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Tentative Agenda – Arctic/Western Region Meeting

Alaska Board of Game

January 6-9, 2017

Yupiit Piciryarait Cultural Center

Bethel, Alaska

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.

Friday January 6, 2017, 8:30 AM

OPENING BUSINESS

Call to Order / Purpose of Meeting

Introductions of Board Members and Staff

Board Member Ethics Disclosures

AGENCY AND OTHER REPORTS

PUBLIC AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE ORAL TESTIMONY upon conclusion staff reports

THE DEADLINE TO 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 Chair to testify, are heard.

Saturday, January 7, 2017, 8:30 AM

PUBLIC AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE ORAL TESTIMONY

BOARD DELIBERATIONS upon conclusion of oral public testimony

Sunday, January 8, 2017, 9:00 AM

BOARD DELIBERATIONS continued

Monday, January 9, 2017, 8:30 AM

BOARD DELIBERATIONS continued/concluded

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS, including petitions, findings, resolutions, letters, & other business

ADJOURN

Agenda Notes

- A. Meeting materials, including a list of staff reports, a roadmap, and schedule updates, will be 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.
- B. A live audio stream for the meeting is intended to be available at: www.boardofgame.adfg.alaska.gov
- C. 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 22, 2016 to make any necessary arrangements.

Regional/Multiple Unit Proposals

Note: This proposal is scheduled for the Arctic/Western Region meeting as proposal 1 and the Interior/Northeast Arctic Region meeting as proposal 102.

PROPOSAL 1 - 5 AAC 99.025. Customary and traditional uses of game. Evaluate a separate amount reasonably necessary for subsistence for the Teshekpuk caribou herd as follows:

The recommendation is to evaluate a separate amount reasonably necessary for subsistence (ANS) figures for the Western Arctic and Teshekpuk caribou herds. Updated caribou population data is warranted in the consideration due to the recent dramatic declines of both herds. More recent harvest data for the North Slope communities may also be included in the evaluation at this time. Proposed regulations change as follows:

5 AAC 99.025 Customary and traditional uses of game populations (a) - Species and Unit: Caribou, Units 21, 22, 23, 24, and 26 (Western Arctic caribou herd, [TESHEKPUK LAKE HERD])

Finding: positive

Amount Reasonably Necessary for Subsistence Uses: 8,000 – 12,000

Species and Unit: Caribou, Units 26A and 24B (Teshekpuk Herd)

Finding: positive

Amount Reasonably Necessary for Subsistence Uses: To be determined

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The North Slope Subsistence Regional Advisory Council (Council) held public meetings on November 3–4 and December 14, 2015 and reviewed, discussed at length, and made recommendations on conservation management strategies for the Western Arctic and Teshekpuk caribou herds which have been in decline for several years. At these meetings the Council also discussed its concern for the management of the smaller Teshekpuk herd and formally approved submission of a request to the Alaska Board of Game (board) to reconsider the evaluation of a separate ANS for the Teshekpuk caribou herd.

The Council requests the board re-evaluate and establish a separate ANS for the Teshekpuk caribou herd. Currently both the Western Arctic caribou herd and the Teshekpuk caribou herd are combined together with a single ANS that was originally established by the board in 1992 for just the Western Arctic herd. In 2014 the board deliberated on the findings of customary and traditional uses that led to a positive determination for the Teshekpuk herd and that there was a harvestable surplus of that caribou population. The board was then presented with options for establishing an ANS and voted to forego establishment of a separate ANS for the Teshekpuk herd.

The Council is very concerned that the combined ANS has created a range that is too high for the Teshekpuk herd to sustain and has resulted in hunting regulations that may be too liberal with respect to this herd. The Teshekpuk herd is much smaller than the Western Arctic herd and if not addressed may be susceptible to overharvest under the current combined ANS. In light of the recent declines of both the Western Arctic and Teshekpuk herds, and recognizing the importance of the Teshekpuk herd as a primary food source of subsistence caribou for several North Slope

communities, the Council feels it is necessary to re-evaluate managing the two herds separately in order better protect the smaller Teshekpuk herd.

The Council recognizes the complexity of managing for overlapping caribou herds; however, the recent dramatic declines of both Western Arctic and Teshekpuk caribou herds warrants a closer evaluation for management of the smaller, more vulnerable Teshekpuk herd. Thank you for your consideration.

PROPOSED BY: North Slope Subsistence Regional Advisory Council (EG-F16-095)

Note: This proposal is scheduled for the Arctic/Western Region meeting as proposal 2 and the Interior/Northeast Arctic Region meeting as proposal 103.

PROPOSAL 2 - 5 AAC 92.010. Harvest tickets and reports; and 85.025. Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou. Modify the hunt structure of the Western Arctic and Teshekpuk caribou herds as follows:

The Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) recommends that the Board of Game (board) modify the hunt structure for the Western Arctic caribou herd (WAH) and Teshekpuk caribou herd (TCH) in Units 21, 23, 24, and 26 by establishing registration permit hunts within the range of these herds. For Unit 22, also within the range of these herds, the board adopted regulations that include a registration permit hunt structure during the March 2016 statewide meeting. Registration permit hunts provide additional tools to monitor harvest and manage caribou herds above what is offered by the registration system that is currently employed.

In preparation for upcoming regulatory years, ADF&G anticipates needing flexibility to actively manage harvest over a very large area of the state if either the WAH or TCH decline to the point that the current hunt management structure is no longer practical for one or both herds. For example, a registration permit allows flexibility to open and close seasons and areas based on seasonal access to caribou, without the need for further board action. Transition from the current harvest registration system to a registration permit hunt would be a significant change to increase ADF&G's ability to monitor harvest and allow for more responsive management.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The WAH peaked at 490,000 caribou in 2003. In 2013 the herd was estimated at 235,000 indicating a ~7% annual rate of decline between 2003 and 2011; the rate increased to an estimated ~15% annually between 2011 and 2013. The 2015 census failed due to poor photography conditions; however, other metrics suggest the herd is currently declining at a reduced rate, estimated at ~7% annually, with a population projection of approximately 200,000 as of 2015. The intensive management harvest objectives for the WAH are 12,000–20,000, with a population objective of over 200,000. Prior to regulatory year 2015 (RY2015 = July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016), harvests were estimated at 12,000 caribou per year based on data and patterns available through community harvest assessments. ADF&G is concerned that cow harvest has exceeded 2% since RY2011, but does not have the tools to evaluate the sex composition of the harvest efficiently.

The TCH was estimated at approximately 39,000 in 2013, and 41,500 in 2015. Given confidence limits associated with both estimates, herd growth is implied to have been stable between 2013

and 2015. Minimum counts in those two years were 32,000 and 35,000, respectively. Prior to RY2015, harvests have been estimated at approximately 2,300 per year, through the use of community harvest assessments. If the herd remains stable, these harvests are likely to be near sustainable levels, but additional capability to monitor harvest and adjust seasons, particularly in areas of herd mixture, is increasingly important. The intensive management harvest objectives for the TCH are 900–2,800, with a population objective of 15,000–28,000.

The combined amounts reasonably necessary for subsistence for the WAH and TCH is a range of 8,000–12,000. The combined harvestable surplus in 2015 for the two herds, based on a 6% harvest rate, would be approximately 14,500.

Establishing registration permit hunts for these herds will provide managers with additional tools to ensure that harvest levels do not exceed allowable rates for the WAH, which could further depress this population. In addition to providing additional information on harvest levels, the registration permit system will provide annual information on the timing and sex of harvest throughout the herd's range, which is becoming increasingly important to evaluate the effects of harvest on the herd's population status. Another benefit to a registration permit is the ability for the board to require mandatory reporting so harvest can be monitored more closely to prevent overharvest, while maximizing opportunity relative to what is available.

There are no proposed changes to bag limits or seasons; the only change ADF&G is requesting at this time is a change in hunt structure to a registration permit hunt. Restrictions to limit harvest with seasonal quotas, annual bag limits for one or both sexes, or changes to hunting seasons may be necessary for future hunt management. If changes to seasons and bag limits become necessary in the future, the changes would be more easily implemented under the registration permit hunt structure proposed.

ADF&G will present an overview of WAH and TCH hunt management during the January 2017 Board of Game meeting to discuss the potential for changes to seasons and geographic opportunity with the board. The board adopted regulations during the March 2016 meeting that changed bag limits and reporting mechanisms in Unit 22 that we anticipate will allow ADF&G to evaluate initial implementation of a registration permit hunt and annual bag limit in a portion of the WAH range.

ADF&G is seeking public input through this proposal related to regulatory options for ensuring the continued viability of these herds. ADF&G intends to actively engage state and federal advisory committees, effected communities, local governments, and the Western Arctic Herd Working Group in formulating refinements to this proposal. ADF&G also anticipates collecting new information on abundance and herd demographics in the interim before the January 2017 Board of Game meeting. Given the potential for falling below intensive management objectives, ADF&G will prepare an intensive management feasibility assessment for the January 2017 Board of Game meeting.

The public is encouraged to evaluate this proposal, and to provide advice on means for reducing harvest, while minimizing impacts to hunters and users of caribou throughout the ranges of both herds.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F16-135)

Note: The Board of Game deferred this proposal from the 2016 Statewide Regulations Meeting with the intent that it apply to the Arctic and Western Region Units. It was previously numbered proposal 85.

PROPOSAL 3 - 5 AAC 92.010(g). Harvest tickets and reports. Remove the exception to harvest tickets and reports for caribou as follows:

Delete the exception in 5 AAC 92.010(g) that allows the harvest of caribou without requiring a harvest ticket or harvest report for residents residing north of the Yukon River. All persons hunting caribou north of the Yukon River must have a harvest ticket in possession and have obtained a harvest report.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Both the Western Arctic and the Teshekpuk caribou herds are in decline. Alaska's State Constitution Article VIII, Section 4 Sustained-yield requires the ADF&G to manage the herd on a sustainable basis. Of the three major known factors, weather conditions, habitat, and predation, limiting the herds' size, only harvest by predators can be regulated. Accurate harvest data is essential in order for the Board of Game to make sound decisions regarding caribou bag limits on herds in steep decline. There is a lack of accurate resident caribou harvest reporting north of the Yukon River. Requiring residents living north of the Yukon River to register with ADF&G does not provide accurate caribou harvest data.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Outdoor Council

(EG-C15-072)

Note: This proposal is scheduled for the Arctic/Western Region meeting as proposal 4 and the Interior/Northeast Arctic Region meeting as proposal 100.

