

Central & Southwest Region

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**ALASKA BOARD OF GAME
Central & Southwest Region Meeting
Best Western Lake Lucille Inn, Wasilla, Alaska
January 22-29, 2021**

TENTATIVE AGENDA

Note: This Tentative Agenda is subject to change throughout the course of the meeting. It is provided to give a general idea of the board's anticipated schedule. The board will attempt to hold to this schedule; however, the board is not constrained by this Tentative Agenda.

Friday, January 22, 8:30 a.m.

OPENING BUSINESS

Call to Order / Purpose of Meeting
Introductions of Board Members and Staff
Board Member Ethics Disclosures

AGENCY AND OTHER REPORTS (See List of Oral Reports)

PUBLIC & ADVISORY COMMITTEE TESTIMONY upon conclusion staff reports

THE DEADLINE TO SIGN UP TO TESTIFY will be announced prior to the meeting. Public testimony will continue until persons who have signed up before the deadline, and who are present when called by the Chair to testify, are heard.

Saturday, January 23, 8:30 a.m.

PUBLIC AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE ORAL TESTIMONY continued

Sunday, January 24, 9:00 a.m.

PUBLIC AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE ORAL TESTIMONY continued/concluded

BOARD DELIBERATIONS upon conclusion of public testimony

Monday, January 25 through Thursday, January 28, 8:30 a.m.

BOARD DELIBERATIONS continued

Friday, January 29, 8:30 a.m.

BOARD DELIBERATIONS continued/conclude

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

Agenda Notes

- A. 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 ADF&G Boards Support Section in Juneau at 465-4110.
- B. A live audio stream for the meeting is intended to be available at: www.boardofgame.adfg.alaska.gov
- C. The State of Alaska Department of Fish and Game complies with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA). Individuals with disabilities who may need auxiliary aids, services, and/or special modifications to participate in this hearing and public meeting should contact 465-4110 no later than two weeks prior to start of the meeting to make any necessary arrangements.

Regionwide / Multiple Units

PROPOSAL 1

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

Shift to later moose hunting seasons in Units 13 and 14 as follows:

Solution: Shift hunting windows later in the year for impacted areas such as mine in Unit 13 and 14, whereas the hunting season ends on September 20th. Ending the moose season near October 9th would allow cooler temperatures to set in, and also aid in the ease of meat preservation.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Moose hunting in Alaska needs to be moved back later in the season. Why: Alaska's climate has changed or shifted to where September months are not conducive to hunting, whereas temperatures are warmer than in years past. This has a negative effect on moose activities. Warmer temperatures will keep moose bedded down in the day and less active, it has also been observed that the rut is being delayed by warmer temperatures. These changes have put hunters at a growing and compounding disadvantage.

PROPOSED BY: Sean McKenney (EG-F20-017)

PROPOSAL 2

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

Establish registration archery seasons for Dall sheep in Units 9B, 11, 13, 14A, 14B and 16 as follows:

Regulatory language: (for Units 9B, 11, 13, 14A, 14B and 16)

Resident: One ram, with full curl horn or larger, by bow and arrow only from August 1 - August 5, by registration permit available at <http://adfg.alaska.gov>. Certified bowhunters only.

Nonresident: One ram, with full curl horn or larger, by bow and arrow only, every four regulatory years from August 1 - August 5, by registration permit available at <http://adfg.alaska.gov>. Certified bowhunters only.

*** Optional addition: Any hunter participating in this registration archery hunt may only hunt sheep with bow and arrow during this regulatory year in the unit where they took advantage of the archery season, including during the general season from August 10 - September 21.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? There is an increasing interest in bowhunting opportunities for Dall sheep in Alaska but, aside from very low odds draw tags, there are currently no archery seasons or areas for sheep hunting in the Central/Southwest Region. This is a proposal for a resident and nonresident, August 1 – August 5 registration archery season for full curl Dall Sheep in Units 9B, 11, 13, 14A, 14B and 16.

During the regular rifle season, bowhunting is difficult to safely achieve given the overall popularity of sheep hunting and the ability of rifle hunters to take very long shots. Bowhunters often spend many hours to days attempting to get within bowrange of a particular ram and rifle hunters can easily interfere with any chance of a successful bowhunt. In the worst case, it's even possible for rifle hunters to unknowingly shoot over the backs of bowhunters stalking sheep, especially in more popular and easily accessible areas.

In addition, there are many nonresident bowhunters who would welcome an opportunity for a guided bowhunt outside of the regular sheep season. Such a season would provide additional revenue for guiding operations and make Alaska a more competitive and appealing option for nonresidents bowhunters planning to book a sheep hunt.

In the past, early bow seasons were rejected by the Board of Game, in part, because of concern that bowhunters would push sheep out of certain areas just prior to the season. In this proposal the bow season would match the existing youth season, August 1 – August 5, thereby giving the sheep a five-day break from hunting all pressure prior to the general season.

A bowhunting season in Units 9B, 11, 13, 14A, 14B and 16 would provide a wonderful opportunity for bowhunters to spend time safely in the mountains and is very unlikely to impact sheep populations and numbers of legal rams. Over the ten-year period from 2009-2018 bowhunters killed about 1% of legal rams taken in the Alaska's general season. Even in the DS140/141 and DS240/241, which are bowhunting only draw hunts for *any ram* in an easily accessible area, the success rate over the same ten year period was about two – three rams per year for almost 70 tags awarded each year, and only a small fraction of the rams that were killed in these hunts would be considered legal in a full curl only area.

Combined with a short season that is separated from the general season by five days and a very low projected success rate, there is no downside to allowing bowhunters an opportunity to safely pursue sheep each season in this region. It would simply allow bowhunters a short window each year to pursue sheep in a safer and more enjoyable fashion.

Making this a registration hunt would allow for accurate statistics about harvest and use.

*** Optional: In the interest of fairness and of bowhunters being willing to make sacrifices to gain the privilege of a bowhunting season, this hunt could be combined with a “choose your weapon” condition whereby any bowhunter who takes advantage of this archery season would be restricted to hunting with bow and arrow only during the remainder of the regulatory season for the unit where he or she hunted the special archery season. This should help assuage concerns that bowhunters have an “unfair advantage” of any kind and would demonstrate the commitment of archery hunters. This type of “choose your weapon” regulation has been implemented successfully in other states where it is popular with both bow and rifle hunters. Bowhunters not participating in the registration hunt, who only hunt the current general season (8/10 - 9/21), would not be subject to “choose your weapon” regulation.

PROPOSED BY: Paul Forward

(EG-F20-167)

PROPOSAL 3

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

Open an archery only season for Dall sheep in Units 13, 14A, 14B, and 16 as follows:

Establish an archery only season in Units 13, 14A, 14B and 16 from **September 21 to October 10.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Establish an archery only sheep season in Units 11, 13, 14A, 14B and 16 from September 21 to October 10.

There was an average of 618 rams taken per year from the years 2009 to 2018. The average number of rams taken with archery equipment per year during that same time span, was a total of eight rams. This equates to less than 1.5% of the take of legal rams from 2009 to 2018.

Given the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) data above it seems reasonable to assume there is no biological concern with regards to bowhunters and their potential impact they would have with a lengthened season. This would be available to both residents and nonresidents, allowing guides to extend their season for bowhunting clients. This also would influence sheep hunters to opt out of hunting during the general season with a rifle to plan a bow hunt for the later season. It must also be understood that weather alone could complicate the logistics to hunt sheep during this season extension and therefore potentially decrease the success rate with archery equipment even greater. There would be no need for a registration permit as the prior given data suggests no biological concern and harvested rams already must be sealed by ADF&G.

PROPOSED BY: Herb Mansavage (HQ-F20-015)

PROPOSAL 4

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

Establish a registration hunt by bow and arrow only for Dall sheep within Units 9, 11, 13A, 13B remainder, 13C remainder, 13D remainder, 14A remainder, 14B, and 16 as follows:

Institute a registration hunt for certified bowhunters only beginning September 21 and ending on October 10 or by emergency order. This registration hunt would be for the same areas already open to general harvest ticket in the earlier season.

Bag limit of one ram with full-curl horn or larger for residents.

Bag limit of one ram with full-curl horn or larger every four regulatory years for nonresidents.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Aside from drawing permit hunts, there are currently no opportunities in this region of Alaska for bowhunters to pursue Dall sheep without the presence of rifle hunters.

With large numbers of hunters afield and the ability of rifle hunters to kill sheep at long distances, bowhunters often struggle to find areas to hunt where they can safely stalk close to animals without fear of being exposed to crossfire and other forms of interference.

A solution to these problems is to establish an archery only sheep season in Units 9, 11, 13, 14A, 14B and 16 from September 21st to October 10th.

From 2009 to 2018, there was an average of 618 rams taken per year. The average number of rams taken with archery equipment per year, during that same time span, was eight rams. This shows that bowhunters accounted for 1.3% of the average harvest of rams over 10 seasons.

The purpose of this new hunt being a registration hunt would be so that the Alaska Department of Fish and Game can monitor the participation and success rates more closely. Establish registration Dall sheep bow hunting only season

Having an additional hunt open to nonresidents would bring in more revenue to the State of Alaska as well as to local communities.

Providing a designated archery season for sheep would provide additional hunting opportunities for residents and guided nonresidents with essentially no impact on rifle hunters or sheep populations.

PROPOSED BY: Alaskan Bowhunters Association (EG-F20-056)

PROPOSAL 5

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

Establish three archery registration hunts for Dall sheep in Units 9, 11, 13, 14, and 16 where there are general season hunts as follows:

In Units 9, 11, 13, 14A, 14B and 16 where there is a general season (harvest ticket) sheep hunt, there would be established three registration hunts for conventional bow and arrow (bowhunter certification required). The dates for each registration hunt would be as follows: August 1 - August 9; September 21 - September 30 and October 1 - October 10. A legal sheep would be a full curl ram (or eight or greater years old or double broomed). A hunter could register for and hunt all three hunts but would have to register for each one separately after returning from the field from each hunt. Registration could be online or in person. The later hunts could be closed by Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) by emergency order.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The function of the Board of Game should be to NOT ONLY issue restrictions to hunting but should also be to increase hunting opportunities where reasonable and in a fashion that would be of no biologic impact to the species being hunted. Many states in the Lower 48 have established long archery seasons both before and after the regular firearms seasons. As a result archery hunting has been growing in numbers, while the overall number of hunters in most states has been declining. This has potentially caused serious

problems with Pittman-Robertson funding of some states game management and conservation programs. The issue is a request for the Board of Game to identify areas and species where hunting opportunities can be increased with minimal impact on the species being hunted.

A good example would be archery (conventional bow and arrow) sheep seasons both before and after the usual firearms season. Bowhunters would appreciate the chance to hunt sheep at a time when there was no competition from firearms hunters. This proposal would be for a conventional bow and arrow sheep season. It would be a registration hunt so that ADF&G could accurately keep track of participation and success rates. Legal sheep would be Mature Rams Only as defined by full curl, eight years old or older or double broomed, which is the same as for the firearms hunts. ADF&G has already stated that with those restrictions there should be no harm to the sheep population. Note that these hunts would be available to both residents and nonresidents (who would still require a guide). This would give guides an opportunity to sell additional hunts if they were willing to take bowhunters.

PROPOSED BY: John Frost (EG-F20-124)

PROPOSAL 6

5 AAC 92.015. Brown bear tag fee exemptions.

Reauthorize the brown bear tag fee exemptions for the Central/Southwest Region as follows:

5AAC 92.015. Brown bear tag fee exemptions.

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

In March 2011 the board also exempted brown bear tag fees for bear hunts near communities in Unit 9 to address public safety concerns in communities. Brown bears are abundant in Unit 9 and are managed as a trophy species. However, 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-F20-053)

PROPOSAL 7

5 AAC 85.015. Hunting seasons and bag limits for black bear.

Increase bag limit for black bear in Units 13D and 16 as follows:

Change the bag limit of black bears in Units 13D and 16 from three every regulatory year to five every regulatory year.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? There is an abundance of black bears in Units 16 and 13D with a bag limit of three bears. I would like to see the bag limit increased to five black bears every regulatory year in these units for both residents and nonresidents. These units have dense black bear populations and giving some hunters the

opportunity to harvest more of this surplus of black bears will have no negative effect on the population.

PROPOSED BY: Dan Montgomery (EG-F20-047)

PROPOSAL 8

5 AAC 84.270. Furbearer trapping.

Shorten coyote trapping season in Units 9, 13, 14B, 16 and 17 as follows:

Unit 9 (October 1 - April 30) November 10 - March 31

Units 13 and 16 (October 15 - April 30) November 10 - March 31

Units 14B and 17 (November 10 - April 30) November 10 - March 31

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Shorten the coyote trapping season. Coyotes are harvested for fur not food. Current seasons were set for various reasons one being the hope lamb predation would be reduced. There is no data to support this that I know of. Coyote fur is better in November and March than October and April. Aligning the opening date of coyote season with most other furbearers will help eliminate by-catch problems. Citations have been issued for failure to salvage and/or surrender other furbearers taken during early coyote season.

PROPOSED BY: Tom Lessard

(EG-F20-021)

PROPOSAL 9

5 AAC 84.270. Furbearer trapping

Extend the wolf trapping season in Units 13 and 16 as follows:

October 15th – May 31st [April 30th].

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Extend the season for wolves in Units 13 and 16 to May 31st.

Snow conditions in these units many times allow for travel by snowmachine far past the current season closure. This would give trappers the ability to extend their season during late snow years and potentially allow for trapping areas that would have normally been closed but their snow conditions allow for travel. Hides would still be in great condition at this time of year and would allow for potential access into areas that would be extremely difficult to reach during the middle of winter. This season already has no limit on wolves, therefore there is no biological concern.

PROPOSED BY: Herb Mansavage

(HQ-F20-013)

PROPOSAL 10

5 AAC 84.270. Furbearer trapping.

Allow the harvest of beaver by bow and arrow under a trapping license with salvage requirements in Units 9, 11, 13, and 16 as follows:

From page 31 of the Alaska trapping regulations summary book:

It is against the law to take beaver by any means other than a steel trapper snare except:

In Units 9, 11, 13, 16 and 17 beaver may be taken throughout the trapping season with firearms or bow and arrow as long as the hide or meat is salvaged.

[IN UNITS 9 AND 17 FROM APRIL 15 - MAY 3, 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;]

[AND IN UNIT 16 A FIREARM MAY BE USED TO TAKE BEAVER THROUGHOUT THE TRAPPING SEASON.]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? There is significant discrepancy in the legal method and means for taking beaver in the Central/Southwest Region. There is apparently no scarcity of beaver because there is no limit to the bag limits. This proposal would simplify the regulations for legal method and means for harvesting beaver and make them uniform over most of the units within this region. In most of Interior/Northeast it is legal to take beaver with steel traps, snares, firearms and bow and arrow. In most of western Alaska it is legal to "shoot" (does not specify firearms) beaver throughout the season as long as the hide or meat is salvaged. There seems to be no good reason to prohibit taking beaver using firearms or bow and arrow during the entire trapping season in Units 9, 11, 13, 16 and 17 as long as the hide or meat is salvaged.

PROPOSED BY: John Frost (EG-F20-096)

PROPOSAL 11

5 AAC 92.095. Unlawful methods of taking furbearers; exceptions.

Add bow and arrow as legal method of take for beaver in Units 9, 11, 13, and 16 as follows:

(3) taking beaver by any means other than a steel trap or snare, except that a firearm **or bow and arrow** may be used to take two beaver per day in Units 9 and 17 from April 15 through May 31 if the meat is salvaged for human consumption; **a bow and arrow may be used to take beaver in Unit 9, 11, 13 and 16 throughout the seasons and with the bag limits established in 5 AAC 84;** a firearm may be used to take beaver in Units 1-5, 8, 16, 18, 22, and 23 throughout the seasons and with the bag limits established in 5 AAC 84; a firearm or bow and arrow may be used to take beaver in Unit 17 from Dec. 1 through April 14 if the meat is salvaged; a firearm or

bow and arrow may be used to take beaver in Units 12, 19, 20(A), 20(C), 20(E), 20(F), 21, 24, and 25 throughout the seasons and with the bag limits established in 5 AAC 84;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? If firearms are already a legal method of taking a beaver under trapping regulations, a bow and arrow should be added as well. Currently it is legal to harvest beaver with a firearm or bow and arrow under the trapping regulations in Unit 17 from December 1- April 14 provided the meat is salvaged. It is also legal to harvest beaver in Units 9 and 17 with firearms from April 15-May 31 provided the meat is salvaged but bow and arrow is for some reason not included. Also, in Unit 16 beaver harvest is legal with a firearm throughout the trapping season and again, the use of bow and arrow is not included.

A bow and arrow can be a more effective as well as safer means of harvesting beaver. Actual advantages over a firearm are better ability to continue momentum through the water with less risk of ricochet as is likely when a firearm is discharged toward water surfaces. In addition, beaver shot with firearms may have a higher loss rate than arrow harvested beaver especially if a line is attached to the arrow. Also, arrows are far less likely to damage fur and meat than bullets or shot.

PROPOSED BY: Alaskan Bowhunters Association (EG-F20-098)

Dillingham Area Proposals – Unit 17

PROPOSAL 12

5 AAC 85.045(a)(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 moose by registration permit only; or | Aug. 25–Sept. 25 (Subsistence hunt only) | |
| 1 antlered bull 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; or | Winter Season to be announced by emergency order (Subsistence hunt only) | |
| 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 Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

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 when the population exceeds 1,200 moose a bag limit of up to two moose is established. Based on the most recent survey with good conditions in March 2017, both conditions have been met with a population estimate of 1,990 moose ± 437 . 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 to provide additional harvest opportunities. This population is currently contributing to the growth of adjacent moose populations, especially to the north and west.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F20-067)

PROPOSAL 13

5 AAC 85.045(a)(15). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.

Increase the number of nonresident draw hunt permits and extend the nonresident season by 10 days in Unit 17A as follows:

| Units and Bag Limits | Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts) | Nonresident Open Season |
|---|---|------------------------------------|
| Unit 17(A) | | |
| Up to 2 moose per regulatory year, only as follows: | | |
| RESIDENT HUNTERS: | | |
| 1 moose by regulatory permit only, or | Aug. 25–Sept. 25 (Subsistence hunt only) | |
| 1 antlered bull 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; or | Winter season to be announced by emergency order (Subsistence hunt only) | |
| 1 antlerless moose by registration permit; during the period Dec. 1–Last day of Feb. a season of up to 31 days may | Winter season to be announced by emergency order (Subsistence hunt only) | |

be announced by emergency order;

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull with 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on one side, by drawing permit only; up to [50] **100** permits may be issued.

Sept. 5–[Sept 15] **Sept. 25**

...

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Based on the most recent population survey in March of 2017 the point estimate was 1,990 moose ±437 in Unit 17A. The management objectives are to maintain a population of 1,100-1,700 moose. The moose population in Unit 17A is growing and can sustain additional harvest, and winter hunt quotas have rarely been met in the last four years. Out of concern for over-browsing which would impact the quality and quantity of forage available for moose in Unit 17A, additional harvest opportunities are warranted by extending the nonresident hunting season by 10 days and increasing the “up to” number of permits from 50 to 100.

Management objectives for this population recognize the importance of this population expanding into neighboring areas to provide additional harvest opportunities. This population is likely responsible in part to the recent growth of adjacent populations, particularly in the north and west. With the already long and liberal resident season the department recommends the board consider additional nonresident opportunity.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F20-073)

PROPOSAL 14

5AAC 85.045(15). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.

Establish fixed-season dates for resident registration moose hunts RM575 & RM576 in Unit 17A as follows:

| Units and Bag Limits (15) | Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts) | Nonresident Open Season |
|--------------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|
|--------------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|

Unit 17(A)

Up to 2 moose per regulatory

year, only as follows:

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 moose by registration permit only; or Aug. 25—Sept.25
(Subsistence hunt only)

1 antlered bull by registration permit; [DURING THE PERIOD JAN.1—LAST DAY OF FEB. A SEASON UP TO 31 DAYS MAY BE ANNOUNCED BY EMERGENCY ORDER;] or **Jan.1—Last day of Feb.**
[WINTER SEASON TO BE ANNOUNCED BY EMERGENCY ORDER]
(Subsistence hunt only)

1 antlerless bull by registration Permit; [DURING THE PERIOD DEC.1—LAST DAY OF FEB. A SEASON UP TO 31 DAYS MAY BE ANNOUNCED BY EMERGENCY ORDER;] **Jan.1—Last day of Feb.**
[WINTER SEASON TO BE ANNOUNCED BY EMERGENCY ORDER]
(Subsistence hunt only)

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

No open season.

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 Sept. 5—Sept. 15

...

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Unit 17A moose population is above population objective (N=2,370). Unit 17A provides quality moose habitat that supports a robust moose population. Based on this fact, the 2013 Moose Management group established a population objective of 800–1,200 moose to prevent the population from increasing to numbers above what the landscape can support. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) relies on both.

