

# Glennallen Area – Units 11 & 13

## PROPOSAL 39

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

Reduce population and harvest objectives for moose in Unit 13B as follows:

Population	Finding	Population Objective	Harvest Objective
...			
Moose			
...			
GMU 13B	Positive	<u>4,500–5,500</u> [5,300–6,300]	<u>200–400</u> [310–620]
....			

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Subunit 13B is included in an active intensive management program to benefit moose in Unit 13. A long history of harvest and population monitoring has demonstrated that moose abundance and harvest have peaked twice since 1967 (Figure 39-1, Figure 39-2).

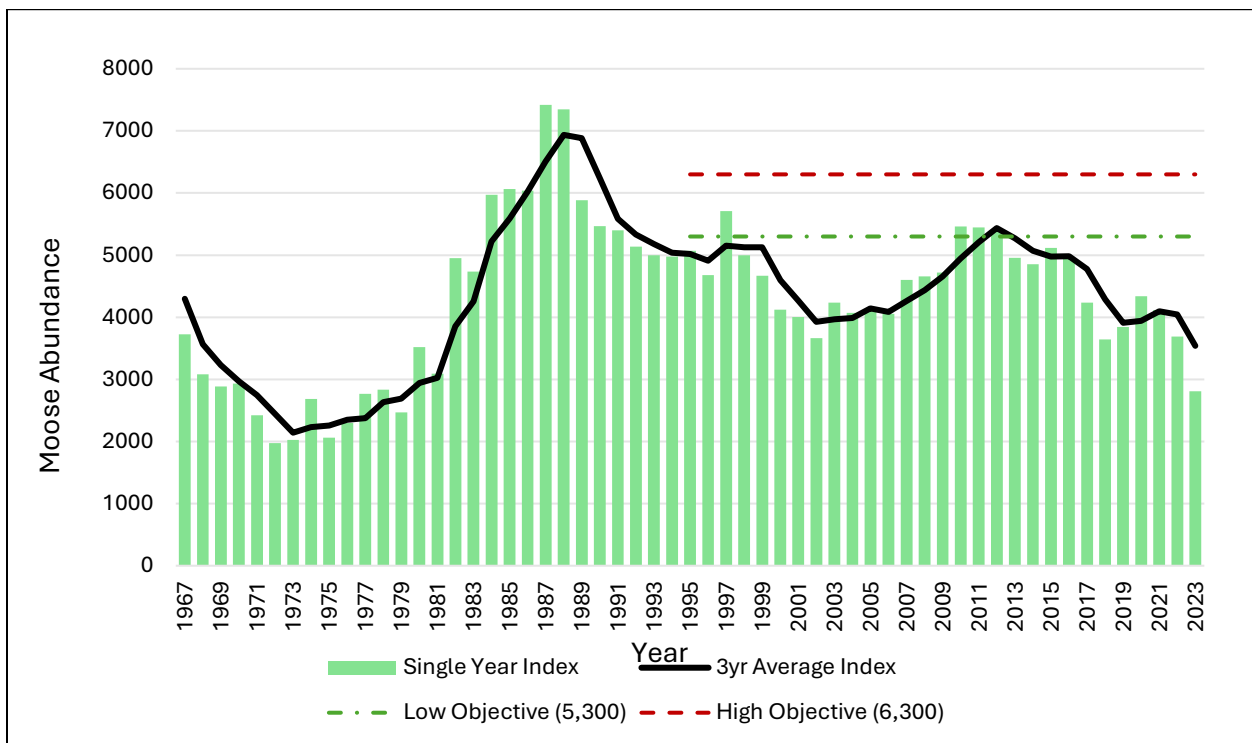


Figure 39-1. Moose abundance index in Unit 13B, RY1967–2023.

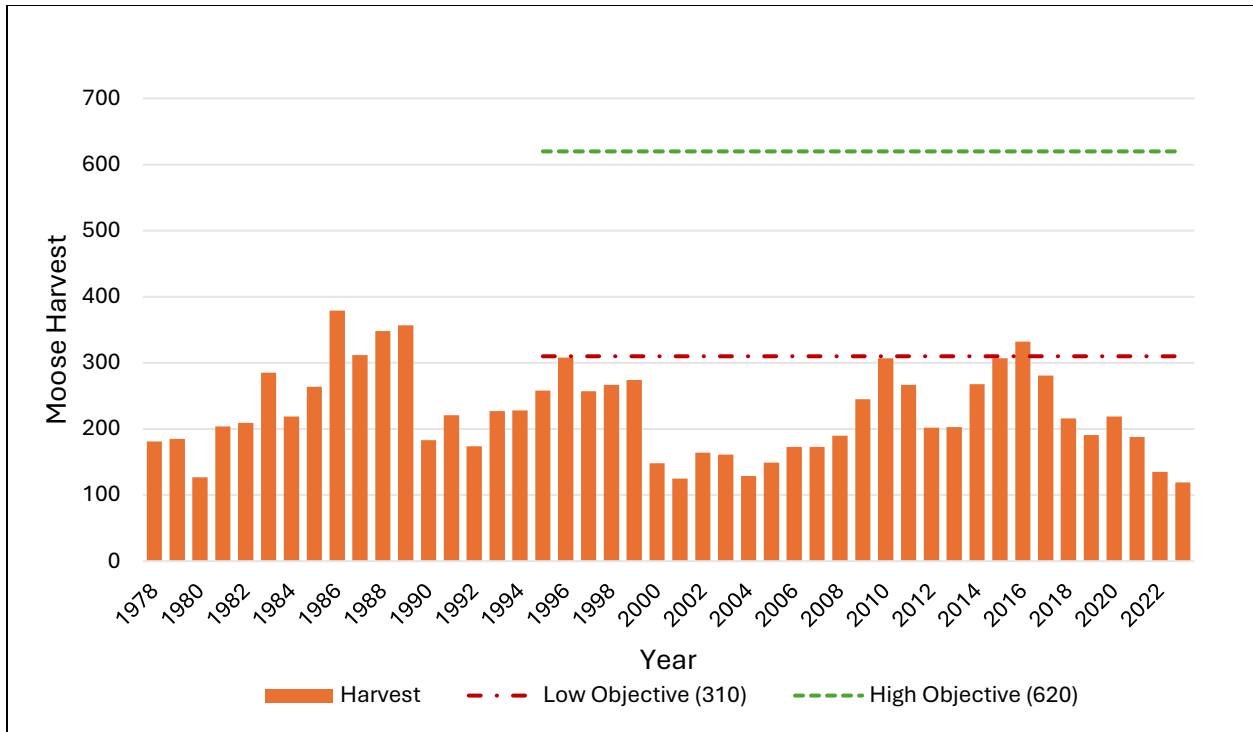


Figure 39-2. Moose harvest in Unit 13B, RY1978–2023.