PROPOSAL 4 - 5 AAC 92.085. Unlawful methods of taking big game; exceptions. Institute no-fly zones for caribou hunting in Units 21D, 22, 23, 24, & 26A as follows:

Aircraft restricted to only Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday. This will leave Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday to a no-fly zone allowing local villagers to have quiet hunting times and no aircraft noises. This proposal will affect Units and Subunits of 21D, 22, 23, 24 and 26A. Hunters in this area because of weather will need to be prepared to carry with them three days of provisions in case aircraft can't get in to get them out of the area.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Western Arctic caribou herd (WAH) declining population numbers. During the WAH meeting in December 2015 and the Regional Advisory Council meetings March of 2016 in Anchorage, information released to the public shows numbers going from 495,000 to 235,000 animals. Local people think aircraft are part of the reason. They attempted to try a correction with proposal WSA16-01.

PROPOSED BY: Neil DeWitt

(EG-F16-013)

Note: This proposal is scheduled for the Arctic/Western Region meeting as proposal 5 and the Interior/Northeast Arctic Region meeting as proposal 54.

PROPOSAL 5 - 5 AAC 85.015. Hunting seasons and bag limits for black bear. Change “general season” to “subsistence” for Arctic/Western Region black bear hunts having positive customary and traditional use findings as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open season	Nonresident Open season
Units 12, 18, 19, 20 outside the Fairbanks nonsubsistence area, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25,	No closed season. [GENERAL SEASON] <u>Subsistence</u>	No closed season. (General hunt only)

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Change the resident “general season” status in codified to subsistence for residents taking black bears. Black bears in all these units have a positive finding of customary and traditional use, with one exception, and that is the bears that are within the Fairbanks nonsubsistence area.

PROPOSED BY: Al Barrette (EG-F16-083)

Note: This proposal is scheduled for the Arctic/Western Region meeting as proposal 6 and the Interior/Northeast Arctic Region meeting as proposal 53.

PROPOSAL 6 - 5 AAC 85.025. Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou. Clarify the resident general and subsistence hunting seasons and the nonresident general hunting seasons for caribou in Interior/Northeast Arctic and the Arctic/Western Regions as follows:

	Resident Open season	Nonresident Open season
...		
Unit 12, that portion west of the Glenn Highway (Tok Cutoff) and south of the Alaska Highway within the Tok River drainage	Sept. 1—Sept. 20 <u>Subsistence</u>	No open season.
1 bull		
Unit 12, that portion west of the Glenn Highway (Tok cutoff) and south of the Alaska Highway, excluding the Tok River drainage		
1 bull by registration	Aug. 10—Sept. 30	No open season.

permit only; up to 100 bulls may be taken in combination with Unit 20(D), in that portion south of the Tanana River

Subsistence

Remainder of Unit 12

1 caribou may be taken by registration permit only during a winter season to be announced by emergency order

(Winter season to be announced)

Subsistence

No open season.

...

Unit 18

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

2 caribou by registration permit only; however, no more than 1 bull may be taken and no more than 1 caribou may be taken from Aug. 1—Jan. 31

Aug. 1—Mar. 15

Subsistence

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

No open season.

(14)

Unit 19(A), that portion within the Lime Village Management Area

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

2 caribou by registration permit only; however, no more than 1 bull may be taken and no more than 1 caribou may be taken from Aug. 1—Jan. 31

Aug. 1—Mar. 15

Subsistence

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

Units 19(A) and 19(B) within the Nonresident Closed Area

No open season.

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

2 caribou by registration permit only; however, no more than 1 bull may be taken and no more than 1 caribou may be taken from Aug. 1—Jan. 31

Aug. 1—Mar. 15

Subsistence

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:
Remainder of Units 19(A) and 19(B)

No open season.

RESIDENT HUNTERS:
2 caribou by registration permit
only; however, no more than 1 bull
may be taken and no more than 1
caribou may be taken from
Aug. 1—Jan. 31

Aug. 1—Mar. 15
Subsistence

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:
Unit 19(C)
1 bull

Aug. 10—Sept. 20
Subsistence

No open season.
Aug. 10—Sept. 20
General season

Unit 19(D), except the drainages of
The Nixon Fork River
1 bull; or

Aug. 10—Sept. 20
Subsistence

Aug. 10—Sept. 20
General season

1 caribou; or

Nov. 1—Jan. 31
Subsistence

5 caribou may be taken during
the winter season to be announced;
however, the commissioner may
close the season and immediately
reopen, by emergency order,
a season during which the bag
limit is less than 5 caribou

(Season to be
announced)
(Subsistence hunt only)

No open season.

Remainder of Unit 19(D)
1 bull

Aug. 10—Sept. 20
Subsistence

Aug. 10—Sept. 20
General season

20(F), those portions south of
the Yukon River, and north and
east of a line formed by the
Richardson Highway from the
Unit 20(D) boundary to its
Intersection with the Steese
Highway, north along the
Steese Highway to its intersection
with the Elliot Highway, then
northwest along the Elliot
Highway to its intersection with
the Dalton Highway, then north
along the Dalton Highway to the
Yukon River, and Unit 20(D) that

portion north of the south bank of the Tanana River

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 caribou, per lifetime of a hunter, by youth hunt drawing permit; up to 30 total permits may be issued; or

Aug. 10—Aug. 21
General season

1 caribou by registration permit only; or

Aug. 10—Sept. 30
Subsistence
Dec. 1—Mar. 31
Subsistence

1 caribou by targeted permit only, during a season that may be announced by emergency order within a portion of the area during Dec. 1—Mar. 31

(Season to be announced by emergency order)

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 caribou, per lifetime of a hunter, by youth hunt drawing permit only; up to 30 total permits may be issued; or

Aug. 10—Aug. 21
General season

1 bull by registration permit only

Aug. 10—Sept. 20
General season

Remainder of Unit 20(B) **that lays outside the Fairbanks non-Subsistence area**

1 bull

Aug. 10—Sept. 20
Subsistence

Aug. 10—Sept. 20
General season

Unit 20(C)

No open season.

No open season.

Unit 20(D), that portion south of the Tanana River

No open season.

No open season.

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull by registration permit only; up to 100 bulls may be taken in combination with Unit 12 in that portion west of the Glenn Highway (Tok Cutoff) and south of the Alaska Highway, excluding the Tok River drainage

Aug. 10—Sept. 30
Subsistence

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

No open season.

Unit 20(E)

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 caribou, per lifetime of a hunter, by youth hunt drawing permit only; up to 30 total permits may be issued; or

Aug. 10—Aug. 21
General season

1 caribou by registration permit only; or

Aug. 10—Sept. 30
Subsistence
Dec. 1—Mar. 31
Subsistence

1 caribou by registration permit only, during a season for up to three days that may be announced by emergency order within a portion of the area during the period Oct. 20—Nov. 30; or

(Season to be announced by emergency order)

1 caribou by targeted permit only, during a season that may be announced by emergency order within a portion of the area during Dec. 1—Mar. 31

(Season to be announced by emergency order)

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 caribou, per lifetime of a hunter, by youth hunt drawing permit only; up to 30 total permits may be issued; or

Aug. 10—Aug. 21
General season

1 bull by registration permit only

Aug. 10—Sept. 20
General season

Unit 20(F) south of the Yukon River and west of the Dalton Highway

Aug. 10—Sept. 20
Subsistence
[(GENERAL HUNT ONLY)]

Aug. 10—Sept. 20
General season

1 bull

Unit 20(F), north of the Yukon River

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 caribou

Aug. 10—Mar. 31
Subsistence

[(GENERAL HUNT ONLY)]

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:
1 caribou Aug. 10—Sept. 30
General season

(16)

Unit 21(A)
1 bull Aug. 10—Sept. 20
Subsistence Aug. 10—Sept. 20
General season

Unit 21(B), that portion north
of the Yukon River and
downstream from Ukawutni Creek No open season. No open season.

Remainder of Unit 21(B)
1 caribou Aug. 10—Sept. 30
Subsistence Aug. 10—Sept. 30
General season

Unit 21(C), that portion within
the Dulbi River drainage and that
portion within the Melozitna
River drainage downstream from
Big Creek No open season. No open season.

Remainder of Unit 21(C)
1 caribou Aug. 10—Sept. 30
Subsistence Aug. 10—Sept. 30
General season

Unit 21(D), that portion north of
the Yukon River and east of the
Koyukuk River (Winter season to
be announced) No open season.
2 caribou;

Remainder of Unit 21(D)

RESIDENT HUNTERS:
5 caribou per day; as follows:

up to 5 bulls per day; however,
calves may not be taken; July 1—Oct. 14
Subsistence
Feb. 1—June 30
Subsistence

up to 5 cows per day; however,
calves may not be taken Sept. 1—Mar. 31
Subsistence

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:
1 bull; however, calves may not
be taken Aug. 1—Sept. 30
General season

Unit 21(E) Aug. 10—Sept. 30 Aug. 10—Sept. 30

1 caribou; however, 2 additional caribou may be taken during a winter season to be announced

(17)

Unit 22(A), that portion north of the Golsovia River drainage

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

5 caribou per day; as follows:

up to 5 bulls per day; however, calves may not be taken;

up to 5 cows per day; however, calves may not be taken

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull; however, calves may not be taken

Unit 22(B), that portion west of Golovnin Bay, and west of a line along the west bank of the Fish and Niukluk Rivers to the mouth of the Libby River, and excluding all portions of the Niukluk River drainage upstream from and including the Libby River drainage

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

5 caribou per day; as follows:

up to 5 bulls per day; however, calves may not be taken;

up to 5 cows per day; however, calves may not be taken;

up to 5 caribou per day; however, calves may not be taken; during the period May 1—Sept. 30, a season

Subsistence

(Winter season to be announced)

July 1—Oct. 14

Subsistence

Feb. 1—June 30

Subsistence

Sept. 1—Mar. 31

Subsistence

General season

Aug. 1—Sept. 30

General season

may be announced by emergency order; however, cow caribou may not be taken April 1—Aug. 31; bull caribou may not be taken Oct. 15—Jan. 31

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull; however, calves may not be taken during the period Aug. 1—Sept. 30, a season may be announced by emergency order

(Season to be announced by emergency order)

Remainder of Unit 22(B)

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

5 caribou per day as follows:

up to 5 bulls per day; however calves may not be taken;

July 1—Oct. 14

Subsistence

Feb. 1—June 30

Subsistence

up to 5 cows per day; however, calves may not be taken

Sept. 1—Mar. 31

Subsistence

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull; however, calves may not be Taken

Aug. 1—Sept. 30

General season

Unit 22(D), that portion in the Pilgrim River drainage

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

5 caribou per day, as follows:

up to 5 bulls per day; however, calves may not be taken

Oct. 1—Oct. 14

Subsistence

Feb. 1—Apr. 30

Subsistence

up to 5 cows per day; however, calves may not be taken

Oct. 1—Mar. 31

Subsistence

up to 5 caribou per day; however, calves may not be taken; during the period May 1—Sept. 30, a season may be announced by emergency order; however, cow caribou may not be taken April 1—Aug. 31

(Season to be announced by emergency order)

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:
1 bull; however, calves may not
be taken; during the period Aug.
1—Sept. 30, a season may be
announced by emergency order

(Season to be announced
by emergency order)