Registration hunts RM575 and RM576 were created by the Board of Game in 2011 with the intent of targeting one antlerless bull and one antlered bull. These hunts are opened by emergency order (EO) each year and may only be extended up to 31 days by EO to target weather conditions suitable for travel. Since 2012 this hunt has been extended by EO every year except the 2015/2016 winter season because poor winter travelling conditions have prevented users from accessing moose in the first 31-day period. Given that the Unit 17A population continues to remain above objectives, ADF&G recommends continuing to administer these hunts by registration permit but with a set season of January 1 to the last day of February providing up to a 60-day season. The hunts will continue to be closed by EO when the established harvest quota is reached. This hunt structure

allows hunters the flexibility to engage in hunting activities as soon as conditions are appropriate, for longer periods and to facilitate our ability to bring this population within objectives.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F20-050)

PROPOSAL 15

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

Establish a registration hunt for bull moose limited to resident certified bowhunters only within Unit 17B as follows:

Institute a registration hunt open to certified bowhunters only with season dates starting on September 16 and closing on September 25 or by emergency order. This hunt would be for residents only and subject to the same bag limit and reporting requirements as outlined for RM583. RM583 is an existing hunt that is open to any weapon for residents only from August 20 to September 15 in Units 17B and 17C.

This new registration hunt would be for the entirety of Unit 17B only.

The purpose of this new hunt being a registration hunt would be so that the Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) can monitor the participation and success rates more closely.

The purpose of the season being September 16 to September 25 would be so not to conflict with already existing hunts in the unit while at the same time not extending beyond normal moose seasons in surrounding areas.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? A registration hunt for certified bowhunters only would give more resident hunters the opportunity to spend time in the field pursuing moose within Unit 17B without having a negative impact on the resource. According to ADF&G, 699 moose were harvested in Unit 17B from 2009 to 2018. According to the ADF&G Dillingham office, only 7 of the 699 moose harvested were reported taken with archery equipment. These reported harvests with bow and arrow account for 1% of all moose taken in Unit 17B over a 10-year period, showing an extremely low impact to moose populations. There is only one other registration hunt for moose in the entire state of Alaska that is limited only to certified bowhunters (RM445). From 2009 to 2018, hunters participating in RM445 have only seen a 2.3% success rate according to ADF&G. RM445 is a great example of the low impact a bow and arrow only hunt would have on moose populations. Having a registration hunt rather than extending the general season would allow ADF&G to collect data, closely monitor success rates, as well as issue emergency orders if the need ever arises. Lastly, having a season that does not extend beyond September 25 would mirror most other moose season end dates in the surrounding units. The ADF&G biologist responsible for this area believes that current moose populations in Unit 17B can sustain this proposed hunt given that it would be restricted to certified bowhunters only.

PROPOSED BY: Mike Harris (EG-F20-041)

PROPOSAL 16

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

Establish a registration hunt for bull moose open to nonresident certified bowhunters only within Unit 17B, remainder as follows:

Institute a registration hunt open to nonresident certified bowhunters only with season dates starting on September 16 and closing on September 25 or by emergency order. Number of permits and harvest reporting requirements would be set by the Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G). This hunt for nonresidents would be subject to the of the same antler restrictions and hunter orientation requirements as outlined in all other Unit 17 nonresident hunts. Currently, all nonresident hunters in Unit 17 may only harvest bull moose with 50-inch antlers or antlers with four or more brow tines on at least one side. Nonresidents are also required to complete a nonresident orientation prior to hunting moose in Unit 17.

This new registration hunt would be for the entirety of Unit 17B, remainder only.

The purpose of this new hunt being a registration hunt would be so that ADF&G can monitor the participation and success rates more closely.

The purpose of the season being September 16 to September 25 would be so not to conflict with already existing hunts in the Unit while at the same time not extending beyond normal moose seasons in surrounding areas.

Having an additional hunt open to nonresidents would bring in more revenue to the State of Alaska as well as to local communities.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? A registration hunt for certified bowhunters only would give more hunters the opportunity to spend time in the field pursuing moose within Unit 17B without having a negative impact on the resource. According to ADF&G, 699 moose were harvested in Unit 17B from 2009 to 2018. According to the ADF&G Dillingham office, only 7 of the 699 moose harvested were reported taken with archery equipment. These reported harvests with bow and arrow account for 1% of all moose taken in Unit 17B over a 10-year period, showing the extremely low impact to moose populations. There is only one other registration hunt for moose in the entire State of Alaska that is limited only to certified bowhunters (RM445). From 2009 to 2018, hunters participating in RM445 have only seen a 2.3% success rate according to ADF&G. RM445 is a great example of the low impact a bow and arrow only hunt would have on moose populations. Having a registration hunt rather than extending the general season would allow the department to collect data, closely monitor success rates, as well as issue emergency orders if the need ever arises. Having a season that does not extend beyond September 25 would mirror most other moose season end dates in the surrounding units. The ADF&G biologist responsible for this area believes that current moose populations in Unit 17B can sustain this proposed hunt given that it would be restricted to certified bowhunters only. Lastly, having an additional hunt open to nonresidents would give the opportunity for guides to sell additional hunts to certified bowhunters, therefore, bringing in more revenue to the State of Alaska as well as to local communities.

PROPOSED BY: Mike Harris (EG-F20-042)

PROPOSAL 17

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

Establish a registration hunt for bull moose limited to certified bowhunters only within Unit 17B as follows:

Institute a registration hunt open to certified bowhunters only with season dates starting on September 16 and closing on September 25 or by emergency order. This hunt would be for residents and nonresidents. Residents would be subject to the same bag limit and reporting requirements as outlined for RM583. RM583 is an existing hunt that is open to any weapon for residents only from August 20 to September 15 in Units 17B and 17C.

Nonresidents would be subject to the same antler restrictions and hunter orientation requirements as outlined in all other Unit 17 nonresident hunts. Currently, all nonresident hunters in Unit 17 may only harvest bull moose with 50-inch antlers or antlers with four or more brow tines on at least one side. Nonresidents are also required to complete a nonresident orientation prior to hunting moose in Unit 17. Number of permits and would be set by the Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G).

Registration would be available online or in person at ADF&G offices.

This new registration hunt would be for the entirety of Unit 17B only.

The purpose of this new hunt being a registration hunt would be so that ADF&G can monitor the participation and success rates more closely.

The purpose of the season being September 16 to September 25 would be so not to conflict with already existing hunts in the unit while at the same time not extending beyond normal moose seasons in surrounding areas.

Having an additional hunt open to nonresidents would bring in more revenue to the state of Alaska as well as to local communities.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? A registration hunt for certified bowhunters only would give more hunters the opportunity to spend time in the field pursuing moose within Unit 17B without having a negative impact on the resource. According to ADF&G, 699 moose were harvested in Unit 17B from 2009 to 2018. According to the ADF&G Dillingham office, only 7 of the 699 moose harvested were reported taken with archery equipment. These reported harvests with bow and arrow account for 1% of all moose taken in Unit 17B over a 10-year period, showing an extremely low impact to moose populations. There is only one other registration hunt for moose in the entire State of Alaska that is limited only to certified bowhunters (RM445). From 2009 to 2018, hunters participating in RM445 have only seen a 2.3% success rate according to ADFG. RM445 is a great example of the low impact a bow and arrow only hunt would have on moose populations. Having a registration hunt rather than extending the general season would allow the department to collect data, closely monitor success rates, as well as issue emergency orders if the need ever arises. Having a season that does not

extend beyond September 25 would mirror most other moose season end dates in the surrounding units. Lastly, having an additional hunt open to nonresidents would give the opportunity for guides to sell additional hunts to certified bowhunters, therefore, bringing in more revenue to the state of Alaska as well as to local communities.

PROPOSED BY: Alaskan Bowhunters Association (EG-F20-055)

PROPOSAL 18

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

Extend the resident winter moose season in Units 17B and 17C as follows:

5 AAC 95.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Add hunting season for moose in Units 17B and 17C as follows:

Unit 17B remainder: One antlered bull by permit available in person in Dillingham beginning October 25 and Nushagak River Villages.

RM585: December 1 – January 31 Nushagak River Drainage.

Unit 17C: One antlered bull by permit available in person in Dillingham beginning October 25 and Nushagak River villages.

RM585 December 1 - January 31 Nushagak River Drainage.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Extend the resident open season for the winter moose hunt in the Nushagak River Drainage in Units 17B and 17C in order to increase hunter opportunity in the area. Alaska has warmed up about 2.5 degrees Fahrenheit compared to about 1.5 degrees Fahrenheit for the contiguous United States as a whole. Most of the warming has occurred in the winter and spring seasons (NOAA). Lack of snow and late freeze up of the Nushagak River conditions have limit hunting during the scheduled one-month open season in December. Only a few hunters participated in the hazardous conditions with a few moose harvested. Climate change has affected the warmer winter conditions in 2019 and will continue into the future. With lack of snow and dangerous ice conditions, hunters had little access to traditional hunting areas, and predators had also scattered game close to villages. The extended season will allow hunters to safely travel with sufficient snow cover and river freeze up.

PROPOSED BY: Moxie Andrew Jr. (EG-F20-061)

Note: The range of the Mulchatna caribou herd is Units 9 and 17 in the Central & Southwest Region; Unit 18 for the Western Arctic/Western Region; and Unit 19 for the Interior and Eastern Arctic Region. The Board of Game is scheduled to address only the Central/Southwest Region units at this meeting.

PROPOSAL 19

5 AAC 92.108. Identified big game prey populations and objectives.

Establish new population and harvest objectives for the Mulchatna caribou herd in Units 9, 17, 18, and 19 as follows:

We recommend establishing new population and harvest objectives after a habitat assessment has been performed to determine the current ecological potential of the range to support caribou and additional analysis of causes of mortality including harvest.

| Population Caribou Herds | Finding | Population | Harvest |
|--|----------------|--|----------------|
| Adak | Negative | | |
| Beaver Mountain | Negative | | |
| Central Arctic | Positive | 28,000 - 32,000 | 1,400 - 1,600 |
| Chisana | Negative | | |
| Delta | Negative | | |
| Denali | Negative | | |
| Farewell/Big River | Negative | | |
| Fortymile | Positive | 50,000 - 100,000 | 1,000 - 15,000 |
| Galena Mountain | Negative | | |
| Kenai Lowlands | Negative | | |
| Kenai Mountains | Negative | | |
| Killey River, Fox River, And Twin Lakes | Negative | | |
| Macomb | Positive | 600 - 800 | 30 - 50 |
| Mentasta | Negative | | |
| Mulchatna | Positive | <u>To be determined</u> [30,000 – 80,000 | 2,400 – 8,000] |
| Nelchina | Positive | 35,000 - 40,000 | 3,000- 6,000 |
| Northern Alaska Peninsula | Positive | 6,000 - 15,000 | 600 - 1,500 |
| Nushagak Peninsula | Negative | | |
| Porcupine | Positive | 100,000 - 150,000 | 1,500 - 2,000 |
| Rainy Pass | Negative | | |
| Ray Mountain | Negative | | |
| Southern Alaska Peninsula | Positive | 1,500 - 4,000 | 150 - 200 |
| Sunshine Mountain | Negative | | |
| Teshekpuk | Positive | 15,000 - 28,000 | 900 - 2,800 |
| Tonzona | Negative | | |
| Unimak Island Western Arctic | Positive | at least 200,000 | 12,000-20,000 |
| White Mountain | Negative | | |
| Wolf Mountain | Negative | | |

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Mulchatna caribou herd has changed continuously from the time monitoring began, increasing from an estimated 14,000 in 1974 to 200,000 in 1996, then decreasing to 13,500 in 2019. A population objective of 25,000 was initially established in 1987, and since then revised multiple times. The current population objective (30,000-80,000) was established in 2008 at which point the population was estimated to be 30,000. This objective has been achieved only once since then. The 2019 population estimate was 13,500, less than half of the minimum of the objective range.

The multiple revisions in objectives over time have been a sensible approach to management of a changing resource. We are requesting that the Board of Game review the Intensive Management population and harvest objectives with the goal of adjusting objectives to an ecologically sustainable level. We recommend this review include careful consideration of habitat quality, which almost certainly has changed in response to caribou grazing, reducing population potential.

PROPOSED BY: Togiak National Wildlife Refuge (HQ-F20-030)

Note: The range of the Mulchatna caribou herd is Units 9 and 17 in the Central & Southwest Region; Unit 18 for the Western Arctic/Western Region; and Unit 19 for the Interior and Eastern Arctic Region. The Board of Game is scheduled to address only the Central/Southwest Region units at this meeting.

PROPOSAL 20

5 AAC 85.025 (3)(4)(12)(13)(14). Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou.

5 AAC 92.062. Priority for subsistence hunting; Tier II permits.

Establish Tier II subsistence hunting season and bag limit for the Mulchatna caribou herd (MCH) as follows:

The proposed structure would replace the existing RC503 permit across the entire range of the MCH with a Tier II subsistence hunting structure providing up to 5,000 permits, a bag limit of one caribou, and updated season dates in Units 9A, 18, 19A, and 19B from August 1 to September 30 and November 15 to March 15, providing a break during the rut. The season in Units 9B, 9C, and 17 would continue to extend until March 30. No nonresident opportunity would be provided.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The current harvest strategy across the range of the Mulchatna caribou herd (MCH) is administered under registration caribou permit RC503 which allows up to two caribou. In Units 9A, 9C (within the Alagnak River drainage), 18, 19A and 19B, the season runs from August 1 to March 15. In Units 9B, 9C (the portion of north of the north bank of the Naknek River and south of the Alagnak River drainage) and 17, the season is 15 days longer, from August 1 to March 31.

Additional caribou seasons in these units are available for residents targeting the Northern Alaska and Southern Alaska Peninsula herds in Units 9C and 9E (TC505) and for residents and nonresidents in Unit 9D (harvest ticket). Registration permit RC501 provides resident opportunity on the Nushagak Peninsula caribou herd in portions of Units 17A and 17C. Both residents and nonresidents can also hunt caribou in Units 19C and 19D under a general season harvest ticket.

According to 5 AAC 92.062, when nonsubsistence uses of a game population have been eliminated and the taking of game must be further restricted to ensure that the population is maintained and managed on a sustained yield basis, or to ensure the continuation of subsistence uses of the population, hunting permits must be issued and allocated under the Tier II system. The MCH has been in decline since the late 1990s and has failed to stabilize. Over the course of the last 5–10 years, the MCH has not met intensive management goals or the amount reasonably necessary for subsistence, which is 2,100 to 2,400 caribou (ANS). There has been no nonresident harvest of this herd since the 2000s, and bag limits on this herd have consistently remained reduced for residents. The herd’s decline to an estimated 13,500 caribou in 2019 initiated another range-wide bag limit reduction followed by an early closure of the RC503 hunt.

In addition to establishing a Tier II harvest structure, we propose a) changing the hunt season to exclude harvest during the rut so that animals can breed without the additional pressure exerted on the herd by hunters, and b) standardizing the season across most of the MCH range to reduce hunter confusion and encourage reporting.

PROPOSED BY: The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F20-060)

Note: The range of the Mulchatna caribou herd is Units 9 and 17 in the Central & Southwest Region; Unit 18 for the Western Arctic/Western Region; and Unit 19 for the Interior and Eastern Arctic Region. The Board of Game is scheduled to address only the Central/Southwest Region units at this meeting.

PROPOSAL 21

5 AAC 92.111. Intensive Management Plans I.

Establish a second predation control area for Mulchatna caribou on federal lands in Game Management Units 17 and 18.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Mulchatna Caribou Herd Predation Management Area is established to increase the Mulchatna caribou herd (MCH) within Units 9B, 17B, 17C, 19A and 19B to aid in achieving intensive management (IM) objectives. The Mulchatna Caribou Herd Predation Management Area encompasses approximately 39,683 square miles (multiple predator control areas may be utilized within the management area); however, the current active control areas is limited to a total of 10,000 square miles, which is 25 percent of the management area.

The current control program was first established by the Board of Game (board) in 2011 for wolf control. It is designed to increase the caribou herd’s population size and human harvest by reducing wolf predation on caribou and is expected to contribute to achieving the IM objectives across the range. The IM objective for the MCH as established in 5 AAC 92.108 is 30,000–80,000 caribou. These objectives were based on historical information regarding population numbers, habitat limitations, human use, and sustainable harvests. The caribou harvest objective established for the MCH is 2,400–8,000.

Wolves are a major predator of caribou in the range of the MCH and are an important factor in failing to achieve objectives. The wolf population objective for the MCH Predation Management Area is to annually reduce the number of wolves in predator control areas to a level that results in increased calf survival and recruitment. A reduction of wolf predation can reasonably be expected to aid in achieving objectives using recognized, prudent active management techniques based on scientific information.

The population and harvest objectives for the MCH are still well below the IM objectives throughout the herd's range and state and federal hunts have been affected, resulting in bag limit changes and an early closure to the 2019/2020 season. It is still believed that reducing wolf predation is likely effective and that reducing wolf predation is in the best interests of subsistence users. Under 5 AAC 99.025, in 1988, the board made a positive customary and traditional use (C&T) finding for caribou in Units 9A, 9B, 17, and 18, with an amount reasonably necessary for subsistence (ANS) of 2,100– 2,400 caribou. To date, the program has been affected by the limitations of flying and tracking conditions and hampered to a degree by an inability to reduce predation on large portions of federal land where much of the MCH range. In winter 2020 the Secretary of the Interior communicated to the Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (department) that the Division of Wildlife Conservation should draft a plan for predation control on federal lands in Units 17 and 18 to address the declining caribou population. This proposal seeks to establish additional predation control area(s) by expanding the current authorized limit of 10,000 mi² for implementation on federal lands (Togiak National Wildlife Refuge).

This proposal requires concurrence from the Department of Interior for implementation on federal lands. The department anticipates this approval prior to the Board of Game meeting in January 2021.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F20-052)

PROPOSAL 22

5 AAC 99.025. Customary and traditional uses of game populations.

Determine customary and traditional uses of the Nushagak Peninsula caribou herd in Game Management Units 17A and 17C – Nushagak Peninsula, Bristol Bay.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Under AS 16.05.258, the Board of Game (board) is required to identify game populations, or portions of populations, that are customarily and traditionally taken or used for subsistence. Under 5 AAC 99.025, in 1988, the board made a positive customary and traditional use (C&T) finding for caribou in Units 9A, 9B, 17, and 18, with an amount reasonably necessary for subsistence (ANS) of 2,100– 2,400 caribou. Generally, the Board of Game makes C&T findings for specific caribou herds. In early 1988, most caribou taken in Unit 17 were from the Mulchatna caribou herd (MCH). Therefore, the information provided to the board in support of the positive C&T determination generally addressed uses specific to the MCH. Since 1988, however, two distinct caribou populations have been present in Unit 17: the MCH and the Nushagak Peninsula caribou herd (NPCH). A customary and traditional

use finding specific to the NPCH herd has not been made. The department is proposing the board make a C&T determination specifically for the NPCH.

Following the C&T determination for caribou in Unit 17, caribou were reintroduced to the Nushagak Peninsula to provide additional caribou hunting opportunities. The NPCH primarily occupies the approximately 425 square mile Nushagak Peninsula, which is the portion of Units 17A and 17C south of the Igushik River, the Tuklung River, and the Tuklung Hills, and west to Tvativak Bay. Prior to 2016, caribou hunting on the Nushagak Peninsula was limited to federally-qualified subsistence users under permit FC1702. In 2016, an area within the Nushagak Peninsula was opened to hunters using the state RC501 permit to increase harvest and lower the population of the Nushagak Peninsula herd, which had exceeded population objectives. With a reported harvest of 378 caribou during the 2016–2017 season, and 100 caribou during the 2017–2018 season, the population estimate declined from 1,294 in 2016 to 822 in 2019. The NPCH is now closer to the optimum level of 750.

The Department of Fish and Game (department) will prepare a report with information relevant to the eight criteria (5 AAC 99.010) that the board uses to identify game populations with customary and traditional uses, to assist the board with this finding.

If the board chooses to make a positive C&T finding for the Nushagak Peninsula caribou herd, the department will also provide options for the board to consider establishing an ANS.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F20-034)

PROPOSAL 23

5 AAC 92.080(4)(B)(vii). Unlawful methods of taking game; exceptions.

Allow the use of snowmachine to position wolf or wolverine for harvest in Unit 17 as follows:

On page 18 of the hunting regulations book, it would read: “A snowmachine may be used to position a wolf or wolverine for harvest, and a wolf or wolverine may be shot from a stationary snowmachine in Units 17, 18, 22, 23, and 26A.”

In 5AAC 92.080(4)(B)(vii) it would read “in Units 17 and 18, a snowmachine may be used to position a wolf or wolverine for harvest, and wolves or wolverines may be shot from a stationary snowmachine;”

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Currently, the restrictions against driving, herding, harassing, or molesting game, in the accepted allowance for the use of snowmachines to position hunters to select individual wolves, and the absence of wolverines in the accepted allowance for snow machine positioning, conflicts with the long standing local, wolf and wolverine hunting practices which is the only practical way to hunt wolves, and wolverines in Unit 17 during the winter. Also, the allowance for snowmachine use to position a hunter does not satisfactorily address this issue, as it does not clarify whether this includes actually tracking down wolves, or wolverine, including pursuing animals, until close enough to shoot. This proposal

simply seeks to provide Unit 17 hunters and trappers the same opportunities currently available in Units 18, 22, 23, and 26A.

If the Board of Game does not change the regulation, local people hunting these species with snowmachines will continue to live with the threat of prosecution for hunting with snowmachines in the only way practical, making people feel like criminals and interfering with the ability to freely pursue these animals for critical and irreplaceable fur products and income. These animals are critical to the local economy and way of life and enforcement of current regulations is viewed as insensitive to the culture, economy and food security in the region.

Allowing a hunter to use a snowmachine to get within range of fleeing wolves, and wolverines will allow the precise shot placement which will minimize unnecessary waste of fur and is the most humane method of killing an animal with a rifle. Wildlife enforcement officers will also have a clear understanding of the intent to allow for the pursuit of these species, reducing unnecessary conflicts and increasing the cooperation of the people on the other enforcement issues where local cooperation is necessary to the mission to protect all species in the areas.

