

Mountain Goat— Archery only

Proposal 59:

Modify RG231 hunt to create an archery only hunt starting September 22 for goat in Unit 6C for certified bowhunters

Department Position: NEUTRAL

This is a public proposal

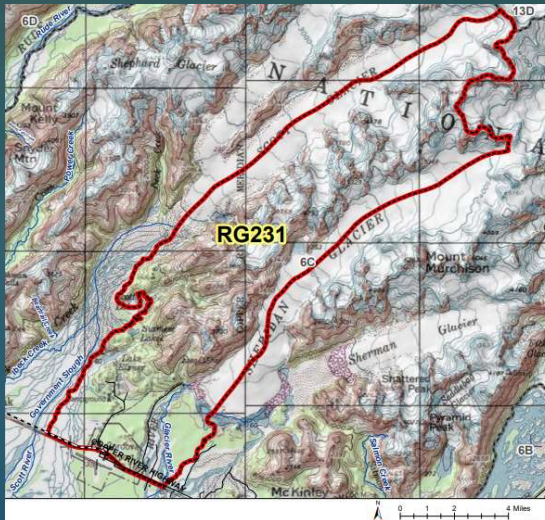
1

Mountain Goat —

Proposal 59:

Current Season:

- ⊗ Units 6C and 6D
Sep 15–Jan 31
- ⊗ Nanny provision
- ⊗ Positive C&T
- ⊗ ANS of 15–26
- ⊗ Managed using goat points



2

Mountain Goat—

Proposal 59:

Hunt information:

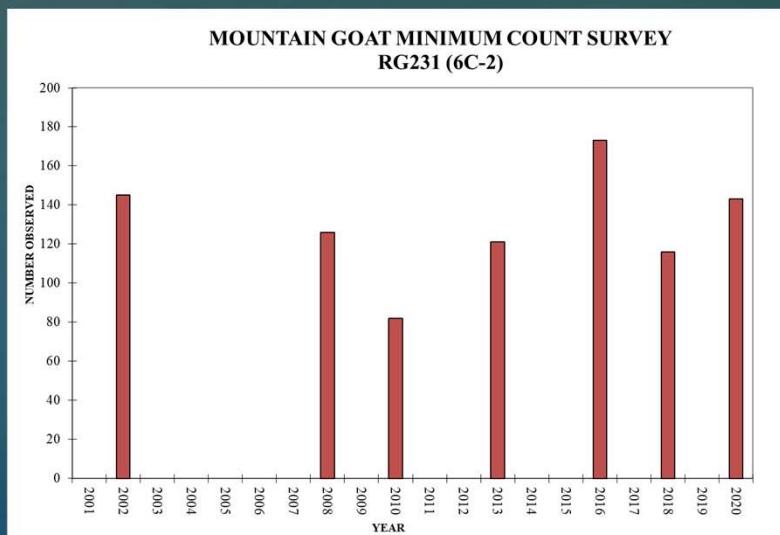
- ⌘ Hunt has occurred 20 of the last 24 years.
- ⌘ Season length— 60-day average
- ⌘ Emergency Order closure 3 of 5 last years
- ⌘ Participation— unlimited permits issued with average 10 hunters per year
- ⌘ Goat points available— Average 7
- ⌘ Harvest— average 5 goats or 6 goat points

3

3

Mountain Goat— Population information:

Proposal 59:



4

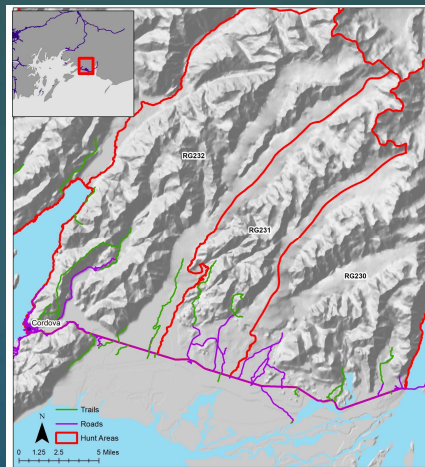
4

Mountain Goat—

Proposal 59:

Hunter information:

- ⌘ Popular hunt for ease and affordability of access
- ⌘ Nearly all hunters are residents
- ⌘ No reported archery harvest since hunt inception



Mountain Goat— Archery only

Proposal 59:

Modify RG231 hunt to create an archery only hunt starting September 22 for goat in Unit 6C for certified bowhunters

Department Position: NEUTRAL

This is a public proposal

Sitka Black-tailed Deer— Background

Proposals 60–61:

