

Arctic/Western Region

(Region V)

Proposal Index

(Note: Please review the “Regional and Multiple Units” section, which may include proposals that also affect the regulations for other units).

Bethel Area – Unit 18

- 1 Modify the Lower Yukon Area for moose hunting in Unit 18.
- 2 Modify the Lower Yukon Area for moose hunting in Unit 18, extend the resident season, and liberalize the bag limit.
- 3 Modify the season and bag limit for moose in Unit 18 Remainder and Lower Yukon Area.
- 4 Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in Unit 18.
- 5 Open a subsistence musk ox hunt in Unit 18 and 19.
- 6 Remove the upper limit of Nelson Island musk ox registration permits issued for the winter season, and retain the requirement that permits are issued on a first-come, first-served basis.
- 7 Shift the wolverine hunting season dates in Unit 18.
- 8 Lengthen the lynx hunting season in Unit 18.
- 9 Extend the lynx hunting season in Unit 18.
- 10 Modify the game management unit boundaries for Units 18, 19, and 21.
- 11 Prohibit the use of .22 caliber ammunition for taking big game animals, excluding wolves and wolverines.
- 12 Change the salvage requirement for wildfowl in Unit 18.

Nome Area – Unit 22

- 13 Change the winter moose season in Unit 22E from January to March.
- 14 Establish an antlered bull season in Unit 22A Unalakleet River drainage.

- 15 Reauthorize the antlerless moose seasons in Unit 22C and the Remainder of Unit 22D.
- 16 Modify the season and bag limit for brown bear in Unit 22.
- 17 Extend the brown bear season in Unit 22A.
- 18 Extend the wolf hunting season in Unit 22.
- 19 Extend the wolverine hunting season in Unit 22.

Barrow Area – Unit 26A

- 20 Extend the bull moose hunting season in Unit 26A.
- 21 Allow moose hunting in the Anaktuvuk Pass Controlled Use Area, modify the bag limit, and change the moose permit allocation for nonresidents.
- 22 Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in Unit 26A.
- 23 Review the customary and traditional use worksheet for the Teshekpuk Lake caribou herd; establish amounts reasonably necessary for subsistence.
- 24 Change the hunting season and bag limit for coyote in Unit 26A to a no closed season and no bag limit.

Kotzebue Area – Unit 23

- 25 Change the Noatak River musk ox hunt area boundary to include the entire Noatak drainage and all areas north and west of the Kobuk River drainage.
- 26 Reauthorize antlerless moose seasons in Unit 23.
- 27 Modify brown bear harvest in Unit 23 on lands managed by the National Park Service.
- 28 Change the hunting season and bag limit for coyote in Unit 23 to a no closed season and no limit.
- 29 Allow the sale of caribou antlers harvested in Unit 23.

Regional and Multiple Units

- 30 Open resident sheep seasons ten days before nonresident seasons in Region V.
- 31 Open resident sheep seasons seven days before nonresident seasons in Region V.
- 32 Create a bowhunting only season for Dall sheep in Region V.
- 33 Change nonresident sheep hunts to drawing hunts and limit permit distribution to ten percent of the annual ten year average in Region V
- 34 Allocate a small percent of game harvest for nonresidents in Unit 26.
- 35 Prohibit the use of snares to take bears in Region V.
- 36 Allocate 90% of drawing permits to residents in Region V.
- 37 Allocate 90% of drawing permits to residents in Region V.
- 38 Reauthorize the current resident tag fee exemptions for brown bear in Units 18, 22, 23 and 26A.

ALASKA BOARD OF GAME
Arctic/Western Region Meeting
(Game Management Units 18, 22, 23, 26A)
January 10-13, 2014
National Guard Armory
Kotzebue, 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.

Friday, January 10, 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 TESTIMONY (upon conclusion of staff reports)

THE DEADLINE FOR SIGN-UP TO TESTIFY will be announced prior to the meeting. Public testimony will continue until persons who have signed up before the deadline and who are present when called by the Chairman to testify, are heard.

Saturday, January 11, 8:30 AM

PUBLIC AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE TESTIMONY Continued

BOARD DELIBERATIONS (Upon conclusion of public testimony)

Sunday, January 12 – Monday, January 13, 8:30 AM

BOARD DELIBERATIONS Continued

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS, including petitions, findings and policies, letters, and other business

(Upon conclusion of deliberations)

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 of Game website.
- B. Meeting materials are available at: www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=gameboard.meetinginfo or by contacting the ADF&G Boards Support Office in Juneau at 465-4110.
- C. A live audio stream for the meeting is intended to be available at: www.boardofgame.adfg.alaska.gov
- D. 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 December 27, 2013 to make any necessary arrangements.

Bethel Area – Unit 18

PROPOSAL 1 - 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Modify the Lower Yukon Area for moose hunting in Unit 18 as follows:

Unit 18 – that portion north and west of the Kashunak River continuing upriver along 1/2 mile south and east and paralleling a line along the southerly bank of the Kashunak River to the confluence of the south bank of Driftwood Slough, continuing upriver to the confluence of the Yukon River, across, ending the 1/2 mile buffer, then following the North Bank of the Yukon River to Pitka's Point and excluding all Yukon River drainages upriver from Pitka's Point; two moose, only one of which may be antlered. Antlered bulls may only be harvested from August 1-September 30.

ISSUE: Confusion on the boundary for the Lower Yukon Area of Unit 18 for moose.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The segment from Chakaktolik to Mountain Village will continue to be a confusing place to hunt due to the absence of good physical land marks to establish the border. A GPS is required to determine the eastern boundary for the Lower Yukon Area and not all hunters carry GPS units. Additionally, moose on the east bank of the Kashunak River are off limits for certain times of the year while moose on the west bank have more liberal open seasons. An unnecessary tempting situation for hunters when the Lower Yukon Area is open and the Unit 18 remainder is closed.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, the managers' report that there is a substantial increase in the moose population during the last census in the Andreafsky portion of Unit 18 Remainder. Moving the boundary slightly upriver should have the effect of reducing the growth of that population and increasing the browse quality.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Moose hunters on the Yukon River between Mountain Village and Pilot Station, and moose hunters on the Kashunak River.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Status quo, but the lack of a good physical landmark for the establishment of a boundary for the Lower Yukon Area will continue to confuse hunters.

PROPOSED BY: Myron Naneng Sr., AVCP

EG043013838

PROPOSAL 2 - 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Modify the Lower Yukon Area for moose hunting in Unit 18, extend the resident season, and liberalize the bag limit as follows:

Unit 18, that portion north and west of a line from Cape Romanzof to Kusilvak Mt. to Mountain Village and including Paimiut area and Andraefski all the way down to Kashunak River and excluding all Yukon River drainages upriver from Paimiut; however, portions of this area may be closed by emergency order.

Resident Hunt:
Unit 18

1 antlered bull; or moose August 10- February 28

Remainder of Unit 18

2 moose August 10- February 28

Nonresident Hunt: (Remains the same)

ISSUE: The Lower Yukon Advisory Committee would request the Board of Game:

1. Modify by adding the following locations to the Unit 18 hunt area by including Paimut area and Andraefski all the way down river to Kashunak River.
2. Modify the bag limit to bull and cow for the fall moose hunt and modify by adding all moose including calves to the regulatory year hunt.
3. Extend the date of the resident open season (subsistence and general hunts) from August 10- February 28.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The current population will continue to increase too rapidly in certain areas of the Lower Yukon. These congested areas of moose will decrease the non-toxic vegetative food at too rapid of a pace for sustaining a healthy level of moose within the area. We also don't want to see the moose population crash under pressure, due to something we as a working management team could have prevented.

Also, we do not want to see many years of patience with the moose moratorium be for nothing. We want to be capable of persevering as much as we can for generations to come. Especially while we are in the difficult times with our current salmon harvests being deducted and decreased by another 40% subsistence harvest this year.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, please review and take into consideration of all comments from all advisory committees, public comments and supporters of this proposal.

We do understand at the discretion of the Department of Fish and Game management biologist of Unit 18 to issue emergency orders to close the hunt if there is any biological emergency.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Everyone who lives in the Lower Yukon villages and relies on moose as a subsistence harvest in a regulatory year. We understand there will be other proposals that are going to be similar or reflect similar interest. We would like to see the Board of Game take into consideration to work with Unit 18 biologists, village representatives, users of the resources, and participating local organizations to develop appropriate language for the protection of the moose population. Also, to take into consideration and the mindfulness of the year-round-based residents of the Lower Yukon who rely heavily on subsistence hunting and fishing to feed their families.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Every human being that resides permanently throughout the year in one of the Lower Yukon villages and subsists a greater percent of their lives on harvesting on the resources and lesser percentage on store-bought goods.

Everybody who lives a conditioned life of managing to stay alive and subsist off the land's resources to sustain just enough food to get the source of nutrients, solid nourishment and the vitamins for mental stimulation and stability through a regulatory year.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? We are open to compromise.

PROPOSED BY: Lower Yukon Advisory Committee

EG043013846

PROPOSAL 3 - 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Modify the season and bag limit for moose in Unit 18 Remainder and Lower Yukon Area as follows:

In the Unit 18 Remainder and Lower Yukon Area, the season will open on August 1 and close on April 30. A limit of two moose, one of which may be an antlered bull from August 1 through September 30 only. Antlerless moose may be harvested from October 1 through April 30.

