

Central/Southwest Region

Tentative Meeting Agenda

February 16–23, 2018 | Dillingham, Alaska
Dillingham Middle School

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, February 16, 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 of 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, February 17, 8:30 AM

PUBLIC AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE ORAL TESTIMONY

Sunday, February 18, 9:00 AM

PUBLIC AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE ORAL TESTIMONY

BOARD DELIBERATIONS upon conclusion of public testimony

Monday, February 19, 8:30 AM – Thursday, February 22, 8:30 AM

BOARD DELIBERATIONS continued

Friday, February 23, 8:30 AM

BOARD DELIBERATIONS

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

ADJOURN

Agenda Notes

- D. Meeting materials, including a list of staff reports, a roadmap, and schedule updates, will be available prior to the meeting at: www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=gameboard.meetinginfo or by contacting the ADF&G Boards Support Office in Juneau at 465-4110.
- E. A live audio stream for the meeting is intended to be available at: www.boardofgame.adfg.alaska.gov
- F. 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 February 2, 2018 to make any necessary arrangements.

Regionwide, Multiple Units & Other Regions

Note: The Board of Game deferred this proposal from the 2017 Interior/Northeast Arctic Region Meeting. It was previously numbered Proposal 93.

PROPOSAL 70 – 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 and 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)

Note: The Board of Game deferred this proposal from the 2016 Statewide Regulations Meeting. It was previously numbered Proposal 14.

PROPOSAL 71 – 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)

PROPOSAL 72 – 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Establish archery-only registration hunts for moose in Units 9, 11, 13, 14A, 14B, 16 and 17 as follows:

Establish a registration archery (conventional bows, not crossbows, IBEP certified hunters) only moose season in any Unit of 9, 11, 13, 14A, 14B, 16 or 17 that is open to a general (harvest ticket) moose hunt. A legal moose would be the same as during the general season hunt. Season dates would be seven days immediately following the close of the general moose season.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Nearly all states in the lower 48 encourage bowhunting by having long archery only seasons in desirable times of the year. This allows many individuals the opportunity to hunt with a challenging, ethically satisfying device while limiting the harvest because of the limited range of that device. More hunting opportunity translates into more hunters which results in more license sales and more gear purchased. This all rests in increased Pittman-Robertson federal funds to support better wildlife management. Hunters are the best conservationists and bowhunters are the best of the best because they spend more time in the field and harvest less game. Alaska has very few archery-only hunts but we believe that more hunts could be offered with minimal impact on the game populations. We are asking for a special archery moose hunt, which would occur after the regular firearms moose hunt. It would be a registration hunt. A legal moose would be whatever moose was legal in the general hunt in that same area. In other words, no special size limits for archery hunters. The purpose of the hunt being after the general moose hunt would be because the weather is colder and meat care is easier later in the fall. Also, fewer leaves on the trees and bushes make the moose easier to see. We would propose a registration hunt so that it could be closely monitored in terms of participation and harvest. We purpose this hunt for any area open to moose hunting with a general harvest ticket.

PROPOSED BY: The Alaskan Bowhunters Association (EG-F17-064)

PROPOSAL 73 – 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep. Establish archery-only registration hunts for Dall sheep in Units 9, 11, 13, 14A, 14B, 16 and 17 as follows:

Establish an archery only (conventional bows, not crossbows) registration sheep hunt in all areas of Units 9, 11, 13, 14A, 14B, 16 and 17 that are currently general season (harvest ticket) hunts. Season dates to be August 1–9.

An alternative would be the above registration archery sheep hunt from September 21–30. This is not as desirable because of shorter daylight hours and worse weather.

Legal sheep in either case would be full-curl, eight years of age or double-broomed ram only.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Nearly all other states promote bowhunting by allowing longer seasons in more desirable times of the year because bowhunting allows greater public participation in hunting and conservation activities while at the same time limiting by the method of take of the actual harvest of game. Alaska has been struggling with much dissatisfaction among its sheep hunters because of overcrowding and lack

of quality animals being available. Allowing an early archery sheep hunt before the regular firearm season would potentially reduce crowding on August 10 and it would not cause any significant increase in sheep harvest. Biologically as long as a legal sheep was still defined as full-curl, eight years old or double-broomed it would not affect the sheep population. There would be benefit to both resident and nonresident hunters and guides because it would give the guides another potential hunt to sell. Bowhunters are not an exclusive group. Anyone can learn to be proficient with bow and arrow. But the harvest would be much less because of the need to get very much closer to the sheep before being able to make a kill. This would be a method by which the Board of Game could provide increased hunting opportunity while not increasing the take of sheep. It would be only in areas where sheep hunting is currently allowed by harvest ticket and not in the special drawing hunt areas. It seems reasonable to initiate this type of season in only one region so that it can be studied to see its effect on the sheep population and on hunters' enjoyment of their opportunities. We propose making it a registration hunt so that participation and reporting can be closely monitored.

PROPOSED BY: The Alaskan Bowhunters Association (EG-F17-082)

PROPOSAL 74 – 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep. Remove the nonresident bag limit restriction of one Dall sheep every four years in the Central/Southwest Region as follows:

My proposal is to change the nonresident restriction “one ram every four regulatory years” to “one ram every regulatory year.” Stated in regulatory language:

5 AAC 85.055 Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep.

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 ram with full-curl horn or larger, [EVERY 4 REGULATORY YEARS]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I would like to address the regulation within 5 AAC 85.055 that currently only allows nonresidents to harvest one Dall sheep every four years. Roughly 80% of all sheep hunters in Alaska on any given year are on their first or second sheep hunt. Roughly 60% of all sheep hunters are on their first sheep hunt. Data from ADF&G shows that most Dall sheep harvested in Alaska every year were taken by novice sheep hunters, regardless of residency.

Few people actually report hunting sheep multiple times over the years. The heated topics and issues surrounding Dall sheep hunting truly is a problem of the few. However, those few are very passionate. Their desires and dreams are filled with the persistent thoughts of returning to the mountains, in pursuit of those majestic animals. This passion is the very reason why those hunters should be allowed the freedom to continue and pursue their dreams.

The only people who are excluded from returning to hunt Dall sheep are those nonresidents who successfully harvested a sheep in Alaska in the prior three years. Residents who have

successfully taken sheep are not excluded from hunting again. Just because a nonresident hunter has had success in the past, he or she should not be excluded from further opportunity.

For those who believe their own chances of taking a Dall sheep will improve by further restrictions of nonresidents, I believe they are misguided. To borrow a quote from Jack O'Connor, "This is no game for the weak-kneed and faint-hearted. Hunter success is not high, not because there aren't enough sheep but because there aren't enough people with the temperament to become sheep hunters." – *The Bighorn, March 1960*. Alaska is the only state in America that does not severely restrict sheep tags to its own residents. Residents of Alaska may go sheep hunting every single year, and it should remain this way. But restricting a few nonresidents does nothing to improve an individual's sheep hunting abilities.

Furthermore, there will be very limited impact of allowing these nonresident hunters to return to the mountains. According to data from ADF&G, for the 16 hunting seasons spanning from 2000–2015, there were 24,164 hunters who reported hunting sheep a total of 42,150 times. If we look at just the total number of nonresidents who attempted another hunt within a four year period after successfully taking a sheep, there was a total of 211. This includes both those guided, and those hunting with second degree Alaskan family. However, how many of these hunters successfully took another sheep within that four-year window? 135, most of which came from repeat guided clients. That comes out to 8.4 sheep per year, statewide! Stated another way, this is about one sheep saved per mountain range where sheep exist in Alaska. This level of "conservation" is laughable at best.

With a population of sheep somewhere around 45,000 statewide, and the literature showing repeated natural population fluctuations, both increasing and decreasing, of 28–35% in one to three year periods over areas of the Alaska Range (Arthur 2003) and Canada (Hoefs and Bayer 1983), the "normal" fluctuation statewide would be expected to be about 12,600–15,700 sheep. Not allowing these few passionate hunters to harvest 8.4 sheep per year on a conservation basis is inconsequential. Therefore, please consider allowing a nonresident hunter the opportunity to continue to hunt Dall sheep each year.

PROPOSED BY: Chris Harper (EG-F17-050)

PROPOSAL 75 – 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep. Allow nonresidents to obtain one general season Dall sheep permit in a regulatory year in the Central/Southwest Region as follows:

My proposal is to allow any hunter currently under the "one sheep every four regulatory years" restriction be allowed to obtain one general season permit for Dall sheep in a regulatory year. If issued such a permit, that hunter agrees to the following:

Voluntarily forfeiting all opportunity to hunt other big game species in Alaska that year, including drawing permits, registration permits, and general season hunts.

This would allow a person, whose passion above all else is to pursue Dall sheep, the opportunity to do so while excluding them from all other Alaska big game opportunity. This is a positive for both those few passionate sheep hunters, and for everyone else whose interest is more directed to other species.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I would like to address the regulation that currently only allows nonresidents to harvest one Dall sheep every four years. Roughly 80% of all sheep hunters in Alaska on any given year are on their first or second sheep hunt. Roughly 60% of all sheep hunters are on their first sheep hunt. Data from ADF&G shows that most Dall sheep harvested in Alaska every year were taken by novice sheep hunters, regardless of residency.

Few people actually report hunting sheep multiple times over the years. The heated topics and issues surrounding Dall sheep hunting truly is a problem of the few. However, those few are very passionate. Their desires and dreams are filled with the persistent thoughts of returning to the mountains, in pursuit of those majestic animals. This passion is the very reason why those hunters should be allowed the freedom to continue and pursue their dreams.

The only people who are excluded from returning to hunt Dall sheep are those nonresidents who successfully harvested a sheep in Alaska in the prior three years. Residents who have successfully taken sheep are not excluded from hunting again. Just because a nonresident hunter has had success in the past, he or she should not be excluded from further opportunity.

For those who believe their own chances of taking a Dall sheep will improve by further restrictions of nonresidents, I believe they are misguided. To borrow a quote from Jack O'Connor, "This is no game for the weak-kneed and faint-hearted. Hunter success is not high, not because there aren't enough sheep but because there aren't enough people with the temperament to become sheep hunters." – *The Bighorn, March 1960*. Alaska is the only state in America that does not severely restrict sheep tags to its own residents. Residents of Alaska may go sheep hunting every single year, and it should remain this way. But restricting a few nonresidents does nothing to improve an individual's sheep hunting abilities.

Furthermore, there will be very limited impact of allowing these nonresident hunters to return to the mountains. According to data from ADF&G, for the 16 hunting seasons spanning from 2000–2015, there were 24,164 hunters who reported hunting sheep a total of 42,150 times. If we look at just the total number of nonresidents who attempted another hunt within a four year period after successfully taking a sheep, there was a total of 211. This includes both those guided, and those hunting with second degree Alaskan family. However, how many of these hunters successfully took another sheep within that 4-year window? 135, most of which come from repeat guided clients. That comes out to 8.4 sheep per year, statewide! Stated another way, this is about one sheep saved per mountain range where sheep exist in Alaska. This level of "conservation" is laughable at best.

With a population of sheep somewhere around 45,000 statewide, and the literature showing repeated natural population fluctuations, both increasing and decreasing, of 28–35% in one to three year periods over areas of the Alaska Range (Arthur 2003) and Canada (Hoefs and Bayer

1983), the “normal” fluctuation statewide would be expected to be about 12,600–15,700 sheep. Not allowing these few passionate hunters to harvest 8.4 sheep per year on a conservation basis is inconsequential. Therefore, please consider allowing a nonresident hunter the opportunity to continue to hunt Dall sheep each year if the hunter is willing to sacrifice all other Alaskan big game tags.

PROPOSED BY: Chris Harper (EG-F17-051)

PROPOSAL 76 – 5 AAC 92.015. Brown bear tag fee exemption. Reauthorize the brown bear tag fee exemptions for the Central/Southwest Region as follows:

5 AAC 92.015. Brown bear tag fee exemption

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

- (1) Unit 11;
- (2) Units 13 and 16(A);
- (3) Unit 16(B) and 17;

...

(11) Unit 9, within the following areas, unless a smaller area is defined by the department in an applicable permit:

(A) Unit 9(B), within five miles of the communities of Port Alsworth, Nondalton, Iliamna, Newhalen, Pile Bay, Pedro Bay, Pope Vanoy Landing, Kakhonak, Igiugig, and Levelock;

(B) Unit 9(C), within five miles of the communities of King Salmon, Naknek, and South Naknek;

(C) Unit 9(D), within five miles of the communities of Cold Bay, King Cove, Sand Point, and Nelson Lagoon;

(D) Unit 9(E), within five miles of the communities of Egegik, Pilot Point, Ugashik, Port Heiden, Port Moller, Chignik Lake, Chignik Lagoon, Chignik Bay, Perryville, and Ivanof Bay;

(12) Unit 10, within three miles of the community of False Pass, unless a smaller area is defined by the department in an applicable permit.

(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:

- (1) Unit 9(B);
- (2) Unit 9(E), that portion including all drainages that drain into the Pacific Ocean between Cape Kumliun and the border of Unit 9(D) and Unit 9(E);
- (3) Unit 17;

...

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Brown bear tag fee exemptions must be reauthorized annually or the fee will be automatically reinstated.

General Season Hunts: The Board of Game (board) liberalized brown bear hunting regulations including the tag fee exemption to increase the harvest of brown bears in Units 11, 13, and 16

during the March 2003 board meeting and in Unit 17 during the March 2011 board meeting. The tag fee exemption in these units provides greater opportunity to harvest of brown bears by allowing opportunistic harvest.

The board also exempted brown bear tag fees for bear hunts near communities in Unit 9 to address public safety concerns in communities during the board meeting in March 2011. Brown bears are abundant in Unit 9 and are managed as a trophy species. Brown bears are frequently observed in communities where they destroy property in search of food or garbage and occasionally kill pets. The liberalized bear seasons and bag limits adopted along with the elimination of the tag fee were intended to allow people to take bears before they destroy property, to promote a greater acceptance of the unit's bear population, and to resolve some of the compliance issues associated with the take of bears in defense of life or property.

Subsistence Brown Bear Hunts: The board waived the brown bear tag fee requirement for subsistence brown bear hunts in Unit 17 and portions of Unit 9. Subsistence brown bear harvest rates are low and well within sustainable limits. Exempting the resident tag fee has not caused an increase in subsistence harvest in these units. Continuation of the exemption accommodates cultural and traditional uses of brown bears in these units and provides an alternative for hunters who take brown bears primarily for their meat.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F17-037)

Palmer Area – Units 14A, 14B & 16

PROPOSAL 77 – 5 AAC 85.045(12). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Reauthorize the antlerless moose draw permits in Units 14A and 14B and increase permit levels in Unit 14A as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(12)		
Unit 14(A)		
1 moose per regulatory year, only as follows:		
...		
1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only; up to 1,500 [1000] antlerless moose permits may be issued.	Aug. 20–Sept. 25 (General hunt only) Nov. 1–Dec. 15 (General hunt only)	No open season
...		
1 moose by targeted permit only; and by shotgun or archery only; up to 200 permits may be issued.	Winter season to be announced (General hunt only)	No open season
Unit 14(B)		
1 moose per regulatory year, only as follows:		
...		
1 moose by targeted permit only; and by shotgun or archery only; up to 100 permits may be issued.	Winter season to be announced (General hunt only)	No open season

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Antlerless moose hunts must be reauthorized annually by the Board of Game. There are two types of antlerless moose hunts in the Matanuska-Susitna Valley—a drawing permit hunt used to regulate growth of the moose

population in Unit 14A and targeted hunts used to mitigate public safety concerns in Units 14A and 14B.

Moose surveys conducted in February 2017 yielded an estimate of 8,700 moose in Unit 14A. This estimate was greater than the post-hunt objective of 6,000–6,500 moose and greater than the 2013 survey estimate of 8,500 moose with a bull ratio of 21 bulls:100 cows and a calf ratio of 45 calves:100 cows.

Antlerless moose hunts have been authorized in Unit 14A since 2001 in order to regulate the growth of the population. The permit level was increased from 450 to 1,000 in 2013 to account for the continued increase in the population. Despite increased permit levels and increased harvest, the population has remained above the post-hunt population objective. Based upon the current population estimate, the decreasing trend in the calf twinning rate, and the impact on the available habitat as observed in a recent browse removal study, further increases in the permit allocation may be warranted in order to reduce the population to a sustainable level.

The current increases in the harvest have seemingly slowed the population growth; however it has not reduced the moose population to within objectives. If the density of moose is allowed to increase, we anticipate an increase in the number of moose-human conflicts, and moose may experience nutritional stress as the population nears carrying capacity. Cow harvests are warranted to control the moose population’s growth and recommended as a way to provide additional moose hunting opportunity in the Matanuska-Susitna Valley.

The targeted moose hunts in Units 14A and 14B are an effective tool to address public safety concerns related to moose-vehicle collision and nuisance management issues. Moose-vehicle collisions result in property damage and may result in human injury or death. An average of 266 moose per year were killed in the Matanuska-Susitna Valley area during the last few years of average snowfall and substantially more were killed during higher snowfall years. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game also receives periodic complaints from the public about crop depredation and aggressive behavior that can be mitigated by this hunt structure.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F17-035)

PROPOSAL 78 – 5 AAC 85.045(12). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Authorize an any bull draw permit hunt in Unit 14B as follows:

	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
Units and Bag Limits		
(12)		
Unit 14(B)		

1 moose per regulatory year, only as follows:

1 bull with spike-fork antlers or antlers with 3 or more brow tines on one side, by bow and arrow only; or

Aug. 10–Aug. 17 (General hunt only)

Aug. 10–Aug. 17

1 bull with spike-fork antlers or antlers with 3 or more brow tines on one side; or

Aug. 25–Sept. 25 (General hunt only)

Aug. 25–Sept. 25

1 bull moose by drawing permit only; up to 100 permits may be issued

Aug. 25–Sept. 25

No open season.

1 moose by targeted permit only; by shotgun or archery only; up to 100 permits may be issued

Winter season to be announced by emergency order.

No open season.

...

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? This proposal liberalizes moose hunting in Unit 14B to provide additional harvest opportunities for resident hunters in response to a growing moose population. In 2009 the population was estimated at 1,662 moose with a bull:cow ratio of 34:100 and a calf:cow ratio of 18:100. In 2013 the population estimate was within population objective (2,500–2,800) at 2,700 with a bull:cow ratio of 30:100 and a calf:cow ratio of 28:100. The 2013–2016 average harvest was 91 moose which is under the harvest objective of 100-200 moose. Providing additional harvest opportunity through a draw hunt for any bull will aid in achieving the harvest objective while maintaining the management goal of ensuring a bull to cow ratio of ≥ 20 bulls:100 cows.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F17-036)

PROPOSAL 79 – 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep. Modify the hunt structure for Dall sheep in Unit 14A as follows:

In all of Unit 14A, a legal ram will be full-curl, broken on both horns, or at least eight years old. From August 10 to August 25, retain the current draw permit system in hunt DS170, DS270, DS180, DS280, DS190 and DS290. **Increase the nonresident allocation from 10% to 20% in these draws.** That is what it originally should have been set at back in 2008 but the Board of Game (board) didn't follow its own policy back then. **Set the number of permits at one for**

nonresidents in each hunt and four for residents. You want to set the permits in these hunts very low at first until you build up the population of full-curl rams and then increase them.

