

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY
REVIEWER LETTER

DEAR REVIEWER:

January 2006

The Alaska Board of Game will consider the attached book of regulatory proposals at its **Spring 2006** meeting, to be held **March 10-20**, at the Princess Riverside Lodge in Fairbanks, Alaska. The proposals generally concern Interior Region III changes to the regulations governing hunting and the use of game as well as deferred proposals from previous board meetings. Members of the public, organizations, advisory committees, and staff have submitted these proposals, which are published essentially as they are received.

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

You are encouraged to read all proposals presented in this book. Some regulations have statewide application and some regulations may affect other regions of the state. Also, some proposals recommend changes to multiple areas or regions.

The proposals are set forth in the Table of Contents, which is not in roadmap order for the meeting. Prior to the meeting, the board will generate and make available to the public, a roadmap for deliberations. The roadmap may be changed prior to and during the meeting.

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.

After reviewing the proposals, please send written comments to:

ATTN: BOG COMMENTS
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Boards Support Section
PO Box 25526
Juneau, AK 99802-5526
Fax: 907-465-6094

Public comment, in combination with Advisory Committee comments and ADF&G staff presentations, provide the Board of Game with useful biological and socioeconomic data to form decisions. 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 the board begins deliberations. As a practical matter, you are encouraged to mail or fax your written comments to the above Juneau address no later than **5:00 p.m. on February 24, 2006**, to ensure inclusion in the board workbook. All comments received after that time will be presented to board members at the time of the meeting, but may not be printed in the board workbook. Written comments will also be accepted during the board meeting and public testimony during the public testimony portion of the meeting is always appreciated. **Written comments become public documents.**

When providing written comments on the proposals in this proposal book, please consider the following simple tips to help ensure board members and the public more fully understand recommendations to the board:

Timely Submission: Submit written comments by fax or mail at least two weeks prior to the meeting. Comments received at least two weeks prior to the meeting are printed and cross referenced in the board

members' workbooks. Written comments received after the two-week period will be included in the workbooks as "late comments" and are not cross referenced. Materials received during the meeting also are not cross referenced. If you provide written comments during a board meeting, submit 20 copies to Board Support Section staff, who will distribute your written comments to board members. If including graphs or charts, please indicate the source.

List the Proposal Number: Written comments should indicate the proposal number(s) to which the comments apply. Written comments should specifically state "support" or "opposition" to the proposal(s). This will help ensure written comments are correctly noted for the board members. If the comments support a modification in the proposal, please indicate "support as amended" and provide a preferred amendment in writing.

Do Not Use Separate Pages When Commenting on Separate Proposals: If making comments on more than one proposal, please do not use separate pieces of paper. Simply begin the next set of written comments by listing the next proposal number.

Provide an Explanation: Please briefly explain why you are in support or opposition of the proposal. Board actions are based on a complete review of the facts involved in each proposal, not a mere calculation of comments for or against a proposal. Advisory committees and other groups also need to explain the rationale behind recommendations. Minority viewpoints from an advisory committee should be noted in advisory committee minutes along with the majority recommendation. The board benefits greatly from understanding the pro and cons of each issue. A brief description consisting of a couple of sentences is sufficient.

Write Clearly: Comments will be photocopied so please use 8 1/2" x 11" paper and leave reasonable margins on all sides, allowing for hole punches. Whether typed or handwritten, use dark ink and write legibly.

Use the Correct Address or Fax Number: Mail written comments to Board of Game Comments, ADF&G, P.O. Box 25526, Juneau, AK 99802; or fax them to 907-465-6094; or deliver them to a Regional Boards Support Office.

Pertinent policies and findings, proposals, written comment deadlines, meeting calendars and notices for the Board of Game meetings are posted on the Board Support website at <http://www.boards.adfg.state.ak.us/>.

A tentative agenda for the March 2006 Board of Game meeting is shown on page x. A roadmap detailing the tentative order in which proposals will be considered will be available in March 2006 at <http://www.boards.adfg.state.ak.us/>.

Updated Status of the Meeting: After the board meeting begins, a recorded telephone message will provide current updates on the board's agenda and schedule. Dial (800) 764-8901 (in Juneau, call 465-8901).

Additional Accommodations: Persons with a disability needing special accommodations in order to comment on the proposed regulations should contact the Boards Support Section at (907) 465-4110 no later than February 27, 2006 to make any necessary arrangements.

Kristy Tibbles, Executive Director
Alaska Board of Game
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
(907) 465-4110

**ALASKA BOARD OF GAME
 SPRING 2006 PROPOSAL BOOK
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**ALASKA BOARD OF GAME
TENTATIVE MEETING SCHEDULE
as of December 30, 2005**

	<u>Dates & Location</u>	<u>Topic</u>
Winter 2006	January 27 – 30, 2006 * Anchorage Proposal Deadline: November 18, 2005 Written Comments: January 13, 2006	Statewide Cycle A
Spring 2006	March 10 – 20, 2006 Fairbanks Proposal Deadline: December 9, 2005 Written Comments: February 24, 2006	Interior Region
Fall 2006	November 10 – 15, 2006 Location: TBA Proposal Deadline: TBA Written Comments: Two weeks prior to meeting	Southeast Region
Spring 2007	March 2 - 12, 2007 Anchorage Proposal Deadline: TBA Written Comments: Two weeks prior to meeting	Southcentral & Southwest Regions

* The Winter 2006 meeting has been extended to January 30.

For information about the Board of Game, contact:

Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Boards Support Section
PO Box 25526
Juneau, Alaska 99802-5526
Phone: (907) 465-4110
Fax: (907) 465-6094

Web address: <http://www.boards.adfg.state.ak.us>

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 antlerless 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 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.

Proposals for changes to regulations pertaining to reauthorization of antlerless moose hunts, 5 AAC 85.045, and brown bear tag fee exemptions, 5 AAC 92.015, will be taken up annually, at spring meetings.

The Board of Game does not consider proposals to statewide regulations in every meeting cycle. Instead, the Board of Game reviews statewide regulations on a four-year cycle, distributed between fall meetings, every other year. The list of statewide regulations and the associated "Cycle A" and "Cycle B" meeting schedule is set forth on the next page of this publication.

<u>Regulations for:</u>	<u>Will be considered:</u>		
<p>SOUTHEAST REGION Game Management Units: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5</p>	Fall 2006	Fall 2008	Fall 2010
<p>SOUTHCENTRAL & SOUTHWEST REGIONS Game Management Units: 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 All GMUs: Brown Bear Tag Fees Reauthorization of Antlerless Moose Hunts</p>	Spring 2007	Spring 2009	Spring 2011
<p>ARCTIC AND WESTERN REGIONS Game Management Units: 18, 22, 23, 26A</p>	Fall 2005	Fall 2007	Fall 2009
<p>INTERIOR REGION Game Management Units: 12, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25, 26B, 26C All GMUs: Brown Bear Tag Fees Reauthorization of Antlerless Moose Hunts</p>	Spring 2006	Spring 2008	Spring 2010

ALASKA BOARD OF GAME STATEWIDE REGULATIONS SCHEDULE

STATEWIDE REGULATIONS: 5 AAC 92 CYCLE “A”: 2006, 2010, 2014, 2020

- .001 Application of this Chapter
- .002 Liability for Violations
- .003 Hunter Education and Orientation Requirements
- .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
- .013 Migratory bird hunting guide services
- .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
- .030 Possession of wolf hybrid prohibited
- .031 Permit for Selling Skins and Trophies
- .033 Permit for Sci., Ed., Propagative, or Public Safety Purposes
- .034 Permit to Take Game for Cultural Purposes
- .039 Permit for Taking Wolves Using Aircraft
- .047 Permit for Using Radio Telemetry Equipment
- .104 Authorization for Methods and Means Disability Exemptions
- .106 Intensive Management of Identified Big Game Prey Populations
- .110 Control of predation by wolves
- .115 Control of predation by bears
- .165 Sealing of Bear Skins and Skulls
- .170 Sealing of Marten, Lynx, Beaver, Otter, Wolf, and Wolverine
- .171 Sealing of Dall sheep horns
- .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 “B”: 2008, 2012, 2016, 2022.

- .009 Obstruction or hindrance of lawful hunting or trapping
- .035 Permit for Temporary Commercial Use of Live Game
- .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
- .044 Permit for hunting black bear with the use of bait or scent lures
- .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
- .420 Taking nuisance wildlife

BOARD OF GAME
As of December 9, 2005

<u>MEMBER'S NAME AND ADDRESS</u>	<u>TERM EXPIRES</u>
Mike Fleagle, CHAIR 3821 W. 67 th Avenue Anchorage, Alaska 99502	3/1/2007
Ron Somerville, VICE CHAIR 4506 Robbie Road Juneau, Alaska 99802	3/1/2008
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Carl M. Morgan, Jr. PO Box 243 Aniak, AK 99557	3/1/2008
Ted Spraker 49230 Victoria Ave. Soldotna, Alaska 99669	3/1/2008

Alaska Board of Game members may also be reached at:
ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
Boards Support Section
P.O. Box 25526
Juneau, AK 99802-5526
PHONE: (907) 465-4110 FAX: (907) 465-6094

NOTE: Anyone may provide written comments on proposals published in this proposal booklet. To be published in the Board of Game's Spring 2006 Board workbook, written comments must be received via fax or postal service by Boards Support Section personnel no later than 5:00 p.m. February 24, 2006. A postmark is not sufficient. Fax or mail your written comments to the Boards Support Section at the Headquarter's office in Juneau (shown on next page). Written comments on the proposals contained in this proposal booklet sent to individual board members or to ADF&G personnel, and not to Boards Support Section personnel, will not be published in the Board of Game's Spring 2006 board workbook.

BOARDS SUPPORT SECTION
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
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Juneau, AK 99802
(907) 465-4110
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For updated information on the progress of an ongoing Board of Fisheries or Board of Game meeting,
call: Juneau 465-8901; outside Juneau 1-800-764-8901

Website address: <http://www.boards.adfg.state.ak.us/>

ALASKA BOARD OF GAME

GUIDELINES FOR PUBLIC TESTIMONY & ADVISORY COMMITTEE TESTIMONY

Persons planning to testify before Board of Game hearings must fill out a blue PUBLIC TESTIMONY SIGN-UP CARD and turn it in to the board's staff. Persons providing written material for the board members must provide at least **20 copies** to the staff; and **submit with your blue testimony card**. Do not wait until it is your turn to testify to submit written material, as it may not be distributed to the board in time for your testimony. **Provide a name and date on the first page of written material and identify the source of graphs or tables, if included in materials.**

When the chairman calls your name, please go to the microphone; state your name and whom you represent. At the front table, a green light will come on when you begin speaking. A yellow light will come on when you have one minute remaining. A red light will indicate that your time is up. When you are finished speaking, please stay seated and wait for any questions board members may have regarding your comments.

If you wish to give testimony for more than one group (i.e., yourself plus an organization, or advisory committee), you only need to turn in one sign-up card, listing each group you will be representing. When you begin your testimony, state for the record the group you are representing. Keep your comments separate for each group. For example: give comments for the first group you are representing, then after stating clearly that you are now testifying for the second group, give comments for that group.

Please be aware that when you testify you may not ask questions of board members or of department staff. This is your chance to make comments on proposals before the board. If board members and/or department staff need clarification, they will ask you questions. **A person using derogatory or threatening language to the board will not be allowed to continue speaking.**

Generally, the board allows five minutes for oral testimony, whether you testify for yourself or on behalf of an organization. The board chairman will announce the length of time for testimony at the beginning of the meeting.

Advisory Committee representatives are usually allowed 15 minutes to testify, and should restrict testimony relating to what occurred at the advisory committee meeting(s). Testimony should be a brief summary of the minutes of the meeting and copies of the minutes should be available for the board members. An Advisory Committee representative's personal opinions should not be addressed during Advisory Committee testimony.

PLEASE NOTE: The time limit on testimony does NOT include questions the board members may have for you.

~DRAFT~
ALASKA BOARD OF GAME
INTERIOR REGION
March 10 – 20, 2006
Princess Riverside Lodge, Fairbanks, Alaska
TENTATIVE AGENDA

NOTE: This Tentative Agenda is subject to change throughout the course of the meeting.

This Tentative Agenda is provided to give a general idea of the board's anticipated schedule. The board will attempt to hold to this schedule; however, the board is not constrained by this Tentative Agenda. Persons wishing to testify must sign-up by the deadline. Public testimony will continue until those present at the meeting are heard; the board will continue working through its agenda immediately upon conclusion of public testimony. The following time blocks are only an estimate. Updated agendas will be posted in the meeting room, or call 1-800-764-8901 for a recorded message on daily progression through the meeting.

Friday, March 10, 2006 8:30 AM

OPENING BUSINESS

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

STAFF AND OTHER REPORTS

PUBLIC AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE ORAL TESTIMONY: Oral testimony will begin immediately upon conclusion of staff reports.

Saturday, March 11, 2006, 8:30 AM

Continue PUBLIC AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE ORAL TESTIMONY

DEADLINE FOR SIGN-UP TO TESTIFY will be announced at the meeting.

Public testimony will continue until persons who have signed up before the deadline, and who are present when called by the Chair to testify, are heard.

Sunday, March 12 and Monday, March 13, 2006, 8:30 AM

Continue/Conclude PUBLIC AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE ORAL TESTIMONY
BOARD DELIBERATIONS (Upon conclusion of public testimony.)

Tuesday, March 14, 2006 through Monday, March 20, 2006

BOARD DELIBERATIONS

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS, including Petitions, Findings, Resolutions, Letters, Other
ADJOURN

SPECIAL NOTES

- A. This agenda is TENTATIVE and subject to change during the meeting. A list of staff reports and a roadmap will be available at the meeting. Scheduled updates will be available on the board's recorded message phone. Phone Number: 1-800-764-8901; in Juneau call 465-8901.
- B. Advisory Committee representatives may present their reports either at the beginning or end of the "Oral Public Testimony." The committee representative should notify the board secretary whether they prefer to present their report at the beginning or end of public testimony.
- C. The State of Alaska Department of Fish and Game complies with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA). Individuals with disabilities who may need auxiliary aids, services, and/or special modifications to participate in this hearing and public meeting should contact 465-4110 no later than February 27, 2006 to make any necessary arrangements.

PROPOSAL 1 - 5 AAC 84.270. Furbearer trapping. Amend this regulation as follows:

Unit 21B and Unit 21D

Beaver season: September 25 through June 10, no bag limit.

ISSUE: Increase the length of the beaver season in Unit 21D and Unit 21B to begin September 25 and end June 10.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The beaver population has been increasing in this area and very few people are trapping them. This will allow fall open-water trapping to occur on a population that is underutilized.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Hides are of sufficient quality in fall time and many other areas of the state open in September.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Trappers, dog mushers, people who eat beaver meat.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Brad Scotton, Shayne Hughes and Jay Sears (I-06S-G-054)

PROPOSAL 2 - 5 AAC 85.060(a)(6). Hunting seasons and bag limits for fur animals. Amend this regulation as follows:

No closed season and no limit for beaver in Unit 20.

ISSUE: Underharvest of available resource (beaver). Beaver populations are too high and are not being managed for maximum sustained yield.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Renewable natural resources will be wasted. A constitutional mandate will be violated.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Anyone who eats or sews beaver.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Beaver sterilization—too expensive. More trapping—fur price too low.

PROPOSED BY: Joe Nava (HQ-06S-G-003)

PROPOSAL 3 - 5 AAC 92.095(a)(3). Unlawful methods of taking furbearers; exceptions.

Amend this regulation as follows:

(a) The following methods and means of taking furbearers under a trapping license are prohibited, in addition to the prohibitions in 5 AAC 92.080:

(3) taking beaver by any means other than a steel trap or snare, except that a firearm may be used to take two beaver per day in Units 9 and 17 from April 15 through May 31, in Unit 19 from April 1 through June 10, or **five beaver per day** in Unit 25, except Unit 25C, from April 16 through June 1 **and September 1 through October 31** provided that the meat is salvaged for human consumption; only a firearm may be used to take 6 beaver per regulatory year in Units 12 and 20E from September 20 through October 31 and from April 16 through May 15 provided that the meat is salvaged for human consumption; a firearm may be used to take beaver in Units 8, 18, 21(E), 22, and 23 throughout the seasons and with the bag limits established in 5 AAC 84;

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The opportunity to harvest an abundant and lightly used resource will be limited more than necessary. Beaver are abundant and widespread in Units 25A, 25B and 25D. Harvests are low and occur mainly in limited areas near local communities. Beaver can provide a high quality source of food for people who are camping, fishing or hunting and increasing the bag limit from two per day to five per day, and adding a fall season will allow people to harvest more beaver on the few occasions when it is efficient to take a larger number of animals. In most cases, people will take no more than one to three beaver per day, because they only have a limited need for meat, and do not want to skin more than this number of animals each day. This season would govern beaver harvests on state managed lands and waters, which include much of the accessible beaver habitat in the area. Federal regulations allow rural residents to take one beaver per day, with a limit of one in possession, on federal public lands in these units during April 16 through October 31.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Local residents and others who could benefit from a increased opportunity to harvest beaver during the spring and fall, when both pelts and meat are in good condition.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None

PROPOSED BY: Yukon Flats Advisory Committee (I-06S-G-007)

PROPOSAL 4 - 5 AAC 84.270. Furbearer trapping. Amend this regulation as follows:

Unit 21D: Firearms are allowed to take beaver in Unit 21D during the trapping season by a licensed hunter.

ISSUE: Allow the use of a firearm to take beaver in Unit 21D during the trapping season (must have trapping license).

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Shayne Hughes (I-06S-G-032)

PROPOSAL 5 - 5 AAC 92.095(a)(18). Unlawful methods of taking furbearers; exceptions.
Amend the regulation for Unit 22 as follows:

Traps may be used during the open water period beginning September 15.
June 11 to September 15 only firearms may be used to take beaver.

ISSUE: The new regulations should not prohibit traps from being used during the open water period. Generally trappers prefer to wait until the season becomes colder to take beaver. And it would be preferable to amend the October 31 opening for use of traps to September 15. Trapping regulations prohibiting customary trapping methods during the open water trapping season during June 11 to October 31 of each year in Unit 22. The board approved an agenda change request for this proposal to be heard at the March 2006 meeting in Fairbanks. This proposal comes from that agenda change request.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Trappers in Unit 22 will not be allowed to use customary trapping methods such as snares, legholds, or conibears to take beaver in Unit 22. Firearms may be used in close proximity to villages and use of firearms close to towns and villages causes some safety concerns.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? This proposal does address improving the quality of the resource being harvested by allowing efficient means to take beaver during an easier time of year when beaver fur is sellable.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Trappers.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Wildlife viewers.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Continuous trapping opening, rejected because it is not likely that the fur or other sellable products will improve the quality of the resource.

PROPOSED BY: Austin Ahmasuk (HQ-06S-G-001)

PROPOSAL 6 - 5 AAC 92.080. Unlawful methods of taking game; exceptions and 5 AAC 92.095. Unlawful methods of taking furbearers; exceptions. Amend these regulations as follows:

Allow 660 conibear style traps with a jaw spread of 26 inches for underwater harvest of beavers in Unit 21D.

ISSUE:

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Shayne Hughes (I-06S-G-030)

PROPOSAL 7 - 5 AAC 84.270. Furbearer trapping. Amend this regulation as follows:

Unit 21D: Beaver harvest season starts September 1 of each year for meat or pelt.

ISSUE: Allow the harvest of beavers (under trapping regulations) to start September 1 of each year for meat or pelt in Unit 21D.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Shayne Hughes (I-06S-G-031)

PROPOSAL 8 - 5 AAC 84.270. Furbearer trapping. Amend this regulation as follows:

Unit 12 and Unit 20E

Beaver trapping season: September 20 through May 30

Bag limit: 25

Method: firearms allowed throughout the season requiring meat or hide be salvaged

ISSUE: Trapping seasons for beaver are currently unnecessarily restrictive in Unit 12 and Unit 20E. There are good numbers of beaver in these units and current trapping pressure is extremely light for all species in these units.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Trapper opportunity will continue to be unnecessarily restricted.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, it will allow for the retention of beaver for either food or the hide to allow for multiple uses and user needs.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All consumptive users of beaver in these units.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Upper Tanana/Fortymile Advisory Committee (I-06S-G-035)

PROPOSAL 9 - 5 AAC 92.080. Unlawful methods of taking game; exceptions. Amend this regulation for Unit 26 as follows:

Lead shot is prohibited for any bird hunting within Unit 26. Only nontoxic shot is allowed.

ISSUE: Lead shot can be used for hunting upland game birds but is prohibited for hunting waterfowl. Further, upland and wetlands areas are intermixed within Unit 26. Lead shot is a contaminant whether used in uplands or wetlands. The difference in the kind of shot that is allowable for hunting upland game birds and waterfowl provides for some confusion among hunters and shot providers. In some villages, nontoxic shot might not even be available for purchase.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Lead shot will continue to be used in northern Alaska further adding contaminants to the environment. Confusion about the law will persist, as will opportunities, intended or not, to not obey the law. Making lead shot illegal to use will provide clear guidance to hunters and suppliers of shot within Unit 26.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. The resources of Unit 26 would benefit with the cessation of putting additional lead, a contaminant, into the environment. Reducing the introduction of additional contaminants will improve the health of the resources. Further, reducing the amount of lead that is available to birds to ingest will reduce the potential for lead poisoning.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Hunters, ammunition providers and law enforcement in Unit 26 would benefit by eliminating any confusion about what type of shot is allowed for hunting birds in Unit 26.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Hunters in Unit 26 may have to pay a bit more for nontoxic shot than lead shot. However, the cost of nontoxic shot is now very similar to the cost of lead shot.

If lead shot costs are lower than nontoxic shot, hunters will be tempted to purchase the less expensive shot.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Education programs—previous programs have helped but lead shot is still sold and purchased in villages, often at a lower cost than nontoxic shot.

PROPOSED BY: North Slope Borough Fish and Game Management Committee (HQ-06S-G-010)

PROPOSAL 10 - 5 AAC 85.010(2). Hunting seasons and bag limits for bison. Establish a drawing permit for bison whereby applicants must have killed two bears in the Experimental Moose Micromanagement Area (EMMA) in Unit 19D during the previous year. Also, reallocate permits from those permittees who did not hunt during the fall Farewell bison hunt to this new spring Farewell bison hunt in which applicants must have harvested at least two bear in the EMMA through the department’s discretionary permit authority as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
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...
(2)
Unit 19
...

1 bison every 5 regulatory years by drawing permit only; up to 100 permits will be issued; or

1 bison every regulatory year by drawing permit only; an applicant must have killed at least 2 bears during the previous Nov. 1 – Oct. 31 within that portion of Unit 19D beginning at 62°42’N, 155°35’W, then northeasterly to 62°50’N, 155°25’W, then northeasterly to 62°54’N, 154°50’W, then north to 63°04’N, 154°50’W, then west to 63°04’N, 155°50’W, then southwesterly to 62°50’N, 155°55’W, then south to 52°42’N, 155°55’W, then east to the point of beginning; up to 20 permits may be issued

Mar. 1 – Mar. 31
(General hunt only)

1 bison every 5 regulatory

Mar. 1 – Mar. 31

years by drawing permit only; an applicant must have killed at least 2 bears during the previous Nov. 1 – Oct. 31 within that portion of Unit 19D beginning at 62°42'N, 155°35'W, then northeasterly to 62°50'N, 155°25'W, then northeasterly to 62°54'N, 154°50'W, then north to 63°04'N, 154°50'W, then west to 63°04'N, 155°50'W, then southwesterly to 62°50'N, 155°55'W, then south to 52°42'N, 155°55'W, then east to the point of beginning; up to 20 permits may be issued

ISSUE: This proposal provides an incentive for hunters to harvest bears in the EMMA. Combined with ongoing wolf control, higher grizzly and black bear harvest that could result from this proposal may increase moose calf survival and help achieve the Unit 19D East intensive management population objective of 6,000 to 8,000 moose. Removal of bears by the department in May through June 2003 and 2004 substantially improved calf moose survival. Without increased bear harvest, bear predation on moose calves is expected to return to pre-removal numbers as grizzly and black bears return to the EMMA, decreasing the likelihood that the moose population objective will be achieved.

An incentive to harvest bears is needed because the department estimates that at least 50 black bears must be harvested during the next several years in the EMMA to maximize moose population growth. During regulatory years 2000 – 2001 through 2004 – 2005 less than ten black bears and seven grizzly bears were harvested annually in Unit 19D. The intent of this proposal is not to increase the number of bison harvested, but to reallocate a portion of the existing spring Farewell bison hunt to this new spring bison hunt. Initially, we recommend five permits be reallocated.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Grizzly and black bear predation on moose calves will return to pre-removal numbers and the moose population is less likely to reach the intensive management population objective.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Hunters who want increased likelihood of drawing a Farewell bison permit and people who want to see a larger moose population in the EMMA.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? People who are opposed to incentives to harvest bears and bison hunt applicants who do not want to go to McGrath to shoot two bears.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Implementing either a longer season length or increased bag limit or a bear control program.

PROPOSED BY: McGrath Advisory Committee

(I-06S-G-005)

PROPOSAL 11 - 5 AAC 92.990. Definitions; 92.200. Purchase and sale of game; and 84.270. Furbearer trapping. Amend these regulations for interior region units as follows:

Black bears are classified as furbearers and allowed to be trapped and their fur sold.

ISSUE: Increasing predation of moose and caribou calves during the spring by bears.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The increased predation by black bears on moose and caribou calves during the spring. This increased predation will cause low herd numbers to decline even further.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? This could help increase the number of black bears harvested, therefore improving the survival rate of moose and caribou calves.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Everyone who watches, photographs, or hunts moose or caribou. All people that depend on moose and caribou to feed their families.

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

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Roggie L. Hunter

(I-06S-G-059)

PROPOSAL 12 - 5 AAC 92.044. Permit for hunting black bear with the use of bait or scent lures. Amend this regulation for the interior region units as follows:

A scent lure may be used while drifting in a boat or raft on a river, stream, or lake. Scent lures, wick dispensers, or scent soaked towels or rags shall be kept in airtight containers while at, or within three fourths of a mile of boat ramps, landings, campgrounds, or in populated areas.

ISSUE: Scent lures are not classified as bait but can only be used at a registered bear baiting site with a bear baiting permit.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? An effective means of taking bears and other predators would continue to be unusable and underutilized.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? This could help increase the number of predators taken, therefore improving the survival rate of moose and caribou calves.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Everyone who watches, photographs or hunts moose or caribou.

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

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Roggie L. Hunter

(I-06S-G-053)

PROPOSAL 13 - 5 AAC 92.044. Permit for hunting black bear with the use of bait or scent lures. Amend this regulation for the interior region units as follows:

No person may use bait within three miles of a house or other permanent dwelling, or within three miles of a campground or developed recreational facility.

ISSUE: Bear baiting within close proximity of dwellings, campgrounds, recreational facilities, and seasonal cabins has continued to stir up conflicts with Alaskans, many who feel the current one mile restriction puts transient bears that normally would leave an area after baiting season ended into peoples back yards looking for more food. With the widespread use of ATVs becoming more apparent there is no reason to not go further away from dwellings, recreational areas, or campgrounds.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Conflicts with people who have bear baiters putting baits too close to them will feel more compelled to fight for an all-out ban on bear baiting and it may help gain more support from individuals that are, so far, undecided on what position they hold.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, it should help reduce conflicts with people who feel that the one mile regulation that is now in place is not far enough from houses, cabins and campgrounds.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? People who live within close proximity to popular, easily accessible bear baiting areas.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Bear baiters will have to travel a little farther for their bear bait stations.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Five miles seemed too far and one mile is not far enough. Granted a bear can travel five miles in an hour or less but one mile is ridiculous.

PROPOSED BY: David Davenport

(I-06S-G-029)

Note: This proposal was deferred from the Spring 2005 meeting.

PROPOSAL 14 - 5 AAC 92.085. Unlawful methods of taking big game; exceptions. Modify the regulation for GMUs 6, 7, 9, 11-19 as follows:

Black bear when hunted from a registered bait station may be hunted on the same day as a person has been airborne. Specifically it would say; (8) A person who has been airborne may not... However does not apply to... (F) Black bear when taken at a registered bait station between April 15 and June 30.

ISSUE: Inability of bear baiters to hunt on the evening of the day that they fly to their remote bear baiting location. This tends to inhibit use of airplanes to establish registered bait stations in remote locations. So, bear baiting activity is more concentrated near road or river access areas. Since black bear are major predators on moose calves in the spring and since baiting reduces black bear predation on moose by giving bear alternate food sources and by removing some bear from the population it would be good to encourage more bear baiting over a wider area.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Black bear will continue to cause significant losses of moose calves and some hunting opportunity will be lost.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? It would improve the number and quality of the moose and caribou resource by reducing black bear predation on calves at the most vulnerable time of their lives.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Hunters who would like to access their bait stations by private aircraft. Moose and caribou calves and hunters.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Allow same day airborne hunting for black bear in general. Rejected because we felt that it would be less likely to receive Board of Game approval.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Bowhunters Association (HQ-06S-G-080)

PROPOSAL 15 - 5 AAC 84.270. Furbearer trapping and 92.990. Definitions. Amend these regulations as follows:

Unit 21D

Black bear trapping season May 1 through June 15, bag limit three

Require a 10 foot by 10 foot single strand fence around the trap site to discourage non-target species and alert people of the trap site. All materials are to be removed after the season.

ISSUE: Include black bear in the definition of “furbearer” and open a trapping season for black bear from May 1 through June 15 in Unit 21D.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Black bears are locally very abundant. Numerous trappers have expressed interest in trapping them for their hides and meat. A side benefit would be to possibly help moose calf survival in some local areas.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Trappers, people who eat bear meat and moose hunters all will benefit.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Considered other parts of state but think trapping of black bears should be restricted to remote parts of the state where bears are known to be abundant and conflicts with people are unlikely to occur.

PROPOSED BY: Brad Scotton (I-06S-G-049)

PROPOSAL 16 - 5 AAC 85.015. Hunting seasons and bag limits for black bear. Amend this regulation for Unit 19 as follows:

Change bag limit of black bears to five bears for residents and three bears for nonresidents.

ISSUE: The devastating effect of black bear predation on moose calves in all of Unit 19 is keeping the already low moose population from recovering. Biological data shows black bears to be a major cause of calf mortality.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? In spite of the implementation of other management tools, if more black bears are not harvested, the moose population will continue to decline or hover at their present low numbers.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, it will take some of the predation pressure off of the moose population, allowing numbers to grow.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The moose population in Unit 19 and all user groups who depend on moose.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Legalize the sale of black bear hides.

PROPOSED BY: Central Kuskokwim Advisory Committee (I-06S-G-015)

PROPOSAL 17 - 5 AAC 85.015(3). Hunting seasons and bag limits for black bear. Delete the black bear registration permit in Unit 19D, upstream from the Selatna and Black River drainages as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(3) ...		
Unit 19(D), upstream From the Selatna and Black River drainages		

3 [5] bears [, HOWEVER IN
ORDER TO HARVEST
MORE THAN 3 BEARS
A HUNTER MUST
OBTAIN A REGISTRATION
PERMIT]

No closed season.

No closed season.

...

ISSUE: The current registration permit hunt for black bears in Unit 19D upstream from the Selatna and Black River drainages was authorized by the board to allow harvest of more than three bears under closer monitoring than would be possible with a general hunt. Their action was intended to encourage additional harvest of black bears and was taken in response concerns about a low moose population and a high level of black bear predation on moose calves. Although these permits were available during regulatory years 2002 through 2004, none were issued. Few hunters are likely to take more than three bears per year, and we recommend retaining three-bear bag limit under a general season. Close monitoring under a registration permit has proven unnecessary.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? A registration permit hunt that is not being used will remain in place.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Hunters interested in increased opportunity to take black bears opportunistically without extra restrictions.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Members of the public who are against killing bears.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Return to the three-bear bag limit and eliminate the registration permit hunt.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-06S-G-043)

PROPOSAL 18 - 5 AAC 92.165(a)(4). Sealing of bear skins and skulls. Delete the requirement to seal black bears taken in Unit 19D as follows:

(a) Sealing is required for brown bear taken in any unit in the state and black bear of any color variation taken in Units 1-7, 11-17, [19D,] and 20.

...

[(4) IN UNIT 19D, BLACK BEAR TAKEN IN UNIT 19D OUTSIDE OF THE WOLF PREDATION CONTROL AREA DESCRIBED IN 5 AAC 92.125(I) NEED NOT BE SEALED; HOWEVER, THE HIDE OF A BLACK BEAR TAKEN FROM JANUARY 1 THROUGH MAY 31 IN UNIT 19D OUTSIDE OF THE WOLF PREDATION CONTROL AREA MAY NOT BE TRANSPORTED FROM UNIT 19 UNTIL SEALED;]

...

ISSUE: This proposal will repeal the sealing requirement for black bears in Unit 19D. Currently, all black bears harvested in Unit 19D East must be sealed and black bears harvested in the

remainder of Unit 19D must be sealed if they are harvested during June 1 – December 31 if they are removed from Unit 19. This regulation is confusing and unnecessary.

The black bear sealing requirement in Unit 19D was instituted in 2002 because of the expectation that a new registration hunt in Unit 19D East allowing a bag limit of two black bears, in addition to the general season bag limit of three bears, would substantially increase harvest. The hunt was implemented because of concern about black bear predation on moose calves. However, hunter harvest has remained low, averaging 5.7 bears annually during regulatory years 2002-2003 through 2004-2005. This is an annual harvest rate of about 0.2 percent of the estimated population of 2400 black bears.

We have also submitted a proposal for the March 2006 meeting to allow hunters who kill two bears in the Experimental Moose Management Area to apply for a new spring Farewell bison permit hunt. Our goal is to provide an effective incentive for hunters to take additional bears and help reduce predation on moose calves. If the incentive proposal passes, we expect the permit conditions for that hunt will require close monitoring of the black bear harvest and sealing over the larger area of Unit 19D would not be necessary.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? 1.) Hunters in Unit 19D will be required to seal black bears at a department office. 2.) Confusion will continue about when and where black bear sealing is required in Unit 19D. 3.) The department will continue to unnecessarily seal and collect information on bears harvested in Unit 19D.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Hunters who are confused about when and where sealing requirements apply and hunters who do not have the time or resources to take harvested black bears to the department.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: McGrath Advisory Committee (HQ-06S-G-007)

PROPOSAL 19 - 5 AAC 92.044(b). Permit for hunting black bear with the use of bait or scent lures. Amend this regulation as follows:

GPS coordinates are required to be submitted to the department for black bear bait stations in Unit 20D at the Goodpaster River corridor from the mouth of the Goodpaster River at the Tanana River to the south fork of the Goodpaster River.

ISSUE: Require black bear bait hunters provide GPS coordinates to the department when establishing bait stations in the lower Goodpaster River valley. The lower valley is populated with over 50 cabins and the one mile restriction limit on placement makes it virtually impossible to set a legal bait station due to river meanders from the mouth of Goodpaster River at the Tanana River to the south fork of the Goodpaster River. GPS coordinates for all existing cabins in the lower

Goodpaster River valley have been supplied to the department, Alaska Bureau of Wildlife Enforcement, Alaska State Troopers and the Department of Forestry.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Competing users of the river, especially recreational property owners and black bear bait hunters will have escalating conflicts that result from violation of regulations on placement of bait stations that draw bears closer to the recreational cabins in the lower Goodpaster River valley. Bait stations will continue to be intentionally and inadvertently set in the one mile restriction zone.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? This proposal has no effect on the resource harvested or products produced.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All users of the Goodpaster River will benefit from this proposal being adopted. Property owners, recreational river users and fishermen all will benefit. This is a similar issue encountered and addressed by regulation in Units 7 and 15 along the Kenai, Kasilof, and Swanson Rivers.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No individual is likely to suffer from this proposal since it only assists in meeting the legal requirements for black bear baiting in areas that have high cabin density that virtually prohibits legal placement of bait stations in the lower Goodpaster River valley.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Closing the lower Goodpaster River valley to black bear baiting but was rejected because either the restriction zone of GPS requirement will assist in solving the escalating problem.

