



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR SEAN PARNELL

Department of Public Safety

DIVISION OF ALASKA WILDLIFE TROOPERS
Office of the Director

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

The following comments outline the position the Department of Public Safety, Division of Alaska Wildlife Troopers have on the proposals up for consideration during the February 2015 Board of Game meeting in Wasilla.

When the board considers seasons and/or bag limit changes, the Alaska Wildlife Troopers request every effort be made to align seasons and bag limits with adjacent game management units/sub units creating consistency of the regulations for the public. When the board considers proposals with allocation or biological concerns, we strive to remain neutral.

Alaska Wildlife Troopers recognize regulations are developed by the Alaska Board of Game through the public process to support management plans and rely on public compliance with regulations to achieve success. Alaska Wildlife Troopers respectfully request the board recognize any new regulation or area restriction may result in additional burdens on Alaska Wildlife Troopers due to our limited resources.

Sincerely,

Paul L. Fussey

Lieutenant, Alaska Wildlife Troopers

Alaska Wildlife Troopers Responses to the Board of Game Proposals
2014/15
Central/Southwest Region

Proposal 53:

5 AAC 92.044 Permit for hunting bear with the use of bait or scent lures.

This proposal is not supported by Alaska Wildlife Troopers and we will be asking the board to leave the current regulation in place. This proposal would be in conflict with 5AAC 92.210(7), game that died of natural causes may be used as food or bait, if the game is not moved from the location where it was found.

Proposal 71:

5AAC 92.072 Community subsistence harvest hunt area and permit conditions.

This proposal is not supported by Alaska Wildlife Troopers and we will ask the board to leave the current regulation in place. This proposal is similar to proposal 72 and requires participants in the Community harvest hunt to document their past participation in the customary and traditional use of the hunt area and wild resources. This proposals point system configuration cannot be enforced and is open to interpretation by an individual filling out the application. The Alaska Wildlife Troopers would be unable to accurately document what types of products were produced from the harvest, what type of training was given by multiple generations, and what was the cost associated with the harvest.

Proposal 72:

5AAC 92.072 Community subsistence harvest hunt area and permit conditions.

This proposal is not supported by Alaska Wildlife Troopers and we will ask the board to leave the current regulation in place. This proposal is similar to proposal 71 and requires participants in the Community harvest hunt to document their past participation in the customary and traditional use of the hunt area and wild resources. This proposals point system configuration cannot be enforced and is open to interpretation by an individual filling out the application.

Proposal 75:

5AAC 92.072 Community subsistence harvest hunt area and permit conditions.

This proposal is not supported by Alaska Wildlife Troopers for the following reason and we will ask the board to not adopt the proposal as it is currently written. The proposal would require all Community subsistence harvest hunters to bring the harvested moose to the Cantwell or Glennallen ADF&G office as soon as they come out of the field. The definition of field is broad

enough that an individual could harvest a moose on the permit and never have to bring it the ADF&G office for months. The Alaska Wildlife Troopers suggest the proposal be amended to read “hunters bring the harvested moose to the Cantwell or Glennallen ADF&G office within 96 hours of harvest.

Proposal 79:

5AAC 85.045 Hunting and bag limits for moose.

This proposal is not supported by Alaska Wildlife Troopers and we ask the board to not pass this proposal due to the following concerns. If ADFG opens and closes the any bull community harvest permits throughout the season it will be extremely hard to enforce. When ADFG closes the any bull permit when the quota is met resource users can be checked for compliance. If the any bull community harvest hunt is opened and closed periodically throughout the season and on alternating days AWT would have an extremely difficult job of enforcing the permit. An individual could harvest a bull on the any bull permit during a closed day but checked on an open day. The current regulation is enforceable.

Proposal 129:

5AAC 92.044(b) (10) Permit for hunting bear with the use of bait or scent lures. Remove the requirements to clean up contaminated soil from bear bait stations for Southeast Region Units.

This proposal is not supported by Alaska Wildlife Troopers and we ask the board to not pass this proposal due to the following reasons. The requirement to remove all of the contaminated soil is a public safety tool to ensure bears stop using the bear bait station at the close of the season. Numerous bear bait stations have been documented where the hunter has poured gallons of grease on the ground and trees to attract bears. The grease has killed all of the vegetation and continued to attract bears long after the season has ended. This regulation is a deterrent to hunters who may clean up their barrels and other items but do not want to clean up the soil.

Proposal 201:

5AAC 92.220(i) Salvage of game meat, furs, and hides. This proposal is submitted and supported by the Alaska Wildlife Troopers. This proposal was submitted at the Juneau Board of Game meeting and was listed as RC038. This proposal states: a person who has wounded game shall make every reasonable and lawful effort to retrieve and salvage that game, except methods and means for taking game prohibited by statute or by regulations in 5AAC 92.080-5AAC 92.100.

This proposal will eliminate resource users going to court to define what was reasonable to them when they retrieved their wounded game. In a previous case an individual attempted to use radio communications along with an aircraft to dispatch a wounded moose he claimed he had wounded. This case is an example of the difficulty the Alaska Wildlife Troopers endure when

trying to prosecute an individual. An enforcement concern for the Alaska Wildlife Troopers is without a change in the regulations to include “lawful” an individual could find it “reasonable” to use a helicopter to retrieve a wounded Dall sheep or Mt. Goat. This is currently illegal under 5AAC 92.080(3); however, does this meet the reasonable standard?

The proposal would still allow an individual to use artificial light to track and dispatch a wounded game animal, without the use of a motorized vehicle. An individual would still be allowed to locate a wounded game animal with the use of an aircraft; however, if the animal was still alive a hunter would not be allowed to shoot the animal until 3a.m. the following day.

The Big Game Commercial Services Board changed the guide requirements to any “lawful” means when retrieving game to eliminate the vague definition of reasonable. This proposal would also pertain to the guiding industry regarding the definition of lawful.

The Alaska Wildlife Troopers ask the board to pass this proposal due to the aforementioned reasons.

Proposal 207:

5AAC 92.085. Unlawful methods of taking big game; exceptions. Modify sheep hunting opportunities statewide.

The proposal is comprised of three separate changes and the Alaska Wildlife Troopers support the second option and ask the board to pass this option due to the following reasons. The second option states it is against the law to hunt or help someone else take a Dall sheep until 2 p.m. the following day you have flown. Options one and three would be extremely difficult to enforce due to wording and multiple requirements in each option. Option two extends the normal restrictions on same day airborne from 3a.m. to 2p.m. This is the easiest and most concise of the three options to enforce pertaining to the restriction of using aircraft while sheep hunting.