The local people will appreciate the Board of Game and the Department of Fish and Game being responsive to the needs of the people and by correcting this issue will put integrity back in the system by getting rid of a longstanding conflict between regulatory prohibitions and common local practices that are the only practical way to pursue these species in the winter. In addition, the future cooperative management strategies and goals will be more likely to succeed as the people will have increased faith that the system takes their needs into account and is responsive to them.

PROPOSED BY: Nushagak Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F20-031)

PROPOSAL 24

5 AAC 85.065. Hunting seasons and bag limits for small game.

5 AAC 92.220. Salvage of game meat, furs, and hides.

Establish a season, daily and seasonal bag limit, and salvage requirement for Alaska hare in Unit 17 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 | Sept. 1 – Apr. 30 |
| Units 6–26, except | No closed season | No closed season |

14(A) and 14(C) and
Alaska hares in Units 9,
17, 18, 22, and 23
No limit

Unit 9 and **17**,
Alaska hares only
1 per day, 4 total

Nov. 1 – Jan. 30

Nov. 1 – Jan. 30

Unit 18, 22, and 23, Alaska hares only
2 per day, 6 total

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–
April. 30
(General hunt only)

Day after Labor Day–
Apr. 30

5 AAC 92.220. Salvage of game meat, furs, and hides.

(a) Subject to additional requirements in 5 AAC 84-5AAC 85, a person taking game shall salvage the following parts for human use:

...

(7) the hide or meat of Alaska hares taken in Units 9, **17**, 18, 22, and 23;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Currently there are season dates, daily and annual bag limit, and salvage requirement for Alaska hare throughout the species range in Alaska (Units 9, 18, 22, and 23) except Unit 17. Given the ongoing research, continued low abundance, and public concern about this species it is important to consider a cohesive and comprehensive management framework for this species across the entire range within Alaska. Many rural residents have reported seeing far fewer Alaska hares in the past 1-2 decades throughout their local areas, and reconnaissance of Alaska hares by ADF&G staff in Unit 17 have yielded few observations. The Board of Game has made positive customary and traditional use findings for Alaska hares throughout their range in Alaska.

The current Alaska hare salvage requirement is described as human use. We recommend this categorization also be used in Unit 17. The human use requirement would be met as long as some portion of the carcass is used for human consumption, trapping, sewing, dog training, dog food, etc. This proposal would simply prohibit the harvest of an Alaska hare with no attempt to recover, eat, or in any way attempt to use part or all of the carcass. Trappers would be allowed to use a whole or portion of a carcass for trapping bait.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F20-037)

King Salmon Area Proposals – Units 9 & 10

PROPOSAL 25

5 AAC 92.108. Identified big game prey populations and objectives.

Review the intensive management findings for Unimak caribou and determine objectives if applicable:

5AAC 92.108 Identified big game prey populations and objectives.

| Caribou Herds | Finding | Population Objective | Harvest Objective |
|---------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| ... | | | |
| Southern Alaska Peninsula | Positive | 1,500–4,000 | 150–200 |
| Unimak Island | <u>Negative</u> | | |
| <u>Or</u> | <u>Positive</u> | <u>1,000–1,500</u> | <u>20–150</u> |
| | | | |

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Historically the Unimak Island caribou herd (UCH) was considered part of the Southern Alaska Peninsula caribou herd (SAP), therefore the population and harvest objectives from 5 AAC 92.108 above applied to the combined mainland and island herds. As biologists learned more about herd distribution, movement, disparate calving areas, and genetics, it became apparent that the two herds were separate. In the last decade movement between these herds, based on collared caribou monitored in both herds, has been almost nonexistent. The ADF&G Division of Wildlife Conservation maintains separate population and composition monitoring of the two herds, and therefore recommends distinguishing between the two herds in regulation. No survey and inventory management objectives are in place for the UCH; however, currently-recommended objectives under the Intensive Management (IM) Plan in 92.112 (expires May 2020), define a minimum population of 1,000 caribou, a ratio of 35 bulls:100 cows, and annual harvest of 100–150 in combination with the SAP.

Options to manage predator populations on Unimak Island are limited because most lands are designated federal wilderness. Unsuccessful negotiations with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to allow wolf control on federal lands ended in court decision upholding federal restrictions on wilderness lands. The UCH population remains below the population and harvest objective set in the IM plan, numbering approximately 430–460 caribou; however, the herd began increasing recently at a rate of about 10% per year. Bull- and calf-to-100 cow ratios exceeded IM objectives in 92.112(c)(4)(D)(i-ii) as of fall 2018 (80 bulls and 44 calves per 100 cows) without predation control. Annual wolf harvest by hunters and trappers is 3.1 wolves, 62% of which are taken by nonresident bear hunters. Wolf harvest has been encouraged by waiving the nonresident tag fee (2010) and providing liberal seasons and bag limits (2009). The UCH has remained closed to caribou hunting since 2009 except for limited subsistence hunting of three bulls allowed recently on federal lands. Although calf mortality studies indicated that brown bears were important predators of neonates, an IM program for bears was not considered possible on Unimak. Habitat is not considered a limiting factor on the island.

False Pass, population 46, is the only community on Unimak Island. False Pass residents have reported limited hunting activity on the UCH and SAP in the last two decades. Reported cumulative UCH harvest from 1997 to 2008 was 117 (range of 0–19 annually), only 11 of which were by False Pass residents, an average of 0.9 killed per year for the community. The number of UCH hunters who reported from False Pass ranged from zero to eight, with an average of 1.4 hunters per year during that period. Although False Pass residents have boat access to the SAP, no hunting participation in state hunts was reported on the SAP during the recent six years that state hunts have been open and liberalized. Izembek National Wildlife Refuge staff issues federal subsistence permits to False Pass residents and reported that recent subsistence harvest on the SAP ranges from one to six per year. Reported caribou harvest by False Pass residents on the UCH and SAP, combined, does not meet the criteria in 92.106(1)(A)(i) caribou: 100; and level for hunter demand is low (92.106(1)(D)).

The SAP is recognized as an intensive management population. IM programs for the SAP were approved by the Board of Game (board) in 2008, successfully implemented, and allowed to expire in 2017. Intensive management population objectives established for the SAP (listed above) are still relevant and should remain unchanged. The SAP population size is approximately 2,700 and since 2012 has been increasing at an average of about 9.7% with a liberal season and bag limit to encourage hunter participation. Reported harvest remains low at 40–50 per year because of remoteness and difficult access but is increasing slowly as guides and hunters find their way in.

If the board’s finding is negative under 92.108 for the UCH, then the chapter addressing the Unimak Wolf Management Area in 92.112 should be repealed from regulation. If the UCH receives a positive finding, a revision to the IM plan in 92.112 will be necessary. The recommended management objectives and harvest strategy, derived from the 2010 UCH Operational Plan, are as follows:

Population Objectives

- Population size: 1,000–1,500
- Minimum bull-to-cow ratio: 35 bulls:100 cows
- Minimum cow-to-calf ratio: 20 calves:100 cows

Harvest Objectives

- Annual Harvest: 20–150

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F20-048)

PROPOSAL 26

5 AAC 99.025. Customary and traditional uses of game populations.

Determine customary and traditional uses of the Unimak Island caribou herd (Unit 10 – Unimak Island).

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Under AS 16.05.258, the Board of Game (board) is required to identify game populations, or portions of populations, that are customarily and traditionally taken or used for subsistence. Historically the Unimak caribou herd (UCH) was considered part of the Southern Alaska Peninsula caribou herd (SAP). Under 5 AAC 99.025, in 1987 the board determined a positive customary and traditional use (C&T) finding for caribou on Unimak Island as part of the Southern Alaska Peninsula herd (SAP) with an amount reasonably necessary for subsistence (ANS) of 100–150 caribou. The positive C&T finding was applied to the combined mainland and island herds. In the last decade there has been very little movement between these herds based on collared caribou monitored in both herds. The Department of Fish and Game (department) is proposing that the herds be managed separately (Proposal 25).

Because the caribou on Unimak island are now managed as a herd separate from the SAP, there is no C&T finding specific to the UCH. False Pass (population 49) is the only community on Unimak Island. The UCH population is at a low level (approximately 430 caribou), is increasing slowly, and has remained closed to hunting under state regulations since 2008. Three federal subsistence permits were issued during the last two years through special action requests to the Federal Subsistence Board. Reported cumulative UCH harvest from 1997 to 2008 was 117.

The department will prepare a report with information relevant to the eight criteria (5 AAC 99.010) that the board uses to identify game populations with C&T uses, to assist the Board with this finding.

If the board chooses to make a positive C&T finding for the Unimak caribou herd, we recommend that the board postpone establishing an ANS for the herd until the population reaches management goals and harvests consistent with traditional levels are sustainable.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F20-035)

PROPOSAL 27

5 AAC 92.111. Intensive Management Plans I.

Reauthorize the Northern Alaska Peninsula (NAP) Caribou Herd Intensive Management Plan (IM) as follows:

(a) **Plans established.** Intensive management plans for the following areas are established in this section:

...

Northern Alaska Peninsula Herd Management Area is entirely deleted and replaced by the following:

(b) **Northern Alaska Peninsula Herd Predation Management Area: to facilitate growth in the Northern Alaska Peninsula (NAP) caribou herd on the mainland portions of Units 9(C) and 9(E) to aid in achieving intensive management objectives in an area encompassing approximately 19,461 square miles (50,403 square kilometers); the wolf reduction area includes all Alaska Peninsula drainages south of the south bank of the Naknek River and the southern boundary of Katmai National Park to a line from the southernmost head of Port Moller Bay to the head of American Bay, encompassing approximately 10,734 square miles (27,802 square kilometers);**

(1) **This is a continuing control program that was first authorized by the board in March 2010 for wolf control; it is currently designed to increase caribou abundance and harvest by reducing predation on caribou by wolves and is expected to make a contribution to achieving the intensive management (IM) objectives in Units 9(C) and 9(E).**

(2) **Caribou, brown bear and wolf objectives are as follows:**

(A) **the intensive management objective for the NAP as established in 5 AAC 92.108 is 6,000–15,000 caribou; these objectives were based on historic information regarding population numbers, habitat limitations, human use, and sustainable harvests;**

(B) **the caribou harvest objective for the NAP as established in 5 AAC 92.108 is 600–1,500 caribou;**

(C) **the wolf population objective for Unit 9 is to maintain a wolf population that can sustain a three-year annual harvest of 50 wolves;**

(D) **the brown bear population objective for Unit 9 is to maintain a high-density bear population with a sex and age structure that can sustain a harvest composed of 60 percent males, with 50 males eight years of age or older during combined fall and spring seasons;**

- (3) **Board findings concerning populations and human use are as follows:**
- (A) **The board has designated the NAP as important for providing high levels of human consumptive use;**
 - (B) **the board established objectives for population size and annual sustained harvest of caribou in Units 9(C) and 9(E) consistent with multiple use and principles of sound conservation and management of habitat and all wildlife species in the area;**
 - (C) **the population and harvest for the NAP are below IM objectives throughout the range;**
 - (D) **wolves are a major predator of caribou in the range of the NAP and are an important factor in failing to achieve these objectives;**
 - (E) **a reduction of predation can reasonably be expected to aid in achieving the objectives;**
 - (F) **nutrition is not considered to be the primary factor limiting caribou population growth;**
 - (G) **reducing predation is likely to be effective and feasible using recognized and prudent active management techniques and based on scientific information;**
 - (H) **reducing predation is likely to be effective given land ownership patterns, and;**
 - (I) **reducing predation is in the best interests of subsistence users.**
- (4) **Authorized methods and means are as follows:**
- (A) **hunting and trapping of wolves by the public in treatment areas during the term of the management program may occur as provided in the hunting and trapping regulations set out elsewhere in this title, including the use of motorized vehicles as provided in 5 AAC 92.080;**
 - (B) **the commissioner may issue public aerial shooting permits, public land and shoot permits, or ground-based shooting permits, allow agents of the state, or department employees to conduct aerial, land and shoot, or ground-based shooting as a method of wolf removal under AS 16.05.783, including the use of any type of aircraft;**
 - (C) **the commissioner may authorize the use of state employees or agents or state owned, privately owned, or chartered equipment, including helicopters, as a method of wolf removal under AS 16.05.783;**

- (5) Time frame is as follows:
- (A) through June 30, 2031, the commissioner may authorize the removal of wolves in the NAP Predation Management Area;
 - (B) annually, the department shall, to the extent practicable, provide to the board a report of program activities conducted during the preceding 12 months, including implementation activities, the status of caribou and wolf populations, and recommendations for changes, if necessary, to achieve the objectives of the plan;
- 6) The commissioner will review, modify or suspend program activities as follows:
- (A) when the IM population and harvest objectives for the NAP are sustained or the population can grow at a sustained rate of five percent annually;
 - (B) if after three years, the harvest of wolves is not sufficient to make progress towards the intensive management population objectives for wolves;
 - (C) if after three years, there is no detectable increase in the total number of caribou in the control area;
 - (D) if after three years, bull-to-cow ratios show no appreciable increase or remain below 20 bulls per 100 cows;
 - (E) if after three years, fall calf-to-cow ratios show no appreciable increase or can be sustained at 25 or more calves per 100 cows;
 - (F) if after three years, any measure consistent with significant levels of nutritional stress in the caribou population are identified;
 - (G) when the caribou population and harvest objectives within the NAP Predation Management Area have been met; or
 - (H) upon expiration of the period during which the commissioner is authorized to reduce wolf numbers in the wolf reduction areas.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Northern Alaska Peninsula Caribou Herd Intensive Management Plan expires on June 30, 2020. IM objectives for the NAP have not been achieved because wolf harvest was not sufficient to make progress towards the intensive management population objective for wolves (6B above). During the seven years that the IM program was active, a total of 16 (5%) wolves were removed via public control (same-day-airborne) versus 275 taken from the wolf assessment area by hunters and trappers. The most effective predation control action taken for the NAP was the waiving of the nonresident wolf tag requirement. As a result, most harvest is taken by guided nonresident bear hunters during the odd regulatory year when the bear seasons are open. Since 2011, the NAP has been increasing by an

average of about 7.3% per year and hovers near 4,300 caribou (based on survey data and modelling). At this rate the population should reach the lower end of objectives in five - six years.

To comply with protocol for intensive management plans, ADF&G is removing unnecessary and outdated information from the previous version and introducing specific regulatory language for the intensive management plan for the NAP predation management area. This reauthorization proposal allows the Board of Game to modify the programs objectives and give further guidance to ADF&G if warranted.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F20-046)

PROPOSAL 28

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

Remove the resident bag limit of one brown bear every four years 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.

The RB368, RB369, and RB370 registration permit hunts in Unit 9, that occur in the spring of even-numbered years and fall of odd-numbered years allow unlimited resident and nonresident opportunity and nonresident guided hunters make up the majority of participants and take 80 percent of the harvest each season. Any conservation concerns are clearly related to the nonresident component where the vast majority of the harvest comes from.

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 (HQ-F20-018)

PROPOSAL 29

5 AAC 84.270 Furbearer trapping.

5 AAC 92.095(a)(3). Unlawful methods of taking furbearers; exceptions.

Lengthen the season and liberalize methods and means for trapping beaver in Unit 9 as follows:

Liberalize the season and methods and means for trapping beaver in Unit 9 or in just subunits 9D and 9E, if the board thinks a unit-wide liberalization is too much.

In Unit 9, no closed season and no bag limit. A trapping license is still required.

In Unit 9 you may shoot up to the established bag limit with a firearm throughout the season provided that either the meat or hide is salvaged.

In Unit 9, from June 1 to October 9, taking of beaver by any means other than firearm is prohibited.

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

In Unit 9 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 Unit 9 you may disturb or destroy a beaver dam. (Under current regulations, you may not disturb or destroy a beaver house or den.)

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The beaver population is ever expanding in Unit 9. 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. It was especially bad in the summer of 2019 when there was an extensive drought. I witnessed where beavers dammed two of the major spawning streams where I guide for brown bear. There was no salmon in them at all and no bears on the streams. These streams are normally 15 feet wide and two-or-more feet deep but with the reduced water flow because of the drought they were able to dam them. As of May 12, 2020, they are still dammed. 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 requirements will give everyone the maximum opportunity to harvest the surplus of beavers in this unit. Many of the residents and some 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. Most of Unit 9 is very remote with very little harvest of beavers at all.

PROPOSED BY: Dan Montgomery (EG-F20-046)

PROPOSAL 30

5 AAC 84.270. Furbearer trapping.

Shorten the wolf trapping season in Units 9 and 10 as follows:

Unit 9: August 10 – [JUNE 30] **April 30** No limit

Unit 10: November 10 – [JUNE 30] **April 30** No limit

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Need to shorten the wolf trapping season. Trapping after April 30 for wolf will let trappers harvest during the denning season. This brings unwanted attention from anti-hunting and trapping groups. Units 9 and 10 are the only units that extend into the denning season. This regulation allows for the taking of cubs during this time frame.

PROPOSED BY: Jeff Lucas (EG-F20-082)

PROPOSAL 31

5 AAC 84.270. Furbearer trapping.

5 AAC 85.057. Hunting seasons and bag limits for wolverine.

Close wolverine trapping and hunting in Unit 10 as follows:

5 AAC 84.270. Furbearer trapping.

| Units and Bag Limits | Open Season | Bag Limit |
|--|------------------------------|------------------|
| ... | | |
| (14) Wolverine | | |
| ... | | |
| Units 6, 7, 9(A), 9(C), 9(D), [10,] 15, and 16(B) | Nov. 10 – Last day of Feb. | No limit |
| ... | | |
| <u>Unit 10</u> | <u>No open season</u> | |
| ... | | |

5 AAC 85.057. Hunting seasons and bag limits for wolverine.

| Units and Bag Limits | Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts) | Nonresident Open Season |
|---|---|--------------------------------|
| ... | | |
| (14) Wolverine | | |
| ... | | |
| Units 6–9 [10], 12, 15, 16(B), [10,] 15, and 16(B) 17 and 19–25, and 26(A) 1 wolverine | Sept. 1–Mar. 31 | Sept. 1–Mar. 31 |
| ... | | |

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Wolverines only occur in Unit 10 on Unimak Island where they are very rare. There is one sealing record for a wolverine shot in 1980, and an observation by a wildlife biologist of a lone wolverine high in alpine snow in 2011. There are no records of harvests in subsistence household surveys (however, the only data point is a 1988 survey for False Pass). Wolf, fox, bears and their tracks are routinely seen on beaches where marine mammal carcasses have washed up, but no wolverine sign has been observed at these important food sources in the last 6 years of regular trips to the island. Wolverine may have crossed Isanotski Strait regularly on pack ice in decades past; sea ice at Unimak was much more common early in the twentieth century than it is now. While there is a positive customary and traditional use finding for wolverines in all units with a harvestable portion, and an amount necessary for subsistence of 90% of the harvestable portion, the Department of Fish and Game does not consider Unit 10 to have a harvestable portion. Trapping and hunting pressure on Unimak is currently low to nonexistent, which, combined with a lack of data regarding wolverine presence justifies closing of the hunting and trapping seasons.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F20-071)

PROPOSAL 32

5 AAC 85.065(4). Hunting seasons and bag limits for small game.

Close the nonresident season for Emperor geese in Units 9 and 10 as follows:

The Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management Council (AMBCC) will be conducting intensive outreach and education activities prior to the spring-summer season in an effort to reduce the harvest numbers of Emperor geese.

We are requesting that the state close the nonresident season in Units 9 and 10 until the population index is above 28,000 birds.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? In accordance with the AMBCC’s Emperor Goose Management Plan, once the population index is below 28,000 birds, the AMBCC will consider implementing conservation measures for the 2020 spring-summer subsistence harvest season. The State of Alaska will do the same for the 2020 fall-winter season and have reduced the number of birds allowed to be taken from 1000 to 500. Currently, the State of Alaska allocates 25 of the 500 birds to nonresident hunters as a draw permit.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management Council (EG-F20-118)

Note: Emperor geese harvest regulations apply to Units 9, 10 and 17 for the Central/Southwest Region; 18, 22 and 23 for the Western Arctic/Western Region; and Unit 8 for the Southcentral Region. The Board of Game is scheduled to address only the Central/Southwest Region units at this meeting.

PROPOSAL 33

5 AAC 85.065. Hunting seasons and bag limits for small game.

Allocate 50% of the permits for harvesting Emperor geese in Units 9, 10, and 17 to nonresidents as follows:

We propose that 50% of all allotted Emperor goose permits go to nonresident hunters. This would be 500 nonresident permits when Emperor goose counts are high enough for regular seasons. If counts dipped to restrictive seasons, then the nonresident quota would drop to 250 permits. This should result in no Alaska residents being left out, since Alaska residents have shown decreased interest in this hunt and their total harvest in 2019 was 122 Emperors statewide.

We propose continuing the current drawing process for nonresidents as it generates income for ADF&G. The current process allows for a nonresident with an Alaska hunting license to apply up to six times (\$5 per try up to \$30) to be drawn for a nonresident Emperor permit. We believe that by having individuals spend \$60 on a nonresident small game license and an additional \$30 on the drawing it will keep individuals out of the drawing that really have no interest or financial capacity to travel to Alaska.