PROPOSED BY: Jack Detzel and Goodpaster River Property Owners Assoc. (HQ-06S-G-028)

PROPOSAL 20 - 5 AAC 92.044. Permit for hunting black bear with the use of bait or scent lures. Amend this regulation for Unit 20D as follows:

Black bear baiting is restricted within one half mile of the Goodpaster River shorelines from the mouth of the Goodpaster River at the Tanana River to the south fork of the Goodpaster River.

ISSUE: Enacting restriction zone regulation to facilitate that black bear baiting does not occur within the department regulation zone of no bait stations within one mile of seasonally occupied cabins in the lower Goodpaster River valley. The lower valley is populated with over 50 cabins and the one mile restriction limit on placement makes it virtually impossible to set a legal bait station due to river meanders from the mouth of Goodpaster River at the Tanana River to the south fork of the Goodpaster River.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Competing users of the river, especially recreational property owners and black bear bait hunters, will have escalating conflicts that result from violation of regulations on placement of bait stations that draw bears closer to the recreational cabins in the lower Goodpaster valley.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? This proposal has no effect on the resource harvested or products produced.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All users of the Goodpaster River will benefit from this proposal being adopted. Property owners, recreational river users and fishermen all will benefit. This is a similar issue encountered and addressed by regulation in Unit 14 along the Susitna River.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No individual is likely to suffer from this proposal since it only assists in meeting the legal requirements for black bear baiting in areas that have high structure density that virtually prohibits legal placement of bait stations in the lower Goodpaster River valley.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? GPS bait station location was considered but the board has been reluctant to address this requirement in the past even though it would assist enforcement of current regulation by Alaska Bureau of Wildlife Enforcement.

PROPOSED BY: Jack Detzel and Goodpaster River Property Owners Assoc. (HQ-06S-G-027)

PROPOSAL 21 - 5 AAC 92.990. Definitions; 92.200. Purchase and sale of game; and 84.270. Furbearer trapping. Amend these regulations for interior region units as follows:

Temporarily reclassify grizzly bears as furbears in intensive management areas allowing them to be trapped and their fur sold.

ISSUE: Increasing predation of moose and caribou calves during the spring by bears.
WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The increased predation by grizzly bears on moose and caribou calves during the spring. This increased predation will cause low herd numbers to decline even further.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? This could help increase the number of grizzly bears harvested in the intensive management areas. This would help improve the survival rate of moose and caribou calves.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Everyone who watches, photographs, or hunts moose or caribou. All people that depend on moose and caribou to feed their families.

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

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Roggie L. Hunter (I-06S-G-060)

PROPOSAL 22 - 5 AAC 92.200. Purchase and sale of game. Amend this regulation for Unit 20E as follows:

Allow the sale of grizzly and black bear hides taken in Unit 20E. To qualify a bear hide for sale, hunters would be required to:

- 1) seal bear hides within Unit 20E or at the department office in Tok
- 2) give GPS coordinates of kill site
- 3) sign an affidavit that the bear was harvested legally within Unit 20E

Regulation would require the department to:

- 1) seal the bear hide and skull with color coded seals which would indicate hide and/or skull can be sold
- 2) sunset regulation to allow for evaluation and each year the regulation must be reinstated if allowed to continue
- 3) include emergency clause so season and/or sale of hides could stop when predetermined numbers of bears are harvested.

ISSUE: Present regulations which include a grizzly bear control area and a two bear limit for grizzlies in Unit 20E have been ineffective for desired harvest because there is no incentive to harvest other than for personal trophy and bear harvest has not increased with current regulations. The primary purpose of this proposed regulation is to provide an economic value to bear harvest to generate hunter incentive to harvest more than the traditional harvest of bears in Unit 20E in order to help promote recovery of moose populations in the Unit 20E Fortymile area. Legalizing sale of bear hides gives hunters an economic incentive to harvest a bear. It will provide for folks who want a bear trophy who, for whatever reason, are unable to get one themselves. I might also add that you should read “The Wildlife Game” by Ron Thompson. The same principle applies here—wildlife has to be worth something or it will surely go away.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Moose populations in Unit 20E will not be able to sustain both increased hunting pressure and predation and will begin to decline beyond safe recovery numbers. Harvest limits will have to be implemented, causing hardships to hunters.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? This proposal along with continuing predator control programs for the Unit 20E Fortymile area is the only way to increase moose populations in this area. Without extraordinary measures, harvest will have to be restricted and the populations will decline.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Any person who may choose to sell a bear. Individuals who otherwise would not be able to acquire an Alaskan bear trophy, such as folks who cannot afford a guided hunt, people who are not physically able to hunt for themselves, and business owners wanting to promote their products through visual wildlife displays that in turn promote hunting by exposing and equipping thousands of new people to the sport of hunting which in turn pays for wildlife personnel, conservation, habitat and a host of other positive benefits to wildlife.

Ungulates that have predators reduced in their areas as a result of hunter incentive due to economic value of an animal that otherwise is a liability to them (requirement to salvage hides).

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Wildlife officers and individuals who have a mind set that giving wildlife a value causes their destruction. They will only temporarily suffer until the law is in effect long enough to prove them wrong. Anti-hunters who hold the belief that no animal should be used to benefit mankind.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Frank Entsminger (I-06S-G-033)

**PROPOSAL 23 - 5 AAC 85.015. Hunting seasons and bag limits for black bear,
5 AAC 85.020. Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear,
5 AAC 92.085. Unlawful methods of taking big game; exceptions and**

5 AAC 92.200. Purchase and sale of game. Amend these regulations for Unit 20E as follows:

Hunters of grizzly and black bears may sell the hides.

Allow same day airborne hunting.

Allow harvest of female and young bears.

ISSUE: Steady decline in moose numbers in Unit 20E. Past and present wolf control in the area has primarily helped increase caribou numbers but not moose. Moose numbers continue to decline specifically because of low calf survival, which as studies indicate, is due to bear predation. Brief history:

Bear predation problem has been documented for a number of years and the board has responded in the following manner:

- 1) dropping the \$25.00 bear tag fee requirement on grizzlies
- 2) increasing the bag limit from one bear every four years to one bear per year on grizzlies
- 3) increasing the overall season length for grizzlies to August 10 through June 30 and to no closed season for black bears in all of Unit 20E
- 4) increase bag limit on grizzlies to two bears per year
- 5) establish bear control area within Unit 20E for legalized grizzly baiting with a multiple bag limit within the control area

To date, all of these efforts have failed to increase the take of bears in Unit 20E.

The solution, in my opinion, can be achieved by implementation of these additional regulations to increase bear harvest.

First and foremost, number one priority, is to legalize the sale of bear hides taken by hunters who take bears in Unit 20E, both grizzly and black. Local hunters lose interest in hunting bear once they have taken one or two and realize how expensive it is to have them tanned and/or mounted. The bear then becomes a liability to them because of this expense associated with salvaging the hide. They need to have a monetary value associated with their bear hide, just as a trapper or wolf hunter has with a furbearer hide, after taking their quarry. Fortymile bears, both black and grizzly, are generally relatively small (in comparison to coastal grizzlies) even old mature bears. They do not have much value in terms of guided hunts as most nonresident bear hunters want larger bears than the interior units have to offer. Simple economics should tell the story. In order to harvest enough bears to turn moose calf survival around these bears are going to need to have a dollar value to the hunter.

Help make the bears more accessible to the hunters. The best method for this is to reinstate same day airborne hunt. Unit 20E is huge, mostly remote, with much timber and brush for habitat. It is difficult to access by any mode of transportation once off the Steese or Taylor highways. There are few landing strips or other access point within the area. Hunters need every advantage possible to successfully harvest bears in this difficult hunting environment. Same day airborne would help accomplish this. One fourth or one half mile distance from the airplane could be stipulated to prevent landing and shooting. My intent is to be able to stalk and take a bear the same day as one flies.

Harvest more females and possibly young bears. In situations where wildlife populations are trying to be increased all emphasis is placed on reproduction of the female—protect the female—protect her young—help them grow, prosper and increase. Conversely where numbers need to be decreased, one of the best methods is to harvest females and/or young. This is exactly what is happening in Unit 20A with the harvest of cow and calf moose. In the case of bears, taking of

females and cubs is somewhat problematic, especially with grizzly bears; however, I do feel that the same law currently used to define a black bear cub could be applied to grizzlies (defining cub as a bear in its first year of life) until desired population levels of grizzly bears are reached. Legalize taking of cubs in their second year of life and/or sows accompanying cubs in their second year of life. These are the bears that need to be taken to have the greatest effect on temporarily reducing the bear population.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? If the problem continues the board will be forced to close moose hunting in Unit 20E.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, although the proposal calls for a temporary reduction in bear numbers, ultimately, when moose numbers rebound, bear harvest can be reduced allowing them to increase to higher numbers than present because of a larger prey base.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Any person who may choose to sell a bear. Individuals who otherwise would not be able to acquire an Alaskan bear trophy, such as folks who cannot afford a guided hunt, people who are not physically able to hunt for themselves, and business owners wanting to promote their products through visual wildlife displays that in turn promote hunting by exposing and equipping thousands of new people to the sport of hunting which in turn pays for wildlife personnel, conservation, habitat and a host of other positive benefits to wildlife. Ungulates that have predators reduced in their areas as a result of hunter incentive due to economic value of an animal that otherwise is a liability to them (requirement to salvage hides). Hunters hunting these ungulates due to increased numbers of ungulates available to hunters resulting from increased survival due to decreased predation by bears on these ungulate populations.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? People who believe that bears have too low of a reproductive rate to rebound from a temporary population reduction in anything less than a long period of time. I am not a biologist, but I disagree with this line of thinking because forty-three years of personal field observations and common sense have proven this is not accurate. Bears may be somewhat slower becoming sexually mature than moose or caribou (four to six years instead of two to three years), but once of breeding age, they begin a long life of reproduction. They live many more years than moose or caribou so any shortcomings in reproductive ability during the first part of their life is made up during the middle and latter years of their lives. Adult survival rates for bears are far better than any ungulate species, plus a bear's offspring survival rate is far better than that of ungulates. Because sexually mature female bears can have up to two to three cubs every three years and the cubs survival rate is very high, an individual female bear can produce as many or more offspring in a given period of time, in Unit 20E, as a moose or caribou. This is true because moose and caribou in Unit 20E only raise a calf to one year of life every four to five years at best. The bottom line is that bears are very capable of rebounding from a temporary reduction.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Frank Entsminger

(I-06S-G-034)

PROPOSAL 24 - 5 AAC 92.050. Required permit hunt conditions and procedures,

5 AAC 92.115. Control of predation by bears and

5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Amend these regulations as follows:

Bag limit and qualification for moose in Unit 20A: Any resident hunter that kills, locates and reports the site by GPS coordinates, and seals one brown/grizzly bear or two black bears from the intensive management control areas for the protection of moose calves in Unit 20E, area designated by the board for protection of the Fortymile caribou herd calves, or the control areas in Unit 13 shall, upon request, be issued a harvest permit for the next regular moose season in Unit 20A. The permit will specify a bag limit of one moose.

ISSUE: There is little incentive for hunters who normally hunt in these control areas to kill the desired predators. The best incentive available to the board for those hunters who do assist in the predation control efforts (not participating in the special aerial permitting) is to offer a moose hunt without the antler restrictions. In Unit 20A there is a need to lower the moose population and there are sufficient moose of all age classes. This incentive should encourage additional spring bear hunting and harvest of the most difficult predator to reduce in number.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Hunting is the best way to remove bears from areas where they have been identified as a significant predator on moose and/or caribou calves. The expense and labor needed to hunt, harvest and prepare bear meat and trophies is too great to expect that hunters normally using the areas will add to the harvest without some incentive.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? The success of the intensive management control plans will benefit all of the animals in these areas. Since bears are at high population levels, the real benefit from additional bear harvest will be for the survival of moose and caribou calves.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Hunters who would like to hunt bear with the incentive of not having antler restrictions for their fall moose hunt. Eventually, all Alaskans when the bear predation drops to a level that the moose and caribou calves can be expected to survive at levels that allow the populations to increase to the intensive management population objectives.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Other incentives like sale of bear parts, and trophies. There are not many incentives the board can offer our hunters that will be effective in increasing bear harvest.

PROPOSED BY: Fairbanks Advisory Committee (I-06S-G-020)

PROPOSAL 25 - 5 AAC 85.020. Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear and 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Amend these regulations as follows:

Adopt bag limits for moose and brown bear that state if a moose or brown bear is wounded, that animal is considered to have been harvested. This would apply to all nonsubsistence brown bear and all moose in Unit 19.

ISSUE: Wounded big game animals.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Overharvest.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Local Unit 19 moose hunters. I have heard anecdotal evidence of increasing numbers of wounded moose along the rivers of Unit 19. All Alaskan brown bear users.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Poor marksmen, careless hunters.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Kelly Vrem (HQ-06S-G-030)

PROPOSAL 26 - 5 AAC 85.020. Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear and 5 AAC 85.056. Hunting seasons and bag limits for wolf. Amend these regulations as follows:

Lengthen grizzly bear and wolf seasons in the spring to coincide with the calving of moose and caribou herds in the intensive management areas.

ISSUE: Predation of moose and caribou calves in the spring by bears and wolves.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Continued predation on dwindling numbers of moose and caribou herds.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, by allowing more grizzly bears to be taken during the peak time of predation in the spring. This would allow for the higher survival rate of moose and caribou calves.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Everyone who hunts moose or caribou. All people in the surrounding areas that depend on moose to feed their families.

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

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Roggie L. Hunter (I-06S-G-063)

PROPOSAL 27 - 5 AAC 92.XXX. Bear Predation Control Implementation Plan. Create a new regulation as follows:

The Wolf Predation Control Implementation Plan for Unit 19D East shall include control of brown and black bears to achieve intensive management population and harvest objectives for moose.

ISSUE: Moose numbers and harvest in Unit 19D East have declined and are below intensive management objectives. Department research conducted since 2001 shows that black bears, brown bears, and wolves are all important predators on moose and are limiting recovery of the population. A wolf control program is currently in progress and wolf numbers have been reduced. However, bear populations also need to be reduced and recent liberalizations of hunting seasons and bag limits

have not resulted in a significant increase in bear harvest. A control program is needed to reduce the number of bears and help the moose population recover.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Intensive management population and harvest objectives for moose will not be met and consumptive user needs will not be satisfied.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Quality of the resource harvested will not change.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Consumptive users of moose will benefit.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? People who object to killing of bears to benefit the moose population will suffer.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? A special incentive hunt for bison if a person kills two bears was considered and will be proposed. However, additional measures are needed.

PROPOSED BY: McGrath Advisory Committee (I-06S-G-041)

PROPOSAL 28 - 5 AAC 85.020. Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear. Amend this regulation for Unit 20F as follows:

Remainder of Unit 20 [SEPT. 1 – MAY 31]Aug. 10 – June 30
One bear every regulatory year.

ISSUE: The negative impact of the growing grizzly bear population in Unit 20F on moose and caribou populations in the same area. Extending grizzly bear harvest seasons so that the local Tanana and Rampart residents as well as registered guides and the general public could effectively reduce grizzly bear numbers by legal means to a desired level.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Moose and caribou populations will be further reduced without a chance to increase. Bears will shift feeding habits to fish camps and vandalize remote dwellings in the bush especially in seasons when natural food source like berries and fish are not readily available.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? It will give the general public an opportunity to hunt and harvest grizzly bears in the spring by boat along the Yukon and Tozitna River drainages for a longer time period. In some years the ice flow after breakup on the Yukon River is still going on around the 20th of May which reduces access to most of the hunting areas. In the fall it would give an opportunity to the general public as well as registered guides to hunt grizzly bears before the start of the moose hunting season. Extending the season would mean to local residents that they could legally keep grizzly bear hides and skull harvested in June and August in defense of property.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Wildlife that grizzly bears prey upon. I have witnessed grizzly bears systematically and relentlessly pursue young caribou in the Tanana Hills and heard similar reports from trappers and fishermen in the area. Caribou herd calving grounds in the Ray Mountains are attracting numerous grizzly bears in the spring witnessed by a trapper/guide during the spring hunt. The bears were successfully killing newborn caribou calves.

Residents, hunters and guides would all benefit once moose and caribou populations increase.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? I do not foresee any negative impact by adopting this solution.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Relocating the grizzly bears is too expensive and they might come back. Harvesting them by the department to a desired level is an unlikely solution at this time.

PROPOSED BY: Alex Tarnai (HQ-06S-G-009)

PROPOSAL 29 - 5 AAC 92.015. Brown bear tag fee exemptions. Amend this regulation as follows:

Resident tag fee is not required for brown/grizzly bear in Unit 25C.

ISSUE: High calf mortality rate of moose and caribou due to brown/grizzly predation. Tag fee was dropped in Unit 25D and Unit 20E, this would bring Unit 25C into alignment with neighboring units.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Continued declining moose and caribou populations.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? More harvest opportunity for bears should increase moose and caribou populations.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Bear, moose and caribou hunters.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Bear viewers and photographers.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Statewide change in resident tag fees. Another proposal.

PROPOSED BY: Central Advisory Committee (HQ-06S-G-014)

PROPOSAL 30 - 5 AAC 92.015. Brown bear tag fee exemptions. Reauthorize the brown bear tag fee exemption in Region II.

(a) A resident tag is not required for taking a brown bear in the following units:

- (1) Unit 11;
- (2) Unit 13, that portion outside of Denali State Park;
- (3) Unit 16(B)

...

(b) In addition to the units as specified in (a) of this section, if a hunter obtains a subsistence registration permit before hunting, that hunter is not required to obtain a resident tag to take a brown bear in the following units:

- (1) Unit 9(B);
- (2) Unit 9(E), that portion including all drainages that drain into the Pacific Ocean between Cape Kumliun and the border of Unit 9(D) and Unit 9(E);
- (3) Unit 17;

...

ISSUE: Brown bear tag fee exemptions must be reauthorized annually.

In March of 2003 the board eliminated the tag fee requirement in Unit 11 and the exemption was continued by the board in 2004 and 2005. The department did not support the current tag fee exemption in Unit 11, and continues to advocate for tag fee exemptions only in intensive management areas where populations of moose and caribou have been found to be important for high levels of harvest for human consumption, and where increased bear harvests are desired and sustainable. Unit 11 moose and caribou populations do not meet these criteria.

Unit 13 was designated as an intensive management area by the board with the objective of providing more moose and caribou for human use. The board enacted the tag fee exemption in Unit 13 and liberalized the bag limit during the 1995 meeting to provide increased hunting opportunity and increase the brown bear harvest in Unit 13. In an effort to further increase harvests, the board lengthened the spring season by an additional 15 days in 1999, and extended the season to year-round in 2003.

In March of 2003 the board liberalized brown bear hunting regulations including the tag fee exemption in Unit 16B to increase the harvest of brown bears. Unit 16B has identified as an intensive management area. Continuation of the exemption is necessary to encourage hunters to take brown bears in this unit.

In March of 2004 the board reorganized the brown bear subsistence hunting system eliminating the subsistence management areas and placing the subsistence hunts under the individual game management areas. Tag fee exemptions also need to be reauthorized for these hunts and are listed in (b) above. This exemption reduces the cost to hunters taking brown bears for subsistence purposes.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Increased harvest of brown bears may help accomplish intensive management goals for moose and caribou in Unit 13 and moose in Unit 16B. Without the tag fee exemption, there may be less interest in brown bear hunting and incidental harvest levels will be lower.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?

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? Individuals who are opposed to these management programs.

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.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-06S-G-077)

PROPOSAL 31 – 5 AAC 92.015(a)(7). Brown bear tag fee exemptions. Waive the resident tag fee for brown bear in Unit 21E as follows:

(a) A resident tag is not required for taking a brown bear in the following units:

...

(7) Unit 21(D) **and Unit 21(E)**;

...

ISSUE: A tag fee exemption is proposed primarily to increase brown bear harvest and reduce their predation on moose. The total reported harvest was 25 grizzly bears (80 percent males) during regulatory years 2000 through 2004. During this five-year period, 21 of the 25 bears harvested were taken by nonresidents. The estimated population in 21E is 120–200 grizzly bears and sustainable harvest at a six percent harvest rate is 7–12 bears. Additional take will be necessary to reduce the bear population and predation on moose. Although this proposal is likely to increase harvest, it does not threaten the overall 21E brown bear population.

This proposal is consistent with a Yukon-Innoko Moose Management Plan goal to manage the effects of predation on moose to provide for high levels of human consumptive use and the goal to increase the moose population to achieve intensive management population and harvest objectives. We presume that moose habitat is good because twinning rates are high (greater than 25 percent). However, calf survival is low, probably a result of both bear and wolf predation.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The tag fee will continue and resident hunters will be required to purchase \$25 tags. The brown bear harvest will not increase and high levels of predation on moose will continue.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? N/A

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Residents who are reluctant or unable to purchase the \$25 tag before hunting will be able to opportunistically and legally harvest a brown bear. The moose population may increase because of less brown bear predation.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? People who do not feel brown bears should be harvested incidentally, without the 25\$ tag fee.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None

PROPOSED BY: Yukon-Innoko Moose Management Working Group (HQ-06S-G-044)

PROPOSAL 32 – 5 AAC 92.015(a),(b). Brown bear tag fee exemptions. Reauthorize the current resident tag fee exemptions for brown bear in Units 18, 22, 23 and 26A.

(a) A resident tag is not required for taking a brown bear in the following units:

- ...
- (8) Unit 22;
- (9) Unit 23;
- ...

(b) In addition to the units as specified in (a) of this section, if a hunter obtains a subsistence registration permit before hunting, that hunter is not required to obtain a resident tag to take a brown bear in the following units:

- ...
- (4) Unit 18;
- ...
- (7) Unit 22;
- (8) Unit 23;
- ...
- (10) Unit 26(A).

ISSUE: The board must reauthorize brown bear tag fee exemptions annually or the fee automatically becomes reinstated. We recommend continuing resident tag fee exemptions for the general season and subsistence season hunts in Region V (Units 18, 22, 23, and 26A).

General Season Hunts: Reauthorizations are needed for: Unit 22, where the tag fee has been exempted for six years, and Unit 23, where the tag fee has been exempted for one year. Tag fee exemptions are desired to allow: 1) incremental increase in annual harvest, 2) opportunistic harvest by resident hunters, and 3) harvest by a wide range of users. Increased harvest is acceptable because bear populations are believed to be high in these units. In Unit 22, brown bear populations are generally higher than desired and brown bear predation on moose calves is believed to be depressing moose populations in many parts of this unit. In Unit 23, brown bear populations appear to be high based on reports from long time local residents, commercial operators and observations by department staff.

General season brown bear harvest rates are within sustained yield limits and exempting the resident tag fee has not caused dramatic or unexpected increases in overall harvest. In Unit 22, during the tag-free period resident harvest has increased to a three-year average annual harvest of 86 bears, although during this period other regulatory changes were implemented and contributed to increased harvest. In Unit 23, harvest data from the current tag fee exempted year are still incomplete but a large increase in harvest in response to tag-free hunting has not been detected by the department. In general harvests have increased slowly since 1961 although there has been substantial annual variability in harvest levels. The increasing trend in overall harvest is probably most influenced by the increasing human population in Alaska rather than the result of regulatory changes. Annual variability in harvests is probably most affected by weather.

Subsistence Season Hunts: Reauthorizations are needed for Units 18, 22, 23, and 26(A). Previously these units were included in brown bear management areas that have received annual tag fee exemptions since their inception in the early 1990s. Currently, subsistence brown bear hunts are administered on a game management unit basis (adopted by the board, March 2004) and this proposal reflects reauthorizations based on Units instead of management areas. Brown bear subsistence hunt requirements include: 1) registration permit, 2) tag fee exemption, 3) salvaging meat for human consumption, 4) no use of aircraft in Units 22, 23 and 26A, 5) no sealing requirement unless hide and skull are removed from subsistence hunt area, and 6) if

sealing is required, the skin of the head and front claws must be removed and retained by the department at the time of sealing. Continuing the tag fee exemption helps facilitate participation in the associated brown bear harvest programs maintained by the department for subsistence hunts.

Subsistence brown bear harvest rates are low and well within sustained yield limits and exempting the resident tag fee has not caused an increase in subsistence harvest. In Unit 18, we estimate one to three bears are taken annually in subsistence hunts. In Unit 22, five bears have been reported harvested during the previous 10-year period and this is less than one percent of the total brown bear harvest in the unit. In Unit 23, since 1992 an average of five bears are harvested annually and this is less than ten percent of the total brown bear harvest. In Unit 26A, very few bears are taken annually by subsistence hunters.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The tag fee exemption will lapse and hunters will be required to purchase \$25 tags for general season and subsistence hunts in the 2005-2006 regulatory year. The brown bear harvest will be unnecessarily reduced.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? N/A

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Residents who are reluctant or unable to purchase the \$25 tag before hunting will be able to opportunistically and legally harvest a brown bear.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-06S-G-078)

PROPOSAL 33 – 5 AAC 92.015(a),(b). Brown bear tag fee exemptions. Reauthorize the current resident tag fee exemptions for brown bear in Units 19A and 19B (that portion downstream of and including the Aniak River drainage), 19D, 20D, 20E (that portion outside of Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve), 21D, 24, and 25D as follows:

(a) A resident tag is not required for taking a brown bear in the following units:

...

- (4) Unit 19(D);
- (5) Unit 20(D);
- (6) Unit 20(E), that portion outside of Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve;
- (7) Unit 21(D);

...

- (10) Unit 25(D).

(b) In addition to the units as specified in (a) of this section, if a hunter obtains a subsistence registration permit before hunting, that hunter is not required to obtain a resident tag to take a brown bear in the following units:

...

- (5) Units 19(A) and 19(B), that portion downstream of and including the Aniak River drainage;
- (6) Unit 21(D);

...

(9) Unit 24;

...

ISSUE: The board must reauthorize brown bear tag fee exemptions annually or the fee is automatically reinstated. We recommend continuing resident tag fee exemptions for the general season and subsistence season hunts in Region III (Units 19A and 19B downstream of and including the Aniak River drainage, 19D, 20D, 20E outside of Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve, 21B, 21C, 21D, 24, and 25D).

General Season Hunts. Annual reauthorizations are needed for:

Unit 19D. The brown bear tag and fee requirement for Unit 19D was eliminated by the board beginning in regulatory year 1998–1999 to increase brown bear harvest to benefit moose calf survival. Calf mortality studies in the unit have indicated brown bears are a significant predator on moose calves. Prior to the tag fee exemption, reported harvest of brown bears averaged two bears/year for regulatory years 1991–1992 through 1997–1998. Since the exemption was implemented reported harvest has increased to an average of 4.6 bears/year for regulatory years 1998–1999 through 2004–2005. The estimated population in Unit 19D is 165 bears (13 bears/1000 mi²), based on extrapolation of estimates obtained in other areas. The tag fee exemption has increased the harvest, however the harvest is still below levels required to significantly reduce the effect of brown bears on moose calf survival.

Unit 20D. The tag fee exemption was implemented in 1995 for portions of Unit 20D primarily to increase the harvest of brown bears to reduce predation on moose and caribou calves. The tag fee exemption was expanded to all of Unit 20D in 2003. Current Unit 20D brown bear hunting regulations include an August 10–June 30 hunting season with a bag limit of one bear/year.

The current Unit 20D brown bear harvest objective adopted by the board in March 1995 is 5–15 bears/year. Observations by local residents, hunters, and pilots indicate that brown bears are common in Unit 20D. Harvest has increased since the tag fee exemption was implemented. Mean annual brown bear human-caused mortality from both hunting and nonhunting is within the harvest objective, and averages 13 bears/year, and has ranged from 5 to 20 bears/year. Much of the increase was in the southwest portion of 20D where mortality of brown bears killed in defense of life and property and kill of nuisance bears in the vicinity of Delta Junction is significant.

Unit 20E. The current tag fee exemption was implemented in 2002 for Unit 20E, excluding Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve, to help reduce the brown bear population because of concern about bear predation on moose calves. The brown bear population in Unit 20E was estimated at 475–550 in 2002. Harvest averaged 15 bears per year during the 10 regulatory years prior to the current tag fee exemption and has averaged 17 bears per regulatory year during the three years since the exemption was put in place. Harvest is below levels required to significantly reduce the effect of brown bears on moose calf survival.

Unit 21D. The tag fee in Unit 21D has been exempted only since fall 2004. This tag fee exemption is desired to allow an increase in harvest because the bear population is believed to be high and can likely support additional take. Before the tag fee exemption, the five-year mean reported harvest was 5.6 bears (regulatory years 1999–2000 through 2003–2004) and the sex ratio of the harvest was 79 percent males:21 percent females. Although the 2004–2005 harvest

was only two male bears, the spring 2005 harvest was five bears (60 percent males). A conservative harvest of 23 bears is likely sustainable. Demand for brown bears is low. Hunting success is also low due to dense forested habitat in most of the area.

Unit 25D. The Unit 25D brown bear tag and fee requirement was eliminated by the board beginning in the 1998–1999 regulatory year. The board has identified the moose population in Unit 25D as important for providing high levels of human consumption. The tag fee exemption was intended to increase harvest reporting and also to increase harvest of brown bear to benefit moose calf and adult survival. Prior to the exemption, relatively few local residents purchased a tag because they generally do not hunt specifically for brown bears. However, some brown bears are taken incidental to encounters in or near communities or fishing and hunting camps. Calf mortality studies in interior Alaska, including Unit 25D, indicate brown bears are often an important predator on moose calves. Prior to the tag fee exemption, reported harvest was zero to five bears per regulatory year. During regulatory years 1998–1999 through 2004–2005, reported harvest was zero to ten bears. Harvest data for fall 2005 is not yet available. The tag fee exemption appears to have increased reporting and may have increased the harvest; however the harvest is still below a level that would significantly reduce the effect of brown bear predation on moose calf survival.

Subsistence Hunts. Annual reauthorizations are needed for:

Units 19A and 19B, that portion downstream of and including the Aniak River drainage and Units 21D and 24. In these units, this tag fee exemption is part of a registration permit hunt created in regulatory year 2004–2005 to allow subsistence use of brown bears for food. Eight permits were issued in 2004–2005. No bears were reported harvested in Units 19A and 19B, and two bears were reported taken in Unit 24. Harvest rates are low, are well within sustained yield limits, and exempting the resident tag fee has not caused an increase in subsistence take.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Additional brown bear harvest for the benefit of moose and caribou calf survival will not occur and subsistence users will find it more difficult to harvest bears for food.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? N/A

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Residents who are reluctant or unable to purchase the \$25 tag before hunting will be able to opportunistically and legally harvest a brown bear.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? People who feel brown bears should not be harvested to benefit moose and caribou calf survival or to provide food for subsistence hunters.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-06S-G-039)

PROPOSAL 34 - 5 AAC 92.015. Brown bear tag fee exemptions. Amend this regulation as follows:

Eliminate resident \$25.00 tag fee in Unit 19A.

ISSUE: Brown bear predation is contributing to the low numbers of moose in Unit 19A. There is an abundance of brown bears. Brown bears are often targets of opportunity when hunting from a boat on a river. People living in rural villages seldom go out specifically to hunt brown bears so the \$25.00 tag fee is a burden to them. They are passing up bears that could be harvested.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Brown bears will continue to kill a large number of the few moose left in Unit 19A.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, by encouraging hunters to harvest brown bears, predation pressure on moose will be reduced.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The moose population in Unit 19A and all user groups who depend on moose.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? The department with a slight reduction in tag fee revenue.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? No others.

PROPOSED BY: Central Kuskokwim Advisory Committee (I-06S-G-013)

PROPOSAL 35 - 5 AAC 92.015. Brown bear tag fee exemptions. Amend this regulation as follows:

Eliminate the fee for a resident brown bear tag in Unit 21B.

ISSUE: Fee for resident brown bear tag. With lack of jobs in rural Alaska, most residents will not spend even the \$25.00 for a tag. This change will expand opportunity for these residents.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Missed opportunity to harvest brown bear.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Residents of rural villages in Unit 21.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? No other solutions considered.

PROPOSED BY: Ruby Advisory Committee (HQ-06S-G-021)

PROPOSAL 36 - 5 AAC 85.020(a)(17). Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear. Amend the regulation as follows:

Resident	
Open Season	
(Subsistence and	Nonresident

Units and Bag Limits

General Hunts)

Open Season

...
(17)

...
Unit 19D
2 bears [1 BEAR]
every regulatory year

July 1 – June 30
[AUG 10 – JUNE 30]

Aug. 10 – June 30

ISSUE: Lengthening the grizzly bear season in Unit 19D will increase hunting opportunity, especially when local residents are at summer fish camps and could increase the harvest of brown bears to help reduce predation on moose. Increasing the bag limit will allow hunters the opportunity to take more than one grizzly bear per year. More importantly, extending the grizzly bear season and increasing the bag limit may increase grizzly bear harvest such that moose calf survival increases. Increased moose calf survival could help achieve intensive management objectives. Predation has been documented to be an important cause for the failure to achieve the moose population objective in Unit 19D and studies indicate there is a reasonable expectation of achieving the objective if predation is reduced. Combined with the Unit 19D east wolf control program and significantly increased black bear harvest within the Unit 19D east experimental micromanagement area, higher grizzly bear harvest could help increase moose calf survival. The estimated grizzly bear population in Unit 19D is 165 bears (13 bears per 1000 square miles). Harvest averaged 4.6 bears per year for regulatory years 1998—1999 through 2004—2005, less than required to significantly reduce the effect of grizzly bear predation on moose calf survival.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Grizzly bear predation on moose calves will return to pre-removal numbers and the moose population is less likely to reach the population objective.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Moose hunters and those hunters who wish to take advantage of increased bag limit or the opportunity to take bears during the summer.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? People who are opposed to harvesting bears when their hides are not in good condition.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? 1) Implementing either a longer season length or increased bag limit, or 2) bear control program.

PROPOSED BY: McGrath Advisory Committee (I-06S-G-004)

PROPOSAL 37 - 5 AAC 85.020(a)(18). Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear.
Amend this regulation as follows:

Open brown/grizzly bear season in Unit 20A on September 1.

ISSUE: The present September 5 opening restricts a lot of hunters from harvesting a brown/grizzly bear during the first few days of the regular moose hunting season. Hunters often go

afield for short moose hunts during the weekends. If they encounter a bear or if a bear is aggressive toward their harvested moose, there is no opportunity to harvest the bear.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Opportunity for brown/grizzly bear harvest will be lost.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No, this is just a case of lost opportunity.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Hunters who have the opportunity to take a bear between September 1 and September 5 and hunters who do not want to share their moose with bears between those dates.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No person.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Fairbanks Advisory Committee (I-06S-G-019)

PROPOSAL 38 - 5 AAC 85.020. Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear. Amend this regulation as follows:

Unit 21 and Unit 24
Brown bear season August 1 through June 30.

ISSUE: Predation of moose by brown bear.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The recruitment of moose will continue to be low.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Everyone that eats moose meat.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Virgil L. Umphenour (I-06S-G-046)

PROPOSAL 39 - 5 AAC 92.XXX. Unit 20A caribou drawing permits for nonresidents. Create a new regulation as follows:

Unit 20A
Allocate 35 percent of the permits to nonresidents with 25 percent of that amount to guided and 10 percent to relatives or friends. Use Koyukuk Controlled Use Area moose as a template with the

following exception: provide a guide-client agreement or relative or friend agreement with the application.

ISSUE: 1) The high rate of hunters that draw a permit to hunt caribou in Unit 20A that do not go hunting. 2) The difficulty for guided nonresidents to draw a permit. Approximately 35 percent of the people who draw permits do not go hunting.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The approximate 35 percent of the people who do not investigate the cost of access to the hunting area will continue to get permits and not go hunting.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, guides or resident relatives and friends will have the logistics figured out.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Nonresidents who want to hunt trophy caribou with a guide, relative or resident friend.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one, residents who want a meat caribou can hunt the Fortymile.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Providing a caribou permit to a person or guide operation for each four wolves they kill the year previous to the drawing. The wolves would have to come from the drawing permit area.