Current Season:

- ⌘ Aug 1–Dec 31
- ⌘ Only bucks may be taken before Oct 1
 - Resident hunters— 5 Deer
 - Nonresident hunters— 4 Deer
- ⌘ Positive C&T finding
- ⌘ ANS of 1,000–1,250

7

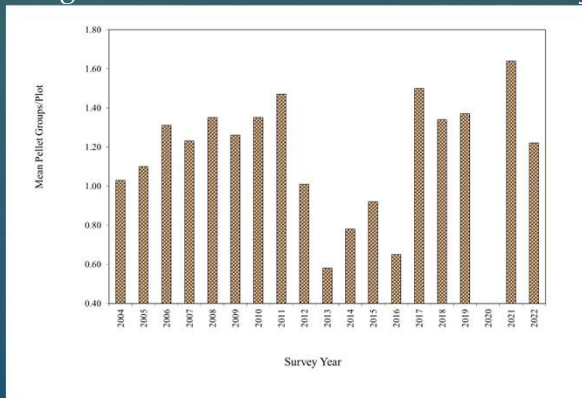
7

Sitka Black-tailed Deer—

Proposals 60–61:

Population Information:

- ⌘ Sitka black-tailed deer were introduced to Unit 6 1916–1923
- ⌘ Primarily limited by snow depth and duration (little predation)
- ⌘ Peak rutting behavior occurs in November in most years



8

8

Sitka Black-tailed Deer—

Proposals 60–61:

Hunt Information:

- ∞ Severe winters → high harvest and high winter kill
- ∞ Mild winters → low harvest and low winter kill
- ∞ Average harvest (RY12–RY21) approximately 1,900 deer
 - ∞ Harvest ranged from 600 in RY12 to nearly 3,000 deer in RY16
- ∞ Buck harvest has been 57–81% with the average of 66%
- ∞ Emergency order authority

9

9

Sitka Black-tailed Deer— Archery only

Proposal 60:

Create an archery only deer hunt for certified bow hunters only during Nov 1–Nov 15. This would require closing the firearm season to accommodate the archery hunt and then reopening it for the duration of the season.

Department Position: NEUTRAL on allocation but OPPOSES lost opportunity for hunters using firearms.

This is a public proposal

10

10

Sitka Black-tailed Deer—

Proposal 60:

Hunt Chronology:

In most years, the most popular month to hunt is November.

Unit 6 deer harvest chronology percent by month, Southcentral Alaska, regulatory years^a 2017–2021.

	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Unk	n
RY17	12	3	32	33	19	1	1	1,476
RY18	9	3	27	34	27	0	0	1,749
RY19	8	3	33	38	17	0	0	2,142
RY20	10	3	33	31	23	0	0	1,692
RY21	6	2	17	24	51	0	0	2,560

^a A regulatory year begins 1 July and ends 30 June, e.g., regulatory year 2017 = 1 July 2017–30 June 2018.

Sitka Black-tailed Deer—

Proposal 60:

Hunter Information:

- ∅ About 1,400 hunters pursue deer in Unit 6 each year
- ∅ Over 90% are residents of Alaska
- ∅ Statewide, archery accounts for 1–3% of harvest annually
- ∅ In Unit 6, harvest by bowhunters averages <1%

Sitka Black-tailed Deer— Archery only

Proposal 60:

Create an archery only deer hunt for certified bow hunters only during Nov 1–Nov 15. This would require closing the firearm season to accommodate the archery hunt and then reopening it for the duration of the season.

Department Position: NEUTRAL on allocation but OPPOSES lost opportunity for hunters using firearms.

This is a public proposal

13

13

Sitka Black-tailed Deer— Bag limit change

Proposal 61:

Reduce the bag limit for deer in Unit 6

∅ Resident hunters— Three [Five] deer

∅ Nonresident hunters— Two [Four] deer

Department Position: OPPOSED— A bag limit reduction would not have a meaningful biological impact but would unnecessarily reduce harvest by resident hunters .