Proposed breakdown of available permits:

Regular season:

AK Residents: 500 permits // nonresidents: 500 permits

Restrictive season:

AK Residents: 250 permits // nonresidents: 250 permits

NOTE: Alaska resident sport harvest was less than 129 birds each year from 2017-2019 with lower harvest reported each consecutive year.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The recovery of the Emperor goose is a success story in modern wildlife management. The Alaska population of this goose crashed in the mid-1980's, prompting a hunting closure that lasted thirty years. The three-year estimated population average from 2014 to 2016 rose above the population threshold set in 2016 by the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to reestablish a hunting season for Emperor Geese in Alaska. USFWS oversees migratory bird management and develops frameworks for states to set harvest regulations to establish hunting seasons, rules, and limits. Given the potentially fragile nature of the population's recovery, USFWS rightfully set a conservative 1,000 bird quota for a sport hunting season starting in fall 2017, on a trial basis, to be reevaluated after three years.

The State of Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) and the Alaska Board of Game established a resident sport hunting season for fall/winter 2017 with seven zones, each zone having its own quota. The total of these zones equaled the 1,000 bird quota under regular USFWS harvest quotas based off of the population index. The total quota would be reduced to 500 if the previous

year's population index fell within the moderate harvest prescription. A game management unit (GMU) will close after shooting hours on the last day of the season, or by Emergency Order when the GMU quota is met. The Emperor Goose hunt was set up as a registration hunt and the limit has been one bird per person per season for the entire state. Also established in 2017 was an application for nonresidents to apply for a drawing to hunt Emperors during the fall/winter 2018 season. In 2017, all of the 1,000 bird quota was allotted to Alaska residents; for fall/winter 2018 and 2019 seasons, the number allotted to non-residents was 25 of the total 1,000 quota.

Statewide, harvest for fall and winter sport-hunted Emperor geese was 129 for 2017 (Alaska residents only), 150 for 2018, and 147 for 2019. For 2018 and 2019, those numbers are a sum of the resident and nonresident sport harvested Emperor geese. Sport hunters have only harvested 12.9% to 15% of the allocated quota over the three years of sport hunting. Harvest has declined steadily over these first three years as interest from Alaska residents appears to be on the decline. Alaska resident harvest was: 129 (2017), 125 (2018), 122 (2019).

There is no evidence to support any expectation resident sport harvest of Emperor geese will increase. Alaska has only 6,500 licensed waterfowl hunters in the entire state. Current estimates put the number of active waterfowl hunters in the lower 48 states at about 1.2 million.

The number of annual Emperor permits available to Alaskan resident waterfowl hunters (975) vs nonresidents (25) is drastically different from actual demand and interest in hunting Emperor geese. Roughly 400 nonresidents applied in November 2019 for the 25 nonresident permits for the 2020 fall/winter Emperor hunt. We believe the number of interested non-resident hunters is much higher, but many do not apply due to the poor odds of being drawn. Because Emperor goose hunting was closed for thirty years, most active nonresident hunters have never had the opportunity

to hunt them. If the current regulations stay in effect, most non-resident hunters will never get an opportunity to hunt this migratory species.

We understand that the ADF&G were rightfully cautious when restarting the Emperor goose hunt for a three-year trial. We have learned that most Alaskan hunters are simply not that interested in hunting Emperors and that the demand for this species is largely from non-resident hunters. These nonresidents would be extremely grateful to harvest just one Emperor goose in their life and would spend a large sum to accomplish this. Emperors' habitat borders rural communities that could put vital tourism dollars to good use to support their local economies. Larger municipalities' airports, hotels, restaurants, taxis, retail stores, and more would also see increased business from September through January as non-residents would spend time in Anchorage and elsewhere before and after their hunts in rural communities.

PROPOSED BY: Chad Yamane, EG-F20-068; Clint Pollard, EG-F20-115; Rob Price, EG-F20-095; Robert Haney, EG-F20-099; Bill Sager, EG-F20-127; Gary English, EG-F20-146; Steve Timler, EG-F20-103; Mark Ihrie; Tony Roberts; Patrick Bradburn; Colby Sarvis; Patricio Gaudiano

Note: Emperor geese harvest regulations apply to Units 9, 10 and 17 for the Central/Southwest Region; 18, 22 and 23 for the Western Arctic/Western Region; and Unit 8 for the Southcentral Region. The Board of Game is scheduled to address only the Central/Southwest Region units at this meeting.

PROPOSAL 34

5 AAC 85.065. Hunting seasons and bag limits for small game.

Allocate 50% of the permits for harvesting Emperor geese in Units 9, 10, and 17 to nonresidents as follows:

We propose that 50% of all allotted Emperor goose permits go to nonresident hunters. This would be 500 nonresident permits when Emperor goose counts are high enough for regular seasons. If counts dipped to restrictive seasons, then the nonresident quota would drop to 250 permits. This should result in no Alaska residents being left out, since Alaska residents have shown decreased interest in this hunt and their total harvest in 2019 was 122 Emperors statewide.

We propose continuing the current drawing process for nonresidents as it generates income for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. The current process allows for a nonresident with an Alaska hunting license to apply up to six times (\$5 per try up to \$30) to be drawn for a nonresident Emperor permit. We believe that by having individuals spend \$60 on a nonresident small game license and an additional \$30 on the drawing it will keep individuals out of the drawing that really have no interest or financial capacity to travel to Alaska.

Proposed breakdown of available permits:

Regular season:

AK Residents: 500 permits // nonresidents: 500 permits

Restrictive season:

AK Residents: 250 permits // nonresidents: 250 permits

NOTE: Alaska resident sport harvest was less than 129 birds each year from 2017-2019 with lower harvest reported each consecutive year.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The recovery of the Emperor goose is a success story in modern wildlife management. The Alaska population of this goose crashed in the mid-1980's, prompting a hunting closure that lasted thirty years. The three-year estimated population average from 2014 to 2016 rose above the population threshold set in 2016 by the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to reestablish a hunting season for Emperor geese in Alaska. USFWS oversees migratory bird management and develops frameworks for states to set harvest regulations to establish hunting seasons, rules, and limits. Given the potentially fragile nature of the population's recovery, USFWS rightfully set a conservative 1,000 bird quota for a sport hunting season starting in fall 2017, on a trial basis, to be reevaluated after three years.

The State of Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the Alaska Board of Game established a resident sport hunting season for fall/winter 2017 with seven zones, each zone having its own quota. The total of these zones equaled the 1,000 bird quota under regular USFWS harvest quotas based off of the population index. The total quota would be reduced to 500 if the previous year's population index fell within the moderate harvest prescription. A game management unit (GMU) will close after shooting hours on the last day of the season, or by Emergency Order when the GMU quota is met. The Emperor goose hunt was set up as a registration hunt and the limit has been one bird per person per season for the entire state. Also established in 2017 was an application for nonresidents to apply for a drawing to hunt Emperors during the fall/winter 2018 season. In 2017, all of the 1,000 bird quota was allotted to Alaska residents; for fall/winter 2018 and 2019 seasons, the number allotted to nonresidents was 25 of the total 1,000 quota.

Statewide, harvest for fall and winter sport-hunted Emperor geese was 129 for 2017 (Alaska residents only), 150 for 2018, and 147 for 2019. For 2018 and 2019, those numbers are a sum of the resident and nonresident sport harvested Emperor geese. Sport hunters have only harvested 12.9% to 15% of the allocated quota over the three years of sport hunting. Harvest has declined steadily over these first three years as interest from Alaska residents appears to be on the decline. Alaska resident harvest was: 129 (2017), 125 (2018), 122 (2019).

There is no evidence to support any expectation resident sport harvest of Emperor geese will increase. Alaska has only 6,500 licensed waterfowl hunters in the entire state. Current estimates put the number of active waterfowl hunters in the lower 48 states at about 1.2 million.

The number of annual Emperor permits available to Alaskan resident waterfowl hunters (975) versus nonresidents (25) is drastically different from actual demand and interest in hunting Emperor geese. Roughly 400 nonresidents applied in November 2019 for the 25 nonresident permits for the 2020 fall/winter Emperor hunt. We believe the number of interested nonresident hunters is much higher, but many do not apply due to the poor odds of being drawn. Because Emperor goose hunting was closed for thirty years, most active non-resident hunters have never had the opportunity to hunt them. If the current regulations stay in effect, most nonresident hunters will never get an opportunity to hunt this migratory species.

We understand that the ADF&G were rightfully cautious when restarting the Emperor goose hunt for a three-year trial. We have learned that most Alaskan hunters are simply not that interested in hunting Emperors and that the demand for this species is largely from nonresident hunters. These nonresidents would be extremely grateful to harvest just one Emperor goose in their life and would spend a large sum to accomplish this. Emperors' habitat borders rural communities that could put vital tourism dollars to good use to support their local economies. Larger municipalities' airports, hotels, restaurants, taxis, retail stores, and more would also see increased business from September through January as nonresidents would spend time in Anchorage and elsewhere before and after their hunts in rural communities.

Discussion: The State of Alaska closed Emperor goose hunting in 1986 in response to a drastic drop in population. Emperor goose population surveys from 1964-1986 were intermittent, with some years skipped completely. The Emperor goose remained off limits to US hunters for roughly thirty years as the population slowly increased. Surveys for Emperor geese have been conducted by USFWS in different areas of Alaska to estimate the overall Emperor goose population. These different surveys have included fall and spring surveys along portions of the Aleutian Islands, Alaska Peninsula, and Bristol Bay region. Other surveys have been focused on the main nesting areas of the Emperors on the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta (Y-K Delta) area of Southwest Alaska. Current management has focused on using a total bird index from the Y-K Delta Coastal Zone Survey to assess population status relative to setting regulations for Emperor goose harvest. The harvest strategy defines a regulatory harvest closure threshold of 23,000 birds. This represents approximately 120,000 Emperor geese based on a theta-logistic population model currently in development (USFWS, R7-Migratory Bird Management). A recent three-year average population index (2014–2016) is 30,965 birds; equivalent to approximately 161,000 emperor geese.

With the overall population estimate at 161,000 for the three-year average of 2014-2016 USFWS and ADF&G started management action for the creation of a hunting season for Emperor geese.

The most similar population of geese in Alaska to Emperors for the sake of management is the Pacific Black Brant. 2019 fall counts conducted on the Izembek Lagoon near Cold Bay, Alaska produced an estimate of 157,000 Brant. Both species nest in Alaska and rely on marine environments exclusively for their annual life cycle. All other species of geese that nest in Alaska utilize agricultural waste grain in their wintering grounds and most utilize waste grain at some point on staging areas for their spring and fall migrations. Pacific Black Brant, for these reasons and more, are the most similar goose population for comparison to the Emperor goose population for management purposes.

In 2019, the season dates for Brant in Alaska were September 1 through December 16 in the Southcentral GMUs where most Brant hunting occurs. The daily limit is three Brant and possession limit is nine for both residents and nonresidents. There are no seasonal limits for any geese species in Alaska (or anywhere else in North America) except Emperors. In comparison, the season dates are the same for Emperor geese, but the Emperor goose limit is one per season for both residents and non-residents. However, nonresidents must apply for a permit the previous year and face long odds in drawing one of the 25 available permits for the entire state. Current regulations for an arguably similar species with similar populations (Pacific Black Brant) are drastically different.

For example, a nonresident can travel to Alaska to hunt Brant for a week and legally shoot a possession limit of nine Brant and there are no restrictions on the number of individual non-

residents allowed to hunt Brant. By comparison, only 25 individual nonresident hunters are permitted to harvest an Emperor for the entire season for the entire state of Alaska. These 25 hunters can only shoot one Emperor goose each per season for the entire state. Again, USFWS has estimated the Emperor goose population to be about 150,000 geese and authorized a fall/winter sport harvest of 1,000 geese. This very conservative number of 1,000 is less than 1% of the overall USFWS-estimated Emperor goose population.

Both residents and nonresidents were unable to hunt Emperors for 30+ years and the state of Alaska rightfully gave much more of the 1,000 available permits to residents. It was impossible for anyone to know exactly how much interest Alaska residents would have in this hunt. After the three-year initial trial, we now know that Alaska residents have shown far less interest in the hunting of Emperor geese. Fall/winter resident sport harvest of Emperors dropped each year from an initial harvest of 129 in 2017 and had fallen to 122 by 2019. In comparison, the number of non-residents applying for Emperor goose permits has gone up each year. It is important to remember that nonresident interest in hunting Emperor geese is much higher than application numbers suggest, as many nonresidents do not apply given their very low probability of being drawn.

In addition, prior to the Emperor goose closure in 1986, daily bag limits were six per day with no restrictions for nonresidents. The daily bag limit did drop to two per day for the two years prior to the closure. There is no history of permits, nor discrimination upon nonresidents. In addition, there are no other waterfowl restrictions with discrimination to nonresidents in any other U.S. state. When there are permits, for example tundra swan hunts, none of the nine participating states discriminate for nonresidents. All tundra swan hunt states have a permit system. Most have a drawing as there are more applicants than available permits. But some states, like Nevada, sell them over the counter as it has been difficult to hand out their full allotment of available permits. This case in Nevada seems the most like the Emperor situation in Alaska in that in the past three years, no more than 15% of the quota has been killed. This suggests that permit allocation could be increase by 570% to attain the USFWS authorized kill. We find this discrepancy to be exceptionally large; it should be addressed now after this three-year period has ended. Basically, given the past three-year history of resident and non-resident permit applications, all applications (including non-residents) could be awarded.

As the outlook for Alaska's economy remains uncertain due to a variety of reasons, we as a state must look for ways to support our local economies with responsible uses of the resources available to us. Tourism is an increasingly important part of the overall Alaskan economy for both rural and urban areas – this is made obvious in a 2014 study by the ADF&G Division of Wildlife Conservation. Two years of research led to the publication of *The Economic Importance of Alaska's Wildlife in 2011*, which indicates that spending on hunting and wildlife viewing totaled \$3.4 billion in 2011 and generated \$4.1 billion in economic activity in Alaska. The importance of wildlife to Alaska's economy has grown steadily in the last six years since the results were published. If Alaska increased non-resident permits to a total of 500, it could easily see another 1,000 visitors, since most hunters want to experience this opportunity of a lifetime with friends and family. If the average visiting hunter spends \$5,000 per person on their trip, this reallocation of total Emperor permits could conservatively result in an additional \$5 million supporting Alaska's economy every fall. Some would certainly spend much more, but others could go on budget-friendly do it yourself trips. This money would help struggling airlines, restaurants, retail stores, hotels, small businesses, guides, and small rural communities where hunters would have to travel to hunt these geese.

Conclusion: We believe that it is time to change the regulations to allow far more nonresidents to participate in the Emperor goose hunt. We applaud the ADF&G for initially being cautious with this precious resource. We also understand that Alaska residents should be given priority if there is a conflict over hunting opportunities. Furthermore, we understand that the three-year trial is up, and we need to reevaluate how we allocate Emperor goose permits. Clearly, Alaska residents have not shown the anticipated interest in hunting Emperor geese and there is a huge demand for Emperor goose permits by non-residents. Science indicates that an additional harvest of 500 more Emperor geese should have no effect on a population of 150,000. The money generated by allowing more nonresident Emperor goose hunters will be substantial revenue for many Alaskan small businesses and rural communities. With the recent drop in oil prices and complications from the COVID-19 pandemic, Alaska must act now to provide more sustainable options for economic growth.

PROPOSED BY: Jeff Bringham, Andrew Williams, Matt Cates, Lucas Davis, Glenn Issette, Nathan Talbot, Erik Kauffman, Jeffrey Johnson, Joe Cook, Delbert Gatlin III, Benjamin Hillis, Gary Kramer, Robert Wasley, Jeffrey Wasley, City of Cold Bay, Angela Simpson, Patrick Bradburn, Daniel Talbot, Demetri Kritzas, Patrick Pitt, Ryan Breish, James Crews, III; Hugh Clark; Alaska Waterfowl Association; Domanic Heim; Andrew Gibson; Jake Greseth; Sherwood Breish; Scott Mohr; Jordan Hamann;

Note: Emperor geese harvest regulations apply to Units 9, 10 and 17 for the Central/Southwest Region; 18, 22 and 23 for the Western Arctic/Western Region; and Unit 8 for the Southcentral Region. The Board of Game is scheduled to address only the Central/Southwest Region units at this meeting.

PROPOSAL 35

5 AAC 85.065. Hunting seasons and bag limits for small game.

Allocate 50% of the permits for harvesting Emperor geese in Units 9, 10, and 17 to nonresidents as follows:

Increase the proportion of annual Emperor goose permits allotted to nonresidents to 50% of overall permits. When Emperor goose population counts merit regular seasons, this would equate to 500 nonresident permits; if population counts dip to merit restrictive seasons, the nonresident quota would drop to 250 permits.

Because the peak sport harvest by Alaska residents topped out at 129 birds back in 2017, this should result in no Alaska resident being restricted from sport harvest of an Emperor.

Proposed breakdown of available permits:

Regular season:

AK Residents: 500 permits // nonresidents: 500 permits

Restrictive season:

AK Residents: 250 permits // nonresidents: 250 permits

NOTE: Alaska resident sport harvest was less than 129 birds each year from 2017-2019 with lower harvest reported each consecutive year.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Increasing the allocation of Emperor goose permits for non-residents

I appreciate USFWS, ADF&G, and the Board of Game's cautious approach to the opening of Emperor goose sport harvest in 2017. As a longtime waterfowler from Montana, I have applied every year in hopes of being drawn for an Emperor permit, even though I knew the odds were long. It would be the honor of my lifetime to be able to harvest an Emperor, a conservation success story, on public lands of which I am a steward.

The evidence is clear that interest by Alaska residents for sport harvest of this species is limited and decreasing. Increasing the number of permits available to non-residents would immediately benefit ADF&G's budget and Alaska's economy.

I respectfully ask you to consider providing nonresidents with a better chance to be drawn for an Emperor goose permit.

PROPOSED BY: Brianne Rogers (EG-F20-152)

Note: Proposal 36 is a combination of Two individual submissions both requesting a 50/50 split for the number of permits for residents and nonresidents to take Emperor geese. Emperor geese harvest regulations apply to Units 9, 10 and 17 for the Central/Southwest Region; 18, 22 and 23 for the Western Arctic/Western Region; and Unit 8 for the Southcentral Region. The Board of Game is scheduled to address only the Central/Southwest Region units at this meeting.

PROPOSAL 36

5 AAC 85.065. Hunting seasons and bag limits for small game.

Allocate a 50/50 split for resident and nonresident Emperor goose permits for Units 9, 10, and 17 as follows:

Data supports that since inception that residents use less than 130 of the 1000 tags. Also that number has been decreasing slightly every year however the nonresident interest is at peak interest with a little less than 500. I would propose a 50/50 split on the tags so that everyone can have an opportunity to hunt the Emperors. I have unsuccessfully put in every year available and no "luck". With a meager 25 allotted to nonresidents it makes the odds near impossible. An increase in tags would bring more money into Alaska as sporting tourism brings in dollars

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Nonresident Emperor goose permits.

PROPOSED BY: Sean Tomlin (EG-F20-156)
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I believe the new regulation should have a higher proportion of Emperor goose tags for residents of the lower 48 states. A 50/50 split seems reasonable.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I believe that the allocation of Emperor goose tags should increase for residents of the lower 48 states. The current number of Emperor tags is being underutilized by Alaska residents.

PROPOSED BY: Robert Kelsey (EG-F20-170)

Note: Emperor geese harvest regulations apply to Units 9, 10 and 17 for the Central/Southwest Region; 18, 22 and 23 for the Western Arctic/Western Region; and Unit 8 for the Southcentral Region. The Board of Game is scheduled to address only the Central/Southwest Region units at this meeting.

PROPOSAL 37

5 AAC 85.065. Hunting seasons and bag limits for small game.

Allocate 500 permits to nonresidents for taking Emperor geese for Units 9, 10, and 17 as follows:

Increase the amount of nonresident tags for Emperor geese to 500.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Emperor goose hunting for nonresidents. I would gladly pay thousands of dollars as would many of my friends to have the opportunity to travel to Alaska and hunt Emperor geese. As far as I can tell the 1,000 goose quota for Emperor geese has never even come close to being filled. As it stands only 25 tags are allocated to nonresidents. I would propose increasing that to at least 500 because they clearly are not being used by resident hunters. Thank you for considering this proposal.

PROPOSED BY: Stephen Wilber (EG-F20-071)

Note: Proposal 38 is a combination of two proposal submissions requesting 500 permits for residents and nonresidents for taking Emperor geese. Emperor geese harvest regulations apply to Units 9, 10 and 17 for the Central/Southwest Region; 18, 22 and 23 for the Western Arctic/Western Region; and Unit 8 for the Southcentral Region. The Board of Game is scheduled to address only the Central/Southwest Region units at this meeting.

PROPOSAL 38

5 AAC 85.065. Hunting seasons and bag limits for small game.

Allocate 500 permits to residents and nonresidents for taking Emperor geese for Units 9, 10, and 17 as follows:

I would recommend setting aside fewer Emperor goose tags for Alaska residents only and allow more nonresident tags. I would recommend setting the draws at 500 tags for Alaska residents only and 500 tags for nonresidents and any Alaska residents that applied for a tag and were not drawn in the resident application. This would allow other US citizens to enjoy this National resource as well.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Lack of opportunity for nonresident hunters to harvest Emperor geese. Alaska residents have had more than ample opportunity to harvest Emperor geese for several years. Nonresidents have only had the opportunity for 75 tags for the rest of the population. Between buying a license and applying for tags each year I have spent around \$300 with very low odds of a draw and have never been drawn. My understanding is that resident Alaskans have never harvested more than 130 Emperor geese in a given season.