PROPOSED BY: Virgil L. Umphenour (I-06S-G-043)

PROPOSAL 40 - 5AAC 85.025(a)(19). Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou. Align caribou seasons with the new subunit boundaries in Game Management Unit 24 as follows:

	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
Units and Bag Limits		
(19)		
<u>Unit 24(A), that portion south of the south bank of the Kanuti River, and that portion of 25(D) drained by the west fork of the Dall River west of 150° W. long.</u>		
<u>1 caribou</u>	<u>Aug. 10–Mar. 31</u>	<u>Aug. 10–Sept. 30</u>
<u>Remainder of Unit 24(A)</u>		
<u>RESIDENT HUNTERS:</u>		
<u>5 caribou per day; however, cow</u>	<u>July 1–June 30</u>	

caribou may not be taken
May 16–June 30

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:
5 caribou; cow caribou may not
be taken May 16–June 30

July 1–June 30

Unit 24(B), that portion south
of the south bank of the
Kanuti River, upstream from
and including that portion
of the Kanuti–Kilolitna River
drainage, bounded by the
southeast bank of the
Kodosin–Nolitna Creek,
then downstream along
the east bank of the Kanuti-
Kilolitna River to its
confluence with the Kanuti River

1 caribou

Aug. 10–Mar. 31

Aug. 10–Sept. 30

Remainder of Unit 24(B), 24(C),
and 24(D)

RESIDENT HUNTERS:
5 caribou per day; however, cow
caribou may not be taken
May 16–June 30

July 1–June 30

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:
5 caribou; however, cow caribou
may not be taken May 16–June 30

July 1–June 30

[UNIT 24, THAT PORTION SOUTH OF THE SOUTH BANK OF THE KANUTI RIVER UPSTREAM FROM AND INCLUDING THAT PORTION OF THE KANUTI-KILOLITNA RIVER DRAINAGE, BOUNDED BY THE SOUTHEAST BANK OF THE KODOSIN-NOLITNA CREEK, THEN DOWNSTREAM ALONG THE EAST BANK OF THE KANUTI-KILOLITNA RIVER TO ITS CONFLUENCE WITH THE KANUTI RIVER, AND THAT PORTION OF UNIT 25(D) DRAINED BY THE WEST FORK OF THE DALL RIVER WEST OF 150 W. LONG.]

[1 CARIBOU]

[AUG. 10–MAR. 31]

[AUG 10–SEPT. 30]

[REMAINDER OF UNIT 24]

[RESIDENT HUNTERS:
5 CARIBOU PER DAY; HOW-
EVER, COW CARIBOU MAY
NOT BE TAKEN MAY 16–
JUNE 30]

[JULY 1–JUNE 30]

[NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:
5 CARIBOU; COW CARIBOU
MAY NOT BE TAKEN
MAY 16–JUNE 30]

[JULY 1–JUNE 30]

...

ISSUE: The department is submitting a proposal for consideration at the January statewide board meeting to subdivide Unit 24. If the board does not adopt that proposal, the department will withdraw this proposal. No regulation changes will result from the implementation of this proposal. This is a housekeeping proposal that will adjust the regulations to match the newly established subunits for Unit 24.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Failure to adopt this proposal will result in inconsistency in regulations on state managed land and the regulations will be unnecessarily complicated.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Resource will be unaffected.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Hunters referring to the regulations.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-06S-G-053)

PROPOSAL 41 - 5 AAC 85.025. Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou. Amend this regulation for Units 19, 9 and 17 as follows:

Close spring season March 1.

Close nonresident season September 30.

Reduce resident bag limit to two caribou.

ISSUE: Drastic decline in Mulchatna caribou herd in Units 19, 9 and 17.

Overall herd size in these units has dropped from a high of 200,000 in 1997 to current level of 85,000. A decrease of over 57 percent. Number of bulls per 100 cows has dropped from a high of 42.4 per 100 to a current 13.9 per 100. Calves dropped from a high of 34.4 per 100 cows to current

18.1 per 100 cows. Medium size bulls have dropped by over 30 percent while larger bulls have dropped by over 60 percent. To illustrate the significance of these figures, consider the caribou harvest figures in Unit 9B was 1,165 in 1999, and 318 in 2004. Unit 17B was 2,024 in 1999, and 1,002 in 2004. Unit 19B was 707 in 1999, and 164 in 2004. Unit 19A was 174 in 1999 and dropped to only 17 in 2004. Data for 2005 was not available. An overall drop in harvest of approximately 62 percent. This was during a time of greatly increased effort.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? There will continue to be a decrease in all components of the Mulchatna herd. May well necessitate a complete closure for the herd to recover. Nonresidents are not going to continue hunting an area without large bulls, thus a loss of revenue to the state, and those utilizing the resource, plus a continued reduction in bag limits for residents.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. Allow Mulchatna herd to rebuild. Will be successful only if same regulations are adopted as soon as possible in Unit 17 and Unit 9.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All user groups will benefit if herd is allowed to rebuild.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Temporary reduction of harvest for all user groups.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Complete closure of caribou season for one or two years. Not practical.

PROPOSED BY: Clark Whitney (SC-06S-G-004)

PROPOSAL 42 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep. Amend this regulation as follows for the interior region units:

Legal Dall sheep for resident: greater than 7/8 curl.
Legal Dall sheep for nonresident: full curl.
This is only for full curl areas.

ISSUE: Legal size of Dall sheep horns for resident hunters.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Residents will have to keep competing with the resources that guides use (planes, horses etc.) to get a legal sheep.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Success rates will improve for residents without hurting healthy sheep populations.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Residents.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Guides will not like it.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Tom Lamal (HQ-06S-G-015)

PROPOSAL 43 - 5AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep. (a) Align Dall sheep seasons with the new subunit boundaries in Game Management Unit 24.

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(10)		
Unit 24(A) [THAT PORTION WITHIN THE GATES OF THE ARCTIC NATIONAL PARK]		
<u>1 ram with a full-curl horn or larger</u> [3 SHEEP]	<u>Aug. 10–Sept. 20</u> [AUG. 1–APR. 30]	<u>Aug. 10–Sept. 20</u> [NO OPEN SEASON.]
<u>Unit 24(B), that portion within the John River Drainage upstream from Till Creek, and that portion within the Glacier River Drainage</u>	<u>Aug. 1–Apr. 30</u>	<u>No open season.</u>
<u>3 sheep</u>		
Remainder of Unit 24(B)	Aug. 10–Sept. 20	Aug. 10–Sept. 20
1 ram with a full-curl horn or larger		

ISSUE: The department is submitting a proposal for consideration at the January 2006 statewide board meeting to subdivide Unit 24. If the board does not adopt that proposal, the department will withdraw this proposal. Three Dall sheep regulation changes will result from the implementation of this proposal. These proposed changes are primarily housekeeping issues in order to adjust the regulations to match the newly established subunits for Unit 24.

Below are changes that will occur:

1. The portion of Unit 24B within the Gates of the Arctic National Park (GAAR) except John River Drainage upstream from Till Creek and the Glacier River Drainage, will convert from three sheep during August 1–April 30 to 1 full-curl ram, August 10–September 20. This change is inconsequential because of the GAAR closure to non-federally qualified users. Regulations in those areas for federally-qualified users will still allow liberal opportunity. All in-holdings will maintain existing seasons except the township at the mouth of the North Fork, which is essentially non-habitat for sheep.
2. The portion of Unit 24A within GAAR will convert from three sheep during August 1–April 30 to 1 full-curl ram during August 10–September 20. This change is

inconsequential because of the GAAR closure to non-federally qualified users. Regulations in those areas for federally-qualified users will still allow liberal opportunity.

3. There will be no season for Units 24C and 24D, but this is inconsequential because there are no Dall sheep populations in those subunits.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Failure to adopt this proposal will result in inconsistency in regulations on state managed land and the regulations will be unnecessarily complicated.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Resource will be unaffected.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Hunters referring to the regulations.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-06S-G-056)

PROPOSAL 44 - 5 AAC 92.XXX. Units 12, 13C and 20D moose drawing permits for nonresidents. Create a new regulation as follows:

Nonresidents shall be allowed up to, but not more than, ten percent of the total number of DS102 permits issued in any one regulatory year as originally intended during the inception of the Tok Management Area. In any given year between zero and 10 percent (but no more than 10 percent) of the permits may be issued to nonresidents. No more than 50 percent of nonresident permits should go to second degree of kindred to ensure that a fair number of permits are available to nonresidents utilizing the guiding industry, less than this would have a substantial negative effect on long-time local guide services that have guided sheep hunters in the area for decades.

ISSUE: This proposal deals with the drawing permit system. When the Tok Management Area (TMA) was originally developed in 1974, all parties involved agreed to limit the number of permits annually awarded to nonresidents to a maximum of ten percent of the total number of permits issued. From 1974 through 1984 the number of nonresident permits issued in the TMA was limited to a maximum of ten percent. In 1986 the ten percent maximum for nonresidents wording was removed from the hunt supplement and no limit on the number of TMA permits issued to nonresidents annually enforced in the annual drawing since that time. For the first time in the history of the TMA, more than ten percent of the TMA tags were issued to nonresidents in 2005. A total of 16 out of 100 or 16 percent of the 2005 permits went to nonresidents.

Interest from nonresident hunters in the TMA Dall sheep permit has significantly increased in recent years. The total number of nonresident applicants has more than doubled in the past three years while the number of resident applicants has remained relatively stable. We have learned that large companies and new guides (mostly nonresidents) have taken an interest in promoting the TMA causing a significant spike in the number of nonresident applicants for the TMA permits. This is the primary cause for the increased number of permits going to nonresidents.

In addition, of the nonresidents who participated in the 2005 TMA hunt, 80 percent killed a sheep. This far exceeds the normal TMA success rate of 35 to 40 percent observed in previous years. This extremely high success rate far exceeds the intended department harvest success objectives for the TMA of 35 to 40 percent and poses a significant threat to the primary goal for the TMA of managing for a trophy Dall sheep population.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Without an allocation cap for nonresidents large booking agents, agencies or individual guides who can develop a large number of nonresident applicants will continue to swarm the drawing permit process as more new guides are licensed due to the state lands being unregulated for new guides. This will result in a continued increase in the number of DS102 permits that will be awarded annually to nonresidents. Because nonresidents are generally guided by experienced sheep guides, their success rate is much higher than the average hunter. If nonresident participation continues to increase in the TMA, the overall success rate will increase to a point above the management objectives which will result in the need to reduce the total number of permits issued annually to maintain harvest levels within the harvest objectives. This will result in a net decrease in hunter opportunity. Permit numbers may have to be reduced significantly, well below the 100 to 120 permits that have been issued annually since the TMA was originally developed in the middle 1970s.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes because nonresident success rate is significantly higher than resident success rate. Limiting the number of nonresidents to no more than 10 percent of the annual DS102 permits issued will allow harvest to stay at current levels (within management objectives) without having to reduce the total number of permits issued annually to less than 100 to 120. This will translate into maximum hunter opportunity.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Hunters in general will benefit because it will allow hunter opportunity to be maximized while still allowing for a fair allocation. Nonresidents will also benefit because, hopefully, this will limit the interest from large companies putting in huge numbers of applications and allow nonresidents who really want to specifically hunt the TMA a better chance to draw a permit.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Companies that make money from putting nonresident hunter permit applications in and nonresident hunters that use those companies may suffer.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Upper Tanana/Fortymile Advisory Committee (I-06S-G-040)

PROPOSAL 45 - 5 AAC 85.030. Hunting seasons and bag limits for deer. Amend this regulation as follows:

Establish a deer hunting season in Units 11, 12, 13, 20 and 25. The hunter would be required to report the location and date of harvest as well as provide the department with certain deer body parts for analysis for Chronic Wasting Disease and any other disease. The new season on deer would allow for the taking of antlered and antlerless deer until such time as these species showed signs of becoming established in the Interior.

ISSUE: In September 2005 I watched a Mule deer walk along the bank of a slough in Minto Flats. I did not harvest it because there was no regulation for deer in this game unit. The current Alaska hunting regulations do not provide a hunting season for the taking of Mule deer, Black Tail deer or White Tail deer in Interior units. It is my understanding that if an animal is not listed as a huntable species then it cannot be hunted. I would like to see a season established in Interior units that would allow for the taking of these various deer.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Based on my discussion with department biologists, deer occasionally wander into Interior Alaska from Canada. The biologist is also confident these deer could not survive a winter in the Interior due to the cold or the lack of suitable forage. This is a waste of good food if they are not harvested. There is also the potential for these new arrivals to bring with them diseases that are new to the existing animals. By not having a season for these newcomers to the Interior we lose an opportunity to monitor potentially competing species as well as the migration of diseases such as Chronic Wasting Disease.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? This proposal would not improve the deer resource but it would provide valuable information on the migration of potentially competing species and the movement of diseases that would impact existing resources.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All current and future users, both consumptive and non-consumptive will benefit from the data provided by the harvested deer. Monitoring the advancement of competing species and diseases is paramount to maintaining healthy resources.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? This is a win-win solution.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Alternative solutions not considered.

PROPOSED BY: Scott Heidorn (I-06S-G-052)

PROPOSAL 46 - 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Reauthorize the existing antlerless moose season in the Gustavus area as follows:

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

(1)

...

Unit 1(C), that portion west of Excursion Inlet and north of Icy Passage

1 moose per regulatory year, only as follows:

1 bull by registration permit only; or	Sept. 15–Oct. 15 (General hunt only)	Sept. 15–Oct. 15
1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only; up to 100 permits may be issued	Nov. 10–Dec. 10 (General hunt only)	Nov. 10–Dec. 10

ISSUE: This proposal to retain the status quo is necessary to continue the antlerless moose season in the Gustavus portion of Unit 1C. The Gustavus moose population exploded from just a few animals during the 1980s to a count of 185 animals in 1998, to a subsequent count of 404 animals in 2003. By 2002 the department estimated the winter range density of moose at Gustavus exceeded five moose per km², with only a small portion of that area being productive winter range as identified by abundant stands of willow. Because of concerns with these high moose numbers, department staff began conducting spring browse utilization surveys in 1999, and documented 85–95 percent of the current annual growth of willow twigs available to moose had been consumed. This trend has continued through today, and department staff is convinced this high moose population is not sustainable.

Based on the browse utilization data and overall moose densities at Gustavus, an antlerless hunt was first authorized for the Gustavus area by the board in fall 2000. Since that time, hunters have harvested 10, 30 and 54 cow moose in 2002, 2003, and 2004 respectively. Department staff have been able to collect rump fat measurements as an index of body condition as well as collect pregnancy and twinning rate data from the reproductive tracts from the majority of the harvested animals. The rump fat index has been very low in comparison to similar measurements taken during early winter from moose in other populations throughout Alaska. In addition, the percent of females that were pregnant and the percent carrying twins was also below that found in many other populations, and below thresholds expected for a healthy moose population. In addition to these data collected from harvested cow moose, capture operations in December of 2003 and April of 2004 accounted for an additional 21 cow moose being measured for rump fat and assessed for pregnancy. The rump fat indices for both pre and post winter were very low in comparison to similar measurements taken from moose in other populations throughout the state.

A cow hunt provides the tool to decrease herd productivity, and hopefully prevent over-utilization of critical winter browse and an ultimate decline of the moose herd due to reduction of browse vigor.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The population will continue to grow and could exceed the carrying capacity of the habitat, reducing the value of willow browse and leading to a herd decline.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: None.

PROPOSAL 47 - 5 AAC 085.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Reauthorize the existing cow moose season at Berners Bay as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(1)		
...		
Unit 1(C), Berners Bay drain- ages	Sept. 15–Oct.15 (General hunt only)	Sept. 15–Oct.15
1 moose by drawing permit only; up to 30 permits may be issued		
...		

ISSUE: This status quo proposal is necessary to accommodate antlerless moose hunting in Berners Bay. The Berners Bay strategic moose management plan calls for a post-hunt population of 90 moose, based on the estimated moose carrying capacity of this area. The department has been very successful at maintaining this population level through the harvest of both bull and cow moose. Restricting the harvest to bull moose could disrupt this balance.

The number of moose counted during the fall aerial surveys determines the number of drawing permits issued. Aerial counts during 1990–2004 have ranged from a high of 107 moose in 1999 to a low of 59 moose in 2002. The mean annual count during this period has been 77 moose. During 1998–2005, the number of drawing permits issued by the department for this herd has ranged from 10 bull permits and 10 antlerless permits to eight bull permits and zero antlerless permits. The average annual harvest of bull moose during this period has been seven, and the cow harvest has been five. There have not been any antlerless moose permits issued since 2002 due to low moose counts in 2001 and 2002. However, the most recent aerial surveys in fall 2003 and fall 2004 have revealed 82 and 86 moose respectively, very close to our management objective of 90 moose. Should this trend continue, we may again decide to issue a small number of antlerless permits as early as fall 2006. Although we have the latitude of issuing up to 30 permits, at present we will likely restrict the harvest to five to ten bulls and zero to seven antlerless moose unless an increasing trend in moose numbers is detected.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The population could increase and exceed the carrying capacity of the habitat. The Berners Bay moose harvest will be restricted to bulls thereby limiting opportunity for hunters.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-06S-G-059)

PROPOSAL 48 - 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Reauthorize the existing antlerless moose season at Nunatak Bench as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(3)		
Unit 5(A), that portion south of Wrangell-Saint Elias National Park, north and east of Russell and Nunatak Fiords, and east of the east side of East Nunatak Glacier to the Canadian Border (Nunatak Bench)	Nov. 15 - Feb. 15	Nov. 15 - Feb. 15
1 moose by registration permit only; up to 5 moose may be taken		
...		

ISSUE: This proposal to retain the status quo is necessary to continue the any-moose hunting season at Nunatak Bench in Unit 5A. The Nunatak Bench hunt area is separated from adjacent moose habitat by fiords and glaciers, allowing for little immigration or emigration by moose. We therefore manage this population separately from the remainder of Unit 5A. Because of the isolated nature of Nunatak Bench and the limited amount of moose habitat, we have traditionally allowed maximum hunter opportunity through an either sex hunt, thereby aiding in our goal of limiting herd growth to stay within the carrying capacity of this area.

The Nunatak Bench strategic moose management plan calls for a post-hunt population of a maximum of 50 moose, and a harvest of five moose by 10 hunters, expending 60 days of effort. The most recent survey conducted during December 2003 estimated 30-40 animals. During the 1997-2004 hunting seasons, an average of 12 permits were issued while four persons actually hunted each season. An average of eight days of hunting were expended each year to kill zero to four moose, with an average annual harvest of about two moose. Six cows and nine bulls made up the harvest during the past eight seasons.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The harvest of moose at Nunatak Bench will be limited to bulls without any biological reason to do so. In addition, since much of the season occurs post antler-drop restricting the harvest to bulls would make it difficult for hunters

to select a legal animal. Furthermore, moose habitat is not abundant in this area and if herd growth is not restricted by a limited cow harvest, carrying capacity of winter range may be exceeded.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Adopting this proposal will provide more moose hunting opportunity.

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-06S-G-061)

PROPOSAL 49 - 5 AAC 085.045(4). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Re-authorizes the antlerless moose season in Unit 6A as follows:

Seasons and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(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:		
1 bull by registration permit only; up to 30 bulls may be taken; or	Sept. 1-Nov. 30 (General hunt only)	
1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only; up to 30 drawing permits may be issued	Sept. 1-Nov. 30 (General hunt only)	

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull by drawing permit only; up to 5 drawing permits may be issued

Sept. 1- Nov. 30

Remainder of Unit 6(A)

1 moose per regulatory year, only as follows:

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull with spike-fork antlers or 50-inch antlers or antlers with 3 or more brow tines on one side; or

Sept. 1- Nov. 30
(General hunt only)

1 antlerless moose by registration permit only; up to 20 antlerless moose may be taken

Nov. 15-Dec. 31
(General hunt only)

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 3 or more brow tines on one side; or

Sept. 1- Nov. 30

1 antlerless moose by registration permit; up to 20 antlerless moose may be taken

Nov. 15-Dec. 31

...

ISSUE: Antlerless moose seasons must be re-authorized 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 February 2002 yielded a population estimate of 300 moose with 13 percent calves. The reported antlerless harvest was three and four during 2004 and 2005, respectively.

The desirable post-hunt population size in Unit 6A east of Cape Suckling is 300 to 350 moose. A census completed during February 2002 yielded a population estimate of 285 moose with 15 percent calves. No antlerless hunts were held because of poor calf survival and the population being below the management objective. However, if recruitment does improve, antlerless hunts may be needed to hold the moose population at objective levels.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? If antlerless hunts are eliminated in Unit 6A, hunting opportunity will be needlessly lost.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? People who are opposed to antlerless moose hunting.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-06S-G-062)

PROPOSAL 50 - 5 AAC 85.045(4). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in Unit 6C as follows:

Seasons and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(4)		
...		
Unit 6(C) 1 moose by drawing permit only; up to 40 permits for bulls and up to 20 permits for antlerless moose may be issued ...	Sept. 1-Oct. 31 (General hunt only)	No open season.

ISSUE: Antlerless moose seasons must be reauthorized annually. The current population objective established in 1995 is to allow the population to increase to 400 moose by the year 2006, and to increase the harvest accordingly. A census completed during February 2002 yielded an estimate of 340 moose, 20 percent of which were calves. Because the available antlerless harvest quota in Unit 6C is currently harvested under a federal subsistence season administered by the U. S. Forest Service, we have not held the hunt since the 1999-2000 season. We recommend re-authorizing the state antlerless hunt in the event that the federal subsistence hunt is cancelled. If recruitment improves, continuation of the antlerless hunts will be necessary to hold the population at objective levels.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Hunting opportunity will be lost, and the population may exceed the objective, which is based on the availability of adequate habitat during severe winters.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those opposed to antlerless moose hunting.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-06S-G-064)

PROPOSAL 51 - 5 AAC 85.045(4). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in Unit 6B as follows:

Units and Bag Limit	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(4)		
...		
Unit 6(B)		
1 moose per regulatory year, only as follows:		
1 antlered moose by registration permit only; up to 30 antlered moose may be taken; or	Aug. 27- Oct. 31 (General hunt only)	No open season
1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only; up to 30 drawing permits may be issued for antlerless moose;	Aug. 27- Oct. 31 (General hunt only)	No open season
...		

ISSUE: Antlerless moose seasons must be reauthorized annually. Desirable post-hunt population size is 300-350. A census completed during February 2002 resulted in a population estimate of 200 moose with 13 percent calves. Antlerless hunts have not been held during recent years because of continued poor calf survival and the population being below the management objective. However, if the population increases to the desired level, antlerless hunts may be needed to hold the population at objective levels.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? If the moose population in Unit 6B increases and a season is possible, antlerless hunts will provide additional hunting opportunity.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? People who are opposed to antlerless moose hunting.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-06S-G-063)

PROPOSAL 52 - 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:

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

(5)

...

Unit 7, the Placer River drainages, and that portion of the Placer Creek (Bear Valley) drainage outside the Portage Glacier Closed Area, and that portion of Unit 14(C) within the Twentymile River drainage

RESIDENT HUNTER:
1 moose by drawing permit only; up to 60 permits for bulls will be issued in combination with nonresident hunts, and up to 70 permits for antlerless moose will be issued.

Aug. 20 - Oct. 10
(General Hunt Only)

NONRESIDENT HUNTER:
1 bull by drawing permit only; up to 60 permits for bulls will be issued in combination with resident hunts

Aug. 20 - Oct. 10

...

ISSUE: Antlerless moose seasons must be reauthorized annually. A 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 percent to 30 percent during the severe winter of 1994-95. Harvest quotas and the number of permits issued were reduced in the late 1990s and early 2000s to allow the population to recover. No antlerless permits were issued in 2000-2003 and 2005. A count in fall 2003 found 185 moose (27 bulls, 106 cows, 52 calves), which indicated an increasing population approaching the carrying capacity; therefore, five antlerless permits were issued in 2004. During 2003, 2004, and 2005 (preliminary), hunters took nine bulls, eight bulls and one cow, and 12 bulls, respectively.

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.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. Moose populations that are not stressed by winter food shortages are healthier and more productive.

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? People who are opposed to antlerless moose hunting.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-06S-G-074)

PROPOSAL 53 - 5 AAC 85.045(12). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in the Fort Richardson Management Area in Unit 14C as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(12)		
...		
Unit 14(C), Fort Richardson Management Area	Day after Labor Day -Mar. 31 (General hunt only)	Day after Labor Day -Mar. 31
1 moose per regulatory year by drawing permit, and by muzzleloading blackpowder rife or bow and arrow only; up to 160 permits may be issued.		
...		

ISSUE: Antlerless moose seasons must be reauthorized annually. A November 2003 census on Fort Richardson, Elmendorf Air Force Base, and upper Ship Creek yielded a population estimate of 649 moose with a bull:cow ratio of 58 bulls per 100 cows and a calf:cow ratio of 40 calves per 100 cows. This record-high estimate is similar to the previous population peak of 622 moose observed during November 1994, when the population exceeded the carrying capacity of local wintering areas. The moose population subsequently declined 45 percent on account of the severe winter of 1994-95 and deteriorating browse conditions within the area. Currently, the population appears to be increasing and is well above the management objective of 500 moose. Ten antlerless permits were issued for the fall archery and muzzle-loader hunts and 55 either-sex permits for the late hunt, raising the total number of permits issued for all Fort Richardson hunts to 125. Harvests for 2002, 2003, and 2004 were 27 bulls and 15 cows, 21 bulls and 22 cows, and 21 bulls and 14 cows, respectively.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The population may again exceed the carrying capacity of the habitat if antlerless hunts are not authorized.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. Moose populations that are not stressed by winter food shortages are healthier and more productive.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Muzzleloaders and bow hunters who draw permits. Persons living near Fort Richardson who incur damage to their gardens and shrubs and motorists on the Glenn Highway and in east Anchorage.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those who oppose antlerless moose hunting, and archery or muzzleloader hunting or hunting in general.

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

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game and U. S. Army, Fort Richardson
(HQ-06S-G-069)

PROPOSAL 54 - 5 AAC 085.045(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
1 moose by drawing permit, by bow and arrow only; up to 25 permits may be issued		
...		
Remainder of Unit 14(C)		
1 moose per regulatory year, only as follows:		
1 bull with spike-fork antlers or 50-inch antlers or antlers with	Day after Labor Day -Sept. 30 (General hunt only)	Day after Labor Day -Sept. 30

3 or more brow tines on one side; or

1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only; up to 60 permits may be issued

Day after Labor Day -Sept. 30
(General hunt only)

No open season

ISSUE: Antlerless moose seasons must be reauthorized annually. Composition counts are not 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. Five antlerless permits were issued in 2003, 2004 and 2005. Archers took one bull in 2003, two bulls in 2004, and no moose in 2005. Very little public land exists in this management area and most of it is city parkland closed to discharge of weapons. Large parcels of land owned by Eklutna Native Corporation could not be hunted by permittees because no access permits were issued, and this land is quickly turning into subdivisions. Despite the warning in the permit supplement that cautions hunters about the private property and low success rates, hunters are increasingly frustrated when they obtain one of these permits and cannot find a place to hunt. The one large block of public land remaining in this hunt area is Beach Lake Park, where discharge of firearms and bows is not allowed by city park ordinance. A controlled hunt could be held in Beach Lake Park if the city allowed discharge of firearms for hunting. Our intent is to leave the Birchwood drawing hunts in regulation, however, we will not offer permits until we can further explore holding a limited drawing hunt in Beach Lake Park.

Composition counts are seldom flown in the remainder of Unit 14C. One hundred thirty-nine cows were counted during the fall 2001 trend counts in Knik/Hunter and Peters Creek count areas. The moose populations in these areas appear to be at or above carrying capacity; however, to manage the moose population conservatively with little trend data, the number of antlerless permits was reduced from 30 to 20 in 2000. Hunters in Knik/Hunter took three cows in 2003, one cow in 2004 and one cow in 2005. Hunters in Peters Creek took one cow in 2003, none in 2004, and two cows in 2005.

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

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. Moose populations that are not stressed by winter food shortages are healthier and more productive.

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? People opposed to antlerless moose harvest or hunting in general.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-06S-G-071)

PROPOSAL 55 - 5 AAC 85.045(12). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.
 Reauthorize the antlerless moose hunt on Elmendorf Air Force Base in Unit 14C as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(12)		
...		
Unit 14(C), Elmendorf Air Force Base	Day after Labor Day -Mar. 31 (General hunt only)	Day after Labor Day -Mar. 31

1 moose by drawing permit,
 and by bow and arrow only; up
 to 25 permits may be issued.

...

ISSUE: Antlerless moose seasons must be reauthorized annually. Moose on Elmendorf Air Force Base are part of a resident wintering population that also occupies Fort Richardson. A November 2003 census on Ft. Richardson, Elmendorf Air Force Base and upper Ship Creek yielded a population estimate of 649 moose. During September up to 150 of these moose frequent lands managed by Elmendorf. A majority of these animals move to Fort Richardson during late fall and winter, many into areas where hunting is not allowed. Because the density of hunters on Fort Richardson has reached maximum manageable levels, the Elmendorf hunt provides additional hunter opportunity and helps achieve desired harvest levels. The board authorized a winter hunt and additional permits for Elmendorf beginning in 2003. Five antlerless and five either-sex permits were issued in 2003 and 2004. During the 2003, 2004 and 2005 (preliminary) seasons, hunters took six bulls and four cows, six bulls and three cows, and nine bulls and seven cows, respectively.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Habitat may be over-browsed, reducing carrying capacity in subsequent years, and road and train kills will increase. The overall Fort Richardson-Elmendorf Air Force Base moose population is thought to have been above carrying capacity during the severe 1994-1995 winter. Browse was over-utilized across extensive areas during the severe winters of 1989-1990, 1991-1992, and 1994-1995. If cows are not harvested, the population could increase and suffer major losses during a severe winter.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BY IMPROVED? Yes. Moose populations that are not stressed by winter food shortages are healthier and more productive.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Bowhunters who draw permits. Persons living on or near Elmendorf Air Force Base who incur damage to their gardens and shrubs, and motorists on Elmendorf and in north Anchorage.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those opposed to antlerless moose hunting, bow and arrow hunting, or hunting in general.

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

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game and Elmendorf Air Force Base
(HQ-06S-G-072)

PROPOSAL 56 - 5 AAC 85.045(12). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in the Anchorage Management Area in 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 Anchorage Management Area	Day after Labor Day -Nov. 30 (General hunt only)	No open season

1 moose by drawing permit only, and by bow and arrow, shotgun, or muzzleloading black-powder rifle only; up to 50 permits may be issued; a person may not take an antlered bull unless it has a spike-fork antler; this hunt will be held at the department's discretion

...

ISSUE: Antlerless moose hunts must be reauthorized annually. During summer, an estimated 200-300 moose inhabit the Anchorage metropolitan area. This number increases to 700-1,000 moose during the winter. Many of these moose come from the upper Campbell Creek valley, which lies within Chugach State Park. One hundred sixty-one moose (41 bulls, 90 cows, 30 calves) were counted in fall 2001 and 117 moose (21 bulls, 79 cows, 17 calves) were counted in fall 2003. Most of these moose move into the metropolitan area during December or January, where high densities of moose cause severe overbrowsing in some areas, and lead to increased incidences of collisions with motor vehicles and adverse conflicts with humans.

The board reauthorized this hunt in 2005, and it was held for the first time since 1983. Hunters took four cows with very little controversy. A remaining concern is to minimize the potential threat to park users of brown bears finding and defending gut piles. We intend to issue four permits again next year, opening the season on November 1 instead of October 20. If the hunt can be conducted safely and efficiently, we intend to increase the number of permits issued beginning in 2007.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The moose population will continue to overbrowse winter habitat and mortality of moose attributable to collisions with vehicles and starvation during severe winters will continue.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. Moose populations that are not stressed by winter food shortages are healthier and more productive.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? People who acquire permits for antlerless moose hunts. People who believe there are too many moose in the Anchorage Bowl.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? People opposed to hunting antlerless moose, hunting moose in parks, or hunting in general.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-06S-G-070)

PROPOSAL 57 - 5AAC 85.045(12). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Reauthorize the antlerless portion of the any-moose drawing permit in the upper Ship Creek drainage, with minor changes as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(12) ...		
Unit 14(C), that portion of the Ship Creek drainage upstream of the Fort Richardson Management Area	Day after Labor Day - Sept. 30 (General hunt only)	Day after Labor Day - Sept. 30
1 moose by drawing permit only; up to 50 permits may be issued ...		

ISSUE: Moose use the upper Ship Creek drainage throughout the year. However, the highest density appears to be in fall and early winter when rutting and post-rut concentrations occur. In most years, accumulated snow packs force most of the moose out of the upper Ship Creek drainage by early December. The moose move to lower-elevation wintering areas on Fort Richardson, Elmendorf AFB, and other portions of the Anchorage Bowl. A November 2003 census on Fort Richardson, Elmendorf Air Force Base and upper Ship Creek yielded a population estimate of 649 moose with a bull:cow ratio of 58 bulls per 100 cows and a calf:cow ratio of 40 calves per 100 cows. Forty antlerless permits were issued for upper Ship Creek drainage in 2003 and 2004. Legal bulls were spike-fork/50-inch/3 brow tines and the open season for cows and bulls was the day after Labor Day to September 30. Hunters took two cows and at least 10 bulls in 2003 and two cows and at least six bulls in 2004.

In 2005, the board created a new drawing hunt area in the upper Ship Creek valley because the previous general season spike-fork/50 inch bull hunt, with an additional 40 antlerless permits, was unable to remove enough moose to meet harvest and population objectives. A total of 40 either-sex moose drawing permits were issued in fall 2005 for two open seasons (September 6-15 and September 16-30); hunters took seven bulls and one cow. This harvest is lower than under the previous conditions. If success rate does not improve during the 2006 season, we will look for another way to increase moose harvest in upper Ship Creek drainage.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Moose will continue to be under-harvested, with concomitant problems in nearby urban areas and occasional large die-offs during severe winters.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. Moose populations that are not stressed by winter food shortages are healthier and more productive. An either-sex moose hunt should allow greater harvests in an area with limited access.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Moose hunters.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? People opposed to moose hunting and hunters who traditionally hunted the area under the previous general season, spike-fork/50 inch regulation.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-06S-G-073)

PROPOSAL 58 - 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:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(12)		
Unit 14(A)		
1 moose per regulatory year, only as follows:		
...		
1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only; up to 500 antlerless moose permits may be issued	Aug. 20 – Sept. 25 (General hunt only) Nov. 1 – Nov. 15 (General hunt only)	No open season Nov. 1 – Nov. 15 (General hunt only)
...		

ISSUE: Antlerless moose hunts must be reauthorized annually by the board. During November 2003, the subpopulation of moose in Unit 14A was surveyed and estimated at 6,564 which was slightly greater than the post-hunt objective of 6,000 – 6,500 moose. During this survey we observed 20 bulls and 29 calves:100 cows. Snow depth accumulation in the subunit during the 2003-2004 winter was considered normal and survival of calves and adults was average. The moose population in the unit is believed to be relatively unchanged since the last survey and within the population objective.

During 1999 and 2000, we issued no permits because the subpopulation estimate remained below objective levels. In 2001 we resumed the antlerless hunts because the population had recovered and exceeded objectives. The 14A population is now at the upper end of the management objective. Our strategy for harvesting cows from eight different permit hunt areas within the subunit was to concentrate antlerless moose permits in those areas where moose densities were highest.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Portions of the Unit 14A moose subpopulation could grow beyond the ability of the habitat to sustain that population level. Increased cases of starvation, conflicts with humans and vehicle collisions will occur.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes; excessively high moose density can lead to nutritionally stressed animals in the harvest.

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those who disagree with the harvest of antlerless moose.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-06S-G-065)

PROPOSAL 59 - 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:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(13)		
...		
Unit 15(C), that portion south of the south fork of the Anchor River and northwest of Kachemak Bay		
1 bull with spike-fork antlers	Aug. 20-Sept. 20	Aug. 20-Sept. 20

or 50-inch antlers or antlers with 3 or more brow tines on one side; or

(General Hunt only)

1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only; the taking of calves, and females accompanied by calves, is prohibited; up to 100 permits may be issued

Aug. 20-Sept. 20

Aug. 20-Sept. 20

...