Aircraft are not allowed to be used for sheep hunting in any manner in Unit 14A south and east of the Matanuska River for any sheep hunt that starts on the August 26 or later.

From August 26 to September 20 retain the draw permit hunt for nonresidents and residents in hunts DS275, DS285, DS295, DS175, DS185 and DS195, **with only one permit issued for each hunt for nonresidents hunts and four being issued for resident hunts. After two years there should be enough full-curles in the population to switch resident hunt numbers DS175, DS185 and DS195 to registration hunts with very conservative harvest goals and two years later change the nonresident hunts to registration also along with the residents and manage both residents and nonresidents as one hunt with harvest goals for each of the three areas in this part of Unit 14A.** When both residents and nonresidents go to a registration hunt by 2023, there will be no allocation between them just like in the Tonsina walk-in area.

If the board adopts this proposal, it might consider changing the draw permits that will be issued in 2018 from any ram to full-curl before they are issued.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Change the Dall sheep hunts in Unit14A south of the Matanuska River from any ram to full-curl, broken on both horns, or at least eight years old. Also change the second hunt from August 25 to September 20 to a registration hunt for residents but retain the draw portion for nonresidents. Aircraft would not be allowed to be used in any manner for the second hunt.

The current hunts in Unit 14A are being managed for any ram and they were put in place in 2008. The idea was to increase the number of old rams in the population by allowing the harvest of any ram thus taking the pressure off of the full-curles. To do this there were going to be a very limited number of permits issued. That management strategy has not been followed in the last five years or more as the Department of Fish and Game is now issuing 75 any ram permits in this area. Right now there are still very few full-curl rams in this population. When this management strategy was first implemented with the hope of rebuilding the sheep population, especially the number of older rams in it, the hoped for long term goal was to get back to an open general season again. I think we can do that with the changes I'm suggesting.

PROPOSED BY: Dan Montgomery (EG-F17-070)

PROPOSAL 80 – 5 AAC 85.040. Hunting seasons and bag limits for goat. Open a resident registration hunt for mountain goat in Unit 14A as follows:

Retain the draw goat hunts DG890 and DG891 for nonresidents only. **Issue only two permits for DG890 and three permits for DG891.**

Create a residents only registration hunt RS890 for Metal Creek and another RG891 for residents only in Marcus Baker. Set the harvest goals at 6% of the total count of the latest aerial survey of this area.

The hunting season will stay the same September 1 to October 15. There will be no allocation between residents and nonresidents. The season will close when the harvest goal is met.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I want to change the mountain goat draw permit hunts, numbers DG890 and DG891 to registration hunts for residents and retain the draw for nonresidents. When this was first put into a draw permit hunt back in 2007 or there about, there was still a general sheep hunt in these areas. Every sheep hunter in this area got a registration permit for goats also and the quota was being filled very quickly. With all the sheep in this area now on draw I believe it will take much longer to fill it. Keeping the nonresidents on a draw will also slow the harvest down a lot.

PROPOSED BY: Dan Montgomery (EG-F17-071)

PROPOSAL 81 – 5 AAC 85.020. Seasons and bag limits for brown bear, and 92.044. Permit for hunting bear with the use of bait or sent lures. Increase the bag limit for brown bear and allow the harvest of brown bear at black bear bait stations in Unit 14A as follows:

In Unit 14A (or just that portion of Unit 14A west of the Little Susitna River and west of the Parks Highway), increase the bag limit to one brown bear every regulatory year AND allow brown bear to be taken at black bear bait stations.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? There seems to be a significant increase in the numbers of brown bear at least in that area of Unit 14A, which lies west of the Little Susitna River and west of the Parks Highway. This has been noticed by hunters operating black bear bait stations in this area. It has been difficult to maintain black bear bait stations because of marauding brown bear. There also seems to be a decline in the moose population in this area possibly due to predation by brown bear.

PROPOSED BY: The Alaskan Bowhunters Association (EG-F17-062)

PROPOSAL 82 – 5 AAC 92.530. Management areas. Create a management area for the Mat-Su Borough's Government Peak Recreation Area in Unit 14A as follows:

5 AAC 92.530 Management areas.

(##) The Matanuska-Susitna Borough's Government Peak Recreation Area – (see State of Alaska, Hatcher Pass Management Plan, Government Peak management unit, Northern and Southern Development areas)

(A) the area consists of borough-owned lands within the Government Peak management unit

under the Hatcher Pass Management Plan;

(i) the area is open to hunting by bow and arrow only.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Matanuska-Susitna Borough has lands in the Northern and Southern Development areas of the Government Peak management unit near Hatcher Pass which have been developed with trails for biking, hiking, and skiing. The highly developed nature of this area has resulted in some concerns with hunting regulations and the use of firearms. This area is identified under 11 AAC 96.014(b)(3)(E) which states:

(E) in the High Glacier Peaks, Government Peak, Independence, and Mile 16 management units and in portions of the Archangel and Reed Lakes/Little Susitna management units, as shown on the *Hatcher Pass Special Use Area Map 2*, a person may not use or discharge a firearm except for the purpose of lawful hunting; however, a person may not use or discharge a firearm for any purpose

(i) within the Independence State Mine Historical Park, the Summit Lake State Recreation Site, and the Northern and Southern Development areas in the Government Peak management unit;

There is a need to update the ADF&G Hunting Regulation Booklet for Unit 14A to identify the Northern and Southern Development areas of the Government Peak management unit as restricted areas for firearms. The ADF&G Hunting Regulations Booklet is highly regarded by the public, and adding the information to show that these areas are off limits to firearms for any purpose needs to be publicized.

Please reference: The State of Alaska, Hatcher Pass Management Plan; and the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, Government Peak Unit Asset Management and Development Plan.

PROPOSED BY: Matanuska-Susitna Borough, Land and Resource Management Division
(EG-F17-026)

PROPOSAL 83 – 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Change the antler restrictions for moose hunting in Unit 16A as follows:

Proposed solution: One bull with spike-fork or three brow tines on at least one side.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Change the Unit 16A antler restrictions to spike-fork or three brow tines on at least one side. Do away with the 50-inch rule. The reason is too many illegal bulls are being taken with the 50-inch rule. They are not 50 inches after people shoot and measure the spread. This should be a statewide regulation. In areas with four brow tines it should read four not three.

PROPOSED BY: Neil DeWitt
(EG-F17-028)

PROPOSAL 84 – 5 AAC 92.108. Identified big game prey populations and objectives. Raise the population objective for moose in Unit 16B as follows:

The Unit 16B moose population is most likely going to be estimated to be above the current population objective and will likely continue to grow further above since habitat is not limiting productivity and predators are no longer limiting population growth. It would be wise in my opinion to raise the moose population to reflect this reality.

The new moose population objective for Unit 16B should be 1.5–2 moose per square mile of available moose habitat or 10,000 to 13,000 moose.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The moose population objective for Unit 16B is well below carrying capacity. By the time this proposal is deliberated on in 2018 it will have been five years since ADF&G determined that the moose population was near the upper end of the current population objective of 6,500–7,500 moose or 1–1.2 moose per square mile of the approximately 6,500 square miles of moose habitat in the unit. The moose population estimate, if and when ADF&G conducts any new ones since the 2013 one done in the north (unless they do one in the south), will likely show that the moose population is above the objective using the new measured sightability correction factor. Twinning rates have remained high, around 50%, since 2013 at the same time the moose population was estimated to be near the upper end of the objective, indicating that the habitat can support more moose than 7,500 new count. Since the population has likely grown beyond 7,500 since 2013 and twinning rates have remained steady, it indicates that a population above 7,500 moose is not habitat limited. If you live here and see the amount of willow that remains untouched during winter, you might surmise that winter range is not limiting the moose population. According to ADF&G estimates, Unit 16B south has been at 1.5 moose per square mile of available moose habitat since 2010. This indicates that 1.5 moose per square mile would make a fine lower objective for the unit. The Unit 16A moose population objective is roughly 2.2 to 2.6 moose per square mile. If Unit 16A can support 2.2 moose per square mile, I think it reasonable to assume Unit 16B can support two moose per square mile of available habitat.

PROPOSED BY: David McHoes (EG-F17-018)

PROPOSAL 85 – 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Lengthen the resident hunting season for moose in Unit 16B Remainder (DM540, YM541 and RM574) as follows:

The solution to the problem is to expand the any bull fall moose harvest opportunity. How we do this is the debate. I suggest we go back to the refugia system of management where we trust that the inaccessible areas of the unit will protect the bulls from over harvest. This was a proven method prior to the 1993 antler restriction management system. ADF&G appears to want to micromanage the harvest. I have a hard time figuring out how this can be done when we rarely collect population and/or composition data. The concern with over participation causing conflicts in the field may be valid. This could be dealt with by restricting any bull seasons to August 20 to

September 10 a rarely utilized part of the season. In an effort to allow all Alaskans who desire to participate in any bull hunting in Unit 16B, I submit the following proposal:

My solution to chronic under-harvest of the surplus bulls of the unit in the fall is replace the existing hunts DM540, YM541 and RM574 with an August 20 to September 30 any bull bag limit for residents.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Unit 16B moose population is now a growing population which has led to a growing harvestable surplus of bulls. Increased calf survival (up from the lows of ten calves per 100 cows to highs of near 50 calves per 100 cows in much of the unit) has also increased the yearly supply of harvestable bulls. Two recently created draw hunts were created with little or no public participation. DM540 and YM541 were created at the 2013 Board of Game (board) meeting from an ADF&G proposal to do minor changes to predator control plan under 5 AAC 92.125 has nothing to do with moose seasons. No proposal to create these seasons was ever put before the public prior to the board meeting; therefore no public input was received. Generally, changes in seasons and bag limits are considered "allocative" in nature and ADF&G generally takes no position on these matters. This was one of the most bizarre things I have witnessed at a board meeting. The youth hunt idea in particular could have benefited from some local knowledge of the hazardous and unreliable travel conditions in the unit during the youth trophy hunt conducted November 15 to December 15 known locally as "freeze up". The goal of these draw hunts was apparently to reach the midpoint of the unit's harvest objective. These hunts have failed in this objective.

The unit also has a recently created winter registration hunt on the books. This hunt was the result of an emergency petition by ADF&G to allocate moose from fall sport hunters to winter meat hunters. The justification was that their previously created hunts were failures in reaching the midpoint of the harvest objective. I find it odd that it is an emergency not to reach the midpoint of a harvest objective range when it was not an emergency for a decade during the 90s when we never reached the minimum and the harvestable surplus existed. I would like to make a public proposal that will be reviewed by the public, commented on by the public, and testified at the board meeting by the public to allocate the public's resource created by the combined efforts of the people of Alaska. The failure to reach the midpoint of the harvest objective is because of the restrictive nature of the fall hunt and goes back to the conversion of the unit to spike-fork, 50-inch in 1993. The moose hunt was converted due to concerns of increase participation due changes in adjacent units that had low bull/cow ratios where antler restrictions were put in place. The antler restrictions made it near impossible to achieve the unit harvest object although seasons were expanded. Eventually the declining moose population made it impossible.

PROPOSED BY: David McHoes (EG-F17-017)

PROPOSAL 86 – 5 AAC 92.044. Permit for hunting bear with the use of bait or scent lures.
Shorten the season for black bear baiting in Unit 16 as follows:

The black bear baiting season for Unit 16 should be reduced to April 15 to June 30.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The current black bear harvest (especially females) is unsustainable and continuing a decline in the black bear population. This was the goal of the Board of Game when they wanted to increase moose calf survival. Reported moose calf survival is between 35–45% up from 8–16%. Mission accomplished.

PROPOSED BY: David McHoes (EG-F17-014)

PROPOSAL 87 – 5 AAC 92.044. Permit for hunting bear with the use of bait or scent lures. Prohibit the harvest of brown bears at black bear bait stations in Unit 16 as follows:

Unit 16 should be removed from the list of units that allow harvesting of brown bears at black bear bait stations.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The current harvest of brown bears in Unit 16 is unsustainable. The Board of Game approved these levels of harvest to improve moose calf survival. Moose calf survival is between 35 and 45%. Brown bear harvest should be lowered to maintain or increase the bear population.

PROPOSED BY: David McHoes (EG-F17-015)

PROPOSAL 88 – 5 AAC 85.020. Seasons and bag limits for brown bear. Shorten the season and reduce the bag limit for brown bear in Unit 16 as follows:

The Unit 16A brown bear season should be reduced from "no closed season" to August 10 – May 31.

The Unit 16B brown bear season should be reduced from "no closed season" to August 10 – May 31.

The Unit 16B brown bear bag limit should be reduced from two bears to one bear.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Brown bear harvest in Unit 16 reflects the desire of the Board of Game to reduce the bear population and to increase moose survival. The moose population no longer requires bear population reductions. Harvest levels should be reduced to maintain or grow the brown bear population.

PROPOSED BY: David McHoes (EG-F17-016)

PROPOSAL 89 – 5 AAC 92.122. Intensive Management Plan VI. End the predator control program for black and brown bear in Unit 16 as follows:

Bear control program has been terminated due to objectives being met.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Unnecessary reductions in the black and brown bear populations. Both black and brown bear populations have been harvested at above sustainable levels for at least a decade to lower predation on moose calves. ADF&G data collected for the last four years has shown that moose calf survival is well above levels to grow the moose population. The issue has been resolved. Harvest levels should be returned to sustained yield levels.

PROPOSED BY: David McHoes (EG-F17-012)

PROPOSAL 90 – 5 AAC 92.095. Unlawful methods of taking furbearers; exceptions. Allow the harvest of beaver by firearms under a trapping license in Unit 16 as follows:

The Matanuska Valley Fish and Game Advisory Committee recommends adding Unit 16 to the units that allow for the harvest of beavers with a firearm under a trapping license. The regulatory language would duplicate that for Units 1–5 out of the current trapping regulations (see page 22): "Firearms may be used to harvest beaver in Unit 16."

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Currently, under a trapping license a person may harvest a beaver with a firearm in Units 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 12, 18, 19, 20A, 20C, 20E, 20F, 21, 22, 23, 24, and 25. Currently this is not allowed in Unit 16. Of late, southcentral Alaska has experienced warmer and shorter winters, leading to unsafe ice during much of the Unit 16 beaver trapping season. Allowing for the harvest of beavers in Unit 16 with a firearm will aid trapper safety and increase harvest, providing some much needed income for trappers in an already depressed market. At this time there is no biologic concern for beavers in Unit 16.

PROPOSED BY: Matanuska Valley Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-F17-021)

Glennallen Area – Units 11 & 13

PROPOSAL 91 – 5 AAC 99.025. Customary and traditional uses of fish and game populations. Modify the amount reasonably necessary for subsistence for caribou and moose in Unit 13 as follows:

I. Conduct a current ADF&G public “Customary and Traditional Use Public Survey” of sport, public personal use, and subsistence users residing in Units 7, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, and 20, including personal use and subsistence harvest of: (1) all big game including moose, caribou, sheep, goat, and bears; (2) harvests of fresh water and salt water fish including trout, grayling, Dolly Varden, salmon, halibut, cod, red snapper, and rock fish; and (3) small game harvest including spruce grouse, ptarmigan, rabbits, ducks, and geese.

II. Re-calculate the ANS for Unit 13 caribou and moose:

A current public survey of customary and traditional use of Tier-I, sport, personal use, and community subsistence harvest (CSH) subsistence use, is necessary and overdue for the determination of ANS for big game populations, to determine the increased number of subsistence users of fish and game, the current harvest rates, and to determine and update the stocks of fish and game populations that are presently used for subsistence use. AS 16.05.258(b) *et. seq*

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? A current and updated public survey of customary and traditional use is necessary and lawfully required to maintain sustainable use management of fish and game resources, and to protect subsistence use priority benefits of fish and game resources, as well as prior to Board of Game (board) imposing restrictive regulations on bag limits and seasons. 5 AAC 99.010; 5 AAC 92.072(b)(1)-(4); AS 16.05.258(b) *et. seq*

The 2009 board determinations of ANS for Unit 13 caribou was struck down as **arbitrary and capricious** by Judge Bauman in *Manning v. State ADFG, Ahtna*, Case No. 3KN-09-178CI. The board has NOT completed any public survey of “Customary and Traditional Use” after the Judge Bauman decision. Prior to implementing regulation restrictions on harvests of fish and game, the board is required by law to identify customary and traditional uses by **Alaska residents** [i.e., NOT just the Ahtna tribal members]. 5 AAC 99.010(b)(1)-(8). [Note: Nothing in the regulations and statutory enabling authority AS 16.05.258 allow the board to impose limitations and bar the customary and traditional subsistence use based only on Ahtna **racial** customs and traditions, nor grant **racial** permit priority preferences to residents of the eight Ahtna Athabaskan villages, all in violation of Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) 43 U.S.C. 1601 Section 4b terminating all future aboriginal native priority rights, Alaska Constitution Article VIII Section 3 common use, and U.S. Constitutional 14th Amendment equal protections. *Zobel v. Williams, 455, U.S. 55 (1982); McDowell v. State, 785 P.2d 1 (Alaska 1989); and Manning, Id.]*

PROPOSED BY: Kenneth Manning

(HQ-F17-009)

PROPOSAL 92 – 5 AAC 85.025. Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou; 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose; and 92.072. Community subsistence harvest hunt area and permit conditions. Eliminate the community subsistence harvest hunts for moose and caribou as follows:

Repeal the current community subsistence harvest hunt for the Copper Basin area. Default back to the old general season moose hunt: September 1 through September 20, spike-fork, four brow tines, 50-inches. Increase the number of draw permit tags from the current allocation of five to 100 tags.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Eliminate the community subsistence moose and caribou hunts.

Harvest and population data from ADF&G suggest that customary and traditional needs are being met for all qualified residents in Units 11,12, and 13. Those qualifying residents are allowed a 50-day hunting season for one federal subsistence "any bull" moose permit, plus two federal subsistence caribou permits for hunting in the four million acres of federal lands. Then you have a 20-day state general season moose hunt, with a spike-fork, 50-inches or four brow tines regulation, and a 40-day fall season for Tier I caribou hunters. In addition to this, Ahtna members have access to another 1.7 million acres of Ahtna private lands which provides exclusive use by Ahtna members to hunt.

All of this opportunity combined meets the intent of reasonable opportunity.