ISSUE: The most recent census appears to indicate that there are 10,000 moose or more in the Unit 18 Remainder and the Lower Yukon Area. In just driving a snow machine through the winter browse areas for moose indicate that there are many more moose than the habitat can support. Eventually, a combination of winter browse limitations or disease can easily cause a crash in moose populations that people worked so hard to build. We propose to make the Lower Yukon Area and the Unit 18 Remainder consistent in bag limit and seasons.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? As mentioned above, if the moose populations of the Lower Yukon Area and the Unit 18 Remainder area continue to grow, a population crash is inevitable.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Winter browse limitations are a major concern and the potential for diseases to occur in these populations are concerning as well. If the moose populations in these two areas are not effectively cropped, a population crash is inevitable.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All hunters will benefit including the moose populations.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Status quo.

PROPOSED BY: Myron Naneng Sr., AVCP

EG042913828

PROPOSAL 4 - 5 AAC 85.045(a)(16). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.

Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in Unit 18 as follows:

- Retain the resident antlerless hunt with no change in the Lower Yukon Area;
- Modify the resident antlerless hunt in Remainder of Unit 18:
 - Liberalize the resident bag limit to include antlerless moose in the fall hunt;
 - Lengthen the resident fall season to start on August 1; and
 - Retain the resident antlerless winter hunt with no change

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
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(16)

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Unit 18, Lower Yukon Area, that portion north and west of the Kashunuk River including the north bank from the mouth of the river upstream to the old village of Chakaktolik, west of a line from Chakaktolik to Mountain Village, and excluding all Yukon River drainages upriver from Mountain Village

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

2 moose of which only 1 may be an antlered bull; a person may not take a calf or a cow accompanied by a calf; or

Aug. 1 - Sept. 30

2 antlerless moose

Oct. 1 - Last Day of Feb.

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 antlered bull; Sept. 1 - Sept. 30
 Remainder of Unit 18

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

[1 ANTLERED BULL; OR]	[AUG. 10 - SEPT. 30]	[SEPT. 1 - SEPT. 30]
1 moose	<u>Aug. 1 – Sept. 30</u> Dec. 20 – Last Day of Feb.	[NO OPEN SEASON]

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:
1 antlered bull

Sept. 1 - Sept. 30

...

ISSUE: To be retained, antlerless moose seasons must be reauthorized annually. Two areas in Unit 18 require reauthorizations: Lower Yukon River hunt area and Remainder of Unit 18.

In November 2011, the Board of Game (board) authorized antlerless moose hunts in these hunt area through antlerless moose bag limits. This follows a trend of increased opportunity at board meetings in 2007 and 2009, where regulations were adopted to liberalize bag limits and lengthen seasons. Based on the recent trends of moose population productivity and growth, the department proposes continued antlerless moose hunts in Unit 18.

The Lower Yukon area is the most densely populated moose habitat in Unit 18. From 2002 to 2008, the population has doubled every three years and is now estimated at 3,320 moose in an area of about 1,100 square miles. The most recent data (Nov 2010) indicates calf:cow ratios of 69:100, twinning rates at 50%, and estimated minimum density of 2.8 moose/mi². Anecdotal evidence suggests that calf survival rates remain high.

Although the RY2012 harvest data in the Yukon River area has not been finalized due to the early proposal deadline, we expect harvests to be slightly higher than RY2011 due to the increased opportunity enacted by the Board in November 2011. In RY2011, there were 230 moose harvested. The winter harvest included 19 antlerless moose (cows). Continuing antlerless moose harvest opportunity will benefit hunters and also help slow the growth rate of the population.

The Remainder of Unit 18 has under-utilized moose habitat and a growing moose population. Based on counts in 2012 and 2013, the population is estimated at above 8,000 moose. The recent population data indicates calf:cow ratios of 37:100 and 36:100, in 2012 and 2013 respectively. The twinning rate in this area is estimated at 50% and anecdotal evidence suggests that calf survival rates remain high.

Although the RY2012 harvest data in the Remainder of Unit 18 has not been finalized due to the early proposal deadline, we expect harvests to be slightly higher than RY2011 due to the

increased opportunity enacted by the board in November 2011. In RY2011, there were 251 moose were harvested, including 115 moose in an emergency order extended winter season (December 20 - February 28). The winter harvest included 73 antlerless moose (cows). Expanding antlerless moose hunting through a longer resident fall season with any moose bag limit (as proposed) will benefit hunters through increased opportunity, and any increases in harvest may help slow the growth rate of the population in this portion of Unit 18.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Hunting opportunity for antlerless moose in portions of Unit 18 will be needlessly lost.

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

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 EG050613938

(This proposal will also be considered at the Interior Region meeting in February 2014; see proposal #66).

PROPOSAL 5 - 5 AAC 85.050. Hunting seasons and bag limits for musk oxen. Open a subsistence musk ox hunt in Unit 18 and 19 as follows:

Allow for a subsistence musk ox hunt to occur in the various populations of the Unit 18 and 19 mainland herd by close proximity communities.

ISSUE: The current musk ox population on the mainland is growing in various locations of Units 18 and 19. Increased sightings, encounters, and growing incidences of musk oxen taking refuge from predators near or in the villages suggests that the mainland musk oxen population is growing.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? We will continue to not know what the mainland musk ox population is and the corresponding harvestable surplus. The State of Alaska and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service must determine the population and identify the harvestable surplus and allow for a hunt. The population cannot go unmonitored and harvest restriction cannot go on forever.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? This proposal would force the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to do their job in effectively monitoring the mainland musk ox populations in Units 18 and 19.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Subsistence hunters in Unit 18 and 19 initially and perhaps other hunters at a later time.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one. Additional hunting opportunity is always most beneficial.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Create a Unit 18 and 19 Musk ox Management Committee.

PROPOSED BY: Myron Naneng Sr., AVCP

EG042413785

PROPOSAL 6 - 5 AAC 85.050 (a)(1). Hunting seasons and bag limits for musk ox.

Remove the upper limit of Nelson Island musk ox registration permits issued for the winter season. Retain the requirement that permits are issued on a first-come, first-served basis as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(1)		
...		
Unit 18, Nelson Island		
1 musk ox by registration permit only; [UP TO 42] permits will be issued on a first-come, first-served basis	Feb. 1 - Mar. 25 (General hunt only)	Feb. 1 - Mar. 25

ISSUE: The Nelson Island musk ox population currently has an increasing trend with high density on the island. For several years animals have not emigrated from the island, resulting in an increase in the island population. Recent counts show the island population is significantly above the island population objective of 250-350 muskox. To reduce the population, we need to increase hunting opportunity and harvest by removing the upper limit of 42 registration permits that is currently in place. By removing the upper limit of registration permits, the department would have the necessary flexibility to manage harvest by increasing the number of permits. Without reducing the total number of animals on Nelson Island, there is a risk of over grazing the range in the future.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Musk ox population will continue to be high and run the risk of over grazing the range on Nelson Island.

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Those desiring a stable, productive musk ox population on Nelson Island.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Set the permit limit as high as 125 permits. Reduce the population by relocating animals to other areas of the state.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game EG050613907

PROPOSAL 7 - 5 AAC 85.057. Hunting seasons and bag limits for wolverine. Shift the wolverine hunting season dates in Unit 18 as follows:

Wolverine season: **September 15 - April 15** [SEPTEMBER 1 – MARCH 31]

ISSUE: Early season wolverine hunting is impractical in this unit. The fur quality is poor and it is completely incidental to hunting other species. I realize wolverines pup in the early winter, but there is no practical difference between the current end date and the proposed end date for the hunting season. I am also proposing to give up the early season in exchange for a later ending date.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Hunters are unable to practically take advantage of the entire wolverine season.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No, it just proposes to shift the dates. Total hunting days stay the same and so does the bag limit.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Hunters who like a more prime pelt and enjoy hunting when it is warmer and the days are longer.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Hunters in Unit 18 who harvest wolverine from September 1-15.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Keep season the same. This board should work for the benefit of hunters who are willing to compromise their early season in exchange for a marginally later season. I'm positive the sealing records will show little or no harvest during September 1-15.

PROPOSED BY: Aki Komulainen EG041713748

PROPOSAL 8 - 5 AAC 85.060. Hunting seasons and bag limits for fur animals. Lengthen the lynx hunting season in Unit 18 as follows:

Lynx season: **November 1 - April 30** [NOVEMBER 10 – MARCH 31]

ISSUE: Hunters who enjoy eating lynx should be able to hunt lynx through the end of April. The bag limit is set for hunters, and whether they harvest in November or April, it should not affect the total lynx harvest by hunters.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Alaskans who hunt lynx in Unit 18 will have an unnecessarily short season to harvest their bag for lynx, which is both a furbearer and food animal.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? No, just making it easier for hunters who enjoy eating lynx to get their bag when the weather is warmer and the days are longer.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Just hunters in Unit 18 who enjoy eating lynx. I don't anticipate that this would adversely affect anyone. People who trap lynx have a generous bag limit and if there is a biological reason to deny a longer season, this contradicts the liberal trapping season bag. I don't see they are exclusive though. I see this benefits both hunters and trappers, because not all hunters trap, but a lot of trappers are hunters.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one. The lynx population is intricately tied to the hare population. The bag is expected to stay the same, therefore not adversely affecting trappers.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Leave the season the same. New federal regulations have taken effect, lengthening the lynx season on federal lands; these lands are a substantial distance from Alaskans who would want to take advantage of that season. This proposal if adopted would make it easier to harvest lynx closer to home.

