

The Board of Game addressed the following proposal at the Interior and Eastern Arctic Region meeting in March 2020 (see Proposal 129). The board adopted the proposed dates to align the Controlled Use Areas and deferred the request for clarification of “hunting gear” to the 2021 Statewide Regulations meeting. The request to clarify the definition of “hunting gear” is the only portion of this proposal scheduled for the meeting.

PROPOSAL 103

5 AAC 92.990. Definitions.

Clarify whether hay and grain are considered as “hunting gear” as follows:

We would ask the board to clarify for Wildlife Troopers whether hay and grain to feed horses falls under the category of hunting “gear.”

The following request was addressed by the Board of Game in March 2020 and will not be considered at the 2021 Statewide Regulations Meeting:

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;

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)