Unit 22(D), that portion in the
Kuzitrin River drainage
(excluding the Pilgrim River
drainage) and the Agiapuk
River drainage, including the
Tributaries

RESIDENT HUNTERS
5 caribou per day, as follows:

up to 5 bulls per day; however,
calves may not be taken;

July 1—Oct. 14

Subsistence

Feb. 1—June 30

Subsistence

up to 5 cows per day; however,
calves may not be taken

Sept. 1—Mar. 31

Subsistence

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:
1 bull; however, calves may not be
taken

Aug. 1—Sept. 30
General season

Unit 22(E), that portion east of and
including the Sanaguich River
drainage

RESIDENT HUNTERS:
5 caribou per day, as follows:

up to 5 bulls per day; however,
calves may not be taken;

July 1—Oct. 14

Subsistence

Feb. 1—June 30

Subsistence

up to 5 cows per day; however,
calves may not be taken

Sept. 1—Mar. 31

Subsistence

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:
1 bull; however, calves may not be
taken

Aug. 1—Sept. 30
General season

Remainder of Unit 22

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

5 caribou per day; however calves may not be taken; cow caribou may not be taken Apr. 1—Aug. 31; bull caribou may not be taken Oct. 15—Jan. 31

(Season to be announced by emergency order)

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:
1 bull; however, calves may not be taken; during the period Aug. 1—Sept. 30

(Season to be announced by emergency order)

(18)

Unit 23, that portion north of and including the Singoalik River drainage

RESIDENT HUNTERS:
5 caribou per day, as follows:

up to 5 bulls per day; however, calves may not be taken;

July 1—Oct. 14
Subsistence
Feb. 1—June 30
Subsistence

up to 5 cows per day; however, calves may not be taken

Jul. 15—Apr. 30
Subsistence

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:
1 bull; however, calves may not be taken

Aug. 1—Sept. 30
General season

Remainder of Unit 23

RESIDENT HUNTERS:
5 caribou per day, as follows:

up to 5 bulls per day; however, calves may not be taken;

July 1—Oct. 14
Subsistence
Feb. 1—June 30
Subsistence

up to 5 cows per day; however, calves may not be taken

Sept. 1—Mar. 31
Subsistence

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:
1 bull; however, calves may not be taken

Aug. 1—Sept. 30
General season

(19)

Unit 24(A), that portion south of the south bank of the Kanuti River, and that portion of Unit 25(D) drained by the west fork Of the Dall River west of 150 W. long.

1 caribou

Aug. 10—Mar. 31
Subsistence

Aug. 10—Sept. 30
General season

Remainder of Unit 24(A), and
Remainder of Unit 24(B)

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

5 caribou per day, as follows:
up to 5 bulls per day; however,
calves may not be taken;

July 1—Oct. 14
Subsistence
Feb. 1—June 30
Subsistence

up to 5 cows per day; however,
calves may not be taken

Jul. 15—Apr. 30
Subsistence

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull; however, calves may not
be taken

Aug. 1—Sept. 30
General season

Unit 24(B), that portion south of the south bank of the Kanuti River, upstream from and including that portion of the Kanuti-Kiloitna River drainage, bounded by the southeast bank of the Kodosin-Nolitna Creek, then downstream along the east bank of the Kanuti-Kilolitna River to its confluence with the Kanuti River

1 caribou

Aug. 10—Mar. 31
Subsistence

Aug. 10—Sept. 30
General season

Units 24(C) and 24(D)

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

5 caribou per day, as follows:

up to 5 bulls per day; however,
calves may not be taken;

July 1—Oct. 14
Subsistence

up to 5 cows per day; however, calves may not be taken	Feb. 1—June 30 <u>Subsistence</u>	
NONRESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 bull; however, calves may not be taken	Sept. 1—Mar. 31 <u>Subsistence</u>	Aug. 1—Sept. 30 <u>General season</u>
(20)		
Units 25(A), those portions east of the east bank of the East Fork Chandalar River extending from its confluence with the Chandalar River upstream to Guilbeau Pass, Unit 25(B), and Unit 25(D), excluding the drainage of the west fork of the Dall River west of 150_ W. long.		
RESIDENT HUNTERS: 10 caribou	July 1—Apr. 30 <u>Subsistence</u>	
NONRESIDENT HUNTERS: 2 bulls		Aug. 1—Sept. 30 <u>General season</u>
Remainder of Unit 25(A)		
RESIDENT HUNTERS: 10 caribou; however cow caribou may not be taken from May 16—June 30	July 1—June 30 <u>Subsistence</u>	
NONRESIDENT HUNTERS: 2 bulls		Aug. 1—Sept. 30 <u>General season</u>
Remainder of Unit 25(A)		
RESIDENT HUNTERS: 10 caribou; however cow caribou may not be taken from M ay 16—June 3	July 1—June 30 <u>Subsistence</u>	
NONRESIDENT HUNTERS: 5 caribou; however cow caribou may not be taken		July 1—June 30 <u>General season</u>

from May 16—June 30

Unit 25(C)

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 caribou, per lifetime of a hunter, by youth hunt drawing permit only; up to 30 total permits may be issued; or

Aug. 10—Aug. 21
General season

1 caribou by registration permit only; or

Aug. 10—Sept. 30
Subsistence
Dec. 1—Mar. 31
Subsistence

1 caribou by targeted permit only, during a season that may be announced by emergency order within a portion of the area during Dec. 1—Mar. 31

(Season to be announced emergency order)

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 caribou, per lifetime of a hunter, by youth hunt drawing permit only; up to 30 total permits may be issued; or

Aug. 10—Aug. 21
General season

1 bull by registration permit only

Aug. 10—Sept. 20
General season

(21)

Unit 26(A), that portion of the Colville River drainage upstream from the Anaktuvuk River, and drainages of the Chukchi Sea south and west of, and including the Utukok River drainage

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

5 caribou per day, as follows:

up to 5 bulls per day; however, calves may not be taken;

July 1—Oct. 14
Subsistence
Feb. 1—June 30
Subsistence

up to 5 cows per day; however, calves may not be taken

Jul. 15—Apr. 30
Subsistence

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:
1 bull; however, calves may not be taken

July 15—Sept. 30
General season

Remainder of Unit 26(A)

RESIDENT HUNTERS:
5 bulls per day; however, calves may not be taken;

July 1—July 15
Subsistence

5 caribou per day; however, no more than 3 cows per day; cows accompanied by calves and calves may not be taken;

July 16—Oct. 15
Subsistence

3 cows per day; however, calves may not be taken;

Oct. 16—Dec. 31
Subsistence

5 caribou per day; however, no more than 3 cows per day; calves may not be taken;

Jan. 1—Mar. 15
Subsistence

5 bulls per day; however, calves may not be taken;

Mar. 16—June 30
Subsistence

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:
1 bull; however, calves may not be taken

July 15—Sept. 30
General season

Unit 26(B), that portion north of 69° 30' N. lat. and west of the east bank of the Kuparuk River to a point at 70° 10' N. lat., 149° 04' W. long., then west approximately 22 miles to 70° 10' N. lat. and 149° 56' W. long., then following the east bank of the Kalubik River to the Arctic Ocean

RESIDENT HUNTERS:
5 caribou per day; however, cow caribou may not be taken
May 16—June 30

July 1—June 30
Subsistence

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

5 caribou

July 1—Apr. 30
General season

Unit 26(B), that portion south of 69° 30' N. lat. and west of the Dalton Highway

5 caribou; however, cow caribou may be taken only from July 1—Oct. 10

July 1—Oct. 10
Subsistence
May 16—June 30
Subsistence

July 1—Oct. 10
General season
May 16—June 30
General season

Unit 26(B), that portion south of 69° 30' N. lat. and east of the Dalton Highway

5 caribou; however, cow caribou may be taken only from July 1—May 15

July 1—July 30
Subsistence

July 1—June 30
General season

Remainder of Unit 26(B)

5 caribou

July 1—Apr. 30
Subsistence

July 1—Apr. 30
General season

(22)

Unit 26(C)

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

10 caribou; however, only bull caribou may be taken June 23—June 30

July 1—Apr. 30
Subsistence
June 23—June 30
Subsistence

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

2 bulls

Aug. 1—Sept. 30
General season

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Amend the resident “general season” status in codified to subsistence for residents on caribou populations that have a positive customary & traditional use (C&T) finding. The statutory definition of subsistence hunting makes all Alaskan residents eligible to take, hunt, and possess game with a positive C&T.

General seasons apply to nonresident seasons, seasons in nonsubsistence areas, drawing hunts, and season on game species that do not have a positive finding of C&T.

PROPOSED BY: Al Barrette

(EG-F16-085)

Note: This proposal is scheduled for the Arctic/Western Region meeting as proposal 7 and the Interior/Northeast Arctic Region meeting as proposal 56.

PROPOSAL 7 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep. Clarify the resident general and subsistence hunting seasons and the nonresident general hunting seasons for Dall sheep as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open season	Nonresident Open season
...		
Unit 19(A), 19(B), and 19(D) 1 ram with full curl horn or larger	Aug. 10—Sept. 20 <u>Subsistence</u>	Aug. 10—Sept. 20 <u>General season</u>
Unit 19(C) 1 ram with full curl horn or larger; or 1 sheep with 3/4 curl horn or less; the take of rams with both horns broken, lambs or ewes with lambs, is prohibited; by registration permit only	Aug. 10—Sept. 20 <u>Subsistence</u> Oct. 1—April 30 (Subsistence hunt only)	Aug. 10—Sept. 20 <u>General season</u> No open season
Unit 24(B), that portion with the John River drainage upstream from Till Creek, and that portion within the Glacier River drainage 3 sheep	Aug. 1—Apr. 30 <u>Subsistence</u>	No open season.
Remainder of Unit 24(B) 1 ram with a full-curl horn or larger	Aug. 10—Sept. 20 <u>Subsistence</u>	Aug. 10—Sept. 20 <u>General season</u>
Unit 25(A) RESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 ram with a full-cull horn or larger may be taken only from Aug. 10 through Sept. 20; up to 3 sheep may Be taken by registration permit	Aug. 10—Sept. 20 <u>Subsistence</u> Oct. 1—Apr. 30 <u>Subsistence</u>	

only Oct. 1—April 30

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 ram with a full-curl horn or larger.

Aug. 10—Sept. 20
General season

Remainder of Unit 25

1 ram with a full-curl horn or larger

Aug. 10—Sept. 20
Subsistence

Aug. 10—Sept. 20
General season

Unit 26(A), that portion west of the Etivluk River drainage

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 sheep by registration permit only

No open season.
(Subsistence hunt only)

ALL HUNTERS:

1 ram with full-curl horn or larger by drawing permit only provided that the harvestable surplus is greater than 9 in combination with that portion of Unit 23 in the DeLong Mountains

No open season.

No open season.

