

**SUMMARY OF ACTIONS
BOARD OF GAME
NOVEMBER 2—6, 2001
Anchorage, Alaska**

DESIGNATED REPORTERS: Susan Bucknell and Trim Nick

This summary of actions is for information purposes only and not intended to detail, reflect or fully interpret reasons for Board actions.

PROPOSAL NO. 1

ACTION: Carried

DESCRIPTION: Change the trapping and hunting season dates for lynx in Unit 23.

DISCUSSION: Board members discussed studies that indicate lynx predation has little effect on hare population, that removing predators will not result in the rabbit population destroying moose habitat. They noted that the demand for lynx is low.

PROPOSAL NO. 2

ACTION: Carried as amended

DESCRIPTION: Increase bag limit for brown bear in Unit 22.

AMENDMENT: Allow one bear a year for the subsistence hunt in all of Unit 22.

DISCUSSION: The board discussed that trophy hunting in the Unit 22 subsistence hunt area was reduced by the adoption of one bear per year bag limit for the general hunt in Unit 22. The board considered how bear viewing, and birders, might be affected.

PROPOSAL NO. 3

ACTION: Carried as amended

DESCRIPTION: Lengthen the hunting season for brown bear in Unit 18.

AMENDMENT: That portion north of the south bank of the Kashunak River, including its sloughs from its mouth to the Yukon River, and north of the south bank of the Yukon River, including its sloughs.

DISCUSSION: The board and the department discussed acceptable ways to increase brown bear hunting in Unit 18. The department reported that this population is subject to low levels of harvest and is believed to be growing. The board heard testimony about bears that are killed in defense of life and property (DLP). The board agreed that a longer hunting season is not expected to harm the bear population.

PROPOSAL NO. 4

ACTION: Carried as amended

DESCRIPTION: Allow resident hunters in Unit 22 to harvest one brown bear per regulatory year.

AMENDMENT: Include nonresident hunters, except in Unit 22C.

DISCUSSION: Board members heard from the department that brown bears are a factor in the decline of moose populations in parts of the unit. The board reported that since 1997 bag limits for bear have been liberalized to increase harvest and that there has been no indication that bear populations are declining. The board discussed increasing bear harvest in areas where bear predation is believed to be limiting moose populations.

PROPOSAL NO. 5

ACTION: Carried as amended

DESCRIPTION: Lengthen general and subsistence hunts for brown bear in all of Unit 22 by opening August 1.

AMENDMENT: Include nonresident seasons.

DISCUSSION: The board received information from department area staff that they do not expect much increase in harvest, and the number of permits for nonresidents will remain the same. They discussed the quality of trophy hides in August, and that an August season accommodates young hunters before school starts. Board members noted advisory committee support for the proposal. Benefits considered include additional hunting opportunity on the Nome road system and boatable rivers, subsistence hunting when bear meat is most desirable, and legal harvest of nuisance bears around camps.

PROPOSAL NO. 6

ACTION: Carried

DESCRIPTION: Increase the number of brown bear hunting permits for DB690 from 8 to 12 in Unit 22.

DISCUSSION: Board members considered department testimony that bears are abundant and they have no biological concern about increasing harvest. All drawing permits have been taken, so demand is there. The board specified that “up to” 12 bears be included in the regulatory language.

PROPOSAL NO. 7

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Align the nonresident brown bear hunting season dates with the amended resident brown bear hunting season to begin on August 1 in Unit 22.

DISCUSSION: No action due to action on proposal 5.

PROPOSAL NO. 8

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Allow both residents and nonresidents to harvest one brown bear per regulatory year in Unit 22.

DISCUSSION: No action due to action on proposal 5.

PROPOSAL NO. 9

ACTION: Carried as amended

DESCRIPTION: Allow both residents and nonresidents to harvest one brown bear per regulatory year in Unit 23.

AMENDMENT: Bag limit does not count against one bear every four years bag limit in other areas of state.

