

Fairbanks Area Proposals – Units 20A, 20B, 20C, 20F & 25C

PROPOSAL 120

5 AAC 5AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.

Shorten the season for the any bull moose drawing permit hunt in Unit 20A as follows:

5AAC 85.045

Shorten the season for the any bull permits as follows:

Unit 20A	Residents	Nonresidents
	Open Season	Open Season
Any Bull Drawing Permits:	Sept 1.-Sept. 10	Sept. 1-Sept. 10

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Unit 20A, any bull moose drawing permit season length, September 1-September 25.

The current length of season is excessive. Proof is shown when the general season harvest numbers are less than the any bull permit harvest, which is the current condition in Unit 20A. Additionally these any bulls (mid-range bull moose) are the future 50-inch breeding stock that are being diminished, and having a negative effect on herd genetics, as the harvest numbers indicate.

Other solutions considered was elimination of the any bull drawing permit hunts in Unit 20A. Rejected as Department of Fish and Game supports these hunts as part of population control.

PROPOSED BY: Leroy Sutton (EG-F19-054)

PROPOSAL 121

5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.

Establish hunt areas for moose drawing permit DM770 in Unit 20A as follows:

DM770 hunt be divided up to six areas (same as antlerless draw hunt areas for same area)

DM770A Western Tanana Flats Central

~Hunt Area: that portion of Unit 20A bounded on the south by the south side of the Rex Trail, on the west by the Totatlanika River, on the north by the north bank of the Tanana River, and on the east by Tatlanika Creek

DM770B Ferry Trail Management Area East

~Hunt Area: that portion of Unit 20A bounded on the north by the south side of the Rex Trail, on the east by the east bank of the Totatlanika River and Dexter Creek, on the south by the divide separating the Totatlanika River/California Creek drainage from the Healy Creek and Lignite Creek drainages, and on the west by the western side of the Golden Valley Electric Association's Northern Intertie.

DM770C Healy-Lignite Management Area

~Hunt Area: that portion of Unit 20A within the Healy-Lignite Management Area (Archery only) east of the west side of the Golden Valley Electric Association's Northern Intertie

DM770D Healy Creek

~Hunt Area: that portion of Unit 20A drained by Healy Creek, upstream of Coal Creek (at N 63° 52.833' W 148° 40.90').

DM770E Moody Creek

~Hunt Area: that portion of Unit 20A drained by Moody Creek.

DM770F Wood River Controlled Use Area west

~Hunt Area: that portion of Unit 20A bounded on the north by the south side of the Rex Trail, on the east by the east bank of Tatlanika and Sheep Creeks, on the south by the divide separating the Tatlanika Creek drainage from the Healy Creek drainage, and on the west by Dexter Creek and the east bank of the Totatlanika River.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I would like to see draw hunt DM770 be divided up more like the antlerless hunts in the same area. Over the last 28 years I've been hunting the middle western part Unit 20A I've seen declines in bull moose numbers in the areas that are easily accessed. Leaving the people without any bull tags very few bulls to hunt or having to find other areas to hunt. There are few bulls that reach the 50-inch or that have the four brow tines. Spreading out the any bulls taken might open up some legal bulls left in the areas easier accessed and spread the area of harvested moose over a larger more controllable area.

PROPOSED BY: Paul Nyberg (EG-F19-076)

PROPOSAL 122

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
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(18)

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

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season Subsistence and General Hunts	Nonresident Open Season
...		
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	
1 antlerless moose by registration permit only; a person may not take a cow accompanied by a calf; or	Oct. 1–last day of Feb.	
...		
1 moose by targeted permit only; by shotgun, crossbow, or bow and arrow only; up to 100 permits may be issued	Season to be announced by emergency order	
...		
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	

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season Subsistence and General Hunts	Nonresident Open Season
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1 antlerless moose by registration permit only; a person may not take a cow accompanied by a calf; or

Aug. 25– last day of Feb.

...

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

Season to be announced by emergency order

...

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Antlerless moose hunting seasons must be reauthorized annually. The 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 could quickly increase to levels beyond the ability of the habitat to support the moose population. Opportunity to hunt a harvestable surplus of cow moose would be lost, and the ability to meet IM harvest objectives could 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. Additionally, the population may need to be reduced dramatically when new data are available and analyzed.

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 to manage these moose populations at optimum levels. The additional harvest will help in meeting IM 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 maintaining moose densities at a level compatible with their habitat. Motorists and residents may benefit from reduced moose–vehicle collisions and moose–human conflicts.

The current objective is to maintain moose numbers within the IM population objective of 10,000–15,000 moose, 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 limiting this population, the 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 by drawing permits for a majority of Unit 20A and a registration permit outside the nonsubsistence area in northwest Unit 20A near Nenana. The harvest objective will be based on the most recent survey results.

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 10,622–14,009 moose (90% confidence interval) in 2015. In 2016, the board adopted the IM population objective of 10,000–15,000 moose.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game. (HQ-F19-174)

PROPOSAL 123

5 AAC 92.530 (13). Management areas.

Expand the Healy-Lignite Management Area in Unit 20A as follows:

13 Healy-Lignite Management area

- (A) The area consists of that portion of Unit 20A that includes the entire Lignite Creek drainage, and that portion of the Nenana River drainage south of the Lignite Creek drainage and north of a boundary beginning at the confluence of the Nenana River and Healy Creek, then easterly along the south bank of Healy Creek to its confluence with Coal Creek, then northeasterly to the headwaters of Sanderson Creek at Usibelli Peak, **from headwaters of Lignite creek northwesterly to the headwaters of Winter creek including the entire drainages of Winter creek and Bonanza Creek to the confluence at Marguerite Creek, the entire upper Marguerite creek drainage to the confluence at Emma creek on the western bank and then northerly to the confluence of Bonanza Creek on the Eastern bank of Marguerite creek;**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I would like to see the Healy-Lignite Management Area expanded to the north. It is my understanding that the bow and arrow area was set up many ago to for the safety of the workers at Usibelli coal mine. Now that the active coal mine area has expanded, I believe it's time for the bow and arrow area to follow.

PROPOSED BY: Paul Nyberg (EG-F19-075)

PROPOSAL 124

5 AAC 92.530(13). Management areas.

Allow shotguns for hunting within the Healy-Lignite Management Area in Unit 20A as follows:

Healy-Lignite Management Area– Unit 20A that includes the entire Lignite Creek drainage, and that portion of the Nenana River drainage south of the Lignite Creek drainage and north of a boundary beginning at the confluence of the Nenana River and Healy Creek, then easterly along the south bank of Healy Creek to its confluence with Coal Creek, then northeasterly to the headwaters of Sanderson Creek at Usibelli Peak. Open to hunting by bow and arrow **and shotgun.** Small game may also be taken by falconry.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? To change the Healy-Lignite management area weapons restriction to include the use of shotgun use also. This would allow more opportunity for hunters to use the management area, especially for the taking of small game and game birds.

