aviculture Permits
.029	Permit for Possessing Live Game
.031	Permit for Selling Skins and Trophies
.033	Permit for Sci, Ed, Propagative, or Public Safety Purposes
.039	Permit for Taking Wolves Using Aircraft
.110	Control of Predation by Wolves
.165	Sealing of Bear Skins and Skulls
.170	Sealing of Marten, Lynx, Beaver, Otter, Wolf, and Wolverine
.200	Purchase and Sale of Game
.210	Game as Animal Food or Bait
.220	Salvage of Game Meat, Furs, and Hides
.230	Feeding of Game
.250	Transfer of Muskoxen for Sci and Ed Purposes
.450	Description of Game Management Units
.990	Definitions

# STATEWIDE REGULATIONS: 5 AAC 92

# CYCLE: Winter 2000, 2004, 2008, 2012, etc.

.037	Permit for Falconry
.040	Permit for Taking of Furbearers with Game Meat
.041	Permit to take Beavers to Control Damage to Property
.043	Permit for Capturing Wild Furbearers for Fur Farming
.049	Permits, Permit Procedures, and Permit Conditions
.050	Required Permit Hunt Conditions and Procedures
.051	Discretionary Trapping Permit Conditions & Procedures
.052	Discretionary Permit Hunt Conditions and Procedures
.062	Priority for Subsistence Hunting; Tier II Permits
.068	Permit Conditions for Hunting Black Bear with Dogs
.070	Tier II Subsistence Hunting Permit Point System
.075	Lawful Methods of Taking Game
.080	Unlawful Methods of Taking Game; Exceptions
.085	Unlawful Methods of Taking Big Game; Exceptions
.090	Unlawful Methods of Taking Fur Animals
.095	Unlawful Methods of Taking Furbearers; Exceptions
.100	Unlawful Methods of Hunting Waterfowl, Snipe, & Crane
.130	Restriction to Bag Limit
.135	Transfer of Possession
.140	Unlawful Possession or Transportation of Game
.150	Evidence of Sex and Identity
.160	Marked or Tagged Game
.260	Taking Cub Bears & Female Bears with Cubs Prohibited
.400	Emergency Taking of Game
.410	Taking Game in Defense of Life or Property

### ALASKA BOARD OF GAME

(Revised March 1998)

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<u>NOTE</u>: All written comments to proposals published in this proposal booklet must be sent to the ADF&G Boards Support Section at the address below in order to be included and published in the Board of Game's Spring 1999 board workbook. Written comments regarding the proposals in this proposal booklet may <u>not</u> be published if the comments are sent to individual board members.

Board members may also be reached at:

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME Boards Support Section P.O. Box 25526 Juneau, AK 99802-5526

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**Board Meeting Recording:** Phone: 465-8901 (in Juneau)

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 March 5 - 15, 1999

# WEST COAST INTERNATIONAL INN, ANCHORAGE, 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 February.]

Friday, March 5

8:30 AM

#### **OPENING BUSINESS**

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

#### STAFF REPORTS

Note: special evening session of public testimony:

6:30 PM

**PUBLIC TESTIMONY BEGINS** - 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 THAT SIGN UP HAVE TESTIFIED.

# DEADLINE FOR <u>SIGN-UP</u> TO TESTIFY IS: 12 NOON, SUNDAY, MARCH 7

### Saturday, March 6

8:30 AM

Continue public testimony

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

### Sunday, March 7 through Monday, March 15

8:30 AM

Conclude public testimony Board Deliberation on proposals Miscellaneous Business, if any

(The Board schedule will generally be: 8:30 AM - 12 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 84.270(1). FUR BEARER TRAPPING. Extend the season and increase the bag limit for beaver in Unit 6 as follows:

Units and Bag Limit Open Season

Unit 6, Beaver

<u>Unlimited</u> Dec. 1 – <u>Mar. 31</u> [20 PER SEASON] [APR. 30]

**ISSUE:** The Copper River Delta has changed drastically in the past thirty years. The pre-1964 Delta was covered by the ocean tide twice a day making it virtually impossible for any tree, bush or shrub to grow. Since then, the alders, the cottonwoods and the willows have taken over a great majority of the Copper River Delta. The transformation has brought a variety of new inhabitants, but by far the most visibly populated is the beaver. Experts have said the Copper River Delta has more beaver per square mile than anywhere in Alaska and possibly anywhere in the country.

This committee along with biologists from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the US Forest Service believe that there is an over abundance of beaver on the Copper River Delta. The major problem when trapping beavers in this area is accessibility. The low price for beaver along with the costly operating expense has discouraged trappers from targeting on beavers. Units 13, 14, 17 and 20 have unlimited bag limits and according to ADF&G, have fewer beavers per square mile. By relaxing the bag limit and extending the closing date, trappers will be able to target on more areas and more animals thus keeping a little better control of the beaver population and make beaver trapping more cost effective.

Increasing the bag limit and extending the season for beaver will allow the few that do trap beaver to increase their harvest and also help control the unbelievable population.

# WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Copper River/Prince William Sound Advisory Committee (HQ-99S-G-058)

**PROPOSAL 2 -** 5 AAC 84.270(1). FUR BEARER TRAPPING. Amend the existing regulations governing trapping seasons and bag limits for beaver in Units 9B and 17. as follows:

UNIT OPEN SEASON BAG LIMIT

(1)

Beaver

. . .

Unit 9 (except 9 (B))

Jan 1-Mar.31

40 per season.

Unit 9(B); however Jan 1-Mar. 31 40 per season. only firearms may be April 15-May 31

used to take up to 2 beaver per day during April 15-May 31

. . .

Unit 17; <u>however</u> Nov. 10-Feb. 28 40 per season. only firearms may be April 15-May 31

used to take up to 2 beaver per day during April 15-May 31

. . .

**ISSUE:** This is a housekeeping proposal. Previous board action changed methods and means (5 AAC 92.095(a)(3)) to allow taking beaver with the use of firearms in Units 9B and 17 from April 15 through May 31. However, the open season dates were not changed to reflect this change in methods and means. Changing the season dates as proposed will rectify this oversight.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Existing season dates in Units 9B and 17 for taking beaver with the use of firearms will remain inconsistent with existing legal methods and means.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Law enforcement officials, wildlife managers, trappers.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Status quo.

**PROPOSAL 3 - 5** AAC 84.270(1). FUR BEARER TRAPPING. Extend beaver trapping season in Unit 16B as follows:

Unit 16B trapping season for beaver open Oct. 1 and close May 15.

**ISSUE:** Unit 16B is a relatively isolated game management unit and there is little trapping pressure on the beaver population. The population has grown significantly in several areas of Unit 16B and they are well established in some key salmon streams, such as Alexander Creek drainage. The damming of these streams is creating ideal habitat for northern pike which in turn is devastating the salmon, rainbow trout and arctic grayling populations. The current trapping season allows for no open water trapping, which is necessary for success in many of the small feeder streams. Under the current season the snow becomes too deep too quickly to effectively target these beaver.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The damming of critical fish rearing streams by beavers will result in continued creation of deep slack water areas. The advancement of voracious northern pike into critical habitat will continue unabated.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The indigenous fish of key drainages in Unit 16B, anglers and trappers will all benefit.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Northern pike through the reduction of habitat suitable to them.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Obtaining a nuisance permit to target beavers in critical streams was suggested as more effective, but it is not supported by the Palmer ADF&G. Another proposal was to extend the beaver trapping season to June 1 vice May 15 to give trappers the advantage of increased mobility due to high water in the spring. This was also not supported by Palmer ADF&G. It is thought that kits would be trapped, but it should be noted the purpose of this proposal is to reduce the impact of damming critical fish habitat and its resulting increase in northern pike. This requires a serious reduction in beaver populations (including kits) in critical streams.

PROPOSAL 4 - 5 AAC 84.270(1). FUR BEARER TRAPPING. Change this regulation in Unit 14 as follows:

The Little Susitna River drainage within the Hatcher Pass management area is closed to beaver trapping.

**ISSUE:** There is underutilized beaver habitat in the Hatcher Pass management area, particularly along and adjacent to the Little Susitna River. Being readily visible available from the Hatcher Pass Road, this area provides an excellent location for a watchable wildlife opportunity for the public.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? There will be fewer active beaver ponds resulting in lost opportunity for public viewing and appreciation.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The thousands of people who travel to the Hatcher Pass area will benefit.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? The trapper who would like to trap beaver would suffer.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Other monitoring and management solutions by ADF&G would be too expensive of time and money considering the small area affected.

**PROPOSAL** 5 - 5 AAC 84.270(5). FUR BEARER TRAPPING and 5 AAC 85.060(4). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR FUR ANIMALS. Amend these regulations as follows:

1 lynx per year, or closure in Unit 15.

**ISSUE:** Lynx need a bag limit for trapping and hunting.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Lynx will decrease again to closure as they did in the 1980s in Unit 15.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

**PROPOSAL 6 -** 5 AAC 84.270(6). FUR BEARER TRAPPING. Extend marten season in Units 6A and 6B as follows:

 Unit 6
 Open Season

 Marten
 Nov. 10 – Feb. 28

 [JAN. 31]

Extending the closing date from Jan. 31 to Feb. 28 will allow the few who wish to trap in these areas more time enabling them to branch out their trap lines and cover more area which, in part, makes the effort cost effective and also keeps the pressure of any one area to a minimum.

**ISSUE:** Units 6A and 6B are both on the east side of the Copper River. These two areas are only accessible by snowmachine or airplane from mid–November through late April, although most access is by snowmachine due to operating costs. The problem with the season as it stands now is that it does not allow the few that actually trap in these areas time to effectively cover the area needed to make trapping these areas worth their while. This area does not completely freeze up enough to be guaranteed access until late December or early January. Units 1, 2, 3 and 5 have a closing date of February 15, and Unit 13 which is directly north of this area closes February 28. Aligning the seasons with Units 1, 2, 3, 5 and 13 will give trappers more opportunity, allow them to be more competitive, and make the Southcentral seasons more uniform.

This committee feels that Unit 13 and Units 6A and 6B marten seasons should become aligned. These two units butt up to one another making the winter conditions almost identical. The quality of pelt remains top of the line well after late February assuring top dollar from the buyer.

## WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?

### WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?

#### WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?

#### OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

**PROPOSAL 7** - 5 AAC 84.270(6). FUR BEARER TRAPPING. Amend regulations for marten in Units 7, 8, and 15 as follows:

Open season: Nov. 10 – Dec. 31.

Bag Limit: 5

The Forestry Board should join in the Joint Board process to share concerns for late successional wildlife species.

**ISSUE:** We have little information on the effects intensive forestry and human growth will have on marten in high latitudes. Populations have steeply declined in other states in milder, less harsh climates. Habitat loss, long gestation period, late sexual maturation, and delayed implantation is a recipe for crisis management.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? We will wonder why we did not apply the precautionary principal to keep regulations updated to habitat alteration and human growth. To have no limit educates the people that we have a limitless resource.

#### WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?

#### WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Statewide precaution.

**PROPOSAL** 8 - 5 AAC 84.270(12). FUR BEARER TRAPPING. Change regulation for marmot in Unit 15C as follows:

Impose a bag limit of 1 per day in all areas north of Kachemak Bay in Unit 15C except close the season along the bluff above Homer and East End Road between West Hill Road and the end of the bluff at Fritz Creek until the population recovers.

**ISSUE:** Hoary marmots are now rarely noted along the bluffs above the Homer area, yet current regulations specify no closed season and no bag limit for marmots in Unit 15C. Besides trapping and shooting, increasing development and numbers of roaming dogs also are reducing marmot populations. Marmot populations have been so depressed that very few animals remain in their

historic areas of the Homer uplands. Reports from long-term local residents indicate that marmots previously were common on the bluff, especially along Skyline Drive and East Hill Road.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? If the season for marmots in the Homer area is not closed and strict season and bag limits later imposed, marmot populations may be locally extirpated in additional areas.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Marmot populations should gradually increase, and bluff residents and wildlife viewers may once again see and hear the familiar whistle of marmots in the canyons and uplands near Homer. Eventually hunters and trappers also would benefit from the recovery and proliferation of marmots, and limited take could again be permitted following population recovery in the Skyline Drive area.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Nobody, because practically no marmots remain in the area with a proposed bag limit and hunting moratorium. Trappers and hunters can still obtain unlimited numbers in the southern portion of Unit 15C. If populations sufficiently increase in road-accessible areas north of Kachemak Bay in future years, the bag limit could be increased and the moratorium could be lifted in the Skyline Drive area.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Do nothing, and marmot populations will be unable to recover. A temporary closure to shooting and trapping marmots north of Kachemak Bay in Unit 15C would be the best way to assure recovery of local populations. Translocations from other areas also should occur.

**PROPOSAL 9 - 5** AAC 84.270(12). FUR BEARER TRAPPING. Amend regulations for marmot and squirrel as follows:

	Area	Open Season
Flying squirrel	Units 6–17	no open season
Red and ground squirrel	Units 6–17	June 10 – Mar. 30
Marmot	Units 6–17(except 15C)	Jul. 30 – Mar. 30
Marmot	Unit 15C north of Kachemak Bay	closed (15C neeeds to rebuild)

The Forestry Board should join in the Joint Board process to share complex concerns to consciously design habitat for early and late successional wildlife.

**ISSUE:** Small mammal prey species are key components of regional biodiversity of predator-prey relationships. Allowing a reproductive season and/or limit can educate, and promote intended value of small prey. Regulations need to keep ahead of altered habitat and human growth in high latitudes of the subarctic.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The public will remain uneducated to the significance of these mammals to the balance of predator-prey relationships. As we provide more small prey species for marten, wolverine, lynx, brown, and black bear, wolf, coyote, horned owls, eagles, hawks, etc. we lower the demand for man-desired species, livestock or pets.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Everyone from being educated on the life histories of all wildlife species and their position in regional biodiversity.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? People will still have DLP.

## OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSAL 10 - 5 AAC 84.270(13). FUR BEARER TRAPPING. Extend season dates for wolf trapping in Unit 13 as follows:

Open wolf trapping season: Oct. 1 and extend the season until June 30.

**ISSUE:** Overabundance of wolves in Unit 13 in excess of the Board of Game adopted population objective.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Mortality will continue to be excessive on moose and caribou. Moose will continue to decline and reasonable harvest quotas cannot be established for caribou and moose.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Hunters, guides, prey populations, fur dealers, tanners.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Trappers may not benefit significantly because wolves caught after April may be of lesser value. A reduced wolf population will result in smaller harvest in the short-term future.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Aerial shooting, land and shoot, Fish and Game control, non-lethal control. These means are not politically acceptable, and some are too expensive (non-lethal).

PROPOSAL 11 - 5 AAC 84.270(13). FUR BEARER TRAPPING and 5 AAC 85.056(2). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR WOLF. Amend this regulation for Unit 13 as follows:

Wolves shall not be trapped or hunted in Unit 13E.

**ISSUE:** Emergency closure of wolf trapping and hunting in Units 13E. The state needs to work together with the Denali National Park Service in order to legally protect those wolf groups (Sanctuary and Toklat) that account for at least 95 percent of all wolf sightings within the park, and at least 50 percent of all sightings by tourists statewide. These tourist habituated wolves present literally hundreds of thousands of dollars to the state's economy. They are also of great scientific, educational and historical significance. Both have plummeted in numbers to critically low levels.

Hunting and trapping could wipe them out, as it has the Savage and Headquarters wolf groups, both of which were similarly habituated to tourists.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? These individual group of wolves may be killed, and Alaska's tourist economy will suffer. A part of Alaska's history will be lost if the Toklat wolves are destroyed.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Alaskans, tourists, and future generations.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? A few trappers and possibly a hunter or two.

#### OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Wildlife Alliance (SC-99S-G-072)

PROPOSAL 12 - 5 AAC 85.045(14). FUR BEARER TRAPPING. Amend regulations for wolverine in Units 7, 14, 15 and 16A as follows:

Open season: Nov. 10 – Jan. 31

Bag limit: 2

The Forestry Board should join in the Joint Board process to share habitat concerns for wildlife specifies.

**ISSUE:** In Units 7 and 15, intensive forestry and human growth is rapidly altering habitat. We have little information on wolverine or the effects this will have on wolverine at these high latitudes. Populations have steeply declined in other states in milder, less harsh climates. To have no limit educates the people that we have a limitless resource.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? With habitat loss, long gestation period, late sexual maturation, and delayed implantation and little data, we may wonder why we did not apply the precautionary principal to keep regulations updated to habitat alteration.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

**PROPOSAL** 13 - 5 AAC 92.550. AREAS CLOSED TO TRAPPING. Amend this regulation as follows:

Trapping should be closed in the following areas in Unit 6D: All land within one mile of the coastline of Blackstone Bay, Passage Canal, and Port Wells (including Harriman Fiord).

**ISSUE:** Trapping should be closed in these areas.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Nonconsumptive users will continue to be negatively impacted by trapping.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Nonconsumptive users.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

**PROPOSAL 14** - 5 AAC 92.550. AREAS CLOSED TO TRAPPING. Amend this regulation to include the following:

All trapping should be closed in the following areas:

All drainages leading into Turnagain Arm; all land within two miles of any publicly owned road within Unit 7; and all land within one mile of the following designated trails: The Resurrection Pass trail in its entirety from Hope to Seward, the Devils Pass trail, the Johnson Pass trail, the Cresent Lake trail, the Carter Lake trail, the Ptarmigan Creek trail, the Lost Lake trail, the Russian Lake trails (i.e. from both ends), all land within one mile of the coastline of Resurrection and Aialik Bays (including the coastline between these two bays), all land within five miles of the Grandview stop on the Alaska Railroad.

#### ISSUE:

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Nonconsumptive users will continue to be negatively impacted by trapping.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Nonconsumptive users.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

**PROPOSAL 15** - 5 AAC 92.550(3). AREAS CLOSED TO TRAPPING. Amend this regulation to include the following:

Trapping should be closed in the following areas: All drainage leading into Eklutna Lake and the Eklutna River, all drainages leading into Peters creek, all drainages leading into Eagle River, all drainages leading into Ship Creek, all drainages leading into Turnagain Arm, all drainages leading into Anchorage Management Area, all of the Hatcher Pass public use area, all land within two miles of any publicly owned road within Unit 14C.

That portion of the Chugach State Park which is not closed to trapping should be open to trapping under Unit 14C season and bag limits, except that there should be no trapping of wolves, wolverine, land otter, beaver, or lynx permitted.

#### ISSUE:

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Nonconsumptive users will continue to be negatively impacted by trapping.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Nonconsumptive users.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

**PROPOSAL 16** - 5 AAC 85.010(1). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR BISON. Amend regulations in Unit 11 as follows:

Require that hunters obtain a limited use permit from Ahtna, Inc. before they obtain a bison hunt permit from the state. The fee for the permit is \$2,000.

**ISSUE:** A proposed bison hunt in Unit 11 includes a large area of land owned by Ahtna, Inc. an Alaska Native Regional Corporation. This hunt will promote trespass on Ahtna land. Ahtna land is closed to hunting by the general public.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Ahtna, Inc., will enforce its land closure policy by prosecuting trespassers to the fullest extent of the law. The state will be required to deal with hunters who harvest bison on Ahtna land without its permission.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Ahtna shareholders would be assured that their lands are being protected against trespassing.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those who do not want to pay for the limited use permit.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Keep Ahtna land closed to hunting – desire to cooperate. We may entertain variations on the limited use permit still totaling \$2,000.00.

PROPOSAL 17 - 5 AAC 85.015(3). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR BLACK BEAR. Amend regulations in Unit 14A as follows:

Black bear Unit 14A: Residents and nonresidents: one bear, no closed season.

**ISSUE:** Too many black bears where people live.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? More houses and storage sheds will be broken into and children will not be able to play outside or walk to school buses.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Almost everyone living in Unit 14A.

#### WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Extending the season to June 15 would help some because most of the bears go through here after the season closes.

**PROPOSAL** 18 - 5 AAC 85.015. HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR BLACK BEAR and 5 AAC 84. FUR BEARER TRAPPING. Amend these regulations to provide the following:

Units 9, 11, 13, 16

Hunting season: Aug. 20 – June 10 3 bears Trapping season: Sept. 1 – June 10 3 bears

Units 7, 15

Hunting season: Aug. 20 – June 10 2 bears Trapping season: Sept. 10 – June 10 2 bears

The hunting and trapping regulations will be changed to include bear for sale like wolf is. The methods for trapping regulations for bear will be the same as for hunting bear. Traps and snares will not be allowed for bear. Bear gall bladder regulations will remain the same.

**ISSUE:** Most units in Alaska have no closed season for black bear, usually with a limit of 3 bears. The meat of black bears taken Jun. 1 - Dec. 31 can be used as animal feed for pets and livestock, as long as the hide is salvaged. If a person has no dogs or pigs to feed, he may leave the meat to rot, but the hide still needs to be salvaged even in mid-summer when the hide has little or no value. This situation does not maximize the potential use of black bear. Other big game animals whose fur has value, such as wolf, have closed seasons when the hide is poorest. Closing the black bear season for the 2 months when the hides are in the worst condition will help avoid wasting bear hides.

To offset a reduced harvest due to a reduced season some compensation is needed. Increasing the limit from 3 to 6 alone won't be enough because there is not enough incentive unless being able to

sell is included. Black bear used to be regulated like wolf under both hunting and trapping regulations. Certainly if an animal is abundant enough to allow shooting in July and to be left to the ravens or fed to dogs as long as the worthless hide gets sealed, then that animal is abundant enough to be better utilized with a shorter season wherein the animal may be sold. (Gall bladder would not be saleable.)

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Not solving this problem will continue to underutilize a resource.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Those who would like to be able to sell bear hides will benefit.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those who like to shoot bears in the summer when the hide has no value would suffer. They could still feed pets and livestock as long as they salvage the hide after Aug. 10.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

**PROPOSAL 19** - 5 AAC 85.020(6). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR BROWN BEAR. Change season dates on Unit 7 as follows:

Unit 7: Open season Apr. 15 – Apr. 25.

**ISSUE:** There has not been a viable brown bear hunt season in several years. The brown bear population has increased beyond optimal levels and has created problems in certain areas. Hunting season dates need to be changed to create hunting opportunity and protect the brown bear resource.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? ADF&G will continue to manage the brown bear resource with emergency orders without a meaningful management opportunity. Man and bear confrontations will increase without the opportunity to lawfully harvest this resource. The DLP statistics support the position of amending seasonal hunting openings.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? People who want to hunt bears. Fish and Wildlife protection will not have so many DLP bears. ADF&G will not need to manage by emergency order.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Open season: May 1 – Jun. 15 or Sept. 25 – Oct. 31

**PROPOSAL 20 -** 5 AAC 85.020(6). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR BROWN BEAR. Amend this regulation in Unit 7 as follows

Unit 7: Open season May 1 – Jun. 15.

**ISSUE:** There has not been a viable brown bear hunt season in several years. The brown bear population has increased beyond optimal levels and has created problems in certain areas. Hunting season dates need to be changed to create hunting opportunity and protect the brown bear resource.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? ADF&G will continue to manage the brown bear resource with emergency orders without a meaningful management opportunity. Man and bear confrontations will increase without the opportunity to lawfully harvest this resource. The DLP statistics support the position of amending seasonal hunting openings.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? People who want to hunt bears. Fish and Wildlife protection will not have so many DLP bears. ADF&G will not need to manage by emergency order.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Open season: Apr. 15 – 25 or Sept. 25 – Oct. 31.

**PROPOSAL 21** - 5 AAC 85.020(6). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR BROWN BEAR. Change season dates in Unit 7 as follows:

Unit 7: Open season Sept. 25 – Oct. 31.

**ISSUE:** There has not been a viable brown bear hunt season in several years. The brown bear population has increased beyond optimal levels and has created problems in certain areas. Hunting season dates need to be changed to create hunting opportunity and protect the brown bear resource.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? ADF&G will continue to manage the brown bear resource with emergency orders without a meaningful management opportunity. Man and bear confrontations will increase without the opportunity to lawfully harvest this resource. The DLP statistics support the position of amending seasonal hunting openings.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? People who want to hunt bears. Fish and Wildlife protection will not have so many DLP bears. ADF&G will not need to manage by emergency order.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Open season: May 1 – Jun. 15 or Apr. 15 – Apr. 25.

**PROPOSAL** 22 - 5 AAC 85.020(6) and (14). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR BROWN BEAR. Change regulations in Units 7 and 15 as follows:

There will be a fall brown bear hunt by registration from Oct. 15 - Nov. 30 unless closed by emergency order. The spring brown bear hunt would be closed except by emergency order if the annual quota is not met. Furthermore, if a spring hunt takes place, the dates would be moved to Apr. 15 - Apr. 25. This would include all of Units 15 and 7.

**ISSUE:** Due to spring season harvest, DLP bears, and other mortalities there has not been a fall brown bear season in four years on the Kenai Peninsula. A late fall season needs to be the primary focal point for bear harvest management.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? There will continue to be a lack of fall brown bear hunting due to overharvest of sows.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Brown bear hunters looking for a quality, prime hide. All hunters who want another chance to hunt later into the fall. Bear managers, because fewer sows will probably be killed.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those who prefer a spring hunt.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Every other year seasons. Too long between hunting periods, especially if there are emergency closures on either end of hunting year.

**PROPOSAL 23** - 5 AAC 85.020(6) and (14). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR BROWN BEAR. Change the brown bear season dates in Units 7 and 15 to allow for only one season annually, as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
<ul><li>(6)</li><li>Unit 7</li><li>1 bear every 4 regulatory years by registration permit only</li></ul>	Oct. 15 - Oct. 31 (General hunt only) [MAY 10 - MAY 25] [(GENERAL HUNT ONLY)]	Oct. 15 - Oct. 31 [MAY 10 - MAY 25]
(14)		
Unit 15 [A] I bear every 4 regulatory years by registration permit only	Oct. 15 - Oct. 31 (General hunt only) [MAY 10 - MAY 25] [(GENERAL HUNT ONLY)]	Oct. 15 - Oct. 31 [MAY 10 - MAY 25]

[REMAINDER OF UNIT 15]

[OCT. 15 - OCT 31] [(GENERAL HUNT ONLY)] [MAY 10 - MAY 25] [(GENERAL HUNT ONLY)] [OCT. 15 - OCT. 31]

[MAY 10 - MAY 25]

. . .

**ISSUE:** A management protocol was developed creating a maximum number of bears that could be taken to sustain a population of 250-300 bears. This protocol focuses primarily on the take of female bears. The department's objective is to take less than six female bears annually. It is also a goal of the department to provide stable seasons so hunters can adequately plan their hunts.

Combined hunter harvest and defense of life and property (DLP) kills have exceeded management objectives on the Kenai for five of the last six years. The fall season has been closed by emergency order every fall since 1995 to avoid further overharvest. Previous regulation changes recommended by the department and approved by the board were not conservative enough. The department recommends that the Kenai population can sustain only one season.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Brown bears may continue to be harvested in excess of management objectives.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Hunters that desire to hunt during the fall season.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSAL 24 - 5 AAC 85.020(12). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR BROWN BEAR. Lengthen the brown bear season in Unit 13 as follows:

Change the brown bear season dates to Sept. 1 – Jun. 15 in Unit 13.

**ISSUE:** Length of brown bear season. Bear population is up.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Further or continuing pressure on moose and caribou populations.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Moose and caribou.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSAL 25 - 5 AAC 85.020(12). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR BROWN BEAR and 5 AAC 92.132(1). BAG LIMIT FOR BROWN BEARS. Change this regulation in Unit 13 as follows:

Brown bear limit: 2 bears per year, no tag fee, Jan. 1 - Dec. 31. Hunters must salvage the hide or meat, but not both.

**ISSUE:** Bear predation in Unit 13. Board of Game Findings 95-84-BOG, Intensive Management for Unit 13, paragraphs 7 and 8 conclude that brown bears should be reduced to 350 animals, or until the moose calf:cow ratio is 30:100 (currently 17:100). Since then the bear population has retained constant and moose have further declined.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The moose population will remain in a predator pit, limiting consumptive opportunity.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All viewers and consumptive users of moose and caribou.

#### WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Reducing human harvest of moose, rejected because human harvest is not statistically significant to moose population and prohibited by intensive management statutes.

**PROPOSAL 26** - 5 AAC 85.020(13). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR BROWN BEAR and 5 AAC 92.132. BAG LIMIT FOR BROWN BEARS. Change regulations in Unit 14 as follows:

Unit and Bag Limit	Resident	Nonresident
Unit 14	Open Season	Open Season
Residents:		
Three bears of either sex, and	Aug. 10 – May 31	Aug. 10 – May 31
any age, no closed season		
One adult male bear each		
regulatory year		
regulatory year		

Nonresidents: 1 adult male bear each regulatory year.

Nonresident hunters must be accompanied by a resident with a valid hunting license, or a licensed guide. No tag is required for a bear shot within one mile of one's home.

A temporary drastic solution is needed for a serious problem. Three bears would allow a hunter to take a sow with her cubs. As soon as the moose population is back to its mid-1980s size, the limit should go to one adult male bear per year.

**ISSUE:** The excessive brown bear population on the hillside areas of Unit 14A, which has nearly extinguished the moose, and threatens children and farm animals.

#### WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?

1) The last moose will be gone; 2) Bears will increasingly endanger children in their yards and on the way to school buses, and more farm animals will disappear; 3) Because bears can no longer be frightened off by gunshots or noise, more will be shot illegally; 4) Bears will break into buildings; 5) The bear population will crash unless they learn to fish again.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Most residents of Unit 14, especially those with children or farm animals, or those who are dependent on wild game for food. The Department of Fish and Game, because they would not have to deal with so many DLP bears and would have moose herds to manage.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one. Even the big game guides would profit in the long run from a restored moose herd in the mountains and a balanced bear population. The wolves would have more to eat.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Abolish the sealing requirement – too many hunters enjoy killing animals. Lower nonresident fees and collect tag fee at time of sealing - only the very rich can afford a guide so the fees do not matter.

**PROPOSAL 27 -** 5 AAC 85.020(13). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR BROWN BEAR and 5 AAC 92.530. MANAGEMENT AREAS. Amend these regulations as follows:

First, extend brown bear season in Remainder of Unit 14C through Oct. 31. Second, allow brown bear hunting in all portions of Unit 14C currently open to black bear hunting. Season dates would be May 1 – May 25 and Sept. 15 – Oct. 31. Methods and means, permit, and hunter certification requirements would be identical to those in place for black bear.

**ISSUE:** Increased brown bear/human interaction in Unit 14C.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Brown bear population will continue to grow, conflicts between bears and people will continue to be a problem.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Individuals who would like to harvest a brown bear in Unit 14C. Goat registration hunters in remainder of 14C are in the field through Oct. 31. Extending the brown bear season to Oct. 31 would allow additional hunting opportunities. Opening additional areas to brown bear hunting will also allow additional opportunity. Increasing the harvest in areas currently closed should help reduce the number of brown bear/human interactions.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Folks who do not want to see brown bears killed.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Allowing a registration or drawing permit hunt in selected areas is a viable alternative.

PROPOSED BY: Barry Stratton (SC-99S-G-045) 

PROPOSAL 28 - 5 AAC. 85.020(13). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR BROWN BEAR. Lengthen the brown bear hunting season in Unit 14A and 14C and align with 14B as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(13)		
Unit 14 [(B)]	Sept. 15-May 25 (General hunt only)	Sept. 15-May 25
1 bear every 4 regulatory years	(	
[REMAINDER OF 14]	[SEPT. 15-OCT. 10] [(GENERAL HUNT ONLY [MAY 1-MAY 25] [(GENERAL HUNT ONLY	[MAY 1-MAY 25]
[1 BEAR EVERY 4 REGULATORY		71

YEARS]

**ISSUE:** Brown bear population objectives for Unit 14 call for "a population that seems largely unaffected by hunter harvest" while providing an optimum opportunity to hunt bears. To reach that goal the desired hunter harvest has been set at 6-10 bears including less than three females younger than 3-years-of-age. During the last 8 years, hunters in Unit 14A have harvested an average of 4.7 bears (1.0 sows older than 3-years-old) annually, and hunters in Unit 14B have harvested 4.5 bears (1.6 sows older than 3-years-old). Hunters did not harvest any bears in Unit 14C during that period. However, non-hunting related mortality has averaged 3.7 bears (0.5 sows older than 3 years of age) in Units 14A and 14B and 1.4 bears (0.2 sows older than 3-years-ofage) in Unit 14C. While it is extremely difficult to measure the population size, brown bear numbers seem to be increasing or at least remaining stable. As human settlement spreads, conflicts with brown bears have increased which would seem to indicate the amount of bear habitat is diminishing. Residents seem to tolerate certain interactions and risks in remote recreational settings but are much less tolerant of interactions in and around housing and agricultural developments. Recognizing that bear habitat in Unit 14A has decreased in the last ten years and that bear numbers appear to have increased in adjacent, unhunted Chugach State Park, we feel it is appropriate to allow a higher harvest to take advantage of any dispersing bears. The harvest should be allowed to increase to 10-15 bears with five or less females 3-years-old or

older for Unit 14. Extending the brown bear hunting season in Unit 14A to match Unit 14B should allow for an increase in hunter harvest while minimizing the total harvest of adult females.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? We suspect the frequency of human-bear interactions will continue to increase as more young bears disperse from Chugach State Park and Unit 14B. Opportunity to harvest dispersing brown bears will remain limited. Numbers of DLPs and undesirable interactions will increase.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Hunters wishing to take a brown bear, recreationalists wishing to avoid dangerous encounters, livestock owners, residents and anglers.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

**PROPOSAL 29 -** 5 AAC 85.020(13)(14)(17) and (18). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR BROWN BEAR and 5 AAC 92.015. BROWN BEAR TAG FEE EXEMPTIONS. Change these regulations as follows:

Eliminate resident brown bear tag fee requirement, and change to one brown bear per year in Units 14, 15, and 16. In Anchorage, open areas 1-5 for hunting.

## **ISSUE:**

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? An increasing bear population will dramatically continue to decrease the calf moose and caribou populations thus affecting the moose and caribou numbers for positive game management. Additional encounters in the Anchorage are between humans and bears.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Moose and caribou populations, Alaska hunters, Anchorage residents and those who prefer to photograph and view our wildlife.

#### WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?

#### OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

**PROPOSAL** 30 - 5 AAC 85.020(14). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR BROWN BEAR and 5 AAC 92.015. BROWN BEAR TAG FEE EXEMPTIONS. Amend these regulations in Unit 16B as follows:

The requirement of the four year regulation of one brown bear per hunter, and the requirement for a bear tag be eliminated for Unit 16B which would hopefully reduce the extreme number of bears in this area.

**ISSUE:** I wish to bring to the attention of the Board of Game the problem with the abundance of bears in Unit 16B, especially in the area of the Kustatan River drainage.

I personally have had numerous encounters with bears while fishing in the Kustatan and McArthur rivers and the signs of bears are so numerous that it is a matter of time before someone is seriously mauled or killed in this area.

A friend and myself had a very serious encounter with a brown bear a year ago during the moose season that required the killing of the bear to prevent from being a statistic of a bear mauling.

I also noticed while moose hunting in this area there is the total lack of moose calves which I can be assured was caused by the depravation of bears.

### WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSAL 31 - 5 AAC 85.020(8). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR BROWN BEAR. Change winter season in Unit 9B as follows:

Brown bear open every year,

Sept. 1-Oct. 31, May 10 – May 25

Bag limit – 1 bear every 2 years.

**ISSUE:** Open brown bear earlier, from Oct. 1 to Sept. 1, to align with the federal season and state Unit 9C Naknek River regulations.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Locals would continue to find it difficult to harvest brown bear. Bear population has exploded and would rise even more impacting moose and caribou calves.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Locals that would like to harvest brown bears when they are still hanging around the village. Come Oct. 1 most bears are up in the hills getting ready to hibernate. Also, moose and caribou calves.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** At least open the season earlier Sept. 1.

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PROPOSAL 32 – 5 AAC 85.020(8). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR BROWN BEAR. Change this regulation in Unit 9C as follows:

Brown bear open every year, Sept. 1 – Oct. 31 and May 10 – May 25 Bag limit – 1 bear every 2 years.

**ISSUE:** Open brown bear earlier from Oct. 1 to Sept. 1 to align with the federal season and Unit 9C Naknek River regulations.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Locals would continue to find it difficult to harvest brown bear. Bear population has exploded and would rise even more impacting moose and caribou calves.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Locals that would like to harvest brown bears when they are still hanging around the villages. Come Oct. 1 most bears are up in the hills getting ready to hibernate. Also, moose and caribou calves.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** At least open the season earlier Sept. 1.

PROPOSAL 33 - 5 AAC 85.020(8). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR BROWN BEAR. Change this regulation in Unit 9E as follows:

Increase the bear bag limit from 1 every 4 years to 1 every 2 years for resident and nonresident sport hunters in Unit 9E.

**ISSUE:** Board of Game needs to look at predator control.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Sport hunters.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

**PROPOSAL 34** - 5 AAC 85.020(8). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR BROWN BEAR and 5 AAC 92.540(17) MANAGEMENT AREAS. Amend regulations within the Chignik Alaska Brown Bear Management Area as follows:

**Units and Bag Limits** 

Resident and Nonresident

Unit 9E, 1 bear every 4

Oct. 7 - Oct. 21

regulatory years.

fall odd years only

**ISSUE:** Lengthen brown bear season in Unit 9E to Oct. 1 – Oct. 21 in odd years.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The Northern Peninsula Caribou herd may take longer to grow if predators continue to increase.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The Northern Peninsula Caribou herd.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No person.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Tracy Vrem

(HO-99S-G-069)

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**PROPOSAL 35** - 5 AAC 85.020(8). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR BROWN BEAR. Change this regulation as follows:

Unit 9E – Brown bear season – Oct. 1 – Oct. 21 (odd years only) Brown bear season – May 5 – May 25 (even years only)

**ISSUE:** Increasing brown bear numbers on the Alaska Peninsula could provide more hunting opportunity.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Brown bear numbers would continue to rise. More takings in defense of life and property will be reported in the villages of the Alaska Peninsula.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Alaska Peninsula village residents, bear hunters.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Nobody.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Gary King, Jr.

(SC-99S-G-031)

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PROPOSAL 36 - 5 AAC 85.020(8). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR BROWN BEAR. Amend this regulation for Unit 9 as follows:

Unit 9E brown bear season and bag limits:

Residents and nonresidents, 1 bear every 4 regulatory years.

Spring May 10 – May 25 Fall Oct. 1 – Oct. 15

**ISSUE:** The fall bear season in Unit 9E. It is too late in October. I recommend Oct. 1 – Oct. 15.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Hunters using water based operations can be stranded in the field due to freeze-up.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All water-based hunters and the population of moose and caribou. Especially young animals.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

# OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSAL 37 - 5 AAC 85.020(8). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR BROWN BEAR. Amend regulations in Unit 9E as follows:

Unit 9E brown bear season and bag limits

Spring May 10-25 of even years Fall Oct. 1-15 of odd years

Residents and nonresidents: 1 bear every 4 regulatory years.