PROPOSED BY: Anchorage Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F17-015)

PROPOSAL 93 – 5 AAC 85.025. Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou; and 92.072. Community subsistence harvest hunt area and permit conditions. Eliminate the community subsistence harvest hunt for caribou in Unit 13 as follows:

Eliminate the community subsistence harvest caribou hunt in Unit 13.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Eliminate the community subsistence harvest caribou hunt in Unit 13. This hunt offers one main advantage over the (other) Tier I caribou hunt in the unit, open designated hunting opportunity amongst group members. If the Unit 13-specific proxy regulations were eliminated, the vast majority of Unit 13 caribou permittees would be able to meet their needs under the existing Tier I caribou hunt in the unit.

PROPOSED BY: Rebecca Schwanke (EG-F17-112)

PROPOSAL 94 – 5 AAC 92.072. Community subsistence harvest hunt area and permit conditions, and 85.025. Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou. Eliminate the community subsistence harvest hunt for caribou in Unit 13 as follows:

Eliminate the CSH caribou permit hunt (CC001) for Unit 13. The other Tier I level hunts provides reasonable opportunity for all subsistence needs and general sport hunts for the Copper Basin Nelchina Caribou herd in Unit 13.

Keep the Tier I hunt (RC566) in effect; this will achieve all management objectives needed for the Copper Basin caribou hunting.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The harvestable surplus of Nelchina caribou far exceeds the ANS allowing Tier-I-plus level hunts. Thus the CSH hunt is unnecessary, adds confusion and unnecessary administration costs to the regulations, management, and enforcement of Unit 13 caribou hunts.

PROPOSED BY: Kenneth Manning (HQ-F17-010)

PROPOSAL 95 – 5 AAC 92.072. Community subsistence harvest hunt area and permit conditions, and 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Eliminate the community subsistence harvest hunt for moose in Unit 13 as follows:

Eliminate the CSH moose permit hunt (CM001) for Unit 13. The Tier I level hunt provides reasonable opportunity for all subsistence needs and general sport hunts for the Copper Basin Nelchina moose herd.

Keep the Tier I hunt for moose; this will achieve all management objectives needed for the Copper Basin moose hunting.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The harvestable surplus of Unit 13 moose exceeds ANS allowing Tier-I-Plus level hunts. Thus the CSH hunt is unnecessary, adds confusion and unnecessary administration costs to the regulations and enforcement. “Reasonable opportunity” for subsistence use does NOT mean unconstitutional **racial** Ahtna “racial C&T” permit priority preferences.

PROPOSED BY: Kenneth Manning (HQ-F17-011)

PROPOSAL 96 – 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose, and 92.072. Community subsistence harvest hunt area and permit conditions. Eliminate the community subsistence harvest hunt for moose in the Copper Basin area, and establish a registration moose hunt for Unit 13 as follows:

Eliminate the community subsistence harvest moose hunt in Unit 13, 11, and a portion of 12.

Establish a new resident registration moose hunt for Unit 13. Season dates would be August 15–31. The bag limit would be one bull per household with antlers less than 50-inches wide, and at least two brow tines on both sides. If a household registers for this moose hunt, no member of the household may hunt moose outside Unit 13 during the regulatory year. Households would register during the November hunt application period.

This bag limit allows for more hunters to participate in the early hunt opportunity, helping meet subsistence needs, without over harvesting the resource. In addition, allow the department to set a quota for this hunt to ensure the resource is not over harvested.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Eliminate the community subsistence harvest moose hunt in Unit 13, 11, and a portion of 12 (finalize during the next Region III meeting). This hunt offers a few advantages over other moose hunts in the unit, although the complexity of the hunt is not in the best interest of Unit 13 hunters as a whole or the department. The CSH moose hunt offers open designated hunting opportunity amongst group members, early hunt dates, and a limited number of highly coveted any bull moose permits. The demand for any bull moose permits is extremely high in Unit 13 for all hunters, local and non-local, as seen in the number of CSH participants as well as the number of any bull drawing permit applications. The demand for an early and/or longer moose hunting season is also high in Unit 13. Are these things necessary? No. The Unit 13 Amount Necessary for Subsistence is more than being met by other existing resident hunts in the unit. Are these things coveted by all hunters? Yes.

The CSH moose hunt however has morphed into a complicated and convoluted program that has ballooned out of control. In its most recent form following the March 2017 Board of Game meeting, it is now likely sideways of existing state laws governing allocation of game. For example, the Tier II application process has no place inside an otherwise stated Tier I moose hunt, especially considering the moose harvest far exceeds ANS, and nonresidents are still allowed to hunt in the unit. It is time to let go of the CSH moose hunt in Unit 13, 11, and a portion of 12.

To offer a replacement for the additional hunt opportunity for an any bull moose, consider adopting an early season registration bull hunt similar to the past Tier II hunt dates, August 15–August 31. This time period offers a jump on the general season moose hunters, and moose are not overly susceptible to harvest during this time. To accommodate the number of hunters that will be interested in participating, the bag limit must have an antler restriction. Unfortunately, an any bull registration hunt is just not an option given the hunter interest in this unit.

If the Unit 13-specific proxy regulations were also eliminated, and proxy hunting were again allowed for antler restricted bull moose hunts, the vast majority of Unit 13 moose hunters would be able to meet their needs under the existing general season and drawing hunts in the unit.

PROPOSED BY: Rebecca Schwanke (EG-F17-113)

PROPOSAL 97 – 5 AAC 92.072. Community subsistence harvest hunt area and permit conditions. Remove the requirement for applicants to have specific customary and traditional use patterns for participating in the community subsistence harvest hunts in Unit 13 as follows:

Eliminate the regulatory requirement that all applicants for community subsistence hunts (CSH) for Unit 13 caribou and moose, must practice or convert to local Ahtna Athabaskan customs and traditions (C&T) in accordance with board findings #206-170-BOG, and under penalty of \$10,000 fine and one year in jail for CSH permit non-compliance.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Eliminate: Requiring all moose and caribou CSH applicants to practice or convert to Ahtna racial C&T imposes an **unconstitutional racial discrimination limitation and bar** to the community subsistence hunt user group. *McDowell v. State*, 785 P.2D1 (Alaska 1989); *Adarand Constructors, Inc. v. Peña*, 515 U.S. 200 (1995) [racial preference is unconstitutional].

Requiring **racial C&T** compliance with **one race customs and traditions (Ahtna C&T)** exceeds and violates all statutory enabling authority of Alaska Statute 16.05.255, regulations of the Board of Game, management requirements, AS 16.05.258 Alaska Subsistence Law, and constitutional equal protections of Alaska Constitution Article I Section 1 equal rights, and Article VIII Section 3 common use; violates Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) 43 U.S.C. 1601 Section 4b terminating all future aboriginal native priority hunting and fishing rights.

PROPOSED BY: Kenneth Manning (HQ-F17-012)

Note: The following proposal requests regulatory changes that are both statewide (see Proposal 56) and specific to the Central/Southwest Region. The board may take action at the November 2017 Statewide Regulations Meeting or defer taking action until the February 2018 Central/Southwest Region Meeting.

PROPOSAL 98 – 5 AAC 92.072. Community subsistence harvest hunt area and permit conditions. Modify the community subsistence harvest permit conditions as follows:

Amend 5 AAC 92.072. Community subsistence hunt area and permit conditions:

Throughout the regulation the term/phrase “a resident of a community or member of a group” is used to define those participating in the community subsistence hunt (CSH). The regulations should be amended to clarify that the CSH is for “communities”, not simply any “group” of individuals who are Alaska residents. The use of the term “group” diminishes the “community” aspect of the hunt. A “group” can be those who only get together over the internet. A “group” can consist of those who only get together once a year for a potluck that includes a dish or two containing a little moose or caribou taken by a member of the group. The use of the term “group” encourages the kind of abuse that has occurred in the CSH. It takes a “community” to practice the community pattern of C&T (customary and traditional) uses that the Board of Game (board) has set as a condition for participating in the hunt for the Copper Basin area (5 AAC 92.074(d)).

Therefore, the term “group” should be stricken from the regulation and replaced when necessary with “community.”

The term “resident” should also be stricken, because a “community” of subsistence users may not all be residing in the same physical location. For example, the community composed of the eight Ahtna villages includes some Alaska residents who do not live in the area, but who continue to hunt, fish and gather subsistence resources in the area and to participate in the Ahtna customary and traditional hunting way of life, including widespread sharing, teaching traditional knowledge and values, potlatches, etc. Therefore, the term “community members” should be uniformly applied throughout the regulation when describing who is eligible to participate in the CSH. The term “residents” should be stricken.

Likewise, when describing the CSH administrator, the term “community administrator” should be used throughout the regulations. The term “group” should be deleted when the regulation references CSH administration.

Additionally amend 5 AAC 92.072. Community subsistence harvest hunt areas as follows:

(a) The commissioner or the commissioner's designee may, under this section and 5 AAC 92.052, issue community-based subsistence harvest permits and harvest reports for big game species where the Board of Game (board) has established a community harvest hunt area under (b) of this section and 5 AAC 92.074. **Prior to issuing a permit and harvest reports for the community hunt area described in 5 AAC 92.074(d), the commissioner or designee shall determine, on the basis of an application form developed by the department, that the community applying for the permit conforms with the definition of “community” set forth in section (i) of this regulation.**

...

(c) If the board has established a community harvest hunt area for a big game population, [RESIDENTS] **members** of the community [OR MEMBERS OF A GROUP] may elect to participate in a community harvest permit hunt in accordance with the following conditions:

(1)(D) make efforts to ensure that the applicable customary and traditional use pattern described by the board and included by the department as a permit condition, if any, is observed by subscribers [INCLUDING MEAT SHARING]; the applicable board finding and conditions will be identified on the permit; this provision does not authorize the community [OR GROUP] administrator to deny subscription to any community [**RESIDENT OR GROUP member who agrees to practice the applicable customary and traditional use pattern as practiced by the community;**]

...

(c)(3) in addition to the requirements of (1) of this subsection, the community [OR GROUP] representative must submit a complete written report, on a form provided by the department, for the community [OR GROUP] participating in the community harvest hunt area described in 5 AAC 92.074(d), that describes efforts by the community [OR GROUP] to observe the customary and traditional use pattern described by board findings for the game populations hunted under the conditions of this community harvest permit; in completing the report, the representative must

make efforts to collect a complete report from each household that is a member of the community [OR GROUP] that describes efforts by the household to observe the customary and traditional use pattern using the eight elements described in this paragraph; a copy of all household reports collected by the community [OR GROUP] representative shall be submitted to the department as a part of the representative's written report; complete reports must include information about efforts to observe the customary and traditional use pattern of the game population, as follows:

(A) Element 1: participation in a long-term, consistent pattern of noncommercial taking, use, and reliance on the game population: the number of years of taking and use of the game population; and involvement of multiple generations in the taking and use of the game population; and use of areas other than the community subsistence hunt area for harvest activities;

(B) Element 2: participation in the pattern of taking or use of the game population that follows a seasonal use pattern of harvest effort in the hunt area: the months and seasons in which noncommercial harvest activities occur in the hunt area;

(C) Element 3: participation in a pattern of taking or use of wild resources in the hunt area that includes methods and means of harvest characterized by efficiency and economy of effort and cost: costs associated with harvests; and methods used to reduce costs and improve efficiency of harvest; and number of species harvested during hunting activities;

(D) Element 4: participation in a pattern of taking or use of wild resources that occurs in the hunt area due to close ties to the area: number of years of taking and use of the game population; and involvement of multiple generations in the taking and use of the game population; and variety of harvesting activities that take place in the hunt area; and evidence of other areas used for harvest activities;

(E) Element 5: use of means of processing and preserving wild resources from the hunt area that have been traditionally used by past generations: complete listing of the parts of the harvested game that are used; and preservation methods of that game; and types of foods and other products produced from that harvest;

(F) Element 6: participation in a pattern of taking or use of wild resources from the hunt area that includes the handing down of knowledge of hunting skills, values, and lore about the hunt area from generation to generation: involvement of multiple generations in the taking and use of the game population; and evidence of instruction and training;

(G) Element 7: participation in a pattern of taking of wild resources from the hunt area in which the harvest is shared throughout the community: amount of harvest of the game population that is shared; and evidence of a communal sharing event; and support of those in need through sharing of the harvest of the game population; and

(H) Element 8: participation in a pattern that includes taking, use, and reliance on a wide variety of wild resources from the hunt area: the variety of resource harvest activities engaged in within the hunt area; and evidence of other areas used for harvest activities.

(c)(4) the department may waive the annual reporting requirement and institute a five-year reporting period for any community which has demonstrated, through reports submitted

annually over a five-year period, a high degree of participation in the customary and traditional community use pattern described in board findings for the area.

...

(f) The department may disapprove an application for a community subsistence harvest permit from a community [OR GROUP] that has previously failed to comply with requirements in (c)(1) and (3) of this section. The failure to **submit a** report by the community [OR GROUP] representative under (c) [(1) AND] (3) of this section **which demonstrates, pursuant to criteria and a scoring system established by the department, that the community is observing the customary and traditional use pattern described by board findings for the game populations hunted under the conditions of this community harvest permit shall** [MAY] result in denial of a community subsistence harvest permit for the area during the following **two** regulatory years **for all members of the community.** The department must allow a representative the opportunity to request a hearing if the representative fails to submit a complete report as required under (c)(1) and (3) of this section. A community [OR GROUP] aggrieved by a decision under this subsection will be granted a hearing before the commissioner or the commissioner's designee, if the community [OR GROUP] representative or **a member of the community** makes a request for a hearing in writing to the commissioner within 60 days after **receiving notice from the department that the community will be denied a community subsistence harvest permit for the following year.** [THE CONCLUSION OF THE HUNT FOR WHICH THE PERSON FAILED TO PROVIDE A REPORT]. The commissioner may determine that the penalty provided under this subsection will not be applied if the community [OR GROUP] representative **or member** provides the information required on the report **sufficient to satisfy the department's requirements** and if the commissioner determines that

(1) the failure to provide the report was the result of unavoidable circumstance; or

(2) extreme hardship would result to the community [OR GROUP] **or member.**

...

(h) Nothing in this section authorizes the department to delegate to a community [OR GROUP] representative determination of the lawful criteria for selecting who may hunt, for establishing any special restrictions for the hunt and for the handling of game, and for establishing the terms and conditions for a meaningful communal sharing of game taken under a community harvest permit, **except that a community representative shall require participating community members to observe the customary and traditional use pattern described by board findings for the game populations hunted as that pattern of use is practiced by the community.**

...

(i) In this section,

(2) a "community" [OR "GROUP"] is "a group **of 25 or more individuals** [OF PEOPLE] linked by a common interest in, and participation in **a consistent pattern of noncommercial taking, use, and reliance on a wide diversity of subsistence resources in** [,] an **identified** area [AND THE WILDLIFE POPULATIONS IN THAT AREA,] that **provides substantial economic, cultural or social, and nutritional elements of the subsistence way of life of the community**

and its members [IS CONSISTENT WITH THE CUSTOMARY AND TRADITIONAL USE PATTERN OF THAT WILDLIFE POPULATION AND AREA AS DEFINED BY THE BOARD].

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? This proposal: 1) amends the regulation to delete the terms “group” and “residents” and replaces these terms with the term “community” and “members”; 2) amends the authority of the Department of Fish and Game (department) to issue community-based subsistence harvest permits and harvest reports for the Copper Basin area (5 AAC 92.074(d)) to require the department to create an application form that establishes that the applicant is a “community” as that term is defined in the regulation; 3) amends the definition of “community” to make it clear that groups applying for and participating in the CSH share a common interest and participation in the pattern of C&T community use identified by the board for wildlife resources in that area and which provides substantial economic, cultural or social, and nutritional elements of the subsistence way of life of the community and its members; 4) requires the department to develop and apply a scoring system for annual reports from CSH administrators for the CSH in the area described in 5 AAC 92.074(d), and to disqualify a community and all members of the community for two years from participating in a CSH in this area if the annual report fails to satisfy the minimum score developed by the department for demonstrating that a community is observing the community pattern of subsistence use that is a condition of the permit for the area; 5) allows the department to waive the annual CSH administrator reporting requirement for the area described in 5 AAC 92.074(d) if a community has established a solid record of practicing the applicable C&T pattern of use, and replace it with a report once every five years; and 6) allows a CSH administrator to require all members of the CSH community to observe the C&T pattern of use recognized by the board in establishing the CSH, including specific practices of the community that are consistent with the pattern of use recognized by the board.

PROPOSED BY: Ahtna Tene Nene’ (HQ-F17-026)

PROPOSAL 99 – 5 AAC 92.050(a)(4)(I). Required permit hunt conditions and procedures. Remove the requirement that Unit 13 Tier I caribou hunters, community subsistence harvest (CSH) moose and caribou hunters, and all members of their household, shall hunt moose only in Unit 13 as follows:

Eliminate the requirement for Unit 13 Tier I caribou hunters and all applicants for CSH caribou and moose hunts, and everyone in their household, are required to hunt moose only in Unit 13.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Moose harvest numbers will continue to be reduced while the regulation of “coupling” requiring all caribou Tier I and CSH hunters, and all members of their household, shall hunt moose only in Unit 13. This “coupling” is a major factor of increasing the overcrowded moose and caribou hunters in Unit 13. The Department of Fish and Game promoting overcrowded moose hunters is not enabling reasonable opportunity for subsistence use for moose harvest in Unit 13, and denies the rights of Unit 13 hunters to hunt moose in other long-time traditional and customary subsistence moose hunting areas of the state.

PROPOSED BY: Kenneth Manning (HQ-F17-013)

PROPOSAL 100 – 5 AAC 92.050(a)(4)(I). Required permit hunt conditions and procedures. Remove the requirement for Unit 13 Tier I caribou hunters to hunt moose in Unit 13 as follows:

Remove Unit 13 Tier I caribou requirement to hunt moose in Unit 13.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Remove the Unit 13 Tier I caribou requirement to hunt moose in Unit 13. This requirement was originally put in thinking that less people would choose to hunt caribou in Unit 13 if they had to hunt moose there also. We think this requirement that we originally supported backfired and now there are more folks hunting moose because of this requirement. As the number of Tier I caribou permits increase to now 8,500 permits, we have 8,500 people who now have to hunt their moose in Unit 13 and can't hunt in another unit.

PROPOSED BY: Copper Basin Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-F17-038)

Note: The Board of Game deferred this proposal as amended from the 2017 Special Meeting on Copper Basin Area Moose and Caribou Hunting. It was previously numbered Proposal 37. The amended proposal applies only to establishing a youth hunt, August 1–5, for caribou in Unit 13.

PROPOSAL 101 – 5 AAC 85.025. Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou. Establish a youth hunting season for caribou in Unit 13 as follows:

~~Some ways to solve this problem would be to extend the season from August 10—March 31 with no closing time.~~

~~Allow a two caribou bag limit for the time frame of October 1—March 31. This would give more of an incentive for hunters to hunt the winter season and not during the season when moose is open at the same time.~~

Another suggestion would be to open a youth hunt from August 1–~~5~~ 20 which would allow families to be able to give the youths a chance to hunt when the Denali Highway isn't saturated with other hunters. This would also be during a time when the youth aren't in school so they would be given more incentive to hunt early.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I am very concerned about the numbers of hunters on the Denali Highway at the same time. The Denali Highway allows for easy hunting with highway access for hunting of caribou and other game. This then brings a huge safety issue with hunters shooting over other hunters. The whole unit has become more and more saturated over the last three years. The issue comes from the high caribou tags given with Tier I and Tier II over the last few years, community harvest and general harvest all hunting the fall all at the same time.

