

Galena Area Proposals

PROPOSAL 92 - 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 21C as follows:

I would like Unit 21C to be added to the existing list at the bottom of page 26 as shown below.

Bear baiting seasons and requirements

You may:

In Units 7, 11, 12, 13, 14B, 15, 16, 20A, 20B, 20C, 20E, **21C**, 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 Alaska Department of Fish & Game for details).

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Healthy, harvestable populations of grizzly bear in Unit 21C. I would like to see the harvest of grizzly bears allowed over black bear bait stations in this area. This unit is directly adjacent to units of similar characteristics where the taking of grizzly bears at a black bear bait station is currently permitted.

PROPOSED BY: Benjamin Holbrook (EG-F16-072)

PROPOSAL 93 - 5 AAC 92.530(7)(C)(i)(2). Management Areas. Remove the Bettles Winter Trail travel exception for public use within the Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area as follows:

The following management areas are subject to special restrictions:

(7) the Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area:

(C) no motorized vehicle may be used to transport hunters, hunting gear, or parts of game, within the Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area, except that

(i) licensed highway vehicles may be used on the following designated roads:

(1) Dalton Highway,

[(2) BETTLES WINTER TRAIL DURING PERIODS WHEN THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT AND THE CITY OF BETTLES ANNOUNCE THAT THE TRAIL IS OPEN FOR WINTER TRAVEL,]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Department of Fish & Game is submitting this proposal as a placeholder to provide the Board of Game with an opportunity to make changes to the Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area (DHCMA) regulation that may become necessary based on possible actions taken by land managers in the affected area. This proposal would remove the Bettles Winter Trail as a motorized travel exception from the DHCMA regulation. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is currently conducting

an environmental analysis of permitted use of the Bettles Winter Trail. The decision may be forthcoming by June 2016, which is after the deadline for proposals for this Board of Game meeting. BLM is also currently assessing the Bettles Winter Trail in their Central Yukon Management Plan. At this time, it appears that if the Bettles Winter Trail permit is approved by BLM in its current form, vehicle access will be restricted to commercial fuel trucks only with no public use allowed. Therefore, the existing regulation which designates the Bettles Winter Trail as a legal motorized travel exception within the DHCMA would mislead hunters and possibly subject them to citations if the road is closed to public use.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F16-139)

PROPOSAL 94 - 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Modify the hunting season for moose in Unit 21D as follows:

The solution proposed is a later, fall season for RM834 to accommodate warmer fall weather as stated below:

Remainder of Unit 21D

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 moose per regulatory year

[AUG. 22—AUG. 31]

Sept. 1 [SEPT. 5] — **Sept. 30** [SEPT. 25]

The solution proposes no additional hunting days to the hunting season. Increased opportunity is provided only through a shift in the season dates.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Weather patterns in this area have changed, producing warmer fall seasons and resulting in lack of moose movement earlier in the season, and greater potential for meat spoilage. In addition, later green vegetation presence hinders visibility for hunting. Shifting the season dates to respond to these changing weather patterns would better accommodate harvest opportunity and quality of harvest for residents in this area without adding days to the existing season.

PROPOSED BY: Galena Village (EG-C15-016)

PROPOSAL 95 - 5 AAC 85.045(19), (22). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Change the drawing permits DM812 in Unit 21C and DM896 in the remainder of Unit 24C to registration permit hunts, and change the RM834 subsistence registration permit to a general registration permit without the antler destruction requirement as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
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(19)

...

Unit 21(C)

Unit 21(C) that portion within
the Dulbi River drainage

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull, by registration permit
only[; OR]

Sept. 5—Sept. 25
[SUBSISTENCE HUNT ONLY]

[1 BULL, BY DRAWING PERMIT
ONLY; UP TO 100 PERMITS MAY
BE ISSUED IN UNIT 21(C)]

[SEPT. 5—SEPT. 25]

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers
with 4 or more brow tines on one side,
by **registration permit only**
[DRAWING PERMIT ONLY;
UP TO 100 PERMITS MAY
BE ISSUED IN UNIT 21(C)]

Sept. 5—Sept. 25

...

(22)

...

Remainder of Unit 24(C)

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull, by registration permit
only; or

Sept. 5—25
[SUBSISTENCE HUNT ONLY]

[1 BULL, BY DRAWING
PERMIT ONLY; UP TO 450
PERMITS MAY BE ISSUED
IN COMBINATION WITH
UNIT 24(D) OUTSIDE THE
KOYUKUK CONTROLLED
USE AREA]

[SEPT. 5—SEPT. 25]

1 antlered bull by registration
permit only

Dec. 15—Apr. 15
(Subsistence hunt only)

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers

Sept. 5—Sept. 25

with 4 or more brow tines on one side,
by **registration permit only**
[DRAWING PERMIT ONLY; UP
TO UP TO 450 PERMITS MAY BE
ISSUED IN COMBINATION WITH
UNIT 24(D) OUTSIDE THE KOYUKUK
CONTROLLED USE AREA]