**ISSUE:** The fall brown bear season in Unit 9E is too late. Should be Oct. 1 - Oct. 15.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The predation of caribou and moose calves will continue at an alarming rate as is the current case. In addition the safety of anyone with water-based operations will increase 99% with many less freeze-up problems. Small bears and sows will continue to be taken instead of large boars, as is the present situation.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Water-based hunters all over Unit 9E. Adult moose and caribou populations as well as the calves having an increased chance of survival. The department's policy on a late season in October limits the hunter to small sows because, by ADF&G's own admission, the large boars go nocturnal by the time the season opens. This reduces the likelihood of taking a big boar. The same bears, I might add, that easily take down an adult moose or caribou. The stubbornness and ignorance of Fish and Game and the Board of Game are responsible for the gross mismanagement of the Alaska Peninsula caribou herd. They have verbalized that they are

willing to sacrifice the ungulate population levels so that tourists will have a larger opportunity for bear viewing. This season change, with close scrutiny and better public awareness (i.e., Kodiak Fish and Game recommends a bear video to the public) will go a long way to increase the peninsula herd populations and allow for the harvest of trophy size animals for all three species.

### WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

### OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSAL 38 - 5 AAC 85.020(8). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR BROWN BEAR. Change season dates in Unit 9E as follows:

Start fall hunt for brown bear on Sept. 25. There are so many bears killing moose calves, as well as caribou populations beginning to go down. Please look at this more closely.

**ISSUE:** Hunting brown bear in the fall is too late in the year in October. The weather gets so bad the planes freeze up on the floats, and the lakes freeze over. My hunt is shortened every year because of bad weather and I can only hunt in the fall. (I hunt Unit 9E.)

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? By the hunt being in September, the hunter would be able to take the big boars from the populations of bear. All I see is little sows everywhere because the big boars kill the small boars, and the big boars go nocturnal that late in the year. The bears need to be in check.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The bear populations are so bad the caribou and moose populations are getting harmed from the bears every year. Sooner or later the moose and caribou hunting season will be closed.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Alaska Department of Fish and Game, when less tags are bought, hunters are getting tired of fighting the weather.

### OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSAL 39 - 5 AAC 85.020(15). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR BROWN BEAR. Amend regulations in Unit 17 as follows:

Take five days off spring season and add to front of all season.

Unit 17B
Residents and nonresidents:

1 bear every 4 years – Sept. 15 – Oct. 10
Apr. 20 – May 25

**ISSUE:** Brown bear population in Unit 17 is at an all time high and both residents and nonresidents are missing out of hunting opportunities. Realign season dates for brown bear in Unit 17B.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Missed hunting opportunity for brown bear hunters, both resident and nonresident.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All brown bear hunters in Unit 17B. Also all moose hunters in Unit 17B.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Adding 10 days to the front of brown bear fall season. The department does not want moose and brown bear season to overlap.

PROPOSAL 40 - 5 AAC 85.020(15) HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR BROWN BEAR. Amend regulation in Unit 17B as follows:

Change dates of fall bear season from Sept. 20 – Oct. 10 to Sept. 10 – Oct. 10.

This will bring Unit 17B in line with the seasons in Unit 17A and Unit 17C, and allow hunters to harvest bear during the moose season. Moose now closes on Sept. 15.

**ISSUE:** Dates of fall season on brown/grizzly bear for resident and nonresident hunters in Unit 17B.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Continue to lose moose to bear predation.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Any person who hunts bear or moose in this unit.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSAL 41 - 5 AAC 85.025(1). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR CARIBOU. Amend regulations in Unit 7 as follows:

Establish a registration "primitive" weapon hunt for bowhunters and "traditional" side lock muzzleloaders. Several options available.

**ISSUE:** Low harvest rate of, and low opportunity to, hunt Kenai Mt. caribou herd by hunters mentally and physically capable of harvesting animals under challenging hunt conditions.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Potential winter kill in harder than normal winters. Potential range damage due to over abundance going into winter.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The caribou range and herd. Those wishing to hunt with primitive weapons.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one, this is an added opportunity.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Increase permit numbers, potentially bad public relations, and compounds problem. Additional drawing permit, this is one option.

PROPOSAL 42 - 5 AAC 85.025(1). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR CARIBOU. Amend regulation in Unit 7 as follows:

Convert late season to a separate, primitive weapons hunt, either drawing or registration.

**ISSUE:** Probable caribou "chase stress" during late season DC001 caribou hunt/snowmachine access, using modern weapons.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Caribou will be chased and stressed by snowmachine. Hunters attempting to close within modern rifle range on their machines. Bad public relations if discovered.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Rut stressed caribou. All hunters, by increased hunting opportunity, by addressing a potentially bad public relations situation, and by safeguarding the caribou.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Anyone who wishes to chase caribou until within modern rifle range using snowmachines.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Banning snowmachines from the hunt. Limiting snowmachine use to within ¼ mile of Resurrection Trail. (Fairly unenforceable, not necessary)

PROPOSAL 43 – 5 AAC 85.025(a)(9). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR CARIBOU. Establish a drawing permit hunt for cow caribou hunt in the Killey River herd in Unit 15B as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(9) Unit 15(B), that portion south and west of Killey River		
1 caribou by drawing permit only; up to 150 permits may be issued	Aug. 10-Sept. 20 (General hunt only)	Aug. 10 - Sept.20
2 cow caribou per drawing permit only; up to 100 permits may be issued.	Aug. 10-Oct. 10	Aug. 10-Oct. 10

**ISSUE:** The Killey River Caribou herd was established by relocating animals from the Nelchina herd in 1985 and 1986. The herd has grown steadily, with a significant increase during the past two years, and now numbers about 500 caribou. If this herd is allowed to continue to increase in size, range damage will occur. An additional concern is maintaining a low hunter density in this wilderness portion of the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge. Allowing a limited number of hunters to harvest a multiple bag limit of female animals will slow the herd's growth, while maintaining a reasonable number of hunters in the area. Permits would be allocated into two seasons to reduce hunter crowding.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The Killey River caribou herd will likely continue to increase beyond the carrying capacity of its range until the habitat is overbrowsed. The caribou population would likely decline below management objectives.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Hunters that want to take advantage of additional hunting opportunity.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** A registration or single animal bag limit hunts was not considered but rejected since they would increase hunter density beyond desired levels.

**PROPOSAL** 44 - 5 AAC 85.025(8). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR CARIBOU. Amend this regulation in Unit 13 as follows:

Change the opening of the Tier II hunt for Neichina Caribou to August 10.

**ISSUE:** The "special drawing permit" hunt with archery and muzzleloaders Aug. 1—Aug. 9 is not so special. The Tier II hunt allows high power rifles and also opens Aug. 1. There have been numerous incidents where archers or muzzleloaders were stalking caribou to get close when hunters

with high power rifles shot at the same animals from several hundred yards away. Avoiding this sort of competition, and safety hazard, is what the special hunt was intended to do.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Continued user conflict. Reduced hunter opportunity days as more primitive weapon hunters decline to participate.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Primitive weapon hunters would get what was advertised. Probable growth in interest in this hunt as the word about the quality of experience spreads.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one, because Tier Π hunters have a long season with the greatest kill occurring in September or later.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Shifting the primitive weapons hunt to a later date; rejected because once the high power hunt begins the animals become spooky and difficult to stalk at close range.

(SC-98-G-035)

(HQ-99S-G-112)

PROPOSED BY: Alaska State Muzzle Loaders Association

(HQ-99S-G-019)

\*

PROPOSAL 45 - 5 AAC 85.025(8). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR CARIBOU. Amend this regulation in Unit 13 as follows:

Change the opening date of Tier II caribou season

Unit and Bag Limits Resident Open Season
Unit 13 Aug. 10— Sept. 21

antlered bull by permit [AUG.1]

Oct. 21 - Mar. 31

**ISSUE:** Summer caribou migration patterns may be disrupted in the northern areas of Unit 13 due to early hunting pressure along the Denali Highway. Also, increased chance of meat spoilage due to warm weather in early August.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Caribou have difficulty accessing parts of their range north of the Denali Highway.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Hunters, wildlife viewers.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Aug. 20 opening date.

PROPOSAL 46 - 5 AAC 85.025(8) HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR CARIBOU. Change season dates for caribou in Unit 13 as follows:

Units and Bag Limits Resident Open Season

(Subsistence and General Hunts)

Unit 13 Aug. 10 - Sept. 20.

[AUG. 1]

**ISSUE:** Caribou season dates in Unit 13.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Caribou movements in late July and August are being disturbed as caribou move into the upper areas of the Denali with the early season dates which were created with the start of Tier I.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? This proposal will benefit all hunters by preserving the early migration of the caribou throughout the unit.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSAL 47 - 5 AAC 85.025(8) HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR CARIBOU. Amend this regulation in Unit 13 as follows:

### Units and Bag Limits Resident Open Season

Unit 13 Aug. 1 – <u>Sept. 25</u> 1 caribou by permit [SEPT. 20]

Oct. 15 – Mar. 31 [OCT. 21]

4,000 caribou may be harvested -9% of the herd.

**ISSUE:** Bulls-only Tier II caribou harvest in Unit 13 (Nelchina Caribou Herd). Historical data shows that hunters prefer cow earibou after September 25. Tier I and Tier II should be either sex.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? We will continue to see the sex ratio of the herd skewed toward cows. The current sex ratio is adequate to assure breeding of all ovulating females.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Hunters prohibited from harvesting cows when some bulls are not fit to cat. Hunters currently prohibited from hunting because of the limited Tier II permits, longer seasons disperse hunting effort.

### WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Limited cow only – wasted meat from wrong sex kills. Open season registration hunt. Fish and Game does not know how to liquidate Tier II hunts.

PROPOSAL 48 - 5 AAC 85.025(8). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR CARIBOU. Change the bag limit to 1 caribou for the Tier II hunt and reduce season, and eliminate the Tier I hunt, as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(8)		
Unit 13	Aug. 10 - Sept. 20 [AUG. 1 - SEPT. 20] (Subsistence hunt only)	No open season
	Oct. 21 Mar. 31 (Subsistence hunt only)	

1 caribou [BULL] per regulatory year by Tier II permit only; up to 10,000 permits may be issued; the commissioner shall close the season by emergency order when up to 5,000 caribou have been taken by Tier II hunters; [OR I COW, OR ANTLERED BULL WITH 6 OR LESS TINES ON 1 ANTLER, PER REGULATORY YEAR BY TIER I REGISTRATION PERMIT; DURING THE AUG. 1-AUG. 9 PERIOD, ONLY BOW AND ARROW OR MUZZLE-LOADING RIFLES MAY BE USED; DURING THE AUG. 10 - SEPT. 20 PERIOD PERMITTEES MUST CHOOSE ONE OF TWO HUNT PERIODS: AUG. 10--AUG. 31 OR SEPT. 1--SEPT. 20; ALL PERMITTEES MAY HUNT OCT. 21--MARCH 31 SEASON; THE COMMISSIONER SHALL CLOSE THE SEASON BY EMERGENCY ORDER

WHEN UP TO 10,000 COWS HAVE BEEN TAKEN BY TIER I HUNTERS; THE COMMISSIONER ALSO MAY OPEN THE SEASON BY EMERGENCY ORDER.

**ISSUE:** The Nelchina earibou herd population size is 38,500 and has been reduced to within the fall population size objective of 35,000 - 40,000 caribou. The Tier I registration hunt is no longer necessary because it was established to reduce the herd from its previous population high of 50,000 animals. The first nine days of the season Aug. 1 – Aug. 9 can be eliminated as they were an attempt to give alternative weapon Tier I hunters a special season. We should be able to maintain herd size within the population objective by issuing up to 10,000 Tier II permits for any earibout.

The current bull:cow ratio for the Nelchina herd is 21 bulls per 100 cows; a bull-only Tier II harvest is going to worsen this already low ratio. Herd size cannot be maintained with a bulls-only harvest, so the bag limit for Tier II permit holders needs to be changed to one caribou of either sex. An allowable harvest of 1,500 bulls and 1,500 cows is projected for the 1999 season with a projected 8,000 Tier II permits issued. When 1,500 animals of either sex have been harvested, the season for that sex will be closed by emergency order, and all remaining permits will be valid for only one sex of caribou. The season will be closed entirely when the harvest quota is met.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? If the bag limit is not changed to include cows, it will be difficult to maintain the herd size within population objectives.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All who qualify to hunt the Nelchina herd under Tier Π.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those who do not qualify for Tier II.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** We could issue 30,000 registration permits to harvest the 1500 cows, but the chance for harvesting considerably more than our harvest objective would be excessive.

**PROPOSAL 49** - 5 AAC 85.025(8). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR CARIBOU. Amend this regulation in Unit 13 as follows:

From Aug. 1-4 The taking of caribou by bow and arrow only.

From Aug. 5 –8. The taking of caribou by bow and arrow or muzzleloader.

From Aug. 9 - Sept. 20 or Oct. 21 - Mar. 31 by rifle or the above means.

**ISSUE:** Hunting restrictions of methods to taking of caribou. Open a portion of the season to archery and muzzleloader hunting only.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Hunters who qualify for a Tier II caribou permit in Unit 13 will not have an opportunity to hunt in a more primitive way to get closer in touch with the animal their taking in a safe manner.

PROPOSAL 53 - 5 AAC 85.025(3). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR CARIBOU. Amend regulations in Units 9E and 9C as follows:

Unit 9E, that portion south of the Meshik and Aniakchak rivers – No open caribou season. Remainder of Unit 9E and all of Unit 9C: 1 bull caribou – Sept. 21 – Oct. 5.

**ISSUE:** The Northern Alaska Peninsula Caribou numbers are down while the bull ratios are higher than optimum for reproduction. A hunting season for caribou is very important to guides as it bridges the time between the short moose season ending Sept. 20 and the fall bear season beginning Oct. 7, allowing for uninterrupted operations and employment of guides in Unit 9.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Continued harvest of cows on the Alaska Peninsula will cause continued decline in calf production. Total elimination of the nonresident season will cause unnecessary hardship on the guides in Unit 9.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? In the long-term all persons who utilize the Alaska Peninsula Caribou herd. In the short-term, guides who need the caribou season between moose and bear seasons in order to maintain employment of guides and keep their camps open during this 15-day period.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Hunters south of the Meshik and Aniakchak rivers and guides who are used to the longer caribou season.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Total caribou closure: causes major problems for guides who cannot just close down operations between moose and bear seasons. Mob and Demob costs too high. Lack of continuous employment for cooks, pilots and assistant guides.

PROPOSED BY: Gary King, Jr.	(SC-99S-G-033)
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PROPOSAL 54 - 5 AAC 85.025(3). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR CARIBOU. Amend regulations in Units 9C and 9E as follows:

Nonresidents: 1 bull, Sept. 21 – Oct. 14.

**ISSUE:** A decrease in the Northern Alaska Peninsula Caribou herd justifies a modification in season to reduce harvest. Some nonresident season is warranted, however, and will not jeopardize the health of the herd or create conflicts with other users.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Nonresident hunting opportunity is important economically for many people living in the Unit as well as other areas of the state. It would be contrary to maintaining a balanced allocation system to eliminate nonresident hunting.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Nonresident hunters, guides, and businesses who serve this component of Alaska's tourism industry.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? In a practical and real sense, no one will suffer. Local resident hunting opportunity has not and will not be jeopardized if this regulation in adopted and neither will the health of the herd given low harvest levels.

# OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY:	Alaska Professional Hunters Association	(HQ-99S-G-129)
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**PROPOSAL** 55 - 5 AAC 85.025(3). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR CARIBOU. Reduces the caribou hunting seasons and bag limits for the Northern Alaska Peninsula herd in Units 9C and 9E, and creates a separate season in Unit 9A as follows.

Resident
Open Season
(Subsistence and

(Subsistence and Nonresident General Hunts) Open Season

**Units and Bag Limits** 

OPTION 1

(3)

Unit[S] 9(A)

<u>Aug. 1–Mar. 31</u> [AUG. 10–MAR. 31] Aug. 1-Mar. 31

1 caribou

[RESIDENT HUNTERS: 4 CARIBOU; HOWEVER, NO MORE THAN 1 MAY BE A COW; NO MORE THAN 2 CARIBOU MAY BE TAKEN AUG. 10-AUG. 31; NO MORE THAN 1 CARIBOU MAY BE TAKEN SEPT. 1-NOV. 30 AND ONLY BY A HUNTER WHO HAS TAKEN NO CARIBOU IN THE STATE FROM JULY 1 THROUGH AUG. 31; NO MORE THAN 1 CARIBOU MAY BE TAKEN PER CALENDAR MONTH FROM DEC. 1 THROUGH MAR. 31]

[NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

I BULL]

[AUG. 10-OCT. 31]

Unit 9(B)

**RESIDENT HUNTERS:** 

Aug. 1-Apr. 15

5 caribou; however, no more than 2 bulls may be taken from Oct. 1 through Nov. 30

**NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:** 

2 caribou Aug. 1–Apr. 15

Unit 9C Aug. 10–Sept. 20 No open season.

Nov. 15-Feb. 28

1 or 2 bull caribou; season will be closed when 600 caribou are taken in Units 9(C) and 9(E) combined.

[RESIDENT HUNTERS: 4 BULLS; HOWEVER [AUG. 10–MAR. 31]

4 BULLS; HOWEVER
NO MORE THAN 2 MAY
BE TAKEN AUG. 10- AUG.31;
NO MORE THAN 1 MAY
BE TAKEN SEPT. 1-NOV. 30
AND ONLY BY A HUNTER WHO
HAS TAKEN NO CARIBOU
IN THE STATE FROM JULY 1
THROUGH AUG. 31;
NO MORE THAN 1 MAY
BE TAKEN PER CALENDAR MONTH

FROM DEC. 1 THROUGH MAR. 31]

[NONRESIDENT HUNTERS: [AUG.10-SEPT. 4] 1 BULL] [SEPT.21-OCT. 31]

Unit 9(E)

Aug. 10–Sept. 20

No open season.

Nov. 1–Apr. 30

1 or 2 bull caribou; season will be closed when 600 caribou are taken in Units 9(C) and 9(E) combined

in Units 9(C) and 9(E) combined.

[RESIDENT HUNTERS:

4 BULLS HOWEVER
NO MORE THAN 2 [AUG. 10–APR. 30]

MAY BE TAKEN AUG. 10–AUG. 31; NO MORE THAN 1 MAY BE TAKEN SEPT. 1–NOV. 30, AND ONLY BY A HUNTER WHO HAS TAKEN NO CARIBOU IN

THE STATE FROM JULY 1 THROUGH

MAY BE TAKEN APR. 1-APR. 30]

SEPT. 1: NO MORE THAN 2

# [NONRESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 BULL]

[AUG. 10-SEPT. 4] [SEPT. 21-SEPT. 30]

**OPTION II** 

(3)

Unit[S] 9(A)

Aug. 1-Mar. 31 [AUG. 10-MAR. 31] Aug. 1-Mar. 31

1 caribou

[RESIDENT HUNTERS: 4 CARIBOU; HOWEVER, NO MORE THAN I MAY BE A COW; NO MORE THAN 2 CARIBOU MAY BE TAKEN AUG. 10-AUG. 31; NO MORE THAN 1 CARIBOU MAY BE TAKEN SEPT. 1-NOV. 30 AND ONLY BY A HUNTER WHO HAS TAKEN NO CARIBOU IN THE STATE FROM JULY 1 THROUGH AUG. 31; NO MORE THAN 1 CARIBOU MAY BE TAKEN PER CALENDAR MONTH FROM DEC. 1 THROUGH MAR. 31]

[NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 BULL] [AUG. 10–OCT.31]

Aug. 1-Apr. 15

(Subsistence hunt only)

Unit 9(B)

**RESIDENT HUNTERS:** 

5 caribou; however, no more than 2 bulls may be taken from Oct. 1 through Nov. 30.

**NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:** 

2 caribou Aug. 1–Apr. 15

Unit 9(C) Aug. 10–Sept. 20 No open season

1 or 2 bulls by Tier II permit only; Nov. 15–Feb. 28

up to 600 bulls may be taken in (Subsistence hunt only)
Units 9(C) and 9(E) per regulatory

<u>year</u>

[RESIDENT HUNTERS: 4 BULLS; HOWEVER NO MORE THAN 2 MAY

[AUG. 10-MAR. 31]

BE TAKEN AUG. 10- AUG.31: NO MORE THAN 1 MAY

BE TAKEN SEPT. 1-NOV. 30

AND ONLY BY A HUNTER WHO

HAS TAKEN NO CARIBOU

IN THE STATE FROM JULY 1

THROUGH AUG. 31;

NO MORE THAN 1 MAY

BE TAKEN PER CALENDAR MONTH

FROM DEC. 1 THROUGH MAR. 31]

[NONRESIDENT HUNTERS: I BULL]

[AUG.10-SEPT. 4] [SEPT.21-OCT.31]

Unit 9(E)

Aug. 10-Sept. 20 (Subsistence hunt only)

(Subsistence hunt only)

[AUG. 10-APR. 30]

Nov. 15-Feb. 28

No open season

1 or 2 bulls by Tier II permit only; up to 600 bulls may be taken in

Units 9(C) and 9(E) per regulatory

year . . .

[RESIDENT 11UNTERS:

**4 BULLS HOWEVER** 

NO MORE THAN 2

MAY BE TAKEN AUG. 10-AUG. 31:

NO MORE THAN 1 MAY

BE TAKEN SEPT. 1-NOV. 30, AND

ONLY BY A HUNTER WHO HAS

TAKEN NO CARIBOU IN

THE STATE FROM JULY 1 THROUGH

SEPT. 1; NO MORE THAN 2

MAY BE TAKEN APR. 1-APR. 30]

[NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 BULL]

[AUG. 10-SEPT. 4] [SEPT. 21-SEPT. 30]

**ISSUE:** Results of recent surveys and capture efforts show that caribou in the Northern Alaska Peninsula herd are nutritionally stressed and productivity is only at moderate levels. Unless productivity and survival of females increase substantially, it is likely that the herd will continue to decline. Restrictions in regulations have reduced the harvest, but at this time more drastic reductions are needed to prevent the bull:cow ratio from being reduced below an acceptable level. In 1997-98, an estimated 1,500 caribou were taken from this herd, including both reported and unreported harvests. During 1998, the herd was estimated at 9,200 caribou. The Board of Game adopted emergency regulations in August 1998 to change the resident bag limit to bulls only and to reduce the nonresident season. Composition surveys in October 1998 showed 31

bulls and 30 cows per 100 cows. The 1998-99 winter harvest is impossible to predict, but at this time it looks like there will only be a surplus of approximately 600 bulls available for the 1999-00 season.

Option I is only appropriate if the board revisits the finding of the amount of the Northern Alaska Peninsula caribou population necessary in Units 9C and 9E to provide for subsistence uses and makes a new finding.

Option II is necessary if the board makes no change to the current finding of 1,200 to 1,900 Northern Alaska Peninsula caribou in Units 9C and 9E as being necessary to provide subsistence uses.

There is also the possibility of different hunting regulations being implemented under the federal subsistence program. Harvests anticipated under the federal program need to be taken into consideration when setting harvest goals for hunts under either Option I or Option II.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Overharvests will occur and the bull:cow ratio will be reduced to an unacceptable level.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All caribou hunters will benefit in the long run by not exacerbating the decline of this herd.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Nonresident hunters and guides and transporters will be excluded and resident hunters will be severely restricted.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Two options were considered and both are presented to the board.

**PROPOSAL** 56 - 5 AAC 85.025(3). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR CARIBOU. Amend regulations in Unit 9E as follows:

During Aug. 10 - Nov. 1, bulls taken by sport hunters must either have 6 or more top points, or less than 3 top points. This regulation will sunset in two years.

**ISSUE:** Declining Northern Alaska Peninsula Caribou herd and effort targeting larger breeding bulls. Plus declining ratio of large breeding bulls to smaller bulls.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Decline will continue under the present regulations.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The Northern Alaska Peninsula Caribou herd and all hunters in future years.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Close area to bulls altogether – deemed too restrictive. Closure to all but yearling – rejected as it would eliminate the sport hunt.

PROPOSAL 57 - 5 AAC 85.025(3). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR CARIBOU. Amend this regulation as follows:

Sport hunting on state lands for caribou in Unit 9E is closed.

**ISSUE:** The caribou herd that the people in the villages of Ivanof Bay, Perryville, and the Chigniks have relied on has not been returning for several years. There is no longer adequate subsistence meat available. The Bristol Bay Regional Subsistence Board closed a portion of Unit 9E to sport hunting because of this problem, now the state needs to close the remainder of Unit 9E.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? People from these communities will continue to be unable to meet their subsistence needs.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Subsistence users of Perryville, Ivanof, and the Chigniks will benefit by meeting their subsistence needs.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one. Sport hunters have alternative areas to hunt.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Tier II management for caribou hunts in Unit 9E.

PROPOSAL 58 - 5 AAC 85.025(3). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR CARIBOU. Change this regulation in Unit 9E as follows:

Close caribou hunting Sept. 10 – Nov. 1.

**ISSUE:** Close all hunting for caribou in Unit 9E from Sept. 10 – Nov. 1.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Concerned about numerous fishermen who come into the Pacific side bays and hunt and never report them. Bulls on the Pacific side can be in rut in early Sept.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Less waste of unwanted meat.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Transit fishermen.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Maybe this area should be two rather than four caribou bag limit.

**PROPOSED BY:** Chignik Advisory Committee

(HQ-99S-G-104)

**PROPOSAL 59** - 5 AAC 85.025(3). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR CARIBOU. Change this regulation in Unit 9E as follows:

Reasonable nonresident caribou season in Unit 9E. Caribou season:

Units and Bag Limits Resident Nonresident
Open Season Open Season

(Subsistence and General Hunts)

Unit 9E

RESIDENTS: Aug. 10- Mar. 31

2 bulls

NONRESIDENTS: Aug. 10 – Sept. 7 1 bull Sept. 21 – Oct. 7

ISSUE: Northern Peninsula Caribou herd.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Game management by emotion, rather than sound biological data.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? State of Alaska license and tag sales, registered guides and some local businesses.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? All of above.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSAL 60 - 5 AAC 85.025(3). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR CARIBOU. Change regulations in Unit 9E as follows:

Units and Bag Limits Residents Open Season Open Season

Resident Hunters:

2 bull caribou total Jul. 1 – Aug. 31

1 bull caribou only by a hunter who Nov. 1 – Apr. 30 has taken no other caribou in the state, from Sept. 21 to Oct. 14

2 bull caribou (not to exceed the bag limit of 2 bull caribou per year)

Nonresident Hunters: 1 bull caribou with an antler restriction of not less than 6 or more top points on one side of the antlers.

Sept. 21 - Oct. 14

**ISSUE:** The Northern Alaska Peninsula Caribou herd has declined to a population level that consideration should be given to reduce the hunting season and bag limits of resident and nonresident hunters alike while maintaining hunting opportunity for all user groups.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The Northern Alaska Peninsula Caribou herd may continue to decline.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? These restrictions of hunting harvest over time will help both residents and nonresidents to maintain some hunting season until such a time in the future that the caribou herd rebuilds to higher levels for which the habitat can sustain, therefore returning to a longer season and higher bag limits.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Local resident hunters may suffer because they have had such a liberal bag limit of caribou for so many years which has included the harvest of cows. A reduction from 4 caribou to only 2 bull caribou will be a change for the local resident hunters of Unit 9E. Also, the nonresidnt hunter who would be on a guided or non-guided drop-off hunt will suffer from a substantial reduction of hunting opportunity time in the field, and with the antler restriction in place will further burden the nonresident hunter to be much more selective in the type of bull caribou that would be harvested.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** To change the southern boundary of Unit 9E, by using either the Cinder River or Meshik River drainages as the boundary, making it closed for nonresident hunters only. This boundary closure change would perhaps make some difference in the nonresident hunter harvest levels and would mostly affect guided hunters and some drop-off nonguided hunters. I did not consider this solution at this time because it needs to be determined by harvest data if this drastic boundary change will have the desired effect on target harvest levels.

PROPOSAL 61 - 5 AAC 85.025(3). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR CARIBOU. Amend regulation in Unit 9E to provide the following:

An allocation of 50% of the moose and caribou hunting opportunity to go to nonresidents. (They contribute more than 90% of the funds to conserve and manage the game.

**ISSUE:** Lack of opportunity for nonresident moose or caribou hunting.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Possible expensive court costs since nonresidents are likely to sue for their rights since the State of Alaska accepts significant funds (90%) for management.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Hunters from out of the area in addition to the locals.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? A few locals who must be taking more than their share (i.e., 40 local licenses issued, caribou, limit of four, 1400 harvest).

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Eliminate local hunting. Require other hunters to donate at least 50% of all meat to locals for subsistence. Unfair to locals.

# PROPOSAL 62 - 5 AAC 85.025(15). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR CARIBOU. Amend regulations in Unit 17 as follows:

Caribou	Required	Open
	Permit	Season
Unit 17B and a portion of 17C east of		
the Wood River and Wood River Lakes:		
Residents: Five caribou of which only		
two may be bulls during Oct. 1 – Nov. 30	Harvest	During Jul. 1 – Jul 31
		season may be announced
	Harvest	Open Aug. 1 – Apr. 15
Nonresidents: Two caribou	Harvest	Aug. 1 – Apr. 15

The ADF&G wildlife biologist in Dillingham will have the authority to open the season under an emergency order when Mulchatna caribou are easily accessible by local residents.

**ISSUE:** In late July of 1998, prior, to the August 1 start of the caribou season in Units 9B and 9C, thousands of caribou from the Mulchatna Caribou Herd were concentrated along the banks of the Nushagak River. At that time they were easily accessible by local residents using skiffs on the river. By the time the season opened the herd had moved many miles away from the river and an opportunity by local residents to harvest those animals had been missed. Local residents traveling the river in July could easily harvest caribou and quickly process the meat without spoilage.

The opportunity for local residents subsistence hunters to harvest meat at time when it is easily accessed is very important. Recently it has been especially important due to the economic disaster that local residents are enduring because of the disastrous Bristol Bay commercial fishing season in 1997 and 1998.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Local residents will miss future opportunities to harvest caribou meat efficiently.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Local residents who depend on caribou meat for their basic food needs.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one. The Mulchatna herd is healthy and the ADF&G wildlife biologist in Dillingham has state that the number of caribou that would be taken in July would not be of a significant amount to have any impact on the herd.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Start the season July 1. This solution was rejected because an established season that would benefit hunters whose priority is the horns, and not the meat, of the animals is not acceptable to local residents. Current regulations allow for a hunt during the rutting season in October and November when local residents do not hunt because the meat is not fit to eat.

**PROPOSAL 63** - 5 AAC 85.030(5). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR DEER. Change this regulation in Unit 6 as follows:

Increase the bag limit to five deer per year for residents to give more opportunity to hunters.

**ISSUE:** Since 1996, the weather patterns in Prince William Sound have been extremely mild. The population of deer in most areas has skyrocketed. The problem with an over abundant herd is it can eause serious damage to the winter range, which is desperately needed during an average to harsh winter. This overgrazing can cause more deer to try and find food near the salt water. During heavy snowfall years, the snow freezes solid in areas exposed to heavy surf. The deer that feed along the banks get stranded in the water and deep snow and freeze to death. These winter-kills can take years for the herds to recuperate.

The committee feels that an increase in the bag limit will give greater opportunity to hunters while helping the ADF&G keep the herd size at desired levels thus maintaining a healthier winter range. Unit 6 residents have seen horrible winter-kills in the past and hope to never see them again. These winter-kills take years to fully recover thus eliminating potential harvest possibilities. We feel that acting now by increasing the 1999 bag limit will dramatically help the deer population in the long term.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

 **PROPOSAL 64 - 5** AAC 85.030(6). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR DEER. Amend regulation in Unit 8 as follows:

Reduce the harvest to 2 male deer (2 bucks) per season on the east end of Kodiak Island. Area to include all lands east of a line from Kiliuda Bay to the head waters of the Spiridon River to the mouth of the Spiridon River and Spiridon Bay.

**ISSUE:** Dramatic reduction in deer population on eastern end of Kodiak Island due to winter kill, habitat changes, and over-hunting.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The deer population which is already too low will continue to decline.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All hunters who are interested in increasing the deer population to move normal levels.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one. Local residents can still harvest large numbers under federal law.

# OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Gus Gillespie	(SC-99S-G-006)
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**PROPOSAL 65** - 5 AAC 85.030(5). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR DEER. Change the regulations in Unit 6 as follows:

The Prince William Sound deer season closes Dec. 15.

**ISSUE:** To change the deer hunting season closing date on Prince William Sound from Dec. 31 to Dec. 15.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The problem is after Dec. 15, especially after a lot of snow, the deer are forced out of the woods onto the open beaches. Boats during Christmas vacation from Seward, Valdez, Whittier and Cordova shooting from boats kill 30-70 deer for boat.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The fall deer hunters and the deer.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? The so-called beach deer hunters.

### OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSAL 66 - 5 AAC 85.030(6). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR DEER. Amend regulations in Unit 8 as follows:

Reduce the maximum harvest from 4 to 3 deer, shorten the season from Aug. 1 - Dec. 31 to Aug. 1 - Nov. 30. Establish a mail-in harvest report card for deer just like those used for moose, sheep and caribou.

**ISSUE:** Apparent significant decline in number and quality of deer in Unit 8.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Continued overharvest may damage the resource.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All hunters through higher sustained deer populations.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those hunters who prefer to wait until late season snows drive deer to the beaches and then kill a pile of them.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Reduce harvest to 2 deer/year, but allow the season to run through December.

PROPOSAL 67 - 5 AAC 85.030(6). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR DEER. Amend regulations in Unit 8 as follows:

That portion of Unit 8 that includes all of the 4 deer limit area:

Bag limit (antler restriction): 4 deer, with only one buck having more than 3 points on either antler (not including eyeguard) during the period from Oct. 25 – Dec. 31.

**ISSUE**: Several different values are attached to the Unit 8 deer population, from a variety of user groups. A source of meat for both local and nonlocal Alaskans, a valued hunting experience for both residents and nonresidents, and economic value to guides, transporters, air taxis and Kodiak Island businesses.

In recent years the unregulated segment of commercial users, air taxi lodge operators, and most notably transporters using boats have increased their pressure on the resource dramatically.

The deer population remains high, their numbers more affected by weather patterns. However there has been a noticeable decrease in the availability of bucks with "trophy" or multi-point antlers. With the annual harvest at notably high levels and two-point or fork-horn bucks being passed up in search of "big bucks" they are becoming the predominant genes available for the herd. If this trend continues, the "trophy" gene will be reduced to being an abnormality.

Thus far, with the state and federal governments either unwilling or unable to control the transporter industry, the quality of the hunting experience has, in some areas, been reduced to "unsaleable." If the hunters using the unregulated industry are allowed to continue to harvest four trophy bucks each, the "salability" of a trophy deer hunt on Kodiak will be gone as well.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? After the multi-point gene has been hunted out, the value attached to the Unit 8 deer herd associated with trophy quality bucks will be gone. Resident hunters who wish to take trophy deer will not find them. Unit 8 is the best place in North America to harvest a trophy Sitka blacktail. Management considerations to protect this value will not diminish the other values attached to the resource.

WHO WILL BENEFIT? The Unit 8 deer population. Those hunters who wish to see a diversified gene pool. Those hunters who wish to take trophy-quality deer on Kodiak Island in the future.

**WHO WILL SUFFER?** Those hunters who wish to take more than one trophy buck during the rut or when heavy snow drives them to the beach. Commercial operators including guides who hook their clients based on an opportunity to take more than one trophy buck during the Oct. 25 – Dec. 31 period.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED**: Reduce the bag limit to two deer during the Oct. 25 – Dec. 31 period.

**PROPOSAL 68 -** 5 AAC 85.040(4). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR GOAT. Change this regulation as follows:

Unit 8: Residents and nonresidents: One goat every four regulatory years by permit.

**ISSUE:** At present successful goat hunters can apply year after year by successful drawing applications and completely exclude other hunters who apply and never successfully draw a permit. With a limited number of permits a successful hunter should then be excluded from the drawing system for four years.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Some hunters will never even draw a permit let alone get to hunt while some others will repeatedly draw permits and successfully harvest or at least have the opportunity for a hunt.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Hunters that have applied repeatedly will have a higher percentage rate of successfully drawing a permit, and at least have the opportunity to hunt rather than being excluded by other hunters successfully drawing such a limited permit year after year.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Prior successful hunters will have to suffer a four-year wait to apply for a drawing permit but since they have already successfully harvested a goat I don't see it as a great hardship.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Leaving drawing as is, rejected because the problem is easily solved by only allowing successful hunters apply after four years giving others an opportunity.

**PROPOSAL 69** - 5 AAC 085.045(1). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Reauthorize the existing cow moose season at Berners Bay as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(1) 		
Unit 1(C), Berners Bay drainages 1 moose by drawing permit only; up to 20 permits may be issued	Sept. 15-Oct.15 (General hunt only)	Sept. 15-Oct.15

. . .

ISSUE: This status quo proposal is necessary to accommodate cow moose hunting in Berners Bay. The strategic moose management plan for Berners Bay calls for a post-hunt moose population of 90 moose. A winter survey in January 1998 enumerated 60 moose, indicating that as many as 120 moose may be present in the hunt area. Because of the timing of the survey a reliable sex ratio is not available. The most recent (1994) reliable bull to cow ratio (38:100) information indicated that the cow segment of the population can and should be harvested to curtail population growth. The calf to cow ratio in that survey was 29:100, higher than the 25:100 called for in the plan. The most recent survey found 20% calves in the herd. All 1998 permit holders were successful, killing eight bulls and seven cows. The moose plan calls for 30 hunter-days and ten hunters; in 1998 fifteen hunters expended 29 hunter days.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The population will continue to grow and could exceed carrying capacity of the habitat. The harvest of moose in Berners Bay will be restricted to bulls.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Hunters will have more opportunity to hunt moose. The moose population will benefit from either-sex harvests that will help balance the herd.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: None.

PROPOSAL 70 - 5 AAC 85.045(3). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Reauthorize the existing antlerless moose season at Nunatak Bench as follows:

Resident
Open Season
(Subsistence and Nonresident
General Hunts) Open Season

**Units and Bag Limits** 

(3)

. . .

Unit 5(A), Nunatak Bench

Nov. 15-Feb. 15

Nov. 15-Feb. 15

1 moose by registration permit only; up to 5 moose may be taken

...

**ISSUE:** This proposal to retain the status quo is necessary to continue the any-moose hunting season at Nunatak Bench. The Nunatak Bench strategic moose management plan calls for a post-hunt moose population of 50 moose in this area. Fall 1994 surveys enumerated 25 moose, suggesting that up to 50 moose may be present in the hunt area. The bull to cow ratio from that survey was 17:100, indicating sufficient cows to justify harvesting a limited number of cows. The calf to cow ratio in that survey was 22:100. A late winter survey in January 1996 resulted in the count of 33 moose (18% calves).

During the 1996 season, no moose were taken in this area. In 1997 two people reported hunting and both took bulls, expending a total of 3 hunter days. At the time this proposal was written no moose have yet been taken in the 1998 season.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The harvest of moose at Nunatak Bench will be limited to bulls.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Hunters will have more opportunity to hunt moose. The moose population will benefit from either-sex hunts that will help balance the herd.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: None.