This is a public proposal

14

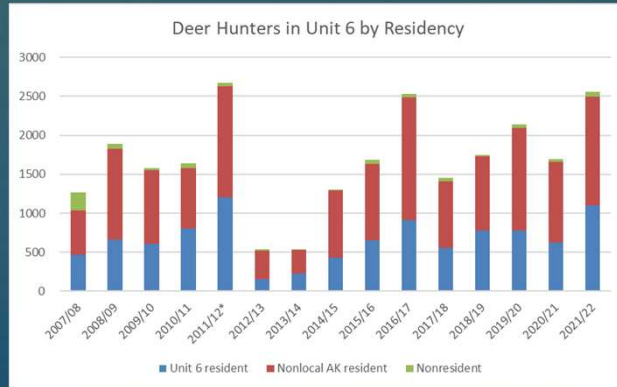
14

Sitka Black-tailed Deer— Background

Proposal 61:

Hunter Information:

- ⌘ About 1,400 hunters pursue deer in Unit 6 each year
- ⌘ Over 90% are residents of Alaska

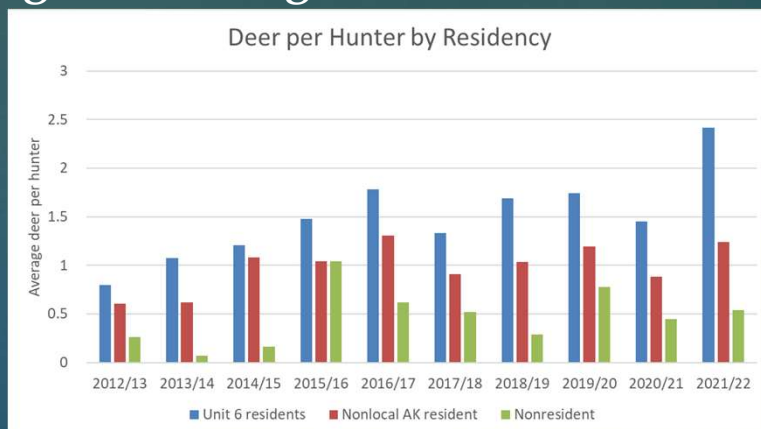


15

15

Sitka Black-tailed Deer— Bag limit change

Proposal 61:



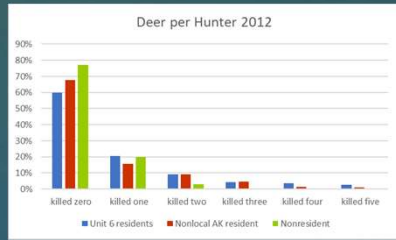
- ⌘ Deer per Hunter is dramatically impacted by weather conditions.
- ⌘ Early snow concentrates deer on beaches leading to higher harvest.

16

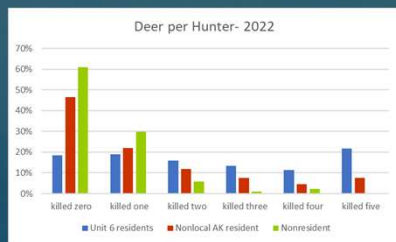
16

Sitka Black-tailed Deer— Bag limit change

Proposal 61:



- ☞ In all years, very few nonresidents take four deer.
- ☞ If a two deer bag limit was in place for nonresidents for the last 5 years, 2 fewer deer per year would have been taken.



- ☞ Unit 6 residents are most likely to fill the whole bag limit but comprise 38% of the harvest.
- ☞ With a 3 deer bag limit for residents, 171 fewer deer per year would have been taken.

Sitka Black-tailed Deer— Bag limit change

Proposal 61:

Reduce the bag limit for deer in Unit 6

- ☞ Resident hunters— Three [Five] deer
- ☞ Nonresident hunters— Two [Four] deer

Department Position: OPPOSED — A bag limit reduction would not have a meaningful biological impact but would unnecessarily reduce harvest by resident hunters.

This is a public proposal

Antlerless Moose Season —

Proposal 62:

Seeks to reestablish the antlerless moose season in Unit 6C

Department Position: SUPPORTS this proposal because it increases options for hunt management

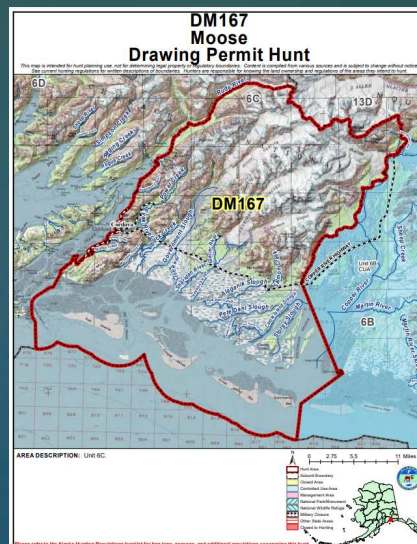
This is a Department proposal

Antlerless Moose Season —

Proposal 62

Hunt Administration

- ∅ DM167-State drawing permit for 25% of bull MAH
- ∅ Federal Draw- Administered by USFS 75% of bull MAH and 100% of cow MAH
- ∅ RM169- Late season hunt TBA for antlerless moose
 - ∅ Intended to take unfilled quota
 - ∅ Not yet used due to high success rates