The department proposes a more biologically appropriate productive and sustainable objective would be an abundance of 4,500–5,500 moose with 200–400 moose for annual harvest, based on historic peaks and valleys for these metrics. This represents a harvest rate of roughly 4.3%–6.8% and includes the long-term average of 225 harvested, with a historic range of 125–379.

**Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee?**

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F24-081)

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**PROPOSAL 40**

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

Change the population objective for moose in Unit 13C as follows:

Changing the moose abundance objective in Unit 13C.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The current is 2,000-3,000, and our recommendation is to change it to 2,500-3,250.

**Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee?** Yes; with the public at our local advisory committee, and the ADF&G staff.

**PROPOSED BY:** Copper Basin Fish & Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F24-001)  
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**PROPOSAL 41**

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

Reduce harvest objectives for moose in Unit 13C as follows:

Population	Finding	Population Objective	Harvest Objective
...			
Moose			
...			
GMU 13C	Positive	2,000–3,000	<b><u>80–200</u></b> [155–350]
....			

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Unit 13C is included in an active intensive management program for moose in Unit 13. A long history of harvest and population monitoring has shown that moose abundance has gone through three peaks since 1967 (Figure 41-1).

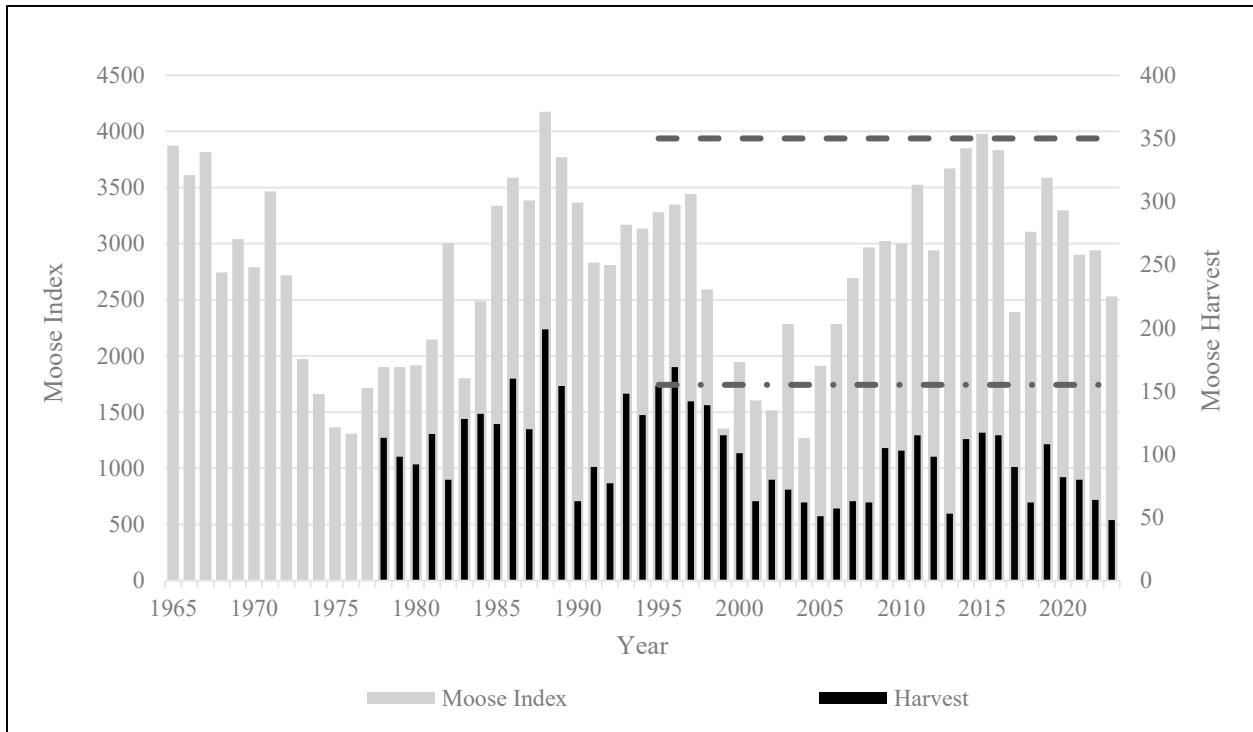


Figure 41-1. Moose abundance index and harvest in Unit13C, RY1965–2023.

Reported harvest numbers are available since 1978, but in those 46 years the minimum harvest objective has only been achieved three single years. The current harvest objectives for Unit 13C are not attainable. Furthermore, the current harvest objectives of 155–350 moose represents roughly 7.2%–10.4% of the current moose population objectives, which is not a sustainable goal. The proposed new harvest objectives for Unit 13C is 80–200 moose, which includes the long-term (approximately 65 year) average of 102 moose and also reflects harvest levels reported in recent years when moose abundance was at a historically more sustainable level. The historic range (1965-2022) of moose harvest in Unit 13C is 51–199. The new harvest objectives would represent a harvest rate of roughly 3.8%–6.3%.

**Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee?**

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F24-082)  
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**PROPOSAL 42**

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

Reduce harvest objectives for moose in Unit 13E as follows:

<b>Population</b>	<b>Finding</b>	<b>Population Objective</b>	<b>Harvest Objective</b>
...			
Moose			
...			
GMU 13(E)	Positive	5,000–6,000	<b><u>150–300</u></b> [300–600]
....			

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Unit 13E is included in an active intensive management program to benefit moose in Unit 13. A more than 40-year history of harvest monitoring demonstrates that moose harvest in Unit 13E has peaked twice since 1978 which coincide with peaks in moose abundance (Figure 42-1). The only year in which the lower harvest objective was achieved was in 1988, when 303 moose were harvested. The historic range (1978-2023) of harvest in Unit 13E is 86–303 moose. The current harvest objectives for Unit 13E are not attainable as demonstrated by the harvest history of the herd. The proposed harvest objectives for Unit 13E is 150–300 moose, and is based on the long-term (approx. 45 year) average of 176 moose. These new harvest objectives would represent a roughly 2.9%–4.8% harvest rate, which is reasonable for an area in which cow harvest cannot reliably be obtained due to regulatory frameworks.