**PROPOSAL** 71 - 5 AAC 85.045(4). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Amend regulations in Unit 6A as follows:

Eliminate the nonresident moose drawing in Unit 6A West to allow residents more opportunity to harvest moose.

**ISSUE:** The past several years have proven to be less than optimum for residents. There has been a reduction of non-antlered harvest in Unit 6C, this to help raise the overall population, a loss of opportunity in Unit 6B due to ADF&G closure of the non-antlered season the past two years, and complete closure this past year due to poor calf survival, and the loss of the non-antlered season in Unit 6A. The lost opportunity for harvesting moose in Unit 6 has led to many families not having an ample supply of meat for the winter.

This committee feels that the elimination of the nonresident drawing permits in Unit 6A West will give added opportunity to residents. The management plan that this advisory committee, ADF&G and the Board of Game developed in 1993 calls for increased opportunity for local residents in Unit 6. Unit 6A is split up into two sections, one east of Cape Suckling and one to the west. The area to the east is considered a trophy area with only bulls with a spread of 50 inches or three brow tines legal. This area is also a harvest area compared to the others which are either drawing or

registration. We feel that there will be no lost hunting opportunity for the nonresidents in Unit 6. ADF&G records show that 50 percent of the animals taken in Unit 6A East are taken by guided nonresidents. Eliminating the nonresident hunt in Unit 6A West will give more opportunity for residents while continuing to allow nonresidents and guides use of their traditional area, Unit 6A East.

### WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSAL 72 - 5 AAC 85.045(4). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in Unit 6A as follows:

Resident
Open Season
(Subsistence and
General Hunts)

Nonresident Open Season

**Units and Bag Limits** 

(4)
Unit 6(A), all drainages into
the Gulf of Alaska from Cape
Suckling to Palm Point

1 moose per regulatory year, only as follows:

RESIDENT HUNTERS:
A <u>bull</u> [MOOSE] by registration permit only; up to 30 bulls may be taken

Sept. 1-Oct. 31 (General hunt only)

An antlerless moose by drawing permit only; up to 30 drawing permits may be issued

Sept. 1-Oct. 31 (General hunt only)

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull by drawing permit only; up to 5 drawing permits may be issued Sept. 1-Oct. 31

Remainder of Unit 6(A)

1 moose per regulatory year, only as follows:

A bull with 50-inch Sept. 1-Oct. 31 Sept. 1-Oct. 31 antlers or antlers with (General hunt only)

3 or more brow tines on one

side

An antlerless moose by registration permit only; up to 20 Nov. 15-Dec. 31 Nov. 15-Dec. 31 (General hunt only)

antlerless moose may be taken

٠.,

**ISSUE:** Antlerless moose seasons must be reauthorized annually. We recommend continuation of the antlerless season to promote population stability. The desirable post-hunt population size in Unit 6A west of Cape Suckling is 300 to 350 moose. A census completed during January 1996 yielded a population count of 316 moose with 45 calves (14%). The reported harvest during 1996 was 24 bulls and 9 cows. Reported harvest during 1997 was 18 bulls. We canceled the antlerless hunt in this area during 1997 because census results indicated that calf survival was poor in adjacent Unit 6B. Reported permit harvest in 6A West during 1998 was 18 legal bulls. We plan to reinstate the antlerless season for 1999 season if calf survival improves.

The desirable post-hunt population size in Unit 6A east of Cape Suckling is 300 to 350 moose. A census completed during January 1996 yielded a population count of 282 moose with 29 calves (10%). Reported harvest was 16 bulls in 1996. A harvest of 10 bulls was reported for 1997. Although no antierless hunts have been held recently to allow the population to increase, harvest of antierless moose may be needed in 1999 to stabilize the population within our management objective.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? If calf survival improves and an antlerless hunt is possible, hunting opportunity will be needlessly lost.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Individuals who desire to hunt antlerless moose in Unit 6A.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSAL 73 - 5 AAC 85.045(4). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Reauthorize the antierless moose season in Unit 6B as follows.

Resident
Open Season
(Subsistence and
General Hunts)

Nonresident Open Season

**Units and Bag Limit** 

Unit 6(B)

I moose per regulatory year, only as follows:

An antlered moose by registration permit only; up to 30 antlered moose may be taken; a moose may not be taken until after 3:00 a.m. on the day following the day on which an airboat is used for transportation, and all airboats used for transportation must display an ADF&G identification number

Aug. 27- Oct. 31 (General hunt only)

No open season.

An antlerless moose by drawing permit only; up to 30 drawing permits may be issued for antlerless moose; during the time the registration permit hunt is in effect, a moose may not be taken until after 3:00 a.m. on the day following the day on which an airboat is used for transportation, and all airboats used for transportation must display an ADF&G identification number.

Aug. 27- Oct. 31 (General hunt only)

No open season.

**ISSUE:** Antlerless moose seasons must be reauthorized annually. We recommend continuation of an antlerless season to promote population stability. Desirable post-hunt population size is 300-350. A census completed during December 1996 yielded a count of 308 moose with 19 (6%) calves. The reported harvest during 1996 was 17 bulls and 6 cows. We canceled the bull and antlerless hunts during 1997 because results of the census indicated that calf survival was poor. The bull hunt was reinstated for the fall 1998 season and the harvest was 23 bulls. We plan to reinstate the antlerless season for 1999 season if calf survival improves.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? If calf survival improves and a season is possible, hunting opportunity will be lost.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Individuals who desire to hunt antlerless moose in Unit 6B.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-99S-G-140)

PROPOSAL 74 - 5 AAC 85.045(4). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Reauthorizes the antierless moose season in Unit 6C as follows:

Resident
Open Season
(Subsistence and

General Hunts)

Nonresident Open Season

**Units and Bag Limit** 

(4)... Unit 6(C)

Sept. 1-Oct. 31 (General hunt only)

No open season.

I moose by drawing permit only; up to 20 permits for bulls and up to 20 permits for antlerless moose may be issued

. . .

**ISSUE:** Antlerless moose seasons must be reauthorized annually. We recommend continuation of an antlerless season to promote population stability. A census completed during December 1996 yielded a population count of 260 moose with 45 (17%) calves. The current population objective, established in 1995, is to allow the population to increase to 400 moose by the year 2006. We will achieve the increase by limiting cow harvest to a maximum of 5 per year. The reported barvest during 1996 was 17 bulls and 5 cows, during 1997 was 18 bulls and 5 cows and during 1998 was 19 bulls and 5 cows.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Hunting opportunity will be lost.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Hunters desiring to take a moose in Unit 6C.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

**PROPOSAL 75** - 5 AAC 85.045(11). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Amend regulations in Unit 13 as follows:

Open an antlerless moose hunt in Unit 13. The season date to be Dec. 1 - Dec. 15, 150 permits to be distributed to subsistence users.

**ISSUE:** Many of the rural hunters within Unit 13 need to have another hunt opened to have their subsistence needs met. The current hunting season for a Tier II moose hunting season and regular moose hunting season do not allow them to have a "reasonable opportunity" to harvest a moose.

Opening an antlerless moose season in December would give the subsistence users an opportunity to harvest a moose.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Many of the rural hunters within Unit 13 do not harvest a moose to provide for their families. To have another hunt open for them would allow greater opportunity to harvest a moose. Some of the rural hunters do not have ATVs to hunt off the highway system, they have to rely on road hunting to harvest a moose. Road hunting to harvest a moose is usually an unsuccessful hunt.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Some of the rural hunters within Unit 13 would benefit by having an antlerless moose hunt open in Unit 13. The additional hunting season for an antlerless moose hunt would give the rural hunters another hunting opportunity to harvest a moose.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one would suffer because the regular moose hunting season and Tier II moose hunt would still be open for all the hunters.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Lengthen the Tier II moose season to Aug. 1 – Sept. 20.

**PROPOSAL 76** - 5 AAC 85.045(11). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Reduce the general season for bull moose in Unit 13 by 11 days with open season dates from September 1 to September 20 as follows:

Units and Bag Limits (11) Unit 13	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
1 bull by Tier II subsistence hunting permit; up to 150 permits may be issued	Aug. 1 – Aug. 19 (Subsistence hunt only)	No open season.
1 bull with spike-fork antlers or 50-inch antlers or antlers with 3 or more brow tines on one side.	Sept. 1 [AUG. 20]-Sept. 20	Sept. 1 [AUG. 20]-Sept. 20

**ISSUE:** The unit-wide bull:cow ratio has declined from 25 bulls:100 cows in 1992 to 18 bulls:100 cows in 1997. In heavily hunted portions of the units, the bull:cow ratio is even lower with only 10 bulls:100 cows. Total bull:cow ratios of 25-30 bulls:100 cows with 10-15 large bulls:100 cows are considered minimum long-term management goals for moose in Unit 13.

Hunting pressure is very heavy in Unit 13 and the harvest of bulls is high. Between 1993 and 1997, harvest data indicate a yearly average of approximately 6,000 hunters took about 1,035 moose a year. Not only was the number of hunters quite high in Unit 13, but they spent almost 47,500 days a year hunting. On average, hunters spent 8.7 days in the field each year from 1993-97 compared to 6.0 between 1986-89.

Calf survival to fall in Unit 13 has been lower since 1990, based on fall sex and age composition data. Fall counts have averaged 20 calves:100 cows since 1990 compared to 27 calves:100 cows observed in counts during the mid-to-late 1980's. Severe winters in the early 1990s resulted in lower overwinter survival of calves, adding to the problem of fewer calves present going into the winter. The result of this decline in survival is that fewer bulls have been recruited into the population in recent years, necessitating a reduction in the bull harvest.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Bull:cow ratios will remain low and could decline further. Current bull:cow ratios are lower than considered acceptable for long-term moose management in Unit 13.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? In the long-term all who utilize moose as increasing bull:cow ratios will provide for higher harvests in the future.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Individuals hunting moose in Unit 13 during 1999 who would like to hunt at times other than September 1 - 20.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** This was the action recommended by the SF/50 Task force based on responses to the moose hunter questionnaire. Reducing season length was the most favored first step to attempt to reduce harvests. Also considered were eliminating fork yearlings from the bag limit, requiring a legal animal to have 4 brow tines or a 50-inch antler spread, and issuing permits.

PROPOSED BY:	Alaska Department of Fish and Game and Spike-Fork/50 Task Force	
	(HQ-99S-G-147	1)
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**PROPOSAL** 77 - 5 AAC 85.045(11). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Change season dates for moose hunting in Unit 13 as follows:

Season dates for moose in Unit 13: Sept. 1 – Sept. 20.

**ISSUE:** Scason dates for moose in Unit 13.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The increase of hunters is putting more pressure on moose in August. Twenty-one percent of moose taken in Unit 13 occurs the last ten days of August.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** This proposal will decrease overall moose harvest by approximately 10% or more which will sustain moose bull:cow ratio as per game management plan for Unit 13.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Shorter moose season will lesson opportunity for August caribou hunters to incidentally take moose.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Tier ll or permit system.

PROPOSAL 78 - 5 AAC 85.045(11). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Amend regulations in Unit 13 as follows:

Unit 13 moose, spike only or 50-inch or 3 brow tines on one side.

**ISSUE:** Hunting pressure on moose to sustain bull:cow ratio.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Tighter restrictions on moose hunting in Unit 13, i.e., permits, Tier II, or complete closure. Continued low bull;cow ratio.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Twenty-five percent of take of moose is spike-fork bulls. With changing regulation to spike only this could help increase bull:cow ratio.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Less opportunity for moose hunters in Unit 13.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Tier II, permit system.

PROPOSAL 79 - 5 AAC 85.045(11). HUNTING SEASON AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Reduce the length of the hunting season for moose in Unit 13 as follows:

Sept. 1 - Sept. 15

If this is not considered by the board as a solution unit-wide, then perhaps this could be done in Unit 13B, which includes our own Delta River drainage which begins as Tangle Lakes. This would also make the moose season coincide with Unit 20D.

At present, the season begins on August 20, coinciding with the beginning of caribou season, and ends on September 20, also coinciding with the ending of caribou season. This area provides hunters with excellent opportunity to search out and find any moose in a given area, and provides moose with little or no cover. Moose season should not run throughout the entire caribou season, making them vulnerable to opportunistic caribou hunters.

**ISSUE:** There is currently a shortage of moose in Unit 13. Too large of a percentage of the bull moose are being harvested. This is in spite of the present restriction of spike-fork or 50-inch antlers or antlers with 3 or more brow tines on at least one side. The overall success rate is low, as the moose population is itself low.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Moose will remain at their present low populations, or may even decrease further

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Hunters seeking to put moose meat on the table, and would be supported by those who believe in taking a biologically sound approach.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Caribou hunters who wish to take an opportunistic moose.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Increase the number of brow tines required from three to four. We do not need to continue to promulgate rules which can change law abiding citizens into criminals by virtue of a simple mistake. The more brow tines that are required, the easier it is to make an error. The easiest approach appears to be that of shortening the overly long season. The generally warm weather of the month of August makes it particularly difficult to properly care for the meat of an animal as large as a moose.

**PROPOSAL 80** - 5 AAC 85.045(11). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Amend regulations in Unit 13 as follows:

Spike-fork antlers or 50-inch antler or antlers with 4 brow tines. This change will protect a much higher percentage of two to four year old bulls than what is being protected now. This is just a partial solution dealing with hunter regulations. The rest of the solution is to remove large amounts of predators.

**ISSUE:** Close to 60% of two to three year old bulls have 3 brow tines. Moose herd declining, very poor calf survival and very low bull:cow ratio. Predation is, and has been very high, especially from bears (ref: Balard 1980), brown/black, and wolves. Unit 13 is losing its base herd and 90% of the harvestable surplus goes to predators.

Spike-fork 50-inch with 3 brow tines does not work in Unit 13 as it did on the Kenai Peninsula. The reason is that on the Kenai Peninsula a 3 brow tine antler configuration is not typical on most bull moose under 50 inches. So most moose under 50 inches are protected. Not so in Unit 13, most moose under 50 inches do have 3 brow tines, so most moose under 50 inches are not protected. Moose under 50 inches are two to four year old bulls, they survive winters better than old moose and are good breeders.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Continued decline – no moose. Protection of young bulls is needed.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Everybody. Bring bull:cow ratio up. Approximately 40% of two-three year old bulls and whole herd in general. Approximately 20-25% of bulls have 4 brow tines.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

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PROPOSAL 81 - 5 AAC 85.045(11). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Change regulations in Unit 13 as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season	Nonresident Open Season
Unit 13		
1 bull by Tier II permit;	Aug. 1 – Aug. 19	
or 1 bull with spike-fork or		
50-inch antlers, or antlers	Sept. 1- Sept. 15	<u>Sept. 1–Sept.20</u>
with 3 or more brow tines	[AUG. 20-SEPT. 20]	[AUG. 20 – SEPT 20]
on at least 1 side		

**ISSUE:** Too much pressure on an already low moose population with a low bull:cow ratio.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Bull:cow ratio will continue to deteriorate and general moose populations will continue to decline.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Hunters, wildlife enthusiasts.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Hunters with limited times to hunt.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Antler restrictions, ORV restrictions, harvest ticket changes, Tier II changes, drawing permit system.

**PROPOSAL 82** - 5 AAC 85.045(11). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Amend this regulation to provide the following:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season	Nonresident Open Season
Unit 13 1 bull by Tier II permit	Aug. 1 – Aug. 19	
1 bull with spike-fork or 50-inch antlers or with 4 or more [3 OR MORE] brow tines on at least one side.	Sept. 1 – Sept. 15 [AUG. 20 – SEPT. 20]	<u>Sept. 1 – Sept. 15</u> [AUG. 20 – SEPT. 20]

ISSUE: Too much hunting pressure on a low moose population with a low bull:cow ratio.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Bull: cow ratio will continue to decline.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Hunters in the long run. Wildlife enthusiasts in general.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those with limited opportunity to hunt.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** ORV restrictions, harvest ticket changes, drawing permits.

PROPOSAL 83 - 5 AAC 85.045(11). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Change season dates in Unit 13 as follows:

Open season Sept. 5 – Sept. 20.

**ISSUE:** The number of days hunting season will be open.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Bull:cow ratio will decline, and impact to environment by ORV activity will be more of a problem if we continue a 30-day season, as we know there are more ORVs every year, and moose herd will decline.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? We could all benefit, as the bull:cow ratio should stay at high levels.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? We should not see anyone suffer although ORV users will not have the option of going in and out of hunting area as many times with shorter season.

### OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSAL 84 - 5 AAC 85.045(11). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Amend this regulation in Unit 13 as follows:

A legal bull moose shall have at least 4 brow tines on one side, or a spread of 50-inches or more measured in a straight line perpendicular to the center line of the skull.

**ISSUE:** Minimum brow tine restriction.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Bull:cow ratio will continue to decline.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? We will all benefit as we will increase the large bull:cow ratio.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? It is not likely anyone will suffer, although we may see fewer bulls taken for a year or two.

### OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSAL 85 - 5 AAC 85.045(11). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Amend regulations in Unit 13 as follows:

Adopt the same language used in the 90-91, 91-92, and 92-93 hunting regulations:

Nonresidents: Unit 13 closed to moose hunting

Residents: 1 moose per household, 50-inch or 3 brow tines

Aug. 20 – Sept. 20.

**ISSUE:** Stop moose hunting in Unit 13 by nonresident hunters until a population of 20,000 to 25,000 moose can obtained or until excessive restriction on moose hunting (i.e., 50-inch or 3 brow tine, spike-fork only, or any season restrictions) has been removed. Moose populations in Unit 13 have been heavily impacted by better access to normally inaccessible moose populations. This is done by using ATVs, predators like wolves and bears, more air taxi pressure and moose calf mortality. In some areas of Unit 13 calf survival is almost zero due to the unusually high number of black and brown bear.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Resident hunters will have fewer opportunities to harvest moose due to more harvest restrictions, shorter seasons, off-road restrictions and closed seasons. Moose populations will continue to decline.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Alaska residents who need to harvest moose in Unit 13.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Nonresident hunters.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Shorter seasons and 50-inch and 4 brow tines. Early season hunts do not impact moose as much as September hunting. There are not enough 4 brow tine moose.

Close Unit 13 to moose hunting by nonresident hunters.

**ISSUE:** Decreasing population of harvestable moose and increasing hunting pressure for the available moose in Unit 13.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Alaska residents hunting in this area can expect to have an increasingly difficult time harvesting moose for their families.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Alaskan resident hunters in Unit 13.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Nonresident hunters, some guides and some outfitters. A similar closure was instituted in 1990-1993.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** We also need to look long and hard at swelling populations of black bear and wolves in Unit 13. Moose calf survival is nearly nonexistent in much of the area.

**PROPOSAL** 87 - 5 AAC 85.045(13). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in a portion of Unit 15C as follows:

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

(13)...Unit 15(C), that portion beginning at the mouth of Falls Creek on Kachemak Bay, then northerly along Falls Creek to the headwaters, then northwesterly approximately 1 mile to the headwaters of the Anchor River, then downstream along the South Fork of the Anchor River, to the bridge at the North Fork Road approximately 3 miles from the Sterling Highway to where Diamond Creek crosses the road. then downstream from the Sterling Highway to Kachemak Bay, then along the mean tide line to the point of origin

1 bull with spike-fork antlers or 50-inch antlers or antlers with 3 or more brow tines on one side Aug. 20-Sept. 20 (General hunt only)

Aug. 20-Sept. 20

1 antlerless moose by drawing

Nov. 1-Nov. 30

Nov. 1-Nov. 30

permit only; the taking of calves, and females accompanied by calves, is prohibited; up to 50 permits may be issued

ISSUE: Antlerless moose seasons must be reauthorized annually. The Homer benchland in Unit 15C serves as traditional moose wintering range. Moose migrate into lower elevation areas when snow levels in upper elevations increase, and much of the browse becomes unavailable. During moderate to severe winters, moose are concentrated onto the Homer benchland earlier and in greater numbers than during mild winters. High winter moose densities calculated at six moose per mile during February of 1992 have resulted in severely overbrowsed habitat. Recent survey results indicate that the population remains high with excellent production (64 calves per 100 cows). Many willow stands have become decadent with low annual browse production. In some areas, shrubs are dying from severe overbrowsing.

Winter mortality of moose, primarily calves, from starvation has occurred every year since 1988. The magnitude of the problem has varied with the severity of the winters. The winter of 1994-1995 was moderately severe with 43 starved moose reported. The past two winters have been mild. In 1995-96 there was no recorded winter mortality and two dead 1996-97. The 1997-98 winter was again moderately severe with 51 dead.

The department has initiated a program to improve habitat conditions on the Homer benchlands. Goals of this program are to reduce the moose population to allow the decadent browse stands to recover. The department begun enhancement projects to improve production and availability. We estimated that it would take 5 to 10 years to reduce the moose population to a size that existing habitat could support and which could sustain an annual harvest of 25 to 30 moose. The existing antlerless moose hunt has only been in place for four years.

Sixteen moose were harvested by 30 permittees during the 1995 season, 22 moose by 40 permittees during 1996, and 21 moose by 40 permittees during 1997. Preliminary results indicate that 11 moose were taken by 50 permittees during the 1998 season. The lower than average harvest was a result of the smaller hunt area and lack of moose movement into the hunt area from higher elevations.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The overall carrying eapaeity of this area will decline as decadent browse stands die off from continued overbrowsing.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Wildlife viewers and hunters receiving permits.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Individuals opposed to hunting.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSAL 88 - 5 AAC 85.045(13). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Amend regulations in Unit 15 as follows:

Remainder of Unit 15A, and 15B: Residents and nonresidents. One bull with spike-fork or 50-ineh antlers with 3 or more brow tines on at least one side, by bow and arrow only: Aug. 10 – Aug. 17;

Or:

One bull with spike-fork or 50-inch antlers or antlers with three or more brow tines on at least one side: Aug. 20 - Sept. 20.

**ISSUE:** The opening of Unit 15B to the taking of moose with a bow and arrow from Aug. 10–Aug. 17, with the existing spike-fork or 50-inch or three brow tine regulation. Excluding that portion of Unit 15B bounded by a line running from the mouth of Shantatilak Creek on Tustumena Lake, northward to the headwaters of the west fork of Funny River, then downstream along the west fork of Funny River to the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge boundary; then east along the refuge boundary to its junction with the Kenai River; then eastward along the south side of the Kenai River and Skilak Lake; then south along the western side of Skilak River, Skilak Glacier, and Harding Icefield; then west along the Unit 15B boundary to the mouth of Shantatilak Creek.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? As there really is not a problem at this time, what this regulation change will do is effectively give any hunter who wishes more time to hunt moose, and who is willing to take up the bow and arrow and passes the state's bowhunter education course, the opportunity to increase his time in the field with minimal effect on the game populations. I also believe that it will reduce the chances of a hunting related accident in our evergrowing populated areas. Bowhunting has proven to be very safe in its long history. This will also relieve some of the bowhunting pressure in Unit 15A by expanding the area that these hunters have now. It will also allow those hunters on the Lower Peninsula closer access to the bowhunting areas.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All hunters who are willing to, or who have already, taken up the bow and arrow and have passed the state's bowhunter education course. Anyone who lives in an urban area where taking the young bulls out of the area before the general hunting seasons might prevent an accident during that season since the bow is a relatively short range hunting tool.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? I believe that no one would suffer from this action, as it does not take anything away from anyone. It just adds more hunting opportunity.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** No other solutions have been considered because archery is the only option that has been proven (by way of the Unit 15A hunt and the archery registration hunts for goats) to allow maximum time in the field with minimal harvest. It is also the only option that requires the hunter to attend and pass the state certified bowhunting education course with a mandatory proficiency test.

**PROPOSAL 89** - 5 AAC 85.045(13). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in the Skilak Loop Wildlife Management Area of Unit 15A as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(13) Unit 15(A), the Skilak Loop Wildlife Management Arca		
1 moose by drawing permit only; up to 30 permits for spike-fork antlered moose may be issued	Sept. 15-Sept. 30 (General hunt only)	Sept. 15-Sept. 30
1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only, up to 50 permits may be issued; the taking of calves, and females accompanied by calves is prohibited	Sept. 15-Sept. 30 (General hunt only)	No open season.
* * *		

ISSUE: Antlerless moose seasons must be reauthorized annually. The density of moose in Skilak Loop Wildlife Management Area (SLWMA) exceeds the management objective of two moose per square mile. The SLWMA was closed to moose hunting in 1987 to allow the summer and fall resident population to increase. A joint management objective developed for this area by the department and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service calls for a fall population of approximately two moose per square mile or about 130 moose counted during the fall survey. A survey completed in November 1998 covering about 90 percent of the hunt area, yielded a count of 164 moose composed of 43 bulls (8 spike-fork, 7 yearlings with antlers 3-point or larger, 15 mid size, and 13 with antlers 50 inches or larger), 100 cows and 21 calves. Ratios observed were 43 bulls per 100 cows and 21 calves per 100 cows. Because the SLWMA is managed for a primary goal of wildlife viewing, another management objective requires that we maintain a minimum bull:cow ratio of 40 bulls per 100 cows. Because the 1998 bull:cow ratio was above this objective, we anticipate allowing a harvest of bulls at this time. The last antlerless moose season was held during 1998 when 40 permits were issued and 11 antlerless moose were harvested.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The SLWMA is a wintering area for moose. During moderate to severe winters, this area supports up to 300 moose, more than twice the desired resident population size. If resident moose are allowed to increase beyond the management objective, excessive use of the habitat will occur, affecting both resident and migratory moose that depend on this area. Viewing opportunities will be adversely affected as well.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Wildlife viewers and hunters receiving permits.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Increase the moose carrying capacity of the area. Additional habitat enhancement is expensive and no projects are currently planned.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-99S-G-156)

PROPOSAL 90 - 5 AAC 85.045(13). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Amend this regulation in Unit 15A to include the following:

1 bull with spike-fork antlers or 50-inch antlers, or antlers with 3 or more brow tines on at least one side by bow and arrow only: Sept. 23 – Sept. 30.

**ISSUE:** Open an archery-only hunt in Unit 15A from Sept. 23 – Sept. 30.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Nothing of significant importance. However, due to the thick cover in this area it make it very difficult for archers in the early season (Aug. 10 – Aug. 17).

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All archers who wish to be in the field with an increased opportunity to harvest a moose.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** A drawing permit for the above. I rejected this for the above because I feel with the amount of archers and the success rate for them in this area will sustain an opening for a harvest ticket.

PROPOSED BY: Grant Arii

(SC-99S-G-009)

PROPOSAL 91 - 5 AAC 85.045(13). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Amend regulations in Unit 15A to include the following.

Open up an early November permit hunt for spike-fork 50-inch bull moose, limited as determined by Fish and Game. Nov. 1 – Dec. 10, that portion of Unit 15A east of Mystery Creek Road and south of the Gas Pipeline Road (25 permits issued).

ISSUE:

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Nothing.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All hunters who wish to have a quality late fall hunt.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Jim Wood

(HQ-99S-G-037)

PROPOSAL 92 - 5 AAC 85.045(13). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Change regulations in Units 15A and 7 as follows:

Unit 15A, east of Mystery Creek Road and Pipeline Road, and Unit 7 will be open for the taking of one bull moose under the current spike-fork 50-inch regulations from Oct. 20–Nov. 20 by drawing permit. (25 permits per year to be issued.)

ISSUE: Lack of late season, road accessible, moose hunting on the Kenai Peninsula.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Many hunters will not have the opportunity to experience a late season hunt due to monetary and/or logistical considerations.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Hunters who would like to experience a quality, road accessible late season hunt. Also, the Department of Fish and Game will benefit from the additional permit revenue.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Applying for Unit 15B East permits. Too expensive if you don't have access to horses.

PROPOSAL 93 - 5 AAC 85.045(5). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in a portion of Units 7 and 14C as follows:

Resident
Open Season
(Subsistence and Nonresident
Units and Bag Limits General Hunts)
Open Season
(5)...
Unit 7, the Placer River Aug. 20-Oct. 10
drainages, and that portion of the Placer Creek
(Bear Valley) drainage

1 moose by drawing permit only; up to 60 permits for bulls and up to 70 permits for antlerless moose will be issued

outside the Portage

River drainage

Glacier Closed Area, and that portion of Unit 14(C) within the Twentymile ISSUE: Antlerless moose seasons must be reauthorized annually. Total moose observed during annual trend counts in 1996-1998 were 168, 173, and 181 moose, respectively. During those years, the ratios of the number of bulls per 100 cows were 37, 30, and 24, respectively. The ratios of the number of calves per 100 cows were 40, 47, and 30, respectively. The estimated population of 225 moose is slightly below the management objective of 250. The population peak of 333 moose in 1990 probably exceeded the carrying capacity of the habitat and an aerial survey completed two years later found that many of the moose had dispersed or died. The population also declined 25 to 30% during the severe winter of 1994-95. Consequently, harvest quotas and the number of permits issued were reduced in 1997 and 1998. Bull harvests from 1995 through 1997 were 16, 21, and 15 moose, respectively. Cow harvests over the same period were 5, 3, and 4 moose, respectively. No antlerless permits were issued in 1998.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The population will probably increase and could suffer major losses during a severe winter. Habitat may be overbrowsed, reducing carrying capacity in subsequent years, and road and train kills will increase.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? People who obtain a drawing permit, wildlife viewers and motorists driving in the Portage area. Visitor use is high and viewing is an important activity in this area.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: None.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-99S-G-143)

PROPOSAL 94 - 5 AAC. 85.045(12). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Reauthorize the drawing permit hunts for antlerless moose in Unit 14A as follows:

Resident Open Season (Subsistence and

(Subsistence and General Hunts)

Nonresident Open Season

Units and Bag Limits (12) Unit 14(A)

An antlerless moose by drawing permit only; up to 600 antlerless moose permits may be issued

Aug. 20-Sept. 20 (General hunt only) Nov. 1-Nov. 15 (General hunt only)

No open season.

ISSUE: Antlerless moose hunts must be reauthorized annually by the board. The subpopulation of moose in Unit 14A is near the post-hunt objective (5,500 moose with 3,440 being cows). A high natality rate and a high over-winter survival rate, despite moderate levels of accidental mortality on highways and railroads in this subpopulation, make up to 300 antlerless moose

surplus in any given year. During November 1998 we observed 33 calves:100 cows and a segment estimate of 3,200 cows. With an average winter we are expecting 20-30% mortality of calves and 6-7% mortality of cows in addition to accidental deaths. Reported harvest of cows during fall 1996 was 283 (570 permits issued), during 1997 were 249 (520 permits issued), and preliminary results for cow harvest for 1998 (470 permits) was 205.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? There will be no antlerless moose hunt. The Unit 14A moose subpopulation will quickly grow beyond the ability of the habitat to sustain that population level. Starvation of moose and conflicts with humans will occur.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All who wish a healthy, productive moose population in the Matanuska-Susitna valleys and those who wish to use antlerless moose for consumption.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSAL 95 - 5 AAC 85.045(12). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Amend this regulation in Unit 14A as follows:

Antlerless moose shall not be taken in the Willow Creek drainage of Unit 14A.

**ISSUE:** The over hunting of moose (antlerless mainly) in the Willow Creek drainage. Hatcher Pass Road.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Hunting will be stopped in the not so distant future for lack of moose, there is 1/10 the moose in this area as when I got here in 1976 and declining.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All who enjoy moose. Hunters, residents of the area, tourists and other wildlife dependent on moose for survival.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one will suffer; road hunters will be inconvenienced as most cows taken in this area are taken by permitees who drive up and down Hatcher Pass Road.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** There are no other solutions to an absence of animals, save rejuvenated the population.

**PROPOSAL 96** - 5 AAC 85.045(12). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Amend this regulation in Unit 14A as follows:

No open season for nonresidents for antierless moose hunts in all game units, specifically Unit 14A. Also, no open season for nonresidents for any bull by drawing in Unit 14A Nonresidents should only be able to hunt using a harvest ticket since they are trophy hunters not meat hunters.

#### ISSUE:

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? More declining moose population due to heavy hunting pressure from easy access, Anchorage Bowl residents cannot hunt in Anchorage, and high road kills.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Greater game resources for Alaskans who are dependent on game for personal and family use for sustenance. Too many residents can no longer fill their freezers with existing open seasons available to nonresidents for drawing permits Re: AS 16.05.255(d) – taking of moose, deer, elk, and caribou by residents for personal or family use has preference over taking by nonresidents.

## WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?

#### OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSAL 97 - 5 AAC 85.045(12). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Amend this regulation as follows:

Eliminate the antierless moose hunt in Unit 14A (DM-420).

**ISSUE:** A herd of 80-200 moose now consists of 8-10 moose (Upper Willow Creek and Bald Mountain Ridge). Mild winters allow bears to hunt moose all year.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Moose will be extinct in much of Units 14A and 14B.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? No one, unless brown bears and wolves are controlled at the same time. In the long run, protecting the cows will help the herd recover faster and residents of the unit will once again have wild game to eat.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? The winners of the drawing permits who are lucky enough to find a moose.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Limit all cow hunts to a 10-mile strip along highways and railroad. Rejected: a wounded cow might drop 52,850 feet from the road.

**PROPOSAL 98 -** 5 AAC 85.045(12). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Change this regulation in Units 14A and 14B as follows:

1 bull with spike-fork antlers or 50-inch antlers or antlers with 3 or more brow tines on at least one side by bow and arrow only: Sept. 23 – Sept. 30.

**ISSUE:** Hunting season and bag limit for moose. Open an archery-only hunt in Units 14A and 14B from Sept. 23 – Sept. 30.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Nothing of significant importance. However, due to the thick cover in this area it makes it very difficult for archers in the early season (Aug. 10 – Aug. 17).

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All archers who wish to be in the field with an increased opportunity to harvest a moose.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** A drawing permit for the above. I rejected this for the above because I feel with the amount of archers and the success rate for them the area will sustain an opening for a harvest ticket.

**PROPOSAL 99** - 5 AAC 85.045(12). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Change the archery only season in Units 14A and 14B as follows:

Spike-fork 50-inch or 3 brow tines, by bow and arrow only, Oct. 15 - Oct. 31.

**ISSUE:** To change the date of the current archery only moose hunting season Units 14A and 14B to Oct. 15 - Oct. 31.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The present date of Aug. 10 – Aug. 20 has shown to be too warm, presenting a problem with adequate care of the meat.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Archery hunters and others who may be interested in expanded outdoor opportunities.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Nobody would suffer because nothing would be eliminated, only added.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

# PROPOSAL 100 - 5 AAC 85.045(12). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR

MOOSE. Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in the Birchwood Management Area and the remainder of Unit 14C as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(12) 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
I moose by drawing permit, by bow and arrow only; up to 25 permits may be issued  Remainder of Unit 14(C)	(General num omy)	
1 moose per regulatory year, only as follows:		
A bull with spike/fork antlers or 50-inch antlers or antlers with 3 or more brow tines on one side	Day after Labor Day - Sept. 20 (General hunt only)	Day after Labor Day - Sept. 20
An antlerless moose by drawing permit only; up to 60 permits may be issued	Day after Labor Day - Sept. 20 (General hunt only)	No open season.

**ISSUE:** Antlerless moose seasons must be reauthorized annually. Composition counts are not routinely flown in the Birchwood Management Area. However, we believe that a small resident population of 10-15 moose as well as an equal number of animals from Fort Richardson frequent the area. During the 1996 season, archers took one bull, and in 1997, one cow. Five antlerless permits were issued during 1997 and 1998.

The number of cow moose in those portions of the remainder of Unit 14C where antlerless moose hunts are held appears to be about the same as in the early 1990s. Cows observed during annual trend counts from 1990 through 1994 ranged from 179-154. The moose populations in these drainages appear to be at or near carrying capacity. Cow harvests reported for 1996 and 1997 hunting seasons were five and one moose, respectively. Twenty-five permits were issued in 1997 and 40 in 1998.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The opportunity to harvest antlerless moose will be lost, and urban moose-human conflicts will likely increase.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Persons who acquire permits for antherless moose hunts.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Long-term, large-scale habitat enhancement is desirable but difficult because of costs and conflicts with military operations.

 $\underline{PROPOSAL}$  103 - 5 AAC 85.045(12). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Amend regulations in Unit 14C to include the following:

Unit 14C, that portion of unit (to be defined by the Anchorage Advisory Committee). Establish this area as a muzzle loading rifle only area. Whenever the department's data indicate there is a harverstable surplus a hunt is desirable, the appropriate number of permits by sex will be determined by the department and allocated to muzzle loading hunters. Appropriate number of days during period Nov. 15 – Jan. 15 as determined by department biologists. One moose per two person team, applying as a party, in either a drawing or registration hunt. Teammates would be required to stay within voice contact while hunting to assure only one moose is taken. The team approach offers the additional benefit of prompt retrieval of moose meat from the field.

**ISSUE:** Increasing frequency of "problem moose" in portions of the Unit 14 during winter has been well documented in recent years. Department biologists have established there is a harvestable surplus. The department has delayed implementing hunts to address the problem because of fear the public would not accept this solution. Last year a poll showed that most anchorage residents would support herd reduction by some form of well-managed harvest.

There is inadequate opportunity for muzzle loading hunters to hunt moose using tools that historically provided meat and clothing without substantial investment in travel. The McKinley Mountainmen Muzzle Loading Rifle club and the Alaska State Muzzle Loaders Association have proposed hunts repeatedly. We have supported mandatory hunter education and certification to help ensure positive results. History of the Fort Richardson hunt has shown there is high interest in muzzle loading only hunts in the greater Anchorage area. The benefit to cost ratio would certainly cover any additional costs of monitoring and enforcement.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Continuation of a growing moose herd with resultant damage to the range and eventual starvation occurring in an area. Continued complaints from citizens about "too many moose." Continued under representation of muzzle loading hunting in design of special drawing hunts.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Black powder muzzle loader hunters and hunters within the general population who choose to hunt with muzzle loading firearms. Muzzleloaders possess the ballistic characteristics to minimize long range hazards but possess the needed knockdown power at 40 to 100 yards. The McKinley Mountainmen collected data concerning results achieved in the first four years of the popular Fort Richardson hunt and prepared reports for the consideration of the Board, Fort Richardson Command and others who were interested. Due to the lower harvesting efficiency of muzzleloaders more recreation days afield will be provided by the harvestable surplus.

Citizens of greater Anchorage who have experienced, and will otherwise experience in the future, moose encounters that scare children waiting for school buses, joggers, skiers, and dog owners who suffer scares or injury sufficient to cause them to stop recreating on the trails in greater Anchorage,

home owners who suffer damage to trees and shrubbery or have a moose die of starvation in their yard, and motorists who incur substantial property damage and physical injury in moose/car collisions.

ADF&G revenue. As was demonstrated in the moose hunt at Fort Richardson, it is predictable that hundreds of permit applications will increase the revenue available to the department. In 1992, the Fort Richardson hunt generated \$6,760 from 1,352 applications for 25 permits (5408 or \$270.40/permit). ADF&G should have the needed flexibility to regulate the harvest in accordance with winter range snow depths and moose population levels.