PROPOSED BY: Jonathan Talerico (EG-F19-094)

PROPOSAL 125

5 AAC 92.530(13). Management areas.

Allow shotguns for hunting small game, within the Healy-Lignite Management Area in Unit 20A as follows:

Healy-Lignite Management Area – Unit 20A that includes the entire Lignite Creek drainage, and that portion of the Nenana River drainage south of the Lignite Creek drainage and north of a boundary beginning at the confluence of the Nenana River and Healy Creek, then easterly along the south bank of Healy Creek to its confluence with Coal Creek, then northeasterly to the headwaters of Sanderson Creek at Usibelli Peak. Open to hunting by bow and arrow **and shotgun.** **Shotgun may only be used for the taking of small game.** Small game may also be taken by falconry.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? To change the Healy-Lignite management area weapons restriction to include the use of shotgun for the taking of small game. This would allow more opportunity for hunters to use the management area, especially for the taking of upland birds and waterfowl.

PROPOSED BY: Jonathan Talerico (EG-F19-095)

PROPOSAL 126

5 AAC 92.530(13). Management areas.

Allow shotguns and rimfire weapons for hunting small game within the Healy-Lignite Management Area in Unit 20A as follows:

Healy-Lignite Management Area – Unit 20A that includes the entire Lignite Creek drainage, and that portion of the Nenana River drainage south of the Lignite Creek drainage and north of a boundary beginning at the confluence of the Nenana River and Healy Creek, then easterly along the south bank of Healy Creek to its confluence with Coal Creek, then northeasterly to the headwaters of Sanderson Creek at Usibelli Peak. Open to hunting by bow and arrow only. Small game may also be taken by falconry, **shotgun, and rimfire firearms.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? To change the weapons restrictions of the Healy-Lignite Management area for bow and arrow only to include the use of shotguns and rimfire firearms for the taking of small game. This would allow many more hunters to be able to use the area for the harvesting of small game.

PROPOSED BY: Zachary Cizmowski (EG-F19-097)

PROPOSAL 127

5 AAC 92.540(3)(F). Controlled use areas.

Modify the boundary of the Wood River Controlled Use Area in Unit 20A as follows:

(F) the Wood River Controlled Use Area:

- (i) the area consists of that portion of Unit 20(A) starting at the point where Snow Mountain Gulch Creek meets the Wood River, then bounded on West by the East bank of the Wood River, following the Wood River upstream to its headwaters, then following the Glacier East to the divide separating drainages flowing East (such as the West Fork Little Delta River) and those flowing west (such as: Virginia Creek, Kansas Creek, Chute Creek, Rodgers Creek, Sheep Creek, Glacier Creek, and Three mile Creek), then following the divide North to the South bank of Snow Mountain Gulch Creek drainage, then following west down Snow Mountain Gulch Creek drainage to its intersection with the Wood River.
- (ii) the area is closed to the use of any motorized vehicle, except aircraft, for big game hunting, including the transportation of big game hunters, their hunting gear, or parts of big game, from August 1 through September 30; however, this provision does not prohibit motorized access via, or transportation of game on, the Parks Highway, or the transportation into the area of game meat that has been processed for human consumption;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I ask the Alaska Board Game to change the boundary of the Wood River Controlled Use Area to allow the use of motorized vehicles in a larger area of Unit 20A. Currently there is a tremendous amount of motorized

(ATV/UTV) hunting pressure in the Rex Dome and Rex Trail area, which is condensed and localized by the current controlled use boundaries. Opening more of this area would alleviate some pressure in the front end of this zone, and disperse the harvest deeper into Unit 20A. I propose the current non-motorized controlled use area boundary be pushed back to east/south of the Wood River.

PROPOSED BY: Erik Haugen (EG-F19-079)

PROPOSAL 128

5 AAC 92.540(3)(F). Controlled use areas.

Modify the boundary of the Wood River Controlled Use Area in Unit 20A as follows:

10 Wood River Controlled Use Area – Unit 20A bounded on the north by the south side of the Rex Trail beginning at its intersection with the east bank of the Tatlanika Creek, then easterly along the Rex Trail to Gold King airstrip, then from Gold King airstrip along the trail’s extension along the north side of Japan Hills to the Wood River; bounded on the east by the east bank of the Wood River, including the Wood River drainage upstream from and including the Snow Mountain Gulch Creek drainage; bounded on the south by the divide separating the Yanert River drainage from the drainages of the Healy Creek, Moody Creek, Montana Creek, and the Wood River; and bounded on the west by the east bank of the Nenana River from the divide separating the drainage of the Yanert River and Montana Creek north to Healy Creek, then easterly along the south bank of Healy Creek to the north fork of Healy Creek, then along the north fork of Healy Creek to its headwaters, then along a straight line to the headwaters of Last Chance Creek, then along the east bank of Last Chance Creek to the confluence of Last Chance Creek and Moose Creek, then along the east bank of Moose Creek to the confluence of Moose Creek and the Tatlanika Creek, and then along the east bank of the Tatlanika creek to the Rex Trail.

The area is closed to the use of any motorized vehicle, except aircraft for big game hunting including the transportation of any big game hunters, their hunting gear, and/or parts of big game, August 1-September 30; however, this does not prohibit motorized access via, or transportation of game on, the Parks Highway or the transportation into the area of game meat that has been processed for human consumption.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Access through motorized area is very limited and in some instances/areas not possible to navigate through without crossing over into and through the Wood River Controlled Use Area. Opening this area up would allow for access to more motorized area for the general public with ease, by use of existing mining/hunting trails and roads that are already in place, so as to not be held out by a border and kept from accessing these lands, and giving the public ease of access to these lands.

PROPOSED BY: Jonathan and Andrew Talerico (EG-F19-091 & 092)

PROPOSAL 129

5 AAC 92.540(3)(H)(ii). Controlled use areas.

Change the closure dates for the Yanert Controlled Use Area (CUA) in Unit 20A to align with the Wood River CUA, and clarify whether horse feed is considered “hunting gear” as follows:

Align the Wood River CUA and Yanert Controlled Use Area closure dates.
Amend 5AAC 92.540(H)(ii) to read:

The area is closed to the use of any motorized vehicle, except aircraft, for big game hunting, including the transportation of big game hunters, their hunting gear, or parts of big game, from Aug. 1 – Sept. 30; however, this provision does not prohibit motorized access, or transportation of game, on the Parks Highway, or the transportation into the area of game meat that has been processed for human consumption;

Whether or not the Board of Game agrees with the above solution, we would ask the board to clarify for the Alaska Wildlife Troopers whether hay and grain to feed horses falls under the category of hunting “gear.”

