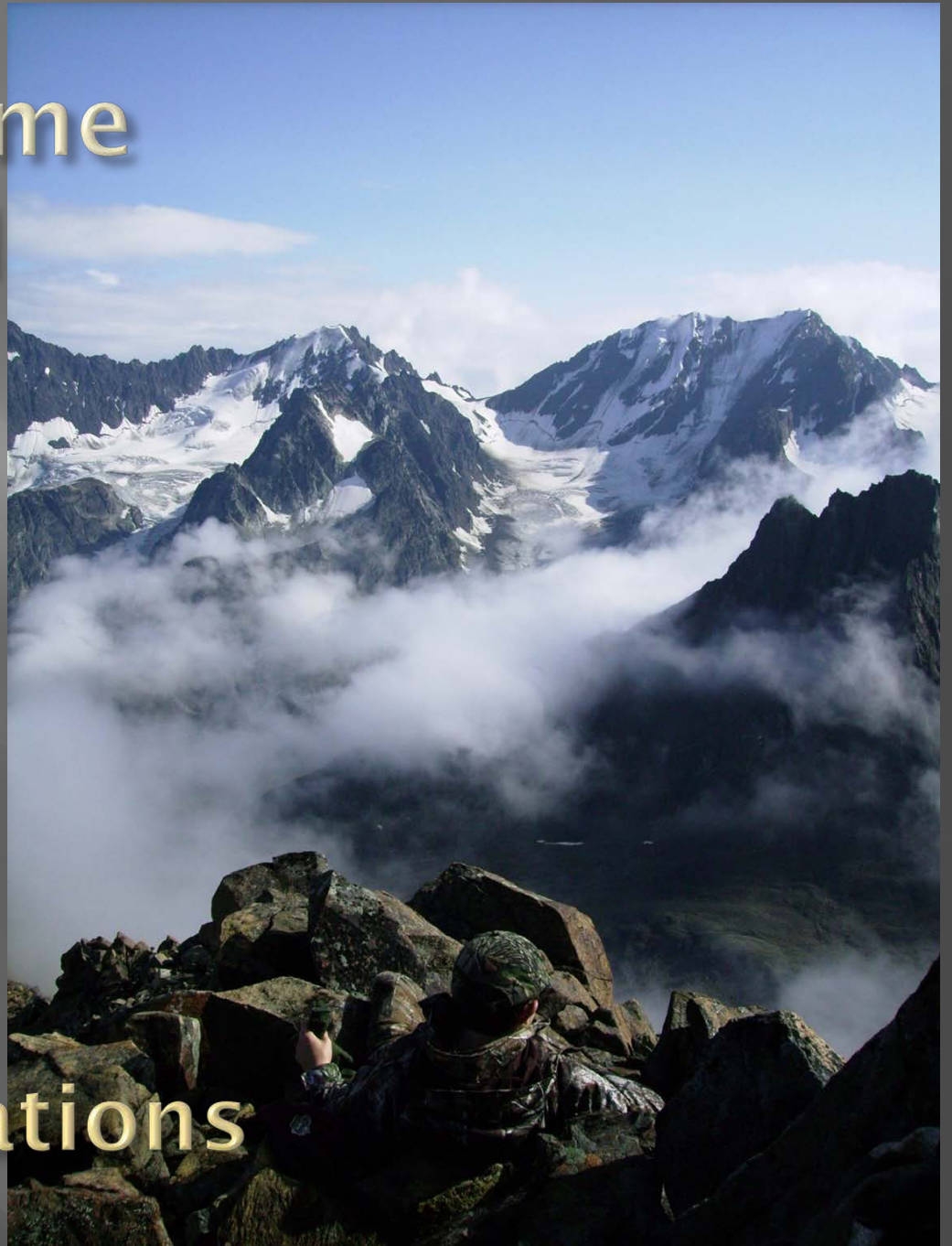


Board of Game March 2011 REGION IV



Analysis and Recommendations



Proposal 115

EFFECT OF PROPOSAL: Modify sheep hunts for Region IV Units. Bag limit full curl only and reduce permits by 1/3. Sheep drawing hunts less than 10 permits resident only except for auction permit.