Businesses in the area. In the first year of the Fort Richardson hunt, in which only 25 black powder permits were issued, a minimum of \$238 per hunter was expended that would not have been spent otherwise.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? We have identified no one who would suffer since this area has been closed to hunting in the recent past.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** See the 17 or more proposals offered in previous years for areas specific ideas. We decided against resubmitting these or other area specific proposals and instead offer this generic proposals and ask the department, Anchorage Advisory Committee, and the Board of Game to help flesh out the proposal.

We also have submitted a separate proposal to require hunter safety and shoot proficiency certification for those selected to participate in any hunts approved as a result of this proposal or any similar proposals.

PROPOSAL 104 - 5 AAC 85.045. HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Amend regulations in Unit 14C as follows:

Unit 14C, the Eklutna Lake Management Area:

Residents and nonresidents: one bull by bow and arrow only, up to six bulls may be taken by. registration hunt.

Sept. (day after Labor Day) – Oct. 20

Extend the closing date for the Eklutna Lake Management Area registration moose season by 20 days or until closed by emergency order and reduce the maximum harvest from 10 to 6 bulls. The new season would be the day after Labor Day (the current season opening) to October 20.

**ISSUE:** The bow only registration hunt in the Eklutna drainage has consistently seen a low harvest of animals. Current regulations allow a maximum of 10 bulls to be taken but the annual take is usually one to three. Extending the current registration season and reducing the maximum take would allow increased hunter opportunity without jeopardizing the current moose population. Since this is already a registration hunt, Fish and Game has the means to closely monitor the hunt and close it by emergency order should the take reach its limit.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Hunting opportunity in the Eklutna drainage will continue to be underutilized.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Moose hunters looking for increased late season hunting opportunity.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one is likely to suffer. At this time of year, most other recreational activities in the Eklutna drainage have ended.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Extending the season to October 20, but leaving the maximum number of bulls taken at 10. This idea was rejected based on conversations with local Fish and Game biologists. Fish and Game has not surveyed the area in sometime and is unsure if a harvest of 10 is currently beneficial for area management. Limiting the harvest to 6 will help ensure that the area moose population stays at maximum levels.

**PROPOSAL** 105 - 5 AAC 85.045(12). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Lengthen the fall general moose hunting season in the remainder of Unit 14C where hunting is allowed under a general season, as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(12)		
Remainder of Unit 14(C)		
1 moose per regulatory year, only as follows:		
A bull with spike-fork antlers or 50-inch antlers or antlers with 3 or more brow tines on one side	Day after Labor Day - <u>Sept. 25</u> [SEPT. 20] (General hunt only)	Day after Labor Day – <u>Sept. 25</u> [SEPT. 20]
An antlerless moose by drawing permit only; up to 60 permits may be issued	Day after Labor Day - <u>Sept. 25</u> [SEPT. 20] (General hunt only)	No open season.

**ISSUE:** During October 1997, the Division of Wildlife Conservation convened a task force to evaluate the Spike-Fork 50-inch or 3 brow tine (SF/50) selective harvest strategy currently used for harvest management in southcentral Alaska. The task force consisted of members of four advisory committees, four biologists, a planner and an enforcement officer. The review consisted mainly of two parts: a hunter survey designed to study hunter satisfaction with the SF/50 harvest

strategy, and a biological evaluation of the effects of the SF/50 harvest strategy on area populations. The task force made their recommendations in early November 1998.

For Units 14A and 14B, the task force recommended retaining the SF/50 selective harvest strategy and lengthening the fall general season by five days (see separate proposal). To minimize hunter confusion, we believe the regulations in the remainder of Unit 14C, the only portion of Unit 14C where hunter effort is not controlled with permits, should mirror that change. Portions of the remainder of Unit 14C adjoin Unit 14A. Bull:cow ratios in Unit 14C are adequate, and should not be adversely affected by this change.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Hunter opportunity in Unit 14C will be unnecessarily restricted, and hunters may be confused about the differing season closing dates in adjoining areas. When the SF/50 selective harvest strategy was first initiated in 1993, we mistakenly forgot to include the remainder of Unit 14C. This caused some confusion until regulations were aligned with the rest of Unit 14.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? People hunting during the fall general season will benefit from five extra days of hunting, especially as leaves drop and moose approach the rutting period.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Some members of the general public who pursue other recreational activities in this portion of Unit 14C may be unhappy if the hunting season is lengthened.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** The task force deliberated on the merits of eliminating antler restrictions altogether and recommending a shorter, any-bull general season. Some members believe this would put too much harvest pressure on the liberalized areas. The group decided that the longer SF/50 season would work better to provide additional harvest while conserving moose populations and maintaining hunter opportunity, especially during harsh weather events.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game	(HQ-99S-G-150)
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<u>PROPOSAL</u> 106 - 5 AAC 85.045(12). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Change the regulation in Unit 14 as follows:

No open season for nonresidents to hunt moose.

# **ISSUE:**

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? An increasing declining moose population due to heavy hunting pressure from easy access as well as excessive road kills.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Greater game resources for Alaskans who are dependent on game for personal and family use for sustenance. Too many residents can no longer fill their freezers with existing open seasons available to nonresidents for drawing permits (i.e., any bull) and harvest tickets.

Re: AS 16.05.255(d) taking of moose for personal or family use has preference over taking by nonresidents. Nonresidents are trophy hunters not meat hunters.

# WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?

# OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSAL 107 - 5 AAC 85.045(12) and (14). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Change regulations in Unit 14 and Unit 16 as follows:

In Units 14 and 16 change the definition of a legal bull moose from spike-fork 50-inch antlers or 3 brow tines to spike-fork 40-inch antlers or 3 or more brow tines; extend the September season for residents and nonresidents in Units 14B and 16A, and delete all drawing permits for any bull in Units 14A, 14B, and 16A. No changes to the hunting season length are proposed for Units 14A, 14C or 16B; the only change to the regulations would be the "new" spike-fork 40-inch regulation which would also apply to the archery season. No changes of any kind are proposed for Kalgin Island or any of the Tier II drawing permits in Unit 16B.

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season	Nonresident Open Season	
Unit 14A	Spike-fork 40-inch or 3 brow tines	Spike-fork 40-inch or 3 brow tines	
One bull with spike-fork <u>40-inch</u> [50-INCH] antlers or 3 brow tines	Aug. 20 – Sept. 20	Aug. 20 – Sept. 20	
OR one bull with spike-fork antlers	Nov. 20 – <u>Nov. 30</u> [DEC. 15]	Nov. 20 – <u>Nov. 30</u> [DEC. 15]	
[OR ANY BULL BY PERMIT]	Delete all seasons for any bull permits		
Units 14B, 16A			
One bull with spike-fork 40-inch [50-INCH] antlers or 3 brow tines	Aug. 20 – <u>Sept. 30</u> [SEPT. 20]	Aug. 20 – <u>Sept. 30</u> [SEPT. 20]	
OR one bull with spike-fork antlers	Nov. 20 – <u>Nov. 30</u> [DEC. 15]	Nov. 20 – <u>Nov. 30</u> [DEC. 15]	
[OR ANY BULL BY PERMIT]	Delete all seasons for any bull permits		
Remainder of 14C (including Chugach State Park)			
One bull with spike-fork 40-inch [50-INCH] antlers or 3 brow tines	Sept. 8 – Sept. 20	Sept. 8 – Sept. 20	

Unit 16B No change except 40-inch regulation

Mainland drainage south and west of the Beluga River, Beluga Lake, and Triumvirate Glacier

One bull with spike-fork 40-inch [50-INCH] antlers or 3 brow tines OR one bull by Tier II permit	Aug. 20 – Sept. 30	No open season.
	Nov. 15 – Feb. 28	No open season.
Unit 16B, remainder One bull with spike-fork 40-inch	Aug. 20 – Sept. 30	Aug. 20 – Sept. 30
[50-INCH] antlers or 3 brow tines or one bull by Tier II permit	Nov. 15 – Feb. 28	No open season.
Unit 16B, Kalgin Island		
One bull	Aug. 20 – Sept. 20	Aug. 20 – Sept. 20
OR one antlerless moose by permit drawing	Aug. 20 – Sept. 20	Aug. 20 – Sept. 20

**ISSUE:** The spike-fork 50-inch regulation first became effective in fall 1993. It was implemented primarily to increase bull:cow ratios by reducing hunter success in units with high hunting pressure (such as Unit 14A). The regulation was probably not necessary in Units 14B, 16A, or 16B because bull:cow ratios were close to, or within management guidelines under the "old" regulations where any bull was legal. However, as a result of the spike-fork 50-inch regulation, hunter success declined much more dramatically than anticipated. The bull harvest was cut by 20-40% in Units 14B, 16A and 16B. The regulation accomplished its intended purpose of increasing bull:cow ratio, but since its inception, annual harvests in Units 14B and 16 have remained below stated harvest management objectives. It is unlikely that the harvest will significantly increase, unless regulations are substantially modified. Harvest will likely remain below management harvest guidelines for two principal reasons. 1) Units 14 and 16 are heavily forested, and 2) current hunting seasons occur primarily at time when the forest is till heavily vegetated, a time when access and visibility is the most limited. Even hunters who are highly experienced have a difficult time judging whether a moose bas legal antlers, especially when that animal stands among or moves quickly through a heavily forested canopy. Many hunters have told us, it is nearly impossible to accurately determine the legal status of any moose under these conditions. Consequently, even when moose are legal, they are frequently not taken because hunters are not 100% confident that the moose is, in fact, legal. In the short time frame available to judge a moose, hunters often refrain from shooting because they do not want to take a chance of harvesting an illegal animal.

The foregoing facts make it clear that an increase in the harvest of moose in Units 14B and 16 is warranted, but higher harvests will probably not occur in the near future without substantial changes in the current regulations. The Matanuska Valley Advisory Committee in close coordination with staff from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game have looked at various scenarios to achieve a higher harvest. We have worked with staff to identify an antler configuration that more closely matches the harvestable surplus of bulls in Units 14 and 16, and in addition we have adjusted hunting seasons to match hunting conditions and moose populations in specific subunits. Throughout the process, we have worked to maximize participation and harvest

opportunity by all the public, while maintaining regulatory consistency whenever possible. We propose elimination of the drawing permit season for any bull because we want those bulls available to the entire hunting public, not just a few lucky individuals who happen to draw a permit. Modeling shows that when we eliminate the permits for any bull, we can have longer fall seasons for the general public in Units 14B and 16 and smaller moose (40-inch moose) can be legal, even in Unit 14A where harvests are currently higher. Antler data obtained from the "any bull permits" has shown that many mature bulls never attain a 50-inch antler spread, and are therefore never available for "legal" harvest by most of the hunting public. The spike-fork 50-inch regulation is currently allowing "inferior" bulls to remain in the population for breeding while at the same time targeting "superior" bulls who have large fast growing antlers. Establishing a legal antler size below 50-inches is certainly warranted. Of the many options available to increase harvest, we believe the proposal we have put together with the aid of department staff is one of the best.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Moose hunters will continue to be denied an opportunity to remove "excess" bulls from the population, even though a harvestable surplus has been available nearly every year since the spike-fork 50-inch regulation was adopted.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All Unit 14 and Unit 16 moose hunters would benefit because there would be more opportunity to hunt and more legal bulls to kill. In addition Unit 13 moose hunters might benefit because more hunters would choose to stay near Units 14 and 16, rather than travel to an area farther away where hunting regulations are more strict.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? If adopted this proposal would transfer harvest opportunity from hunters who obtained an "any bull permit" to the general public, and a shortening of the winter season would reduce opportunity for hunters who prefer to have a longer winter season in November and December.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? The Matanuska Valley Advisory Committee and department staff considered a wide range of additional moose harvest strategies including: 1) A hunt where any bull is legal; 2) 36-inch, 3 brow tines; 3) spike-fork 36-inch 3 brow tine; 4) spike-fork 50-inch 3 brow tine with a longer season; 5) a split season hunt with any bull for the first part, and an antler restriction hunt for the second part; 6) registration hunt to take the surplus; 7) an increase in drawing permits to take the surplus.

**PROPOSAL** 108 - 5 AAC 85.045(12) and (14). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Amend these regulations as follows:

Units 14 and 16 establish a moose bag limit of one antlered moose with a Sept. 1 – Sept. 20 season.

Please allow a general moose hunt opportunity to harvest any antlered bull in all subunits of Units 14 and 16.

Currently in Unit 14A there is a 7-day bow and arrow spike-fork 50-inch season, a general 30-day spike-fork 50-inch season, and a general 26-day spike-fork season. In addition ADF&G holds lotteries for many cow tags and any bull tags for the 30-day season and for a drawing only 15-day season. Surely this area could support an any bull moose season for the general public.

**ISSUE:** Numerous hunters I have talked with, and myself, prefer hunting the Units 14 and 16 areas with any bull moose legal for harvest. We find determining a moose legal under spike-fork 50-inch regulations difficult. We want an opportunity to harvest a bull moose rather than determining if it is legal until it finally runs off.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? We will continue to be denied a general any bull moose hunt in this part of the state. Many hunters are so frustrated with current regulations and conditions in Units 14 and 16 that they travel hundreds of miles to hunt other areas. Some hunters have probably quit moose hunting entirely—Since Units 14 and 16 went to spike-fork 50-inch regulation, five years ago, the number of hunters has declined and has remained depressed in all subunits except one.

Illegal harvest Every year (with spike-fork 50-inch regulations) hunters mistakenly shoot illegal bull moose. They are now offenders, because they may not have seen a small point that was more than an inch long or perhaps one of the points they saw as a brow tine actually emerged from the wrong place. Maybe they shot the largest bull moose they had ever seen, but because antler points curved in it measured too small.

More days required. According to an ADF&G biologist, the average successful moose hunter requires more days to harvest a moose under spike-fork 50-inch regulation than under any bull regulation. Even with less hunters during the season, this can create crowded hunting conditions (something spike-fork 50-inch was supposed to alleviate). And now (with spike-fork 50-inch) hunters must invest additional days to be successful.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All Unit 14 and Unit 16 hunters wanting an opportunity to harvest an antlered bull moose when they see one while hunting.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Perhaps trophy hunters who may have more time to find a larger animal with a longer season. Perhaps hunters who would like to hunt longer than 20 days. Perhaps commercial operators who could book more hunts during a longer season.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** I mentioned my fist option, but if a compromise was necessary to get the current regulation changed I would be happier with antlers restrictions of at least three brow tines or 40 inches. The season could be 20 or 30 days (and I would have no objection if the Unit 14C season stayed at its present length.

PROPOSAL 109 - 5 AAC 85.045(12) and (4). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Amend regulations in Unit 14 and Unit 16 as follows:

In Unit 14 and Unit 16 no person may take an antlerless moose accompanied by a cow or a calf.

Unit 14 and Unit 16 moose production will remain less than optimum, resulting in lower hunter success and less viewing opportunities.

**ISSUE:** Units 14 and 16 have some of the best moose production in the state, but every year it has more moose hunters than moose available for harvest. Harvesting part of a cow/calf unit compounds this situation at least three ways: 1) Studies of collared moose in another part of the state (Unit 22) showed that certain cows were "good mothers" and tended to produce a calf or two every years. Other cows, perhaps for a variety of reasons, frequently failed to produce calves. Thus, harvesting "good mothers" obviously reduces future moose production. 2) Additionally, when a hunter harvests a mother cow its calf becomes less likely to survive through the winter. 3) Finally, if a hunter harvests the calf, sometimes the cow is also killed as it tries to defend its dead calf.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Units 14 and 16 moose production will remain less than optimum, resulting in lower hunter success and less viewing opportunities.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** All people wanting higher moose production in Units 14 and 16 would benefit.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Some drawing permit winners who would harvest any legal moose, regardless of consequences to the moose population. Also, some future permit winners may accidentally kill cows without realizing a calf is present.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** If ADF&G enclosed a letter with Unit 14 and Unit 16 antlerless moose drawing permits explaining consequences of harvesting part of a cow/calf unit perhaps this problem could be partially resolved without making outlaws of future hunters who will make honest mistakes.

**PROPOSAL** 110 -5 AAC 85.045(a)(12) and (14). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Lengthen the fall general moose hunting season, and shorten the early-winter general moose hunting season in Units 14A, 14B and 16A as follows:

Resident Open Season (Subsistence and Nonresident General Hunts) **Units and Bag Limits Open Season** (12)Unit 14(A) 1 moose per regulatory year, only as follows: A bull with spike-fork Aug. 10-Aug. 17 Aug. 10-Aug. 17 antlers or 50-inch (General hunt only)

antlers or antlers with 3 or more brow tines on one side,

by bow and arrow only

A bull with spike-fork antlers or 50-inch antlers or antlers with 3 or more brow tines on one side	Aug. 20 - Sept. 25 [SEPT. 20] (General hunt only)	Aug. 20 - <u>Sept. 25</u> [SEPT. 20]
Any bull by drawing permit only; up to 300 permits may be issued	Aug. 20 - <u>Sept. 25</u> [SEPT. 20] Nov. 1 - Nov. 15 (General hunt only)	Aug. 20 - <u>Sept. 25</u> [SEPT. 20] Nov. 1 - Nov. 15
An antierless moose by drawing permit only; up to 600 antierless moose permits may be issued	Aug 20 - Sept. 25 [SEPT. 20] (General hunt only) Nov. 1 - Nov. 15 (General hunt only)	No open season.
A bull with spike-fork antlers Unit 14(B)	Nov. 20 - Nov. 30 [DEC. 15] (General hunt only)	Nov.20 - <u>Nov. 30</u> [DEC. 15]
1 bull per regulatory year, only as follows:		
A bull with spike-fork antlers or 50-inch antlers or antlers with 3 or more brow tines on one side, by bow and arrow only	Aug. 10 - Aug. 17 (General hunt only)	Aug. 10 - Aug. 17
A bull with spike-fork antlers or 50-inch antlers or antlers with 3 or more brow tines on one side	Aug. 20 - Sept. 25 [SEPT. 20] (General hunt only)	Aug. 20 - <u>Sept. 25</u> [SEPT. 20]
Any bull by drawing permit only; up to 200 permits may be issued	Aug. 20 - <u>Sept. 25</u> [SEPT. 20] (General hunt only) Nov. 1 - Nov. 15	Aug. 20 - <u>Sept. 25</u> [SEPT. 20] Nov. 1 - Nov. 15
A bull with spike-fork antlers	Nov. 20 - <u>Nov. 30</u> [DEC. 15] (General hunt only)	Nov.20 - <u>Nov. 30</u> [DEC. 15]
(14) Unit 16(A)		
I bull per regulatory year, only as follows:		

One bull with spike-fork antlers or 50-inch antlers or antlers with 3 or more brow tines on one side	Aug. 20 - Sept. 25 [SEPT. 20] (General hunt only)	Aug. 20 - <u>Sept. 25</u> [SEPT. 20]
One bull by drawing permit only; up to 400 permits may be issued	Aug. 20 - Sept. 25 [SEPT. 20] (General hunt only) Nov. 1 - Nov. 15	Aug. 20 - <u>Sept. 25</u> [SEPT. 20] Nov. 1 - Nov. 15
One bull with spike-fork antlers	Nov. 20 - <u>Nov. 30</u> [DEC. 15] (General hunt only)	Nov.20 - <u>Nov.30</u> [DEC. 15]

**ISSUE:** In October 1997 the Division of Wildlife Conservation convened a task force to evaluate the Spike-fork/50-inch or 3 brow tine (SF/50) selective harvest strategy currently used for harvest management in southcentral Alaska. The task force consisted of members of four advisory committees, four biologists, a planner and an enforcement officer. The review consisted mainly of two parts: a hunter survey designed to study hunter satisfaction with the SF/50 harvest strategy, and a biological evaluation of the effects of the SF/50 harvest strategy on area populations. The task force made their recommendations in early November 1998.

For Units 14A, 14B and 16A, the biological review indicated the SF/50 harvest strategy worked well in 14A, but did not maximize general season harvest in Units 14B and 16A while conserving a healthy proportion of bulls in the population. To optimize harvest, a limited number of "any-bull" permits have been issued in these areas. Some people strongly object to the any-bull drawing permits.

Hunter survey data showed general acceptance of the SF/50 selective harvest strategy, and that the strategy was fulfilling most of the objectives stated in 1993 (to increase bull:cow ratios, increase the number of large bulls, maintain hunting opportunity, and increase the opportunity to see bull moose). However, 65% of the hunters surveyed felt the SF/50 strategy increased the number of illegal moose killed, which runs counter to another stated objective that SF/50 might "improve hunter ethics." Also, roughly 50% of the hunters surveyed said it was not important, or only slightly important, that hunting regulations be the same throughout southcentral Alaska.

In those areas where bull:cow ratios were healthy and additional harvest could occur, 37% of the hunters surveyed favored either no change in the current system (18%), or adding additional days at the end of the fall general season (19%). Another 29% favored eliminating antler restrictions and shortening the fall season.

The task force recommended retaining the SF/50 selective harvest strategy and lengthening the fall general season by five days. This would necessitate a reduction in the number of any-bull drawing permits issued, primarily in Unit 14A, while the effects of this change are evaluated. The task force also recommended the early-winter general season for spike-fork bulls be shortened to a 10-day period from Nov. 20 to Nov. 30.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Harvest in Unit 14A is being maximized, and bull:cow ratios appear adequate, under the current system. Harvest in Units 14B and 16A is not being maximized, and bull:cow ratios are above objectives, under the current SF/50 strategy.

To increase harvest in these areas, the department could increase the number of any-bull permits. As access improves into these areas, it is likely that hunters will be more effective during the general seasons, and the number of drawing permits will be reduced.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? People hunting during the fall general season will benefit from five extra days of hunting, especially as leaves drop and moose approach the rutting period. People who dislike the "any-bull" drawing permits will benefit.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? People who enjoy obtaining a limited drawing permit that provides improved chances of harvesting a bull will suffer. Some hunters may be confused with differing season dates in the region, and enforcement may be more difficult with varying season dates. Some members of the Matanuska Valley Fish and Game Advisory Committee are unhappy with the current system (especially the issuance of "any-bull" drawing permits) and with this proposed change. They are advocating a SF/40-inch or 3 brow tine selective harvest strategy to make more bulls available in the general season.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** The task force deliberated on the merits of eliminating antler restrictions altogether and recommending a shorter, any-bull general season. Some members felt this would put too much harvest pressure on the liberalized areas. The group decided that the longer SF/50 season would work better to provide additional harvest while conserving moose populations and maintaining hunter opportunity, especially during harsh weather events.

PROPOSAL 111 - 5 AAC 85.045(14). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Reauthorize the antierless moose hunt on Kalgin Island in Unit 16B as follows:

Units and Bag Limits (14)	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
Unit 16(B), Kalgin Island		
1 moose per regulatory year, only as follows:		
1 moose by registration permit	Aug. 20 - Sept. 30	Aug. 20 - Sept. 30
[1 BULL]	[AUG. 20 – SEPT. 20]	[AUG. 20 - SEPT. 20]
[1 ANTLERLESS MOOSE BY DRAWING PERMIT ONLY; UP TO 100 ANTLERLESS PERMITS MAY	[AUG. 20 – SEPT. 20]	[AUG. 20 – SEPT. 20]

BE ISSUED]

. . .

ISSUE: The population objective for this 23 square-mile island is a density of one moose/mi<sup>2</sup>. During December 1998 we estimated the population at 130-150 moose (with 27 bulls and 53 calves per 100 cows, respectively), which is equivalent to approximately six moose/square-mile Because of a growing population and habitat concerns, a cow drawing permit hunt was initiated in 1995. We issued 60 permits in 1996 and 1997, and 40 permits during 1998, resulting in harvests of 8, 11 and 7 cows (preliminary), respectively. Kalgin Island is currently the only place in southcentral Alaska where any bull is legal in the general season. Reported bull harvest ranged between 8 and 22 during 1996-1998. These harvests have not been adequate to control population growth on this predator-free island. To prevent excessive habitat damage, additional harvest needs to be encouraged.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Without liberal harvest the population will further exceed the island's carrying capacity, resulting in severe habitat damage and a dramatic decline in moose numbers through starvation.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Hunters who make the effort to get to Kalgin will enjoy the opportunity to take any moose.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Seasonal residents of Kalgin Island may be concerned about the increase in hunters on the island and around their cabins/homes.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** A general season for any moose will also work to reduce numbers, and will not require the significant staff time necessary with a registration hunt.

PROPOSAL 112 - 5 AAC 85.045(14). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Amend regulations in Units 16A and 16B as follows:

Open a bow and arrow moose season in all of Units 16A and 16B from Nov. 1 – Nov. 30 by bow and arrow registration permit for any bull.

To participate in the moose registration hunt all hunters must meet all Alaska's bowhunter education requirements.

Persons with a registration bow and arrow permit may not be accompanied by a person with or have in his possession, any rifle, muzzleloader firearm or long-range pistol (barrel over 8 inches and/or scoped).

**ISSUE:** Expand the hunting opportunity for moose in Units 16A and 16B.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Unnecessary limitation of hunting opportunity. Limiting the methods and means by which animals may be harvested will create more hunting opportunity for the general public per animal harvested.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The general hunt public by creating more opportunity.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Some competition my occur with Tier II hunters.

#### OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSAL 113 - 5 AAC 85.045(14). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Amend this regulation to provide the following:

Open a bow and arrow moose season in all of Units 16A and 16B from Nov. 1 - Nov. 30 by bow and arrow registration permit for any bull.

To participate in this moose registration hunt, hunter must meet all Alaska's Bowhunter Education Requirements.

Persons with a registration bow and arrow permit may not be accompanied by a person with or have in his possession any rifle, muzzle loader, firearm, or long range pistol (barrel over 8-inch and or scoped.)

**ISSUE:** Expand the hunting opportunity for moose in Unit 16A and 16B.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Unnecessary limitation of hunting opportunity. By limiting the methods and means by which animals may be harvested will create more hunting opportunity for the general public per animal harvested.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The general hunt public by creating more opportunity. We recommend that the board or department charge a \$30 registration fee for each permit issued.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Some competition may occur with Tier Π hunters.

# OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

Note: The following proposal was deferred by the Board of Game until the March 1999 meeting.

PROPOSAL 114 - 5 AAC 85.045(8). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Authorize an antierless moose hunt in Unit 9B.

Unit 9B, Dec. 1 – Dec. 31, antlerless moose may be harvested.

**ISSUE:** Authorization of antIerless moose hunts in the December season. This has traditionally been an antIerless hunt until it was taken away.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Local harvesters that traditionally used to harvest antlerless moose will have to continue to get bull moose that are lean and tough or not be able to harvest moose at all. Some bulls are dropping antlers by the middle of December.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Traditional cow moose hunters that would rather have a fatter, tastier moose. Also be able to harvest moose when the bulls drop their antlers.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

# OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

**PROPOSED BY:** Lake Iliamna Advisory Committee (HQ-98S-G-013)(HQ-99S-G-199) 

PROPOSAL 115 - 5 AAC 85.045(8). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Amend regulations in Unit 9B as follows:

Unit 9B Moose: Resident Hunter Required

Open

Permit

Season

1 cow

Tier II

Dec. 1- Dec. 31

ISSUE: Residents of Levelock, Igiugig, Kokhanok, Pedro Bay, Newhalen, Iliamna, and Nondalton have customarily and traditionally hunted cow moose during the winter season. Current regulations prevent them from continuing this customary and traditional practice when the meat of cow moose is very desirable.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Local residents of the communities listed above will continue to be denied a preferred customarily and traditionally harvested subsistence meat source during the winter.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Local residents of the communities of Unit 9B who have customarily and traditionally hunted cow moose during the winter season. Under the Tier II requirements the residents of Levelock, Igiugig, Kokhanok, Pedro Bay, Newhalen, Iliamna and Nodalton will be the only qualified State of Alaska hunters to meet the criteria due to their past history of dependence on cow moose.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No onc. The harvest of bulls by local residents will decrease and only a limited number of cow moose will be harvested.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? No provisions exist under State of Alaska hunting regulations that will provide for the needs of local rural residents.

PROPOSED BY: Bristol Bay Native Association

(SW-99S-G-013)

**PROPOSAL** 116 - 5 AAC 85.045(8). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Change winter season in Unit 9B as follows:

Unit 9B Sept. 1–Sept. 15
1 bull moose Jan. 1–Feb. 28

[DEC. 1 – DEC. 31]

**ISSUE:** Changing date on the winter moose season from Dec. 1 - Dec. 31 to Jan. 1 - Feb. 28. The problem now is that freeze-up is not happening until December, and with the holidays that does not leave much time to harvest a moose. Especially if there is no snow.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? This hunt was initiated as a subsistence hunt, especially since the September hunt is getting more difficult to find moose with all the caribou hunters and sport fisherman traveling the rivers and creeks. Moose are scared away into inaccessible areas.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All local residents that harvest their yearly moose in the winter season.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSAL 117 - 5 AAC 85.045(8). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Reauthorize the antierless moose season in a portion of Unit 9C as follows:

Resident Open season

(Subsistence and Nonresident General Hunts) Open season

Sept. 5-Sept. 15

Units and Bag Limits

Unit 9(C)...

Remainder of Unit 9(C)

**RESIDENT HUNTERS:** 

1 moose; however, antlerless Sept.1-Sept. 15 moose may be taken only Dec. 1-Dec. 31 during the period Dec. 1-

Dec. 31

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull with 50-inch antlers or

antlers with 3 or more brow tines on one side

. . .

**ISSUE:** Antlerless moose seasons must be reauthorized annually. The remainder of Unit 9C consists primarily of the Alagnak (Branch) River. The average harvest during recent years is three antlerless moose per year. During 1997, one cow was taken. During a composition survey completed in December 1997, we counted 169 moose with ratios of 40 bulls per 100 cows and 20 calves per 100 cows. Access to the Alagnak River during December is primarily by aircraft or snowmachine. During recent winters, poor travel conditions have kept hunting effort low. A continued harvest of a few cows is sustainable by the moose population, and will provide some additional harvest opportunity.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The opportunity to take a few antlerless moose in the Alagnak (Branch) River drainage will be lost.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Those hunters who have the opportunity to take an antlerless moose in the Alagnak (Branch) River drainage.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSAL 118 - 5 AAC 85.045(8). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Amend regulations in Unit 9C as follows:

Nonresidents: 1 bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 3 or more brow tines on at least 1 side, Sept. 10 – Sept. 20. (This season would coincide with Unit 9E.)

**ISSUE:** During the current nonresident season, old-age class bulls are not actively moving around in the first week of season. A pre-rut hunt makes sense, however. Starting the season five days later would still be pre-rut. Meat is easier to care for with a later season.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Hunting for old-age class animals is unnecessarily made difficult by the early season. It is simply more difficult to hunt selectively. Handling of meat is also made more difficult.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Hunters who are looking for older age class bulls. General residents and locally domiciled residents of Unit 9C who will not have to "compete" with nonresidents Sept. 1 - Sept. 9.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Hunters who want to selectively hunt for older age class animals. Handling of meat is easier with the season five days later.

#### OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSAL 119 - 5 AAC 85.045(8). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Create a resident drawing permit hunt for moose in Unit 9D.

Resident Open season

(Subsistence and Nonresident General Hunts) Open season

**Units and Bag Limits** 

(8)... Unit 9(D)

Sept. 5-Sept. 20 No open season. [NO OPEN SEASON.]

1 bull by drawing permit only; up to 10 permits may be issued

. . .

**ISSUE:** Since Unit 9 was divided into subunits in 1975, Unit 9D has been closed to the taking of moose. Moose habitat in Unit 9D is limited, and moose numbers were insufficient to sustain hunting. Observations made in recent years suggests that moose numbers have increased and that a limited harvest of bulls is now available.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The opportunity for residents to take a few additional bulls will not be realized.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Resident moose hunters.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Leave Unit 9D closed until a composition trend area is established and survey data are available. A Tier II hunt was not considered because of an existing negative C&T finding for moose in this subunit.

<u>PROPOSAL</u> 120 - 5 AAC 85.045(8). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Amend this regulation in Unit 9E as follows:

Close moose to sport hunting on the Pacific side of Unit 9E.

**ISSUE:** Get an accurate count of moose on the Pacific side and one that would justify an opening for sport hunters.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? There has not been a moose count since 1988 on the Pacific side.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Subsistence users.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Sport hunters – but there are other areas to hunt.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Draw a line for the Pacific side and enforce it.

**PROPOSED BY:** Chignik Advisory Committee

(HO-99S-G-103)

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PROPOSAL 121 - 5 AAC 85.045(8). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Change regulations in Unit 9E as follows:

Have subsistence hunt by permit which would be determined by community population.

**ISSUE:** Unit 9E is currently closed to moose hunting. We would like the board to consider a subsistence moose hunt of residents by permit.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? There is not enough food/nutrient to sustain a large herd.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The surrounding communities such as Nelson Lagoon, King Cove, Sand Point, False Pass.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

**PROPOSED BY:** Nelson Lagoon Advisory Committee

(SW-99S-G-004)

PROPOSAL 122 - 5 AAC 85.045(8). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Extend the resident moose season in Unit 9E by 20 days as follows:

Resident

Open season

(Subsistence and General Hunts)

Nonresident Open season

**Units and Bag Limits** 

(8)

. . .

Unit 9(E)

**RESIDENT HUNTERS:** 

1 bull; however, moose taken during the period Sept. <u>5</u> [10] Sept. 20 must have 50-inch antlers or antlers with 3 or more brow tines on one side

Sept. 5 [SEPT. 10]- Sept. 20

Dec. 1-Jan. 15 [DEC. 31]

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS

1 bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 3 or more brow tines on one side Sept. 10-Sept. 20

**ISSUE:** Recent composition surveys in Unit 9E classified 750 moose in seven trend areas and showed an overall sex ratio of 69 bulls:100 cows. Total counts in these trend areas have remained relatively stable in the past 15 years. The bull moose season in Unit 9E during this period has remained the same, and in recent years the harvest has declined slightly. The high bull:cow ratio suggests additional hunting opportunity can be allowed. The earlier opening in September for residents will provide additional opportunity prior to the rut, and the winter hunt extension into January will permit hunting under generally more favorable travel conditions.

The overall low density of moose in Unit 9E and low recruitment (19 calves:100 cows in 1998 surveys) argue for a conservative approach to liberalizing the moose regulations. Depending on regulatory changes affecting hunting of the Northern Alaska Peninsula caribou herd, some nonresident and non-local Alaska hunters may opt to hunt elsewhere with better opportunities for combination moose/caribou hunts.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The opportunity for residents to take a few additional bulls will not be realized.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Resident moose hunters.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Nonresident moose hunters will not see any expanded opportunity to hunt moose, but existing seasons and success rate will be maintained.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Considered changing resident season to any bull.

PROPOSAL 123 - 5 AAC 85.045(15). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Amend this regulation in Unit 17 to provide the following:

If the moose restrictions are warranted, we would review restricting nonresident moose season – resident moose season – fall and or winter permit moose season – antler restriction for the permit hunt.

**ISSUE:** Because moose harvest, moose population and hunter effort information will not be available before the proposal deadline we want to put the public on notice that when the above information becomes available we could be asking for moose hunting restrictions in Unit 17B and 17C.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? If the above moose information warrants, moose hunting restrictions will need to be implemented at this board cycle and not wait the additional two years for the next cycle.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? At this time it is impossible to determine. We think it is best to put the public on notice that possible restrictions could be coming from this advisory committee.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Impossible to determine at this time. We will notify the public as soon as possible if we believe the moose information warrants regulatory action.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Do nothing and wait until next board cycle. Could have harmful effect on the moose resource.

PROPOSAL 124 - 5 AAC 85.045(15). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Change this regulation in Unit 17B as follows:

Unit 17 B, Remainder

Resident: Spike-fork or 50-inch or 3 brow tines, or 60 inches around the back.

Nonresident: 50-inch or  $\underline{3}$ [4] brow tines or 55 or 60 inches around the back, one big bull may be taken every 3 years. Unguided hunters must be checked on and meat removed every 4 days, weather permitting.

**ISSUE:** The intent of a 50-inch spread or 3 to 4 brow tines is to restrict take to mature bulls of a certain age class. I am addressing four problems here,

First, most moose over 50 inches do not have 4 brow tines. I believe most moose near or over 60 inches do not have 4 brow tines. My experience in this area has shown that less than one-third of the legal bulls have 4 brow tines. The department recommends that hunters view their moose-judging video "Is this Moose Legal." Throughout the video the hunter is requested to count brow tines to "....be sure the moose is legal." Not once does the narrator and "judge" determine the moose to be legal even when it is immediately obvious and measured to be over 70 inches. Even though rules of thumb of judging actual spread are given, not once are they applied to help train a hunter in judging spread. If the department cannot or will not do it, then hunters should not be required to either. Furthermore, the department's video chooses situations and conditions that are ideal for counting brow tines in the moose they judge to be legal by a brow tine only count. These situations and conditions do not reflect actual hunting situations and conditions during most seasons and particularly Unit 17B. By lowering the brow tine requirement to three, hunters will be able to verify more legal bulls based on brow tines.

The second problem is addressed by including an "Around the Back Measurement" to prove a legal bull. We must look at what kind of bulls we are actively encouraging taking and what kind are left to do the breeding. The current regulations encourage taking flat palmed bulls (maximum spread) with 4 brow tines (and they are the most desirable) while we are selecting for genetic reproduction the cupped antlered bulls (who have big antlers, but they are cupped toward the nose so they produce/generate no realistic spread measurement) or with 3 or less brow tines. Wildlife managers around the world have been using selective management techniques for 25 years or more to improve antler size and configuration. Under the current regulations we are selecting for reproduction potentially big moose that we outlaw taking. Changing the requirement to include (in Unit 17B for now) an around the back measurement allows hunters to take big cupped antlered moose and still comply with the intent of restricting take to mature bulls. I have made two suggestions for an "around the back measurement" at 55 inches and 60 inches. Either of these

would tend to "flatten out" the antlers and help determine a truly big moose regardless of configuration.

Third, the 4 brow tine, as opposed to 3 brow tine, requirement was put in place to make it harder for nonresident hunters and for guides guiding nonresident hunters to determine a legal moose. A better way to encourage taking a big moose would be to place a bag limit of "one moose every 3 years." Most guided hunters can only afford and will only go on one moose hunt in their life. While less expensive air taxis drop off, hunters may come back year after year taking several moose. I believe the largest influx of moose hunters into Unit 17B have been drop-off hunters from air taxis and mobile operators from King Salmon, Iliamna, and Anchorage. No doubt guides have also increased harvest of bulls in recent years, but their operations are self limiting by guiding laws and regulations, where air taxis are not. Nonresident drop-off hunters do not pay any state land use fees, where guided hunters pay land use fees through the guide fee. Nonresident hunters are unsupervised in the field and would be more likely to walk away from a sub-legal bull and never be reported. A one moose per 3 years encourages taking big moose only, which is the intent.