Another issue is that many kids are being denied the chance to hunt on the Denali Highway. Parents are either not bringing their children or ending their hunts early due to this safety. Many friends voiced their concerns with their children being in an area where hunters are shooting over other hunters. This then discourages our next generation of hunters! The Denali Highway is a great place to bring children since it is an easy area to hunt with lots of support in case there is a need for lodging and food.

PROPOSED BY: Jennifer Bondy (EG-F16-121)

PROPOSAL 102 – 5 AAC 85.025. Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou. Open a nonresident caribou hunting season in Unit 13 and allocate up to ten percent of drawing permits to nonresidents when population objectives are met as follows:

5 AAC 85.025. Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou

(a)(8) Unit 13

Resident and **Nonresident** hunters: August 20 – September 20 and October 21 – March 31

One caribou every regulatory year by drawing permit; up to 5,000 permits may be issued. **Up to ten percent of drawing permits may be issued to nonresident hunters when the herd is within or above the population objective.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Provide for a nonresident caribou hunting opportunity in Unit 13 as follows:

Nonresident caribou hunting opportunity has been absent in the Nelchina herd even though the management objectives have been exceeded for several years and the ANS is being met by several fold.

I would like the board to allocate ten percent of the current drawing tags to nonresident hunters when the Nelchina Herd is within population objectives. This would have been around 2.5% of the total opportunity this last year (2016-17).

If the Unit 13 moose drawing hunts are any indication, 90% or more of these tags will go to hunters that accompany resident Alaskans or hunt on their own. Many of them are military, stationed here but not yet residents, others that have moved to Alaska in the last 12 months, and family and friends of resident hunters. Guided hunters are also a small portion, around five percent in the moose drawings.

PROPOSED BY: Aaron Bloomquist (EG-F17-094)

PROPOSAL 103 – 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Change the community subsistence harvest hunt season dates for moose to align to align with the general hunt as follows:

Align the season dates for the CSH moose season and the general moose hunt season: September 1 through September 20.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Change season dates for the community subsistence moose hunt. By removing this early opener from the CSH and aligning the season date with the general season would level the playing field for all Alaskans, and possibly remove some of the interest in the current CSH.

PROPOSED BY: Anchorage Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F17-016)

PROPOSAL 104 – 5 AAC 85.045(11). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Reauthorize the antlerless moose seasons in Unit 13 as follows:

Units and Bag Limits (11)	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
Unit 13 1 moose per regulatory year, only as follows:		
...		
1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only; up to 200 permits may be issued; a person may not take a calf or a cow accompanied by a calf	Oct. 1–Oct. 31 Mar. 1–Mar. 31 (General hunt only)	No open season
...		

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Antlerless moose hunts must be reauthorized annually by the Board of Game (board). The current regulation allows hunters to take a limited number of cows in specific areas to keep the population within objectives.

This Unit 13 antlerless hunt was initially adopted in March 2011, and the first Unit 13 antlerless hunt under this regulation took place in September 2012. The hunt was modified when the board adopted an October and March season during the February 2013 board meeting.

Since the inception of this hunt, the Department of Fish and Game (department) has issued ten permits annually for a hunt in Unit 13A. The department intentionally limited the number of permits issued annually to gain public support for the hunt, even though a higher rate of cow harvest was desirable to regulate the moose population within objectives. After considering a proposal during the 2015 Board of Game meeting, which was submitted by the public to increase the number of cow permits issued annually, the board directed the department to issue a sufficient number of permits to allow the harvest of up to one percent of the cow population, when the moose population is above the midpoint of the population objective for the subunit.

Moose have generally increased at an average rate of 3% per year in the intensive wolf management area during the past ten years. The current population objective for Unit 13A is 3,500–4,200, and the population was estimated to be above objective in 2015 and 2016. The number of cows in western Unit 13A is expected to continue increasing, and the antlerless hunt in western Unit 13A is necessary to slow the growth of this population and to keep it within the intensive management objectives. The additional harvest provided by the hunt will also assist in achieving the harvest objectives for the population. No additional antlerless opportunities in other portions of Unit 13 are recommended at this time.

If this antlerless moose hunting opportunity is not reauthorized in Unit 13, the intensive management program and objectives will likely need to be restructured to maintain the moose population within a population size range that does not result in nutritional limitations for the moose and to achieve the harvest objectives recommended by the public, advisory committees, and the board.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F17-033)

PROPOSAL 105 – 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Eliminate the antlerless moose hunt in Unit 13 as follows:

[R] [13] [ONE ANTLERLESS MOOSE BY PERMIT. HOWEVER, NO PERSON MAY TAKE A CALF OR COW ACCOMPANIED BY A CALF] [DM325] [OCT.1–OCT.31] [MAR.1–MAR.31]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? End DM325. Do not remove ten cow moose from a herd being managed by antler restrictions. There is no biology supporting this hunt

PROPOSED BY: John Raich (EG-F17-085)

PROPOSAL 106 – 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Eliminate the drawing permit hunt DM324 for moose in Unit 13 as follows:

[R] [13] [ONE BULL MOOSE BY PERMIT] [DM324] [SEPT.1–SEPT.20]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? End the DM324 hunt. Do not remove these five bulls from a herd of moose being managed by antler restrictions. There is no biology supporting this hunt.

PROPOSED BY: John Raich (EG-F17-084)

PROPOSAL 107 – 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Open a late resident hunting season for moose in Units 11 and 13 as follows:

Amend resident moose hunting seasons in Units 11 and 13 by adding a late season any bull registration hunt.

Retain all other existing seasons and bag limits.

New Late Season Registration Permit Hunt(s): The late season registration moose hunt(s) will have a bag limit of any bull and run November 15–30. Registration permits will be issued in Unit 13 communities starting November 13. The hunt(s) will be offered in Units 11 and 13 as follows:

Remainder of Unit 11. Issue up to ten permits.

Unit13A west: Issue up to ten permits.

Remainder of Unit13A: Issue up to 20 permits.

Unit 13B: Issue up to 20 permits.

Unit 13C: Issue up to 50 permits.

Unit 13D: Issue up to 50 permits.

Unit 13E: Issue up to 50 permits.

Hunters should be limited to one late season registration moose permit per season within Units 11 and 13.

Permits will ONLY be issued if bull/cow ratios exceed the management objective by more than five bulls/100 cows in three consecutive years. Some of the subunits listed above would not have permits issued in the foreseeable future due to lower bull:cow ratios. Unit 13A west would likely never have permits issued.

These hunts will provide an opportunity for subsistence moose hunting for all Alaskan hunters on under-harvested moose populations.

The two week November registration hunt offers a “second chance” for those not successful during the general season. This early winter time frame allows for travel into some areas that are normally un-hunted during the fall due to open water (supported by continually high bull:cow ratios in some areas). It also offers family hunting opportunity over the Thanksgiving holiday. While we recognize there will be post-rut concentrations of moose in higher elevations, the limited number of permits for these areas will reduce harassment and keep harvest sustainable.

High “UP TO” permit numbers are offered to allow flexibility in times of high moose numbers and annual conditions that may be less than ideal. Some years when freeze-up conditions are very poor the entire allowable number of permits may be necessary to take a few moose.

Conservative registration permit numbers should be set for areas with heavy fall hunting pressure given current bull:cow ratios such as in Unit 13B and the western portion of Unit 13A. Moderate permit numbers can be set for Units 13C, 13D and 13E considering much of the moose habitat in these areas is inaccessible during the fall and thus lightly hunted. Continually high bull:cow ratios and increasing moose numbers in these areas suggest additional harvest will be sustainable. In the case of Unit 13E there will also be some bulls migrating out of park areas that are otherwise closed to state hunters, becoming available to state subsistence hunters for the first time.

Given existing proxy regulations, late season registration hunters will be able to proxy hunt for others, but only once per season within Unit 13.

Regulations to be amended by adding the following to current regulations:

5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose

(9)

Unit 11, that portion east of the east bank of the Copper River upstream from and including the Slana River drainage

1 bull by registration permit Nov. 15–Nov. 30

Available in local communities

Nov. 13–Nov. 30

Up to 10 permits may be issued

(11)

Units and Bag Limits

Unit 13

1 bull, by [Dec. 1–Dec. 31]

registration Nov. 15–Nov. 30

permit only as follows:

Unit 13A west of the Lake Louise

Road, Lake Louise, Susitna Lake,

Tyone Lake, and the Tyone River.

Permits available in local communities

Nov. 13–Nov. 30

Up to 10 permits may be issued

Unit 13A east of the Lake Louise Road, Lake Louise, Susitna Lake, Tyone Lake, and the Tyone River, Permits available in local communities Nov. 13–Nov. 30 Up to 20 permits may be issued

Unit 13B Permits available in local communities Nov. 13–Nov. 30 Up to 20 permits may be issued

Unit 13C Permits available in local communities Nov. 13–Nov. 30 Up to 50 permits may be issued

Remainder of Unit 13D Permits available in local communities Nov. 13–Nov. 30 Up to 50 permits may be issued

Unit 13E Permits available in local communities Nov. 13–Nov. 30 Up to 50 permits may be issued

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Units 13 and 11, although heavily used by the public in some areas, have certain areas where moose are not accessible during the regular seasons. I would like the Board of Game to adopt regulations to provide an opportunity to harvest moose in these areas where bull:cow ratios are high and additional harvest will be sustainable.

PROPOSED BY: Aaron Bloomquist (EG-F17-081)

PROPOSAL 108 – 5 AAC 85.045. **Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.** Change the antler restrictions for moose in Unit 13 as follows:

R 13 One bull with spike-fork or 50-inch antlers or antlers with 3 [4] or more brow tines on at least one side. HT September 1 – September 20.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Amend antler restriction rule in Unit 13 from four brow tines to three brow tines. There are dozens of bulls with a 48-inch antler spread and two or three brow tines. Twenty years ago adult bulls had brow palms. Antler restrictions removed them before breeding season.

PROPOSED BY: John Raich

(EG-F17-087)

PROPOSAL 109 – 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep. Change the “any ram” bag limit to “full-curl ram” for the Dall sheep permit hunts in Units 13D and 14A as follows:

Change the legal animal of harvest to a full-curl ram for these existing draw hunts:

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Subunit 13D West | Subunit 14A Friday Creek |
| DS 160 | DS 180 |
| DS 260 | DS 185 |
| | DS 280 |
| Subunit 14A Metal Creek | DS 285 |
| DS 170 | |
| DS 175 | Subunit 14A Carpenter Creek |
| DS 270 | DS 190 |
| DS 275 | DS 195 |
| | DS 290 |
| | DS 295 |

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Any ram hunts cost the Department of Fish and Game (department) more money to manage and necessitate fewer tags. Any ram hunts have the potential for higher impact on sheep populations, so they require more intensive management by the department to prevent over utilization. The high impact of any ram hunts leads the department to lower the number of tags awarded in order to maintain a sustainable harvest. The result of changing any ram hunts to full-curl hunts would be saving both department funds and staff time. Additionally, it would allow more hunters to participate in these coveted draw hunts.

PROPOSED BY: Brett Barringer

(EG-F17-007)

PROPOSAL 110 – 5 AAC 85.040. Hunting seasons and bag limits for goat. Change the drawing permit hunt for goat in Unit 13D to a registration hunt as follows:

Unit 13D remainder: One goat by registration permit.....August 10 – November 30

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Eliminate the Unit 13D remainder drawing hunt for goat and make it a registration hunt. This area is a walk-in only area hunt. A registration hunt will allow people who really want to go into this area and know what they are getting into to be able to get a tag and hunt the area. Some folks are drawing the tag and not using it once they find out how hard and area it is to get in to.

PROPOSED BY: Copper Basin Fish and Game Advisory Committee

(EG-F17-037)

PROPOSAL 111 – 5 AAC 85.015. Hunting seasons and bag limits for black bear; 85.020. Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear; and 92.044. Permit for hunting bear with the use of bait or scent lures. Open a fall season for hunting brown bear and black bear over bait in Unit 13 as follows:

Brown bear and black bear may be taken over bait in Unit 13 from April 15 to June 30 **and from August 20 to October 15** except that portion of Unit 13E that is Denali State Park. **Hunting brown bear over bait from August 20 to October 15 will be by registration permit only. This hunt may be closed by emergency order if a harvest goal is met.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I am proposing a fall bear baiting season in Unit 13 for both brown and black bears. There is a very high population of both brown and black bear in Unit 13 that are under-harvested because most of this unit is very remote and hard to access and a lot of it is heavily timbered. Many hunters who bait in the spring in this area report seeing five to ten bears on every bait station in this area. I would like to see a higher utilization of this game resource. The Department of Fish and Game (department) has put video cameras on some brown bear in this area and some bears were observed killing or at least eating up to forty different moose and caribou in a very short period of time. Most of them calves. The Board of Game (board) has watched some of these videos. It can't hurt to take a few more of these bears. The board failed a similar proposal in February of 2015 that would have allowed fall baiting in Subunit 13D for fear of over-harvest of brown bear. I have personally been baiting bears in the spring in this unit since 2014 and have found brown bears to be very smart and cautious around bait stations and almost always approach from far down wind. They are not easy to harvest this way. They are nothing like the bold and care free black bears. I have also baited brown bear in Unit 16 in the fall and found them to be the same in the fall there, with most coming in after dark. There is a two brown bear bag limit in Unit 16 and there has not been a dramatically high brown bear harvest in this area, only a moderate one and the baiting season in Unit 16 runs from April 15 to October 15. I think there is almost no chance of over-harvest of brown bear on this hunt. Just to be cautious, I propose this hunt to be a registration hunt so the department can keep better track of the number of hunters in the field and the total number of bears taken this way. If the department are really concerned about over-harvest they could even put a harvest goal on it and close the season by emergency order if it is met.

PROPOSED BY: Dan Montgomery (EG-F17-068)

PROPOSAL 112 – 5 AAC 85.020. Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear. Lengthen the hunting season for brown bear in Unit 11 as follows:

Unit 11 brown/grizzly bear season: August 10 – June 30.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Extend the brown/grizzly bear season to June 30 in Unit 11.

More closely align the season with similar adjoining areas. Example: Unit 12 brown bear season ends June 30, and Unit 13 has no closed season.

PROPOSED BY: Copper Basin Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-F17-032)

PROPOSAL 113 – 5 AAC 84.270. Furbearer trapping. Lengthen the trapping season for wolverine in Unit 13 as follows:

Extend wolverine season in Unit 13 to February 28.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Denali Fish and Game Advisory Committee believes that there is an abundant population of wolverine and there are very few individuals trapping wolverine in Unit 13. By extending the season, this will allow for more opportunity to increase the participation of trapping in Unit 13. In addition, this will align the wolverine season with red fox, lynx, marten, mink and weasel. Due to wolf season ending on April 30, by extending wolverine season, this would further help prevent the trapper turning over the wolverine to law enforcement due to incidental catch in a wolf trap.

PROPOSED BY: Denali Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F17-003)

PROPOSAL 114 – 5 AAC 84.270. Furbearer trapping. Extend the trapping season for wolverine in Unit 13 as follows:

Change the dates for the wolverine trapping season in Unit 13 from November 10 to January 31 to **November 10 to February 28 annually.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Early closure date to wolverine trapping season in Unit 13 (January 31). The season would align with Unit 20 and others if it was extended to February 28. Access would be much improved with more daylight, possibly warmer temperature and better snow conditions. Much of Unit 13 is very remote and this additional time opportunity would not have a significant negative effect on wolverine populations. The current closure date for wolverine trapping season in Unit 13 unnecessarily restricts opportunity.

PROPOSED BY: John Basile (EG-F17-035)

PROPOSAL 115 – 5 AAC 84.270. Furbearer trapping. Extend the trapping season for wolverine in Units 11 and 13 as follows:

Wolverine trapping season in Units 11 and 13.....November 10 – February 28.....no limit

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Extend wolverine trapping season to the end of February in Units 11 and 13. It currently ends the end of January.

Provide a longer opportunity to take wolverine. It will cut down on incidental take when trapping other species.

It would more closely align with other trapping seasons within these units. Example: Wolf and coyote seasons go until the end of March in Unit 11 and the end of April in Unit 13. Lynx and fox both go until the end of February in both units. Adjoining Units 20A and Unit 6 wolverine season goes until February 28 and Unit 12 goes until March 15.

PROPOSED BY: Copper Basin Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-F17-031)

PROPOSAL 116 – 5 AAC 92.095. Unlawful methods of taking furbearers; exceptions.
Allow trappers the incidental take of two furbearer in Units 11 and 13 as follows:

Either:

"Allow two (2) total incidental furbearer catch by trapping per licensed trapper per year for any species that have a "no limit" bag limit. The incidental closed season catch must have been taken in traps set for a species that still has an open season.

Or:

"If a trapper incidentally takes a furbearer during a closed season in a trap that is set for a furbearer species that is still open, the Department of Fish and Game may issue a total of two (2) incidental take tags per licensed trapper per year only for species that have a "no limit" bag limit. The trapper must report these within 30 days to ADF&G for tagging, and sealing if required. The trapper may then keep the incidentally taken furbearer.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Allow two total incidental furbearer catch by trapping per licensed trapper per year. If all seasons are not aligned, there will be some incidental take of the closed species in traps set for species that are still open. You would still need to report to ADF&G within 30 days of take to get animal sealed or otherwise checked in.

PROPOSED BY: Copper Basin Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-F17-046)

PROPOSAL 117 – 5 AAC 85.065. Hunting seasons and bag limits for small game. Reduce the harvest and possession limits for grouse in Unit 11 as follows:

Grouse -- Unit 11: **Five** [FIFTEEN] per day, **ten** [THIRTY] in possession, **of which not more than two per day and four in possession may be ruffed grouse.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Reduce the harvest and possession limits for grouse in Unit 11. For several years, the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park Subsistence Resource Commission has been hearing about large groups of hunters from outside the area taking advantage of the current liberal bag limits and harvesting large numbers of grouse along the McCarthy and Nabesna Roads within Wrangell-St. Elias National Preserve. For example, a group of four to six hunters hunting for a couple of days could each harvest 30 each, or a total of 120 to 180 grouse. We are concerned about the potential for these high harvest levels

to impact the grouse populations, especially during years when recruitment is poor, and believe that reducing the harvest and possession limits would help to address this issue. We are fortunate that good conditions in recent springs have resulted in substantial numbers of birds, however, we will eventually go back to wet springs with less recruitment. Additionally, the lynx population is on the upswing, and they will also have an impact on grouse populations. The smaller harvest and possession limits on ruffed grouse is proposed because they are just coming into this area and limited in number.