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Yanert Controlled Use Area
– No defined closure dates to motorized access.

When the Yanert Controlled Use Area (CUA) was instituted, unlike the Wood River and other CUAs that mandate a specific time frame for closure for certain types of motorized access, there was no specific closure dates to the Yanert CUA.

While there may have been reasons originally for making the Yanert CUA closed year-round to motorized access other than aircraft for hunting purposes, we can see no reason now to keep the area closed year-round to ATVs and snowmachines in terms of transporting hunters and their hunting gear, or hay and grain to feed horses at hunting camps with the CUA.

There is currently one moose hunt offered in Unit 20A Yanert CUA by harvest ticket for both residents and nonresidents and the season runs September 1 – September 25. There is one caribou hunt by draw permit DC827 with a season from August 10 – September 20. And there is a general season sheep hunt August 10 – September 20.

So why exactly is the Yanert CUA closed year-round for ATVs and snowmachines for the transportation of hunters and their hunting gear? The Alaska Wildlife Troopers interpret the Yanert CUA to be closed to motorized access other than aircraft year-round for the purpose of hunting or transportation of hunting gear. Some troopers also take the position that hay and grain used to feed horses is hunting “gear” and some residents have been prevented from transporting hay and grain into camps within the Yanert during the winter months by snowmachine. This is causing logistical/economic issues for those with camps within the Yanert CUA who wish to travel to their camps during the winter months via snowmachine or ATV and may be transporting hunting “gear”. We see no reason why anyone should not be allowed to transport hay and grain and tents and other

hunting “gear” into the CUA during the winter months via snowmachine or ATV, and avoid the prohibitive cost of having to hire an air-taxi.

PROPOSED BY: Resident Hunters of Alaska (EG-F19-133)

Note: The Americans with Disabilities Act requires the State of Alaska to make reasonable modifications when the modifications are necessary to avoid discrimination on the basis of disability, unless the modification would fundamentally alter the nature of the program or activity.

PROPOSAL 130

**5 AAC 5 AAC 92.104. Authorization for methods and means disability exemptions.
5 AAC 92.540(3)(h). Controlled use areas.**

Disallow the issuance of methods and means disability exemption permits for the Yanert Controlled Use Area in Unit 20A as follows:

Change the regulation to prohibit the issuance of methods and means exemption permits within the Yanert Controlled Use Area. If left unaddressed, this situation is sure to grow. There are many hunters who would take advantage of this opportunity at the expense of all the other hunters who value highly these special limited access hunts.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Issue: Methods and means exemption permits in the Yanert Controlled Use Area. The State of Alaska has allowed motorized access into the Yanert Controlled Use Area which is a non-motorized hunt area.

I want to make my personal thoughts and experience concerning the methods and means exemptions permit given in the Yanert known to those who make the decisions concerning these matters in hopes of preventing this permit from ever being issued again. My family and I have been hunting in the Yanert for more than 20 years and I’m hoping to preserve this very special type of hunt that we have so enjoyed-for my children and grandchildren.

My son and I took a friend of ours horseback hunting in the Yanert in 2014 and 2015, he had been hurt a year earlier and was now handicapped. Because of his lifelong experience as a horseback hunter he proved that he was capable of handling himself in the saddle again as he always had!

At the end of our hunt last year 2018, my daughter two sons and I were riding out on the trail and were shocked as we came upon an ATV driven by someone, my handicap friend was in the passenger’s seat, he also had another ATV in the parking lot where other members of his family were. A few weeks later I went to visit him, I wanted to express my thoughts about him using an ATV in the Yanert. As we spoke, I reminded him how precious this area was to my family and I and how we felt that it was a big deal to share it with him as well. I explained that by getting the special permit he was creating a situation that will change the way we hunt in the Yanert because there will be many to follow. He told me his reason for getting the permit was because he had gotten rid of his horses.

This special access permit has been done to help disabled persons but is inconsistent with the purpose and intent of the access restriction in the first place. It has created a conflict in the field between those with special access permits and other hunters in the field who historically and currently choose these restricted areas where they can hunt without the presence of motorized vehicles and the factors they introduce. For many, the hunting season provides a very special time to escape the modern, mechanized world. Considerable effort and care is given to planning, preparation, and performance of backcountry hunts. The reward is both in finding oneself in an area free of noisy, smelly, trail ripping machinery and in the harvesting of game that is not being disturbed by these vehicles.

PROPOSED BY: Tom Malapanis (EG-F19-126)

PROPOSAL 131

5 AAC 92.085. Unlawful methods of taking big game; exceptions.

Limit the use of off-road vehicles for moose hunting in Unit 20A as follows:

Change regulations to read: In Unit 20A it is against the law to hunt moose until after 3:00 am the day following the day you operated or were conveyed by any off-road vehicle (ORV) in Unit 20A.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Use of off-road vehicles (ORVs) in Unit 20A. This change will help eliminate the unethical pursuit of moose by ORVs. Additionally, it will reduce habitat and trail deterioration being caused by ORVs. This will also enhance the overall outdoor experience for hunters.

If nothing is done the unethical use of ORVs and deterioration of the environment will continue to accelerate.

No other solution was found.

PROPOSED BY: Leroy Sutton (EG-F19-053)

PROPOSAL 132

5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.

Shorten the moose hunting season in Units 20A and 20C as follows:

Having the moose season end five days earlier would give the moose time to calm down and most cows would be bred, and the calves would be larger going into winter.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Moose season that runs from September 1 to September 25 gets lots of pressure the last five days when moose are getting ready to breed, this also happens the last part of October and November if the cows don't get bred in September, they get push back a whole month or two which makes the calf that much smaller going into winter.

PROPOSED BY: Wayne Valcq

(EG-F19-069)

PROPOSAL 133

5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.

5 AAC 92.530. Management areas.

Establish the Stampede Trail Management Area in Unit 20C for archery and muzzleloader hunting only as follows:

Unit 20C

(X) the Stampede Trail Management Area:

- A. the area consists of that portion of Unit 20(C) that includes the Stampede Trail, with a boundary of Denali National Park land on the South, West, and North sides, with the North boundary line (which travels from West to East) extending from the existing Park boundary line heading straight East to the Parks Highway.
- B. The area is open to hunting by bow and arrow or muzzleloader only.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Stampede Trail corridor in Unit 20C has seen a dramatic increase in hunting pressure over the last ten years. A direct contributor to this increased pressure is easy access from the highway, and the “any bull” harvest. We ask the Alaska Board of Game to create a Stampeded Trail Management area to make this an archery and muzzleloader only zone.