Fourth, unguided nonresident hunters who are not checked on for meat removal stand the most likely chance of returning with spoiled meat. Requiring them to be checked on at least every 4 days will help relieve some spoiled meat problems. This aspect shines bad on everyone, and under bad weather/logistical conditions anyone can look bad even if they did their best. The fact of the matter is, most hunters would not be able to keep moose meat for 7-10 days in Unit 17 without most of it spoiling during most years. Bad weather means rotten meat. Most air taxis book many hunters, where guides take some. Most drop-off hunters are reliant upon their pilot as their only means of sending meat out while guides generally have the accommodations for meat and alternative transportation methods. Plus guides have contacts in the villages and cities that will accept any meat. Adding this regulation will put more good meat into the hands of people who need and want it, whoever they may be.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Many big moose will go unharvested. Many nonresidents and guides will lose opportunities to harvest big moose. We will be genetically selecting for undesirable sub-legal moose. In the long run, the state, the guiding industry and the air taxi industry will lose money and clients. Residents and nonresidents will still book a drop-off hunt and not pay extra money to be checked on in case they get meat early in the hunt and that meat will probably spoil. At sport shows, my biggest complaint is from hunters that were flown in and dropped off. The rest of their gear never showed up and the pilot never checked on them. When asked if they paid extra for a "check-on-you flight" they say no. In their mind, the pilot is to blame and the pilot says they booked 10 days and did not take care of the meat. Spoiled meat is what will happen.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Hunters everywhere, because this is a more realistic approach. Everyone who cares about realistic regulations that mirror realistic conditions and management goals. Guides and nonresident unguided hunters will be allowed more leeway in harvesting a big bull. The state will not have to prosecute a hunter who shot "a big moose" that was not legal under the current definition.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one will suffer unless you figure Fish and Wildlife Protection will have less to investigate and prosecutors will have less to prosecute and more conditions to consider.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Putting a one "big" moose every 10 years limit on nonresident hunters. Did not reject because most nonresident hunters will restrict themselves to a big moose voluntarily. And a big moose to you may not be the same as a big moose to you or the law! It may be their only big game hunt in a life time in Alaska. Let's not destroy a dream and create a nightmare. Keep in mind, the difference between a 50-inch moose and a trophy 60-inch moose is only a 10-inch misjudgment in the brush at 10-200 yards and the difference between 3 and 4 brow tines is where the narrowest spot is in the bay.

PROPOSAL 125 - 5 AAC 85.045(15). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE and 5 AAC 85.025(12). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR CARIBOU. Amend these regulations in Unit 17B as follows:

Close commercial hunting of moose and caribou on the Nuyakuk River (5 miles on each side of the river) from the mouth to the Nuyakuk Falls.

**ISSUE:** Over the last 5 years, the Nushagak and Mulchatna river drainages have seen an explosive growth on commercial hunting of moose and caribou. It has got to the point that village people in Koliganek have a difficult time hunting moose during the season because of the competition from commercial operators. Koliganek village people avoid hunting their traditional hunting grounds on the upper Nushagak River because the river is overrun with commercial guide camps, seemingly on every bend. The only river close to the village that is still relatively unused by commercial operators is the Nuyakuk River. We want to save this river from getting overrun by commercial hunting. The village people need and support at least one river accessible to them, on which they will able to hunt moose and caribou. This is the reason we wish to protect the Nuyakuk River. It is to be protected as a river that is accessible to Nushagak villagers and not over-exploited. We must protect it now while we can.

# WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSAL 126 - 5 AAC 85.045(15). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE and 5 AAC 85.025(12). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR CARIBOU. Amend these regulations in Unit 17B as follows:

Close to commercial hunting of moose and caribou. The Nuyakuk River – five miles on each side of the river from the mouth to the Nuyakuk Falls.

**ISSUE:** Overexploitation of the Nushagak and Mulchatna river drainages has left the village people of Koliganek with little opportunity to find moose. The overexploitation is due to explosive growth of commercial hunting on the river, we want to save the one river that is not overexploited yet.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The Nuyakuk River, the only river close to the village of Koliganek will get over exploited by commercial operators, to the detriment of the local subsistence hunters of caribou and moose.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Local villagers from Koliganek, New Stuyahok, Ekwok, Portage Creek, Dillingham and other self-guided sport and subsistence hunters.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Commercial guides and their clients (minimally).

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSAL 127 – 5 AAC 85.045(17). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Reauthorize antlerless moose season in Unit 19A.

**ISSUE:** State law requires the reauthorization of antlerless moose seasons each year for all game management units. The harvest of antlerless moose during the current season in this unit is within sustainable limits.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Hunting opportunity for moose will be needlessly lost.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Moose hunters wishing to take antlerless moose.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

**PROPOSAL 128** - 5 AAC 85.045(17). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Reauthorize the antlerless moose hunting season in Unit 19A as follows:

Resident
Open Season
(Subsistence and

General Hunts)

Nonresident Open Season

**Units and Bag Limits** 

Unit 19(A), that portion within the Lime Village Management Area

2 moose per regulatory year; up to 28 moose may be taken by Tier II subsistence hunting permit only; up to 14 permits may be issued

Aug. 10—Sept. 25 (Subsistence hunt only)
Nov. 20—Mar. 31 (Subsistence hunt only)

No open season.

Unit 19A, that portion of the Kuskokwim River upstream from, but not including the Kolmakof River drainage and south of the Kuskokwim River upstream from, but not including, the Holokuk River drainage

# **RESIDENT HUNTERS:**

1 moose per regulatory year; however, antlerless moose may be taken only during the Feb. 1—Feb. 10 season Sept. 1—Sept. 20 Nov. 20—Nov. 30 Feb. 1—Feb. 10

NONRESIDENTS:

1 bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side Sept. 1—Sept. 20

. . . .

ISSUE: Antlerless moose hunting seasons must be reauthorized annually. The reported harvest from 1993 to 1997 for the February antlerless hunt has ranged between 4 and 24 moose with an average February harvest of 12 moose. Based on the most recent moose surveys and the level of reported harvest in Unit 19A, the population is capable of sustaining this February antlerless season.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? There will be an unwarranted loss of hunting opportunity.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Local hunters who were not fortunate enough to harvest a moose during the fall hunting season.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-99S-G-178)

**PROPOSAL** 129 - 5 AAC 85.045(18). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Reauthorize the antlerless moose hunting season(s) in Unit 20A as follows:

Units and Bag Limits (18)	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
Remainder of Unit 20(A)  1 moose per regulatory year only as follows:		
1 bull	Sept. 1—Sept. 25 (General hunt only)	Sept. 1—Sept. 25
1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only; up to 300 permits may be issued	Sept. 1—Sept. 25 (General hunt only)	Sept. 1—Sept. 25
1 bull by drawing permit only, by muzzle-loading firearms only; up to 75 permits may be issued 	Nov. 1—Nov. 30 (General hunt only)	Nov. 1—Nov. 30

**ISSUE:** Antlerless moose hunting seasons must be reauthorized annually. The current harvest of moose in Unit 20A remains below sustainable limits. Although we have not completed surveys in 1998, surveys in 1996 and 1997 and estimates of calf production and recruitment indicate the population continues to increase at a moderate rate. Portions of Unit 20A still have moderate to low moose densities, however, moose densities within the antlerless permit hunt areas are high and continue to increase.

We recommend that the board reauthorize the hunt. Population data indicate the population will continue to grow under the current regulations. In addition, ongoing moose and wolf research allow us to carefully monitor population parameters to ensure that the cow hunts are warranted. In addition, another season under current regulations will allow us to further evaluate the distribution of cow harvests. We intend to fully revisit both the objectives and seasons and bag limits with local advisory committees prior to the spring 2000 meeting of the board.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Hunting opportunity will be lost.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Hunters wanting to take antlerless moose.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSAL 130 - 5 AAC 85.045(18). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Reauthorize the antlerless moose hunting season in Unit 20B within the Fairbanks Management Area as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(18)		
Unit 20(B), that portion within the Fairbanks Management Area		
1 moose per regulatory year, only as follows:		
1 bull with spike-fork or greater antlers by bow and arrow only	Sept. 1—Sept. 30 (General hunt only) Nov. 21—Nov. 27 (General hunt only)	Sept. 1—Sept. 30 Nov. 21—Nov. 27
1 moose by bow and arrow only, by drawing permit only; up to 25 permits may be issued	Sept. 1—Sept. 30 (General hunt only)	Sept. 1—Sept. 30

**ISSUE:** Antlerless moose hunting seasons must be reauthorized annually. The purpose of this antlerless hunt is to provide opportunity to harvest relatively abundant numbers of female moose in the Fairbanks management area and reduce moose-vehicle collisions and nuisance moose problems.

We have not completed surveys this year. However, moose are abundant within the Fairbanks Management Area and moose vehicle collisions appear to be increasing, at least through October and November of 1998. Previous surveys and harvest reports indicate that the current seasons are biologically sustainable. If current moose-vehicle collision rates increase we will likely propose to increase the number of permits at the spring 2000 board meeting.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Opportunity will be lost and nuisance moose problems and moose vehicle collisions may increase.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Hunters and other residents.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? People opposed to antlerless moose hunting.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

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PROPOSAL 131 - 5 AAC 85.045(18). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Reauthorize the antlerless moose hunting season in Unit 20B within the Minto Flats Management Area as follows:

management mea as follows,		
Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(18)		
Unit 20(B), that portion within the Minto Flats Management Area		
1 moose per regulatory year, only as follows:		
1 moose by Tier II subsistence hunting permit only; up to 100	Sept. 1—Sept. 20 (Subsistence hunt only)	No open season.
permits may be issued	Jan. 10—Feb. 28 (Subsistence hunt only)	
1 bull with spike-fork antlers or 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side	Sept. 11—Sept. 20	No open season.
*16		

**ISSUE:** Antlerless moose hunting seasons must be reauthorized annually. The purpose of this antlerless hunt is to provide for subsistence harvests in a manner that allows some opportunity for general hunts.

We have not completed surveys this year, and the winter season has not begun. Previous surveys and harvest reports indicate that the current seasons are biologically appropriate. Calf production continues to be acceptable as twinning rates are higher than in adjacent areas. A Tier II season for any moose in the Minto Flats Management Area resulted in a harvest of 14 and 23 females in 1995 and 1996, respectively. The majority of the Tier II harvest continues to be bull moose. The harvest of females is sustainable from the moderately increasing population of over 2500 moose.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? If the subsistence harvest is restricted to bulls, the general season may have to be closed or further restricted. Opportunity to hunt a surplus of cow moose may be lost.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All Minto Flats area moose hunters.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

### OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-99S-G-187)

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PROPOSAL 132 - 5 AAC 85.045(19). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Reauthorize the antierless moose hunting season in Unit 21E as follows:

Resident
Open Season
(Subsistence and
General Hunts)

Nonresident Open Season

**Units and Bag Limits** 

(19)

. . . .

Unit 21(E)

### **RESIDENT HUNTERS:**

1 moose per regulatory year; however, antlerless moose may be taken only during the period Feb. 1— Feb. 10 and moose may not be taken within one-half mile of either the Yukon River or the Innoko River during the period Feb. 1—Feb. 10 Sept. 5-Sept. 25 Feb. 1-Feb. 10

## NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

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

**ISSUE:** Antlerless moose hunting seasons must be reauthorized annually. The reported harvest from 1993 to 1997 for the February antlerless hunt has ranged between 4 and 19 moose with an average February harvest of 9 moose. Based on the most recent moose surveys and the level of reported harvest in Unit 21E, the population is capable of sustaining this February antlerless season.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? There will be an unwarranted loss of hunting opportunity.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Local hunters, who were not fortunate enough to harvest a moose during the fall hunting season.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

**PROPOSAL 133** - 5 AAC 85.045(20). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Reauthorize the antlerless moose seasons in portions of Unit 22B and Unit 22D, and in Unit 22E, as follows:

Resident

**Open Season** 

(Subsistence and General Hunts) Nonresident Open Season

Units and Bag Limits
(20)

Unit 22(A)

**RESIDENT HUNTERS:** 

1 bull Aug. 1-Sept. 30 Dec. 1-Jan. 31

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow

tines on one side

Aug. 1-Sept. 30

Unit 22(B), that portion west of the west bank of the Fish River and west of the southwest shore of Golovin Bay from the mouth of the Fish River to Rocky Point

**RESIDENT HUNTERS:** 

1 antlered bull Aug. 1-Jan. 31

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull with 50-inch antlers or Aug. 1-Jan. 31

antlers with 4 or more brow

tines on one side

Remainder of Unit 22(B)

**RESIDENT HUNTERS:** 

1 moose; however, antierless Aug. 1-Jan. 31

moose may be taken only from

Dec. 1 through Dec. 31; no person may

take a cow accompanied by a

calf

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

I bull with 50-inch antlers or Aug. 1-Jan. 31

antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side

Unit 22(C)

**RESIDENT HUNTERS:** 

1 bull Sept. 1-Sept. 14

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull with 50-inch antlers or Sept. 1-Sept. 14 antlers with 4 or more brow tines

on one side

Unit 22(D), that portion within the Kougarok, Kuzitrin and Pilgrim

River drainages

**RESIDENT HUNTERS:** 

1 antlered bull Aug. 1-Jan. 31

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull with 50-inch antlers or Aug. 1-Jan. 31

antlers with 4 or more brow

tines on one side

Remainder of Unit 22(D)

**RESIDENT HUNTERS:** 

1 moose; however, antlerless Aug. 1-Jan. 31

moose may be taken only from Dec. 1 through Dec. 31; no person may take a cow

accompanied by a calf; only antlered moose may be taken from Jan. 1

through Jan. 31

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull with 50-inch antlers or Aug. 1-Jan. 31

antlers with 4 or more brow

tines on one side

Unit 22(E)

**RESIDENT HUNTERS:** 

1 moose; no person may take Aug. 1-Mar. 31

a cow accompanied by a calf

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull with 50-inch antlers or Aug. 1-Mar. 31

antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side

ISSUE: To be retained, antlerless moose seasons must be reauthorized annually. Estimates of population size and recruitment provided by annual censuses and late winter surveys indicate that current harvests of antlerless moose are not adversely affecting the population status of moose in most areas of Unit 22. Moose populations in Units 22B and Unit 22D declined significantly during the late 1980s and early 1990s because of severe winter weather conditions. Populations appear to have stabilized; however, in the most accessible portions of Unit 22B and Unit 22D moose populations are still significantly below desired levels. In March 1997 the Board of Game closed the antlerless moose seasons in the depressed portions of Unit 22B and Unit 22D to aid in population recovery. In the remainder of Units 22B, 22D and 22E the reported cow harvest is low and is not believed to be adversely affecting population growth and antlerless moose hunting should be continued. During the 1995-96 season 13 of 185 moose harvested were cows; during the 1996-97 season 20 of 198 moose harvested were cows; and during the 1997-98 season 6 of 203 moose harvested were cows.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Hunting opportunity for antlerless moose in portions of Unit 22 will be needlessly lost.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All hunters who wish to harvest an antlerless moose.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-99S-G-165)

PROPOSAL 134 - 5 AAC 85.045(19). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Reauthorize the antlerless moose hunting seasons in Unit 21D as follows:

Resident **Open Season** (Subsistence and Nonresident General Hunts) **Open Season Units and Bag Limits** (19)Unit 21(D), that portion within the Koyukuk Controlled Use Area 1 antlerless moose Sept. 5—Sept. 25 Sept. 5—Sept. 25 or I bull with (General hunt only) 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side by registration permit

I moose per regulatory year: however, moose may be taken by registration permit only during the period Sept. 1--Sept. 25 Sept. 1—Sept. 25 Feb. 1—Feb. 10 (Subsistence hunt only)

Remainder of Unit 21(D)

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 moose per regulatory
year; however, antlerless
moose may be taken only during the

periods Sept. 21—Sept. 25 and Feb. 1—Feb.10; moose may not be taken within one-half mile of the Yukon River during the

Feb. 1—Feb. 10 season

Sept. 5—Sept. 25 Feb. 1—Feb. 10

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

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

ISSUE: Antlerless moose hunting seasons must be reauthorized annually. Antlerless moose harvests in the two geographic areas described in regulation (above) can be supported by present moose populations. This additional harvest provides for greater hunting opportunity by, primarily, local hunters than would be possible with a bulls-only fall hunt. Fall 1998 surveys suggest continued stable, high-density moose populations in Three Day Slough, Kaiyuh Slough, Pilot Mountain Slough, Squirrel Creek, and Long Stretch trend count areas. Bull:cow ratios and other population parameters indicate management objectives are being met.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The bag limit will revert to antlered moose only, which could reduce overall harvest of moose and result in more restrictive seasons. Failure to utilize the antlerless moose resource may result in lost opportunities to local users.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Primarily local residents who rely on the meat for subsistence will benefit. Individuals who consider cow moose meat preferable to bull moose meat will benefit.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? People opposed to antlerless moose hunting.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-99S-G-189)

PROPOSAL 135 - 5 AAC 85.045(21). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Reauthorize the antierless moose seasons in Unit 23 as follows:

Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)

Nonresident Open Season

# **Units and Bag Limits**

(21)

Unit 23, that portion north of and including the Singoalik River drainage

# **RESIDENT HUNTERS:**

1 moose; a person may not take a cow accompanied by a calf

July 1-Mar. 31

## NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull with spike-fork or 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side Sept. 1-Sept. 20

Unit 23, that portion in the Noatak drainage

### **RESIDENT HUNTERS:**

1 moose; however, antlerless moose may be taken only from Nov. 1 through Mar. 31; no person may take a cow accompanied by a calf Aug.1-Sept. 15 Oct. 1-Mar. 31

## NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull with spike-fork or 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side

Sept. 1-Sept. 15

Remainder of Unit 23

### **RESIDENT HUNTERS:**

1 moose; no person may Aug. 1-Mar. 31 take a cow accompanied by a calf

## NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull with spike-fork or 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side Sept. 1-Sept. 20

**ISSUE**: To be retained, antlerless seasons must be reauthorized annually. Late winter aerial surveys conducted during the last five years indicate the calf:cow ratio in Unit 23 has ranged from 15-33:100, and most populations appear stable. Unusually severe winters in 1989-90 and 1990-91 caused higher than normal overwinter mortality. We believe the moose population

declined in response to severe winters in some portions of the Unit. However, the reported harvest of cows in Unit 23 remains low, and at current levels is not adversely affecting growth and recovery of the population. During 1994-95, six of 133 moose harvested were cows; during 1995-96, eight of 173 moose harvested were cows; during 1996-97, 14 of 160 moose harvested were cows; and during 1997-98, seven of 160 moose harvested were cows.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Hunting opportunity will be needlessly lost.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All hunters who wish to harvest an antlerless moose.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-99S-G-166)

PROPOSAL 136 - 5 AAC 85.045(22). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Reauthorize the antierless moose hunting seasons in Unit 24 as follows:

Resident
Open Season
(Subsistence and
General Hunts)

Nonresident Open Season

# **Units and Bag Limits**

(22)

Unit 24, that portion within the Koyukuk Controlled Use Area downstream from Huslia

1 moose per regulatory year as follows:

I antlerless moose or I bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side by registration permit Sept. 5—Sept. 25 (General hunt only)

Sept. 5—Sept. 25

1 moose; however, moose may be taken by registration permit only during the period

Dec. 1—Dec. 10 Mar. 1—Mar. 10 (Subsistence hunt only)

Sept. 1—Sept. 25

No open season.

Sept. 1—Sept. 25

Remainder of Unit 24, within the Koyukuk Controlled Use Area

### **RESIDENT HUNTERS:**

1 moose: however, antlerless Sept. 1—Sept. 25 moose may be taken only Dec. 1—Dec. 10 during the periods Sept. Mar. 1—Mar. 10

21-Sept. 25, Dec. 1-Dec. 10, and

Mar. 1—Mar. 10

### NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

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

Sept. 5—Sept. 25

Unit 24, that portion of the John and Alatna River drainages within the Gates of the Arctic National Park

Aug. 1—Dec. 31

No open season.

1 moose

Unit 24, all drainages to the north of the Koyukuk River upstream from and including the Alatna River, to and including the North Fork of the Koyukuk River, except that portion of the John and Alatna River drainages within Gates of the Arctic National Park

## RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 moose; however, antlerless moose may be taken only during the periods Sept. 21—Sept. 25 Sept. 1—Sept. 25 Mar. 1-Mar. 10

and Mar. 1-Mar. 10

## NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side

Sept. 5—Sept. 25

ISSUE: Antlerless moose hunting seasons must be reauthorized annually. Antlerless moose harvests in the four geographic areas described in regulation (above) can be supported by present moose populations. This additional harvest provides greater hunting opportunity by primarily local hunters than would be possible with a bulls-only fall hunt. Fall 1998 trend count surveys suggest continued stable moose populations in Batza Slough and Mathews Slough. Previous trend count surveys for Dulbi Slough, Huslia River Flats, and Treat Island also indicate stable or increasing numbers, with high densities. Bull:cow ratios and other population parameters indicate management objectives are being met.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The bag limit will revert to antlered moose only, which could reduce overall harvest of moose and result in more restrictive seasons. Failure to utilize the antlerless moose resource may result in lost opportunities to local users.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Primarily local residents who rely on the meat for subsistence will benefit. Individuals who consider cow moose meat preferable to bull moose meat.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSAL 137 - 5 AAC 85.055(5). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR DALL SHEEP. Change the regulation in Unit 11, the Crystalline Hills Range, as follows:

From one sheep, any sex, to one full-curl ram. This would enable the population of sheep to grow back to historical numbers.

ISSUE: Back in the early '90s, the harvest for Unit 11 changed. This change to one sheep, any sex has had serious impact on sheep populations. The area of our concern is the Crystalline Hills Range. This is one of the most accessible hunts from the road system and has some of the greatest hunting pressure. In the early to mid-1980s, there was a population of sheep that numbered near two hundred. The population was stable and very healthy until the change was made to the regulation allowing harvest of any sex. According to the Unit 11 area biologist, the averages over the last ten years have seen 15-20 sublegal rams and 15-20 ewes and lambs unit-wide. If you compare those unit-wide numbers to the following Crystalline Hills numbers of 2-8 ewes and lambs, you can begin to understand why the population of sheep has dropped from near 200 to this year's totals of between 25 to 35. We have done our homework and have discussed this proposal with the Unit 11 area biologist and with many people that live within this area, and none that we have spoken with have said they disagree with this proposal.

Mike Collins and his grandfather Cliff Collins have lived at Long Lake near the base of the Crystalline Hills for several decades. Mike and Cliff along with myself have enjoyed viewing, hunting sheep along this range and we wish we could someday see the populations there once were. We believe that if this proposal is adopted for this range, the numbers will one day grow to populations seen only a few short years ago. This proposal does not deny anyone the opportunity to hunt sheep, but will allow hunters, viewers and future generations of hunters and viewers to see the great numbers of sheep that once combed this range.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSAL 138 - 5 AAC 85.055(3). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR DALL SHEEP. Amend regulations in Unit 13 as follows:

Sheep Unit 13 - one ram, full-curl horn or more, one every other year.

**ISSUE:** Declining sheep population in Unit 13.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Sheep population may continue to decline.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Sheep population should provide for larger proportion of larger rams that may become available to more hunters.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Hunters who shoot one sheep every year.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSAL 139 - 5 AAC 85.055(7). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR DALL SHEEP. Amend this regulation in Unit 14C as follows:

Limit permits awarded to nonresidents, say 10% of permits are made available to nonresident hunters.

ISSUE: Nonresident sheep hunting in permit areas of the Chugach Mountains.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Nonresidents and guides get a disproportionate number of sheep permits in the Chugach.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Resident Alaskans will have a greater opportunity to hunt Dall sheep in the Chugach.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Guides, nonresident hunters.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSAL 140 - 5 AAC 85.055(7). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR DALL SHEEP. Increase the number of permits available for the late season Dall sheep drawing hunt in

the remainder of Unit 14C and allow drawing permit hunters to hunt sheep in the East Fork of Eklutna River.

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
Remainder of Unit 14C		
1 ram with full-curl horn or larger or 1 ewe by drawing permit only; up to 240 perpermits will be issued; or 1 ewe by drawing permit only; up to 150 permits will be issued	Aug. 10 – Oct. 31 (General hunt only)	Aug. 10 – Oct. 31
1 sheep by bow and arrow only, by drawing permit only; up to 120 [80] permits will be issued.	Oct. 1 – Oct. 10 (General hunt only)	Oct. 1 – Oct. 10

**ISSUE:** During the late season archery hunt in Unit 14C, bowhunters take very few sheep. Generally, up to one-third of the drawing permit winners do not participate in the hunt. Of the 50 to 60 hunters that do get into the mountains, only about 10% are successful. The most sheep that have been taken in this 10-day hunt is 6 rams, and 3 ewes in 1995, and they were scattered throughout Unit 14C. More sheep hunting opportunity can be provided in Unit 14C without crowding hunters, affecting total sheep numbers, or reducing sheep-viewing opportunities by other park users.

# WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Lost hunting opportunity.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Sheep hunters.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Anti-hunters and some park users who believe hunting is incompatible with wildlife viewing.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Late-season registration hunt. Likely result in crowded conditions because it is so accessible to the majority of Alaska's bowhunters.

PROPOSAL 141 - 5 AAC 85.055(7). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR DALL SHEEP. Amend regulations in Unit 14C as follows:

Open the sheep bow and arrow season in all of Unit 14C from Oct. 1 - Oct. 30 by registration permit for 1 ewe or 1 full-curl or larger ram by bow and arrow only.

To participate in this sheep registration hunt, hunter must meet all Alaska's Bowhunter Education Requirements. Registration permits will be issued in areas where sheep quotas have not been met by drawing permit hunters. Registration permits will be issued in each subunit to a limited number of hunters in the field with that subunit at any one time.

Persons with a registration bow and arrow permit may not be accompanied by a person with or have in his possession any rifle, muzzleloader firearm or long range pistol (barrel over 8-inch and or scoped).

**ISSUE:** Expand the hunting opportunity for sheep in Unit 14C.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Unnecessary limitation of hunting opportunity. By limiting the methods and means by which animals may be harvested it will create more recreational hunting opportunity for the general public per animal taken.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The general public by allowing more recreational hunting opportunity by restricting the method and means of harvest to allow for more man days in the field per animal harvested.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? The viewing public will not suffer because by October most people have left the viewing areas.

The department by the loss of revenue from the drawing permit application fees. To offset loss we recommend that the board or department charge a \$30.00 registration fee for each permit issued.

## OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSAL 142 - 5 AAC 85.055(7). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR DALL SHEEP. Change this regulation in Unit 14C as follows:

Include the Eklutna drainage in the hunt area for the archery-only drawing permit DS140, which runs from Oct. 1- Oct. 10.

**ISSUE:** The Eklutna Lake drainage has a high number of sheep, including a high number of mature rams. ADF&G surveys counted 24 full-curl rams in 1997, and 34 in 1998. There are historically 80 permits issued for the late archery hunt, DS140, and allowing these permittees to hunt the Eklutna drainage would lessen the hunter density in other areas of the park. Archery hunters in the park historically have taken only about 2 rams per season during this late hunt so the biological effect will be negligible on the Eklutna herds. It seems to be an oversight in regulations that archery hunters cannot hunt the Eklutna "archery only" area (as well as East Eklutna) during this late hunt.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? High quality hunting opportunities in the Eklutna drainage will continue to be underutilized. Higher hunter density than necessary will occur in the rest of Unit 14C during this hunt.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Bowhunters who draw the late archery-only permit. Also, perhaps more hunters will be allowed to hunt if more areas are opened for this late hunt.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Very few if any hikers are above timberline in October, and the only other big game hunters who may possibly be around are the five goat permittees up East Fork Eklutna from Sept. 8 – Oct. 15. So probably no one will even notice the sheep hunters and one or two sheep (at the most) may be taken in the Eklutna drainage. Basically no one will suffer.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Open just the West Eklutna "archery-only" area to the late bowhunters, excluding East Fork Eklutna. If any of the Eklutna drainages are opened, add another 20 permits to the 80 now given since there will be more area and sheep to hunt. The odds are that an extra 20 permits will mean only one or two more rams will be taken (which is biologically insignificant).

PROPOSAL 143 - 5 AAC 85.055(7). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR DALL SHEEP. Amend regulations in Unit 14C as follows:

To allow the purchasers of Alaska's governor's permit for Dall sheep to hunt in the area comprised of DS141, within Unit 14C (the bow-only area) with a rifle during the period when the area is not open to bow hunting (Aug. 10 – Aug. 31).

**ISSUE:** We are trying to enhance interest from prospective bidders in Alaska's governor's permits for Dall sheep. Other states and provinces which obtain high bid values (\$200,000 to \$400,000) typically offer substantial incentives in terms of noncompetitive hunting opportunity either as to time or location. States or provinces that offer no additional incentive typically receive low bid values (\$10,000 to \$15,000). The first year that Alaska offered a governor's sheep permit, we obtained \$200,000. After the potential bidders on the permit learned that they were competing directly with resident hunters who also draw permits the governor's permit drew only \$50,000, and it is likely that the amount raised will decrease again for 1999.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The Alaska governor's permits for sheep will continue to decrease in value or will plateau at their current level. The opportunity to obtain substantial funds which directly benefit Dall sheep and other game and nongame species through expanded research and management programs will be lost.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All hunters and nonhunters alike will benefit from additional funding for research and management regarding Dall sheep and other game and nongame species throughout the state.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? The impact on bow hunters within the DS141 area should be negligible. Only one ram would be taken in any year. Bow hunters traditionally harvest a very low number of rams within the area. The purchaser of the governor's sheep permit will not be hunting within the area with a firearm during the same time period that bow hunters are using the area so there should be no issue as to the safety of the bow hunters using the area. Neither of the past purchasers of the governor's permit have actually taken a ram although that situation hopefully will change in the future.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** We considered the possibility of closing the area to the governor's permit purchaser on Sept. 7. We rejected that alternative because it did not allow for preseason scouting and access by bow hunters.

**PROPOSAL 144** - 5 AAC 85.055(3)(6)(7). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR DALL SHEEP and 5 AAC 92.530(2)(4)(9). MANAGEMENT AREAS. Amend these regulations as follows:

Allow an additional 10-day period from Aug. 1 - 10 for the purchasers of governor's sheep permits to hunt prior to the opening of the general sheep season.

**ISSUE:** We are trying to enhance interest from prospective bidders in Alaska's governor's permits for Dall sheep. Other states and provinces which obtain high bid values (\$200,000 to \$400,00) typically offer substantial incentives in terms of noncompetitive hunting opportunity either as to time or location. States or provinces that offer no additional incentive typically receive low bid values (\$10,000 to \$15,000). The first year that Alaska's offered a governor's sheep permit, we obtained \$200,000. After the potential bidders on the permit learned that they were competing directly with resident hunters who also draw permits, the governor's permit drew only \$50,000, and it is likely that the amount raised will decrease again for 1999.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The Alaska governor's permits for sheep will continue to decrease in value or will plateau at their current level. The opportunity to obtain substantial funds which directly benefit Dall sheep and other game and nongame species through expanded research and management programs will be lost.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All hunters and nonhunters alike will benefit from additional funding for research and management regarding Dall sheep and other game and nongame species throughout the state.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? There will be very little impact on other permittees' hunting opportunity, i.e., no more than two rams per year. Other persons who draw permits may lose the opportunity to hunt one large Dall ram in a given area (Unit 14C, Tok Management Area, Delta Control Use Area). Neither of the past purchasers of the governor's permit have actually taken a ram although that situation hopefully will change in the future.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** The other alternative is to maintain the status quo, let the value of governor's permits for sheep decrease over time and take what we can get and be happy. We rejected this alternative as the State of Alaska will lose a significant amount of research and management funding which it would otherwise be possible to obtain.

PROPOSAL 145 - 5 AAC 85.055. HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR DALL SHEEP. Create a bow and arrow season for sheep in Unit 15A as follows:

Open the sheep bow and arrow season in Unit 15A (Round Mt.) from Oct.1 - Oct. 30 by registration permit for one ewe or one full-curl or larger ram by bow and arrow only.

To participate in this sheep registration hunt must meet all Alaska's bowhunter education requirements. Registration permits will be issued in areas where sheep quotas have not been met by drawing permit hunters.

Persons with a registration bow and arrow permit may not be accompanied by a person with or have in his possession any rifle, muzzleloader firearm or long-range pistol (barrel over 8 inches and/or scoped).

**ISSUE:** Create a limited the hunting opportunity for sheep in Unit 15A (Round Mt.)

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Limiting the methods and means by which animals may be harvested creates more recreational hunting opportunity for the general public per animal taken.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The general public by allowing more recreational hunting opportunity by restricting the methods and means of harvest to allow for man-days in the field per animal harvested.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? The viewing public will not suffer because by October most people have left the viewing areas.

## OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSAL 146 - 5 AAC 85.055(4). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR DALL SHEEP. Amend this regulation to include the following:

Open the sheep "bow and arrow" season in all of Unit 15A (Round Mt.) from Oct. 1 - Oct. 30 by registration permit for 1 ewe or 1 full-curl or larger ram by bow and arrow only.

To participate in this sheep registration hunt, hunter must meet all Alaska's Bowhunter Education Requirements. Registration permits will be issued in areas where sheep quotas have not been met by drawing permit hunters.

Persons with a registration bow and arrow permit may not be accompanied by a person with or have in his possession any rifle, muzzle loader, firearm, or long range pistol (barrel over 8 inches and or scoped).

**ISSUE:** Create a limited the hunting opportunity for sheep in Unit 15A (Round Mt.)

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? By limiting the methods and means by which animals may be harvested creates more recreational hunting opportunity for the general public per animal taken.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The general public by allowing more recreational bunting opportunity by restricting the method and means of harvest to allow for more mandays in the field per animal harvested.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? The viewing public will not suffer because by October most people have left the viewing areas.

The department by the loss of revenue from the drawing permit application fees. To offset loss we recommend that the board or department charge a \$30.00 registration fee for each permit issued.

## OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Edward Russell	(SC-99S-G-030)
*************************	******

PROPOSAL 147 - 5 AAC 85.055(4). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR DALL SHEEP. Amend this regulation as follows:

In setting up one area on the Kenai as a special management as control area for sheep this will allow the age of rams to increase, thereby allowing better horn growth and the barvest of mature and older rams.

**ISSUE:** Propose limiting sheep hunt in Crescent Lake Area of Unit 7: Aug. 10 – Sept. 20. Perhaps, similar to the special management area of Unit 14C.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Current harvest levels would continue of rams that are just full-curl size and age that does not allow rams to fully mature.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Sheep that will be older and continue to breed. Hunters that draw will be able to hunt in area that promotes limited harvest to ensure good trophies and mature rams.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Sheep will suffer if continued harvest does not allow rams to mature. Hunters will suffer and most likely lose some allocation of the resource.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Continue under current regulations. Set harvest guidelines; when guidelines are met, close season.

PROPOSAL 148 - 5 AAC 85.055(4). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR DALL SHEEP. Amend this regulation as follows:

No sheep permits for nonresidents in Unit 15 – residents only.

**ISSUE:** Too many resident hunters are drawing sheep permits in Unit 15. Apparently hundreds of nonresidents are submitting drawing applications, reducing residents chances.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? More and more residents will be deprived of getting permits for this lucrative area, Unit 15, as outside or nonresidents flood the lottery box.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The residents of Alaska.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Nonresidents of Alaska.

# OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSAL 149 - 5 AAC 85.055(2)(3)(4)(5)(6)(7). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR DALL SHEEP. Amend regulations in these units as follows:

Establish a Dall sheep season from Oct. 1 - Oct. 15 in <u>all</u> units of the Alaska, Chugach, Wrangell, and Talkeetna mountains subject to the following restrictions.

- 1) Hunting by bow and arrow only.
- 2) Limited to IBEP qualified bowhunters.
- 3) Bag limit 1 full curl or larger ram.
- 4) Areas currently with drawing permit hunts would be by drawing permit (example Unit 14C, Delta and Tok Management Areas).
- 5) Areas currently with general harvest ticket hunts by registration permit.

**ISSUE:** There is a chance to significantly increase hunter opportunity for Dall sheep with minimal impact on sheep populations. There is a demonstrated desire by many hunters for a late fall sheep hunt using bow and arrow.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Hunter opportunity will be lost.

# WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?

IBEP qualified bowhunters.

The bowhunter education program by providing extra incentive for any hunter to become certified. Guides, air taxis, and other providers of commercial services for these hunts.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one – the demonstrated harvest rate by late season bowhunters is very low.

## OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

- A) Allow a general archery October season by harvest ticket only rejected because we feel that for a new hunt of this sort the Department of Fish and Game will get much better feedback of actual participation and harvest rates using permit hunts.
- B) Allow either "any sheep" or "ewe or full-curl" rejected after reading Wayne Heimer's report indicating that ewe harvest should be use only when the goal is reducing the sheep population.
- C) Extend the regular sheep season for another month for anyone rifle or bowhunter rejected because we feel rifle hunts would allow too high a success rate during this period when sheep are lower.
- D) Make the present October archery hunt in Unit 14C a registration hunt rather than a drawing-a definite possibility since low hunter success would not hurt the sheep population. However, if most of the 400 people who applied for this hunt actually hunted, it would be too crowded to be a quality hunt. Consideration should be given to increasing the number of drawing permits for this hunt to 100 or 120 especially if the two Eklutna drainages are included in the late hunt.

<u>PROPOSAL</u> 150 - 5 AAC 85.055(7). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR DALL SHEEP. Amend this regulation to provide the following:

Create an archery-only registration hunt for full-curl Dall sheep in Region II that begins the day after the general season hunt (Sept. 21) and ends on Oct. 10.

**ISSUE:** Bowhunters may hunt sheep during the general season, but they often don't because it is difficult to compete with hunters using rifles. Bowhunters are relatively inefficient sheep hunters, because they must stalk within short distances and sheep are often found in open terrain. An archery-only hunting season after the general season would take few full-curl sheep, and limiting hunters to 1 full-curl ram protects sheep populations from overharvest. Hence, sheep hunting opportunity could be greatly increased with no significant effect on sheep populations.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Bowhunters will have limited opportunities to hunt sheep without competition from hunter with rifles.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Bowhunters.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Anti-hunters.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** No registration permit; however, requiring bowhunters to register will provide valuable information on hunter distribution pressure and success rates.

**PROPOSAL 151** - 5 AAC 85.056(2). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR WOLF. Amend this regulation in Unit 13 as follows:

Unit 13

Residents and nonresidents: 10 wolves, Aug. 10 – Jun. 30.

**ISSUE:** Overabundance of wolves in Unit 13.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Excessively high mortality on caribou and moose will prevent intensive management of these prey populations for human consumptive use.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Hunters, guides, prey populations, taxidermists, fur tanners, etc.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Only those who object to killing animals.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Aerial shooting, land and shoot, control by ADF&G. These techniques are not politically acceptable to the Administration, Game Board and ADF&G.

PROPOSAL 152 - 5 AAC 85.056(2). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR WOLF. Change this regulation in Unit 13 as follows:

Season for wolf: Jan. 1 - Dec. 31. Bag limit 10 per day.