PROPOSED BY: Wrangell-St. Elias National Park Subsistence Resource Commission (EG-F17-013)

PROPOSAL 118 – 5 AAC 85.065. Hunting seasons and bag limits for small game. Reduce the bag limit and shorten the season for grouse in Unit 11 as follows:

A daily bag limit of five grouse per day, with a possession limit of ten; September 1 – December 15.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Modify the hunting season and bag limits for grouse (Spruce Hens) in Unit 11 as follows: We propose that the season be shortened and open September 1 instead of August 10 so that the young birds have more time to develop before being hunted. The reason for this is that the population of Alaska is changing and the hunting pressure is increasing from folks who drive out to hunt from Anchorage and other urban areas.

PROPOSED BY: Howard Mozen and George Vue Yang (EG-F17-024)

PROPOSAL 119 – 5 AAC 85.065. Hunting seasons and bag limits for small game. Lengthen the hunting season for ptarmigan in Unit 13B as follows:

Units 13A, B, C, D, E.....August 10 – March 31

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Extend ptarmigan season in Unit 13B to March 31. The advisory committee agreed several years ago that as an experiment we wanted to try a shorter season to see if that would help the rock ptarmigan population. It didn't seem to help. Willow ptarmigan numbers are up and we are missing the opportunity to hunt willow ptarmigan later in the season in Unit 13B, which encompasses a very large area and a lot of hunting area and opportunity is lost.

PROPOSED BY: Copper Basin Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-F17-036)

PROPOSAL 120 – 5 AAC 85.065. Hunting seasons and bag limits for small game. Align the hunting seasons and reduce the bag limit for ptarmigan in Units 13E and 13B as follows:

Align Unit 13E and 13B ptarmigan season by changing season dates to August 10 through January 31, and reduce harvest limit to five a day and possession limit of ten total.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Denali Fish and Game Advisory Committee feels that the population of ptarmigan has decreased from historical levels. The ptarmigan population decrease over the years has been caused from many factors but a major factor is from springtime recreation users along the corridors of the Denali Highway and popular recreation areas in Units 13E and 13B. Shortening the season will decrease the vulnerability of springtime ptarmigan. Decreasing the bag limit will help prevent overharvest. Aligning season dates will simplify enforcement and assist hunters with date compliance between areas. Despite the decreased opportunity to harvest, this could help repopulation the ptarmigan and in future, reinstitute previous bag limits with higher limits and longer seasons.

PROPOSED BY: Denali Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F17-002)

PROPOSAL 121 – 5 AAC 85.065(3). Hunting seasons and bag limits for small game. Lengthen the hunting season for ptarmigan in Unit 13B as follows:

Return the ptarmigan season length in Subunit 13B to the standard August 10 – March 31, aligning the subunit with surrounding units.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The length of the ptarmigan season in Subunit 13B was reduced a number of years ago in an attempt to achieve higher rock ptarmigan numbers at calling stations located along the eastern Denali Highway. The late winter season was eliminated (December 1 – March 31), in hopes of reducing additive mortality. The change has not been successful in bringing rock ptarmigan numbers back up to previous highs. Meanwhile, with the natural swing in upland bird numbers, willow ptarmigan are now abundant in the subunit and surrounding areas. A significant amount of winter and spring upland bird hunting could be provided if the season was returned to the standard length August 10 – March 31. Given the popularity and accessibility of this area for ptarmigan hunting, the change would also take pressure off surrounding subunits.

PROPOSED BY: Rebecca Schwanke (EG-F17-109)

PROPOSAL 122 – 5 AAC 92.540 Controlled Use Areas. Modify the Sourdough Controlled Use Area as follows:

5 AAC 92.540(3)(B)(ii)

...

the area is closed to the use of any motorized vehicle for hunting, including the transportation of hunters, their hunting gear, or parts of game; however, this provision does not prohibit motorized access, or transportation of game, on the Richardson Highway, **Gulkana River, Sourdough Creek Campground or boat launch**, Sourdough and Haggard Creeks, Middle Fork and Haggard Creek trails, or other trails designated by the department.

...

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Sourdough Controlled Use Area was created in 1971 to provide moose and caribou hunting opportunities for individuals without off-road vehicles (ORVs). As competition increased for moose and caribou in the late 1960s, it became evident that there was a substantial demand for areas to hunt without having to compete with ORVs. The Sourdough Controlled Use Area provides a large hunting area accessible from the Richardson Highway where moose and caribou can be found in fair numbers and roadside or non-motorized hunters have reasonable chance for success. The Sourdough CUA was not intended to restrict hunter access to or on the Gulkana River. This proposal will clarify the legality of motorized use and access for the Sourdough Campground and the adjacent public boat launch.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F17-040)

PROPOSAL 123 – 5 AAC 92.540(3)(C)(i). Controlled Use Areas. Modify the Clearwater Creek Controlled Use Area description as follows:

...

(C) Clearwater Creek Controlled Use Area:

(i) the area consists of that portion of Unit 13(B) north of Denali Highway, west of and including **the Maclaren Summit trail and** the Maclaren River drainage, and east of, and including eastern bank drainages of the Middle Fork of the Susitna River downstream from and including the Susitna Glacier, and the eastern bank drainages of Susitna River downstream from its confluence with the Middle Fork

...

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Clearwater Creek Controlled Use Area (CCUA) is closed to the use of any motorized vehicle for hunting, including the transportation of hunters, their hunting gear, or parts of game, except for brown/grizzly bears, wolves, and small game from March 15 through June 30. The area provides a large hunting area, accessible from the Denali Highway, where roadside and non-motorized hunters have a reasonable opportunity to harvest moose and caribou. Recently there has been some confusion by the public regarding the location of the Maclaren Summit Trail relative to the eastern boundary of the CCUA. Recent GIS analysis conducted by the Alaska Department of Natural Resources and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game has identified that the trailhead and the majority of the Maclaren Summit Trail lies within the Maclaren River drainage and the controlled use area.

Adding the Maclaren Summit Trail to the Clearwater Creek Controlled Use area description further refines the description, and should help alleviate public confusion.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F17-041)

PROPOSAL 124 – 5 AAC 92.011. Taking of game by proxy. Eliminate the Unit 13-specific proxy requirements as follows:

Eliminate all Unit 13-specific proxy regulations.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Eliminate all Unit 13-specific proxy regulations. The current regulation that limits proxy hunting to once per season per species in Unit 13 limits an Alaskan cultural tradition of harvesting big game for family and friends that need assistance. Often a young hunter is willing and able to harvest big game for more than one individual that qualifies for a proxy. Utilization of the original proxy regulations in this manner was essential to providing elders and other individuals with wild game in Unit 13. Without this opportunity, many have turned to the community hunt structure where open designated hunting is allowed amongst a group.

Additionally, eliminate the Unit 13 requirement that only Tier II caribou hunters can proxy for other Tier II caribou hunters. Currently there is no Tier II caribou hunt in Unit 13. Even should it come back, this regulation should not be in place. Most often young hunters willing and able to hunt for Tier II permittees are not Tier II permit holders themselves.

PROPOSED BY: Rebecca Schwanke (EG-F17-111)

King Salmon Area – Units 9 & 10

PROPOSAL 125 – 5 AAC 85.025. Seasons and bag limits for caribou. Change the hunting season dates for the Tier II caribou hunt in Unit 9 as follows:

Unit 9 caribou season date: **September 1 to October 10** [AUGUST 10 to SEPTEMBER 20]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Open season dates for TC505 For Ugashik Village and Pilot Point permit holders. Change the current open season of August 10 through September 20 to September 1 through October 10 on the Ugashik River and Dego Creek drainage only.

Due to migration patterns there are not any caribou available for harvest in this area until early September, negating harvest opportunities the first twenty plus days of the season and very limited numbers of caribou the first three weeks of September which is also our moose season, forcing us to pick one or the other. Even though the season reopens for an extended time during the winter migration patterns again dictate our harvest opportunities to the last days of march until season closure on April 30, when weather and breakup conditions make hunting dangerous or impossible.

Shifting the season dates would increase our chances of a successful and safer hunt, it would also relieve hunting pressure on the pregnant cows in the spring.

PROPOSED BY: Brian Cato (EG-F17-104)

PROPOSAL 126 – 5 AAC 85.025. Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou. Increase the bag limit for the Southern Alaska Peninsula caribou herd (SAP) in Unit 9D as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
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(4)

Caribou

Unit 9D

If the harvestable portion is greater than 150:

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

2 caribou [1 caribou]

Aug. 1–Sept. 30
 Nov. 15–Mar. 31

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

2 caribou [1 caribou]

Aug. 1–Sept. 30

If the harvestable portion is greater than 250:

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

3 caribou [1 caribou]

Aug. 1–Sept. 30
Nov. 15–Mar. 31

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

3 caribou [1 caribou]

Aug. 1–Sept. 30

If the harvestable portion is greater than 450:

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

4 caribou [1 caribou]

Aug. 1–Sept. 30
Nov. 15–Mar. 31

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

4 caribou [1 caribou]

Aug. 1–Sept. 30

If the harvestable portion is greater than 550:

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

5 caribou [1 caribou]

Aug. 1–Sept. 30
Nov. 15–Mar. 31

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

5 caribou [1 caribou]

Aug. 1–Sept. 30

...

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The growing SAP herd has likely exceeded 2,200 caribou, has high bull and calf ratios, and low reported harvest under a one caribou bag limit. Historically, the remoteness of the herd and small human population has not provided the harvest necessary to contain the herd within objectives which led to declines in population and habitat quality. Increasing the bag limit will allow the Department of Fish and Game the discretion to proactively manage the rapidly growing population by increasing harvest commensurate with population levels to maintain it at or near the upper end of the objective of 4,000 caribou without having to propose Board of Game changes out of cycle.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F17-038)

PROPOSAL 127 – 5 AAC 85.025. Seasons and bag limits for caribou. Open a resident hunting season for caribou in a portion of Unit 9C as follows:

Open the north bank of the Naknek River drainage to hunting for two caribou by the same permit that is used in Units 9B and 9C, the Alagnak River drainage (RC503),

Resident hunt only, that portion of the north and south bank of the Alagnak to that portion of the north of the north bank of the Naknek River drainage, two caribou by permit RC503

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? That area in Unit 9C that is open on an announced caribou hunt south of the Alagnak River drainage and the north side of the Naknek River drainage. This area was protected for the Northern Alaska Peninsula herd had been crossing the Naknek River, it crashed and needed help and we didn't hunt for many years. It is now open for hunting by permit, and hasn't crossed in a long time so it is time for us to be able to hunt this area again. This area is an area used by the Mulchatna caribou in the winter and should be open to hunt just like the rest of Unit 9C that area draining the south and north Alagnak drainage and Unit 9B Kvichak drainage.

PROPOSED BY: Naknek/Kvichak Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-F17-023)

PROPOSAL 128 – 5 AAC 85.025. Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou. Allow the harvest of any caribou in Unit 10, Adak Island, as follows:

No limit, harvest ticket, no closed season.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Allow any caribou, no closed season, no limit. Remove the bull restriction (no bulls January 1 – August 9). Unnecessarily restricts meat hunters that may harvest younger animals that are harder to determine sex.

PROPOSED BY: John Bush (HQ-F17-005)

PROPOSAL 129 – 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Lengthen the resident hunting season for moose in Unit 9B as follows:

Unit 9(B)

RESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 bull by registration permit only; Sept. 1–Sept. **20** [15]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The moose population in Unit 9B can sustain additional bull harvest, according to the Department of Fish and Game. We would like to increase hunting opportunity by increasing the season by five days. This would align fall seasons for residents with Unit 9C.

PROPOSED BY: Lake Iliamna Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F17-019)

PROPOSAL 130 – 5 AAC 92.052. Discretionary permit hunt conditions and procedures.

Allow hunters to obtain Unit 9B registration moose permits online and in other locations as follows:

Recommended changes:

One bull by permit available **online at <http://hunt.alaska.gov> or** in person in Unit 9B village or in King Salmon beginning August 16, contact King Salmon for additional information

Or

One bull by permit available in person in Unit 9B village or in person in **Anchorage, Cordova, Fairbanks, Glennallen,** King Salmon, **Palmer, or Soldotna,** beginning August 16, contact King Salmon for additional information

Or a combination of the two:

One bull by permit available **online at <http://hunt.alaska.gov> or** in person in **Anchorage, Cordova, Fairbanks, Glennallen,** King Salmon, **Palmer, or Soldotna,** beginning August 16, contact King Salmon for additional information

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Justification: For 40 years I have hosted fishing and hunting camps during moose season in Unit 9B. The existing requirement to register in the local villages needs to be changed for three primary reasons.

1) It makes the hunt dangerous. The need to fit permit application into the administrative hours of the villages and Lake Clark Park forces hunters to fly only on weekdays and only during business hours to arrive in time to meet the registrar's schedule. Often, the weather during that period is marginal, or worse. We now find that we fly in far worse weather than we historically have. Since we hunt in Unit 9B, we now have to route through Lake Clark Pass even if weather on alternate routes is better. This regulation makes access to the hunt substantially more dangerous than necessary.

2) It disenfranchises working Alaska resident hunters. If a hunter, such as one of our regulars who grew up hunting and fishing the Iliamna region, has only five days to hunt, this rule means he often cannot hunt. (EXAMPLE) One of our party learned to fly in a Cessna, roaming the Iliamna area. He now flies for Alaska Airlines and as a junior officer can only arrange five days off at a time. If he clears his last scheduled flight on a Friday afternoon, but not early enough to get to a registration site during working hours, the earliest he can register is Monday, (can't hunt), and must return on Tuesday evening or Wednesday morning depending on weather. This leaves one day to hunt. If the weather is poor on Monday, it leaves none. He never missed a trip from the time he was ten until this rule took effect. Since, he has missed two out of three years. This scheduling problem has caused every one of us to miss the entire hunt. In order to hunt, you really now need a full week of time off.

3) It is age discriminatory. For older hunters, (four of our group are over 65), the walk from where you can park a plane to the registration in (for example) Pedro Bay is becoming very difficult. With the time constraints at the site, a two or three-mile round trip walk only to find the site has run out of permits, or the person who issues them is not available, is very tough since it means we must find another site and repeat it. Even the walk from the Farm in Port Allsworth to the Park Service is tough on 75-year-old legs.

Some of us have hunted the area for three or four decades. We understand the need to conserve the moose herd. No matter how many we have in hunting camp, we have always maintained a strict maximum limit of two moose. We've collectively discussed the population issues and all agree that the single greatest impact on herd size came when brown bear hunting every fall and spring was eliminated. Before, we used to see equal numbers of bears and moose. Now, or for every moose we see, bull or cow, we see six to ten bears.

PROPOSED BY: Beaver Creek Hunting Group (EG-F17-058)

PROPOSAL 131 – 5 AAC 85.020. Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear. Remove the brown bear bag limit of one bear every four years for residents in Unit 9 as follows:

Remove the “one bear every four regulatory years” requirement for residents hunting under the RB368, RB369, and RB370 registration permits for brown bear in Unit 9.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?
One bear every four regulatory years for resident hunters in Unit 9.**

If there are no conservation concerns for brown bears in Unit 9 under the RB368, RB369, and RB370 registration permit hunts, and we are allowing unlimited nonresident opportunity that results in nonresident hunters taking greater than 80% of the bears, there is absolutely no need for a restriction on resident hunters to only take one bear every four regulatory years.

These registration permits are only available every other regulatory year as it is, so residents already are restricted to one bear every two regulatory years.

PROPOSED BY: Resident Hunters of Alaska (EG-F17-073)

PROPOSAL 132 – 5 AAC 85.020. Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear. Open a resident-only early season for the current registration brown bear hunts in Unit 9, or open resident-only registration or drawing permit hunts as follows:

Solution 1) Create a new registration or draw hunt for resident hunters *only*, mirroring the current RB368, 369, and 370 registration hunts, to allow a spring season on odd numbered years and a fall season on even numbered years.

Unit 9 Alaska Peninsula

Brown/grizzly bear

Units 9A, 9C, 9D, 9E

RBXXX Resident only fall season, even numbered years, October 1–21

RBXXX Resident only spring season, odd numbered years, May 10–31

Unit 9B

RBXXX Resident only fall season, even numbered years, October 1–21

RBXXX Resident only spring season, odd numbered years, May 10–31

Solution 2) Provide a five-day early start to residents for the RB368, 369, and 370 registration hunts.

Unit 9 Alaska Peninsula

Brown/grizzly bear

Units 9A, 9C, 9D, 9E

RBXXX Resident only fall season, odd numbered years, October 1–5

RBXXX Resident only spring season, even numbered years, May 10–15

Unit 9B

RBXXX Resident only fall season, odd numbered years, October 1–5

RBXXX Resident only spring season, even numbered years, May 10–15

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?

Resident hunting and harvest opportunity for brown bear in Unit 9.

We are continually receiving reports from resident brown bear hunters in Unit 9 that guides have many areas locked-up to access by residents, and guides are claiming areas as their own when resident hunters do manage to fly or boat into areas. There are many conflicts between guides on state lands and conflicts between guides and residents on both federal and state lands.

Both the spring (even numbered years only) and fall (odd numbered years only) registration permit hunts (RB368, 369, 370) are unlimited. After the Board of Game (board) went to a registration hunt in 2012, the harvests by nonresidents has been over 80 percent (see table below). These high nonresident (mostly guided) harvests reflect some of what is going on in Unit 9 with resident access problems and conflicts between guides and residents.

Department of Fish and Game Data

Unit 9 Brown Bear Harvest

<u>REGYEAR</u>	<u>Resident</u>	<u>Nonresident</u>	<u>Total Harvest</u>
2013	89	415	506
2014	6	0	7
2015	88	369	462
2016	6	1	8

Most of the harvest takes place the first week of both the spring and fall hunt according to the Department of Fish and Game (department) data. The department has no conservation concerns for brown bears in Unit 9 at this time.

We would like the board to consider two solutions to provide better resident hunter access and opportunity and success in Unit 9. Institute a resident-only early season for the RB 368, 369, 370 registration permit hunts, or allow a resident-only registration or draw hunt for brown bears in Unit 9 during the even and odd years the current RB 368, 369, and 370 hunts have no open season. The current level of competition from guides and guided nonresident hunters is overwhelming and causing too many conflicts, access and opportunity issues for resident hunters.

PROPOSED BY: Resident Hunters of Alaska (EG-F17-072)

PROPOSAL 133 – 5 AAC 85.020. Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear. Change the nonresident brown bear registration hunt in Unit 9E to drawing permit hunt as follows:

Unit 9E brown bear:

Nonresidents: One brown bear every four regulatory years;

(Five permits by drawing), state land south of Cinder River to Mud Creek

(Five permits by drawing), state land south of Mud Creek to Meshik River

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The over-harvest of brown bears by guides and their nonresident clients. The resource cannot handle the unlimited number of guides and nonresident hunters on state land between Cinder River and the Meshik River.