ISSUE: Reduced sheep populations and hunting opportunities for residents

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: DO NOT ADOPT

RATIONALE: The Department desires to continue with the current management strategy to rebuild the older cohort portion of the ram segment of the Chugach population.

The drawing permit /any ram management strategy will allow for improved survival of larger mature rams and still provide harvest opportunity.

Non-residents are currently limited to no more than 10% of the available drawing permits in Unit 14A and 20% of the available drawing permits in Unit 13D.

Issues and Management Considerations

- ▣ Concerns about reduced sheep populations and few full-curl rams available for harvest
- ▣ Full curl bag limit harvest strategy is necessarily appropriate for general harvest sheep hunts
- ▣ Limited non-resident hunting opportunity in 13D and 14A – 15 NR drawing permits (96 RES)
- ▣ Drawing hunts for sheep have reduced hunter crowding and improved the *hunting success*
- ▣ Non-resident hunting is restricted for Drawing Hunts in 13D and 14A by Board Policy

Proposal 115

EFFECT OF PROPOSAL: Modify sheep hunts for Region IV Units. Bag limit full curl only and reduce permits by 1/3. Sheep drawing hunts less than 10 permits resident only except for auction permit.

ISSUE: Reduced sheep populations and hunting opportunities for residents

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: DO NOT ADOPT

Proposal 116

EFFECT OF PROPOSAL: Change the horn restriction for sheep in Units 13D and 14A

ISSUE: Any ram bag limit in Chugach sheep drawing hunts

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: DO NOT ADOPT

RATIONALE: Any ram bag limit is a specific management strategy applied to a portion of the Chugach sheep population as an experiment and a method to increase and stabilize the number of older rams in the population.

The population is still in the recovery phase; the Department intends to continue with the strategy until we can identify an increase in ram numbers or demonstrate sufficient recovery to the population.

Issues and Management Considerations

- ▣ The any ram bag limit for drawing hunts in 13D and 14A allows for sheep hunting opportunity without putting all the hunting pressure on the very limited number of full curl rams observed in the population.
- ▣ Prior to the current drawing hunts, full curl harvest strategies focused all hunting pressure on the older mature rams. This segment of the ram population within these units was subject to heavy pressure given general harvest opportunity and numerous guides in the area.
- ▣ The any ram bag limit strategy actually allows for more individual opportunity with a drawing hunt given the very limited number of full-curl rams currently observed in the population.

Proposal 116

EFFECT OF PROPOSAL: Change the horn restriction for sheep in Units 13D and 14A

ISSUE: Any ram bag limit in Chugach sheep drawing hunts

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: DO NOT ADOPT

Proposal 117

EFFECT OF PROPOSAL: Establish late-season archery registration hunts in all sheep drawing areas in Region IV

ISSUE: Providing additional sheep hunting opportunity

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: NO RECOMMENDATION

RATIONALE: This is an allocation issue

Less than expected participation in sheep drawing permit hunters in Units 13D and 14A; could be opportunity for limited archery registration permits

The Department added 10 regular drawing permits to the 14A draws (25% increase) to address the low participation in the current hunts

Proposal 118

EFFECT OF PROPOSAL: Require guide-client agreements for goat hunts in Units 13D, 14A, and 14C

ISSUE: Regulations regarding guide-client agreements for drawing hunts in the Chugach Mountains

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: ADOPT

RATIONALE:

This proposal would facilitate increased consistency for highly sought after drawing permit hunts for residents as well as non-residents

This would be consistent with other very limited and desirable drawing permit hunts such as sheep and brown bear in Region IV as well as the rest of the state

Proposal 105

EFFECT OF PROPOSAL: Allow same-day-airborne hunting of black bear at bait stations in Region IV

ISSUE: Expand opportunity for black bear bait hunting

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: NO RECOMMENDATION

RATIONALE: Black bear populations in Region IV are healthy in areas with suitable habitat; no biological issues have been identified

Bear harvests in most of Region IV are sustainable and are generally low in remote areas where airplanes are used for access