**ISSUE:** Wolf predation in Unit 13. BOG Findings 95-84-BOG for Unit 13, paragraph 10 finds that wolves are significant predators of moose, and that their numbers should be reduced to 135-165. In 1995, there were 225 wolves, in 1998, 300-400. The Board of Game and the department have done nothing to reduce predation on the declining moose herd.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The moose population will be in a predator pit. Because Unit 13 moose and caribou are under intensive management, Alaska Statutes mandate the Board of Game to institute active means to reduce predation to increase prey species.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The declining moose herd in Unit 13. Each May over 20,000 moose calves are born in Unit 13, by mid summer 18,000 have been slaughtered by wolves and bears. These babies should be allowed to grow up.

## WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Reducing human harvest of prey species: rejected because human harvest is not a significant mortality factor of these populations. Further restrictions on human harvest included by intensive management statutes.

PROPOSAL 153 - 5 AAC 85.065(1). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR SMALL GAME. Amend this regulation in Units 7 and 15 as follows:

Grouse (spruce, blue, ruffed and sharp-tailed)

Units 7 and 15: Residents and nonresidents:

15 per day, 30 in possession, of which not more than 1 per day or

2 in possession may be ruffed grouse

This will discourage grouse hunters from taking ruffed grouse, but allow them to keep one if accidentally shot.

**ISSUE:** Ruffed grouse were recently introduced on the Kenai Peninsula by ADF&G, but current regulations permit a bag limit of 15 per day, thus jeopardizing the success of the grouse transplant.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Too many grouse (ruffed) will be shot and the transplant will fail.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All people who want to see the ruffed grouse transplant succeed.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those people who are deliberately shooting ruffed grouse and care less if the ruffed grouse do not become established on the Kenai.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Closing the season to ruffed grouse hunting in Units 7 and 15. If someone accidentally shoots a ruffed grouse, they will not be arrested.

**PROPOSAL** 154 - 5 AAC 85.065(1). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR SMALL GAME. Change regulations for spruce grouse in Units 7 and 15 as follows:

Residents and onnresidents: 10 per day, 20 in possession.

**ISSUE:** Because of bark beetle infestation on the Kenai Peninsula, we have lost a lot of our spruce grouse habitat, and hence the spruce grouse population has been greatly reduced – thus we need to replace the hunting kill of spruce grouse.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Hunters will take too many spruce grouse and grouse will be overharvested.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All people who want to see a healthy spruce grouse population on the Kenai Peninsula.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those hunters who want to take more grouse than can be sustained.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** We could reduce the bag limit more and this might be necessary in the future.

**PROPOSAL 155** - 5 AAC 85.065(1). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR SMALL GAME. Reduce bag limit for ruffed grouse on Kenai Peninsula to 2 per day and 4 in possession, as follows:

Resident
Open Season

(Subsistence and Nonresident General Hunts) Open Season

Grouse (spruce, blue, ruffed, and sharp-tailed)

Units and Bag Limits

(1)...

Units 7 and 15 Aug. 10-Mar. 31 Aug. 10-Mar. 31

(General hunt only)

15 per day, 30 in possession, of which not more than 2 per day and 4 in possession may be ruffed grouse.

. . .

[UNIT 15] [AUG. 10-MAR. 31] [AUG. 10-MAR. 31]

[15 PER DAY, 30 IN POSSESSION]

**ISSUE:** The department is in the process of establishing a ruffed grouse population on Kenai Peninsula. Sixty-four birds were released in Unit 15 during 1995, and 66 were released in 1996 in the same unit. A final release of 103 was split between Units 7 and 15 during 1997.

A reduced bag limit is necessary to ensure that intentional harvest of ruffed grouse does not occur, but would allow a hunter to retain a ruffed grouse that was accidentally killed instead of a spruce grouse. This bag limit is consistent with regulations for Units 13, 14A, 14B and 16.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The success of the ruffed grouse transplant may be jeopardized if hunter harvests are excessive.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All people who enjoy a healthy ruffed grouse population on the Kenai Peninsula.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** A total closure of ruffed grouse hunting; however, hunters that make an honest mistake by incorrectly identifying a grouse in flight would be in violation. Another alternative would be to reduce the bag limit to one ruffed grouse but the proposed regulation would not be consistent with other Southcentral game management units.

**PROPOSAL 156** - 5 AAC 85.065(3). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR SMALL GAME. Extend season dates for ptarmigan in Unit 13 as follows:

Units and Bag Limits Resident
Open Season

Unit 13 ptarmigan

Aug. 10 – <u>Apr. 15</u> [MAR. 31]

**ISSUE:** Season dates for ptarmigan Unit 13

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Lost opportunity for ptarmigan hunters in Unit 13. There is no biological information/reason for not extending the hunting season. Reports have shown that hunters have no impact on ptarmigan number fluctuations.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Ptarmigan hunters.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSAL 157 - 5 AAC 85.065(3). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR SMALL GAME. Amend regulation for ptarmigan in Unit 15C as follows:

In Unit 15C, the area bounded by the Anchor River (south fork), Beaver Creek Flats, and Fritz Creek on the north and the Sterling Highway and East End Road to the south shall be closed to the hunting of ptarmigan. Although a temporary total closure would best assure the recovery of ptarmigan numbers in this area, a limit of 2 per day and possession of 4 per day may more slowly permit population restoration.

**ISSUE:** Despite willow ptarmigan being rare in the Homer area in recent years, current regulations still allow 10 ptarmigan per day, 20 in possession Aug. 10 – Mar. 31. Bag limits are excessive in developed areas near Homer. The ptarmigan population has been so severely depressed in areas accessible by proliferating roads and because of burgeoning use of snow machine and ATVs that population recovery of this cyclic species has not occurred. An increasing human population with

more roaming pets also has hastened the demise of ptarmigan on the north side of Kachemak Bay. Historically, the ptarmigan population on the uplands near Homer in some years was described in terms of "clouds" of birds along Skyline Drive, Ohlson Mountain, and Diamond Ridge roads. Some snowmobilers mentioned being able to ride above the nearby Homer bluff years ago and obtain bag limits in a very short period of time. Homesteaders in Waterman Canyon used to get a winter larder of birds locally. Early homesteaders' journals and verbal accounts indicate that thousands of ptarmigan formerly inhabited areas above the Homer bluff but were killed by the hundreds following the construction of Skyline Drive and other local roads. The ease of mechanized hunting has virtually extirpated historically plentiful populations

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? If hunting for ptarmigan is not locally temporarily suspended or at least the excessive bag limit in this area is not sharply reduced, populations will be unable to recover.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Ptarmigan populations should increase along with their natural predators. Homer area residents and others again will be able to enjoy seeing and hearing our state bird, and if local populations are allowed to recover, hunters also will ultimately benefit.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Nobody, since hunters can still hunt in other nearby portions of Unit 15C, and eventually when populations recover, limited hunting with reduced bag limits and season lengths could be resumed, especially during high populations cycles. Also, comparatively few now hunt in the proposed closed area because ptarmigan are so scarce. Moreover, if ptarmigan numbers increased significantly in the proposed closed area, some would move into ambient areas open to hunting.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? If nothing is done, local ptarmigan populations will be unable to recover and will more widely decline as the human population and concomitant hunting pressure, especially with off-road vehicles on the southern Kenai Peninsula continue to increase. While hunting ptarmigan in road-accessible areas near Homer with the use of snowmachines and other motorized conveyances should be prohibited to allow the anticipated recovery of local ptarmigan populations, enforcement of such a provision would be very difficult. It also would be highly desirable to have a restricted area near Homer for hunters who prefer to pursue ptarmigan on skis or snowshoes.

PROPOSAL 158 - 5 AAC 85.065(3). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR SMALL GAME. Amend this regulation Unit 15C as follows:

Close ptarmigan season in Unit 15C (area north of Kachemak Bay and east of Kenai mountains) for a period of five years.

**ISSUE:** Ptarmigan populations have declined for a period of 30 years. Current bag limits encourage the taking of birds to the point of extinction.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Hunting pressure will keep ptarmigan population at unacceptably low levels.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Human hunters, winter wildlife watchers, small game predators, i.e. wolverine, lynx, fox, coyote, mink.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Current populations are so low, no significant suffering should occur.

### OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSAL 159 - 5 AAC 85.065(4)(B). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR SMALL GAME. Amend regulations for sea ducks in Units 6, 7, 8 and 15 as follows:

Create a more specific migratory bird hunting zone:

## **Southcentral Gulf Coast**

Join the Pacific Flyway to include all sea ducks species in general duck bag limit.

Units 6, 7, and 15 7 per day to include not more than 1 old squaw, 1 harlequin

Kodiak Unit 8 7 per day to include not more than 1 old squaw, 1 harlequin

Black scoter and king eider also need attention.

(Viscera turned in on voluntary basis for contaminant concentration and genetic differentiation analysis.)

Until the presently organized sea duck joint venture has gained and assessed knowledge we must refine harvest management to assist these species.

We need an educational statement through strict regulation change to alert hunters of the existence of declines. From there we can move forward to assist populations. Regulations must be up to date with ecological regime shifts, and environmental contaminants. With the many oil spills, and cumulative stress factors, rafting concentrations of sea ducks are one the most vulnerable and suffer the highest losses relative to the size of local populations.

**ISSUE:** In North America sea ducks have significantly and steadily declined since the mid-1970s at regional and continental levels. We have minimal knowledge of population status and harvest levels. Spectacled and Steller's eiders are already listed as threatened.

Old squaw in Alaska have declined by 70% or more. Scoters have declined continentally by 40%. Harlequin are still showing stress from the oil spill. Fisheries are struggling with a North Pacific ecological regime shift where populations of shellfish in certain areas (Cook Inlet, Prince William Sound, Kodiak) have dramatically declined to the point of complete closures. Sea lions and belugas are also threatened.

With these significant declines, vast absence of knowledge, little understood regime shifts, relative unpalatability leading to wanton waste, little enforcement, and 70,000 sea ducks taken annually along coastal communities (over 300,000 were killed by the oil spill), the Alaska sea duck bag and possession limits are excessive and outdated and should come in line with the rest of the Pacific Flyway for serious conservation reasons.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Declines may continue to threaten status. Unique genetic populations of winter residents will be eliminated. Wildlife managers will experience the same disgrace that shellfish managers faced by taking too little action, too late, because of political pressure. The bag limit can always be raised when populations recover, but until we find out what is happening in the North Pacific, the precautionary principle must enter into sea duck management.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Everyone in the Pacific Flyway who wants these populations to thrive.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those who target practice at sea ducks.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Lower sea duck limit 5 per day to include not more than one old squaw, one harlequin, one black scoter.

PROPOSAL 160 - 5 AAC 85.065(4)(B). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR SMALL GAME. Amend this regulation for sea ducks in Unit 15 as follows:

Recommend emergency measures designed for specific areas of depletion. Close small narrow fjords or reduce bag/possession limits to 2 per day, 4 in possession in narrow bays and fjords of Unit 15C, only one may be harlequin, and one may be old squaw, until we see an increase of these residents. Joint Boards can be used to collaborate information on predator/prey relationships between fish and wildlife.

**ISSUE:** Fidelity of sea duck species in their wintering grounds. Localized resident wintering sea ducks are suffering decline within southcentral Alaska and especially narrow fjords of Lower Cook Inlet. We know little of the genetic significance or variability of these distinct resident populations.

Possible cumulative effects on sea ducks:

- Sea ducks are easily herded and driven in narrow  $\frac{1}{4}$   $\frac{1}{2}$  mile-wide bays and fjords.
- 2) Sustainability for localized resident wintering sea duck populations is in jeopardy.
- 3) Immoderate bag and possession limits add to adverse cumulative effects.
- 4) Dramatic declines in raft size observed by long time residents.
- 5) Enforcement and biological oversight is relatively nonexistent.
- 6) Minimal data on populations and dynamics of sea ducks, particularly lacking in sub-arctic localized resident sea ducks who winter in these high latitudes.
- 7) Information on harvest level and disturbance factors poor.
- 8) Consequences of reducing these localized residents is unknown.
- 9) Pressure is intensifying from the guided charter industry.
- Artificially high bald eagle population on Homer Spit. A large sea duck predator. (Seward Fisheries, the food source for these eagles, burned down July 1998.)
- 12) Lack of local historical perspective in managers and many local witnesses.
- 13) The effects of the oil spill are still evident in scaup, oldsquaw, harlequin, etc.
- 14) Major declines of shellfish stocks in Southcentral Alaska.

- 15) Human growth has more than doubled in urban and rural areas in Southcentral.
- 16) Whittier road will open Prince William Sound to Anchorage.
- 17) Cook Inlet is the recipient for NPDES permits of oil platform discharges, municipal waste discharges of the largest cities in Alaska, Nikiski refinery and international bilge water pumping.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Localized resident sea duck populations may continue to decline in easily accessible areas. One study in Washington state shows localized residents distinct to the same bay each year. We do not know the consequences of reducing these localized residents to what appears to be drastically lowered threshold levels. Our depleted shellfish resource affects these species.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All residents along the Pacific Flyway.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one, opportunity exists outside of these narrow fjords.

## OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

Note: This proposal was deferred from the Fall 1998 board meeting.

PROPOSAL 161 - 5 AAC 85.065(4). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR SMALL GAME. Amend bag limits for sea ducks in all units as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(4)		
Migratory game birds (except by falconry) <sup>1</sup>		
(A) Ducks (except sea ducks)		
Units 1-4	Sept. 1-Dec. 16 (General hunt only)	Sept. 1-Dec. 16
7 per day and 21 in possession; however, not more than 1 per day and 3 in possession may be canvasbacks		

Units 5-7, 9, 10 Sept. 1-Dec. 16

Sept. 1-Dec. 16

(Unimak Is. only), and 14-16

(General hunt only)

8 per day and 24 in possession; however, not more than 1 per day and 3 in possession may be canvasbacks

Units 8 and 10 (except Unimak Is.)

Oct. 8-Jan. 22 (General hunt only) Oct. 8-Jan. 22

7 per day and 21 in possession; however, not more than 1 per day and 3 in possession may be canvasbacks

Units 11-13 and 17-26

Sept. 1-Dec. 16 (General hunt only)

Sept. 1-Dec. 16

10 per day and 30 in possession; however, not more than 1 per day and 3 in possession may be canvasbacks

(B) Sea ducks<sup>3</sup>
[(EIDER, SCOTER,
OLDSQUAW, HARLEQUIN)
AND MERGANSERS<sup>3</sup>]

(i) King and common eider, scoters, [OLD SQUAW,] and mergansers

Units 1-7, 9, 10 (Unimak Is. only), and 11-26

# RESIDENT HUNTERS:

 $\underline{10}$  [15]per day,  $\underline{20}$  [30] in possession

Sept. 1-Dec. 16 (General hunt only)

## NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

Only in aggregate with other ducks; however no more than the possession limit may be taken per season

Units 8 and 10 (except Unimak Is.)

Sept. 1-Dec. 16

**RESIDENT HUNTERS:** 

10 [15] per day, 20 [30] in posses-

 $\frac{1}{100} = \frac{1}{100} = \frac{1}$ 

Oct. 8-Jan. 22 (General hunt only)

**NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:** 

Only in aggregate with other

Oct. 8-Jan. 22

ducks; however no more than the possession limit may be taken per season

[(II) HARLEQUIN DUCK]

[UNITS 1-5, 6(A)-6(C),

[SEPT. 1-DEC. 16]

[SEPT. 1-DEC. 16]

9, 10 (UNIMAK IS. ONLY),

AND 11-26]

[(GENERAL HUNT ONLY)]

[15 PER DAY, 30 IN POSSES-

SION]

[UNITS 6(D) AND 7

[OCT. 1-DEC. 16]

[OCT. 1-DEC. 16]

[(GENERAL HUNT ONLY)]

[2 PER DAY, 6 IN POSSESSION]

**JUNITS 8 AND 10** 

[OCT. 8-JAN. 22]

[OCT. 8-JAN. 22]

(EXCEPT UNIMAK IS.)]

[(GENERAL HUNT ONLY)]

[15 PER DAY, 30 IN POSSES-

SION]

(ii) [(III)] Spectacled and

Steller's eiders

Units 1-26

No open season.

No open season.

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Note: Repealed 8/26/96.

<sup>1.</sup> Note: The total combined bag and possession limit for migratory game birds taken with the use of a falcon under a falconry permit is three per day and six in possession and may not exceed a more restrictive limit for any of the species listed in 5 AAC 85.065(a)(4).

<sup>3.</sup> Note: For purposes of seasons and bag limits, sea ducks include king and common eiders, scoters, and mergansers. Resident hunters may take sea ducks in addition to the general duck limits in (A), but not to exceed the sea duck limits in (B). Nonresident hunters may take sea ducks only in aggregate with the general duck limits in (A), but not to exceed the possession limit per season. [THE TOTAL COMBINED BAG LIMIT FOR ALL SEA DUCKS AND MERGANSERS IS 15 PER DAY, 30 IN POSSESSION].

**ISSUE:** Traditional survey indices of sea ducks have shown a downward trend in most species since the 1970s. Abundance of scoter species as a group and long-tailed ducks (oldsquaw) have declined by 50% and 75% respectively at the continental level. Scoters have declined markedly in the northern prairies of Canada and the Y-K Delta, with moderately lower numbers in interior Alaska. The most significant declines in scoters are from black scoter breeding areas, including the Y-K Delta (down 60%). Lower numbers of long-tailed ducks are evident on breeding areas in both Canada and Alaska, most prominently in western Alaska (down 65-70 %), but not on Alaska's North Slope.

Very restrictive season and bag limit regulations have been in place for harlequin ducks in Units 6D and 7 after the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill. Winter indices of harlequin ducks in Prince William Sound are at or above pre-spill levels, and the concerns that lead to very restrictive regulations in 1991 have abated. However, the proposed regulations would restrict harlequin duck harvest to general duck bag limits statewide.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service asserts that harvest restrictions are warranted for sea ducks and that Alaska's special sea duck bag limit should be re-evaluated. Federal concerns stem, in part, from the discovery of steep declines in spectacled and Steller's eiders in Alaska (both now listed as threatened), and the assumption that management of hunting regulations may provide some benefit to sea ducks. State harvest surveys of licensed hunters indicate an average fall/winter harvest of 6,000-8,000 sea ducks annually. Community household surveys suggest that an additional subsistence harvest of 10,000-15,000 sea ducks may occur during the regulated hunting season (September through January). These ducks are harvested from over one-half million sea ducks that stage and winter along Alaska's southwest coast, Gulf of Alaska, and southeast coast. An estimated 50,000 sea ducks (mostly scoters and eiders) are taken during spring and summer subsistence hunting. A process to manage spring and summer hunting is currently being developed to implement migratory bird treaty amendments.

Available data do not suggest that overharvest has caused declines in sea duck populations, and other causes have not been identified. The proposed restrictions to hunting are largely a precautionary measure. However, concerns by agency managers and the public are growing. Public concerns have been expressed about harvest pressure on local stocks of wintering sea ducks (e.g. harlequins) in areas of southcentral Alaska. Also, there have been a few highly visible abuses and violations of Alaska's liberal sea duck regulations by nonresidents.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Because harvest has not been implicated in sea duck declines, and only about one-third of the sea duck harvest occurs during the regulated season, the effects of no regulatory action are uncertain. However, in the absence of state actions, it is likely that the Secretary of the Interior will adopt federal framework regulations restricting sea duck harvest options in Alaska. This proposal represents a more palatable option based on the most important clements of sea duck harvest identified by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Those that support immediate, conservative action to reduce harvest as a controllable factor affecting sea ducks.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Bag limits for nonresident hunters would be reduced most by restrictions to an aggregate limit for all ducks (no special sea duck limit), and a season limit on total take of sea ducks. All resident hunters would have lower potential limits on long-tailed and harlcquin ducks by their inclusion in the general duck limits, rather than the additional special sea duck limit. They also would have lower special sea duck limits for scoters, eiders, and mergansers.

Reduction of harvest opportunity would be greatest in southeast and southcentral Alaska, Kodiak, and the Aleutians where general duck limits are 7 or 8 per day and sea ducks are available from late fall through winter. Effects would be least in the north and west where general duck limits are 10 per day, 30 in possession, and most ducks have moved south by mid-October.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? No action; however, development of a state proposal with public input is preferable to imposition of arbitrary federal restrictions. The proposed level of reduction in the special sea duck limit for residents (15 to 10 daily) was selected solely on the hope that it will be viewed as sufficient from the federal viewpoint. A suggested restriction on harvest of black scoters is not supported because they comprise only 4% of fall/winter harvest, they are the least available scoter species, and a specific restriction would create hunter jeopardy for "lookalike" species and sex/age classes of scoters. Preferential sea duck limits for residents are intended to highlight the importance of harvest for food, while providing reasonable opportunity for visitors to take sea ducks. The suggested option to provide preferential sea duck opportunity only to "subsistence hunters" runs contrary to migratory bird treaty implementation guidelines; Title VIII of ANILCA does not apply to migratory birds.

PROPOSAL 162 - 5 AAC 85.075. HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR DELETERIOUS EXOTIC WILDLIFE. Amend this regulation to include the following:

Unit 8 Marmot Island pigs are private property.

**ISSUE:** My pigs are located on Marmot Island and are termed "feral swine." I do, on a regular basis feed them on the U.S. Survey 3631 which is my private property (the only privately owned land on Marmot Island). Please solve this problem by removing Unit 8 from the feral swine designation on pg. 110 of the Alaska Hunting Regulations, or specifically mention that Marmot Island in Unit 8 is not the habitat of feral swine, but privately owned swine.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Any pigs will be hunted and destroyed. This would mean the State of Alaska endorses the destruction of my private property and ignores the historic and traditional uses of land on Marmot Island. Eleven pigs were placed on the island in 1926 by Bob Chamberlain. Former Alaska Senator Al Owens placed pigs on the island in 1943. In 1967, Stan Lee placed pigs on the island and my eight were transported to the Island by me in 1984. I supply mineral and protein blocks at an established feed station on my property. This used by pigs and deer.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Myself, as my property will not be listed as available for legal destruction.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Sport hunters will not be able to hunt privately owned pigs on Marmot Island.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Establishing a caretaker does seem not economically feasible.

**PROPOSED BY:** Recd E. Oswalt (HQ-99S-G-066)

PROPOSAL 163 - 5 AAC 99.025. CUSTOMARY AND TRADITIONAL USES OF GAME POPULATIONS. Amend this regulation for Unit 6 as follows:

Complete a customary and traditional use determination for Canada geese in Unit 6. The finding would then become part of the record for further Pacific Flyway Council and Board of Game deliberations on season and bag limits.

**ISSUE:** The Copper River/Prince William Sound Advisory Committee is petitioning the Pacific Flyway Council for changes to the Dusky Canada Goose Management Plan and subsequent liberalization of hunting seasons. In presenting our case to the Flyway Council, it is important to illustrate that the traditional Alaska harvests of the Dusky goose are of great importance to local communities and distinct from those occurring in the "lower 48." A customary and traditional finding for the Canada goose by the Alaska Board of Game would best document these uses and bolster Flyway Council decision making by providing much needed information on human uses of the Dusky and other Canada geese.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Alaskan will continue to be denied reasonable opportunity to harvest the Dusky and other Canada goose subspecies when harvestable surpluses occur. Alaska Board of Game decisions regarding seasons and bag limits will continue to be guided by Flyway Council recommendations that do no adequately consider Alaskan needs and support harvest restrictions based on political considerations rather than harvest potentials, good information, goose biology and other relevant information.

### WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?

### WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Forwarding proposal to Pacific Flyway Council without the benefit of a C&T determination was rejected because this heretofore unavailable information is relevant to council decision making.

Key elements to the Copper River/Prince William Sound Advisory Committee proposal: 1) Provide for earlier season opening in Unit 6D – the resident and migrant geese of Prince William Sound are not subject to the same management concerns as the Dusky of the Copper River Delta. 2) Provide for earlier season opening in remainder of Unit 6 when annual Dusky population index reaches 16,000. 3) Amend Dusky goose "step down" plan so #2 above could occur based on annual indices other than a three-year average index – hunters should realize the benefits of exceptional annual production.

A final proposal will be sent to the Flyway Council and made available at the Board of Game meeting following completion of discussions with management personnel regarding proposed season opening dates.

Note: The Board accepted the following proposal through an agenda change request for the Spring 1999 meeting.

**PROPOSAL 164** - 5 AAC 92.062(1)(c). PRIORITY FOR SUBSISTENCE HUNTING; TIER II PERMITS. Amend this regulation for musk ox permits on the Seward Peninsula as follows:

Limit Tier II muskox permits to one permit per household.

**PROBLEM:** Tier II muskox hunt permits (Hunt TX 102, TX 104, TX 106) being issued to individuals living in the same household.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Less Tier II permits will be available to different households.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All Tier II applicants who did not receive a permit.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those individuals who received permits who live in the same household.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

**PROPOSAL 165** - 5 AAC 92.XXX. SPECIAL PROVISIONS FOR UNIT 6 GOAT PERMIT HUNTS. Create a new regulation to provide the following:

Unit 6C goat registration: a hunter will only be issued a permit every three years.

**ISSUE:** This was the second year for the Unit 6C goat hunt to be opened in ten years. The past two years hunters have waited in line at the local ADF&G officer overnight to receive a permit. There have not been any problems with the permitting process but feel that larger more diversified group of people will be able to participate if there is a neutral period between issued permits.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? This committee feels there will be more opportunity for more hunters if there is longer period of time between the issuance of permits. There are more people than not that have scheduling conflicts with the date or time the permits are issued. Changing the permit qualifications will allow a more diversified group of people to hunt goat.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? More hunters will have an opportunity for goat permits.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

 Gut kits containing ice packs, coolers, scalpels and chemically clean I-Chem 300-series glass jars and simple instructions can be picked up at Fish and Game or Fish and Wildlife offices (or breast meat could be removed and carcasses wrapped in plastic bags and placed in cooler on ice for transport). Data sheets of name, species, gender, time, date and bay of harvest.

**ISSUE:** Several species of sea ducks in North America are declining at regional and continental levels. Knowledge of contaminant concentrations and genetic differentiation in sea ducks is minimal. Sea ducks have been significantly and steadily declining since the mid-1970s. Spectacled and Steller's eiders are already listed as threatened.

Sea ducks are known to accumulate high concentrations of nonessential metals such as cadmium (Di Giulio and Scanlon, 1984). Minimal data show that elemental residues of cadmium, copper, lead, and selenium were elevated in opportunistic carcass sampling of spectacle and common eider (Trust et al, 1997). These values were similar to those found in white-winged scoters during a die-off of unknown causes in Southeast Alaska (Henny et al, 1995).

We need more information on contaminant concentrations and unique genetics in wintering sea ducks and have an abundant source of viscera and a collection vehicle to choose from, free of charge.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Opportunity for knowledge will be lost. Declines may continue. Agencies have limited revenue for sample collection. Utilize abundant viscera.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Everyone if we can gain knowledge through a resource not utilized by the hunter.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one, only those who care enough for the resource to volunteer will take the few moments to prepare the sample, and bring it to be processed.

# OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

Note: The Board accepted the following proposal through an agenda change request for the Spring 1999 meeting:

PROPOSAL 170 - 5AAC 92.XXX. PERMIT FOR USING AIRCRAFT FOR RADIO TELEMETRY. Add a new regulation to ensure the conservation and development of game resources by requiring a permit for using radio telemetry to track wildlife as follow:

a) No person may use radio telemetry equipment to track any wildlife species without first obtaining a permit from the department, unless that person is an authorized employee or agent of the department or an authorized employee or agent of a federal conservation agency with a current Memorandum of Understanding or Cooperative Agreement with the department. The conditions of the permit will include reasonable conditions and protocols to ensure that: 1) wildlife instrumented with radio transmitters are not unduly pursued or harassed resulting in

behavioral or energetic changes affecting individual viability or utility as a research study specimen; 2) aircraft used by the permittee are operated in a safe manner; and 3) wildlife telemetry and survey operations using aircraft by the department or other government agencies are conducted in a safe and efficient manner and not impeded by the permittee's activities.

- (b) The conditions of a permit issued under (a) of this section shall include but are not limited to:
  - (1) permitted geographic area and flight altitudes for aircraft operations;
  - (2) an air-to-air radio communications frequency for aircraft operations;
- (3) constant monitoring of a designated communication frequency at or below a designated altitude within a geographic area for aircraft operations;
- (4) a protocol and frequency for announcing position, altitude, and general nature of flight within a geographic area, and responding to similar announcements by other aircraft;
- (5) maintaining a minimum horizontal separation from agency aircraft conducting field operations;
- (6) reporting to designated department staff of plans to conduct radio telemetry operations prior to the occurrence of operations;
  - (7) operations must be conducted in a manner so that animals do not respond to the permittees activities by taking evasive action; and
  - (8) temporal or frequency restrictions to minimize potential for energetic or behavioral responses by animals.
- (c) At time of application, a permit applicant must provide the department with:
  - (1) The species and number of animals to be tracked using radio telemetry;
  - (2) the geographic area where the radio telemetry will be conducted;
- (3) the time frame when radio tracking flights will be conducted including planned dates and frequency of field operations; and
  - (4) the name of the permittee and sub-permittees who will operate under the permit.

ISSUE: On numerous occasions in the past two years Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) and National Park Service pilots or their private contract pilots have had close encounters with other aircraft radiotracking the same collared animals. Close air-to-air encounters have so far occurred only in the vicinity of Denali National Park and Preserve and in the greater Fortymile area, including Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve. ADF&G, NPS, and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) all recognize these encounters are a serious safety risk. ADF&G and NPS have agreed on standard communication procedures to be followed at all times while radiotracking or flying low-level wildlife surveys in these areas. FAA has copies of ADFG/NPS safety protocols and agrees they are necessary for safe aircraft operations during radio telemetry operations. When FAA is aware of non-agency aircraft conducting radio tracking flights they will notify non-agency pilots of the protocols and that failure to observe the protocols by either agency or non-agency pilots may result in violations and disciplinary action by FAA.

The potential exists for unauthorized use of radio telemetry technology to enhance opportunities for observing wildlife. This type of activity, if unregulated, may lead to excessive contact or harassment of instrumented animals resulting in behavioral changes rendering the animals of little or limited utility as research subject specimens. Agency biologists and authorized scientific permittees deploy radio transmitters on/in individual wildlife specimens to conduct research supporting the management, conservation, and development of wildlife resources. Unregulated and unauthorized tracking of instrumented animals may result in inaccurate research findings as well a presenting a hazard during field activities conducted by authorized personnel.

The proposed regulation requires any individual using radio telemetry to track wildlife to obtain a permit from the department wherein conditions may be stipulated to ensure safety of the permittee and agency staff, the efficient conduct of agency field activities, and the integrity of research activities dependent on.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Agency staff and operators of non-agency aircraft conducting radiotracking flights operate at significant risk of personal injury or death due to lack of a protocol for ensuring compliance to established safety procedures. Excessive unauthorized radiotracking may compromise the validity of authorized research activities dependent on radiotracking instrumented wildlife.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Immediate benefits will be realized by agency staff and non-agency individuals conducting radiotracking for wildlife using aircraft. ADF&G projects can be conducted in a safe and efficient manner at lower cost.

## WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Agency staff have already taken steps to establish protocols to ensure safety. However, efficacy of safety protocols is limited because there is no procedure to ensure that any non-agency individual using radio-telemetry is notified of and required to comply with safety protocols.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game	(HQ-99S-G-173)
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PROPOSAL 171 - 5 AAC 92.090. UNLAWFUL METHODS OF TAKING FUR ANIMALS; EXCEPTIONS Amend this regulation in Unit 14 as follows:

Delete the section which prohibits the use, in Unit 14, of dogs for hunting of coyote, fox, and red squirrel, or delete the prohibition of dogs to hunt lynx, or adopt a permit system for lynx, such as what is now in place for black bear.

#### ISSUE:

- 1. None of these animals appear to be in any danger of being overharvested. Populations of these animals appear to be on the increase statewide. The one exception may be the lynx in certain areas of the state. Those could be protected by a permit system.
- 2. Dog hunters, overall, are conservationists. When hunting with a dog, there is a noticeably lower chance of losing wounded game. Also, when a dog has an animal up a tree, or cornered, the hunter usually has a chance to look the animal over before deciding to harvest it. Immature animals can be left to mature. Most dog hunters do not hunt with dogs to increase their kill ratios. They usually harvest only a small percentage of the game that they "catch." Their enjoyment comes from listening to their dogs. They know that if they harvest everything that they catch, that would limit the opportunities that they have to listen to their dogs.
- 3. In the lower 48 states and in Canada there are thousands of individuals and hundreds of organizations devoted to hunting these animals with dogs. Nowhere, to my knowledge, has this hurt the animal populations. In fact, populations seem to be increasing everywhere.

- 4. Hunting with dogs is not only traditional, but is also a very honorable form of family recreation. Most youngsters enjoy the companionship of a dog. Dogs could be used as an aid to attract young hunters into the ranks. Now more than ever we need to involve youngsters in the hunting sports, and make it as educational and entertaining as possible.
- 5. The law, in its present form, is mostly unenforceable. That, combined with the facts stated above is why this change is requested.

## Additional Recommendations:

- 1. All dogs should be required to have current rabies vaccination.
- 2. Remote training collars, or tracking collars should be encouraged as aids in controlling inexperienced dogs, and in retrieving lost dogs.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Outdoor recreational activities for Alaska outdoorsmen, and children that enjoy hunting with dogs, will be restricted severely.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Everybody in this state that hunts with dogs. Why should a father be able to take his children and his family dog rabbit and grouse hunting, and not be able to have the children harvest a red squirrel that the dog may locate? Also, people in this state who have had their dogs trained to hunt these animals could be utilized by ADF&G and private individuals to protect small domesticated livestock, and to capture or destroy wild animals that may become problems or dangerous.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Aside from the animal rights types, I do not foresee much opposition. There may be the occasional trapper type, but most hunters and trappers realize that we need to work together. I personally do not see much conflict with trappers for several other reasons. First, no real dog hunter would deliberately release his valuable hunting dog into an area where that dog may get caught in a trap. Second, as long as the dog is being used under a hunting license, not under a trapping license, and the hunting bag limit is not exceeded, I see this as being no more harmful than hunting these animals without a dog.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Lifting the ban on dogs to hunt coyote, fox, and squirrel, but saw no biological reason not to include lynx.

PROPOSAL 172 - 5 AAC 92.085. UNLAWFUL METHODS OF TAKING BIG GAME EXCEPTIONS. Amend this regulation to include the following:

Require all muzzleloader hunters in Unit 14C to complete a course of instruction in which the ballistic limitations of their weapons are fully explained. Require a demonstration of proficiency with the weapon and hunting load to be used.

Those muzzleloader hunters participating in any hunt restricted to muzzleloader only, or muzzleloader or archery equipment hunts shall have completed the National Muzzle Loading Rifle Association (NMLRA) course of muzzleloader hunting instruction. This course has been adopted by the International Association of Hunter Education (IHEA). Nonresident hunters may qualify by

submitting proof they have completed this course in their home states. In addition, Alaska residents will be required to pass a proficiency test (as a part of said course, or alternatively at another time prior to hunting). A suggested test could consist of placing 4 out of 5 shots at 50 yards in an 8-inch diameter circle or the kill zone of a life size silhouette of the subject game animal. Hunters may pass this test at an Alaska Department of Fish and Game range or at any of the regularly scheduled shoots hosted by the sponsoring clubs. (Regulations could include phone numbers for making arrangements.)

**ISSUE:** Assumption of high crippling loss in special muzzleloader hunts.

While the primary factor that limits the range of a modern high powered hunting rifle is the range at which the shooter can perform with accuracy, the primary hunting factor that limits the range of muzzleloaders is the kinetic energy produced and maintained by the propellant/projectile combination. Experienced muzzleloaders generally consider an unusually powerful powder/projectile combination to be effective on moose at ranges of 100 yards or less.

Hunters with little or no experience with muzzleloaders often do not have a practical understanding of the ballistic limitations of their propellant/projectile combination. As a result, inexperienced muzzleloader hunters, especially those equipped with so-called "modern" muzzleloaders which are designed to simulate the sighting and handling characteristics of modern, high powered rifles, may attempt to shoot animals at ranges far in excess of those at which a muzzleloader is capable of quickly and humanely killing a large game animal. The problem may be compounded by some manufacturers of so-called "modern" muzzleloaders who allegedly overstate the long-range accuracy of their products. This may lead some inexperienced muzzleloader hunters to believe their muzzleloaders are effective at these longer ranges. The result may be an unacceptable number of wounded animals lost in the field.

This proposal was submitted last year for consideration statewide and returned with advice to resubmit in 2000. It is submitted again at this time as a companion to our proposal for a muzzleloader hunt for moose in Unit 14C with the annotation that it be adopted for only Unit 14C after the 1999 season. Such a pilot application would be useful in several ways before application statewide. The logistics of providing for training and certification to a smaller group of hunters could be worked out. The effectiveness in limiting negative results could be evaluated.

# WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Inexperienced muzzleloader hunters who will gain the information needed to successfully harvest large game with muzzleloaders. Large game animals, as losses due to wounding will be minimized. Those who would be comforted by knowing that those hunting with muzzleloaders have demonstrated proficiency with their hunting loads and received adequate training in the use of firearms to minimize adverse impact on wildlife resources. Guides and outfitters, who will know that their muzzleloader hunting clients have demonstrated adequate knowledge and proficiency to hunt properly with muzzleloaders.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Hunters who are unwilling to attend the course, or those who are unable to demonstrate competency would be denied opportunity to participate in these special hunts.

The few experienced and knowledgeable muzzleloaders who are not aware of this problem and would begrudge the time and effort required to take the course and pass the proficiency test may

forego applying for a permit to hunt. But discussions to date indicate the muzzleloader veterans, once informed of the proposed regulations purpose, become supporters of the proposal.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Ban so-called "modern" muzzleloaders in muzzleloader-only or muzzleloader and archery equipment-only hunts. Rejected because it would wrongly blame the firearm for crippling loss, because it would not address the basic problem (lack of education), and because it would limit hunting opportunities to those who are interested in using historically authentic muzzleloaders at the exclusion of other types of muzzleloaders.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska State Muzzle Loading Association

Alaska Members of the Coalition of Historical Trekkers

McKinley Mountainmen Muzzle Loading Rifle Club (HQ-99S-G-111)

**PROPOSAL 173** - 5 AAC 92.085(4). UNLAWFUL METHODS OF TAKING BIG GAME; EXCEPTIONS. Amend this regulations to provide for the following:

Add brown/grizzly bear to black bear baiting regulations in Unit 13 until the population objective is met. (Same registration, season, conditions; salvage meat also.)

**ISSUE:** The brown/grizzly bear population is at least three times the Unit 13 population objective. (BOG '95 Findings.) Eliminating the resident tag and one per four years has not reduced the population. Predation on moose calves by bears is a major factor in declining moose populations in this unit which has been designated intensive management for moose.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Continued decline of the moose population. Reduction of hunting opportunity, seasons and bag limit. Eventual slide into Tier II only resulting in less hunters in the field which would reduce the brown/grizzly bear harvest.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Moose hunters, wildlife viewers, wildlife managers.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Other predator control, such as targeted wolf reduction, rejected because of low probability of support from State of Alaska.

**PROPOSAL 174** - 5 AAC 92.085(4). UNLAWFUL METHODS OF TAKING BIG GAME; EXCEPTIONS. Amend this regulation to provide the following:

The season for black bear baiting in Unit 16B would be from Apr. 15 - Jul. 15.