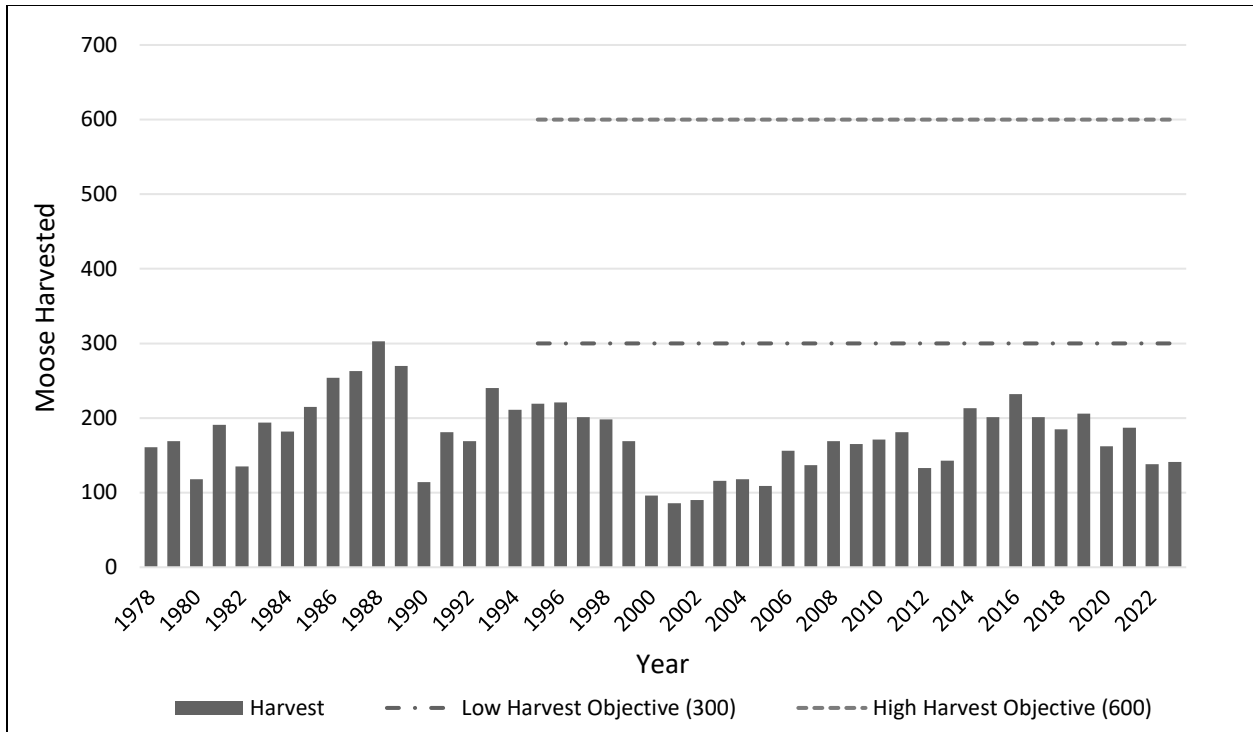


Figure 42-1. Moose harvest and objectives in Unit 13E, RY1978–2023.

**Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee?**

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F24-078)  
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**PROPOSAL 43**

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

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

<b>Units and Bag Limits</b> (11)	<b>Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)</b>	<b>Nonresident Open Season</b>
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Unit 13  
 1 moose per regulatory year,  
 only as follows:  
 ...

**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; or**

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

**No open season**

....

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Unit 13 has an active intensive management program to benefit moose populations for human consumptive use. Managing a moose population for high levels of human consumptive use requires harvest of cow moose to utilize additional surplus moose on the landscape and prevent moose populations from exceeding the carrying capacity of the land. To maintain moose populations within their appropriate population and sex ratio objectives while also providing adequate opportunity to meet harvest objectives, antlerless moose hunts are an essential management tool to adjust the population trajectory through additional sustainable harvest opportunities. Unit 13A has a history of successful sustainable cow harvest incorporated into the harvest strategy with relatively high overall productivity and harvest rate for the population since 2012 (Table 43-1). This antlerless hunt opportunity was not reauthorized by local Advisory Committees in 2024 despite moose abundance being within objectives.

There is a positive customary and traditional use finding for moose in all of Unit 13, and an amount reasonably necessary for subsistence uses of 300–600 moose. After deliberating a Unit 13 proposal during the 2015 Board of Game meeting, submitted by the public to increase the number of cow permits issued annually, the board directed the department to issue enough 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. The hunt area for the antlerless hunt was restricted to the western half of Unit 13A (west of Lake Louise Road), which maintains higher moose densities than the eastern half of Unit 13A.

Table 43-1. Antlerless moose permits and total harvest in Unit 13A, Regulatory Year (RY)12–24.

Regulatory Year	DM325 Permits	DM325 Harvest		Other Harvest <sup>a</sup>		Total Harvest	1% of Estimated Cows in 13A	Estimated Overall Harvest Rate
		Cows	Bulls	Cows	Bulls			
2012	10	4	0	3	230	237	29	5%
2013	10	2	0	1	260	263	30	6%
2014	10	4	3	0	255	262	27	6%
2015	10	7	0	1	333	341	30	7%
2016	10	5	0	3	311	319	28	7%
2017	10	6	2	4	318	330	23	7%
2018	10	7	0	0	246	253	28	6%
2019	10	8	2	0	271	281	27	7%
2020	20	16	0	1	272	289	25	7%

2021	25	22	0	1	264	287	32	7%
2022	25	19	1	3	235	258	24	6%
2023 <sup>c</sup>	20	14	0	5	148	167 <sup>b</sup>	27	4%
2024 <sup>d</sup>	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

<sup>a</sup> Other harvest includes ceremonial harvest.

<sup>b</sup> Moose hunter numbers declined with the closure of caribou seasons in Unit 13 and hunters reported unusually difficult hunting conditions, including stormy weather and late leaf drop.

<sup>c</sup> Data has not been finalized for RY23.

<sup>d</sup> Permits were announced for RY24 prior to Advisory Committee votes.

The current population objective for Unit 13A is 3,500–4,200 moose with a harvest objective of 210–420 moose, which represents a harvest rate of roughly 5.7%–9%. Moose abundance indices are derived from annual minimum trend counts, which can vary from year to year even when a population is stable (Figure 43-1). To address this variation the 3-year average moose abundance index is typically used to determine subunit status in relation to the midpoint of the population objectives (Figure 43-2). Moose abundance in 13A peaked near historic highs in 2013, 2015, and 2021 and has since declined to more reasonable and productive levels. A combination of intermittent wolf control and cow harvest has recently allowed the 13A moose population to stabilize at a more reasonable level within objectives. The goal is to maintain this stabilization and provide more moose in freezers, which requires cow harvest. Cow moose hunts should be implemented when a population is within objectives, with the goal of stabilizing the population before a population reaches or exceeds the higher objective because of density dependence concerns.