PROPOSED BY: Middle Nenana River Fish & Game Advisory Committee

(EG-F19-080)

PROPOSAL 134

5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.

Open a resident youth hunt for moose in Unit 20C as follows:

In Unit 20C, add a line in for another resident hunt, one bull, youth hunt only with dates August 25 to August 31.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Add a youth hunt to Unit 20C. Unit 20C is a great place with easy access to introduce youth hunters before the chaos of general season.

PROPOSED BY: Paul Nyberg

(EG-F19-077)

PROPOSAL 135

5 AAC 85.045(18). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.

Shorten the moose season five days in a portion of Unit 20B as follows.

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season	Nonresident Open Season
(18) ...		
Unit 20(B), that portion of the Salcha River drainage downstream Of Goose Creek and upstream from And including Butte Creek		
1 bull, or	<u>Sept. 1–Sept. 15</u> [SEPT. 1–SEPT. 20]	<u>Sept. 5–Sept. 15</u> [SEPT. 5–SEPT. 20]
...		
Unit 20(B), that portion southeast of the Moose Creek dike within one-half mile of each side of the Richardson Highway		
1 bull, or	<u>Sept. 1–Sept. 15</u> [SEPT. 1–SEPT. 20]	<u>Sept. 5–Sept. 15</u> [SEPT. 5–SEPT. 20]
...		
Remainder of Unit 20(B)		
1 bull, or	<u>Sept. 1–Sept. 15</u> [SEPT. 1–SEPT. 20]	<u>Sept. 5–Sept. 15</u> [SEPT. 5–SEPT. 20]
...		

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Game Management Unit 20B has a management objective to maintain a bull-to-cow ratio of 30 bulls per 100 cows. This ratio has been declining in the more accessible portions of Unit 20B since 2015. The 2017 survey showed 17 bulls per 100 cows, an indication that the harvest of bull moose is likely too high.

After providing this information to, and gaining support from the local advisory committees, an emergency order was issued in July 2018 to shorten the season to the dates that are proposed. An

emergency order will also be issued for the 2019 season, to continue to improve the bull-to-cow ratio in these portions of Unit 20B.

Prior to 2011, these portions of Unit 20B had a September 1–15 moose season for residents and a September 5–15 moose season for nonresidents. The Board of Game lengthened the season in 2011 to September 1–20 for residents and September 5–20 for nonresidents because the moose population was above the Intensive Management (IM) population objective of 12,000–15,000 moose and the harvestable surplus of bulls was high. The moose population has decreased to 12,871 moose, which is a more appropriate level for the available habitat. Returning the moose season to the pre-2011 dates during the coming regulatory year is likely to alleviate the low bull:cow ratio and allow it to return to the objective of 30 bull per 100 cows.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F19-160)

PROPOSAL 136

5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.

Extend the nonresident hunting season for moose in Unit 20B Remainder as follows:

Nonresident moose season in Unit 20B Remainder: One Bull, September 1-September 15 (season to coincide with resident season).

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Nonresident moose season dates in Unit 20B, specifically in 20B remainder. The fees for nonresident tags and license in Alaska have doubled this past year. It now costs \$960 for a hunting license and moose tag, a significant sum. In addition, the season was shortened by five days in Unit 20B. I understand the reasons for both shortening the season and doubling the cost. The cost increase, while dramatic, puts Alaska roughly on par with out of state fees in other west coast states for hunting. However, virtually all of the out of state seasons and bag limits in other states are the same for residents and nonresidents once the nonresident pays the out of state fees. When the season was longer, and the costs lower it may have made some sense for the nonresident season to start five days later than the resident season. However, with the shorter season and doubling of cost this now unduly burdens out of state hunters. Alaska should make the season dates the same for residents and nonresidents in the spirit of fairness, and to ensure that out of state hunters continue to support Alaska financially by coming to hunt your great state.

PROPOSED BY: Ken Wegner (EG-F19-003)

PROPOSAL 137

5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.

Eliminate the muzzleloader registration moose permit hunt RM782, in Unit 20B as follows:

Eliminate hunt RM782.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Elimination of Unit 20B special muzzleloader moose hunt RM782. This hunt started out in 2011 as drawing hunt DM782 and remained that way through 2014. In 2015 it was changed to registration hunt RM782 and remains so today. This hunt takes place in a relatively inaccessible area. From 2011-2014 only two moose were harvested in this muzzleloader moose hunt and zero moose were harvested since the hunt became a registration hunt in 2015. It is costing the Department of Fish and Game unnecessary funds to keep this hunt going, considering the low participation and low harvest success. We propose the Board of Game eliminate this hunt from the books and save the department the funds it expends to continue this hunt.

PROPOSED BY: Fairbanks Fish & Game Advisory Committee (EG-F19-105)

PROPOSAL 138

5 AAC 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.

Create a fall archery and muzzleloader hunt for moose in Unit 20B Remainder as follows:

Option one:

Unit 20B Remainder; residents only; one bull by bow and arrow or muzzleloader only by harvest ticket; season dates September 16 – September 20.

Option two:

Unit 20B Remainder; residents only; one bull by bow and arrow or muzzleloader only by registration permit of which applications available in Fairbanks beginning July 20; season dates September 16 – September 20.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Add a weapons restricted hunting option for Unit 20B remainder for September 16 - 20 for residents allowing bow and arrow and muzzleloader. This would allow residents additional moose hunting opportunities during the most productive time of the season.

Potential opposition: This would increase the number of moose harvested in a year where the population is less than average years. However, by making it a short weapons restricted hunt the harvest would be lower than a non-weapon restricted hunt.

To further control the number of moose harvested, this could be a registration hunt in order to keep harvest number within management goals.

PROPOSED BY: Dane Happ (EG-F19-087)

PROPOSAL 139

5 AAC 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.

Allow muzzleloader hunting in addition to the archery hunt in the drainage of the Middle Fork of the Chena River in Unit 20B as follows:

For Unit 20B drainage of the Middle (East) Fork of the Chena River: One bull by bow and arrow, or muzzleloader only. Harvest Ticket. September 26-30.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Change the hunt in Unit 20B, drainage of the Middle (East) Fork of the Chena River to allow muzzleloader in addition to bow and arrow only for the September 26 – September 30 season.

The current muzzleloader season (RM782) for the drainage has difficult access as there is often inadequate snow coverage and open crossings for winter transportation. Similarly, the conditions are generally too cold for boat access. By allowing muzzleloaders from September 26 – September 30, it would provide a good opportunity for moose hunters later in the fall season.

Potential opposition: bowhunters may not wish to see an increase in hunters or wish not to compete with muzzleloader hunters. Although there would be an increase in competition, I do not think that allowing muzzleloader hunters would greatly encroach on bowhunters for such a large hunt area. It would certainly be less competition than allowing non-weapons restricted hunt.