**ISSUE:** Extending this opportunity to hunt black bear over bait in Unit 16B.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Hunting opportunity is being lost in an area that can handle additional harvest of black bear.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Hunters who wish to look over a wider selection of black bears before harvesting a bear. More older mature bears tend to come into baits looking for sows later in the season. A short baiting season usually results in the harvest of young boars and sows. This area is not easily accessed by the general population of hikers.

## WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

## OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: A	nchorage Advisory Committee	(SC-99S-G-017)
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PROPOSAL 175 - 5 AAC 92.085(4)(B)(ii). UNLAWFUL METHODS OF TAKING BIG GAME; EXCEPTIONS. Amend this regulations in Unit 16 only, as follows:

L No bear baiting station within one mile above or below the mouth of named rivers and creeks, hunting area to start at river banks. Bear baiting stations shall be clearly marked with orange fluorescent signs 100 yards above and below bait stations. Signs to be clearly visible from a distance of 500 feet;

or,

II. Allow an exception for physically disabled people to set bear bait stations as described above.

**ISSUE:** 1 no longer have access to a bear hunting area that I have hunted for three years. This is solely due to a bear baiting regulation change put into law this year (5 AAC 92.085(4)(B)(ii)) which forced ambulatory people back one quarter mile from the edge of the river, and virtually stopped hunting by disabled Americans.

#### WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?

- a. The first thing that will likely happen is that I would lose my hunting partners, it is just too difficult to get back that quarter of a mile, it is also just too much to ask.
- b. Some of my hunting partners or myself are likely to be injured or hurt trying to get me over or through obstacles to get back that quarter mile.
- c. I will likely get stranded on a mud or gravel bar trying to get up a named slough. In the spring there just isn't enough water in those sloughs.
- d. I should not be asked to leave a hunting area that I have hunted for years, when all I ask for is what is legally mine, equal opportunity. United States Code Title 42, Chapter 126, Subchapter II, 12132 discrimination of the Americans Disability Act will be violated.

## WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?

- a. The hunter, no more guessing if you are that quarter mile back from the river's edge or hoping your GPS is correct. No more risking your very life from bear attack as you carry your bait back a quarter mile from river's bank.
- b. The fishermen, the bears will be pulled away from fishing holes by bait stations, thereby creating a safer environment.

c. The tourist, less bears in fishing areas and well-indicated and marked bait stations allowing safer exposure to riverbanks.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? I feel that if my solution is adopted everyone will gain and no one would lose.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** I would also like to ask the Alaska Board of Game to act on this change or request in such a timely manner that I would be allowed to hunt this coming year (1999).

I would like to take this opportunity to say this to the Alaska Board of Game. First of all, a person with a disability to the extent of mine (broken neck at C-4 left me with partial paralysis in all four limbs (quadriplegic)), requires the following: Courage, stamina, guts, a good attitude, a supportive family, and last but not least good friends. If for any reason you do not have all these requirements, than you are surely beat before you even start, and therefore, will surely be a handicap. I do not believe I am a handicap, and therefore, I am not. I do have daily physical opportunities to overcome.

**PROPOSAL 176** - 5 AAC 92.095(8). UNLAWFUL METHODS OF TAKING FUR BEARERS; EXCEPTIONS. Amend this regulation in Unit 13, 14 and 16 as follows:

To allow hunters and trappers to harvest red fox, arctic fox, and wolves with the use of a firearm while using predator calling methods on days when they have been same-day airborne, if they are 300 feet from the airplane and drop off point (the taking of coyotes by such methods is already allowed). Incidental take of fox and wolf by use of a firearm while pursuing other sporting activities (checking traps, hunting small game, etc.), on the same day of being airborne to access an area, would also be allowed if the person is 300 feet from the plane and drop off point. This proposal would apply to Units 13, 14 and 16 to provide greater recreational opportunity and as a starting point to begin a program of intensive management. Such harvest would occur under a valid trapping license. Trapping season and bag limits would remain the same.

5 AAC 92.095(8), a person who has been airborne may not use a firearm to take or assist in taking an arctic fox, red fox, coyote, wolf, lynx, or wolverine until after 3:00 a.m. on the day following the day in which the flying occurred; this paragraph does not apply to a trapper using a firearm to dispatch an animal caught in a trap or snare, or in taking a coyote statewide, or a red fox, arctic fox or wolf in Units 13, 14, or 16 if that person is over 300 feet from the airplane at the time of the taking.

**ISSUE:** In many remote areas of Units 13, 14 and 16, the only feasible method of access in early to mid-winter is by bush plane on skis and even access by this method is limited, especially in years where there is a late freeze or below average snowfall. Temperatures in November, December and January can reach 40 degrees below zero and weather can be unflyable for days and weeks at time. Camping overnight is not impossible but is extremely difficult and not without risk. Current regulations prohibit hunters and trappers from harvesting fox and wolves that they call in on the same day that they have used an airplane to access a remote area, and as a result, a limited but very challenging, fulfilling and sporting method of harvesting canines has been lost. Harvest

which directly benefit both game and nongame species through expanded research and management programs will be lost.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All hunters and nonhunters alike will benefit from additional funding for research and management regarding both game and nongame species throughout the state.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? There will be very little impact on other permitees hunting opportunity, i.e., no more than one bear every two years. Other persons who draw permits (7 spring/8 fall) for Unimak Island may lose the opportunity to hunt one bear. The governor's permit for Unimak Island brown bear is in addition to the other 15 permits issued and is being issued every other year.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? We considered the possibility of maintaining the status quo, but rejected that alternative because many states or provinces which offer governor's or special permits exempt the purchaser of the permit from the one animal per life restrictions applicable for Rocky Mountain big horn sheep in Idaho or desert big horn sheep in Arizona

**PROPOSAL** 179 - 5 AAC 92.132. BAG LIMIT FOR BROWN BEARS. Amend this regulation in Unit 8 as follows:

Any hunter or person, whether resident or nonresident, be limited to the taking of only one bear in his life time.

**ISSUE:** While I would not call this a problem at the moment, I would like to make a proposal for changes for the Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge including Afognak Island and any mainland areas where Alaska brown bear live. The proposal I make is that only one bear would be entitled to a hunter or person in his lifetime.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? I would say that while the Alaska brown bear or Kodiak brown bear may not be an endangered species at the moment, they are precious few worldwide and should be preserved along with the grizzly bear. I would also like to see this proposal to include the grizzly bear.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The whole world in general, plus it would give those who have never harvested one of these a better chance of being drawn for a permit.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? I do not believe anyone should really suffer from this proposal. Possibly some wealthy world hunters would think so, but what need would anyone have for more than one of these bears?

## OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSAL 180 - 5 AAC 92.132. BAG LIMIT FOR BROWN BEARS. Amend this regulation in to include the following:

Unit 8 Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge. Limit one bear in a life time.

**ISSUE:** People taking more than one Kodiak brown bear by sport hunting from the Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge.

There are many pluses to having a one bear limit in a lifetime. The number one and most important is that a permit holder would be more selective in taking a bear if it is going to be his only chance. People would be willing to take their time to determine the sex, and in turn reduce the number of female bear taken. I believe the video, "Take Another Look," is available in Kodiak for permit holders to view.

After 8 or 10 days hunting, a lot of people will take the first bear possible regardless of sex, but not so if it's going to be their only bear from the Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge. This would not reduce the hunt possibilities except to those who choose to take a bear.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Just keep increasing the odds for someone who has never drawn a permit or taken a Kodiak bear.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Any person that has never taken a brown bear from the Kodiak Wildlife Refuge. Although our bear numbers threatened the odds of drawing a permit are slim at best and those who taken a refuge bear there are other areas to hunt.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Only the people that have taken a Kodiak refuge bear.

#### OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSAL 181 - 5 AAC 92.061. SPECIAL PROVISIONS FOR UNIT 8 BROWN BEAR PERMIT HUNTS. Amend this regulation to include the following:

A place on permits to include the names and addresses of companions. Companions to have a hunting license if carrying a firearm. Limit companions to one hunt other than husband, wife or their children.

**ISSUE:** There is no record of people who accompany brown bear permit holders in the field during their hunt. There are people who accompany permit holders year after year who claim to be companions, but in truth are guiding or taking a bear.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? This problem will continue to exist as the Division of Fish and Wildlife Protection has no way of checking to see who has accompanied who in the field how many times.

### WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? No one.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? The professional companions who accompany more than one permit holder.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** In the last few years, I have talked with several people who you might say make a profession out of accompanying a permit holder. One even mentioned the fact that he has done so eleven times in area 207 on the wildlife refuge and seven times in area 206. Also, he has about 20 or more people putting in for permits each spring. How many others are doing this? I have no idea.

<u>PROPOSAL</u> 182 - 5 AAC 92.015(a). BROWN BEAR TAG FEE EXEMPTIONS. Reauthorize the brown bear tag fee exemption in the Western Alaska Brown Bear Management Area, the Northwest Alaska Brown Bear Management Area, and the Chignik Brown Bear Management Area, as follows:

(a) A resident tag is not required for taking a brown bear in the Western Alaska Brown Bear Management Area (5 AAC 92.530(15)), the Northwest Alaska Brown Bear Management Area (5 AAC 92.530(16)), or the Chignik Alaska Brown Bear Management Area (5 AAC 92.530(17)) if the hunter obtains a registration permit before hunting.

ISSUE: Brown bear tag fee exemptions must be reauthorized annually. Continuation of the tag fee exemptions listed above is necessary in order to facilitate the associated brown bear harvest programs. In the Western Alaska Brown Bear Management Area (WABBMA): 63 registration permits were issued in 1995-96, 3 bears were harvested, and 12 permitees did not report; 54 registration permits were issued in 1996-97, no bears were harvested, and 27 permitees did not report; in 1997-98, 42 registration permits were issued, no bears were harvested, and 26 permitees did not report. In the Northwest Alaska Brown Bear Management Area (NWABBMA): 102 registration permits were issued in 1995-96, six bears were harvested, and nineteen permitees did not report; in 1996-97, 110 registration permits were issued, 6 bears were harvested and 24 permitees did not report. In the Chignik Alaska Brown Bear Management Area (CABBMA): one permit was issued in 1996-97, and no bears were reported taken; no permits were issued in 1997-98.

We believe it would be difficult to document subsistence harvest by residents hunting primarily for food if the tag fee is in effect. Prior to establishment of the management areas, virtually no harvest was reported by subsistence hunters resident in the areas. Compliance with reporting requirements is relatively high for NWABBMA (averaging above 75% for the past seasons), and lower for the WABBMA. The lower reporting rate is partly explained by the vacant Bethel area biologist position during 1996-97. Knowledge and use of the permits is also low in the CABBMA, and is confused by a federal subsistence permit system which has recently been expanded to include several other villages in Unit 9E. With additional educational efforts and more efficient ways to distribute permits by the department, we believe this system can be effective in that area as well.

In addition to the tag fee waiver and registration permit, conditions that apply to subsistence hunting in the management areas include salvaging the meat for human consumption, no use of aircraft for subsistence hunting of brown bears in the NWABBMA, and keeping the hide within the management area unless the skin of the head and front claws are removed at the time of sealing before being exported from the management area. The registration permit is a simple way accommodate local subsistence hunting practices, while still conserving brown bear populations and obtaining harvest data.

Brown bear harvest appears to be within sustainable yield limits in the management areas. Harvest rates do not appear to have increased in response to registration hunting.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The intent of the brown bear harvest programs in these areas will be compromised. There will be less interest and participation in these programs.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Those residents who wish to take brown bear primarily for food in the brown bear management areas.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

**PROPOSAL 183** - 5 AAC 92.015(b). BROWN BEAR TAG FEE EXEMPTIONS. Amend this regulation in Unit 11 as follows:

Exemption of \$25 tag fee for grizzly bear.

**ISSUE:** Grizzly bear tag fee \$25 Unit 11.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Grizzly bear numbers will continue to increase in Unit 11.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Bear hunters and Unit 11 moose and caribou.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

**PROPOSAL 184** - 5 AAC 92.015(b). BROWN BEAR TAG FEE EXEMPTIONS. Reauthorize the brown bear tag fee exemption in Unit 13 as follows:

(a)..

(b) A resident tag is not required for taking a brown bear in that portion of Unit 13 outside of Denali State Park....

**ISSUE:** Brown bear tag fee exemptions must be reauthorized annually. The tag fee exemption in Unit 13 was implemented in 1995 to provide increased hunting opportunity for brown bears. This tag fee exemption along with a bag limit change from 1 bear every 4 years to a bear every year and a fall season extension was adopted by the board in an attempt to increase the brown bear harvest in Unit 13.

Unit 13 was designated as an intensive management area by the Board of Game with the objective of providing more moose and caribou for human use. Because brown bears are important predators of moose calves in Unit 13, the board determined that it was necessary to reduce brown bear predation on moose calves by increasing the harvest of brown bears. The intensive management program for Unit 13 has set a population size goal of 20,000-25,000 moose and a harvest goal of 1,000-2,000 moose per year. These moose population and harvest goals have not been met.

Harvests of brown bears in Unit 13 have increased since more liberal seasons and bag limits, and the tag fee exemption were enacted. The brown bear harvests have increased from 97 bears during the 1994-95 season to 127 bears during 1995-1996, 139 in 1996-1997, and 138 in 1997-1998.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Increased harvest of brown bears in Unit 13 may help accomplish intensive management goals for moose. Without the tag fee exemption, there may be less interest in brown bear hunting and incidental harvest levels will be lower.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Brown bear hunters will benefit from increased hunting opportunity. Hunters and viewers of moose will ultimately benefit from increasing moose populations.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Elimination of the tag fee exemption, and attempting to accomplish intensive management through long seasons and a more liberal bag limit only.

PROPOSAL 185 - 5 AAC 92.015(b). BROWN BEAR TAG FEE EXEMPTIONS. Amend this regulation in Unit 13 as follows

Exemption of \$25 tag fee for grizzly bear.

ISSUE: Grizzly bear tag fee \$25, Unit 13.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Grizzly bear numbers will continue to increase in Unit 13.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Bear hunters and Unit 13 moose and caribou.

#### WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

# OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None

**PROPOSAL 186** - 5 AAC 92.015(b). BROWN BEAR TAG FEE EXEMPTIONS. Reauthorize the current exemption of brown bear tag fee in Unit 19D as follows:

. . .

(b) A resident tag is not required for taking a brown bear in . . . Unit 19(D). . . .

**PROBLEM:** The brown bear tag and fee requirement for Unit 19D was eliminated by the Board of Game for the 1998-99 regulatory year. The exemption must be reauthorized on an annual basis.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The tag fee would be reinstituted for the 1999-00 regulatory year.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The new regulation is viewed favorably by local residents, and total harvest of bears is below the estimated sustainable level even though two bears were reported taken under the new regulation during fall 1998. We recommend continuing with the present regulation.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-99S-G-182)

**PROPOSAL 187** - 5 AAC 92.015(b). BROWN BEAR TAG FEE EXEMPTIONS. Reauthorize the current brown bear tag fee for portions of Unit 20D for the 1999/2000 hunting season.

Brown bear tag fee exemptions are taken up annually by the Board of Game at the spring meeting. This proposal is to maintain the current brown bear tag fee exemption for portions of Unit 20D.

**ISSUE:** In 1995, the Delta Advisory Committee submitted an extensive plan for intensive management to the Board of Game at the 1995 Spring Board meeting. One portion of the Delta plan was the current brown bear tag fee exemption. The board has identified Unit 20D as under the state definition of Intensive Management.

It is the opinion of the Delta Advisory Committee that the brown bear tag fee exemption is the only portion of the intensive management plan submitted by them that has had any real significance. Although the effect has been low impact in its tour years of existence, the brown bear tag fee exemption has nonetheless produced results.

One side benefit has been the opportunity it has afforded to those who might not otherwise have the opportunity to hunt. The tag fee exemption area contains two Native villages and many people outside of those villages, for who the \$25 tag fee is prohibitive. For many people in this area, a hunting license costs \$5 and the opportunity to hunt, not take, a brown bear is five times as much. Is there a reason for denying the people who cannot afford the bear tag an opportunity to take a bear? This could appear to be discriminatory. Even with the tag fee exemptions in place, the brown bear harvest remains within the harvest goals set by the Board of Game.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The brown bear tag fee exemption would be lost for this limited area of Unit 20D. This logical tool of the original intensive management plan presented to the Board of Game in 1995 would be lost, as would a means of increasing calf survival for both moose and caribou in Unit 20D. Individuals who cannot afford a brown bear tag, including those who live within the tag fee exemption area, would once again be denied the opportunity to hunt brown bears. (Note: the opportunity to hunt is not directly related to success in this case, but the opportunity itself is valuable!) Hunters report finding extremely high brown bear populations during this past season throughout Unit 20D. The Delta Advisory Committee has been watching this pattern over the past two seasons and is trying to decide whether this represents an aberration, or what could be an established population trend. When brown bears are shot near the city limits of Delta Junction in November, we begin to wonder. However, at this time we wish only to continue the tag fee exemption in the originally defined area, and not extend it.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? In particular, hunters within and near the tag fee exemption areas who cannot afford brown bear tags. Serious brown bear hunters who can afford the tags will purchase them as this will remove the restriction forcing them to hunt only in this limited area. This will also benefit hunters in the area who may be hunting moose or caribou and are aware that they have the opportunity to take a bear without a tag. Moose and caribou hunters will benefit from this program in future years. The tag fee exemption also supports the presents intensive management program established by the Board of Game for Unit 20D.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? The Delta Advisory Committee feels that many of the people they represent lose the opportunity to hunt brown bear without this tag fee exemption. In addition, Delta Advisory Committee feel that the only item the Board of Game chose to implement from Delta's extensive intensive management proposal, originally made in 1995, would be lost. This is an extremely healthy brown bear population in a relatively inaccessible area, thus no one will suffer.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Elimination of the tag fee exemption, however, this would eliminate the benefits which accrue through this exemption.

**PROPOSAL** 188 - 5 AAC 92.015(b). BROWN BEAR TAG FEE EXEMPTIONS. Reauthorize the current brown bear tag fee exemption for portions of Unit 20D as follows:

<sup>(</sup>b) A resident tag is not required for taking a brown bear in . . . Unit 20D north of the Tanana River or east of the east bank of the Gerstle River . . . .

**ISSUE:** The Unit 20D brown bear tag fee exemption must be reauthorized annually. The tag fee exemption was implemented in 1995 for portions of Unit 20D primarily to increase the harvest of brown bears for the purpose of reducing predation on moose and caribou calves (Board of Game Policy 95-85-BOG; and 5 AAC 92.125(3)).

Current Unit 20D brown bear hunting regulations for those portions of Unit 20D north of the Tanana River, or south of the Tanana River and cast of the Gerstle River include no tag fee, an Aug 10-Jun 30 hunting season, a bag limit of 1 bear/year, and a requirement to have the skull and hide sealed in Unit 20D or in Tok. The southwestern portion of Unit 20D has a \$25 tag fee, a Sept 1-May 31 hunting season, and a bag limit of 1 bear/4 years.

The current brown bear harvest goal adopted by the board in March 1995 is 5-15 bears per year. Brown bear harvest in Unit 20D has increased since implementation of the tag fee exemption but meets the goal established by the board. Much of the increase, however, occurred in the southwest portion of Unit 20D where bear hunting regulations have not been liberalized. During the 1995/96-1997/98 regulatory years, mean annual hunting and other mortality for all of Unit 20D was 12 bears/year, and 13 bears were killed during July-December 1998.

The Macomb caribou herd population and harvest objectives have not been met. The Board of Game adopted a Macomb caribou herd population goal of 600-800 caribou with a sustainable harvest goal of 30-50 earibou/year by the year 2002. Currently, the herd consists of 500-550 caribou. The Macomb herd was hunted during the 1998 seasons by registration permit with a harvest objective of 25. Actual harvest exceeded the objective and 32 caribou were killed. This level of harvest is not sustainable, and there will probably not be a hunt during the 1999 season.

The Unit 20D moose management goals have not been met. The board adopted a Unit 20D moose population goal of 8,000-10,000 moose with a sustainable harvest goal of 240-500 moose/year by the year 2002. The current Unit 20D moose population estimate is 3,862-5,234 moose. Reported harvest during the 1997-98 hunting season was 210 moose.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Fewer hunters may choose to hunt brown bears in Unit 20D. The brown bear tag fee exemption is consistent with the board's authorized intensive management program for the Macomb caribou herd in southeastern Unit 20D and for the moose population in northern and southeastern Unit 20D. Failure to extend this tag fee exemption would be inconsistent with the intent of board Policy 95-85 which is to reduce bear predation on moose and caribou calves to increase the moose and caribou populations in Unit 20D.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Brown bear hunters will continue to benefit from increased hunting opportunity. Moose and caribou hunters may eventually benefit if moose and caribou populations increase enough to allow a larger harvest.

## WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Eliminate the tag fee exemption, and thereby rely only on a longer season and a more liberal bag limit to accomplish the objective of a higher harvest of brown bears.

 **PROPOSAL 189** - 5 AAC 92.015(b). BROWN BEAR TAG FEE EXEMPTIONS. Reauthorize the current exemption of brown bear tag fee for Unit 25D as follows:

. . .

(b) A resident tag is not required for taking a brown bear in . . . Unit 25(D).

**ISSUE:** The brown bear tag and fee requirement for Unit 25D was eliminated by the Board of Game for the 1998-99 regulatory year. The exemption must be reauthorized on an annual basis.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** The tag fee would be reinstituted for the 1999-00 regulatory year.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The new regulation is perceived as reasonable by local residents, and total harvest of bears continues to be well below the estimated sustainable level. No bears were reported taken under the new regulation during fall 1998. We recommend continuing with the present regulation.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSAL 190 - 5 AAC 92.065. PERMIT FOR ACCESS TO MCNEIL RIVER STATE GAME SANCTUARY. Amend this regulation to provide the following.

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game shall establish four time blocks in which three permits in each time block will be issued for six day periods (total of 12 permits for 6 days each). Time blocks for three 6 day permits shall be for the period June 27 to July 2; three permits for the period July 2 to July 8; three permits for the period Aug. 10 – Aug. 15 and three permits for the period Aug. 15 to Aug. 21.

Fees for these time blocks will be established at twice the fee for a regular time block of the same class either resident or nonresident. (i.e., from the Stakeholders recommendation this equates in \$300 for a 6-day permit which is \$50 per day versus \$150 for 4-day permit which is \$38.50 per day for residents.)

ISSUE: A recommendation to establish some 6-day permit periods was developed by a citizen group formed by the Department of Fish and Game, but was omitted from the department's proposal. The group referenced as Stakeholder Group originally consisted of the following 11 members: Jonne Slemons, ADF&G Program Coordinator, Vikki Gross, Anchorage Advisory Committee, Ellen Maling, Alaska Conservation Foundation, Leo Keeler, Friends of McNeil River, Jack Cushing, Mayor of Homer, Jon Berryman, Beluga Air; Barbara DeCreeft, Kachemak Air, Jack Lentfer, Homer and bear biologists John Schoen, Audobon Society, Hal Gage, American Society of Media Photographers and Roy Corral, photographer.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Moose population will continue to grow, conflicts between moose and people will continue to be a problem.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Individuals who would like to harvest a moose in the Anchorage Bowl using the only socially acceptable methods of killing moose in Anchorage.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Folks who do not want to see moose killed. Also, people who would like to harvest a moose but do not own a vehicle that meets minimum requirements.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Allowing a registration or drawing hunt in selected areas of Anchorage using bow, handgun, shotgun or rifle was considered but rejected due to public outcry whenever these hunts are proposed.

PROPOSED BY: Barry Stratton	(SC-99S-G-044)
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PROPOSAL 203 - 5 AAC 92.530(4)(B). MANAGEMENT AREAS and 5 AAC 85.055(7). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR DALL SHEEP. Extend the hunting seasons and increase the number of drawing permits for the late season archery hunt in the Eklutna Lake Management Area in Unit 14C.

- (4) the Eklutna Lake Management Area:
  - (A)...
  - (B)...
- (i)
- (ii)
- (iii)
- (iv) sheep may be taken by permit, and by bow and arrow only, from the day after Labor Day through Oct. 31 [SEPT. 30].

5 AAC 85.055(7). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR DALL SHEEP:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open season
Unit 14C, the Eklutna Lake Management Area	Day after Labor Day – Oct. 31 [SEPT. 30] (General hunt only)	Day after Labor Day – Oct. 31 [SEPT. 30]

1 sheep by drawing permit only, by bow and arrow only; up to 35 [25] permits will be issued

**ISSUE:** During the late season archery season in Unit 14C, bowhunters take very few sheep. Generally, up to one-third of the drawing permit winners do not participate in the hunt. Of the hunters that do get into the mountains, up to one-quarter are successful. The most sheep that have been taken in this hunt is 2 rams. Also, the hunting season for the West Eklutna archery-only

drawing hunt currently ends on Sept. 30, while the hunting season in adjacent management areas extends to Oct. 31. More sheep hunting opportunity can be provided in this management area without crowding hunters, affecting total sheep numbers, or reducing sheep viewing opportunities by other park users.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Lost hunting opportunity.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Sheep hunters.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Anti-hunters.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Registration hunt. Likely result in crowded conditions because it is so accessible to the majority of Alaska's bowhunters.

PROPOSAL 204 - 5 AAC 92.530(5)(B). MANAGEMENT AREAS. Reconcile regulations to allow mountain goat hunt in Chugach State Park Management Area in Unit 14C as follows:

- (5) the Chugach State Park Management Area:
  - (A) ...
  - (B) ...
    - (i) ...
    - (ii) no hunting is allowed for brown bear, [MOUNTAIN GOAT,] squirrel, wolf, wolverine, coyote and unclassified game; ....

**ISSUE:** The board enacted a drawing hunt for mountain goats in the East Fork Eklutna River drainage in Chugach State Park in 1995. Through an oversight, the management area regulation was not amended at the same time.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The two regulations will continue to be inconsistent.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Hunters.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Nobody.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

**PROPOSAL 205** - 5 AAC 92.530(6). MANAGEMENT AREAS. Amend this regulation in Unit 15 as follows:

Open up the Skilak Loop Management Area to the taking of coyote.

Skilak Loop Management Area – bounded by a line beginning at the eastern most junction of the Sterling Highway, and the Skilak Loop road (Mile 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 Lake campground road and the Skilak Loop road to it's western most juction with the Sterling Highway (Mile 75.1), then easterly along the Sterling Highway to the point of beginning, is closed to hunting, and trapping except that small game, and coyote may be taken from Oct. 1 through March 1, by bow and arrow only, and moose by permit only.

**ISSUE:** Adding coyote to the list of game animals that may be taken in the Skilak Loop Management Area during the winter archery season.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The opportunity to hunt coyote with a bow and arrow in this area will be missed.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Hunters that already use the Skilak Loop Management Area will benefit.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one should suffer as there is no hunting of this animal in this area at this time. And the impact on the coyote population should be minimal at best.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** This is the only option that has been considered in that we wanted to keep the bowhunting time and restrictions the same as before, just increase the opportunity in this managed area.

PROPOSAL 206 - 5 AAC 92.530(6)(B). MANAGEMENT AREAS. Housekeeping proposal to correct inconsistency in the Skilak Loop Management Area as follows:

- (A) ...
- (B) the area is closed to hunting and trapping except that small game may be taken only from October 1 through March 1 by bow and arrow only, and [ANTLERLESS] moose may be taken by permit only:

...

**PROBLEM:** In 1989, the Board of Game opened Skilak Loop Wildlife Management Area to permit hunting for antlerless and spike-fork moose. The change was not corrected in the regulation defining what could be taken from the management area

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The regulations will remain inconsistent.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Regulations will be consistent with current management practices.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

## OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSAL 207 - 5 AAC 92.530. MANAGEMENT AREAS. Amend this regulation to include the following:

Create Kachemak Bay Park Management Area. Please form a committee, which will report back to the Board of Game when you so desire, to include state park, fisheries and wildlife employees, their advisory committees, land in-holders, wildlife viewers, hunters, water taxis, etc. to create a criteria for this special management area in Kachmak Bay State Park and Wilderness area. This criteria will include and unite wildlife viewing, fishing, hunting, safety, unique habitats and timing impacts of multiple users in these areas of scenic beauty.

ISSUE: A special management area within Kachemak Bay State park (except for the Cottonwood-Eastland Unit), and Kachmak Bay State Wilderness Park would recognize the distinct geographical and public use differences within this portion of Unit 15C, and allow for hunting to be managed consistently with the substantial recreational use the area receives. Safe hiking and sport fishing areas and enhanced wildlife viewing areas can be designated while providing areas for hunting opportunities. In 1970, these park areas were created to protect their unique scenic and wilderness resources, and the beauty of the fjords, glaciers, steep mountain vistas, combined with the flora and fauna, all combine to create an area uniquely different than much of the remainder of Unit 15C.

Growing in importance in the state's economy is the contribution of nonconsumptive wildlife viewers, who now contribute more than sport fishing and hunting participants combined.

The 1996 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Associated Recreation reflects expenditures in Alaska in 1996, which are of importance to the State of Alaska to investigate.

73,000 hunters spent \$198 million

463,000 fishersspent \$548 million

499,000 wildlife viewers spent \$781 million

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? As more people visit the park and use the narrow fjords, bays, passes and 75 miles of hiking trails, safety issues and conflicts may occur unless we create a multiple use plan to assist multiple managers.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Fish and Game, and Park managers. All Alaskans and nonresidents who come to enjoy Kachemak Bay State Parks flora, fauna and scenic beauty.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one, with a fair multiple use plan.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Create Unit 15D.

During discussions on length of stay at McNeil River, the group determined that a reduction from four days to three days was not desirable due to weather constraints. Those discussions presented that many types of visitors seek ability to spend more time at McNeil River, with many wanting Larry Aummiller's job. A consensus was reached with the Stakeholder Group that some 6-day permits should be established to accommodate the many different types of visitors that want longer stays. The consensus was documented in the meeting minutes as "Change the length of a regular permit from 4 days to 3 days. Lengthy discussion was held on this issue. Various factors were taken into consideration including weather, quality of the program as currently perceived, and others.

<u>Consensus Decision</u>: Regular permits will remain four days in length. In addition, three 6-day permits will be issued for each of three time slots. Time slots incorporating 6-day permits will be distributed throughout the season, but will not be at the very start or end of the season (first or last week)."

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? People desiring to have extended stays to observe the bears at McNeil River will be denied that opportunity. The management of McNeil River will lose the opportunity to increase receipts by \$1,300 per year.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? People that desire the ability to have an extended opportunity to observe the bears at McNeil River will have an opportunity to be drawn for a permit.

The management of McNeil River will be benefited by the increase of funds. Under the assumption that resident 4-day fees will be increased to \$150 for residents and \$350 for nonresidents, these 6-day permits would be charged \$300 for residents and \$700 for nonresidents. If eight go to residents and four to nonresidents the fees for these time blocks will generate \$5,200 compared to the \$3,900 generated for the same use as the 6-day permits.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? The total number of visitors to the site per year will decrease by six, or 3% (185 total permits with all 4-day time blocks and 179 permits with twelve 6-day time blocks).

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** The Stakeholders Group considered reduction of the 4-day time blocks to 3 days as an original option and as an offset to the loss of six permits. The 3-day time blocks were rejected because of weather considerations, and department staff report that the original 4-day timeline was established because of weather and that system was working adequately.

**PROPOSAL 191** - 5 AAC 92.065(b)(5). PERMIT FOR ACCESS TO MCNEIL RIVER STATE GAME SANCTUARY. Eliminates the restriction on individual visits to the Sanctuary to one in a four-year period as follows:

(a)...

(b) For the period June 7 – August 25, no more than 35 percent of the total available viewing or standby permits may be awarded to nonresidents and nonresident aliens, and the department

may limit the number of persons allowed into the sanctuary for bear viewing purposes, to up to 15 each day, and condition permits for access, as follows:

- (1)...
- (2)...
- (3)...
- (4)...<u>[</u>;]
- [(5) NO INDIVIDUAL MAY USE MORE THAN ONE BEAR VIEWING OR STANDBY PERMIT TO GO TO A BEAR VIEWING AREA IN A FOUR-YEAR PERIOD.]

. . .

**ISSUE:** Visitors who wish to return to McNeil are denied the opportunity to enter the lottery for access permits. This limits the number of potential applicants, thus reducing revenue.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Visitors wishing to return to McNeil more often than every four years are dissatisfied. Revenue is lost from potential application fees.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Visitors to McNeil who wish to return within a four-year period.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one. Survey respondents and stakeholders indicated a fair and impartial lottery is sufficient to ensure "fairness" in selecting permit recipients.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** A weighted lottery system.

**PROPOSAL 192** - 5 AAC 92.065(b)(3). PERMIT FOR ACCESS TO MCNEIL RIVER STATE GAME SANCTUARY. Reduces the number of persons allowed in the sanctuary each day and reduce the number of standby permits from five to three as follows:

٠..

- (b) For the period of June 7 August 25, no more than 35 percent of the total available viewing or standby permits may be awarded to nonresidents and nonresident aliens, and the department may limit the number of persons allowed into the sanctuary for bear viewing purposes, to up to 13 [15] each day, and condition permits for access, as follows:
  - (1)...
  - (2)...
  - (3) the department may issue a standby permit by lottery drawing to a person not holding a bear viewing permit issued under (2) of this subsection; a maximum of three [FIVE] standby permits may be issued for any day; standby permit holders are guaranteed access to the sanctuary for a four-day period, but will be able to visit a bear viewing area only if there is a vacancy resulting from a bear viewing permit holder not going to the bear viewing area; if fewer than 10 bear viewing permit holders are available to visit a bear viewing area on a given day, the department designee may fill any such vacancies with standby permit holders; a standby permit holder not authorized under this paragraph to visit a bear viewing area shall remain in the immediate vicinity of the camping area designated in the permit, or the beach, as directed by department staff;

. . .

**ISSUE:** Of standby permit holders who do visit the Sanctuary, virtually all are able to view bears, but on the average of one day only. Usage of the standby system is approximately 50% of 95 available permits. Transportation providers must deal with "no-show" standby reservations.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Usage of the standby system can be expected to continue at 50% of available permits. Transportation providers will continue to have a number of "no-show" standby reservations. Standby permittees will continue to be able to view bears approximately one day each.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Standby permittees will stand a greater chance of being able to visit a bear viewing area, and to view bears for more than one day. Transportation providers will have fewer "no-show" reservations.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? It is possible that two additional standby permittees in each four-day period could have viewed bears for one day each.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Elimination of the standby system.

PROPOSED BY:	Alaska Department of Fish and Game	(HQ-99S-G-170)
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PROPOSAL 193 - 5 AAC 92.065(b). PERMIT FOR ACCESS TO MCNEIL RIVER STATE GAME SANCTUARY. Establish 35 percent of total available viewing and standby permits awarded to nonresidents and nonresident aliens as a goal, instead of a requirement, as follows:

(a) ...

(b) For the period June 7 – August 25, no more than 35 percent of the total available viewing or standby permits may be awarded to nonresidents and nonresident aliens, provided the number of residents applying for viewing and standby permits is sufficient to use 65 percent of available permits. If the number of residents applying for viewing and standby permits is insufficient to award 65 percent, the remainder may be awarded to nonresidents or nonresident aliens. [,AND] T [t]he department may limit the number of persons allowed into the sanctuary for bear viewing purposes, to up to 15 each day, and condition permits for access, as follows:

. . .

**ISSUE:** This regulation requires that no more than 35% of viewing and standby permits may be awarded to nonresidents and nonresident aliens. However, if the number of residents applying for viewing and standby permits is insufficient to make use of all available permits, those permits should be made available to nonresidents and nonresident aliens rather than go unissued.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Available viewing and standby permits may not be awarded, and/or additional administrative burden is placed upon the department to ensure all available permits are awarded.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Nonresidents and nonresident aliens who wish to visit the McNeil River State Game Sanctuary. The Sanctuary will take in more revenues, due to full utilization of all available permits.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one. The goal of a resident preference for award of available permits is continued.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Increase the number of time slots which an applicant may request, on the application form. This solution will be implemented, but may not solve the problem entirely.

PROPOSAL 194 - 5 AAC 92.065. PERMIT FOR ACCESS TO MCNEIL RIVER STATE GAME SANCTUARY and 5 AAC 92.066. PERMIT FOR ACCESS TO WALRUS ISLANDS STATE GAME SANCTUARY. Amend these regulations to include the following:

Permit applicants for McNeil River and Walrus Islands are required to provide a valid Alaska hunting license number on the permit application.

**ISSUE:** Successful permittees for McNeil River and Walrus Islands are "taking" big game within the definition of take. They are pursuing animals without a hunting license – a discriminatory taking.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? License revenues pay for wildlife management activities. Nonconsumptive users, such as those at McNeil River and Walrus Islands receive benefits without paying their share. Alaska wildlife management needs additional revenue. If these users continue to "take" without a license, wildlife management loses.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Wildlife management in general, all permit applicants for other permits who are required to have a valid hunting license, all Alaskans who want users to pay for the services they receive.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Permit applicants who will be required to purchase a hunting license. (Please note, even the cost of a nonresident license is a small percentage of the cost needed to visit McNeil River or Walrus Islands.)

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Require only successful applicants to purchase a license. This is opposed to present policy for other special permit opportunities.

PROPOSAL 195 - 5 AAC 92.065. PERMIT FOR ACCESS TO MCNEIL RIVER SANCTUARY and 5 AAC 92.066. PERMIT FOR ACCESS TO WALRUS ISLANDS SANCTUARY. Amend these regulations to include the following:

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Nonresidents and nonresident aliens who wish to visit the McNeil River State Game Sanctuary. The Sanctuary will take in more revenues, due to full utilization of all available permits.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one The goal of a resident preference for award of available permits is continued.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Increase the number of time slots which an applicant may request, on the application form. This solution will be implemented, but may not solve the problem entirely.

PROPOSAL 194 - 5 AAC 92.065. PERMIT FOR ACCESS TO MCNEIL RIVER STATE GAME SANCTUARY and 5 AAC 92.066. PERMIT FOR ACCESS TO WALRUS ISLANDS STATE GAME SANCTUARY. Amend these regulations to include the following:

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WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Wildlife management in general, all permit applicants for other permits who are required to have a valid hunting license, all Alaskans who want users to pay for the services they receive.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Permit applicants who will be required to purchase a hunting license. (Please note, even the cost of a nonresident license is a small percentage of the cost needed to visit McNeil River or Walrus Islands.)

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Require only successful applicants to purchase a license. This is opposed to present policy for other special permit opportunities.

PROPOSED BY: Fairbanks Advisory Committee	(I-99S-G-003)
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PROPOSAL 195 - 5 AAC 92.065. PERMIT FOR ACCESS TO MCNEIL RIVER SANCTUARY and 5 AAC 92.066. PERMIT FOR ACCESS TO WALRUS ISLANDS SANCTUARY. Amend these regulations to include the following:

Photographic license to take any photographs video, or film, and a \$1000 plus 5% royalty on all sales.