**Unit 24(D), that portion west of the
Koyukuk Controlled Use Area**

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

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

Sept. 5—Sept. 25
(Subsistence hunt only)

1 bull by drawing permit only;
up to 450 permits may be issued
in Unit 24 outside the Koyukuk
Controlled Use Area

Sept. 5—Sept. 25

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 450 permits
may be issued in Unit 24
outside the Koyukuk
Controlled Use Area

Sept. 5—Sept. 25

Remainder of Unit 24(D)

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull, by **registration**
[DRAWING] permit only[; OR]

Sept. 5—Sept. 25
[SUBSISTENCE HUNT
ONLY]

[1 BULL BY DRAWING
PERMIT ONLY; UP TO 450
PERMITS MAY BE ISSUED
IN UNIT 24 OUTSIDE THE
KOYUKUK CONTROLLED
USE AREA]

[SEPT. 5—SEPT. 25]

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull with 50-inch antlers
or antlers with 4 or more
brow tines on one side, by
registration [DRAWING]

Sept. 5—Sept. 25

permit only [UP TO 450
 PERMITS MAY BE ISSUED
 IN UNIT 24 OUTSIDE THE
 KOYUKUK CONTROLLED
 USE AREA]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? This proposal changes the drawing permit hunts in Unit 21C, the remainder of Unit 24C, and a portion of Unit 24D (DM812 and DM896) to registration permit hunts and eliminates the antler destruction requirement in a portion of the RM834 subsistence registration permit area. These two hunt areas are remote and access is difficult. As a result, hunter participation in the drawing permit hunts has been low, and few subsistence hunters travel to these areas. Concerns about 1) hunters “bootlegging” moose from the Koyukuk Controlled Use Area by claiming they were harvested in these areas if antler destruction was not required and 2) the need to distribute hunters from heavily hunted areas are diminished due to the remoteness of these hunts. The proposed registration hunts will allow the Department of Fish and Game to monitor hunter participation, harvest, and address any potential concerns.

Since the DM812 permit hunt was established in 2004, an average of 31 permits were issued annually. An average of 74% of permittees did not hunt, and an average of five moose were harvested annually over the 12-year period. An average of 1.7 hunters harvested 0.5 moose annually on the RM834 permit in Unit 21C.

Since the DM896 permit hunt was established in 2004, an average of 52 permits were issued, an average of 51% of permittees did not hunt, and an average of 11 moose were harvested annually over the same 12-year period. An average of 29 hunters harvested six moose annually on the RM834 permit in the remainder of Units 24C and 24D.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F16-137)

PROPOSAL 96 - 5 AAC 85.045(a)(22). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Expand the winter hunting season for moose to include all of Unit 24B as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
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(22)
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Unit 24(B) [ALL DRAINAGES OF
 THE KOYUKUK RIVER
 UPSTREAM FROM THE
 HENSHAW CREEK DRAINAGE,
 EXCLUDING THE NORTH FORK
 OF THE KOYUKUK RIVER

DRAINAGE]

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull; <u>or</u>	Sept. 1—Sept. 25
<u>1 antlered bull by registration permit only</u>	<u>Dec. 15—Apr. 15</u> <u>(Subsistence hunt only)</u>

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side	Sept. 5—Sept. 25
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[REMAINDER OF UNIT 24(B)]	
[RESIDENT HUNTERS:]	
[1 BULL; OR	[SEPT. 1—SEPT. 25]
[1 ANTLERED BULL BY	
REGISTRATION PERMIT ONLY]	[Dec. 15—Apr. 15]
	[(SUBSISTENCE HUNT ONLY)]

[NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:]	
[1 BULL WITH 50-INCH ANTLERS OR ANTLERS WITH 4 OR MORE BROW TINES ON ONE SIDE]	[SEPT. 5—SEPT. 25]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Expansion of the winter moose season will reduce confusion with federal regulations and land status in Unit 24B, it will simplify the regulations, and it will provide additional hunting opportunity.

Bull:cow ratios in Unit 24B are high (regulatory year (RY) 2010–RY2015 avg. = 62 bulls:100 cows) and can support an antlered bull hunt. There is no management objective for bull:cow ratios in Unit 24B, but the Koyukuk moose management plan prescribed a ratio of 30-40 bulls:100 cows as an appropriate level due to the low moose density. The existing winter hunt did not result in increased harvest because access to Unit 24B is limited. As a result, hunter participation has been low due to the remoteness, extreme weather conditions, and darkness during the hunting season dates. However, the hunt provides additional opportunity to harvest a moose to hunters who were not successful during the fall season.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F16-140)

PROPOSAL 97 - 5 AAC 92.069. Special provisions for moose drawing permit hunts. Remove the nonresident guide requirement for moose hunts in the Interior/Northeast Arctic Region, and change the permit allocation in Unit 21B as follows:

Rescind the nonresident must-be-guided requirement for moose in all of Interior/Northeast Arctic Region.