PROPOSED BY: Dane Happ (EG-F19-086)

PROPOSAL 140

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		
...		

Units and Bag Limits

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 Management Area; a recipient of a drawing permit is prohibited from taking an antlered bull moose in the Fairbanks Management Area; or

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

Unit 20(B), remainder of the Fairbanks Management Area

...

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 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

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

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

...

1 antlerless moose by registration permit only

**Resident
Open Season
Subsistence and
General Hunts**
Sept. 1–Nov. 27

Dec. 1–Jan. 31

Sept. 1–Nov. 27

Season to be announced
by emergency order

Oct. 15–Feb. 28

**Nonresident
Open Season**
Sept. 1–Nov. 27

Dec. 1–Jan. 31

Sept. 1–Nov. 27

No open season.

No open season.

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season Subsistence and General Hunts	Nonresident 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	
1 antlerless moose by registration permit only; a person may not take a cow accompanied by a calf; or	Oct. 1–Feb. 28	No open season.
...		
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–Last day of Feb.	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	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	No open season
...		

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season Subsistence and General Hunts	Nonresident 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	No open season.
1 antlerless moose by registration permit only; a person may not take a cow accompanied by a calf; or	Oct. 1– Last day of Feb.	
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	No open season.
...		

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Antlerless moose hunting seasons must be reauthorized annually. The 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 exceed population objectives causing habitat degradation and a loss of opportunity to hunt a surplus of antlerless moose. Furthermore, 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.

The reauthorization of antlerless moose hunts in Unit 20B will allow Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) to manage the moose population within the population objectives of 12,000 to 15,000 moose. Hunting opportunity and harvest will increase and allow ADF&G to manage this moose population at optimum levels. The additional harvest is necessary to meet intensive management harvest objectives while maintaining bull-to-cow ratios within objectives. Subsistence hunters will have reasonable opportunity to harvest cow moose. Moose populations will benefit by maintaining moose densities at levels compatible with their habitat. Motorists and residents may benefit from reduced moose–vehicle collisions and moose–human conflicts.

The moose population level in Unit 20B is currently within the population objective of 12,000–15,000 moose. The population declined from an estimated 20,173 moose in 2009 to 11,064 in 2015, due in large part to antlerless moose hunts designed to lower the population to those objectives. The population increased slightly to 12,871 moose in 2017. To maintain the current

population level, because the population estimate is within objectives, the department recommends limited antlerless hunts in the Minto Flats Management Area (MFMA) and the Fairbanks Management Area (FMA). The department will continue to monitor the moose population and may implement additional antlerless hunts if the population continues to trend upward.

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 is 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 (4.4 moose/mi²). To reduce the moose population, the harvest of antlerless moose during RY12 and RY13 was about 2.5% of the population. The fall 2015 and 2017 estimates showed more appropriate densities of 1.6 and 1.7 moose/mi², respectively. Because the population level has been stable and within the population objectives, the antlerless harvest has been reduced to approximately 1% of the total population to maintain the current population level.

Targeted Hunt—The purpose of the targeted hunt is to allow the public to harvest moose that are causing nuisance or public safety issues. 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 help meet the IM harvest objectives for Unit 20B.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game. (HQ-F19-175)

PROPOSAL 141

5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.

Eliminate registration moose permit hunt RM785, in the Minto Flats Management Area in Unit 20B as follows:

We believe that the antlerless hunt that occurs in the Minto Flats Management Area, RM785, not continue at this time.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? As stewards of the area in the communities of Tanana, Rampart and Manley and in support of the residents of the neighboring Minto Flats Management Area, we express our concerns with the continuation of the cow hunts in light of the increased wolf population. Our logic is to pause current regulations prohibiting cow hunts in the Minto Flats Management Unit until further evaluation occurs.

Local observations and real time hunting success in my area are demonstrating that moose are not as plentiful in our area as they once were. We are having difficulty meeting our needs during the traditional hunting season.

PROPOSED BY: Tanana Rampart Manley Fish & Game Advisory Committee (EG-F19-127)

PROPOSAL 142

5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.

Eliminate registration moose permit hunt RM785, in the Minto Flats Management Area in Unit 20B as follows:

RM785 antlerless moose hunt would be repealed. While proponents recognize that elimination of this hunt will represent a restriction to subsistence opportunity, elimination of this cow moose hunt is necessary to assist ADF&G in appropriately managing moose for ceremonial uses, which is of higher priority than the Unit 20B drawing permit cow hunts that ADF&G has stated is threatened by ceremonial uses of cow moose in the greater Fairbanks Area. It is also important to ensure that the moose population respond to recent years of intensive management and excessive cow harvests given the ongoing increasing demand for moose in the Minto Flats.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Eliminate the antlerless moose hunt (RM785) in Minto Flats Management Area. The winter antlerless moose hunt no longer has the support of local residents who have observed declines in local moose populations and feel that all hunting of cow moose should be prohibited in order to better provide for future sustainable harvests of moose for regular general hunting, subsistence hunting, and constitutionally-protected ceremonial hunting.

PROPOSED BY: Anna Frank (EG-F19-122)

PROPOSAL 143

5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.

Eliminate all antlerless moose drawing hunts in Unit 20B except for the Minto Flats Management Area as follows:

All Unit 20B antlerless moose hunts would be repealed including: DM698, DM699, DM700, DM701, DM702, DM703, DM704, DM705, DM706, DM707, DM708, DM709, DM710, DM711, DM712, DM713, DM714, DM715, DM716, DM717, DM718, DM719, DM720, DM721, DM722, DM723, DM724, DM725, DM726, DM727, DM728, DM729, DM730, DM731, DM732, DM733, DM734, DM735, DM736, DM737, DM738, DM739, DM740, DM741, DM742, DM743, DM744, DM745, DM783, DM786, DM788, DM789, AM751, YM601, YM602, YM603, YM604, YM605, YM606, YM607, YM608, YM609, YM610, YM611, YM612, YM613, YM614, YM615, YM616, YM617, YM618, YM619, YM620, YM621, YM622, YM623, YM624.

While proponents recognize that elimination of these hunts will represent a loss of general hunting opportunity, elimination of this cow moose hunt is necessary to assist ADF&G in appropriately managing moose for ceremonial uses, which is of higher priority than the Unit 20B drawing permit cow hunts that ADF&G has stated is threatened by ceremonial uses of cow moose in the greater Fairbanks Area. It is also important to ensure that the moose population respond to recent years of intensive management and excessive cow harvests given the ongoing and increasing demand for moose in the Minto Flats. If cow moose hunts remain necessary for ADF&G management, then ceremonial uses of cow moose should be prioritized above drawing permit hunts for weapons restricted recreational hunts in the greater Fairbanks area and ADF&G should stop recording ceremonial harvests as illegal harvests in Fairbanks Area moose management reports

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Eliminate all antlerless moose hunts in Unit 20B, except the Minto Flats Management Area. Antlerless moose hunts no longer have the support of local residents who have been stopped from taking cow moose for certain religious ceremonies. Proponents wish to prohibit all hunting of cow moose in order to better provide for future sustainable harvests of moose for regular general hunting, subsistence hunting, and constitutionally protected ceremonial hunting.

