



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
Juneau, AK. 99811-5526

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 January 2015 Board of Game meeting in Juneau.

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
Southeast region**

Proposal 6:

5 AAC 92.150 (C) Evidence of Sex and Identity. Redefine “broken antler” for units 1 and 3.

This proposal is not supported by Alaska Wildlife Troopers and we will be asking the board to leave the current regulation in place. The original regulation was adopted to eliminate the manipulation of moose antlers by hunters to make them into a legal spike, fork configuration. A records check showed only one moose was seized in 2013 under this regulation. This shows the current regulation is working compared the years before it was enacted.

Proposal 7:

5AAC 92.990(26) (B) Definitions. Define “points” for forked moose antlers for the RM038 registration hunt in Unit 1C.

This proposal is not supported by Alaska Wildlife Troopers and we ask the board not pass this proposal due to the following concerns. If they do not count for a spike/fork configuration do they count for a possible brow tine or tines? What happens if the ear is cut or torn, should the Alaska Wildlife Troopers use the measurement of the good ear? Where does the base end on the antler, at the wide knob of the antler or farther up? Could the board take this up as a statewide regulation? The current regulation is accurate and enforceable.

Proposal 30:

5AAC 92.044(b)(12) Permit for hunting black bear with the use of bait or scent lures, remove the reporting requirement for GPS coordinates for black bear bait stations.

This proposal is not supported by Alaska Wildlife Troopers and we ask the board not pass this proposal due to the following reasons. A number of hunters who black bear bait use the same sites year after year. They could go to the Alaska Department of Fish & Game and register their previous site before heading into the field. This regulation enables Alaska Wildlife Troopers to enforce the cleaning up of bear bait stations. The elimination of this regulation would not make it impossible to enforce the cleanup of bear bait stations; however, it would make it extremely difficult to enforce. The requirement to provide a GPS coordinate to Alaska Department of Fish & Game makes it easier to enforce the regulation. The requirement makes it easier to investigate if someone takes a brown bear over bait.

Proposal 36:

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 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.