PROPOSED BY: Lance Kronberger (EG-F17-011)

PROPOSAL 134 – 5 AAC 85.065. Hunting seasons and bag limits for small game. Shorten the season for ptarmigan and reduce the bag limit in Unit 9 as follows:

Ptarmigan (rock, willow, and white-tailed)

**Resident
Open Season**

**Nonresident
Open Season**

Units 8, 10, 17, 19,
21, 24, 25 (except 25(C)),
And the Dalton Highway Corridor
and Prudhoe Bay Closed
Area in Unit 26(B)

Aug. 10–Apr. 30
(General hunt only)

Aug. 10–Apr. 30

20 per day, 40 in possession

Unit 9

Aug. 10–Mar. 1
(General hunt only)

Aug. 10–Mar. 1

10 per day, 20 in possession

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Ptarmigan numbers are extremely low in Unit 9. We believe that the bag limit and season should be reduced to conserve remaining birds and allow the population to grow.

PROPOSED BY: Lake Iliamna Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F17-020)

PROPOSAL 135 – 5 AAC 85.065. Hunting seasons and bag limits for small game. Close the season for Alaska hares in Unit 9 as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(2)		
Snowshoe and Alaska hares		
Units 1–5	Sept. 1–Apr. 30 (General hunt only)	Sept. 1–Apr. 30
Units 6–26, except 14(A) and 14(C), <u>and</u> <u>Alaska hares in Units 9(C),</u> <u>9(D), and 9(E)</u>	No closed season (General hunt only)	No closed season
No limit		
<u>Units 9(C), 9(D) and 9(E)</u> <u>Alaska hares only</u>	<u>No open season</u>	<u>No open season</u>
Unit 14(A) 5 per day	No closed season (General hunt only)	No closed season
Unit 14(C) 5 per day	Day after Labor Day –Apr. 30 (General hunt only)	Day after Labor Day –Apr. 30
...		

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Even though snowshoe hares remain abundant in Unit 9, the once abundant Alaska hare population is now at a very low density and has a patchy distribution in the southern portion of the Alaska Peninsula. Very little is known about the Alaska hare, but the apparent decrease in abundance may have been caused by changes in habitat or predation. A small Alaska hare population has been observed Unit 9D and there are infrequent observations of Alaska hare sign near King Salmon. Although there are no estimates of abundance, hunting seasons should be closed in Units 9C, 9D and 9E to address the low density, and biological concern as a precaution for this species. While the closure of the Alaska hare season would result in a slight decrease in hunting opportunity, snowshoe hare hunting opportunity would remain open in the area. If climatic or habitat conditions favorable to Alaska hares return to the southern Alaska Peninsula, a low hunter harvest could protect localized populations for quicker recovery and recolonization.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F17-039)

Dillingham Area – Unit 17

PROPOSAL 136 – 5 AAC 85.045(15). **Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.**
 Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in Unit 17A as follows:

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

(15)

Unit 17(A)

Up to 2 moose per
 regulatory year only as follows:

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

...

1 antlerless moose by registration
 permit; during the period Dec. 1
 –Last day of Feb. a season of up
 to 31 days may be announced
 by emergency order;

Winter Season to be
 Announced by
 Emergency Order
 (Subsistence hunt only)

...

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Antlerless moose hunts must be reauthorized annually by the Board of Game (board). The board adopted an antlerless moose hunt in Unit 17A in support of the Unit 17A Moose Management Plan, which was modified during a meeting of the Unit 17A Moose Management Planning Group in December 2012. The planning group consists of entities interested in the management of this moose population and includes representatives from the Bristol Bay Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Council, the Nushagak and Togiak Fish and Game Advisory Committees, the Togiak National Wildlife Refuge, and the ADF&G Unit 17 management office.

According to the third goal of the revised Unit 17A Moose Management plan, antlerless moose hunting opportunity can be offered when the population is above 600 moose and increasing. The revised plan also recommends that a bag limit of up to two moose when the population exceeds 1,200 moose.

Based on the most recent survey in October 2017, the point estimate was 1,760 moose in Unit 17A. The bag limit of two moose and antlerless harvest opportunity provides a mechanism to limit population growth and allows hunters to harvest surplus animals.

The moose population in subunit 17A is growing and can sustain additional harvest; however, the objectives for this population include allowing it to expand into neighboring areas as well as provide for additional harvest opportunity. The population is currently contributing to the growth of moose populations, especially to the north and west.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F17-034)

PROPOSAL 137 – 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Change the resident, fall season dates for moose hunting in Unit 17A as follows:

... Unit 17(A) 1 bull per regulatory year, only as follows:

RESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 bull by registration Aug. [25] ~~30~~–Sept. [20] 25 permit only; or (Subsistence hunt only) 1 antlered bull by Dec. 1–Jan. 31 registration permit; (Subsistence hunt only) during the period (To be announced) Dec. 1–Jan. 31, a season of up to 14 days may be announced by emergency order

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS: No open season. ...

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Shift the fall moose season in Unit 17A by five days for residents. The amount of moose traffic during the proposed season increases hunter’s safety and is in line with the moose migratory pattern. Currently the season opens too early, the moose are moving more towards the proposed season of August 30 – September 25. With the rise of fuel prices and amount of moose traffic in the area, this shift is warranted for safe hunting procedures.

PROPOSED BY: Togiak Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F17-025)

PROPOSAL 138 – 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Extend the resident, fall season for moose hunting in Unit 17A as follows:

... Unit 17(A) 1 bull per regulatory year, only as follows:

RESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 bull by registration Aug. 25–Sept. [20] 25 permit only; or (Subsistence hunt only) 1 antlered bull by Dec. 1–Jan. 31 registration permit; (Subsistence hunt only) during the period (To be announced) Dec. 1–Jan. 31, a season of up to 14 days may be announced by emergency order

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS: No open season. ...

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Extend the fall moose season in Unit 17A by five days for residents. The amount of moose traffic during those days have increased. At the end of the current season, there is a slowdown of moose. Once the current

season closes, there is an increase of the moose within the unit, this is the reason for the increase of an additional five days to the fall moose hunt.

PROPOSED BY: Traditional Council of Togiak (HQ-F17-008)

PROPOSAL 139 – 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Lengthen the nonresident moose hunting season in Unit 17A as follows:

5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose

(a)(15) Unit 17A

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS: [Sept. 5–Sept. 15] **Sept. 1–Sept. 20**

One bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with four or more brow tines on one side, by drawing permit only; up to 50 permits may be issued.

The moose population in this area is very healthy and resident hunters have a two moose bag limit, "any bull" harvest, cow harvest, a 28-day fall season, and a month-long winter season. This would not increase take, but provide for a more predictable situation.

The nonresident moose hunt in Unit 17A is limited by a drawing in which only 20 tags are issued.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Nonresident moose hunting in Unit 17A is very limited, by a drawing hunt, making a very short season completely unnecessary. A longer season would actually provide a benefit by spreading the same number of hunters out over time. Access is very limited to less than ten lakes due to a no-fly corridor along most of the rivers in the area. Regulations allow for up to 50 nonresident permits in Unit 17A but permits are limited to 20 by an agreement reached through the Unit 17A moose working group in conjunction with the Togiak Advisory Committee, Togiak Refuge and others. Twenty seems to be a reasonable number at this point due to this limited access. Resident hunters would still have the advantage of a five day head start, an any bull season and a winter season.

I would like the Board of Game to adopt a regulation to extend the nonresident moose season by ten days.

PROPOSED BY: Aaron Bloomquist (EG-F17-093)

PROPOSAL 140 – 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Open a guide required, nonresident registration hunt for moose in Unit 17A as follows:

5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose

(a)(15)

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS: Sept. 5–Sept. 15

1 bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side, by drawing permit only; up to 50 permits may be issued

or

1 bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side, by registration permit only; up to 10 permits will be issued to guided hunters only.

Regulations allow for up to 50 nonresident permits in Unit 17A but permits are limited to 20 by an agreement reached through the Unit 17A moose working group in conjunction with the Togiak AC, Togiak Refuge and others. Twenty seems to be a reasonable number at this point due to limited access. My intent would be to remove the number of registration permits allowed from the drawing hunt. (If four registration permits are issued, only 16 drawing tags will be issued). Although only four guided moose hunters are permitted in Unit 17A at this time; I used "up to ten permits" so the Dillingham area biologist would have some flexibility in the case that the Togiak Refuge allows guided moose hunting in their other concession, there are two concessions but the second does not allow guided moose hunting at this time. Togiak or Twin Hills Villages could also decide to allow moose take on their lands. These villages have not yet allowed guided moose hunting to my knowledge but it could be a good opportunity if a shareholder had a guide license.

The moose population in this area is very healthy and resident hunters have a two moose bag limit, "any bull" harvest, cow harvest, a 28-day fall season, and a month-long winter season. This would not increase take, but provide for a more predictable situation.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Nonresident guided moose hunting in Unit 17A is limited by Federal Concession Quotas making the need for a drawing hunt for guided hunters unnecessary. Having guided hunters apply for hunts where the draw odds are high (over 50% historically), and guides are limited by concession, are very messy. Guides must put in more hunters than their quota but it is impossible to judge how many hunters must apply to reach the allocated number allowed under refuge concessions. This may result in more hunters drawn than the guide is allowed to take. I am the only guide currently allowed to take moose hunters in Unit 17A and my concession quota is only four moose hunters. I currently have 18 people on my list that want to apply for the hunt. If I put them all in, I will likely have too many drawn, if I put in fewer, I run the risk of not having enough. The extra hunters that draw will likely not hunt because they want a guided hunt. This removes an opportunity from other hunters that would have preferred a non-guided hunt. There are currently 20 tags available in the drawing.

I would like the Board of Game to adopt a regulation for a registration permit for guided moose hunters in Unit 17A OR allocate a portion of the drawing to guided hunters in a similar fashion as other units (see additional proposal for this option).

PROPOSED BY: Aaron Bloomquist (EG-F17-089)

PROPOSAL 141 – 5 AAC 92.069. Special provisions for moose drawing permit hunts.
Allocate a portion of the nonresident drawing permits for moose in Unit 17A to guided hunters as follows:

5 AAC 92.069. Special provisions for moose drawing permit hunts.

(b)(5) in Unit 17A, the department shall issue a maximum of 50 percent of the available nonresident drawing permits to guided nonresidents, and a minimum of 50 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;

Regulations allow for up to 50 nonresident permits in Unit 17A but permits are limited to 20 by an agreement reached through the Unit 17A moose working group in conjunction with the Togiak Advisory Committee, Togiak Refuge and others. Twenty seems to be a reasonable number at this point due to limited access. I used the 50% language simply because it is already in regulation for other areas. Another number could be chosen but I believe this language allows for flexibility. Only four guided moose hunters are permitted in Unit 17A at this time; so it would be 20% but it should be higher in the case that the Togiak Refuge allows guided moose hunting in their other concession. There are two concessions but the second does not allow guided moose hunting at this time. Togiak or Twin Hills Villages could also decide to allow moose take on their lands. These villages have not yet allowed guided moose hunting to my knowledge but it could be a good opportunity if a shareholder had a guide license.

The moose population in this area is very healthy and resident hunters have a two moose bag limit, "any bull" harvest, cow harvest, a 28-day fall season, and a month-long winter season. This would not increase take, but provide for a more predictable situation.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Nonresident guided moose hunting in Unit 17A is limited by Federal Concession Quotas making the need for a drawing hunt for guided hunters unnecessary and burdensome. Having guided hunters apply for hunts where the draw odds are high (over 50% historically), and guides are limited by concession, are very messy. Guides must put in more hunters than their quota but it is impossible to judge how many hunters must apply to reach the allocated number allowed under refuge concessions. This may result in more hunters drawn than the guide is allowed to take. I am the only guide currently allowed to take moose hunters in Unit 17A and my concession quota is only four moose hunters. I currently have 18 people on my list that want to apply for the hunt. If I put them all in, I will likely have too many drawn, if I put in fewer, I run the risk of not having enough. The extra hunters that draw will likely not hunt because they want a guided hunt. This removes an opportunity from other hunters that would have preferred a non-guided hunt. There are currently 20 tags available in the drawing.

I would like the Board of Game to adopt a regulation for a registration permit for guided moose hunters in Unit 17A (preferred option, see additional proposal for this option) OR allocate a portion of the drawing to guided hunters in a similar fashion as other units (this option).

PROPOSED BY: Aaron Bloomquist (EG-F17-092)

PROPOSAL 142 – 5 AAC 85.045(a)(15). **Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.** Shift the resident fall hunting season dates for moose in a portion of Unit 17A as follows:

Unit 17(C), that portion east of the Weary River

Resident Hunters: Aug. 20–Sept. 15

1 bull by registration permit only; however during the period Sept. 1–Sept. 15, spike-fork bulls and bulls with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 3 or more brown tines on one side may be taken with a harvest ticket, or

1 antlered bull by registration permit only Dec. 1–Dec. 31

Unit 17(C), that portion west of the Weary River

Resident hunters **Aug. 25–Sept. 20**

1 bull by registration permit only; however during the period of Sept. 1–Sept. 20, spike-fork bulls and bulls with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 3 or more brow tines on one side may be taken with a harvest ticket

...

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I would like to see the fall moose hunt for that portion of Unit 17C west of the Weary River changed from the present season dates of August 20 – September 15 to August 25 – September 20.

We want to allow for more time during the early rut period to allow for safer and easier harvest location near the river because the terrain near Manokotak differs from the Nushagak River.

PROPOSED BY: Kenneth Nukwak (HQ-F17-024)

PROPOSAL 143 – 5 AAC 85.045(a)(15). **Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.** Open the resident winter season for moose in a portion of Unit 17C by emergency order only as follows:

Unit 17C, that portion west of the Weary River, one antlered bull by registration permit; during the period of December 1 – last day of February; a season of up to 31 days may be announced by emergency order.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I would like to see the winter moose hunt for that portion of Unit 17C west of the Weary River changed from the present fixed season dates of December 1 – December 31, to a season that can be opened by emergency order when snow conditions are most suitable for pursuing moose, similar to the winter hunt in Unit 17A.

I would like flexible season dates to allow for safe hunting and travel conditions, due to climate change.

PROPOSED BY: Kenneth Nukwak (HQ-F17-023)

PROPOSAL 144 – 5 AAC 92.540 (5) (A) (ii). Controlled Use Areas. Allow the use of motorized vehicles for moose hunting in the Upper Mulchatna Controlled Use Area as follows:

(ii) **except for the purposes of moose hunting** the area is closed to the use of any motorized vehicle for hunting big game, including the transportation of big game hunters, their hunting gear, or parts of big game from August 1 through November 1, except that the use of an aircraft or a boat is not prohibited, and a motorized vehicle in a legally permitted hunting camp is not prohibited

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Upper Mulchatna Controlled Use Area is closed to the use of motorized vehicles (except aircraft and boats) for hunting big game. This includes all of Unit 17B. Currently hunters can enter the Upper Mulchatna Controlled Use Area with a motorized vehicle to hunt ducks and other small game, however if they see a moose while in the area with their motorized vehicle they cannot shoot it. This discourages use of the area outside of the river corridor by people hunting for subsistence reasons, who do not have access to an aircraft, and favors guides, and those who do have access to aircraft.

PROPOSED BY: Richard King (HQ-F17-001)

PROPOSAL 145 – 5 AAC 85.025. Hunting seasons a bag limits for caribou. Open a nonresident registration hunt for caribou in Units 9 and 17 as follows:

Unit 9 within the range of the Mulchatna caribou and all of Unit 17

Nonresidents: September 1–30

One bull caribou by registration permit. Up to 200 permits may be issued.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? As of the drafting of this proposal, the Department of Fish and Game (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 registration, should be well within the sustainability of this herd that is currently underutilized. I would suggest a limit of up to 200 tags

and ask ADF&G to initially only issue 50 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.

A similar proposal for a drawing hunt was deferred from the Arctic/Western meeting for Units 18 and 19. This registration permit would be preferable but the drawing is another option.

PROPOSED BY: Aaron Bloomquist (EG-F17-101)

Note: The Board of Game does not have authority to increase tag fees.

PROPOSAL 146 – 5 AAC 85.025. Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou. Open a guide-required nonresident drawing hunt for caribou in Unit 17B as follows:

I propose 14 nonresident caribou tags be issued by lottery for one bull caribou each for Unit 17B at the rate of \$1,000/tag to guided only nonresidents. Season dates to begin August 10 through August 19. Caribou hunts must be conducted by a licensed registered guide and may not be part any other hunting trip for another species.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I have been conducting hunts for brown bear in the area and am seeing more and more very nice mature caribou bulls during the fall brown bear season in each camp location. Many of these mature bulls will not be harvested by hunters and die of natural causes. There are not enough caribou to offer unlimited licenses in the area but the caribou dying of natural causes is a lost opportunity for the state to make some money and bring back the prestige of trophy caribou hunting to an area that was once famous for it. There is little or no caribou hunting pressure from residents in the area. There are many out of state hunters who would gladly put money into the state in tag costs, hunting license fees, guide fees, lodging fees, meals, gas and other logistics for an opportunity to hunt the Mulchatna herd once again. This would amount to approximately \$150,000 revenue being created by out of state hunters. This needs to be done or we face the area being forgotten as a trophy caribou hunting destination for hunters from across the globe. Running the season to begin August 10 through August 19 would allow nonresident hunters to target strictly caribou and while no brown bear or moose seasons were running which would extend the time outfitter services could make money while not overcrowding the area for other hunters. It is a win-win-win deal for sportsmen, businesses and the State of Alaska. I would be glad to discuss conservation issues at any time.

PROPOSED BY: Thomas Dvorak (EG-F17-002)

Note: This proposal was deferred from the 2017 Arctic/Western and Interior/Northeast Arctic Region meetings to the 2018 Central/Southwest Region Meeting. It was previously numbered Proposal 25 and Proposal 83.

PROPOSAL 147 – 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 and B) meetings. This proposal will also be submitted for Units 9 and 17 when in cycle.

PROPOSED BY: Aaron Bloomquist (EG-F16-010)

PROPOSAL 148 – 5 AAC 92.080(4)(B)(i). Unlawful methods of taking big game. Allow the use of a snowmachine for harvesting caribou, wolf, or wolverine in Unit 17 as follows:

5 AAC 92.080(4)(B)(i): in Units 17, 22, 23 and 26(A), a snowmachine may be used to position a caribou, wolf, or wolverine for harvest, and caribou, wolves, or wolverines may be shot from a stationary snowmachine.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I would like Unit 17 to be included in the use of a snowmachine to position a caribou, wolf or wolverine for harvest.

PROPOSED BY: Kenneth Nukwak (HQ-F17-022)

PROPOSAL 149 – 5 AAC 84.270. Furbearer trapping, and 92.095(a)(3). Unlawful methods of taking furbearers; exceptions. Liberalize the season and methods and means for trapping beaver in Units 9 and 17 as follows:

Liberalize the season and method and means for trapping beaver in Unit 9 and 17 as follows: **In Units 9 and 17 – No closed season** and no bag limit. A trapping license is still required.