PROPOSED BY: Anna Frank (EG-F19-124)

PROPOSAL 144

5 AAC 85.045 Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.

Shorten the antlerless moose seasons in Unit 20A and 20B as follows:

Close this season on November 30th.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The harvesting of antlerless moose in December, January and February. You are causing additional stress on moose that are going into the winter. It also allows bulls that have dropped antlers to be harvested in areas with antler restrictions.

PROPOSED BY: Leonard Jewkes

(EG-F19-115)

PROPOSAL 145

5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.

Modify the nonresident bag limit for moose in Unit 25C as follows:

Nonresident hunters, Unit 25C: One bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with four or more brow tines on at least one side, Sept. 5 - Sept. 15.

[NONRESIDENT HUNTERS, UNIT 25C:ONE BULL SEPT. 5 - SEPT. 15.]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? In Unit 25C nonresident hunters can harvest ONE BULL. Due to the low moose density in Unit 25C, Alaska residents should take priority over nonresidents in harvesting the small bulls. The primary intention is to benefit resident Alaskans so that they can put food on their tables.

PROPOSED BY: Jormah Pope

(EG-F19-031)

PROPOSAL 146

5 AAC 85.025. Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou.

Allocate up to ten percent of the caribou drawing permits DC827 in Unit 20A, to nonresidents as follows:

Allocate no more than 10 percent of DC827 permits to nonresidents,

Amend 5AAC 85.025 to read:

Unit 20(A) August 10 – September 20, one bull by drawing permit only; up to 200 permits may be issued. **Nonresidents may receive up to 10 percent of the total permits awarded.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? DC827 draw permit allocation. According to data from the Department of Fish and Game when the Board of Game doubled the

number of draw permits one could submit to six, instead of three, there was a huge influx of nonresident applications submitted by hunt booking agents such as World Wide Trophy Adventures and Huntin’ Fool for the DC827 caribou permit for Unit 20A. Resident permit applications also increased, but not near the quadrupling of nonresident applications.

In 2018, for example, based on raw data from the department, there were ~1448 nonresident applications for the DC827 hunt, compared to ~379 in 2016 prior to the doubling of permit applications. This also led to nonresidents winning 23% of the permits in 2018, compared to 6% in 2016.

Resident Hunters of Alaska has remained constant in advocating for a 90/10 percent resident/nonresident allocation of all draw permits. Draw permits mean there isn’t enough game

for everyone to be able to hunt and in those cases, residents should have a clear priority opportunity.

For draw permits that allow equal opportunity to draw among both residents and nonresidents, the increase in the number of permits one can apply for has led and will continue to lead to the kind of situations we see with this permit whereby hunt booking companies flood the state with nonresident applications and nonresidents then gain a higher percentage of permits.

There should be limits on nonresident opportunity.

PROPOSED BY: Resident Hunters of Alaska (EG-F19-125)

PROPOSAL 147

5 AAC 85.020. Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear

Extend the hunting season for brown bear in Units 20A and 20B Remainder as follows:

Brown/grizzly Bear 5 AAC 85.020.
Unit 20A / 20B Remainder: Sept 1 - [MAY 31] **June 30**.
One Bear every regulatory year.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Lengthen the brown/grizzly bear season in Unit 20A/20B Remainder from September 1 – May 31 to September 1 – June 30. This will better align with bear baiting season which is April 15 – June 30. Currently hunters can take black bear over bait until June 30 but you can only take a brown/grizzly bear until May 31. This change will allow hunters to take brown/grizzly bears until the end of baiting season on June 30.

PROPOSED BY: Jeff Lucas (EG-F19-110)

PROPOSAL 148

5 AAC 85.020. Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear.

Extend the hunting season for brown bear in Unit 20B Remainder as follows:

Unit 20B Remainder: September 1 – June 30.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I propose that the brown/grizzly bear season in Unit 20B Remainder be extended until June 30th. In 2018, the moose season in much of Unit 20B was shortened by several days and now ends on September 15. Common sense would say the season was shortened due to a lack of resource, therefore extending the brown/grizzly bear season within Unit 20B Remainder would be a prudent management strategy in order to increase the resource to a more sustainable number.

PROPOSED BY: Nicholas Muche (EG-F19-051)

PROPOSAL 149

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

Allow brown bears to be taken over bait in Unit 25C as follows:

In Units 7, 11, 12, 13, 14A, 14B, 15, 16, 18, 19A, 19D, 20A, 20B, 20C, 20D north of the Tanana River, 20E, 20F, 21C, 21D, 23, 24C, 24D, **25C** and 25D brown/ grizzly bears may be taken at bear bait stations. Hunters must comply with seasons, bag limits, salvage, and sealing requirements for brown/grizzly bears (registration permits and locking-tags may be required in some areas, contact ADF&G for details).

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Align brown bear baiting regulation with neighboring game management units. Allow brown/grizzly bears to be taken at bear bait stations in Unit 25C.

Currently hunters mostly take grizzly bears incidental to their pursuit of caribou and moose in Unit 25C. Units 20B and 25C have been identified for intensive management of moose and caribou; harvesting grizzly bear populations at the higher range of sustainable harvest would be consistent with the mandate to increase moose and caribou populations.

PROPOSED BY: Michael Hajworonsky (EG-F19-027)

PROPOSAL 150

5 AAC 92.113. Intensive Management Plans III.

Establish an intensive management plan for wolves and bear in the Minto Flats Management Area in Unit 20B as follows:

The intent of Alaska Board of Game moose hunting regulations in Minto Flats Management Area (MFMA) is to provide for all uses of moose for general resident and nonresident moose hunting, subsistence moose hunting by Alaska residents, and ceremonial harvests by Alaska residents for Alaska Native funerary and memorial potlatch ceremonies. Because of public concerns about the impact of high wolf numbers on moose in the MFMA, the Alaska Board of Game should direct the ADF&G to develop an Intensive Management feasibility assessment to evaluate the benefits of a predation control plan for wolves (and/or bears?) to increase the moose population for high levels of all human uses in the Minto Flats Management Area, including ceremonial uses of cow moose.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Establish an Intensive Management plan to control predation by wolves in Unit 20B, MFMA. Local residents are concerned about the high numbers of wolves in the MFMA and their impact on the availability of moose for local customary and traditional subsistence uses and ceremonial uses for certain Alaska Native religious ceremonies. This area is all state-managed refuge lands, Alaska Native allotments, and Alaska Native corporation lands, as well as limited amounts of other private land, which currently falls under the jurisdiction of the Alaska Board of Game and the ADF&G.