ISSUE: Antlerless moose seasons must be reauthorized annually. The Homer benchland in Unit 15C often holds high moose densities in winters when deep snow pushes the moose down into human populated areas. These deep snow winters result in a high number of moose dying due to malnutrition and increased negative interactions with aggressive moose and humans.

In November 2005, a survey of the greater Homer area tallied 441 moose and 26 percent were calves. Fifty permits were issued each season from 2002 through 2005 with an average harvest of 25 cows. We recommend reauthorization of the antlerless hunt and anticipate issuing 50 permits for the 2006 season.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Deep snow winters will result in a high number of moose deaths due to malnutrition and continued conflicts between aggressive moose and humans.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? A limited antlerless moose hunt may improve overall browse quality.

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Individuals opposed to hunting.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-06S-G-068)

PROPOSAL 60 - 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 Area

1 moose by drawing permit only; up to 30 permits for spike-fork antlered moose may be issued; or	Sept. 15-Sept. 30 (General hunt only)	Sept. 15- Sept. 30
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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
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...

ISSUE: Antlerless moose seasons must be reauthorized annually. A joint management objective developed for the Skilak Loop Wildlife Management Area (SLWMA) by the Department and U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service calls for a fall population of approximately two moose per square mile or about 130 moose. The last SLWMA survey was on December 1, 2005 and resulted in a count of 79 moose composed of eight bulls, 65 cows and six calves. The ratios observed were 12 bulls/100 cows and 9 calves/100 cows. Because the SLWMA is managed primarily for wildlife viewing, a second management objective requires that we maintain a minimum bull:cow ratio of 40 bulls/100 cows. The last permit hunt was held in 1999 when 40 permits were issued for antlerless and 20 for spike-fork antlered moose. The department recommends maintaining the hunt, but not issuing permits for the fall 2006 season.

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.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Since this is a proposal to re-authorize an existing hunt, no resource or product improvements are expected.

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Individuals opposed to hunting.

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 and the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
(HQ-06S-G-067)

PROPOSAL 61 - 5 AAC 85.045(14). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Reauthorize the antlerless moose hunt on Kalgin Island in Unit 16B as follows:

**Resident
Open Season**

Units and Bag Limits	(Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(14)		
...		
Unit 16(B), Kalgin Island		
1 moose per regulatory year, by registration permit only	Aug. 20 - Sept. 20	Aug. 20 - Sept. 20

...

ISSUE: Antlerless moose hunts must be reauthorized annually. The population objective for this predator-free, 23-mi² island is 20-40 moose equivalent to a density of 1-1.75 moose/mi². Following a November 2003 survey, we counted 125 moose which is approximately five moose/mi².

Because of concerns of overpopulation and deteriorating habitat conditions, a drawing permit hunt for cows was initiated in 1995. In an attempt to reduce the population quickly, the board established a registration hunt for any moose for the fall 1999 season. We believe that the population of moose on Kalgin Island has declined somewhat but remains above the objective of 20-40 moose.

The "any moose" registration hunt is recommended to provide additional mortality on this predator-free island population. A registration hunt also allows the department to continue gathering biological information from specimens provided by successful hunters. The difficult hunting conditions and limited access will minimize the danger of overharvest. Allowing the continued harvest of calves provides an additional management tool needed to reduce population productivity.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Without a liberal harvest including cows and calves, the population will continue to exceed the island's carrying capacity, resulting in habitat damage and ultimately decline in moose numbers through starvation.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? If the island population size is kept at or near objective levels, moose will have adequate available forage and therefore, show less sign of being nutritionally stressed.

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Seasonal residents of Kalgin Island have been concerned about hunters trespassing on their land and cabins. The current season dates concentrate hunter activity when most seasonal residents are present.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? A general season for any moose will also work to lower moose densities, but would diminish the ability to collect biological information.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-06S-G-066)

PROPOSAL 62 - 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Amend this regulation as follows:

No open season in Units 19A and 19B, that portion comprising of the Holitna watershed in its entirety.

ISSUE: The moose population on the Holitna River, Unit 19A and Unit 19B, is at its lowest level in recorded history. Both biological data and antidotal testimony has supported these findings for many years. Moose hunting has continued despite these facts. Reoccurring state budget constraints have limited the necessary data needed to properly manage this watershed for future moose harvests. Continued moose harvest without complete and justifiable watershed population data should be considered as poor management.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? If this problem is not addressed by the board at this time, then the possibility of this population recovering in the next 30 years is poor to nil. Unit 18 down river has already imposed a moratorium on moose hunting for five years.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? The quality of the moose resource can only be improved if it is allowed to grow without any hunting pressure. We cannot control bears or wolves but we can control hunting and its effect. This watershed's moose population must be allowed to grow until there is a harvestable surplus with a sustainable yield able to support hunting by nonresident hunters. This is the largest subsistence moose hunting river in the nation, and increased nonresident hunting in the last ten years has contributed to the overharvest of this critical resource.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Those people who hunt moose on the Holitna River.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? State moose refuge or critical habitat, this option could be addressed at the legislative level and at a future date.

PROPOSED BY: Grant Fairbanks (HQ-06S-G-031)

PROPOSAL 63 - 5 AAC 85.045(17). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Amend this regulation as follows:

Make permits available in all villages with customary and traditional use recognition, as noted by their incorporation into the formula for determining amounts necessary for subsistence in Unit 19 if the RM640 hunt is retained.

ISSUE: A basic premise and justification for issuing registration permits only in certain areas or communities was to focus their dispersal where the greatest level of participation and need exists. This has worked well to date in other areas where an existing unit and the majority of participants corresponded. For the current RM640 hunt this is undeniably not the case. Customary and traditional subsistence hunting areas were almost certainly not considered in unit boundary creation, and so do not always conform.

In 2004, 532 (52 percent) of the RM640 permits issued went to Kuskokwim drainage villages in Unit 18 from the Johnson River to Tuluksak, and 426 (42 percent) went to Unit 19A village residents. In 2005, 621 (58 percent) permits were issued to the same villages in Unit 18 and 392 (36 percent) to Unit 19A village residents.

Village residents throughout the Kuskokwim have a shared dependence on fish and game resources throughout the Kuskokwim. Just as residents of the middle and upper river rely on salmon coming up through the lower river to fulfill their subsistence needs, so has the lower river been dependent for generations upon moose from the middle river as part of fulfilling annual subsistence needs.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? For segments of the lower river residents that have access to full-time jobs, travel costs to obtain RM640 permits are an inconvenience, but do not present substantial difficulty. Village residents who are primarily more reliant on subsistence harvests, have the greatest level of need and who can least afford travel, will continue being subject to the highest level of burden and hardship for participation.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Subsistence hunters of Unit 18.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No change from generations of similar impact.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Tier II: as stated by the majority of participants in the Central Kuskokwim Moose Management Plan, and reflected in local, traditional environmental, scientific experience and knowledge for much of bush Alaska, even total elimination of human harvest will not help this moose population achieve or recover its historically proven capability. In order to support the population and sustained harvest the area provided consistently to all over the last 40 to 50 years, the same level of management activities that maintained an adequate predator/prey balance up until 1996 needs to be reinstated.

PROPOSED BY: Orutsararmiut Native Council (HQ-06S-G-035)

PROPOSAL 64 - 5 AAC 85.045(a)(17). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Amend this regulation as follows:

Unit 19A: No open season for moose.

Unit 19B: No open season for moose on all navigable streams in the Holitna drainage in the unit. This would require an extension of the river corridor further into Unit 19B and applying the existing closure for nonresidents to residents as well. The closure will remain in effect indefinitely—until the moose population recovers to a level that can biologically support nonresident hunters.

ISSUE: Moose numbers, particularly in the Holitna watershed, and on the Stony River are at dangerously low levels. This low, at risk population is due primarily to a long period without predator control (11 to 12 years), and hunter overharvest. The nonresident closure in Unit 19A and on the river corridor into Unit 19B, the predator control program, and the registration permit hunt for residents has helped but not enough. Any modest increase in moose numbers has been cancelled out by boat accessed residents from the whole Kuskokwim drainage. The moratorium in Unit 18 has also put increased hunting pressure on Unit 19.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Moose populations will continue to plunge. Subsistence users will continue to have little or no moose hunting success. It will be many years, if ever, before moose numbers will increase sufficiently to allow all user groups to harvest in this area again.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, taking all human hunting pressure off the moose, along with continued predator control in Unit 19A, implementing the already approved predator control in Unit 19B, increasing black bear harvest, and enforcement of other existing regulations, will increase moose numbers.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The moose populations will benefit as will all user groups who depend on them.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? All user groups will suffer to some degree in the short term, until populations grow to safe, sustainable levels.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Tier II—rejected since moose population needs a complete break if there is to be a recovery.

PROPOSED BY: Sleetmute Traditional Council (HQ-06S-G-022)

PROPOSAL 65 - 5 AAC 85.045(a)(17). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Amend this regulation as follows:

(1) That part of Unit 19A that drains into the Kuskokwim River that is downstream of the mouth of the Oskawalik River: Residents - one antlered bull by registration permit RM 640, available only in person in all villages within Unit 19A from August 17 through August 26. The season length should be shortened to September 5 through September 20. There will be a bag limit of one moose per household in the RM640 registration permit hunts in Unit 19A and Unit 19B.

(2) The remainder of Unit 19A, (excluding the Lime Village Management Area): Residents - No open season for moose. Closure is to be reevaluated in two years by the Central Kuskokwim Advisory Committee (CKAC) and the board. If, for some unforeseen reason this proposal is not adopted, then apply the same season length and permit provisions for the RM640 registration hunt as proposed for below the Oskawalik River to all of Unit 19A.

(3) Nonresident moose hunting in Unit 19A: The nonresident closure in Unit 19A should not have a sunset provision. The regulations should state “no open season” for nonresidents until the moose population has recovered sufficiently to meet subsistence needs and provide for additional harvest.

(4) Unit 19B: Reduce the resident moose hunting season by five days to September 5 through September 20 and the nonresident season by five days to September 5 through September 15.

(5) Unit 19B within nonresident closed area: Residents - one antlered bull by registration permit RM 640, available only in person in all villages within Unit 19A from August 17 through August 26. The season length should be shortened to September 5 through September 20. There will be a

bag limit of one moose per household in the RM640 registration permit hunts in Unit 19A and Unit 19B.

(6) There must be a checkpoint to make the Central Kuskokwim Moose Management Plan (CKMMP) work. It should be below Kalskag to monitor bulls only moose harvest and hunter residency. If a closure is not implemented, the checkpoint should be located at the mouth of the Holitna River for the same reasons along with enforcement of the 40 horsepower limit.

(7) In Unit 19B: Season reductions by five days for both residents and nonresidents are included in the wording above.

ISSUE: In Unit 19A moose numbers are at their lowest level in many years. These low, at risk populations are due mainly to a long period (11-12 years) with no predator control and hunter overharvest. Regulations like the nonresident closure, the aerial wolf control, and the registration permit hunt for residents has helped somewhat, but not as was hoped. The target of 180 wolves for the first year of the five-year aerial wolf control fell far short of the 180 target number for the first year with only 43 killed – mostly due to weather and snow conditions not conducive to aerial hunting. The effectiveness of the registration permit hunt is not known, but there were quite a few boat-accessed hunters who took moose in Unit 19A, including reports by wildlife protection officers and locals of illegal take of cows. Without a checkpoint, the 40 horsepower and bulls only regulations are impossible to enforce. Any small increase in moose numbers due to implementation of these other tools, has been cancelled out by the large numbers of boat hunters from the whole Kuskokwim drainage. The moose moratorium in Unit 18 has also put increased hunting pressure on Unit 19A and Unit 19B. In Unit 19B, moose populations are also in steady decline in the Stony, Holitna, and Aniak drainages. This is due to predation and hunter overharvest in areas that are accessed primarily by airplane in the upland areas, and by boat accessed hunters in the navigable stretches of the river systems. This problem is evidenced by the steady decrease in hunter success in Unit 19B.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Moose populations in some areas of Unit 19A, like the upper Kuskokwim and its tributaries (such as Holitna and Stony Rivers) are at such low levels that a sustainable yield will be impossible if hunting is continued. At this time if there is any harvestable surplus it should be kept in the herd to rebuild it. Further down the Kuskokwim Drainage, numbers are low and hunting pressure should be further reduced. In Unit 19B, if there is not a decrease in hunting pressures, and no predator control programs are implemented, the decrease in moose populations will continue. The residents of Unit 19A have voluntarily reduced their own hunting opportunities by cutting out two seasons, and reducing and regulating the fall season, because they recognize the need. This need is as great in Unit 19B, where residents of Unit 19A also hunt. Unit 19B should certainly be included in any closure, and would be, if the main user groups in that subunit lived here and depended on these animals to the degree locals do.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, a closure in that part of Unit 19A where the more “at risk” moose populations are struggling, will improve the quality. In the area left open, where moose numbers can support a hunt, resident hunting opportunity will be further reduced. Along with effective, sustained aerial wolf control and the nonresident closure this will offer a better opportunity for these moose populations to increase to a sustainable level. In Unit 19B the CKAC believes that the measures it proposes will help survival of moose populations, although we would advocate more comprehensive, effective measures.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The moose populations will benefit. All user groups will benefit when the moose herd recovers to the point all groups can use them.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? All user groups will suffer in the short-term. All groups will benefit in the longer term.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? A closure to all moose hunting in Units 19A and Unit 19B—the proposal did not pass a vote. Tier II—still too much hunting pressure for these depleted populations.

PROPOSED BY: Central Kuskokwim Advisory Committee (I-06S-G-010)

PROPOSAL 66 - 5 AAC 85.045(a)(17). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Amend this regulation as follows:

The closure of hunting to nonresidents in Unit 19A shall stay in effect indefinitely until the moose population recovers to a level that can biologically support nonresident hunters.

ISSUE: The no nonresident regulation in Unit 19A sunsets each year. It is necessary to remove the sunset clause so the problem does not have to be revisited each year.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Unnecessary time and resources spent by the department and the board to review this issue each year.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, indirectly. Time and resources can be used for other matters such as predator control in Units 19A and Unit 19B.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The already financially strapped department.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Central Kuskokwim Advisory Committee (I-06S-G-011)

PROPOSAL 67 - 5 AAC 85.045(a)(17). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Amend this regulation as follows:

- Resident Hunters:
- Reestablish moose hunting seasons in Unit 19A and Unit 19B.
- Establish a general season harvest ticket hunt for resident hunters in Unit 19A and Unit 19B outside of the river closure corridors.
- Bag limit: 1 bull, 50 inches or 4 brow tines on at least one side.
- Open season Unit 19A – September 1 through September 20.
- Open season Unit 19B – September 1 through September 25.

Nonresident Hunters:

Reestablish nonresident moose season in Unit 19A and Unit 19B.

Bag limit: 1 bull, 50 inches or 4 brow tines on at least one side.

Open season Unit 19A – September 1 through September 20.

Open season Unit 19B – September 1 through September 25.

ISSUE: Loss of moose hunting opportunities in Unit 19A and Unit 19B. Overharvest of moose in registration permit areas.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Continued overcrowding of hunters in Unit 19A and Unit 19B permit areas and Unit 19B general season areas.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? This proposal will shift the hunting pressure by those persons displaced from Unit 19A to adjacent areas back to Unit 19A uplands. This will help reduce the harvest in registration permit areas in Unit 19A and reduce hunting effort in Unit 19B. This proposal will preserve revenue from nonresident tag sales.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Resident hunters affected by the registration permit hunt. Participants in the open Unit 19A hunt will not have to pre-register saving travel expenses and lost work time. Registration permit holders will have alternative hunting territory to access. Nonresident hunters affected by loss of season in Unit 19A and reduced season in Unit 19B. Guides displaced from Unit 19A.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one, the river closure corridors were determined to offer sufficient protection for local hunters in Unit 19A by a board sub-committee in 2002. This committee was composed of local hunters and villagers, guides and other Alaskan residents. The Central Kuskokwim Advisory Committee representatives drew the river closure corridor boundaries. This proposal affects the areas outside the river corridors. The permit hunts will remain in place as established in Unit 19A and Unit 19B. The moose stocks in the uplands and river corridors have been demonstrated by radio collar studies to be separate populations. The comingling of the groups is minimal. Any overharvest in registration hunt areas does not affect the moose population in Unit 19A and Unit 19B. Unit 19B was constructed to avoid conflicts with villages and was to be managed as a nonsubsistence general hunting area.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Establishing the nonresident river closure area as a separate subunit. The closure area has that effect already. Change boundary of Unit 19A. Likely resistance from department.

PROPOSED BY: Kelly Vrem (HQ-06S-G-029)

PROPOSAL 68 - 5 AAC 85.045(a)(17). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Amend this regulation as follows:

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

Unit 19D, that portion of the Kuskokwim River drainage upstream from the Selatna and Black River drainages, but excluding the Takotna River drainage upstream of Takotna village

1 antlered bull by registration permit

Sept. 1–Sept. 30
[SEPT. 1–SEPT. 25]

No open season.

Unit 19D, that portion of the Takotna River drainage upstream of Takotna village

1 antlered bull by registration permit

Sept. 1–Sept. 30
[SEPT. 1–SEPT. 20]

No open season.

....

ISSUE: This proposal lengthens moose registration permit hunt RM650 to end on September 30. To maintain current harvest, the season needs to be extended to compensate for an expected decline in hunter success. The climate has changed and it is much warmer now in September than historically, causing bull moose to move less during the day and tree leaves to remain attached later in the year. Therefore, hunters are having difficulty spotting bulls to harvest before the season closes. This problem is compounded for McGrath hunters because they must travel outside the closed area surrounding the village.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? People will suffer hardship created by inadequate moose harvest.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Families of people who hunt in Unit 19D East.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Keep the same season.

PROPOSED BY: McGrath Advisory Committee (I-06S-G-006)

PROPOSAL 69 - 5 AAC 85.045(a)(17). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Amend this regulation as follows:

Units 19A and 19B: Moose hunting is closed from Oskawalik on up into Unit 19B.

ISSUE: A closure on moose hunting from Oskawalik on up in Units 19A and 19B. The moose population is very low and needs a chance to recover. If hunts are held in Unit 19B there will be no recovery in Unit 19A.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The moose population will have a very hard time with recovery.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Moose will not be harvested until there is a safe number of moose to be harvested.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The moose population which is steadily declining year after year.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? All hunters who hunt in these units.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Tier II—leaving Units 19A and 19B open but shortening the season. However, moose are so low in number there cannot be any more hunts.

PROPOSED BY: Lorraine Egnaty (HQ-06S-G-025)

PROPOSAL 70 - 5 AAC 85.045(a)(17). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Retain the Unit 19A nonresident moose season closure that is due to sunset in September 2006; close the resident moose hunting season in the portion of Unit 19A upstream from the Oskawalik River (excluding the Lime Village Management Area); and implement a Tier II permit system in Unit 19A downstream from the Oskawalik River as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(17)		
Unit 19(A), that portion within the Lime Village Management Area		
2 [ANTLERED] bulls per regulatory year; up to 28 [ANTLERED] bulls 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.
<u>Unit 19(A), that portion upstream from the Oskawalik River, excluding the Lime Village Management Area</u>		

RESIDENT HUNTERS

No open season

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS

No open season.

Remainder of 19(A)

RESIDENT HUNTERS

1 antlered bull by

Tier II [REGISTRATION]

permit only

Sept. 1–Sept. 20

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull with 50-inch antlers
or antlers with 4 or more
brow tines on one side

[UNTIL SEP-
TEMBER 1, 2006,]
No open season.
[BEGINNING
SEPTEMBER
1, 2006, SEPT. 1–
SEPT. 20]

Unit 19(B) within the Nonresident
Closed Area

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

[1 ANTLERED BULL BY
REGISTRATION PERMIT
ONLY, OR]

[SEPT. 1–SEPT. 20]

1 bull with spike-fork or 50-inch
antlers or antlers with 4 or more
brow tines on one side

Sept. 1–Sept. 20

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

No open season.

Remainder of Unit 19(B)

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

[1 ANTLERED BULL BY
REGISTRATION PERMIT
ONLY; OR]

[SEPT. 1–SEPT. 20]

1 bull with spike-fork or 50-inch
antlers or antlers with 4 or more
brow tines on one side

Sept. 1–Sept. 20

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

Sept. 5–Sept. 20

1 bull with 50-inch antlers
or antlers with 4 or more
brow tines on one side

....

ISSUE: The Central Kuskokwim Moose Management Plan (CKMMP) was endorsed by the board in March 2004 as a guide to rebuilding the moose populations in Unit 19A and Unit 19B. Since that time, the department has conducted additional moose surveys in Units 19A and 19B. These surveys have verified the concerns about declining moose populations expressed by local residents and others during the planning process. The spring 2005 moose population estimate in Unit 19A was 2350–3250 moose, with a harvestable surplus of 94–130 moose. These data suggest that the reported fall 2005 harvest of 171 moose exceeded sustained yield. In addition, November 2005 composition counts showed low bull:cow ratios and low numbers of calves per 100 cows. In the Holitna River drainage there were 8 bulls:100 cows and most were yearlings. In the Aniak River drainage and along the Kuskokwim River between Kalskag and Napaimiut there were 20 bulls:100 cows.

The Central Kuskokwim Advisory Committee (CKAC) met on November 21, 2005 and developed recommendations for further reductions in moose harvest to help the population recover. Recent composition count data was not available at the time of their meeting. The CKAC recommended a moose hunting closure in Unit 19A above the Oskawalik River and that is reflected in this proposal. The CKAC recommended a five day reduction in the season length and bag limit of one moose per household in Unit 19A below the Oskawalik River. These recommendations are included in a separate proposal to be submitted by the committee. The CKAC hopes to meet again prior to the March 2006 board meeting and may have the opportunity to reconsider their recommendations based on the recent composition count data.

This proposal conforms with the CKAC proposal to close the moose season above the Oskawalik River, excluding Lime Village Management Area. As per the CKAC recommendation the moose hunting closure should be revisited at the 2006 board meeting.

With the moose hunting moratorium in the Kuskokwim drainage in Unit 18 and a possible moose hunting closure above the Oskawalik River, the portion of Unit 19A between the Oskawalik River and Unit 18 could be the only area open to moose hunting along this stretch of the Kuskokwim River. The reduced season length and registration permit provisions recommended by the CKAC may help but do not provide a mechanism to ensure that harvest remains within sustained yield. This uncertainty is too risky, given the poor biological status of the Unit 19A moose population. In consideration of other moose hunting restrictions in the area and the fall 2005 composition surveys in Unit 19A, the department recommends the board implement a Tier II permit system in the portion of Unit 19A below the Oskawalik River.

The bag limit for the Lime Village Management Area is proposed to be changed to “bulls only” to reflect the fact that this season is open until March 31 when bulls have lost their antlers. Harvest in the Lime Village Management Area is restricted through the Tier II permit system.

We recommend the board eliminate the any-bull registration permit hunt in Unit 19B and retain the more restrictive general spike-fork-50 season. Because of current and proposed restrictions downstream from Unit 19B, hunting pressure may increase significantly under the current Unit 19B any-bull registration permit.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Harvestable surplus will be exceeded and the moose population will likely decline further.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, it may help slow the moose population decline by keeping harvest within sustainable limits.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Future moose hunters.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Resident and nonresident hunters, guides, and transporters.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? The CKAC and department have considered many options to ensure that moose harvest in Units 19A and 19B does not exceed sustained yield. A moose hunting closure or Tier II was considered for all of Unit 19A. The department considered the recommendations of the CKAC for modifying the registration permit hunt in the portion of Unit 19A below the Oskawalik River, but felt that the board must also have the option of greater certainty that harvest will be maintained within sustainable levels. This can be accomplished by using Tier II permits. Reductions in the length of the resident and nonresident moose hunting season in Unit 19B have also been considered (as recommended by the CKAC in their proposal.) Another option considered was to apply the moose hunting closure in 19A above the Oskawalik River to the Holitna River corridor in Unit 19B and apply the Tier II system proposed for Unit 19A below the Oskawalik to the Aniak River drainage in 19B.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-06S-G-042)

Note: Identical proposals were received by the submitters below. They are reproduced here as one proposal for publishing purposes.

PROPOSAL 71 - 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Amend this regulation as follows:

Unit 20B, the drainage of the middle (east) fork of the Chena River and Salcha River drainage upstream from and including Goose Creek.

Nonresident: September 5 through September 15, one bull with 50-inch antler spread, four or more brow tines on at least one side.

Remainder of Unit 20B

Nonresident: September 5 through September 15, one bull with 50-inch antler spread, four or more brow tines on at least one side.

ISSUE: There are no restrictions on antler size for moose for nonresidents in Unit 20B with the exception of Fairbanks Management Area.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Increased hunting pressure by nonresidents in Unit 20B.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? N/A.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Alaskans.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Non-Alaskans.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? No open season for moose in Unit 20B for nonresidents. Do not believe at this time that hunting pressure by nonresidents in Unit 20B warrants complete closure of unit to non-Alaskans.

PROPOSED BY: Dave Miller and Salcha River Property Owners Association (I-06S-G-022)

PROPOSAL 72 - 5 AAC 92.XXX. Units 12, 13C and 20D moose drawing permits for nonresidents. Create a new regulation as follows:

Resume the nonresident allocation of 10 percent that was originally intended but inadvertently dropped. Ten percent was agreed upon during its inception in 1974. Add the following language to the hunt supplement paper under sheep drawing permit which is done for Kodiak and Koyukuk:

All nonresidents applying for a Tok Management Area Sheep draw DS102 must provide the department in Tok with a guide-client agreement that is completed and signed by the applicant and a guide who is legally registered to hunt within the hunt area for the year the applicant is applying. The deadline to provide the guide-client agreement is the same as the drawing hunt application deadline. Guide-client agreements must be brought to the Tok department staff in person by the client or the guide.

Guide must be registered for the year applying any applicant.

A guide may only sign as many guide-client agreements as there are permits available for that particular draw but may apply that same number for each of the three guide use areas in the Tok management area that the guide is registered. For instance the Tok Management Area has three guide use areas, therefore if ten nonresident permits are available and the guide is registered in all three guide use areas, that guide can apply ten agreements per guide use area.

ISSUE: Special provisions for nonresidents hunting with a registered guide for the Tok Management Area Dall sheep drawing permit hunts.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The flooding of the permit system will continue. Any guide who has a sheep hunter booked in a particular year will continue to apply their hunters for the sheep drawings without being registered for the guide use area. These guides are not committed to the area. They have no connection to the area working within the department advisory committee process, involved in any predator control throughout the winter either trapping or involved in a department program, or build respect with the local native villages.

Operators with a long history of living and operating in the area will rarely have a chance of ever booking a successful sheep applicant.

Future drawing without an allocation for nonresidents would reduce the number of permits available.

Residents could lose opportunity to nonresidents.

Interest from nonresident hunters in the Tok Management Area (TMA) Dall sheep drawing permit and all sheep drawing has significantly increased in recent years. Large companies and new guides

(mostly nonresidents) have taken an interest in promoting the TMA causing a significant spike in the number of nonresident applicants for the TMA permits. In regulatory year 2005, department records given to us show (reported harvest reports) 16 percent of the TMA permits were issued to nonresidents which far exceeds the 10 percent nonresident allocation that was originally intended for the TMA. In addition, of the nonresidents who participated in the 2005 TMA hunt, 100 percent killed a sheep. This far exceeds the normal TMA success rate of 35 to 40 percent observed in previous years. This extremely high success rate far exceeds the intended department harvest success objectives for the TMA of 5 to 40 percent and poses a significant threat to the primary goal for the TMA of managing for a trophy Dall sheep population.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, sheep hunters will witness less conflicts with each other. If the increase in new guides applying sheep hunters continues to increase, the traditional operators local to the area will lose any opportunity to provide services for an area they know well due to the years of experience.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The nonresident successful applicant will have an opportunity to have their guide already booked for the hunt and not deal with endless solicitations from other guides that have not even registered for the area. Guides with a long history of the area will be able to provide a quality hunt and work with local transporters who know and respect each other. Residents of Alaska will have less unethical aggressive guides competing with the residents opportunity for a quality hunt. Local transporters who know the current long-time local guides who respect each other and communicate with each other.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Big companies that solicit hunters to apply applicants who are paid to apply hunters for all the drawing permit hunts. Guides who speculate for clients who may draw but have no commitment to the guide use area.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Allowing applicants to send applications via fax or mail, rejected to help historic local guides living in Alaska. Considered only one year to be registered in the guide use area but rejected due to the trying to restore historic use. Consider the alternate list for nonresidents but rejected due to residents do not have the same opportunity.

PROPOSED BY: Matt Snyder and Sue Entsminger (SC-06S-G-005)

PROPOSAL 73 - 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Amend the regulation as follows:

Expand the archery season for moose to September 30 in all of Unit 20B. Firearm regulations, seasons and bag limits should remain the same. IBEP or equivalent certification is required for bow hunters in Unit 20B.

ISSUE: Fairbanks Management Area is becoming overcrowded due to an increasing number of bow hunters in Alaska and the Fairbanks area.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The bow hunters quality hunting experience will continue to decrease due to more and more hunting pressure in a limited area.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Anyone who wishes to hunt by bow and arrow.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? No other solutions are available.

PROPOSED BY: Lee Masters (I-06S-G-024)

PROPOSAL 74 - 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Amend this regulation as follows:

Open Unit 20B to bow hunting for moose from September 1 through September 30 and leave existing firearms regulations for the area as is. All bow hunters must be IBEP certified or equivalent.

ISSUE: Fairbanks Management Area is getting overcrowded with bow hunters.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The quality of hunting will decrease as there is limited area in the Fairbanks Management Area for bow hunters.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All bow hunters will benefit if the solution is adopted.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one will suffer.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? No other solutions.

PROPOSED BY: George W. Pearson (I-06S-G-028)

PROPOSAL 75 – 5 AAC 85.045(18). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Reauthorize and modify the antlerless moose hunting seasons in Unit 20B within the Fairbanks Management Area, Minto Flats Management Area and remainder of Unit 20B as follows:

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

(18)

...

Unit 20(B), that portion within
Creamer's Refuge

1 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 antlerless moose by bow and arrow only, by drawing permit only; up to 150 permits may be issued in the Fairbanks Management Area; a recipient of a drawing permit is prohibited from taking an antlered bull moose in the Fairbanks Management Area	<u>Sept. 1 – Nov. 27</u> [SEPT. 1 - SEPT. 30] (General hunt only) [NOV. 21 - NOV. 27] [(GENERAL HUNT ONLY)]	<u>Sept. 1 – Nov. 27</u> [SEPT. 1 - SEPT. 30] [NOV. 21 - NOV. 27]
1 antlerless moose by muzzle-loader by drawing permit only; up to 10 permits may be issued; a recipient of a drawing permit is prohibited from taking an antlered bull moose in the Fairbanks Management Area	Nov. 21 - Nov. 27	Nov. 21 - Nov. 27
Unit 20(B), remainder of the Fairbanks Management Area		
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 antlerless moose by bow and arrow only, by drawing permit only; up to 150 permits may be issued a recipient of a drawing permit is prohibited from taking an antlered bull moose in the Fairbanks Management Area	<u>Sept. 1 – Nov. 27</u> [SEPT. 1 - SEPT. 30] (General hunt only) [NOV. 21 - NOV. 27] [(GENERAL HUNT ONLY)]	<u>Sept. 1 – Nov. 27</u> [SEPT. 1 - SEPT. 30] [NOV. 21 - NOV. 27]
Unit 20(B), that portion within the Minto Flats Management Area		
1 moose by registration permit only; or	Sept. 1 - Sept. 25 (Subsistence hunt)	No open season.

only)

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. 25

No open season.

Unit 20(B), the drainage of the
Middle Fork of the Chena River
and that portion of the Salcha
River drainage upstream from
and including Goose Creek

1 bull; or

Sept. 1 - Sept. 20

Sept. 1 - Sept. 20

1 bull, by bow and arrow only

Sept. 21 - Sept. 30

Sept. 21 - Sept. 30

Remainder of Unit 20(B)

1 bull

Sept. 1 - Sept. 15

Sept. 5 - Sept. 15

1 antlerless moose
by drawing
permit only; up to 300
permits may be issued

Sept. 1 - Sept. 30
(General hunt only)

No open season.

...

ISSUE: Antlerless moose hunting seasons must be re-authorized annually.

Fairbanks Management Area (FMA):

The purpose of this antlerless hunt is to provide opportunity to harvest a surplus of cow moose in the FMA and potentially reduce moose-vehicle collisions and nuisance moose problems.

Population estimates in the FMA and adjacent areas, as well as anecdotal information, indicate high but stable moose numbers in the FMA. The number of moose/vehicle collisions in the FMA is also high and continues to be a chronic problem that poses significant safety concerns to motorists. Between 1997 and 2002 more moose were reported killed in moose/vehicle collisions than were reported taken by hunters. In addition, moose nuisance complaints continue to place significant demands on department staff. To increase hunting opportunity and harvest and reduce moose/vehicle collisions, the department increased the number of drawing permits for antlerless moose by archery hunting only (DM788) from 25 in 1999 to 150 in 2004. Correspondingly, antlerless harvest increased from 11 to 38 (does not include November 21-27 harvest). However, antlerless harvest has not increased commensurate with increases in the number of permits issued. Therefore to further increase harvest to meet management goals the department is recommending the season run continuously from September 1 through November 27. Harvest will be regulated by

the number of permits issued rather than season length. At this juncture, we do not have sufficient data to evaluate the effect of higher antlerless moose harvests on moose/vehicle collisions or moose nuisance problems. Population estimates, trend surveys, harvest data and anecdotal observations indicate that the current harvests are sustainable.

Minto Flats Management Area (MFMA):

The primary purpose of this antlerless hunt is to provide for subsistence needs. In 2004, the board replaced the Tier II subsistence hunt TM785 (100 permits with a bag limit of “one moose” running September 1–20 and January 10–February 28) with a registration hunt (bag limit of “one moose” running September 1–25 and January 10–February 28). In addition, there is a 15-day general hunt (September 11–25) for bulls only with antler restrictions (spike-fork or 50” or 4 or more brow tines) to provide for additional hunting opportunity and to help meet intensive management harvest objectives for Unit 20B.

Population estimation surveys indicate that the moose density within the MFMA is high but stable. The reported harvest of cow moose taken during the subsistence hunt (TM785) had averaged 24 (1996–2003) and the reported harvest during the fall portion of the 2004 registration hunt was 12 females. This harvest of approximately one to two percent of the MFMA moose population has been demonstrated to be sustainable. We are currently meeting both the subsistence needs and the management objective of 30 bulls:100 cows for this area.

Remainder of Unit 20B:

A drawing permit hunt for antlerless moose would take advantage of relatively high and increasing moose numbers in the central portion of Unit 20B. Population estimates (12,313 in 2001; 15,485 in 2003; 16,572 in 2004) and calf:cow surveys (37–42:100 in 2003–2004) suggest the population is increasing. Surveys indicate moose densities are relatively high (1.0–1.5 moose/mi²) in the central portions of Unit 20B surrounding the Fairbanks area. Additional harvests of antlerless moose will curb growth of this population that is at the upper limit of the intensive management population objective of 12,000–15,000 moose. Opportunity is being lost by not harvesting antlerless moose at a time of population growth.

In addition, mortality from vehicle and train collisions has been high. An average of about 100 moose are killed annually by motor vehicles in the FMA alone, an area of just over 300 mi² with an estimated 400–500 moose. By focusing harvest in the more heavily roaded central portion of Unit 20B, road kill may be minimized.

Finally, extensive burns in northcentral Unit 20B will provide excellent habitat in the near future. Limiting moose densities until shrubs have regenerated would benefit the moose population in the long term.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The opportunity to hunt a surplus of cow moose will be lost. In the central portion of Unit 20B and the FMA in particular, moose/vehicle collisions and nuisance moose problems will likely remain high or increase. In the MFMA, if the subsistence harvest is restricted to bulls only, the general season may have to be further restricted or eliminated to maintain the desired bull:cow ratio.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, hunting opportunity and harvest will increase.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Subsistence hunters benefit from the opportunity to harvest cow moose in the MFMA hunt. In the central portion of Unit 20B including the FMA, hunters benefit by having the opportunity to harvest cow moose, and urban residents may benefit from reduced moose/vehicle collisions and moose/human conflicts.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-06S-G-058)

PROPOSAL 76 - 5 AAC 85.045(a)(18). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Amend this regulation as follows:

All of Unit 20A east of the west bank of the east fork of the Little Delta River:

Residents: one bull with spike-fork or 50-inch antlers or antlers with three or more brow tines on at least one side. Season September 1 through September 20.