PROPOSED BY: Aki Komulainen EG041713747

PROPOSAL 9 - 5 AAC 85.06. Hunting seasons and bag limits for fur animals. Extend the lynx hunting season in Unit 18 as follows:

I would like to see the hunting season for lynx extended to April 30 so it will match the federal hunting season.

ISSUE: I would like the Board of Game to look at the changing the hunting season for lynx.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Hunters will continue to have two different sets of hunting regulations for lynx on state and federal land, with no easy way to tell where exactly those boundaries are.

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Hunters in Unit 18 will benefit by having more opportunity to harvest lynx on state land, and it would simply match the federal land season. This would help hunters who may not use a GPS to find exact land boundaries between federal and state land.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Nobody.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Jon Lavalle

EG050113853

(This proposal will also be considered at the Interior Region meeting in February 2014; see proposal # 67).

PROPOSAL 10 - 5 AAC 92.450. Description of game management units. Modify the boundaries for Units 18, 19, and 21 as follows:

Create new boundary language for Unit 18 to read:

The area draining into the Yukon River downstream from a line starting at the down river boundary of Paimiut on the north bank of the Yukon River then across the river to the south bank to the northern terminus of the Paimiut Portage, proceed south through the Portage to the mouth of Hooking Creek on the northeast corner of Arhymot Lake, follow the northern and western bank of the lake to the head of Crooked Creek, follow the north bank of the creek downstream to the northern terminus of the Crooked Creek to Mud Creek Tramway, follow the tramway south to Mud Creek, follow its west bank downstream to First Slough, follow the west bank of the slough downstream to its confluence to the Kuskokwim River,

Create new language for Unit 19 to read:

The area draining into the Kuskokwim River upstream from the confluence of the First Slough and the Kuskokwim River; and the area draining into Crook Creek's south bank upstream from the northern terminus of the Mud Creek to Crook Creek Portage Tramway. (All are clearly visible land marks.)

Create new language for Unit 21 to read:

The area draining into the Yukon River upstream from the down river boundary of Paimiut on the north shore of the Yukon River and, directly across the river, the northern terminus of the Paimiut Portage on the south shore of the Yukon River. (Both clearly visible land marks.)

The area **east** of the boundary and **south** of the **High Portage Ridge** would be part of **Unit 19**, since this area drains into the Kuskokwim River. (Clear visible land marks.)

The area **east** of the boundary and **north** of the **High Portage Ridge** would be part of **Unit 21**, since this area drains into the Yukon River. (Clear visible land marks.)

ISSUE: The confusing and unclear boundary dividing Units 18, 19, and 21.

WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Many hunters and enforcement personnel would still not know where the real boundaries are. There is no definite language explaining where the “straight line” begins or ends. Does the line start at the “downriver”, “center” or “upriver” boundary of Paimiut or Lower Kalskag?

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? The boundaries would be clear, definite and visible. There would be no more confusion as to where the boundaries begin and end.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Hunters and enforcement personnel would know exactly what unit they are in. All hunters traveling up river on the Yukon and Kuskokwim rivers to Units 19 and 21.

All hunters from Lower Kalskag and Kalskag would benefit most by regaining their customary and traditional hunting lands in Units 18 and 21. These lands are presently included in Unit 18 and 21. This would also clarify the issue of “no man’s land” east of the boundary line and north of Kalskag and Lower Kalskag and south of High Portage Ridge. High Portage Ridge geographically separates the Yukon River and Kuskokwim River drainages. All drainages north of the ridge flowing into the Yukon would be in Unit 21 and all drainages south of the ridge flowing into the Kuskokwim would be in Unit 19.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one would suffer if this proposal is adopted. The Paimiut Portage is a well-established historical trail that connects the central Kuskokwim and Yukon rivers. It is repaired, remarked and maintained annually, after freeze up, by hunters and fishers from Kalskag and Lower Kalskag. The Paimiut Portage is used daily during the fall, winter and spring seasons by all hunters, fishers, trappers and visitors from the lower and central Kuskokwim River and from the central Yukon River villages.

The Mud Creek to Crooked Creek Tramway is a part of a historical personal/commercial route connecting travelers to/from the Kuskokwim River villages and the Yukon River villages.

Residents of Lower Kalskag and Kalskag were involved in the modification of this proposal. They endorse and support this proposal and urge the Board of Game to pass it as the best choice for redefining the presently unclear and confusing boundaries of Units 18, 19 and 21.

The residents of Lower Kalskag and Kalskag live, hunt, fish, trap and gather in this land, as have their ancestors. They do so with honor and respect to the land and its first inhabitants-the water, plants, berries, trees, fish and game. They do so following what the land and seasons offer of

their renewable food resources. They have always had customary and traditional seasonal use of this land and its resources.

Contrary to what you may hear from some residents of the lower Kuskokwim River area, they do have year-round customary and traditional use of this land and its resources, for this reason residents of Lower Kalskag and Kalskag urge the Board of Game to honor this proposal to modify the boundaries, move the Kuskokwim terminal out of Lower Kalskag downstream to a known visible location, and return their customary and traditional hunting, fishing, trapping and gathering lands. They ask this especially for the benefit of our youth and young adults, who would be made criminals if this change is not adopted and passed, because they will continue to hunt in lands now classified as part of Units 18 and 21, which are really in Unit 19.

We know this land and its resources. We know how, where and when to travel on this land, to hunt, fish, trap and gather. We do not hunt, fish, trap, gather and travel by paper. We hunt, fish, trap and gather using our natural land marks-rivers, sloughs, streams, lakes, hills and trails as guides and boundaries. We use what we can see, feel, hear and taste as our guides. We are part of the land and its resources-it feeds us, clothes us, shelters us, comforts us and connects us to our Creator. It is part of us, as we are part of it, because we live on it. We are one with the land.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Central Kuskokwim Fish and Game Advisory Committee EG050613951

PROPOSAL 11 - 5 AAC 92.085. Unlawful methods of taking big game; exceptions.

Prohibit the use of .22 caliber ammunition for taking big game animals, excluding wolves and wolverines as follows:

The minimum caliber allowed for taking big game animals with the exception of wolves and wolverine should be a .243 caliber for Unit 18.

ISSUE: I would like the board to prohibit the use of .22 caliber center-fire ammunition for shooting big game animals, with the exception of wolves and wolverine in Unit 18. Many caribou, moose and bears shot with .223 and other .22 caliber center-fire calibers are wounded and walk away to die later.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Many big game animals may continue to be wounded and not recovered by hunters.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, less wounding loss.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Everyone who utilizes the resources.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those who like to shoot .22 caliber center-fires for big game.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Jon Lavalle

EG050113852

PROPOSAL 12 - 5 AAC 92.220. Salvage of game meat, furs, and hides. Change the salvage requirement for wildfowl in Unit 18 as follows:

In Game Management Unit 18, all edible portions of migratory and upland birds must be salvaged except the wingtip, feathers, and non-edible entrails.

ISSUE: In Unit 18, it is customary and traditional to salvage all edible portions of migratory and upland birds. In the fall of 2011, a Bethel resident threw away, in the dumpster, up to ten swans with only the breast meat salvaged. This drew the ire of the local people and created community uproar.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Hunters will continue to waste precious and valuable edible portions of migratory and upland birds.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? It would bring the salvage requirements up to local moral, ethical, customary, and traditional standards.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Everyone is likely to benefit. If a sport hunter does not wish to retain other than the breast meat, the remainder shall be donated to local charities.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? People who waste edible portions of migratory and upland birds.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? There are no solutions to address the issue of waste.

PROPOSED BY: Myron Naneng Sr., AVCP

EG042413782

Nome Area – Unit 22

PROPOSAL 13 - 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Change the winter moose season in Unit 22E from January to March as follows:

Winter moose season in Unit 22E: **March 1 - March 31** [JANUARY 1 – JANUARY 31] with a bag limit of one antlered bull.

ISSUE: Change the month a winter moose season in Unit 22E takes place. The change would give residents in Unit 22E safer access to hunting areas with longer daylight and better snow travel conditions.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Winter travel to the Unit 22E moose hunting areas is extremely difficult early in the winter (December and January) with frequent winter storms, very short daylight in which to safely hunt and travel. An example is this past early winter when the Unit 22E area did not receive adequate snow conditions for snow machine travel until mid-January.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? A March season for antlered bull moose will give residents of Unit 22E a better opportunity to put meat in their freezer. It will allow residents to obtain a food resource during the middle of the winter when their stored food resources are beginning to dwindle and their freezers are beginning to empty. This proposed season will not improve the quality of the resource harvested.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? This proposal will benefit the residents of Unit 22E including residents living in Wales and Shishmaref.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? We foresee that no person will likely suffer if the proposal is adopted.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Native Village of Wales EG042213752

PROPOSAL 14 - 5 AAC 85.045(a)(20). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Establish an antlered bull season in Unit 22A Unalakleet River drainage (Unit 22A Central) to be announced by emergency order during the period December 1–December 31 as follows:

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

(20)

...