PROPOSED BY: Alexander Hanna

(EG-F19-119)

PROPOSAL 151

5 AAC 85.056. Hunting seasons and bag limits for wolf.

Change the season dates for hunting wolves in a portion of Unit 20C as follows:

Realign the wolf season in a portion of Unit 20C to the rest of the unit:

5 AAC 85.056. Hunting seasons and bag limits for wolf

[UNIT 20(C), THAT PORTION WEST OF A LINE BEGINNING AT 63_ 48.146' N. LAT., 148_ 59.934' W. LONG., NORTH TO 63_ 49.445' N. LAT., 148_ 59.935' W. LONG., THEN WEST TO 63_ 49.445' N. LAT., 149_ 12.699' W. LONG., THEN NORTH TO 63_ 54.642' N. LAT., 149_ 12.699' W. LONG., AND BOUNDED ON THE SOUTH, WEST, AND NORTH BY DENALI NATIONAL PARK

AUG. 10 - APR. 15 AUG. 10 - APR. 15]

Unit 20 [REMAINDER] 10 wolves Aug 10 - May 31

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Realigning the season to its historical alignment with the rest of Unit 20. The restriction on the season was a knee jerk reaction to a National Park Service collared wolf harvested at a commercially operated illegal bait site. The realignment has had no biological impact. The only impact has been lost opportunity for hunters. Simplification of the regs is good for everyone and the rare fleeting opportunities to harvest wolves is insignificant biologically.

PROPOSED BY: Hunter and Gatherers Lives Matter

(EG-F19-135)

PROPOSAL 152

5 AAC 92.510. Areas closed to hunting.

5 AAC 92.550. Areas closed to trapping.

Establish closed areas for the taking of wolves near Denali National Park in Unit 20C as follows:

We propose two closure options to meet the objectives of this proposal. Proposal 1 represents the most effective closure in terms of limiting harvest of wolves that primarily reside within the boundaries of the park and provide the majority of wolf sightings. Additionally, the extent of the closure will facilitate interpretation of the effects of the closure on wolf sightings. Proposal 2 represents a closure with a reduced spatial extent and may limit the ability to assess the closures impact on wolf sighting dynamics.

Proposed Closure 1: Within Game Management Unit 20C; those portions of UCU (Uniform Coding Units) 0607, 0605, and 0502 west of George Parks Highway and bounded by Denali National Park on three sides, is closed to the taking of wolves by hunting from February 1 to July 31 and by trapping from February 1 to October 31 (Figure 1).

Proposed Closure 2: Within Game Management Unit 20C; those portions of UCU 0607 and 0605 west of George Parks Highway and bounded by Denali National Park on three sides, is closed to the taking of wolves by hunting from February 1 to July 31 and by trapping from February 1 to October 31 (Figure 1).

Note: The maps, figures and references submitted with this proposal are available on the Board of Game proposal book website at: www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=gameboard.proposalbook.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? In Alaska, wolves are among the most desired species for viewing (Shea & Tankersley 1991), and state wildlife management includes mandates to provide for multiple uses, including non-consumptive uses such as wildlife viewing (Alaska Department of Fish and Game 2006). Wildlife viewing also brings an important socio-economic benefit to the state of Alaska, with wildlife viewing activities in Alaska supporting over \$2.7 billion dollars in economic activity in 2011. Forty percent of visitors to Alaska reported hoping to view wild wolves during their visit. (ECONorthwest 2012).

More than anywhere else in Alaska, wolves in the eastern region of Denali National Park (Denali), provide significant wolf viewing opportunities as visitors travel along the Park Road. Denali is recognized as one of the best places in the world for people to see wolves in the wild and several thousand park visitors may see wolves in a given year. In addition, viewing large carnivores, particularly wolves and grizzly bears, is a main indicator of a satisfying visitor experience in Denali National Park (Manning & Hallo 2010).

Wolf viewing opportunities in Denali are primarily provided by one to three packs of wolves that center their activity near the Park Road during the summer months (Figure 2). Analysis of 14 years of data from the National Park Service GPS radio collars shows that these same wolf packs that provide the majority of wolf sightings during the visitor season also show a pattern of use of areas just outside of the boundary of the park during the winter and spring (Figure 3). Wolves that frequent the Park Road are accustomed to the presence of humans and may be particularly vulnerable to harvest and even older breeding wolves are more susceptible to being trapped or shot. Harvest of wolves, particularly breeding wolves, has the potential to decrease wolf numbers, alter wolf behavior, and decrease opportunities for wolf viewing by park visitors. Borg et al. (2016) documented that the probability for wolf sighting during the period a buffer was in place was twice that of the periods when the buffer was absent. While wolf harvest just outside the northeastern boundary of the park may have little effect on regional scale wolf populations, it can have significant effects on wolf packs whose territories intersect the Park Road and on the experience of Denali's visitors.

From 2000 to 2010, the Alaska Board of Game (BOG) approved the closure of certain areas adjacent in the Stampede Corridor to the park boundary to wolf hunting and trapping year-round in order to protect wolf viewing opportunities in the park (Figure 1). In 2010, members of the BOG requested more information and research into the relationship between harvest of wolves in the Stampede corridor and wolf sightings within Denali National Park Service and Preserve (DNPP) ("Unit 20C Wolf Closure Proposals" 2010). In September 2010, the National Park Service, with collaboration from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game embarked on a 5-year

study of the relationship of wolf harvest adjacent to the park boundaries on wolf population and pack dynamics and on wolf viewing opportunities (Borg 2015).

Based on this research, we found that the presence of the trapping and hunting buffer zone during 2000-2010 was associated with increased wolf sightings in Denali National Park compared to 2011-2013 and 1997-2000 (Borg et al 2016). Both the wolf population size and an index measuring the number of wolves denning near the park road, which were strongly associated with increased wolf sightings, were also greater during the period when the buffer zone was in place. Thus, the presence of the buffer may have increased local population size and the likelihood that wolves would den near the park road. Alternatively, the increase in sightings may have been a result of coincidental peaks in population size or the number of wolves denning near the park road as a result of variables not measured or explicitly included in our analysis.

However, we note that the two natural variables generally considered to be strong drivers of wolf population dynamics (prey density and snow conditions, which influence prey vulnerability to wolf predation (Mech et al. 1998) were relatively consistent during the period of our study with no statistically significant differences (Adams & Roffler 2010; Owen & Meier 2009; Schmidt & Rattenbury 2013; Western Regional Climate Center 2015).