DISCUSSION: Board members discussed concerns about targeting mature male bears and whether or not this would create a “nursery” for bears. The board agreed the issue is to provide increased opportunity on an underutilized resource.

PROPOSAL NO. 10

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Allow nonresident hunters to harvest one brown bear every 4 regulatory years by permit in Unit 23, and another bear the following regulatory year in a separate unit.

DISCUSSION: No action due to action on proposal 9.

PROPOSAL NO. 11

ACTION: Carried

DESCRIPTION: Extend the resident subsistence and general hunting seasons for brown bear in Unit 23 from Aug. 1—May 31.

DISCUSSION: Board members heard from department staff that bears are abundant in Unit 23 and this proposal would increase hunting opportunity for resident hunters and decrease problems with bears. The board heard testimony that this action may increase harvest by an additional ten bears, mostly by Unit 23 residents at fish camps and perhaps include a few trophy bears.

PROPOSAL NO. 12

ACTION: Carried as amended

DESCRIPTION: Establish a resident hunting season for caribou in Unit 18, south of the Yukon River, from Aug. 1—Mar. 31.

AMENDMENT: Meat-on-bone requirement in Unit 18 for caribou taken prior to Oct. 1.

DISCUSSION: The department recommended establishing a permanent resident caribou season Aug. 1 – March 31 to replace the current season that is opened by emergency order. The board discussed that including a meat-on-the-bone requirement would be consistent with regulations in adjacent subunits.

PROPOSAL NO. 13

ACTION: Carried as amended

DESCRIPTION: Create a nonresident hunting season for caribou in Unit 18, south of the Yukon River.

AMENDMENT: Close nonresident moose season in the area during the open caribou season.

DISCUSSION: The board discussed numbers and proportions of caribou in Unit 18 and the herd’s migration patterns and impacts to adjacent units. Concern regarding the decline of fish resources in the area was mentioned and that caribou is important to people in the unit. The board agreed the opportunity for nonresident hunters exist in adjacent units.

PROPOSAL NO. 14

ACTION: Carried as amended

DESCRIPTION: Create a permanent resident caribou hunting season in Unit 22E.

AMENDMENT: Unit 22E, that portion east of and including the Sanaguich River drainage

Resident hunters: 5 caribou per day; however cow caribou may not be taken May 16 - June 30

Nonresident hunters; 5 caribou; however, cow caribou may not be taken May 16 - June 30

Resident open season July 1 – June 30

Nonresident season July 1 – June 30

DISCUSSION: The board agreed that documented levels of caribou justify a hunt on the books, rather than opening by emergency order.

PROPOSAL NO. 15

ACTION: Carried as amended

DESCRIPTION: Allow for a caribou hunting season in all of Unit 22D, with the same season dates and bag limits as in current regulation for open areas in Unit 22D.

AMENDMENT: Unit 22D, that portion in the Kougarok, Kuzitrin, Pilgrim River, American and Agiapuk river drainages.

DISCUSSION: The board considered information that caribou have extended their winter range westward and there have been three openings by emergency order. The board noted that the proposing advisory committee supports a department amendment to reduce the size of the area because caribou are vulnerable along the road system.

PROPOSAL NO. 16

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Change the current no-antler restriction for resident hunters in Unit 22 to a bull with spike-fork antlers, 50-inch antlers, or 3 or more brow tines on at least one side.

DISCUSSION: No action was taken due to other actions taken on proposals re: moose in Unit 22 and because the proposer no longer supported this proposal.

PROPOSAL NO. 17

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Restrict all moose hunting in Unit 22B to subsistence hunting through the end of October 2001.

DISCUSSION: Board members addressed some of the concerns in the amended proposal 19; other parts of the proposal are not within the board's authority.

PROPOSAL NO. 18

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Eliminate nonresident hunting seasons for moose in Unit 22.

DISCUSSION: Board members discussed which parts of Unit 22 still have a nonresident season, the harvest levels of moose by villages and the availability of caribou. The board considered information from department staff that nonresident moose harvest in Unit 22A is low, and probably not the reason for the decline in moose.