Unit 22(A) that portion in the Unalakleet River drainage and all drainages flowing into Norton Sound north of the Golsovia River drainage and south of the Tagoomenik and Shaktoolik River drainages

1 antlered bull by registration permit only; **or**

Sept. 1–Sept. 14

No open season.

1 antlered bull by registration permit only; during the period Dec. 1 - Dec. 31, a season may be announced by emergency order

Dec. 1–Dec. 31 (To be announced)

No open season.

...

ISSUE: Moose seasons in the central portion of Unit 22A were closed in Regulatory Year (RY) 2005 because of a declining trend in the area’s moose populations since 1989. A stratified moose census completed in March 2008 estimated 339 moose in the area, and beginning the following regulatory year the Alaska Board of Game adopted a registration moose hunt regulation with harvest quotas to prevent over harvest. A stratified moose census completed of the area in February 2012 estimated 545 moose \pm 17.1% (452 to 639 moose at 90% C.I.), which is a 13% annual rate of increase since the 2008 population survey. Using a conservative harvest rate of 4% bulls, the population is expected to continue to grow.

The fall season dates of September 1–September 14 are used to help avoid warm weather at the beginning of the season to improve meat care, and to help minimize disturbance and harvest of adult bulls as they enter the breeding season. Protection of breeding bulls in September is considered a key step in the process to rebuild the population while allowing hunters the opportunity to harvest bulls earlier in the first half of September. Recent harvest quotas have been 14 antlered bulls in RY2011 and 22 antlered bulls in RY2012.

In each of the last two hunting seasons, harvest quotas were not reached in the fall hunt and season extensions were requested by the public. In these situations, the preferred solution to an extended season is through a winter hunt by emergency order for antlered bulls to fulfill the unmet portion of the annual quota. Extending the September season is less advisable because of the strategy to protect breeding bulls. To respond to public requests, this proposal establishes a ‘to be announced’ winter season which gives the department flexibility to announce additional hunting opportunity to reach harvest quota. Based on the emergency order season extension

completed in RY2012, the preferred winter hunt management is by registration permit RM844 for antlered bulls during December. The registration permit requires harvest reporting within 1 day allowing the hunt to be monitored closely to ensure that over-harvest does not occur.

Antler drop of mature bulls commences in November and a season in December is not expected to impact or harvest the breeding bulls in the population. Younger bulls retain their antlers into January and early February making them available for harvest during a season announced in December.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The public may continue to request season extension if harvest quota is not met.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Possibly, young bulls retain their antlers and would be taken if a December hunt is announced.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Hunters wishing to harvest an antlered bull moose, expanded opportunity in the winter.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those preferring, or only able, to hunt in the fall season.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? January 1–January 31 period for announced season, but not preferred by the local community. Extending the season to September 20, rejected to protect breeding bulls.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game EG050613949

PROPOSAL 15 - 5 AAC 85.045(a)(20). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.

Reauthorize the antlerless moose seasons in Unit 22C and the Remainder of Unit 22D as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
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(20)

Unit 22(C)

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull by registration permit only, or

Sept. 1-Sept. 14

1 antlerless moose by

Sept. 15-Sept. 30

registration permit only; or

1 antlered bull by registration permit only; during the period Jan. 1 – Jan. 31, a season may be announced by emergency order

Jan. 1 – Jan. 31
(to be announced)

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

...

Remainder of Unit 22(D)

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 moose; however, antlerless moose may be taken only from Dec. 1—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—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

...

ISSUE: To be retained, antlerless moose seasons must be reauthorized annually. Two areas in Unit 22 require reauthorization: Unit 22C, and the Remainder of Unit 22D.

In October 1999, the Board of Game authorized a registration hunt for antlerless moose in Unit 22C and the department has managed this hunt with a quota of up to 33 permits annually. During the period from RY2001 through RY2012, the Unit 22C population was above its management objective of 450-525 moose and believed to be at or near winter range carrying capacity with populations of 620 and 660 moose, respectively in RY2007 and RY2011. Lowering the population through additional bull harvest was ill-advised due to low bull:cow ratios, ranging from 10-20 bulls:100 cows. Instead, issuing antlerless permits was used to yield harvests of 8-24 antlerless moose per year over the period since RY2001 to achieve population reduction and stabilization. This approach successfully reduced the population to the current estimate of 429

moose in February 2013. Although the department has the latitude of issuing antlerless permits, no permits are planned to be issued in RY2013 because the population has been lowered to management guidelines. We will consider antlerless hunts when factors suggest the population is increasing above carrying capacity. Retaining the antlerless authorization gives flexibility to the department in future hunt management.

In most other parts of Unit 22, low recruitment rates are believed to be causing low moose populations and declines. However, in the Remainder of Unit 22D we recommend continued authorization of antlerless moose hunting where moose populations are increasing and hunting pressure is low. This portion of Unit 22D is relatively remote with difficult access and these factors contribute to limited hunting pressure in the area.

In the Remainder of Unit 22D, the moose population has grown 1% annually during the period 1997-2011 and the estimated number of moose has increased from 578 in 1997 to 700 in 2011. This area typically shows higher calf:cow and calf:adult ratios than other parts of Unit 22, annually ranging from 14-35ca:100ad with an average of 23ca:100ad since 1988. The reported cow harvest in this area has been low, averaging one cow moose per year since 2000. Village harvest survey data (collected only in 2000-2001) shows five cow moose were harvested from Unit 22D Remainder, which is a more realistic estimate of annual cow harvest compared to harvest ticket reports. Low harvest rates of antlerless moose support our recommendation to reauthorize antlerless moose seasons in the Remainder of Unit 22D.

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? N/A.

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 EG050613942

PROPOSAL 16 - 5 AAC 85.020. Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear. Modify the season and bag limit for brown bear in Unit 22 as follows:

Priority 1: One brown/grizzly bear every regulatory year.

Priority 2: Open season from April 1-May 31 or later date by emergency order from the Department of Fish and Game, August 1- October 31.

ISSUE: Over population of brown/grizzly bears in Nome, Unit 22C, reports of sows with four to five cubs. Bears are over-competing with themselves for other potential food sources; bears

are breaking into cabins and taking food from meat drying racks. There are bear sightings in town.

The above date for the spring hunt is to accommodate for the seasonal climate change, spring in Unit 22 does not happen on the exact calendar date every year. This would allow for hunters the most optimum time to hunt brown/grizzly bears in the spring from a very healthy bear population.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Bear population will continue to populate and grow out of control. Bear sightings in town will increase; potential for harm to people and pets as bears encroach into town and camp sites. The moose population is declining and will continue to decline.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, by having a more liberal spring season it would allow bear hunters to take advantage of the optimum time to harvest the hide on brown bears; spring in Unit 22 does not happen on an exact calendar date every year.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Bear hunting guides, bear hunters, migratory bird hunters, bird watchers, subsistence harvesters, sport fishermen, salmon fishery, moose hunters, moose population, musk ox hunters, caribou hunters, reindeer herders, campers and the general public.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one. Excessive amount of brown/grizzly bears showing up in town, and subsistence use areas.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Considered two bears every year to help control an overabundant bear population. Try the above proposal first.

PROPOSED BY: Sitnasuak Native Corp., Kawerak, Inc., King Island Native Corp., and Nome Eskimo Community
EG043013837

PROPOSAL 17 - 5 AAC 85.020. Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear. Extend the brown bear season in Unit 22A as follows:

All of Unit 22A: brown/grizzly bear, August 1- **June 15** [MAY 31]

ISSUE: Unit 22A south of the Golsovia River drainage has been iced in until after May 31 in 2005-2010, 2011 and 2012.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? No one can hunt grizzly bear in May by boat. All of Unit 22 should have the same season ending date.

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Grizzly bear hunters, moose and the reindeer near St. Michael.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Virgil Umphenour EG050313890

PROPOSAL 18 - 5 AAC 85.060. Hunting seasons and bag limits for fur animals. Extend the wolf hunting season in Unit 22 as follows:

Unit 22: wolf, August 1- **May 31** [APRIL 30]

ISSUE: Ending of wolf season.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Wolves cannot be taken by bear and seal hunters in May.

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All hunters.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Virgil Umphenour EG050313891

PROPOSAL 19 - 5 AAC 85.060. Hunting seasons and bag limits for fur animals. Extend the wolverine hunting season in Unit 22 as follows:

Unit 22: wolverine, September 1- **April 30** [MARCH 31]

ISSUE: The end of wolverine season for hunting should be the same as for trapping.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? People may get the hunting and trapping seasons mixed up.

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Hunters.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Virgil Umphenour

EG050313892

Barrow Area – Unit 26A

PROPOSAL 20 - 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Extend the bull moose hunting season in Unit 26A as follows:

The open season for the general hunt for bull moose in the Colville River drainage above and including the Anaktuvuk River drainage and in the area classified as “Remainder” will be August 1 - **September 30** [SEPTEMBER 14].

