



THE STATE  
of **ALASKA**  
GOVERNOR SEAN PARNELL

## Department of Public Safety

DIVISION OF ALASKA WILDLIFE TROOPERS  
Office of the Director

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Chairman Ted Spraker  
Alaska Board of Game  
P.O. Box 115526  
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Dear Chairman Spraker:

The following comments give a brief description of the positions that the Department of Public Safety, Division of Alaska Wildlife Troopers have on the proposals that are up for consideration at the March 2013, Board of Game meeting in Kenai.

In general, when the board considers seasons and or bag limit changes, the Alaska Wildlife Troopers request that every effort possible be made to align the season dates and bag limits with adjacent game management units and/or sub units. This is mainly due to enforceability of multiple seasons in multiple locations as well as consistency of the regulations for the public. When the board considers proposals having to do with allocation or biological concerns, AWT is generally neutral in position.

AWT recognizes that regulations are developed by the Alaska Boards of Fish and Game through the public process to support management plans. Further, all management plans rely upon public compliance with regulations to achieve success. Enforcement is a crucial element needed to ensure long-term compliance with regulations by the public. The Alaska Wildlife Troopers request the board recognize that the division has limited resources and man power and any new regulation scheme or area restrictions may place an additional burden on AWT.

Comments on specific proposals are included in this letter.

Thank you for your time.

*Bernard Chastain*

Lieutenant, Alaska Wildlife Troopers  
Anchorage Headquarters

### **Proposal 142**

This proposal asks the board to count a wounded goat in GMU 8 as “taken” under the hunters bag limit. The proposer further requests that “wounded” means that the animal was touched with a hunting projectile (bullet or arrow). In general, these types of regulation schemes are difficult to enforce. In reality, Wildlife Troopers will have a very difficult time locating a “wounded” or wasted dead goat and linking it back to the hunter. Prosecutions of these types of cases have been minimal or non-existent and they rely primarily on the ethics of the hunter to follow the regulations.

### **Proposal 150**

This proposal asks the board to restrict the use of motorized land vehicles during certain hours in the lower Kenai controlled use area by allowing motorized land vehicle to operate only between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. or during the “dark of night”. This type of regulation is very difficult for AWT to enforce. Troopers would need to be physically present during the restricted hours to document motorized land vehicle use. In order to successfully prosecute someone for violating this regulation as written, Troopers would need to catch the person with a dead moose on a motorized vehicle during prohibited hours. Simply observing or contacting a person on a motorized vehicle is not enough, since the person would lawfully be able to hunt any other species of game, pick berries or travel to their cabin on the motorized vehicle and not be in violation. With limited enforcement resources, AWT would have difficulty enforcing this regulation.

### **Proposal 151**

This proposal asks the board to re-institute the closure of Palmer creek and Resurrection creek areas to moose hunting in GMU 7. While this is primarily an allocation issue, AWT would like to comment on the enforcement concerns. In the 2012 hunt, AWT had one sub-legal moose case. This moose was 46 inches and the hunter was cited. In addition, the US Forest Service had one sub-legal moose that they dealt with. In addition to the aforementioned moose, one additional small Bull Moose was located in a yard of a cabin owner. The cause of death of this moose was undetermined. Both the Wildlife Trooper and the US Forest Service officer that patrolled that area were not aware of trespass issues or user conflicts in the area. The majority of the land hunted in this area is Forest Service and the public is allowed access for hunting.

### **Proposal 157**

This proposal asks the board to modify the black bear salvage requirements for GMU’s 7 and 15. If the board wishes to continue the restriction on harvest of sows with cubs, one of the major tools for enforcement is determining if the sow was lactating or not. If the hunter is not required to salvage the hide from the field in the spring, it may be difficult to show that a lactating sow was taken.