Unit 26(A), that portion east of and including the Etivluk River drainage, excluding Gates of the Arctic National Park

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

3 sheep by registration permit only

Aug. 1—Apr. 30
(Subsistence hunt only)

ALL HUNTERS:

1 ram with full-curl horn or larger

Aug. 10—Sept. 20
Subsistence

Aug. 10—Sept. 20
General season

Unit 26(A), that portion within The Gates of the Arctic National Park

3 sheep	Aug. 1—Apr. 30 <u>Subsistence</u>	No open season.
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Unit 26(B), that portion within the Gates of the Arctic National Park

3 sheep	Aug. 1—Apr. 30 Subsistence	No open season
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Remainder of Units 26(A) and (26B)
1 ram with a full-curl horn or larger

Aug. 10—Apr. 30 <u>Subsistence</u>	Aug. 10—Sept. 20 <u>General season</u>
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Unit 26(C)

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 ram with a full-curl horn or larger may be taken only from Aug. 10 through Sept. 20; up to 3 sheep may be Taken by registration permit Oct. 1—April 30

Aug. 10—Sept. 20 <u>Subsistence</u>	Oct. 1—Apr. 30 <u>Subsistence</u>
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NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 ram with a full-curl horn or larger

Aug. 10—Sept. 20
General season

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Amend the resident “general season” status in codified to subsistence for residents on sheep populations that have a positive customary and traditional use (C&T) finding. The statutory definition of subsistence hunting makes all Alaskan residents eligible to take, hunt, and possess game with a positive C&T.

General seasons apply to nonresident seasons, seasons in nonsubsistence areas, drawing hunts, and season on game species that do not have a positive finding of C&T.

PROPOSED BY: Al Barrette

(EG-F16-088)

PROPOSAL 8 - 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose; and 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou. Prohibit nonresident hunting of any prey species under intensive management in the Arctic/Western Region until harvest and population objectives are met as follows:

Nonresident hunting shall not be allowed for any prey species in the Arctic/Western Region under an intensive management (IM) predation control plan until the minimum intensive management population and harvest objectives for that prey species have been reached.

This solution will benefit resident hunters and the prey populations the Board of Game and the Department of Fish & Game are trying to increase for Alaskan consumptive uses.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Nonresident hunting opportunity in areas under IM predation control plans. IM predation control implementation plans to restore the abundance of prey species as necessary to achieve human consumptive use goals are intended to benefit resident Alaskans. Resident Hunters of Alaska supports IM efforts to achieve these goals.

We would like to see the Board of Game adopt regulations that match the intent of our IM law. No nonresident hunting should be allowed in any area of the Arctic/Western for a prey species that is under a formal IM predation control plan to increase populations for the benefit of resident consumptive uses when the minimum IM population and harvest objectives for that prey species has not been reached.

PROPOSED BY: Resident Hunters of Alaska (EG-F16-097)

PROPOSAL 9 - 5 AAC 92.057. Special provisions for Dall sheep and mountain goat drawing permit hunts. Establish a ten percent nonresident sheep permit allocation for the Arctic/Western Region Units as follows:

A 90/10 allocation should be put in place for sheep. A maximum of 10% the resource should go to nonresidents but 10% is not guaranteed and a minimum of 90% should go to Alaska residents. All nonresidents will be put on permits and can apply to get a permit out of the 10% pool.

All general hunts that require permits due to low game numbers should follow this 90/10 rule. All sheep should be on this 90/10 rule. This should be a statewide regulation but since the Board of Game rejected this request we will have to start with Interior/Northeast Region and the Arctic/Western Regions until the next statewide meeting.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? A 90/10 percent sheep allocation needs to be adopted in the Arctic/Western Region. Other states have similar policies in place and the Board of Game (board) seems to feel comfortable ignoring resident requests for this preference. A minimum of 90% of the resource would go to residents and a maximum of 10% would go to nonresidents but 10% is not guaranteed.

The number of sheep hunters (resident and nonresident) from the past three years should be averaged and nonresidents would be allowed to apply for permits on 10% of that total number.

EXAMPLE: If the average of those hunters (**hunters that actually hunted sheep**) was 1,500, then the Department of Fish and Game should issue 150 permits for nonresidents. 10% of 1,500 =150 This 10% would apply to guided hunts and next of kin - all nonresidents. Instead of listening to the requests for resident preferences the board makes sure the guiding industry loses nothing. The sheep numbers have diminished, the experience has diminished, and the success has diminished for residents. Nonresidents harvested 45% of the sheep statewide last year! Who is responsible for this?

PROPOSED BY: Jeff Barney

(EG-F16-098)

PROPOSAL 10 - 5 AAC 92.057. Special provisions for Dall sheep and mountain goat drawing permit hunts. Establish a ten percent nonresident sheep permit allocation for the Arctic/Western Region as follows:

Establish a 90/10 percent resident/nonresident sheep permit allocation. The Board of Game should only allow 10% of sheep permits to be purchased by nonresidents with 10% being the ceiling and not guaranteed. This 10% allocation should be calculated on an average of resident and nonresident sheep hunters from the previous three years. This 10% allocation should include both next of kin and guided hunts.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Board of Game (board) needs to address the overcrowding issue for sheep hunters, declining ram numbers (especially quality rams), and most especially, the over-harvest of Dall sheep by nonresidents. **In 2015, nonresidents harvested 45% of the total rams harvested statewide.** This is not acceptable, nor is it sustainable, and the board should implement allocation rules that give Alaska residents a minimum of 90% of the resource.

There have been two sheep surveys conducted by Dr. Brinkman of the University of Alaska per request and funding by the board: a random survey and a non-random survey. These Brinkman surveys overwhelmingly showed that nonresident hunters are the problem —100% on the non-random survey and 77% on the random survey expressed this. These incredibly high percentages were both ignored and disregarded. Instead of listening to the people, the Board of Game produced its own proposal (207)—one that was never asked for by the public in the proposal process, is completely unenforceable, hampers numerous Alaskans and helps the guides and their clients.

Members of the board have been quoted saying that Alaska residents need to “*share the burden*” with nonresidents if they are to reduce the numbers of sheep hunters. This is unreasonable and inappropriate when **45% of the rams harvested statewide are by nonresidents.** The board needs to value residents over nonresidents and manage our resources according to our state constitution which clearly and distinctly states that our game resources will be managed sustainably and for the benefit and use by and for Alaskans. These sheep, and all fish and game resources within the state, are owned collectively by the residents of the State of Alaska. They are not owned by any specific group, by guides, or by residents of other states. They are owned by us—the residents of Alaska, and we expect them to be managed for our benefit and those of future Alaskans. Nowhere in our state constitution does it state that our game populations will be managed for residents of other states. Nowhere does it state that our game populations will be managed so that individuals or organizations can make money or a living off of our game resources. Nowhere does it state that

the State of Alaska owes anybody a job. And nowhere does our constitution state that residents need to “*share the burden*” of management with nonresidents. Our Alaska State Constitution does state, however, that our resources will be managed sustainably “*for the maximum benefit of its people*.” We, the residents of Alaska, are “*its people*.” Having a 90/10 allocation so residents are a higher priority would help meet this mandate and edict.

This 90/10 concept has been presented to the board numerous times and by a variety of people, yet the board has always favored nonresidents and opposed giving residents a higher allocation. This is simply not right. Nor is it acceptable. The board should listen to what was expressed in its surveys, should listen to the concerns brought forward by residents who do not have financial interests in the management of this resource, and should manage our game resources as mandated by our Alaska state constitution—for its people. If the board is unsure of how that would work or what that actually looks like, any other state in the union could be used as a model or example.

PROPOSED BY: Jake Sprankle (EG-F16-068)

Note: The Board of Game deferred this proposal from the 2016 Statewide Regulations Meeting. It was previously numbered proposal 86.

PROPOSAL 11 - 5 AAC 92.010(h). Harvest tickets and reports. Remove the exception to harvest tickets and reports for sheep as follows:

Delete the exception in 5 AAC 92.010(h) that allows hunting of Dall sheep in the Gates of the Arctic National Park without possessing a harvest ticket or obtaining a harvest report. Accurate sheep harvest data gathered from mandatory harvest tickets and reports is essential for managing game populations that are declining rapidly.

Since moose populations are currently not in peril within the Gates of the Arctic National Park, the Alaska Outdoor Council cannot make the same argument to remove the harvest ticket/report exception for moose on grounds of conservation concerns, but if the Board of Game should choose to delete the entire section (h) of 5 AAC 92.010 that would be fine.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Dall sheep populations are also in decline in the Western Brooks Range. The Alaska Board of Game closed Dall sheep hunting to all hunters in Units 23 and 26A west of the Etivluk River drainage during their spring 2015 meeting. The Gates of the Arctic National Park is considering taking over Dall sheep management and allocation due to declining sheep populations. Accurate sheep harvest is critical in order for the ADF&G to manage the sheep herds on the sustained-yield bases as required by state law Alaska Statute 16.05.255. Regulations of the Board of Game; management requirements.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Outdoor Council (EG-C15-073)

PROPOSAL 12 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep; and 92.008. Harvest guideline levels. Establish a ten percent nonresident sheep harvest allocation cap and change all nonresident sheep hunts to draw permit hunts in the Arctic/Western Region as follows:

Amend 92.008 by adding a new subsection to read:

(5) Dall sheep: the annual harvest of Dall sheep by nonresident hunters in the Arctic/Western Region shall be managed so that in any given three-year period the average annual harvest does not exceed 10 percent of the total sheep harvest.

Or:

(5) Dall sheep: the annual harvest of Dall sheep by nonresident hunters in the Arctic/Western Region shall be managed so that in any given three-year period the average annual sheep harvest does not exceed XX sheep.

All nonresident sheep hunts in the Arctic/Western Region will be draw-only hunts with an allocation set subunit by subunit under 5 AAC 92.008 so that harvest levels do not exceed 10% of the total Arctic/Western Region sheep harvest based on using the last three years of historical nonresident participation and harvest data for each subunit.

This solution is preferable to a nonresident draw-only participation allocation because much lower levels of participation for nonresident guided sheep hunters still may lead to harvests of up to 30%, which we firmly believe contradicts the intent of our constitution for a maximum benefit to resident Alaskans.

The sheep resource and all resident sheep hunters will benefit if this solution is adopted.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Future nonresident sheep hunting opportunity in the Arctic/Western Region. When/if sheep hunting opportunity is again allowed in the Arctic/Western Region for both residents and nonresidents, if we do not place strict limits on nonresident sheep harvests it can lead to more closures and loss of opportunity to residents.

Reasons for sheep declines can be many, but whenever the Board of Game or the Department of Fish & Game restricts or shuts down sheep hunting opportunity it means that sheep hunters can play a role in the continued decline of our sheep resource.

If sheep populations rebound in the Arctic/Western Region and sheep hunting is again allowed for residents and nonresidents in Units 23 and 26A, nonresident sheep hunters should be limited to no more than 10% of the total harvest.