Nonresidents: one bull with 50-inch antlers with four or more brow tines on at least one side. Season September 1 through September 20.

ISSUE: The excessive use of extremely large off-road vehicles accessing large dominant bulls in Unit 20E by crossing low water tributaries late in September.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Large bulls will continue to be slaughtered late in the season when they are totally preoccupied with the rut. Large numbers of hunters descend upon eastern Unit 20A late in the season after moose hunting has closed in other areas. Many utilize large off-road vehicles which destroy tundra and habitat. They use these vehicles for hunting and shooting from and to pursue their quarry into what has historically been considered moose sanctuaries where foot or aircraft hunters are unable or unwilling to go.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, it would reduce the number of late season hunters descending upon Unit 20A east, especially those with off-road vehicles that are destroying the terrain by pursuing the bulls over large areas of habitat that were previously unhuntable. The large dominant bulls that are herding up cows in their pre-rut ritual are almost stationary and are very vulnerable to overharvesting at this time of the year.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The large bull moose population, the environmental quality of the terrain and the habitat, and the hunters hoping for a quality hunt.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those late season hunters who use the changing environment to allow them to access these large bulls.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None considered.

PROPOSED BY: Delta Junction Advisory Committee (I-06S-G-002)

PROPOSAL 77 - 5 AAC 92.530(10)(B). Management areas and

5 AAC 85.045(a)(18). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Amend these regulations as follows:

Moose season is open from September 1 to November 30 in the Fairbanks Management Area. Any moose may be taken; only bow and arrow or shotgun with slugs may be used.

ISSUE: Too many moose/car collisions in the Fairbanks Management Area.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Too many people will be killed or injured. Too much auto property damage will occur.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No, but it allows more use of available renewable resources.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All drivers and hunters in Unit 20.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Use rifles—no—the bullet goes too far.

PROPOSED BY: Joe Nava (HQ-06S-G-002)

PROPOSAL 78 - 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Amend this regulation as follows:

Unit 20B

Moose may be harvested with the use of muzzle loading rifles, and/or shotguns with slugs. No shots will be made within one fourth mile of park, home or inhabited building.

ISSUE: Too many car versus moose conflicts in the populated areas of Unit 20B. Archers alone are not able to sufficiently lower numbers in critical areas.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Accidents involving moose and cars will continue to occur. These accidents endanger the lives and health of a growing population of residents in the area.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All people that drive in the Fairbanks area.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? As with any other activity in a populated area, there will be access problems.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Leaving the situation as is. The risk of accidents and severe injuries, even death of some people.

PROPOSED BY: Roggie L. Hunter (I-06S-G-064)

PROPOSAL 79 - 5 AAC 85.045(a)(18). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Amend this regulation as follows:

Unit 20B

Expand the Creamer's Refuge muzzloading antlerless moose drawing permit resident hunt to include all public lands within the Fairbanks Management Area.

Expand the season to October 1 through November 30.

Increase the number of permits.

ISSUE: Address moose/vehicle collisions in road accessible areas surrounding Fairbanks and expand hunting opportunities.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Loss of potential hunting opportunities; continued high levels of road killed moose, nuisance moose problems and damage to public and private property.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes it will improve the harvest by dispersing hunting pressure and competition over a wider area. Borough maps clearly delineate public lands with the Fairbanks Management Area.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? If adopted, people who would benefit would include hunters, dog mushers, home owners, vehicle operators and travelers. Reduction in necessity for law enforcement or department staff to respond to vehicle collisions or nuisance moose reports.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Tourists/viewers expecting to see higher densities of moose within the Fairbanks Management Area and hunters who are opposed to special weapons hunts.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Allow any primitive weapon hunt for this proposed opportunity (archery already allowed).

PROPOSED BY: Coalition of Historical Trekkers and Midnight Sun Muzzleloaders
(I-06S-G-069)

PROPOSAL 80 - 5 AAC 85.045(a)(18). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Amend this regulation as follows:

Additional option for Unit 20A:

Resident Hunters: Any bull, by primitive weapon, by drawing permit only. Antler measurements and lower jaw samples required.

ISSUE: Increase biological data to further management concerns in this area and to expand hunting opportunities.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The department will continue to promote regulation of harvest based on antler size without complete supporting data on antler growth rates versus age for this area. Controlled harvest of a wide age spectrum of bulls will allow the department to collect antler growth data in support of current spike-fork 50-inch regulations (i.e. do

mature bulls in Unit 20A regularly attain a 50-inch antler minimum?) while expanding hunting opportunities.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. It will increase hunting opportunity for hunters utilizing primitive weapons which have inherent lower success rate than centerfire rifles, thereby allowing longer seasons without substantial increase in harvest. Samples may help biologists determine practicality of 50-inch limit in Unit 20A. It will increase bull harvest to meet harvest goals.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? If adopted, people who would benefit would include hunters, management staff, and all others concerned about the health of the moose population in Unit 20A.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Potentially centerfire rifle hunters interested in harvesting any bull in Unit 20A.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Muzzleloader hunt for this proposed opportunity. Primitive weapons may allow for both muzzleloader and archery.

PROPOSED BY: Coalition of Historical Trekkers and Midnight Sun Muzzleloaders
(I-06S-G-067)

PROPOSAL 81 - 5 AAC 85.045(a)(18). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Amend this regulation for Unit 20B as follows:

Establish a resident drawing permit for antlerless moose in the Chena River drainages east of the Fairbanks Management Area by muzzleloading firearm only. Season: October 1 to November 30.

ISSUE: Address moose/vehicle collisions in road accessible areas surrounding Fairbanks and expand hunting opportunities.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Loss of potential hunting opportunities and continued high levels of road killed moose, nuisance moose problems, and damage to public and private property.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, by limiting hunt to October and November potential for meat loss is reduced.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? If adopted, people who would benefit would include hunters, wildlife management staff, dog mushers, home owners, and vehicle operators/travelers. Reduction in necessity for law enforcement or department staff to respond to vehicle collisions or nuisance moose reports. This definable area within Unit 20B was selected as the most likely to benefit from increased harvest of moose based on considerations of short range weapons hunts balanced against proximity to developed areas, competing recreational pursuits, and access.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Tourists expecting to see moose along the roadways (minimized because of timing of proposed hunting season) and hunters who are opposed to special weapons hunts.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Allow any primitive weapon hunt for this proposed opportunity (considered secondary because of complications of regulation).

PROPOSED BY: Coalition of Historical Trekkers and Midnight Sun Muzzleloaders
(I-06S-G-068)

PROPOSAL 82 - 5 AAC 85.045(a)(18). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Amend this regulation for Unit 20B as follows:

Drainage of middle fork of the Chena River and that portion of the Salcha River drainage upstream from and including Goose Creek: One bull by primitive weapon [BOW AND ARROW] only. Residents, September 21 to September 30.

ISSUE: Expand hunting opportunities.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Continued loss of potential hunting opportunities in relatively remote areas that can sustain additional harvest.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, it will increase hunting opportunity for hunters utilizing primitive weapons which have inherent lower success rate than centerfire rifles, thereby allowing longer seasons without substantial increase in harvest.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? If adopted, people who would benefit would include hunters and potentially big game transporters.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Potentially archers who do not wish to have competition from other hunters.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Muzzleloader hunt for this proposed opportunity (archery already allowed). Primitive weapons may allow for both muzzleloader and archery.

PROPOSED BY: Coalition of Historical Trekkers and Midnight Sun Muzzleloaders
(I-06S-G-066)

PROPOSAL 83 - 5 AAC 85.045(a)(18). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Amend this regulation as follows:

Unit 20A in the Healy-Lignite Management Area

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

Nonresidents: one bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with four or more brow tines on at least one side.

ISSUE: In the Healy-Lignite Management Area, we would like the board to change the regulation from spike-fork or 50-inch antlers or antlers with four or more brow tines on at least one side. We would like to see the new regulation spike-fork or 50-inch antlers or three or more brow tines on at least one side. As you know this is open to hunting with bow and arrow only. Two years ago we

tried to get the regulation changed back to any bull. In hindsight we are actually glad the board did not change it because in the past two years hunting pressure has increased slightly and we think it would have increased much more with an any bull regulation. Hunting with a bow is more challenging and has a lower success rate than with firearms. We have talked with the area biologist and he says that if we went back to three brow tines it would have no biological impact, as the average number of moose taken out of the area is about six moose. A couple years back the regulations were streamlined, so to speak, so all the regulations were the same in this area of Unit 20A. We cannot see it being a problem changing back to three brow tines because there is a different regulation in the Healy-Lignite Management Area anyway, because it is a bow area only. You have to know the boundaries and it would be fairly obvious to an enforcement officer if a moose has been shot with a bow or a gun. The biologist also said that with the number of moose in Unit 20A we could be harvesting about 100 to 150 more bulls. We think this is a way we can provide more opportunity to harvest a few more moose. Also, because there is a three brow tine regulation to the north and to the south in several other units, we do not think this will be a big draw on hunters to where things will be too congested.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Nothing bad will happen, just some lost opportunity.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? It does not improve the quality as much as it improves a hunters chance to harvest a moose. To some the quality of the hunt is improved by success.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Bow hunters who hunt in the Healy-Lignite Management Area.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Not sure if anyone will suffer.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Going back to any bull, but we figured that would increase pressure too much, you would not see as many bulls and the quality of the hunt would decline.

PROPOSED BY: Middle Nenana River Advisory Committee (I-06S-G-009)

PROPOSAL 84 - 5 AAC 85.045(a)(18). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Amend this regulation as follows:

Return the Bison Range Youth Hunt in Unit 20D to an “any bull” hunt.

ISSUE: During the past two years in which antler restrictions have been imposed in this hunt, harvest has dropped from 20 bull moose under “any bull” regulations to two bulls under the spike-fork, 50-inch, or 4 brow tines regulation. The department is wasting its time to run the hunt for a harvest of two bulls. Also because of antler restrictions and motorized vehicle restrictions, a significant percentage of permit holders are not showing up to hunt. There is no biological reason for antler restrictions in this limited hunt.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Hunter success will continue to be poor. A young person will inevitably shoot an illegal bull and be punished. If nothing is done, this

opportunity will probably go away, and if this hunt is taken away, the next scenario is no moose hunting at all on the Gerstle and Panoramic fields.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Moose meat will still be moose meat, but dropping the antler restrictions should enhance the quality and enjoyment of the hunt.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Young people may have a better chance to harvest their first big game animal.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one will suffer.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? One solution is closing the area to moose hunting entirely. While this would make some people happy, we feel that it is important to keep areas open to hunting whenever possible.

PROPOSED BY: Tom Geyer (HQ-06S-G-024)

PROPOSAL 85 - 5AAC 85.045(18). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Modify general seasons and reauthorize and modify antlerless moose seasons in Unit 20A as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
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(18)

Unit 20(A), the Ferry Trail Management Area, Wood River Controlled Use Area, Healy-Lignite Management Area, and the Yanert Controlled Use Area

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull with spike-fork antlers or 50- inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side; or

Sept. 1 - Sept. 25
(General hunt only)

1 antlerless moose by registration permit only; or

Aug. 25 - Feb. 28
[SEPT. 1 - DEC. 10]

1 bull by drawing permit only; up to 500 permits

Sept. 1 - Sept. 25

may be issued; or

1 bull [WITH SPIKE-FORK
ANTLERS OR 50-INCH
ANTLERS OR ANTLERS
WITH 4 OR MORE BROW
TINES ON ONE SIDE]

Nov. 1 - Nov. 30

by drawing
permit only; by
muzzle-loading
firearms only; up
to 75 permits may
be issued

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull with 50-inch antlers or
antlers with 4 or more brow
tines on one side; or

Sept. 1 - Sept. 25

1 bull with 50-inch
antlers or antlers
with 4 or more brow
tines on one side

Nov. 1 - Nov. 30

by drawing permit
only; by muzzle-loading
firearms only; up
to 75 permits may
be issued

Remainder of Unit 20(A)

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull with spike-fork antlers
or 50-inch antlers or antlers
with 3 or more brow
tines on one side; or

Sept. 1 - Sept. 25
(General hunt only)

1 antlerless moose by
registration permit only;

Aug. 25 - Feb. 28
[SEPT. 1 - DEC. 10]
(General hunt only)

**1 bull by
drawing permit
only; up to 500 permits
may be issued; or**

Sept. 1 - Sept. 25

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull with 50-inch
antlers or antlers
with 4 or more brow

Sept. 1 - Sept. 25

tines on one side

...

ISSUE: Antlerless moose hunting seasons must be reauthorized annually. The primary justification for the Unit 20A antlerless hunts is to limit growth of the moose population while providing the opportunity to harvest a surplus of antlerless moose in an effort to meet subsistence and intensive management harvest objectives. Recent surveys estimate the number of cow moose (excluding calves) in Unit 20A at 9000–10,000. Research indicates this moose population is experiencing density-dependent effects, including low productivity, relatively light calf weights, and heavy browsing of winter forage. As a result, the board adopted a unit-wide registration hunt from September 1 – December 10 (closed by Emergency Order when the desired number of antlerless moose were taken) to limit population growth and increase yield. In regulatory year 2004 reported harvest of antlerless moose was 602. By December 1 of regulatory year 2005, more than 550 antlerless moose were harvested. Based on a high level of participation and increased harvest, this hunt is a huge success.

Extending the antlerless hunt from September 1 – December 10 to August 25 – February 28 will provide additional hunting opportunity and reduce hunter densities and crowding. Opening the antlerless season one week earlier will allow antlerless hunters to hunt under less crowded and more aesthetically pleasing conditions. It may also help reduce conflicts with bull hunters in September. Extending the season through February will also increase hunting opportunity, but likely only in a limited area. The main biological issue with antlerless seasons extending beyond early December is the potential take of bulls that have dropped their antlers. However, during the 2004 and 2005 seasons, quotas were met and antlerless hunts closed by December 10 in all hunt zones except zone five. Therefore, extending the antlerless hunt through February is likely only in the eastcentral Tanana Flats and mountains (zone five) where it would have little impact on bull:cow ratios (36:100 in 2004), but would allow for additional antlerless harvest needed to meet harvest and population goals.

In addition to the longer antlerless season listed in this proposal, the department will be investigating other options for meeting the antlerless harvest quota in all Unit 20A zones. Specifically, we will explore liberalization of methods and means restrictions in 5 AAC 92.085. Ideas for liberalization will include same-day-airborne hunting in specific hunt areas at certain times. We will bring information to the March board meeting regarding advisory committee and public input on this issue.

The regulatory year 2004 harvest of approximately 485 bulls (including unreported and wounding loss) is below the estimated harvestable surplus of 570–760 bulls. A drawing permit hunt would provide additional harvest to optimize bull harvests, yet allow for the additional harvest that can be closely controlled but allow for flexibility in management (i.e., the number of permits issued and subsequent harvest) depending on changes in annual recruitment, bull:cow ratios and population size. In addition, as part of a research project to determine how long it takes bulls to reach 50-inch antler spread in Unit 20A, where nutritional stress has been documented, we would require antler and tooth specimens to correlate moose age with antler spread.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The Unit 20A moose population may increase, which may result in further deterioration of the habitat and exacerbate a population decline in years with severe winter conditions. The opportunity to hunt a harvestable surplus of bull, cow and calf moose will be lost and subsistence needs in the western Tanana Flats and intensive management harvest objectives for Unit 20A may not be met.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, hunting opportunity and harvest will increase.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Subsistence hunters will benefit from the opportunity to harvest cow and calf moose in the western Tanana Flats. In the remaining antlerless hunt areas, hunters will benefit by having the opportunity to harvest cow moose for meat.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-06S-G-057)

PROPOSAL 86 - 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Amend this regulation as follows:

Moose bag limits, seasons and antler restrictions in Unit 20A.

This proposal is a “place holder” since the harvest and present population data will not be available until after the proposal deadline. The population is expected to be considerably above the intensive management population objective after the 2005 hunting seasons. The Fairbanks Advisory Committee has, and will propose changes to the season, bag limit, approval of antlerless hunts by zone rather than by subunit. Some of these changes are subject to the results of population estimates and discussions with the other advisory committees around Unit 20A.

ISSUE: The complex moose hunt on the books in Unit 20A will need to be changed to alleviate some social and land use conflicts caused by the present regulations. The need to continue harvesting antlerless moose is expected to be greater than ever. Even after the 2004 and 2005 hunts, the population may be still increasing or, hopefully have leveled out. It is expected to be considerably above the intensive management population objective. If this population can be reduced by hunting, the hunters, their advisory committees, the department and the board will have to be both caring and creative in the regulation process. We will need the time between the proposal deadline and the spring meeting to work on this issue.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The department has done a credible job of trying to work around citizen concerns. Many of the concerned Alaskans are not hunters. The concept of harvesting “extra” moose with high target number antlerless goals is a new concept for many Alaska hunters. We want Alaskans to put these moose in their freezers rather than have them starve or die off in a bad winter. More action is needed by the advisory committees, the department and the board to craft solutions to the problems that have surfaced with moose hunting in this unit. For example, we need the ability for hunters to access areas with high moose density even if it means seasonal changes to the controlled use areas.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? In Unit 20A there is not a bull to cow ratio problem. There are signs of nutritional problems if the density of moose is not reduced. Reducing the moose population to the population objective will provide high levels of harvest indefinitely for future hunters of healthy moose.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Alaskans who utilize moose for food for their families and everyone who would enjoy the moose population at sustainable density.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Fairbanks Advisory Committee (I-06S-G-021)

PROPOSAL 87 - 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Amend this regulation as follows:

Reinstate the Unit 20B, TM785 permit hunt in the Minto Flats Management Area.

ISSUE: It is anticipated that with a positive outcome during the January board meeting and the point system changes, permits issued under a reinstated TM785 hunt will be more equitably distributed.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Continued conflict and difficulty will persist in the distribution of registration permits.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? N/A.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Local hunters and the department.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one as the same hunters will and have applied under TM785.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Registration hunt promotes conflict and difficulty in the distribution of permits—process will only worsen as more and more people camp out for their permits.

PROPOSED BY: Minto/Nenana Advisory Committee (I-06S-G-070)

PROPOSAL 88 - 5 AAC 85.045(a)(18). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Amend this regulation as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
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Unit 20D, that portion lying west of the west bank of the Johnson River and south of the north bank of the Tanana

River, except the Delta Junction Management Area and the Bison Range Youth Hunt Management Area

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull with spike-fork or 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side, **or**

Sept. 1 – Sept. 15

1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only; up to 20 permits may be issued in combination with that portion in the Delta Junction Management Area; A person may not take a cow accompanied by a calf

Sept. 1 – Sept. 15

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side

[SEPT. 1 – SEPT. 30]

Unit 20D that portion within The Bison Range Youth Hunt Management Area

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull, per lifetime of a hunter, with spike-fork or 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side, by drawing permit only; up to **10** [75] permits may be issued; **or**

Sept. 1 – Sept. 30

[SEPT. 1 – SEPT. 30]

1 antlerless moose per lifetime of a hunter, by drawing permit only; up to 10 permits may be issued; a person may not take a cow accompanied by a calf

Sept. 1 – Sept. 30

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull, per lifetime of a hunter, with spike-fork or 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side, by drawing permit only; up to 10 permits may be issued

Sept. 1 – Sept. 30

Unit 20D, that portion within the Delta Junction Management Area

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull, with spike-fork or 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side by drawing permit only; up to 30 permits may be issued, **or**

Sept. 1 – Sept. 15

1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only; up to 20 permits may be issued in combination with that portion lying west of the west bank of the Johnson River and south of the north bank of the Tanana River; a person may not take a cow accompanied by a calf

Sept. 1 – Sept. 15

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS :

1 bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side

Sept. 5 – Sept. 15

ISSUE: The density of moose in that portion of Unit 20D south of the Tanana River and west of the Johnson River is very high, estimated to be 3.5 moose per square mile in 2003. The unit 20D moose population is nearing its intensive management population objective of 8,000 to 10,000, with most population growth occurring in this portion of Unit 20D. As a result, moose twinning rates are at moderately low levels and browse surveys indicate that moose are consuming moderately high quantities of browse over the winter. A limited drawing permit for cow moose without calves is proposed in order to stabilize population growth in this area, and increase harvest toward the intensive management harvest objective.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The moose population in southwest Unit 20D will continue to increase in size and may overbrowse its habitat, and the unit 20D intensive management harvest objective will not be met.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? This proposal will improve the ability of moose habitat in southwest Unit 20D to support the current moose population and will also allow hunters to increase moose harvest toward meeting the Unit 20D intensive management harvest objective without further reducing the bull-to-cow ratio.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The moose population will benefit by having a moose density compatible with their habitat. Moose hunters will benefit by increasing harvest of moose from this area to meet the harvest objective.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those people that are opposed to intensive management harvest strategies.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? The Delta Advisory Committee considered issuing no cow permits and higher numbers of cow permits. After receiving public input on this issue, the committee felt that 20 permits were adequate to initiate cow hunting in Unit 20D.

PROPOSED BY: Delta Advisory Committee (I-06S-G-008)

PROPOSAL 89 - 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Create drawing permit hunts for moose in Units 21B, 21C, 21D, and 24 as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
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(19)

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Unit 21(B)[, THAT PORTION WITHIN THE NOWITNA RIVER DRAINAGE]

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull, by registration permit only; or Sept. 5-Sept. 25

1 bull, by drawing permit only, up to XX permits may be issued Sept. 5-Sept. 25

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side, by drawing permit, up to XX permits may be issued Sept. 5-Sept. 20

[Remainder of Unit 21(B)]

[RESIDENT HUNTERS:]

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
[1 BULL]	[SEPT. 5-SEPT. 25]	
[NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:] <u>[1 bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side]</u>		[SEPT. 5-SEPT. 25]
Unit 21(C)		
<u>RESIDENT HUNTERS:</u> 1 bull, <u>by registration permit only; or</u>	Sept. 5-Sept. 25	[SEPT. 5-SEPT. 25]
<u>1 bull, by drawing permit only, up to XX permits may be issued</u>	<u>Sept. 5-Sept. 25</u>	
<u>NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:</u>		
<u>1 bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side, by drawing permit, up to XX permits may be issued</u>		<u>Sept. 5-Sept. 25</u>
Unit 21(D), that portion within the Koyukuk Controlled Use Area		
<u>RESIDENT HUNTERS:</u> <u>1 moose per regulatory year, only as follows:</u>		
<u>1 moose by registration permit only; a person may not take a cow accompanied by a calf; or</u>	Aug. 27-Aug. 31 (Subsistence hunt only)	
<u>1 bull by registration permit only; or</u>	Sept. 1-Sept. 20 (Subsistence hunt only)	
1 bull by drawing permit only; up to 320 permits may be issued in combination with Unit 24, that portion within the Koyukuk Controlled Use Area; or	Sept. 5-Sept. 25 (General hunt only)	

Units and Bag Limits

1 moose during a 5-day season to be announced by emergency order during the period Feb. 1-Feb. 28; a person may not take a cow accompanied by a calf

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side by drawing permit; up to 80 permits may be issued in combination with Unit 24, that portion within the Koyukuk Controlled Use Area;

Remainder of Unit 21(D)

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 moose per regulatory year **by registration permit only**; however, antlerless moose may be taken only from Sept. 21-Sept. 25 and during a 5-day season during the period Feb. 1-Feb. 28; to be announced by emergency order; a person may not take a cow accompanied by a calf; **or**

1 bull by drawing permit only, up to XX permits may be issued

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side **by drawing permit, up to XX permits may be issued**

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(22)

Unit 24, that portion within the Koyukuk Controlled Use Area

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

(To be announced)
(Subsistence hunt only)

**Nonresident
Open Season**

Sept. 5-Sept. 25

Sept. 5-Sept. 25
(To be announced)

Sept. 5-Sept. 25

Sept. 5-Sept. 25

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
<p>RESIDENT HUNTERS:</p> <p>1 moose per regulatory year, only as follows:</p>		
<p>1 moose by registration permit only; or</p>	<p>Aug. 27-Aug. 31 (Subsistence hunt only)</p>	
<p><u>1 bull by registration permit only; or</u></p>	<p>Sept. 1-Sept. 20 (Subsistence hunt only)</p>	
<p>1 bull by drawing permit only; up to 320 permits may be issued in combination with Unit 21(D), that portion within the Koyukuk Controlled Use Area; or</p>	<p>Sept. 5-Sept. 25 (General hunt only)</p>	
<p>1 moose <u>by registration permit only</u></p>	<p>Dec. 1-Dec. 10 Mar. 1-Mar. 10 (Subsistence hunt only)</p>	
<p>NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:</p> <p>1 bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side by drawing permit; up to 80 permits may be issued in combination with Unit 21(D), that portion within the Koyukuk Controlled Use Area</p>		<p>Sept. 5-Sept. 25</p>
<p>Unit 24, that portion of the John and Alatna River drainages within the Gates of the Arctic National Park</p>	<p>Aug. 1-Dec. 31</p>	<p>No open season.</p>
<p><u>1 moose</u></p>		
<p><u>Unit 24, that portion of the North Fork of the Koyukuk River drainage within the Gates of the Arctic National Park</u></p>		
<p><u>1 moose</u></p>	<p>Sept. 1-Sept. 25 Mar. 1-Mar. 10</p>	<p>No open season.</p>
<p>...</p>		

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
<p>Unit 24, all drainages to the north of the Koyukuk River upstream from the Henshaw Creek drainage, to and including the North Fork of the Koyukuk River, except that portion of the John River and North Fork of the Koyukuk River drainages within Gates of the Arctic National Park</p>	Sept. 1-Sept. 25	Sept. 5-Sept. 25
<p>RESIDENT HUNTERS: <u>1 moose by registration permit only; however, antlerless moose may be taken only from Sept. 21-Sept. 25, or</u></p>	<u>Sept. 5-Sept. 25</u>	
<p><u>1 bull by drawing permit only, up to XX permits may be issued</u></p>		
<p>NONRESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side, <u>by drawing permit, up to XX permits may be issued</u></p>		
<p>Unit 24, all drainages to the north of the Koyukuk River between and including the Alatna River and Henshaw Creek drainages, except that portion of the Alatna River drainage within Gates of the Arctic National Park</p>		
<p>RESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 moose <u>by registration permit only;</u> however, antlerless moose may be taken only from Sept. 21-Sept. 25 and Mar. 1-Mar. 10, <u>or</u></p>	Sept. 1-Sept. 25 <u>Mar. 1-Mar. 10</u>	
<p><u>1 bull by drawing permit only, up to XX permits may be issued</u></p>	<u>Sept. 5-Sept. 25</u>	
<p>NONRESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side, <u>by drawing permit, up to XX permits may be issued</u></p>		Sept. 5-Sept. 25

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
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Unit 24, that portion in the Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull by drawing permit; up to 70 permits may be issued in combination with Unit 25(A), that portion within the Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area	Sept. 1-Sept. 25
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NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side by drawing permit only; up to 70 permits may be issued in combination with Unit 25(A), that portion within the Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area	Sept. 5-Sept. 25
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Remainder of Unit 24

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull <u>by registration permit only; or</u>	Sept. 1-Sept. 25
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<u>1 bull by drawing permit only, up to XX permits may be issued</u>	<u>Sept. 5-Sept. 25</u>
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NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side, <u>by drawing permit, up to XX permits may be issued</u>	Sept. 5-Sept. 25
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ISSUE: Increased hunting restrictions in the well known hunting area of the Lower Koyukuk River has displaced hunters into much of the surrounding areas of the Middle Yukon, Koyukuk, and Nowitna Rivers. Increased competition among users for the limited moose resource is occurring at the same time that the moose population throughout the area is decreasing. Many local subsistence users that are unsuccessful during the fall hunting season are forced to try and harvest a moose during the winter seasons. A majority of the moose harvested during that time are cow moose, which probably accelerates the decline of the moose population. Some areas like the Kateel River, Gisasa River, Nowitna River, or Hogatza River are under general hunt regulations and have seen large increases in the number of hunters. Harvest in those areas has exceeded sustainable levels. Harvest in the much lower density areas surrounding the Koyukuk Controlled Use Area (KCUA) has definitely increased, but some hunters are “bootlegging”

moose harvested in the KCUA to avoid the increased regulations there (i.e. destroying the trophy value of bulls), which nullifies the effectiveness of those regulations. Because of increased regulations on the Lower Koyukuk, as well as most of Alaska, and because of the decrease in moose populations in the absence of predator management, the Galena Management Area needs to implement area wide limited drawing hunts because it is the only solution to truly regulate the increased conflict of more hunters and fewer moose. Implementing these regulations now will avoid the situation of the state having to spend several hundred thousand dollars to implement predator control programs and moratoriums on moose hunting once the moose are almost gone. This proposal will result in a better distribution of hunters and avoid overharvest in some localized areas like the Kateel or Nowitna Rivers. The size of the area included in this proposal is a key element of the proposal if the regulations are to have the desired effect. A smaller area of expanded drawing permit areas will simply push hunters to the edge of that area, resulting in increased hunter numbers on the periphery.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Conflicts among users will increase. Moose will be over-harvested in some areas that are not protected by regulation.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Subsistence hunters whose families depend on a reliable source of moose on a year-to-year basis. Trophy hunters who want to have a population that is not overharvested to a point where there are no more large moose. Law enforcement agents trying to stop “bootlegging” of moose.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? People that want to shoot a trophy moose every year.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Leave things the same. Require all moose to have antlers sawed off. Limited Drawing hunts in portions of the Kateel, Gisasa, Dulbi, Huslia, Dakli and Hogatza River drainages.

PROPOSED BY: Fred L. Bifelt , Tom Huntington, and John Stam (HQ-06S-G-012)

PROPOSAL 90 – 5 AAC 85.045(a)(19). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Shorten the nonresident Unit 21E moose season by five days and change it to a drawing permit hunt as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
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(19)

...
 Unit 21(E)

RESIDENT HUNTERS:
 1 antlered bull

Sept. 5–Sept. 25

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 antlered bull by drawing permit

only; up to 100 permits may

be issued [1 BULL WITH

50-INCH ANTLERS OR

ANTLERS WITH 4 OR MORE

BROW TINES ON ONE SIDE]

...

Sept. 5–Sept. 20

[SEPT. 5–SEPT. 25]

ISSUE: The Yukon-Innoko Moose Management Working Group was established to formulate a management plan for Unit 21E and for the Innoko drainage in Unit 21A that will be presented to the board for approval in March 2006. The mission of the plan is to maintain healthy and abundant moose populations by proactively managing moose, predation and habitat and by keeping moose harvest within sustained yield to benefit all users. Objectives include achieving the intensive management population objective of 9,000–11,000 moose. However, the current moose population estimate is 7,000–9,000 and moose numbers in Unit 21E have probably been declining since the 1990s. The moose working group recommended a conservative harvest rate of four percent, which yields a harvestable surplus of 280–360 moose. Current estimated reported and unreported harvest averaged 357 moose annually during regulatory years 2000–2004. Nonresident reported harvest during the same time period averaged 30 moose annually. Because the harvest is already at the upper end of harvestable surplus, working group members are concerned that sustainable harvest will soon be exceeded. Resident hunting opportunity was restricted in regulatory year 2003–2004 when the winter state cow hunt was closed. Although this proposal would reduce the nonresident season by five days, it would allow nonresidents to take any antlered bull. The number of permits allowed under this proposal will maintain nonresident harvest at the current or a slightly reduced level and thereby maintain limited nonresident hunting opportunity without exceeding harvestable surplus. If future moose surveys indicate a decline in the population the drawing permit system will provide a mechanism to reduce nonresident permits if necessary to ensure harvest does not exceed sustained yield. If approved, this drawing would occur in the winter, giving nonresidents sufficient notice to make hunt arrangements. The working group has submitted other proposals that may help increase moose numbers so that hunting opportunity can increase in the future.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Harvestable surplus may soon be exceeded.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, the moose population may be stable and possibly increase. In addition, nonresidents will be allowed to harvest any antlered bull. Hunting pressure on large, breeding bulls will be reduced.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? People who want the 21E moose population to remain stable or increase. Nonresident hunters who wish to hunt without antler restrictions.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? The number of clients for guides and transporters may be limited.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? 1) Eliminate the nonresident season, 2) issue fewer nonresident drawing permits and retain the season length.

PROPOSAL 91 - 5 AAC 85.045(a)(19). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Amend this regulation as follows:

Unit 21A

Resident moose season: September 5 through September 20, bag limit one bull moose with spike fork or 50-inch antlers, or antlers with four brow tines on at least one side.

Nonresident moose season: September 5 through September 15, bag limit one bull moose with 50-inch antlers with four brow tines on at least one side.

ISSUE: Moose population data for Unit 21A is very limited. Data from Innoko National Wildlife Refuge indicates that the population within the Unit 21A portion of the refuge is declining. In the last six years I and many other users have seen a noticeable and steady decline in the Unit 21A moose population, increased predator numbers (black bear and wolf), and a significant increase in hunting pressure from other guides and transporters who have migrated into Unit 21A due to the numerous nonresident closures to moose hunting in many Western Alaska units. Establishment of Alaska resident antler restrictions over the years has contributed to the increase in pressure in this area. My many hours of personal observations over the years in Unit 21A of lower numbers of adult and yearling moose, and what appears to be a lower age structure of the harvested moose population raises serious concerns about the status of the moose population in Unit 21A. The combination of low moose density, declining hunter success rates, apparent declining population trends, apparent lower age structure of adult male moose, and lower yearly recruitment require regulating human harvest to allow for conservation of the population, and a sustainable quality experience for all users. The season needs to be shortened to allow this population to recover to previous higher levels.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Without changes, the Unit 21A moose population will continue to decline and be unable to sustain continued sport hunting, subsistence hunting, or viewing opportunities.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, eliminating the last five days of the resident season and the last ten days of the nonresident season will help take pressure off of the moose population by reducing harvest during the start of the mating season when they are the more vulnerable. This will also reduce the disruption of breeding groups, help ensure cows are bred, and enough mature bulls left in the herd to breed during this time which will help the population to increase. Over the long-term this will help produce a healthy and sustainable population for all user groups to enjoy.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? In the long-term, all those who hunt or view moose in Unit 21A.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those who want to continue to harvest moose under the current guidelines in the regulations.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Establish a drawing permit system like those currently in place in Unit 8, Unit 21B, Unit 21C, and Unit 21D. Raise brown/grizzly bear limit in Unit 21A

to two bears per year with no closed season. Raise the wolf harvest limit in Unit 21A to 10 per year with no closed season.

PROPOSED BY: Don Schwandt

(HQ-06S-G-033)

PROPOSAL 92 - 5 AAC 85.045(a)(19). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Amend this regulation as follows:

Unit 21E

Resident Hunters:

1 antlered bull

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 the mainstream of the Yukon River or the Innoko River during the period Feb. 1 – Feb. 10

Sept. 5 – Sept. 25
Feb. 1 – Feb. 10

Antlers bulls may be taken Only during the period Dec. 20 – Jan. 10

Dec. 20 – Jan. 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: Villages in Unit 18 and portions of Unit 19 are included in the Amounts Needed for Subsistence (ANS) for Unit 21E. We desire to include a winter antlered bull hunt in Unit 21E to occur concurrently with the winter antlered bull hunting season in the open portion of Unit 18. This would provide an opportunity for some villages in Unit 18 and more opportunity for some of the villages in Unit 19 to harvest moose to feed their families.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Villages in Unit 18 would be restricted to hunt in the open portions of Unit 18, primarily the Yukon River corridor, and villages in Unit 19 would have no additional opportunity with the exception of the winter cow hunt on state lands in Unit 21E and Unit 21A. Currently, federal regulations prohibit villages outside of Unit 21E with the exception of Russian Mission, to participate in the winter moose hunt.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? This proposal makes the opening of a winter antlered moose hunt consistent with current regulation in Unit 18. Considering the ample harvestable surplus in Unit 21E, this proposal would not adversely affect the moose populations in the subunit. Additionally, the breeders generally drop their antlers earlier, thus the harvest may only affect young bulls.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All the villages in Unit 18, 19 and 21E would benefit.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one is likely to suffer if this proposal is adopted.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Changing federal regulation to allow surrounding villages in Unit 18 and Unit 19 to participate in the winter federal season, but rejected due to inactivity between AVCP and TCC in resolving the issue.