PROPOSED BY: Britt Broadhurst (EG-F20-081)

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**Proposed solution:** Based on the extremely low interest and harvest by the resident pool, I would ask or recommend to make the allocation an even split, 500 permits to both groups. If you add a full successful nonresident pool to the average resident harvest, you are still well below the harvest allocation of 1,000 birds. Of course, if science data feels the overall harvest needs to be decreased, then it should to preserve the species, but again keep it even and reduce the allocation to both groups evenly.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The drastically different allocation of Emperor goose hunting permits between residents and nonresidents. It seems well documented with data that the resident interest in the hunting opportunity is very low and therefore it would make sense to allow more nonresidents more of an opportunity and better odds to have the experience. By allowing more avid nonresident waterfowl hunters to visit Alaska for the once in a lifetime hunting experience would benefit the tourism income for the state and its residents just as all of the nonresident big game hunters and fisherman provide.

**PROPOSED BY:** Christopher Eikelberger (EG-F20-116)

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*Note: Proposal 39 is a combination of two proposal submissions both requesting an equal number of permits for residents and nonresidents to take Emperor geese. Emperor geese harvest regulations apply to Units 9, 10 and 17 for the Central/Southwest Region; 18, 22 and 23 for the Western Arctic/Western Region; and Unit 8 for the Southcentral Region. The Board of Game is scheduled to address only the Central/Southwest Region units at this meeting.*

**PROPOSAL 39**

**5 AAC 85.065. Hunting seasons and bag limits for small game.**

Allocate an equal number of permits for residents and nonresidents for taking Emperor geese for Units 9, 10, and 17 as follows:

I recommend offering an equal amount of tags to nonresidents as are available to residents.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** As a nonresident I would like to see more Emperor goose tags allotted to nonresident hunters.

**PROPOSED BY:** Josh Sowada (EG-F20-107)

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Have the goose limits be the same for residents and nonresidents.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I propose allowing nonresident waterfowl hunters harvest the same limit of geese for all species. Do not reduce nonresident limits. I spend time in Alaska fishing every other year and I one day plane to come hunt waterfowl in Alaska. My nonresident fishing licenses and future hunting licenses should allow me the same opportunities to hunt as fish as residents.

PROPOSED BY: Brett McCausland (EG-F20-090)

Note: Emperor geese harvest regulations apply to Units 9, 10 and 17 for the Central/Southwest Region; 18, 22 and 23 for the Western Arctic/Western Region; and Unit 8 for the Southcentral Region. The Board of Game is scheduled to address only the Central/Southwest Region units at this meeting.

PROPOSAL 40

5 AAC 85.065. Hunting seasons and bag limits for small game.

Double the number of nonresident permits for taking Emperor geese for Units 9, 10, and 17 as follows:

Double the amount of nonresident tags issued and keep the same total overall quota

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I would like to see more nonresident permits issued for the Emperor goose hunt. The total quota annually is not being met by resident hunters. It would be nice to be able to have a better chance than one in 25 for nonresidents. There are many of us that would love the opportunity to come and hunt in Alaska and spend our money on your economy.

PROPOSED BY: Sherwin Lott (EG-F20-065)

Note: Emperor geese harvest regulations apply to Units 9, 10 and 17 for the Central/Southwest Region; 18, 22 and 23 for the Western Arctic/Western Region; and Unit 8 for the Southcentral Region. The Board of Game is scheduled to address only the Central/Southwest Region units at this meeting. Proposal 41 is a combination of twelve individual submissions requesting an increase in nonresident permits for taking Emperor geese.

PROPOSAL 41

5 AAC 85.065. Hunting seasons and bag limits for small game.

Increase the number of nonresident permits for taking Emperor geese for Units 9, 10, and 17 as follows:

I would like to see a higher number of permits for nonresident hunters. This would generate a large amount of revenue for rural Alaskan communities without causing significant damage to the population of Emperor geese.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The disproportionate amount of nonresident Emperor goose permits for residents compared to nonresidents. There are 975 permits available for residents of the State of Alaska, while just 25 permits are available for nonresidents on a limited draw basis. The majority of the resident permits aren't even utilized. Many nonresident hunters don't even apply for the draw because of the poor odds.

PROPOSED BY: Christopher O'Brien (EG-F20-070)
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My solution would be to increase tag numbers.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Increased number of Emperor goose tags available for nonresident hunters. By increasing tags you allow more opportunities for revenue to Alaska. Waterfowl hunters spend a great deal of time and revenue traveling to different destinations to pursue different species. The emperor goose is on the bucket list for many hunters but with extremely low amount of tags being drawn is extremely unlikely.

PROPOSED BY: Matt Switlick (EG-F20-076)
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Increase the number of Emperor goose permits for nonresidents. The small amount of permits for nonresidents will have no impact on the population.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Emperor goose permits

**PROPOSED BY:** Breck Dickinson (EG-F20-078)  
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I think that more nonresident tags should be offered.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Emperor goose season.

PROPOSED BY: Lucien Gwin (EG-F20-083)
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Increase availability to hunt Emperor geese for nonresidents.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Increase hunting permits.

**PROPOSED BY:** Kevin Ryan (EG-F20-088)  
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More tags for nonresidents due to increase demand and populations of the Emperor geese available for harvest. There is no evidence to prove overharvest in hunting or subsistence at this point in time.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? More nonresident tags for Emperor geese.

PROPOSED BY: Mark Goldsworthy (EG-F20-091)
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I don't know the data or have a solution based on science but from I've seen it looks like it could open up at least a little but for nonresidents.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** My name is Lee Thomas Kjos, longtime outdoor photographer, fisherman and hunter. My passion has always been

waterfowl conservation and hunting. I've made many trips to Alaska in my lifetime and on a number of those been fortunate enough to see and photograph Emperor geese. Guide friends and outfitters have offered to me many times that if there ever was a chance for me to hunt Emperors to come up. I'm sixty years old now and would sure love the opportunity. I did apply for the Adak Island area this year unsuccessfully. I was really looking forward to it. Thank you.

**PROPOSED BY:** Lee Thomas Kjos (EG-F20-102)

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Due to Emperor goose harvest numbers annually falling short of the maximum allotted harvest, and goose numbers holding strong or increasing since the opening of Alaska's Emperor goose season, I suggest increasing the number of Emperor goose permits available to nonresidents. This could result in millions of dollars coming into Alaska's economy and create more hunting opportunities for these highly sought-after waterfowl.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Nonresident Emperor goose permit allocation.

PROPOSED BY: Scott Haugen (EG-F20-136)

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*Note: The Board of Game does not have authority to change permit fees.*

I would propose an allocated number of nonresident tags for purchase, at a reasonable dollar figure so as not to deter a potential hunter. After all, the travel to Alaska for most can be costly, especially within the islands.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Increase the amount of nonresident Emperor goose permits. Based on the available data, it appears there is not a huge demand from Alaska residents for harvesting Emperor geese, at least not enough to constitute the previously available resident tags. There is a niche group of waterfowl collectors worldwide that would clamor at the chance to harvest just one of these birds in their lifetime, as I am one of them. I have witnessed residents harvest these birds, and there is little to no satisfaction evident other than a seemingly additional check mark on a list.

**PROPOSED BY:** Jason Pinter (EG-F20-143)

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I would recommend allocating more nonresident tags. Allowing more nonresident tags would give hunters more of a chance in drawing a tag. I also feel that it would help improve the drawing of tags from multiple people in the same hunting party. On multiple occasions my father, myself, and other family members and friends have not been drawn and one person in our group would be drawn. This causes trip cancellations etc. because the majority of tag seekers do not get drawn. If there were more tags available the odds of having more people in a group get drawn would increase.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I would like to address the current Emperor goose regulations for nonresident hunters. I have had the great opportunity to

hunt waterfowl in the State of Alaska multiple times. My father and I have had opportunities to hunt in Adak, Seldovia, Kodiak, Cold Bay, and St. Paul Island. These travels and hunting experiences have been of those that I will forever remember. We have applied multiple times to hunt Emperor geese and have found it too difficult to obtain a tag. I feel that only allowing 25 nonresident tags for this species is too limited. The population of geese is a great level currently. I feel that with the limited interest in harvesting Emperor geese shown by residents of Alaska, there should be an increase in tags allocated to nonresidents. This would not only bring more revenue to the State of Alaska as a whole, but also help the local economies and businesses such as guide services.

PROPOSED BY: Delbert. Gatlin IV (EG-F20-149)

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Allow a larger percentage of the tags to be available for nonresident hunters.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** As a nonresident waterfowl hunter it would be nice to have the opportunity to hunt an Emperor goose and as of now you only allow 25 permits to nonresidents when there are 1,000 available and the balance are given to residents of Alaska and then the last three years they never use more than 130 of them so it would be nice if the nonresidents could have a chance at one of these special trophies once in their lifetime

**PROPOSED BY:** Steven Sadowski (EG-F20-163)

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Please allocate a larger percentage of the quota for emperor goose tags to mon resident hunters.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I would like a greater portion of the emperor goose tags allotted to nonresident hunters. It seems like there is limited interest from resident hunters, increasing the quota for nonresidents allows more interest and opportunity and the fees, travel costs, etc. Contribute money to the local economy which can be used to aid in conservation of the geese and other species.

PROPOSED BY: Matt Frackelton (EG-F20-084)

Note: Emperor geese harvest regulations apply to Units 9, 10 and 17 for the Central/Southwest Region; 18, 22 and 23 for the Western Arctic/Western Region; and Unit 8 for the Southcentral Region. The Board of Game is scheduled to address only the Central/Southwest Region units at this meeting. In addition, the Board of Game does not have authority over the enforcement of regulations.

PROPOSAL 42

5 AAC 85.065. Hunting seasons and bag limits for small game.

Allow more years of nonresident Emperor goose tags to be allotted for a lottery for Units 9, 10, and 17 as follows:

Allow more years of Emperor harvest for nonresidents and residents and increase enforcement during subsistence hunting season so that over-harvest is reduced.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Please allow more years of nonresident Emperor goose tags to be allotted for lottery.

PROPOSED BY: Moe Neale

(EG-F20-085)

Note: Emperor geese harvest regulations apply to Units 9, 10 and 17 for the Central/Southwest Region; 18, 22 and 23 for the Western Arctic/Western Region; and Unit 8 for the Southcentral Region. The Board of Game is scheduled to address only the Central/Southwest Region units at this meeting. In addition, the Board of Game does not have authority to increase permit application fees.

PROPOSAL 43

5 AAC 85.065. Hunting seasons and bag limits for small game.

Increase the number nonresident permits for harvesting Emperor geese to 10% for Units 9, 10, and 17 as follows:

Given the current population objective and harvest rates, I recommend the Board of Game increase nonresident permit numbers in concurrence with an increase in fees associated with permit applications. Increase the allocation to ten % for nonresidents and increase the permit application fee \$5.00 per application with those funds to be applied to long-term monitoring, marking, and reporting of waterfowl programs in the State of Alaska.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I recommend the Board of Game (board) increase nonresident Emperor goose permit allocations: Having followed the three-year experimental season for resident and nonresident Emperor goose hunt in Alaska beginning in 2017, it appears that the regulated harvest system has worked. There is strong evidence for continued sustainable harvest and opportunities for nonresident hunters. Additionally, reported harvest indicates a saturation of resident hunters willing to undertake the expense and time commitment to harvest Emperor geese. The board can and should allocate ten % (100) of the permit quota (1,000) to nonresident hunters. This would likely lead to a small increase in harvest,

but still well within the long-term objectives of the Pacific Flyway, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

PROPOSED BY: Matthew Wilson (EG-F20-130)

Note: Emperor geese harvest regulations apply to Units 9, 10 and 17 for the Central/Southwest Region; 18, 22 and 23 for the Western Arctic/Western Region; and Unit 8 for the Southcentral Region. The Board of Game is scheduled to address only the Central/Southwest Region units at this meeting.

PROPOSAL 44

5 AAC 85.065. Hunting seasons and bag limits for small game.

Allow nonresidents to purchase un-issued Emperor geese permits for Units 9, 10, and 17 as follows:

I would like to see un-issued resident tags made available for over the counter purchase for nonresidents.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Emperor goose hunting opportunities for nonresidents. Given their resurgence, hunting opportunities have been re-established, but primarily for residents. In the first two seasons, many state tags have gone unused, while hundreds of nonresidents have applied and only 25 are issued each season. Would like to see the management of available tags be more favorable for nonresidents.

PROPOSED BY: Michael Bard (EG-F20-159)

Note: Emperor geese harvest regulations apply to Units 9, 10 and 17 for the Central/Southwest Region; 18, 22 and 23 for the Western Arctic/Western Region; and Unit 8 for the Southcentral Region. The Board of Game is scheduled to address only the Central/Southwest Region units at this meeting.

PROPOSAL 45

5 AAC 85.065. Hunting seasons and bag limits for small game.

Increase permits and require use of an outfitter for nonresident harvest of Emperor geese for Units 9, 10, and 17 as follows:

Allow nonresidents to get Emperor goose tags, however nonresidents shall have to hunt through a reputable outfitter licensed in Alaska. So maybe allow a larger amount of goose tags to be available for nonresidents. It would be great for the Alaskan economy, as well as allow outfitter businesses to flourish, waterfowl hunters to pursue this trophy goose.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I think it would be a very profitable venture for outfitters in Alaska and desirable to nonresidents to be able to hunt emperor

geese. There are many tags that are unused and not enough nonresident tags. I think it would be a privilege for nonresidents to hunt these geese.

PROPOSED BY: Gina Sadowski (EG-F20-166)

Note: Emperor geese harvest regulations apply to Units 9, 10 and 17 for the Central/Southwest Region; 18, 22 and 23 for the Western Arctic/Western Region; and Unit 8 for the Southcentral Region. The Board of Game is scheduled to address only the Central/Southwest Region units at this meeting.

PROPOSAL 46

5 AAC 85.065. Hunting seasons and bag limits for small game.

Increase nonresident permits and establish preference points for harvesting Emperor geese for Units 9, 10, and 17 as follows:

Preference points and increase nonresident tags.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? You are not harvesting near the numbers that are allocated. You should be letting nonresident harvest more. Numbers show that there is no resident interest. Also, I have applied since the beginning and have no preference over someone who has just started. I've invested for three years to have an opportunity for a bird of a lifetime. Preference points are needed and so are more nonresident tags. If nothing else the state brings in more income.

PROPOSED BY: Thomas Losk (EG-F20-168)

Note: Emperor geese harvest regulations apply to Units 9, 10 and 17 for the Central/Southwest Region; 18, 22 and 23 for the Western Arctic/Western Region; and Unit 8 for the Southcentral Region. The Board of Game is scheduled to address only the Central/Southwest Region units at this meeting.

PROPOSAL 47

5 AAC 85.065. Hunting seasons and bag limits for small game.

Increase the number of nonresidents permits for taking Emperor geese or set a hunt quota with 24-hour harvest reporting requirement for Units 9, 10, and 17 as follows:

Give a thousand Emperor goose tags out or you have it open as a quota hunt, mandatory 24-hour reporting of the bird to stay inside the 1,000-bird quota. These birds are in such remote areas that are expensive to get too. I guarantee there will be nowhere near the 1,000 birds harvested due to there geographic locations.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? If there is a 1,000 bird quota for residents and they have only harvested 125 birds they need to open up the amount of permits to nonresidents. As long as the 1,000 bird harvest is intact to sustain a healthy population. It should not matter if it is residents or nonresidents harvesting the birds. It would also create revenue for

Alaska to have more no residents to come up and hunt spending money to local communities. Creating a chance to take a trophy bird in a conservation program funding for further studies to learn more about Emperor geese.

PROPOSED BY: Luke Schmidt (EG-F20-172)

Note: Emperor geese harvest regulations apply to Units 9, 10 and 17 for the Central/Southwest Region; 18, 22 and 23 for the Western Arctic/Western Region; and Unit 8 for the Southcentral Region. The Board of Game is scheduled to address only the Central/Southwest Region units at this meeting.

PROPOSAL 48

5 AAC 85.065. Hunting seasons and bag limits for small game.

Increase the number nonresident permits for harvesting Emperor geese or offer a second drawing for Units 9, 10, and 17 as follows:

Increase the number of nonresident licenses for Emperor geese, or allow for a second lottery for remaining licenses.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I am a nonresident who is interested in harvesting an Emperor goose at some time in the future. The current scientific study allows for the harvest of 1,000 Emperor geese annually, if which only 25 are allocated for nonresident hunters. The participation of resident hunters continues to leave licenses unused and available. These licenses could be used for nonresidents that would travel to Alaska and support not only local economies, but also wildlife through license purchases. Please take my comments into consideration.

PROPOSED BY: Terry Lassiter (EG-F20-072)

Note: Emperor geese harvest regulations apply to Units 9, 10 and 17 for the Central/Southwest Region; 18, 22 and 23 for the Western Arctic/Western Region; and Unit 8 for the Southcentral Region. The Board of Game is scheduled to address only the Central/Southwest Region units at this meeting.

PROPOSAL 49

5 AAC 85.065. Hunting seasons and bag limits for small game.

Establish resident and nonresident quotas per region for taking Emperor geese with reporting requirements, or offer a second drawing for un-issued permits for Units 9, 10, and 17 as follows:

I would have a quota application/ draw for nonresidents and residents per region. Once the number of tags were drawn for that region, that would be all allowed for that area. Example: Kodiak Island is allowed 80 tags. One per person and each person pays a fee for that tag. The hunter must fill out a survey at seasons end stating whether they hunted or didn't hunt the birds. If they do not return the survey, they would not be eligible for the draw for two years. You could have regions based on area such as; Adak, Cold Bay/Izembek, Nelson Lagoon, Kodiak, etc. After the initial draw, if all tags weren't awarded, you could offer a second draw for leftover tags and they could be available to new applications and you could allow others who may have drawn an option for a second tag. Two max per season per person. The tag would need to be placed on the bird before

moving it from the hunting location for transportation. The same fees would apply that exist as of now.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Emperor goose hunting. The need for nonresidents of the lower 48 to hunt on a limited basis.

PROPOSED BY: Shane Smith (EG-F20-087)

Note: Emperor geese harvest regulations apply to Units 9, 10 and 17 for the Central/Southwest Region; 18, 22 and 23 for the Western Arctic/Western Region; and Unit 8 for the Southcentral Region. The Board of Game is scheduled to address only the Central/Southwest Region units at this meeting.

PROPOSAL 50

5 AAC 85.065. Hunting seasons and bag limits for small game.

Increase the number nonresident permits for harvesting Emperor geese or allow for a second lottery for Units 9, 10, and 17 as follows:

My suggestion is to consider a strict program that allows the 2021 program to include the list below. Nonresident allotment at 100% on valid AK license holders in a few areas throughout the Aleutian Islands including Cold Bay. The anticipated number would be less than 500 total harvests.

Resident allotment at 100% for first time harvesters, 75% for 2nd time harvesters and 50% on 3rd time harvesters.

1st timer up to two tags at 100%

2nd timer up to 1 tag at 100%

3rd timer up to 50% of them receiving 1 tag

500 harvests to nonresidents

500 harvests to 1st timers

200 harvests to 2nd timers

125 harvests to 3rd timers

1325 total harvests

Emperor goose population density 175,000

3/4 of 1% would be the impact on the population.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? As a waterfowl guide and enthusiast, I have sat back and watched the decline and rise of species. I have been watching and studying the emperor goose trends for over a decade. Knowing I would never have an opportunity to harvest one I continued to press onward. I have registered three times since the acceptance of the tag lottery draw and still been unsuccessful. The issuing of more tags per year to nonresidents will not even put a small statistical change of the overall population of these majestic winged species.

If you just sit back and calculate the number of nonresident hunters that would harvest an Emperor goose, well it is microscopic at best. The resident harvest allotment outside of “real” subsistence is microscopic as well. The math and statistical relevance of increasing the nonresident as well as the resident harvest rates combined is not enough to endanger the growth and prevalence of the Emperor goose. All that apply receive a tag. Thank you for your tune and consideration

PROPOSED BY: Christian Scudder

(EG-F20-089)

Glennallen Area Proposals – Units 11 & 13

PROPOSAL 51

5 AAC 85.010. Hunting seasons and bag limits for bison.

Expand the DI454 bison hunt area in Unit 11 as follows:

I would suggest amending the description of the hunt area.

East of the Copper River, south of the Klawasi River and west of a line from Mount Sanford to **Mount Blackburn to Kukulana Glacier, west of the Kukulana River and north of the Chitina River** [MOUNT WRANGELL TO LONG GLACIER, WEST OF THE KOTSINA RIVER]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I propose extending the DI454 bison hunt area south beyond the Kotsina River to the Chitina River.

In the last ten years, bison from the Copper River herd have been extending their range south and eastward across the Kotsina River to the Chitina River and at times becoming a nuisance to vehicles traveling on the McCarthy Road. Extending the hunt area would allow motor vehicle access to a portion of the Copper River herd giving more hunting opportunities to people without the equipment or knowledge to safely cross the Copper River.

When the current description of the hunt area was originally written it was not generally believed that the herd would travel South beyond the Kotsina River. Now that bison frequently cross the Kotsina River it makes sense to amend the description of the hunt area to include that area which lies between the Kotsina and Chitina Rivers.

