



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR SEAN PARNELL

Department of Public Safety

DIVISION OF ALASKA WILDLIFE TROOPERS
Office of the Director

5700 East Tudor Road
Anchorage, Alaska 99507-1225
Main: 907.269.5509
Fax: 907.269.5616

Chairman
Alaska Board of Game
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau Ak, 99811-5526

Dear Chairman:

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 February 2013, Board of Game meeting in Wasilla.

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 45-

This proposal asks the board to change the hunting regulations for the Mulchatna caribou herd. If the board chooses to pass this regulation, AWT would ask that the board better define the hunting areas in unit 9(c), unit 17(a) and unit 17(b). These areas are poorly defined and leave enforcement and the public guessing as to where the open areas are for hunting. AWT will be prepared to work with the board and the department to come up with language that will better define these areas.

Proposal 46-

If the board passes this proposal it will create different regulations for the herds range which may result in confusion to the public as well as difficulty with enforcement. When possible, AWT asks the board to align seasons and limits for ease of enforcement.

Proposal 50-

This proposal asks the board to allow the sale of brown bear hides and skulls from GMU 17. If the board chooses to pass this proposal as written, it would make it extremely difficult for enforcement to determine that the brown bear hide or skull was taken in GMU 17. In General, enforcement of the sale of animal parts is very difficult when some areas are open and others are closed to the sale of these parts.

Proposal 101-

This proposal asks the board to prohibit hunting with off road vehicles in unit 16B until 3:00 am following the day that they last operated the ATV. If the board chooses to pass this proposal, it would be difficult for AWT to enforce. The proposal allows for driving into a camp (which is not defined) and also allows for use of the ATV after the moose is shot to retrieve the animal. AWT or a hunter willing to turn in the violator would need to be physically present to watch the violation happen. The hunter would simply need to say that they shot the moose before they used the ATV. It is our opinion that very few cases could be successfully prosecuted under this proposed regulation.