It should also be noted that the presence of the buffer did not decrease the average annual number of wolves harvested in UCUs overlapping the Stampede Corridor (UCUs 502, 605, 607), in fact harvest was higher during the years the buffer was in place (Alaska Department of Fish & Game 2013); note that these UCUs extend beyond the buffer area. During the presence of the buffer zone, harvest of wolves adjacent to DNPP (7 ± 11.25 SE) was on average greater than during the period without the presence of the buffer zone (2.6 ± 4.3). Simultaneously the buffer was associated with substantially increased wolf sightings (Borg et al 2016). Therefore, it is reasonable to conclude that closure of wolf hunting and trapping in an area within the Wolf Townships would present the optimal solution in meeting both consumptive and non-consumptive objectives of state and federal management agencies, and benefit about 400,000 visitors to Denali NPP with potentially a greater likelihood of observing wild wolves.

We recognize that it is possible that the higher wolf population size, higher harvest levels and increased sightings during the buffer years were coincidental and not related to the buffer itself but some other unknown factor(s). Resolving this uncertainty would require additional years of monitoring the response of the system with a new buffer zone in place. The NPS will continue to monitor the wolf population and wolf viewing index to assess several factors (including the efficacy of the buffer, if enacted) that may affect wolf viewing opportunities in the park.

It has been suggested that given the large number of Alaska's visitors that view wildlife along the Denali Park Road and the relatively small number of wolf trappers and hunters active in the Stampede Corridor, that the seasonal closure of the Corridor to wolf harvest is a negative impact for a few with a positive outcome for many (Mowry 2013). Indeed, annually well over 400,000 people visit DNPP (Fix, Ackerman & Fay 2012), while the numbers of active trappers in the Stampede Corridor is between 1-3 in any given year (Alaska Department of Fish and Game 2013). However, the NPS recognizes the impact of the closure to the lifestyle and livelihood of these trappers may represent a significant trade-off.

What will happen if nothing is done? Wolves from the most commonly viewed packs will continue to be trapped and hunted just outside of park boundaries, in places as close as four miles from the park road. This may result in continued disruption of wolf packs in the areas where wolves are seen by Alaska's visitors, a decrease in wolf numbers along the park road, possible loss of packs that frequent the park road (Borg 2015, Borg et al 2016) and decreased opportunities for wolf viewing.

Will the quality or the resource harvested or the products produced be improved? This proposal would help to protect and improve the opportunities for Alaskans and others to see wolves along the Denali Park Road. It would have a small effect on the number of wolves harvested in a portion of Unit 20C.

Who is likely to benefit?

- Visitors who come to Alaska to see a diversity of wildlife (about 400,000 annually).
- Tour operators and the Alaska tourism industry that promote and provide wildlife viewing tour products.
- People who value the concept of conservation areas for wildlife.

Who is likely to suffer? Trappers and hunters who wish to harvest wolves in the 152 square mile area that we are proposing to close within the Stampede Corridor. Over the last 20 years, the average number of individuals harvesting a wolf from this area is less than two people per year. This proposed change may impact the lifestyle or livelihood of a few trappers who use the area.

Within the proposed closed area, under this proposal, wolf hunting would be open from August 10 to January 31, and wolf trapping would be open from November 1 to January 31. Within the proposed buffer, this proposal curtails the wolf hunting season by 29% and the wolf trapping season by 50% of the days.

Other solutions considered? Including UCU-502 in Unit 20C was considered. Limiting harvest in a larger area that included the western most UCU within the Stampede Corridor, which has a much lower density of use by wolves than in UCUs 605 and 607 (over the last 12 years) was considered. This would have limited harvest opportunity with only a moderate reduction in risk to wolves.

Closing the entire wolf hunting and trapping season within the buffer was also considered. Wolves' reproductive capacity and pack structure is most vulnerable to disruption during the breeding season (Borg et al 2015). Packs that lose breeders during the breeding season are more likely to disband. Therefore, we chose to submit a proposal where the buffer is implemented during the proestrus and the breeding season. Wolves in DNPP typically come into oestrus in March (Mech et al. 1998) and give birth in early May following a two-month gestation (Hayssen & van Tienhoven 1993). There is a prolonged period of proestrus in grey wolves of about 6 weeks (Asa & Valdespino 1998) during which the mated pair spends time together coordinating their activity, and this period appears important for the formation and maintenance of the pair bond (Mech & Knick 1978; Rothman & Mech 1979). We therefore define the breeding season and spring as February–April.

PROPOSAL 153

5 AAC 5 AAC: 84.270. Fur bearer trapping.

Extend the trapping season for wolverine in Unit 20F as follows:

Change the wolverine trapping season to read:

Units 12, 20E and 20F.....Nov. 1 – Mar. 15.....No limit

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The wolverine trapping season in Unit 20F ends February 28, this is 15 days prior to the end of the lynx season (March 15). The topography and geography of Unit 20F is similar to surrounding Units 20C, 21B, 21C, 24A 24B, 25D; the lynx season in all these units end prior to the close of wolverine.

Incidental catch of wolverine can occur in lynx sets. Closing the wolverine season in Unit 20F on March 15, would coincide with lynx thereby eliminating incidental catches. Lengthening the season 15 days would not significantly increase the harvest of wolverine and there would be no biological impact to the resource.

Current Alaska trapping regulations state that “If you take an animal during a closed season or for which there is no open season, it is the property of the state. Transport it immediately to the nearest ADF&G or Alaska Wildlife Trooper office and surrender it.

Remote trappers in Unit 20F currently face great difficulty, expense and travel long distances getting to town. This would reduce the travel and financial burden on remote trappers who trap a wolverine out of season.

PROPOSAL 154

5 AAC 92.530. Management areas.

Restrict the taking of waterfowl in the Badger Slough area in Unit 20B to falconry and archery with flu-flu arrows to as follows:

From April 15 through October 1, hunting of waterfowl on the Badger Slough will be restricted to archery with flu-flu arrows and falconry. This protected region would extend from where the slough begins on the northern bank of the Tanana River to where the slough ends on the southern bank of the Chena River. This regulation in no way changes the waterfowl hunting regulations on the Tanana River or the Chena River.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Duck hunting is legal on the Badger slough. The slough is heavily populated as both banks are lined with residential areas as well as businesses and parks. The slough is a spawning zone for grayling. The slough is a nesting area for migratory fowl such as ducks and swans. The slough is an area where cow moose shelter

their new-born calves. Responsible hunting regulations protect both the public and the wildlife. At the present, all a hunter is required to do is to step off the road before discharging a firearm. It is only a matter of time until someone accidentally shoots something other than a duck.

PROPOSED BY: Debra Vance

(EG-F19-101)