PROPOSED BY: Tim Nelson (EG-F20-004)

PROPOSAL 52

5 AAC 85.025(a)(8). Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou.

Repeal the “pre-2018” caribou hunting regulations for Unit 13 as follows:

Repeal the following language from 5 AAC 85.025(a)(8):

[(A) BEFORE JULY 1, 2018, THE HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR CARIBOU IN UNIT 13 ARE AS FOLLOWS:

UNIT 13
1 CARIBOU PER HARVEST REPORT PER REGULATORY YEAR BY COMMUNITY HARVEST PERMIT ONLY; UP TO 300 CARIBOU MAY BE TAKEN AUG.10-SEPT.20 (SUBSISTENCE HUNT ONLY) OCT.21-MARCH 31 (SUBSISTENCE HUNT ONLY); OR

1 CARIBOU EVERY REGULATORY YEAR BY TIER 1 SUBSISTENCE PERMIT ONLY
AUG.10-SEPT.20 (SUBSISTENCE HUNT ONLY) OCT.21-MARCH 31 (SUBSISTENCE
HUNT ONLY); OR

1 CARIBOU EVERY REGULATORY YEAR BY DRAWING PERMIT; UP TO 5,000
PERMITS MAY BE ISSUED AUG.10-SEPT.20 OCT.21-MARCH 31.

UNITS 14(A) AND 14(B)
RESIDENTS

1 CARIBOU BY DRAWING PERMIT ONLY; AUG.10-SEPT.20 (WINTER SEASON TO BE
ANNOUNCED)(GENERAL HUNT ONLY)

NONRESIDENTS

1 CARIBOU BY DRAWING PERMIT ONLY; AUG.10-SEPT.20 (WINTER SEASON TO BE
ANNOUNCED).

(B) ON OR AFTER JULY 1, 2018, THE HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR
CARIBOU IN UNIT 13 ARE AS FOLLOWS:]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Repeal pre-2018 regulations and return Unit 13 caribou hunting regulations to conventional style. It is our understanding that this approach to pre-July 1, 2018 regulations and post-July 1, 2018 regulations resulted from the fact that drawing permits had already been issued. The need for the pre-July 1, 2018 regulations has passed. (Housekeeping proposal.)

PROPOSED BY: Ahtna Intertribal Resource Commission (HQ-F20-026)

PROPOSAL 53

5 AAC 85.025(a)(8). Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou.

Increase the community subsistence caribou hunt allocation in Unit 13 as follows:

Amend 5 AAC 85.025(a)(8) as follows:

up to 2 caribou per harvest report per regulatory year by community harvest permit only; up to [400] **500** caribou may be taken; or

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Increase the community subsistence caribou hunt allocation from up to 400 caribou may be taken to up to 500 caribou may be taken.

This change is requested in order to address the fact that addition caribou are needed in the community subsistence caribou hunt to provide for customary and traditional harvest and uses of caribou by Alaska residents living in Unit 13.

PROPOSED BY: Ahtna Intertribal Resource Commission (HQ-F20-023)

PROPOSAL 54

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

Increase the youth hunting season for caribou in Unit 13 as follows:

Increase the hunting season for Nelchina caribou (YC495) in Unit 13 as follows:

One caribou every regulatory year by youth hunt drawing permit; up to 200 permits may be issued. August 1 - August 9 [5] and **October 21 - March 31**. Nonresidents: No open season.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Currently, the season dates for Unit 13 Nelchina caribou under permit YC495 are August 1 – August 5. The five-day window is rather short. Additionally, CC001, DC485, RC561, and RC562 are open October 21 – March 31 after their first openings, if quotas are not met. Allowing participants in YC495 to participate from August 1 – August 9 and participate in the October 21- March 31 achieves the following:

- Allow for more opportunities for youth hunting participation.
 - Increasing the number of days to August 9 allows for a great window of opportunity for harvest. Herd locations in early August are scattered compared to mid to late September. Depending on year, it may take multiple days to scout an area as there have been no caribou hunters in the field.
 - If the current dates fall within the work week (such as August 1st being a Monday), it does not provide families opportunities to hunt on the weekend. Changing the end of the youth first season to August 9 would guarantee at least one full weekend to allow families to hunt and not take off any time from work.
 - The winter period provides dates such as Thanksgiving break, Winter break, and Spring break for students to hunt and not be taken away from academic commitments and provides greater flexibility for families to plan appropriately.
- Streamline dates for all draw and Tier I permits to have the same second season.
- Increases the amount of harvested caribou to help with desired population management. As stated on the Unit 13 Nelchina Caribou Hotline (at time of writing this), it does not appear that the 2019/2020 harvest quotas will be reached. I know a few families that would have liked to have their youth participate in the winter hunt and it would help with population management.

PROPOSED BY: Tyler Eggen

(HQ-F20-002)

PROPOSAL 55

5 AAC 85.040. Hunting seasons and bag limits for goat.

Open a registration goat hunt for residents in Unit 13 as follows:

Create a goat registration hunt for Unit 13A from **August 10th to November 15th** [NO OPEN SEASON].

Harvest limit: (1) billy or nanny without kids.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Create a goat registration hunt for Unit 13A from August 10th to November 15th .

Goats cross the Matanuska River from the Chugach Range on an abnormal and inconsistent basis. For this reason, they are not able to successfully create any legitimate herds that could be considered a natural range. There have been populations that have succeeded in establishing themselves in the past but have not been able to maintain any natural consistency.

With this, I feel it would be appropriate to offer a registration hunt for billies and nannies without kids. It is known that goats and sheep do not naturally co-habitat well together, therefore it would seem reasonable to harvest these particular goats that do not have a natural range or herd.

PROPOSED BY: Herb Mansavage (HQ-F20-016)

PROPOSAL 56

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

Extend the general season for moose by bow and arrow only for residents and nonresidents within Unit 11, remainder as follows:

Extend the general season from September 20 to September 25 by bow and arrow only. This hunt would be subject to the same residency requirements, area, and antler restrictions as outlined in the existing Unit 11 general season hunt. Hunters during the general season in Unit 11 currently may only harvest bull moose with spike-fork or 50-inch antlers or antlers with three or more brow tines on at least one side. The purpose of extending the general season by bow and arrow only would give more hunters the opportunity to spend time in the field pursuing moose within Unit 11 without having a negative impact on the resource.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Extending the general season by bow and arrow only would give more hunters the opportunity to spend time in the field pursuing moose within Unit 11 without having a negative impact on the resource. According to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G), from 2014 to 2018, only 1% of moose harvested in Unit 11 were taken with a bow. These reported archery harvests show the extremely low impact to moose populations. Lastly, having a season that does not extend beyond September 25 would mirror most other moose season end dates in the surrounding units.

PROPOSED BY: Gary Weaver (EG-F20-049)

PROPOSAL 57

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

Establish a registration hunt for bull moose open to certified bowhunters only within Unit 11, remainder as follows:

Institute a registration hunt open to certified bowhunters only with season dates starting on September 21 and closing on September 30 or by emergency order. Number of permits and harvest reporting requirements would be set by the Department of Fish and Game. This hunt would be subject to the same residency requirements, area, and antler restrictions as outlined in the existing Unit 11 general season hunt. Hunters during the general season in Unit 11 currently may only harvest bull moose with spike-fork or 50-inch antlers or antlers with three or more brow tines on at least one side.

Registration would be available online or in person at ADF&G offices.

The purpose of this new hunt being a registration hunt would be so that ADF&G can monitor the participation and success rates more closely.

Having an additional hunt open to non-residents would bring in more revenue to the state of Alaska as well as to local communities.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? A registration hunt for certified bowhunters only would give more hunters the opportunity to spend time in the field pursuing moose within Unit 11 without having a negative impact on the resource. According to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G), from 2014 to 2018, only 1% of moose harvested in Unit 11 were taken with a bow. These reported archery harvests show the extremely low impact to moose populations. Lastly, having an additional hunt open to non-residents would give the opportunity for guides to sell additional hunts to certified bowhunters, therefore, bringing in more revenue to the State of Alaska as well as to local communities.

PROPOSED BY: Alaskan Bowhunters Association (EG-F20-062)

PROPOSAL 58

5 AAC 85.045(a)(11). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.

Reauthorize the antlerless moose seasons in Unit 13 as follows:

| Units and Bag Limits | Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts) | Nonresident Open Season |
|---|---|------------------------------------|
| (11) | | |
| Unit 13 | | |
| 1 moose per regulatory year, only as follows: | | |
| RESIDENT HUNTERS: | | |
| ... | | |
| 1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only in Unit 13(A); 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) | |
| ... | | |

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 establishment of this hunt, the Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) has issued 10 permits annually in Unit 13A. ADF&G 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 ADF&G 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 2% per year in the intensive wolf management area over the past 10 years. The current population objective for Unit 13A is 3,500–4,200, and the population was estimated to be above objectives in 2015–2016 and within objectives

in 2017. The antlerless hunt in western Unit 13A is necessary to maintain the population within the intensive management objectives. The additional harvest provided by the hunt will also assist in achieving the harvest objectives for the population. If antlerless moose hunting opportunities are 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 achieves the harvest objectives recommended by the public, advisory committees, and the board.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F20-41)

PROPOSAL 59

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

Increase the community subsistence any bull moose hunt allocation in Unit 13 as follows:

Amend 5 AAC 85.045(a)(11) as follows:

1 moose per regulatory year, only as follows:

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull per harvest report by community harvest permit only; however, no more than **150** [100] bulls that do not meet antler restrictions for other resident hunts in the same area may be taken by Tier II permit in the entire community harvest area during the August 20 - September 20 season, up to 350 Tier II permits may be issued; or

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Increase community subsistence any bull moose hunt allocation from no more than 100 bulls that do not meet antler restrictions to 150 any bull moose.

This change is requested in order to address the fact that additional moose are needed in the community subsistence any bull moose hunt to provide for customary and traditional harvest and uses of moose by Alaska residents living in Unit 13.

PROPOSED BY: Ahtna Intertribal Resource Commission (HQ-F20-024)

PROPOSAL 60

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

Create a registration archery only hunt for bull moose in Unit 13 as follows:

Establish a registration archery only hunt for bull moose in Unit 13, that has requirements to commit to that specific hunt as the only moose hunt the hunter will participate in Alaska for that regulatory year; effectively redistributing those hunters to a specific time period not in competition with other moose hunters.

It is understood that the area biologist has concerns that adding this hunt may increase overall harvest of moose in the unit, which may impact bull cow ratios below what they would like to see.

In recognition of this and in an effort to minimize this potential; require commitment to this as the only specific moose hunt the hunter will participate in by making it a registration hunt that has tags only available prior to other moose seasons opening, placing the hunt five days after the regular general season in the unit closes will provide opportunity for some of the in season harvest reporting to be monitored and allowing emergency order restrictions reducing the hunt area as needed. It is unlikely that there will be a large influx of additional hunters that do not typically already hunt Unit 13 with the requirement that this is the only moose hunt they participate in. Additionally as you know typical archery hunt success is typically 10-20% of rifle hunter success.

By making it a registration hunt it provides the necessary controls for effective enforcement of the requirements of the hunt and allows the ability to more closely monitor participation and success rates. In exchange for the hunter commitment to the specific hunt with more primitive equipment that reduces success rate, they get a minor adjustment to the legal animal from the general season requirements.

Proposed draft regulatory language:

Hunt Details

Hunt Number: RM XXX

Regulatory Year: 202X

Hunt Type: Registration

Species: Moose

Legal Animal: One (1) bull moose with spike-fork or 50-inch antlers or antlers with three or more brow tines on at least one side.

Season Dates: 09/25/202X – 10/15/202X

Residency Restrictions: Resident only

Reporting Requirements:

Successful Hunters report within five days of kill online, or in person to ADF&G.

Unsuccessful Hunters report online, by mail, or in person to ADF&G within 15 days of season end.

Hunting Conditions:

1) Permit: The RMXXX permit shall be in the possession of the permittee while hunting or transporting moose and shall be exhibited to any person authorized to enforce state and federal laws who requests to see it. The permit is NONTRANSFERABLE and cannot be proxy hunted.

Those who register for this hunt cannot obtain any other moose hunting authorization in Alaska, i.e. permit, harvest ticket, subsistence, community, etc. and cannot hunt moose anywhere else in Alaska during the regulatory year the permit is valid.

Permits available from ADF&G from July 1 to August 15.

2) Season: September 25 – October 15

3) Where: Unit 13

4) Bag Limit: One (1) bull moose with spike-fork or 50-inch antlers or antlers with three or more brow tines on at least one side, by bow and arrow only.

5) Method: Bow and arrow only. Bowhunter certification is required.

6) Penalty for Failure to Report: If you fail to report, you will not be eligible for any drawing, Tier II, or registration (including Tier I Nelchina caribou) permits the following regulatory year. In addition your name will be turned over to the Alaska Wildlife Troopers for enforcement action.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Provide a specific bowhunting season in Unit 13 to distribute hunters across a greater length of time to reduce crowding and competition.

PROPOSED BY: John Linnell (EG-F20-038)

PROPOSAL 61

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

Establish a drawing permit hunt for bull moose limited to resident certified bowhunters only within Unit 13E as follows:

Institute a drawing permit hunt open to resident certified bowhunters only with the number of permits to be set by the Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G). This hunt would have the same season dates, area, and reporting requirements as DM339. This hunt would be for residents only and open to the take of any bull.

The purpose of this new hunt being a drawing permit hunt would be so that the ADF&G can monitor the participation and success rates more closely as well as determine the number of permits issued.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? A drawing permit hunt for certified bowhunters only would give more resident hunters the opportunity to spend time in the field pursuing moose within Unit 13 E without having a big impact on the resource. According to ADF&G, less than 1% of moose harvested in Unit 13 were taken with a bow from 2014 to 2018. These reported archery harvests show the extremely low impact to moose populations. According to the area biologist, Unit 13 moose populations are steady with Unit 13E being above objectives. Having a drawing permit hunt would allow ADF&G to collect data, closely monitor success rates, as well as determine the number of permits issued. Unit 13E currently has a drawing permit hunt open to nonresidents but no drawing permit hunts open to residents.

PROPOSED BY: Gary Weaver (EG-F20-050)

PROPOSAL 62

5 AAC 85.045(a)(11). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.

Establish an antlerless moose season in Unit 13E as follows:

5AAC 85.045(a)(11)

Units and Bag Limits

**Resident Open Season
(Subsistence and
General Season)**

Nonresident Open Season

(11)

Unit 13

1 moose per regulatory year,
only as follows:

...

**1 antlerless moose by
drawing permit only in Unit
13(E); up to 200 permits may
be issued; a person may not
take a cow accompanied by a
calf**

**Oct. 1–Oct. 31
(General hunt only)**

No open season

...

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? An Intensive Management plan for moose in Unit 13 is in effect, and antlerless moose hunts are a management tool that provides additional harvest opportunity when moose populations rise above objectives, and also gives the Department of Fish and Game the ability to maintain moose abundance within population objectives.

There has been an antlerless hunt in Unit 13A since 2012, but currently there are no other antlerless hunts in Unit 13.

Moose abundance in Unit 13E has increased from an index of less than 4,000 moose in 2000 to 6,400 moose in 2018 and 2019. The current population objective for Unit 13E is an index of 5,000–6,000 moose. The harvest objective for Unit 13E is 300–600 moose. Moose harvest over the past five years averages 200 moose annually, which represents the highest harvest numbers since 1998. Recent composition surveys indicate that the bull-to-cow ratio is approximately 25 bulls per 100 cows, which is the management objective for Unit 13E, indicating that there are not additional bulls available for harvest under the current Intensive Management program. An antlerless hunt in Unit 13E will allow the department to maintain the moose population within abundance objectives and composition objectives while providing additional harvest opportunity.

If antlerless moose hunting opportunities are not available for Unit 13E, the intensive management program and objectives will 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 the harvest objectives recommended by the public, advisory committees, and the board will need to be reevaluated.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F20-039)

PROPOSAL 63

5 AAC 92.050. Required permit hunt conditions and procedures.

5 AAC 92.072. Community subsistence harvest hunt and permit conditions.

Eliminate the restrictions of one harvest report per household and one bag limit per household in the community subsistence caribou hunt for Unit 13 as follows:

Amend 5 AAC 92.050(a)(4)(I) as follows:

No more than one Unit 13 Tier I subsistence permit for caribou may be issued per household every regulatory year, **except as otherwise specified for community subsistence hunt harvest reports in 5 AAC 92.072(c)(2) and (d);** the head of household, as defined in 5 AAC 92.071(b), and any member of the household obtaining a Unit 13 Tier I subsistence permit **or community subsistence hunt harvest report** in a regulatory year for caribou may not hunt caribou or moose in any other location in the state during that regulatory year; a community subsistence harvest report may be issued to all participating members of a participating household with the total bag limit for a household equal to the sum of the individual participants' bag limits as defined in 5 AAC 85.025(a)(8); [UP TO TWO CARIBOU MAY BE RETAINED PER HOUSEHOLD;]

Amend 5 AAC 92.072(c)(2)(A) as follows:

may not hold a harvest ticket or other state hunt permit for the same species where the bag limit is the same or for fewer animals during the same regulatory year; however, a person may hold harvest tickets or permits for same-species hunts in areas with a larger bag limit following the close of the season for the community harvest permit, except that in Unit 13, [PRIOR TO JULY 1, 2018, ONLY ONE CARIBOU MAY BE RETAINED PER HOUSEHOLD, AND ON OR AFTER JULY 1, 2018,] **a community subsistence harvest report may be issued to all participating members of a participating household with the total bag limit for a household equal to the sum of the individual participants' bag limits as defined in 5 AAC 85.025(a)(8);** [UP TO TWO CARIBOU MAY BE RETAINED PER HOUSEHOLD;]

Amend 5 AAC 92.072(d) as follows:

Seasons for community harvest permits will be the same as those established for other subsistence harvests for that species in the geographic area included in a community harvest hunt area, unless separate community harvest hunt seasons are established. The total bag limit for a community harvest permit will be equal to the sum of the individual participants' bag limits[, ESTABLISHED FOR OTHER SUBSISTENCE HARVESTS FOR THAT SPECIES IN THE HUNT AREA OR OTHERWISE BY THE BOARD]. Seasons and bag limits may vary within a hunt area according to established subsistence regulations for different game management units or other geographic delineations in a hunt area, **or as otherwise established by the board. In Unit 13, the total community subsistence caribou bag limit shall be equal to the sum of the individual participants' bag limits from all households participating in the community subsistence caribou hunt harvest report as determined by the board.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Eliminate the restriction of one harvest report per household and one bag limit per household in the community subsistence

caribou hunt in Unit 13 (CC001). Allow all members of a household participating in the community subsistence caribou hunt to each to obtain a harvest report and bag limit.

These changes are requested in order to address the fact that one caribou per households is not enough to provide for customary and traditional harvest and uses of caribou by Alaska residents living in Unit 13.

PROPOSED BY: Ahtna Intertribal Resource Commission (HQ-F20-027)

PROPOSAL 64

5 AAC 92.220. Salvage of game meat, furs, and hides.

Eliminate the salvage requirement for hide of moose for Alaska residents aged 60 years and older participating in the community subsistence moose hunt in Unit 13 and make it optional as follows:

Amend 5 AAC 92.220(a)(6) as follows:

In addition to (d) of this section, the heart, liver, kidneys, and fat of caribou taken in 5 AAC 92.074(d) must be salvaged, and the head, heart, liver, kidneys, stomach and hide of moose taken in 5 AAC 92.074(d) must be salvaged, **except that moose hide salvage is optional for Alaska residents aged 60 years or older;**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Eliminate the salvage requirement for hide of moose taken in the community subsistence moose hunt in 5 AAC 92.074(d) for Alaska residents aged 60 years and older, and instead make this salvage optional. This request is submitted on behalf of a number of Ahtna elders who indicated that the hide is too heavy for them to salvage at their ages.

PROPOSED BY: Ahtna Intertribal Resource Commission (HQ-F20-025)

PROPOSAL 65

5 AAC 92.220. Salvage of game meat, furs, and hides.

Eliminate the moose hide salvage requirement for hunters aged 62 years and older participating in the community subsistence moose hunt in Unit 13 and make it optional as follows:

HUNT TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Therefore, all participants in the Copper Basin moose community subsistence harvest hunt must salvage for human consumption: 1. the head, heart, liver, kidneys, stomach, and hide.

1(a). Transporting hide from the field is optional for CM300 participants who are 62 years and older.

2. meat of the forequarters, hindquarters, ribs, brisket, neck, and back bone must remain naturally attached to the bones until delivered to the place where it is processed for human consumption.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Revise the CM300 hunt conditions requirement that transporting moose hide from the field is optional for CM300 hunters who are 62 years and older.

Carrying hide from the field is difficult for older hunters. Moose hide is extremely heavy and large to carry from the field. Hunters 62 years and older should have the option to either leave moose hide in the field or haul it from the field.

PROPOSED BY: Ahtna Tene Nene' (EG-F20-037)

PROPOSAL 66

5 AAC 92.050(a)(4)(I). Required permit hunt conditions and procedures.

Clarify the Unit 13 Tier I subsistence caribou permit condition that members of a household may not hunt caribou or moose in any other state hunts in other locations as follows:

Add words: “any member of the household obtaining a Unit 13 Tier I subsistence permit in a regulatory year for caribou may not hunt caribou or moose in any **State** authorized hunt in any other location in the state during that regulatory year.”

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Clarify regulation. Existing ambiguity in regulatory wording leads to a lack of agreement and understanding of the regulations.

Currently a regulatory condition of Unit 13 Tier I subsistence caribou permit states: “any member of the household obtaining a Unit 13 Tier I subsistence permit in a regulatory year for caribou may not hunt caribou or moose in any other location in the state during that regulatory year.”