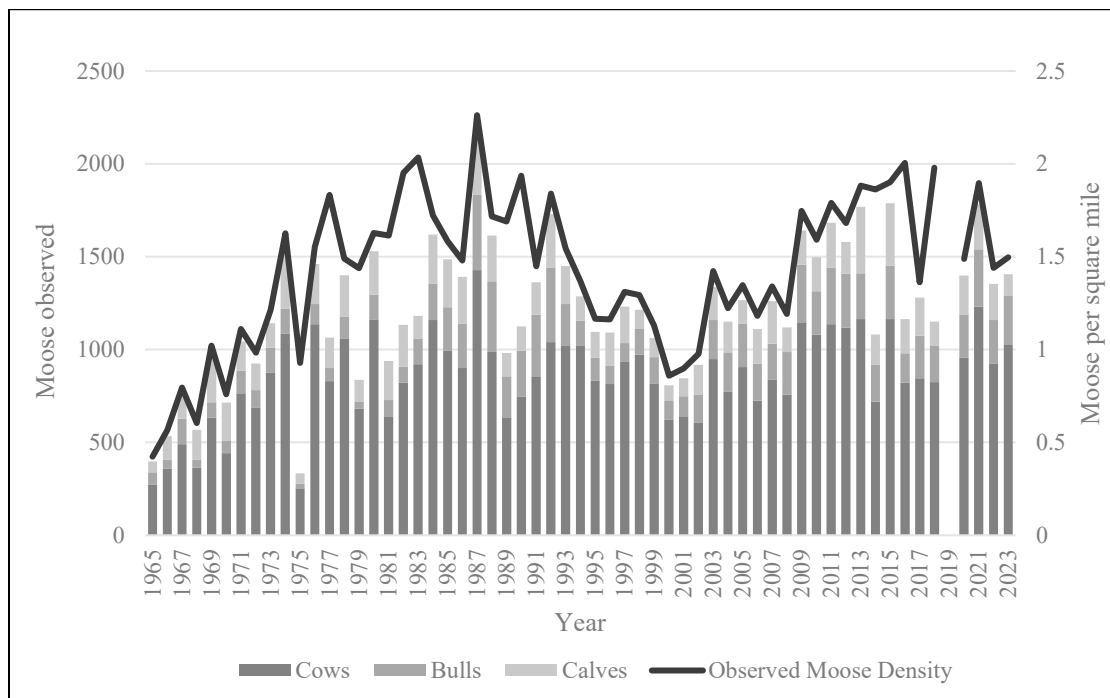


Figure 43-1. Moose minimum counts and observed density in western Unit 13A, RY1965–2023. In 1975, 1977, 1979, 1981–83, 1989–90, 2014, 2016, and 2018 only one out of two count areas were surveyed.

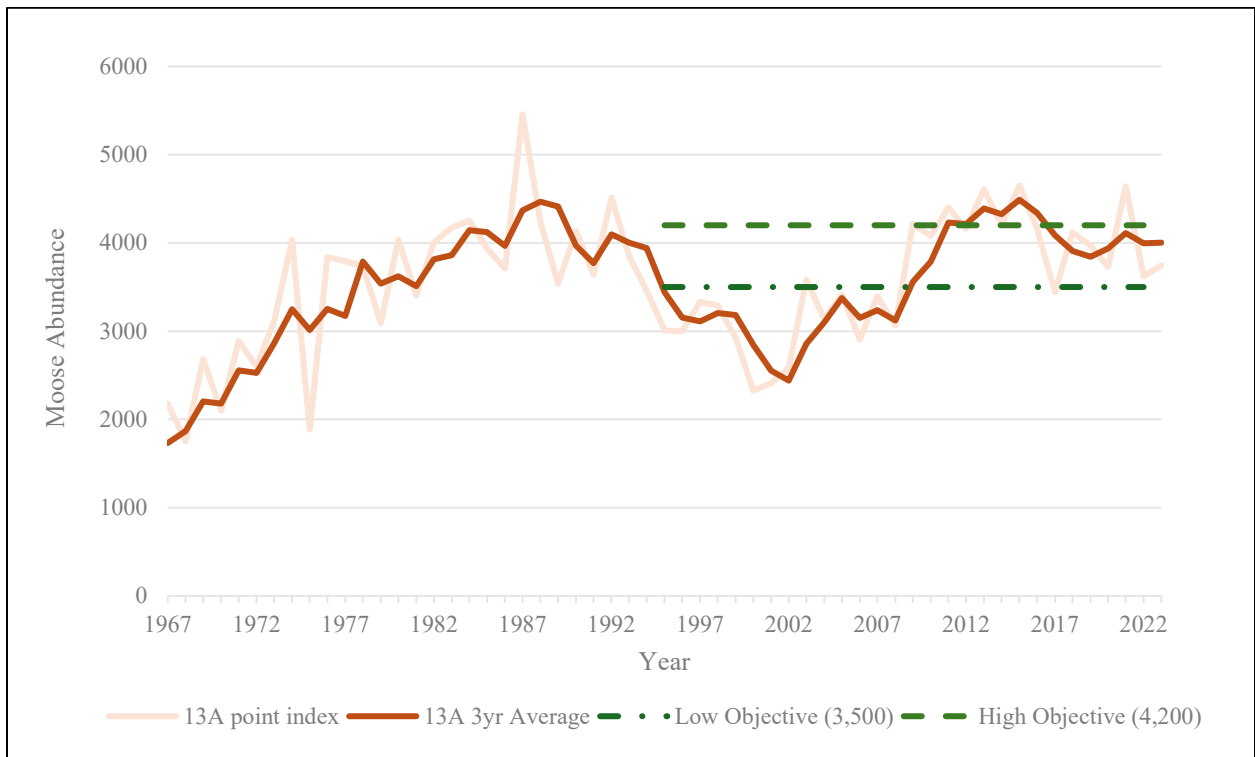


Figure 43-2. Moose population index in Unit 13A, RY1967–2023.

If antlerless moose hunting opportunities are not available in Unit 13A, the intensive management program and objectives will likely need to be reduced to maintain the moose population within a population size range that does not result in nutritional limitations for the moose and to achieve the harvest objectives recommended by the public, advisory committees, and the board.

**Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee?**

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F24-079)

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**PROPOSAL 44**

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

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

<b>Units and Bag Limits</b>	<b>Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)</b>	<b>Nonresident Open Season</b>
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(11)



Unit 13

1 moose per regulatory year,

only as follows:

...

**1 antlerless moose by drawing permit only in Unit 13(C); up to 100 permits may be issued; a person may not take a calf or a cow accompanied by a calf; or**

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

**No open season**

....

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Unit 13 has an active intensive management program to benefit moose populations for human consumptive use. Managing a moose population for high levels of human consumptive use when populations are doing well requires harvest of cow moose to utilize additional surplus moose on the landscape and prevent moose populations from reaching or exceeding the carrying capacity of the land. To maintain moose populations within their appropriate population and sex ratio objectives while also providing adequate opportunity to meet harvest objectives, antlerless moose hunts are an essential management tool to adjust the population trajectory through additional sustainable harvest opportunities.

There is a positive customary and traditional use finding for moose in all of Unit 13, and an amount reasonably necessary for subsistence of 300–600 moose. The current population abundance objective for Unit 13C is 2,000–3,000 moose. Moose minimum counts in Unit 13C were near record highs from 2013 to 2019; that level of abundance has not been seen in Unit 13C since the late 1980s and late 1990s (Figure 44-1). With no cow harvest opportunity, the population peaked with an abundance index of nearly 4,000 moose in 2015, nearly 3,600 moose in 2019, and has since declined to just over 2,500 moose in 2023, suggesting that Unit 13C cannot sustain those high levels of moose abundance over the long-term. The calf-to-cow ratio in Unit 13C has shown a declining trend over the past decade, which suggests the population may have become less productive as it approached or exceeded the carrying capacity of the area. Wolf control has been suspended in Unit 13C since 2019 due to the high numbers of moose and lack of cow harvest opportunity.