ISSUE: Extend the season for the general hunt for bull moose from August 1 - September 14 to August 1 – September 30 in the Colville River drainage above and including the Anaktuvuk River drainage and in the area classified as "Remainder".

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Hunters' opportunity to harvest moose will be unnecessarily restricted.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? With a warming climate it is sometimes difficult to prevent harvested meat from spoiling in early September. If hunters could hunt later, when it is cooler, it would be easier for hunters to take better care of their meat resulting in a better product. In addition, due to the warmer temperatures, moose are moving into the river bottoms later, so it would provide hunters a better hunting opportunity.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Hunters who are trying to provide food for their families and community.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? People who simply want to view and photograph wildlife.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? We considered not changing the season because the moose population is fairly low and we want it to grow. This was rejected because there are other factors in place that will prevent overharvest such as 1) a ban on using aircraft to fly in and harvest moose during the general season hunt and 2) the Arctic Slope Regional Corporation owns most of the land where moose are hunted and they only allow residents of North Slope villages to hunt there.

PROPOSED BY: North Slope Fish and Game Advisory Committee EG121412727

PROPOSAL 21- 5 AAC 95.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Allow moose hunting in the Anaktuvuk Pass Controlled Use Area, modify the bag limit, and change the nonresident moose permit allocation for nonresidents as follows:

ISSUE: Change the number of nonresident moose permits to two for DM980 and two for DM981, and allow moose hunting in the Anaktuvuk Pass Controlled Use Area.

There would be two nonresident moose permits for DM980 and two permits for DM981. Moose must be 50 inches or have three brow tines.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Nonresidents will not have an opportunity to hunt moose in Unit 26A. The population of moose in Unit 26A is growing and there are a large percentage of old bulls that will die of old age.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, The bull to cow ration is high and the harvest of the bulls would help.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Nonresident moose hunters.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one, as there are already resident moose permits for residents.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: David Byrd

EG042212543

PROPOSAL 22 - 5 AAC 85.045(a)(24). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.

Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in Unit 26A as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
<u>(24)</u>		
Unit 26(A), that portion in the Colville River drainage up-stream from and including the Anaktuvuk River drainage		
1 bull; or	Aug. 1 – Sept. 14	No open season.
1 bull by drawing permit only; up to 40 permits may be issued; up to 20 percent of the permits may be issued to nonresident hunters; or	Sept 1 – Sept. 14	Sept 1 – Sept. 14
1 moose; a person may	Feb. 15 – Apr. 15	No open season.

not take a calf or a cow accompanied by a calf.

Unit 26(A), that portion west of 156° 00' W. longitude excluding the Colville River drainage

1 moose; a person may not take a calf or a cow accompanied by a calf.

July 1 – Sept 14

No open season.

...

ISSUE: To be retained, antlerless moose seasons must be reauthorized annually. Two areas in Unit 26A are considered by this proposal: 1) the Colville River drainage upstream from and including the Anaktuvuk River drainage; and 2) the portion of Unit 26A west of 156 00' W longitude and north of the Colville drainage.

Within the 'upstream' portion of the Colville River drainage, a winter hunt was established by the Board of Game in November 2005 and opened in RY2005 to provide more hunting opportunity in an area where the moose population was, at that time, increasing in Unit 26A. Since most bull moose shed their antlers before the established season opening of February 15, the bag limit for this hunt is one moose, except a calf or cow accompanied by a calf may not be taken. This area is remote and inaccessible and has a moose population that is at low numbers but is slowly increasing. In the past winter seasons, there has been a low harvest of cows during antlerless hunts: two cows in 2006, three cows in 2007, one cow in 2008, one in 2009, and no cows in 2010-2012. A similar low harvest is anticipated for the RY2013. The low rate of antlerless moose harvest (zero-three per year) in the Colville River drainage should not prevent the population from recovering and we recommend reauthorization of the antlerless moose season in this area.

The portion of Unit 26A west of 156° 00' W longitude and north of the Colville drainage has a sparse distribution of moose. Each year a small percentage of moose (primarily bulls and cows without calves) disperse away from the major river drainages and across the coastal plain. These moose provide the only opportunities for harvest in the northwestern portion of Unit 26A. Overall, the Unit 26A moose population is low, but the small number of dispersing cow moose that could be harvested under this reauthorization proposal will have very little impact on the size of the population. To date, after several years of hunting, few antlerless moose have been harvested in this portion of the unit. One cow was harvested in 2006, none in 2007, one in 2008, and none in 2009 -2012 during this hunt. We recommend reauthorization of the antlerless moose season in this portion of Unit 26A.

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 EG050613944

PROPOSAL 23 - 5 AAC 99.025. Customary and traditional uses of game populations.

Review the customary and traditional use worksheet for the Teshekpuk Lake caribou herd and determine whether there are customary and traditional uses; if so, establish amounts reasonably necessary for subsistence (ANS), as follows:

5 AAC 99.025(a)(4)

SPECIES & UNIT	FINDING	AMOUNT REASONABLY NECESSARY FOR SUBSISTENCE USES
(4) Caribou		
<u>Units 22, 23, 24, 26(A), 26(B) (Teshekpuk Lake herd)</u>	<u>XXXXX</u>	<u>XXX – XXX</u>

ISSUE: The Alaska Board of Game (board) was first presented a customary and traditional use (C&T) worksheet for consideration of the customary and traditional uses of the Teshekpuk Lake caribou herd in 1990. The administrative record does not capture if a C&T determination was made at the 1990 board meeting. This same C&T worksheet was revised for the 1993 board meeting and stated:

“[B]ecause the Teshekpuk Caribou Herd is not specifically identified in current hunting regulations, there is no specific harvest ticket for this herd, and because so little is actually known about its seasonal movements over time, little information on any hunting of this herd is actually available. Based on caribou harvest ticket returns from GMU 26A, it appears that there is little hunting of the herd by non-North Slope residents (within its central range around the Teshekpuk Lake) because of difficult access.

It remains unclear whether the board made a C&T determination at the 1993 board meeting, so the Department of Fish and Game will provide an updated C&T worksheet for this herd, in addition to a written report with ANS options for the board’s consideration.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The requirements of AS 16.05.258 will go unaddressed to determine whether there are customary and traditional uses of the Teshekpuk Lake caribou herd and if so, there will be no ANS to ensure that reasonable opportunities for customary and traditional uses are provided to Alaska residents.

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All users of the Teshekpuk Lake caribou resource will benefit from decisions based upon the best available information, which provides the board with an unambiguous metric for assessing reasonable opportunities for subsistence uses of this caribou herd.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? No action. However, this proposal provides the board with the opportunity to fulfill its statutory mandate to identify game populations that are customarily and traditionally taken or used for subsistence. If a harvestable surplus exists, the board “shall determine the amount of the harvestable portion that is reasonably necessary for subsistence uses” (AS 16.05.258(b)) and promulgate regulations that ensure reasonable opportunities for this herd are provided.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game EG050613909

PROPOSAL 24 - 5 AAC 85.060. Hunting seasons and bag limits for fur animals. Change the hunting season and bag limit for coyote in Unit 26A to a no closed season and no bag limit as follows:

No bag limit and no closed season in Unit 26A for coyotes.

ISSUE: Currently, there is a two coyote bag limit in Unit 26A and a season from September 1 to April 30. This regulation is unnecessary since there is no conservation concern with this species in northwest Alaska as they are not native to northwest Alaska. Very few, if any, are seen or harvested in Unit 23 during any particular year since at least the 1940’s when the first occasional appearances west and north of the Brooks Range were recorded. Already there is no limit and no closed season in Units 12, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25, 26B and 26C. This proposal was been submitted for Unit 26A.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Coyotes may become established in the area as their range expands. It is considered to have an occasional presence in Units 23 and 26A only since the mid-twentieth century and is not native to northwest Alaska. If populations were to become established there would be negative impacts to native species such as Dall sheep, hoary marmots, wolverines, red and white fox, waterfowl and other small mammals and birds. In

particular, coyotes could seriously impact sheep populations that are already very vulnerable to dramatic fluctuations related to weather and range conditions.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Preventing the establishment of coyote populations in northwest Alaska will protect sheep and other valuable native species.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Those that are interested in protecting sheep populations and other native fauna from the establishment of a new predator species in northwest Alaska.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Kotzebue Sound Fish and Game Advisory Committee EG040113743

Kotzebue Area – Unit 23

PROPOSAL 25 - 5 AAC 85.050 (a)(2). Hunting seasons and bag limits for musk ox. Based on the distribution of the Cape Thompson musk ox population in northwestern Unit 23, change the Noatak River hunt area boundary to include the entire Noatak drainage and all areas north and west of the Kobuk River drainage as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(2)		
...		
Unit 23, that portion north and west of the <u>Kobuk River drainage</u> [NOATAK RIVER]		
1 bull by Tier II subsistence hunting permit only; up to 15 bulls may be taken	Aug. 1 - Mar. 15 (Subsistence hunt only)	No open season.
Remainder of Unit 23	No open season.	No open season.