PROPOSED BY: Myron P. Naneng Sr. (HQ-06S-G-026)

PROPOSAL 93 - 5 AAC 85.045(19). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Reauthorize antlerless moose hunting seasons in Unit 21D as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(19) ...		
Unit 21(D), that portion within the Koyukuk Controlled Use Area		
RESIDENT HUNTERS:		
1 moose by registration permit only; a person may not take a cow accompanied by a calf; or	Aug. 27-Aug. 31 (Subsistence hunt only)	
1 bull by registration permit only; or	Sept. 1-Sept. 20 (Subsistence hunt only)	
1 bull by drawing permit only; up to 320 permits may be issued in combination with Unit 24, that portion within the Koyukuk Controlled Use Area; or	Sept. 5-Sept. 25	
1 bull	Dec. 1-Dec. 10 (Subsistence hunt only)	
NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:		
1 bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side by drawing permit; up to 80 permits may be issued in combination with Unit 24, that portion within the Koyukuk Controlled Use Area		Sept. 5-Sept. 25

Remainder of Unit 21(D)

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 moose per regulatory year;
however, antlerless moose
may be taken only from Sept.
21–Sept. 25; a person may not
take a cow accompanied by a
calf; or

Sept. 5-Sept. 25

1 bull

Dec. 1-Dec. 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 harvest in the two geographic areas described above can be supported by present moose populations on a limited basis only (i.e., potlatch harvest). Fall 2004 trend count surveys suggest stable or modestly improving numbers in Three Day Slough, Kaiyuh Slough, Pilot Mountain Slough, and Squirrel Creek trend count areas. Population recruitment parameters have slowly recovered since the first emergency closure of cow hunts in 2000 and continued conservative harvest on the reproductive portion of the population is needed in the unit. Surveys conducted in March of 1999 and 2000 also indicated an increasing wolf population was having a negative influence on recruitment of moose in the unit. Conservative management strategies have been implemented in the step-wise progression outlined by the 2001 Koyukuk River Moose Management plan. Consistent with the plan, emergency order (EO) closure of the fall antlerless moose season was implemented in 2005 for the fifth year and will be applied again in 2006. Advisory committees wanted the fall cow hunts to remain in regulation because they were concerned hunts would not be reinstated if they were dropped entirely. The flexibility of the EO process has been requested by advisory committees.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The opportunity to harvest cow moose when the population can sustain it will be lost.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? This proposal will maintain the opportunity to harvest cows when the population can sustain this segment of the harvest.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? People who like to hunt cow moose.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? People opposed to hunting cow moose.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Close the cow harvest for all seasons currently open. Continue the cow harvest during the winter seasons only. Close the fall cow seasons by emergency order.

PROPOSAL 94 - 5 AAC 92.XXX. Unit 21A moose drawing permits for nonresidents. Create a new regulation as follows:

Regulations for Unit 21A moose will reflect the following:

The drawing permits for nonresident hunters will include the following conditions:

- a. A percentage of the permits allocated to nonresidents, with 50 percent of that allocation being reserved for guided hunters.
- b. A signed guide-client agreement contract must be completed and signed by the applicant and a guide who is legally registered to hunt within a particular hunt area. The deadline to provide the guide-client agreement to area department offices is the same as the drawing hunt application deadline.
- c. The guide on the contract must be legally and currently registered for the area where the hunt will occur.
- d. A guide may not submit more applications than there are permits available for nonresidents in that area.
- e. An alternate list would be established that represents the unsuccessful drawing applicants in the order that they were selected in the drawing. If a permit is not utilized through the alternate list it becomes available over the counter through registration after four working days from the time notice was given from the last alternate on a first come first serve basis.

ISSUE: Create a new moose drawing permit area in Unit 21A like the other subunits of Unit 21. Unit 21B, Unit 21C and Unit 21D have successful, established drawing permits for moose for nonresidents. This new drawing permit hunt would fall into the winter drawing permit supplement cycle for moose, and would include caveats that have been established on Kodiak Island Unit 8 for the brown bear permit drawing hunt.

Permit systems that have been in place have benefited game populations over those areas with unrestricted harvests. All current permit systems, with the exception of the Kodiak brown bear permit system, do not go far enough to allocate the limited resource for all users. I believe that the Kodiak system of allocating brown bear permits through a drawing is the best system in the state at this time for allocating access to a highly sought after harvested resource.

Moose population data for Unit 21A is very limited. Data from Innoko National Wildlife Refuge indicates that the population within the Unit 21A portion of the refuge is declining. In the last six years I and many other users have seen a noticeable and steady decline in the Unit 21A moose population, increased predator numbers (black bear and wolf), and a significant increase in hunting pressure from other guides and transporters who have migrated into Unit 21A due to the numerous nonresident closures to moose hunting in many Western Alaska units. Establishment of Alaska resident antler restrictions over the years has contributed to the increase in pressure in this area. My many hours of personal observations over the years in Unit 21A of lower numbers of adult and yearling moose, and what appears to be a lower age structure of the harvested moose population raises serious concerns about the status of the moose population in Unit 21A. The combination of low moose density, declining hunter success rates, apparent declining population trends, apparent lower age structure of adult male moose, and lower yearly recruitment require regulating human harvest to allow for conservation of the population, and a sustainable quality experience for all users. The season needs to be shortened to allow this population to recover to previous higher levels.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Without changes, the Unit 21A moose population will continue to decline and be unable to sustain continued sport hunting, subsistence hunting, or viewing opportunities.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, having this permit system will provide managers another tool for managing the moose population from year to year and to maintain a healthy sustainable population for all user groups to take advantage of each year. This will help balance the demand between users to ensure moose population numbers are at a sustainable level. Additionally, it will help provide a quality of experience and enhanced safety for all by weeding out speculating guides that jump from area to area that do not have enough experience in the area to provide a safe and quality experience.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? This is a positive solution all-around. It creates a smooth system to manage resource levels and provide a quality outdoor experience in Unit 21A for all users and groups. In the long-term all users and groups will benefit by having good numbers of moose to harvest and view. Guides who can meet and greet a limited number of prospective clients for the drawing without the pressure of time and money to travel in search of collecting the highest number of names will benefit by not being required to gain an advantage in the drawing by collecting unrestricted numbers to win in the pursuit of these permits. A drawing system with the Kodiak brown bear permit caveats will benefit all the guides who are licensed and registered to hunt in the area. Last, this permit system takes into account all groups, to include the Alaska residents as well as the nonresidents, plus ensures there is enough of a resource for viewing.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Large booking agents, application services and guides who utilize the marketing technique of flooding draw choices. Speculating guides that bounce from area to area depending on where their hunters draw. Transporters who are currently unrestricted will suffer. Also, those that do not want any changes to occur.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? I considered and researched the other drawing area in Alaska besides the Kodiak brown bear permit system and found them not as complete. They do not address all shortcomings inherent in all the other drawings in the state—they fall short of a fair, logical, uniform system of allocation.

PROPOSED BY: Don Schwandt (HQ-06S-G-034)

PROPOSAL 95 - 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Amend this regulation as follows:

Units 21A, 21B, 21D, 21E, and Unit 24

Moose season: 1 bull, September 5 through **October 1**

All fall moose hunts for bulls only, the starting dates are to remain the same.

ISSUE: Because of moose population declines, restrictions on fall cow harvests, warmer fall seasons resulting in retarded bull movements, and high fuel costs, there is a critical need for additional bull harvest opportunity to meet subsistence needs.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Subsistence needs will not be met and local subsistence hunters will be more dependent on the winter moose hunts. This will result in more

cow moose harvested further impacting the moose population. Also, an increase in illegal harvesting might take place in order to meet critical subsistence needs.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Harvesting moose when temperatures are cooler will prevent spoilage. Bull/cow ratios are adequate to support subsistence harvests in these units. There should be little impact on the resource.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? This extension will help provide for subsistence needs and allow users to allocate hunting resources to when the weather is cool and when the bulls are moving.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Western Interior RAC (HQ-06S-G-018)

PROPOSAL 96 - 5 AAC 85.045(a)(19). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Change seasons and bag limits for moose as follows:

Units and Bag Limits (19)	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
...		
[UNIT 21(A), THAT PORTION WITHIN THE NOWITNA RIVER DRAINAGE]		
[RESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 ANTLERED BULL]	[SEPT. 5–SEPT. 25]	
[NONRESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 BULL WITH 50-INCH ANTLERS OR ANTLERS WITH 4 OR MORE BROW TINES ON ONE SIDE]		[SEPT. 5–SEPT. 20]
[REMAINDER OF] Unit 21(A)		
RESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 antlered bull	Sept. 5–Sept. 25	
NONRESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side		Sept. 5–Sept. 25

Unit 21(B), that portion within the Nowitna River drainage upstream from the Little Mud River Drainage and outside a corridor extending 5 miles on either side of and including the Nowitna River

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull;

Sept. 5–Sept. 25
Dec. 1–Dec. 10

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side

Sept. 5–Sept. 25

Remainder of Unit 21 (B)

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull, by registration permit only; or

Sept. 5–Sept. 25
(Subsistence hunt only)

1 bull, by drawing permit only; up to **300** [250] permits may be issued in Unit 21(B); **or**

Sept. 5–Sept. 25

1 bull

Dec. 1–Dec. 10

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side by drawing permit only, up to **300** [250] permits may be issued in Unit 21(B)

Sept. 5–Sept. **25** [20]

....

ISSUE: The department is submitting a proposal for consideration at the January 2006 statewide meeting to change the Unit 21A and Unit 21B boundary so that Unit 21B will include all of the Nowitna River drainage. If the board does not adopt the boundary change, the department will withdraw this proposal.

This proposal corrects codified language in Unit 21A by deleting reference to the upper Nowitna which became part of Unit 21B in the statewide proposal. It also increases hunting opportunity in Unit 21B for residents by adding a December 1-10 season, and for nonresidents by adding five days in September. If adopted, drawing and registration permit hunts that are currently only in the lower Nowitna River five-mile corridor will also apply to the upper river five-mile corridor.

Expansion of the drawing/registration permit area to the upper Nowitna corridor will improve the ability to manage hunter distribution, improve downriver regulation compliance, and simplify regulations within the Nowitna River drainage. This proposal will also simplify regulations by aligning seasons with adjacent units. These changes will improve fall success rates by improving bull:cow ratios in the Nowitna River corridor and slow the moose population decline in Unit 21B and Unit 21D by decreasing unreported winter cow harvest.

The December 1–10 season in this proposal would open resident bull moose hunting on lands closer to Ruby and Tanana that previously were not open during winter. These areas are maintaining higher bull:cow ratios than the Nowitna corridor because the moose are mostly inaccessible during the fall. If local hunters can improve hunting success rates on the Nowitna corridor, which would be expected if bull:cow ratios improve, then they will depend less on winter harvest, which includes many cows. Also, if a winter season in December is adopted, we anticipate it would reduce the unreported cow harvest that occurs during the remainder of the winter. This regulation would eliminate confusion for Ruby hunters on the Ruby-Poorman road during the December moose season because they would be allowed to hunt both sides of the road. Nonresident hunters in the upper Nowitna corridor would be required to obtain a drawing permit, which would help manage bull harvest within sustainable levels, so the current 15 day nonresident bull season would be unnecessarily restrictive.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Status quo will maintain confusion over hunting regulations. Nonresident hunters will be unnecessarily restricted to a short season.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. Total annual harvest is not anticipated to change, however, it is likely to shift to more bulls and fewer cows, slowing population decline. Harvest in the upper Nowitna will be more closely controlled.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Hunters will benefit from winter hunting opportunity and from seasons consistent with adjacent units. Everyone will benefit from more efficient management of resources.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? None identified.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Make a two to three-mile wide corridor on the Nowitna River, or take no action.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-06S-G-050)

PROPOSAL 97 - 5 AAC 92.XXX. Unit 21B moose drawing permits for nonresidents. Create a new regulation that would implement the following:

Nonresident moose permits shall have 50 percent allocated to nonresident moose hunters in Unit 21B, the Nowitna River corridor, presently managed under Hunt Number DM 805, who prove that they hire a registered guide licensed for this controlled use area. The remaining 50 percent will go to other nonresident hunters who prefer to hunt without a guide. This proposal does not include the areas east and west of the Nowitna River that are currently managed under Hunt Number DM802 and DM808.

ISSUE: Clients of hunting guides are not drawing permits for this controlled use area due to high numbers of nonresident applications.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Guides and assistant guides licensed for the guide use area are unable to earn a living since the controlled use area came into affect.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? The quality of the resource harvested is likely to improve when professional guides are judging the size of the trophies especially around the 50-inch class bulls. It is more likely that an unguided nonresident hunter would make a mistake and harvest an illegal bull than a guided nonresident hunter.

The quality of taking care of the harvested moose meat would also improve when handled by professionals with years of experience. Guides also have better opportunity to ship the meat out to its final destination as soon as it is harvested instead of waiting until the end of the hunt, a common practice by most nonresident hunters. On a seven to ten day hunt, moose harvested early by nonresidents, especially during warm weather conditions, often results in edible meat spoilage.

Unguided nonresident hunters almost never come to hunt moose for the purpose of filling their freezers with moose meat. They come for the trophy, the antler. The 600 to 800 pounds of meat that they must salvage becomes a burden for them. They want to get rid of most of it as soon as possible. This is in stark contrast with the Alaskan guide attitude toward the resource, where the meat is highly coveted by all and part of it is often distributed to local residents in the towns of Tanana and Ruby.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Benefit local guides in the area, benefit nonresident hunters who desire guide service, benefit the economy since nonresident hunters spend more than two and one half times the money on a guided moose hunt than unguided nonresident hunters, benefit local villagers who might not have a chance to harvest a moose in a given year and receive some meat from guides in the area.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? People who guide illegally and take so-called “friends” hunting from the lower 48 states.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Did not consider other solutions.

PROPOSED BY: Alex Tarnai (HQ-06S-G-008)

PROPOSAL 98 - 5 AAC 92.049. Permits, permit procedures, and permit conditions and 5 AAC 92.050. Required permit hunt conditions and procedures. Amend these regulations as follows:

Units 21D and 24:

Koyukuk moose hunters can only apply for one of the two Koyukuk moose hunts each year.

ISSUE: Koyukuk moose hunt applicants applying for only one of the two hunts have a lower probability of winning a permit than applicants applying for both hunts. Hunters with time

constraints should not have reduced chances of drawing compared to applicants applying for both hunts.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Single hunt applicants will have to compete with multi-hunt applicants.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Those hunters who only apply for one hunt.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Hunters historically applying for both hunts will have a slightly lower chance of winning a permit.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Harry Forquer (HQ-06S-G-004)

PROPOSAL 99 - 5 AAC 92.XXX. Unit 21B moose drawing permits for nonresidents. Create a new regulation that would apply an alternate list system for allocating nonresident drawing permits for moose within the department proposed new boundaries for Unit 21B as follows:

The new regulation would use 5 AAC 92.061(3), and (H) as a template that would allocate 50 percent of the permits offered to guided nonresidents.

(1) The department shall enter, in a guided nonresident drawing, each application from a nonresident who will be accompanied by a guide; the department may issue a drawing permit for the general hunt only to a successful nonresident applicant who presents proof that the applicant will be accompanied by a guide;

(2) the following provisions apply to a guided nonresident drawing under this section:

(A) an applicant for a guided nonresident drawing permit may apply for only one such permit per application period;

(B) after the successful applicants have been selected by drawing, the department shall create an alternate list by drawing the remaining names of applicants for a specific hunt and placing the names on the alternate list in the order in which the names were drawn;

(C) if a successful applicant fails to provide proof that the applicant will be accompanied by a guide or cancels the guided hunt, the person whose name appears first on the alternate list for that hunt shall be offered the permit; if an alternate applicant fails to furnish proof that the applicant will be accompanied by a guide, the permit must be offered in turn to succeeding alternate applicants until the alternate list is exhausted;

(D) if a guided nonresident drawing permit is available, but the alternate list is exhausted, the permit becomes available, by registration at the Fairbanks or Galena Fish and Game office, to the first applicant furnishing proof that the applicant will be accompanied by a guide;

...

ISSUE: Local hunting guides' clients not drawing permits for the Nowitna River area.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The guides and assistant guides who live within the affected area and including those who live in Minchumina, Ruby and Tanana will not be able to take clients hunting within the newly proposed boundaries of Unit 21B.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. The meat from the moose will be taken care of better and the majority of the meat will go to the local people and especially those locals who otherwise may have had a hard time getting their needs met.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The local guides and the people to which they deliver meat.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? People who are being illegally guided in this area.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Nathan D. Turner (I-06S-G-003)

PROPOSAL 100 - 5 AAC 85.045(19). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Amend the regulation as follows:

Require both antlers to be forfeited to the department during the December season in Unit 21D.

ISSUE: There is a concern that trophy hunters are coming to the area during this season to kill large trophy bulls. Large bulls are very vulnerable and are easy to spot from the air. Ski plane hunters were hunting in the area for the first time last winter during what is supposed to be a subsistence season.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Large trophy bulls will be overharvested.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Reducing the harvest of large bills will save a component of the population that is needed for reproduction.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All moose hunters.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Trophy hunters or people that want to keep their antlers.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Tom Kriska (HQ-06S-G-020)

PROPOSAL 101 - 5 AAC 85.045(a)(20). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Reauthorize the antlerless moose seasons in a portion of Unit 22D, as follows:

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

(20)

...

Remainder of Unit 22(D)

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 moose; however, antlerless moose may be taken only from Dec. 1 through Dec. 31; a person may not take a calf or a cow accompanied by a calf; only antlered moose may be taken from Jan. 1 through Jan. 31

Aug. 10 – Sept. 14

Oct. 1 – Jan. 31

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side, by registration permit only

Sept. 1 – Sept. 14

...

PROBLEM: To be retained, antlerless moose seasons must be reauthorized annually. Currently antlerless moose hunts are authorized in Units 22C and the remainder of Unit 22D. In November 2005 the board reauthorized the antlerless hunt in Unit 22C but reauthorization is still required in the remainder of Unit 22D.

The remainder of Unit 22D is relatively remote and difficult access limits hunting pressure. Most recent estimates of population size and recruitment indicate the population is stable. A census completed in March 2002 found a calf:adult ratio of 17 calves:100 adults and a recruitment rate of 14 percent in this area of Unit 22D. A November 2003 composition survey found 27 calves:100 cows. Since 1997 the reported cow harvest in recent years in the remainder of Unit 22D has been low, averaging one cow moose per year. The village harvest survey data (only collected in 2000-2001) shows five cow moose were harvested from 22D remainder which is probably a more realistic estimate of annual cow harvest over the last several years than is reported harvest using harvest tickets. At this time we recommend antlerless moose hunting be continued in the remainder of Unit 22D. However, if 2005-2006 harvest ticket data indicates a substantial increase in harvest or March census data shows a population decline the department may revise this recommendation.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Hunting opportunity for antlerless moose in portions of Unit 22 will be needlessly lost.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?

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-06S-G-075)

PROPOSAL 102 - 5 AAC 85.045(a)(21). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.
Reauthorize the antlerless moose seasons in Unit 23, as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
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(21)

Unit 23, that portion north of and including the Singoalik River drainage

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

July 1 - Dec. 31

1 moose by registration permit only; however, antlerless moose may be taken only from Nov. 1-Dec. 31; a person may not take a calf or a cow accompanied by a calf; or

1 bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side

Sept. 1 - Sept. 20

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side by drawing permit only; up to 125 permits may be issued in all of Unit 23

Sept. 1 - Sept. 20

Remainder of Unit 23

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

Aug. 1 - Dec. 31

1 moose by registration permit only; however, antlerless moose may be taken only from Nov. 1-Dec. 31; a person may not take a calf or a cow accompanied by a calf; or

1 bull with 50-inch antlers
or antlers with 4 or more
brow tines on one side

Sept. 1 - Sept. 20

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull with 50-inch antlers or
antlers with 4 or more brow tines
on one side by drawing permit
only; up to 125 permits may
be issued in all of Unit 23

Sept. 1 - Sept. 20

ISSUE: To be retained, antlerless moose seasons must be reauthorized annually. Moose density is currently low in large portions of Unit 23. As a result, in November 2003 the board restricted moose hunting for resident and nonresident hunters. These restrictions substantially shortened the resident antlerless moose season and limited the harvest of antlerless moose to hunters who register for registration permit hunt RM880. In November 2005, the board considered public proposals and made no changes to the moose hunting seasons in Unit 23. Historically, the reported harvest of cow moose has been low throughout Unit 23 despite liberal antlerless seasons. We do not think maintaining an antlerless season will threaten Unit 23 moose populations.

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

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? N/A.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Resident hunters who need to harvest an antlerless moose when caribou or other game is unavailable.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-06S-G-076)

PROPOSAL 103 – 5 AAC 85.045(a)(22). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Align moose seasons with the new subunit boundaries in Game Management Unit 24 as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
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(22)

Unit 24(A), that portion in the

**Dalton Highway Corridor
Management Area**

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

**1 bull by drawing permit;
up to 70 permits may be issued
in combination with Unit 25(A),
that portion within the Dalton
Highway Corridor Management
Area**

Sept. 1–Sept. 25

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

**1 bull with 50–inch antlers or antlers
with 4 or more brow tines on one side,
by drawing permit only; up to 70
permits may be issued
in combination with Unit 25(A),
that portion within the Dalton
Highway Corridor Management
Area**

Sept. 5–Sept. 25

Remainder Unit 24(A)

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull

Sept. 1–Sept. 25

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(B), all drainages of the
Koyukuk River upstream from
the Henshaw Creek drainage,
excluding the North
Fork of the Koyukuk River
drainage**

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

**1 moose; however, antlerless
moose may be taken only
from Sept. 21–Sept. 25**

Sept. 1–Sept. 25

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

**1 bull with 50–inch antlers or antlers
with 4 or more brow tines
on one side**

Sept. 5–Sept. 25

Remainder Unit 24(B)

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 moose; however, antlerless moose may be taken only from Sept. 21–Sept. 25

Sept. 1–Sept. 25

1 bull

Dec. 1–Dec. 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(C), that portion within the Koyukuk Controlled Use Area

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 moose by registration permit only; or

**Aug. 27–Aug. 31
(Subsistence hunt only)**

1 bull by registration permit only; or

**Sept. 1–Sept. 20
(Subsistence hunt only)**

1 bull by drawing permit only; up to 320 permits may be issued in combination with Unit 21(D) and 24(D), those portions within the Koyukuk Controlled Use Area; or

Sept. 5–Sept. 25

1 bull

**Dec. 1–Dec. 10
(Subsistence hunt only)**

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull with 50–inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side, by drawing permit only; up to 80 permits may be issued in combination with Unit 21(D) and 24(D), those portions within the Koyukuk Controlled Use Area

Sept. 5–Sept. 25

Remainder Unit 24(C)

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull, by registration permit only; or

Sept. 5–Sept. 25
(Subsistence hunt only)

1 bull, by drawing permit only; up to 450 permits may be issued in combination with Unit 24(D) outside the Koyukuk Controlled Use Area

Sept. 5–Sept. 25

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull with 50–inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side, by drawing permit; up to 450 permits may be issued in combination with Unit 24(D) outside the Koyukuk Controlled Use Area

Sept. 5–Sept. 25

Unit 24(D), that portion within the Koyukuk Controlled Use Area

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 moose by registration permit only; or

Aug. 27–Aug. 31
(Subsistence hunt only)

1 bull by registration permit only; or

Sept. 1–Sept. 20
(Subsistence hunt only)

1 bull by drawing permit only; up to 320 permits may be issued in combination with Unit 21(D) and 24(C), those portions within the Koyukuk Controlled Use Area; or

Sept. 5–Sept. 25

1 bull

Dec. 1–Dec. 10
(Subsistence hunt only)

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull with 50–inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side, by drawing permit only; up to 80 permits may be issued in combination with Unit 21(D) and 24(C), those portions within the Koyukuk Controlled Use Area

Sept. 5–Sept. 25

Remainder Unit 24(D)

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull, by registration permit only; or

Sept. 5–Sept. 25
(Subsistence hunt only)

1 bull, by drawing permit only; up to 450 permits may be issued in Unit 24 outside the Koyukuk Controlled Use Area

Sept. 5–Sept. 25

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull with 50–inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side, by drawing permit; up to 450 permits may be issued in Unit 24 outside the Koyukuk Controlled Use Area

Sept. 5–Sept. 25

[UNIT 24, THAT PORTION WEST OF THE HOGATZA RIVER DRAINAGE AND THE KOYUKUK CONTROLLED USE AREA]

[RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 BULL, BY REGISTRATION PERMIT ONLY; OR]

[SEPT. 5–SEPT. 25
(SUBSISTENCE HUNT ONLY)]

[1 BULL, BY DRAWING PERMIT ; ONLY UP TO 450 PERMITS MAY BE ISSUED IN UNIT 24 OUTSIDE THE KOYUKUK CONTROLLED USE AREA]

[SEPT. 5–SEPT. 25]

[NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 BULL WITH 50–INCH ANTLERS OR ANTLERS WITH 4 OR MORE BROW TINES ON ONE SIDE, BY DRAWING PERMIT; UP TO 450 PERMITS MAY BE ISSUED IN UNIT 24 OUTSIDE THE KOYUKUK CONTROLLED USE AREA]

[SEPT. 5–SEPT. 25]

[UNIT 24, THAT PORTION EAST OF THE DAKLI RIVER DRAINAGE AND THE KOYUKUK CONTROLLED USE AREA, AND WEST OF THE KANUTI CONTROLLED USE AREA, THE TANANA–ALLAKAKET WINTER TRAIL AND THE ALATNA RIVER DRAINAGE]

[RESIDENT HUNTERS:
1 BULL, BY REGISTRATION
PERMIT ONLY; OR]

[SEPT. 5–SEPT. 25
(SUBSISTENCE HUNT
ONLY)]

[1 BULL, BY DRAWING PERMIT ;
ONLY UP TO 450 PERMITS MAY
BE ISSUED IN UNIT 24 OUTSIDE
THE KOYUKUK CONTROLLED
USE AREA]

[SEPT. 5–SEPT. 25]

[NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:
1 BULL WITH 50–INCH ANTLERS OR
ANTLERS WITH 4 OR MORE BROW
TINES ON ONE SIDE, BY DRAWING
PERMIT; UP TO 450 PERMITS MAY
BE ISSUED IN UNIT 24 OUTSIDE THE
KOYUKUK CONTROLLED USE AREA]

[SEPT. 5–SEPT. 25]

[UNIT 24, THAT PORTION WITHIN
THE KOYUKUK CONTROLLED USE
AREA]

[RESIDENT HUNTERS:]

[1 MOOSE BY REGISTRATION
PERMIT ONLY; OR]

[AUG. 27–AUG. 31
(SUBSISTENCE HUNT ONLY)]

[1 BULL BY REGISTRATION
PERMIT ONLY; OR]

[SEPT. 1–SEPT. 20
(SUBSISTENCE HUNT ONLY)]

[1 BULL BY DRAWING
PERMIT ONLY; UP TO 320
PERMITS MAY BE ISSUED IN
COMBINATION WITH UNIT 21(D),
THAT PORTION WITHIN THE
KOYUKUK CONTROLLED
USE AREA; OR

[SEPT. 5–SEPT. 25]

1 BULL]

[DEC. 1–DEC. 10
(SUBSISTENCE HUNT
ONLY)]

[NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:
1 BULL WITH 50–INCH ANTLERS
OR ANTLERS WITH 4 OR MORE
BROW TINES ON ONE SIDE,
BY DRAWING PERMIT ONLY;

[SEPT. 5–SEPT. 25]

UP TO 80 PERMITS MAY BE
ISSUED IN COMBINATION WITH
UNIT 21(D), THAT PORTION
WITHIN THE KOYUKUK
CONTROLLED USE AREA]

[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; HOWEVER, ANTLERLESS
MOOSE MAY BE TAKEN ONLY
FROM SEPT. 21–SEPT. 25]

[UNIT 24, THAT PORTION OF THE
NORTH FORK OF THE KOYUKUK
RIVER DRAINAGE WITHIN THE
GATES OF THE ARCTIC NATIONAL
PARK]

[1 MOOSE; HOWEVER, ANTLERLESS
MOOSE MAY BE TAKEN ONLY
FROM SEPT. 21–SEPT. 25; OR]

[SEPT. 1–SEPT. 25]

[NO OPEN SEASON]

[1 BULL]

[DEC. 1–DEC. 10]

[NO OPEN SEASON]

[UNIT 24, ALL DRAINAGES TO
THE NORTH OF THE KOYUKUK
RIVER UPSTREAM FROM THE
HENSHAW CREEK DRAINAGE, TO
AND INCLUDING THE NORTH FORK
OF THE KOYUKUK, RIVER EXCEPT
THAT PORTION OF THE JOHN
RIVER AND NORTH FORK OF
THE KOYUKUK RIVER DRAINAGES
WITHIN THE GATES OF THE ARCTIC
NATIONAL PARK]

[RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 MOOSE; HOWEVER, ANTLERLESS
MOOSE MAY BE TAKEN ONLY
FROM SEPT. 21–SEPT. 25]

[SEPT. 1–SEPT. 25]

[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, ALL DRAINAGES TO THE NORTH OF THE KOYUKUK RIVER BETWEEN AND INCLUDING THE ALATNA RIVER AND HENSHAW CREEK DRAINAGES, EXCEPT THAT PORTION OF THE ALATNA RIVER DRAINAGE WITHIN THE GATES OF THE ARCTIC NATIONAL PARK]

[RESIDENT HUNTERS:
1 MOOSE; HOWEVER, ANTLERLESS [SEPT. 1–SEPT. 25]
MOOSE MAY BE TAKEN ONLY
FROM SEPT. 21–SEPT. 25; OR]

[1 BULL] [DEC. 1–DEC. 10]

[NONRESIDENT HUNTERS: [SEPT. 5–SEPT. 25]
1 BULL WITH 50–INCH ANTLERS
OR ANTLERS WITH 4 OR MORE
BROW TINES ON ONE SIDE]

[UNIT 24, THAT PORTION IN THE DALTON HIGHWAY CORRIDOR MANAGEMENT AREA, EXCEPT THAT PORTION IN THE NORTH FORK OF THE KOYUKUK RIVER DRAINAGE]

[RESIDENT HUNTERS: [SEPT. 1–SEPT. 25]
1 BULL BY DRAWING
PERMIT; UP TO 70 PERMITS
MAY BE ISSUED IN
COMBINATION WITH UNIT
25(A), THAT PORTION
WITHIN THE DALTON
HIGHWAY CORRIDOR
MANAGEMENT AREA]

[NONRESIDENT HUNTERS: [SEPT. 5–SEPT. 25]
1 BULL WITH 50–INCH
ANTLERS OR ANTLERS
WITH 4 OR MORE BROW
TINES ON ONE SIDE, BY
DRAWING PERMIT ONLY; UP
TO 70 PERMITS MAY BE ISSUED
IN COMBINATION WITH UNIT
25(A), THAT PORTION WITHIN THE

DALTON HIGHWAY CORRIDOR
MANAGEMENT AREA]

[REMAINDER OF UNIT 24]

[RESIDENT HUNTERS:
1 BULL]

[SEPT. 1–SEPT. 25]

[NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:
1 BULL WITH 50–INCH
ANTLERS OR ANTLERS
WITH 4 OR MORE BROW
TINES ON ONE SIDE]

[SEPT. 5–SEPT. 25]

...

ISSUE: The department is submitting a proposal for consideration at the January 2006 statewide meeting to subdivide Unit 24. If the board does not adopt that proposal, the department will withdraw this proposal. Six moose regulation changes will result from the implementation of this proposal. These proposed changes are primarily housekeeping issues in order to adjust the regulations to match the newly established subunits for Unit 24.

Below are changes that will occur;

1. The portion of 24A along the eastern border of Gates of the Arctic National Park (GAAR) will no longer have a December 1–10 season. This change is inconsequential because of the GAAR closure to non-federally qualified users. Federally qualified users will still be able to hunt under federal regulations. There is a small area of a private in-holding that would fall under State rules that would be effected, but that area is inconsequential for moose hunting opportunities (zero reported harvest last six years).
2. The portion of 24B from the Kanuti Controlled Use Area (CUA) to the Unit 24C boundary will convert from a drawing/registration permit hunt to general harvest ticket with the same season dates.
3. The portion of 24B in the Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area at Twelvemile Mountain will convert from a drawing permit to a general harvest ticket. The change is inconsequential because of the GAAR closure to non-federally qualified users. Only federally qualified users are allowed to hunt there under federal regulations. The affected area is a minimal tract of land.
4. The portion of Unit 24B within the John River Drainage of GAAR changes from August 1–December 31 to September 1–25. The change is apparently inconsequential due to practically no reported harvest during the season, few people, and few moose. The existing federal regulations will still allow hunting for federally qualified users (over the last 6 years, one hunter reported hunting, and no moose were killed.)
5. The portion of Unit 24B within the Alatna River Drainage of the GAAR changes from August 1–December 31 to September 1–25 and December 1–10. The change is apparently inconsequential due to practically no reported harvest during the season, few people, and few moose. The existing federal regulations will still allow for extensive hunting for federally qualified users (in the last six years, zero moose killed, zero hunting reported).
6. The portion of Unit 24B on the south side of the Koyukuk River downstream of the Henshaw Creek Drainage (Kanuti River drainage) will add the December 1–10 season. This change is inconsequential because most of this land is within the Kanuti CUA

federal land closure, primarily in areas difficult to access, with high bull:cow ratios. The area newly opened to the December 1–10 hunt will eliminate a source of confusion for Allakaket/Alatna residents regarding areas open during the December season.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Failure to adopt this proposal will result in inconsistency in regulations on small tracts of state managed land and the regulations will be unnecessarily complicated.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Resource will be unaffected.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Hunters referring to the regulations.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-06S-G-055)

PROPOSAL 104 - 5 AAC 92.108. Identified big game prey populations and objectives.
Establish Intensive Management Objectives for each of the four new subunits of Unit 24 as follows:

Population	Finding	Population Objective	Harvest Objective
Moose			
...			
[GMU 24	POSITIVE	8,000-12,000	400-850]
<u>GMU 24A</u>	<u>Positive</u>	<u>1,200-1,500</u>	<u>75-125</u>
<u>GMU 24B</u>	<u>Positive</u>	<u>4,000-4,500</u>	<u>150-250</u>
<u>GMU 24C</u>	<u>Positive</u>	<u>1,000-1,500</u>	<u>50-125</u>
<u>GMU 24D</u>	<u>Positive</u>	<u>5,000-6,000</u>	<u>225-425</u>

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ISSUE: The Department is submitting a proposal for consideration at the January 2006 statewide board meeting to subdivide Unit 24. If the board does not adopt the boundary change, the department will withdraw this proposal.

With the adoption of Unit 24 subunits we need to revise moose population and harvest objectives to guide management strategies most appropriate for each subunit. Portions of Unit 24 were not surveyed prior to development of the original conservative population estimates. The new objectives take into account the habitat within the new subunits, as well as recent surveys that have substantially improved our knowledge about these moose populations.

Current harvest demand and moose population estimates by subunit are:

Subunit	Estimated Moose Harvest ¹	RY05 Moose Population Estimate ²
24A	89 - 101	950

24B	97 - 109	2,900
24C	46 - 58	750
24D	162 - 174	4,400
Total Unit 24	394 - 442	9,000

¹Estimated harvest is based on reported data from '99-'02, Subsistence Household Survey data from '98, '99, '01, and '02, reported potlatch harvest, and estimated unreported/illegal harvest.

²Population estimates are based on actual survey estimates and extrapolated estimates of unsurveyed portions.