PROPOSED BY: Resident Hunters of Alaska (EG-F16-099)

PROPOSAL 13 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep; and 92.008. Harvest guideline levels. Establish a 25% cap on nonresident harvest of Dall sheep and make all general sheep hunts for nonresidents draw hunts in the Arctic/Western Region as follows:

Establish a maximum cap of 25% total harvest for Dall Sheep by nonresident hunters participating in units currently open for general season harvest in the Arctic/Western Region. Additionally, make all general season sheep hunts for nonresidents drawing only.

This 25% harvest cap would be on a unit by unit basis. That is, no unit will have a nonresident harvest that exceeds 25% of the total Dall sheep harvest for that particular unit. For example, if the average harvest of Dall sheep in Unit 19C is ~100 rams, then the maximum harvest for nonresidents in that particular unit would be no greater than ~25 rams.

The 25% harvest would be based off of the previous five years average total harvest of Dall sheep in each particular unit. For example: Unit 19C has seen an average total harvest of ~82 rams/year for (2010-2014). Thus, the total nonresident harvest would be restricted to no more than 20 rams (25% of 82).

Additionally, all general season hunts open to nonresidents would become “drawing hunts.” Each unit with a general season hunt would become a drawing for nonresidents only. (Current regulations would not change for resident hunters). The amount of tags available to nonresidents would be based off of two things; A: The nonresident harvest cap for each particular unit, and B: The nonresident success rate for that particular unit. For example: If Unit 19C has a maximum allowable nonresident harvest of 20 rams and the nonresident success rate for that unit is 65%. Then this would allow for 31 nonresident tags to be available for that particular unit. Drawings would be available for all units which currently have open non-resident general season hunts for Dall sheep.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Currently, Alaska resident hunting opportunities for Dall sheep have diminished due to diminished populations of Dall sheep and less areas/units open to general harvest of Dall sheep. This has led to increased competition/crowding from guided nonresident hunters due to a lack of available legal full curl Dall rams. As a result, it is necessary for the Board of Game to decrease the number of Dall sheep harvested by nonresident hunters. Additionally, the amount of nonresident hunters present in the field need to be reduced in order to mitigate the increased crowding and competition during sheep season.

PROPOSED BY: Luke Graham (EG-F16-023)

PROPOSAL 14 - 5 AAC 92.008. Harvest guideline levels. Establish a nonresident sheep harvest cap of 12% for the Arctic/Western Region as follows:

I am asking the board to put a cap on nonresidents being allowed to hunt each year for sheep in the Arctic/Western Region at 12% of the total harvest looking at a three-year average.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Nonresident hunting opportunity for Dall sheep.

As an Alaska resident, I would like to see the Board of Game show preference towards their fellow Alaskans when sheep numbers are down like they are now.

PROPOSED BY: Jacques Etcheverry (EG-F16-062)

PROPOSAL 15 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep; and 92.050. Required permit hunt conditions and procedures. Restrict the harvest of Dall sheep in the Arctic/Western Region to one every five years as follows:

I'm asking the Board of Game to mirror the Unit 7 and 15 mountain goat guidelines on harvest but re-word for Dall sheep for the Arctic/Western Region:

If a hunter harvests a sub-legal ram (determined by ADF&G horn sealing) that hunter is prohibited from hunting Dall sheep (harvest or permit) for five years. (I think this is fair, based on the four-year wait for anyone after harvesting a Tok Management Area ram).

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Sub-legal Dall sheep harvest. Statewide sub-legal harvest is about ten percent of the total harvest; this needs to be addressed. Hunters (myself included) need to take the time and make sure the ram in front of us is 110 percent legal before pulling the trigger (no more iffy ones). I see this as a good thing for our sheep herds.

PROPOSED BY: Jacques Etcheverry (EG-F16-055)

PROPOSAL 16 - 5 AAC 92.057. Special provisions for Dall sheep and mountain goat drawing permit hunts; 92.061. Special provisions for brown bear drawing permit hunts; 92.069. Special provisions for moose drawing permit hunts; and 85.025. Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou. Establish a 90/10 percent permit allocation for resident and nonresident drawing permits for sheep, moose, caribou, and brown bear as follows:

Where we currently have or in future may have draw-only permit hunts for both residents and nonresidents in the Arctic/Western Region for Dall sheep, moose, brown/grizzly bear and caribou, the nonresident allocations should reflect constitutional intent to maximize the benefit to resident Alaskans and be no more than **“up to 10% maximum”** of the available number of permits.

All resident hunters will benefit if this solution is adopted by being given their constitutionally mandated maximum benefit to our game resources.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Arctic/Western Region nonresident draw permit allocations. We would like the Board of Game to ensure that any draw-only hunts for both residents and nonresidents in Arctic/Western Region will have a clear and substantial resident preference opportunity to draw and to hunt.

Draw-only permit hunts for both residents and nonresidents reflect a need to limit the number of hunters afield for reasons that could be related to conservation, trophy-quality, hunt aesthetics, crowding etc.

Whatever the rationale for a draw-only hunt for all user groups, and whatever the species, resident hunters should have a clear and substantial constitutional preference to draw a permit and an opportunity to hunt.

PROPOSED BY: Resident Hunters of Alaska (EG-F16-096)

Note: This proposal is scheduled for the Arctic/Western Region meeting as proposal 17 and the Interior/Northeast Arctic Region meeting as proposal 47.

PROPOSAL 17 - 5 AAC 92.990(26). Definitions. Change the definition of “edible meat” for game birds as follows:

"Edible meat" means, in the case of a big game animal, except a bear, the meat of the ribs, neck, brisket, front quarters, hindquarters, and the meat along the backbone between the front and hindquarters; in the case of a bear, the meat of the front quarters and hindquarters and meat along the backbone (backstrap); **for all game birds, the meat from the breast, back, thighs, legs;** [IN THE CASE OF SMALL GAME BIRDS, EXCEPT FOR CRANES, GEESE AND SWAN, THE MEAT OF THE BREAST; IN THE CASE OF CRANES, GEESE, AND SWAN, THE MEAT OF THE BREAST AND MEAT OF THE FEMUR AND TIBIA-FIBULA (LEGS AND THIGHS);] however, "edible meat" of big game or small game birds does not include meat of the head, meat that has been damaged and made inedible by the method of taking, bones, sinew, incidental meat reasonably...

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Define edible meat for all game birds in Units 12, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26A, 26B, and 26C to reduce or eliminate wanton waste of migratory birds.

During the spring 2015 Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management Council (AMBCC) meeting wanton waste language was adopted similar language for the spring/summer subsistence harvest season defining edible meat “human consumption” as: the meat from the breast, back, thighs, and legs. We would like to place the wings, gizzard and heart in the category of “human use” which would allow these part to be used by humans for non-edible purposes, e.g., trapping. However, the head, neck, feet, other internal organs and skin are optional.

The Central Kuskokwim Advisory Committee would like the fall hunt to be as consistent as possible with the spring/summer subsistence regulations proposed by the AMBCC for the 2016 season. This is the customary and traditional practices in our region and all the included areas addressed in this proposal.

PROPOSED BY: Central Kuskokwim Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-F16-092)

PROPOSAL 18 - 5 AAC 92.015. Brown bear tag fee exemptions. Reauthorize 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).

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? 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 the Arctic/Western Region (Units 18, 22, 23, and 26A).

General Season Hunts: Reauthorizations are needed for: Unit 18, where the tag fee has been exempted for 4 years; Unit 22, where the tag fee has been exempted for 14 years; Unit 23, where the tag fee has been exempted for nine years; and Unit 26A, where the tag fee has been exempted for four 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 regulatory year 2012 and harvest has remained within sustained yield and continues to be similar to the preceding ten-year period. In Unit 22, the 14-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) registration permit, 2) 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 front claws must be removed and retained by the Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) at the time of sealing. Continuing the tag fee exemption helps facilitate

participation in the associated brown bear harvest programs maintained by ADF&G 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.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F16-134)

Note: This proposal is scheduled for the Arctic/Western Region meeting as proposal 19 and the Interior/Northeast Arctic Region meeting as proposal 49.

PROPOSAL 19 - 5 AAC 92.130. Restrictions to bag limit. Remove the bag limit restriction for resident relatives accompanying nonresident second degree of kindred as follows:

This new regulation does not solve any issues in the Arctic, Western, Interior or Eastern Arctic Regions and Units 12, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26A, 26B, and 26C should be excluded from this regulation.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The new regulation, 5 AAC 92.130, adopted during the 2016 Statewide Regulation meeting is strictly allocative in nature and lacks a conservation basis. The regulation from the proposal reads as follows:

A guide required species under AS 16.05.407(a) taken by a nonresident personally accompanied by a resident relative under AS 16.05.407(a)(2) will count as the bag limit of both the nonresident and the resident relative who accompanies the nonresident.

This regulation was adopted without viable data on the number of nonresident second degree of kindred hunters and their harvest from the Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) for the Arctic, Western, Interior and Eastern Arctic Region units. ADF&G presented data that was admittedly limited and inaccurate, and this data was used as a basis for carrying the amended proposal 51 during the 2016 board meeting cycle.

The Alaska legislature took deliberate steps to provide for the second degree of kindred exemption. This was presumably done to allow residents to share their hunting experiences with close family, rather than to require residents to act as guides who are not allowed to take game while with a client.

This regulation allocates additional harvest to nonresident hunters by preventing a resident from harvesting game and as such is punitive to resident hunters. Additionally, the board recognized at the time that this regulation was based on choosing what was more valuable, a guided nonresident or a resident sharing a hunt with a family member, but unfortunately chose to side with the guiding industry.

Note: The Board of Game deferred this proposal from the 2016 Statewide Regulations Meeting. It was previously numbered proposal 14. This proposal is scheduled for the Arctic/Western Region as proposal 20 and the Interior/Northeast Arctic Region meeting as proposal 48.

PROPOSAL 20 - 5 AAC 92.080. Unlawful methods of taking game; exceptions; and 92.085. Unlawful methods of taking big game; exceptions. Allow the use of crossbows in restricted-weapons hunts as follows:

In order to allow more opportunity for those hunters wishing to use a crossbow while hunting during special hunts like the roadside "targeted hunts" for moose in Southcentral and the Interior, or while hunting in specific game management areas or state refuges around the state where either muzzleloaders or shotguns and bow and arrow are the approved hunting tools, I would ask the Board of Game to include the use of crossbows as a fourth approved hunting tool.

In addition to those wishing to hunt with a crossbow, there are those older or smaller hunters who, for whatever reason, cannot use a bow and arrow that meets the existing requirements. A person who cannot draw and hold a bow and arrow can normally still use a crossbow if that tool was legal for use.

What I am proposing is that the category of crossbow be added to the list of approved hunting tools for those hunts in game management areas, state game refuges, and special hunts where either a muzzleloader or shotgun is legal along with bow and arrow. For areas or hunts that are specified as bow and arrow only, nothing will change.