It is against the law to take beaver by any means other than a steel trap or snare except: **In Units 9 and 17 you may shoot up to the established bag limit with either a firearm or bow and arrow throughout the season provided that either the meat or the hide is salvaged.**

In Units 9 and 17 from June 1 to October 9, taking beaver by any means other than a firearm or bow and arrow is prohibited.

Beaver taken in Units 9 and 17 only need to be sealed if they are to be sold as raw fur.

In Units 9 and 17 you may shoot a beaver on the same day you have flown in an airplane if the beaver is either caught in a trap or snare or you are more than 300 feet from the airplane.

In Units 9 and 17 you may disturb or destroy a beaver dam. You may not disturb or destroy a beaver house or den.

[IN UNITS 9 AND 17 THE OPEN SEASON IS FROM OCTOBER 10 – MAY 31]

[BEAVER TAKEN IN UNITS 9 AND 17 MUST BE SEALED WITHIN 30 DAYS AFTER THE CLOSE OF THE SEASON]

[IN UNITS 9 AND 17 FROM APRIL 15 TO MAY 31, A FIREARM MAY BE USED TO TAKE 2 BEAVER PER DAY PROVIDED THAT THE MEAT IS SALVAGED FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION; AND IN UNIT 17 A FIREARM OR BOW AND ARROW MAY BE USED TO HARVEST BEAVER FROM DECEMBER 1 – APRIL 14, PROVIDED THAT THE MEAT IS SALVAGED.]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The beaver population is ever expanding in Units 9 and 17. They are damming up more small streams every year and preventing salmon from reaching their spawning grounds. Many of these small streams have lost their entire run of salmon. The beaver population needs to be reduced. The liberalization of the beaver season, harvest methods, bag limits, salvage requirements and eliminating some of the sealing requirement will give everyone the maximum opportunity to harvest beaver in these units. Many residents and nonresidents have expressed interest in being able to harvest a few beavers when they are hunting other species. Local residents will be able to harvest beaver anytime they want for food or fur.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Professional Hunters Association (EG-F17-066)

Reauthorization of Antlerless Moose Hunts & Brown Bear Tag Fee Exemptions for Other Regions

PROPOSAL 150 – 5 AAC 85.045(1). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Reauthorize the antlerless moose hunts in Unit 1C as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(1)		
...		
Unit 1(C), Berners Bay Drainages: 1 moose by drawing permit only; up to 30 permits may be issued	Sept. 15–Oct. 15 (General hunt only)	Sept. 15–Oct. 15
...		
Unit 1(C), that portion west of Excursion Inlet and north of Icy Passage: 1 moose per regulatory year, only as follows:		
...		
1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only; up to 100 permits may be issued	Nov. 10–Dec. 10 (General hunt only)	Nov. 10–Dec. 10

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Berners Bay: The Berners Bay (Unit 1C) strategic moose management plan calls for a post-hunt population of 90 moose based on the area’s estimated carrying capacity. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (department) has been successful at maintaining the Berners Bay population close to the post-hunt population objective by implementing both bull and cow hunts.

From 1998–2006 the number of drawing permits for Berners Bay moose ranged from ten bull and ten antlerless permits to seven bull permits and no antlerless permits. The average annual harvest of bulls during that period was seven moose, and in years when antlerless permits were issued, the annual harvest averaged four cow moose. Although the department has had

authorization to issue a total of 30 permits each year, over the past ten years no more than 20 total permits have been issued during a single year. As a result of several severe winters and resulting population declines, no Berners Bay moose permits were issued from 2007–2013.

The number of drawing permits issued annually for Berners Bay is based on the number of moose observed during winter aerial surveys. The mean number of moose seen during aerial surveys conducted from 1990–2006 was 77 (range: 59–108). As a result of a series of severe winters from 2006–2009 and associated population declines, the number of moose observed during surveys from 2007–2009 ranged from 33–62. Surveys in 2010 and 2011 found 73 moose including ten calves each year. Under ideal survey conditions in 2012, 102 moose were observed, including 21 bulls, 81 cows, and 14 calves. Adjusted for sightability based on collared moose, the 2012 population was estimated at 113 +/- 11 moose. Under less ideal conditions in 2013, 73 moose were observed, including 18 bulls, 47 cows, and eight calves. Adjusted for sightability, the 2013 population estimate was 90 +/- 13 moose. During the most recent survey in January 2014 a total of 105 moose were observed, including 22 bulls, 52 cows, 24 calves, and seven unknown. Based on this survey, the population was estimated to be 109 +/- 6 moose. The Berners Bay population has slowly increased and now exceeds the department's population and bull:cow management objectives.

Five bull permits were issued in 2014 and 2015. The department would like to retain the ability to implement an antlerless moose hunt should the population or habitat conditions warrant this type of management.

Gustavus: The Gustavus moose population (Unit 1C) rapidly expanded from just a few animals in the 1980s and early 1990s to a peak of about 400 animals in 2003. In 2002 the department estimated the density of moose on the Gustavus Forelands winter range exceeded five moose per km² despite only a small proportion of the area consisting of productive (abundant willow) winter habitat. In response to concerns about moose damaging the winter habitat, the department initiated spring browse surveys in 1999 and determined that an unsustainable level (85%–95%) of the current annual growth of willow twigs had been consumed by moose.

To conserve winter habitat the department requested the board authorize an antlerless moose hunt, and the first antlerless hunt was held in the fall of 2000. From 2002–2008 hunters harvested between 11 and 67 antlerless moose annually, depending on the number of permits issued. No hunt was held in fall 2007 due to high moose mortality during the previous winter, and no antlerless hunts have been held since 2009.

The objective of antlerless moose hunts in Gustavus is to maintain the moose population using the winter range to levels commensurate with habitat capability. Based on aerial surveys corrected for sightability and annual browse surveys, management of the population using antlerless hunts has been successful. In 2013, under favorable survey conditions 186 moose (25 bulls, 121 cows, and 40 calves) were observed. The population estimate corrected for sightability was 323 +/- 87 moose. Under poor late winter survey conditions in March 2014 91 (24 cows, 12 calves, and 55 unknown) moose were seen yielding a sightability corrected population estimate of 244 +/- 98 moose. Due to exceptionally mild winter weather, at the time of this survey a number of radiocollared moose had already transitioned to forested summer range outside the

survey area. There was little snow cover during the winter of 2014–15, so no survey was attempted.

Severe winters from 2006 through 2009 reduced calf survival, but since then calf survival has returned to 21% to 37%. Even during severe winters survival of adult females remained high at about 89%. Given the improved survival rate of calves during successive mild winters and stable cow survival, the potential exists for the Gustavus moose population to rapidly increase.

The Gustavus moose population is currently at a level the department believes is appropriate for the available winter habitat. However, we believe it is important to retain the ability to implement antlerless hunts should the population increase to a level that is detrimental to the habitat.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F17-042)

PROPOSAL 151 – 5 AAC 85.045(3). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Reauthorize the antlerless moose hunt in Unit 5A, the Nunatak Bench hunt, as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(3)		
Unit 5(A), that portion south of Wrangell-Saint Elias National Park, north and east of Russell and Nunatak Fiords, and east of the east side of East Nunatak Glacier to the Canadian Border (Nunatak Bench)	Nov. 15–Feb. 15	Nov. 15–Feb. 15
1 moose by registration permit only; up to 5 moose may be taken		
...		

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Nunatak Bench: The Nunatak Bench hunt area (Unit 5A) is managed as a separate population because it is generally isolated from other moose populations by fiords and glaciers. The area is subject to severe winters and has low capability to support moose relative to other moose habitat in Unit 5A. The

purposes of this hunt are to provide opportunity as the population allows and to maintain the number of moose within a level the limited habitat can support. This hunt opens after other moose hunts in the unit have closed, and it is a popular alternative for hunters who were unsuccessful during those hunts. Because much of the open season for this hunt takes place after bulls have dropped their antlers, either sex may be harvested.

The Nunatak Bench strategic moose management plan calls for a post-hunt population of no more than 50 moose. During an aerial survey in 2001 52 moose were seen. From 2005 through 2012 only 11–14 moose with one or two calves were seen during surveys. The decline in moose numbers following the 2001 survey may be related to the 68-foot rise of Russel Fiord flooding and damaging habitat when it was blocked by the surging Hubbard Glacier during 2003. Due to poor weather and the remoteness of the location this area was not surveyed again until December 2015 when a total of 14 moose (three bulls, two cows, three calves, and six unknown) were observed. A series of severe winters from 2006 through 2012 may have inhibited recovery of the population. Anecdotal reports from hunters indicate that wolves in the area may also be inhibiting recovery of this small population.

From 1997 through 2004 an average of 12 either sex permits were issued annually with about four people actually hunting. During this period a total of 15 moose (nine bulls, six cows) were harvested for an average of about two moose per year. No permits have been issued and no moose have been harvested in this area since 2004.

The Department of Fish and Game believes it is important to retain the ability to implement an antlerless hunt in this area to prevent habitat damage should the population increase. The department will continue to monitor this population as conditions allow, but we do not plan to issue hunt permits until the population reaches at least 25 moose.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F17-043)

PROPOSAL 152 – 5 AAC 85.045(4). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in Unit 6C as follows:

Seasons and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
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(4)

...

Unit 6(C)

1 moose per regulatory year,
 only as follows:

1 moose by drawing permit only; up to 40 permits for bulls and up to 20 permits for antlerless moose may be issued	Sept. 1–Oct. 31 (General hunt only)	No open season.
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or

1 moose by registration permit only;	Nov. 1–Dec. 31	No open season.
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...

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Antlerless moose seasons must be reauthorized annually. The Department of Fish and Game recommends reauthorizing the state antlerless hunt in Unit 6C to achieve the harvest objectives when the federal subsistence hunt is not able to achieve the desired level of harvest. The population objective in Unit 6C is 400–500 moose. A population estimate completed during February 2014 yielded an estimate of 600 moose, 25% of which were calves. Because the available antlerless harvest quota in Unit 6C is currently harvested under a federal subsistence season administered by the U.S. Forest Service, we have not held the antlerless hunt since the 1999–2000 season. Continuation of the antlerless hunts will be necessary to manage population growth and keep it within the limits of what the habitat can support.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F17-044)

PROPOSAL 153 – 5 AAC 85.045(13). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.
 Reauthorize the antlerless moose season on Kalgin Island in Unit 15B as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
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(13)

...

Unit 15(B), Kalgin Island

1 moose per regulatory year, by registration permit only	Aug. 20–Sept. 20	Aug. 20–Sept. 20
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...

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Antlerless moose hunts must be reauthorized annually by the Board of Game (board). The current regulation for hunting

moose on Kalgin Island in Unit 15B allows hunters to harvest antlerless moose with the goal of reducing the population to the management objective.

In response to concerns that the moose population on Kalgin Island had exceeded the island's carrying capacity and due to deteriorating habitat conditions, the board established a drawing permit hunt for antlerless moose in 1995. In a further attempt to reduce the number of moose on the island, the board established a registration hunt for any moose in 1999. Despite these measures to reduce moose numbers, moose remain abundant on the island and continue to exceed the management objective.

During the most recent moose survey, department staff counted 101 moose on Kalgin Island in January 2017. This count exceeded the population objective of 20–40 moose.

The "any moose" registration hunt is recommended to provide additional mortality on this predator-free island population. A registration hunt also allows the Department of Fish and Game to continue gathering biological information from specimens provided by successful hunters. The difficult hunting conditions and limited access will minimize the danger of over-harvest.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F17-047)

PROPOSAL 154 – 5 AAC 85.045(13). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.
 Reauthorize the antlerless moose season and targeted moose season in a portion of Unit 15C as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(13)		
...		
Unit 15(C), that portion south of the south fork of the Anchor River and northwest of Kachemak Bay		

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull with spike or 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side; or	Sept. 1–Sept. 25 (General hunt only)
1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only; the taking of calves, and females accompa-	Oct. 20–Nov. 20

nied by calves, is prohibited;
up to 100 permits may be issued in
combination with the nonresident
drawing hunt: or

1 moose by targeted permit only,

Oct. 15–Mar. 31

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

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

Sept. 1–Sept. 25

1 antlerless moose by drawing
permit only; the taking of
calves, and females accompa-
nied by calves, is prohibited;
up to 100 permits may be issued in
combination with the resident
drawing hunt

Oct. 20–Nov. 20

Remainder of Unit 15(C)

RESIDENT HUNTERS

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

Sept. 1–Sept. 25
(General hunt only)

1 moose by targeted permit
only,

Oct. 15–Mar. 31

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS

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

Sept. 1–Sept. 25

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Antlerless moose seasons must be reauthorized annually, and the Department of Fish and Game recommends reauthorization of the Homer benchland hunt (DM549) and the targeted hunt (AM550) along the Sterling Highway in 15C for the 2018–19 hunting season.

The Homer benchland in Unit 15C, which encompasses the hunt boundary of DM549, contains high densities of moose in winters when deep snow drives moose into human populated areas. Even without deep snow, some moose die due to malnutrition and negative interactions with

humans occur as moose become more aggressive in their search for food around human residences.

In February 2017, a GSPE census was conducted in the northern portion of Unit 15C (north of Kachemak Bay) and resulted in a population estimate of 3,529 moose (95% CI: range 2,769–4,289), of which 19% (95% CI: 14–24) were calves. This equates to a density of approximately three moose/mi² in the census area. Density estimates for the winter are difficult to determine because the areas available to moose vary depending on snowfall, but winter density is consistently higher. Fall composition counts in December 2016 provided a bull ratio of 40 bulls:100 cows. Fifty permits were issued in each of the last 10 years resulting in an average harvest of 23 cows annually.

The purpose of AM550 is to allow for the harvest of antlerless moose along the Sterling Highway in Unit 15C during deep snow winters if they pose a threat to highway vehicles. On average, 61 known animals are killed each year in vehicle collisions in Unit 15C. The Department of Fish and Game will decide when and where permits will be issued during the hunt period. Targeted hunts are administered through a registration permit and up to 100 moose may be taken. The number of permits issued each year will depend on conditions, and it is possible no permits will be issued in some years based on snow conditions.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F17-048)

PROPOSAL 155 – 5 AAC 85.045(5). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Reauthorize the antlerless moose season in the Twentymile/Portage/Placer hunt area in Units 7 and 14C as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(5)		

...

Unit 7, the Placer River drainages, and that portion of the Placer Creek (Bear Valley) drainage outside the Portage Glacier Closed Area, and that portion of Unit 14(C) within the Twentymile River drainage

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 moose by drawing permit only; up to 60 permits for bulls will be issued in combination with nonresident hunts, and up to 70 permits for antlerless moose will be issued

Aug. 20–Oct. 10
(General hunt only)

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull by drawing permit only; up to 60 permits for bulls will be issued in combination with resident hunts

Aug. 20–Oct. 10

...

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Antlerless moose seasons must be reauthorized annually, and the Department of Fish and Game recommends reauthorizing the antlerless hunt in Units 7 and 14C. The moose population in the Twentymile/Portage/Placer area has a history of rapid increase following mild winters and sharp reductions during severe winters. In 2009, antlerless permits were issued for the first time since 2004. The number of permits issued depends on the current population estimate and bull:cow ratios, as well as estimated winter mortality. A December 2016 aerial composition count of moose in the Twentymile, Portage, and Placer river drainages found 153 moose with a bull:cow ratio of 30 bulls per 100 cows and a calf:cow ratio of 18 calves per 100 cows.

The harvest of antlerless moose provides the department with a management tool to maintain the number of moose in the Twentymile/Portage/Placer area at a population level low enough to reduce over-browsing of winter habitat, moose-vehicle collisions, and starvation during severe winters. The moose population will be healthier and more productive due to decreased stress levels associated with winter food shortages. This hunt has been successful in creating additional moose hunting opportunity with little or no controversy.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F17-045)

PROPOSAL 156 – 5 AAC 85.045(5). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Reauthorize the antlerless moose seasons in Unit 14C as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(12)		

...

Unit 14(C), Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (JBER) Management Area	Day after Labor Day –Mar 31 (General hunt only)	Day after Labor Day –Mar 31
1 moose by regulatory year by drawing permit, and by muzzleloading blackpowder rifle or bow and arrow only; up to 185 permits may be issued		
Unit 14(C), that portion known as the Birchwood Management Area	Day after Labor Day –Sept. 30 (General hunt only)	Day after Labor Day –Sept. 30
1 moose by drawing permit, by bow and arrow only; up to 25 permits may be issued		
Unit 14(C), that portion known as the Anchorage Management Area	Day after Labor Day –Nov. 30 (General hunt only)	No open season
1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only, and by bow and arrow, shotgun, or muzzleloader only; up to 50 permits may be issued		
Unit 14(C), that portion of the Ship Creek drainage upstream of the Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (JBER) Management Area		
1 moose by drawing permit only; up to 50 permits may be issued; or	Day after Labor Day –Sept. 30 (General hunt only)	Day after Labor Day –Sept. 30
1 bull by registration permit only	Oct. 1–Nov. 30 (General hunt only)	Oct. 1–Nov. 30
...		
Remainder of Unit 14(C)		
1 moose per regulatory year, only as follows:		

1 bull with spike-fork antlers or 50-inch antlers or antlers with 3 or more brow tines on one side; or	Day after Labor Day –Sept. 30 (General hunt only)	Day after Labor Day –Sept. 30
1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only; up to 60 permits may be issued; or	Day after Labor Day –Sept. 30 (General hunt only)	No open season
1 bull by drawing permit only, by bow and arrow only; up to 10 permits may be issued	Oct. 20–Nov. 15	No open season

...

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Antlerless moose hunts must be reauthorized annually, and the Department of Fish and Game (department) recommends reauthorizing the antlerless moose hunts in Unit 14C. The harvest of antlerless moose provides the department with a management tool to maintain the number of moose in Unit 14C at the desired population objective (1,500 moose). This population size has been demonstrated to reduce over-browsing of winter habitat, moose-vehicle collisions, moose-human conflicts in urban areas, and starvation during severe winters. These hunts have also been successful in providing additional moose hunting opportunities in the state’s human population center with little controversy.

Moose in Unit 14C are managed intensively for a population objective of 1,500–1,800 moose and an annual harvest objective of 90–270 moose (5AAC 92.108). The number of antlerless permits issued depends on the current population estimate and bull:cow ratios, as well as estimated winter mortality. In 2013, the department estimated that the moose population contained approximately 1,533 moose in Unit 14C from a combination of population census, composition surveys and extrapolation to unsurveyed areas. Since 2013, a lack of snow has limited our ability to conduct surveys, but we have seen no indication from either harvest or roadkill numbers that the moose population has changed significantly. It is likely that moose survival has been good during recent mild winters.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F17-046)

PROPOSAL 157 – 5 AAC 85.045(16). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.
Reauthorize the nonresident antlerless moose season in the Remainder of Unit 18 as follows:

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

(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

2 antlerless moose; or

Oct. 1–Nov. 30.