The moose population trended downward over the entire unit from the mid 1990s through 2004, and the rate of decline was greatest in the low-density moose areas of the upper Koyukok drainage from Hughes to Bettles. In this area, declines were estimated to be 30–50 percent and the population is apparently still declining. Declines were less on the high-density moose areas of the lower Koyukok drainage around Huslia, and were estimated at 10–15 percent during the same time period. It appears that the decline may be beginning to level off in that area. Declines in other areas of Unit 24 are estimated to be 15–30 percent since the mid 1990s.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Finer-scale management of moose populations may be hampered.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, moose populations in Unit 24 will be managed by the smaller subunits.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? People who want the intensive management objectives recalculated and evaluated for smaller subunits will benefit.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? People who do not want to see intensive management objectives changed.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? 1) Recalculate objectives for Unit 24 as one unit, 2) Leave existing objectives in place.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-06S-G-054)

PROPOSAL 105 - 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Reauthorize the antlerless moose hunting seasons in Unit 24 as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
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(22)

...

Unit 24, that portion within the Koyukuk Controlled Use Area

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 moose by registration permit only; or Aug. 27 - Aug. 31 (Subsistence hunt only)

1 bull by registration permit only; or Sept. 1 - Sept. 20 (Subsistence hunt only)

1 bull by drawing permit only; up to 320 permits may be issued in combination with Unit 21(D), that portion within the Koyukuk Controlled Use Area; or Sept. 5 - Sept. 25

1 bull Dec. 1 - Dec. 10 (Subsistence hunt only)

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side by drawing permit; up to 80 permits may be issued in combination with Unit 21(D), that portion within the Koyukuk Controlled Use Area 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; however; antlerless moose may be taken only from Sept. 21–Sept. 25

Unit 24, that portion of the North Fork of the Koyukuk River drainage within the Gates of the Arctic National Park

1 moose; however; antlerless moose may be taken only from Sept. 21–Sept. 25; or Sept. 1 - Sept. 25 No open season.

1 bull Dec. 1 - Dec. 10 No open season.

Unit 24, all drainages to the

north of the Koyukuk River upstream from the Henshaw Creek drainage, to and including the North Fork of the Koyukuk River, except that portion of the John River and North Fork of the Koyukuk River drainages within the Gates of the Arctic National Park

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 moose; however, antlerless moose may be taken only from Sept. 21–Sept. 25

Sept. 1 - Sept. 25

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, all drainages to the north of the Koyukuk River between and including the Alatna River and Henshaw Creek drainages, except that portion of the Alatna River drainage within the Gates of the Arctic National Park

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 moose; however, antlerless moose may be taken only from Sept. 21–Sept. 25; or

Sept. 1 - Sept. 25

1 bull

Dec. 1 - Dec. 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 harvest in the four geographic areas described above, can be supported by present moose populations on a limited basis only (i.e., potlatch harvest). Fall 2004 trend count area surveys suggest stable or modestly improving moose numbers in the areas of Dulbi Slough, Treat Island, and Huslia River Flats in the southern portion of Unit 24. Population recruitment parameters have slowly recovered in those areas since the first emergency closure of cow hunts in 2000. Continued conservative harvest of the reproductive portion of the population is needed. Fall 2004 survey results in northern Unit 24 suggest poorer productivity and recruitment in the trend count areas of Middle Fork, Henshaw

Creek and Kanuti Canyon. Conservative management strategies have been implemented in the step-wise progression outlined by the 2001 Koyukuk River Moose Management Plan. Consistent with the plan, emergency order (EO) closure of the fall antlerless moose season was implemented in 2005 for the fifth year and will be applied again in 2006. Advisory committees wanted the fall cow hunts to remain in regulation because they were concerned they would not be reinstated if removed. The flexibility of the EO process has been requested by advisory committees.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The opportunity to harvest cow moose when the population can sustain it will be lost.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? This proposal will maintain the opportunity to harvest cows when the population can sustain this segment of the harvest.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? People who like to hunt cow moose.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? People opposed to hunting cow moose.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? 1) Close the cow harvest for all seasons currently open; 2) continue the cow harvest during the winter seasons only; 3) close the fall cow seasons by emergency order.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-06S-G-052)

PROPOSAL 106 - 5 AAC 85.045(a)(23). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Amend this regulation for Unit 25A as follows:

No hunting other than local subsistence in a ten mile radius of Chandalar Airstrip.

ISSUE: Overhunting by commercial guides at Chandalar Lake.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Moose populations in North Fork, Middle Fork and Yukon Flats will be affected.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, the travel route between the Koyukuk and Chandalar areas has a squeeze point at Chandalar Lake. This area is overhunted.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Yukon Flats moose population and local Chandalar residents.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Guided hunts will have to travel ten miles from the lake.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Eric Jayne (HQ-06S-G-005)

PROPOSAL 107 - 5 AAC 85.045(24). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Open a limited hunting season for moose in Unit 26B. Two hunt management options are suggested for consideration as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(24)		
<i>(Option 1)</i>		
<u>Unit 26(B)</u>		
<u>RESIDENT HUNTERS:</u> <u>1 bull by drawing permit only;</u> <u>up to 30 permits may be</u> <u>issued</u>	<u>Sept. 1-Sept. 14</u> [NO OPEN SEASON]	
<u>NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:</u>		<u>No open season.</u>
<u>Unit 26(C)</u> [UNITS 26(B) AND26(C)]	No open season.	No open season.
<i>(Option 2)</i>		
<u>Unit 26(B)</u>		
<u>RESIDENT HUNTERS:</u> <u>1 bull by Tier II subsistence</u> <u>hunting permit only; up</u> <u>to 30 permits may be issued</u>	<u>Sept. 1-Sept. 14</u> <u>(Subsistence hunt only)</u> [NO OPEN SEASON]	
<u>NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:</u>		<u>No open season.</u>
<u>Unit 26(C)</u> [UNITS 26(B) AND26(C)]	No open season.	No open season.

ISSUE: Moose populations in Unit 26 declined dramatically in the early 1990s, and the season in Units 26B and 26C was closed in 1996. Moose populations in Unit 26B have now recovered to levels at or above management objectives, creating the opportunity to reestablish a limited fall harvest of bull moose in the area. This is similar to the change in moose populations in Unit 26A, except that total population size is smaller in Unit 26B. Surveys in spring 2005 showed there were 288 moose in Unit 26B east of the Dalton Highway, and 202 west of the highway, with about 21 percent calves in the population. This compares to a total population of about 200 in 1995.

Moose are highly visible in the open terrain in the area, and the harvest objective could be reached quickly. We recommend a harvest quota of 15 bull moose, administered through either a drawing permit hunt for Alaska residents or a Tier II subsistence hunt, as an initial step in reestablishing moose hunting in the area. The objective would be to harvest 10 bulls east of the Dalton highway and five west of the highway. Hunter success is likely to be relatively high, and 25 permits would be issued the first year. The proposed fall season would be the same as the fall season recently established in Unit 26A, and is similar to the season that existed in Unit 26B prior to the closure. When this season was last open, resident and nonresident hunters were allowed to participate.

A federal registration hunt that applies to federal lands is open in both units, with a harvest quota of three moose. Under federal regulations, no more than two bulls may be harvested from Unit 26C. Three permits are issued to residents of Kaktovik only, with an open season of July 1–March 31. This provides some subsistence hunting opportunity for moose in Units 26B and 26C. Federal public lands in these units are closed to the taking of moose by other hunters. The Canning River supports a modest moose population of 30–40 animals which are sometimes hunted by residents of Kaktovik. The department would use its discretionary permitting authority to exclude that portion of Unit 26B in the Canning River drainage from the proposed drawing permit hunt area. The hunt area in this proposal may also be limited or changed in other ways to accommodate new or changing circumstances.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The hunting season in Unit 26B will remain closed.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? People interested in hunting moose in Unit 26B.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No One.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-06S-G-049)

PROPOSAL 108 - 5 AAC 84.XXX. Trapping season and bag limit for pika. Create a new regulation as follows:

Establish a trapping season for pika in Unit 12 and Unit 20E, year-round and with no limit. Require that either the hide, skull or meat be salvaged.

ISSUE: Establish a trapping season for pika in Unit 12 and Unit 20E. There are good numbers of pika in these units and currently trapping pressure is extremely light for all species in these units. This results in an unnecessary restriction of trapper opportunity for pika. Pika have economic value for their hides and skulls and for use as food.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Trapper opportunity for pika will continue to be unnecessarily restricted.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, it will allow for use of an unused renewable resource.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Trappers, hunters and subsistence users in these units.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Upper Tanana/Fortymile Advisory Committee (I-06S-G-039)

PROPOSAL 109 - 5 AAC 84.270(6). Furbearer trapping. Amend this regulation as follows:

Marten
Unit 19 Nov. 1 – March 31 [FEB. 28]

ISSUE: The marten season should be amended to close March 31 as opposed to the current season ending date of February 28. This would provide trappers more economic opportunities to harvest, decreasing the amount of incidental catches of marten in wolverine sets which will motivate more wolverine trapping.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Trappers, like myself, will continue to catch numerous marten incidentally in wolverine sets only to turn them over to the state for being caught out of season or choose not to trap wolverine due to this problem.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Martin can continue to provide an income for many trappers through March. This proposal improves the quantity of marten available for harvest to many trappers, which will in turn produce more economic yields to those trappers who would otherwise stop trapping. This proposal will also make it more convenient for harvest of other furbearers, like the wolverine, knowing that the many incidental harvested marten will no longer be a deterrent. Some may wonder if marten taken in March will be marketable—in my experience, the incidental marten caught in March on a typical year in Unit 19 are of very marketable condition.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Trappers, skin sewers, fur buyers, and local fur craft makers.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? None known, but local area trappers should closely monitor marten harvest numbers and local populations and report to area biologists to document any trends.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Extending the marten season from February 28 to March 15. I did not consider this a complete solution due to the fact that wolverine season lasts through March 31.

PROPOSED BY: Thad M. Henry (HQ-06S-G-032)

PROPOSAL 110 - 5 AAC 84.270. Furbearer trapping. Amend this regulation as follows:

Unit 12 and Unit 20E

Fox and wolverine season: November 1 – **March 31** [FEBRUARY 28]

Bag limit: **up to 2 wolverine in March**

ISSUE: Trapping seasons for red fox and wolverine are currently out of alignment with the wolf and coyote seasons in Unit 12 and Unit 20E. There are good numbers of both of these species in these units and current trapping pressure is extremely light for all species in these units. The result is an unnecessary restriction of trapper opportunity for these species and a waste of fox and wolverine caught in wolf or coyote traps during the portion of the trapping season when wolf and coyote trapping is open, but fox and wolverine season is closed.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Trapper opportunity will continue to be unnecessarily restricted.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, it will allow for the retention and proper use of fox and wolverine bycatch in wolf or coyote traps.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Trappers in these units.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Upper Tanana/Fortymile Advisory Committee (I-06S-G-037)

PROPOSAL 111 - 5 AAC 84.270(3). Furbearer trapping and 5 AAC 85.060(2). Hunting seasons and bag limits for fur animals. Align the arctic fox seasons in Units 24 and 25 with the red fox seasons as follows:

5 AAC 84.270(3). Furbearer trapping.

Units	Open Season	Bag Limits
(3) Fox, arctic, white, or blue ...		
Units 22, 23, and [-] 26	Nov. 1-Apr. 15	No limit.
<u>Units 24 and 25</u>	<u>Nov. 1-Feb. 28</u>	<u>No limit</u>

5 AAC 85.060. Hunting seasons and bag limits for fur animals.

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

(2) Arctic fox (including white and blue phases)

Units 9, 17, 18, and 22, **23, and** [-]26

Sept. 1-Apr. 30
(General hunt only)

Sept. 1-Apr. 30

2 foxes

Units 24 and 25
2 foxes

Sept. 1-Mar 15
(General hunt only)

Sept. 1-Mar. 15

...

ISSUE: In March 2004 the board established hunting and trapping seasons for arctic fox in Units 24 and 25. The action was taken because very small numbers of arctic foxes periodically disperse south of the Brooks Range and are sometimes encountered by hunters or caught in traps set for other species. The regulations established trapping and hunting seasons that were the same as those in Unit 26, which close on April 15 and April 30. Red fox trapping and hunting seasons in Units 24 and 25 close on February 28 and March 15. Because of the high likelihood of incidental catch of red foxes, it would be better to align the season dates of Arctic fox with those for red fox, which would mean closing the trapping season on February 28 and the hunting season on March 15. The existing, longer season for arctic fox and red fox in Units 22, 23 and 26 would not change. This proposal would simply shorten the recently established season for arctic fox in Units 24 and 25 to align it with the red fox season. It does not affect red fox seasons or opportunity to take that species.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The potential to catch red foxes incidentally in traps set for arctic fox will continue to exist. Traps that remain in the field after the red fox season closure would catch primarily red fox, which are far more abundant than arctic fox in Units 24 and 25. The new regulation would prevent unnecessary enforcement problems associated with incidental catch.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? The regulation would reduce the potential for taking red foxes after pelt quality has declined.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Trappers and wildlife enforcement personnel.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-06S-G-048)

PROPOSAL 112 - 5 AAC 84.270(5). Furbearer trapping. Amend this regulation as follows:

Allow the department the authority to change the lynx season dates in Unit 12 and Unit 20E from November 1 through March 31 during lynx highs, as determined by the department.

ISSUE: Trapping seasons for lynx in Unit 12 and Unit 20E are currently liberal due to extremely low trapping pressure for this species. During periods of highs in the lynx cycle additional

opportunity will become available in the way of additional opportunity to harvest lynx during March in these units. This will result in an unnecessary restriction of trapper opportunity for lynx during highs in their cycle. The department needs to have the authority to lengthen the lynx season in Unit 12 and Unit 20E to include March 1 through March 31 in years when lynx are at their high. **WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Trapper opportunity will continue to be unnecessarily restricted during lynx highs.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, lynx caught in March during years of lynx highs will not go to waste and quality of adult lynx hides in March is at its best.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Trappers in these units.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Upper Tanana/Fortymile Advisory Committee (I-06S-G-038)

PROPOSAL 113 - 5 AAC 84.270. Furbearer trapping. Amend this regulation as follows:

Unit 20D: Bag limit of five lynx from November 1 through November 30 and a season from December 1 through February 28 without any bag limit.

ISSUE: To lengthen and liberalize the season and bag limit on lynx in Unit 20D to allow for early caught lynx (bycatch) to be kept by trappers as in Unit 12 and Unit 20E (a November 1 through November 30 season with a bag limit of five lynx) as well as a longer season December 1 through February 28 with no bag limit instead of a season of December 15 through January 31 as the regulation now stipulates.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The lynx taken incidentally by trappers before the legal season will make outlaws out of some trappers. The lynx population is increasing while the trapping effort has decreased in Unit 20D. It can always be changed back in a couple of years when the rabbit/lynx numbers peak and then begin to crash.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, a trapper who takes a lynx through accidental harvest will be allowed to keep his catch and therefore be able to profit from it instead of getting nothing for his or her efforts on the trapline.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The adoption of this regulation change will not hurt anyone and would benefit all Unit 20D trappers that trap lynx as well as other furbearers.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? The statistical database of the department.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Open the season from November 1 through March 31 with no bag limit like it used to be years ago. I rejected this option because I know the board would not approve it.

PROPOSED BY: David Davenport

(I-06S-G-025)

PROPOSAL 114 - 5 AAC 85.056. Hunting seasons and bag limits for wolf. Amend this regulation as follows:

Remove the restriction that prevents a guide or assistant guide from taking wolves while he or she is under contract to guide.

ISSUE: The current overpopulation of wolves in Unit 21 is having a detrimental effect on large game animals. Guides are in the field many days in the spring and fall. Due to guiding regulation restrictions, they cannot shoot wolves when the opportunity arises. With the vast amount of time guides are in the field, this is a missed opportunity of a skilled group to aid in keeping an overpopulated predator within area carry limits.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Without changes, the Unit 21 moose population will continue to decline and be unable to sustain continued sport hunting, subsistence hunting, or viewing opportunities. The already high wolf population will continue to rise.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Increased large game animal recovery will take place.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All user groups, especially the residents of Unit 21 and hunters.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? If this form does not address item, please refer this proposal to the correct office.

PROPOSED BY: Don Schwandt

(HQ-06S-G-038)

Note: This proposal was amended by the Board of Game and deferred from the Spring 2005 meeting.

PROPOSAL 115 - 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose; 5 AAC 92.085. Unlawful means of taking big game; exceptions; 5 AAC 92.108. Identified big game prey populations and objectives; and 5 AAC 92.125. Wolf Predation Control Implementation Plan. Shorten the moose season for moose in GMUs 14B and 16A; create predator control plan; establish intensive management; allow use of snow machines and land and shoot to take wolves, as follows:

Enact a predator control implementation plan and intensive management strategies to include the use of snow machines to pursue wolves, and land and shoot for wolves.

ISSUE: Predators have hurt ungulate populations, especially moose. GMUs 14B and 16A moose populations are well below objectives, and the bull/cow ratio in GMU 14A is barely above the minimum. Many Alaskans who count on moose as a wild meat resource are having a hard time obtaining it.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Moose numbers will stay low and hunters will transfer hunting pressure elsewhere around the state.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. Shortening the moose season and increasing the harvest of predators, will increase the survivability of moose.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Moose hunters and all outdoor persons who enjoy seeing ungulates as well as bear and wolves.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? People who oppose intensive management to provide abundant wildlife of all species.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Matanuska Valley AC (HQ-06S-G-079)

PROPOSAL 116 - 5 AAC 92.080. Unlawful methods of taking game; exceptions. Amend this regulation as follows:

Allow the pursuit of wolves and bears where specified in the Unit 20E program with snowmachine in the intensive management predator control plan areas for the protection of moose calves in Unit 20E and caribou calves in the areas proposed for protection for the Fortymile caribou herd.

ISSUE: The use of snowmachines to pursue wolves is excluded at this time by regulation. In this area hunters and trappers should be allowed to remove wolves, and bears in the Unit 20E area specified, from within the control areas.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Hunters and trappers will not have an opportunity to use their snowmachines to pursue predators during their winter and spring regular hunting and trapping seasons.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Since this action would only be allowed in predator control areas, the improvement is to survival of moose and caribou calves by removing additional predators.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Hunters and trappers who have the opportunity to harvest a predator and the public by having more moose and caribou for all purposes.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Fairbanks Advisory Committee (I-06S-G-018)

PROPOSAL 117 - 5 AAC 92.125. Wolf Predation Control Implementation Plan. Amend this regulation as follows:

Implement the already approved finding to expand aerial wolf control into Unit 19B.

ISSUE: Wolves are continuing to be major predators on the moose in Unit 19B. Wolf predation, together with increased hunting pressure, is continuing to contribute to the decline of the moose population. The hunter success rate has gone down as well.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Predation will continue to cause the moose population to decline.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, by reducing predation in Unit 19B, moose numbers will increase while helping the same situation in adjacent Units 19A, Unit 19C, Unit 19D, and Unit 17B.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The moose population in Unit 19A and all user groups who depend on the moose.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Unknown.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Predator control programs throughout western Alaska. All of Units 19, Unit 17, Unit 18 and Unit 21.

PROPOSED BY: Central Kuskokwim Advisory Committee (I-06S-G-014)

PROPOSAL 118 - 5 AAC 85.056. Hunting seasons and bag limits for wolf. Amend this regulation as follows:

Unit 21 and Unit 24
Wolf season August 1 through April 30.

ISSUE: Predation of moose by wolves.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The recruitment of moose will continue to be low.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Everyone who eats moose meat.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Virgil L. Umphenour (I-06S-G-045)

PROPOSAL 119 - 5 AAC 92.125. Wolf Predation Control Implementation Plan. Amend this regulation as follows:

Wolves may be taken from aircraft by special permit in northern Unit 20D (Fortymile herd) and in southeastern Unit 20D (Macomb) in accordance with the wolf control implementation plan for Unit 20D. No more than 75 percent reduction in wolf population or no more than 175 wolves per year may be harvested through this manner.

ISSUE: The excessive predation of caribou calves in Unit 20D.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? These caribou herds will not reach their growth potential and may even decline if nothing is done. Hunter opportunity will be lost and seasons may be shortened or eliminated due to a stagnant or dwindling population.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Calf survival, on the average, has been dismal for the Macomb caribou herd over the last ten years. The recovery of the Fortymile caribou herd has also been slowed by high calf mortality due to predators. While this wolf control program would not solve all of the Fortymile herd's excessive predator problems, it should contribute to the recovery of the herd due to more calves living.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Alaskans who harvest their meat from the land, and tourists (and other wildlife viewers) would benefit. Moose populations in these areas would also benefit.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None considered.

PROPOSED BY: Delta Junction Advisory Committee (I-06S-G-001)

PROPOSAL 120 - 5 AAC 85.056. Hunting seasons and bag limits for wolf. Amend this regulation as follows:

Extend the wolf hunting seasons to May 31 for Units 12, 20, and 25.

ISSUE: The lack of opportunity to harvest wolves during May when hunting bears in Units 12, 20, and 25.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Additional harvest opportunity to harvest wolves will not be provided and wolf predation will remain high on moose populations.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Additional wolves will be harvested reducing the wolf predation on important moose populations.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? This proposal will provide additional harvest opportunity for all hunters when they are hunting for bears in May. It will also help provide subsistence needs by reducing the predation pressure on local moose populations important to subsistence users.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Eastern Interior RAC

(HQ-06S-G-016)

PROPOSAL 121 - 5 AAC 85.056. Hunting seasons and bag limits for wolf. Amend this regulation as follows:

Units 12, 20, and 25: Wolf hunting seasons shall allow baiting of wolves.

ISSUE: The lack of opportunity to bait for wolves in Units 12, 20, and 25 during wolf hunting seasons.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Additional harvest opportunity to harvest wolves will not be provided and wolf predation will remain high on moose populations.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Additional wolves will be harvested reducing the wolf predation on important moose populations.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? This additional harvest opportunity for all hunters will help provide for subsistence needs by reducing the predation pressure on local moose populations important to subsistence users.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Eastern Interior RAC

(HQ-06S-G-017)

PROPOSAL 122 - 5 AAC 92.125. Wolf Predation Control Implementation Plan. Amend this regulation as follows:

Allow for a five year (2006-2011) lethal wolf control program and expand the area in this program to include all of the Fortymile caribou herd range within Alaska, excluding the Yukon Charley Preserve. Allow aerial wolf control by the public under this program. Reduce wolves in the area by 75 percent during the five year period.

ISSUE: The Fortymile caribou herd intensive management objectives are not being met and the population is currently stable, therefore, not making progress toward the objectives. Predation by wolves has been identified by the department as the primary limiting factor. A lethal wolf control program is needed to stimulate the growth of the herd toward management objectives.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The intensive management objectives will not be met.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, it will result in decreased predation on the herd and allow for the herd to grow.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All hunters, including subsistence hunters as well as non-consumptive users.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? People opposed to wolf control.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Upper Tanana/Fortymile Advisory Committee (I-06S-G-036)

PROPOSAL 123 - 5 AAC 85.056(a)(2). Hunting seasons and bag limits for wolf. Increase the hunting season bag limit for wolves in Unit 21E as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts	Nonresident Open Season
(2) ...		
Units 18, 20, <u>21(A), 21(B), 21(C), 21(D),</u> [-]22, 24, and 25(C)	Aug. 10–Apr. 30	Aug. 10–Apr. 30
5 wolves		
<u>Unit 21(E)</u>	Aug. 10–Apr. 30	Aug. 10–Apr. 30
<u>10 wolves per day</u> ...		

ISSUE: This proposal is consistent with a Yukon-Innoko Moose Management Plan goal to manage the effects of predation on moose to provide for high levels of human consumptive use. Plan objectives include achieving intensive management population and harvest objectives. Those objectives are currently not being met and predation by wolves is likely an important factor limiting the moose population. Moose numbers in 21E have probably been declining since the 1990s and the state cow hunt was closed in regulatory year 2003. We presume that moose habitat is good because twinning rates are high (greater than 25 percent). However, calf survival is low. Adoption of this proposal will provide for additional take of wolves under hunting regulations and may contribute to an increase in the moose population. Although the trapping regulations allow unlimited take, many local residents purchase only a hunting license. Annual wolf harvest was 27 for regulatory years 1999 through 2003 and wolf numbers in Unit 21E are estimated at 180–240. This proposal is likely to increase harvest, but it does not threaten the viability of the Unit 21E wolf population.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Hunters will not have the opportunity to take additional wolves and intensive management objectives may not be achieved.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? There would be little effect on the quality of the resource.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Hunters who want more opportunity to take wolves under a hunting license and Unit 21E moose hunters.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those opposed to increased wolf harvest to benefit the moose population.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? 1) 10-wolf bag limit, 2) implementing a predator control program, or 3) no change.

PROPOSED BY: Yukon-Innoko Moose Management Working Group (HQ-06S-G-046)

PROPOSAL 124 - 5 AAC 92.080(4)(D) Unlawful methods of taking game; exceptions.

Allow use of snowmachines to take wolves in Unit 21E as follows:

(D) snowmachine may be used in Units, 18, [AND] 19, **and 21E** to take wolves, provided that animals are not shot from a moving snowmachine;

ISSUE: This proposal is consistent with a Yukon-Innoko Moose Management Plan goal to manage the effects of predation on moose to provide for high levels of human consumptive use. Plan objectives include achieving intensive management population and harvest objectives. Those objectives are currently not being met and predation by wolves is likely an important factor limiting the moose population. Moose numbers in Unit 21E have probably been declining since the 1990s and the state cow hunt was closed in regulatory year 2003. We presume that moose habitat is good because twinning rates are high (greater than 25 percent). However, calf survival is low, probably a result of both bear and wolf predation. Adoption of this proposal will provide an additional method for taking wolves and may contribute to an increase in the moose population. Annual wolf harvest was 27 for regulatory years 1999 through 2003 and wolf numbers in Unit 21E are estimated at 180–240. Although this proposal is likely to increase harvest, it does not threaten the viability of the Unit 21E wolf population.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Hunters and trappers will not have the opportunity to take additional wolves and intensive management objectives may not be achieved.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? There would be little effect on the quality of the resource.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Hunters and trappers who want an additional method for taking wolves, and those who believe that a high wolf harvest is necessary to allow the moose population to increase.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those opposed to using snowmachines to take wolves.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? 1) implementing a predator control program, or 2) no change.

The department position on the regulatory details of this proposal may be modified as a result of decisions made at the statewide Board of Game meeting in January 2006 when use of snowmachines associated with wolf hunting will be discussed.

PROPOSED BY: Yukon-Innoko Moose Working Group (HQ-06S-G-047)

PROPOSAL 125 - 5 AAC 92.012. Licenses and tags and 5 AAC 85.056. Hunting seasons and bag limits for wolf. Amend these regulations as follows:

Unit 21A:
No nonresident tag required.
Residents and nonresidents: 10 wolves from August 1 through May 31.

ISSUE: I and other users have seen a decline in the overall Unit 21 moose population and at the same time have seen a large increase in the numbers of wolves. The current overpopulation of wolves in Unit 21 is having a detrimental effect to large game animals. Additionally, with a neighboring unit having a longer season with higher harvest limits I believe hunters pass over Unit 21 to hunt there since it has a more liberal harvest and season.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Without changes, the Unit 21 moose population will continue to decline and be unable to sustain continued sport hunting, subsistence hunting, or viewing opportunities. The already overpopulation of wolves will continue to rise.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? The increase of large game animal recovery will take place.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All user groups, especially the residents of Unit 21 and hunters.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Year long wolf season but I did not think this would be acceptable to all groups.

PROPOSED BY: Don Schwandt (HQ-06S-G-037)

PROPOSAL 126 – 5 AAC 92.125(4). Predation Control Programs. Amend the Fortymile Nonlethal Wolf Predation Control Implementation Plan to allow lethal wolf predation control as follows:

Predation control implementation plans are established in the following areas:
...

(4) [A FORTYMILE NONLETHAL PREDATION CONTROL AREA IS ESTABLISHED...] **a Fortymile Wolf Predation Control Area (11,156 square miles) is established in that portion of Unit 25(C) including the South Fork of Birch Creek, the Clums Fork of Birch Creek and that portion of the Birch Creek drainage south of Birch Creek and between the South Fork and the Clums Fork drainages, in that portion of Unit 20(B), including the**

Salcha River drainage upstream from and including the South Fork of the Salcha River, plus the Middle Fork of the Chena River drainage upstream from but not including Munson Creek, in that portion of Unit 20(D), including the Goodpaster drainage upstream from and including Central Creek, plus the entire drainage of the South Fork of the Goodpaster River, the Healy River drainage, and Billy and Sand Creeks, and in all of Unit 20(E), except that portion within the Ladue drainage and the Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve and that portion east of the Taylor Highway and north of the Top of the World Highway; this predator control program does not apply to any National Park Service lands without Park Service approval; 72 percent of the Fortymile Wolf Predation Control Area overlaps with a portion of the Upper Yukon/Tanana Wolf and Brown Bear Predation Control Area listed in (8) of this section; the number of wolves taken in the Fortymile Predation Control implementation plan and the Upper Yukon/Tanana wolf and brown bear predation control implementation plan will be complementary, not additive; in accordance with 5 AAC 92.110, the commissioner or the commissioner's designee may conduct a wolf population reduction or wolf population regulation program in the Fortymile Predation Control Area consistent with the following program objectives, constraints, and requirements:

(A) the objective of the program is to stimulate recovery of the Fortymile caribou herd to its traditional range and to a population of 50,000–100,000 with an annual harvest of 1,000–15,000; population and harvest objectives are specified in the intensive management objectives approved by the Board of Game; this predator reduction program is to provide conditions for the Fortymile herd to grow at a moderate annual rate of 5–10 percent from spring 2007 to spring 2012;

(B) when the commissioner or the commissioner's designee conducts a wolf population reduction or wolf population regulation program, the program must be conducted in the following manner to achieve the objectives in (A) of this paragraph:

(i) for up to five years beginning July 1, 2006, the commissioner may reduce the wolf population in the Fortymile Predation Control Area; however, the commissioner may not reduce the wolf population within the Fortymile Predation Control Area to fewer than 50 wolves; and

(ii) the commissioner shall reduce the wolf population in an efficient manner, by any means, but as safely and humanely as practical;

(iii) the commissioner may issue public aerial shooting permits and/or public land and shoot permits as a method of wolf removal under AS 16.05.783 and 5 AAC 92.039;

(C) hunting and trapping of wolves by the public in the Fortymile Predation Control Area during the term of the program may occur as provided in the hunting and trapping regulations set out elsewhere in this title; however, if the wolf population is reduced to 50 wolves, the commissioner shall stop all taking of wolves until the population increases to more than 50 wolves;

(D) annually, the department shall to the extent practical provide to the board at the board's spring meeting, a report of program activities conducted during the preceding 12 months, including implementation activities and status of Fortymile caribou, wolf, grizzly bear, black bear, and moose populations, and recommendations for changes, if necessary, to achieve the plan's objectives;

(E) justification for the program, and wildlife population and human-use information are as follows:

(i) the Fortymile caribou herd has traditionally been an important subsistence resource for residents throughout interior Alaska and the western Yukon Territory (Yukon); the Board of Game determined that the Fortymile caribou herd is important for providing high levels of human consumptive use; the board established objectives for population size and annual sustained harvest of the Fortymile caribou herd, consistent with multiple uses and principles of sound conservation and management of habitat and wildlife species in the area;

(ii) in the 1920s, the Fortymile herd's range encompassed some 85,000 square miles extending from Whitehorse, Yukon, to the White Mountains north of Fairbanks; currently it occupies only 25 percent of this area and only a small percentage of the herd moves into the Yukon each year;

(iii) the Fortymile caribou herd may have numbered 350,000–568,000 animals during the 1920s and numbered at least 50,000 during the 1950s and early 1960s, but by the early 1970's the population declined to an estimated low of 5,000 animals; between 1974 and 1990 the Fortymile herd grew slowly to about 23,000 caribou and remained at that level until 1995 due to low calf survival; an intensive private wolf trapping effort, nonlethal predator control, favorable weather conditions and reduced hunting pressure enabled the population to increase to 43,375 caribou by 2003; by mid-May 2004, the population decreased to an estimated 42,000 caribou, due largely to a combination of predation and a low percentage of births in the herd during 2003 (69 percent birthrate) because of adverse summer weather in 2002; the population further declined to an estimated 39,700 caribou by early May 2005 due largely to high predation mortality among calves and adults during icing conditions and deep snow in winter 2004–2005;

(iv) during 1973–2004, harvest was less than or equal to 2 percent of summer herd size and was not a significant factor limiting herd growth; during 2001–2004, annual harvest quotas were limited to two percent of the population, and harvest of cows averaged less than 25 percent of the annual harvest; historically, hunter interest in the herd has been high; even when harvest was restricted to 150 bulls during 1995–2000, an average of 778 people hunted; during 2001–2004, 2449–3427 hunters annually harvested 693–864 caribou;

(v) nutritional status of Fortymile caribou has not been a major factor limiting herd growth since 1995, except during 2003 and, to a lesser extent, during 2005; annual birth rates of radiocollared adult cows has been 85–98 percent since 1995, except in 2003 (69 percent) and 2005 (77 percent), indicating the herd was in good nutritional condition during most years; annual October calf weights during the last 15 years also indicated good nutritional status, except during 2003 and 2005; reduced nutritional condition in 2003 and 2005 was likely related to adverse weather; unfavorable weather adversely affects Fortymile caribou nutritional status by increasing harassment levels from parasitic oestrid flies and mosquitoes, reducing current annual plant growth and quality, and/or decreasing the ability of caribou to efficiently forage through snow; decreased nutritional condition can also occur as a result of elevated caribou densities, but if density-dependent range quality was a major limiting factor, consistent reductions in nutritional status would likely occur and, based on predator-free ecosystems, a density-dependent decline would occur at

much higher caribou densities than those observed currently for the Fortymile herd; winter range condition was also independently assessed based on the percent of lichens in the herd's winter diet; winter samples obtained during the 1990s indicated that lichens were readily available and, therefore, winter range used by the herd was in excellent condition; in addition, most of the historic winter range not used for decades is still available and, except in burned areas, likely has abundant lichens; recent large burns in the Fortymile range in 2004 and 2005 likely improved the range in summer, when the diet contains predominately willows, sedges, grasses, and flowers; on burned winter ranges, lichens are reduced for decades, but caribou are well adapted to rapidly traversing vast distances, using unburned inclusions, and substituting evergreen shrubs and sedges for lichens in areas where lichens are rare; blood samples collected annually from the Fortymile caribou herd during 1980–2003 indicate caribou are generally healthy and there are no indications of impact from infectious diseases; land managers and owners within the herd's traditional range have been contacted about maintaining caribou range for the future;

(vi) based on previous Interior Alaska studies in unmanipulated wolf-bear-moose-caribou systems (including portions of the Fortymile caribou range), early winter wolf densities are typically 16–23 wolves/1000 square miles; when extrapolated, these densities result in a population estimate of 178–257 wolves in about 25–37 packs (two or more wolves define a pack) within the Fortymile Wolf Predation Control Area (11,156 square miles); however, currently, wolves are reduced in up to 11 packs in part from the 1997–2001 Fortymile Nonlethal Predation Control Program (five packs remained well below precontrol levels in spring 2005) and in part from the ongoing Upper Yukon/Tanana Wolf and Bear Predation Control Program (six packs were reduced in late winter 2004–2005 in the portion of the Upper Yukon/Tanana control area that overlaps with the proposed Fortymile Wolf Predation Control Area); as a result of these reductions, an estimated 210–225 wolves resided in the Fortymile Predation Control Area in early winter 2005 (31 pack territories and seven partial territories); however, wolf numbers are expected to increase because all wolves sterilized under the Fortymile non-lethal wolf control program are expected to be replaced by unsterilized animals and normal hunter/trapper harvest likely will not prevent increases in the population; the average annual wolf harvest within the area during 1997–2003 was 39 wolves, well below levels required to significantly affect the population; in 2004 the total kill was 108, with 58 taken as part of the Upper Yukon/Tanana Wolf and Bear Predation Control Program;

(vii) wolf predation has consistently been a major cause of death among Fortymile caribou; during the 9 years of detailed calf mortality studies (May 1994–April 2003), wolves killed on average 26 percent of the radiocollared calves annually (47 percent of the annual calf mortality); during 13 years for which data are available on causes of adult caribou mortality (May 1991–April 2005), wolves caused 80 percent of the total adult mortality;

(viii) grizzly and black bears are an important cause of mortality among Fortymile caribou; during nine years of detailed calf mortality studies (May 1994–April 2003), grizzly bears killed on average 16 percent of the calves radiocollared annually (28 percent of the annual calf mortality) and black bears killed on average 3 percent of the calves radiocollared annually (6 percent of the annual calf mortality); grizzly and black bear densities and population trends within most of the Fortymile Wolf Predation Control Area have not been affected by harvest; most of this area is difficult to access and bear harvest in this area has been well below sustainable levels; at this time, there is a reasonable

expectation that reduction in bear numbers will not be required to stimulate recovery of the Fortymile herd if wolves are significantly reduced.