A crossbow has certain advantages over a bow and arrow and also has some major disadvantages compared to a bow and arrow. However, the two hunting tools are still relatively comparable in power and range. A crossbow does not even come close to a muzzleloader or shotgun in comparison. If a muzzleloader or a shotgun is legal to use, along with bow and arrow, then there are no practical concerns to not allow a crossbow along with bow and arrow in those areas or hunts which also allow a muzzleloader or shotgun.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? There are currently several state game management areas, state refuges, and special hunts statewide which support weapons restricted big game hunts. Most of these hunts prohibit the use of centerfire, high-powered rifles and specify that only muzzleloaders, shotguns using slugs, or bow and arrow (or some combination of the specified implements) are allowed. Hunters choosing to use muzzleloaders or bow and arrow must comply with existing regulation requirements for these hunting tools, i.e., things like muzzleloading caliber or the bow's draw weight.

These restrictions in areas or refuges or special hunts are done largely for safety reasons because all of the approved hunting tools are considered short-range compared to a highpowered rifle.

The Board of Game recently defined crossbows in regulation into their own category with requirements on power, bolt length, etc. This was done because crossbows as hunting tools are gradually increasing in hunting use for big game in Alaska during the general season and have

become the fastest growing hunting tool in the Lower 48 for hunting animals like white-tailed deer and black bear. It was felt that a distinction between bow and arrow and crossbow was necessary.

Since crossbows are defined separately from bow and arrow, current regulations allowing the use of bow and arrow exclude the use of a crossbow for hunting during that same hunt.

PROPOSED BY: Howard Delo

(EG-C15-037)

Bethel Area Proposals

PROPOSAL 21 - 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Open a winter hunting season for moose in Unit 18 as follows:

The current moose regulation says: Unit 18, south of and including the Goodnews River drainage, one antlered bull by permit available in person in Goodnews Bay and Platinum, August 1–25. Season closes by emergency order when 20 bulls are taken. Permit number RM620, open season from September 1–30.

Add: by emergency order by the Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) and/or U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service announcing the opening of a 21-day winter moose hunting season in Unit 18, south of and including the Goodnews River Drainage by permit only, permit number RMXXX. The permits will be available in person only at Goodnews Bay and Platinum. The hunt will open on January 1–31, with a bag limit of one moose, with a quota of ten moose to be harvested. Once ten moose are harvested ADF&G will close the winter hunt by emergency order. Hunters who harvested a moose during the regulatory year are not eligible to participate in this hunt. All hunters are required to possess a valid Alaska hunting license and one state registration permit, permit number RMXXX.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Native Village of Goodnews Bay hereby proposes a winter hunt of moose in Unit 18, in Goodnews River drainage. During the open season, from September 1–30, not all hunters are successful in their fall hunt since most of the moose are within inaccessible area(s) where there are thick brushes or are too far inland, away from the river. The main transportation is the boat during the hunt and at fall time, when there is lack of rain, the river gets really low thus hampering the hunters’ ability to go further upriver where most of the moose are. Not all hunters have jet outboards that they can utilize and by the time the season closes these hunters are left out and without much needed moose meat for their families over the winter. The winter hunt will not have a great effect on the population of moose in our area since the population of moose increases each year regardless of our hunt each year. We are seeing more cows with twin calves and with this trend we feel that the winter hunt is sustainable. Subsistence is our fabric of our lives and we cannot live on fish alone.

PROPOSED BY: Native Village of Goodnews Bay (EG-F16-049)

PROPOSAL 22 - 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Open a winter nonresident hunting season for moose in Unit 18 remainder as follows:

Add an additional nonresident season to the Unit 18 remainder area starting on December 1 and ending March 15.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Have a nonresident winter moose season added to the Unit 18 remainder area. The area currently has an extremely high moose population that is still growing extremely fast despite the liberal season and limits for residents. This would create an opportunity to get a winter meat moose for people who have recently moved into the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Region. Being that it is a winter season and most of the bulls

have dropped antlers early on in the season, nonresident sport hunting is a non-issue. I would suggest an additional nonresident season added to the Unit 18 remainder area starting on December 1 and ending March 15.

PROPOSED BY: Jon LaValle (EG-F16-053)

PROPOSAL 23 - 5 AAC 85.045(16). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Reauthorize the antlerless moose hunting seasons in the Remainder of Unit 18 as follows:

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

Remainder of Unit 18

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
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2 antlerless moose; or	Oct. 1—Nov. 30
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2 moose	Dec. 1—Mar. 15
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NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 antlered bull ...	Sept. 1—Sept. 30
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What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? To be retained, the antlerless moose seasons in the Remainder of Unit 18 must be reauthorized annually. The current antlerless hunts were adopted at the January 2014 Board of Game meeting in Kotzebue and were reauthorized for regulatory year (RY) 2016 at the March 2016 Board of Game meeting in Fairbanks. This proposal requests reauthorization for RY2017.

Implementation of antlerless hunts began in 2007 and has continued each year due to increased moose abundance, productivity, and population growth along the Yukon River drainage in Unit

18. Based on the steady growth in moose populations and productivity, the Department of Fish & Game proposes continued antlerless moose hunts in the Remainder of Unit 18.

Within the areas near the Yukon River, the moose population is estimated at a minimum of 12,000 animals with calf:cow ratios ranging from 37:100 to 69:100, and twinning rates close to 50% for all areas. Population growth continues to be strong in this portion of Unit 18 and anecdotal evidence suggests that calf survival rates remain high. The population is expected to continue to grow as animals move into under-utilized habitat.

Although the current year harvest data in the Remainder of Unit 18 has not been finalized, we expect harvest to be similar to the past three years and well within sustained yield for this robust population. Allowing antlerless harvest 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.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F16-126)

PROPOSAL 24 - 5 AAC 92.044. Permit for hunting bear with the use of bait or scent lures.
Allow the harvest of brown bear at bear bait stations in Unit 18 as follows:

Simply add Unit 18 to the list of units that can take a brown bear at a black bear bait station. In Units 7, 11, 12, 13, 14B, 15, 16, **18**, 20A, 20B, 20C, 20E, 21D, 24C, 24D, and 25D brown/grizzly bears may be taken at a black bear bait station subject to the same restrictions as black bear. Hunters who take brown bears over bait in these areas are required to salvage the edible meat in addition to the hide and skull. Hunters must comply with seasons, bag limits, and sealing requirements for brown/grizzly bears (registration permits and locking-tags may be required in some areas, contact the Department of Fish & Game for details).

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I would like the Board of Game to allow brown bear taken over black bear baits in Unit 18. We have a harvestable number of brown bear in the unit. Brown bears are more frequently breaking into fish camps during times of limited salmon harvest. Would allow a better opportunity to harvest some brown bears in the heavily wooded river corridor and area of highest bear/human interaction takes place. There is precedence in other units throughout the state.

PROPOSED BY: Jaimie Kassman (EG-F16-108)

Note: This proposal is scheduled for the Arctic/Western Region meeting as proposal 25 and the Interior/Northeast Arctic Region meeting as proposal 83.

PROPOSAL 25 - 5 AAC 85.025. Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou. Open a nonresident draw hunt for caribou in Units 18 and 19 as follows:

Units 18, 19A, and 19B - Nonresidents:
One bull caribou by drawing permit September 1-30

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? As of the drafting of this proposal, ADF&G states: "The harvest of Mulchatna caribou is well below sustainable levels." The Mulchatna caribou herd has started to grow and all indicators are that it is healthy. Unfortunately, it has recently resided predominantly in areas that are difficult to access. A nonresident hunt, limited by drawing should be well within the sustainability of this herd that is currently underutilized. I would suggest a limit of up to 50 tags and ask ADF&G to initially only issue 20 across the entire range of the herd. It is desirable to see this herd continue to grow. Communities within the region have had a difficult time taking the harvestable surplus due to the locations of the animals. Providing a nonresident hunt will result in light harvest and most meat will be left in the communities within the region as is the case in all remote nonresident hunting opportunities. This proposal is submitted for both the Arctic and Western (Unit 18) and the Interior and Eastern Arctic (Unit 19A & B) meetings. This proposal will also be submitted for Units 9 and 17 when in cycle.

PROPOSED BY: Aaron Bloomquist

(EG-F16-010)

Nome Area Proposals

PROPOSAL 26 - 5 AAC 85.045(a)(20). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Lengthen the hunting season for moose in Unit 22A as follows:

Change the ending date for the moose season to September 20 for permit RM841.

5 AAC 85.045(a)(20) Unit 22A 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 Sept. 1—**Sept. 20** [SEPT. 14]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Changing the closure date for moose permit RM841 would better align regulation with current Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) practice. Currently the moose season closes for permit RM841 on September 14 and has a quota of 22 antlered bull moose. The harvest quota has not been harvested by the closing date of September 14 since it was increased to 22 moose. Each year ADF&G has extended the season until September 20 at the request of residents. When the season has been extended, the quota has been harvested on or before the 20.

Changing the season closure date to September 20 has several benefits. One, the community will no longer have the concern if ADF&G will extend the season. Second, ADF&G will not have to issue an emergency order (EO) to extend but will continue the practice of issuing EO's to close prior to the September 20 if it is forecasted to reach the allocated limit of 22 moose.

PROPOSED BY: Southern Norton Sound Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-F16-020)

PROPOSAL 27 - 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Lengthen the nonresident hunting season for moose in Unit 22A as follows:

Nonresident moose hunting season, Unit 22A "north of and including the Tagoomenik and Shaktoolik River drainages: September 1-**20** [14], one bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with four or more brow tines on at least one side." Harvest ticket.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? A date change for the non-resident moose hunting season in Unit 22A "north of and including the Tagoomenik and Shaktoolik river drainages" from September 1-14 to September 1-20.

The moose in this area have recovered to a healthy population because of the mild winters and increased grizzly harvest. This is also a very remote area with poor access making moose retrieval difficult and time consuming. There would be very little increased harvest but would allow for cooler temps while recovering moose meat.

PROPOSED BY: Lance Kronberger (EG-F16-040)

PROPOSAL 28 - 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Eliminate the nonresident moose hunt in Units 22E and 22D remainder as follows:

Eliminate nonresident moose hunting in Units 22E and 22D remainder until low moose density and the relationship between changing population distribution and population growth or decline between subunits is better understood.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Rural users in Units 22E and 22D remainder are finding it increasingly difficult to harvest moose in their region. In 2013 and 2014, a total of only seven moose were harvested by local subsistence users (Teller, Brevig Mission, Wales and Shishmaref) in Units 22D and 22E. The moose population in these units is extremely low and there are not enough moose for resident hunters.

The Alaska Department of Fish & Game provided a report on moose populations in Unit 22 to the Seward Peninsula Subsistence Regional Advisory Council at its October 14-15, 2015 public meeting in Nome. This report indicated that while the moose population in Unit 22E is considered stable or increasing, moose populations in Unit 22D are decreasing.