This has been interpreted to include limitations on federal subsistence hunts. In the federal subsistence hunt qualified rural residents can hunt moose and caribou in Units 11, 12 and 13. So if a federally qualified rural resident gets a Tier I state caribou tag, there is a question as to if that federally qualified rural resident could participate in a federal subsistence moose hunt in a different unit in which they qualify.

As the Board of Game regulatory authority covers state authorized hunts, there seems to be questionable legal validity for the state to place limits on federal subsistence hunt opportunities for which they have no legal control.

This interpretation leads to confusion, may create the legal liability for future lawsuits, and seems arbitrary in nature.

Simply adding the words: in any state authorized hunt.... would clarify this issue.

PROPOSED BY: Copper Basin Advisory Committee (EG-F19-158)

PROPOSAL 67

5 AAC 92.220. Salvage of game meat, furs, and hides.

Change the salvage requirements for sheep taken in Unit 11 as follows:

I would like to see a meat-on-bone salvage requirement for the two front quarters and two rear quarters and ribs for all sheep taken from Unit 11.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? There should be a meat-on-bone salvage requirement for sheep coming from the Wrangell Mountains. Through casual conversations with enforcement personnel and personal observation, I fear there might be a trend towards light sheep in the Wrangell Mountains. A stricter salvage requirement would aid enforcement activities and ensure that the resource is adequately used.

Boning out sheep meat in the field is a very common practice for sheep hunters. It saves the hunter weight and space in their pack for the hike out of the field. Unfortunately, careless or novice hunters can do a poor job removing all the edible meat from the bones. If they are inspected, the enforcement officer has to recreate a full sheep from a bag of scraps. It seems that it would be hard to issue a citation for a light bag without locating the kill site.

Furthermore, meat on the bone is easier to keep dry and cool. Alaska mountain weather is unpredictable and wet, particularly later in the season. Hunters also have a long trip out. Keeping the meat on the bone would ensure that it is in good quality when it arrives to the place it will be processed.

PROPOSED BY: Seth Wilson (EG-F20-137)

PROPOSAL 68

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

Extend the general season for brown bear by bow and arrow only for residents and nonresidents within Unit 11 as follows:

Unit 11: **July 1 – August 9 by bow and arrow only; or** August 10 - June 30, one bear every regulatory year.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Extending the general season for bow and arrow only would give more hunters the opportunity to spend time in the field pursuing bears within Unit 11 without having a negative impact on the resource. According to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, only four of 55 brown bears were taken with a bow in the last five years. These reported archery harvests show the extremely low impact to the population.

PROPOSED BY: Alaskan Bowhunters Association (EG-F20-097)

PROPOSAL 69

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

Increase the bag limit for brown bear in Unit 13 as follows:

A good solution would be to increase the grizzly harvest in Unit 13 to two per year. Many hunters pass on shooting smaller bears because they only have one per year limit and are hoping to find a larger one. With a two-bear limit, hunters would be more likely to take the first one they see, and possibly make them more selective on the second bear.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The grizzly/brown bear population in Unit 13 continues to grow. Predation on moose and caribou in the area is high, and doing more to control the population will help to increase moose and caribou populations. Every year the numbers of bears seen, and bear sign grows, along with dozens of dead moose calves found in June during the calving season, and including full grown moose killed by grizzlies throughout the summer. Adding the baiting to Unit 13 four or five years ago helped, but because a lot of the unit is way beyond reasonable for most people to keep barrels active, hunting pressure/harvest remains low.

PROPOSED BY: Claude Bondy (EG-F19-143)

PROPOSAL 70

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

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

Open a fall baiting season in Unit 13 for brown and black bear 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? We are 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. We would like to see a higher utilization of this game resource. The Department of Fish and Game 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. Some of us have hunted baited 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 carefree black bears. Some of us 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. We think there is almost no chance of over-harvest of brown bear on this hunt.

PROPOSED BY: Matanuska Valley Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F20-010)

PROPOSAL 71

5 AAC 85.057. Hunting seasons and bag limits for wolverine.

Lengthen the wolverine hunting season in Unit 13 as follows:

Extend wolverine hunting season in Unit 13 to the end of February.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Currently wolverine hunting season opens September 1 and ends January 31. We would like to extend hunting of wolverine in Unit 13 to the end of February. You can shoot wolverine in Unit 12 until the end of March. There is no biological reason not to extend the season a couple more weeks to the end of February. Just provides more opportunity to get a wolverine if you are out. There are not a lot of wolverine taken in Unit 13 in September.

PROPOSED BY: Copper Basin Advisory Committee (EG-F19-156)

PROPOSAL 72

5 AAC 84.270. Furbearer trapping.

Extend the wolverine trapping season in Unit 13 as follows:

November 10th to **February 29th** [FEBRUARY 15TH]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Extend the wolverine trapping season in Unit 13 from February 15 to February 29. Extending this season would allow for two more weeks of realistic trapping as the last 10 years have been generally late snow years and has not allowed travel by snowmachine until the middle of December. Setting a successful wolverine trapline requires long distances and longer bait exposure times than many of the other species trapped in the same areas. With no current limit, there should be no biological concern for allowing two more weeks of trapping.

PROPOSED BY: Herb Mansavage (HQ-F20-014)

PROPOSAL 73

5 AAC 84.270(14). Furbearer trapping.

Extend the wolverine trapping season in Unit 13 as follows:

Extend wolverine trapping season in Unit 13 to end at the end of February.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Currently wolverine trapping season ends February 15. We would like to extend the trapping season for wolverine to the end of February, to match other trapping seasons in Unit 13. Federal Subsistence trapping season ends on February 28 and we would like to match that (going to end of February due to leap years).

There is a good chance of incidental catch with other sets still out that wolverines could get into. Many rivers in Unit 13 are not freezing up until January/February now so access to areas is later in the season and thus does not give much time to trap wolverine. You can shoot wolverine in Unit 12 until the end of March. There is no biological reason not to extend the season a couple more weeks to the end of February.

PROPOSED BY: Copper Basin Advisory Committee (EG-F19-155)

PROPOSAL 74

5 AAC 92.072. Community subsistence harvest hunt area and permit conditions.

Limit motorized access during the community subsistence moose hunt in Unit 13 as follows:

Moose: One bull with spike-fork antlers or over 50-inch antlers, or with four or more brow tines on either side.

August 20 – 31: No pack animals or motorized access except along the Parks, Richardson, Glenn, Denali Highways or Tok Cut-Off.

September 1 – 20: One bull with spike-fork or over 50-inch antlers, or four or more brow tines on either side.

Motorized access allowed (See Controlled Use exceptions.)

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Overcrowding of moose hunters in portions of Unit 13. Inequality among hunting groups. Ineffectiveness of present regulations to meet hunters of all categories needed.

This proposal addresses the hunt inequality and division that presently exists in Unit 13. The proposal also deals with the past and present inequality and ineffectiveness of the current ongoing community hunt which has failed to meet its’ stated goals since its inception in spite of constant “fix-it” attempts.

We modeled our proposal in part after the very effective working model of the Unit 20 Macomb caribou hunt regulation. The Macomb hunt is a registration hunt that allows non-motorized access for both hunting groups to hunt either or both seasons without restriction. We chose not to place

a number of bulls that could be taken during the walk-in portion of the season. The local ADF&G biologist is best able to address that issue should it become necessary.

Our proposal restricts no one. Nor does it give any particular user group a defined advantage. Contingent for the success of these regulations the elimination of the community hunt in its entirety.

The unregulated advantage of this proposal is that local hunters will face less competition there hunting. Locals will be able to hunt almost any day of the season, whereas out-of-area hunters will need to travel substantial distances. Also, familiarity with local areas will offer residents a substantial step up on other groups. Additionally, rural users will still retain their federal hunt opportunities.

Information:

Sixty-three percent of successful local hunters used motorized transport to hunt moose. Ninety percent of out-of-area hunters used motorized transport.

One step further: a respondent quoted in Section 5 of Foraging and Motorized Mobility in Contemporary Alaska by ADF&G Subsistence Division (James Van Lane): “hundreds, if not thousands of hunters come to Unit 13 for the CSH. They come in \$100,000 motorhomes and they bring multiple \$10,000 all-terrain vehicles... They’re competing with people who actually need the meat.”

The community hunt was designed with the local population in mind. Our proposal gives them that opportunity in a workable format.

Without this regulation we will see the continuation of a very divisive and unsuccessful community subsistence hunt with the local needs far from being met.

PROPOSED BY: Paxson Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-F20-011)

PROPOSAL75

5 AAC 92. 5 AAC 92.075. Lawful methods of taking game.

5 AAC 92.540. Controlled use areas.

Close the Tokositna State Recreation Area in Units 13E and 16A to the use of airboats for hunting as follows:

The Tokositna State Recreation Area, except the Tokositna River, is closed to the use of airboats for hunting, between April 20 through September 30, annually.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? According to 11 AAC 20.985, the Tokositna State Recreation Area, except the Tokositna River, is closed to the use of airboats between April 20 and July 10 annually. The rationale for this regulation is to protect the habitat of trumpeter swans. I propose that the language in this regulation is revised and adopted into ADF&G regulations within 5 AAC 92.075 so that the Tokositna State Recreation Area, except the Tokositna River, be closed to the use of airboats from April 20 through September 30 annually. This change is to not only protect the bird habitat but also to prevent unfair chase of moose during hunting

season. Airboats draw so little water that they have the ability to jump riverbanks and leave navigable waterways to access miles of interconnected swamps where birds are nesting and moose are subsisting. This not only endangers the nesting habitat of migratory birds, it also constitutes unfair chase of moose during hunting season.

I am an Alaska resident since 1980, a recreationist and riverboater in the Tokositna Recreation Area, and a property owner on Bunco Lake near the Tokositna River. I have been hunting moose in this area for over 35 years. I have personally witnessed numerous infractions by airboat owners who disregard the laws and regulations, endanger the environment, destroy sensitive habitat, and thumb their noses to the ethics of fair chase. They jump the banks, use beaver dams as ramps, and destroy fragile vegetation as they pursue a moose using a motorized boat away from the navigable waterway.

PROPOSED BY: Vincent Pokryfki (EG-F20-015)

PROPOSAL 76

5 AAC 85.065. Hunting seasons and bag limits for small game.

Extend the ptarmigan season and the lower bag limit in Unit 13B and 13E as follows:

I understand the criticality of holding a stable population in an area and support that, but the changes last year were too dramatic in cutting the season so short. While I don't see any decrease in birds, I would suggest an alternative: decreasing the bag limit to five per day, per person, and increasing the time back to March 31, in both Unit 13B and 13E, areas that are susceptible to more traffic along the Denali and Richardson Highways.

Decreasing hunting opportunities is always bad for the sport, when populations are healthy. There are many new hunters coming into the sport that birds offer an opportunity to get those new hunters interested and active, and many of those used to hunt in the March season, when the temperatures and weather are a little more comfortable. I have rarely ever bagged ten birds in a day, and I don't know many people that do that consistently. This option gives us more time in the field with at least a chance at getting a few birds for dinner.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Ptarmigan hunting. The season was recently cut back in Unit 13E to February 15 (was March 31). The season was increased in 13B to February 15, (was November 30). Numbers of birds have been stable and doing well in both units by my personal view, living in the middle of those units and being in the field more than 250 days a year for the last 11 years. Hunting pressure in the area has increased due to the increased caribou tags that have been put out in recent years, pushing the birds away from the roads, but they are still there.

PROPOSED BY: Claude Bondy (EG-F19-144)

PROPOSAL 77

5 AAC 85.065. Hunting seasons and bag limits for small game.

Open a youth only hunt for ptarmigan in Unit 13, August 10-24 as follows:

Ptarmigan – Unit 13B: 10 per day; 20 in possession.

Hunters under 16 (youth): August 10 – February 15

Hunters greater than 16: August 25 – February 15

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Ptarmigan seasons in Unit 13B. Ptarmigan season begins August 10 and goes through February 15. Ptarmigan hatch late in Unit 13B. The young birds are too small to eat – lots of waste in early birds. Opening the season later would help mitigate that.

PROPOSED BY: Paxson Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-F20-010)

Palmer Area Proposals – Units 14A, 14B & 16

PROPOSAL 78

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

Extend the caribou season in Unit 16B as follows:

Open Season: August 10 - October 15

Alternative Open Season: August 10 - October 10

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Extend caribou season until October 15. For many years the caribou season was open well into October and many years ago it was open much of the winter. Due to the wolf predation issue many years ago the season was cut back and in 2005 was extended to September 30. The climates have been changing to the point we are all seeing moose and caribou ruts seemingly taking place later and later in the year. Finally some biologists are admitting to researching and discussing how hunting seasons and animal behavior is changing. The biggest and oldest bulls are not coming down to lower elevations and gathering cows anywhere near as early in the year as they used to. Snows are not driving them down as the winters are coming later. The best harvest for the herd is the older bulls, animals that are at the tail end of their life anyways. Quality of mature bulls has fallen historically in my opinion as well as numbers harvested. Before 2005 when the season changed to September 30 there was only a handful of caribou harvested in as the season closed September 20 in Unit 16B. In the last five years a total of 68 caribou have been harvested in Unit 16 with all but one of those taken in 16B. 2019 was the most with 22 harvested and it is also the coldest and best snow year in many we have had. We recognize the concern over rutted meat with late season caribou, however for many years we dealt with that and the law requires us to take the meat. I donated lots of caribou meat to the native hospital last season per their request through the Alaska Professional Hunters Association (APHA). I followed the delivery and pick-up of this meat. I also followed up to inquire of there satisfaction with it as well as how to cook and prepare it as late season caribou can be prepared differently. The feedback was fantastic and they are looking for more this next season. The additional hunting time in the field would allow trophy sport hunters (both resident and nonresident) the opportunity to spend more time in the field. License and tag sales would be beneficial to ADF&G and the general economy would benefit if more tourism was in place later in the season. There has not been much interest or money spent in Units 16 or 19 the last many years on caribou populations. The additional Pittman Robinson match may be helpful in accomplishing this. I do not believe going back to the historical later season dates will negatively impact the population, as most hunters this time of year are after bigger older bulls.

If the season is left as is, the older bulls that are not seen during the hunting season will just die of old age and no-one benefits, except maybe a slow cow or two!

PROPOSED BY: Steven Perrins

(EG-F20-148)

PROPOSAL 79

5 AAC 85.045(a)(12). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.

Reauthorize the antlerless moose draw permits in Units 14A and 14B 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 2,000 antlerless moose permits may be issued; or | Aug. 20—Sept. 25 (General hunt only) Nov. 1—Dec. 15 (General hunt only) | No open season |
| ... | | |
| 1 moose by targeted permit only; by crossbow, shotgun or bow and arrow only; up to 200 permits may be issued | Winter season to be announced by emergency order (General hunt only) | No open season |
| Unit 14(B) | | |
| 1 moose per regulatory year, only as follows: | | |
| ... | | |
| 1 moose by targeted permit only; by crossbow, shotgun or bow and arrow only; up to 100 permits may be issued. | Winter 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 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 2019 yielded an estimate of 7,900 moose in Unit 14A. This estimate was greater than the post-hunt objective of 6,000–6,500 moose and less than the 2017 survey estimate of 8,756 moose indicating that the increased antlerless harvests are having the desired effect of reducing the population. A sex and age composition survey completed in 2019 demonstrated a bull ratio of 34 bulls:100 cows and a calf ratio of 29 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 and again in spring 2018 from 1,000 to 2,000. Harvest from the increased permit levels is expected to bring the population back to within the objective for the unit of 6,000–6,500. Without this harvest the density of moose will increase and we anticipate an increase the number of moose-human conflicts, and moose may experience nutritional stress as the population nears carrying capacity.

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 267 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 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-F20-068)

PROPOSAL 80

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

Create a resident youth hunting season for any bull moose (YM4XX) in Unit 14A as follows:

One moose every regulatory year, August 20 – September 25 and November 15 - January 31.

No open nonresident season.

Youth hunt drawing permit: up to 50 permits may be issued.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Currently there are no resident youth any bull moose draw permits for Unit 14A. There is currently a youth bull moose hunt in neighboring Unit 16B, YM541. However, access to Unit 16B requires use of equipment, such as boat, plane, or snowmachine. There seems to be plenty of moose near the roadways and public use areas in Unit 14A for youth to participate. With declines nationwide regarding youth participation, I feel making more opportunities can increase our numbers here in Alaska.

Creation of a resident youth hunt in 14A would follow the guidelines found in YM541:

Eligible applicants: Resident youth who are 10 to 17-years-old. Each permittee must be accompanied in the field by a licensed resident adult at least 21-years-old. Bag limit counts against the bag limit of BOTH the permittee and the accompanying adult. Permittees and accompanying adults must wear hunter orange vests. Basic hunter education is required for all youth hunters participating in youth drawing hunts, regardless of their age or if their accompanying adult has basic hunter education.

The latest reports (at time of writing this) indicate the following harvest statistics for bull moose in 2018:

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------|
| 14A General Harvest Ticket | 378 moose |
| 16B General Harvest Ticket | 179 moose |
| 16B YM541 Draw Permit | 16 moose |

If the youth in YM541 are taking less than ten percent of moose compared to general harvest ticket hunters in 16B, we could assume a good starting point for the any bull youth hunt in Unit 14A would be around 35 animals. However, number of draw permits would be subject to latest herd population counts as well as 2019 harvest information. I do know that youth have the Unit 14A Point Mackenzie antlerless hunt, YM412, but for the bull hunt, I think it would be ideal to have the entire unit to provide the hunters more land opportunities for their harvest. Seasons would run similar to YM541, with dates August 20 – September 25 and November 15 - January 31.

PROPOSED BY: Tyler Eggen (HQ-F20-001)

PROPOSAL 81

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

Allow muzzle loading and black powder cartridge long guns be used for harvesting moose in Units 14A and 14B as follows:

I would suggest, if the Board of Game (board) adopts this proposal, that the definitions of legal muzzleloader and black powder cartridge rifles as stated in the Delta bison hunt hunting information on the ADF&G web page be used. These definitions are as follows: muzzleloader: muzzle loading rifles must be .54 caliber or larger, or at least .45 caliber with a 300 grain or larger elongated slug; black powder cartridge rifles: must fire a 400 grain bullet or larger loaded with a minimum of 70 grains of black powder or equivalent (.45-70 with a 400 grain bullet or a .44-90 with a 550 grain bullet).

These definitions are considered adequate for harvesting bison so they should work just fine for moose. The number of prospective hunters who might choose to use these types of harvest tools would be relatively small, but having the ability to use a favorite muzzleloading firearm or black powder cartridge rifle would greatly enhance the experience.

The average hunter who might choose to use these black powder weapons is usually knowledgeable and experienced in their use.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The current regulations specify that a shotgun with slugs, a crossbow, or a bow and arrow are the only legal hunting tools allowed for participants in the targeted hunts in Units 14A and 14B. Because the hunts occur along highway corridors and near housing, a harvest tool with a relatively short range yet capable of killing a moose is required for safety reasons.

For hunters who are older or disabled, this hunt offers the best opportunity to harvest a moose if the individual is selected to participate in the hunt. For others, the ability to use a firearm type other than a shotgun would enhance the hunting experience beyond just shooting an animal.

Because they are also relatively short-range firearms, with ballistics similar to shotguns with slugs, I propose adding muzzleloading and black powder cartridge long guns to the list of allowable harvest tools.

PROPOSED BY: Howard Delo (EG-F20-029)

PROPOSAL 82

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

Extend by two days the current bow and arrow only general moose season in Units 14A, 14B, and 16A as follows:

Unit 14A: One moose per regulatory year, only as follows: One bull with spike-fork antlers or 50-inch antlers or antlers with three or more brow tines on one side, by bow and arrow only, August 10 - August **19** [17].

Unit 14B: One moose per regulatory year, only as follows: One bull with spike-fork antlers or 50-inch antlers or antlers with three or more brow tines on one side, by bow and arrow only August 10 - August **19** [17].

Unit 16A: One moose per regulatory year, only as follows: One bull with spike-fork antlers or 50-inch antlers or antlers with three or more brown tines on at least one side, by bow and arrow only; August 10 – **19** [17].

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Extending the current bow and arrow only hunt for moose will allow hunters who choose to begin hunting during the early season to continue right on into the general season. From 2014 to 2018, only 5% of moose harvested during the general season in Units 14A, 14B, and 16A were taken in the bow and arrow only time frame. An additional two days of hunting with bow and arrow will not have any negative affect on the resource.

PROPOSED BY: Alaskan Bowhunters Association (EG-F20-058)

PROPOSAL 83

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

Remove the 50-inch bag limit requirement for the resident and nonresident moose hunt in Unit 16A as follows:

Regulation to read: spike/fork and "must have three or more brow tines".

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Enforcement of 50-inch three brow tine regulation. To many sublegal moose are being taken. To many times I hear and see 44 to 48-inch moose taken with only two brow tines and people either leave them lay or take them out of the field in hopes to not get caught. This has to change. Our moose population is diminishing to fast. Last survey we had 1,700 moose counted, a year later only 895 were seen. The chairman

even asked what happened? With the winter of 2019-2020 we have had a lot of moose winter kill. Around a 3-mile radius of my house alone I know of four winter kills. I expect to see way more as snow melts. We need a change! We need the 50-inch requirements removed.