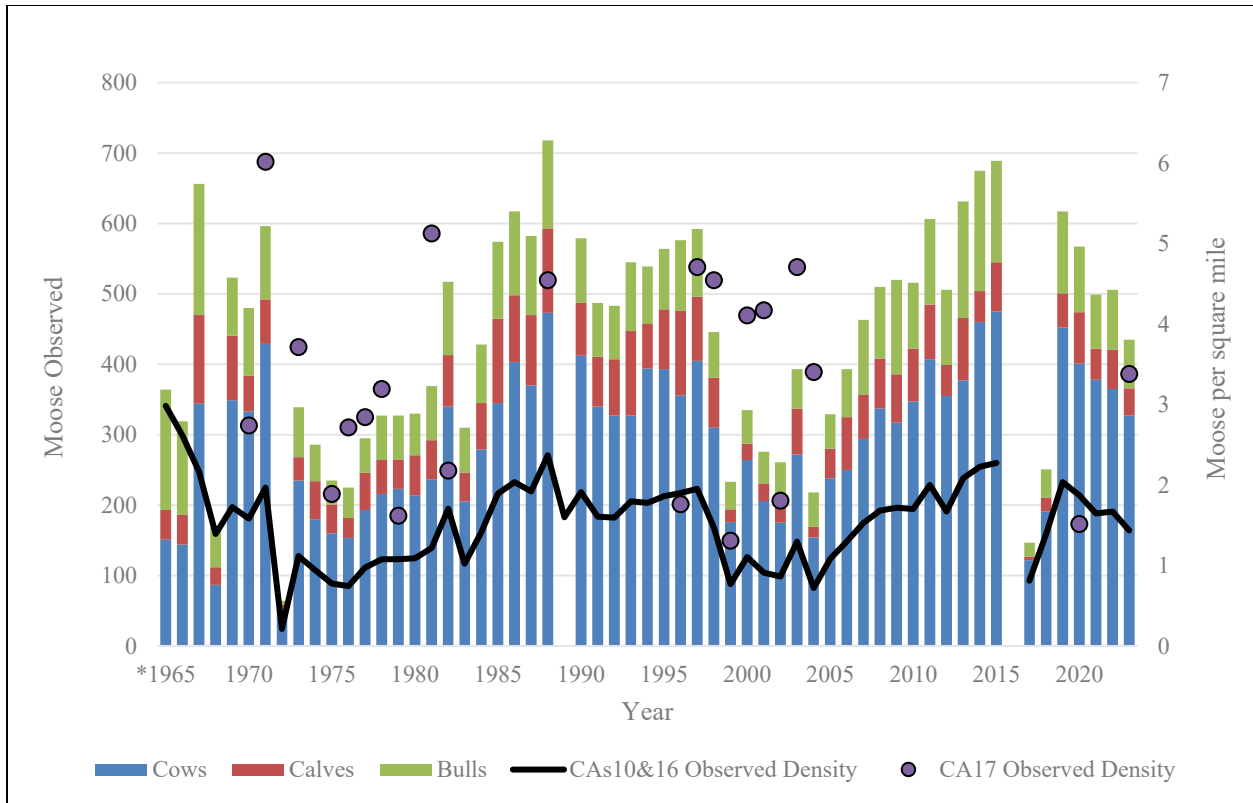


Figure 44-1. Moose minimum counts and observed densities in Unit 13C, RY65–23. In 1965, 1966, 1968, 2017, and 2018 only one count area was completed.

After considering a Unit 13 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 the department to issue enough 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.

Recent composition surveys indicate that the bull-to-cow ratio has been hovering at or below 25 bulls per 100 cows, (the current objective for Unit 13C) indicating that there are no additional bulls available for harvest. Stabilizing the population within the objectives will allow for a more productive population, producing more bulls as well as cows for an increase in the overall harvestable surplus. Population growth cannot be controlled through bull harvest only. Waiting to implement cow harvest after a population has peaked and beginning to decline is short-sighted and ineffective. The tool needs to be available when a population is growing toward the higher objective with the understanding that hunting permits will not be issued when the population is below the midpoint of the objectives.

If antlerless moose hunting opportunities are not available in Unit 13C, the intensive management program and objectives will likely need to be reduced to maintain the moose population within a

population size range that does not result in nutritional limitations for the moose and to achieve the harvest objectives recommended by the public, advisory committees, and the board.

**Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee?**

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F24-080)  
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**PROPOSAL 45**

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

Add a five-day archery only season for hunting moose in Unit 13 as follows:

I would like to see the Board of Game take additional steps to maximize the Unit 13 moose hunting opportunity while preserving the resource.

Add a 5-day archery only season in Unit 13.

"One bull with spike-fork antlers or 50-inch antlers or antlers with 4 or more brow tines on at least one side by bow and arrow only" HT, August 27-31.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** I am not a fan of regulations that provide certain user groups exclusive access to the detriment of other user groups. I do however support adding weapon restricted seasons in addition to an existing general harvest season, when it can be used to increase the overall number of available days afield without causing a detrimental impact to the resource. Units 14 and 16 already have successfully managed archery only seasons and this would bring Unit 13 more in line with those neighboring units.

**Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee?** No but, by submitting this I hope to get feedback from ADF&G biologists on its viability.

**PROPOSED BY:** Jon Freeman (HQ-F24-029)  
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**PROPOSAL 46**

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

Change the Unit 13 community subsistence moose hunt to a registration hunt with additional conditions and restrictions as follows:

Proposed Language:

Alaska residents only:

Unit 13 Moose

August 15-27; Bull (by registration permit only).

When the harvest is projected to reach 100 animals, antler requirements of spike/fork or 50-inch antlers with at least 4 or more brow tines on one side will take immediate effect.

This hunt is closed to the use of motorized transport or pack animals, (except in portions of Unit 13 along the Parks, Denali, Richardson, and Glenn Highways), for hunting moose --- including the transportation of big game hunters, their hunting gear and/or parts of big game.

Hunters must report to the nearest ADF&G office within 24 hours of a successful kill. ADF&G may limit the number of moose to be taken in specific zones; (presently outlined in the Community Hunt guidelines.) Should the 100 bull harvest be obtained, zone requirements may be waived.

Proxy-hunting will be allowed in the August 15-27 hunt.

**THIS HUNT IS DESIGNED AS A REPLACEMENT TO THE PRESENT COMMUNITY HUNT not as an additional opportunity.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Replace the community hunt for moose in Unit 13 with a more equitable solution for all hunters. The present community hunt does not achieve the compete with intended purpose of helping local communities compete in the field with urban hunters. Many “communities” are composed of urban hunters who can “out-gun” locals who are not as well-funded. Our proposal levels the field and gives all hunters equal opportunity.