Unit 14A has greater access and harvest appears to be high, current methods are appropriate for the unit

Proposal 197

EFFECT OF PROPOSAL: Allow same-day-airborne hunting of black bear at bait stations in Regions II and IV

ISSUE: Expand opportunity for black bear bait hunting

DEPARTMENT POSITION: TAKE NO ACTION

RATIONALE: Based on the decision taken by the Board on Proposal 105

Proposal 107

EFFECT OF PROPOSAL: Clarify and modify guided black bear baiting requirements in Region IV

ISSUE: Desire by some guides to allow clients hunting black bear over bait to remain and hunt at the bait station without requirement for guides to be physically present at all times.

Allow the use of radios by clients and guides to remain in contact at all times at black bear bait stations

Allow guides to register and maintain up to 10 bait stations (currently two) for black bear hunting in all Region IV Game Management Units

BACKGROUND: Several years ago the Board passed more restrictive requirements for guides hunting with clients using bait for black bears.

Because there was concern at the time for the future of black bear baiting, the Board passed regulations that contained language requiring guides or assistant guides to *personally accompany* (remain) with the clients at the bait site.

This was likely done in order to facilitate the guide or assistant guide with assisting the client in determining species, sex, and size of the bear(s) observed at the bait site.

Previously, the only guide requirements were that the guide or assistant guide *participate in the contracted hunt*.

MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS:

General black bear hunting with a guide is not a requirement for non-residents; current law requires the guide to *personally accompany* the client at the bait station.

General guide regulations require a guide to be physically present in the field and *participate in the contracted hunt*. The guide requirements for baiting are more restrictive.

Unlawful methods of take include the taking of game with the aid of radio communication, cellular or satellite telephone.

DEPARTMENT POSITION: NO RECOMMENDATION*

* Use of radios / phones prohibited in other regulations

Proposal 107

EFFECT OF PROPOSAL: Clarify and modify guided black bear baiting requirements in Region IV.

ISSUE: Allow clients hunting black bear over bait to remain at the bait station without guide physically present at all times. Allow guides to register and maintain up to 10 bait stations.

DEPARTMENT POSITION: NO RECOMMENDATION

Proposal 108

EFFECT OF PROPOSAL: Establish a regional bag limit for black bear in Region IV; Units 9, 11, 13, 14A, 14B, 16 and 17

ISSUE: Providing additional black bear hunting opportunity

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: NO RECOMMENDATION

RATIONALE: No conservation concerns have been identified for black bears in Region IV Game Management Units

The Department has typically managed wildlife on a unit-by-unit basis; this proposal would challenge that management philosophy

The Board has maintained black bear bag limits for specific units to manage the harvest relative to biological issues, hunter interest, methods and means, hunter access, and related issues

Proposal 106

EFFECT OF PROPOSAL: Establish a bag limit and season for trapping black bear in all Region IV Units

ISSUE: Provide more opportunity to take black bears

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: AMEND IF ADOPTED

RATIONALE: Black bear populations are not limited by harvest in Region IV and no biological concerns have been identified

Regulations that affect black bear trapping must be reviewed before black bears can be trapped as furbearers under this regulation

Implementation should be delayed until the 2012-13 regulatory year or until the Board has had the opportunity to review the remaining regulations associated with black bear trapping

Proposal 110

EFFECT OF PROPOSAL: Reauthorize the brown bear tag fee exemptions for GMU's 11, 16(B), and portions of 13 and 16(A); and for Registration Subsistence Hunters in GMU's 9(B), 17, and portions of 9(D) and 9(E)

ISSUE: Allow for additional harvest of brown bears in specific units

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: ADOPT

RATIONALE: The Board liberalized brown bear regulations in 2003 including the tag fee exemption to increase the harvest of bears

Continuation of the exemption is necessary to encourage the subsistence take of brown bears in Units 9 and 17

Proposal 109

EFFECT OF PROPOSAL: Remove the brown bear tag fee exemption for certain lands in 11,13, and 16B

ISSUE: Brown bear tag fee exemptions in select units in Region IV that include National Park Service lands

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: TAKE NO ACTION

RATIONALE: Based on the decision of the Board on Proposal 110. These units have been identified under the intensive management provisions in state law (A.S. 16.05.255 (e-g)) as areas where the ‘consumptive use of big game prey populations is a preferred use’. Under this law the Department is required to take steps to increase the prey population, including liberalizing harvest regulations for predators.