PROPOSAL NO. 19

ACTION: Carried as amended

DESCRIPTION: Clarify the definition of the hunt area east of the Darby Mountains in Unit 22B, and establish a registration hunt, and shorten the moose hunting season in the portion of Unit 22B west of the Darby Mountains.

AMENDMENT: Eliminate nonresident hunting season in the remainder of Unit 22B. Winter season Jan. 1- Jan. 31 any bull by registration permit.

DISCUSSION: Board members heard from department staff that moose recruitment is low, and moose seasons have been cut by more than half, which did not reduce harvest. Board members noted that they would have to look at the overall effect of all their actions on moose in Unit 22, relative to reasonable opportunity and harvestable surplus, and intensive management regulations, and discussed revising the subsistence need and harvestable surplus figures.

PROPOSAL NO. 20

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: In Units 22B and 22D, provide a general moose hunt Aug. 20—Sept. 14, bulls only, with less than 3 brow tines, and a registration hunt Sept. 15—Sept. 30, bulls only, with 3 or more brow tines on one side.

DISCUSSION: The board determined there was no support for this proposal because regulations would be complicated, young bulls would be targeted, and enforcement would be a problem.

PROPOSAL NO. 21

ACTION: Carried as amended

DESCRIPTION: Establish a registration hunt and shorten the moose hunting season in portions of Unit 22D.

AMENDMENT: Unit 22D Resident season: Aug. 20 – Sept. 14 and Jan. 1 – Jan. 31 by emergency order.

Unit 22 D Nonresident season: Sept. 1 – Sept. 14.

DISCUSSION: The board referenced proposal 19 in their discussion on this proposal. The board heard department concerns that poor recruitment and low bull:cow ratio requires season changes to prevent overharvest and emergency closures. There was extensive discussion about moose populations and harvests in the three areas of the subunit. Considering whether a nonresident season is justified for remainder of Unit 22D, board members noted the very small nonresident harvest, and the fairly long resident season provides reasonable opportunity for subsistence. Discussion included how the restrictions under consideration might displace hunting to other areas, possibly requiring additional action in two years.

PROPOSAL NO. 22

ACTION: Carried as amended

DESCRIPTION: Shorten the resident and nonresident moose hunting seasons in Unit 22E and change the resident bag limit.

AMENDMENT: Eliminate nonresident hunting season in Unit 22E.

DISCUSSION: The board heard from the department that moose are declining, and this may be a reason for the increase in the take of cows. The board noted that the Federal Subsistence Board closed all federal lands in Unit 22E to all but local federally qualified subsistence users, and reduced the season and the cow hunt. The board looked for conservation measures short of closing the nonresident season entirely, but recognized that reducing the resident cow harvest may increase the take of bulls which nonresidents also target.

PROPOSAL NO. 23

ACTION: Carried

DESCRIPTION: Prohibit the take of calf moose throughout Unit 23.

DISCUSSION: Board members heard that few calves are taken, and this action would keep regulations consistent with other units. They discussed the definition of "calf" and whether distinguishing a calf from a yearling could be confusing to hunters.

PROPOSAL NO. 24

ACTION: Carried as amended

DESCRIPTION: Shorten the resident and nonresident hunting seasons for moose in Unit 23 within the Noatak drainage.

AMENDMENT: Nonresident season Sept. 6 – Sept. 15 – Shorten resident season Aug. 1 – Dec. 31.

DISCUSSION: The board heard a review regarding ten years of increasing season restrictions in this area. The board also heard testimony that this proposal is a compromise crafted with input from user groups. Concerned about the effects on guides of going to a ten-day nonresident season, board members first amended the proposal to retain the current nonresident season. Upon reconsideration, they noted that this population is borderline for not meeting subsistence needs, and that having made significant reductions to the resident season; they agreed the nonresident hunting season should also be shortened.

PROPOSAL NO. 25

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Require nonresidents to possess an Alaskan Hunter Safety Education Card or be accompanied by a licensed guide in Alaska when hunting moose in Unit 23.