PROPOSED BY: Neil DeWitt (EG-F20-012)

PROPOSAL 84

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

Establish an antlerless moose season in Unit 16B as follows:

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

RESIDENT HUNTERS

If the harvestable portion is 199 moose or less; up to 400 total Tier II permits may be issued;

1 bull with spike-fork antlers or 50-inch antlers with 3 or more brow tines on one side by Tier II subsistence hunting permit only; or

Aug. 20–Sept. 30
(Subsistence hunt only)

1 bull by Tier II subsistence hunting permit only; or

Dec. 15–Mar. 31
(Subsistence hunt only)

if the harvestable portion is greater than 199 moose, but less than 241 moose;

1 bull with spike-fork antlers or 50-inch antlers with 3 or more brow tines on one side; or

Sept. 1—Sept. 20

1 bull by Tier II subsistence hunting permit only; up to 260 permits may be issued; or

Dec. 15–Mar. 31
(Subsistence hunt only)

If the harvestable portion is greater than 240 moose:

1 bull with spike-fork antlers
or 50-inch antlers with 3 or
more brow tines on one side;
or

Aug. 20–Sept.25

1 bull by drawing permit
only; up to 75 percent of the
combined drawing permits in
the area may be issued to
non-youth hunters; up to 600
permits may be issued;
provided that the harvestable
portion is greater than 310
moose; or

Aug. 20–Sept.25
(General hunt only)

1 bull by youth hunt drawing
permit only; up to 25 percent
of the combined drawing
permits in the area may be
issued to youth hunters;
provided that the harvestable
portion is greater than 310
moose; or

Aug. 20–Sept.25
Nov. 15—Jan. 31
(General hunt only)

1 bull by registration permit
only; or

Dec. 15–Last Day of Feb.

1 bull by drawing permit
only; up to 500 permits may
be issued; or

Dec. 15–Last Day of Feb.

1 **moose** [bull] by Tier II
subsistence hunting permit
only; up to 260 permits may
be issued; or

Dec. 15–Mar. 31
(Subsistence hunt only)

**1 antlerless moose by
drawing permit only; up to
200 antlerless moose
permits may be issued**

**Aug. 20 –Sept. 25
Nov. 15 –Jan. 31
(General hunt only)**

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS

1 bull with spike-fork antlers
or 50-inch antlers with 3 or
more brow tines on one side;
if the harvestable portion is
greater than 240 moose

Aug. 20–Sept. 25

...

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? As of February 2019, the Unit 16B moose population is estimated at 9,984 ± 1702 (80% CI) moose. The population objective for Unit 16B is 6,500–7,500 moose.

Moose harvest has been steadily increasing since regulatory year 2012 and has been within the harvest objective (310–600) since 2015. The Department of Fish and Game sought to address the high bull-to-cow ratios by increasing the number of drawing permits available for the fall hunt. Bull to cow ratios have been reduced in portions of the unit. In the middle portion of Unit 16B the bull:100 cow ratio was 42 in 2011 and 38 in the fall of 2019. In the southern portion of the unit the bull:100 cow ratio was 52 in 2010 and 32 in the fall of 2019. The Board of Game approved a winter registration and a winter draw hunt with an ‘any bull’ bag limit in the spring of 2016. However, concerns were raised by the local communities that mid-winter bull hunts may stress cows as hunters search for a legal animal. The moose population itself was not deemed to be over the objective until surveys were completed in the spring of 2018. Additional bull permits will not address the reproductive segment of the population and would likely not be sufficient to bring the population back to the objective. Current winter opportunities include a Tier II ‘any-bull’ hunt and a youth draw hunt.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F20-072)

PROPOSAL 85

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

Establish a registration hunt for bull moose limited to resident certified bowhunters only within Unit 16B as follows:

Institute a registration hunt open to certified bowhunters only with harvest reporting requirements to be set by the Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G). This hunt would be subject to the same residency requirements, bag limit, season dates and area as outlined in DM540. The purpose of this new hunt being a registration hunt would be so that ADF&G can monitor the participation and success rates more closely. The purpose of this hunt would be to give bowhunters a higher percentage of legal animals to pursue while still having limited success in harvest.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? A registration hunt for certified bowhunters only would give more resident hunters the opportunity to pursue a higher percentage of legal moose within Unit 16B without having a negative impact on the resource. According to ADF&G, 2,902 moose were harvested in Unit 16B from 2009 to 2018. According to the area biologist, only 46 of the 2,902 moose harvested were reported taken with archery equipment.

These reported harvests with bow and arrow account for less than 2% of all moose taken in Unit 16B over a 10-year period, showing the extremely low impact to moose populations. According to recent surveys by ADF&G (as of spring 2020), the moose in Unit 16B are approximately 2,500 over population objectives. There is only one registration hunt for moose in the State of Alaska that is limited only to certified bowhunters (RM445). From 2009 to 2018, hunters participating in RM445 have only seen a 2.3% success rate according to ADF&G. RM445 is a great example of the low impact a bow and arrow only hunt would have on moose populations in an any bull area.

Lastly, having a registration hunt rather than taking off limitations for the general season would allow ADF&G to collect data, closely monitor success rates, as well as issue emergency orders if the need ever arises.

PROPOSED BY: Gary Weav (EG-F20-052)

PROPOSAL 86

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

Change the bag limit for Dall sheep in Unit 14A to full-curl ram as follows:

Change Unit 14A sheep draw permit bag limit from one [ANY RAM] to: **One ram with full-curl horn or larger, both horn tips broken or 8 years old or older.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? We would like to have the any ram draw permits in Unit 14A changed to full curl permits. This regulation was put into effect in 2008 to try and grow the older ram population but there are currently 53 permits being issued for any ram. With the rise of sheep hunting popularity this has created more harvest of younger rams and less preservation of mature Chugach rams. There has been virtually no increase in the mature ram population during the 13 years that the any ram regulation has been in place. It has failed to do what it was put in place to do. Many areas in Unit 14A used to have an abundance of large, mature rams and we think this is the first step in returning this area to its original abundance again.

PROPOSED BY: Matanuska Valley Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F20-006)

PROPOSAL 87

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

Change the bag limit for the Dall sheep permit hunts in Unit 14A and convert the early season to archery only permit hunts as follows:

Unit 14A: DS170 - DS180 - DS190 - DS270 - DS280 - DS290 - (Resident and Nonresident)
Allocate the first half of the Dall sheep draw permits to archers only for "any rams".

DS175 - DS185 - DS195 - DS275 - DS285 (Resident & Nonresident)
Allocate the second half of the draw permits to any weapon and "full-curl rams" only.

Address the discrepancy of the "any ram" regulation and management of sheep in Unit 14A. Address dates between the first portion of the season and or the second portion of the season for weapon restrictions. Allow more rams to reach maturity with the archery regulations, as there is ADF&G data proving the low harvest success of archers. Approximately 130 rams have been harvested with archery equipment in the state of Alaska over the past 10 years (approx. 1%), those numbers include archery only draws and general harvest hunts. The low success rate of archers would not have a significant impact on this "any ram" hunt. Changing the any weapon portion of this proposed draw to full-curl only will allow more rams to reach maturity and a larger population of Dall sheep. Dates of the weapons restrictions is less important than allowing the opportunity to harvest rams for both "any ram" hunters and "full-curl" hunters.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Dall sheep permits available in Unit 14A for less than full curl rams. Addressing the discrepancy in sheep population, and trophy rams versus hunt opportunity of Dall sheep in Unit 14A.

PROPOSED BY: Austin Manelick (EG-F20-020)

PROPOSAL 88

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

Establish an archery only general season hunt for Dall sheep in Unit 14 as follows:

Create an early archery season from August 1- 9 before the general sheep season. This would provide a great opportunity for archery hunters by opening an earlier time frame for archery only hunters to pursue sheep. This also gives incentive to go out and hunt sheep before the general season. The early season would also allow for more guided hunts for nonresidents by extending another nine days to the left. Archery hunting has very low success rate and would not effect the overall population of sheep in this area. With the success rate being less than one percent, over harvest would not be an issue. The new season would only be for Unit 14A and 14B remainder, by general season.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Create more opportunities for archery hunters in Alaska. Archery hunting in Alaska is gaining popularity and it only makes sense to create more seasons and opportunities for Alaska's archery hunters. Making an early season for Dall sheep archery only would allow archery hunters to hunt sheep that have not been pressured by fellow hunters yet. Even with an early season for archery hunters, the success rate would still be low and the sheep population would not be affected.

PROPOSED BY: Drew Kress (EG-F20-057)

PROPOSAL 89

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

Establish a registration hunt for Dall sheep open to certified bowhunters only, by longbow or recurve bow only within Unit 14A, Metal Creek area as follows:

Institute a registration hunt open to certified bowhunters only with season dates starting on October 5 and closing on October 15 or by emergency order. Hunters participating in this hunt would be limited to the use of longbows or recurve bows only. The area would be the same as already established in DS170. The bag limit for residents would be one ram with full-curl horn or larger and the bag limit for nonresidents would be one ram with full-curl horn or larger every four regulatory years. Successful hunters would be required to report within three days of kill while unsuccessful hunters must report within 15 days of season end.

This new registration hunt would be for the Metal Creek area only.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? A registration hunt limited to the use of traditional bowhunting equipment would give more hunters the opportunity to spend time in the field pursuing sheep within Unit 14A while having no impact on the resource. Only about 1% of sheep taken in Alaska are done so with archery equipment and even less are taken with longbows or recurves. Traditional bows, while just as lethal as compound bows, require the hunter to get much closer to game in order to make an accurate shot, thus increasing the challenge by a large margin. Bowhunters using traditional equipment must usually get within approximately 20 yards of game, while compound archers are generally able to take shots on game at much greater distances. The limitations of traditional bows would make it very difficult to harvest sheep while still allowing more hunters the opportunity to pursue them.

The purpose of this new hunt being a registration hunt would be so that the Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) can monitor the participation and success rates more closely.

The purpose of the season being October 5 to October 15 would be so not to conflict with already existing hunts in the unit while at the same allowing ADF&G to determine an acceptable harvest quota based on reports already received from the preceding drawing permit hunts.

This hunt would fall under the full-curl regulation ensuring that the breeding population of rams will not be affected.

Having an additional hunt would bring in more revenue to the state of Alaska as well as to local communities.

DS140 and DS240 are held in Unit 14C and are good comparisons for archery success rates. These two hunts are open to certified bowhunters only and are both held from October 1 through 10. Even with the opportunity to use conventional compound bows, only 31 of 376 bowhunters have been successful from 2009 to 2018. These hunts do not have size or age restrictions and some of the sheep taken during this time were also recorded as ewes. Hunters limited to the use of traditional longbows and recurves would have even less success taking mature rams than have been experienced in these established bow only drawing permit hunts.

PROPOSED BY: Mike Harris (EG-F20-119)

PROPOSAL 90

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

Extend the brown bear hunting season in Units 14A and 14B as follows:

I recommend extending brown bear season through June 30 allowing these bears to be taken through the baiting season. The new regulation change would read “One bear every regulatory year September 1 - June 30 in Unit 14A and “One bear every regulatory year August 10-June 30 in Unit 14B.”

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The population of brown bears in Unit 14 is growing rapidly. In the span of four years my trail cameras in Unit 14 over bait have shown 1-2 brown bears and 5-6 black bears in 2015 and in 2019 7-8 brown bears and only 1 black bear. Brown bear season closes on May 31 and there is no closed season on black bears

currently in Unit 14. If the population of brown bears is not controlled I believe we will continue to see increasing brown bear populations and decreased black bear populations until eventually the area will be depleted of black bears completely.

PROPOSED BY: Landon Albertson (EG-F19-145)

PROPOSAL 91

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

Establish a general season by bow and arrow only for brown bear within Units 14A and 14B as follows:

Unit 14A **June 1 – June 30 by bow and arrow only; or** September 1 - May 31; one bear every regulatory year.

Unit 14B **June 1 – June 30 by bow and arrow only; or** August 10 - May 31; one bear every regulatory year.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Extending the general season for bow and arrow only would give more hunters the opportunity to spend time in the field pursuing bears within Unit 14A & 14B without having a negative impact on the resource. According to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, only one of 87 brown bears were taken with a bow in Unit 14A and 14B from 2014 to 2018. These reported archery harvests show the extremely low impact to the population.

PROPOSED BY: Alaskan Bowhunters Association (EG-F20-054)

PROPOSAL 92

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

Open a year-round season for brown bear in Unit 16 as follows:

Change Unit 16 brown bear season back to **No Closed Season.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Change the Unit 16 brown bear season back to NO CLOSED SEASON. There is no closed season for black bear in this unit and the baiting season runs from April 15 to October15. With this season closed a hunter can't take a brown bear at their bait station if one appears during the closed portion of the season. There is an abundance of both black and brown bears in this area with a high predation rate on moose calves. There is no threat of over harvest in this very heavily forested unit and by opening this back up, it gives hunters a little more opportunity to hunt and potentially alleviate problem bears without the process of a defense of life and property (DLP) bear situation.

PROPOSED BY: Matanuska Valley Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F20-005)

PROPOSAL 93

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

Open a year-round season for brown bear in Unit 16 as follows:

The new regulation would read " no closed season."

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I would propose to change the season dates for brown bear to be open all year round as it was before. This will give opportunity for hunters with limitations to hunt while bears are lower on berries as well as on the salmon streams. It would also avoid DLP (defense of life and property) issues for anyone encountering trouble bears while fishing. With the loss of the spring season and a likely hood that less nonresident and resident hunters will be hunting this fall or even into next season. We need to stay ahead of this curve. The additional income to ADF&G will be well needed to make up for loss of license and tag sales from hunt cancellations. I saw no justification to have closed the June 15 to August 10 period that was historically in place for many years. This caused a loss of opportunity for archery hunters and youth hunters that could more easily hunt the streams and low berry areas.

If the season remains closed from June 15 to August 10 the population will increase faster with the loss of our past spring season and moose will become more at risk with predation in a short period of time. Resident hunters and nonresident hunters will benefit from opportunity and the state will recover some of the license and tag money as well as Pittman Robinson triple matching funds. Guides, charter services as well as local economies would also benefit from the economic side, and help recover some Covid-19 losses. There does not appear to be any negative conservation issue and most likely a positive for future moose populations.

PROPOSED BY: Steven Perrins (EG-F20-138)

PROPOSAL 94

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

Establish a general season by bow and arrow only for brown bear within Units 16A and 16B, remainder as follows:

Unit 16A: **June 16 – August 9 by bow and arrow only; or** August 10 - June 15; two bears every regulatory year.

Unit 16B, that portion within a one-mile radius of the mouth of Wolverine Creek (at 60.80° N. lat., 152.31 ° W. long.); September 15 - May 31; two bears every regulatory year.

Remainder of Unit 16B **June 16 – August 9 by bow and arrow only; or** August 10 - June 15; two bears every regulatory year.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Extending the general season for bow and arrow only would give more hunters the opportunity to spend time in the field pursuing bears within Unit 16 without having a negative impact on the resource. According to the Alaska

Department of Fish and Game, only 65 of 460 brown bears were taken with a bow in Unit 16 from 2014 to 2018. These reported archery harvests show the extremely low impact to the population.

PROPOSED BY: Alaskan Bowhunters Association (EG-F20-060)

PROPOSAL 95

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

Lengthen the brown bear season in Unit 16B for residents and nonresidents as follows:

Brown bear season dates for residents and nonresidents, Unit 16B: August 10 - June 30. Made effective by emergency order for spring 2021.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? ? In 2018 the brown bear season in Unit 16B was changed from "No Closed Season" to August 10 - June 15. Most of Unit 16B has an extremely high snow pack and is difficult access during the month of May. June is the prime time for hunting bears in most of the unit and the season now closes June 15. With the loss of the nonresident brown bear season during April and May of 2020, there will be a surplus of bears in 2021. I believe it is important to lengthen the season through the end of June and make it effective immediately.

PROPOSED BY: Jonah Stewart (EG-F19-160)

PROPOSAL 96

5 AAC 92.085 (8). Unlawful methods of taking big game; exceptions.

Allow the take of black bear in Unit 16B the same day a hunter has flown as follows:

Under same day airborne EXCEPTIONS: You may hunt black bear the same day airborne in Unit 16B (provided you are 300 feet from the airplane).

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Since the closure of the black bear predator control program in Unit 16B there has been limited participation amongst resident hunters hunting black bears in much of Unit 16B. Running bait stations is time consuming and flying in and camping overnight is more than many residents want or have time for.

PROPOSED BY: Jonah Stewart (EG-F19-159)

PROPOSAL 97

5 AAC 92.095. Unlawful methods of taking furbearers; exceptions.

Allow beaver to be taken with firearm or archery equipment in Unit 16 as follows:

Re-write regulation to read: and in Unit 16 beaver may be taken throughout the trapping season with a firearm or archery equipment.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Change regulations in Unit 16 to allow beaver to be taken with archery equipment as well as firearms.

Unit 16 has had a beaver population explosion the last 15 or so years. The Department of Fish and Game now allows beaver to be taken with a firearm in Unit 16 throughout the trapping season, as well as in many other units of the state. I have had several clients ask if they could shoot them with their bow and arrow while they are hunting with us, and the answer has to be NO. We need to thin out the beavers, and although, I don't feel there will be a lot of archery effort, I know there will be some and those folks will also need to purchase a hunting license. Archery equipment is plenty capable of killing a beaver and with a fishing/bow they would also have no trouble retrieving them. In fact, most likely better than with a rifle.

Of course, it would be much more effective if they approve my other proposal to open the season in August as well.

Please open the opportunity to more sportsman and help me get rid of a few more dam engineers in the process!! Thank you.

PROPOSED BY: Steven Perrins (EG-F20-155)

PROPOSAL 98

5 AAC 84.270. Furbearer trapping.

Extend the beaver trapping season in Unit 16 as follows:

Change beaver trapping season in Unit 16 to August 10 - May 31.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Change trapping season in Unit 16B to start August 10. The beaver in Unit 16B have increased in population to a nuisance level in many areas. The flooding has caused major issue to hunters access to much of the good moose hunting as well as flooded historic trails. The Department of Fish and Game is willing to issue permits to harvest out of season, but this is not as effective. If the hunting season was open in August when resident and nonresident hunters are in the field we could sell non-resident trapping licenses to many hunters and they could thin out the beaver population a bit and at the same time contribute to revenue to the state. With the low price of furs for so many years, beaver are not worth the effort for most trappers to dig through several feet of snow and then ice to set traps for a furbearer that brings in \$30 after lots of skinning and fleshing. Clients and resident hunters would be more likely to harvest the beaver when it is convenient and could keep the hides and donate the meat to folks with dog teams that would love to have it. With nonresident trapping/hunting licenses selling for \$405 the state would again benefit the well needed income and the match from Pittman Robinson funds.

I see no downside to this as it is not going to turn into a commercial harvest, but will definitely help get the beaver population back in check. At the least open it August 25 one month earlier and give it a shot.

PROPOSED BY: Steven Perrins (EG-F20-153)

PROPOSAL 99

5 AAC 92.550. Areas closed to trapping.

Close areas within Units 14A, 14B, and 16A to trapping as follows:

Furbearer trapping should be closed in the following areas: (1) within one quarter mile of any permanent dwelling; (2) within 50 yards of any developed hiking trail or groomed ski trail; (3) within one quarter mile of any trailhead for a developed hiking trail, or groomed ski trail; (4) within one quarter mile of any developed campground; (5) within the Hatcher Pass Public Use Area; and (6) within the Palmer Hay Flats State Game Refuge.

The following regulatory language is suggested:

5 AAC 92.550 Areas Closed to Trapping.

(1-6) No change.

Add:

(7) One quarter mile of permanent dwellings, which are defined as buildings used primarily as permanent residences or businesses; but which definition does not include cabins with less than 800 square feet of livable space which are unoccupied a majority of the time.

(8) 50 yards of a developed hiking trail or groomed ski trail. Developed hiking trails are defined as trails for which public funds have been spent within the previous five years for construction and maintenance; and groomed ski trails are defined as trails which are routinely maintained and groomed to provide the public with recreational skiing venues. A list of developed hiking trails and groomed ski trails shall be maintained by the department.

(9) One quarter mile from the trailhead for any developed hiking trail or groomed ski trail.

(10) One quarter mile from any developed campground. Developed campgrounds are defined as campgrounds for which public funds have been spent in the previous five years for construction or maintenance; a list of which shall be maintained by the department.

(11) The Hatcher Pass Public Use Area as designated in AS 41.23.130.

(12) The Palmer Hay Flats State Game Refuge as designated in AS 16.20.032.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Board of Game should address the danger to people and their pets, primarily dogs, that is posed by traps placed in developed areas with numerous permanent dwellings, and the danger to people and pets posed on or near developed hiking trails, and groomed ski trails; and also address the need for watchable wildlife in areas visited by large numbers of recreational hikers, mountain bikers, ice skaters, boaters, and skiers.

PROPOSED BY: Kneeland Taylor (EG-F20-045)

PROPOSAL 100

5 AAC 92.095. Unlawful methods of taking furbearers; exceptions.

Remove the requirement that traps and snares for beaver be submerged in Unit 16 as follows:

For a solution remove the restriction in the trapping regulations on page 31 in Unit 16 that states a trap must be submerged.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? For fall beaver trapping. I would like to change the part that snares and traps must be submerged from September 24 - November 9.

During the fall on the river, water fluctuates and usually goes down. An example would be you set a trap that is submerged. The next day you come back and water has dropped over six inches so the trap is exposed. You now have an illegal set trap because the trap is not submerged.

PROPOSED BY: James Hoehn

(EG-F19-148)