Proposal 112

EFFECT OF PROPOSAL: Change the coyote hunting season, bag limit and harvest requirement for Region IV Units; no bag limit and no closed season; salvage requirements - skull only unless destroyed in the taking.

ISSUE: Expand opportunity to take coyotes

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: NO RECOMMENDATION

RATIONALE: No biological issues regarding this proposal. Other regions and GMU's in the state have various seasons and bag limits.

Proposal 111

EFFECT OF PROPOSAL: Change the bag limit for coyotes in all Region IV Units from 10 per day to no limit.

ISSUE: Increase opportunity to take coyotes

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: TAKE NO ACTION

RATIONALE: Based on the decision of the Board on Proposal 112

Proposal 113

EFFECT OF PROPOSAL: Change the season for coyotes in Units 13 and 14 to no closed season.

ISSUE: Increase opportunity to take coyotes

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: TAKE NO ACTION

RATIONALE: Based on the decision of the Board on Proposal 112

Proposal 122

EFFECT OF PROPOSAL: Review and discretionary hunt conditions and procedures applied to permit hunts in the Central/Southwest Region, Units 9,10,11,13,14A,14B,16 *and* 17.

ISSUE: Review department discretionary permit conditions

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION: TAKE NO ACTION

RATIONALE: Based on Board action and decisions on proposals 33 and 223; remainder of comprehensive review of 5 AAC 92.052 to take place in January 2012 at the statewide Board of Game Meeting.

REGULATION HISTORY:

- 5 AAC 92.052
- First implemented in 1985
- Created to provide the department with efficient and timely hunt requirements associated with management and conservation
- Twenty-three conditions identified in codified

**“THE DEPARTMENT MAY APPLY ANY
OR ALL OF THE FOLLOWING
ADDITIONAL CONDITIONS TO A
PERMIT HUNT, WHEN NECESSARY FOR
MANAGEMENT OF THE SPECIES
HUNTED: A PERMITTEE SHALL OR
MAY...”**

**(1) Register at a designated station before
entering, and upon leaving, the field.....**

REGION IV PERMIT HUNTS: Hunts listed by management area that may be subject to permit conditions requiring registration or a pre-hunt check in at a specific time and place.

PALMER: RM572

GLENNALLEN: CM300, CC01, D1454, RC566, RG580

KING SALMON: RB361, RB362, RB371, RB372, RB500, RB504

DILLINGHAM: RB500, RM573, RM575, RM583, RM585, RM587

REASONS FOR PERMIT ISSUE AT A SPECIFIC TIME AND PLACE:

- ▣ Limited locations available to issue and distribute permits
- ▣ Allow staff flexibility for in-season management options
- ▣ Direct harvest to specific areas to achieve goals and objectives
- ▣ Provide orientation and / or training to permitted hunters
- ▣ Reduce the number of permits issued to prevent overharvest
- ▣ Mitigate or reduce the user conflicts by limiting the number of hunters in the field
- ▣ Minimize impact of large numbers of applicants at some offices at one time

Proposal 122

EFFECT OF PROPOSAL: Review discretionary hunt conditions and procedures applied to permit hunts in the Central/Southwest Region; Units 9,10, 11, 13, 14A, 14B, 16 and 17.

ISSUE: Review of discretionary permit conditions

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION:

TAKE NO ACTION

A panoramic view of a mountain range under a clear blue sky. The foreground is a rocky, brownish slope with sparse green vegetation. The middle ground shows a deep valley with steep, rocky slopes. In the distance, more mountain ranges are visible, some with snow-capped peaks. The word "QUESTIONS?" is overlaid in a large, yellow, serif font with a white outline, positioned in the lower-left quadrant of the image.

QUESTIONS?