DISCUSSION: The board members heard objections that guide requirements are a legislative issue. The board discussed that waste of wild meat needs to be addressed in a comprehensive program.

PROPOSAL NO. 26

ACTION: Carried as amended

DESCRIPTION: Increase the area and lengthen the season dates for moose hunting in Unit 26A.

AMENDMENT: Restrict aircraft for hunting moose Aug. 1 – Sept. 15

DISCUSSION: Board members confirmed with department staff that the aircraft restrictions applied just to moose.

PROPOSAL NO. 27

ACTION: Carried

DESCRIPTION: Increase the number of registration permits available for muskoxen in Unit 18, Nelson Island.

DISCUSSION: The department reported that their most recent census of muskoxen is 306. The board agreed to increase the number of permits for muskoxen to 42. The department recommended that this regulation be expedited so that permits could be issued right away.

PROPOSAL NO. 28

ACTION: Carried as amended.

DESCRIPTION: Increase the harvest rate for muskoxen from 5 percent to up to 8 percent, maintain a Tier II subsistence hunt, and establish a resident drawing hunt in Unit 22E.

AMENDMENT: Increase the allowable harvest in Unit 22B to 16 bulls, Unit 22C to 6 bulls, Unit 22D southwest to 9 muskoxen, no more than 4 of which may be cows, Unit 22D remainder to 41 muskoxen, no more than 17 of which can be cows, 22E remainder up to 50 muskoxen no more than 25 of which can be cows, and Unit 23 southwest to 17 muskoxen, no more than 7 of which can be cows.

DISCUSSION: The department reported that Unit 22 muskoxen can sustain additional harvest. Board members agreed to proposed changes, noting the collaborative effort involved, and support by the department and local advisory committee. They discussed the need to reconsider the amount necessary for subsistence, since these changes will allow possible Tier II harvest of more animals than currently identified as necessary for subsistence and that moose restrictions will increase the demand for musk ox. The board heard from the Department of Law that to have a Tier II hunt and another hunt on the same population, they would need to establish both that older bulls are sufficiently different to warrant different treatment, and that subsistence demand for old bulls does not exceed availability.

PROPOSAL NO. 29

ACTION: Carried as amended

DESCRIPTION: Consider a customary and traditional finding and establish a musk ox hunt in Unit 26A.

DISCUSSION: The board determined that that the same population of musk ox in Unit 26B includes those animals in Unit 26A; that the same population of animals is expanding their range westward and the board included this population in the previous C&T determinations. Seeing no changes in this herd or in hunting practices they approved the new hunt on an expanding herd, which will allow people to hunt closer to home.

PROPOSAL NO. 30

ACTION: Carried

DESCRIPTION: Correct codified language and align sheep seasons hunting seasons in Units 23 and 26A.

DISCUSSION: Board members had no disagreement with this housekeeping proposal, which corrects an administrative error.

PROPOSAL NO. 31

ACTION: Carried as amended

DESCRIPTION: Change the bag limit for hunting wolves in Unit 23 to "no limit," and extend the season by 10 days.

AMENDMENT: Retain the existing hunting season and set a bag limit of 10 wolves.

DISCUSSION: The board considered information from the department that wolves appear abundant, and most wolves are taken under trapping regulations which already have no limit. Board members noted the Western Arctic Caribou Herd needs predation pressure, and wolves may be more vulnerable to hunting in open tundra areas in Unit 23 than in other units. Considering that hunting pressure might adversely affect serious pelt trappers, and issues of public perception, the board discussed how many wolves a hunter might take to set an appropriate limit.

PROPOSAL NO. 32

ACTION: Carried as amended

DESCRIPTION: Establish a hunting season for beaver in all of Unit 22, Aug. 1—Sept. 30, with a limit of 20 per year.

AMENDMENT: Season from Aug. 1-June 10.

DISCUSSION: Board members heard that the department does not expect much increase in harvest of beaver and sees no biological reason to oppose. The new regulations would increase opportunity, and allow a food hunt without a trapping license. The board discussed that this area does not have strong history of eating beaver like users in Units 23 and 18.