Antlerless Moose Season —

Population information:

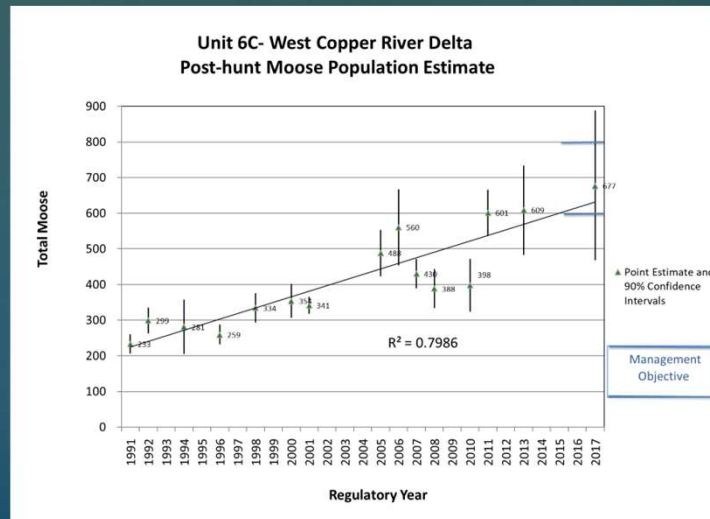
Proposal 62

- ⌘ Moose calves transplanted 1949–1958
- ⌘ Previously geographically isolated by glaciers
- ⌘ Mild winters—little winter kill
- ⌘ Low predation and high predator harvest
- ⌘ Twinning rates >40% in all years surveyed
- ⌘ Growing or stable population despite high cow harvest

Antlerless Moose Season —

Population information:

Proposal 62



Antlerless Moose Season—

Hunt information:

Proposal 62:

- ⌘ Moose hunting in Unit 6C since 1960
- ⌘ Federal subsistence cow hunt in Unit 6C since 2000
- ⌘ Variable permits based on objectives and current information
- ⌘ Ten-year average— 85 permits issued
- ⌘ Ten-year average success rate— 94%
- ⌘ No nonresident hunting opportunity in this area

23

23

Antlerless Moose Season—

Proposal 62:

Seeks to reestablish the antlerless moose season in Unit 6C

Department Position: SUPPORTS this proposal because it increases options for hunt management

This is a Department proposal

24

24

Brown bear— Season date change

Proposal 63:

Seeks to change the brown bear season to start Oct 1 to align with the antlerless deer season

Department Position: OPPOSED due to insufficient population data and high current harvest

This is a public proposal

Brown bear— Background

Current Season:

- ⊗ Remainder of Unit 6D
 - ⊗ Excludes Montague Island
 - ⊗ 1 bear every 4 regulatory years
 - ⊗ Oct 15-May 25

Proposal 63:



Brown bear—

Population information: Proposal 63:

- ⌘ Brown bears have never been estimated empirically in Unit 6.
- ⌘ We monitor harvest for “red flags”.
- ⌘ Seasons were adjusted regularly 1966–1997.
- ⌘ This area is most like Kodiak in habitat, and salmon systems.
- ⌘ Bears in Kodiak concentrate on salmon river systems until late October (Deacy et al. 2016).

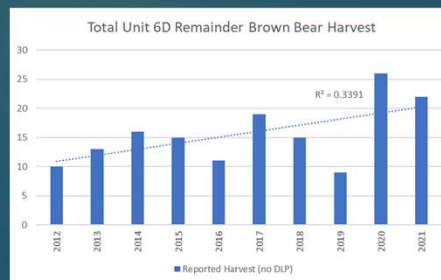
27

27

Brown bear—

Harvest information (RY12–21): Proposal 63:

- ⌘ Average harvest— 16 bears
- ⌘ Average fall harvest —18% of total
- ⌘ Overall harvest of females averaged 33%.
- ⌘ Harvest of females is higher in the fall
 - ⌘ Cubs more independent
 - ⌘ Body size differences less obvious
- ⌘ Harvest has been increasing