*Read this proposal carefully.* It does not take away or affect the harvest ticket hunt in Unit 13 which is presently from September 1-20th.

Our proposal is a separate entity that is contingent on [REPLACEMENT OF THE COMMUNITY HUNT] that is presently in place.

A non-motorized hunt levels the field and allows locals a significant advantage in locales that they live and work around throughout the season while not restricting anyone who wishes to hunt.

**Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee?** Developed by Paxson Fish and Game Advisory

**PROPOSED BY:** Paxson Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F24-048)  
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**PROPOSAL 47**

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

Open a late season archery only drawing permit hunt for any bull moose in Units 13E and 13B, along the Denali Highway as follows:

Create a late season ANY BULL moose drawing permit for ARCHERY ONLY along the Denali highway in Units 13E and 13B.

I would propose the hunt area to be a 5-mile-wide corridor extending on either side of the Denali highway with a season of September 25th to September 30th.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Alaska needs more archery specific hunting opportunities for moose. Unit 13 has some of the best access of any Unit in the state.

A late season archery only hunt for any bull moose along the Denali Highway would not increase harvest drastically but would offer a great opportunity to hunt moose in an uncrowded environment with easy access.

**Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee?** No.

**PROPOSED BY:** Jessie Dunshie (HQ-F24-015)  
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**PROPOSAL 48**

**5 AAC 92.121. Intensive Management Plan V.**

Modify the intensive management plan for Unit 13 to include Nelchina caribou as follows:

Modify the existing intensive management plan, or create a new intensive management plan to add the Nelchina caribou herd populations; to include cow/calf ratios, population objectives.

We expect the Department of Fish and Game to take into consideration both caribou and moose populations when creating the intensive management plan.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** There is not a trigger to implement intensive management to address the declining Nelchina caribou population.

**Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee?** Yes, with the public at our local advisory committee.

**PROPOSED BY:** Copper Basin Fish & Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F24-002)  
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*Note: Game Management Units 12 and 20 are outside the scope of the Central Southwest Region meeting.*

**PROPOSAL 49**

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

Eliminate the harvest of Nelchina caribou as follows:

Close caribou hunting for six years or until the herd reaches the midpoint of the management objective of 37,500. This includes caribou hunting closures in Units 11, 12, 13, 14B, and 20E when Nelchina caribou are present.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Eliminate any incidental take of Nelchina caribou due to the dramatic population decline seen in recent years. With an estimated population of 7,000-8,000 in fall 2023 and a population objective of 35,000-40,000, ensuring no harvest occurs of Nelchina caribou is crucial to rebuilding the herd. We are requesting a six-year hunting moratorium, or hunting closures until the population recovers and reaches the midpoint of the population objective of 37,500. This request is consistent with the March 2023 AITRC recommendation RC081 (see Attachment A).

For the 2023-2024 hunting season, both state and federal harvest of the Nelchina caribou within Unit 13 was closed; with the herd at such a low population estimate and after another heavy snow load, it is expected that winter mortality and calf recruitment will exasperate current population trends. For the herd's future longevity, AITRC asks for a six-year moratorium of the Nelchina caribou or until the herd reaches the midpoint of the population objective of 37,500. In addition, it is crucial that the Board of Game expand closures to all Units Nelchina occupies, or when present, to reduce any incidental take of a herd that has experienced such a rapid decline in recent years. This would include Units 11, 12, 13, 14B, and 20E.

Looking at reports and figures produced by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in the Nelchina Caribou News 2017 (Figure 1) and Nelchina Caribou News 2023 (Figure 2), it is clear that GPS collared individuals reside within the Units recommended for closure. In addition, it has been observed through GPS collar data and radio tracking in fall 2012-2015 that considerable mixing occurred with Nelchina caribou within Unit 14B. Through the capture effort 22 animals were deployed with GPS collars and through tracking 40% of the caribou traveled into Unit 13E and 13A (Peltier and Brockman 2020).

It is critical that regulations are adopted to ensure the Nelchina caribou herd's additional protection while it is at one of the lowest populations observed in the last 50 years. This will allow the herd the best chance for a speedy recovery, as this herd has significant cultural ties and has been a staple food source for not only Tribal Citizens but many Alaskan residents as well.

Reference Cited:

Peltier, T. C., and C. Brockman. 2020. Caribou management report and plan, Game Management Units 14A and 14B: Report period 1 July 2012–30 June 2017, and plan period 1 July 2017–30 June 2022. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Species Management Report and Plan ADF&G/DWC/SMR&P-2020-11, Juneau.

*Note: The figures and attachments provided with this proposal are available on the proposal book website at: [www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=gameboard.proposalbook](http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=gameboard.proposalbook).*

**Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee?** N/A

**PROPOSAL 50**

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

Change the sheep draw hunt DS165 in Unit 13D to a general season hunt as follows:

I would propose the board eliminate the sheep drawing permit DS165 and return it to harvest ticket regulations. This aligns that portion of 13D with the current management strategy for sheep hunting.

The new regulation would be:

Unit 13D  
East of a line along the west  
side of Tazlina Glacier, Tazlina  
Lake and Mendeltna Creek to  
the Richardson Highway

Resident Hunters: HT: One ram with full-curl horn or larger, Aug.10-Sept. 20

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The issue is restricted hunting opportunity on sheep hunters and the consistency of the current management strategy.

Hunt DS165 was created in 2008 when that portion of Unit 13D was converted from general harvest regulations for sheep to a drawing permit hunt. DS165 is not being managed for trophy potential or hunt aesthetics (like Tok or Delta drawing permits) and prior to being converted to a draw permit, Unit 13D received hunting pressure consistent with Unit 20A which is currently still utilizing general harvest regulations.

Since there is no biological concern with low density sheep numbers and harvesting rams under the full curl regulation, hunt DS165 goes against the current management strategy and is not necessary for conservation purposes.

**Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee?** No.

**PROPOSAL 51**

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

Open a resident only sheep hunt in the Chitina River drainage in Unit 11 as follows.

If adopted, the new regulation would appear under the sheep regulations of Unit 11, on page 71 and read as follows:

The area of Unit 11, North of the Chitina River, west of canyon creek, and south of young creek (MacColl ridge): Nonresident: No open season.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Create a RESIDENT ONLY sheep hunt in the Chitina River drainage, specifically the MacColl Ridge complex. MacColl Ridge is an isolated area within Unit 11 that holds a small population of Dall sheep. Due to its close proximity to a hunting lodge that specializes in sheep hunts, the majority of hunting pressure and harvest of sheep on MacColl Ridge is likely from guided nonresidents. In a time with declining sheep populations but high nonresident demand, there needs to be areas of opportunity for resident hunters to hunt sheep without the added competition and pressure from guided nonresidents. This regulation takes very little opportunity from nonresident hunters, as they can freely hunt the remainder of Unit 11.

**Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee?** This proposal was developed solely by myself.

**PROPOSED BY:** Jessie Dunshie (HQ-F24-010)  
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**PROPOSAL 52**

**5 AAC 92.530. Management areas.**

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

Create a new management area around MacColl Ridge in Unit 11, open to resident sheep hunting by registration permit only, as follows:

If adopted, the new regulation would appear under the sheep regulations of Unit 11, on page 71 as well as on page 69 as a management area and read as follows:

**MacColl Ridge Management Area:**

The area of Unit 11 North of the Chitina River, west of Canyon Creek, and south of Young Creek (MacColl Ridge): **Open to sheep hunting by registration permit only.**

RESIDENT SEASON: Aug. 10th to Sept. 20<sup>th</sup>

NONRESIDENT SEASON: **No open season**



**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Create a new management area around MacColl Ridge open to sheep hunting by registration permit only, with **no open season for nonresidents.**

MacColl Ridge is an isolated set of mountains in the Chitina River drainage within Unit 11 and holds a small population of Dall sheep. Due to its close proximity to a hunting lodge specializing in sheep hunts, the majority of hunting pressure and harvest of sheep on MacColl Ridge is likely from guided nonresidents. At the present time, sheep populations around Alaska are severely depleted, areas are being shut down further limiting resident opportunity, and non-resident demand for hunts is at an all time high. There needs to be areas that give opportunity and preference to resident sheep hunters to hunt without the added competition and pressure from guided non-residents.

MacColl Ridge is an ideal location for this proposed regulation because: **1)** It's an easily defined landmark and boundary. **2)** It's one of the more accessible areas of unit 11 with ample landing spots to drop hunters. **3)** Takes very little opportunity from non-resident hunters, as they can freely hunt the remainder of Unit 11.

**Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee?** Coordination with other hunters.

**PROPOSED BY:** Jesse Dunshie (EG-F24-006)

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**PROPOSAL 53**

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

Establish a resident, archery only sheep drawing hunt in Unit 13D as follows:

Create an archery only resident Dall sheep drawing hunt for Unit 13D that includes both Units 13D West and East into one hunt area. Season dates would be October 1-15th and the bag limit would be a full curl ram. It is understood that sheep numbers are down in these areas so the Department of Fish and Game may only want to issue 1-5 tags until populations begin to recover. Archery hunting for full curl rams is very low success < 5% but provides archery hunters the opportunity to hunt without the competition of rifle hunters who can shoot rams at ever increasing distances. As an item of note an additional proposal was submitted in the statewide regulations that would NOT allow the use of aerial scouting during these season dates.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Limited archery only sheep hunting opportunities.

**Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee?** No.

**PROPOSED BY:** Craig Van Arsdale (EG-F24-078)

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**PROPOSAL 54**

**5 AAC 85.055. Hunting season and bag limits for Dall sheep.**

Change the bag limit for the Unit 13D sheep drawing hunts, DS160 and DS260 as follows:

R Unit 13D “west of a line along the west side of Tazlina Glacier, Tazlina Lake and Mendeltna Creek” One ram **with a full curl horn or larger, 8 yrs old or two broken tips (broomed)** [ANY RAM] *by permit.*

NR Unit 13D “west of a line along the west side of Tazlina Glacier, Tazlina Lake and Mendeltna Creek” One ram **with a full curl horn or larger, 8 yrs old or two broken tips (broomed)** [ANY RAM] *every four regulatory year by permit.*

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Currently there are low ram populations in permits DS160 and DS260 area, which includes “west of a line along the west side of Tazlina Glacier, Tazlina Lake and Mendeltna Creek”. This needs to align with the rest of Unit 13D’s permit hunts including DS165 and DS265, with a full curl horn or larger, 8 years old or two broken tips (broomed) regulation criteria. This area, “east of a line along the west side of Tazlina Glacier, Tazlina Lake and to Mendeltna Creek to the Richardson Highway”, would then align with the conservation approach of the neighboring permit area as mentioned above. Full curl horn or larger, eight years old or two broken tips (broomed) regulation criteria should be used in areas with low ram populations to secure future healthy ram populations by not harvesting young and immature, non-breeding rams.

**Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee?** This was developed with the coordination of the Matanuska Valley Advisory Committee. Members of the committee were able to share information regarding this hunt area to develop this proposal.

**PROPOSED BY:** Herb Mansavage and Dan Montgomery (HQ-F24-037)  
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**PROPOSAL 55**

**5 AAC 85.040. Hunting season and bag limits for goat.**

Divide the goat drawing permit hunt DG720 into three separate permit hunts as follows:

I would propose the DG720 permit be split up into three different permits with smaller hunt areas and separate quotas. The new structure could look as follows:

DG720 = Area east of the Richardson hwy to include the Tonsina Controlled Use Area,

DGXXX = Unit 13D west of the Richardson hwy to east side of Tazlina Glacier, and

DGXXX = Unit 13D Tazlina Glacier west to Coal Creek drainage (remainder of current DG720 area).

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** DG720 receives about 2,000 applications per year but only eight permits were issued for 2024. With such a large hunt area, it should be able support a harvest of more than eight goats. Only a small portion of DG720 is road accessible, which probably sees the highest hunter effort and therefore harvest. To offer more permits, better opportunity to hunters, and most likely better population management, DG720 should be split into three separate permits consisting of smaller hunt areas with separate quotas.

**Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee?** No.

**PROPOSED BY:** Jesse Dunshie (EG-F24-059)

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**PROPOSAL 56**

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

Establish an archery only registration goat hunt in Units 13D and 11 as follows:

Create an additional archery only registration goat hunt for RG580 (Units 13D and 11) with season dates of August 16 - 31. The permit bag limit is one goat for residents and nonresidents and the permit may only be issued in person at the same locations as the RG580 permit.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Limited archery only goat hunting opportunities.

**Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee?** No.

**PROPOSED BY:** Craig Van Arsdale (EG-F24-080)

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**PROPOSAL 57**

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

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

B -Brown/Grizzly Bear: 13E within Denali State Park **TWO** [One] bear(s) every regulatory year from August 10-June 15

B -Brown/Grizzly Bear: 13 remainder **TWO** [One] bear(s) every regulatory – no closed season

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Brown and grizzly bears are currently at high population levels in Unit 13 and their hardship on moose and caribou are reaching

unstainable levels. Many hunters use bait stations and/or motorized vehicles hunt for brown/grizzly bears during the spring and early summer in Alaska but are unable to take a bear in the fall due to the one bear per regulatory regulation. This would allow for another opportunity to hunt brown/grizzly bears in the fall, while still allowing for traditional spring bear hunting opportunity. Unit 16 saw an increase to two brown/grizzly bears per regulatory year and the unit has seen the positive effects on moose populations with its change.

**Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee?** This was developed in coordination with the Matanuska Valley Advisory Committee as many of our members are closely familiar with Unit 13 and its constituents are primary members of Unit 13.