5 AAC 92.069 is amended to read:

(b)(3) in Unit 21(B), that portion within the Nowitna River drainage upstream from the Little Mud River drainage and within the corridor extending two miles on either side of and including the Nowitna River, the drawing permit hunt is allocated **90 percent** [50 PERCENT] to residents and **up to 10 percent** [50 PERCENT] to nonresidents; [THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ISSUE A MAXIMUM OF 75 PERCENT OF THE AVAILABLE NONRESIDENT DRAWING PERMITS TO GUIDED NONRESIDENTS, AND A MINIMUM OF 25 PERCENT OF THE AVAILABLE NONRESIDENT DRAWING PERMITS TO NON-GUIDED NONRESIDENTS; IF THE NUMBER OF NONRESIDENTS APPLYING FOR PERMITS FOR EITHER NONRESIDENT HUNT IS INSUFFICIENT TO AWARD THE REQUIRED PERCENTAGE, THE DEPARTMENT MAY AWARD THE REMAINING AVAILABLE NONRESIDENT DRAWING PERMITS TO THE OTHER NONRESIDENT HUNT;]

Other parts of 5 AAC 92.069 would have to be deleted if the must-be-guided requirement for moose in Interior/Northeast Arctic Region is rescinded.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Interior/Northeast **Arctic Region nonresident “must-be-guided” requirement for moose.** The Board of Game (board) added moose to the must-be-guided species listed in AS 16.05.407 in areas of the Interior/Northeast Arctic Region, using their authority under AS 16.05.255(a)(10) to “adopt regulations to sport hunting for the conservation, development, and utilization of game.”

We don’t believe the board had or has the authority to add to or amend AS 16.05.407, but nevertheless they have done so and they did so in a way that was detrimental to resident hunters. A prime example of this is proposal 55 that the board passed in 2008, which was submitted by a guide with exclusive guiding privileges within the Nowitna National Wildlife Refuge. Proposal 55 made moose a must-be-guided species for most nonresident hunters in Unit 21B in that part of the Nowitna National Wildlife refuge and at the same time allocated 50% of the recently created DM810 draw hunt permits for that same area to nonresident hunters.

The rationale used by the author of proposal 55 for this change to both the must-be-guided regulation and the number of permits offered to nonresidents under DM810 was the “inability of local hunting guides, and other historical user groups, to obtain permits for the upper Nowitna area.” The proposer further stated that “nonresident hunters now have difficulty in obtaining permits due to the sharp increase of applicants, and few of these awarded permits are actually utilized each season.”

If and when hunting guides are having difficulty obtaining clientele for moose draw permit hunts due to more residents applying for a draw permit hunt than nonresidents, that’s exactly how it should work according to our state constitution. The response to this complaint from a guide is **not** for the board to completely go against our state constitutional intent and give more opportunity to nonresidents and supply guides with more guaranteed clientele. Yet that is exactly what the board did.

We also don’t believe that where we have draw permit hunts for both residents and nonresidents that allocation to nonresidents should ever be based on how many residents utilize their awarded

draw permits. The Department of Fish & Game takes into account that some permits will not be utilized when determining the number of permits to offer.

This must-be-guided “creep” forced on nonresident moose hunters by the board is happening in other areas of the interior, like the Koyukuk Controlled Use Area and other parts of Unit 21D & 21E. This precedent set by the board typically results in fewer permits to residents and higher harvests for nonresident must-be-guided hunters.

AS 16.05.255 was never intended to authorize the board to provide a benefit to nonresidents over residents, nor was it intended to subsidize guides by providing a guaranteed client base for a species the legislature never intended to be included in the “must-be-guided” law.

Since proposal 55 passed in 2008, resident hunters have been disenfranchised by being forced to evenly split draw hunting opportunity for moose with nonresidents and the proof is in the draw permit statistics. In the 2014 draw permit results, 60 residents put in for the ten moose permits under DM810 with a 17% chance to draw. The success rate for the Board of Game-created nonresident must-be-guided component for that same moose hunt was 100%.

If this issue is not addressed, resident moose hunters who would like to hunt in these areas will continue to see reduced opportunities to draw a tag. The board has also set a precedent that could lead to future loss of resident hunting opportunities if the board is allowed to add more areas to the must-be-guided species list for nonresidents.

PROPOSED BY: Resident Hunters of Alaska (EG-F16-103)

PROPOSAL 98 - 5 AAC 92.124(b). Intensive Management Plans VIII. Eliminate the requirement for a nonresident wolf tag in Unit 21 as follows:

Per Statute 16.05.340...A nonresident is not required to have a nonresident wolf tag to take a wolf in a game management unit if the Board of Game has adopted an intensive management program under AS 16.05.255 for all or a portion of the game management unit...and per 5 AAC 92.124 Intensive Management Plans VIII(1) Unit 21E Predation Control Area, the Middle Yukon AC would like to see the tag fee for wolves for nonresident hunters eliminated in Unit 21.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? We would like to see more incidental take of wolves by nonresident hunters.

PROPOSED BY: Middle Yukon Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-F16-014)

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 99 - 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)

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 100 - 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)