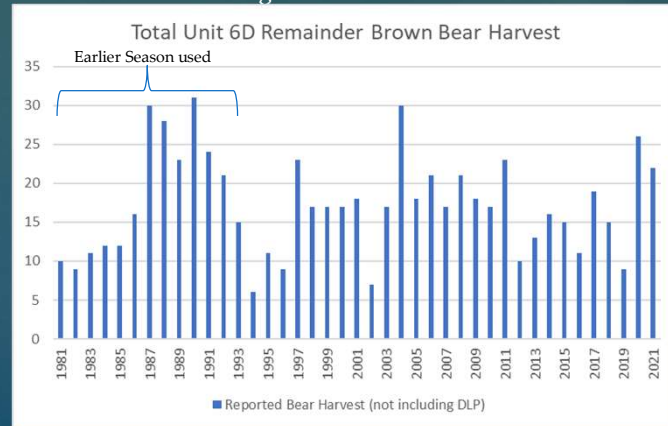
28

28

Brown bear—

Harvest information (RY81–21): Proposal 63:

- ∅ Harvest in RY19 — impacted by the closure of the nonresident season
- ∅ Harvest in RY20 — 5th highest
- ∅ Harvest in RY21 — 9th highest



29

29

Brown bear—

Proposal 63: Defense of Life and Property (DLP) (RY81–21)

- ∅ In 40 years—30 bears reported killed DLP
- ∅ First half of October comprised 37% of DLPs
- ∅ Earlier season (RY81–93)—average DLP 0.92 bears per year
- ∅ Later season (RY94–21)—average DLP 0.64 bears per year

30

30

Brown bear— Season date change

Proposal 63:

Seeks to change the brown bear season to start Oct 1 to align with the antlerless deer season.

Department Position: OPPOSED due to insufficient population data and high current harvest. Harvest of brown bears will likely increase as bears are conspicuous and lingering on salmon streams in early October.

This is a public proposal

31

31

Furbearers— Season date or trap size change

Proposal 64:

Align mink and otter seasons, change minimum jaw spread to 5 1/8 " or get rid of jaw spread requirements.

Department Position: NEUTRAL on trap size. OPPOSED to an exemption for Unit 6 from the statewide jaw spread restrictions. OPPOSED to increasing the mink season and OPPOSED to reducing the otter season.

This is a public proposal

32

32

Furbearers — Background

Proposal 64:

Current Season:

- ⌘ Mink
 - Nov 10—Last day of Feb
 - No limit
- ⌘ Otter, land
 - Nov 10—Mar 31
 - No limit
- ⌘ Statewide regulation

Prohibits taking land otter with a steel trap having an inside jaw spread of less than 5 7/8 inches during any closed mink or marten season in that unit.

33

33

Furbearers — Background

Proposal 64:

Population information:

- ⌘ Mink
 - ∅ Become pregnant in February
 - ∅ Unmonitored and poorly understood
- ⌘ Otter
 - ∅ Densities are probably highest in PWS
 - ∅ Unmonitored but likely stable due to abundant habitat and low trapping pressure

34

34

Furbearer — Background Harvest information:

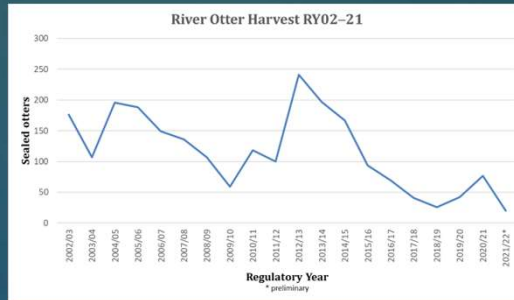
Proposal 64:

⌘ Mink

- ⌘ Unknown—no sealing requirement
- ⌘ Harvest believed to be light and mostly incidental due to fur prices

⌘ Otter

- ⌘ Five-year harvest down 40% compared to ten-year harvest



35

35

Furbearers — Possible outcomes

Proposal 64:

Longer mink season

- ⌘ Mink become pregnant in February and would be more vulnerable during a later season.
- ⌘ Mink fur quality is declining by late February.
- ⌘ Adjusting the mink season to align with otter would misalign it with weasel and marten.

Shorter otter season

- ⌘ Otter harvest would possibly decline further (approximately 8%).

Larger jaw spread or removing jaw spread requirement

- ⌘ Safer and easier for trappers to still have the option of using smaller traps.
- ⌘ Adjusting or removing this requirement creates a one-unit exemption from a statewide rule.

36

36

Furbearers — Season date or trap size change

Proposal 64:

Align mink and otter seasons, change minimum jaw spread to 5 1/8 " or get rid of jaw spread requirements.

Department Position: NEUTRAL on trap size.

OPPOSED to an exemption for Unit 6 from the statewide jaw spread restrictions. **OPPOSED** to increasing the mink season and **OPPOSED** to reducing the otter season.

This is a public proposal

37

37