ISSUE: Musk ox were introduced into northwest Unit 23 at Cape Thompson in 1970 as transplants from the Nunivak Island population. Initially, population growth was slow and somewhat localized, creating a skewed distribution in relation to available habitat. At the time the hunt first opened, animals were primarily distributed north and west of the Noatak River so this geographic feature was used as the hunt boundary. Through time, their range has expanded into a larger portion of northwestern Unit 23 and the Cape Thompson population now occupies the area north and west of the Kobuk River drainage. Since harvest rates and hunt quotas are based on the total musk ox population in this area, we propose changing the regulation to better match the geographic footprint of this herd to allow hunting of this population in areas that are currently closed to hunting.

The Noatak River drainage borders the Kobuk River drainage in the central portion of Unit 23. By using the Kobuk River drainage as a boundary for the musk ox hunt area in northwestern Unit 23, the portion of Unit 23 north and west of the Kobuk River drainage will include the entire Cape Thompson musk ox population as well as other portions of northwestern Unit 23. The proposed boundary encompasses the complete Noatak River drainage and solves the hunting

issue described above. It also becomes a drainage-based hunt area that is more easily recognized by hunters in the field.

Changing the hunt boundary is not anticipated to change the Tier II subsistence status in this hunt area due to population trend and available harvest compared to the amount reasonably necessary for subsistence (ANS). The number of animals occupying the area considered in this proposal has declined steadily from a peak of 369 in 2005 to an estimated 220 musk oxen in 2012. Although some of this decline may be attributable to emigration to areas outside the count area, the proposed boundary change contains the entire Cape Thompson population and does not change the way the population, or available harvest, is estimated. Using a conservative harvest rate of less than 3%, the harvestable surplus is calculated at 6 bulls per regulatory year. Since the available harvest is less than the ANS finding of 18-22 musk ox for this population, the harvest strategy should remain a Tier II subsistence hunt (TX107) in the future.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? A hunt boundary based on the channel of the Noatak River, with little basis in biology or distribution of musk ox, will continue to exist and remain confusing or restrictive to hunters.

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

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Hunt areas based on drainages in northwestern Unit 23 will make the full population available to hunter harvest.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game EG050613908

PROPOSAL 26 - 5 AAC 85.045(a)(21). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. This is a placeholder proposal for reauthorized antlerless moose seasons in Unit 23. At this time, analysis of March/April 2013 population data that may affect antlerless hunts is not complete and will be provided as an amended proposal as follows:

ISSUE: To be retained, antlerless moose seasons must be reauthorized annually. This proposal serves as a placeholder for antlerless hunts in Unit 23 and will be amended through the analysis and recommendations submitted by the department prior to the public comment period for the Arctic/Western Region board meeting. As described below, recent population data needs to be analyzed to determine the potential impact on antlerless moose hunts in Unit 23, and whether that opportunity should be retained.

In general, moose density has been low in large portions of Unit 23 for an extended period and this situation prompted the development and use of registration hunt RM880 for resident hunters, beginning in RY2004. The resident registration hunt was implemented as a way to retain

antlerless opportunity through substantially shortened seasons limiting antlerless harvest to the months of November and December. The seasons and bag limits in Unit 23 have not changed since RY2004 and the reported harvest of antlerless moose has been low throughout this period.

Preliminary analysis of the March 2013 moose abundance surveys on the lower Noatak River show further declines in the moose population in this portion of Unit 23. Additional assessment of the population and analysis of data is planned by the department to determine the amount of decline and geographic extent of lowered moose populations. These factors may affect the hunt areas where antlerless hunting has been authorized in previous years, and any proposed antlerless areas for the future. An update to the regulation section referenced in this proposal [5 AAC 85.045 (a)(21)] will be provided through department comments submitted prior to the public comment period.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Hunting opportunity will be needlessly lost. If antlerless hunts in Unit 23 are not reauthorized the board will need to determine whether the remaining hunts provide a reasonable opportunity for success in obtaining moose for subsistence uses.

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 EG050613943

PROPOSAL 27 - 5 AAC 85.020. Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear. Modify brown bear harvest in Unit 23 on lands managed by the National Park Service as follows:

For lands in Unit 23 managed by the National Park Service (NPS), amend brown bear harvest regulations as follows:

1. Establish a three year mean, annual total human caused brown bear mortality limit of <8% for adult bears (i.e.> 2 years of age) based on NPS brown bear population estimates;
2. Reinstate resident brown bear tag fees;
3. Limit brown bear sport (general) harvest to one bear every four years.

ISSUE: Excessive sport (general) hunting brown bear harvest opportunity on lands managed by the NPS in Unit 23, in particular within the Noatak and Kobuk river drainages.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Excessive brown bear harvest opportunity is negatively impacting the conservation of brown bears in Unit 23.

Multiple liberalizations of brown bear harvest opportunity have occurred since 1998 for lands managed by the NPS in Unit 23. Season dates have been liberalized (1998 & 2002), draw hunt permit allocations have doubled (2010), resident brown bear tag fees have been revoked (2004), and restrictions on harvest have been liberalized from one bear every four years to one bear every year (2000 for residents, 2002 for nonresidents). The purpose behind these changes can easily be linked to the State's intensive management strategy and its desire to lessen the population of predators like brown bears in an effort to increase moose and caribou populations. While this may be accepted wildlife management for lands owned by the State of Alaska, it is contrary to the purposes for which Congress established national preserves which we readily admit provides for sport hunting, but NOT for the manipulation of one wildlife population to benefit another.

The liberalization of brown bear harvest regulations has not been justified on recognized scientific management principles. With little to no management data on brown bear populations the Board of Game has instead liberalized the regulations to benefit the opportunistic harvest of brown bears for the purpose of reducing the natural brown bear populations in Unit 23 by both guided and non-guided hunters.

Promoting theoretical maximum harvest rates without reliable biological data including current brown bear density estimates with an estimate of precision is a short sighted experiment that is not appropriate for lands managed by the NPS. Alaska Department of Fish and Game (department) has long acknowledged the significant limitations of managing high harvest rates using only harvest parameters to evaluate the impact to a brown bear population.

The impacts of significant liberalizations since 2008 cannot be effectively evaluated since the department has not published the *biannual* brown bear management report since 2009. Historically the state has published these reports in a timely fashion, but it appears, with the dramatic shift in state brown bear management policy that significant delays in publishing harvest data for public use is also occurring. Enhancing the difficulty in evaluating the negative impacts of the long term trend in significant liberalizations to brown bear harvest regulations is the fact that the state does not publish harvest data specific to lands managed by the NPS.

This is the second cycle of the Arctic/Northwest Regional Board of Game meeting in which no current brown bear management report has been available by the proposal submission deadline.

As stated by the National Parks Conservation Association at the previous Arctic/Northwest board meeting, approximately 80% of the total brown bear harvest in Unit 23 has occurred in the Noatak and Kobuk river drainages between 2001 and 2006. Significant portions of these two rivers are managed by NPS. In addition, department staff stated to the Board of Game in 2009 that for Regulatory Year 2008 median skull size for all harvested brown bears, and the median age of male brown bears, had fallen to the lowest level since 1989. With virtually no other data published by the state, the National Parks Conservation Association is handicapped in documenting the negative trends occurring during the last five years.

The NPS has stated “Unacceptable impacts are those that are inconsistent with park purposes and values; diminish opportunities for current or future generations to enjoy, learn about, or be inspired by park resources or values; or those that unreasonably interfere with other appropriate uses.”

The federal government has defined the conservation of healthy populations of wildlife as follows:

Conservation of healthy populations of wildlife – means the maintenance of wildlife resources and their habitats in a condition that assures stable and continuing *natural populations* and species mix of plants and animals in relation to their ecosystem...”

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, managing the natural brown bear population based on recognized scientific principles will promote the long term stability and availability of brown bears for harvest by local subsistence hunters and sport hunters who prize the trophy status of the population while simultaneously recognizing the management objectives, purposes, and values of the NPS.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Residents of the United States who value the long term integrity of the ecosystems managed by the NPS for future generations.

Sport hunters who value the brown bear as a world class trophy hunt.

Maintaining a natural cohort density reduces potential human conflicts on lands managed by NPS due to unnaturally high densities of young bears due to a low density of mature bears.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Those who prefer an artificially low brown bear population.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Managing brown bears based on recognized scientific principles is the only option for lands managed by NPS.

PROPOSED BY: National Parks Conservation Association EG050313903

PROPOSAL 28 - 5 AAC 85.060. Hunting seasons and bag limits for fur animals. Change the hunting seasons and bag limits for coyote in Unit 23 to no closed season and no limits.

No bag limit and no closed season in Unit 23 for coyotes.