**PROPOSED BY:** Matanuska Valley Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F24-033)  
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**PROPOSAL 58**

**5 AAC 92.121. Intensive Management Plan V.**

Reduce the minimum wolf population in the Unit 13 Intensive Management Plan for wolves as follows:

Decrease the minimum wolf population to 100 in Unit 13 in the Intensive Management Plan.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The current minimum wolf population in Unit 13 is 135 which is too high for Nelchina caribou population recovery. The Nelchina caribou herd population objective is 35,000 - 40,000, we are currently at around 8000 ~ animals. The entire caribou harvest is closed, and the management objective for this herd is to provide for subsistence needs.

**Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee?** Yes, with the public at our local advisory committee, and the ADF&G staff.

**PROPOSED BY:** Copper Basin Fish & Game Advisory Committee (HQ-F24-003)  
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**PROPOSAL 59**

**5 AAC 84.270. Furbearer trapping**

Lengthen the wolf trapping season in Unit 11 as follows:

**October 15** [NOV 10] - **April 30** [MARCH 31]

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Lengthen the Unit 11 wolf trapping season to align with the season dates in Units 12 and 13 in order to provide additional opportunity to harvest wolves. SRC members noted that wolves are abundant and that providing

additional harvest opportunity could help mitigate predation on other species such as sheep, moose, and caribou.

**Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee?** This proposal is being submitted by the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park Subsistence Resource Commission, a citizen advisory committee. The Commission met in Gakona, Alaska, on March 14 and 15, to hear from the public and discuss a variety of issues related to fish and wildlife harvest. The Commission developed this proposal during that meeting.

**PROPOSED BY:** Wrangell-St. Elias National Park Subsistence Resource Commission (HQ-F24-005)  
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**PROPOSAL 60**

**5 AAC 84.270. Furbearer trapping.**

Lengthen the coyote trapping season in Unit 11 as follows:

**October 15** [NOV 10] - **April 30** [MARCH 31]

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Lengthen the Unit 11 coyote trapping season to align with the season in Unit 12 in order to provide additional opportunity to harvest coyotes. Providing additional harvest opportunity could help mitigate predation on other species such as sheep, moose, and caribou.

**Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee?** This proposal is being submitted by the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park Subsistence Resource Commission, a citizen advisory committee. The Commission met in Gakona, Alaska, on March 14 and 15, to hear from the public and discuss a variety of issues related to fish and wildlife harvest. The Commission developed this proposal during that meeting.

**PROPOSED BY:** Wrangell-St. Elias National Park Subsistence Resource Commission (HQ-F24-004)  
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**PROPOSAL 61**

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

Change the start date for the ptarmigan hunting season in Unit 13B as follows:

Ptarmigan Unit 13B

August 20 - February 15

10 per day - 20 in possession

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Ptarmigan season opening date in Unit 13B.

Ptarmigan season in Unit 13B opens August 10. Unit 13B is road accessible and sees a fair amount of hunt pressure. Much of the high country along the Denali Highway where the majority of the ptarmigan are taken, experience late spring hatches due to snow cover. The results in later hatching chicks that are still peeping when the present season opens August 10.

Birds that small are of marginal use for food. Hunting is enjoyable to be sure, but the primary objective should be the use of animals and birds we take. Thus, our committee feels that an August 20 opening would better address the issue of having a bird worth eating. This is the fifth game cycle our advisory committee has addressed the issue to no avail. We hope that this board would consider our experience and accept our proposal.

**Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee?** Paxson Fish and Game Advisory Committee.

**PROPOSED BY:** Paxson Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-F24-030)  
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**PROPOSAL 62**

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

Extend the spring hunting season for ptarmigan in Units 13A, 13C, and 13D as follows:

**Option 1**

Unit	Season	Bag Limit
13A, 13C, 13D	August 10 – April 30	10 ptarmigan per day, 20 in possession

**Option 2**

Unit	Season	Bag Limit
13A, 13C, 13D	August 10 – March 31	10 ptarmigan per day, 20 in possession
13A, 13C, 13D	April 1 – April 30	5 ptarmigan per day, 10 in possession

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** I would like to increase the opportunity for hunters in Units 13A, 13C, and 13D to pursue spring ptarmigan during the month of April. Currently, the season for ptarmigan in Units 13A, 13C, and 13D ends on March 31. Hunters who wish to pursue ptarmigan during April currently have to travel to Units 1-5, 6A/B/C, 8, 10, 12, and 17- 26 to do so. This would also allow individuals living in the region to take

advantage of the longer daylight and improved weather in April to enjoy going out on hunts before or after typical business hours during the week. The extension of the ptarmigan season in Units 13A, 13C, and 13D by one month would be unlikely to cause a negative impact on the population. In the alternative, any potential negative impact could be mitigated by a reduced bag limit, similar to Units 12, 20, and 25C, for a portion of the season.

**Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee?** I developed this proposal myself.

**PROPOSED BY:** Jonathon Green (HQ-F24-028)  
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**PROPOSAL 63**

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

Require a registration permit to hunt ptarmigan in Units 13B and 13E as follows:

<b>Units and Bag Limits (3)</b>	<b>Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)</b>	<b>Nonresident Open Season</b>
...		
<b>Unit 13(B)</b> 10 per day 20 in possession, <b><u>by registration permit only;</u></b>	Aug. 10–Feb. 15	Aug. 10–Feb. 15
...		
<b>Unit 13(E)</b> 10 per day 20 in possession, <b><u>by registration permit only;</u></b>	Aug. 10–Feb. 15	Aug. 10–Feb. 15
...		

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Ptarmigan hunting in Alaska is a very popular activity for both subsistence and non-subsistence users. Data from voluntarily submitted hunter harvested wings suggest Unit 13B is one of the most popular, if not the most popular, subunits to hunt ptarmigan in terms of the number of hunters that successfully harvested ptarmigan. Despite this popularity, there is no requirement for small game hunters to report on their harvest and all harvest data available is voluntarily submitted, with a few exceptions in state game refuges or management areas near urban areas.

Although voluntarily submitted harvest information is helpful to ADF&G, biologists have very limited ability to collect data on the total number of small game hunters from year to year or annual

harvest rates. Previous efforts to collect data through hunter surveys (2012–2013) from the large number of resident and non-resident hunters that had multiple license purchase options (e.g., resident hunting, resident hunting and trapping, non-resident small game, non-resident hunting, non-resident military hunting, non-resident military hunting and trapping, etc.) were hampered by low hunter response rates (11–30%) and the need to sample from all license purchase options to obtain a meaningful data set.

A registration permit for hunting ptarmigan in Unit 13B would provide important data from an area that receives heavy hunting pressure, has limited participation in voluntarily submitted harvest information, and has historically experienced multiple regulatory changes resulting from proposals submitted by members of the public and local advisory committees.

**Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee?**

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F24-076)

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