**ISSUE:** Commercial exploitation of wildlife resources. Nonconsumptive users continue to demand more while collectively they provide almost no funds for wildlife management. Millions of dollars are made each year by greedy viewers who pay nothing towards management.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Diminishing funding for wildlife management. Hunting and fishing license sales are decreasing. Sales at one gift shop of t-shirts with wildlife images was approximately \$500,000. Because access to these locations is controlled photo permits could easily be sold. To view pay cost of permit, to photo should require license.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Users who want to equalize funding sources for wildlife management.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Viewers and commercial users who so far have had a free ride on the backs of purchasers of hunting and fishing licenses.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Statewide photo permit.

**PROPOSAL 196** - 5 AAC 92.065. PERMIT FOR ACCESS TO MCNEIL RIVER STATE GAME SANCTUARY and 5 AAC 92.066. PERMIT FOR ACCESS TO WALRUS ISLANDS STATE GAME SANCTUARY. Amend these regulations as follows:

Nonresident permit applicants must purchase an Alaska hunting license and pay a \$1,000 permit fee which will be refunded if unsuccessful.

**ISSUE:** Nonfinancial contribution of preservation extremists for wildlife management "Teaming with Wildlife" failed. Nonresident viewers should pay the same as nonresidents for hunt permits.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Only consumptive users will continue to pay for wildlife management.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All persons who desire equal treatment for all user groups.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Non-contributing wildlife viewers.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

<u>PROPOSAL</u> **197** – 5 AAC 92.510(8)(B). AREAS CLOSED TO HUNTING. Amend this regulation in Unit 7 to include the following:

The Seward Closed Area in Unit 7 . . . closed to the taking of big game, except black bear;

**PROBLEM:** Reduce black bear/Seward resident confrontations by allowing black bear hunting near Seward Area. Adjacent to Seward is currently a refuge to bears who frequent city limits.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Continued damage to private property, confrontations, potential for attacks as many of the bear do not show fear of humans.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? City of Seward residents because of reduced bear population. Those wishing to hunt black bears.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those who wish to view bears in and near Seward.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Work with city to allow black bear hunting within city limits. Rejected out of concern for public safety.

PROPOSAL 198 - 5 AAC 92.510(12). AREAS CLOSED TO HUNTING. Amend this regulation in Unit 15 to include the following:

Homer road system closed area – a strip ½ mile wide on each side of Diamond Ridge Road, Skyline Drive, Crossman Ridge Road, Olsen Mountain Road, West Hill Road, and East Hill Road, and those roads which run off of these is closed to taking wildlife.

Shade in these areas on the map page 66. Put strong language in capital letters in regulation book under Private Lands page 5: hunting on private land is a privilege. You must ask permission.

**ISSUE:** Landowners dread the approaching hunting season because it restricts the use of their own land. They contemplate gunshots near their home, tire ruts crossing their fields, ominous-looking cars moving slowly, packs of unattended kids on four-wheelers with high powered rifles, rude encounters, and unknown trespassers on property where they raise their families. With numerous homes and subdivisions, and over 50 school bus stops along the roads above Homer, it is too populated to allow hunting in these areas.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Alaska leads the nation in hunting fatalities and accident. A man shot his wife by accident right behind their house off Diamond Ridge a number of years ago. Accidents do and will happen. Not all hunters are conscientious and respectful of private property. Conflict between citizens.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Landowners who live along the back roads.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Road hunters.

**PROPOSAL 199** - 5 AAC 92.530(2). MANAGEMENT AREAS. Amend this regulations in Unit 14C as follows:

Exchange an expanded hunt area in the North Eagle River area for a reduced hunt area in the Crow Creek drainage. The expanded hunt area would include that portion of Unit 14C within the drainage of the north side of Eagle River downstream from the Icicle Creek drainage to the ridge line created by peaks of 7,450 feet elevation, 7,030 feet elevation, and 5,690 feet elevation on USGS quad map Anchorage A-6, (DS 133, 134, 135, 139, 140). The reduced hunting area in Unit 14C Southwest would delete the entire Crow Creek drainage from DS 136, 137, 138, 139 and 140.

ISSUE: The expanded area of North Eagle River contains a high number of mature rams. The reduced area of Unit 14C Southwest contains few sheep and is an area of high visibility and high use to hikers and other nonconsumptive users. Allowing permitees to hunt the expanded area will reduce hunter density and increase opportunity to hunt mature rams in accessible habitat while reducing the potential for conflict between consumptive and nonconsumptive users. Very few hikers or non-hunters access the expanded hunt area of North Eagle River because of the head wall preventing access into the high alpine bowls. The majority of the expanded hunt area is not visible from the established trail system. Very few hunters use the Crow Creek drainage due to the lack of sheep and high volume of traffic in the area. Conversely, the Cross Pass area is heavily used by hikers, tour groups and other nonconsumptive users.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? High quality hunting opportunity in the North Eagle River drainage will continue to be unutilized. There will be a higher hunter density in those areas which are open to hunting within the rest of Unit 14C and there will be increased potential for conflict among consumptive and nonconsumptive users in the Crow Pass area.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Rifle and bow hunters who draw permits for DS 133, 134, 135, 139 and 140 and nonconsumptive user of the Crow Pass area.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Permitees for the DS 136, 137, 138 permits to the extent they may have wished to hunt in the Crow Pass area. Very few hikers or nonhunters access the expanded hunt area of North Eagle River because of the head wall preventing access into the high alpine bowls. The majority of the expanded hunt area is not visible from the established trail system. Very few hunters use the Crow Creek drainage due to the lack of sheep and high volume of traffic in the area. Conversely, the Cross Pass area is heavily used by hikers, tour groups and other nonconsumptive users.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** We considered expanding the above North Eagle River hunt area without reducing the Unit 14C Southwest area, but rejected this approach because a quid ro quo for high value hunting opportunity in exchange for a high value nonconsumptive use are seemed like a fair exchange for all parties.

PROPOSAL 200 - 5 AAC 92.530(2)(B). MANAGEMENT AREAS. Amend regulations in the Eagle River Management Area to provide the following:

Include the archery and black powder permits to the harvest of small game (grouse/hare) on fall/spring bear hunt.

**ISSUE:** Amend the Eagle River Management Area archery muzzleloader black bear hunt Sept. 1 – May 30 to the use of small game hunting for archery/muzzleloader.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Small game will not be harvested in small game hunting. I usually find bears and it gives an incentive to look as no baiting is allowed.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Certified bow hunters and muzzleloader hunters who have registration permits for Eagle River black bear hunt.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Allow hunting north side Eagle River Cayon as the bears migrate to the south face of Eagle River Cayon for grass.

**PROPOSAL** 201 - 5 AAC 92.530(2)(B),(3)(B), and (11)(B). MANAGEMENT AREAS. Allow the use of pellet rifle, bow and arrow, and raptors to hunt deleterious exotic wildlife in the Anchorage, Eagle River, and Birchwood management areas in Unit 14C as follows:

- (2) the Eagle River Management Area:
  - (A)...
  - (B) the area is closed to hunting, except
    - (i) ...
    - (ii) ...
    - (III) DELETERIOUS EXOTIC WILDLIFE MAY BE TAKEN BY PELLET RIFLE WITH RIFLED BARREL, BOW AND ARROW (WITH BLUNTS OR OTHER SPECIAL SMALL-GAME POINTS), AND FALCONRY ONLY;
- (3) the Anchorage Management Area:
  - (A)...
  - (B) the Anchorage Management Area is closed to hunting, except that
    - (i) ...
    - (ii) ...
    - (iii) deleterious exotic wildlife may be taken by pellet rifle with rifled barrel, bow and arrow (with blunts or other special small-game points), and falconry only;

- (11) the Birchwood Management Area:
  - (A)...
  - (B) the area is closed to hunting except that
    - (i).....
    - (ii)....
    - (iii) deleterious exotic wildlife may be taken by pellet rifle with rifled barrel, bow and arrow (with blunts or other special small-game points), and falconry only;

ISSUE: Deleterious exotic wildlife may be hunted statewide with no seasons or bag limits. However, regulations do not allow hunting of deleterious exotic wildlife in the Anchorage, Eagle River, and Birchwood Management Areas. The feral rock dove (pigeon) population in the Anchorage area has grown from a small flock of approximately 50 birds in 1974 to over 3,000. Rock doves compete with ravens and magpies for urban foods, and they are a source of bird diseases such as psittacosis and avian salmonellosis. The epidemic die-offs of native songbirds at bird feeders in Anchorage in recent years may be due to fecal contamination of bird feeders by infected rock doves. The number of complaints have increased in recent years. Some businesses are paying pest control agencies to reduce the number of feral pigeons. Eurasian rabbits are continuously released in the Anchorage area by irresponsible pet owners. These feral rabbits compete with the native snowshoe hares for food. In some neighborhoods, numerous rabbits have damaged ornamental shrubs, flowers, and gardens. Some people are already shooting rock doves and Eurasian rabbits in the city limits. Pellet pistols and .177-caliber rifles are less effective at killing rock doves and rabbits, except at very close ranges.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Populations of feral rock doves and rabbits will continue to increase in Anchorage, with predictably adverse effects on native wildlife.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Hunters and kids learning how to hunt.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Requiring hunter education certification.

**PROPOSAL 202** - 5 AAC 92.530(3)(B). MANAGEMENT AREAS and 5 AAC 85.045(12). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Amend regulations in the Anchorage Management Area (Unit 14C) as follows:

Allow a registration hunt for moose in the Anchorage Bowl. Individuals would have to pick up a registration permit at the ADF&G office. Season dates would be Nov. 1 – Apr. 30. Season would close after 100 moose were harvested. Moose may only be taken by vehicle with gross weight of 3,000 pounds and minimum height from ground to top of vehicle of 60 inches. Moose may only be taken on the driveable surface of a constructed road.

**ISSUE:** Growing moose population in Anchorage area.

PROPOSAL 208 - 5 AAC 92.530(11)(B). MANAGEMENT AREAS. Amend this regulation in the Birchwood Management Area as follows:

Small game may be taken by any method generally legal for the taking of small game elsewhere in Alaska, except for rimfire, centerfire, and black powder rifles, and pistols and shotguns with slugs, north and west of the Alaska railroad.

Overlooked in the drafting of the original regulations were the numerous common methods of take that would have fit the spirit of the regulation and that have been used legally and extensively to effectively and humanely harvest small game elsewhere throughout Alaska.

**ISSUE:** Change what are the legally acceptable methods for the taking of small game in the Birchwood Management Area to include methods and arms of short range that have traditionally been legal elsewhere throughout the state.

Simple hunting methods have been smiled upon among hunters and regulators across Alaska for generations. There is no sound biological, safety or social reason a young Eagle River, Chugiak or Peters Creek area hunter should not be able to walk or bicycle from his home into the area and use arms he has parental permission to use much like the young hunters in bush villages are able to do from their doors.

It should be mentioned that beginning in the year 2000, all these young hunters must be basic hunter education certified. The course effectively teaches firearms safety, hunter ethics and responsibilities and wildlife conservation.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Continuing to be off limits will be a wonderful out-the-backdoor opportunity for young Eagle River, Chugiak and Peters Creek hunters to hunt abundant small game populations using small arms they have access to that are generally legal elsewhere throughout Alaska.

The original intent behind the regulation opening the Birchwood Management Area to small game hunting with shotgun and bow and arrow was to maximize hunting opportunity in an area close by with abundant small game populations, as long as projectiles were of short range so that safety among other human users is maintained.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Not exclusively, but especially young hunters whose access to other hunting is limited because of distance and logistics and whose access to large and/or expensive firearms is limited.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? The Birchwood Management Area is not heavily hunted. No one is likely to suffer that we can identify.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Word the proposal to state what methods and means one could use. Rejected because methods legal throughout the remainder of the state offer too many options – rock, stick, spear, BB gun, pellet gun, etc. – all fitting the intent of this proposal to have to mention them all.

PROPOSAL 209 - 5 AAC 92.530(11)(B). MANAGEMENT AREAS. Allow the use of pellet rifles for small game hunting in the Birchwood Management Area in Unit 14 as follows:

- (11) the Birchwood Management Area:
  - (A)...
  - (B) the area is closed to hunting except that
    - (i) small game may be taken by <u>pellet rifle with rifled barrel</u>, shotgun or bow and arrow only, north and west of the Alaska Railroad;
    - (ii) ...

**ISSUE:** Some hunters have asked if they may use pellet rifles in the Birchwood Management Area. The current regulation does not allow their use. Waterfowl are included in the definition of small game; however, other state and federal regulations do not allow the use of pellet rifles to harvest waterfowl and this revision would not affect waterfowl hunting.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Small game hunting opportunity is lost.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Local hunters and kids learning how to hunt.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSAL 210 - 5 AAC 92.530(17). MANAGEMENT AREAS and 5 AAC 85.020(8). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR BROWN BEAR. Amend regulations within the Chignik Brown Bear Management Area as follows:

Establish a one-mile zone around villages/cities for the purpose of liberalized penalties for killing problem bears, year-round, by having limited season with bear tags.

**ISSUE:** Nuisance bears around villages. More liberal bear hunt registration needed to eliminate problem bears.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Continued and increasing threats to life and property of village residents.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Residents of affected villages.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Make region-wide for Alaska Peninsula – rejected as an interference with sport hunting bear regulations as they now exist.

**PROPOSAL 211** - 5 AAC 92.530(18)(B). MANAGEMENT AREAS. Amend this regulation in the Palmer-Wasilla Management Area as follows:

Include the words Cottonwood Lake after the words Finger Lake.

**ISSUE:** Would like to restrict waterfowl hunting on Cottonwood Lake to falconry, or bow and flu flu arrow.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Over use of hunting on a small lake that is heavily populated.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Waterfowl hunters who have a true interest in hunting.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Careless users of firearms in a heavily populated area.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSAL 212 - 5 AAC 92.540. CONTROLLED USE AREAS. Create a controlled use area in Unit 8 as follows:

No use of ATVs for hunting or hunting related activities on Raspberry Island.

**ISSUE:** The use of ATVs to hunt on Raspberry Island, especially for elk.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Misuse of both land and game resource.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** All people who hike, hunt or fish on Raspberry Island. The overall ADF&G plan to improve the elk herd and habitat on Raspberry Island.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Hunters who aren't physically fit.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSAL 213 - 5 AAC 92.540. CONTROLLED USE AREAS. Create a controlled use area in Unit 8 as follows:

Controlled use area defined as use area 8-28 west of the east shore of Saltery Creek and west shore of Saltery Lake, also 8-28 north of Saltery Lake. The area is closed to motorized vehicle use for big game hunting including the transportation of hunters, their hunting gear and/or parts of game, from Aug. 1 – Jan. 1, and Apr. 1 – May 20. However, this does not prohibit motorized access to the area for big game hunting or the use of aircraft on Saltery Lake.

**ISSUE:** All terrain vehicle access (4-wheeler access) west of Saltery Lake and Saltery Creek. Major erosion, vehicles driving up and down salmon streams (through them the entire length), major game displacement and significant littering.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Major erosion into salmon streams of Saltery Creek, Rough Creek and Wild Creek overharvest of deer in these areas (salmon). Fish and game habitat decimated with populations to follow, game populations displaced.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Big game hunters because game will not be displaced. Fishermen and hunters because habitat and populations will not be destroyed. Viewers for same reason. Private and public because a renewable resource will be maintained and economic and cultural benefits will be realized.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Big game hunters with limited time frame, ambition, and comfort zone. Those that do not want to camp, pack and walk.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Reduce deer harvest, rejected because not biologically justifiable. Bear and goat already on permit. Close all of 8-28 to vehicles but the road/trail is used by the ranch and the lodge.

PROPOSED BY: Brian Peterson	(SC-99S-G-043)
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PROPOSAL 214 - 5 AAC 92.540(2). CONTROLLED USE AREAS. Amend this regulation for Unit 9 to include the following:

Establishment of a controlled use area of the Jensen Strip road system from Becharof Lake edge that includes the entire Jensen Strip road system to prohibit motorized landvehicles, i.e., trucks and ATVs, from Aug. 10 to Nov. 1 of the regulatory year for caribou hunting.

**ISSUE:** Declining Northern Alaska Peninsula Caribou herd and increasing sport hunting effort on the Jensen Strip road system, using trucks and ATVs and targeting migrating caribou crossing through the Jensen Strip road system.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? 1) Continued decline of the Northern Alaska Peninsula Caribou herd. 2) Complete closure to sport hunting. 3) Forcing a Tier II hunt implementation.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Everyone. More caribou for local village needs and sustained sport hunting.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Possibly a few guides. But no one for the most part.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Limit bull take in area. Rejected as to restrictive for local hunting for food. Expansion to include water-borne traffic – rejected as premature, too restrictive.

**PROPOSAL 215** - 5 AAC 92.540. CONTROLLED USE AREAS. Amend this regulation to provide the following:

Limit off-road and all terrain vehicle use on the Chistochina River Trail to travel by foot, dogsled, animals, snowmachines, two- and three-wheel vehicles, and tracked vehicles under 3,000 pounds. (This proposal amends current regulation by limiting weight of ORV/ATVs and prohibiting four-wheel drive vehicles).

ISSUE: The Chistochina River Trail is an ANCSA Sec. 17(b) easement (EIN 4 D9). In the past 12 years, the easement has seen increased use by hunters using ORV/ATVs that cause irreparable harm, and damage to the land resources, and environment. Continued heavy use without imposing new restrictions will likely cause, if not already, disruption to migratory bird nesting, and wildlife habitat to include wetland degradation, uprooting of permafrost and depletion of subsistence resources.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The Chistochina River Trail can be classified as 90% wetland and lack of restrictions and enforcement on allowable uses causes the environment to lose its pristine wilderness characteristics. The trail is being overwhelmed by ORV/ATV use and appropriate action must be taken to control erosion and the destruction of the environment. At present, the trail receives no management attention and as a result, new roads and trails are created, wildlife habitat is disrupted, bird nesting places become mudholes, and subsistence users must go elsewhere for needed resources.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The public will benefit as well as those who use the trail periodically for recreational and subsistence purposes.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one. Other easement or trails exist in Unit 13 that allow and are capable of with standing heavy ORV/ATV use.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Close or relocate the Chistochina River Trail in entirety.

**PROPOSAL** 216 - 5 AAC 92.540(3)(A),(B),(C), and (D). CONTROLLED USE AREAS. Amend regulations in Unit 13 as follows:

Motorized access in all of Unit 13 shall be allowed for hunting and transporting moose and caribou from 12:01 a.m. Tuesday through 12:00 p.m. Saturday of each week. 12:01 a.m. Sunday through 12:00 p.m. Tuesday of each week shall be non-motorized except along the Denali, Riehardson, and Glenn Highways, the Tok Cutoff, and the Lake Louise Road.

## **ISSUE:**

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Virtually all caribou hunting in Unit 13 is subsistence. Many subsistence hunters do not have motorized support so cannot compete successfully with motorized users who may inadvertently drive game away from the highway system. Moose populations are suffering from overutilization. Trails are expanding and deteriorating from heavy use. These trends will continue (look at ADF&G's published statistics documenting increased motorized use over the past 10 years).

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Non-motorized users. Motorized hunters by allowing game disbursement.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? We don't see any problem except the inconvenience of being unable to transport on Sundays. This is far outweighed by the probability of better game disbursement and better hunt quality.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Alternating weekend closures, designated trails, controlled use areas.

**PROPOSAL 217** - 5 AAC 92.540(3)(C)(ii). CONTROLLED USE AREAS. Amend this regulation in the Clearwater Controlled Use Area as follows:

The area is closed to the use of any motorized vehicle for hunting, including the transportation of hunters . . . and/or parts of game, except for brown/grizzly bears and small game from March 15 – May 31. . . .

**ISSUE:** Unnecessary restriction within the Clearwater Controlled Use Area. Limited opportunity for hunters to reduce brown/grizzly bear population to the population objective (BOG 1995).

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The Clearwater Controlled Use Area will remain a virtual sanctuary for spring hunting because of access. The concept of access restrictions changing with seasons is part of the original concept for the Clearwater Controlled Use Area (see ADF&G presentation to the Board of Game, 1971).

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Bear and moose hunters.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? No one.

PROPOSAL 218 - 5 AAC 92.540(4)(A). CONTROLLED USE AREAS. Amend this regulation in Unit 15 as follows:

Sept. 11 – Sept. 20: restrict private aircraft landings on refuge in Unit 15A lakes to before noon Saturday through Thursday and 6 p.m. on Fridays. Commercial evening landing destinations for hunter transport to field be designated 24 hours in advance.

Eliminate Saturday through Thursday afternoon private aircraft float plane landings in Unit 15A Kenai National Wildlife Refuge lakes; 6 p.m. curfew on Fridays. Allow evening unregistered commercial landings for the purpose of picking up meat, camps, and hunters. Allow commercial carrier evening hunting party/camp drops to 24-hour preregistered and designated camps. Private and commercial before-noon operations and afternoon takeoffs not affected.

**ISSUE:** Poor fair-chase ethics. Non-compliance with refuge 2,000 ft. "advisory" aircraft harassment of game and hunters.

2,000 foot minimum height refuge aircraft "advisory" is not working. No teeth, and no enforcement to speak of.

Rectify abuse of fair-chase ethics and unfair advantage over non-aircraft users by some who use aircraft on a regular (even daily) basis, to spot and evaluate moose just before dark, often to land on a nearby lake, and shoot the animal at first light – frequently in areas where grounded hunters (walk-ins and fly-ins alike) are already present. This represents poor fair-chase ethics, and tees-off grounded hunters, who, while waiting for a located or prospective bull to show, often have to endure up to several hours of intermittent to steady aircraft circling at 300 feet, immediately overhead. While grounded hunters may use such aircraft activity to advantage in pinpointing a bull, and as noise cover in stalking closer, this too is of dubious fair-chase ethics and is irritating, distracting, and degrading of hunt quality.

Circling of or repeated passes of low-flying aircraft often induce moose to remain abed or in heavy cover (or to return to it) and delay evening feeding periods of such targeted animals up to or until after dark where normally they would start feeding earlier in the evening and give fair-chase hunters an opportunity to harvest them before dark.

The 6 p.m. Friday exception is to avoid excessive impact on ethical weekend fly-in hunters who wish to fly out to camp after work and begin their hunt Saturday morning. There will likely still be some who just don't get it and will still indulge in overnight spot, land, and shoot tactics on Fridays, but it will be more difficult. Hopefully, this will get their attention as to potential consequences if they continue unethical practices involving aircraft, and recategorizes the worst of their activities from unethical to illegal.

### WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Problem will continue.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Ethical fair-chase hunters, both walk-ins and grounded aircraft accessed hunters. Moose.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Unethical, spot, land, and shoot at dawn hunters. Perhaps a very few ethical hunters who fly out evenings to established camps for quick morning hunts. Those

few fair-chase aircraft hunters who fly out after work during the week to established camps to hunt a couple hours the next morning before work.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Mandatory pre-registered camps; 24-hour fly and hunt rule; 3 p.m. or 6 p.m. curfew. Impose above proposal south of Swanson River, west of Swanson River Road only.

PROPOSAL 219 - 5 AAC 92.540(4)(B). CONTROLLED USE AREAS. Change this regulation in the Lower Kenai Controlled Use Area as follows:

Adopt the same regulation for the Lower Kenai Controlled Use Area as in the Anchor River/Fritz Creek where hunters' vehicles may be used to retrieve a downed animal during lawful hunting season.

**ISSUE:** Use of motorized vehicles to retrieve downed animals in Lower Kenai Controlled Use Area.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Some moose meat may spoil or a bear may get it before the hunter can remove it. Ecological damage could result because of sudden surge of motorized use in narrow timeframe of authorized use.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Moose meat may be salvaged and less loss to bears.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSAL 220 - 5 AAC 92.540(4)(B). CONTROLLED USE AREAS. Amend this regulation in the Lower Kenai Controlled Use Area as follows:

Closed to motorized vehicles Sept. 11- Sept. 20, from 6 a.m. to 10 a.m., and from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m..

**ISSUE:** Change motor vehicle restriction Sept. 11 - Sept. 14, and Sept. 17 – Sept. 20, from 6 a.m. to 10 a.m.; and from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. that hunters can go in and out or pack meat out, and hunt mornings and evenings without noise. There are very few people who hunt in the day.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Lots of illegal cabins are built, meat wasted to bears. Four days is a lot of time for meat to be out on the field.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Every person who uses a motor vehicle to hunt, camp and pack meat.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Few people who own cabins, and illegal cabins by good hunting grounds that will see more hunters hunting in the area in those eight days.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Lot of people cannot afford horses, boats, cabins, camps. but depend on meat they can harvest so they can have a way to go in and out the same day. The best time to harvest is in the last ten days of hunting. The well-financed have the way to do it, and enjoy the best hunting days by themselves, which they do not benefit anything to themselves but pleasure.

PROPOSAL 221 - 5 AAC 92.540. CONTROLLED USE AREAS. Create a controlled use area in Region II as follows:

The controlled use area defined as all state lands and waters including borough, municipal submerged and private. The area is closed to the possession of hunting gear used in accordance with, and/or parts of game harvested under federal subsistence regulations.

**ISSUE:** The use of state assets and resources in an unconstitutional manner. State liability in using assets and resources in this manner.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The state will be promoting the unconstitutional preference to game resources by using and/or allowing the use of state assets and resources in the harvesting, transportation or storage of game taken, and the transportation or storage of gear used under unconstitutional federal law.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All residents of the state, all visitors to the state and anyone else that disagrees with legislating preference to certain groups of people.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those individuals that believe in legislating preference to certain groups.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Closing area to individuals rejected because of equal protection.

PROPOSAL 222 - 5 AAC 92.108. IDENTIFIED BIG GAME PREY POPULATIONS AND OBJECTIVES. Amend regulation for caribou in Unit 13 as follows:

The pre-calving population objective should be 60,000 caribou. The annual harvest objective should be 10% of the post-calving population until the population reaches the pre-calving population of 60,000. At that time the harvest should be increased to one-third of the annual initial production (35,000 - 40,000) or about 11,000 to 13,000 caribou. Wolf and bear predation should

be managed to maintain a 10% increase annually until 60,000 caribou are obtained. About four years.

**ISSUE:** The Nelchina Caribou herd is not being managed in a manner appropriate for an intensively managed caribou herd.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The herd will be underutilized for an accessible herd with a high demand for hunting for meat. An overabundance of predators will continue to stifle herd growth and utilization by hunters.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All hunters, all persons who enjoy seeing caribou, all predators that utilize caribou, guides, tour operators, lodge owners, businesses that sell or supply transportation, those that appreciate a well-managed ecosystem.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? These persons who oppose hunting, trapping, and the killing of animals by humans.

#### OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

**PROPOSAL 223** - 5 AAC 92.108. IDENTIFIED BIG GAME PREY POPULATIONS AND OBJECTIVES and 5 AAC 92.085(11). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR MOOSE. Amend these regulations to provide the following:

The board should readopt its findings on intensive management for Unit 13, 95-84-BOG.

Moose population objective: 25,000 – 30,000 moose. Human harvest objectives: 15,00 if 15,000 moose

3,000 if 20,000 moose

4,500 if 25,000

6,000 if 30,000 moose

1 bull season Sept. 1 – Oct. 1

**ISSUE:** The passive monitoring and non-management of Unit 13 moose. The Board of Game Findings 95-84-BOG declared Unit 13 moose to be intensively managed. To date ADF&G has done nothing except monitor and recommend reductions in human harvest which is statistically insignificant as a mortality factor of the moose herd.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The moose population will continue to decline and ADF&G and the Board of Game will continue to violate their affirmative responsibility to manage this population for maximum sustained yield of human harvest.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All users who desire actual management of the wildlife population.

#### WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Continued passive monitoring cannot satisfy intensive management statutes which require active management techniques to occur.

**PROPOSAL 224** - 5 AAC 92.108. IDENTIFIED BIG GAME PREY POPULATIONS AND OBJECTIVES and 5 AAC 85.025(8). HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR CARIBOU. Amend these regulations in Unit 13 as follows:

Nelchina caribou population objective 40,000.

### Total spring:

If population is 20-25,000 animals	10,000 permits issued for harvest objection of 250
If population is 25-30,000 animals	1,500 permits issued for harvest objective of 450
If population is 30-35,000 animals	25,000 permits issued for harvest objective of 650
If population is 35-40,000 animals	35,000 permits issued for harvest objective of 850
If population is over 40,000 animals	45,000 permits issued for harvest objective of 1,000
If population is over 50,000 animals	general season with harvest objective of 20,000

**ISSUE:** Incompetent management and violation of law by ADF&G, regarding Nelchina caribou harvest. 5 AAC 92.108 provides for the human harvest of 5,000 caribou if the population is over 30,000. In 1998, ADF&G closed the season by emergency order when harvest was only 2,300 even though the 1998 summer population was 44,192.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? ADF&G will continue to deny human harvest. BOG Findings 96-102-BOG mandated in 1996 a human harvest of 15,000 from a herd of 48,666. Only 5,580 were harvested (36,600 permits issued). In 1997, 35,376 permits were issued and only 3,666 animals harvested. In 1998 even though the population exceeded the population goal only 10,000 permits were issued and the harvest was stopped at 2,300.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Consumptive users who rely on this important population for food.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? The Board of Game and ADF&G who will lose public support by continually lying to Alaskans about providing human harvest, then closing the season.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Legislative mandate requiring allocation for human consumptive use based on set population/harvest ratio will be sought.

**PROPOSAL 225** - 5 AAC 92.108. IDENTIFIED BIG GAME PREY POPULATIONS AND OBJECTIVES. Adopt regulations identifying those ungulate populations that are important for providing high levels of harvest for human consumptive use, as follows:

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

Population	Finding	Population Objective	Harvest Objective		
Deer					
GMU 1(A)	Positive				
GMU 1(B)	Negative				
GMU 1(C)	Positive				
GMU 1(D)	Negative				
GMU 2	Positive				
GMU 3	Positive				
GMU 4	Positive				
GMU 5	Negative				
<u>GMU 6</u>	C				
GMU 8					
Caribou					
Adak					
Beaver Mtn. Herd	Negative				
Central Arctic Herd	Positive				
Chisana Herd	Negative				
Delta Herd	Positive	6,000 - 8,000	300 - 500		
Farewell/Big River	Negative	,			
Fortymile Herd	Positive				
Galena Mtn. Herd	Negative				
Kenai Lowlands Herd	_				
Kenai Mountains Herd					
Killey River/Twin Lakes/					
Fox River Herd					
Macomb Herd	Positive	600 - 800	30 - 50		
Mentasta Herd					
Mulchatna Herd					
Nelchina Herd	Positive	3 <u>5</u> [0],000 - 40,000	4,000 - 5,000		
Northern Alaska Peninsula He	<u>erd</u>				
Nushagak Peninsula Herd					
Porcupine Herd	Positive				
Rainy Pass Herd	Negative				
Ray Mountains Herd	Negative				
Southern Alaska Peninsula He	<u>rd</u>				
Sunshine Mountain Herd	Negative				
Tonzona Herd	Negative				
White Mtn. Herd	Negative				
Wolf Mtn. Herd	Negative				
Moose					
GMU 1(A)	Negative				

GMU 1(B)-Stikine River	Negative		
GMU 1(B)-Thomas Bay	Negative		
GMU 1(C)-Berners Bay	Negative		
GMU 1(C)-Chilkat Range	Negative		
GMU 1(C)-Taku	Negative		
GMU 1(D)	Negative		
GMU 3	Negative		
GMU 5(A)-Nunatak Bench	Negative		
	~		
GMU 5(A)-Yakutat Forelands	Negative		
GMU 5(B)-Malaspina	Negative		
Forelands	regative		
GMU 6(A)			
GMU 6(B)			
<u>GMU 6(C)</u>			
GMU 6(D)			
GMU 7			
GMU 9(A)			
GMU 9(B)			
GMU 9(C)			
GMU 9(D)			
GMU 9(E)			
GMU 11			
GMU 12	Positive		
GMU 13(A)			
GMU 13(B)			
GMU 13(C)			
<u>GMU 13(D)</u>			
GMU 13(E)			
GMU 14(A)			
GMU 14(B)			
GMU 14(C)			
<u>GMU 15(A)</u>			
GMU 15(B)			
<u>GMU 15(C)</u>			
<u>GMU 16(A)</u>			
GMU 16(B)			
GMU 16(B) Kalgin Island			
<u>GMU 17(A)</u>			
<u>GMU17(B)</u>			
<u>GMU 17(C)</u>			
GMU 19(A)	Positive		
GMU 19(B)	Positive		
GMU 19(C)	Negative		
GMU 19(D)-East	Positive	6,000 - 8,000	300 - 400
GMU 19(D)-remainder	Positive	10.000 10.000	000 ==:
GMU 20(A)	Positive	10,000 - 12,000	300 - 500
GMU 20(B)	Positive		
GMU 20(C)-outside	n		
Denali	Positive		

GMU 20(D)	Positive	8,000 - 10,000	240 - 500
GMU 20(E)-Fortymile/	Positive		
Ladue River			
Drainages			
GMU 20(E)-Yukon R	Negative		
GMU 20(F)	Negative		
GMU 21(A)	Negative		
GMU 21(B)	Negative		
GMU 21(C)	Negative		
GMU 21(D)	Positive		
GMU 21(E)	Positive		
GMU 24	Positive		
GMU 25(A)	Negative		
GMU 25(B)	Negative		
GMU 25(C)	Negative		
GMU 25(D)	Positive		
GMU 26(B)	Negative		
GMU 26(C)	Negative		

**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 for 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. The same was done at the Fall 1998 meeting for Southeast Region populations. This proposal facilitates moving forward in the process and addressing which Southcentral Region 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 populations identified in this process. After the population identification process has been completed throughout the state, 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 standards by which the board and department can determine whether the population is depleted, or its productivity is reduced.

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 the 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 the department to develop long-term management plans, with public involvement, the 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.

PROPOSAL 226 - 5 AAC 92.450(9). DESCRIPTIONS OF GAME MANAGEMENT UNIT BOUNDARIES. Amend this regulation to provide the following:

Unit 9C: All land and water south of the Branch River, including Katmai National Park (not preserve).

**ISSUE:** Adjust subunit boundary between Units 9B, 9C to include everything north of the Alagnak River in Unit 9B.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Subsistence and sport hunters will be restricted in the harvest of Mulchatna caribou by regulations that are intended to protect or conserve Alaska Peninsula (Unit 9E) animals.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All subsistence hunters from Kakhonak as will as resident and nonresident caribou and bear hunters.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one. The geographic area and all the game animals within it as well as the climatic conditions are much more aligned with overall conditions in Units 9B than 9C.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Split the caribou and bear season in Unit 9C. Too cumbersome and confusing.

PROPOSAL 227 - 5 AAC 92.125(4)(C)(ii). WOLF PREDATION CONTROL IMPLEMENTATION PLAN. Amend this regulation as follows:

Stop the transplanting of wolves onto the Kenai Peninsula.

**ISSUE:** Historically wolves have not populated the Kenai Peninsula in any sizable amounts until the 1960s, and since then the wolves have populated most of the Peninsula without posing a threat to the game populations or private property.

In the spring of 1998, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game transplanted wolves from the Interior onto the Kenai Peninsula. This increase of wolves into an already balanced system is developing into the same problem which interior Alaska is already suffering from.

The Kenai Peninsula is an isolated ecosystem which is joined to the mainland by a small sliver of land, so an out-of-control predator population can have catastrophic effects on our game herds in a very short time.

The newly transplanted wolves have driven the wolves that once roamed in those areas into new areas causing over population or to the point where moose calf survival rates in some of these areas are at an all time low. Also the killing and destruction of personal property is at proportions never experienced on the Peninsula before.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? If the policy is not stopped, our game herds will continue to be reduced to the point of shorter season or closing certain areas to hunting. If hungry wolves continue destroying livestock, the Department of Fish and Game may soon be bogged down with compensation suits.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? People who hunt moose, caribou, sheep, and any other game animals that wolves eat. People who are trying to protect their private property from wolf attacks.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

#### OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSAL 228 - 5 AAC 92.125(4)(C)(ii). WOLF PREDATION CONTROL IMPLEMENTATION. Amend this regulation as follows

Suspension of the forty-mile wolf control program should occur because the criteria for its execution have been met.

ISSUE: Suspend 5 AAC 92.125(4). Wolves have been translocated on to the Kenai as part of the wolf translocation and sterilization program. The state goal for wolf control is for the fortymile herd to grow by an animal rate of 5-10%. It has exceeded this amount in the past two years (10% from June 1996 – June 1997, and by 20% between June 1997, and June 1998). The herd has increased dramatically from 22,000 in 1990, to 31,000 in 1998.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? There is much concern over the long-term biological implications of continuing with a program that involves shredding a number of wolf family social systems through sterilization and translocation. There is little scientific justification for dumping wolves into areas already occupied by other wolves.

## WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

### OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

## CALL FOR PROPOSALS

## FALL 1999 BOARD OF GAME MEETING ARCTIC AND WESTERN REGION October 22-26, 1999, Barrow, AK

The Alaska Board of Game is accepting proposed changes to its regulations pertaining to hunting, trapping and the use of game in the Arctic and Western Region to be considered at the Fall 1999 board meeting. The Arctic and Western Region is composed of Game Management Units 18, 22, 23, and 26A.

# DEADLINE FOR PROPOSALS: 5 PM, August 6, 1999

### For Game Management Units 18, 22, 23, and 26A:

TRAPPING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS, all species (5 AAC, Chapter 84) SUBSISTENCE AND GENERAL HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS, all species **except** reauthorization of antierless moose hunts (5AAC Chp 85 & 99)

Jim Marcotte, ADF&G

Fairbanks, AK 99701-1599

Sherrill Peterson, ADF&G

1300 College Road

PHONE: 459-7215

FAX: 474-8558

The following regulations will be considered for only Units 18, 22, 23, and 26A:

5 AAC 92.046 Permits for Taking Incidental or Stranded Musk Oxen

5 AAC 92.067 Units 22, 23, and 26A Brown Bear Permits

5 AAC 92.108 Identified Big Game Prey Populations and Objectives

5 AAC 92.125 Wolf Control Implementation Plan

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

#### MAIL OR DELIVER PROPOSALS TO THE FOLLOWING OFFICES:

Margaret Edens, ADF&G Susan Bucknell, ADF&G P O Box 25526 P O Box 689 Juneau, AK 99802-5526 Kotzebue, AK 99752

PHONE: 442-3420 PHONE: 465-2027 FAX: 442-2420 FAX: 465-6094

Ida Alexie, Boards Support Section Joe Chythlook, ADF&G

P O Box 1030 PO Box 1788

333 Raspberry Road Dillingham, AK 99576 Bethel, AK 99559-1788 Anchorage, AK 99518-1599 PHONE: 267-2354 PHONE: 543-4467 PHONE: 842-5142

FAX: 842-5514 FAX: 543-4477 FAX: 267-2489

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 above 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. Language that is emotionally charged detracts from the substance of the proposal. It may draw opposition that may not be germane to the element(s) of the proposal and may elicit nonresponsive charges from the public/board members. The proposal review committee reserves the right to edit proposals containing offensive language. 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.