2 moose

Dec. 1–Mar. 15

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 antlered bull; or

Sept. 1–Sept. 30

1 antlerless moose

Dec. 1–Mar. 15

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 nonresident antlerless hunt was adopted at the January 2017 Board of Game (board) meeting in Bethel. The board has previously reauthorized the resident antlerless moose season for regulatory year (RY) 2016 and RY2017. This proposal requests reauthorization for RY2018.

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 and 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 17,000 animals with calf:cow ratios ranging from 65:100 to 75:100, and twinning rates from 20% 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 with high recruitment and adult survival.

Although the current year harvest data in the Remainder of Unit 18 has not been finalized due to the early proposal deadline, we expect harvest to be similar to the past four 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-F17-053)

PROPOSAL 158 – 5 AAC 85.045(18). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.
 Reauthorize the antlerless moose seasons in Unit 20A as follows:

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

(18)

Unit 20(A), the
 Ferry Trail
 Management Area,
 Wood River
 Controlled Use
 Area, and the
 Yanert Controlled
 Use Area

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

...

1 antlerless moose by
 drawing permit only; up
 to 2,000 permits may
 be issued in combination
 with the Remainder of Unit
 20(A); a person may not
 take a cow accompanied
 by a calf; or

Aug. 15–Nov. 15
 (General hunt only)

1 antlerless moose by
 registration permit only;
 a person may not take
 a cow accompanied
 by a calf; or

Oct. 1–Feb. 28
 (General hunt only)

...

1 moose by targeted permit only; by crossbow shotgun, or bow and arrow only; up to 100 permits may be issued

Season to be announced by emergency order (General hunt only)

...

Remainder of Unit 20(A)

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

...

1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only; up to 2,000 permits may be issued in combination with Unit 20(A), the Ferry Trail Management Area, Wood River Controlled Use Area, and the Yanert Controlled Use Area; a person may not take a cow accompanied by a calf; or

Aug. 15–Nov. 15 (General hunt only)

1 antlerless moose by registration permit only; a person may not take a cow accompanied by a calf; or

Aug. 25–Feb. 28

...

1 moose by targeted permit only; by crossbow, shotgun, or bow and arrow only; up to 100 permits may be issued

Season to be announced by emergency order (General hunt only)

...

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Antlerless moose hunting seasons must be reauthorized annually. Our goal is to provide for a wide range of public uses and

benefits, and to protect the health and habitat of moose populations. Antlerless hunts are important for improving or maintaining the ability of moose habitat to support current populations. They also help regulate moose population growth, help to meet Intensive Management (IM) objectives for high levels of harvest, and provide subsistence hunters with a reasonable opportunity to pursue moose for subsistence uses without reducing bull-to-cow ratios.

If antlerless moose hunts are not reauthorized, the moose population may increase to unacceptable levels or may need reduction when new data is available and analyzed. Opportunity to hunt a harvestable surplus of cow moose will be lost, and our ability to meet intensive management harvest objectives will be compromised. Subsistence hunters in the portion of Unit 20A outside the Fairbanks Nonsubsistence Area (part of the western Tanana Flats) may not have a reasonable opportunity to pursue moose for subsistence uses.

This reauthorization of antlerless moose hunts will likely improve or maintain the ability of moose habitat to support the current moose population. Hunting opportunity and harvest will increase and allow the Department of Fish and Game (department) to manage these moose populations at optimum levels. The additional harvest will help in meeting intensive management harvest objectives without reducing bull-to-cow ratios to low levels. Meat and subsistence hunters will benefit from the opportunity to harvest cow moose. Moose populations will benefit by having moose densities compatible with their habitat. Motorists and residents may benefit from reduced moose-vehicle collisions and moose-human conflicts.

The number of moose in Unit 20A was estimated at 17,768 in 2003. Research indicated this high-density moose population was experiencing density-dependent effects, including low productivity, relatively light calf weights, and high removal rates of winter forage. The objective beginning in regulatory year 2004–2005 (RY04) was to reduce moose numbers to the population objective of 10,000–12,000 unless indicators of moose condition showed signs of improvement at higher densities. The Unit 20A population was estimated at 10,272–14,115 moose (90% confidence interval) in 2012.

Our current objective is to maintain moose numbers within the IM population objective of 10,000–15,000 moose (the IM population objective adopted by the board in 2016) while monitoring indicators of moose and habitat condition for positive density-dependent responses. The Unit 20A population was estimated at 10,622–14,009 moose (90% confidence interval) in 2015. Because this estimate falls within the IM population objective and the department has not detected any indicators that the nutrition is not limited within this population, our intention is to harvest moose at a rate of 1% of the population which has been shown to stabilize the moose population at its current level. Antlerless harvest will be from drawing permits for a majority of Unit 20A and a registration permit in northwest Unit 20A near Nenana. The harvest objective will be based on the most recent survey results.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F17-049)

PROPOSAL 159 – 5 AAC 85.045(18). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.
 Reauthorize the antlerless moose seasons in Unit 20B as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(18) Unit 20(B), that portion within Creamer’s refuge		
...		
1 antlerless moose by bow and arrow only, by drawing permit only; up to 150 bow and arrow permits may be issued in the Fairbanks Manage- ment Area; a recipient of a drawing permit is prohibited from taking an antlered bull moose in the Fairbanks Management Area; or	Sept. 1–Nov. 27 (General hunt only)	Sept. 1–Nov. 27
1 antlerless moose by muzzle-loader by drawing permit only; up to 10 permits may be issued; a recipient of a drawing permit is prohibited from taking an antlered bull moose in the Fairbanks Management Area	Dec. 1–Jan. 31 (General hunt only)	Dec. 1–Jan. 31
Unit 20(B), remainder of the Fairbanks Management Area		
...		
1 antlerless moose by bow and arrow only, by	Sept. 1–Nov. 27 (General hunt only)	Sept. 1–Nov. 27

drawing permit only; up to 150 bow and arrow permits may be issued in the Fairbanks Management Area; a recipient of a drawing permit is prohibited from taking an antlered bull moose in the Fairbanks Management Area; or

1 moose by targeted permit only; up to 100 permits may be issued

Season to be announced by emergency order (General hunt only)

No open season.

Unit 20(B), that portion within the Minto Flats Management Area

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

...

1 antlerless moose by registration permit only

Oct. 15–Feb. 28 (Subsistence hunt only)

No open season.

...

Unit 20(B), the drainage of the Middle Fork of the Chena River

1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only; up to 300 permits may be issued; a person may not take a cow accompanied by a calf; or

Aug. 15–Nov. 15 (General hunt only)

1 antlerless moose by registration permit only; a person may not take

Oct. 1–Feb. 28 (General hunt only)

No open season.

a cow accompanied
by a calf; or

...

Unit 20(B), that
portion southeast
of the Moose
Creek dike within
one-half mile of
each side of the
Richardson highway

...

1 moose by drawing
permit only; by crossbow,
bow and arrow, or
muzzleloader only;
up to 100 permits
may be issued; or

Sept. 16–Feb. 28
(General hunt only)

No open season.

1 moose by targeted
permit only; by crossbow,
shotgun, or bow and arrow
only; up to 100 permits may be
issued

Season to be announced
by emergency order
(General hunt only)

No open season.

Remainder of Unit 20(B)

1 antlerless moose by
drawing permit only; by
youth hunt only; up
to 200 permits may be issued;
or

Aug. 5–Aug. 14
(General hunt only)

No open season

...

1 antlerless moose by
drawing permit only;
up to 1,500 permits
may be issued in the
Remainder of Unit 20(B);
a person may not take
a cow accompanied
by a calf; or

Aug. 15–Nov. 15
(General hunt only)

No open season.

1 antlerless moose by registration permit only; a person may not take a cow accompanied by a calf; or

Oct. 1–Feb. 28
(General hunt only)

1 moose by targeted permit only; by crossbow, shotgun, or bow and arrow only; up to 100 permits may be issued

Season to be announced by emergency order
(General hunt only)

No open season.

...

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Antlerless moose hunting seasons must be reauthorized annually. Our goal is to provide for a wide range of public uses and benefits, and to protect the health and habitat of moose populations. Antlerless hunts are important for improving or maintaining the ability of moose habitat to support current populations. They also help regulate moose population growth, help to meet Intensive Management (IM) objectives for high levels of harvest, and provide subsistence hunters with a reasonable opportunity to pursue moose for subsistence uses without reducing bull-to-cow ratios.

If antlerless moose hunts are not reauthorized, the moose population may increase to unacceptable levels or may need reduction when new data is available and analyzed. Opportunity to hunt a harvestable surplus of cow moose will be lost, and our ability to meet intensive management harvest objectives will be compromised. Subsistence hunters in the portion of Unit 20B in the Minto Flats Management Area may not have a reasonable opportunity to pursue moose for subsistence uses.

This reauthorization of antlerless moose hunts will likely improve or maintain the ability of moose habitat to support the current moose population. Hunting opportunity and harvest will increase and allow the Department of Fish and Game (department) to manage these moose populations at optimum levels. The additional harvest will help in meeting intensive management harvest objectives without reducing bull-to-cow ratios to low levels. Meat and subsistence hunters will benefit from the opportunity to harvest cow moose. Moose populations will benefit by having moose densities compatible with their habitat. Motorists and residents may benefit from reduced moose-vehicle collisions and moose-human conflicts.

Fairbanks Management Area (FMA)—The purpose of this antlerless hunt is to regulate population growth in the FMA and potentially reduce moose-vehicle collisions and nuisance moose problems.

The number of moose-vehicle collisions in the FMA are high and pose significant safety risks to motorists. In addition, moose nuisance issues continue to place significant demands on property owners. To increase hunting opportunity and harvest and reduce moose-vehicle collisions, the department incrementally increased the number of drawing permits for antlerless moose in the

FMA during RY99-RY10. Moose-vehicle collisions and moose nuisance problems declined during RY06-RY13, presumably, in part due to consistent antlerless moose harvests.

Minto Flats Management Area (MFMA)—The primary purpose of this antlerless hunt is to provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence uses and to regulate the moose population in the MFMA.

The MFMA moose density was high in 2010 (4.1 moose/mi²). In order to reduce the moose population, harvest of antlerless moose during RY12 and RY13 was about 2.5% of the population. The fall 2013 estimate showed a more appropriate density of 2.6 moose/mi². Therefore, to stabilize this population, antlerless harvest will be reduced to approximately 1% of the total population to maintain the current population.

Targeted Hunt—The purpose of the targeted hunt is to allow the public to harvest moose that are causing a nuisance or public safety issue. These permits are used sparingly, but allow the public to harvest the moose instead of the department just dispatching them.

Unit 20B, drainage of the Middle Fork of the Chena River and the Remainder of Unit 20B—The antlerless moose harvest in this area is designed to regulate the moose population in this portion of Unit 20B and to help meet the Unit 20B IM harvest objective. Because the 2015 population estimate (11,064 moose, 90% CI 8,870–13,258) was below the IM population objective of 12,000–15,000 moose and no surveys were conducted in 2016, we suspended these hunts for the 2017 season. If a population estimate survey is can be conducted in November of 2017, then the department may reinstate these hunts; however at this time we will continue to manage this area conservatively until we have a population estimates and determine whether the moose population falls within the IM population objective.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F17-050)

PROPOSAL 160 – 5 AAC 85.045(18). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.
Reauthorize antlerless moose hunting seasons in Unit 20D as follows:

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

(18)

...

Unit 20(D), that portion lying west of the west bank of the Johnson River and south of the north bank of the

Tanana River, except
the Delta Junction
Management Area and
the Bison Range Controlled
Use Area

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

...

1 antlerless moose by
drawing permit only;
up to 1,000 permits may
be issued in combination
with that portion in the
Delta Junction Management
Area; a person may not
take a calf or a cow
accompanied by a calf; or

Oct. 10–Nov. 25
(General hunt only)

1 antlerless moose by
registration permit only;
a person may not take a
calf or a cow accompanied
by a calf

Oct. 10–Nov. 25
(General hunt only)

...

Unit 20(D), that portion within
the Delta Junction Management Area

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 moose every four regulatory
years by drawing permit only,
a person may not take a calf or a
cow accompanied by a calf; or

Sept. 1–Sept. 15
(General hunt only)

...

1 antlerless moose by drawing
permit only; up to 1,000 permits
may be issued in combination
with that portion lying west
of the west bank of the
Johnson River and south of
the north bank of the Tanana

Oct. 10–Nov. 25
(General hunt only)

River; a person may not take a calf or a cow accompanied by a calf; or

1 antlerless moose by registration permit only; a person may not take a calf or a cow accompanied by a calf

Oct. 10–Nov. 25
(General hunt only)

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 moose every four regulatory years by drawing permit only, a person may not take a calf or a cow accompanied by a calf; or

Sept. 1–Sept. 15

...

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Antlerless moose hunts must be reauthorized annually. The objectives of the Unit 20D antlerless moose hunts are to 1) stabilize population growth of this high-density moose population; 2) address concerns about range degradation, reduced nutritional condition, and reduced reproductive success; 3) make progress toward meeting the Unit 20D intensive management (IM) harvest objective of 500–700 moose; and 4) provide youth and disabled veteran hunting opportunity. These objectives are being met.

If antlerless moose hunts are not reauthorized, the moose population could quickly increase to undesirable levels. Opportunity to hunt a harvestable surplus of cow moose would be lost, and our ability to meet IM harvest objectives could be compromised. Additionally, the population may need to be reduced dramatically when new data are available and analyzed.

Antlerless moose hunts are offered in southwest Unit 20D, which has the highest moose density in the unit. This area has great potential for population growth due to an abundance of high quality moose habitat created from extensive land clearing for agricultural use and multiple wild fires over the past 30 years. Total moose harvest in all of Unit 20D averaged 278 moose (an average of 272 bulls and six antlerless moose) during regulatory year (RY) 2014 and RY2015.

Antlerless hunting opportunity is limited. The largest antlerless harvest (n=113) that occurred recently in Unit 20D was in 2009 when antlerless hunts were newly authorized. The southwest Unit 20D population estimate (approximately 4,000–4,500 moose, with a sightability correction factor applied) and bull harvest in southwestern Unit 20D (135–165) have been stable since 2011. The 2014 population estimate for southwest Unit 20D was 4,321 moose (corrected for sightability) with a density of 3.2 moose per square mile, 38 calves:100 cows and 32 bulls:100 cows.

Antlerless harvest will likely be needed to maintain the population at the optimal density and will help make progress toward the IM harvest objective of 500–700 moose without reducing bull:cow ratios below the management objectives. The population trend and harvest rate suggest the low, consistent antlerless harvest provided by the drawing permit hunts in Unit 20D, in conjunction with other mortality factors (including ceremonial harvest, vehicle collision, accidents, and predation), is an appropriate rate of antlerless mortality that contributes to stability in the southwest 20D moose population.

The Department of Fish and Game will continue to evaluate antlerless moose hunts and their effect on moose density and population growth. Future antlerless moose hunts will be implemented as needed based on evaluation of three indices of density-dependent moose nutritional conditions in relation to changes in moose density: biomass removal of current annual growth on winter browse, proportion of females with twin calves, and late-winter calf weights.

Additional drawing permits or registration permits will be issued only if more harvest is needed in specific areas to maintain optimal moose densities.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F17-051)

PROPOSAL 161 – 5 AAC 85.045(24). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.
 Reauthorize the antlerless moose 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) ... 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 ...	July 1–Sept. 14	No open season.

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 in the core sample area. The number of moose in the antlerless hunt area is difficult to estimate, but is likely around 10 moose per year. Harvest reports indicate three antlerless moose have been harvested since 2006, and the annual harvest rate of antlerless moose is less than 1% of the total population.

Due to the low harvest rate the Department of Fish and Game 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-F17-054)

PROPOSAL 162 – 5 AAC 92.015(a)(4). Brown bear tag fee exemptions. Reauthorize resident brown bear tag fee exemptions throughout Interior and Eastern Arctic Alaska as follows:

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

(4) Units 12, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25, 26(B), and 26(C)

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Brown bear tag fee exemptions must be reauthorized annually. Reauthorizing the exemption allows residents, who have not purchased the \$25 brown bear tag, to take bears opportunistically.

Region III (Interior and Eastern Arctic) brown bear populations are healthy, and harvest is monitored through the brown bear sealing requirement. Eliminating all resident brown bear tag fees throughout Region III simplifies regulations, increases resident hunter opportunity, and is not likely to cause declines in these brown bear populations. This reauthorization would assist with our objective of managing Region III brown bear populations for hunter opportunity and would continue to allow hunters to take brown bears opportunistically. During regulatory years 2006–2014, 31% of brown bears harvested by resident hunters in Region III were taken incidentally to other activities compared with 13% statewide.

The Department of Fish and Game (department) estimates that brown bear harvest account for approximately 6% of the bear populations. It is composed primarily of males and is sustainable. Where harvests are elevated (i.e., Units 20A, 20B, 20D, and portions of 26B), brown bear

populations are managed by adjusting seasons and bag limits. The resident tag fees that were in place prior to 2010 appeared to have little effect on harvest rates in these areas.

The department also recommends that the tag fee exemptions for subsistence registration permit hunts in Units 19A and 19B (downstream of and including the Aniak River drainage), 21D, and 24 should also be reauthorized to provide additional subsistence opportunity in these areas.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F17-052)

PROPOSAL 163 – 5 AAC 92.015(a)(4). Brown bear tag fee exemptions. Reauthorize the current resident tag fee exemptions for brown bear in Units 18, 22, 23 and 26A as follows:

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

- ...
- (4) Units... 26;
- ...
- (8) Unit 22;
- (9) Unit 23;
- ...
- (13) Unit 18;
- ...

(b) In addition to the units as specified in (a) of this section, if a hunter obtains a subsistence registration permit before hunting, that hunter is not required to obtain a resident tag to take a brown bear in the following units:

- ...
- (4) Unit 18;
- ...
- (7) Unit 22;
- (8) Unit 23;
- ...
- (10) Unit 26(A).

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 Region V (Units 18, 22, 23, and 26A).

General Season Hunts: Reauthorizations are needed for: Unit 18, where the tag fee has been exempted for five years; Unit 22, where the tag fee has been exempted for 15 years; Unit 23, where the tag fee has been exempted for 10 years; and Unit 26A, where the tag fee has been exempted for five 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 adopted in RY2012 and harvest has remained within sustained yield and continues to be similar to the preceding ten-year period. In Unit 22, the 15-year tag-free period (RY2000-RY2015) for Alaska residents has had an average annual harvest of 52 brown bears (range 42–65 bears). In Unit 23, general harvest has been stable since 1990, although annual harvest is 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 and Game (department) at the time of sealing. Continuing the tag fee exemption helps facilitate participation in the associated brown bear harvest programs maintained by the department for subsistence hunts.

In all units, subsistence brown bear harvest rates are low and well within sustained yield limits, and exempting the resident tag fee has not caused an increase in subsistence harvest. In Unit 18, an estimated 1–3 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.

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