

PROPOSAL 200

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

Create a moose hunt in the Southcentral Region for seniors over the age 65 with ADF&G Permanent ID as follows:

Special moose season for seniors.

No proxy allowed.

Sept. 26 - 30

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Moose season for seniors over 65 with PID license. Motivate the younger crowd to take seniors hunting, help seniors call moose to areas accessible to them

PROPOSED BY: David Strawser

(EG-F22-161)

PROPOSAL 203

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

Establish a moose drawing hunt within Unit 14C in Kincaid Park for hunters that meet the 70% disability standard with mobility impairments as follows:

The proposal is for a drawing tag for antlerless moose in Kincaid Park in Anchorage (Unit 14C) for hunters that meet the 70% disabled standard and require a mobility device like a wheelchair or prosthetic limbs to get around (similar to hunting with a motor vehicle in the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge). This hunt would occur later in the fall than many other moose hunts due to the abundance of organized events in the early fall. This hunt would require short-range firearms such as shotguns with slug or black powder rifles and a proficiency exam similar to DM666. Not all portions of the park will be open for this hunt. hunters issued this permit will require an able-bodied assistant to ensure the safe and efficient removal of the harvested animal.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? There are no current moose hunting opportunities for hunters with mobility impairments that are not US military Veterans in the State of Alaska.

Kincaid Park has many documented moose attacks on park users with EMS calls and many more undocumented attacks where the victim or an associate took them to receive medical attention.

This hunt would solve both an equity and a public safety issue.

PROPOSED BY: Ira Edwards

(EG-F22-164)

PROPOSAL 204

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

Close resident and nonresident hunting for Dall sheep in Unit 19C, for five years as follows:

Units & Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(4)		
Unit 19(C) RESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 ram with full-curl horn or larger, by youth hunt only; or	<u>No Open Season</u> [AUG. 1 - AUG. 5]	
1 ram with full-curl horn or larger; or	<u>No Open Season</u> [AUG. 10 - SEPT. 5]	
1 sheep with 3/4-curl horn or less; the take of rams with both horns broken, lambs, or ewes with lambs, is prohibited; by registration permit only	<u>No Open Season</u> [OCT 1 – APRIL 30 (Subsistence hunt only)	
NONRESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 ram with full-curl horn or larger, every 4 regulatory years, by youth hunt only; or		<u>No Open Season</u> [AUG. 1 - AUG. 5]
1 ram with full-curl horn or larger, every 4 regulatory years		<u>No Open Season</u> [AUG. 10 - SEPT. 20]
...		

The closure will expire after five years, and the hunts will open for the 2028/2029 regulatory year.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? During the November 17, 2022, Board of Game (board) meeting, the board agreed to generate a proposal to close sheep hunting to residents and nonresidents in Unit 19C for five years, to be scheduled for consideration at the March 2023 board meeting.

The impetus for the proposal follows public input at the March 2022 board meeting expressing concern about sheep populations in multiple areas of the state, and recent survey and harvest information provided to the board by the Department of Fish and Game at the October 19, 2022, informational meeting on Dall sheep, indicating a decline in population and harvest. The board expressed interest in hearing more details from the department at the March 2023 meeting upon consideration of the proposal.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Board of Game

(HQ-F22-BG1)

Note: Proposal 205 was accepted by the Board of Game as an Agenda Change Request for consideration at the Southcentral Region meeting scheduled for March 2023.

PROPOSAL 205

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

Change the Unit 19C moose hunt for nonresidents from a registration permit to a drawing permit, with up to 20 permits available as follows:

Change the nonresident permit from RM653 for moose (legal bull) to a drawing permit for 20 total nonresident permits. In my 25 plus years of hunting, this area has seen a steady decline in the moose population. For example: Alaskans harvested 54 moose and nonresidents harvested 45 moose in the RM653 hunt area for 2022.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Limit nonresident hunters to increase the bull-to-cow moose ratio for Alaskans.

Limit the number of nonresident moose hunters to 20 for a drawing hunt in the RM653 registration hunt area.

As a long-time Alaskan who depends on moose to sustain my family, the sheer number of nonresident hunters is severely impacting our success. Example: 2022 season, 45 moose killed by nonresidents, 54 moose harvested by residents in the RM653 hunt area.

The bull-to-cow ratio is dropping at a drastic rate. In my 25 plus years hunting the RM653 hunt area, the cow/bull ratio has declined in my observation. The bull-to-cow moose ratio will decline further, and my family will no longer be able to harvest our moose meat in RM653 hunt area, which we have done for over 25 years!