The 2014 spring Geospatial Population Estimator moose survey in Unit 22D remainder showed a 14% annual rate of decline from the 2011 spring moose survey. The nonresident moose season in Unit 22D remainder was closed by emergency order in 2015 when the quota of three moose was reached.

It is plausible that the modest increases documented in Unit 22E may reflect a redistribution of the moose from Unit 22D remainder versus any increases or decreases in the respective populations of those subunits. This suggests that moose in Unit 22D remainder and Unit 22E should be managed as one population.

Regardless, the moose population in both subunits remains very low at less than 0.5 moose per square mile. We do not believe it should be sustaining any non-resident harvest at this time.

PROPOSED BY: Seward Peninsula Subsistence Regional Advisory Council (EG-F16-035)

PROPOSAL 29 - 5 AAC 85.025. Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou. Open a hunting season for caribou in Unit 22A by emergency order only as follows:

Unit 22A Golsovia River Drainage and South
Caribou hunt open by emergency order only
Residents – five caribou per day; season may be announced.
Nonresidents – five caribou total; season may be announced.
No change to other portions of Unit 22A

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Individuals illegally hunting privately owned reindeer in Units 22A, Golsovia River Drainage and South. Reindeer herders continually lose private property, time and money. The Western Arctic caribou herd (WAH) has not migrated south of the Unalakleet River in 15-20 years. Having an opening for caribou by emergency order (EO) only will save many reindeer and reindeer herders time and money. Have

an opening for caribou by EO only in Unit 22A Golsovia River Drainage and South will save time and money for other residents in the area when the WAH are present.

PROPOSED BY: Theodore Katcheak (HQ-C15-901)

PROPOSAL 30 - 5 AAC 85.020. Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear. Lengthen the hunting season for brown bear in Unit 22C as follows:

Unit 22C brown/grizzly bear
1 bear every regulatory year
April 1—May 31 [MAY 1—MAY 31]
Aug. 1—Oct. 31

Other game subunits in Unit 22 have the standard brown bear season of August 1 to May 31. Unit 22C currently allows for a fall season of August 1 to October 31 and a spring season of May 1 to May 31. The intent of this proposal, spring season of April 1 to May 31, is to lengthen the window for the spring hunt. The date when bears emerge from hibernation is variable and tied to snow condition. The end of the spring hunt is determined by timing of snow disappearance more than a calendar date. By increasing the spring hunt window, the two- or three-week period of adequate snow cover should be consistently contained in the season dates. Opportunity from year to year will be more uniform regardless on dates of break-up.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The recent Seward Peninsula brown/grizzly bear assessment survey conducted by the Alaska Department of Fish & Game with support from the National Park Service indicates the number of brown bears have increased. Local residents note increased human/bear encounters which supports the technical conclusions. On the other hand, climate change has shifted the spring snow melt timing which has had the effect of limiting bear hunting opportunity especially on the south slope of the Seward Peninsula. Given the abundant and increasing number of bear an increase in length of harvest opportunity should be allowed.

The previously mentioned human/bear encounters along with predation on other game species may be reduced if bear harvest is allowed to increase. In recent years, muskoxen have been driven into the city limits and on to the airports, in large part by a need to escape bear predation on calves. The Unit 22C moose population is depressed again due in part to bear eating calves. The local reindeer herds are also feeling the effects of predation. More bears are being taken as defense of life and property culls. A spring harvest is a better use of this abundant resource than the control measures used currently.

PROPOSED BY: Kawerak, Inc., Nome Eskimo Community (HQ-F16-111)

PROPOSAL 31 - 5 AAC 85.020. Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear. Increase the bag limit for brown bear in Unit 22B as follows:

Unit 22B brown/grizzly bear

Two bears every regulatory year

Aug. 1 - May 31

[ONE BEAR EVERY REGULATORY YEAR]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The recent brown/grizzly bear assessment survey by the National Park Service and the Alaska Department of Fish & Game conducted in 2015 compared to the old survey for the Seward Peninsula 20+ years ago indicates that the bear population is on the rise. With the increasing number of bears more cabins are being broken into as well as drying racks being raided. More opportunity to harvest bears from an increasing population. The Unit 22B moose population crashed 20 years ago and has shown almost no recovery. Survival of moose calves is the poorest in the region. Bears are implicated due to the seasonality of the mortality. Bear harvest rates are thought to be quite low. The managers have expressed concern that predation is holding the moose population below threshold required for the moose population to grow. Bear densities are the greatest in local memory. A significant increase in harvest is sustainable. The harvest is small in relation to the population and doubling the limit will not yield a doubling of harvest rate. This is a measure that will address multiple game populations and can be reversed in a board cycle or two if the impact is greater than expected.

PROPOSED BY: Kawerak, Inc., Nome Eskimo Community

(HQ-F16-110)

PROPOSAL 32 - 5 AAC 85.020. Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear. Lengthen the hunting season for brown bear in Unit 22A as follows:

Unit 22A brown/grizzly bear

Residents, two bears every regulatory year, August 1—**June 15** [MAY 31]

Nonresidents, one bear every regulatory year, August 1—**June 15** [MAY 31]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Brown/grizzly bear season ending date south of and including the Golsovia River drainage ending date of 31 May. The remainder of Unit 22A ends on 15 June. The wind has blown the pack ice from the Bering Sea against the shore in 2005–2010 and 2012 so it is not possible to get there by boat until after 1 June. The bag limit for residents is two bears per year. The season should be the same for all of Unit 22A.

PROPOSED BY: John Wilson

(EG-F16-078)

Barrow Area Proposals

PROPOSAL 33 - 5 AAC 85.045(24). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Reauthorize the antlerless moose hunting season in the western portion of Unit 26A as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(24) ...	July 1—Sept. 14	No open season.
Unit 26(A), that portion west of 156° 00' W. longitude and excluding the Colville River drainage. 1 moose; a person may not take a calf or a cow accompanied by a calf ...		

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? To be retained, the antlerless moose season in the portion of Unit 26A west of 156° 00' W longitude and excluding the Colville drainage must be reauthorized annually.

The moose population in the western portion of Unit 26A north of the Colville drainage is somewhat unique compared to the unit-wide population, and the distribution is very sparse because there is very little moose habitat in the coastal plain. However, each year a small number of bulls and cows migrate into the area from the major river drainages in the central and southern parts of the unit. So far, the marginal habitat in this portion of Unit 26A has not allowed moose to establish a population, but these moose provide the only opportunity to harvest a moose in the northwestern portion of Unit 26A.

Unit 26A moose population estimates fluctuated between 294 and 609 moose between 2011 and 2014. More recently, staff counted 145 moose in 2015 and 158 moose in 2016. The number of moose in the antlerless hunt area is difficult to estimate, but is likely around ten moose per year. Harvest reports indicate two antlerless moose have been harvested since 2005, and the annual harvest rate of antlerless moose is less than 1% of the total population. Due to the low harvest rate the department recommends reauthorization of the antlerless moose season in this area to provide additional hunting opportunity for the small number of hunters to opportunistically harvest antlerless moose in this remote portion of Unit 26A.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F16-131)

Note: This proposal is scheduled for the Arctic/Western Region meeting as proposal 34 and the Interior/Northeast Arctic Region meeting as proposal 114.

PROPOSAL 34 - 5 AAC 85.057. Hunting seasons and bag limits for wolverine. Lengthen the hunting season for wolverine in Unit 26 as follows:

Units & Bag limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresidents Open Season
(1)		
Units 1 - 5 (General hunt only) 1 wolverine	Sept. 10 - Feb. 15	Sept. 1—Feb. 15
Units 6 - 10, 12, 15, 16(B) and 17 – <u>25</u> [26] 1 wolverine;	Sept. 1 - Mar. 31 (General hunt only)	Sept. 1 - Mar. 31
Units 11, 13, 14, and 16(A) 1 wolverine	Sept. 1 - Jan. 31 (General hunt only)	Sept. 1 - Jan. 31
<u>Unit 26</u>	<u>July 15 - March 31</u> <u>(General hunt only)</u>	<u>July 15—Mar. 31</u>

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Hunters in Unit 26 (all subunits) almost never get a chance to take a wolverine while hunting in the fall because the season opens after they are likely done hunting. The wolverine season opens September 1, and it is common practice to be off the north side of the Brooks Range by September 1 to avoid being caught by approaching winter. Wolverine hides are acceptable in the arctic in the summer for most hunters (as opposed to trappers). Most hunters will have very few opportunities to take a wolverine in their lifetime and would be thrilled with slightly less underfur on an otherwise very good specimen. Starting wolverine season July 15 is much more reasonable. Another alternative would be August 1. Another alternative would be to include all Arctic Units (22-26) This proposal is submitted to both the Arctic and Western Region and the Interior and Eastern Arctic Region meetings to cover all subunits in Unit 26.

PROPOSED BY: Aaron Bloomquist (EG-F16-006)

Note: This proposal is scheduled for the Arctic/Western Region meeting as proposal 35 and the Interior/Northeast Arctic Region meeting as proposal 99.

PROPOSAL 35 - 5 AAC 85.056. Hunting seasons and bag limits for wolf. Lengthen the hunting seasons for wolf in Units 24-26 as follows:

Units 24-26 wolf season: July 1—April 20

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Wolf hunting seasons in the arctic actually open later in the fall than some areas much farther to the south. Many caribou and bear hunters hunt before the wolf season is open and sheep hunters are in the field a few days before the season opens in most areas. The opportunity to harvest a wolf is not being realized by these hunters. It is quite common for hunters to hunt in late July in these units and the option to harvest a wolf would be appreciated. Take is relatively low by hunters on wolf even with long seasons (as opposed to trapping). The opportunity to take a wolf is much more important to most hunters than the quality of the pelt. Trappers depend on the quality of the pelt for monetary value, conversely, most hunters will only take a couple wolves in their life and the opportunity is much more important than the monetary value of a good pelt. Most hunters would be more than satisfied with the quality of a late July wolf to hang in their home. Other considerations: Open Season August 1; apply this proposal only in Unit 26 where seasons are drastically shortened by weather. This proposal is submitted to both the Arctic and Western and Interior and Eastern Arctic meetings.