(ix) hunting and trapping of wolves in the area have not exceeded sustainable levels; the department can continue trapper education efforts, but previous trapper education programs have not resulted in significantly higher wolf harvests; if the wolf population is to be reduced to achieve caribou population objectives, measures beyond normal hunting and trapping will have to be employed;

(x) since 1995, management actions to increase the population and restore the herd to its former range were directed by the Fortymile Caribou Herd Management Plan (1995–2000) and the Fortymile Caribou Herd Harvest Plan (2001–2006) that were approved by the Board of Game; the Management Plan addressed many aspects of herd management and included provisions to reduce caribou mortality by decreasing harvest and by implementing the Fortymile Nonlethal Predator Control Program; the Harvest Plan provided for conservative harvest management to promote continued herd growth; initially the herd responded positively, increasing to 43,375 by 2003, but declined to 39,700 by early May 2005;

(xi) implementation of this predation control implementation plan, given weather favorable to caribou, is expected to result in a rate of increase similar to that observed from 1995 (22,558 caribou) to 2003 (43,375 caribou, 8.5 percent annual rate of increase for the eight years), which resulted in part from an intensive private wolf trapping effort (winters 1995–1996 and 1996–1997), nonlethal wolf control (110 wolves in 15 key, remote packs in early winter 1997 reduced to 27–51 wolves each spring during 2000–2003), favorable weather conditions (spring 1996–spring 2002) and reduced caribou hunting pressure (150 bulls, autumn 1996–autumn 2000); under this plan, wolf numbers in the control area are expected to be reduced each winter; without implementing this control program, wolf numbers are expected to increase as packs treated under the nonlethal control program (1997–2001) recover; these nonlethal effects will soon end and wolf numbers in five packs sterilized during 1997–2001 are expected to increase from 10 wolves in recent years up to a level similar to the precontrol population of 64 (these five packs are outside the current Upper Yukon/Tanana Wolf and Bear Predation Control Program area); by implementing this plan, private citizens using aircraft are expected to maintain significantly reduced spring wolf numbers in remote, key areas to allow for increased caribou survival; thus this plan provides a means of action to reach the minimum intensive management objectives of 50,000 caribou (allowing for a minimum harvest of 1,000 caribou) by 2012;

...

ISSUE: The Fortymile Caribou Herd (FCH) has traditionally been an important subsistence resource for residents of interior Alaska and western Yukon. It may have numbered 350,000–568,000 animals during the 1920s and ranged over 85,000 square miles from Whitehorse, Yukon to the White Mountains north of Fairbanks. However, it declined to an estimated low of 5,000 animals in the 1970s and occupied only a small portion of its former range. Between 1974 and 1990 the FCH grew slowly to about 23,000 and remained at that level until 1995. In spite of extraordinary management efforts since that time, the May 2005 population estimate of 39,700 did not meet the intensive management population objective of 50,000–100,000, and the average harvest of 875 animals during the past four years did not meet the intensive management harvest objective of 1,000–15,000 animals. Wolf predation is a major cause of mortality among

Fortymile caribou and should be reduced through a lethal wolf control program to promote herd growth and achieve objectives.

Since 1995, management actions to increase the population and restore the FCH to its former range were directed by two plans that were endorsed by the board. The Fortymile Caribou Herd Management Plan provided guidance during 1995–2000. The planning team was composed of a diverse group representing fish and game advisory committees, private organizations and government agencies. It addressed many aspects of herd management and included provisions to reduce caribou mortality by decreasing harvest and by implementing a non-lethal predator control program. The Fortymile Caribou Herd Harvest Plan has provided guidance since 2001. It expires in 2006. The Harvest Plan was completed by a coalition of five fish and game advisory committees in cooperation with the department, Yukon government, and Yukon First Nations. The plan provides for conservative harvest management to promote continued herd growth. Increases in harvest quotas required an annual 10 percent increase in herd size, and the plan envisioned 70,000 animals or more by 2005. Members of the advisory committee coalition that developed the plan recognized the importance of reducing wolf mortality, but made no specific recommendations. In spite of actions taken under the two plans, the herd has not increased as hoped. Initially, it responded positively, but has recently declined.

With the impending expiration of the Fortymile Harvest Plan, members of the advisory committee coalition that developed the plan have revised it and will be submitting an update to the board for approval at the board's March 2006 meeting. The plan's goal, consistent with the goal of the Fortymile Caribou Herd Management Plan and the initial harvest plan, continues to be increasing the population and restoring it to its former range. Its new objective is to achieve intensive management population and harvest objectives through continued conservative harvest and other harvest guidelines. It also now recommends a lethal wolf control program conducted by private citizens, similar to other on-going wolf control programs in Alaska.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The FCH may not achieve intensive management population or harvest objectives and hunters will have fewer animals available for harvest.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? FCH hunters and viewers will benefit.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? People who oppose lethal wolf control will suffer.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Continue conservative harvest and encourage additional hunter/trapper harvest of wolves were considered.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-06S-G-041)

PROPOSAL 127 - 5 AAC 92.075. Lawful methods of taking game and 5 AAC 92.080. Unlawful methods of taking game; exceptions. Amend these regulations as follows:

A snowmachine may be used to position wolves for harvest in Unit 21 and Unit 24.

ISSUE: Predation of moose by wolves.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The recruitment of moose will continue to be low.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Everyone that eats moose meat.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Virgil L. Umphenour (I-06S-G-044)

PROPOSAL 128 - 5 AAC 92.080(4). Unlawful methods of taking game; exceptions. Amend this regulation for Unit 25C as follows:

Hunters are allowed to harvest wolves on motorized vehicles including ATV, snowmobile and boat in Unit 25C.

ISSUE: High calf mortality rates among moose and caribou due to wolf predation. Lack of aerial control opportunities of wolf due to topography of Unit 25C.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Continued declining moose and caribou populations.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Reducing wolf population should increase quality of moose and caribou harvest.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Wolf, moose and caribou hunters.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Wolf viewers and photographers.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Central Advisory Committee (HQ-06S-G-013)

PROPOSAL 129 - 5 AAC 92.125. Wolf Predation Control Implementation Plan. Amend this regulation as follows:

Implement an intensive management and predation control plan in Unit 25D

ISSUE: Low moose population and habitat area drying.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Continued increase of bear and wolf populations.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, control and reduce the predation population.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Subsistence/non-rural hunter will have more opportunity to hunt and share resources.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Tier II—lots of paperwork.

PROPOSED BY: Yukon Flats Advisory Committee (I-06S-G-042)

PROPOSAL 130 - 5 AAC 92.075. Lawful methods of taking game, 5 AAC 92.080. Unlawful methods of taking game; exceptions and 5 AAC 92.085(4). Unlawful methods of taking big game; exceptions. Amend these regulations as follows:

Units 20, 21, 24, and 25:
Wolves may be taken with the aid of bait during the hunting season.

ISSUE: Predation of moose by wolves.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The recruitment of moose will continue to be low.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Everyone that eats moose meat.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Virgil L. Umphenour (I-06S-G-047)

PROPOSAL 131 - 5 AAC 92.125. Wolf Predation Control Implementation Plan. Amend this regulation as follows:

Implement a plan for predator reduction for the Delta caribou herd

ISSUE: The department has neglected the intensive management guidelines and requirements for this population. The Delta caribou herd is way below their population objective and, consequently, the harvest is way below the harvest objective. We request the board ask the department to either

change the intensive management findings, population objective and harvest objective or draft an implementation control plan to get this population headed towards its stated objectives.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The department will continue to be out of compliance with the Alaska statutory requirements for intensive management of big game populations important for human consumption.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? N/A.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All hunters and Alaskans who believe in our game management objectives.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Mike Tinker and Bud Burris (I-06S-G-016)

PROPOSAL 132 - 5 AAC 92.074. Community subsistence harvest hunt areas. Amend this regulation as follows:

Establish a community subsistence harvest hunt area. Only residents of Delta Junction and the area within a 20 mile radius may hunt moose in Unit 20D southwest with current seasons and bag limits.

Or, no motorized vehicles are allowed in Unit 20D southwest unless the hunter lives in the hunt area.

Or, no moose hunting in Unit 20D southwest except by registration permit that can only be obtained in person at the Delta Junction department office on a date to be announced by the department at a time when most out of town people would not be able to register. (ie. permits are obtainable today only from 8:00 – 10:00 a.m.)

Or, out of town hunters must immediately destroy the trophy value of all bulls taken by cutting both horns into quarters.

ISSUE: There are too many people from out of town hunting moose around Delta Junction in southwest Unit 20D. Out of town hunters have displaced or overrun our customary and traditional hunting grounds so much so that many Delta Junction hunters have been forced to moose hunt in other game units.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The people of Delta Junction cannot obtain their critical winter moose meat. More conflicts with out of town hunters.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? This proposal would decrease conflicts in the limited area described. It would allow local people to harvest local moose.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All residents of the Delta Junction area.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Hunters from other towns. But then many other communities already have these regulations that effectively exclude out of town hunters.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Drawing hunt—rejected because no one from Delta Junction would draw a tag.

PROPOSED BY: Clinton W. Crusberg (HQ-06S-G-019)

PROPOSAL 133 - 5 AAC 92.520. Closures and restrictions in state game refuges. Add discretionary hunting conditions that were inadvertently left out of this regulation when discretionary trapping conditions were added as follows:

...

(c) Unit 20:

In the Creamer’s Field Migratory Waterfowl Refuge, hunting and trapping are allowed only after registering with the department; the department may use its discretionary authority under 5 AAC 92.051 **and 5 AAC 92.052** to implement the management plan for the refuge developed by the department.

ISSUE: 5 AAC 92.520 authorizes a registration permit for hunting and trapping on Creamer’s Refuge and use of discretionary trapping permit conditions and procedures (5 AAC 92.051) in those permits. Authority to use discretionary permit hunt conditions and procedures (5 AAC 92.052) is also needed. It appears the board’s original intent was to allow this authority and, therefore, this proposal is a housekeeping measure.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Confusion will continue about whether the department has authority to implement discretionary permit hunt conditions on Creamer’s Refuge.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No change. The department currently manages hunting on Creamer’s Refuge using implied permit hunt authority, but would like that authority to be unambiguous.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Anyone who reads the regulations.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-06S-G-040)

PROPOSAL 134 - 5 AAC 92.085. Unlawful methods of taking big game; exceptions. Amend this regulation for Unit 20 as follows:

Airboats shall be classified with fixed wing aircraft and be subject to all laws pertaining to such when traveling more than one fourth mile from a navigable waterway.

ISSUE: Considerable increase of airboat hunting in large swampy drainages which were inaccessible during moose hunting season previous to new technology, ie., bottom coatings, multi-blade variable pitch propeller, increased horsepower, etc. The new airboats can motor far beyond the limits of the best track rigs to areas even a float plane cannot utilize. Moose are easily shot from the elevated seat of these vehicles.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Overharvest in these areas resulting in lower moose populations there and in more accessible hunting areas which rely on surplus animals from healthy, previously unhuntable populations in these swampy flats, especially breeding age bulls.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? More larger bulls available to breed cows during post-hunting season rut in adjacent, heavily hunted areas.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All big game hunters who access their hunting areas by conventional means.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Possibly the airboater on waters where a stern driven boat would travel; when he has traveled more than one fourth mile from a navigable waterway the same day.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Prohibiting airboats in specific areas or drainages during moose season. Would probably also have to prohibit float planes, track rigs, etc. to have equality or establish special management areas.

PROPOSED BY: Jack E. Windsor (HQ-06S-G-023)

PROPOSAL 135 - 5 AAC 92.XXX. Unit 12 Dall sheep and moose permits for nonresident guides. Create a new regulation as follows:

Eliminate nonresident guides from Unit 12 just as nonresident hunters were eliminated in Unit 13 from hunting moose. Or limit nonresident guides in Unit 12 by species. No nonresident guides guiding in Unit 12 for moose or Dall sheep.

ISSUE: Unit 12 is a road connected intensive management area where residents rely heavily on resources harvested. Local hunters, local guides and local transporters all contribute year round to the benefit of our wildlife resources. Collectively we try to “farm” our resources so there will be animals to harvest from one season to the next. We very much despise these high volume, out of state operators who show up just days before the open season, completely disregard locals, kill as much as quickly as possible, pack up their hundreds of thousands of dollars at seasons end and head to the “lower 48” to prey on the next state. This is all under the guise of fair and legal interstate commerce.

If this activity is to be condoned, which our committee feels that our constitution spells out explicitly to the contrary, then we ask that the board direct these individuals to more remote areas of our state where there is less conflict and competition for resources. If one reads our State Constitution, it is easy to see that these people are taking for themselves everything our state has

to offer in resources but not living up to their corresponding obligations to the residents and to the state.

Main issues to be addressed:

Too many guides operating on state land in Unit 12.

How to legally reduce guide numbers to a desirable level.

How to legally eliminate nonresident guides.

Limit the numbers of guides and operators operating on state land.

Alaskans are appalled when they learn that nonresident guides can legally come to Alaska and guide other nonresidents to animals they themselves cannot legally hunt. They are dumbfounded.

Reasons we want to eliminate nonresident guides:

- 1) Lack of conservation ethic as by high volume operators.
- 2) Disregard for local hunters, local guides or local transporters, moving into hunting areas right along established camps, airstrips, and other access points used by locals for years.
- 3) They have no connection with or to the land and have poor land use ethics, no involvement with winter predator management and a “do not care” attitude other than how much money can be made from Alaska’s wildlife resources only to leave to another state to pilfer their resources.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Unduly, overcrowded hunt areas with unsatisfying hunting experiences but most notably is poor local hunter harvest due to excessive take by high volume operators who leave little to no game for local hunters needs. This in turn generates much animosity, which leads to resident hunters who want all nonresident hunting stopped. This does not set well with game managers whose budgets rely heavily on nonresident dollars for their funding.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes by encouraging sound conservation ethics.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All of Alaska’s hunters.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? All nonresident guides who hunt Unit 12 and their nonresident employees.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Completely outlaw nonresident hunting in Unit 12 but rejected because we did not want all to suffer because of these “bad apples”.

PROPOSED BY: Upper Tanana/Fortymile Advisory Committee (I-06S-G-051)

PROPOSAL 136 - 5 AAC 92.530(7). Management areas. Amend the regulation as follows:

From September 1 through September 10 the use of firearms with open sights only, no use of telescopic sights, would be allowed within the Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area.

ISSUE: The restriction of bow hunters only inside the Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? A huge area of Unit 24 remains a private hunting reserve for wealthy hunters on the other side of the corridor who can fly or use a big boat to cross.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Less restriction on an over regulated area.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Non-wealthy hunters.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Nobody.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Doug Hamilton (SC-06S-G-003)

PROPOSAL 137 - 5 AAC 92.530(7)(B). Management areas. Amend this regulation as follows:

Units 20F, 24, 25A and 26B:
Game bird hunting with a shotgun is allowed within the Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area.

ISSUE: Currently you are not allowed to use a firearm for hunting. There is well over 400 miles of accessible game bird hunting—this is the largest area that the state’s second smallest user group (archers) has locked up since the pipeline. There is no biological reason not to be allowed to harvest these birds.

Special Note: You are allowed to shoot a firearm at furbearers in the corridor as long as you have a valid trapping license and trapping season is open.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? A very useable resource will go unused.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? N/A.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Any sportsman wishing to travel the haul road and wanting to use the hundreds of thousands of acres of land for some very exciting bird hunting.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Allen F. Barrette (I-06S-G-058)

PROPOSAL 138 - 5 AAC 92.530(7)(i). Management areas. Amend the regulation as follows:

Add the Slate Creek Mining Road to the list of legal access for licensed highway vehicles to the Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area.

ISSUE: Lack of access to areas on the other side of the Dalton Highway Corridor. The list does not allow you to transit the corridor.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Plane owners, boat owners, miners, and local residents have exclusive access, no one else can cross the corridor, commercially or privately.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Realistic access to a huge area of Unit 24.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Working class hunters who do not own planes, boats, or mines.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Tony Kuse (SC-06S-G-001)

PROPOSAL 139 - 5 AAC 92.530. Management areas. Amend the regulation as follows:

Add the Slate Creek Mining Road from Coldfoot to Weiner Lake to the list of access roads for licensed highway vehicles to transport hunters, gear, and game.

ISSUE: Lack of access to areas outside the Dalton Highway corridor, no air taxis, no commercial riverboat service, only licensed highway vehicles allow affordable access.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Only wealthy plane owners, boat owners, miners, and locals can cross the corridor.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, it allows affordable access to this area.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Hunters who cannot afford planes, boats, or mines.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Only the exclusive mining claims with airstrips—they only suffer competition.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Doug Hamilton (SC-06S-G-002)

PROPOSAL 140 - 5 AAC 84.270. Furbearer trapping and 5 AAC 92.530(7). Management areas. Amend these regulations as follows:

The use of snow machines in the Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area is allowed for the purpose of trapping.

ISSUE: Currently you are not allowed to use motorized vehicles within this corridor. This has never been an issue and was not enforced until the last two years. Prior to this it was not enforced and law enforcement did not care to pursue the issue. Now less than a dozen people from the area have made local enforcement agencies be more aggressive with issuing tickets.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? An incredible vast area of Alaska will not be used by out-of-the-area trappers. Predator populations will continue to grow and the ungulate population will continue to struggle.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? N/A.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The expanding population of trappers who are struggling to find areas to trap would benefit as well as the state of Alaska because predator population may be kept in check. We would have the issues that we have in other areas—prevention is the key thing.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Less than a dozen people who claim hundreds of thousands of acres as their own and are allowed to use snow machines will suffer. All of the Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Allen F. Barrette (I-06S-G-057)

PROPOSAL 141 - 5 AAC 92.530. Management areas. Amend this regulation as follows:

Create the Shaw Creek/Pogo Road Corridor; no motorized access or the use of firearms for hunting within two and one half miles of either side of centerline of Pogo Road and power transmission right-of-way.

ISSUE: A new privately built 49 mile road on state land has opened up a large portion of northern Unit 20D (Shaw Creek drainage) to the potential of overharvest of a low population. Tech-Pogo is supposed to restrict access along the road and it has become clear that it is not happening. They claim people are accessing it by way of the TAPS pipeline and by-passing their gate along Shaw Creek Road.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? There will be a constant increase of activity by ATV, ORV, and other conveyances into an area sensitive to ground disturbance. This will cause serious habitat degradation along with impact on caribou and moose in the drainage.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? I have seen the area and it is apparent that the majority of hunting that would occur if allowed, would take place along the road and powerline, thus creating a road hunting situation very unsafe.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? This would curtail a land rush by many people who already have or will hunt that road this fall. It is state land. The resource will benefit.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one, the area has no significant past hunting history.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Open the road to everyone like the Dalton Highway and see what happens and then react, hopefully in time.

PROPOSED BY: David Davenport (I-06S-G-026)

PROPOSAL 142 - 5 AAC 85.025. Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou, 5 AAC 92.220. Salvage of game meat, furs, and hides and 5 AAC 92.540. Controlled use areas. Amend these regulations as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
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(18)

Unit 23

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

5 caribou per day; however, cow caribou may not be taken May 16-June 30	July 1-June 30
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NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

2 [5] caribou; however, cow caribou may not be taken May 16-June 30	July 1-June 30
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5 AAC 92.220. Salvage of game meat, furs, and hides. (a) Subject to additional requirements in 5 AAC 84 - 5 AAC 85, a person taking game shall salvage the following parts for human use:

(d) A person taking game not listed in (a) of this section shall salvage for human consumption all edible meat, as defined in 5 AAC 92.990. In addition,

(1) for moose and caribou taken before October 1 in Unit 9B, Unit 17, Unit 18, those portions of Unit 19A within the Holitna/Hoholitna Controlled Use Area, **and** Unit 19B, [AND UNIT 23], the edible meat of the front quarters and hindquarters must remain naturally attached to the bone until the meat is transported from the field or is processed for human consumption;

(2) for caribou taken before October 1 in Unit 21A, the edible meat of the front quarters and hindquarters must remain naturally attached to the bone until the meat is transported from the field or is processed for human consumption;

(3) for moose taken before October 1 in Units 21 and 24, and for caribou taken before October 1 in Unit 24, the edible meat of the front quarters, hindquarters, and ribs must remain naturally attached to the bone until the meat has been transported from the field or is processed for human consumption.

(4) for moose and caribou taken before October 1 in Unit 23, the edible meat of the front quarters, hindquarters, ribs, and the meat along the backbone between the front and hindquarters, must remain naturally attached to the bone until the meat is processed for human consumption;

Current definition of edible meat:

(24) "edible meat" means, in the case of a big game animal, except a black bear, the meat of the ribs, neck, brisket, front quarters as far as the distal joint of the radius-ulna (knee), hindquarters as far as the distal joint of the tibia-fibula (hock), and the meat along the backbone between the front and hindquarters; in the case of a black bear, the meat of the front quarters and hindquarters and meat along the backbone (backstrap); in the case of wild fowl, the meat of the breast; however, "edible meat" of big game or wild fowl does not include meat of the head, meat that has been damaged and made inedible by the method of taking, bones, sinew, incidental meat reasonably lost as a result of boning or a close trimming of the bones, or viscera;

5 AAC 92.540 Controlled use areas. In the following areas, access for hunting is controlled as specified:

(9) Unit 23

...

(B) the Lower Kobuk Controlled Use Area:

(i) the area consists of that portion of Unit 23 within one mile of either side of the main stem of the Squirrel River from its confluence with the North Fork River to its terminus at the Kobuk River, and one mile either side of the main stem of the Kobuk River from its confluence with the Salmon River to its terminus;

(ii) the area is closed from September 5 through 14 to the use of aircraft, or boats with an aggregate of more than 40 horse power, in any manner for big game hunting, including the transportation of big game hunters, their hunting gear, or parts of big game; however, this provision does not apply to the transportation of big game hunters, their hunting gear, or parts of big game to and between public airports;

ISSUE: This proposal seeks remedies for transporter issues in Unit 23, and contains recommendations discussed by a subcommittee of the Big Game Commercial Services Board. Justification for No. 1 and 2 is wasted meat. Number 3 is to reduce user conflicts between aircraft supported hunters and hunters using small boats. It also addresses the local concern about hunting the first groups of caribou, leading the fall migration.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Conflicts between local and non-local hunters will continue, negative perceptions of non-local hunters will increase. Hunters congregated in a confined area may escalate into conflict.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Local residents, managers of the resource, nonresident hunters by giving more space for them to hunt.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Transporters and nonresident hunters by requiring taking and salvaging meat and shorter period of time to hunt.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Yes-but would be much harder to receive support from the board and public-such as more restrictions on transporters.

PROPOSED BY: Roy Ashenfelter

(HQ-06S-G-036)

PROPOSAL 143 - 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose and 5 AAC 92.540. Controlled use areas. Amend these regulations as follows:

Together with a moratorium on all moose hunting in Unit 19A above the Oskawalik, a mandatory check station must be placed below Kalskag on the Kuskokwim. All hunters must check in and out of this check station. The check station must be manned by someone with arresting authority. If the moratorium is not put into effect, the check station should be at the confluence of the Kuskokwim and Holitna rivers.

ISSUE: There continue to be numerous violations of the 40 horsepower limit regulation in the Holitna-Hoholitna Controlled Use Area. This, along with the taking of illegal cows is contributing to the decrease in the moose population in Unit 19A and Unit 19B.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Moose numbers will continue to decline due to these violations.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. Illegal cow harvest will be reduced and the 40 horsepower regulation will be enforced.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? The moose population in Unit 19A and Unit 19B and all user groups who depend on the moose. Also the riverbanks will not be washed so badly by the wake from large motors.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Hunters who break the law by killing cow moose or accessing the Holitna-Hoholitna Controlled Use Area with motors over 40 horsepower.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Central Kuskokwim Advisory Committee (I-06S-G-012)

PROPOSAL 144 - 5 AAC 92.540(8)(A). Controlled use areas. Amend the regulation for Units 21 and 24 as follows:

(8) Units 21 and 24

(ii) [THE AREA IS CLOSED TO THE USE OF AIRCRAFT FOR HUNTING MOOSE, INCLUDING THE TRANSPORTATION OF MOOSE HUNTERS, THEIR HUNTING GEAR, AND/OR MOOSE PARTS; HOWEVER THIS DOES NOT APPLY TO THE TRANSPORTATION OF MOOSE HUNTERS, THEIR HUNTING GEAR, AND/OR PARTS OF MOOSE FROM A PUBLICLY OWNED AIRPORT IN THE CONTROLLED USE AREA.]

ISSUE: Prohibition of aircraft access to the Koyukuk controlled use area.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? 1) Nearly three million acres of public lands that are inaccessible by any means other than aircraft will remain essentially closed to hunting without any biological reason. The thin ribbon of water (Koyukuk River) that courses through the nearly four million acre Koyukuk National Wildlife Refuge affords moose hunting only to boat

borne hunters and only to an average of less than one mile back from the river. Meanwhile the Koyukuk Controlled Use Area covers an area so vast that small ponds and lakes thirty miles back from the river that are inaccessible except to aircraft, are left unutilized on otherwise huntable public lands.

2) With the ever-closing of more federal park lands, native held lands etc., crowding has become and will continue to become a problem. This is an opportunity to easily open more public land and spread out the pressure.

3) The clause of equal access to natural resources for all residents in the Alaska Constitution will continue to be violated. Since the controlled use area is an area of drawing permit and registration permit only a set number of hunters will have access to the area. It should therefore not matter that a hunter transports himself by boat or aircraft.

5) The controlled use area restriction to aircraft was conceived twenty six years ago to limit the number of hunters in the area. In the intervening years the very fact so many hunters have engulfed the area that a drawing permit system became necessary shows what an abject failure of the aircraft restriction. Without allowing some of those permitted hunters to get off of the river and into the back country the problems associated with crowding on the river will continue.

5) If no aircraft access continues, all hunters will remain bunched together on the river corridor, competition and hostilities between local and nonlocal users will continue and hunting pressure on the moose herd in a small area will continue rather than be spread out over a larger area.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. Many of the drawing permit hunters are nonlocal. Many would prefer to fly into the area well back from the main river thus reducing conflict and crowding with other hunters and also providing a more quality hunting experience. Also, since this is a drawing permit area, only a set number of hunters are allowed in so the harvest would not increase and it would be spread over a larger area.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All people who want to see the hunting pressure and people conflicts reduced on the Koyukuk River while at the same time providing a more quality outdoor experience. Also benefiting are all the people who would like to see an approximate three million more acres of public land opened to moose hunting.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? 1) All those who believe an Alaska resident who owns an aluminum boat with a 150 horsepower engine and a propeller should have open access to this huge area while an Alaska resident who owns an aluminum airplane with a 150 horsepower engine and a propeller should not. We need to get past the idea that an airplane owner is rich and therefore does not deserve to hunt this controlled use area. Fly in hunting and certainly scouting the area from the air is an option that is affordable to anyone, especially those who can afford to hunt via gas guzzling motor boats.

2) All those who wrongly assume that the inaccessible area acts as a reserve area in which moose are raised to come to the river. Biological studies show that moose grow up and die in a five to seven square mile area. Even if it was true that the area acted as a reserve, should not aircraft owners then also be allowed to land on the river? Why would boat hunters have a "reserve" of three million acres off limits to other Alaska citizens simply because of their mode of travel?

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? 1) Changing the controlled use area to a five mile wide corridor along the Koyukuk River (two and one half miles on either side) that would be inaccessible to aircraft. This solution still violates the equal access clause in the Alaska Constitution.

2) Changing the regulation for the controlled use area to allow only the use of aircraft for moose hunting and banning boats for moose hunting completely. This solution also violates the equal access clause of the Alaska Constitution and is as silly as the present ban on aircraft.

3) Suing the State. This was rejected as I thought that a proposal that corrected a violation to the Alaska constitution that was good for the local people, nonlocal hunters, environmentalist, and the moose would be taken as common sense and slide right through the approval process. I am submitting this for the third time as I feel common sense may be more “common” now than it was two years ago.

PROPOSED BY: Colin Brown

(HQ-06S-G-011)

PROPOSAL 145 - 5 AAC 92.540(3)(F). Controlled use areas. Amend this regulation as follows:

Remove all motorized vehicle restrictions in the Wood River Controlled Use Area during moose season.

ISSUE: An aging overpopulated moose herd in the Wood River Control Use Area. This herd cannot be effectively hunted during the regular moose season due to the current restrictions. These restrictions prevent maximum sustainable yield. They also lock out everyone unable to fly in, or hire one of the guides that have almost exclusive use of this area.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The aging overpopulated moose herd will continue to be underutilized. The possibility of a major die-off due to a bad winter will continue to exist. People who are dependent on this herd will continue to be locked out.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, by permitting the harvest of animals that would otherwise die of old age.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Everyone who hunts moose in Unit 20A. All people in the surrounding area that depend on moose to feed their families.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? The few guides that currently have almost exclusive use of this area.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Roggie L. Hunter

(I-06S-G-062)

PROPOSAL 146 - 5 AAC 92.540(3)(F). Controlled use areas. Amend this regulation as follows:

Motor boats and motorized vehicles under 1500 pounds are allowed in the Wood River Control Use Area.

ISSUE: An aging overpopulated moose herd in the Wood River Control Use Area. This herd cannot be effectively hunted during the regular moose season due to the current restrictions. These

restrictions prevent maximum sustainable yield. They also lock out everyone unable to fly in or hire one of the guides that have almost exclusive use of this area.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The aging overpopulated moose herd will continue to be underutilized. The possibility of a major die-off due to a bad winter will continue to exist. People who are dependant on this herd will continue to be locked out.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, by permitting the harvest of animals that would otherwise die of old age.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Everyone who hunts moose in Unit 20A. All people in the surrounding area that depend on moose to feed their families.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? A few guides that currently have almost exclusive use of this area.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Completely doing away with all motorized restrictions in this area—maybe too much opposition.

PROPOSED BY: Roggie L. Hunter (I-06S-G-061)

PROPOSAL 147 - 5 AAC 92.540. Controlled use areas. Amend this regulation as follows:

Delete the Wood River Controlled Use area entirely, shorten the season of motorized closure or change the boundaries to exclude the North Alaska Range foothills along the Rex Trail.

ISSUE: The Wood River Controlled Use Area (CUA) is a significant detriment to reducing the moose population in Unit 20A to the intensive management population objective. Because of the seasonal movements of the moose and the motorized closure close to one of the only access trails in Unit 20A, the desired antlerless moose reduction is never reached in the Wood River CUA zones. Either removing the CUA or changing the northern boundary or reducing the season of the motorized closure will help to achieve the reduction in moose population.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Although the Wood River CUA will continue to produce high quality moose hunting for those that can access it, up to hundreds of moose that need to be removed will not be hunted. This puts additional pressure for removal in the zones that have experienced social problems with the influx of hunters.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? In this case, the “product” sought is to reduce the moose population to the intensive management population objective. Allowing more access into the Wood River CUA will improve that product.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Alaskans who want to put moose in the freezer. Alaskans who want to achieve the intensive management population objective to promote a healthy, long-term and stable moose population in Unit 20A.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? If seasons or boundary changes are imposed, no one would suffer. If changes are made “until the intensive management population is achieved”, no one would

suffer. If the Wood River CUA is removed, the select guides who created the CUA to fit their fly in—horseback access needs would suffer.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Fairbanks Advisory Committee (I-06S-G-065)

PROPOSAL 148 - 5 AAC 92.540. Controlled use areas. Amend this regulation as follows:

Each Unit will have a limited number of outfitters.

Outfitters are required to be Alaska residents.

Local preference for local outfitters to allow livelihood from their home area.

Create corridors along highways of resident-only hunts to disperse competition between outfitters and state residents.

Close the Yanert Control Use Area to nonresidents for moose and sheep due to high outfitter use (or close the first half of the season to nonresidents).

If the number of outfitters is limited in each Unit, grandfather in the outfitters who have used the area the longest.

Require guides be Alaska residents, or buy a nonresident license and tag for each hunt they guide.

ISSUE: Very heavy hunting pressure by outfitters in Unit 20A, Wood River and Yanert Controlled Use Area and in Unit 13E. Currently there are five to six outfitters hunting the Wood River/Yanert River area at once. There is no control of outfitters; resident hunters are struggling to hunt the area.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? It has already happened; low mature sheep ram numbers, fewer old bears, a quality area has lost its quality. Rich areas ten years ago are almost barren now. Residents continue to compete with outfitters, no care by outfitters to manage wildlife numbers because no outfitter areas.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? If there is less hunting by outfitters, the wildlife will have a chance to increase better quality hunting, less air traffic, less large camps.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Resident hunters, nonresident bear and wolf hunters.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Outfitter use in the small area proposed.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Kevin Bopp (HQ-06S-G-006)

PROPOSAL 149 - 5 AAC 92.003. Hunter education and orientation requirements. Amend this regulation as follows:

Repeal.

ISSUE: The regulation requiring hunter education in Unit 20 is discriminatory against many unit residents that are not offered the same classroom opportunity as the Anchorage and Fairbanks areas. They are being denied the opportunity to hunt in these areas, and our constitution states that the resources belong to everybody.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? People in rural areas of the state will not be allowed to hunt in other areas of the state and are being denied access to state resources.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, it will allow people more opportunity to hunt—reasonable opportunity to residents.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All families with children who do not have access to the class and therefore are being denied the chance to hunt.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? The state hunter education program.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Allow the unit residents a waiver from this requirement and only require out-of-unit residents adult or youth, to have the hunter education certification—unconstitutional and discriminatory.

PROPOSED BY: David Davenport (I-06S-G-027)

PROPOSAL 150 - 5 AAC 92.003. Hunter education and orientation requirements. Amend this regulation as follows:

...

(g) A person may not take a black bear over bait in Unit 7 and Units 14 – 16 with a bow and arrow unless the person has successfully completed a department-approved bowhunting course.

(h) A person giving, transporting, or receiving moose or caribou meat in Unit 23 must, before doing so, successfully complete a department approved course covering meat care unless the meat was processed for human consumption prior to giving or transporting the game, or is processed for human consumption with XX hours of receiving the game. This paragraph does not apply to a person shipping meat on a regularly scheduled flight from a publicly owned airport in the area, or to a person who is distributing, sharing, or receiving the moose or caribou meat as part of an identified subsistence use in the area.

(i) A nonresident hunter in Unit 23 must have attended a department-approved hunter orientation course (to include meat care, subsistence use patterns and conflicts, and laws applicable to moose and caribou hunting in the area) before hunting for moose or caribou or must be accompanied by a registered guide or resident family member within the second degree of kindred.

ISSUE: During the Fall 2005 Arctic and Western Region meeting in Kotzebue, the Board of Game considered a proposal requiring transporters to complete a course covering meat care and requiring nonresident hunters to complete a hunter education course. The proposal is intended to help resolve increased user conflict issues and care of game meat in Game Management Unit 23. The proposal was then deferred to the Interior Region meeting in March 2006 to allow further public comment.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? There will continue to be conflicts between hunters, and meat will continue to be lost due to improper care and salvage.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, meat salvaged will be in better condition.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All hunters taking moose and caribou in Unit 23.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? People who have not taken the required course.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Controlled use areas.

PROPOSED BY: The Alaska Board of Game (HQ-06S-G-081)