My request is to sustain a healthy bull-to-cow moose ratio for Alaskan families to harvest their winter supply of moose meat.

In 2022, Alaskans killed 54 bull moose in the RM653 hunt area, 45 bull moose were killed by nonresidents in the RM653 hunt area. In my 25 years hunting the RM653 hunt area, the past several seasons, I have seen an obvious decrease in bulls (legal moose) to harvest as a family. Counting on the Board of Game to ensure that Alaskans like myself can ensure our harvest of moose meat in this area.

Been harvesting moose in RM653 hunt area for over 25 years. Myself, and other Alaskans who depend on moose meat for the winter have seen an obvious decline in success due to the sheer numbers of hunters in the area. Limiting the nonresidents would absolutely aid in Alaskans like myself to have a better chance to harvest our moose for the winter

PROPOSED BY: Robert McCaffrey, Lori McCaffrey, Paige McCaffrey, Chad McCaffrey, Chris Diltz, Jerry Diltz, Joey Diltz, Brian Wilson, Grant Sullivan, Ben Eaton, Barb Eaton, Pat Nolde, and Julie Nolde. (HQ-F22-ACR6)

Note: Proposal 206 was accepted by the Board of Game as an Agenda Change Request for consideration at the Southcentral Region meeting scheduled for March 2023.

PROPOSAL 206

5 AAC 92.124 Intensive Management Plans VIII.

Reauthorize the Unit 21E Intensive Management Plan as follows:

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

(b) Unit 21(E) Predation Control Area.

...

(6) time frame is as follows:

(A) through **June 30, 2024** [JUNE 30, 2023], the commissioner may authorize removal of wolves and black and brown bears in Unit 21(E);

...

WHAT IS THE ISSUE YOU WOULD LIKE THE BOARD TO ADDRESS AND WHY?

The current Unit 21E intensive management (IM) plan will expire on June 30, 2023, which is out of cycle with the Region III (Interior and Eastern Arctic Region) regular Board of Game meeting. Due to Covid-19, the regularly scheduled Region III meeting was shifted by one year, and this IM plan is now out of sync with that cycle. This proposal will bring the IM plan back into alignment with the regularly scheduled board meetings for this area.

The IM plan has never been active and is in place only as a proactive measure if the population were to decline. Currently, the moose population is within the IM objectives. If not adopted, the IM plan will expire, and the department will be unable to implement the plan if the moose population were to decline.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish & Game (HQ-F22-ACR10)

Note: Proposal 207 was accepted by the Board of Game as an Agenda Change Request for consideration at the Southcentral Region meeting scheduled for March 2023.

PROPOSAL 207

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

Establish a Tier II hunt for Nelchina caribou in Unit 13 as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
Unit 13		
<u>X caribou by Tier II subsistence hunting permit only; up to XXX permits may be issued; or</u>	<u>Specify season (Subsistence hunt only)</u>	<u>No open season.</u>
up to 2 caribou per harvest report per regulatory year by community harvest permit only; up to 400 caribou may be taken; or	Aug. 10 - Sept. 20 (Subsistence hunt only) Oct. 21 - March 31 (Subsistence hunt only)	No open season.
up to 2 caribou every regulatory year by Tier I subsistence permit only; or	Aug. 10 - Aug. 31 (Subsistence hunt only) Oct. 21 - March 31 (Subsistence hunt only)	No open season.
up to 2 caribou every regulatory year by Tier I subsistence permit only; or	Sept. 1 - Sept. 20 (Subsistence hunt only) Oct. 21 - March 31 (Subsistence hunt only)	No open season.
1 caribou every regulatory year by youth hunt drawing permit; up to 200 permits may be issued; or	Aug. 1 - Aug. 5	No open season.
1 caribou every regulatory year by drawing permit; up to 5,000 permits may be issued;	Aug. 20 - Sept. 20 Oct. 21 - March 31	No open season.

1 bull every regulatory year by drawing permit; up to 200 permits may be issued when the herd is at or above population objectives;

Aug. 20 - Sept. 20

WHAT IS THE ISSUE YOU WOULD LIKE THE BOARD TO ADDRESS AND WHY?

Establish a Tier II hunt in regulation for Nelchina caribou in Unit 13 as required by statute in case a Tier II hunt is needed to further restrict the take of this game population to meet sustainable yield and subsistence use mandates.