PROPOSAL NO. 33

ACTION: Failed

DESCRIPTION: Require nonresident hunters in Unit 23 to attend a department-approved orientation course or to be accompanied by a registered guide or resident family member within the second degree of kindred.

DISCUSSION: See also discussion on proposal 25. The department agrees with the intent of the proposal, and is currently expanding public outreach and education programs. The board requested the department give this issue a high priority as money becomes available. The board noted advisory committee support of the proposal.

PROPOSAL NO. 34

ACTION: Carried as amended

DESCRIPTION: Add caribou in Unit 22 to the list of big game animals a person can take the same day they have been airborne.

AMENDMENT: Same restrictions as other areas of state – Jan. 1 – Apr. 15 and at least 300 feet from the airplane.

DISCUSSION: The board reviewed same-day-airborne hunting regulations in Alaska. The board agreed there is no biological reason to oppose, but public opinion is mixed. The board considered that same-day-airborne hunting of animals might interfere with other caribou hunters in the fall with increased noise and traffic and may disrupt caribou migration. The board recognized that same-day-airborne hunting would allow some people to hunt away from roads and rivers. The board concluded that the Jan. – Apr. season would solve potential problems of an influx of trophy hunters that could interfere with the subsistence hunt.

PROPOSAL NO. 35

ACTION: Carried as amended

DESCRIPTION: Provide population and harvest objectives for those moose and caribou populations in Units 18, 22, 23, and 26A that were identified as important for high human consumptive use.

**BOARD OF GAME FINDINGS FOR INTENSIVE MANAGEMENT
WESTERN AND ARCTIC REGIONS Fall 2001 (Proposal 35)**

Moose Populations	Finding of importance for high levels of human consumptive use	Population objective	Harvest objective	Comments
Unit 18	Positive	1,000 – 2,000	60 – 200	
Unit 22	Positive	5,100 – 6,800	300 – 680	

Unit 23	Positive	3,500 - 9,200	210 – 920	
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Caribou Populations	Finding of importance for high levels of human consumptive use	Population objective	Harvest objective	Comments
Kilbuck				Kilbuck herd no longer exists -now part of Mulchatna herd
Western Arctic	Positive	> 200,000	12,000 – 20,000	
Teshekpuk	Positive	15,000 – 28,000	900 – 2,800	

PROPOSAL NO. 36

ACTION: Carried

DESCRIPTION: Require that the meat of a big game animal taken in Unit 23 between Aug. 10—Sept. 30 remain on the bones of the hindquarters and front shoulders until removed from the field or processed for human consumption.

AMENDMENT: Specify moose and caribou rather than all big game animals.

DISCUSSION: Board members heard a review of meat-on-bone regulations and salvage requirements in Alaska. The discussed the meaning of "field." The board heard testimony that spoilage of meat by nonlocals and nonresident hunters is a serious problem in Unit 23. Public Safety staff support the proposal as a valuable tool when investigating and prosecuting waste cases. Board members discussed allowing exemptions for disabled hunters and concluded that existing department authority allows for these exemptions. The board will assign a statewide task force to work issues on wanton waste.

PROPOSAL NO. 37

ACTION: Deferred

DESCRIPTION: Create a new controlled use area in Unit 23.

DISCUSSION: The board held an informal evening discussion regarding this proposal. There was consensus that a smaller area than is proposed be considered. This proposal was deferred to the Statewide Board of Game meeting in January 2002, with a note appended describing the process and product of the workgroup.

PROPOSAL NO. 38

ACTION: No action

DESCRIPTION: Increase the time period when aircraft are not allowed for moose hunting in the Unit 26A Controlled Use Area.

DISCUSSION: No action due to action on proposal 26.

PROPOSAL NO. 39(D)

ACTION: Carried as amended

DESCRIPTION: Create new CUA restricting airboats for brown bear hunting in Unit 9E.

AMENDMENT: Effective May through July only for all bear hunting.