ISSUE: Currently, there is a two coyote bag limit in Units 23 and 26A. This regulation is unnecessary since there is no conservation concern with this species in northwest Alaska as they are not native to northwest Alaska. Very few, if any, are seen or harvested in Units 23-26A during any particular year since at least the 1940’s when the first occasional appearances West and North of the Brooks Range were recorded. Already there is no limit and no closed season in Units 12, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25, 26B and 26C.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Coyotes may become established in the area as their range expands. It is considered to have an occasional presence in Units 23-26A only since the mid-twentieth century and is not native to northwest Alaska. If populations were to become established there would be negative impacts to native species such as Dall sheep, hoary marmots, wolverines, red and white fox, waterfowl and other small mammals and birds. In particular, coyotes could seriously impact sheep populations that are already very vulnerable to dramatic fluctuations related to weather and range conditions.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Preventing the establishment of coyote populations in northwest Alaska will protect sheep and other valuable native species.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Those that are interested in protecting sheep populations and other native fauna from the establishment of a new predator species in northwest Alaska.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Kotzebue Sound Fish and Game Advisory Committee EG04011823

PROPOSAL 29 - 5 AAC 92.200. Purchase and sale of game. Allow the sale of caribou antlers harvested in Unit 23 as follows:

Remove the restrictions on selling caribou antlers in Unit 23 once they have been removed from the skull.

ISSUE: The Board of Game should remove the restrictions on buying, selling or bartering caribou antlers from Unit 23 once they have been removed from any part of the skull. This regulation is no longer needed because the main caribou migration has shifted to a much later time, late October, when the rivers are freezing up or have frozen. People have much less access to them than in the past. This regulation has been in place for over twenty years without being reviewed. Under the current migration pattern there is little chance that people would shoot them just for their antlers. Removing this regulation will allow hunters to sell their antlers to recover a portion of the cost of fuel to get in the field and return.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Antlers will go to waste when they could have been sold to cover fuel costs and utilized for crafts or the natural dog chew market.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? It allows better utilization of caribou antlers that might otherwise be wasted.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All people who hunt caribou in Unit 23 will benefit by being able to recoup some of the money they spend on boat fuel.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Nobody would suffer by removing this regulation.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None

PROPOSED BY: Daniel Montgomery

EG042513788

Regional and Multiple Units

PROPOSAL 30 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep. Open resident sheep seasons ten days before nonresident seasons in the Arctic/Western Region as follows:

Change the dates for sheep hunting to:

Alaska residents:	August 1 to September 20
Nonresidents:	August 10 to September 20

ISSUE: The quality, safety and crowded conditions of sheep hunting at the start of the season.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The overall quality and safety of sheep hunting in Alaska will continue to deteriorate due to the large number of people trying to get into the field at the start of the season. This will put a big strain on all of the resources and parties involved.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? This proposal would increase the overall quality and safety of sheep hunting for both residents and nonresidents by eliminating overcrowding and the competition for available resources.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Both residents and nonresidents would benefit.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one, although the guides and some nonresidents may disagree.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? There is no other solution to this problem. I think that the guiding industry is doing a good job for their customers using a public resource to make a very good living. I welcome nonresidents to come to Alaska and hunt but a quality hunt is very important for everyone and unless something is done this will not be the case.

PROPOSED BY: Leonard Jewkes EG043013842

PROPOSAL 31 - 5 AAC 85.055 Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep. Open resident sheep hunting seasons seven days before nonresident seasons in the Arctic/Western Region as follows:

Sheep season dates:

Alaska residents:	August 5 – September 20
Nonresidents:	August 12 – September 20

Alaska residents may only hunt sheep in regions with similar start dates. This will keep hunters from trying to get an early start in one region (which would cause overcrowding) and then shift

to another area. If a resident hunter picks Regions III or V, those are the only regions they may hunt sheep for that season. If the Board of Game would have passed the early start dates at the last statewide meeting we wouldn't have to make more rules. We need to start this region by region so Alaskans will have this statewide preference by 2016. A different colored sheep tag for Region III & V would make it easy to see if the resident hunter is in the appropriate area and legal (*This proposal was also submitted for Region III*).

ISSUE: Overcrowding, lack of quality experiences, and low allocations of sheep for Alaska residents. Nonresidents harvest over 40% of Alaska's sheep and that number keeps increasing.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The quality of the hunt has been diminished by overcrowding and this is the best way to separate the number of hunters in the field. This is not a new idea and resident sheep hunters have supported this concept in the past. The resident has had to compete against the infrastructure of the guiding industry and everyone is trying to enter the mountains at the same time. Air services could spread out their charters and many residents would be returning when the nonresident hunters would be heading out to hunt with their chosen guide. Getting a legal ram is a difficult task and this would give our young Alaska resident hunters a much better opportunity to be successful. This should be a statewide proposal but the Board of Game failed to pass any of the 23 proposals presented to them requesting some preferences for Alaska residents. This statewide issue won't come up again until 2016 so now we need to adjust the dates in different regions.

The only other solution is to put all nonresidents on permits. The number of permits given to nonresidents would be 15% of the total sheep harvest of the previous year. Example: 1000 sheep harvested = 150 permits for nonresidents.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? This will make it much easier to get hunters in and out of the field – both resident and nonresident. Both groups will have a better experience due to less crowded conditions. Guides want people to think that nonresidents will quit coming to Alaska to hunt if any preference is given to Alaska residents and this is not the case. Nonresidents can come to Alaska and buy over the counter tags for most species cheaper than a deer tag can be purchased in many of the western states. The nonresident tag fees are a big boost to the Department of Fish and Game but the Board of Game and the Alaska Legislature needs to keep resident Alaskans as their number one priority.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Alaska resident sheep hunters and nonresident sheep hunters.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Commercial operators (guides) will complain but they are making money off a public resource we (all Alaskans) own and many of these guides are nonresidents who can't legally harvest sheep, goats, or brown bears but they can guide other nonresidents. The price of the tag is cheap but the cost of a guided hunt is expensive.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Tom Lamal

EG042913829

PROPOSAL 32 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep. Open a bowhunting only season for Dall sheep in the Arctic/Western Region as follows:

Add a new bowhunting only sheep season in all northern and northcentral units where there is a current general sheep season. Dates would be August 1 - 9. The bag limit would be one full curl ram. Only open to International Bowhunter Education Program (IBEP) certified bowhunters.

ISSUE: Overcrowding of hunters seeking Dall sheep is reducing the quality of the sheep hunting experience.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The problem will continue to increase and eventually all sheep hunting will need to be by drawing permit.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? It would improve the quality of the outdoor experience which qualifies as a resource. It would not improve the quality of the products produced.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Bowhunters by being given a chance to hunt sheep with less direct competition from rifle hunters. Firearm sheep hunters by not seeing quite as many hunters in the field when they were actually hunting because the bowhunters who wanted to hunt sheep would probably utilize the bow season.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one really. Bowhunters for Dall sheep have a very low success rate even when they are allowed to take any sheep. This hunt would be much more difficult because it would be for full curl rams only. This proposal would serve to spread out utilization with very little effect on the sheep population. Multiple parties on the mountain at the same time significantly reduces the quality and enjoyment of the hunting experience for all involved.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Have the new archery season be after the regular sheep season, September 21-30. This is the model which has been in effect for over 30 years in Unit 14C. However the northern units (especially the Brooks Range) have very short cold days in late September and weather could be a safety issue. Long warm days are important to bowhunters who must be patient waiting for an opportunity to get close to sheep.

PROPOSED BY: Alaskan Bowhunters Association

EG050113876

PROPOSAL 33 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep. Change nonresident sheep hunts to drawing hunts and limit the permit distribution to ten percent of the annual ten year average for the Arctic/Western Region as follows:

Nonresidents wanting to participate in sheep hunting in Alaska will have to enter by drawing permit. The drawing permit will be limited to a maximum of 10% of the annual ten year historical average sheep harvest in Region V.

ISSUE: Because of our decreasing resident hunter success and falling sheep populations, I would like the Board of Game to limit, by drawing permit, all nonresident hunters of Alaska's Dall sheep to a maximum of 10% of the preceding ten year average historical harvest.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Alaskans limited natural resources will continue to be taken by increasing number of nonresidents. Ignoring this fact, and the fact of our shrinking sheep population, will soon force drawing permits on Alaska residents.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes, this proposal not only protects our natural resources from the ever increasing pressure of the guide industry, but also places Alaska on EQUAL footing with ALL western states who have long ago, limited the nonresident hunters to a maximum of 10% of the sheep permits.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All Alaska residents, and the natural resources we are entrusted with.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Some nonresident hunters and some in the guide industry.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Trying, yet again, to express to the Board of Game that we have a statewide problem with our Dall sheep populations. I am not blaming the guide industry for the decreasing sheep populations, I am saying that the increased percentage nonresident harvest, shows an increased pressure on our sheep.

The first step in restricting access of our limited game resources, should be to place our nonresident hunters on EQUAL footing with the nonresident hunters in other states.

PROPOSED BY: Vern Fiehler EG042813810

PROPOSAL 34 - 5 AAC Chapter 85. Hunting seasons and bag limits. Allocate a small percent of game harvest for nonresidents in Unit 26 as follows:

Only allow a small or token percent of the most abundant game for nonresidents in Unit 26.