The Nelchina caribou herd has a positive customary and traditional (C&T) subsistence use finding in Game Management Units 12 and 13 with an amount reasonably necessary for subsistence (ANS) of 600-1,000 caribou. It is possible that the harvestable surplus may fall below the low end of the ANS range, which means harvestable surplus may not be enough to provide a reasonable opportunity for all residents to participate in hunts that provide caribou for subsistence uses (Tier I registration and Community Subsistence Harvest). Existing regulations do not include a Tier II hunt which is the next legal step according to state subsistence law at AS 16.05.258 (b)(4), which directs that the Board of Game must limit participation by eliminating all consumptive uses other than subsistence uses and distinguish among subsistence users by applying the criteria in AS 16.05.258.

The low population numbers are an unforeseen, unexpected event that potentially restricts a reasonable opportunity for C&T uses of the Nelchina caribou herd. Existing regulations do not include the tools for the department to limit participation in the Nelchina caribou subsistence hunt as required when the harvestable portion of the population is below the low end of the ANS range, which is 600-1,000 caribou. When the existing regulations were created, the herd was above population objectives and the need for a Tier II hunt in 5 AAC 85.025 was not present; as a result, no such hunt was included in the existing hunt structures. The herd is currently under population objective. It is anticipated that a reasonable opportunity to engage in subsistence uses may not be provided to all eligible residents.

If the problem is not solved, state subsistence opportunity for the Nelchina caribou herd will be compromised. If the harvestable surplus is below the low end of the ANS, the state subsistence law states that opportunity shall be allocated according to Tier II criteria. If there is no Tier II regulation, then the department does not have the authority to distinguish among subsistence users and will be required to close all opportunity (all existing hunts) until the Board of Game can take action. However, unless the population numbers change, even with expedited regulations subsistence users could miss an entire hunting season.

The board will need to determine appropriate seasons, bag limits, and the maximum number of Tier II subsistence permits that can be issued for the Tier II hunt.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish & Game

(HQ-F22-ACR11)

Note: Proposal 208 was accepted by the Board of Game as an Agenda Change Request for consideration at the Southcentral Region meeting scheduled for March 2023.

PROPOSAL 208

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

Modify the nonresident drawing permit allocation for Dall sheep in Unit 14C as follows:

I prefer the Department of Fish and Game convert the permits of the original proposal to second degree kindred (2DK) that the board adopted and issue at least one permit for each of the four rifle permit areas. They are: Unit 14C Northwest, 14C Northeast, 14C Upper Eagle River and 14C Southwest.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Board of Game passed Proposal 149 that I submitted at the statewide meeting in March of this year. The proposal was to create a separate draw for 2nd degree of kindred (2DK) hunters for sheep where there was an allocation for nonresidents. In Unit 14C the proposal was to take DS236 Ship Creek and convert it to a 2DK permit. The Ship Creek unit has the largest sheep population and the best access, and this permit is at the start of the season. It has a total of three nonresident permits in all. One for each of the three 13-day seasons with eight resident permits in each season.

The department instead converted DS224 in the Hunter Creek unit into the 2DK permit which is now DS024. This is the only nonresident permit for the Hunter Creek unit for the year and now guides have no access to this area at all for nonresidents. I have no idea why the department did this. The department also eliminated DS233 in the Eagle River unit and it was the only nonresident permit in that unit. Now there is no nonresident permits at all in this unit. Losing these two permits and access to these areas is devastating for guides in this unit. These two units generally have the largest sheep in them.

I proposed the regulation back in the mid-2000's that the board adopted, that limits nonresidents to 13.5% of the total number of permits issued in Unit 14C for sheep. It is supposed to be implemented so there is at least one permit in each of the units every year for nonresidents. That is the way it was implemented until this year w

The department also did not convert one of the three DS240 archery only nonresident permits to a 2DK only permit. I can understand their thinking on this because it would be above the 20% max threshold for these four permits, but I think it should still implemented.

I think there is an error in how the regulation was implemented and not issuing the Archery only 2DK permit.

I think the regulation was not implemented properly as the board had adopted it.

I think the request identifies an unforeseen, unexpected resource situation where a biologically allowable harvest would be precluded by delayed regulation action, and such delay would be burdensome because the resource would be unavailable in the future because the older full curl sheep might die in the winter or get harvested without guides having access to hunt them. The permits can't be allocated the next year and there is no opportunity for guides to make up for this lost opportunity.

PROPOSED BY: Dan Montgomery

(HQ-F22-ACR13)