PROPOSED BY: Aaron Bloomquist (EG-F16-007)

Kotzebue Area Proposals

PROPOSAL 36 - 5 AAC 85.045(21). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Reauthorize the antlerless moose hunting seasons in Unit 23 as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(21) Unit 23, that portion north of and including the Singoalik River drainage	July 1—Dec. 31	Sept. 1—Sept. 20
RESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 moose by registration permit only; however, antlerless moose may be taken only from Nov. 1–Dec. 31; a person may not take a calf or a cow accompanied by a calf; or	Sept. 1—Sept. 20	
NONRESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side by drawing permit only; up to 125 permits may be issued in all of Unit 23		Sept. 1—Sept. 20
Remainder of Unit 23		
RESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 moose by registration permit only; however, antlerless moose may be taken only from Nov. 1 - Dec. 31; a person may not take a calf or a cow accompanied by a calf; or	Aug. 1—Dec. 31	

1 bull with 50-inch antlers
or antlers with 4 or more
brow tines on one side

Sept. 1—Sept. 20

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull with 50-inch antlers or
antlers with 4 or more brow
tines on one side by drawing
permit only; up to 125 permits
may be issued in all of Unit 23

Sept. 1—Sept. 20

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? To be retained, antlerless moose seasons must be reauthorized annually. Moose densities have been low (0.03–0.44 moose/mi²) in surveyed portions of Unit 23 since 2010. To address this issue, the board restricted moose hunting for resident and nonresident hunters during the November 2003 board meeting. These restrictions substantially shortened the resident antlerless moose season and limited hunting opportunity through a registration permit hunt structure (RM880) during the months of November and December. There have not been any additional changes to moose hunting seasons in Unit 23, and the antlerless seasons have been reauthorized annually by the Board of Game.

The reported harvest of antlerless moose averages 13 moose per year and is less than 1% of the total population, which is sustainable. As a result, the Department of Fish & Game recommends reauthorizing the antlerless moose hunt to provide additional hunting opportunity for the small number of hunters who opportunistically harvest antlerless moose in this area.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F16-130)

PROPOSAL 37 - 5 AAC 85.020. Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear. Lengthen the nonresident fall hunting season for brown bear in Unit 23 as follows:

Unit 23 nonresident brown bear permit hunts DB761 through DB767 and RB761 through RB767, open season **August 1** [SEPTEMBER 1] through October 31.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Lengthen the nonresident brown bear season for drawing and registration permit hunts (DB761-767 and RB 761-767). Change opening date from September 1st to August 1st. This will align non-resident season with the resident season. This will allow for additional opportunity to harvest bears in hunts that are already under-subscribed and harvest goals are not being met (per the area biologist).

Harvest is already regulated by permit numbers so over-harvest is not a concern. In addition, Western Arctic caribou numbers are at an all-time low and moose calf survival rates in this area are extremely low.

PROPOSED BY: Stan Parkerson (EG-F16-004)

PROPOSAL 38 - 5 AAC 85.020. Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear. Lengthen the nonresident fall hunting season for brown bear in Unit 23 as follows:

New Season Dates:

Unit 23, nonresident brown/grizzly bear draw hunts DB761 –DB767 and registration hunts, RB761-RB767: **August 20** [SEPTEMBER 1] through October 31.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Modify the brown/grizzly bear season in Unit 23 for the fall season nonresident draw, and registration hunts. Change the season opening date for nonresident hunters by 12 days. Current season date is September 1 to October 31. New season would be August 20 through October 31. This would allow for more opportunity to harvest the growing grizzly population. Would help with some of the hunting congestion with caribou hunters by starting the bear season earlier, and spreading out some of the hunting pressure over the longer season. Would help with calf recruitment for both the caribou and moose populations. Would not impact or conflict with the current resident season which starts August 1.

PROPOSED BY: Anchorage Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-F16-017)

PROPOSAL 39 - 5 AAC 85.020. Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear. Lengthen the nonresident fall hunting season for brown bear in Unit 23 as follows:

This would be a very easy fix. On page 117 of the 2015-2016 Hunting Regulations, replace September 1 with August 25.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? In Unit 23 the current season for grizzly bear is: September 1 through October 31 for nonresident grizzly bear hunters. I would like to propose opening the nonresident grizzly bear season a week earlier on August 25. The resident season begins August 1, so there no conflict or negative impact to resident hunters. However I would say that most people hunting grizzly bear are out of the area before the end of September. I am out of there by choice by the September 15, and another guide in Guide Use Area 23-02 is out of there around September 23 or 24.

Winter can come to stay by the end of September. The only access to the Upper Noatak, for instance, is by small plane, like a Super Cub or Cessna 180/206. When you get snow and ice on the ground, it can be unsafe to operate on wheels. The 600-foot gravel bar that was very workable when you could see the rocks, becomes a totally different situation when it is white with snow and ice. So from a safety standpoint it is a much shorter season than it looks like as hardly anybody hunts in October for grizzlies. The big bears are mostly heading for their dens by the first part of October anyway. I have been hunting there over 30 years and have always been out of there by the middle of September for safety reasons. Another aspect of this change would be that it would allow a few more bears to be taken and increase the harvest.

Another factor is that the bears don't really care, their coats are already in their prime and they are ready for harvest. In my humble opinion, a few more bears taken would help a few more moose to make it to maturity. We would all like to see a few more moose. Last year for the two weeks that I was there, we saw zero moose in our area. I was very surprised at that. The Noatak National Park Service is also on board with this proposal. Even though this proposal is really a small change to

the current regulations, it would make a significant and positive difference. Thank you for considering this proposal.

PROPOSED BY: E. Mont Mahoney (EG-F16-015)

PROPOSAL 40 - 5 AAC 85.020(21). Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear. Increase the resident bag limit for brown bear in Unit 23 as follows:

Unit 23, two bear limit per regulatory year.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? We would like the Alaska Department of Fish & Game to change the limit on brown/grizzly bears to two per year rather than the one per year in an attempt to help sustain the moose and caribou populations which are in decline due to the predator population.

PROPOSED BY: James Bourquin and the Kotzebue Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-F16-056)

Note: At the 2016 Statewide Regulations Meeting, the Board of Game adopted requirements for all nonresidents and nonresident aliens hunting with a registered or master guide which will be implemented for the winter 2017 drawing hunt application period. Please review the ADF&G comments for this proposal for additional information.

PROPOSAL 41 - 5 AAC 92.050. Required permit hunt conditions and procedures. Require a guide-client agreement to apply for a nonresident brown bear drawing permit in Unit 23 as follows:

In the next Alaska Drawing Permit Hunt Supplement, under brown/grizzly bear, page 3 under Unit 23 nonresidents only, implement the requirement and "Show the Handshake Symbol."

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Unit 23 nonresident drawing hunts for grizzly bear are all guided hunts except for next of kin applicants. Right now there is no requirement for any one putting in for these drawing hunts to even contact a guide before putting in for the drawing. It is conceivable for a number of people to apply for the drawing hunt, and draw the permit and then trash-can the permit without even intending to use it, thus negating the purpose of the drawing process. The other problem is that there is really no commitment on the part of the drawing applicant to go on the hunt since he does not even have to know or contact a guide before putting in for the drawing permit. If a handshake agreement with a guide was required it would be much better and pretty much eliminate both problems.

1. A handshake agreement with a guide would narrow the drawing applicants to those with real intent on coming on the hunt. It would weed out most of those who would abuse the system.
2. A handshake agreement with a guide would most likely entail a deposit along with the written agreement thus resulting on more actual hunts taking place as people who have put down deposits are more prone to fulfill their part of the contract to actually come on the hunt as they have put something into it and don't want to lose their deposit.

3. It is a matter of good, better and best. It may be good to have a draw. It is better and best to have the requirements that a handshake agreement entail to eliminate abuse of the system, and have more hunts take place. It brings integrity to the drawing process and would most likely increase the number of bears taken, which is what the Alaska Department of Fish and Game biologist in Kotzebue hopes for. Thank you for considering this proposal.

PROPOSED BY: E. Mont Mahoney (EG-F16-026)

PROPOSAL 42 - 5 AAC 92.044. Permit for hunting bear with the use of bait or scent lures.

Allow the use of bait for black and brown bear hunting in Unit 23 as follows:

Allow baiting in Unit 23, April 15—October 15 for black and grizzly bears, otherwise same regulation as in other units.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Bear baiting is not allowed in Unit 23. Unit 23 is on the radar for intensive management. I would think this could help with predator numbers.

PROPOSED BY: Jared Cummings (EG-F16-018)

PROPOSAL 43 - 5 AAC 92.080(4-5). Unlawful methods of taking game; exceptions. Allow the use of snowmachines to position and harvest brown bears and furbearers in Unit 23 as follows:

A snowmachine may be used to position a caribou, wolf, wolverine, **grizzly bear or furbearers** for harvest, and a caribou, wolf, wolverine, **grizzly bear or furbearers** may be shot from a stationary snowmachine in Unit 23.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Include grizzly bears and furbearers to the language allowing an exception to the use of snowmachines to position caribou, wolves, and wolverines for harvest in Unit 23. These animals are hunted and harvested in the same way as caribou, wolves, and wolverines in Unit 23, but the focus for the original proposal was on the caribou, wolves, and wolverines, which are the most commonly harvested and most sought-after species in the region by the greatest number of people (although many proposal supporters, including Tribes in Unit 23, requested a broader application of the use of snowmachine hunting at the time of the original proposal). However, it would be beneficial for all the same reasons expressed during the consideration of the original snowmachine use proposal to include grizzly bears and furbearers and have consistency for hunters in Unit 23 while pursuing all these species. No increase in harvest, or abuse of the use of snowmachines for hunting, has been noted since the implementation of the allowance of snowmachine use for hunting caribou, wolves, and wolverines, as was the main concern expressed by the opposition at the time of the original proposal.

PROPOSED BY: Kotzebue Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F16-112)

PROPOSAL 44 - 5 AAC 92.540(9)(A). Controlled use areas. Modify the area of the Noatak Controlled Use Area in Unit 23 as follows:

Noatak Controlled Use Area

(i) The area consists of that portion of Unit 23 in a corridor extending five miles on either side of, and including, the Noatak River, including the river, beginning at the mouth of the Noatak River and extending upstream to the mouth of the **Cutler River** [SAPUN CREEK].

(ii) The area is closed from August 15 through September 30 to the use of aircraft in any manner for big game hunting, including the transportation of big game hunters, their hunting gear, or parts of big game; however, this provision does not apply to the transportation of big game hunters, their hunting gear, or parts of big game to and between publicly owned airports.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? There are increased conflicts between local and non-local hunters at the head boundary of the Noatak Controlled Use Area, that are reducing caribou hunter success in the fall time.

PROPOSED BY: Noatak/Kivalina & Kotzebue Fish and Game Advisory Committees
(EG-F16-065)

PROPOSAL 45 - 5 AAC 92.540(9)(A). Controlled use areas. Require big game hunting camps to be three miles apart within and near the Noatak Controlled Use Area as follows:

(iii). Big game hunting camps are required to be spaced at least three miles apart on the Controlled Use Area and along the Agasisuak, Eli, and Squirrel Rivers. This would allow the caribou to migrate with less disruption.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The disruption of big game hunting in the fall time on the Squirrel, Agasisauk, and Eli Rivers due to the increased density of hunters creating a barrier to the migration.

PROPOSED BY: Noatak/Kivalina & Kotzebue Fish and Game Advisory Committees
(EG-F16-082)