DISCUSSION: Board members noted that this proposal was amended and deferred at its Spring 2001 meeting to allow for further public comment. The board noted there were no opposing comments submitted in the additional time allowed. The board discussed the need to prevent potential impact of airboats on a recovering caribou herd on its calving ground

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

The board approved a request that will allow hunters who drew permits to hunt moose on military land an extended period due base closures related to the events of September 11. Hunters selected in the 2001 drawing to hunt moose at Fort Richardson during fall 2001 will be allowed to hunt in fall 2002. The department will issue an emergency order to that effect next summer and re-issue drawing permits to eligible hunters. Hunters who won permits to hunt the late-season (Dec. 15, 2001 – Jan. 15, 2002) are allowed to hunt this winter. The board authorized the department to extend the moose hunting season on Elmendorf Air Force Base through January 15, 2002.

The board accepted an agenda change request from the department to add 5 AAC 92.052 - Discretionary Permit Hunt Conditions and Procedures - to its statewide meeting agenda that would allow the department to limit the number of moose permits to one per household, where appropriate.

Board of Game Meeting Summary

Tues. November 7, 2000

Continuing deliberations for the Douglas Area, Proposal 26 was amended to reduce the number of antlerless permits and move the season later, to Nov. 15-30.

Proposal 26A created an antlerless moose hunt at Gustavus in GMU 1C and was adopted by a narrow margin, reflecting discomfort in the small Icy Strait community with the concept of taking cows.

Proposal 27 increased the number of permits available for the Berner's Bay moose drawing hunt and was adopted.

Proposal 22 increased the season length for goats in Unit 1C by opening it one month earlier, starting Sept. 1. It was amended to also lengthen the season for the archery-only goat hunt to start Sept. 1.

Proposal 10 was adopted to change the Unit 5 brown bear general season to a registration hunt.

Proposal 6 would have changed the brown bear bag limit in Unit 1D to one bear every year or 2 years. It did not pass.

Proposal 1 opened a beaver trapping season in Unit 1D and was amended to reduce the bag limit to 5.

Proposal 11 would have closed Horse Island to all hunting and failed.

Proposal 33A to finalize intensive management population & harvest objectives for deer in Region I and moose and caribou in Region III was passed with no changes to the numbers listed above.

Proposal C No action was taken based on 33A

Proposal D No action was taken based on 33A

Proposal G was adopted to modify nonresident harvest ticket requirements

Proposal L, M, and N to conform regulations to current state statute for the same-day-airborne harvest of wolves passed, with the proviso that these would not be submitted to Law if the ballot proposition re SDA passed.

Proposal 38 was amended to close an area of approximately 30 square miles in the southwest corner of the "wolf townships" to taking of wolves, to protect the East Fork pack's range outside Denali NP. No lands were closed to the east of the park.

Proposal E identifying customary and traditional uses of furbearers was amended to cover the entire state and to identify amounts reasonably necessary for subsistence as a range from 0 to the harvestable surplus. As this unexpected move to enact C&T findings proceeded, the Board's understanding was that they were creating a "triggerless" system that would meet the requirements of the law but not create Tier II trapping situations.

Proposal BA to shorten nonresident moose season in Units 19A and B and require antler destruction was removed from the table and reconsidered Nov. 7 at 8:30 p.m. It was amended to require all nonresident moose hunters hunting in an area where an intensive management population has been identified to obtain a registration permit by a certain date, or else be required to have a drawing permit. It was deferred to the Spring 2001 meeting for additional public comment and ADF&G analysis.

Proposal P was adopted to codify all past C&T findings for game populations.

This concluded deliberation on proposals.

At 9:00 p.m. the Board took up miscellaneous business, letters and agenda change requests.

- ◇ They agreed to allow falconry proposals for the winter 2002 Board meeting, and turned down a request to review Tier II scoring at the March 2001 meeting.
- ◇ They did agree to an agenda change request to allow proposals concerning Unit 19 for the March 2001 meeting.

The Board adjourned the meeting at 10:30 p.m.