ISSUE: In my 50 years in Alaska the number of nonresident hunters and big game guides has increased dramatically which has diminished a resident's opportunities, mainly on sheep but certainly includes all big game, now we even have nonresident guides. Opening sheep hunting

for residents early is the only way I see to give residents a fair opportunity at success, especially older residents. I have observed guides putting their camps in and locating sheep and other big game weeks before the season and manning these camps to discourage and chase away hunters that might compete. Other states give priority to residents but here nonresidents have equal footing and now the most sought after hunt of Delta bison nonresidents are increasing every year. This hunt should be residents only. I have spoken at Board of Game meetings about these very issues in the past and members that are big game guides have laughed me out of the room. It's time to man up and do the right thing, reduce nonresident hunting and let them have only a small percent of what is available. Thank you.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Less opportunities for residents and more opportunities for nonresidents.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Will definitely improve the quality, more and bigger sheep, in the 1960s and 1970s I harvested 9 rams over 41” that cannot happen anymore.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Residents of Alaska will benefit, our constitution says that the big game should be managed for sustained yield for all Alaskans, to my knowledge it says nothing about nonresidents.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? I don't think nonresidents will suffer, just less opportunities, it will reduce the number of big game guides which will help all residents and therefore the State of Alaska.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Status quo is not an option.

PROPOSED BY: Norman Pickus EG042113751

PROPOSAL 35 - 5 AAC 92.095 Unlawful methods of taking furbearers; exceptions.

Prohibit the use of snares to take bears in the Arctic/Western Region as follows:

The new regulation would forbid the use of snares to take bears in the Region V Units.

5AAC 92.095. Unlawful methods of taking furbearers; exceptions

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

(20) The taking of a bear by trap or snare

ISSUE: The 2010 decision to list black bears as a furbearer paved the way to allow bear snaring for the first time since statehood.

In Unit 16B, an experimental bear snaring program is in place allowing the snaring of both black and brown bears. Bear snaring is indiscriminate, allowing the capture and death of brown and black bears, cubs and sows with cubs.

The Department of Fish and Game is quoted as saying “The effectiveness of reducing both bear species through harvest methods to increase moose calf survival has not been demonstrated.” This conclusion was confirmed by ADF&G in a report to the Board of Game at the Central/Southwest Region Meeting February 8-15, 2012 showing no correlation between high harvest levels of bears and moose calf survivability in Unit 16B.

The McGrath predator control poster child that the Board of Game references time and time again resulted in higher moose calf survivability only after killing 97% of the black bears in the area, 75% of the wolves and 50% of the brown bears. This program has cost the state untold hundreds of thousands of dollars (more likely millions), and still only 50% of the moose calves survived to weaning-not even to adult recruitment. At least one member of the board has offered the suggestion that the Board of Game needs to ramp up their efforts in 16B to achieve the results they are looking for.

The McGrath model is not a program to emulate elsewhere. The consequences of ridding the landscape of predators to enhance moose numbers is an expensive experiment that disregards the impacts of disturbing the natural balance of functioning ecosystems.

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the Board of Game have significantly liberalized regulations for the killing of predators in recent years. State regulations and policies now allow snaring of brown and black bears, baiting of brown bears, killing sows with cubs and cubs, year-round seasons, unlimited bag limits, and killing animals in their dens and from aircraft. In conjunction with these changes, the Board of Game has also reauthorized land and shoot hunting, and has vastly expanded predator control areas. All of this has been done with little scientific or social justification.

The bottom line is bear snaring is indiscriminate, wasteful, and cruel and poses a danger to the public. With unlimited numbers of snares and long open seasons, snaring may kill more bears than is sustainable. Snaring and killing of bears regardless of age, species, and gender is incompatible with the scientific principles and the ethics of modern wildlife management.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? A scientific article published in 2011 in documents the Alaska Board of Game’s liberalization of hunting regulations for grizzly bears. The four highly-respected scientists concluded in their report that “*Current attitudes, policies and absence of science-based management of grizzly bears in Alaska are increasingly similar to those that resulted in near extirpation of grizzly bears south of Canada in the 19th and 20th centuries. If current trends continue, they increase risk to portions of the most intact population of grizzly bears in North America*”.

Additionally, as bear populations diminish, the viewing public will have fewer opportunities to see bears in the wild which could have significant economic impacts for the wildlife viewing businesses around the state.

More bears will become food-conditioned causing a danger to people, families and communities.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. Bear snaring is wasteful and requires no salvage of meat, only the hide and skull. Trappers will still be allowed to harvest a bear under trapping licenses by using a firearm and bait stations. Under this method, a trapper can be selective in harvesting a bear and avoid taking non target species and cubs or females with cubs.

Managing bear populations using modern wildlife management practices will result in healthier ecosystems including the tendency for ungulates to over browse areas if predators are absent.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Alaskans and visitors who value wildlife and sound biological management of our wildlife resources and who want to view wildlife will benefit. Tourism-related businesses will benefit.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? No one will suffer as a result of this proposal being adopted. The practice of bear snaring only promotes waste and disrespect for wildlife.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? There are no other solutions. The snaring of bears must be halted.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Wildlife Alliance

EG042913826

PROPOSAL 36 - 5 AAC Chapter 85. Hunting seasons and bag limits. Allocate 90% drawing permits to residents for the Arctic/Western Region and distribute remaining permits as follows:

Alaska residents will receive a minimum of 90% of all drawing permits and nonresidents will receive a maximum of 10% of permits, but 10% is not guaranteed. If Alaskans don't apply for particular permits, the extra or leftover permits may be issued to nonresidents (higher tag fees), sold over the counter to residents and nonresidents on a first come first serve basis, or do another drawing. Any hunt with less than 10 permits for an area is not open for nonresident drawings but if there are permits leftover, nonresidents may purchase the permits over the counter.

ISSUE: Allocation of permits for Alaska residents.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? All of the western states have a high allocation of their drawing permits reserved for their residents. Most of the drawing permits in Alaska don't have any preference for the Alaska resident. A resident can put in for a drawing for 20 years and next year he is on equal footing with a nonresident putting in for the first time. Since Alaska doesn't have preference points (has to be funded by the legislature) the Board of Game needs to give a high allocation of the permits to resident hunters. The commercial operators (guides) don't want either because it is in their best interests not to give Alaska residents any advantage. We're not too far away from having many of our sheep hunts go on permits and moose and caribou are a possibility in certain areas. In many of the western states it is a 90/10 split with 90%+ going to the resident and a maximum of 10% going to the nonresident, but 10% is not guaranteed.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. Alaskans will receive the same respect other states give their residents and the majority of permit hunted game will go in the freezers of Alaska residents.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Alaska residents.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Guides and their nonresident clients.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? None.

PROPOSED BY: Tom Lamal EG042913830

PROPOSAL 37 - 5 AAC Chapter 85. Hunting seasons and bag limits. Allocate 90% of drawing permits to residents for the Arctic/Western Region and distribute remaining permits on a first come basis as follows:

Alaska residents should receive 90% of all drawing permits and nonresidents should receive 10%. If any permits are left over then they could be sold over the counter on a first come basis.

ISSUE: The way that Alaska allocates hunting permits for residents and nonresidents.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Currently Alaskan residents and nonresidents are on an equal footing when it comes to most permit drawings. If the current system continues a nonresident applying for a permit will have the same chance as a resident. That means that even though you live here year round and support your state you have the same chance as a nonresident. This hardly seems fair. Many states give their residents an advantage. With many hunts going to a permit draw I think it is high time Alaska does the same.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. A system will be put in place to help the Alaskan resident harvest more of the resource. This system is in place in many other states and it rewards their residents.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Alaskan residents.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Nonresidents.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? No other solution is acceptable unless a point system is established favoring residents.

PROPOSED BY: Leonard Jewkes EG043013841

PROPOSAL 38 – 5 AAC 92.015(a)(4), (8), (9) & (13) and 92.015(b)(4), (7), (8) & (10).

Brown bear tag fee exemptions. Reauthorize the current resident tag fee exemptions for brown bear in Units 18, 22, 23 and 26A as follows:

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

...
(4) Units... 26;

...
(8) Unit 22;

(9) Unit 23;

...
(13) Unit 18;

...

(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 of Game 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 18, where the tag fee has been exempted for two years; Unit 22, where the tag fee has been exempted for twelve years; Unit 23, where the tag fee has been exempted for seven years; and Unit 26A, where the tag fee has been exempted for two years. 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 allowable because portions of these units have high bear populations.

General season brown bear harvest rates are within sustained yield limits and previous exemptions of the resident tag fee have not caused dramatic or unexpected increases in overall harvest. In Units 18 and 26A, tag exemptions were authorized for RY2012 and harvest has remained within sustained yield and continues to be similar to the preceding 10-year period. In Unit 22, the 12-year tag-free period for residents has had an average annual harvest of 50 brown bears (range 41-63 bears). In Unit 23, general harvests have been increasing slowly since 1961 primarily in response to increases in human population rather than regulatory changes, although harvests are annually quite variable due to effects of weather on hunting conditions. Harvest data for Unit 23 show no trend in the sex ratio, age or size of bears harvested under all types of hunts.

Subsistence Season Hunts: Reauthorizations are needed for Units 18, 22, 23, and 26A where brown bear subsistence hunt requirements include: 1) a registration permit; 2) a 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 the 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.

In all Units, 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, subsistence harvest by permit is quite low, averaging less than one bear per year (less than 1 % of the total brown bear harvest). In Unit 23, subsistence permit harvest is less than five bears annually since 1992 (less than 10 % of the total brown bear harvest). In Unit 26A, between one and five 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. The brown bear harvest by residents will probably decline.

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

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